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While election violators criticized Around 1,536 candidates compete:

Election countdown

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM & HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a—Preparations are taking place all around the country in prelude to Yemen's third parliamentary elections scheduled on April 27 with the competition

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of 1,536 candidates, of which only 16 are female candidates and 464 independents, according to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER).

Even though the overall atmosphere is not as exciting as that of earlier elections because of the war on Iraq, yet the elections rhythm is expected to enhance during this week.

On the final preparations for the big elections day, Mr. Abdul-Janadi, Chairman of the Information and Awareness sector of the SCER, stated last

Wednesday that everything was going on as scheduled. However, he also noted that a large number of candidates have violated the elections law and were found in non-compliant.

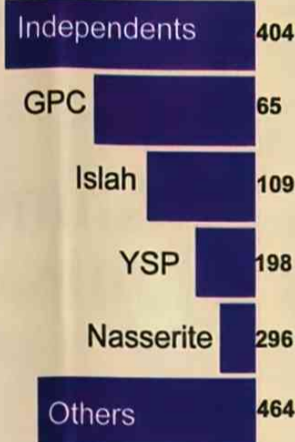
"The SCER has discovered scores of infringements by parties and individual candidates and we have taken the appropriate steps to suspend those violators. We do have in record all the names of those who breached the elections law." Mr. al-Janadi said.

Mr. al-Janadi

warned that the continuity of such breaches would force the SCER to declare the names of the parties and candidates that infringed the law of elections, which will result in substantial damage to those parties.

He added that such violations are against the law, calling upon candidates to practice their electoral rights without harming others' rights so as to maintain a free and just rivalry and to achieve the intended objectives of the process.

Continued on page 3



Graph showing the number of candidates of independents and major political parties for next week's elections.



Yemen's insistence to go on with elections despite the war on Iraq was seen by many as the right decision. However, many are bracing for possible violence in this elections, especially as competition between the two main parties intensifies.

Investigations to hunt 10 masterminds who fled the city of Aden

190 still behind bars

BY HASSAN AL-AZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Informed sources told the Yemen Times that the number of elements apprehended by Yemeni authorities have climbed to 190 after the escape of ten key al-Qaeda suspects on April 11 from the political security prison in

Aden.

Those elements are suspected to have planned and implemented the bombing of the USS Cole destroyer at the port of Aden in October 2002.

Two of them are expected to be sentenced to death and some others are suspected of having links to al-Qaeda and accused of

being involved in other explosion acts.

The sources said authorities aim to change the situation of the mujahideen youths, (Islamic militants) to the pre-1997 period.

The elements were tracked down by authorities when Abdurahman al-Jaza'eri was detained in Dhala'e that year.

Continued on page 3

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Continued from page 1

Election countdown

On the other hand, the number of the monitors in the coming parliamentary elections has reached 36,000 representing various segments of the local and international community.

SCER sources said that 30,000 of the monitors represent 22 civil society organizations, while around 2,209 monitors represent a number of local parties and 64 represent international organizations and institutions.

The number of journalists demanding participating permissions from Information Center of the parliamentary elections has reached 188 whereas the number of Arab and foreign journalists has reached 65.

At the same time, a number of the main and sub-committees started last Wednesday to receive both men and women subcommittees which have reached 25,528.

The number of members of those committees has reached 76,584 distributed to all 5,611 electoral centers in all the governorates of the republic.

Preparations are in full swing to deploy around 60,000 escorts around the electoral centers and that has been approved by the SCER. They are entrusted with maintaining security in those committees as well as during the vote counting procedure following the closure of ballot boxes on April 27.

The number of candidates competing is as follows:

- 464 independent candidates
- 296 for the General Peoples Conference (GPC)
- 198 for Islah
- 109 for the Yemeni Socialist Party
- 65 for the Nasserite Party
- 62 for Attas-heeh Party
- 53 for the Socialist Arab Ba'ath Party
- 50 for the Al-Khodhr (Green) Social Party
- 47 for the National Democratic Front

- 46 for the Democratic Nasserite Party
- 30 for the National Socialist Arab Ba'ath Party
- 22 for the People Forces Union
- 19 for the National Social Party
- 16 for the Democratic Union Party
- 14 for the Democratic Peoples Party
- 14 for the Attahreer Front
- 13 for the al-Haq Party
- 11 for the al-Wahdah Party
- 5 for the September Party
- 2 for the Yemen Union Congregation

On the other hand, sources at the Joint Meeting Parties stated that the coming elections will be less violent than the previous ones due to the commitment of the Joint Meeting Parties based on an agreement signing two weeks ago according to the National Alignment Charter.

Even though security forces are bracing for the worst in terms of possible violence during the elections, violence seems to have already started. Al-Thowra official daily said in an issue last week that a woman shot fire at a GPC female member in the main committee of constituency 19 in the Sana'a governorate.

Dr. Abduladheem, the Chairman of the Islah Executive Office denied that the incident was a result of partisan disturbances. "It is a family-related incident and has nothing to do with the coming elections," he said.

Meanwhile, the two largest parties GPC and Islah continue as usual throwing mud at each other in the media. The Islah party has accused the official media of distorting Islah's reputation, while on the other hand al-Mithaq newspaper, the mouthpiece of the GPC went as far as naming the Assahwa newspaper, mouthpiece of Islah, as the Taliban-Yemen newspaper.

190 still behind bars

Large-scale arrest campaigns and manhunt operations have alternated after kidnapping incidents and killing of foreigners by Abu Bakr al-Mehdhar in Abyan in December 1998.

Negotiation are conducted between authorities and some mujahedeen, to give up hunt-down and detention campaigns and to set the detainees free from the political security prisons and put an end to the US-Yemen cooperation to track down those elements.

Perhaps the cooperation with the US in anti-terror campaigns has taken different dimensions in recent period regarding tracking key al-Qaeda suspects and this could clearly be detected through the killing of the top al-Qaeda operator, Ali Qaed Salem Senyan al-Harethi and his companions by using a pilotless predator plane.

This also can be manifested through the arrest of the key al-Qaeda suspect wanted by the US named Fawaz Yahya Arrabea'e.

Perhaps matters will be stabilized within the framework of the US-Yemen cooperation, particularly after the escape of the 10 al-Qaeda suspects.

In the same context, two top political security officers have been conducting investigations to know the reasons behind the escape of the 10 al-Qaeda suspects.

On the other hand, security sources said that security authority has recognized the driver of a taxi that transported the 10 suspects from Attawah to al-Shiekh Othman during the jail-break.

The car which is believed to have taken the 10 suspects outside Aden has not been recognized yet.

Sources added that the authorities have set free 20 detainees suspected of bombing the French oil supertanker, Limburg.

A source at the French embassy noted that the Limburg file has been closed under an official agreement with Yemen, while the USS Cole file

has so far not been settled.

On the other hand, investigations are underway to convince Mohammed Hamdi al-Ahdal, also known as, (Abu Asem), another key al-Qaeda operator to surrender to the US authorities on condition that guarantees have to be provided. But it was at length rejected by Abu Asem.

On September 8, 2001, an attack was carried out against Abeeda area in Marib governorate where helicopters and heavy artillery arrest two prime masterminds wanted the US and those are, Abu Asem and Abu Ali al-Harethi. The latter was killed by a US predator plane along with five associates.

Political observers see that the US-led war against Iraq and the stance of the other Arab countries particularly Yemen, will sympathize with al-Qaeda elements where the Yemeni authorities have committed themselves to search for them.

The authorities have faced difficulties in gathering information about those elements as well as in tracking them down.

Other observers see that the escape of the 10 prime al-Qaeda suspects could have links with other Yemeni elements as a result of the US-led war against the Iraqi people and the ongoing incidents in the Mideast.

On the other hand, circumstances under which the 10 key al-Qaeda suspects escaped are still unknown.

Security sources told the Yemen Times that security authorities have doubled efforts in all the Yemen's areas searching for al-Qaeda elements.

The security apparatus has allocated a financial reward for anyone who could give information about their whereabouts and their hideouts.

The source doesn't rule out that those elements might have escaped outside Yemen through sea outlets.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the files of the USS Cole destroyer and bombing of the French oil supertanker Limburg are still under study.

Yemeni students arrested

A source from Amman told Yemen Times Friday that the Jordanian authorities arrested about 20 Yemeni students studying in Jordan. The source attributed that measure to the students' departure for Syria during the war on Iraq.

The source mentioned that among the arrested students were Mohammed al-Sheelf, Saleh al-Dola, Hadi Garowan and Ali Hassan whom the Jordanian government decided to deport along with 3 others, a matter that deprive them of continuing their study in Jordan.

A number of Yemeni students staged a sit-in in front of the Yemeni embassy in Amman in protest to that measure. Meanwhile the Yemeni consul at the embassy sent a letter to the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh asking for a quick interference to save the stu-

dents in Baghdad who were badly treated.

About 35 volunteers, who went to take part in war against US forces and their allies, came back last Sunday.

The Yemeni authorities retained their passports at Sana'a airport and released some of those students.

On the other hand, an Arab Baath Socialist party statement mentioned that thousands of Yemeni students who fled Iraq were detained at al-Ruaished area on the Iraqi-Jordanian borders. The Jordanian authorities refuse to let them continue their trip back home despite the Yemeni embassy's interference. The statement also mentioned that around three hundred Yemeni students are trying to leave Jordan because of the harassment they are receiving at the hands of Jordanian authorities.

Youths need more attention

Instead of searching for how to put plans for building training shelters and centers for homeless children and infirmaries to provide lodging for them as a part of the country and society, the international organizations and concerned ministries in Yemen embarked last Sunday on finding out how to establish prisons, courts and prosecutions for juveniles and how to expand and spread them all over Yemen.

That was the theme of the symposium that was held in Taj Sheba hotel last Sunday titled "Protection of Juveniles Rights is the Responsibility of all" organized by Ministry of Social Affairs & Labor in cooperation with UNICEF to discuss juveniles situations.

The symposium aimed at exposing governmental orientations to deal with youth cases and UNICEF's role in the improving programs for protecting and taking care of juveniles. Besides discussing the impediments and difficulties that courts, prosecutions and other sides face and suggest appropriate solutions for them. Moreover, building joined awareness among the sides dealing with juveniles to have unified visions about and coordinating between their roles when they implement their plans.

Our streets and villages lanes are full with juveniles that their number gets bigger and bigger day after day that resulting of expanding poverty percentage and unemployment in our society.

The 8 current infirmaries in Yemen include only 3% of the poor and homeless children. These infirmaries, in its current situation, are unhealthy places to educate these homeless the good principles. Moreover, those places secrete complicated and miserable youths that in turn reflect negatively on society safety, security and future.

Besides what juveniles are exposed to when they are thrown in the grownups prisons intermittently without consideration the consequences. Throwing those young among criminals, killers and thieves will definitely create improper and criminal behavior among them.



Mr. Abdulkareem al-Arahabi

Mr. Abdulkareema al-Arahabi, Social Affairs and Labor Minister briefly said, "All efforts should be exerted to solve the have-different-dimensions problems related to homeless children that called street children. There is a program is being prepared by the ministry of social affairs and labor to deal with this new phenomenon that appears in our society resulting of the family and society disconnection under the modern urbanization. This program includes establishing centers for street children under Social Fund supervision. Firstly, two centers will be launched in Sana'a and Aden. We will pay attention to include the rest of Yemeni cities besides the 8 current existent infirmaries, however, they do not take care of all orphanages and homeless children. Any way, paying attention to those children depends on the applicable facilities besides rehabilitation the teachers and experts who are responsible for the program that needs much efforts and time."

He added "A department in Aden University is founded and another will open soon in Sana'a University whose task is to train educational cadre in all fields for these centers. This will be done with cooperation of UNICEF and another concerned organizations. We also cannot forget the private sector role in this regard by financing these centers from time to time

Rafah Creativity Award delivered

Yemeni united beverages Co. (YUBCO) has received the creativity award in marketing granted by the administration of market study of Rafah.

Director-General of Rafah Mr. Raed

al-Saqqaf has revealed to the Yemen Times that granting this award for (YABCO) was as a result of intensive marketing study that have asserted an increase in the selling of (Barakah Water) within a specific period of time.



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After reporting substances in Coca Cola bottles Coca Cola agent emphasizes quality standards of company's products

Mr. Ahmed Assadawi, the Sales Manager of Sana'a Beverages and Industrial Co. Ltd. has refuted the allegations of finding pollutant substances inside Coca Cola bottles. He placed an emphasis on that highly state-of-the-art machines are able to detect any technical fault or strange materials. Speaking to Yemen Times Thursday Mr Assadawi said this is because either bottles that are brought have remained open to allow strange substances come into them or are broken due to excessive cooling which can cause pollution.

Mr. Tareq Abdulkareem al-Mosleh, the Personnel Director of the Sana'a Beverages & Industrial Co. Ltd. Company said: "If there is a credibility on the part of those people, they will never head for plants to blackmail. They have to go to the bodies at health environment.

A number of people have already visited the plant and made sure of the production safety, hygienic processing and they make sure are properly bottled.

In a telephone call with Mr. Saif

Moqbil, the Assistant Manager of the Health Environment at the Capital Secretariat said that a number of complaints have been filed in this regard. "Such samples are against the law and then the General Authority for Quality and Standardization is entrusted with the matter. It checks and makes sure of violation and then the case is referred to the public prosecution," Mr. Moqbil said.

A citizen Abdulmalik Saeed Saleh visited Yemen Times offices in Sana'a on Sunday 13 April with a Coca Cola bottle with a shaving blade inside it, asking to publish the news. He did not leave the bottle behind, only allowed to be photographed.



The blade can be clearly seen in the bottle



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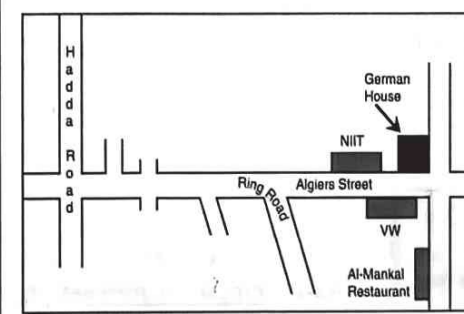
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Election violations by SCER raise concerns... & Yemen Times gets excluded by Fida Nasralla

Observers, journalists, politicians, and some international organizations in Yemen have recently expressed grave concern about violations committed by the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) in the last few weeks in the preparatory phase of the elections to take place on April 27.

Non-government media excluded

Among the violations that were reported was the exclusion of all non-governmental media organs including opposition and independent newspapers from following up the SCER activities and sessions. Only the official news agency Saba and governmental newspapers along with national TV and radio were allowed to cover those events. Observers and monitors say that this action by the SCER is in direct breach of the SCER's own commitment to the Yemeni public and international community to maintain transparency by allowing the press to report freely on the commission's activities and to enlighten the public of the developments in this regard.

"There should be nothing to hide! Why don't they open the doors and let journalists report the truth to the Yemeni people?" inquired Jalal Al-Sharaabi, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Usboo independent weekly.

"This is in direct violation of SCER's commitment to allow the press to freely report on the events and activities happening in this institution in this critical time. This is the time the press needs to know what is going on behind closed doors in the SCER, and if governmental press is allowed in, why don't they allow other journalists to report the truth?"

YT excluded by Fida Nasrallah

In another act, considered a breach of the SCER's commitment to involve the local press in the awareness campaign on elections, the SCER decided to exclude Yemen Times (YT) from the media awareness projects and from the whole campaign. Despite the efforts of YT to participate in any phase of the different elections campaigns, SCER refused to allow YT to have a role in any phase. This comes in contradiction with the objective of the fund allocated by several donor organizations, which stated that the aim was to raise awareness by allowing the maximum number of active newspapers to participate in the campaign. It is a question raised by YT, which is by far the most widely read English-language newspaper in Yemen and is among the largest circulating newspapers in Yemen, and also among the most active newspapers in coverage of elections, human rights and democracy related issues.

YT was the only English-language Yemeni newspaper that was excluded from participating in the campaign. When contacting the SCER, the com-

mission members expressed the need and necessity to have a role of YT in the campaign. However the SCER failed to deliver its promise to YT insisting not to allow it to participate in the campaign in any way. The SCER said that the committee that rejected Yemen Times was headed by Dr. Fida Nasrallah, who is one of the members of the committee set up by the donors to decide on the participation of various newspapers in the campaign. Dr. Fida refused to get Yemen Times in any phase of the campaign, insisting that Yemen Times would not add substantially to the campaign in any way.

Problems with SCER main and sub committees

Shares of parties in monitoring the voting process in various governorates were altered by the SCER in a direct

violation of its commitment to present the main and sub committees with training and equipment needed for the monitoring role. According to sources at some of those committees, the meeting that was supposed to be held last Wednesday was dominated by chaos and ambiguity concerning the share of the opposition parties in monitoring the elections in those committees. Some opposition party members claimed that this delay is an attempt to replace opposition monitors with monitors of the ruling party the GPC.

NAC protests Dr. Iryani's withdrawal from meeting

A number of the members of the National Alignment Committee (NAC) raised a letter of protest to President Saleh because of the withdrawal of Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, the General Secretary of the ruling

party the GPC from the committee's meeting. Dr. Iryani withdrew because of Mohamed Masdoos of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) replaced Dr. Seyf Sail, the Assistant General Secretary of the YSP in the NAC meeting. The president responded by

promising to have Dr. Iryani attend the next meeting on the condition that Dr. M. Masdoos would not attend on behalf of Dr. Seyf Sail in the meeting.

NAC had discussed the national alignment project proposed by President Saleh. Various parties pre-

sented their suggestions for amendments to the project to be studied. The proposals were approved more than two weeks ago by all parties but opposition parties claim that the project's articles have already been breached by the ruling party.

Support requested for female candidates

TAIZ- In a symposium held in Taiz on April 13, various political parties and NGOs called upon the public to support and encourage female candidates by voting for them in the upcoming elections on April 27.

The call was voiced during the symposium organized by the Taiz-based Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on the need to enable women to participate more effectively in the political arena in Yemen. Representatives of various political parties participating in the event expressed disappointment at the evident lack of adequate support for

the female candidates to participate in the upcoming elections.

Mr. Ezz Addeen al-Asbahi, HRITC Director told the Yemen Times that the symposium comes within the framework of supporting women in political participation.

"The symposium is an integral program in a series of other activities including the holding of workshops for female candidates, organizing an intellectual symposium, printing different publications such as a women-related magazines and posters calling upon the public to support female candidates during the upcoming elections."



Mr. Ezz Addeen al-Asbahi

CORRECTION

Yemen Times would like to inform its readers that an error occurred in the caption in the article entitled, *Al-Qais House stood victorious* on page 4, during the prize distribution ceremony.

The correct caption is "A lady teacher along with the Pakistani Ambassador during the prize distribution ceremony". Our apology to HE, the Pakistani Ambassador and our readers for the error.



A lady teacher helping the Pakistani Ambassador during the prize distribution ceremony.

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All interested nationals should complete Of-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned that addresses the qualification requirements of the position, as listed above, and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sana'a. Tel. 303-155, no later than April 29, 2003.

Note:

ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

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Another violation of freedom of the press in Yemen reported:

Car crash kills two, but... journalist captured

A car accident near Yemen Times (YT) premises in Haddah, Sana'a resulted in the killing of two children last Friday afternoon. The accident killed 13-year old Talal Ali Al-Bukhaiti and his sister Abeer, whose father pledged to put out a fight to bring those responsible to justice.

The accident happened when a teenager was driving a 4WD Land Cruiser vehicle in high speed in a narrow path slamming another parked car and killing the two victims who were near by. People were outraged at the carelessness of the driver who was allowed to drive the car recklessly in such a young age.

Just a minute or so after the accident, YT journalist Ayid Ahmed

Abdulrahman called the traffic police emergency number to report on the incident so as to bring help to the scene as fast as possible. Then he went to the scene to report on how it happened, and consequently help expose the phenomenon of underage driving in Yemen to the authorities so as to prevent such miseries in the future.

However, just as the police forces responded -15 minutes or so after the incident- by arriving at the scene, the first thing they did was take the reckless car driver along with the journalist for interrogation.

"I was shocked to be pulled to the 'Opel' police car with no reason. Not only that! But I was also beaten by the policemen in the car. Apparently, because the teenager car driver seemed to be a son of an influential figure, they

had him ride in the front seat, and tried to calm him down and treat him well. While on the other hand, I, an innocent journalist who wanted to carry out his mission, was harassed, beaten up, and had my camera taken away for some time," Ayid said.

"This has been a case of many similar cases where police forces treat journalists irresponsibly, beating them, taking away or destroying their cameras, and treating them as if they were culprits."

"Even though I was released hours after the incident, I will continue to do my job and will stand up for my rights. This incident will certainly have a negative effect on me and on our country's image because it demonstrated to the world that freedom of the press is still not respected in our country."



Car crash mishaps as shown in this photo is a result of a heedless driving. Two children killed, April 18.

Ayid was released from the police station only after intensive calls and personal involvement by the Editor-in-Chief of YT and yet police forces continued to insist that what they did was right, claiming that they have higher

orders to arrest any journalist who does not have 'written permission letter issued by the newspaper and approved by the concerned authorities'.

YT's Editor, Walid Al-Saqqaf said, "We reported the incident to the con-

cerned authorities and is still waiting for an explanation or compensation for the damage caused, but is also demanding an end to such incidents not for YT journalists only, but for all journalists in Yemen.

Kana'an Association for Palestine

Glorious milestone to reckon with

PREPARED BY: A. M. ASSABRI & MOHAMMED AL-MASANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Kana'an Association for Palestine, KAP is a link to goodness, love and grace originated from Sana'a to Jerusalem.

Since its establishment on April 17, 2002, the KAP has proved to be an active institution to support the Palestine people and to defend their plundered rights using all means possible.

Membership

As an international organization, the KAP has opened its doors for those who indeed believe in the Palestine right from all nationalities in the world.

Since its establishment, the KAP has ensured multi-national members including, Yemenis, Arabs, and foreigners.

KAP's set-up

The KAP has thoroughly taken an interest on the specialization work systems and on an accurate division for tasks.

A number of sub-committees have been set up with the aim of achieving proficiency to perform its dues as well as its noble objectives in a complete manner:

- 1- Martyr's Sons Care & Orphans Committee.
- 2- Cultural & Social Affairs Committee.
- 3- Boycotting Israeli Products Committee and companies which support Israel.
- 4- Palestine Promotion Products Committee for Supporting the Palestine Economy.
- 5- Media Committee.
- 6- KAP's Internet Website Committee, "www.kanaanup.org".
- 7- Technical Translation Office.
- 8- Political Committee.
- 9- Palestinian Students Committee.

KAP's main activities

Despite that the KAP has been newly established, its enthusiastic and conscientious members have left no stone unturned to cover a lot of activities in all aspects for the benefit of their Arab

national issues.

KAP's main political activities

The KAP hasn't only restricted itself within its social context, or its reality, but also it has made use of that reality.

This is because, the KAP has gone ahead from a country where the official stance is parallel to the mass' stance.

This has greatly influenced the KAP's great success to perform its duties in a complete manner which manifests itself through supporting the legal right of Palestine.

For getting this tendency moving, the KAP has spared no efforts to support Jeneen Donation Campaign for the Palestine people.

Jeneen Donation Campaign initiative has been first adopted by the political leadership.

The administrative board decision has placed great emphasis on the necessity to respond with Jeneen Donation Campaign which has reached the unified treasury for the Palestinian National Authority.

KAP's main activities in all aspects

On the light of that, the KAP has broadened its horizons and a focus of the attention has not been only attentively paid on enlarging the social care services. Other vital issues on political, sport, youth, cultural and economical field have become more apparent.

At the commercial level, the Palestinian-Yemen Businessmen Meeting was organized by the KAP with the aim of enlarging joint investment fields between the two countries.

The president's decree to exempt the Palestinian products and goods and tax revenues from custom duties have been hailed and closely followed up by the KAP.

This has been achieved in collaboration with concerned governmental bodies. The president's decree has since then become valid in all the custom outlets affiliated to the republic of Yemen.

That is not only enough, the KAP organized a televised dialogue symposium covered by different local, Arabs, and foreign media on the occasion of the Earth's Palestinian Day on March 30, 2003.



The dialogue symposium was titled, "Palestine for Palestine, Our Land, Our Right, and An Emblem of Our Dignity."

A host of eminent professors from Sana'a University who specialized in all social, economical, and political fields attended that event.

The symposium aimed basically at shedding light on that Sana'a has called the Arab countries to follow the Yemen's proposal to open their markets for the Palestinian products without any laid conditions.

The KAP's strong determination hasn't ended here.

A statement has been also issued in both languages, English and Arabic to boycott the Israeli products.

It also has urged the countries of the world to take a similar step.

At youth and sport level, the KAP has supported the Palestinian National Grown-ups Team below 17 years during the 10th Asian Football Championship hosted by out Yemen.

Since that time, sport facilities and equipment to its technical apparatus and its team has been fully provided the KAP.

The KAP's main activities to the Palestinians are praiseworthy.

It spares no efforts to push its youths ahead to support the Palestinian football team as if it played in its country.

This has positively reflected upon the Palestinian players and its participation has shifted from an honest team to a victorious team that desires to win the first place.

The team has already achieved its ambitions and won the third place with different Arab teams, such as, Yemen, Kuwait, Palestine and Bahrain.

At the social level, the KAP has taken an interest with regard to offering the social care services for the Palestinian students at the Yemeni universities and those who come from the occupied land.

Around 49 cases who study at 9 different universities have been successfully tackled at an overall cost estimated at YR. 909,285.

Academic fellowships granted

As a result of the availability of cases which are in need of tackling due to the increase of its costs, the KAP has done its best to find an educational institution to cover such cases.

Fellowship grants has been activated and a special institutional effect has been adopted

where the Palestinian students have greatly made use of.

The fellowship grants are known today as the President's Fellowship Grants for Palestinian Students.

At the logistic support level, the KAP has sent a cargo in specie to our brothers in Palestine.

The cargo contains medicine supplies and clothes estimated at YR. 5 million. These aids have been collected from the medicine companies operated in Yemen and from other businessmen and philanthropists where the KAP has owed a debt of gratitude for them.

At the political level, the KAP hasn't stopped to offer the social and logistic services for the Palestinian people, but it has made its voice heard at the political

arena which has expressed its stance openly.

This has manifested itself in its website where inhuman practices practiced by the Zionist terrorist entity in the land of peace has been openly disclosed.

When the peace process got deteriorated in the Mideast and the practices executed by the US, (the only sponsor for the peace process and the so-called the New World Order), to shift its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is a clear testimony of its siding with Israel.

The KAP is one of the forerunners to respond with that global event.

As a result, a solidarity festival was organized by the KAP titled, "Jerusalem Is The Capital Of Palestine." The festival was held on October 10

2002.

A number active political and civil institutions took part during the event.

An organized mass response was recorded against that unfair decision.

Two international messages were sent, the first one was to Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General and the second was sent to the US foreign minister, Colin Powell considering him as the US peace process sponsor representative.

Participants demanded an obvious official explanation from the US government and from the United Nations.

The decision set a dangerous precedent in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular and in the history of the international relations in general.



(L-R) Palestinian Ambassador along with KAP Chairman shaking hands during giving away honoring award certificates, April 17.

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As the 27 April elections approach:

Women politically ignored

FAROUK AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF - TAIZ

Participants during the second symposium held in Taiz on April, 13 have called for the support extended for female candidates to the upcoming elections scheduled on April 27.

The participants have practically and actively participated in the symposium and all their suggestions were very much related to the difficulties as well as hardships faced by women.

The symposium was actually a real endeavor to promote women conditions and change their present situation to the better."

It has become politically, socially, economically, culturally important to form a national strategy for working Yemeni women so as to promote their work.

Participants have called on political parties and those who stand for electing female candidates have to support them

during elections.

The symposium which was organized by the Human Rights & Information Training Center, HRITC and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung focused basically on a number of working papers in an attempt to deal with difficulties and obstacle faced by Yemeni woman as a candidate and as an active participant in decision making.

Ezz Addeen al-Asbahi, the Director of the Human Rights Information and Training Center, HRITC, had attributed the main reasons behind woman's fall-out in the political participation to two reasons:

First, the political parties in this regard hasn't showed a sense of seriousness on the part of women.

If those political parties desire to elect woman candidate, they will do it in a very simple manner.

The main political parties such as, the Peoples General Congress, GPC, Islah Party, the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP could appoint woman candidates to be elected during the upcoming elec-

tions. Perhaps the partisan will has been still inadequate.

Second, the condition that has been laid down by the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum, SCER, regarding the necessity to recommend a candidate by the 300 parliamentary members has blocked the way for a number of independent candidates, particularly, women.

"There are also a number of other reasons that have complicated the matter, such as, culture, conventions and the society's point of view.

"There is also education slowdown, spread of illiteracy, and women's feeble personalities. All those factors in general and political parties in particular have led to the women's fall-out," al-Asbahi concluded.

The election monitors on the other hand have showed their resentment over the fallback of women's candidates.

Despite of the high increase of female registrants in 40 constituencies, a clear indication of women's fall-out has been clearly felt. It suggests a dreadful fall-out on the part of women's political participation.

Nowadays, and after 10 years since the beginning of running a parliamentary elections in Yemen, the women's opportunity to reach to the parliament seems to be weak.

Perhaps, the political parties have conspired against women with regard to their rights to reach the parliament and in decision making.

In addition to this, the society's negative conventions towards woman represents a stumbling block in front of woman's progress in the political arena and other vital fields.

A number of female candidates ran the 1993 elections but they are unlucky and above all they couldn't



al-Asbahi



Arromaima



Dr. Qahtan



Fatima



Suad



Dr. Hassona

run the 2003 elections.

Wedad Arromaima, is among those who contested in the 1993 elections for the al-Haq party.

Wedad has summed up following reasons behind women's fall-out in the political participation and candidature:

The society's outlook towards women as a female candidate is not fully supported and the society along with the political parties don't support her.

As she had experienced the 1993 elections, even women refused to support to be elected in elections.

"There are also women and above all well-educated, reject to support their counterparts and they also oppose them," she said.

"I've been desiring to run for the 2003 elections for the GPC, but for partisan reasons, I've changed my mind up for not to be elected in accordance with political platforms," she noted further.

Wedad doesn't lose hope and she predicts that the upcoming years will stand victorious for woman's political parties.

Suad al-Qadasi, the Chairwomen for the Women's Forum for Research and Training, WFRT, sees that the main reasons behind woman's fall-out in the political participation can be attributed to the society's reality which usually doesn't allow applying the theory of

equality.

"Man is the owner of the decision making and he always the strongest on the part of allotting the social work. We reiterate for both, the government as well as the opposition that the Yemen's society can not be developed unless there is no cooperation performed by both men and women," she further highlighted.

"There is intention to marginalize woman's capabilities in the decision making. Such marginalization starts first within the family itself and ends there at the decision making centers at the state," the WFRT Chairwomen said.

Al-Qadasi has made clear that women constitute the half population.

She said that the number of female registrants have reached to 43 percent. "It is necessary to respect such figures when allotting parliamentary seats," she said.

What do women desire?

Dr. Fowzia Hassona, Sociology Prof., Taiz University, placed great emphasis on that the Yemeni woman has been still under the cudgel of strict habits and conventions.

But the main cause behind women's fall-out is that the parties avoid nominating women for fear that they will not win the seats," she said.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Qahtan, the Dean of the Administrative Sciences

College sees that the main reasons behind woman's fall-out in the elections are the unacceptable hereditary conventions, illiteracy, education slowdown, their economic fall-out along with adopting other wrong religious notions that deprive women from the right of nomination.

Fatima, Arriashi, an Administrator at the Law Faculty has a different point of view on that woman has been progressing in the context of decision making and has practiced her rights in nomination.

"Woman by no means is not an inactive member, she has become an active in the field of economic, political and vocational fields," Fatima noted further.

Fatima is optimistic on that the opportunity of woman's success will be promising in the near future and in the local councils or parliamentary elections.

Women's political participation remains a controversial issue in oppositions and governmental organs.

The official authorities should give the issue of women's leadership full attention.

The problem is there, and the solution can be through the government and opposition parties adoption of women political participation, that is concerned with the many problems of Yemeni women.



First hostage in Yemen recalls memories



IRENA KNEHTL
For the Yemen Times

I was the first hostage taken by Jahm tribe in Sirwah in 1982. In fact at all counts and has meaning. At that time I found myself managing a private company with a variety of development projects and trading activities owned by Sheikh AbdulRahman Ahmed Noman. My memories of that time were climbing mountains and villages, and traveling wadis behind Sheikh AbdulRahman to mobilize creative energies of rural Yemen. To do this he proclaimed himself as AbdulRahman Water, AbdulRahman electricity, and AbdulRahman roads. In addition Sheikh AbdulRahman was also entering business relationships with various tribal communities from eastern Yemen for different projects and undertakings.

In 1982 our company was awarded the contract for mapping the mineral masters plan for eastern Yemen. Our team of French geologists has just re-discovered the ancient silver mine at Jabali, thought to be an important source of wealth of Kingdom of Saba. They were further mapping Jebel Hailan in Nehm/Jahm area. As result I used to be a frequent visitor to the area.

On one such trip to Mareb in 1982 while having breakfast at the checkpoint prior entering Mareb we were approached by man who wanted to travel with us to Mareb in order send an urgent telegram from there. I refused, driver agreed. Few meters after he pointed the gun at us. What followed was that we were driven to Sirwah close to the ancient palace. Upon seeing the scene an old woman begun screaming loudly to attract attention, held me tight and never left my side. A boy then probably aged 15 named Ali rushed to the site, and said, do not be afraid, my father works for the government. He is sick but he will come.

He did come, opened wide his arms and said: Welcome our dear guests, welcome to my house. We entered his house and waited for negotiations to start. The old woman holding me tight still was pouring endless cups of hot coffee. The man in which house we were sitting was Saleh Saleh Azzaydi, then a Colonel in Yemeni army, the boy was his eldest son Ali, and the old woman who held me

tight Saleh's mother. The issue at the time was that with by building and organizing the Yemeni army tribal soldiers were no longer required. As result "hijackers" salary was stopped. He had no other means to support his family, and acted out of mere desperation. Sirwah during that time was the last place on earth, all box style mud houses. There were no rains for more than seven years. As result drinking water was scarce, and diseases on the rise. Saleh's house was then the first and only house build out of stone, a long rooms which served as living, reception, and sleeping room all in one. After long, long negotiations matter was solved, salary restored, sheep slaughtered, qat chewed. Colonel Saleh repeatedly urged me not to be afraid. And I was not. Above where he sat I noticed a photograph of Yemeni President Ali Abdulla Saleh, as source of their pride in inspiration. During 1982 in eastern Yemen not a very common sight. Once we were free to go as a special gesture Saleh eldest son Ali would be out escort to the cross section of the new Mareb road. And so we parted.

Upon my return to Sanaa I kept over the event silent. I had my own calculation. I loved to travel and explore all around Yemen and prided myself I can take care of myself, handle any situation. If the story would become known, nobody would ever let me go out of Sanaa. And for a while it remained so.

Meanwhile the Jahm tribe from Sirwah applied for 6 water wells to the Rural water well department in Sanaa. The department had different priorities, it did not consider the wells for Sirwah as that urgent. During 1982 it had been simply bombarded with requests for wells. The people from Sirwah thought that I went out of my way and told everybody in Sanaa how bad, and absolutely terrible they were. And this was the reason they were not getting the wells. Until one of them said, if that women is still angry we are ready to slaughter another sheep. But we need the wells! So the whole story came out. I confirmed to Rural water well department I was not at all angry, and asked them to put the wells for Sirwah as top priority. It was immediately done. Within days the 6 water wells for Sirwah were approved and executed soon after.

Few weeks later I received a message from Colonel Saleh that he was coming to Sanaa. He was in need of medical help. Behind Taj Sheba hotel a Yemeni

Doctor AbuBakr Qirbi has just opened his clinic. Fame grew around the Yemeni Doctor not only among foreign community but also among common people for his effective and simple approach, and his accessibility. I suggested to Colonel Saleh Dr. Qirbi. The very same Dr. Qirbi who is the current Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen. Called him at home, said there was a special case, but did not elaborate, and took the appointment. We went to our appointment, we i.e. Colonel Saleh, his two sons, wife, mother, uncle, brother and myself. Dr. Qirbi voiced surprise how is it that you come together. I replied I will tell him later, which I never did. The established diagnosis was: beginning of Tuberculosis. Could be also fatal. It was due to effective measure of Dr. Qirbi who stabilized the disease that Colonel Saleh Azzaydi was to live for several more years.

Another call came in few weeks later from Colonel Saleh. He and his family would love to pay me a visit at my home in Sanaa for a qat session. I asked uncle Abdo to be mahram. For the first time uncle Abdo was angry with me. Very angry. He went on and on how he has lived to see that somebody in Sanaa is hosting Jahm tribe. It is just not being done. Unthinkable. Beni Husheish was bad enough. But we knew them, were selling water well equipment and spare parts to them. But Jahm. Wild people. Anything can happen. No way. But I had my way, and convinced him. We did host Colonel Saleh and his family at my home in Sanaa after all. They were about 15 of them, Saleh, his two sons, wife, mother, brothers, uncles, cousins. Qat was chewed up to midnight. Tales and stories were told and retold. Old Arabia came alive. Saleh was just like any father worried about the future of his two sons, and future of his country. I would tell them about my own plans, work and projects. Uncle Abdo only reluctantly confessed later that this was the best and nicest qat session ever.

Yet another call from Colonel Saleh came in. This time he was proposing that he is ready to entrust me his two boys Ali and Nasser for schooling provided I will be responsible for them in Sanaa. Coming as he was from Shaikh Azzaydi family from Jahm tribe, an army officer in the rank of Colonel, he was not only the role model for his community, but set to pave the way for his community into the world of education and knowledge to Sanaa by setting example. He walked a

fine line between past and present, and future, tradition and modernity.

I agreed.

Henceforth the two boys from Azzaydi family from Sirwah became very much part of our and my daily life. Reporting daily from the school and about the school. They liked going to school, and learned well. In order not to be looked down by others at school we concealed the fact they were from Sirwah. But simple said the boys were from Taiz road, outside Sanaa. The boys grandmother came to see me separately. She was the same old woman who held me tight at the beginning. She was very grateful I was looking well after the boys. I in turn would spend as much as possible time with them and thought them separately in addition. More, I began to view them as my boys, and the old woman became also my grandmother.

Eventually Colonel Saleh was promoted in became the military commander of Ibb province, took the boys to Ibb to complete their schooling there. Ali completed the Air Defense College and

Nasser helped his father. The boys eventually got married and started their own families and went to live in Sirwah. In subsequent years we saw one another less, but forwarded greetings as often as possible. Several years ago prior his death Colonel Saleh said to his two sons should they ever require guidance, assistance, or help, or advice they should look for me. Easy said than done. In particular today. After Saleh's death, the situation with Jahm tribe deteriorated, and escalated in a series of kidnappings of tourists, and foreigners. The Jahmis became viewed as outlaws, the damned tribe.

Recent word has it that Ali, my boy, is along with 20 others kept as hostage in prison in Mareb. No charge. Now if I want to pursue this matter further I run risk being accused to maintain contacts with fundamentalist, terrorists, and possible al-Qaeda suspects. Should the boys by any chance want to establish contact with me as their later father suggested, they will be immediately accused of masterminding another kidnapping etc.

And what else not..

Mahatma Gandhi, the great soul of India would have said about our time without bridges and of an unbearable weight of pain and injustice that eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.

The Jahm tribe like no other tribal community in eastern Yemen is being caught in a time change, in time bomb of many conflicting interests. What was now gained and what was lost? Principles. But they have always been mans most breakable possession.

Is guilt individual or collective
Is punishment individual or collective
Is crime punishment individual or collective

If collective we can punish whole communities, and whole countries. We are punishing them - for our own shortcoming. We have become our own hostages. We are hostages of ourselves and the time we live in unable to reach out and across. The late Colonel Saleh - this noble man - from the Sheikh Azzaydi family from Jahm tribe has long ago showed us the way.

Bank marketing applications

By Yasser al-Mayasy
Yemen Times Staff

Bank marketing can simply be defined as the study of the market needs in a way that fulfills the bank objectives. Yet economics and management experts always assert that this concept of bank marketing is getting improved day by day.

Yemen is on of those countries that lately came to know and adopt the banking services system through the authorization of the setting up of commercial and Islamic banks in Yemen.

To spotlight the main problems of bank marketing one can say that the scarcity of the marketing competent cadre and the unavailability of advanced techniques of the modern banking work are the major problems that cause Yemen lack behind almost all advanced countries in bank marketing yet there are serious endeavors to go for the better, and here it's worth noting the varied activities carried out by the Yemeni Bank Association under

of which most of the Yemeni Banks are enlisted so as to train and qualify the Yemeni cadre of these banks.

The association always holds symposiums and training courses in coordination with the "Arab Banks Union" the last of which was the bank marketing applications symposium held from 10 to 12 last March.

The symposium focused its concentration on the latest trends of advanced marketing in the finance and banking spheres and the ways possible to best exploit and adopt the latest trends and theories of most International and Arabic finance and large companies to make the most of their history and experience and further develop the marketing means available.

Dr. Fuad Shaker, Arab Banks Union Chief assured that holding such symposiums and training courses in Yemen aims at increasing and developing the Yemeni cadre experience and to assist Yemen keep up with other advanced countries in the finance and bank marketing.

Dr. Shaker has evaluated the banking performance in Yemen as saying "



Mr. Ahmed Al-khawi



Dr. Fuad Shaker

notwithstanding the late beginning of bank marketing in Yemen, banking performance is developing and satisfactory to some extent, he further added that this lateness should make us double our activities and make the most of others' faults and experience.

Mr. Ahmed Al-khawi chairman of Yemeni Banks Association assured that the Association is constantly working to enhance the banking work by holding symposium and training courses that most Yemeni Banks take part so as to provide Yemeni banks by the newest and latest developments with respect to the banking work and crisis in Yemen.

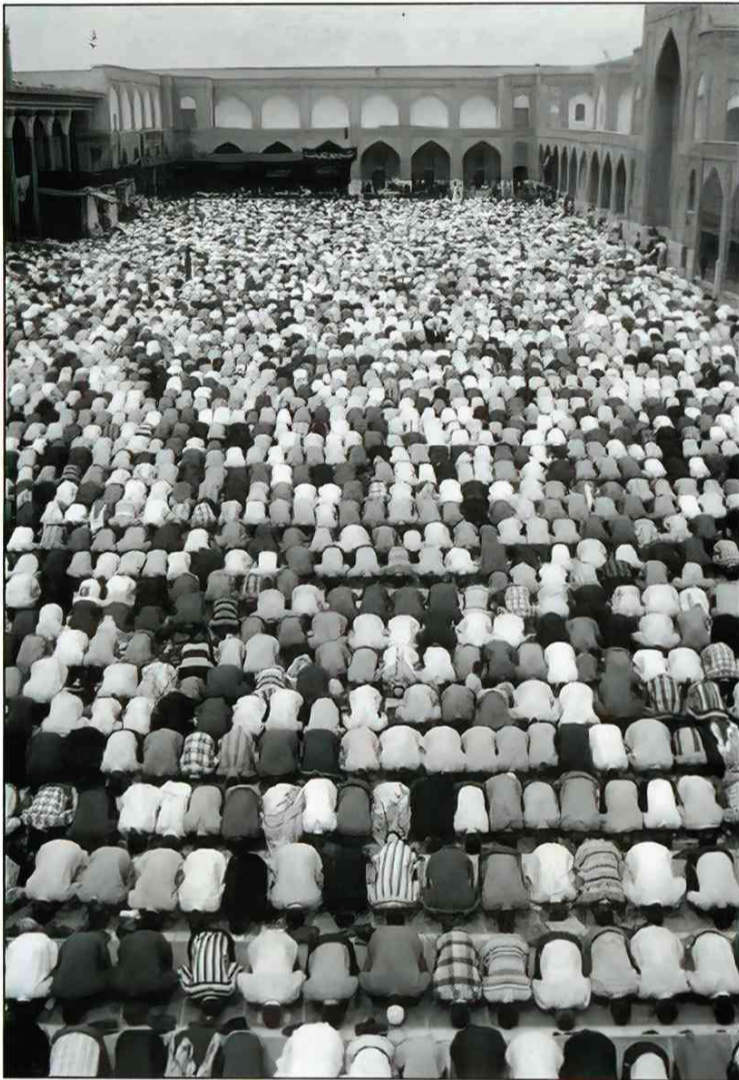
Iraqis protest U.S. occupation

BAGHDAD, April 18 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of protesters demanded on Friday that the United States get out of Iraq while leaders of the Arab nation's neighbors meeting in Saudi Arabia also called for U.S. forces to leave quickly and warned Washington against trying to exploit Iraq's oil wealth.

In the biggest protest since U.S. forces toppled Saddam Hussein's iron-fisted, 24-year-long rule nine days ago, Muslims poured out of mosques and into the streets of Baghdad, calling for an Islamic state to be established.

Carrying Korans, prayer mats and banners, tens of thousands of people marched in a protest that organizers said represented both Iraq's majority Shi'ite Muslims and powerful Sunnis.

"Leave our country, we want peace," read one banner. "No Bush, No Saddam, Yes Yes to Islam," read another.



Thousands of Iraqi people pray at a mosque in Baghdad, April 18. In the biggest protest since U.S. forces toppled Saddam Hussein's iron-fisted, 24-year-long rule nine days ago, tens of thousands of Muslim protesters poured out of mosques and into the streets of Baghdad, calling for an Islamic state to be established. REUTERS

Meanwhile, while the United States pressed ahead with its plans for a post-war Iraq, foreign ministers of the country's neighbors meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, called on the United Nations to take a central role in rebuilding the country.

U.S. officials told Reuters in Kuwait the United Nations must lift sanctions within weeks to help the country recover, but Washington faces an uphill battle to get them dropped quickly as the issue raises questions over who controls Iraq's oil and thus who in effect runs the country.

"In order for U.S. forces to withdraw as soon as possible, we call on the occupying authority to set up a transitional government quickly and make all efforts to set up a broad-based constitutional Iraqi government," said an opening statement read at the meeting.

After the meeting, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told reporters that the U.S.-led forces who invaded Iraq had no legitimate right to exploit its oil and U.N. sanctions should end only when Iraq has a legitimate government.

"Now Iraq is under an occupying power and any request for lifting sanctions must come when there is a legitimate government which represents the people... and which can comply with its duties toward lifting

sanctions," Faisal said.

"(The ministers) affirmed that the Iraqi people should administer and govern their country by themselves, and any exploitation of their natural resources should be in conformity with the will of the legitimate Iraqi government and its people," Faisal said.

FRIENDS OF THE U.S.

Barring Syria and Iran, all participants at the talks are key U.S. allies that offered some form of support for the invasion. But they all fear the United States will install a puppet regime in Iraq which would ally itself with Israel.

The U.S. Central Command in Qatar said Iraqi Kurds had captured and handed over Samir Abul Aziz al-Najim, a senior Baghdad official of Saddam's Baath Party, near Mosul in northern Iraq.

He was on a U.S. list of 55 most-wanted Iraqis. U.S. Brigadier General Vincent Brooks told a news

crowd in Baghdad from the top of a car on April 9 — the day the city fell.

The state-run channel also played an audio tape which it said was the last radio speech broadcast by Saddam, but it was not clear when the speech was thought to have been recorded.

Abu Dhabi TV said the pictures were shot in the northern Aadhamiya district and that the video tape had been obtained by its Baghdad correspondent from undisclosed sources.

A U.S. intelligence official said the United States would review it to determine whether Saddam, target of

at least two bombing raids aimed directly at him, had indeed survived.

In the audio tape, the voice said to be that of Saddam called on Iraqis to make sacrifices "to protect our land and our rights."

It added, "Regardless of the time needed to achieve victory and regardless of the forms of the struggle that might be needed, regardless of the length of the occupation, the freedom of the people is the most important."

Abu Dhabi TV said the pictures were taken on the same day U.S. tanks drove into central Baghdad and

Iraqis toppled a massive statue of Saddam.

Organizers of Friday's mass demonstration in Baghdad called themselves the Iraqi National United Movement. The protest served notice of the hostility that the United States, which has appointed a retired American general to lead an interim administration in Iraq, is likely to face from sectors of the influential Muslim clergy.

New Economy

The United States is now turning its focus to kick-starting Iraq's shut-

tered economy, hit by three wars in 23 years and economic sanctions since 1990.

U.S. officials, briefing Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the U.N. must lift sanctions within weeks to help Iraq recover and added the United States would open Iraq's borders to tariff-free trade for 90 days once the U.N. embargo was lifted.

They also forecast Iraq could not rely on using its oil revenues for about a year until it sorted out its debt, estimated at more than \$100 billion, and war reparation claims.



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New baby food on the market

Hayati useful for your baby's growth

The Yemen Company for Industry & Commerce, (YCIC) had a get-together seminar held at the Taiz-based Sofitel Hotel last Tuesday.

The seminar which was attended by a host of physicians, medical practitioners and local consumers aimed basically at keeping the public informed of (Hayati), a baby-related nutritional product.

Mr. Abdulla A. G. Hael Saeed, General Manager of YCIC made clear that the company had committed itself to offer the best services depending on its own self-reliance and outstanding competence.



"After conducting several studies on baby-related disturbances such as, malnutrition, we have decided to produce (Hayati) baby food as a typical nutritional product for babies," the YCIC General Manager declared.

The new product has been produced for meeting the babies' needs of energy, vitamins and minerals necessary for the baby's growth.

"We have taken a keen interest for the (Hayati) product in order to compete with other products,"

The new product is produced according to the World Health Organization, (WHO) and Food and Agriculture

Organization, (FAO).

This has made the new product more reliable to compete with other imported products in a flexible prices suitable for our consumers," Mr. Saeed further noted.

On his part, Dr. Abdulwahab al-Ghorbani, the general secretary of the Yemen Red



Crescent, Taiz branch, stated that the Yemeni babies were easily affected by several diseases such as, lack of protein, emaciation, rickets, anemia, malaria, parasites and malnutrition.

"Those diseases are in need of a complete hygienic nutrition which contains vitamins necessary for the baby's growth," al-Ghorbani said.

Unquestionably, the (Hayati), a baby food, is rich in vitamins necessary for the baby growth and disease-resistance.

Dr. Abduh Ali Mahdi, the Quality Manager told the Yemen Times that the (Hayati) baby food is a balanced nutritional product for the baby's



life and its growth. "It contains protein, glucose, mineral substances and vitamins," Dr. Mahdi said.

For a proper growth, it is preferable for the (Hayati) to be taken during the fourth month.

The lack of vitamins and minerals on the part of the babies will be replaced," he further advised.

Qualities of (Hayati) baby food:

- Secures nutrition and easy to prepare.
- It can be easily mixed with milk or boiling water and fed with a spoon.
- It can be used alone at 6 month's of age.
- Vitamin-rich substances and minerals necessary for the baby's growth such as:
 - 1- Vitamin (A), to help skin and nerves to grow properly.
 - 2- Vitamin (D), & rich in calcium to restore bones and teeth.
 - 3- Vitamin (B), activate the enzymes properly.
 - 4- Contains mineral substances useful for blood such as Iron.

YCIC background

The YCIC was established in 1970 as one of the pioneering and well-run companies in Yemen in the field of biscuit industry.

Since that time the company has witnessed a considerable improvement in the field of importing modern machines, equipment, new complexes and modern work systems.

This has been done with the aim of coping with the global changes and maintain its pioneering trade position in biscuit industry.

Several and different biscuits are produced by the company such as, Wafer biscuits covered with chocolates.

Different other forms are also produced such as, sweets, candies, cake.

These products are featured by high qualities, which meet the consumers' tastes.

The YCIC products are highly produced in automatic and healthy processes. During the production processes, the YCIC is aware of employing highly qualified staff, get trained and their capabilities are also promoted.

This has been accomplished through training employees



Medicine officials along with the general Manager of YCIC

abroad as well as in Yemen in order to secure healthy products according to the international standards.

A pivotal role has been played by YCIC to support the national economy.

The company is confident that maintaining its pioneering position and its widespread good reputation is achieved

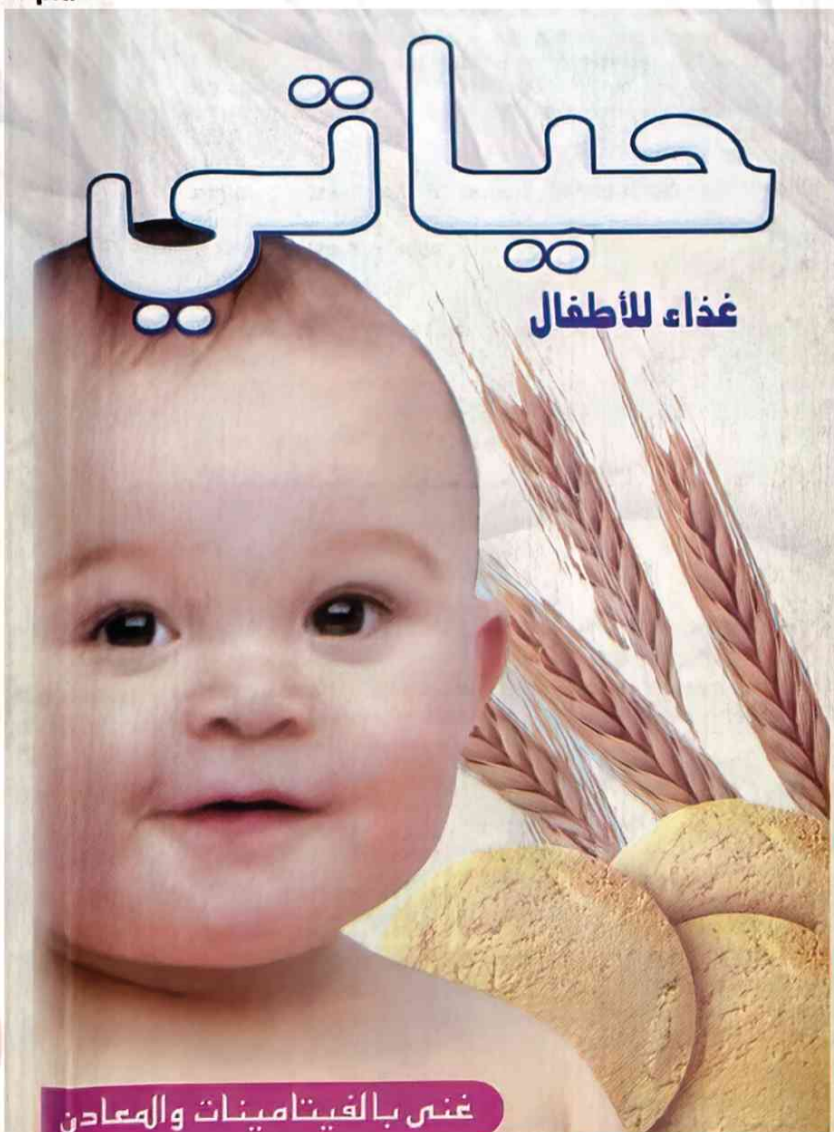
through its continuous progress.

In addition to this, YCIC could meet the tastes of the local consumers and that (Hayati) is among the products produced by the company.

The YCIC has four plants, Biscuit plant, Wafer plant, Sweet plant and cake plant.



A group photos during a get together seminar held in Taiz, April 15.



More hints emerge on Saddam's fate, but no proof

DUBAI, April 19 (Reuters) - Arab television channels showed documents on Saturday that hinted Saddam Hussein could still be alive — but like previous clues on the fate of Iraq's deposed leader, the footage raised more questions than it answered.

The Al-Jazeera and Abu Dhabi TV channels showed a handwritten document said to be a message from Saddam to Iraq's secret police telling them to stop fighting U.S.-led forces.

The word "ceasefire" was written in Arabic at the top of the document, but it also said Iraq had been victorious against the invaders. There was nothing to indicate whether the document was genuine or when it had been written.

On Friday, Abu Dhabi TV broadcast video footage of what it said was Saddam saluting a throng of chanting supporters in Baghdad on April 9, the day the capital fell to U.S. forces and a city-centre statue of Saddam was symbolically toppled.

The state-run channel also played an audio tape which it said was the last radio speech broadcast by Saddam, but it was not clear when the speech was recorded.

On Saturday, the channel said it had obtained a document written by Saddam's information minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, telling Iraqi officials to broadcast the speech

every half hour. The document carried the signature of Sahaf — whose whereabouts are also unknown — and was dated April 9.

Abu Dhabi TV also showed a document said to detail biological and chemical weapons materials hidden in the genetic engineering department of Baghdad University. It said the document was found in Baghdad, but gave no further information.

No sign of Saddam

U.S. forces detained Saddam's finance minister on Saturday, and captured Saddam's half-brother Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti on Thursday. But there has been no sign of Saddam.

U.S. officials say they do not know whether he is alive or dead. They are studying the Abu Dhabi TV footage to try to determine when it was recorded, and whether it shows Saddam or one of his rumoured "doubles".

U.S. intelligence officials say a previous videotape of Saddam aired on April 4, which showed him greeting a throng of supporters with smoke seen in the distance, was probably shot in early March — before the U.S.-led war began.

On April 7, the U.S. military bombed a restaurant in the Mansur district of Baghdad after receiving reports that Saddam and his two sons Uday and Qusay were inside. But some Iraqis say they saw Saddam and



A still from video footage broadcast April 18 by Abu Dhabi TV shows what it says is Saddam Hussein (R) standing on top of a car in the streets of Baghdad on April 9, the day the capital fell to U.S. forces. REUTERS

his sons alive after that attack.

The latest Abu Dhabi TV footage matched a report from a man describing himself as a former Iraqi army officer, who told Reuters earlier this week he saw Saddam at about the time the footage was said to have been shot, outside a mosque in the same northern Baghdad district of Aadhamiya.

The London-based Al-Hayat newspaper also quoted witnesses as saying Saddam had arrived near the mosque on April 9 in a convoy of three cars, accompanied by Qusay and his body-

guard, Al Amin Abd Hamed Hamoud.

On April 10, U.S. Marines fought a fierce battle at the Imam al-Adham mosque in Aadhamiya after intelligence reports suggested senior Iraqi leaders were gathered nearby.

But no trace of Saddam was found after the battle was over, and rumours have continued to thrive, fuelled by scraps of inconclusive evidence gathered by journalists in Baghdad.

On Thursday, Jazeera showed footage of what it said was Saddam's hastily abandoned last abode in Baghdad.

Water, electricity top list of Iraq's needs

BAGHDAD, April 19 (Reuters) - Iraq's collapsed infrastructure means the re-establishment of basic services and civil authorities are more urgent priorities than food aid, humanitarian workers said on Saturday.

The U.S.-led war on Iraq has left many cities without power or water supplies, government buildings burned and looted and a security situation so bad that many essential workers are too frightened to report for duty.

"This country has collapsed. Nothing works — no phones, no electricity, no schools, no proper medical care, no transportation, nothing," said Roland Huguenin-Benjamin of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Baghdad.

"It's more than bringing in food or tablets of aspirin. The basic services need to be restored and a new civil administration must be set up to answer people's needs."

While a convoy of 50 trucks carrying food aid headed to Baghdad from Jordan, the few aid agencies operating in the capital said they were concentrating their efforts on restoring water supplies in the city and ensuring hospitals had power.

Damage caused by U.S.-led bombing or sabotage by officials of Saddam Hussein's crumbling regime cut water supplies across northern Baghdad and in many other cities across Iraq.

Water is now flowing to most homes in the capital after ICRC engineers repaired the Qanat water treatment plant in the north of the city, which was damaged in a U.S. air raid.

"Water was the priority because we wanted to stop epidemics. Now Baghdad has water, Basra has water. We are now looking at other cities such as Nassiriya, Najaf and Mosul," Huguenin-Benjamin said.

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said the damaged water supply had been the biggest problem.

"We're seeing increased diarrhoea, increased malnutrition and potentially life threatening diseases because of the lack of water," she said in an interview with CNN.

Nearly all of Baghdad, a city of five

million people, is still without power. The water plants need generators to operate, as do the hospitals.

"It's getting better but clearly conditions have deteriorated, basic services aren't functioning and looting continues to go," Bellamy said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said Baghdad hospitals also needed oxygen cylinders and hygiene as some was very poor.

On the positive side, at least five medical supply warehouses in the city were still intact despite earlier fears they had been looted and destroyed, WHO said in a statement.

A major communicable disease laboratory in the capital looted earlier this week was unlikely to pose a health risk.

The WHO said that in Mosul, 50-70 percent of health services were operating and that looting there had not been as bad as in other centres, though many people still needed health care.

Safe to return?

Most aid groups, including United Nations agencies, evacuated their foreign staff before the U.S. bombing began and staff are only slowly returning given the uncertain security.

Many will find their offices and stores looted or destroyed.

"Our stores were hit by missiles and were burned," said Mohamed Saeed, a Care International coordinator in Baghdad. "We have very little left in the way of supplies but our technicians are now concentrating on fixing generators for the hospitals."

Most Iraqis stocked up on food and supplies before the war, and were given double rations under the U.N. oil-for-food deal.

But 60 percent of the population depends on those rations and Huguenin-Benjamin said it was only a matter of time before people began to wonder "where their next meal is coming from".

Aid agencies have demanded U.S. and British forces secure safe corridors to allow them to bring in supplies stockpiled in neighbouring countries. As yet, only a few aid flights and road convoys have delivered aid to south and central Iraq.

A World Food Programme convoy with 1,400 tonnes of wheat flour neared the outskirts of Baghdad on Saturday, in the first attempt by the U.N. agency to make the journey since war began.

"Although we have no reports of food shortages we assume the stocks will start depleting by early May," said Maarten Roest, a WFP spokesman in the Jordanian capital Amman. "It's important to get the food in the warehouses so we can start distributions as soon as possible."

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DHL Yemen Co. Ltd., is currently seeking for the employment of secretary (Female) in its Sana'a office.

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In Taiz University Qualification center honors staff, students

The qualification center of the General People's Congress (GPC) in Taiz University honored on Saturday its students and teachers in a special award ceremony. The university's dean Mr. Hussien al-Iriani delivered a speech stressing on the center's role in training students in scientific and computer-related subjects.

He appreciated the efforts exerted by Gamil al-Amrani, the head of the center, and Ibtihal al-Mashhary, head of the female department of the center, which benefits more than 2000 students.

Gamil al-Amrani told the YT "the center is one of the achievements of the GPC. It was established with great help from Hussien al-Iriani to train students. The center aims at solving problems the university students face, and help them enhance in their academic classes and receive better education to serve the

society more efficiently. About the activities of the center, Gamil says "the center offers various services and organizes courses for the university students in the fields of science, mathematics, chemistry, English and French languages to secondary graduates."

Al-Amrani said that since it was established in January 2003, the center organized 40 courses, in which 2,000 students were enrolled.

In the honoring ceremony, songs, and music was played by Ibrahim al-Abiadh, and a drama theatrical play on the current conditions in the Arab world were also performed. The act was performed by talented university students lead by Salahaddin al-Wafi. Mohammed al-Raimi recited a poem on the importance of the celebration of the Yemeni community on the occasion of the democratic experience of the parliamentary elections on 27 April.



Scenes from the event and the center

تعازينا آل البخيتي

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صدق الله العظيم

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بخالص التعازي وعظيم المواساة إلى

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بوفاته ولديه طلال وعبير

في حادث مروري مؤسف

سالين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدهما بواسع رحمته

ويلهم اهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان

« إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون »

Israeli troops kill Palestinian cameraman in Nablus

NABLUS, West Bank, April 19 (Reuters) - Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian cameraman during clashes with stone-throwers and gunmen in the West Bank city of Nablus on Saturday, witnesses and medics said.

Dozens of Israeli soldiers raided Nablus's historic old city, or Casbah, encountering scores of Palestinian youths who began throwing stones, Palestinian witnesses said.

Palestinian gunmen also opened fire in some places and a gun battle with the soldiers started, they said.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said that towards the end of the operation, an armoured vehicle got stuck near the Casbah and a crowd of Palestinians surrounded it and began throwing stones and petrol bombs.

"A few armed Palestinians shot at our forces and threw explosive devices," Major Sharon Feingold said.

A group of Palestinian journalists, including a Reuters cameraman and photographer, were filming the clash around the vehicle when soldiers opened fire.

Nazih Darwazeh, 45, a cameraman for Palestinian television, and a freelance cameraman for the Associated Press, was struck in the face during the shooting and died on the way to hospital, the Reuters journalists and Palestinian medics said.

Television footage of the incident showed the cameraman — wearing a bright yellow, sleeveless jacket marked "Press" — filming a group of youths throwing stones at the Israeli vehicle.

Gunfire erupted from the vehicle, sending the teenagers running for cover.

Feingold said that "our forces used non-lethal weapons to disperse them and when that didn't help they used light weapons". Witnesses said there had been no Palestinian gunfire in the area at the time.

"The entry of press during an exchange of fire endangers the forces and the photographers who took the risk of possibly being hurt. The army will continue to investigate the event and



A Palestinian youth who was injured by Israeli gunfire is carried away during clashes in the West Bank city of Nablus April 19. Nazih Darouza, a Palestinian cameraman, was shot dead by Israeli troops during clashes with stone-throwers and gunmen in Nablus, witnesses and medics said.

expresses regret over the harm to innocent people," Feingold said. Hospital officials said at least 18 Palestinians were wounded in the violence.

Feingold said troops arrested several wanted Palestinians, including a woman suicide bomber and her recruiter.

The army reoccupied most Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank last summer after Palestinian militants carried out a wave of suicide bombings inside Israel as part of a 30-month-old uprising for statehood.

At least three other journalists,

including one foreigner, have been killed while covering clashes since the start of the uprising in September 2000. Dozens more have been wounded.

Since the uprising began, at least 1,998 Palestinians and 732 Israelis have been killed.

Mideast countries call for withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq



Saudi Prince Saud al-Faisal (L) and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher sit at the meeting of foreign ministers of Iraq's six neighbours in Riyadh 18 April.

RIYAH, April 18 (Xinhua) — Foreign ministers of eight Mideast countries ended an emergency meeting on Iraq late Friday night with a joint statement calling for withdrawal of occupying force from Iraq.

The statement read by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal at a press conference following the meeting also reaffirmed the central role of the United Nation in dealing with the situation in post-war Iraq.

In the statement, foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey and Syria, all neighbors of Iraq, in addition to Egypt and Bahrain, affirmed the commitment of Arab and Mideast

countries to the stability and territorial integrity of Iraq.

They underlined the obligation of the occupying powers, referring to US and British forces, to maintain security, the civilian liberty and rights and the cultural heritage of the Iraqi people under the Geneva Conventions.

The statement also called for the withdrawal of the US and British troops from Iraq and allowing the Iraqi people to exercise their right of self-determination. As for tensions between the United States and Syria, the foreign ministers welcomed the plan of US Secretary of State Colin Powell to visit Damascus to discuss bilateral ties.

Lebanon's new cabinet will foster close Syria ties

BEIRUT, April 19 (Reuters) - Lebanon's new cabinet said on Saturday it would foster close ties with its political master Syria, which has been accused by the U.S. of harbouring Iraqi officials after the fall of Saddam Hussein's government.

Speaking after the cabinet's first meeting, Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samaha said both President Emile Lahoud and Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri had urged close links with Syria, which keeps some 15,000 troops in Lebanon.

Hariri, whose resignation this week

brought down the previous government, formed a new cabinet on Thursday that retained key economic policy makers but left out Christian figures opposed to Syria's influence over its neighbour.

"The president indicated that the new government comes at a very sensitive time regionally," said Samaha.

"(It comes) in the shadow of pressures and accusations, which Israel is behind, targeting Syria and Lebanon to give up ... their principled stand that calls for resistance to occupation," he said, quoting Lahoud.

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If you match the criteria and are looking to join a multinational company, please email your CV to bpmejobs@me1.bp.com or post your CV to the Attn: Assistant HR Administrator, BP Middle East, P. O. Box 1699, Dubai, UAE, within a week of appearance of this advertisement, clearly marking the envelope with the post being applied for.

Invitation for Consulting Proposals

Arab Yemen Libyan Holding Company

Arab Yemen Libyan Holding Company intends to implement the Family Entertainment Center (FEC) project located behind Sana'a Trade Center (STC), Algiers Street, Sana'a.

The project comprises of three elements: the building, the FEC, and the multipurpose hall. The project building consists of basement, ground, mezzanine and first floor in addition to the entry plaza. It will host the FEC, the hall and the other facilities such as food outlets & cafe, toilets, stores, etc. It will be constructed in accordance with state-of-the-art specifications of luxurious entertainment buildings, and has several unique features making it the first of its kind in Sana'a. The FEC has special theming features, and includes a number of popular games, bump cars, pool tables, horror chamber, party rooms, etc. The multipurpose hall is located in the first floor, and it is designed and themed to hold different activities such as weddings, seminars, and small exhibitions.

The Company seeks proposals from qualified consulting firms with known experience in the field of family entertainment centers for conducting the following Consulting services:

- Supervision of the project implementation
Supervision works cover the project from bare site to completion, and include the building, FEC games & equipments and theming, and the furniture and finishing of the hall.
- Provision of pre-opening management
The pre-opening management services cover the preparation, implementation and overseeing of the whole range of pre-opening tasks and activities relevant to the project and the FEC in particular.

Eligible and interested consulting firms may submit a written request with a copy of their qualification and experience record to obtain further details about the required consulting services during office hours, starting 22/4/2003 and for the period of one week, from:

The Projects Department
Sana'a Trade Center (STC), Office Tower, 7th Floor
Algiers Street, Sana'a

Proposals must be received in sealed envelopes delivered by hand to the above address before or on 20/5/2003.

Only selected consulting firms will be contacted in due course

YT Business

Internet and satellite channels

New investments

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In Yemen the term "investment" means the achievement of possible goals with least losses. Under the stagnation of economic situations, inertia of investment movement and retreat of private sector in the free zone and container port, Yemeni businessmen have invented the easiest way for investing their money and make up for their losses.

Despite the fact that the Yemeni society is still far away from comprehensive employment of computer and the internet, some businessmen, however, preferred to take the chance of investing their funds in opening internet cafes to the youth and citizens. It calls the attention that internet cafes are quickly spread in the capital city of Sana'a as businessmen's main objective is to gain financial proceeds compensating their owners for what they have lost in investment in service, productive or tourist fields.

Nearby the Sana'a University very many internet cafes have been opened to help students obtain research and entertainment information and to connect them with information and news world simultaneously. But such a spread of the web is no longer confined to streets nearby the university. They are abundant at various areas of the capital. Youths and citizens turnout at internet cafes. is big where we find

youths engrossed with using computers to browse various websites.

Most youths prefer sites dealing with research and chats as well as

completing their study researches. Owners of the cafes say the Yemeni youths have much liking to knowledge despite their difficult financial circum-

stances, confirming that their turnout is good and brings financial gains. They add that most of internet websites visitors have expatriate families

and they communicate with them via internet conversation, but what matters most for cafes owners is the financial benefits.



Youths engrossed with using computers to browse various websites

To fund development projects

Yemen needs \$29 million

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A government report has mentioned that total volume of financial resources required for financing development projects till the year 2015 are estimated at around \$82 billion, of them is the amount of \$52.7 billion can be provided and will need the remaining \$ 29.9. A recently issued report by the ministry of finance made it clear that realizing objectives of human development for combating poverty in the coming 12 years needs an amount of \$46 billion. Financial resources for expanding

basic education amount to \$29.5. Available resources amount to \$9.4 billion and the needed amount is \$20.1 billion.

The report also mentioned that the government had allotted \$4.2 billion for improving public health level and \$1.9 billion for water supplies. The report said the goals of development approved in September 2000 in New York aimed at fighting poverty, expansion of basic education, improvement of woman conditions, reduction of child mortality, improvement of motherhood health and combating malaria and contagious diseases. The report defines the required needs of available resources and mon-

itoring the extent of progress in achievement of goals of human development.

The report has drawn attention to retreat in volume of agricultural production and drop of the workforce income by 50 percent. Yemen imports of grains in 2000 are worth of about \$312 million and foodstuffs of 726.1. The report clarifies that the country is facing a number of acute environmental problems among which is the crisis of waters. The rate of drop in water levels in basins is estimated at 8.6 meters a year. It is scheduled that the ministry of planning would finish revising contents of the report and to later present it to the cabinet.

EURO 7 million for Yemen to join WTO

The European Commission (EC) and the Yemeni Government signed an agreement last week with which Yemen would receive a grant of EURO 7 million to support and facilitate Yemen's preparations to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Mr. Abdulrahman Mohammed Ali Othman, Minister of Industry and Trade along with Mr. Abdulrahman Tarmoum, Vice Minister of Ministry of Planning and Development signed the agreement on behalf of

the Yemeni government, which is keen to benefit from membership of this global organization.

According to the EC, the amount will be used in five years to provide technical and administrative assistance to the Yemeni Coordination and Communications office with WTO.

"We are quite confident that Yemen will pass this phase successfully and obtain the WTO membership and achieve its economic and trade objectives", emphasized Mr. Rainer Schierhorst, head of the EC Office in Sana'a.

No fears regarding Yemeni oil sector, official sources

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Oil sources said the oil sector in Yemen had not been affected by the war on Iraq and no changes had occurred concerning the attitude of oil companies working in Yemen. The sources

added that oil exploration operations and production and marketing are operating in accordance with plans agreements and programs signed between the ministry of oil and oil companies working in Yemen. They made it clear that the oil ministry succeeded during the past two years in building a number of oil and minerals

projects. It has also managed in areas of digging, production, manufacturing, professional modernization and information and technology at a cost exceeding YR 612 billion.

According to the same sources the present year would witness big expansion in oil, liquefied gas and minerals sector, in addition to emergence of

new indicators that can form a better reality for investors. The sources also expect that in the year 2003 there would be the implementation of about 70 oil strategic projects as part of the current year's investment program.

The ministry of oil is presently exerting encouraging efforts for investment in oil projects and

improvement and development of oil agreements and participation in production. The present year will also see implementation of other projects at a cost reaching YR 15 billion. There are also 26 projects under construction and other 15 projects distributed among all units of the ministry of oil and mineral wealth.



The Road Ahead

Caveat Emptor!

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
r_saqqaf@hotmail.com

'Caveat Emptor' is a Latin expression; it means let the buyer beware.

This ancient rule of commercial law, traceable to Roman times and even earlier, implies that every buyer must examine and judge a product before buying it, otherwise the seller would not be held responsible after closing the sale.

However, The complex and advanced nature of today's products doesn't help customers to know enough of the product, they need to know more than the basic features and warranty be informed about the product by the seller, this information can be communicated to the target through means of advertising, publicity or sales promotion that, nevertheless, can be misleading.

Marketers nowadays exploit the fact the human beings are not totally rational, and that emotions affect them to a great extent. So they exploit the power of words to heighten their emotions "If you can get them crying, you can get them buying", and in turn misleading them from the original purpose of the product. For example why do babies that appear in diapers advertisements have to be so cute? It is because the more cute the baby is, the more cute and favorable that brand becomes, and the faster it moves off the shelves, even if the brand laying next to it was better yet less expensive.

You can also see how women are being systematically targeted and their say in the purchase decision making is being promoted, that is because they are more emotional and easier to mislead; when my wife went birthday shopping for me last year, just as soon as she told the salesperson it was a birthday gift, the salesperson started exploiting her under the guise of love and caring; how long we have been together and how much I mean to her. To show how much she appreciates me, she ended up buying me a suit instead of a tie, thanks to that salesperson!

The process of marketing starts from knowing what customers want, to making customers buy what the marketers thought customers wanted. This results in the many trends, fashions, variety and complexity of today's products, and using marketing to make customers to buy as much as possible, and profit out of that.

Smart customers do not fall prey so easily for that, they know what they want and buy that, they do not allow marketers to expose them to media advertisements and sales promotion to mess up their minds and budgets through buying more, buying products they don't even need. The tough competition in today's market, makes marketers strive to sell, using whatever means possible, even if it included exploiting your emotions, after all, it's just marketing, so beware.

Endnote: Plan what you want to buy, and don't listen too much to marketers, their main concern is to make sure that money in your pocket gets out of there.

Words of Wisdom



It is unfortunate that the rulers do not see the value of creative and constructive criticism. In fact, independent and opposition journalism is far more meaningful and useful to the nation than hypocritical praise which shower praise on the rulers and system, without much credibility. In my opinion, a free and contributive press is an asset to the nation and regime.

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

OUR OPINION
Open letter to oppressive Arab leaders

Dear oppressive Arab leaders, look at what happened to Saddam Hussein? It is true that he was toppled by a super mighty power, but he eventually fell, and sooner or later, all of you will too.

So many years have passed, yet you continue to oppress your people. What have your countrymen done to live through such misery and pain under your rule?

You may enslave your people, but you have been enslaved by the US in many ways, economically, militarily, and even in terms of media. You are now unable to speak up and say "no" to the US for any reason.

Look at your shameful Arab summits that come with condemnations and protests, but then what? You end up doing nothing. What have you done for Iraq? Absolutely nothing!

No matter how powerful you feel you are when tyrannizing your own people, you are still weak from within because you cannot raise your heads and stop a foreign power from toppling your colleague. You have the army and means to slaughter your people, but if those disappear, they will come for you.

In today's world, a regime can be enslaved only and only if it accepts enslavement. Hence, it was you who accepted enslavement and preferred pleasing foreign powers over your people.

The gap between you and your people is huge and is getting wider every day. Never think that you are much different than Saddam Hussein. You are all oppressors but with varying degrees. You have deprived your people of their basic rights to freedom, democracy, and other human rights.

Because a leader loved by his people will be protected by them too, it was perfectly normal that Iraqis would let their leader face his fate in the way he did. Why? The answer is simply because he was never loved. How can you be loved when you take away people's freedom, torture and humiliate them in every way? They hated him and they hate you because of your oppression and brutal force used against them.

This applies to all of you. You are not loved by your people. If a coup succeeds against any of you, your citizens will not shed tears for your demise, but they will destroy your statues, tear into pieces your posters and curse you.

Dear oppressive Arab leaders, Before it is too late, you must realize that it is your people's appreciation and love that you should attain, and not the US administration's or any other entity's satisfaction. You tortured enough, you killed enough, you threatened enough, and perhaps your people could be forgiving and let you start all over again.

It is your people, whom you should trust only when you treat well and give freedom to. Never trust a foreign power no matter how close you think you are to it. Each superpower will look after its own interests. Even if it shows that it loves you, don't trust in what it says, and always remember what happened to Saddam when he trusted it.

Abandon your evil ways of treating your people. Allow freedoms. Establish justice. Allow peace, and then rely on your people when the moment of truth comes.

But if you face the danger of falling and you are still oppressing your people, then it is better for you to walk alone, fight alone, and fade away all alone.

Believe me, it is all in your hands today... The sooner you work on having your people love you, the more likely that your fate will not be like that of Saddam.

The power of a regime is attained from its people, and this power is greater and stronger than any other force on earth.

I hope you understand, and start acting today...

The Editor

Why Government keeps provoking us by April the 27th? Distracting attention

By ABD ALRAHMAN KHALED

An inquiry purports to be too naïve, the answer of which may, of course, be "so as not to forget the Election Day and to have our democratic right in voting, simply that's all" a layman may proudly and intellectually enlighten us. A decade or so after the first parliamentary elections held in Yemen, some people gradually commenced to open their shut eyes to the nothingness, ugliness, illusion and regressive development of the aggravating situations they're dwelling in, having no clear-cut ideology or policy to change even for the slightest slowest better. This late self-enlightenment and comprehension of the incredibility of elections by some previously misled has brought about to boycott elections as happened with the first and only presidential elections so far as we have all witnessed, seen, read and heard about.

When the misleading guys and elections mercenaries began to lose much more power and effectiveness feeling so worried only about their own interests they started launching their in firm campaigns of promises that would and will never come true even in day dreams utilizing all the media possible and available

to win the public hearts without even a grain shame of their vacuum words which are at odd with their actions.

And so, so many congresses, symposium, forums and workshops have been and still being held nation wide during of which many lectures regarding elections were delivered by political figures who have proved their utter failure in every position they occupied in an endeavor to wake up, evoke and stimulate the sleeping passions and morale of the public towards the so-called elections, which public seems to thoroughly forgotten or deliberately attempting to (excluding mercenaries and over exploiters of elections. But how far! To triply be fooled, as the American proverb says "if you fool me once, then you are a coward, but if you fool me twice, then I'm moony. So, what if a person is fooled thrice?"

The public is already fed up to every now and then get heard of the one decade old monotonous cliches you deceptive slogans of elections. Pre-election x is the best to represent you, but post elections x is the best to misrepresent you. Pre-elections, elect party x to have education free and accessible for all, post-election, education is inaccessible for those students scoring less than 70% and illiteracy on the rise. Pre-elections select party x to

ensure heath. For all, post elections, people are dying of different illnesses by the hundreds and boldly cured by the thousands. Elect party x candidate to root out corruption, poverty, ignorance and unemployment, such stupid slogans that merely and vividly confirm the widespread existence of all those devils and the many likes of them in Yemeni society. Choose party x candidate to get freedom, equality, justice, stability and prosperity. More silly mottoes which repeatedly assent the non-existence of all those merits in our community. Wake up Mr. Sleeping public and never be deceived by the false promises and digitally beautified photographs of the candidate has anyhow provided yours constituency with electricity or water never, never, never think this way, since this is really egoism, and bear in mind that after a four decade period of the revolution you, me and many like us still don't have even the basic and most simplest facilities and rights of citizen ship - just water and electricity and never forget that Yemen (Your country) is a one integral state and not (301) states, and remember as well that the previously posed inquiry may virtually purport to be naïve but it demands a wise answer that is so serious to the high point of seriousness.

For God's sake....

It is not a matter of Saddam



By YAZAN AL-SAGHIRY
Yazanonline@hotmail.com

"To be or not to be, that is the question" —Hamlet

This famous soliloquy of Prince Hamlet tells us truly and frankly what we are up to!

Hamlet was trying his best to explain-at least to himself- his dilemma of Treachery and Revenge. In fact, the astounding thing about William Shakespeare is generalizing very shallow manner to an international concept of the basic goal of mankind life, which is "The Existence".

Yes, it is our existence in the fire range of the western cowboys. The USA, so called, victory in Iraq will give it a 'new access card to go through other restricted areas 'so called' Arab and Islamic independent countries of the miserable Middle East!

While I was watching the TV 'cheerleaders' dancing on the sounds of B52 smart bombs, holding the photos of American and British POWs, a very fearful idea came to my mind about the unknown, if we didn't refer to it as 'not existed' future. As we all know, the only Arab feature that remained from our great history is 'considering'. Now, if that went away for a tribal revenge or for non-tribal morals, then we are doomed.

It is not a matter of a man or a regime, it is about the old idea of colonialism for the Arab oil and strategic position. A new Sykes-Picot formed, while those ignorant fellows or traitors were cheering and supporting those Vikings. I did not control my tear when I saw that US marine putting the USA flag on the face of status of President Saddam Hussein before he put the old Iraqi flag. And, my sadness was not

because of the status, but because of where the status is!

Isn't that a sign? Does it mean anything to us? They said will liberate, what kind of liberation can be found in securing the oil fields and neglecting the rest of the country to be raped and robbed?

As I remember the only declared reason for this war was 'Weapons of Mass Destruction', so why do I see them securing oil fields only?

Oh sorry, I forgot! They are saving Iraq's wealth for the Iraqis 'only'. As for US companies - especially those, which signed contracts to rebuild Iraq's wealth, Never!

Beside, why all that talk about Syria. If Syria has Chemical weapons, as Bush said, the thing that it is completely not true, it didn't breach any UN resolution, unlike the Zionist state which originally refused to sign the NPT (Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty) as we all know. And still Sharon is a man of peace in Bush's eyes!

So, what does USA want? This is the problem, because no one knows what it wants. But, we do know 'How it wants it'! It is going to be the Bush way of replacing clashes of civilizations with 'death for civilizations and viva USA'. Bush said when he was declaring the war on Taliban, 'it is the time that everyone should know, either to be with us or against us!'

Sorry to say, you can apply this idea to all US actions since Bush got the Air Force no. one. For him, it is the time to chose between two choices, either to be a Yankee or to be a Yankee's donkey!

Arabs in that concept are divided to many groups. The first one walking along applying the Syrian proverb, "Whoever was married to my mammy I'm going to call him Daddy", and those are the Yankees!

The other group can be called the waiters for two reasons. One, they wait until the situation is portrayed clearly so they can behave according to their

own interests which are firmly related to USA line. Two, and after waiting, they act like real waiters who would serve for cleaning the American bloody dishes after finishing that Arabic fatty meals, and those are the Yankee's Donkeys.

The third group can be called the 'ignorant' or miss leader group. It includes those who are blinded by their lively temporary rancor of a brother disappeared in jail or a son killed because of his opposition. Those, and only those, can be excused. On the other hand there must be a way to show them the real danger of those 'liberators', and to tell them the fact that it is not a matter of Saddam's regime, but it is about regimes, people and the whole Arab area.

The last and huge group is us! We were born repeating the great legends of heroic Arab actions, remembering a history we created by justice and care, and not on the aches of Real Red Blood of Red Indians.

They told us in schools that Al-Jihad must be done to satisfy Allah. They told us also that cowardice is a very shameful thing. Even if we were weak and unarmed, we have to fight and die with honor rather than living in humiliation. These are us.

Syrian former president Hafez Al-Assad said in his war speech in 1973 "We are not so fond of killing and destroying, but we are defending ourselves from this killing and that destroying!" And that is what we want at least for now. We have to defend ourselves. Those thousands of Iraqi and Arab fighters paved the way to us with their own sacred blood in order to restore our 'lost' pride and honor.

In 1991, President Ali Abdullah Saleh commented by using the Shakespearean thought of Existence, saying:

'Now, it is not a matter of 'to be or not to be', but we have to say, in complete honesty, It is the time to be! Isn't it?'

Letters to the Editor

Think independently
Your editorial on what Americans should think was good. I thought as an American I would add some comments. Most Americans, as most people in the world, work. They have gotten in the habit of relying on television and newspapers for their news. The problem, of course, is that if Americans or any people, have limited news and views presented to them they cannot have opinions that are really valid. We tend to think that we live in a freer society than anyone else, but I am afraid that we are only free in certain ways. Most Americans refuse to believe that it is possible for them to be unduly influenced

by propaganda, and thus are easily controlled by it. These techniques are used on peoples all over the world, but I believe more Americans are naïve about having propaganda used on them and are currently more easily manipulated by it than people in many other countries who are used to such control. But people all over the world are influenced and manipulated when the news they get is controlled, or when they refuse to look at issues impartially due to influences of religion or politics misapplied in ways intended to control them. The tragic consequences of this are wars, hatred, and failure to recognize and

Letters to the Editor

solve the many problems there are in the world today. The reaction of people around the world over the current war in Iraq is to perhaps blame the American people. In the long run, however, we will suffer and have to deal with the consequences as much as the people currently being victimized. Only by independent thinking, talking with open minds to each other, and thinking, rather than arguing and hating, can we personally rise above the manipulation and hatred that is being forced on us. Your editorial is admirable in that it does that.

I am still against war
I am absolutely with those people who are against war. This is because war is that kind of antagonism or mutual enmity - war is a mental suffering, pain, and injury. War is death, damage, harm and absolute destruction. War means killing the innocent people, and the Iraqi kids are a case in point. War in general hurts everybody. Although war is harmful to everybody, the US continued to go for it. I am in here in Yemen but I am really suffering from war! One may suffer physically, mentally, or maybe one may suffer financially.

Bob Patrick

Yafe'a Al-Yafee
alyafee@maktoob.com

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

War on Iraq From victory to a mess

Last week, General Tommy Franks, Commander-in-Chief of the Anglo-Saxon Alliance Forces (Have we forgotten that the good old USA is an offshoot of the British Empire, as well as the Aussie Land Down Under?) announced that for all intents and purposes the heavy engagements of the War in Iraq were over. Of course, this did not mean that "Operation Iraqi Freedom" could not be considered as a matter that can now be transferred to the history textbooks and the work papers of strategic think tanks to prepare for the next possible engagement. In fact, the "job seemed far easier than envisioned" and worthy of the applaud of all those who insisted that the war was necessary and proper to remind the world that the "White Man's Burden" is far from being over and done with. Many of the anti-colonial veterans of the 1950s and 1960s are perhaps rightfully asking, "why did we bother to go through all that trouble" (Iraqi anti colonialist activity was far earlier, as the British found themselves unwelcome almost from the start of their mandate over Iraq, i.e. in the 1920s). To underscore the "job well done" feeling, there was even talk of the Marines going home (with subtle talk of having them replaced by US Army troops, to take over the "police work", which never really got off the ground anyway).

But what seemed to be "over and done with" in Iraq, in the eyes of the retired "embedded generals" with the American media channels, was really only the start of another phase of all the malady and the uncertainty that has characterized the Administration of President George W. Bush almost since it took office. To be sure, the generals kept telling the curious listeners to the American media channels, the "objectives of the military adventure were achieved with dramatic speed and cunning". The feat is bound to make good textbook material for West Point, thus replacing Schwarzkopf's Desert Storm military avalanche of Gulf War II (GW I: Iraq vs. Iran War; GWII Iraq vs. Everybody; GWIII: G. Bush vs. S. Hussein War). For three weeks, the American media was hammering the American populace and the rest of the world with military tactical jargon and various colors and dimensions of the map of Iraq, with almost casual by the way mention of the human trauma that was unfolding in most of the major cities of Iraq. When it became apparent that the military victory was beginning to appear as a mismanaged and poorly planned strategic adventure, the Bush Administration began raising the Terror alarm again and started to hint that from Iraq the Americans are launching their might towards Syria. Once again, Jack Straw and Tony Blair jumped on the bandwagon to echo the new Anglo Saxon's King Richard the Lionhearted's call for Syria's total and unconditional surrender to Anglo-Saxon demands for a world free of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. It does not matter that the WMD, which the war on Iraq was based upon, has yet to be found, to justify all the destruction and suffering which the Iraqis have to go through. So, now Syria will become the new target for Bush's evasion of the issues at hand that really should keep the American Presidency busy. From one unfinished job to another: that is how Mr. Bush feels is the proper way of showing guiding leadership to an American public that seems to be easily swayed to close their eyes to much of the debacle that the domestic scene is undergoing (of course the Bush Misadministration already is banking on the "9-11 standby" to take care of all criticism against the failure of the Administration to put some verve back into the economy and to overcome the stagnation in many of the domestic social fronts). So Syria comes next with Iran given the early warning signs. Many people seemed to have forgotten that the adventure in Afghanistan is far from being over, with the Kabul Government not even fully in control of Kabul yet, let alone the rest of that country. Now if Kabul can remain such a menacing headache, one can imagine what Iraq will turn out to be, with all the geopolitical complexity that characterizes the country. All we can say is that, whoever is producing this parade of Ride'm High Cowboy orientation is serving demonic interests, that do not really have the aspirations of the American people to heart, nor do they blend in with the desire of the people of this world to work towards greater rapprochement and peaceful integration. All these senseless ill conceived adventures are being undertaken at the expense of continued suffering of the world's poor and with the opportunity cost of squandering billions of dollars recklessly, which could be so much better utilized to eradicate so much of the social decay and deprivation that prevails throughout the world. Yes, we should not forget to mention two important outcomes: Saddam is gone - or is he still around, ready to come out with his set of tapes, like his predecessor Bin Laden? Yes the Iraqis are rid of tyranny, but now there is chaos and pandemonium, which to some analysts may be even worse than tyranny. Just to remind the Americans of the gratitude the Iraqis have shown: a Friday sermon in one of the Mosques in Baghdad simply put the prevailing feeling of gratitude to Mr. Bush echoed by so many Iraqis, "the Americans must get out of Iraq as soon as possible, or else we shall push them out". Then, the hanging question - was it really worth it, Mr. Bush? The answer will not be found in Baghdad, Damascus or Teheran. The answer really lies in Tel Aviv.

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Walid Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf

Head office:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

Website: yementimes.com
Email: http://www.yementimes.com

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A late night reply to Al-Haifi

Emotions will not lead to a solution

By BILL CAVENDER
bcavender@cox.net

It is with torn emotions I write in response to your editorial "Who said that it is over and done with?" from Issue 631, Volume 13 of the Yemen Times.

I oppose the war against Iraq. I believe Saddam Hussein was a ruthless man who used his people for no gain but his own. He cared little for those outside his inner circle and duped many in the Arab world through his brilliant propaganda machine and appeals to the finer points of Arab Nationalism.

I believe he posed a threat to the United States and to neighbors in the region, although that threat was dramatically reduced during the 1991 Gulf War.

I believe that UN sanctions were severe and resulted in no suffering for Mr. Hussein or his cronies, but mainly for those Iraqis already struggling.

I do not believe the US and British forces deliberately targeted journalists nor do I believe that there was a coordinated plan to control or censor the news out of Iraq.

I sat many nights watching from the comfort of my home watching the disgusting smirk of an MSNBC broadcaster as he described US actions in Iraq. I was not proud of those events although I stood by our military forces, who went into battle as a part of their duty.

The voters of the USA are worthy of a more balanced view of the situation both in Iraq and in many other places outside our borders, and I believe each citizen in this nation has an opportunity to take his or her own responsibility for finding balance in today's world of rapid communication and the availability

of diverse views at the click of a "mouse."

Your vitriolic editorial speaks to your passion on the current events in Iraq; under the hyperbole and conspiracy hints you have valid points.

Yet the Arab world also needs a balanced view of the situation. Was it possible for an Iraqi citizen in February 2003 to receive a balanced view anyway? While there were times I found Al-Jazeera professional, there were other channels that I was disgusted with including the CNN. Was your average Baghdadi or Kirkuki or Karbalite able to receive a multitude of viewpoints and assessments? Was it possible for that citizen to write an editorial critical of the governing Baathist regime or of President Saddam Hussein?

I spent the fall of 1993 in Yemen watching the two -by then- presidents Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salem Al-Beedh slowly pull the fragile Yemeni union apart. While in Sana'a, I attended language school and worked on a paper about the history of Islamist political movements in Yemen. I have never been treated better by people anywhere.

I remember buying the Yemen Times to get my local information because my ongoing challenge with the Arabic language was just getting started. Yet I also heard differing opinions in coffee shops, scanned dozens of party newspapers in the 'souk', and saw some strong signs of a civil society poised to move forward with a blend of new and old. I continue to follow Yemen and its adolescent days of democracy. I commend those fighting to make it work. I am eager to see it flourish and grow into adulthood, a new democracy appropriate to the needs of the people.

Was there any chance of such a

democracy under Saddam Hussein? I find it unlikely. Am I saddened to see him go? No. God will provide for him.

I thank you for motivating me to spend some time reflecting on this issue. We are fortunate to have this discourse. I would like to see a time where the discussion broadens and reaches a point where there can be civility, respect and progress towards a peaceful future.

I believe the truth is out there and while there are times for harsh words, criticisms and uproar, I do not believe your written words provide much balance. Not in themselves, perhaps stacked up against something equally as severe. They may incite, anger and provoke but I do not believe these emotions will lead to a solution.

I will do my part to listen and respect the views of others. Each man and woman has a God-given right to express their views. I don't need to subscribe to their viewpoint but that is their right. Until their views or actions instill prejudice and incite violence against another they are free to extol the virtues of their way. Most quickly dismiss the voices of fanatics and their deluding world views, but there are those that are sucked into the vortex. These can become formidable forces the world has witnessed again and again.

Let us some day celebrate the time when our children will know one another as equals under God and truly believe that war must be a last resort. But do not let them believe that there is no case where "men should never be given the right to kill under any pretext."

Let there be more opportunities to share views, reduce misconceptions, prejudice and fear, and come to understand the commonalities more than the differences.

SKETCHED OPINION

... and Iraq's neighboring countries shall request the country besieging them to leave Iraq!



Falling statue of Saddam in Baghdad

Reading between lines

By KHALED AL-AWADH*
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The pulling down of the statue of Saddam Hussein at Paradise Square in the heart of Baghdad - broadcast live and later repeated almost every hour throughout the world - clearly summarizes all that is happening in that part of the world with countless number of readings.

Failure to topple Saddam's statue

It was ironic that the Iraqis had initially failed to pull down the statue themselves with their ropes and equipment. The rope they used was so weak and flabby. That could well symbolize Iraqis' inability to overthrow Saddam themselves for all the past twenty four years of his reign. They seemed so weak and powerless to change the situation without any outside help.

It was only when the US marine interfered that the statue of Saddam was pulled down to the ground. This incident reflects what is happening actually in all parts of Iraq and not only what is there at Paradise Square. Americans are the overthrowers.

Feet still intact

The statue went down but its feet remained intact to the concrete on which it was erected. What can be derived from this part of the tragic scene is also amazing? Does that mean that trouble awaits the Americans? Or is it simply a resemblance of the remaining pockets of resistance acting here and there? Or does it refer to the post-Saddam era with all its ambiguity and uncertainty.

US flag on Saddam's face

The ugly part of the scene is when the US marine covered the face of Saddam with the American flag. One reading that can be elicited from this act is that it resembles the real hidden intentions of the US to Americanize Iraq after this bloody occupation. It was a grave mistake similar to do it so openly and it reminds me of Bush's slip of the tongue

after the attacks of September 11th 2001 when he said it was a crusade war. Those actions did have a role in bringing doubt in the Arab world of what is truly behind the scene.

Another hypothetical interpretation of the improper raising of the US flag in Baghdad is that Saddam has played a major role in serving the interests of the US to the extent that he should be honored with the American flag. Thanks to him, the USA has become now a hyper power and has its first foothold there. There is no place for the Russians, the French, the Germans or the Chinese. The British are only subordinates. They are only there to materialize or rather market the so-called coalition forces on US TV networks and media.

Or was it simply a reflection of the disgusting arrogant character of USA's Uncle Sam spreading like a disease in their television networks and newspapers. A Japanese recipe in this matter can help fight this wild virus.

Making up with the Iraqi flag

Now, we come to the next turn of event when the US marine replaced the American flag with an Iraqi one. Perhaps he realized his grave mistake and tried to make up for it. Well this is a good way to apologize for the first mistake at the spot. However, some mistakes need to be corrected later. An example of that is when the White House apologized for Bush's Crusade slip of the tongue at the time as it was wrong to speak out the subconscious in public. However, the day was saved -thankfully for the Americans- when they remembered taking the Iraqi flag off the statue's neck before bringing it down.

Sudden appearance of old Iraqi flag

However, bringing an old Iraqi flag without the phrase "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is the Greatest) -added by Saddam Husain during the Gulf War- is yet another symbol. How did they secure this old flag at this spontaneous moment? Was it all planned? The only difference between the two flags is that Islamic phrase uttered in public six times in every call

for prayer from every mosque located in every part of the whole world. Why did that US marine use the flag without that symbolic phrase? How does this literal part of the scene fit with the figurative aspect of it? One reading that can be deduced from this post-structural painting is that perhaps Iraq is going to be a secular state tailored according to the American standards. Baghdad, the symbolic capital of the Muslim world, will soon become a Westernized Eastern capital and an American center for marketing pragmatism in the Middle East.

Iraqis on the toppled statue

The moment the statue went down, a chaotic scene followed. Iraqis walked on the poor statue in contempt cursing who it represents and later pulling the remains of it through the streets of Baghdad. It is not hard to say that this was a call for anarchy and chaos to spread throughout Iraq and not only around Paradise Square as the regime has fallen.

Chaos and looting

Unprecedented lootings of public property happened and are still happening. Hundreds of people gutted public and private buildings taking away all they could carry, from air-conditioners to flowers.

This was only a literary reading of an open modern text written this time by President Bush, very close to the Waste Land famous poem written by the well-known American poet T.S. Elliot:

Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man, You cannot say, or guess, for you know only a heap of broken images where the sun beats.

True to Elliot's words, we can only see some broken images of a world full of chaotic scenes and anarchies. But that symbolic fate of the statue is open to various post-structural readings throughout the Arab world, and not only in Iraq today and for centuries to come.

* Khaled Al-Awadh is a Saudi journalist writing for a number of Saudi newspapers.

Freedom: A flawed logic

SHAYMUS
Shaymus@shaymus.com

I have read your editorial about "Freedom" and have found your logic to be flawed and probably twisted by the idea that any tyrant and murderer can control the populace of a nation without regard to human rights, international law and common decency. You say that "Only Iraqis can decide on what they want and need".

If that were true Saddam would have been hung as a murderer years ago. But he had the terrorist police to intimidate and torture the people he supposedly "loved".

The same holds true for the insane Taliban and their irrational hate for anything not in line with their twisted views. The same is true for North Korea, a police state beyond comprehension.

You say "In this particular case, it could be a repeat scenario of post-World War II Germany and Japan"

Well, if you happen to look at those countries without your anti-US glasses on you would clearly see that the US does not control them, their government, or their people.

You say: "The Iraqi regime that could be appointed after Saddam is gone, must be loyal to the US and UK, and must be in coherence with business interests. Hence, this regime will have to consult those countries on many things that may even be related to local political as well as commercial affairs"

The people and new government will need the help of the free nations of the world to become a democracy, granted. But they will be free to choose how their government is run and what commercial affairs they wish to venture into.

You say: Finally, what if the US and UK fail to find solid evidence that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction when the war is over? Wouldn't the two countries try to diminish this issue and say "life goes on"? Shouldn't the world prosecute those powers if we

find out that the basis of the whole war was wrong.

Saddam has had years to hide his weapons. If you had the power and resources to hide something for years you would probably hide it pretty well. The fact is: He had the weapons! He used the weapons and killed thousands that opposed him. And now the weapons are missing..... Where are they?.... Well, we'll find them.

Saddam and his sons have brought nothing but misery to the Iraqi people. They are criminals and they will be held accountable. The Iraqi people will be free, and I think that is what scares the terrorist-minded people in the Middle East. They don't want actual "people" to be able to say 'No! We don't want you here. No, we don't want to have to think like you. The terrorist-minded leaders and religious liars would hate to have the people make decisions for themselves. Well guess what? Freedom is coming, and the terrorist-minded people like you will get what is coming.

Why are we allowing the rape of Iraq?

By BORIS JOHNSON
FOR THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Suppose the government of your country had just sustained a cataclysmic reverse.

It might have been an evil government, but it was yours. Suppose that your army had just been cut to ribbons by a force so overwhelmingly superior that comparisons had been drawn with the massacres of the Zulus, or the Aztecs. You might think that your country's army had been fighting for a bad man. But it was your army.

Suppose you were asked to agree with the victors that the past 25 years of your nation's history had been an appalling aberration. You might be among the huge numbers of Iraqis who rejoice to see the downfall of Saddam. But it is your country's history that is being anathematised. You would be only human if, at the same time, you yearned for something you could cling to; some symbol of an Iraq that predated Saddam.

You would want some evidence that there was still something about you and your country that was great, and admirable, and unique. And then imagine that, under the eyes of the incoming army, the most splendid treasures of your national museum were carted off. Not the usual melange: the Impressionist donated by a supermarket tycoon's wife; the ho-hum sculpture by Degas.

No, imagine that your country has suddenly been pillaged of its most emblematic works, the equivalent of the Crown Jewels, things that were meant eternally to incarnate the culture of your land.

Think how you would feel if you knew that, even now, these things were being secretly crated up, given false bills of sale and deprived of their museum code numbers. How would it strike you, when you reflect that these things are about to be flogged to the tiny minority who can afford to buy them, principally in the conquering country?

I supported this war, and I support it. But it fills me with rage to think that at

least some of the spoils of Iraq's National Museum will, in all likelihood, end up as the bibelots in the brownstone of some banker in New York.

No one knows what has happened to the limestone Warqa Vase of 3,500 bc, or the bull's head harp of Ur, or the squatting Akkadian king of 2,300 bc.

According to Irving Finkle, of the Ancient Near East department of the British Museum, at least four of the looted objects were so vast - such as a larger-than-life sculpture of an Assyrian king - that it would have taken a fork-lift truck to move them.

As Dr Finkle points out, all it required was a couple of determined American troops to stand outside, with or without a tank. Now 170,000 items are missing, and all because America was unwilling to expend the necessary resources. Why? If you launched a military operation against Athens, wouldn't you take steps to prevent the destruction of the Parthenon?

In this week's Spectator, Rod Liddle talks to an archaeologist who attended

a meeting on January 24 at the US Defence Department, of a newly formed group called the American Council for Cultural Policy. The chairman, William Pearlstein, represents about 60 leading American lawyers and collectors. According to Pearlstein, Iraq's policy towards cultural artefacts has been excessively "retentionist". The group apparently told American defence chiefs that, under the new regime, it would like "more objects to be certified for export". Well, whatever you say about the post-war Iraqi order, its policy towards historic artefacts is about as retentionist as a burst paper bag.

If I were an Iraqi, joyful at the removal of Saddam, but struggling to come to terms with the crushing of my country by America, I would want to know how this has happened. I would be instinctively "retentionist", because in a dirt-poor country, fallen on very hard times, these objects remind me that Mesopotamia, not America, was once the greatest country on Earth. In fact, it was a mere 4,000 years ago

that Iraq was a bit of a superpower, the Assyrian having such a big technological advantage over his enemies that he came down like the wolf on the fold. The ringletted beards, the winged lions, the chariots made of electrum - all that beautiful stuff was made when Europeans were thudding each other with lumps of wood.

The treasures stolen from the Baghdad museum should not only have been a source of tourist income to future generations, but also a visible testimony to the point made by Lt Col Tim Collins at the outset of the war: that this was a country worthy of respect. And now those objects will turn up - if they turn up at all - in Tokyo salerooms and the guest washrooms of Florida real estate kings. If I were a "retentionist" Iraqi, I would want to know how and why this group gained such access to the US Defence Department. I would like to know whether it is true that some of them have been in contact with President Bush. I would like to know how the Americans could let this happen, when

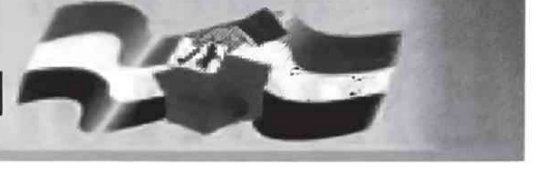
4,000 objects were looted after the 1991 Gulf war, and only a fraction of them recovered.

What steps are the coalition forces taking to stop this happening again? As I write, there is still apparently no adequate protection for the National Museum, to say nothing of the provincial museums. Why, finally, did Geoff Hoon seem last week to condone the looting of official buildings? I can think of no explanation, except perhaps that the Government may wish to use the chaos to explain away another embarrassment.

Perhaps we will shortly be told that the looters have snaffled the weapons of mass destruction. Whatever our motives, we have allowed Iraq's heritage to be badly damaged. We must do what we can to make it good, and in an ideal world not so much as a broken potsherd will pass into the hands of anyone connected with the American Council for Cultural Policy.

* Boris Johnson is MP for Henley and editor of The Spectator

نعم لمرشح المؤتمر الشعبي العام



منها،
٢- تشجيع القطاع الخاص على الاستثمار في مجال التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني.
٣- استكمال التشريعات الخاصة بالتعليم الفني والتدريب المهني.

٤- تحقيق أقصى قدر ممكن من التوازن بين نسب المتخصصين بالتعليم الفني والتدريب المهني والمتخصصين بالتعليم الثانوي وكمرحلة أولى تحقيق نسبة التحاق ١٥٪ من مخرجات التعليم الأساسي والثانوي بالتعليم الفني والتدريب المهني خلال العشر السنوات القادمة.

٥- إرساء نظام إعداد وتأهيل الكوادر الفنية والإدارية العاملة في مجال التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني والاستمرار في تطويرها وفقاً للمتغيرات الفنية والتكنولوجية.

٦- إنشاء وتجهيز وتشغيل مؤسسات تدريبية جديدة في المجال الصناعي والزراعي والتجاري والفني والسياحي والسعي وغيرها من المجالات.

٧- الإسراع في برامج الحكومة الهادفة لمحاربة الفقر وتخفيف مستوى البطالة وتعزيز فرص التشغيل في المجتمع بالتنسيق مع الجهات ذات العلاقة، وتنمية وتطوير مشاركة المجتمع على الصعيدين الوطني والمحلي، وتفعيل دور المجلس الوطني والمجالس المحلية واللجان الاستشارية للمناهج.

٨- ربط التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني باحتياجات سوق العمل ومتطلبات التنمية.

٩- الاهتمام بالتراتب الحرفي والصناعات التقليدية والتدريب الموجه لنوعي الاحتياجات الخاصة بمختلف أنواعهم وحرصهم والتركيز على برامج التدريب الخاصة بالمرأة وتطويرها في مختلف المجالات وفي جميع المحافظات.

١٠- تفعيل دور صندوق التدريب المهني بما يكفل تحقيق الأهداف المناطة به.

١١- تطوير قدرات مؤسسات التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني على التمويل الذاتي عن طريق الإنتاج عبر التدريب وتقديم الخدمات الاستشارية واستثمار تسهيلات والاستفادة من العوائد في تحسين العملية التدريبية وتحسين العاملين والمدرسين.

في مجال التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي:
١- إعداد الاستراتيجية الوطنية للتعليم العالي والبحث العلمي لتتواءم مع التوسع الكمي والنوعي لمؤسسات التعليم العالي بما يدعم تحقيق الفعاليات للتنمية الشاملة في البلاد.

٢- تنفيذ خطط تطوير البرامج الدراسية في مختلف الجامعات والكليات الفرعية وتطوير قدرات الهيئات التدريسية واستخدام تكنولوجيا المعلومات في التعليم والتعلم والإدارة.
٣- توجيه الجزء الكبير من التمويل الحالي للهيئات لتمويل إعداد الهيئات التدريسية للجامعات اليمنية في جامعات عليية عريضة لضمان مستوى عال ومن التعليم الجامعي المتميز لتسريع التنمية الشاملة في اليمن.

٤- إعداد الاستراتيجية الوطنية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا اللازمة لتوجيه التطور العلمي والتكنولوجي المستقبلي في اليمن.
٥- استكمال تنفيذ مشروع دراسية تحديد أولويات البحث العلمي في اليمن في مجالات منها (المياه، الزراعة، الصحة، الطاقة، البيئة، المعادن، السكان، الثروة السمكية، الاقتصاد، الإدارة، التعليم).

٦- استكمال وإنشاء وتجهيز العديد من الكليات والمرافق الجامعية المختلفة التابعة للجامعات اليمنية والكليات الفرعية التي لا يسمح المجال لايرداها.

٧- التوسع في إنشاء وتجهيز العديد من كليات المجتمع وخاصة في المحافظات التي لم تبن بها جامعات سعياً لتوفير فرص كبيرة للمتمتعين من الثانوية العامة بحيث يلتحق على لدى البعيد غالبية الطلاب (٦٠٪) بكليات المجتمع ذات الصلة الوثيقة بسوق العمل المحلي والخارجي ويلتحق بالباقي بالجامعات كما هو المعيار في الدول المتقدمة.

في مجال الصحة العامة:

١- رفع تغطية الخدمات الصحية إلى أكثر من ٧٧٪ من مناطق الجمهورية بحسب المؤشرات الصحية الوطنية.

٢- توسيع دور القطاع الخاص في تقديم الخدمات الصحية في الريف بحيث يصبح قريباً من السكان عبر نظام المناطق الصحية.

٣- مواصلة تنفيذ برامج مكافحة الأمراض الشائعة والمستوطنة، والتركيز على مكافحة الملاريا والإسهالات والتهابات الكبد والأمراض المنقولة.

٤- تقديم خدمات وقائية أساسية وتعزيز برامج التحصين الموسع بما يكفل رفع نسبة التحصين والتطعيم ضد الأمراض الخسنة للأطفال الرضع والأطفال دون الخامسة إلى معدلات تتجاوز ٧٠٪.

٥- تخفيض المخاطر التي تهدد صحة الأم والمولود من خلال رفع مستوى خدمات الصحة الإنجابية وتنظيم الأسرة لتخفيف معدل وفيات الأمهات.
٦- زيادة عدد الأطباء وضوياً إلى وجود أربعة أطباء وسبعة ممرضين لكل عشرة آلاف مواطن.

٧- رفع نسبة تغطية خدمات الرعاية الصحية الأولية، وإشراك المجتمع والقطاعات ذات العلاقة في أعمال التطوير والإدارة، ودعم نشاط التحصين الموسع، وتعزيز أنشطة مكافحة أمراض الطفولة

تعزير الموقف العربي الموحد تجاه القضية الفلسطينية ومسيرة السلام في المنطقة العمل على صياغة نظام عربي جديد والتركيز على كل المعوقات التي تحول دون تحريك التكتامل الاقصادي

وطناً صالحاً للعيش الكريم.

● قطاع الكهرباء ومياه الشرب والصرف الصحي

١- سيتواصل العمل من أجل تطوير هذا القطاع الحيوي الهام والتحول في توليد الطاقة من فود المازوت والديزل إلى التوربينات الغازية لانخفاض تكاليف التشغيل مما سيؤدي إلى الحد من العبء على ذوي الدخل المحدود وسيتم زيادة قدرات التوليد الكهربائية بما لا يقل عن ٧٠٠ ميجاوات خلال الأعوام الخمسة التالية واعطاء الأولوية في شبكات التوزيع لمناطق التجمعات السكانية الكثيفة والمناطق الحارة.

٢- اما في شأن المياه والصرف الصحي فسيواصل تنفيذ المشاريع لتوفير هذه الخدمات لما لا يقل عن عشرين مدينة رئيسية وثانوية خلال الست السنوات القادمة بالإضافة إلى توسيع أنشطة هيئة مشاريع مياه الريف لتنفيذ مشاريعها التي تتضمنها خطط التنمية.

● قطاع الطرق والنقل

١- يتبنى المؤتمر الشعبي العام سياسة هادفة في هذا المجال قوامها ان الطرق تعتبر شريان التنمية والنهوض الاقتصادي والاجتماعي وفي هذا الاتجاه سيتواصل العمل في تنفيذ شبكات الطرق التي تربط التجمعات الحضرية والريفية في مختلف محافظات ومناطق الجمهورية واعطاء الأولوية للمشاريع قيد التنفيذ ورفع إجمالي الطرق المسفلتة إلى أكثر من ١٥٠٠٠ كيلومتر خلال المرحلة القادمة.

٢- الاستمرار في النهوض بالوحدات اليمنية واستكمال الإجراءات اللازمة للبدء في تنفيذ موانئ جديدة وتوسيع ما هو قائم منها وإنشاء عدد من موانئ الاصبلياد في المحافظات الساحلية.

٣- وضع نظام لتأمين سلامة الملاحة البحرية وحماية السواحل اليمنية من أعمال القرصنة والاعمال الارهابية ووضع خطة لمكافحة التلوث البحري ومواجهة الحالات الطارئة.

٤- تحسين البنية الأساسية والتنظيم

١- الاهتمام بأفراد الأمن العاملين والمتقاعدين ورعايتهم وإسراهم من الاخطار التي ترافق ادائهم لمهامهم بما يكفل ادايتهم لواجبهم في خدمة المجتمع وتحقيق الأمن والاستقرار.

٢- تطوير الخدمات الامنية وتحسين أداء جهازية القوى الامنية ومؤسساتها والتكاتف مع فئات المجتمع المختلفة متعددة الخدمات وخاصة في الطرق الطويلة والعمل من أجل توفير الامكانات المادية والبشرية الكافية بتواجد أجهزة الامن في جميع مديريات الجمهورية.

٣- رفع كفاءة المختبرات الجنائية بالاستفادة من التقنيات الحديثة في علوم المختبرات الجنائية والتدريب عليها.

٤- الاهتمام بالامن الوقائي للحيلولة دون حدوث الجرائم والحوادث.

٥- تنمية القدرات في مجال مكافحة الارهاب والجريمة المنظمة.

٦- مواصلة العمل من أجل استكمال بناء شرطة حرس الحدود وخفر السواحل وتنمية قدرات الشرطة القضائية والشرطة السياحية.

٧- تعزيز العلاقة مع الأجهزة الامنية في الدول الشقيقة والصديقة.

٨- تعزيز بناء وجاهزية القوات المسلحة للعمل في القوات الشعبي العام يؤمن بان العمل في القوات المسلحة يعتبر من اقدس الواجبات فهي صمام امان للوطن والتنمية والديمقراطية وسيعمل المؤتمر من أجل:

١- ايلاء المزيد من الرعاية والاهتمام بأفراد القوات المسلحة العاملين والمتقاعدين وتحسين احوالهم المعيشية بما يكفل لهم حياة مستقرة تمكنهم من تادية واجيبهم المقدس في الدفاع عن الوطن ومكسباته.

٢- العمل على تعزيز الجاهزية القتالية للقوات المسلحة بما يمكنها من الدفاع عن الوطن بكفاءة واقتدار والمشاركة في بئانه واعماره.

٣- العمل على رفع قدرات وكفاءة منتسبي القوات المسلحة من خلال دعم المنشآت التعليمية وتحديث مناهج وتطوير القاعدة المادية الدراسية.

٤- تطوير مناهج وبرامج التوجيه المعنوي بما يعزز الفهم الصحيحة الرئيسة ويرفع الروح المعنوية للمقاتلين والعمل على رفع المستوى الثقافي وتوسيع برامج محو الامية.

٥- التقيد والالتزام بتحريم الحزبية في اوساط القوات المسلحة والحفاظ عليها من اي تأثيرات حزبية او ولاءات طبقية وجعلها نموذجاً للوحدة الوطنية.

العلاقات الخارجية

ان النجاحات المتوصلة التي تحققت لبلادنا على المستوى الخارجي كانت نتيجة منطوية للسياسة الخارجية التي تبنتها حكومة المؤتمر الشعبي العام في اطار توجيهات الحكمة لخمسة رئيس الجمهورية رئيس المؤتمر الشعبي العام الاخ عبدالله صالح وسيواصل العمل في السير قدماً باتباع منهج الحكمة والاقتدار في ادارة السياسة الخارجية

ووفقاً للاسس التالية:

١- تطوير علاقات الجمهورية اليمنية بالملتمة العربية السعودية ودول الخليج عموماً والعمل على تطوير العضوية الكاملة للجمهورية اليمنية في مجلس التعاون الخليجي وتعزيز علاقات اليمن بالدول الصديقة والشقيقة وتطويرها وفق قاعدة للمصالح المشتركة.

٢- تعزيز الموقف العربي الموحد تجاه القضية الفلسطينية ومسيرة السلام في المنطقة، بما يكفل تحقيق كامل الحقوق المشروعة للشعب الفلسطيني واقامة دولته وعاصمته القدس الشريف، واستعادة كافة الاراضي العربية المحتلة في فلسطين وسوريا ولبنان.

وبنفس القيادة والإسراع الذي وقفه شعبنا بقيادة المؤتمر الشعبي العام ضد العدوان على العراق الشقيق وانتهاك سيادته والتدخل في شؤنه الداخلية فإن المؤتمر الشعبي العام يقف اليوم بزعامة الوطن والحلي، وتفعيل دور المجلس الوطني والمجالس المحلية واللجان الاستشارية للمناهج.

٨- ربط التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني باحتياجات سوق العمل ومتطلبات التنمية.

٩- الاهتمام بالتراتب الحرفي والصناعات التقليدية والتدريب الموجه لنوعي الاحتياجات الخاصة بمختلف أنواعهم وحرصهم والتركيز على برامج التدريب الخاصة بالمرأة وتطويرها في مختلف المجالات وفي جميع المحافظات.

١٠- تفعيل دور صندوق التدريب المهني بما يكفل تحقيق الأهداف المناطة به.

١١- تطوير قدرات مؤسسات التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني على التمويل الذاتي عن طريق الإنتاج عبر التدريب وتقديم الخدمات الاستشارية واستثمار تسهيلات والاستفادة من العوائد في تحسين العملية التدريبية وتحسين العاملين والمدرسين.

في مجال التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي:

١- إعداد الاستراتيجية الوطنية للتعليم العالي والبحث العلمي لتتواءم مع التوسع الكمي والنوعي لمؤسسات التعليم العالي بما يدعم تحقيق الفعاليات للتنمية الشاملة في البلاد.

٢- تنفيذ خطط تطوير البرامج الدراسية في مختلف الجامعات والكليات الفرعية وتطوير قدرات الهيئات التدريسية واستخدام تكنولوجيا المعلومات في التعليم والتعلم والإدارة.

٣- توجيه الجزء الكبير من التمويل الحالي للهيئات لتمويل إعداد الهيئات التدريسية للجامعات اليمنية في جامعات عليية عريضة لضمان مستوى عال ومن التعليم الجامعي المتميز لتسريع التنمية الشاملة في اليمن.

٤- إعداد الاستراتيجية الوطنية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا اللازمة لتوجيه التطور العلمي والتكنولوجي المستقبلي في اليمن.

٥- استكمال تنفيذ مشروع دراسية تحديد أولويات البحث العلمي في اليمن في مجالات منها (المياه، الزراعة، الصحة، الطاقة، البيئة، المعادن، السكان، الثروة السمكية، الاقتصاد، الإدارة، التعليم).

٦- استكمال وإنشاء وتجهيز العديد من الكليات والمرافق الجامعية المختلفة التابعة للجامعات اليمنية والكليات الفرعية التي لا يسمح المجال لايرداها.

٧- التوسع في إنشاء وتجهيز العديد من كليات المجتمع وخاصة في المحافظات التي لم تبن بها جامعات سعياً لتوفير فرص كبيرة للمتمتعين من الثانوية العامة بحيث يلتحق على لدى البعيد غالبية الطلاب (٦٠٪) بكليات المجتمع ذات الصلة الوثيقة بسوق العمل المحلي والخارجي ويلتحق بالباقي بالجامعات كما هو المعيار في الدول المتقدمة.

٨- رفع تغطية الخدمات الصحية إلى أكثر من ٧٧٪ من مناطق الجمهورية بحسب المؤشرات الصحية الوطنية.

٩- توسيع دور القطاع الخاص في تقديم الخدمات الصحية في الريف بحيث يصبح قريباً من السكان عبر نظام المناطق الصحية.

١٠- مواصلة تنفيذ برامج مكافحة الأمراض الشائعة والمستوطنة، والتركيز على مكافحة الملاريا والإسهالات والتهابات الكبد والأمراض المنقولة.

١١- تقديم خدمات وقائية أساسية وتعزيز برامج التحصين الموسع بما يكفل رفع نسبة التحصين والتطعيم ضد الأمراض الخسنة للأطفال الرضع والأطفال دون الخامسة إلى معدلات تتجاوز ٧٠٪.

١٢- تخفيض المخاطر التي تهدد صحة الأم والمولود من خلال رفع مستوى خدمات الصحة الإنجابية وتنظيم الأسرة لتخفيف معدل وفيات الأمهات.

١٣- زيادة عدد الأطباء وضوياً إلى وجود أربعة أطباء وسبعة ممرضين لكل عشرة آلاف مواطن.

١٤- رفع نسبة تغطية خدمات الرعاية الصحية الأولية، وإشراك المجتمع والقطاعات ذات العلاقة في أعمال التطوير والإدارة، ودعم نشاط التحصين الموسع، وتعزيز أنشطة مكافحة أمراض الطفولة

ووفقاً للاسس التالية:

١- تطوير علاقات الجمهورية اليمنية بالملتمة العربية السعودية ودول الخليج عموماً والعمل على تطوير العضوية الكاملة للجمهورية اليمنية في مجلس التعاون الخليجي وتعزيز علاقات اليمن بالدول الصديقة والشقيقة وتطويرها وفق قاعدة للمصالح المشتركة.

٢- تعزيز الموقف العربي الموحد تجاه القضية الفلسطينية ومسيرة السلام في المنطقة، بما يكفل تحقيق كامل الحقوق المشروعة للشعب الفلسطيني واقامة دولته وعاصمته القدس الشريف، واستعادة كافة الاراضي العربية المحتلة في فلسطين وسوريا ولبنان.

وبنفس القيادة والإسراع الذي وقفه شعبنا بقيادة المؤتمر الشعبي العام ضد العدوان على العراق الشقيق وانتهاك سيادته والتدخل في شؤنه الداخلية فإن المؤتمر الشعبي العام يقف اليوم بزعامة الوطن والحلي، وتفعيل دور المجلس الوطني والمجالس المحلية واللجان الاستشارية للمناهج.

٨- ربط التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني باحتياجات سوق العمل ومتطلبات التنمية.

٩- الاهتمام بالتراتب الحرفي والصناعات التقليدية والتدريب الموجه لنوعي الاحتياجات الخاصة بمختلف أنواعهم وحرصهم والتركيز على برامج التدريب الخاصة بالمرأة وتطويرها في مختلف المجالات وفي جميع المحافظات.

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١١- تطوير قدرات مؤسسات التعليم الفني والتدريب المهني على التمويل الذاتي عن طريق الإنتاج عبر التدريب وتقديم الخدمات الاستشارية واستثمار تسهيلات والاستفادة من العوائد في تحسين العملية التدريبية وتحسين العاملين والمدرسين.

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١- إعداد الاستراتيجية الوطنية للتعليم العالي والبحث العلمي لتتواءم مع التوسع الكمي والنوعي لمؤسسات التعليم العالي بما يدعم تحقيق الفعاليات للتنمية الشاملة في البلاد.

٢- تنفيذ خطط تطوير البرامج الدراسية في مختلف الجامعات والكليات الفرعية وتطوير قدرات الهيئات التدريسية واستخدام تكنولوجيا المعلومات في التعليم والتعلم والإدارة.

٣- توجيه الجزء الكبير من التمويل الحالي للهيئات لتمويل إعداد الهيئات التدريسية للجامعات اليمنية في جامعات عليية عريضة لضمان مستوى عال ومن التعليم الجامعي المتميز لتسريع التنمية الشاملة في اليمن.

٤- إعداد الاستراتيجية الوطنية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا اللازمة لتوجيه التطور العلمي والتكنولوجي المستقبلي في اليمن.

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٦- استكمال وإنشاء وتجهيز العديد من الكليات والمرافق الجامعية المختلفة التابعة للجامعات اليمنية والكليات الفرعية التي لا يسمح المجال لايرداها.

٧- التوسع في إنشاء وتجهيز العديد من كليات المجتمع وخاصة في المحافظات التي لم تبن بها جامعات سعياً لتوفير فرص كبيرة للمتمتعين من الثانوية العامة بحيث يلتحق على لدى البعيد غالبية الطلاب (٦٠٪) بكليات المجتمع ذات الصلة الوثيقة بسوق العمل المحلي والخارجي ويلتحق بالباقي بالجامعات كما هو المعيار في الدول المتقدمة.

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١٠- مواصلة تنفيذ برامج مكافحة الأمراض الشائعة والمستوطنة، والتركيز على مكافحة الملاريا والإسهالات والتهابات الكبد والأمراض المنقولة.

١١- تقديم خدمات وقائية أساسية وتعزيز برامج التحصين الموسع بما يكفل رفع نسبة التحصين والتطعيم ضد الأمراض الخسنة للأطفال الرضع والأطفال دون الخامسة إلى معدلات تتجاوز ٧٠٪.

١٢- تخفيض المخاطر التي تهدد صحة الأم والمولود من خلال رفع مستوى خدمات الصحة الإنجابية وتنظيم الأسرة لتخفيف معدل وفيات الأمهات.

١٣- زيادة عدد الأطباء وضوياً إلى وجود أربعة أطباء وسبعة ممرضين لكل عشرة آلاف مواطن.

١٤- رفع نسبة تغطية خدمات الرعاية الصحية الأولية، وإشراك المجتمع والقطاعات ذات العلاقة في أعمال التطوير والإدارة، ودعم نشاط التحصين الموسع، وتعزيز أنشطة مكافحة أمراض الطفولة

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تأكيد مفهوم ادمج الثقافة في التنمية والتهيئة لاجل عمل صنعة حاضرة الثقافة العربية

انتماء متمسك بحرياته العامة وحقوق الإنسانية الدستورية والطبيعية الحرة وذلك على اعتبار ان الحرية هي فطرة الله التي فطر الناس عليها.

وطن يتمتع بالسيادة والكرامة ويشترك جميع الاطمان الاخرى في تحقيق مبادئ السلام والامن والاستقرار

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نعم لمرش
المؤتمر الشعبي العام



إن البرنامج الانتخابي للمؤتمر ينطلق في التعامل مع قضايا المستقبل من إنجازات الفترة الماضية ومن تلك المنطلقات المبدئية يضع المؤتمر الشعبي العام شعاره الجوهري الشامل لحواس الانتخابات النيابية، من أجل تعزيز التنمية والديمقراطية وبناء الدولة الحديثة..

البرنامج الانتخابي للمؤتمر الشعبي العام

تعزيز التنمية والديمقراطية وبناء الدولة اليمنية الحديثة

من وقفت من أجل انتصار الثورة، والجمهورية، وتحقيق الاستقلال الوطني، يا من كافحتم من أجل الإنجاز التاريخي الكبير في تحقيق إعادة الوحدة اليمنية والانتصار للديمقراطية وتعزيز مسيرة التنمية الشاملة والعمل على بناء الدولة اليمنية الحديثة إليكم جميعاً يقدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام برنامجه الانتخابي مؤمناً كل الإيمان أن رسالته ستظل دائماً هي بناء الوطن والعمل من أجل الإنسان وبالإنسان من أجل تحقيق آماله وبلوغ تطلعاته في حياة حرة وكريمة وآمنة ومستقرة.

الحمد لله القائل في محكم كتابه: (واعصموا بحبل الله جميعاً ولا تفرقوا) صدق الله العظيم والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين. يا جماهير شعبنا اليمني العظيم يامن ناضلتم بقوة الإيمان الوطني الصادق من أجل الحرية والاعتناق من الظلم والاستعمار، يا

مليون مواطن عام ٢٠٠٢م وقد نتج هذا التوسع عن توجيه الدولة لمخصصات استثمارية كبيرة إلى هذا القطاع المرتبط بمعيشة وصحة الإنسان وحله في الحياة العريضة.

٤- ازدادت أطوال الطرق الإسفلتية المنجزة خلال الفترة من عام ١٩٩٧م وحتى عام ٢٠٠٢م ٥٢٧٨ كيلو متر إلى ٨٦٦١ كيلو متر ويشكل هذا الإنجاز علامة مضيئة في منجز المؤتمر الشعبي العام والذي يعتبر الاستثمار في مجال الطرق من أهم البنى الأساسية لتحسين مستوى المعيشة والنمو الاقتصادي.

٥- تم خلال السنوات الماضية حل معظم مشاكل الصرف الصحي في كثير من مدن الجمهورية متجاوزين المشاكل البيئية الحرجة التي كانت تمر فيها معظم المدن الرئيسية بما فيها مدينتا صنعاء وعدن وغيرها من المدن الرئيسية والعمل جارٍ لحل ما تبقى من هذه المشاكل.

٦- تم خلال السنوات الماضية تجاوز الوضع الحرج في قطاع الكهرباء فازدادت شبكات التغطية لتشمل العديد من المناطق والقرى في مختلف محافظات الجمهورية وانخفضت انقطاعات التيار بنسب كبيرة وازدادت قدرات التوليد وإعادة تأهيل المنظومة.

٧- ازداد عدد المستفيدين من خطوط الهاتف بما يزيد عن ١٢٠٪ نتيجة زيادة أعداد خطوط الهاتف من حوالي ٢٠ ألف خط إلى أكثر من ٥٢٦ ألف خط تغطي معظم المناطق الحضرية والريفية في مختلف محافظات الجمهورية، كما تم تخفيض تكاليف الاتصالات الريفية والتوسع في الخدمات البريدية وخدمات الإنترنت وتطوير البنية الأساسية اللازمة لنشر تقنية المعلوماتية على مستوى الحضر والريف.

في مجال مكافحة الفقر والتخفيف من آثاره،

ولأن المؤتمر الشعبي العام يحمل هموم الشعب فقد عمل على تحقيق تطلعاته في الحد من نمو ظاهرة الفقر والتخفيف من آثاره وذلك من خلال تطوير شبكة متكاملة للأمان الاجتماعي من أهمها صندوق الرعاية الاجتماعية وصندوق رعاية أسر شهداء ومناضلي الثورة اليمنية وسبتمبر أكتوبر ومعركة الدفاع عن الوحدة وتم إنشاء الصندوق الاجتماعي للتنمية ومشروع الأشغال العامة وصندوق دعم الشقافة والتراث وصناديق النظافة وتحسين المدن وتوسيع موارد ومهام صندوق تشجيع الإنتاج الزراعي والسعي وصندوق رعاية المعاقين وصندوق رعاية النشء والشباب وصندوق تمويل المنشآت الصغيرة وصندوق صيانة الطرق وقد حققت هذه البرامج نجاحات ملموسة أدت إلى تخفيف حدة الفقر وأسهمت في توفير مشاريع التنمية البشرية والاجتماعية في مختلف مناطق وقرى محافظات الجمهورية.

وإجمالاً فإن الإنجازات التي تحققت لبلادنا خلال الفترة الماضية منذ تولي حكومة المؤتمر الشعبي العام في مايو ١٩٩٧م تتحدث عن نفسها ويلسها كل مواطن ويشهد بنجاحاتها المتميزة كل من عاش تلك الأوضاع الحرجة التي مرت بها بلادنا خلال فترات الاضطراب الحكومي المتعاقبة منذ قيام الوحدة المباركة ودرج مؤامرة الانفصال المشؤومة في عام ١٩٩٤م وحتى نيل المؤتمر الشعبي العام ثقة الغالبية من أبناء شعبنا في الانتخابات النيابية لعام ١٩٩٧م.

القسم الثاني

التوجهات المستقبلية واليوم ووطننا ينتظر استقبال مجلس النواب القادم وشعبنا يستعد لاختيار ممثليه في هذا المجلس يتقدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام بمرشحيه وهم نخبة من خيرة أبناء الوطن تم اختيارهم من بين قواعد العريضة بإتباع أسلوب الاستبيان الواسع- كمنهجية ديمقراطية حديثة يضيفها المؤتمر إلى رصيده في العمل الديمقراطي- يحدوهم الأمل في نيل ثقة جموع الناخبين ليتشرفوا بخدمة الشعب والعمل من أجل بناء الوطن مقدمين العهد والوعد في مواصلة العمل في بناء الدولة وتعزيز الأمن والاستقرار في ربوع الوطن ومواصلة النهوض التنموي والبناء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في إطار برنامج عمل وطني يستهدف التعامل مع إحدائيات وهموم الحاضر لتحقيق غايات وتطلعات شعبنا في مستقبل مشرق في المحاور الأساسية الثلاثة الآتية:

أولاً- العمل من أجل تعزيز البناء المؤسسي للدولة اليمنية دولة الحريات الديمقراطية دولة النظام والقانون.

الحد من التضخم والفلاء والتقلبات في اسعار السلع والخدمات بما يكفل تحسين معيشة المواطنين

لجنة وطنية عليا لحقوق الإنسان تختص بالمرجعة المستمرة للإجراءات والسياسات بما يكفل ويضمن عدم المساس بحقوق الإنسان والحريات العامة في كل إجراء حكومي ومراقبة تنفيذ الأداء الحكومي لمطالبات صوت الحريات والحقوق.

في مجال تعزيز موقع المرأة في المجتمع، عملًا بقوله تعالى: المؤمنون والمؤمنات بعضهم أولياء بعض يامرؤن بالمعروف وينهون عن المنكر- صدق الله العظيم، وقوله صلى الله عليه وسلم « النساء شقائق الرجال لهن مالهن وعليهن ما عليهم وللنحوض بوضع المرأة في المجتمع أولت الحكومات المتعاقبة للمؤتمر الشعبي العام أهمية خاصة للخصايا والمسائل التي تتصل بحقوق المرأة في الجوانب المختلفة فتولت المرأة المناصب القيادية العليا في الدولة فاصبحت تشغل المنصب الوزاري وتولت السفارة ونالت عضوية مجلس النواب وتولت القضاء والجالس المحلية

وإذ انفاق الاستثماري الحكومي والخاص خلال الفترة من عام ١٩٩٧م. حتى نهاية عام ٢٠٠٢م، كما تمكنت حكومة المؤتمر الشعبي العام من أن تنفذ الوعد الذي شملها البرنامج الانتخابي المقدم للشعب في عام ١٩٩٧م في مضمون البناء الاقتصادي والتنموي فوصلت ثمار التنمية إلى مختلف مناطق ومحافظات الجمهورية، وفي كافة المجالات وبالذات تلك المتعلقة بالتنمية البشرية وفي مجال توفير الخدمات الاجتماعية والتعليم والصحة ومياه الشرب النقية والصرف الصحي أو خدمات البنية الأساسية اللازمة للنهوض الاقتصادي كطرق والكهرباء والاتصالات تذكر منها ما يلي:

١- ارتفع أعداد منشآت ومستلزمات التعليم الجامعي والفني والشاؤوي والأساسي وتوسع المنهج التعليمي الإداري والفني ليستوعب حوالي ٣.٨ مليون طالب وطالبة في التعليم الأساسي في عام ٢٠٠٢م مقارنة بحوالي ٢.٧ مليون طالب وطالبة في عام ١٩٩٧م، كما ارتفع عدد المنشآت ومستلزمات التعليم الشاؤوي ليستوعب الزيادة في أعداد الطلبة من ٢٤٥ ألف طالب وطالبة إلى ٥٢٩ ألف طالب وطالبة، وفي التعليم الفني والتقني من حوالي ١٠٥ ألف طالب وطالبة إلى حوالي ٢٠٠ ألف طالب وطالبة، وفي حوالي ٢٣ ألف طالب الجامعي والعالي من ١٢٣ ألف طالب وطالبة في عام ١٩٩٧م إلى أكثر من ٢١٤ ألف طالب وطالبة في عام ٢٠٠٢م، وقد تحقق هذا النمو والتوسع في الدورات الاستيعابية نتيجة زيادة مخصصات الإنفاق على التعليم.

٢- تم التوسع في بناء الوحدات والمرافق الصحية الأولية ومراكز الأمومة والطفولة والمستوصفات والمستشفيات الحكومية في مختلف مناطق الجمهورية فقد زاد عدد الوحدات والمراكز والمستوصفات في ١٩٩٦م وحتى عام ٢٠٠٢م نمو اقتصادي جيد في معظم القطاعات أدى إلى تحسين معيشة السواد الأعظم من أبناء شعبنا في الوقت الذي وصلت فيه الأحوال المعيشية خلال الفترة منذ عام ١٩٩٣م وحتى ١٩٩٦م إلى مستويات أدت بالإنهيار كان وضع وتنفيذ برنامج للإصلاحات الاقتصادية والمالية والإدارية استهدف الحد من تدهور الأوضاع فاستطاعت حكومة المؤتمر الشعبي العام بما لديها من خبرة وصواب الرؤية أن تتعامل مع القضية الاقتصادية باقتدار وحكمة.

٣- ارتفع أعداد المستفيدين من مشاريع مياه الشرب النقية إلى حوالي عشرة

إدارة، وغيرها من الأعمال القيادية العامة وممارست الأعمال التجارية والصناعية وتولت إدارة الجامعات والكليات العلمية والمؤسسات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والتعاونية والخيرية، ولم يكف المؤتمر لتمكين المرأة من ذات الفرص المتاحة للرجل في التعليم والعمل بل تم إنشاء لجنة وطنية عليا تتولى المراجعة المستمرة للقضايا التي تتصل بهذه الحقوق لضمان عدم اتخاذ أي إجراءات تعارضها، وكان من نتائج اهتمام حكومات المؤتمر بالمرأة ارتفاع أعداد النساء العاملات في جهاز الدولة ليصل إلى حوالي ٢٢٪ من العاملين في الخدمة المدنية واستحدثت الشرطة النسائية لتتولى المهام ذات الخصوصية النسوية وترتفع عدد الطالبات في كافة المستويات التعليمية خلال السنوات الماضية بنسبة تقارب الضعف في مستوى

في مجال توحيد التعليم، تأكيداً لحقيقة أن الإنسان هو غاية التنمية وسيلتها فقد كانت مهمة توحيد التعليم من مهام العظمى التي أولتها الحكومات المتعاقبة للمؤتمر الشعبي العام اهتماماً كبيراً وبعد دراسة متعمقة وسلسلة من الإجراءات الموضوعية الهادفة كان الإنهاء من تحقيق الهدف المتمثل في إلغاء نظام المعاهد المنفصلة إدارة ومنهجاً وتم استيعاب جميع الطلبة وجميع الكادر التعليمي في إطار نظام التربية والتعليم الموحد مع الحفاظ على حقوقهم كاملة غير منقوصة محققين بذلك هدفاً وطنياً عظيماً

يمثل في تعزيز الوحدة الوطنية وردم الفجوة الفكرية بين أبنائنا انصبوا والتي والطالبات التي كانت تشكلها مسألة ازدواجية المؤسسات التعليمية منهجاً



في مجال البناء الاقتصادي والتنموي، تحقق لبلادنا خلال الفترة من عام ١٩٩٧م وحتى عام ٢٠٠٢م نمو اقتصادي جيد في معظم القطاعات أدى إلى تحسين معيشة السواد الأعظم من أبناء شعبنا في الوقت الذي وصلت فيه الأحوال المعيشية خلال الفترة منذ عام ١٩٩٣م وحتى ١٩٩٦م إلى مستويات أدت بالإنهيار كان وضع وتنفيذ برنامج للإصلاحات الاقتصادية والمالية والإدارية استهدف الحد من تدهور الأوضاع فاستطاعت حكومة المؤتمر الشعبي العام بما لديها من خبرة وصواب الرؤية أن تتعامل مع القضية الاقتصادية باقتدار وحكمة.

٣- ارتفع أعداد المستفيدين من مشاريع مياه الشرب النقية إلى حوالي عشرة

هذا يقدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام نفسه وشعبنا يستعد لممارسة حقه الدستوري في انتخاب ممثليه في مجلس النواب القادم ٢٠٠٣ - ٢٠٠٩ .. وهكذا يقدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام نفسه عندما نالت قيادته السياسية والنيابية والمحلية ثقة الشعب في الانتخابات النيابية والرئاسية والمحلية السابقة وتحملت مسئولية رفع راية اليمن عالية في الألق ومسؤولية قيادة العمل السياسي والتنفيذي.

ولم تات تلك النجاحات الانتخابية من فراغ وإنما جاءت نتيجة حتمية لما عرفه الشعب من المؤتمر وقيادته الوطنية المظفرة بزعامه موحد اليمن وياني نهضته التنموية فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ / علي عبد الله صالح رئيس المؤتمر الشعبي العام من اقتدار على حمل أمانة المسؤولية وتحقيق الأمل والتطلعات الوطنية الكبرى.

لقد ادرت جماهير شعبنا اليمني في كل مدينة وجبل وسهل وادي وصحران أن المؤتمر الشعبي العام هو التنظيم الأكثر اقتداراً على إدارة الدولة وتعزيز مكانتها على المستوى المركزي والمحلي والوطني والإقليمي والدولي... وهو الساعي نحو تعزيز الوحدة الوطنية وتأكيد قيم التسامح والتكافل بين الجميع، وتوفير كل وسائل وفرص التنمية من أجل تحقيق حياة معيشية مستقرة للناس جميعاً .. وإرساء أسس العدل والأمان والمساواة لكل أفراد الشعب وحماية حقوقهم المالية والمعنوية وصون دمايتهم وأعراضهم وأموالهم.

إن البرنامج الانتخابي للمؤتمر ينطلق في التعامل مع قضايا المستقبل من إنجازات الفترة الماضية ومن تلك المنطلقات المبدئية يضع المؤتمر الشعبي العام شعاره الجوهري الشامل لحواس الانتخابات النيابية (من أجل تعزيز التنمية والديمقراطية وبناء الدولة الحديثة) بهذا الشعار الذي تحمله المؤتمر الشعبي العام إنما يتخذ الغايات والأهداف الوطنية والقومية التالية:

١- تعزيز البناء المؤسسي للدولة اليمنية دولة الحريات الديمقراطية دولة النظام والقانون.

٢- تحقيق التنمية الشاملة والنمو والاستثمار وتطوير الشراكة والارتباط بين نهوض الوطن ورخاء الإنسان.

٣- ترسيخ الأمن والاستقرار للوطن والشعب والمساهمة في استقرار السلام للمنطقة والعالم بما يعزز علاقات بلادنا القائمة على المنافع والمصالح المشتركة والاحترام المتبادل.

يستخدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام تطلعاته في تحقيق تلك الغايات في المستقبل من الإنجازات التي تحققت لوطننا وشعبنا على يد قيادات العمل السياسي والتنموي والبرلماني والمحلي في الفترة الماضية كل ذلك على النحو التالي:

القسم الأول

إنجازات المؤتمر الشعبي العام في تعزيز الوحدة الوطنية والديمقراطية والتنمية الشاملة

على مستوى القضايا الوطنية الكبرى خلال السنوات الماضية تمكنت قيادتنا السياسية الرشيدة بقيادة ابن اليمن البار الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية رئيس المؤتمر الشعبي العام من إيصال السيفينة إلى بر الأمان وعلت على نهج سياسة خارجية متميزة أدت إلى تحسين علاقة اليمن بالدول المجاورة على وجه الخصوص وبجميع الدول العربية الشقيقة وكافة دول العالم بما يعزز المصالح الوطنية والقومية العليا وكان لحضور اليمن خارجياً اثر كبير في التعامل الناجح من القضايا المرحلة عبر عقود طويلة من الزمن بكفاءة واقتدار منبهة بذلك أكثر المشاكل تعقيداً ومنها قضايا الحدود من جيران اليمن فتم التعامل والإنجاز النهائي لمسألة الحدود مع المملكة العربية السعودية الشقيقة والتي امتد أمدها وترجيحها من عقد إلى آخر ومن نظام إلى آخر منذ أكثر من ستة وستين عاماً فتم إبرام اتفاقية حده التاريخية التي عززت رقة الوطن وأمنت حدوده الشرقية والشمالية بالطرق السلمية المستندة على الحوار وحفظ المصالح الوطنية، أما في شأن الحدود البحرية فقد تم حل ملك قضية ساخنة ومعقدة كادت تنذر بحرب بين بلادنا ودولة اريتريا وكانت اليمن في مفترق طرق فإما أن تدخل مصيدة النزاع المستمر أو تتعامل بما لديها من قدرات وحكمة سياسية لتأخذ حقوقنا الوطنية كاملة باكثر الأساليب رفقاً وأسرعها فضلاً عن متابعة موضوع التحكيم في شأن أرخبيل حنيش وكانت مراهات القوى السياسية المتوردة داخلياً على المؤتمر الشعبي العام الفسسي على الوطن من مراهات أعداء الوطن خارجياً، ويعون الله وتوفيقه وبالرؤية الشاقبة الحكيمة والحكمة السياسية لفخامة الرئيس علي عبد الله

هذا يقدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام نفسه وشعبنا يستعد لممارسة حقه الدستوري في انتخاب ممثليه في مجلس النواب القادم ٢٠٠٣ - ٢٠٠٩ .. وهكذا يقدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام نفسه عندما نالت قيادته السياسية والنيابية والمحلية ثقة الشعب في الانتخابات النيابية والرئاسية والمحلية السابقة وتحملت مسئولية رفع راية اليمن عالية في الألق ومسؤولية قيادة العمل السياسي والتنفيذي.

ولم تات تلك النجاحات الانتخابية من فراغ وإنما جاءت نتيجة حتمية لما عرفه الشعب من المؤتمر وقيادته الوطنية المظفرة بزعامه موحد اليمن وياني نهضته التنموية فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ / علي عبد الله صالح رئيس المؤتمر الشعبي العام من اقتدار على حمل أمانة المسؤولية وتحقيق الأمل والتطلعات الوطنية الكبرى.

لقد ادرت جماهير شعبنا اليمني في كل مدينة وجبل وسهل وادي وصحران أن المؤتمر الشعبي العام هو التنظيم الأكثر اقتداراً على إدارة الدولة وتعزيز مكانتها على المستوى المركزي والمحلي والوطني والإقليمي والدولي... وهو الساعي نحو تعزيز الوحدة الوطنية وتأكيد قيم التسامح والتكافل بين الجميع، وتوفير كل وسائل وفرص التنمية من أجل تحقيق حياة معيشية مستقرة للناس جميعاً .. وإرساء أسس العدل والأمان والمساواة لكل أفراد الشعب وحماية حقوقهم المالية والمعنوية وصون دمايتهم وأعراضهم وأموالهم.

إن البرنامج الانتخابي للمؤتمر ينطلق في التعامل مع قضايا المستقبل من إنجازات الفترة الماضية ومن تلك المنطلقات المبدئية يضع المؤتمر الشعبي العام شعاره الجوهري الشامل لحواس الانتخابات النيابية (من أجل تعزيز التنمية والديمقراطية وبناء الدولة الحديثة) بهذا الشعار الذي تحمله المؤتمر الشعبي العام إنما يتخذ الغايات والأهداف الوطنية والقومية التالية:

١- تعزيز البناء المؤسسي للدولة اليمنية دولة الحريات الديمقراطية دولة النظام والقانون.

٢- تحقيق التنمية الشاملة والنمو والاستثمار وتطوير الشراكة والارتباط بين نهوض الوطن ورخاء الإنسان.

٣- ترسيخ الأمن والاستقرار للوطن والشعب والمساهمة في استقرار السلام للمنطقة والعالم بما يعزز علاقات بلادنا القائمة على المنافع والمصالح المشتركة والاحترام المتبادل.

يستخدم المؤتمر الشعبي العام تطلعاته في تحقيق تلك الغايات في المستقبل من الإنجازات التي تحققت لوطننا وشعبنا على يد قيادات العمل السياسي والتنموي والبرلماني والمحلي في الفترة الماضية كل ذلك على النحو التالي:

القسم الأول

إنجازات المؤتمر الشعبي العام في تعزيز الوحدة الوطنية والديمقراطية والتنمية الشاملة

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شركة امان للتأمين

AMAN INSURANCE COMPANY

شركة امان للتأمين

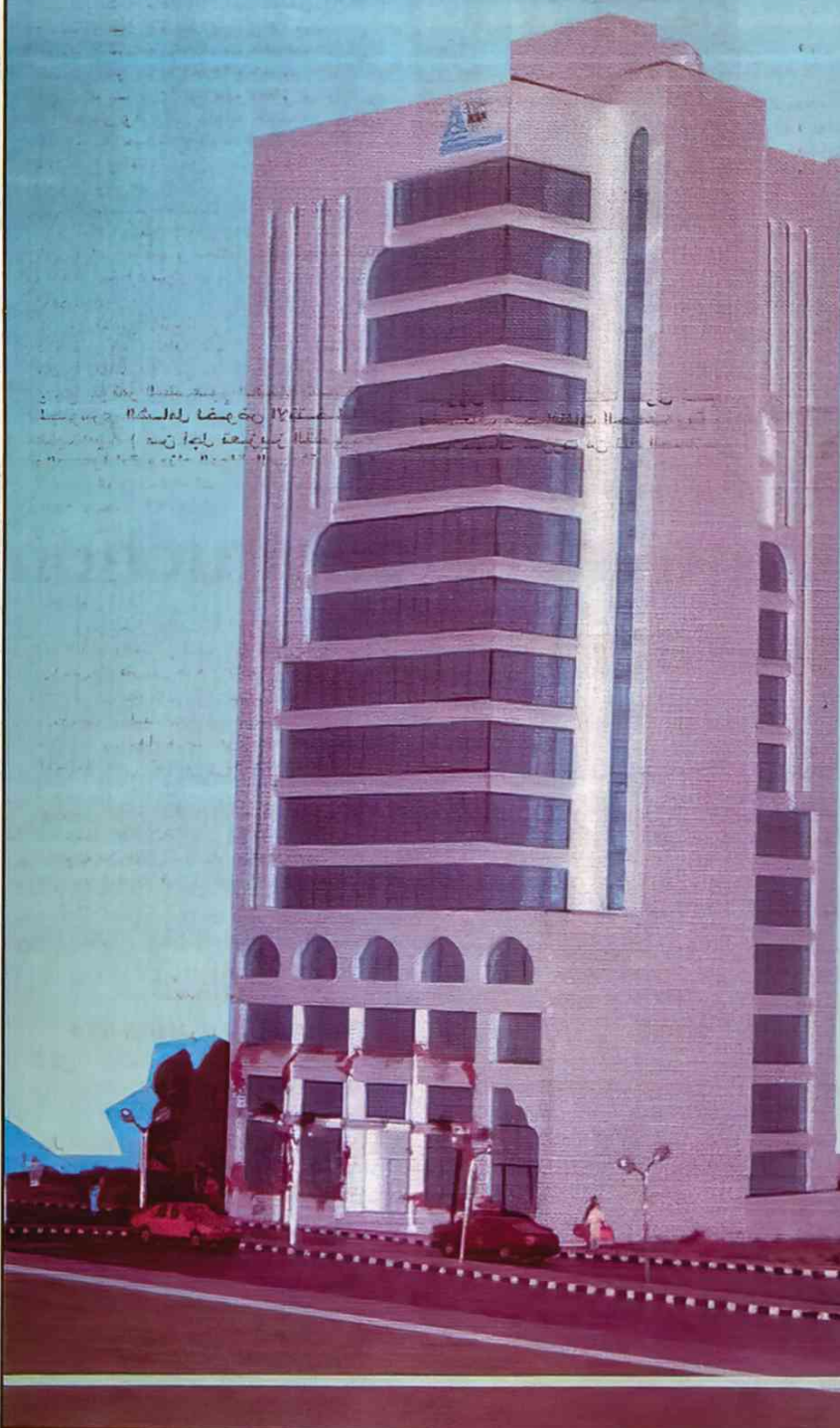
AMAN INSURANCE COMPANY

المظلة الواقية
The Protective Umbrella



Ten years of continuous success in insurance business

عشرة أعوام من النجاح المتواصل في كافة مجالات التأمين



Ten years have passed since our company, AMAN INSURANCE COMPANY, started underwriting insurance business.

A few months before the takeoff we were busy preparing our reinsurance treaties with first class reinsurers. Recruitment of highly qualified staff took also some time.

Starting January 1994, the first insurance policy was issued.

Currently, with our many esteemed clients, we can claim that every employee has done a great job. Thanks also goes to our clients for their support in having Aman Insurance Company achieve such a high rank among insurance companies in Yemen. The future, I am sure, will witness better and continued improvement to the benefit of our shareholders and clients.

في أول يناير ١٩٩٤م بدأت شركة امان للتأمين إصدار أول وثائق التأمين لزيانها بعد ان اكملت ترتيبات اتفاقيات إعادة التأمين مع أكبر شركات إعادة التأمين في العالم واستكملت توظيف جهازها الإداري والفني الذي حوى نخبة ممن لهم خبرة واسعة في شئون التأمين.

والآن إذا أظهرت الصورة المنشورة هنا مشروع مبنى الشركة المتوقع الانتهاء من بنائه خلال سنة فقد سبقه جهد العاملين في الشركة ابتداءً من مجلس إدارة الشركة وانتهاءً بمجموع موظفي الشركة من الإداريين والفنيين.

وهذه كلمة قصيرة أعبر فيها عن شكري لكل زبائن الشركة الذي كان لدعمهم وثقتهم بشركة امان للتأمين الفضل في وضعها المتميز، وأنا واثق من أنها ستزداد نمواً وتقدماً بإذن الله.

Aman Insurance Company was established in 1993. The company transacts all classes of insurance. With good backing from first class reinsurers we have been able to offer the widest insurance coverage with competitive rates.

Main classes of insurance:



1. Marine-hull and cargo
2. Fire and allied perils
3. Automobile insurance
4. Money insurance
5. Erection and construction insurance
6. Workers and life assurance
7. Energy insurances
8. Third party liability covers

انشئت شركة امان للتأمين عام ١٩٩٣ لتقوم بكافة أنواع التأمين. ولقد حرصت الشركة ان تقدم لزيانها الكرام أفضل الخدمات التأمينية ومقابل أسعار منافسة جداً. وهذا هو السبب الذي جعل الشركة تنتشر انتشاراً كبيراً وتكسب آلاف الزبائن في فترة قصيرة.

ومن بين التأمينات التي تمارسها الشركة:
١- التأمين البحري على البضائع المستوردة أو المصدرة ويشمل ذلك التأمين على البضائع المنقولة جواً.

٢- التأمين ضد أخطار الحريق والأخطار الأخرى مثل الزلازل والبراكين والفيضانات وغيرها.

٣- التأمين على السيارات تأميناً شاملاً يشمل جسم السيارة والركاب والمسؤولية تجاه مطالبات الآخرين.

٤- التأمين على النقود في الخزائن أو المنقولة أو على طاولات العد وكذلك على خيانة الأمانة للأشخاص الذين يحتفظون بالنقود، وسواء كان هذا للبنوك أو الشركات.

٥- التأمين على أخطار الإنشاءات للمصانع أو الطرقات أو المباني وغيرها.

٦- التأمين على إصابات العمل وكذلك التأمين على الحياة ويشمل ذلك الوفاة أو الإصابات الجسدية والمصاريف الطبية.

٧- تأمين الطاقة: يشمل التأمين على عمليات شركات النفط بكافة أنواعها.

٨- هناك تأمينات أخرى ترتب حسب طلب الزبون واحتياجاته للحفاظ على أمواله وممتلكاته وكذلك حمايته ضد مسؤوليته القانونية تجاه الآخرين.

تقدم الشركة أفضل الخدمات بما لديها من كادر متميز في الكفاءة العالية وسرعة الأداء
Efficiency and high level of professionalism guaranteed by our highly qualified staff

Headquarter: Sanaa, Zubairi St. - Yemen Kuwait Bank building.
Tel: 202105 - 202106 - 214093 - Fax: 209452 - P.O.Box: 133
Taiz Branch: Jamal St. - in front of Yemen Kuwait Bank building.
Tel: 251454 - 259424 - Fax: 250832
Hodeidah Branch: Sanaa St. - Al-Sundar Building.
Tel: 201110 - 20108 - Fax: 201107
Aden Branch: Mualla - Yemeni Economy Corporation building.
Tel: 244295 - Fax: 246237

الإدارة العامة: صنعاء، شارع الزبيري - مبنى بنك اليمن والكويت
تلفون: ٢٠٢١٠٥ - ٢٠٢١٠٦ - ٢١٤٠٩٣ - فاكس: ٢٠٩٤٥٢ ص.ب: ١١٣٣
فرع تعز: شارع جمال - أمام بنك اليمن والكويت
تلفون: ٢٥١٤٥٤ - ٢٥٩٤٢٤ - فاكس: ٢٥٠٨٣٢
فرع الحديدة: شارع صنعاء - عمارة السنيديار
تلفون: ٢٠١١١٠ - ٢٠١١٠٨ - فاكس: ٢٠١١٠٧
فرع عدن: المعلا - مبنى المؤسسة الاقتصادية اليمنية
تلفون: ٢٤٤٢٩٥ - فاكس: ٢٤٦٢٣٧
بريد إلكتروني: aman-ins@y.net.ye موقع: http://www.y.net.ye/amaninsurance

Website: http://www.y.net.ye/amaninsurance Email: aman-ins@y.net.ye

http://www.y.net.ye/amaninsurance

Traditional Yemeni costumes, diverse, eye-catching and beautiful

Beauty in Yemeni eyes

TAIZ BUREAU STAFF
YEMEN TIMES

Part (1-2)

Far beyond the actual reasons why clothes were invented, which is obviously for coverage and protection from cold and heat, dressing today has taken a more significant place in every nation's culture. Costumes, especially traditional clothes, have become symbols to indicate the identity, religion, financial status and even class of its wearer. Not only country wise, but region wise and in many cases even villages have a particular costume they are known of, especially in places where cultural impact is high.

Islam and Costumes

Being a conservative religion, Islam has emphasized the decency and cultured sense of dressing for both men and women. Yet, it left a wide margin for beauty and fashion, which were both not only permissible but in some times desirable. Islam encouraged well dressing and stressed on cleanness and hygiene. It stated this on several occasions in the Holy Quran and Sunnet (Prophet Mohammed's (mpbh) say-

ings). They talked about the importance of appearance and cleanliness with no exaggeration or dwelling into vanity and showing off. Islam in fact encourages women to beautify themselves in their homes to look attractive to their husbands.

Yemeni Costumes

Since ancient times, Yemen was famous for its beautiful dresses and textile quality to the extent that it once became a legendary aspect and proverbs about special Yemeni costumes such as the Tihami, Hadrami and Lahji.

The appearance and texture of clothes and costumes were influenced by many factors including climate, age, occasion, social class, status, wealth, etc. Evidently, the most influential factors were the climate and the social status.

Speaking about climate; the longest coast in Arabia (2,200 km long) had to have its significance on the inhabitants of coastal areas starting from Hodaida passing by Aden and ending with Al-Sheher. In addition to the numerous Yemeni islands in both the Red and Arabian Seas, in those areas, customary people wear light colored cotton clothes that reduce heat and do not absorb much sun rays. Men generally



Jambia (dagger), an ornament worn by men as a symbol of pride and dignity

wear a light shirt or t-shirt with what is called "Foota" or "Meawaz" which is a rectangle-shaped cotton cloth wrapped around the waist. Women wear what is called "Direa" which is a single piece light and almost transparent sleeveless dress with proper undergarments beneath.

Tell me what you wear, I'll tell you where you are from

In mountainous areas such as Taiz, Sabir, Ibb, Wisab and Shar'ab; people live in places located on mountains ranging from 800 to 1,500 meters above sea level. Consequently they wear rather dark and heavy clothes to protect them from cold and wind. The social status is also resembled in the type and style of clothes. In ancient times, the class system was much more prominent than it is today, and in those days, people used to wear clothes that indicate their class. Basically, there were four main social classes from highest to lowest: princes and "Sada" (descendants of Prophet Mohammed -mpbh), Judges, Tribes, the rest of the public. Out of all four, only the judges seem to still retain their customary dress code being a one piece long dress open in the middle with long glittering embroidered sleeves reaching the neck and sides of the dress, something like what the Saudi royal princes wear today. Underneath this elaborately decorated coat, they wear a long white one piece dress with buttons on the chest, resembling the 'Qamees' worn today by Yemeni men.

It is interesting that even within judges, the type of buttons and their value also signifies their hierarchy or rank in their own class itself. And most importantly, the Janbiya, which is a classical dagger worn in a belt on the waist, and the way it is worn (slanted to the side) indicate the rank of the judge in his class. A shawl decorated on the edges is generally worn on one shoulder, and finally the judges head is covered with an "Amama", which is a piece of cloth wrapped neatly on a white small cap giving the judge's appearance more authority and

respect.

But where did the Janbiya come from?

Historians say that the Yemeni Janbiya dates back to 400 BC. Some even date it back to the seventh century before Christ. Old people say it was termed this way because it used to be worn on the side "Janb" of men's waists probably for protection. Like everything else, the types of Janbiya vary according to region and class. The famous Bedouin Janbiya is popular in Marib, Shabwa and Al-Baidha. There is also the Hadrami Janbiya, which is worn in different parts of Hadramout. There are two distinctive types of Janbiyas when considering shape; The most popular Janbiya that is worn by most Yemenis is long shaped like a "J". While the less common one which is rather less slanted and more like a diagonal curve, is mostly restricted to the judges and higher classes.

Old is gold... or maybe silver?

Detailing the structure of the Janbiya, it is composed of the head, which is the most valuable part because it is made of rhinoceros, giraffe or other animals' horns and is decorated with two pieces of gold or silver. The head of the Janbiya is fixed on the longer part which is a metallic dagger inserted in a solid container called "Aseeb" of the same shape but made of wood or silver. The whole piece is attached to a wide belt made of leather or hay covered with an elaborately golden decorated cloth. A common Janbiya could cost from around US\$10 to US\$300. The most expensive Janbiya known in Yemen is that referred to Imam Sharaf Eldin (one of the Imams who ruled Yemen before the revolution). It is a Janbiya that is



Traditional women's clothes still common in Sabir, Taiz.

751 years old and is valued at one million dollar!

Sentimentally, the Janbiya is closely attached to manliness and deep cultural roots. Any single Yemeni (residing

in Yemen) must have worn a Janbiya at least once in his life if not owning one as it also represents the artistic nature of Yemeni men with its beautiful decorations and styles.



Traditional costumes still worn by women in Sabir. Gold is ringed around her neck and a flower is placed on the left cheek has been still common.

In a statement released last week:

FPACH denounces destruction of Iraqi heritage

BY MOHAMMED AL-MASSANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Foundation for the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage (FPACH) in Yemen has recently released a statement expressing grave concern for the destruction of Iraqi heritage by looting and burning ancient sites and libraries.

"[FPACH] is following up very anxiously the consequent situation of looting and robbery in Iraq particularly the ancient treasures and antiquities as well as the fine treasures in Baghdad National Museum which is considered one of the most spectacu-

lar museums of the world." the foundation said.

FPACH expressed deep concern for the loss of hundreds of important archeological masterpieces, some of which date back to three thousand BC. This is in addition to the devastation caused to the historical city of Basra which symbolizes the Arabic and Islamic heritage and that once was the metropolis of the Abbasid Caliphate.

"The Mesopotamia witnessed the birth of the most ancient human civilizations, and the cultural heritage in Iraq constitutes an important and principle part of the human heritage." the statement added.

The foundation called upon all the

concerned parties including the United States of America and the United Kingdom to protect what is left of the monuments in Iraq and to limit looting and robbery of the ancient antiquities in Iraqi museums.

Furthermore, the foundation pleaded to all Arab and international organizations concerned with cultural heritage to seriously work in putting an end to the looting and destruction witnessed in archaeological sites representing the different historical periods in Iraq and take prompt procedures to safeguard cultural heritage which is not only considered the property of Iraq alone, but rather the property of humanity and the future generations.

The republic of Yemen

A new book titled *The Republic of Yemen Development Challenges in the 21st Century* has been recently published. The new release has been written by Marta Colburn.

The authoress has lived in Yemen periodically since 1984. From 1984 to 1989 she worked for a number of international development agencies, for the last two and a half years as Deputy Country Representative for Oxfam UK.

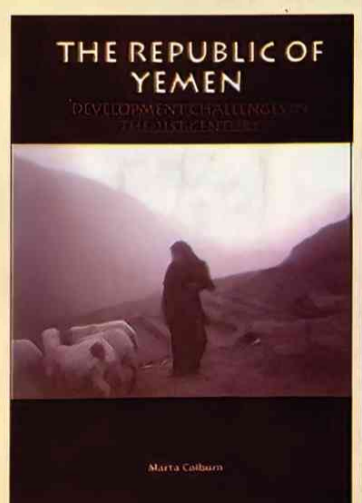
She has written on a range of topics related to Yemen including gender, democratization and pre-collegiate curriculum.

Yemen is probably better known for tribal kidnapping than for its rich culture heritage or for its steady progress towards democratization in the face of massive developmental challenges.

In the 20th century Yemen was the first Arab state to gain independence.

It has the only permanent elected parliament in the Arab world. Its press is among the freest in the region. And Yemeni women were the first- and remain the only-women in the Arabian Peninsula to have the right to vote. In fact Yemen has a proud tradition of women in leadership-the 'Queen of Sheba' being its most famous historical figure.

Yet its political progress is in stark contrast to the marginal existence still facing millions of Yemenis. Isolated by the international community for refusing to take sides against Iraq during the Gulf war, Yemen continues to suffer the impact. As up to 1 million Yemenis were expelled from neighboring states the country plunged into economic crisis, compounding existing developmental problems. Today more than 70 percent of Yemenis are still without adequate health services and fewer than half of rural households have access to potable drinking water. Fewer than half of girls com-



Cover of Book

pletes their education. This book traces Yemen's development from ancient times to the present and analyzes the social, economic and environmental challenges facing the country today.

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Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 15 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Figures and facts disclose failure of the GPC government
- Extensive mass rally behind candidates of the NUO and JMP
- Islah: JMP necessity to stop deterioration
- Security in Taiz prevents JMP from election propaganda, arrests three of its members
- Al-Atwani, a Taiz candidate: April 27 a dividing line for shrinking sweeping majority
- 200 Yemenis without documents waiting to be delivered on the Iraqi-Syrian borders

Columnist Ahmed al-Ashwal says in an article that more than twenty-seven days passed since the Anglo-American ongoing aggression began on Iraq. Everyday passes very heavy on the Arab citizen, particularly the Iraqi citizen discloses new facts on ugliness of the attack and the extent catastrophe that has befallen the Arab nation which too heavy to be endured. What has increase the catastrophe is the stand of some Arab leaders who have facilitated for the aggressor implementation of his criminal schemes when they opened their lands to the enemy. They have not only betrayed their nation to be called as hypocrites but they deserve to be put on the list of disbelievers that have to be fought along with the nation's enemies who are occupying our lands in Jerusalem or Baghdad or any Arab capital.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP 14 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Ruling party's influential violate elections law
- Two blasts in Baidha', minister threatens voters of depriving them of projects
- Joint meeting of candidates of YSP, Islah at constituency 16

Mr Hasan bin Hassainoun wrote an article saying that a backward tribal society like the one in Yemen governed by mentality of tribal fanaticism and legacies of the past cannot advance on the road of development, stability, security, justice and equality. Al these contradict the culture of backward societies. Although more than four decades have elapsed since the removal of the monarchic regime at the hands of the Yemeni free officers supported by the people, the revolution's goals still occupy the front pages of the state-owned press and the

ruling party newspapers and also the press of the opposition parties. Anyone considering what has been achieved of those goals over the past forty years would find out that those goals are very far away from what has been happening. Up till now there is no real national unity, no unified national army representing the united Yemen, and no security or stability.



RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen League party, 15 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- U.S. State Department: Yemen's record weak, big restraints hamper change
- Washington announces the end of major war operations in Iraq
- Head of Iraq's nuclear program arrested
- 300 Yemenis return from Iraq
- Riyadh hosts regional conference for Iraq neighboring countries

Columnist Mohammed al-Dhahiri wished in an article that he could be able to closely know the real feelings each of the Arab leaders while following up the scenes of the Iraqis while destroying ousted Saddam Hussein's billboard pictures and statues, expressing their actual impression about their leader. He says the Iraqis are teaching the leaders a severe lesson confirming that no one would fight for the tyrants, especially if he is hungry and afraid.

The state of frustration and the feeling of loss and ignorance felt by the Arab citizen are fertile elements to render a young person into an extremist. The rulers also know that oppression, domination and spread of corruption are good weapons making people show loyalty enough to make those leaders to increase their assets abroad but they are not useful for postponing their escape.



Annas weekly, 14 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Islah party : We would not accept to be removed with a stroke of a pen at any constituency
- Old woman beaten till she lost her consciousness
- U.S. State Department: In Yemen restriction s imposed on religious freedom, issues end up to mystery
- %90 of communication centers threatened with bankruptcy
- Fall of Iraq regime seen by the opposition as a lesson for the regimes, authority sees it a result of aggression and conspiracy

Columnist Ahmed al-Shalafi says in his article that those who demand America for proving good intentions towards Iraq by keeping security, offering humanitarian assistance to its people and leaving the Iraqis to manage affairs of their country is similar to asking the devil to prove his being good and his love to the world. What happened following the American invasion of Iraq of looting and chaos committed by some hooligans and out-laws, had disclosed the real intention in re-arranging Iraq in a new form. The question is beyond that which we perceive. The cowboys of America have opened their appetite to looting and pillage and possession. No one can stop them from that. They looted official, private and diplomatic institutions except the ministry of oil and oil wells. There is to be shaped a new Iraq administered by America, not the great Iraq that humanity has known; the Iraq of civilization, glorious history and science.



Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Yemeni Union for People's Forces 13 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Yemeni students head for Damascus
- Aggression on Iraq continues
- America silent regarding the escape of ten of Cole suspects
- Hannan Ashrawi, Bahia al-Harriri in Sana'a
- National Baath party confirms taking part in elections
- In Hudeida, three candidates reused and pressure to enable the GPC's nominees

Abdulrahman Ahmed Abdah wrote an article saying that it seems that the time taken by the American tank to topple Saddam statue was longer than the time used by the resistance during the American invasion of Baghdad on the 20th of April that witnessed a dramatic collapse of the authority. The American soldier was moving in front of Palestine hotel in Baghdad as if he was moving in his own country while at the sight of the Iraqis cheering up at the fall of Saddam statue made me feel as if they were an audience of a drama show. It has become evident that the fall of Saddam regime was surely because the Iraqi resistance would not have be useful without an Arab political support and without an escalating opposing international stand. On the 20th day of the war or before it the American forces were so obsessed with a hysterical state and as if they were ready to burn out the entire of Baghdad to achieve the goal of entering the city. That is why on the 20th day of the military campaign they

attacked the journalists so that not to be witnesses on subsequent brutal massacres.



Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, 13 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Pitched battles between the Iraqi and the invading forces amidst media delusion
- Syria calls for withdrawal of the aggressive forces from Iraq
- The Arab conference calls for supporting the Iraqi resistance

The newspaper's editorial says the parliamentary elections day is approaching under very complicated political circumstances due to the American-British savage campaign to which Iraq and the Arab nation are exposed to aim at occupying it and plundering its riches. The campaign also aims at aborting the Arab-Islamic renaissance project and imposing a new regional security where the Zionist entity becomes one of its basic components. Despite the destruction and burning of anything related to civilization at the hands of the new invaders to an extent exceeded what Hulago had done, the Arab official stand sufficed itself to offering advices to the people of Iraq on integration and the serious demand for its choices.

Against all this the Yemeni voter becomes inside an atmosphere all of it engulfed with frustration, internally and externally, not far away from his choices in nomination and election. Thus the national task necessitates the proper selection of candidates enjoying efficiency and sees in them the future expressing his domestic and national aspirations.



Al-Tagamu weekly, organ of the Yemeni Unionist Congregation 14 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- New details on escape of "Cole" detainees from prison
- Woman Forum holds the government responsible for poverty
- Aden Oil Company sells Hajeef installations
- Violations before the elections supreme committee

Columnist Ali Hassan al-Huraibi writes that the freedom of chaos governs the occupied Iraqi cities. Since the fall of the regime and despite presence of the American and British troops the grip of chaos is the governing force under the intentional security vacuum. Scenes of looting and

destruction seen on satellite channels is a kind of chaotic freedom which makes us wonder if this is he freedom the American said they wanted for the Iraqis. The invading power may reduce its military presence and may work for forming a puppet government and installation of another Karzai. The Iraqi national forces may in return form a resistance to this presence and may take various forms; armed and political receiving support from here and there, making the situations unstable and threatening the American presence on the Mesopotamia. It is apparent that the Americans, so far, do not want to give the United Nations the major role for the normalization of the situations and supervision on reconstruction. Thus it becomes confirmed the American insistence on its refusal to give any role to the United Nations unless that role gives a legitimate cover to its occupation of Iraq.



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces 17 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- President Saleh: By elections we build for a better future
- We urge all to practice their election right
- Consultations for holding Arab foreign ministers conference to study Iraq situation
- Council of ministers sends heads of ten establishments and state companies to investigation
- 35 thousand local and foreign overseers, central room and internet site to follow up elections process
- Death sentence for nuns' killer in Hudeida ratified, trial of killers of Jaralla Omar and Jibla hospital doctors begins
- Effective measures to ensure streamlined elections process under calm and stable atmospheres
- New Japanese ambassador to Yemen

Political editor of the newspaper says it is not strange for the Iraqi regime to collapse before the American military and that the result of the American-Iraqi military confrontation to be in its known results. Some facts should be remembered in analyzing what has happened. First the American military capability could not be faced by other military power in the world today. This American military might is not attributed only to the materialistic and technological superiority and strong economy alone, but also that the military power has become in the hands of politicians whose only concern, while implementing their plans, is not to abide by the

international law, UN conventions or to respect human rights values and sovereignty of states. The second fact is that the American diplomacy has become with limited capability of imposing its vision on events and drawing up a strategy for the American policy restoring its political and democratic effect and credibility of committing to principles of the international law, UN charter and principles of human rights. The third point is that as it has been expected that the aggression on Iraq represents a beginning for a comprehensive change in the region to be dictated by force. Introduction of this policy is what has really happened on the ground with regard to threats to Syria which is being stepped up by Washington and repeated in London and Sydney. The fourth fact is that success of the American policy of force in Iraq and the international incapability of facing it has led to a way of American dealing with the world. America does no longer accept the other's opinion, refuses dialogue and sticks to its principle of he "who is not with her he is against her."



Al-Isbou weekly, 17 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Arrests in Aden, Abyan, Hudeida including relatives of the 10 escapees
- Clashes and fire shots Amran governor and sheikh al-Ahmar
- Yemeni volunteers return from Baghdad, most of them from Mareb
- Iraq's embassy in Sana'a, no work, no security guard around it

The political editor of the newspaper says in his front page article after the invasion of Iraq the glow of the strong Arab official address extinguished and it has become well-known that the Yemeni government would talk for long about the reconstruction of Iraq and offering humanitarian aid to its Arab people under the occupation. The Yemeni government affirms that at the time being it is preoccupied with the legislative operation schedule on 27 of April. But the arena is threatened with the white house endless demands the nearest of which is banning national political parties having connection with the defeated regime of Saddam. What has caused this saying is the results concluded from Nasiriya meeting of the Iraqi political factions on dissolving the Baath party in Iraq This makes the fate of this party in the Arab countries, among which is Yemen, fraught with the unknown. This development necessitates internal political alignment and more sense of responsibility.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

AL Ahram
Prime Minister Atef Obeid will receive Monday Chinese Minister of Justice Zhang Fusen, with the attendance of Justice Minister Farouk Saif el-Nasr and Chinese Ambassador to Cairo Liu Xiao Ming.
The Chinese minister arrived in Cairo on Friday for a five-day visit.

Al Gomhuria
Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni said Egypt is ready to help the archaeological and architectural restoration

work of the ancient and Islamic Iraqi antiquities that were severely damaged in the US-led war on Iraq.

Zahi Hawas, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA), said an urgent letter was sent Friday to UNESCO to inform it of Egypt's readiness to provide all the technical expertise necessary in the field of archaeological restoration.

Al Akhbar
Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said Friday that Egypt objects to the appointment of a US military ruler to Iraq and

it would not admit any government that lacks the free will of the Iraqi people.

Maher, in statements in Riyadh following a session of talks held with Saudi and Syrian counterparts, also expressed Egypt's solidarity with Syria.

The Egyptian Gazette:
Egypt has renewed its call for Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Egypt's chief representative to the United Nations Ahmad Abul-Gheit reiterated the need for the world to revise mechanisms that regulate use of force in international relations.

USA

The Washington Post
Talks next week aimed at resolving the crisis over nuclear programs in North Korea were thrown into doubt on Friday after it released conflicting statements about whether it has taken the dramatic step of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods into enriched material for weapons.

Thousands of Sunni Muslims, uneasy at the prospect of losing their position in Iraqi society to the Shiite majority, staged their first show of force on Friday since the fall of President

Saddam Hussein's government, marching through the streets of Baghdad to protest the US military occupation and to demand a Muslim state without distinction between Sunnis and Shiites.

The New York Times
The Bush administration plans to ask the United Nations to lift international penalties against Iraq in phases, retaining United Nations supervision of Iraq's oil sales for now but transferring other parts of its economy to a new Iraqi authority in coming months, adminis-

tration official said on Friday.

As the Bush administration continued efforts to find whether President Saddam Hussein of Iraq was alive or dead, an Abu Dhabi television station broadcast a videotape showing Mr. Hussein greeting well-wishers in a Baghdad neighborhood. The station said it was told the tape was made on April 9, the day Mr. Hussein' statue in a central Baghdad square was pulled down. American intelligence officials expressed doubt about the date of the tape.

Britain

The Times
In scenes reminiscent of a scorching Australian summer, ferocious forest fires fueled by the dry Bank Holiday weather swept through large sections of moorland and woodland across Britain Friday.

The Daily Telegraph
Thousands of schools will have to cut spending on staff and books this year because the British government has grossly miscalculated the national education budget, the National Union of Teachers said Friday.

The Independent
Euro notes and coins would not become legal tender in Britain until 2010 under a proposed timetable for joining the single currency drawn up by British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown.

The Guardian
British Prime Minister Tony Blair is facing the threat of a fresh rebellion from Labor backbenchers who are growing increasingly alarmed that the failure to uncover weapons of mass destruction in Iraq will confirm that the war was illegal.

Pakistan

The Frontier Post: The Nation:
A US State Department official for policy planning has warned India that attempting to solve the problem by attacking Pakistan "simply is not wise."

The News
Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali Friday welcomed Indian

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's offer of talks on the Kashmir dispute.

Daily Times
The United States said on Thursday that its diplomats authorized to leave Pakistan before the war in Iraq broke out last month could now return to their posts.

Germany

Die Welt
The United States wants to search for mass destruction weapons in Iraq with its own experts.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
American special forces have arrested a senior Iraqi official, who used to be the head of the Baath party's local group in the capital.

Der Tagesspiegel
For the first time, 10,000 Iraqis demonstrated in Baghdad on Friday against the United States.

Japan

Yomiuri, Asahi:
The Tokyo District Court fined a nurse 400,000 yen for negligence. She left a baby boy sleeping face down, which led to his death from asphyxia.

Yomiuri
A government advisory panel called for a 75 percent to 85 percent reduction of motorcycle emissions within three or four years to cut smog-causing hydrocarbon pollution.

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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (46):

Expressing in how many cases a statement is true (IV)
Here are a few more ways of expressing in how many cases a statement is true:

- **In no way can I hope** to remedy the situation.
- **Under no circumstances am I willing** to take to the path of dishonesty.
- **On no account must you go** there.
- **No longer is the voice of reason being heard.**
- **In no other place/country are foreigners given** so much respect and recognition as in Yemen.
- **At no cost am I going** to let my friend down.
- **At no other time can you buy** this at a cheaper price.
- **Never before was life** so comfortable as it is now.
- **Neither did you come nor he showed up.**
- **By no means is it desirable** to neglect one's duties and responsibilities.
- **In none of the cases did** the university show any leniency.
- **Little did I know** that there was so much humiliation in store for me.
- **Few are the friends who could stand by you** in need.
- **In only few cases did** the minister intervene.
- **Only rarely does a country get a leader like** President Saleh.
- **Hardly ever is he seen sitting with his books.**
- **Hardly had I gone a few steps when it started** raining.
- **No sooner did** the teacher enter the class than the students stood up.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. He accused the man for stealing.
2. Faiz has not come also.
3. I want to tell me the truth.
4. From now and on I will study hard.
5. When school is over I go to home.

Answers to last week's questions

1. Ahmed is absorbed in his work.
2. I asked my friend for his book.
3. Do your work without speaking.
4. The student failed to answer my question. Note: But the noun 'answer' takes 'to'. Ex: His answer to my question was wrong.
5. Last night I went to a park. Or, I went to a park last night.

III. Increase your Word Power

A) How to express it in one word

1. A person who makes drawings of all the parts of a new building.
2. To feel weak after illness.
3. A list of characters in a play.
4. A measured amount of liquid swallowed at one time.
5. A state of affairs in which neither side wins.

Answers to last week's questions

1. To sleep lightly: **doze** (vi)
2. A group of twelve: **dozen** (det)
3. A group of twenty: **score** (det)
4. First public appearance: **debut** (n)
5. The first rough written form of anything: **draft** (n)

B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Use the following expressions in sentences

1. curé;
2. curriculum vitae;
3. dauphin;
4. débâcle;
5. debris

Answers to last week's questions

1. **corpus delicti** (Lat) (the facts which together show that a criminal act has taken place): The corpus delicti provided conclusive evidence about the motive of murder.
2. **coup de grace** (Fr) (a blow or shot intended to

kill a suffering person or animal): His chances of getting the job suffered the coup de grace when the chairperson became interested for another candidate.

3. **coup d'état** (Fr) (a sudden or violent seizure of power by a small group): The king was dethroned in a military coup d'état.
4. **crèche** (Fr) (a place where babies and young children are cared for by specially trained people while their mothers work): There is a crèche available where she works.
5. **cuisine** (Fr) (a style of cooking): This hotel is famous for Chinese cuisine.

C) Word commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words:

1. custodial, custodian
2. custom, customs
3. cut-out, cut out
4. cut throat, cutthroat
5. door keeper, door man

Answers to last week's questions

1. **abjure** (vt) (promise on oath to give up evil ways): He solemnly promised to abjure alcohol.
2. **adjure** (vt) (to request earnestly): They adjured the suspect to tell the truth.
3. **adaptation** (n) (making suitable for a new need): This play is an adaptation of a famous English novel.
4. **adoption** (n) (taking as one's own): If India is the country of my birth, Yemen is the country of my adoption.
5. **adoration** (n) (love, worship): He has deep adoration for the English Romantic poetry.
6. **adulation** (n) (the giving of too much praise or respect to win favor): His adulation for the boss has reached ridiculous proportions.
7. **advantageous** (adj) (profitable, helpful): Renting a house near their children's school will be very advantageous for them.
8. **adventitious** (adj) (accidental): The adventitious arrival of the relief materials greatly helped the cyclone victims.
9. **adventuress** (n) (woman adventurer): Bacchindra Pal, an Indian adventuress, scaled the mount Everest.
10. **adventurous** (adj) (full of danger and excitement): Kalpana Chawla embarked on an adventurous voyage to space.

D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases and idiomatic expressions in sentences

1. in bad faith;
2. contrary to;
3. to the contrary;
4. on the contrary;
5. open and above board

Answers to last week's questions

1. **strike a balance** (to reach an arrangement which is fair to every body): Many countries made unsuccessful efforts to strike a balance between the US and Iraq.
2. **bad blood** (angry feeling): There is a lot of bad blood between them.
3. **bad debt** (a debt that is unlikely to be paid): I have got to forget about the money I lent him as bad debt.
4. **in a bad temper** (angrily): You shouldn't take every harmless joke in a bad temper.
5. **go bad** (to become unfit to eat): The meat has gone bad due to hot weather.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A) Grammar

Substitute one of the following words or phrases for the parts of the following sentences which are in italics

Racial prejudice, religious bigotry, to exploit, equality of opportunity, discriminated against, unconventional beliefs, treat women badly/like second class citizens, are prejudiced

1. The new sex discrimination act gives women

the same chance as men in the field of employment.

2. Men have previously tended to *behave towards women as if they were inferior.*
3. It was only people with *unusual ideas* who thought that women should not be *taken advantage of.*
4. It is possible that a lot of men still have *unreasonable feelings* against women.
5. The new law, however, means that women cannot be *treated worse* than men.

Answers to last week's questions

British English and American English are different languages, or rather they are distinctly different dialects of the same language. Nevertheless, the two 'dialects' are slowly moving closer together for a variety of reasons, especially, as a result of telecommunications. There has been a kind of rivalry for well over two centuries. In particular this rivalry has expressed itself in 'mutual snobbishness', in other words each language has been regarding the other as somehow 'inferior.'

Attitudes in Britain have changed a lot in the last twenty years, at least the attitudes of some people have changed.

Young people, particularly university students, tend to use more 'American words' than their elders. You will still find the occasional true-bred English 'bull dog' who insist that the American language, in particular the accent, has a corrupting influence. What such people do not seem to realize is that English is a living language, and what is more the importation and coining of new words and phrases is absolutely essential in our ever-changing world.

B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the saying

14. IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?

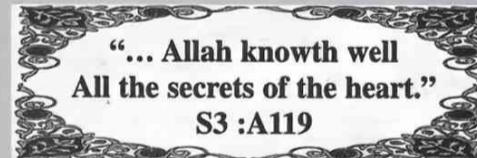
Answers to last week's questions

13. THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT

This line written by John Milton, an eminent English poet of the 17th century, illustrates a thought provoking idea. It implies that service, in the real sense of the term, consists not only in actual performance of duty, but also in willingness and readiness to serve when called upon or when one's turn comes. If a master has a number of servants, he does not need the services of all of them at one and the same time. There may be some of his servants whose services might never be needed, although they are not only ready but eager to serve their master whose kindness and generously bestowed gifts they are enjoying.

But they may not get the opportunity to serve him. They have always waited for their turn so that they might show their gratitude to him. They have not been idle or disobedient, but ever ready to do their humble bit. Here the 'master' symbolizes God. The true significance of this idea is that true service of God is to bear patiently and uncomplainingly whatever He gives because they serve Him best who best bear His mild yoke. Humble submission to the will of God or unsceptical acceptance of His commands and readiness to serve Him when one's turn comes is the truest and best homage that one can pay to the Almighty.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Art is power."
—Longfellow

Yeats' 'Leda and the Swan' and the war in Iraq

Dr. M.N.K. Bose,
Associate Professor of English
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

This poem of W.B. Yeats has been analysed by several scholars and each one has found his/her own meaning depending on what view he/she has taken. When I read this poem at this time, when the innocent people in Iraq are facing miserable sufferings, when thousands of helpless women and children are becoming war victims for no fault of theirs, the poem has a contemporary meaning to me, which has reference to the war in Iraq. I am not a literary critic nor am I a stylistician; with my knowledge of literature and the experience of the world of today, I read this meaning into this 'mighty sonnet'. The poem and my interpretation is given below:

Leda and the Swan

A sudden blow: the great wings beating still

Above the staggering girl, her thighs caressed

By the dark webs, her nape caught in his bill,

He holds her helpless breast upon his breast.

How can those terrified vague fingers push

The feathered glory from her loosening thighs?

And how can body, laid in that white rush,

But feel the strange heart beating where it lies?

A shudder in the loins engenders there

The broken wall, the burning roof and tower

And Agamemnon dead.

Being so caught up

So mastered by the brute blood of the air,

Did she put on his knowledge with his power

Before the indifferent beak could let it drop?

sudden blow: unexpected attack, while the whole world, under the leadership of the UN, was expecting that some diplomatic solution would be found

great wings beating still: the

mighty war planes are still hovering over Iraq

dark webs: the ignoble intentions of the war-mongers

helpless breast: the innocent and helpless victims (women and children, especially) of war, who have been suffering from the sanctions for the last 12 years

terrified vague fingers: those of the victims, terrified because of the sudden attack and vague, because of weakness and suffering due to the sanctions

the feathered glory: the vain glory of the aggressors

body: the victim country

laid in that white rush: caught hold of by the 'white' aggressors' sudden attack

strange heart beatings: the heart of the aggressors is strange, because they say something (liberation) but do the opposite (destruction)

shudder in the loins: severe shock the innocent victims, especially the women and children have experienced

the broken wall, the burning roof and tower: the scene that we watch on the TV everyday (to me this does not have reference to the fall of Troy etc)

Agamemnon dead: the history of good relation between country, trust between

countries and the faith in the UN dead and has no meaning; (I am avoiding any reference to the legend, purposefully)

brute blood of the air: the Iraqi sky is full of vultures and the country is bleeding, because of the brutal attack of the aggressors

'Did she.....her drop?': Does the victim country fall because it thinks that the aggressors' knowledge of the country and their power go together to make them strong?

indifferent beak: the aggressors, who are indifferent to and against all wise and sincere advice of the friendly countries in the world including the UN.

The poem, therefore, can refer to the evil attack of the aggressors on the helpless and innocent people, especially the women and children of Iraq; Leda stands for the innocent victims of the war and the swan for the brutal aggressors of the west. This, in effect, is my critical reading of the poem and interpretation from the context of the receiver.

The Craftsmanship of Emily Dickinson



By SAFAR ALZAHIRANI
Safarz2002@hotmail.com

Emily Dickinson is one of the great American poets who have contributed a lot to the nineteenth century poetry in particular, and to the American poetry in general.

Her poetry reflects her haunting sense of utter loneliness. The speakers of her poems generally live in a state of want; but her poems are also marked

by the intimate recollection of inspirational moments which are decidedly life-giving and suggest the possibility of future happiness. Her work was heavily influenced by the metaphysical poets of the seventeenth-century England, as well as by her puritan upbringing and the Book of Revelation. She admired the poetry of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and John Keats. Though she was dissuaded from reading the verse of her contemporary Walt Whitman by rumor of his disgracefulness, the two poets are now connected by the distinguished place they hold as the founders of a uniquely American poetic voice.

YOUTH FORUM

The Arabs had a summit

The Arabs announced a summit
Israel gathered its forces
The Arabs met in a resort
America recalled Saddam's slaughters

The Arabs threatened to leave the assembly
Heartless men were moving forward

The Arabs began their meeting
Israel picked a victim
The Arabs had a lunch break
The Iraqi child was starving

The Arabs resumed the summit
Sanity became a fairy tale
Palestine bled to death
The Arabs concluded the summit
A mother's tears quenched her thirsty son
Tears came too late... he departed with dreams.

The Arabs resumed their summit
A Palestinian child rose to heaven
The Arabs spoke for an hour
A child in Baghdad was the target

The Arab summit was on TV
They watched and laughed
Randomly picked a victim
Tomorrow it will be a priest
Tomorrow it will be Syria
They watched and laughed
We starved and cried
Our laughter seized
Our tears flowed
All this happened
As for the Arabs?
Well, they had a summit

The Arabs had a coffee break
Another homeless orphan
The Arabs resumed their congress
Strangers ruled our Deserts

The Arabs spoke for two hours
It rained missiles in Gaza
The Arabs talked about taking action
New maps and lands were divided to fractions

The Arabs had an argument
An old man lost his history

Yumna Hussein
Ontario, Canada
yumna23@yahoo.com

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | T | S | R | E | H | S | U | R | E | N | O | I | T | P | E | C | E | R | | |
| W | H | I | T | E | F | S | G | R | C | E | C | S | Y | M | S | S | I | D | E | | |
| D | L | O | H | S | E | R | H | T | O | A | S | T | A | E | R | D | N | V | F | | |
| K | I | A | T | R | O | T | I | E | K | O | I | I | C | A | A | E | O | N | L | | |
| L | T | A | D | O | S | N | D | E | T | C | D | N | E | K | B | W | E | A | O | | |
| S | T | N | M | E | G | I | G | N | S | A | T | I | N | S | O | E | A | P | W | | |
| E | E | S | U | O | V | R | E | N | L | D | O | S | U | O | G | R | A | Y | E | | |
| S | F | G | S | E | N | T | A | B | L | E | S | C | S | O | B | R | N | T | R | | |
| S | N | E | I | E | R | D | F | P | A | E | G | T | B | M | T | O | L | M | S | | |
| A | O | L | C | E | S | O | F | A | H | R | N | Y | A | Y | M | B | A | T | E | | |
| L | C | A | H | I | P | O | L | W | L | E | I | T | E | E | R | T | N | S | A | | |
| G | L | T | T | E | R | W | P | E | R | L | R | V | R | N | R | E | R | E | T | | |
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| M | M | R | V | D | S | P | P | R | M | G | C | V | N | H | R | M | T | E | N | | |
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| L | N | L | C | A | T | Y | I | B | O | U | Q | U | E | T | N | F | R | U | T | | |
| G | O | H | A | D | S | R | A | C | S | N | O | I | T | I | D | A | R | T | | | |
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| Y | R | R | E | M | U | S | R | E | N | N | A | L | P | R | O | N | O | H | | | |

- CLUES**
- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Bars | Dinner | Kiss | Presents | Table |
| Bend | Dress | Lace | Ready | Team |
| Best | Eternal | Live | Real | Tears |
| Boast | Fall | Love | Reception | Tent |
| Boat | Flowers | Maids | Religious | Threshold |
| Borrowed | Forever | Matrimony | Rice | Time |
| Bouquet | Friends | Matron | Rings | Toss |
| Cake | Game | Merry | Rite | Traditions |
| Care | Garter | Money | Roles | Ushers |
| Cars | Gifts | Mother | Seating | Veil |
| Ceremony | Give | Music | Send | Video |
| Cheer | Glasses | Nervous | Side | Vows |
| City | Gold | Outdoors | Silk | Wear |
| Confetti | Gown | Parents | Song | Wedding |
| Copy | Groom | Party | Speech | White |
| Cost | Guest | Pearls | Spot | Winter |
| Cruise | Hall | Photographer | Spring | |
| Customs | Hats | Pick | Step | |
| Dance | Honeymoon | Planner | Summer | |
| Diamond | Honor | Pose | Sure | |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Appointments

SARS deaths in Hong Kong worry health experts

By MICHAEL BATTYE

BEIJING (Reuters) - Twelve people died in Hong Kong on Saturday from the SARS virus, a record for a single day, and the World Health Organization said it feared patients in the former British territory may be harder-hit by the microbe than elsewhere.

Singapore said Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome threatened to become its biggest crisis since independence, while China, where the virus is believed to have originated last year, intensified its newly declared open war on the disease and threatened to punish officials covering up cases.

Neighboring Vietnam said it was considering closing its long border with China to keep the virus out.

In Canada, the only country outside Asia where people have died from the outbreak, health authorities reported one more death, bringing to 14 the number of people who have died from the virus.

In Hong Kong, the latest deaths took the toll to a world-leading 81 just a day after the territory's leader, Tung Chee-hwa, said the outbreak would "stabilize gradually."

It has now had 1,358 cases of SARS, almost as many as on the Chinese mainland where the deadly virus first appeared in the southern province of Guangdong.

The disease, which is fatal in about four percent of cases and has no known cure, has killed more than 200 people and infected nearly 3,500 around the world.

The WHO, which has teams in China investigating the outbreak, said key questions they are probing include the most likely course of the illness as it is passed on to others, and which body fluids transmit the virus.

SARS is passed in droplets, by coughing and sneezing, but the WHO is not ruling out the possibility that it may also be transmitted when people touch objects such as elevator buttons, or that it could be passed on in fecal matter.

Pandemic Unlikely

But the WHO said the threat of a global pandemic was dwindling.

"The vast majority of countries report-



A Chinese medical worker answers a phone call about the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) at a special SARS unit in the Disease Control and Prevention Center in Beijing April 17. China, accused by the World Health Organization of dramatically under-reporting SARS cases Beijing, dug in its heels on Thursday, refusing to revise its toll and insisting it is dealing responsibly with the outbreak. Reuters

ing probable SARS cases are dealing with a small number of imported cases," the WHO said in an update on its Web site at <http://www.who.int>.

"Experience has shown that when these cases are promptly detected, isolated, and managed according to strict procedures of infection control, further spread to hospital staff and family members either does not occur at all or results in a very small number of secondary infections," it said.

But the WHO said it was concerned about the outbreaks in Hong Kong and Canada.

"In Hong Kong, a large and sudden cluster of almost simultaneous cases (321) seen in residents of the Amoy Gardens housing estate has raised the possibility of transmission from an environmental source," it said.

"The disease appears to be more severe both in Amoy residents and in related cases among hospital staff. Around 20 percent of Amoy-related cases require intensive care, compared with 10 percent seen in non-Amoy cases. Some deaths are now occurring in younger, previously healthy persons as well as in the elderly and persons with underlying disease."

It could be that these patients have exceptionally high levels of virus in their

bodies, the health body said, or the virus may have mutated. "Viruses in the Coronavirus family are known to mutate frequently," it said.

New Canadian outbreak worrying

In Canada, the WHO worried about an outbreak among 31 people including members of a religious group, their relatives and health care workers who treated them.

"The outbreak is particularly disturbing because of its potential to move into the wider community," it said.

On Saturday, a Toronto hospital closed its trauma unit on fears that health workers might have been infected.

But a second hospital on the outskirts of Canada's largest city reopened its emergency unit and said its efforts to contain the outbreak had apparently been successful. A group of British boarding schools quarantined dozens of children arriving back from Asia for the new term, whisking them into isolation.

And a warning came from the Netherlands that SARS is not the only new disease waiting to launch itself into the population. A veterinarian died of pneumonia after catching the poultry disease bird flu, raising fears that a mutated version of the virus could cause an epidemic in people.

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Shagarat Al-Ghareeb (The Stranger's Tree): Not just any tree

BY FAROUQ AL-KAMALI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Located in Duba'a, 25 kilometers south of Taiz on the Turba-Taiz route, Shagarat Al-Ghareeb has always been a mystery and a source of imagination and inspiration for many. The 2000-year old tree has and continues to gain the attention and admiration of all who see it. With its gigantic dimensions and different types and sizes of leaves, it is unique and stands alone in isolation, which made it look like a stranger tree planted in the wrong place. This is why it was called "Shagarat Al-Ghareeb" - the Stranger's Tree.



Al-Ghareeb tree, 15m. high and 3m diameter, has an elephant limb-like shape

Many families stop at the tree's site to spend a peaceful rest underneath its shadow while traveling. Other families arrange picnics beneath this huge tree to enjoy the shade and the serenity it generously offers.

In recent years, the tree has been attracting large numbers of tourists, who visit the tree and take pictures and video footage. Many of them express their fascination with this unique tree. This should be a driving force of encouragement for the concerned authorities to give the tree due importance so as to maintain this beautiful and rare landmark.

According to a study carried out by Mr. Nabil Obadi of the governmental Environment Protection Society (EPS) in Taiz, the tree's scientific name is "Adonsonia Aligitata" and is member

of the "Bumba" family of trees of Africa. This species of trees ages back to 2,000 years ago. In Yemen, the tree is found commonly only in two places, Dauba'a and in Sharifa Village in Al-Dhale district.

Speaking of dimensions, the tree is about 15 meters high with a 3-meter diameter and a circumference of more than 15 meters. The leaves are large in size and the tree produces big white or yellowish flowers hanging from the branches and has strong fragrance. The trunk has an elephant-limb shape and is very sturdy.

According to a medical study, the tree's leaves could be used to cure cough, kidney pain, ulcers and insect bites. Its fruits are used for malaria treatment, smallpox, and chickenpox. The seeds are used to strengthen and activate the heart muscle, and could prevent tooth decay. Roots of the tree are used to cure various skin diseases.

The scientific, tourist, medical and cultural significance of the tree emphasize the need to protect and take good care of aging Shagarat Al-Ghareeb, especially as the tree is threatened by a number of dangers including mishandling by children who use various sharp tools to cut its branches and abuse it, and also the cultivation of the areas just around the tree for agricultural purposes, which could deplete water beneath the tree.

It is suggested in a study by the EPS that a metallic fence is to be constructed two meters away from the tree surrounding its trunk to prevent others from mishandling it. Another sugges-

tion is to prevent farmers from growing greedy plants or weeds near the plant so as not to deprive it from water.

The society recommended that information signs be posted on the fence to provide historical and scientific background on the tree. Moreover, the area around the tree could be invested to encompass a café and stalls for recreation and relaxation, especially for foreign tourists. The society has already pledged that it plans to construct a 25 meters long fence around the tree and produce an instructive pamphlet about it and its importance.

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