

15th session of Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council in Sana'a concluded by signing bilateral agreements:

Towards ultimate partnership

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, 9 July - Yemen and Saudi Arabia signed on Sunday seven agreements and executive programs for cooperation. Among the signed agreements was a \$38 million loan for a project to build modern transportation highways linking the two countries.

The 15th session of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council concluded on Sunday in Sana'a its 2-day meetings held during 5-6 June. The Yemeni side to the Council's meetings was chaired by Prime Minister Mr. Abdulkader Bajammal while the Saudi party was headed by Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, the Defense Minister, the Second Deputy Premier. The session had dis-

cussed a number of issues in economy, investment, culture, security and politics.

Signed agreements

Other agreements signed between the two countries included cooperation in tourism and the executive program for educational cooperation, technical education and vocational training, cooperation between the Yemeni National Center for Documents and the Saudi King Abdulaziz House. In addition, an agreement on developing exports between the two countries was signed.

In conclusion of its meetings, the session issued a closing statement confirming deep-rooted brotherly ties and kinship between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, stressing identical viewpoints

on all issues discussed by the two sides so as to achieve overall partnership. The two sides welcomed signing the memorandum of understanding and coordination between the foreign ministries of the two countries and urged for more coordination in political stands towards various regional and international issues.

Security, top priority

Concerning security cooperation, the two sides expressed their satisfaction over the level of existing cooperation within the framework of implementing the security agreement signed by the two countries. They expressed satisfaction over following up all arrangements necessary for enabling the German company entrusted with fixing border

markings easily in implementation of the famous Jeddah Border Treaty signed by the two countries years ago. The two sides have also confirmed their keenness on fighting terrorism.

Economical cooperation

On the economic and development cooperation, the statement expressed satisfaction of the two sides with what has been already achieved. The final statement was about completing discussion of the draft agreement of customs cooperation and finalizing draft agreements to avoid taxation duality and encouragement and protection of investments, in addition to complete the project of an electricity power connection between the two countries.

Continued on page 3



Prince Sultan with PM Bajammal during their talks in Sana'a. Photo by M. Al-Qadhi

Sudan plane crash kills 115 2-year-old sole survivor



Sudan Air Boeing 737 plane similar to that which crashed on Tuesday

KHARTOUM, July 8 (Reuters) - A two-year-old girl was the only survivor after a Sudan Airways plane crashed on a domestic flight in Africa's largest country just after dawn on Tuesday, killing 115 people.

A Sudan Airways spokesman said the toddler, named as Lena Abdallah, had been taken to hospital in Port Sudan and Sudanese TV said she was in good condition. It was not immediately clear whether her parents were on board.

The bodies of the dead were swiftly buried, in keeping with the Muslim tradition.

The pilot of the Boeing 737 reported a

technical failure a few minutes after taking off at about 4:00 a.m. local time (0100 GMT) from the Red Sea town of Port Sudan in the northeast, heading towards Khartoum, state radio said.

The plane crashed just a few km (miles) away from Port Sudan airport as it returned in an attempt to land.

Residents of Port Sudan, fearing for their loved ones, rushed to the airport and gathered in nearby areas waiting for news. Residents of Khartoum made frantic checks to see if family or friends might have been on board.

A Sudan Airways employee told Reuters 104 passengers and 11 crew

were killed. Identification efforts began shortly after the crash, but it was unclear how many bodies had been identified.

The names on the passenger manifest, which included 17 children, were read out on Sudanese television. Sudan Airways spokesman Mohamed Osman said seven foreigners had been on the flight, but gave no details on their nationalities.

Mass grave

Sudanese TV said the bodies of the victims were laid to rest in a mass grave in Port Sudan, about 700 km (450 miles) northeast of the capital. Local govern-

ment officials issued a decree calling for the immediate burial of the dead.

Minister of State for Aviation Mohamed Hassan al-Bahi said on state radio that a committee had been formed to investigate the crash. Sudanese TV said the team was made up of civil aviation authority, Sudan Airways and security officials.

A year ago, a Sudan Airways cargo plane crashed into a residential area of the Central African Republic's capital Bangui, killing 23 people, mostly passengers and crew.

Another of the carrier's cargo planes crashed on approach to the airport in the

Kenyan capital Nairobi in December 1990.

In 1986, 60 people died when a Sudan Airways passenger plane was hit by a guerrilla SAM-7 missile, shortly after take off from Malakal in southern Sudan, where the government has been fighting a 20-year-old civil war with rebels.

Port Sudan is the country's only major port, and is the main oil export terminal for the nascent oil producer.

Sudan Airways employees said the 737 was the only aircraft owned by the airline. All other planes in its fleet were leased.

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Yemeni appeals death sentence for American murders

SANAA, July 7 (Reuters) - A court of appeals began on Monday hearing an appeal by a Yemeni man sentenced to death for murdering an American missionary doctor and two of her colleagues in the Arab state last year.

A court convicted Abed Abdel Razzak Kamel in May of shooting dead the three Christian missionaries at a Baptist mission hospital in December, 2002. Kamel said he did it to get closer to God and take revenge on Christians and Americans.

The killings came at a time of

strong anti-American sentiment in Yemen over U.S. support for Israel, the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan and the buildup to the war in Iraq.

Prosecutors said Kamel was part of a militant cell, but he was not sentenced on such charges.

Kamel's lawyers, who say the death sentence was politically motivated, asked for leniency on Monday, saying Kamel should have been tried by an Islamic court and not a civil court. The next hearing was set for 14 July.

First batch of coastguards graduates

ADEN_ A ceremony was held for the graduation of the first batch of coastguards in Aden on July 8 at the Maritime Training Institute.

During a 10-day training course, the coastguard graduates were trained by US trainers in various fields including sea fields training in the Aden harbor in order to nationalize Yemeni ports.

During the training course process, sea armed boats were used.

The training course is to be contin-

ued all the year around within a framework of a training program with the US government aiming at nationalizing the Yemeni harbors, fighting terrorism, putting an end to illegal immigrations and illegal fishing in Yemen's territorial waters and protecting the sea environment.

Other coastguard groups in the other four main Yemeni coastal cities are due to be implemented in the near future in order to nationalize other Yemeni harbors.

Look, who checked in at the Taj



The prominent Yemeni Singer Mr. Abubakr Salem Balfaqih being received by Mr. Rohit Khosla, General Manager and Mr. Marwan S. Hamdun Resident Manager of The Taj Sheba Hotel.

NOTICE FROM UNDP-YEMEN

An article was run in issue number 637 of Yemen Times dated June 16 concerning the danger of landmines and the international communities assistance to the Yemen Mine Action Programme. UNDP would like to add that in addition to the other donors mentioned in the article, the government of Italy has also generously contributed an amount of \$750,000 to the National Mine Programme through the UNDP project. In addition, the Government of Italy has assisted the mine victims by provision of medical support. UNDP wishes to acknowledge the support of the Government of Italy towards this important initiative.

UNDP-Yemen

Refugees' conditions reviewed

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA_ Organized by UNHCR in collaboration with the United Nations Information Center and Yemen Times, a two-day training course for journalists on the status of refugees and immigrants and their human rights was concluded on July 7.

The course was inaugurated by H.E. Amatulealem Al-Susuwah, Minister of Human Rights, who praised the efforts exerted by UNHCR and Yemen Times towards raising awareness in Yemen of issues concerning refugees and immigrants through journalists.

"Journalists are the messengers, whose influence on society is quite significant as their reports are used to disseminate information to the general public" she said.

"The national and international institutions should be responsible for implementing the necessary procedures and face urgent needs when receiving refugees."

Al-Susuwa further noted the lack of awareness among Yemenis of human rights of refugees and immigrants results in the need for great efforts to enhance awareness and knowledge on all levels.

Mr. Saad Al-Attar, Resident Representative of UNHCR also gave a statement during the inauguration session. He focused in his speech on Yemen's role in receiving refugees in Yemen and how the authorities are dealing with more than 100,000 refugees currently in Yemen. He gave an overall assessment of the status of refugees and immigrants in Yemen and in the Arab



Mrs. Al-Susuwa addressing journalists during a training course on refugees-related issues held at YT premises, July 6-7

world and asserted on the need to raise awareness of Yemeni journalists. "I can tell you that tens of articles written by journalist in Yemeni newspapers are full of factual errors. Wouldn't it be better if those journalists research more and contact UNHCR to avoid conveying wrong information?" he asked.

Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-chief of Yemen Times concluded the inauguration session by noting the importance of the workshop in raising awareness among journalists of refugees and their human rights and said that there is need to learn from and exchange expertise with countries that have similar refugee problems.

During the 2-day training course,

lectures were delivered centering on refugees and a study dealt with the notion of refugees at the regional and international levels according to the United Nations conventions.

The event was primarily centered on the conventions and protocols related the status of refugees, immigrants and their relation to human rights based on international law.

During the first day of the training course, Mr. Khaled Fensa, the Legal Consultant of UNHCR in Yemen gave a comprehensive presentation about conventions, facts and figures about immigrants and refugees and their human rights according to international regulations adopted in most countries including Yemen.

On the second day, Dr. Al-Attar gave a lecture on the contemporary refugee problem in the Arab world with refugee admission and asylum procedures in a number of Arab countries including Yemen as case studies. Mr. Al-Attar later focused more on Yemen and procedures applied for asylum seekers and refugees in the country.

On the same day, Colonel Mohammed Al-Ozair, Head of the Refugee Department in the Immigration Authority gave a briefing about the government's responsibilities towards refugees and gave examples of steps implemented by the authority to overcome problems in this regard.

The workshop was concluded with a certificate-awarding session to all 28 journalists who participated in the event.



Yemeni press encyclopedia released

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate YJS last week celebrated the launching of a book titled 'Yemeni Press Encyclopedia' that took 6 years in finishing it.

The author of the encyclopedia, Mr. Abdul Wahab al-Muayed said the encyclopedia includes all the Yemeni press from the second half of the 19th century till the end of the 20th century.

The author has divided the encyclopedia into stages consisting of 8 chapters. The first chapter contained information for the period 1872-1940 and the second chapter for 1940-1962. In those chapters the author focused on press in the north and the south and the



The cover

press of Yemenis abroad. Chapter 4 includes the period 1962-1990 while the chapter 5 includes 1990-2000.

The chapter 6 and 7 tackle the journalist union during the unification stage. The book is considered an important reference for those working in journalism and people interested in it.

The encyclopedia consists of 668 medium-sized paper and is one of the important publications by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate. Prime minister Abdulqader Bajammal has written the introduction of this good work.

For more than four months Students still behind bars

TAIZ- Appeals from family members have intensified lately for the release of the four students Mofeed Sultan Ahmed, Mohammed Taha Ibraheem, Mohammed Qassem Abbas, Akram Abdulbasit Saeed Mahyoob, who have been kept at the Taiz Central Prison for more than four months.

The students were accused of firing gunshots during a fire exchange that erupted recently over claiming the right of a water spring called (Meyayn) between the people of Nameh, a village affiliated to Mashra'a-Hadanan district, Taiz and people from al-Mihal, a village affiliated to the same district.

Sources said that around 250 people from al-Mihal amassed and stormed the village of Nameh, where the four youth belonged.

According to family relatives, the boys then fired back as an act of self-defense when they were attacked by

the armed men, who belong to al-Mihal.

Preventing the attackers from further assaults was described as "a legal right" and as self-defense by the people of Nameh.

In a letter received by the Yemen Times, the people of Nameh have appealed to the Justice and Human Right Ministers for immediate interference in order to settle the dispute as soon as possible and to set the four above-mentioned prisoners free.

Both sides have claimed ownership of the water spring, while Judge Ameen Abdulhaq has passed a verdict in favor of the people of al-Mihal.

It is worth-while mentioning that the water spring (Meyayn) is located halfway between the two villages Nameh and al-Mihal affiliated to the Saber mountain, Mashra'a and Hadan district.

Fatal protest of misconduct in Taiz

TAIZ- A man died in hospital due to serious wounds after being stabbed by a sharp dagger by two men behind the Faculty of Engineering's fence in Habel Salman, Taiz.

Apparently the victim protested the behavior of two men and their girlfriends, who as he claims, 'were performing unsuitable acts in public'.

Rescue attempts to save the victim's

life came from locals in the area as he was carried to the hospital, but was not able to survive his serious injury. Police forces traced the two men and arrested them and later arrested their respective girlfriends who were detained in the women's central prison in Taiz. The two men confessed the act and are now subjected to criminal investigation procedures.

Readers' Voice
Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll.
This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you support the truce agreed upon by Palestinian militant groups?

- Yes, and I believe it would lead to a breakthrough
- Yes, but the Israeli side should act more
- No, it is merely a trap.
- No, it will lead to no where without Israeli compromise
- I don't care!

LAST EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you believe that Yemeni-Saudi relations could one day return to their status prior to the 1990 gulf war?

- Never. 46.2%
- Yes, it will happen soon. 19.6%
- Yes, it will happen, but after many years. 18.3%
- It depends on the two countries, let's just wait and see. 15.8%

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Training course on vocational safety and security concluded

By SALAH S. AHMED
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the German Training Organization, *In Went* a training course on vocational safety and security was concluded on July 8 in Taiz.

The event which started on July 5 came within the framework of the reciprocal cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Taiz and the *In Went*.

During the closing ceremony, Mr. Ahmed Hayel Saeed Ana'am, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors said: "We have to concentrate and pay attention to the future

vocational safety."

Gabriel Hermam, the *In Went* representative, expressed her hopes to continue cooperation with the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in Yemen, which will in turn encourage and pave the way for more training.

On his part, Mr. Hazem Baker, the Industry and Commerce Deputy Minister stressed on the great significance to map out strategic plans, provide new job opportunities and concentrate on the national industries.

The trailing course basically aimed at providing employees in the vocational safety and security field with hints on how to deal safely with machines and how to get familiar

with means to reduce harm and vocational dangers.

The course also centered on raising awareness of the great significance of vocational safety and security.

The closing ceremony was attended by the Industry and Commerce Deputy Minister, Mr. Hazem Baker, Mr. Ahmed Hael Saeed Ana'am, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mofeed Abdhu Saeed the Industry and Commerce Director, Mr. Dirk Goossen, the *In Wet* Resource Person, the German Team Leader and Gabriel Hermam, *In Went* Senior Project.

During the inaugural ceremony, certificates were distributed to participants in the training course.



Continued from page 1

Towards ultimate partnership

The Yemeni and Saudi sides also affirmed their willingness for joint exploration of oil and minerals on the common borders. Regarding the agricultural field, the two sides agreed on increasing cooperation in agricultural research and coordination in fighting animal and plant epidemics along with adopting guaranteed procedures in an attempt to put an end to smuggling of livestock and agricultural materials and commitment to standard specifications of agricultural goods in trade exchange.

The two sides had agreed on activating the two agreements on overland and sea transport already concluded by the two countries.

Educational cooperation

Regarding educational issues, the two sides expressed their satisfaction over the executive measures taken concerning many educational fields, especially school curricula, education technology and exchange of expertise and scholarships. The two sides also expressed satisfaction on signing agreement on technical cooperation

and vocational training. The Yemeni and Saudi delegations to the Council's meetings welcomed the agreement signed in the tourism field. The Saudi side agreed to provide training for Yemeni medical cadres and to equip with supplies and repair Aden Hospital through financing by the Saudi Fund for Development.

Regional and international issues

The Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council had also discussed regional and international issues, confirming the importance of Iraq's territorial unity and establishment of security and stability in it, calling for forming a legitimate national unity representing all segments of the Iraqi people. The two sides condemned the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and Israel's continued occupation of the Arab territories of Syria and Lebanon. They called on the international community and the United States in particular to adopt the same seriousness and credibility in dealing with Israel's superciliousness.

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First Yemeni museum for manuscripts

The manuscripts department of the Ministry Culture and Tourism along with the General Authority for Manuscripts has finished their preparations to launch a permanent museum of the ancient and Quranic manuscripts that are considered among the most valuable treasures Yemen has.

The first discovery of such old manuscripts was in the beginning of 1980s in the Great Mosque in Sana'a.

The museum will be located at the headquarters of the manuscripts house in Sana'a and the work is in full swing for the official opening. The museum is expected to attract large numbers of tourists who wish to know more about the ancient manuscripts found in Yemen and how and when they were first written. The museum will be using advanced methods to protect them from the risks of perishing and of mishandling as well as of thefts and robberies.

This inauguration will coincide with the official declaration of Sana'a as Capital for Arab culture for 2004.

Lyricist honored

Mr. Ahmed al-Gaberi, a lyricist and a poet is to be honored today by the Taiz-based al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture.

The honoring ceremony is part of a number of steps taken by the foundation as part of an annual award ceremony for distinguished intellectuals and scientists. The awardees will be receiving Hayel Saeed Ana'am prizes for Sciences and Culture.

A host of distinguished Yemeni singers are to be honored this year including Mohammed Morshed Naji, Ayoub Tareh Absi, and Mohammed Mahmoud al-Harethi.

Mr. Ahmed al-Gaberi has actively contributed to lyrical poetry and has an active role in promoting and supporting the Yemeni song.

He has contributed extensively to the romance poems, aesthetics, and pastoral expressive daily life.

On the other hand, the Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture continued its other 2003 cultural activities including a lecture entitled "Children Literature" delivered by Mr. Abdurahman Abdulkhaleq, the Chairman of the Yemen's Writers and Authors Union-Aden branch on July 10, 2003.

The government of Yemen and UNDP Yemen Mine Action support approved

Cooperation between the government of Yemen and UNDP in implementing the Second Phase of the UNDP support to the Yemen National Mine Action Program is underway. Building on the excellent results achieved under the program's first phase, this program will focus on the following key results.

a. Further strengthen and develop the management and technical of the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) and its regional branches.

b. Improve the safety of the mine affected communities by reducing the landmine threat through the implementation of an integrated mine action program.

c. Contribute to the Yemeni economy by safely returning additional mined land to the Yemeni communities for a productive use.

d. Meet the needs of the mine victims and develop strategies for their socio-economic reintegration

e. Further improve the Mine Risk Education (MRE) program to reduce accidents and casualties among Yemeni citizens through massive awareness raising campaign

A UNDP press release has further mentioned that the project budget is envisioned at \$ 3.8 million to be spent over a period of three and half years. An initial amount of \$ 1.1 million for this phase of the program has been secured from UNDP (\$ 450,000), DFID/UK (\$ 250,000) and the government of Yemen (\$ 400,000). These contributions are in addition to the \$13.1 million already provided to the first phase of the UNDP mine action support project by the governments of the United States, Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland. The government of Saudi Arabia has made a contribution of \$ 3 million bilaterally to the government of Yemen.

The Government of Italy has also generously contributed an amount of \$ 750,000 to the National Mine Programme through the UNDP project. In addition, the Government of Italy has assisted the mine victims by provision of medical support. UNDP wishes to acknowledge the support of the Government of Italy towards this important initiative.

With such generous contributions from the above donors and financial and technical support by the UN system including UNDP, YMAP has become a leader in this area and been recognized as one of the best programs in the world.

The program was signed from the government side by H.E. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Planning and International Co-operation, from the side of the Executing Agent, by H.E. Kassim Ahmed Al-Agag, the minister of State, Member of the Cabinet, and Chairman of the National Mine Action Committee, and from the UNDP side by Mr. James W. Rawley, the UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Yemen. Representatives of donor countries also attended the signing ceremony, which was held at the Prime Minister's office. On the other hand, a program of support for the "Modernization of the justice Sector in Yemen" with a total budget of \$ 2.2 million was signed on 14 June 2003 between United Nations Development Program, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. UNDP will finance the initial phase of the project with a contribution of one million dollars.

Al-Esayi Domestic and International Transportation Company: New stations to be launched in Gulf States

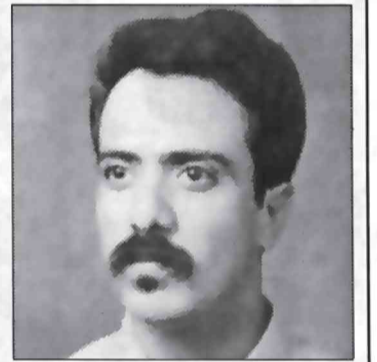
HODEIDAH - Preparations are underway to expand the al-Esayi Domestic and International Transportation services in all governorates of the republic.

Mr. Nadheer al-Shubi, al-Esayi's Hodeidah-Branch Director said that the company has been seeking to expand its transportation stations to other Arab countries and that in the near future the al-Esayi Domestic and International Transportation Company is due to inaugurate its transportation stations in the Gulf States.

The Al-Esayi Domestic and

International Transportation Company is considered one of the largest investment projects in Yemen and it is owned by Mohammed Ali Abdullah Al-Esayi. It was established on November 30, 2002 according to Investment Law No. 22 for the year 2002. The company has played a leading role in providing quality transportation services in all the governorates of the republic.

Mr. al-Shubi further noted that the company has been seeking to cope with the latest technologies and developed methods in order to enhance transportation services further.



Mr. Nadheer al-Shubi

Vacancies

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

1. Computer Lab clerk

The position is located in the Yemen America Language Institute YALI, American Embassy, under direct supervision of the Office manager and the general supervision of the Director of Courses. Employee will maintain the YALI computer Lab for students at the Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI).

Required Qualifications

Education: Secondary school is required.

Prior Work Experience: Minimum of one year of prior work experience; basic knowledge of computer operation is desirable, but may be learned on the job.

Language Proficiency: Level I basic English oral communication skills are required.

Ability: Ability to work well with others, to be flexible in dealing with students and to follow up in a timely way on assigned tasks is required.

Grade/Salary: * EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily resident: FP-AA (to be confirmed by Washington)
* Ordinarily Resident: FSN-4

2. Administrative Clerk

The position is located in the Yemen America Language Institute YALI, American Embassy, under the immediate supervision of the Office manager and the general supervision of the Director of Courses. Employee will provide clerical and administrative duties to the YALI.

Education: Secondary school is required, university graduate is preferable.

Prior Work Experience: One and on-half years of experience (or previous study at YALI) is required.

Language Proficiency: Level IV English (excellent working) Level is required.

Ability: Strong interpersonal skills and teamwork skills are essential; ability to work rotating shifts, which includes evening and Thursday work in order to fit into and support YALI's 13 hours per day, 6 days per week of operation.

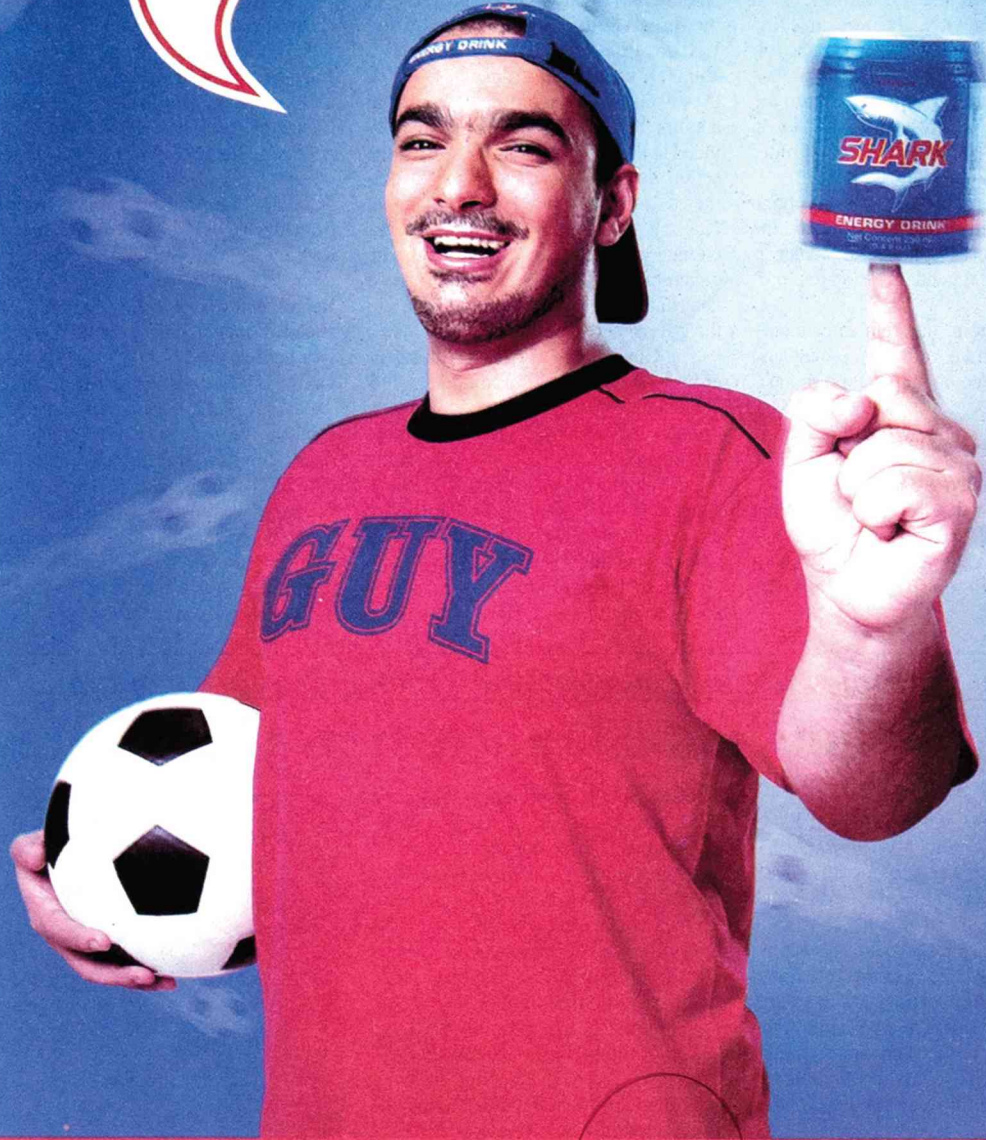
Grade/Salary: * EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily resident: FP-09 (to-be confirmed by Washington)
* Ordinarily Resident: FSN-5

How to apply: 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 send it to the Embassy Personnel office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P. O. Box 22347, Sana'a, Yemen, Tel: 303155, no later than July 20, 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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مياه صحية نقية

أنتق مياه صحية في اليمن



إنتاج الشركة التضامنية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)

أول شركة يمنية تقوم بتعبئة المياه
في قارورة صحية من مادة (بي.إي.تي)

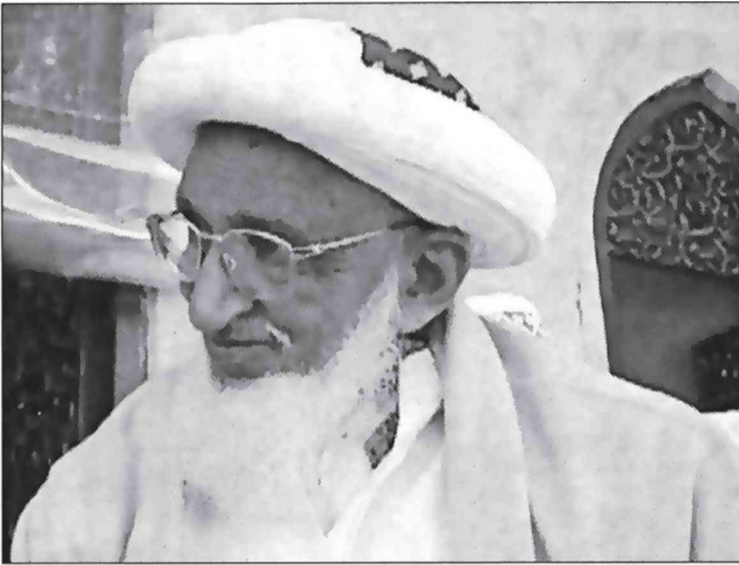


Al-Ismaeliya sect (Al-Buhra)

MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

This is the most widespread sect of Al-Batiniya cult in the world. It exists in Yemen and its activities are quit visible here. Light will be thrown on this sect briefly studying it historically and socially, and reasons for its existence in Yemen taking Haraz and Waiala south of Sana'a regions is the central point for leadership.

Recently, Al-Buhra Sultan arrived from India in order to establish education centers for Al-Buhra teachings in consent of president of the republic. Until date they have established 3 centers two in Haraz and one in Sana'a and the number of followers reached 25 thousand Yemenis according to Deputy of the Sultan in Yemen Salman Rashid.



The leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, Sayyidna Muhammad Burhanuddin



Thousands of Buhra followers gathering in Haraz mountains, Yemen

Historical overview:

Historians agree that this sect relates directly to Abi Al-Khattab Mohammed bin Abi Zainab Miqlas Al-Ajdae, who was called Abi Thaiban or Abi Ismael. And they are 5 groups all claiming that the imams are prophets sent by God to deliver messages to the people. They say there are still two prophets of them, one who has spoken, being Mohammed (may peace be on him) and another silent being Ali Bin Abi Talib (may God be pleased with him). And that the imams are to be obeyed by all humans and they know the future and that their imam Abi Al-Khattab is a prophet and hence must be obeyed, then they said that the imams are gods and then they implemented that on themselves then they said sons of Al-Hussein are sons and beloveds of God and then they implemented this on themselves.

Al-Batiniya cults have started first in Iran and the neighboring lands, and then it spread to others. And it is not one sect but it is a network of many because it includes Shiite, Sufiya in a way.

Of the most famous groups in Al-Batiniya cult is:

Al-Khuramiya, after Babik Al-Khurami who was most prominent during the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mutasim reign.

Al-Buhra, coming from Al-Buhara which means in Gujarati language the merchants, or is called Al-Mustalia referring back to Ahmad Al-Mustali who died 495 A.H. And is also called Al-Taiyibia referring to Al-Taiyib bin Amir Biahkam Allah. And this is the most widespread group of Al-Batiniya and is also called Al-Makarima and has a branch called Al-Yamamiya. And they also have another branch called Al-Dawoodiya referring to Dawood bin Ajab Shah, and another called Al-Sulaimanya and they are Al-Makarima who followed Suleiman bin Hassan whom they believed as imam.

Al-Nizariya, relating to Abi Mansoor Nizar bin Al-Mustansir, who was called Al-Mustafa Lideenuallah and were also called Al-Aghkhaniys.

Al-Hushaishiya, (Assassins) the name coming from the Hashish which they used to take as drugs and their followers.

Al-Drooz, and this follows Al-Obaidi Mohammed bin Ismael famous for Noshkeen Al-Darzi, and Darzi means tailor.

Al-Khasroiya, dating to Nasir Khasro Al-Qbadiyani Al-Farisi.

Al-Saba'cia, or the seven and those who believe in the seven roles of the

imam and claim that imamate role ended to Ismael bin Jafar Al-Sadiq because he was the seventh imam.

Al-Ibahiya, meaning the profligacy because they approved incest.

Al-Mulahida, or the atheism because they don't believe in prophets, resurrection and heaven or hell, they don't even believe in religions.

AlMumira, referring to the Arabic word for red "Ahmar" because they dye their clothes with this color.

Al-Talimiya, the educationists because they claim no education except that from the infallible imam.

Al-Kharndiniya or Al-babikiya, referring to a Persian man called Babik Al-Khamdini.

Al-Nasiriya, relating to Mohammed bin Noseer Al-Basri Al-Nomairy, and call themselves Al-Alawiya sect referring to Ali bin Abi Talib (may god be pleased with him). Yet some historians say that this sect was called Divine Alism because some believed that god's spirit was placed in Imam Ali's body. Nasiriya today is ruling Syria and are concentrated in the north in a region called Alwaleen Mountains. Of their cities are Latakia, Sphoon, Banyas, Tartoos, Al-Amraniya and Qardaa'a. A small number lives in Al-Iskandarun and Antakiya and there is a number of them in the USA perhaps those who migrated there some time in the past.

Reason for the naming:

In spite of the numerous sects of AL-Batiniya, yet all have one common belief is that the Quran and Islamic shara' has two sides, visible and hidden or as in Arabic "Batin", what is visible is what the general people understand and see and what is hidden only the "special" people see and understand. And this is why the cult is called Al-Batiniya. Of the most famous names for this cult is;

Al-Ismaelia, dating to Ismael bin Jafar Al-Sadiq.

Al-Maimoona, back to Maimoon Al-Qaddah an originally Jew from Iran.

Al-Qaramita, referring to Hamdan bin Qarmat.

Al-Abidiyoon, back to Obaid Allah bin Maimoon Al-Qaddah and they used to be kings of Morocco and Egypt in the sixth century A.H. and were evacuated by Salahudin Al-Ayubi year 560 A.H.

The Fatimid or known as Al-Abidiyoon and are called this way because they claim to be descendants of Fatima (may god be pleased with her)

daughter of Prophet Mohammed (may peace be on him).

And the Batiniya name has become linked to the Ismaelia, Qaramita that the three names have become synonyms in the use although the later two as explained are sects of Al-Batiniya.

Al-Ismaelia:

Al-Ismaelia as been told by Dr. Mustafa Ghalib who is a current follower of it in his book "History of the Ismaeliya Missionary movement" page 7&8:

"Imam Jafar Al-Sadiq had stated in his will that his elder son Ismael is his heir in the Imamite rule. But it so happened that Ismael died during his father's life and so the heir became his son Mohammed bin Ismael bin Jafar Al-Sadiq because Imamite rule, according to the Shiite Laws remains in the descendants only and is not carried from a man to his brother. Another reason was that Mohammed bin Ismael was elder than his uncle Musa Al-Kadhim, and again according to the laws then, he had priority to the ruling and hence the Ismaeliya sect emerged."

Al-Qaramita:

Historical sources say that Al-Qaramita, referring to Hamdan bin Qarmat. And Qarmat as such is an Arabic word that means closing up. So it is said a man closes up between his steps, qarmat or a writer closes up between his lines. It is said that Hamdan bin Al-Asha'th was called qarmat because he had short legs and had small steps consequently. Ivanhof in his book "The Rise of the Fatimids" said that Qaramita was a known word in South Iraq and the word merged into the Arabic language and became Qarmita. Author of the book "Al-Qaramita: Origin and history" confirmed this idea.

Relation between Ismaelia and Shiite Imamite:

Ismaelia is a branch of Shiism, and they meet in 6 of the followed imams: Ali bin Abi Talib, his two sons Al-Hassan and Al-Hussein, Ali Zain Al-Abidain, Mohammed Al-Baqir, Jafar Al-Sadiq. Post Jafar Al-Sadiq they fall out because Al-Ismaelia says Imamite rule was to son Ismael of Jafar and then his grandson Mohammed and so on. Whereas the Shiite Imamite believed that the ruling was to the second son of Jafar whose name was Musa Al-Kadhim and his descendants hence forward.

because Ismael died before his father. The Shiite Imamite which is also called the twelve, says that the twelfth Imam Mohammed bin Hassan Al-Askaray went into a vault or a crypt when he was nine years old with the Quran that belonged to Ali bin Abi Talib and his wife Fatima daughter of the prophet (May peace be on him) and never emerged hence. And that he will come out in the end of time when the world has become unbearable because of cruelty and evil and will establish justice and peace. So they remain waiting his emerging some day.

What about Prophet Mohamed (mpbh)

The prophet in the Batiniya view is not the chosen one whom god has selected to deliver His message. In fact they believe that he was a normal man whom was blessed through his relation to the real holy man (Ali bin Abi Talib). And when they refer to rasool Allah, i.e. messenger of God, they mean not Mohammed (mpbh) but Ali (mgbph).

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Sana'a
Republic of Yemen



Muhammad Burhanuddin teaching his young followers

Iraqi leader sees governing council next week

BAGHDAD, July 8 (Reuters) - All seven formerly exiled Iraqi political parties will take part in a U.S.-appointed "governing council" to be announced next week, prominent Iraqi politician Adnan Pachachi said on Tuesday.

Pachachi said the council would have executive authority and would not simply be an advisory panel as U.S. administrator Paul Bremer had originally intended.

"The council will appoint ministers and enact laws whether those related to currency, education, economy and all other fields," Pachachi told Reuters in an interview at his luxurious villa in the Mansour neighbourhood of Baghdad.

A source at the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority confirmed the council would have executive powers and said it would be announced in the next two weeks.

The source said Shi'ite Muslims would get more than half the seats at the council with the rest divided between Sunnis and Kurds to reflect the demographic composition of the country.

"All of the seven Iraqi parties will participate in a meeting to elect members of the governing council," the 79-year-old Pachachi, who returned from exile shortly after Saddam Hussein was toppled on April 9, said.

Pachachi, a U.S.-backed independent, is respected by various Iraqi political parties and is widely tipped to head the governing council.

The seven political groups include the Iraqi National Congress, headed by Ahmed Chalabi, the Shi'ite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), al-Da'wa Party and two Kurdish political parties.

The chiefs of six of these parties are expected to be on the council joined by a senior official representing SCIRI. Three women will be on the 25-30 member body, the CPA source said.

Revised plan

Pachachi, who served as foreign minister in the mid-1960s, said the council would have 25 members and would be formed around next week, adding the council would choose its own chief.

Bremer initially offered an advisory council but opposition by the political parties and influential figures made him revise his plan. Many Iraqis cite the lack of a national government as one of their main frustrations and a reason for growing anti-U.S. sentiment.

"A governing council would be nearer to a government than a political council as it will have a broad set of responsibilities and legislative and executive authorities," Pachachi said, adding that among the council's priorities would be the restoration of law and order.

Pachachi said the council would work alongside the coalition authority until the formation of an interim government to run Iraq. He said the coalition authority was serious in handing over power to Iraqis.

Iraqi political groups anxious for a greater say in running their country had expected a national conference to create a U.S.-supervised transitional authority.

They demanded a swift handover of power to a fully-fledged Iraqi government, and some say the United States has reneged on promises to quickly form a U.S.-supervised transitional authority.



U.S. Army troops look over the damage to a Bradley armored vehicle in the town of Khan Dari, 30km (20 miles) west of Baghdad, July 8. The driver was injured in the blast when an anti-tank mine exploded under the vehicle which travelling in a convoy. REUTERS

Abbas faces revolt, talks of resigning

RAMALLAH, West Bank, July 8 (Reuters) - Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday grappled with an internal revolt over his peace-making with Israel that he said might force him to resign, according to Palestinian sources.

The crisis within the policymaking Central Committee of the main Palestinian Fatah movement reflected Abbas's difficulty in consolidating popular support for his conciliatory agenda after being appointed under pressure from international mediators.

Fatah loyalists of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat objected to Abbas's failure so far to secure significant Israeli moves in return for a unilateral militant truce including a mass prisoner release and general pullback from blockaded cities.

Senior Palestinian officials said a meeting Abbas had set with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for Wednesday to discuss further steps on the U.S.-backed "road map" to peace had been postponed because of the internal crisis.

Abbas told reporters on Tuesday the meeting was put off "for technical reasons". He also denied any serious differences with Fatah Central Committee figures, but did not elaborate further.

Palestinian officials cited growing tension between Abbas and members of the Central Committee and said he had resigned from the body in protest at verbal assaults on his performance.

Hardline members of the Central Committee, the backbone of the Palestinian Authority, asked him in a session on Monday evening to step down as prime minister, they added. They said that after a shouting match between Abbas and Central Committee critics, Abbas sent two letters to Arafat, one of them delivering his resignation from the panel.

"In the other letter, he asked Arafat and... Fatah to send him their instructions on how to run his government and negotiations with Israel. If he rejects their ideas, he will resign as



Relatives of 22-year-old Ahmed Yehyia, a Palestinian suicide bomber who killed 65-year-old Israeli woman in a suicide bomb attack last night, cry while holding his photograph outside his house in the West Bank village of Kufri near Jenin July 8. Militants from the radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for a bombing in central Israel that killed a 65-year-old woman, apparently violating last week's cease-fire pledge. REUTERS

prime minister," the senior official said.

Fatah members unhappy with Abbas's performance

Some senior Fatah officials said they had criticised Abbas's negotiating methods for failing to secure major Israeli steps to ease privations of Palestinians after 33 months of violence in a Palestinian uprising for statehood.

A critical step in the eyes of ordinary Palestinians is a general release of prisoners. Up to 8,000 are held by Israel but it has agreed to free only a few hundred it says are without "blood on their hands".

"We told Abu Mazen the people are unhappy with his negotiations strategy, and with his performance, that he should not trust Sharon who doesn't want peace and will do everything

possible to foil the ceasefire," a member of Fatah's Central Committee, using Abbas's nom de guerre, told Reuters.

With help from Arab states, Abbas persuaded militant groups to declare a temporary ceasefire with Israel 10 days ago. But they warned it would not last unless all prisoners were freed.

An Islamist suicide bomber killed an Israeli woman in her house on Tuesday in the first such attack during the truce.

Arafat, accustomed to leading Palestinians uncontested for decades, bowed to immense international and Arab pressure to appoint Abbas as prime minister to carry out democratic reform.

Arafat's aides said he was resisting delegating some of his powers to Abbas and intervening in running the new government.

Iranian students vow to defy protest ban

TEHRAN, July 8 (Reuters) - Iranian students on Tuesday vowed to commemorate a violent 1999 attack on a university dormitory on Wednesday in defiance of an official ban.

Nervous that the July 9 anniversary may reignite protests against clerical rule which rocked Tehran and other cities for 10 nights in June, officials have banned off-campus rallies, closed some university dormitories and postponed summer exams.

Hundreds of people, including scores of students, are still under arrest after authorities rounded up more than 4,000 people during and after the biggest and most violent pro-democracy protests seen in Iran for four years.

"We haven't obtained any permission for gatherings but there will be some sit-in protests at the universities and some people are going to gather outside the U.N. building," in Tehran, one student leader told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Many ordinary Iranians have also pledged to mark the events of July 9, 1999

when hardline Islamic vigilantes fiercely loyal to Iran's conservative clerics attacked students in a Tehran University dormitory, killing one person and sparking five days of mass protests.

"I'm closing my business and I will go out to show my support for the students," said a hairdresser in Tehran who asked not to be identified.

But with little organisation or leadership for the planned protests and security expected to be tight, most analysts expect any gatherings to be small-scale and quickly dispersed.

"There may be a couple of sporadic protests in the country tomorrow but I don't think it will become a major thing," said one reformist parliamentarian, who also declined to be named.

"Some ordinary people may come out onto the streets but it will not be tolerated," he said.

Satellite channels jammed

Tehran residents have complained that U.S.-based Iranian satellite channels, which played a key role in encouraging

people to join last month's protests, are no longer available, their signals apparently jammed.

Students have criticised moderate President Mohammad Khatami, once the darling of Iran's student movement, for failing to stand up to hardline opponents who have blocked his attempts to reform Iran's Islamic state.

"On July 9, 1999 Khatami was the most popular figure among students but four years later...everyone wants him to be tougher and if he can't do that to resign and stop wasting people's time," said one student, who declined to be identified.

While championing the democratic right to protest, Khatami has been largely mute on last month's demonstrations and has praised the actions of security officials to contain them.

The hardline Jomhuri-ye Eslami newspaper on Tuesday said the fact that last month's "riots" died out without seriously testing Iran's security forces "proves that the domestic enemies of the system are unpopular and their foreign asters suffer from wishful thinking".

Two Turk soldiers dead in Kurdish attack on convoy

TUNCELI, Turkey, July 8 (Reuters) - Kurdish guerrillas opened fire on a convoy of vehicles carrying a provincial governor on Tuesday killing two Turkish soldiers in troubled southeastern Turkey, officials and witnesses said.

Another soldier was injured in the attack launched by around 10 gunmen from dense forest surrounding a road some 35 kilometres (22 miles) east of the town of Tunceli, according to a Reuters reporter who was travelling in the convoy.

Turkey has launched several operations in recent weeks to track down hundreds of Kurdish militants it says are returning from the mountains of

northern Iraq to Turkey after the U.S.-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein earlier this year.

Tunceli governor Ali Cafer Akyuz escaped unharmed from the 10-minute firefight between the militants and Turkish soldiers guarding the 13-vehicle convoy.

Some 5,000 soldiers with air support were mobilised in the hunt for the assailants, none of whom were reported killed or injured.

Turkey's powerful military has fought a decades-long battle against armed Kurdish separatists at the cost of around 30,000 lives, most of them Kurds.

The fighting has largely subsided since the 1999 capture of Abdullah Ocalan, leader of rebel group the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), now known as KADEK.

Turkey stations more than 1,000 soldiers inside the border with northern Iraq in a controversial deployment it says is necessary to guard its territory from attack by KADEK militants.

U.S. forces arrested 11 Turkish special forces officers in northern Iraq on Friday who Western diplomats say were suspected of involvement in a plot to kill the interim governor of Kirkuk. Turkey denies that and the soldiers were released on Sunday.

Afghan leader condemns Pakistan embassy attack

KABUL, July 8 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai condemned a raid on the Pakistan embassy on Tuesday by demonstrators angry about an alleged Pakistani incursion, and apologised to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf.

Pakistan lodged a formal protest with the Afghan government after the attack and accused Afghan security forces of allowing protesters to ransack the embassy. No one was hurt in the violence.

"I strongly, strongly, strongly condemn this action," Karzai told a news conference.

"Those who committed this act are not the enemies of Pakistan. They are the enemies of Afghanistan, peace in Afghanistan. They are enemies of friendship between Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The Afghan Foreign Ministry said it would pay compensation for the damage and guarantee the mission's security.

Anger with Pakistan mounted at the weekend when Karzai criticised remarks he said Musharraf had made on a recent foreign tour suggesting the Afghan government had little control outside the capital and was not representative of the country's ethnic mix.

Afghan officials have also blamed

Pakistan for sending troops into Afghan territory during operations on the border.

Pakistan rejected the charge, saying its forces had moved to the border in Mohmand Agency, which lies directly between Islamabad and Kabul, to secure the area and seal the frontier.

In Pakistan, a presidential source said Karzai telephoned Musharraf on Tuesday evening and apologised during a 25-minute conversation and said such an incident would not happen again.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Mian Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said the embassy would reopen after broken equipment and furniture was repaired.

BURNED FLAG

Earlier, about 2,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Kabul for a second day of protests over the alleged border intrusion. Some protesters broke away from the rally and forced their way into the embassy, witnesses said.

Witnesses later saw broken windows, damaged vehicles, smashed television sets and computers and a partly burned Pakistani flag.

Afghan security forces evicted the protesters and sealed off the mission. International peacekeepers kept watch.

Pakistani ambassador Rustam Shah

Mohmand told reporters his staff had to hide in the basement during the raid by 500 protesters, according to his estimate, some of whom he said were armed.

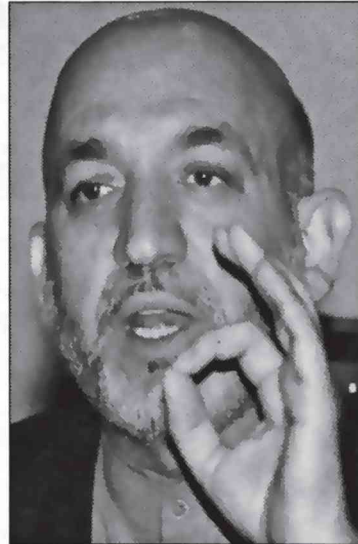
"Afghan security forces permitted a mob armed with guns and sticks to violate the premises of the embassy and to destroy all the embassy's equipment and furniture, and also all embassy vehicles," the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said.

It was not the first time angry Afghans had attacked the mission of their eastern neighbour. Pakistan's embassy was ransacked and looted in 1994, 1995 and in November 2001, after anti-Taliban forces captured Kabul.

Pakistan backed the hardline Taliban for years until the September 11 attacks on the United States. While relations have been warming since the Taliban was driven from power in late 2001, many Afghans harbour deep suspicion of Pakistan.

Karzai, in a Sunday speech responding to Musharraf's comments, said Pakistan should not interfere in Afghanistan's affairs. Mohmand said Musharraf's comments were taken out of context.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have long had occasional disagreements over



Afghan President Hamid Karzai gestures during a press conference in Kabul, July 8, 2003. Karzai condemned a raid on the Pakistani embassy on Tuesday by demonstrators angry about an alleged Pakistani incursion, and said he would apologise to Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf.

REUTERS

their border, but Karzai's comments were the most critical of Pakistan since his U.S.-backed government was installed.

Nigerian unions end strike, seek probe of killings



Two Nigerian demonstrators stand by a bonfire in Ijebu-Egba road in Lagos July 7, 2003. Nigeria's top union official said on Monday police shot dead at least 10 protesters during violence in Lagos as a general strike over fuel prices entered its second week — but police denied the killings.

REUTERS

ABUJA, July 8 (Reuters) - Nigeria's trade unions called off on Tuesday a week-long general strike over fuel prices, which had raised tensions in Africa's most populous country just days before the arrival of U.S. President George W. Bush.

But they said President Olusegun Obasanjo, who left on Tuesday for an African summit in Mozambique, must order an investigation into "the murder of innocent and defenceless Nigerians by the police" after a union leader accused police of killing at least 10 demonstrators in Lagos.

The violence has cast a shadow over Bush's scheduled visit on Saturday to the country of more than 120 million people, which is a major supplier of oil to the United States.

The leaders of the umbrella Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) said in a statement after an all-night meeting they were ending the strike to ease the suffering of ordinary Nigerians.

It said a compromise deal had been struck with the government to increase the fuel price from the previous level of 26 naira (\$0.20) a litre to 34 naira, rather than the 40 naira originally announced.

"Given the sacrifices and deprivations which Nigerians have had to make and contend with over the days, the CWC (Central Working Committee) has the compelling duty to avail the people some relief by suspending the strike action," it said.

Commuter buses took to the roads again and street vendors returned to work in Lagos, the commercial capital and Nigeria's largest city, as people heard the strike was over. However, many shops and banks remained shut.

"I'm very happy to come back to work. Nobody can sit at home without money," said Christian, a roadside bookseller in the Lagos Island business district.

Reflecting the general mood, he blasted the government of the world's eighth largest oil exporter for raising fuel prices.

"This oil is what God gave to us and

we should not suffer for it. The government is not giving us what we deserve."

Violent protests

The strike was Obasanjo's first major challenge since being re-elected in April, in polls which the main opposition party refused to recognise because of alleged rigging.

Many Nigerians feared the protest could combine with opposition discontent to create greater turbulence, but observers said it may finally have strengthened democracy.

"It is a good thing that the president was confronted by the unions, because I believe they are a strong institution that can contain the excesses of any government," said Bismarck Rewane, managing director of Lagos-based Financial Derivatives.

Chima Ubani, of the Civil Liberties Organisation, a key backer of the strike, said he foresaw further protests as Obasanjo tried to push ahead with his liberalisation agenda. Obasanjo has said he aims to liberalise the fuel sector, as well as telecommunications and electricity.

"What the protests have shown clearly is that Obasanjo's IMF and World Bank-inspired policies will run into a lot of problems with the Nigerian people," Ubani said.

Nigeria's top union official, Adams Oshiomhole, called for a public inquiry into the alleged killing of at least 10 protesters during demonstrations in Lagos on Monday.

Lagos police denied the killings, but acknowledged what they said was one accidental death and spoke of serious gun battles with "hoodlums" whom they said set a police car ablaze.

The leaders of Nigeria's National Assembly vowed to open an inquiry to uncover what happened in Lagos.

"I am startled that 10 lives were lost and that further complicates the matter. We must all call for a thorough investigation," Senate President Adolphus Wabara told the NLC on Monday.

Norway peace envoys in talks with Sri Lanka rebels

COLOMBO, July 8 (Reuters) - Norwegian peace envoys began fresh efforts on Tuesday to revive Sri Lanka's stalled peace process, travelling to the rebel-held north to meet Tamil Tiger leaders.

Special envoy Jon Westborg left for the rebels' headquarters of Kilinochchi for a two-day visit, which will include a meeting with S.P. Thamilselvan, the political wing leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"The very fact the LTTE is meeting with them is a positive signal," said Jehan Perera of the National Peace Council, an independent think tank.

The Tigers suspended talks to end 20 years of civil war in April, and are demanding the government follow through on a proposal for an interim administration for the Tamil-majority north and east of the island as a condition for resuming negotiations.

Diplomats and officials said the

Norwegians would not be carrying the government proposal, which is still being formulated, but Perera said the purpose of the meeting could be to sound out the rebels on some of its basic clauses.

The Tigers rejected previous government entreaties to restart talks, saying they wanted a concrete outline on a power-sharing agreement before resuming negotiations seen as the best chance yet to end a war that has killed 64,000 people.

The Tigers want a separate homeland for Tamils in the country's north and east.

Despite the stalled talks, a Norwegian-brokered truce is still holding after 16 months, although it has been clouded in the past few weeks by a series of assassinations of rival Tamil politicians, allegedly by the Tigers.

Four previous bids to end the war ended in renewed bloodshed.

Liberian forces block U.S. military mission

MONROVIA, July 8 (Reuters) - Gun-waving Liberian troops blocked a U.S. military team from entering a refugee camp on Tuesday as President George W. Bush vowed to work with the United Nations and Africans for peace in the country.

Bush said he had still not decided whether to send U.S. peacekeepers into the West African state, founded by freed American slaves as a haven of liberty in the 19th century.

The U.S. reconnaissance mission to Liberia got off to a bad start on Tuesday when the Americans, who arrived a day earlier, were halted by forces loyal to Liberian President Charles Taylor outside the capital Monrovia.

The Liberians stopped the U.S. convoy at the Iron Gate checkpoint as it headed for a camp housing thousands of refugees.

"We got turned around. The military turned us around," a U.S. embassy official told Reuters. "I don't know why."

There was no immediate comment from Liberian officials.

Speaking on the first day of a visit to Africa, Bush said he would work with the United Nations and regional bloc ECOWAS on maintaining a ceasefire in the country which has been torn by nearly 14 years of civil war.

"We're in the process of determining what is necessary to maintain the ceasefire," Bush told reporters after a meeting with West African leaders in Senegal.

He also reiterated his demand that Taylor step down. Taylor said on Sunday he would accept an asylum

offer from Nigeria but it was not clear how soon he would go.

Liberians want U.S. peacekeepers to help years of violence and believe that only they can win respect from the generation of young fighters nurtured on war and inured to atrocities.

Cheering crowds thronged the streets of Liberia's coastal capital shouting "We want Bush" as the American team drove through. At one point, police fired shots in the air to drive back the crowds.

LIBERIANS SEE U.S. DUTY

Many Liberians feel the United States has a duty to help because of links with a country founded by freed American slaves.

Hundreds of people have been killed in fighting in the capital Monrovia over the last month, not far from the heavily fortified U.S. embassy where gun-toting U.S. Marines leapt out of helicopters in flak jackets and helmets on Monday.

The U.S. survey team — 32-strong including its Marine security contingent — is seen as a possible precursor to a larger force, which the United States is considering.

"We do want Americans to come. When they arrive it means something good for the country. When the Americans lead the forces we believe that there will not be the creation of warring factions," said Ernest, a student.

The assessment team includes experts in water purification, preventive medicine, construction and logistics.



Thousands of people celebrate the arrival of a U.S. humanitarian assessment team in Monrovia July 8, 2003. U.S. President George W. Bush pledged on Tuesday to work with the United Nations and African states to maintain a fragile ceasefire in Liberia, but said no decision had been made yet on sending U.S. peacekeepers.

REUTERS

In Washington, U.S. Defence Department spokesman Larry Di Rita told reporters on Monday that the military survey team had not been given a deadline to report on the security situation.

Bush insists that the first step should be the departure of Taylor, a former warlord who went on to win elections in 1997 after a first round of civil war that left 200,000 dead.

Besieged by rebels and wanted for

war crimes by an international court, Taylor has accepted an offer of asylum from regional giant Nigeria and just wanted to make sure an international force was in place to prevent chaos.

West African countries have pledged 3,000 troops to keep a peace and want U.S. forces to help them bring that up to 5,000, but Washington well remembers a bloody withdrawal from Somalia 10 years ago after a humanitarian intervention went awry.

Fifth suspect charged over Kenya hotel bombing

NAIROBI, July 8 (Reuters) - A fifth Kenyan man was charged with murder on Tuesday over November's suicide bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel in Mombasa, an attack claimed by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda organisation.

Salmin Mohammed Khamis, a worker in a Mombasa hardware shop, appeared in Nairobi's chief magistrates court alongside four Kenyans charged at their first court appearance on June 24.

The court clerk said Khamis faced 15 counts of murder, adding the other

four — Aboud Rogo Mohammed, Kubwa Mohammed Seif, his son Mohammed Kubwa and Said Sagar Ahmed — also now faced 15 counts, up from the 13 announced on June 24.

The clerk did not elaborate. Defence lawyer Maobe Mao said the number of counts had risen because of what he called an anomaly in the death toll. Prosecution lawyers said investigators had concluded that two more people had died in the attack than had earlier been thought.

Police spokesman Kingori Mwangi said he could not comment on the

apparent rise in the death toll indicated by the additional charges.

Police have said the bombing in the African country's tourist haven city of Mombasa killed three suicide bombers and 13 other people. It occurred within minutes of a failed attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner leaving Mombasa airport.

Khamis, who appeared in his late 20s and looked unkempt, stood as the court clerk read out the charges.

Leading al Qaeda member Sualeiman Bu Ghaith claimed responsibility for the bombing in an audio statement

released by an Islamist website in December.

The men were remanded in custody and are due to appear in court again on July 22. Their lawyers said they did not enter a plea because prosecutors were still preparing their documents.

Three of the defendants are related through marriage to Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, one of the FBI's most wanted al Qaeda suspects, accused of being the brains behind the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi and the November 28 attack in Mombasa.

BBC cements independence but govt row takes toll

LONDON, July 8 (Reuters) - The BBC can rightly claim that its row with Tony Blair's administration has cemented its independence from government, analysts said on Tuesday. But neither side has emerged unscathed in the heated battle over the BBC's coverage of the Iraq war and Britain's public broadcaster is under pressure to make changes to safeguard its image as one of the world's most trusted news organisations.

The BBC prides itself on accuracy, objectivity and high standards but a spat with the British government has put that image under the spotlight and raised questions about its regulation.

"In terms of independence, the BBC has emerged from this extremely well. But in terms of reporting procedures, it's been more difficult ... I think the broadcaster needs to do something to shore up trust in the BBC brand," said Jamie Cowling, a research fellow at the Institute of Public Policy Research.

The row comes at a key time for the publicly funded BBC as it gears up for a discussion over its future. The BBC's "royal charter" is up for renewal and its 2.5 billion pounds of tax funding is likely to be the topic of fierce debate.

It also comes at a time when the integrity of the media is under scrutiny more than ever, especially in the wake of a controversy over reporting at the New York Times.

While many observers say Blair's government has come out worse in this row, others note that the BBC should not object to being taken to task given its role and that BBC journalists are bracing for a crack-down on reporting.

"It (the BBC) claims to have higher standards than the rest and must expect to be held to them," Lance Price, a former BBC correspondent and former



British Prime Minister Tony Blair addresses the parliamentary Liaison Committee in London July 8. Blair, fighting for his political reputation, rejected claims he misled Britain over the case for war in Iraq despite the non-appearance of weapons of mass destruction. REUTERS

director of communications of Britain's Labour party, wrote in the Guardian.

BBC unbending

At the heart of the row is a BBC report alleging the government "sexed-up" a dossier that supported its case to go to war. Blair's communications chief Alastair Campbell has particularly attacked the story for being based on one anonymous source.

A parliamentary inquiry on Monday cleared the prime minister of improper manipulation of intelligence but provided ammunition for both sides in the

row over the BBC's report.

The broadcaster on Tuesday continued to refuse demands to apologise, saying it just wanted to move on.

The BBC is historically no stranger to political spats, with successive governments expecting more loyalty from a broadcaster that is publicly funded and overseen by a board of governors appointed by the state. But the latest slanging match has taken both the government and the BBC by surprise.

Observers say the public is likely to side with the BBC if asked who they trust more. An opinion poll in the Times newspaper on Tuesday showed

that over half of Britons did not trust the prime minister.

Nevertheless, behind the scenes the broadcaster is expected to review its reporting procedures, especially in terms of how stories are sourced and when journalists can do freelance work.

The government has at least attempted to reassure the BBC that this row will not affect the royal charter debate.

"Mud tends to stick and I don't think either side has come away scot-free. But it's unlikely to have any long-term damage," said a London-based media analyst.

Berlin accepts Italy not anti-German after new jibe

BERLIN, July 8 (Reuters) - Germany guardedly accepted Italy's efforts on Tuesday to distance itself from a junior minister who called Germans "hyper-nationalistic blondes", days after Silvio Berlusconi made a Nazi slur at a German politician.

The minister, who went on to call German tourists arrogant invaders of Italian beaches, was described as a lone voice by Italian leaders trying to limit further damage to Italy's week-old presidency of the European Union.

The comments by Industry Ministry Undersecretary Stefano Stefani came after Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi drew rebukes across Europe by comparing a German member of the European Parliament to a Nazi concentration camp guard.

Germany's economy minister attacked Stefani's remarks as idiotic, but Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's office said it was satisfied with conciliatory comments from Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini and Stefani's boss, Industry Minister Antonio Marzano.

"In the interest of the friendly relations between Italy and Germany, the government assumes that the clarifications of both ministers represent the position of the government and will remain without qualification," Schroeder's spokesman Bela Anda said in a statement.

Schroeder threatened to cancel his annual holiday in Italy after Stefani, who is responsible for tourism, refused to apologise. Germany's federation of travel agents said some insulted Germans might boycott Italy.

"Spaghetti for brains"

Germany's Economy and Labour Minister Wolfgang Clement condemned Stefani and said the "muddle-headed" undersecretary should be removed.

"What a state secretary in the Industry Ministry has uttered is reckless and outrageous for its absurdity and idiocy," Clement told reporters in Berlin, adding he nevertheless did not expect any serious damage to German-Italian relations.

Stefani wrote his comments in a letter last Friday in La Padania, the newspaper of the right-wing Northern League party which is a coalition partner in Berlusconi's government.

"We know the Germans well, these stereotyped hyper-nationalistic blondes, who've been indoctrinated from the beginning to feel top of the class whatever the situation."

Germany's top-selling newspaper Bild said all Germans had been insulted. "Has the undersecretary got spaghetti for brains?" it asked.

However, Italian Foreign Minister Frattini waded into the controversy with words of conciliation: "I strongly hope that a gratuitous declaration, a lone voice, will not in any way disrupt the traditional friendship between Italy and Germany."

Berlusconi also expressed regret to the head of the European Parliament on Tuesday for his Nazi jibe. A parliament spokesman said Pat Cox telephoned Berlusconi and considered the incident to be closed in the light of the Italian leader's clarification.

However, Schroeder, who has taken his summer vacation on Italy's Amalfi coast for a number of years, was yet to reveal his holiday plans.

Bush says will help Liberia peace, condemns slavery

DAKAR, July 8 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush pledged on Tuesday to work with the United Nations and African states to maintain a fragile ceasefire in Liberia, but said no decision had been made yet on sending U.S. peacekeepers.

In an early setback as Washington assesses involvement in any peacekeeping mission, forces loyal to President Charles Taylor stopped U.S. military experts from visiting a refugee camp outside the Liberian capital on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Bush also used the first stop of an African trip to stand on a Senegalese shore from which Africans were once dispatched to the Americas in chains, to brand slavery one of history's greatest crimes.

After meeting West African leaders in Senegal's capital Dakar, Bush said Washington would "participate in the process" to restore peace to Liberia, torn by nearly 14 years of civil war.

"The United States will work with ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States). The United Nations will be involved," Bush told reporters.

He demanded again that Taylor step down as president of Liberia, a country founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century. Taylor said on Sunday he would accept asylum from Nigeria but gave no word on how soon he might go.

"We're in the process of determining what is necessary to maintain the ceasefire and to allow for a peaceful transition of power," Bush said.

His vow to work with the United Nations contrasted with his decision to bypass the organisation and attack Iraq in March, after failing to win the backing of the U.N. Security Council for the military action that ousted Saddam Hussein.

At a former slave trading station on Goree Island, off Dakar, Bush said in a speech: "At this place, liberty and life were stolen and sold."

Crime of slavery

Recalling a period in which an estimated 20 million Africans were enslaved, he said: "One of the largest migrations of history was also one of the greatest crimes of history."

He said slavery had corrupted U.S. society and left a legacy yet to be eradicated.

His speech stopped short of an explicit apology for slavery that some African-Americans and others had hoped for, but Bush said it was no excuse to say values were different in the slavery era.

After African-Americans voted heavily against him in the 2000 U.S. presidential election, Bush has sought to woo black voters to the Republican Party.

His five-day trip to Africa had been aimed at highlighting a \$15 billion U.S. plan to fight AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean and steps to promote democracy and economic development in Africa, but Liberia moved up the agenda.

A top West African mediator urged Washington on Tuesday to lead and fund a peace force in Liberia and said he envisaged a joint U.S.-African force of 6,000.

"We... would like the U.S. to take the lead military role, provide logistics and fund the peacekeeping operation," said Mohamed Ibn Chambas, executive secretary and chief executive of ECOWAS.

Washington was shaken by a bloody withdrawal from Somalia 10 years ago after a humanitarian intervention went awry.

Bush chose Senegal, a peaceful mainly Muslim country in a region scarred by brutal wars, as the first stop on a tour that will also include South Africa, Botswana, Uganda and Nigeria.

Accompanied by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell, Bush was greeted at Dakar's international airport by Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade on a hot, sunny morning.

A large group of Senegalese officials



U.S. President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush tour The Slave House on Goree Island in Senegal with Senegal President Abdoulaye Wade (3R) July 8. Goree Island was a slave trade depot for millions of Africans between the 16th and 18th centuries. Bush is on a five nation tour of Africa to promote a \$15 billion anti-AIDS program, a \$100 million counterterrorism initiative for eastern Africa and steps to bolster economies, trade and democracy. REUTERS

made up a welcoming party, but strong security meant there was just a small crowd of members of the public to greet the American guests.

Senegalese paramilitary gendarmes kept guard around the airport, with some U.S. security officers on the roof.

After dismissing Africa as outside U.S. security interests during his presidency campaign, Bush is attempting to show a changed view as U.S. reliance on African oil grows.

Bush will also promote a \$100 million counter-terrorism initiative for East Africa, with mounting worries in Washington about the ability of al Qaeda type groups to work with relative ease in vulnerable African states.

Some critics have said Bush's interest masks policies favouring large corporations over ordinary people.

Nobel Peace prize winner Nelson Mandela, a vocal critic of the war in Iraq, will be out of South Africa when Bush arrives.

Laos says journalists to be freed by July 14

PARIS, July 8 (Reuters) - Laos Information Minister Phandouangchit Vongsa said on Tuesday that two European journalists sentenced last week to 15 years in prison would be freed by July 14, the French national holiday.

Belgian Thierry Falise and Frenchman Vincent Reynaud were convicted of involvement in the death of a local militiaman in northern Laos, a ruling that sparked an international outcry.

There was no immediate word on Naw Karl Mua, an American pastor of

Laotian origin, convicted along with the journalists.

"I can confirm the affair of the two European journalists who were apprehended in Laos should be resolved in the coming days," he told the French parliamentary television channel.

"On the occasion of the French national holiday, we will have some good news between now and July 14," he said.

Laos said earlier it was talking with foreign diplomats about the release, but compensating the family of the dead Laotian remained a hurdle.

NOTE

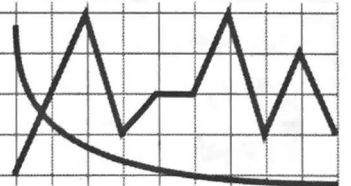
ALCATEL CIT YEMEN the French company for telecommunications announces that Mr. Saleh Abdullah ALBAYDHANY and his brother Mr. Mohamed Abdullah ALBAYDHANY who used to work as representatives for ALCATEL, have been dismissed. And ALCATEL CIT YEMEN declare in the same time that the company is not responsible any more for any action taken by the persons mentioned above under the name of the company.

تنويه

تعلم شركة الكاتيل سي أي تي يمن الفرنسية للاتصالات إنها قامت بفصل السيد/ صالح عبدالله البيضاني، وشقيقه/ محمد عبدالله البيضاني، اللذان كانا يعملان لدى الشركة بصفة مندوبين ممثلين للشركة.

كما وتعلم شركة الكاتيل الفرنسية بإنها غير مسؤولة عن أي تعاملات يقوم بها الشخصان المذكورين أعلاه باسم الشركة.

YT Business



Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council enhances the countries partnership

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The latest session of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council held in Sana'a has come out with signing seven economic investment, security and trade agreements. The Council's 15th Sana'a session has resulted in positive results that would develop and enhance bilateral relations in all areas. An analytical consideration of the session's outcomes the meetings have asserted a qualitative and positive development at all levels and econom-

ic partnership. The agreements have centred on:

- Granting Yemen a \$38 million loan funding a project of building highways. The project aims to enable the Yemeni government complete the infrastructure of roads. The loan is to be granted by the Saudi Fund for Development.

- The second axis of the agreements centres on developing the inter-tourism. In this regard an agreement was signed on tourist cooperation aimed at activating tourism in the two countries and making for losses of the tourist sector.

-The third axis is the work for

expanding spheres of educational field in addition to technical education and vocational training.

The agreement is in harmony with Yemen's heading for development of its work manpower and development of workers' skills in technical and professional sector.

-An agreement has been reached on developing exports of the two countries. In this regard Saudi Arabia desires to increase Yemen's agricultural exports mainly vegetables and fruits.

The Saudi Fund for Development promised to study 4 projects proposed by the Yemeni side. They are the proj-

ects of social fund, rural roads, public works, lines of power transfer between Mareb and Sana'a. The two sides have agreed on holding a meeting between specialists from the two countries to discuss a draft agreement on customs cooperation and drawing up the final version of the customs agreement to be signed as soon as possible.

Oil & minerals and agriculture:

Concerning oil and mineral field the two sides emphasized on consolidating cooperation in this area according to the international border treaty signed by the two countries. As for agriculture the two sides agreed on cooperation in agricultural research, and fighting ani-

mal and pant diseases. The y agreed on preventing smuggling of cattle and to commit to standardization and specifications for agricultural products in agricultural trade exchange. But the two sides did not sign a protocol for agricultural cooperation.

It can be indicated that the Yemeni-Saudi Council did not reach an agreement regarding return of Yemeni labour to the Saudi market despite its being put on discussion by the Yemeni side and asked to be decided rapidly. That, however, does not affect the positive results the meetings have come out with in economic, trade and investment fields.

The Road Ahead

Smart branding

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
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In recent years, companies have increasingly seen the benefits of branding and creating corporate brands and the value of a brand. However, the problem most managers face is how to objectively assess a brand's particular strength and weaknesses, in spite of being the most critical factor in branding.

For this, what I am proposing is a systematic study by managers on how to assess and think about their brands, and to learn more about the areas in which the brand may excel or need help, and the factors that should be put into consideration while assessing a brand.

Starting with the relationship between a brand and a customer; because customers usually desire the strongest brands, for instance you would want a Mercedes-Benz, rather than an Audi, because Mercedes might have a stronger impact on you resulting in a relationship that makes you desire it.

The next thing is marketing considerations; aspects such as the brand image, competition, pricing, etc. these considerations are vital while measuring the success level this brand has, compared to other substitute brands, in other words how much does a successful brand make use of and coordinate a full repertoire of marketing activates such as advertising campaigns and promotions?

Then the next most important in smart branding is understanding what the brand means to different customers: the company gives a brand proper support and sustains it for a period of time, after that the company should grade the brand according to reports about how well the brand was in reaching out to the target and its impact on the market.

By doing a study on a brand; a company can understand and learn how successful a brand is and how to create other more successful brands. Nevertheless, smart branding only starts here; after you have a full understanding of a brand's history. With the help of such a study, you can do something different than what is usually done in strengthening the brand, something smart.

Differentiate. The biggest problem with brand building in our country is that none of them has a strong image, for example you have a number of office equipment suppliers and electronics importers in our country with no big difference between each of them, and no company has a different corporate brand than the other that has market leadership. Perhaps company A wants to buy a number of fax machines, a fax from Panasonic won't be much different than that of Hitachi or canon or Minolta or any other, but there can be a difference in the branding.

Smart branding is that branding that allows a product to be superior to others image wise, and has the perception that it is what customers need even though there is no real difference between it and other products. This can be achieved only after systematically assessing and understanding where the product lies in the minds of customers.

Introducing R.E.D.I.N connections



BY IRENA KNEHTL
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The story of Maldivian Royal in Search for his Yemeni roots published in Yemen Times in January 2003 has paved the way for the establishment of the Regional Economic Development Indian Ocean Network (REDIN).

View the Maldivian Saga and the subsequent presentation in the Germany House for Culture in Sana'a in full on web under the title Migrating Worlds:

<http://maldivesroyalfamily.com/knehtl.shtml>

It is the story of Yemeni Hadrami Arabs in the Indian Ocean, their migrations through South East Asia, and their lasting impact on the region.

Who were the REDIN?

Ancient maritime people, early superb navigators of Indian Ocean, who according to the legend settled first and lived in the Maldives Islands. Redin literally means "the reigning ones". They built magnificent structures and colossal monuments to their gods which still remain there as ruins. The legend further records they were of light-skinned, red haired, blue-eyed and displayed prominent noses. Full story is now on the web, under: <http://www.maldivesroyalfamily.com/r edin.shtml>

As the ancient spices, silk and frankincense trade had made the Indian Ocean the hub and the busiest super-highway in the world, so is the age of information poised to make it the center of intense activity. In the fashion of early navigators now.

REDIN is also an informal Yemeni Maldivian initiative for conquering ocean for ocean of opportunities.

As web pages hosted by the Maldives Royal Family and facilitated by New Zealand is a meeting point of opportunities in every field, exchange of information, links, contacts. It focuses on presentations of opportunities and topics in the field of business, investment, tourism, culture, education, fashion, art, media, writings, and poetry from around the Indian Ocean. It is a forum for anybody who has an interest in the region about current issues and events.

Arabs accepted that the world was round encompassed by an ocean, then air, then fire, another ring of air and a final ring of fire...They also recognized an invisible sense of unity streaming from the trade network and sea based political alliances....

View on R.E.D.I.N. web pages Indian Ocean in history featuring Deep Secrets,

And Indian Ocean Today and its Secret of the Deep under

http://www.maldivesroyalfamily.com/knehtl_indian_ocean.shtml

We can hope to make substantial headways in today world only by building up our own civilization resources, even while we may be bor-

rowing specific things from outside. Matters relating to airlines, shipping, satellite communications, banking and tourism, deep sea mining, wave tidal energy from the sea, or working out economics of electricity production are all strong arguments for regional cooperation. There is scope for greater cooperation in searching out regional economic complementary in the area of market for goods, cooperative industrial and resource development, and regionally generated investment funds.

The region today has emerged as a political, economic and strategic power base set to transform the face of global economy. The challenges are formidable - the opportunities as many as the Ocean itself.

Yemen in R.E.D.I.N

Southern Arabia from where once the Arab sailors sailed the Indian Ocean, in particular Yemen, is once again placed in the position of a go-between or bridge in the Indian Ocean community, now the fastest growing behind the Asia-Pacific Rim.

Read about Yemeni search of expanding opportunities for economic cooperation among Indian Ocean countries. How countries such as South Africa, India and Australia have emerged of major importance to Yemen.

Explore on R.E.D.I.N web pages Yemeni tourism attractions, Yemen agro-investment potential, what opportunities and incentives await investors in Yemen, the role of Aden Free Zone... all on R.E.D.I.N web pages



Scene of Maldivian Royal

http://www.maldivesroyalfamily.com/knehtl_business_yemen.shtml

Under /Business/Yemen and much more.

Laying off 250 thousand employees,

Administrative & financial reforms advised by World Bank

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The government of Yemen intends to carry out large-scale administrative and financial reforms aimed at restructuring all administrative sectors and units under recommendation and advice of the World Bank. These measures would result in the lay off of around 250 thousand government employees.

The government has circulated direc-

tives among all ministries and establishments scheduled to be included in the restructuring program and the formation of a committee whose duty is to study the level of the new policy of employment process. This step is considered to be the first step and a beginning for reducing the number of civil servants of the state institutions whose number is amounted to 445 thousand employees.

Surveys conducted in this respect point out that there are about 35.634

thousand cases of moonlighting and the number of repeated names of employees reach 17.251 names. There are, in addition, many thousands of employees receiving salaries without occupying public jobs.

The process of reform is concentrated on public services ministries, judiciary, police and security apparatuses and taxes and customs authorities. Part of the administrative reform policy is to relieve persons who do not possess special qualifications from certain posi-

tions and jobs.

As a result of the lay off process it is expected there would be an increase in proportion of unemployment especially under lacking of government plans and failure of policies in providing new jobs for the unemployed opportunities. Some field indicators show cases of tampering with job opportunities in the governorates and that has urged the council of ministers to form a committee to deal with this problem. But here are fears that the said committee would

not fully follow the declared criteria set for employment and might slip to surrendering to nepotism. Such a consequence would make lose the tasks assigned for it for effecting justice in distribution of available jobs.

Last year the council of ministers had approved cancellation of 25 thousand unreal government jobs most of them representing cases of occupying more than one jobs by employees receiving wages and salaries from more than one government institution.

Words of Wisdom



One of the key differences between a dictatorship and a democratic system is the role of the media in general, and that of the official media, in particular. If those individuals in charge of the media feel they are more responsible towards the public than towards the politicians, and perform their job on that basis, then that is a sign of a democratic structure.

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

OUR OPINION

A call to Saudi Arabia:

Our stability and prosperity is yours

Throughout history, Yemen and Saudi Arabia have maintained strong and unique relationships in various aspects, economically, socially, and politically. The geographical as well as demographically structure of the two countries makes their interests, goals, and future common in many ways.

Globalization, which is taking the world by storm, is also helping us realize this fact. We can see alliances and coalitions being formed from the far west (e.g., Caribbean Islands) to the Far East (e.g., South East Asian countries). There is simply no reason to deny that stronger relations between the two countries have become essential and not any more an option.

Looking at the recent violent incidents taking place in the two countries, one can conclude that cooperation in security and border surveillance has become of vital necessity for the stability of the region.

But when we try to analyze the situation in Yemen for example, we can see that corruption, poverty, and mismanagement have led to the smuggling of weapons, leading to a flourished light arms trade network in our country. This has resulted in infiltration by arms traders to Saudi territories, leading sometimes to frightening statistics about arms and weapons smuggled from Yemen to Saudi Arabia.

Hence, it is only logical that Saudi Arabia should assist Yemen to tackle its administrative and financial difficulties by providing expertise and financial assistance to improve its law enforcement measures and bring more stability to Yemen, which would lead to better stability in the whole Arabian Peninsula.

Adding to that, we need to realize that for Yemen to one day join the Gulf Cooperation Council, it needs to carry out massive reforms in education, judiciary, and civil services. And who else but Saudi Arabia could help Yemen overcome those difficulties and raise its standards in the best manner?

Poverty in Yemen is now beginning to have its toll on Saudi Arabia. Yemeni illegal immigrants penetrating the Yemeni-Saudi border to Saudi Arabia for economic reasons have caused a lot of damage to our neighbor's social structure leading to irregularities in residential permissions, and other related issues.

Hence, Saudi Arabia should give us a hand by trying to focus on the core of the problem of poverty in Yemen and help the Yemeni authorities identify the cure. It could also provide us with the cure, not in the form of money only, but also by providing experts who could help our decision makers carry their administrative jobs more effectively and with transparency and less corruption.

We are now in a stage of partnership. The agreements signed by the two countries in the latest coordinating council meetings are a strong signal of that fact. But unless they are followed up closely for implementation, they could join piles of signed agreements lost in the drawers of dusty ministerial archives.

I personally welcome the mutual cooperation and understanding between the two countries, and I am looking for even greater cooperation. Nevertheless, I am also sure that our Saudi friends will not let us down, and will ensure our own government works more effectively in carrying out the needed reforms, which should help Yemen develop further, and consequently, make Saudi Arabia a better country too.

The Editor

Security cooperation given priority in Yemeni-Saudi relations



YASER AL-MAYASI
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Yemeni-Saudi relations have during the past 70 years witnessed have been characterized by periods of tide and ebb at both popular and official political levels.

Each period witnessed modes of relations differ in political data incompatible with the nature and local and regional values associating each period.

The issue of the Yemeni-Saudi borders has always represented a time bomb ready to go off at any time.

Strategically, the Yemeni-Saudi relations are very important whether for the relationships between the two peoples and the two states or regarding the regional dimension and its requirements.

The strategic significance of the Yemeni-Saudi relationship also derives from its international importance that is related to the region's strategic position which represents a crossroads for both east and west interests.

As it has been referred to earlier, the issue of borders represents the major cornerstone for defining the concept of

the two countries relationship until the border treaty was signed in June 2000.

It was the treaty that ended for good this problem. Concluding the border demarcation treaty has been qualitative leap and historic phase in the course of the Yemeni-Saudi relations and that solutions of the border issue came as a rational expression of the political approach of both Riyadh and Sana'a governments that resorted to the pursuit of negotiations for resolving disputes.

Following the conclusion of border demarcation treaty came the molding the two countries' relations according to the exchange of interests and integration and in line with new future visions consolidating elements of interactions of interests.

The border agreement has also paved the way for investing opportunities of integration based on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs and above all, faith in territorial unity and sovereignty of each state and its right to choose its own political system.

Solving border disputes with the kingdom of the Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman represented an important step in the road to joining the GCC even it was in certain aspects.

That had been translated in the ground with GCC 22nd Summit in December, 2001 declaration that stipulated decision of the GCC leaders to

accept Yemen to some of the GCC institutes as prelude to a full membership.

Following the border agreement, the Yemeni-Saudi cooperation concentrated on economic cooperation at various fields and in this regard, the agreement between the two countries on trade, economic, investment agreement managed to produce a good development over the past few years.

As for the security cooperation, the two countries have not shown much interest until after the September 11, 2001 events in America and what followed those events of rapid developments that made interest in consolidating security structure as an important question for the two sides.

This interest has been clearly reflected after the recent Riyadh explosion.

The security aspects in the relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia has been clearly expressed in the recent meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council, 15 session.

The council's meetings have put much stress on security cooperation and its importance.

Saudi Arabia believes, especially after the recent Riyadh explosion, that supporting Yemen's capabilities in this respect would ease much its burden in the process of fighting terror, which has become among the top priorities on the Saudi agenda.

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

The Grapes of Rawdha Are Diminishing

If there is anything that the village of Rawdha, just 7 km north of Sana'a, and the surrounding land is noted for, is the very fine white seedless grapes, which probably are unequalled anywhere in Yemen and one might even say anywhere in the world for that matter. Yet it is regrettable to say that this very unique feature of Yemen will soon be a thing of the past, just as many of Yemen's unique naturally endowed treasures are swallowed up by spontaneous development and uncontrolled urbanization. On top of being a former favorite of visiting tourists, the village of Rawdha and the surrounding farmlands provided a sustainable livelihood for many farmers, who have inherited the grape growing traditions that have produced this unique remarkable crop.

The problem with Rawdha is that, being so close to Sana'a, this has made its farmlands the victims of, not only the rapid urbanization that has overtaken the City of Sana'a, but also the victim of being the favored site for large non-productive government facilities, at the expense of the survival of Rawdha grapes and the sustenance of the people that depend on the farming of the crop. Large government infrastructure projects, military and civilian, are chucking up large tracts of rich agriculture land, where there are existing farms, that provide the livelihood for hundreds of families, and where these grapes are grown. No one wishes to put a halt to development or to fulfilling our defense and security needs, but due consideration should be given to the losses that would occur, especially to people's livelihoods and to an important natural product for which only Rawdha is best suited for. Many of Rawdha's farmers have been heard shouting at the recent efforts to confiscate their land, without due consideration as to how the owners and farmers will find other means of livelihood, since their produce is confined to this important produce, which is all they know how to live by.

Many of the people of Rawdha are tragically recalling the hundreds of thousands of lubnas that were taken up by many past projects, starting ever since the military academy expanded to take thousands of lubnas, of rich agricultural land some 20 years ago, as well as the other large government complexes that followed, not to mention the erratic residential urban growth that is rendering the farmlands to extinction.

Many observers note that these complexes might in fact be more functionally suitable for placement in more remote areas than to have them close to the urban center Sana'a has become, where their security becomes more vulnerable. Therefore, the government is urged to reconsider its decision on the large infrastructure projects being envisioned for the area of Rawdha, because the people of Rawdha will lose an important means for their livelihood and the country will eventually stand to lose one of its unique produce.

While we are on the subject of conservation, the farm areas of Rawdha provided a refreshing sight of vegetation from the urban splashes, which have overtaken the surrounding areas of Sana'a, especially since this rapid urbanization is not allowing for any inclusion of parks and green oasis amidst the concrete, stone and glass that has overwhelmed the city. There are vast areas of the country that are unsettled and can easily be made suitable to accommodate the infrastructure that is being envisioned for Rawdha, which will in turn help reduce the pace of urbanization, which Sana'a is being forced into. This already represents an eminent threat, especially as the water resources needed for such urbanization are non-existent and whatever water resources there are now, are subject to rapid depletion.

This observer appeals to the government agencies concerned to take the understandable protest of the people of Rawdha to heart, because there are important considerations involved, not just as far as the people of Rawdha are concerned, but because Rawdha is being promoted as one of the important tourism sights that attract tourists to Yemen. On the other hand, the unique landscape and greenery produced by the vast farms that will be taken over by these upcoming government complexes will be an irreplaceable loss.

It is worth mentioning that this observer is neither a victim of any of the confiscations proposed, nor a landowner of significance in Rawdha to speak of. The above is given merely to echo the many appeals by many of the residents of Rawdha and the outlying farmlands, who feel they have no one to speak for them. They rightfully have a case, since they have already given so much of their land in the past for similar government projects, and feel that whenever the government wants to put up any of its infrastructure it turns to Rawdha, without considering how this eventually leads to the extinction of the famous grapes for which the area thrived on before, but now barely provides a means of subsistence to the remaining landowners and provide substantial work to the residents of Rawdha who do not own land.

Responding to: "Remember the French"

JAMES WILLAMAN
JAMESWILLAMAN@EARTHLINK.NET

In response to your article "Remember the French", I would like to bring a few things to the attention of the Yemen Times.

The invaluable French aid, without which Americans would now be singing "Rule Britannia", was granted to the struggling colonies not out of goodwill or because of superior French morality. The French helped us because they loathed the English who they had been at war with more or less since there were places called "France" and "England".

The two super powers at the time of what we call our War For Independence, France and England, used the American Revolution much as the United States and the Soviet Union used the revolutions in Latin America and South East Asia during the Cold War. These con-

flicts were a way to fight, by proxy and at reduced expense, your long time adversary.

I don't mean to sound cynical, but can you imagine, or give me a historical example, of a nation extending considerable economic and military aid to another nation for no geopolitical, defensive, or economic reason. Has it ever happened?

Did Nasser interfere with your nation's internal affairs purely out of goodwill? Or, did he, perhaps, have an ulterior motive? An Egyptian national interest? Say, perhaps, creating a mini Nasserite empire ala the Soviet dominated Eastern Europe?

Even Bush's current push for aid for Africa, which I applaud, is rooted in geopolitics as is American foreign aid in general. This motivation is not bad, nor does it diminish the resultant support America, and the West, lends to the third world. This is not evil or selfish; it is

just the truth.

The truth is that an unstable world is bad for business, diplomacy, and national security. The truth is that an unstable world, an impoverished, war ravaged, and disease ridden world breeds misery and hopelessness. The truth is that misery and hopelessness, in turn, create terrorism, fascism, totalitarianism, war lordism... all the bad ism's we have been battling for the past century.

But, lets not kid ourselves. We help, the West helps the third world because it is our own best interest to do so. And, just like the French aid to my nation during its difficult birth, the current French aid to Africa is not some towering act of humanity, but a simple human act of self protect, laudable for its foresightedness not for its altruism.

So, yes I thank France for using my country because without its aid, whatever its reasons for grant it, my nation would not exist as it does now.

Letters to the Editor

Your editorials make me laugh

I love reading your editorial writings that supposed to be fair, yet are so anti-American, it makes me laugh.

How much right is right for America? In case you don't understand how it works here in America, we have these things called elections every 4 years.

In our last election, the republicans won (right wing), but the election before that the democrats won (left wing). In our next election, either side could win. We like to call this a democracy. Some countries in the Middle-East might want to give this a try someday.

Now I fully admit the FAR right wing here is a bunch of uninformed fools, but I do NOT place the current President in that position. In fact, if one forgets their bigotry and hate for just a minute, (come on you can do it) you would see that currently, and finally, ONE U.S. President IS doing something for the brothers and sisters in Palestine. His name is Bush.

Every U.S. President until the end of the world is going

to support Israel, it's an unfortunate fact, I'm sorry to say you need to get used to that idea. I don't like that we do either. With that in mind, I'd rather have this "right wing" President actually doing something for the Palestinians, a President that has done MORE than ANY other President the United States has ever had.

We should NEVER had gone into Iraq, Saddam was the Iraqi's problem, not ours.

I truly wish the U.S. would strictly mind it's own business, and allow all Middle-Eastern countries to sort out their own mess. However, be glad about some effort being made in Palestine by this President.

Steve Stephenson
75074@mail.com

Objection about "Remember the French"

As an American, I must commend you on a powerful rhetoric with valid points. However, I want to quickly make a retraction to the statement in the fourth paragraph, first and second line as there are two minuscule words with which I do not agree. You previously stated that the, "USA

Letters to the Editor

evolved into a free country with FREE PEOPLE, and knowing about the ideal principles on which the USA was built, one cannot but appreciate and respect the founding fathers of the United States." Please note that there were thousands of enslaved men, women and children in America when 13 colonies of this great nation declared its independence on July 4, 1776. This enslavement did not cease until almost a century later. Thus, it is extremely difficult to appreciate and respect the founding fathers who built the country on lies, deceit and hypocrisy, which still exist today.

Taneya Sheffey
sheffeyscarfullery@yahoo.com

This is why qualified Yemenis leave home

I am one of the Yemeni Engineers, who graduated from an Arab country and returned to my homeland to contribute to the development of Yemen. But unfortunately the Yemeni authorities were unable to respect our professions as highly qualified engineers. As a matter of fact, they do not know exactly what the word 'engineer' implies. Many Yemenis

think that an engineer should either be a mechanic or an electrician.

Because of such oppression carried out against qualified men like me, I had to leave the country again to find a better place where I can earn a living and be respected. Disrespect and ignorance make many qualified Yemenis leave their home towards better opportunities.

Ayyob I.
ayyopito@ureach.com

Bribes at Yemen Embassy in London?

I am a Yemeni who lives in London. I was very disappointed to find out that some of the staffers working at the Yemen embassy in London were actually taking bribes to issue visas to other nationals. This incident has happened so many times and nothing has been done. I hope this matter be taken to the Yemeni foreign ministry and see what can be done and also to ease the conditions set for obtaining visas to Yemen, because so many tourists are turning back and losing hope of ever going to see Yemen and its magic wonders.

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Colonialism or what?

By Rosemary Hollis
The Jordan Times

The US presence in Iraq could develop in one of three directions. Washington could decide to exit as quickly as possible and blame local factions and infighting for whatever transpires. It could announce now a plan for transferring authority to the Iraqis without delay and see through the transition. Or it could turn its adventure in Iraq into a new era of colonialism.

In recent remarks President George Bush has ruled out the first option, though he wants assistance from allies to help stay the course. Statements by Paul Bremer, head of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), militate against the second possibility. And so, by default if not design, Washington may be headed towards colonial rule.

An op-ed in a US newspaper recently argued for Washington to set up the equivalent of the old British Colonial Office, through which a relatively small band of dedicated civil servants ran an empire which covered a third of the globe.

He had in mind a formula for the US interim administration to work with the Iraqis, not despite them. To succeed where all colonialism has ultimately failed, however, this would have to constitute an exit strategy, not a scheme for staying on.

As is, the CPA has been more thorough in its dismantling of Iraqi institutions than in building new ones. The Iraqi armed forces, once numbering up to 400,000 professionals and conscripts, have been completely disbanded. A planned replacement force of a mere 40,000 has yet to be constituted.

Gone is the Iraqi police force. And two days ago, some seven local

recruits to a new security service were killed just before they were due to graduate. The incident gave credence to claims purported to come from Saddam Hussein that those cooperating with the Americans would be subject to attack.

Around 70 per cent of the Iraqi workforce were employed by the Baathist state. Only a small proportion of these have been selected for reemployment by the CPA. Whole ministries, such as defence and interior, have been dismantled. Teachers work without pay.

The early efforts of US companies to begin rebuilding Iraq have been hampered by sabotage and the looting of newly repaired installations. Company contracts, however, secured through USAID, are not in danger and they may still make a killing. After all, the CPA has plans to use Iraqi oil revenues to finance reconstruction.

If the Iraqi state sector, which is dominated by the energy industry, is privatised by the Americans, the beneficiaries will be the few nationals with money to spend, thereby creating a business Mafia, and the multinationals. Either way, economic inequality will reign.

Residents of Baghdad are suffering through 40 degree temperatures with electricity supplies interrupted for days at a time. Outside the capital, supplies have yet to be restored. Clean drinking water is in short supply, as is effective sewerage treatment.

Confusion surrounds CPA plans for appointing an Iraqi body to advise on administration and begin work on a new constitution. The original "big tent" idea for assembling Iraqi aspirants to public office has been abandoned and no time line set for instituting an Iraqi government, let alone elections.

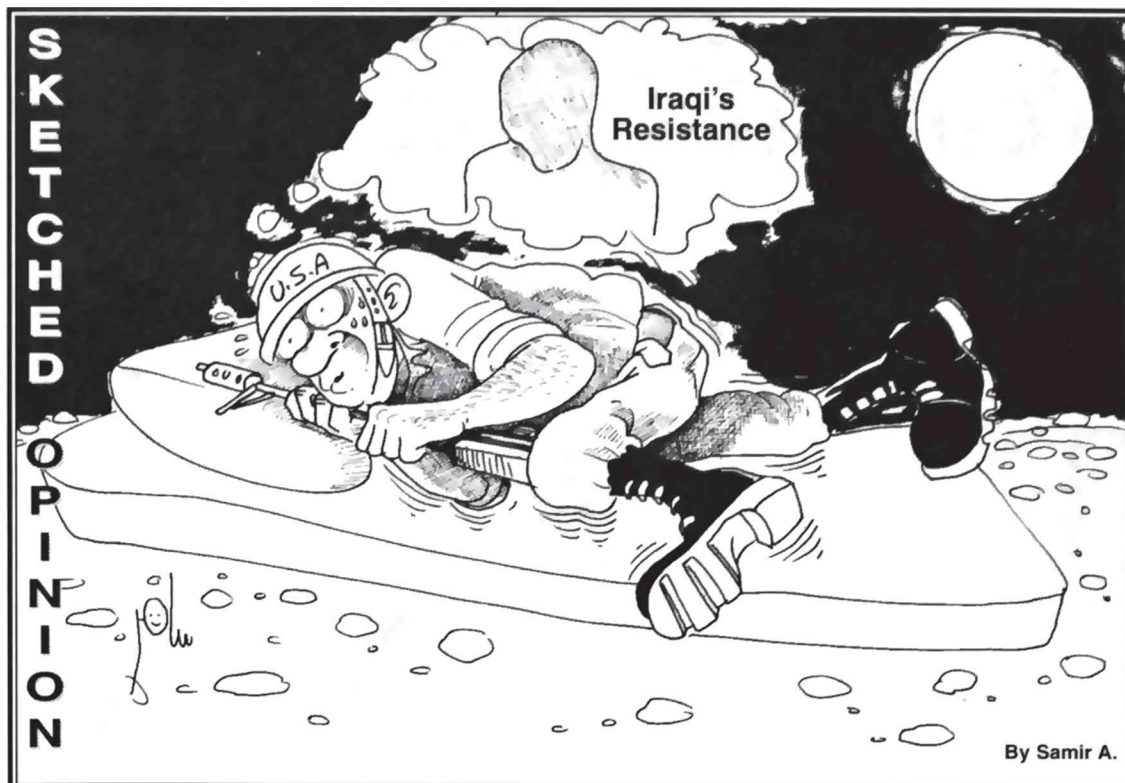
In sum, there is no legislature, no functioning judiciary and only an American run executive. Notwithstanding the UN recognition of the occupation and attendant US and UK responsibilities, there is no framework to accord legality to any decisions by the CPA affecting long-term investment in Iraq.

In some areas, locals previously associated with the Baath Party, itself formally outlawed, have been alternately appointed and dismissed. The CPA seems at a loss over how to select among Shiite leaders and factions, having seen its preferred Al Khoie candidate to represent the community cut down within days of his return from exile.

Little is heard now of the other former exiles who have recongregated in Iraq, except for the Iranian-backed Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), which Washington does not trust. Efforts to disarm this and other groups have failed.

The Kurdish leaders are manoeuvring cautiously with the CPA while they hold out for guarantees of Kurdish autonomy in a future administration. Meanwhile, Turkey's offers of troop reinforcements for the occupation are being resisted by Washington for fear that they will inflame Kurdish sentiment. Instead, an array of small contingents from across Europe and beyond are to reinforce the British and Polish forces designated to run the occupation in central and southern Iraq. India may also supply a force, but is allegedly holding out for a deal which will avoid placing it under US command.

How disparate units of various foreign nationals speaking multiple languages and with limited experience of integrated military operations are supposed to operate effectively is unclear.



By Samir A.

It might help if Washington would concede control to a formal UN operation with the requisite experience. However, the Bush administration apparently cannot go back on its rejection of multilateralism under UN auspices and is still hoping to cobble together its so-called "coalition of the willing."

Yet, both US and European forces are already committed to "nation building" in the Balkans and Africa, where new contingencies threaten. There simply are not enough troops to go around. And to maintain the US presence in Iraq at its current strength of around 150,000 will oblige Washington to commit nearly half a million service men and women to the theatre, to cover logistics and rotation needs.

In other words, the situation is unsustainable. And Washington will not come clean with the Iraqis and the American public and acknowledge the full import of its Iraq adventure. Bush's whole strategy of counterterrorism requires the illusion of Iraq's liberation.

For now, Washington apparently believes that the apprehension of Saddam Hussein will take the sting out

of indigenous opposition to the occupation. But the whole conduct of US operations in Iraq smacks more of America's record in the corporate and military sectors than its purported championship of democracy.

Direct control of the people, the economy and events is accorded higher priority than popular participation in decision making. If the US presence does devolve into colonialist rule, it may succeed for a generation, but at enormous human cost.

The numbers of coalition personnel killed and injured is recorded daily. The extent of Iraqi casualties, whether children playing with unexploded ordnance, crime, clashes with troops or absent public hygiene, remains vague but is clearly mounting.

There will be a nationalist backlash and not just in Iraq. If the US tries to turn tail and exit quickly, there will be chaos and Bush will not live down the failure of his grand schemes for the region.

The only alternative, therefore, is for the CPA to change tack immediately and set out a definite timetable for handing over the country to its people. Initial steps towards self-governance,

at local, district and national levels, will be messy and faltering. However, this is the only way to win Iraqi cooperation in reconstruction and nation building.

The disbanding of the Iraqi armed forces has removed an institution which could, in some sense, claim to represent the nation, albeit with flaws. How its members are supposed to find alternative employment is a mystery.

The Baath Party bureaucracy had the capacity to deliver services, given a new start and funds. Instead, it has been crippled. State industries need revitalising not privatisation. Only an Iraqi government can choose such a path with legitimacy.

To dismantle the whole system in the name of clearing the slate is irresponsible. Yet the alleged American aim is to maintain the territorial integrity and sovereign entity of Iraq.

Unless there is an urgent move to build new Iraqi institutions and rejuvenate the state sector using the pool of national talent, the country will fragment into disparate local and sectarian communities. And America will be remembered for ruining a country, not liberating it.

Bush's Africa agenda

The New York Times

American presidents do not travel to Africa often. President George W. Bush's five-day, five-nation visit, starting Monday, marks a significant step in America's deepening relations with the continent. For too long, Washington and other Western capitals treated Africa as if it were condemned to war, poverty and preventable epidemics. Bush understands that Africans are entitled to a better future, and that America can help them achieve it.

Turning that vision into reality will take more than whirlwind tours and inspiring speeches. Bush must press Congress to provide ample financing for his multiyear AIDS and development initiatives. He should also speak plainly with African leaders about steps they themselves need to take. More than 11 percent of the world's people live in sub-Saharan Africa. Their future depends on how well their countries handle the intertwined problems of AIDS, ethnic and civil conflict, corrupt and abusive government and economic growth too feeble to provide jobs for rising populations. In each of the countries Bush is visiting - Senegal, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda and Nigeria - one or more of these issues belongs high on the agenda.

Senegal is a strong democracy, though plagued by a low-grade separatist insurgency in the Casamance region. Despite this, Senegal has set a healthy example in a deeply troubled neighborhood and has participated in efforts to negotiate peace in Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Liberia.

South Africa has one of the continent's most developed economies and biggest AIDS problems. President Thabo Mbeki is sub-Saharan Africa's most prestigious leader. But his failure to confront the AIDS pandemic has caused public health damage at home and hurt efforts elsewhere to overcome

the stigmatization that undermines effective prevention and treatment. If Bush can persuade Mbeki to follow a more enlightened course, America's AIDS assistance programs will save more lives. Mbeki has also failed to do all he should to help resolve the crisis in neighboring Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe has clung to power through repression and fraud.

Botswana is blessed with mineral wealth, a relatively small population, vigorous democracy and enlightened environmental policies.

But it is cursed with Africa's highest HIV infection rate, with two of five adults affected. In contrast to Mbeki, President Festus Mogae has worked hard to contain the disease. Even more energetic steps could be taken, modeled on the anti-AIDS campaign led by Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni. By mentioning AIDS in almost every speech and carrying the campaign into every village, Museveni has gone far to destigmatize the disease. That has helped reduce the infection rate by two-thirds. Museveni's leadership would be far more impressive if he permitted opposition parties and free elections, a point Bush should insist on.

The Bush visit concludes in Africa's most populous country, Nigeria. President Olusegun Obasanjo has been a consistent opponent of military dictatorship, but his first term as an elected civilian ruler was extremely disappointing. He has failed to crack down on corruption and army human rights abuses, neglected the economy and done little to heal dangerous religious and ethnic divisions. Now Obasanjo has become actively involved in efforts to bring peace and a transitional administration to Liberia. On Sunday the Liberian leader, Charles Taylor, said he would accept Nigeria's offer of safe haven. Bush needs to tell Obasanjo that he would be a more credible advocate of good governance abroad if he did more to practice it at home.

Getting back on track in postwar Iraq

By Joseph I. Lieberman
The Washington Post

The opportunity to build a more stable and democratic Iraq, made possible by our stunning military victory, is now in jeopardy. We're seeing surprisingly fierce resistance to coalition forces and to our efforts to remake the country. But another kind of resistance is proving nearly as dangerous to our long-term security: the Bush administration's stubborn refusal to change course and build a safer postwar Iraq in partnership with the world.

Enough time has passed to conclude that what we are doing is not working. Iraqis are becoming convinced that we cannot — or will not — provide the security and basic services they need. The administration has postponed the transition to an Iraqi interim government and mishandled the efforts to get key allies on board, adding fuel to the fire of those who call this an occupation, not a liberation.

Saddam Hussein's loyalists, encouraged by rumors that he is still alive, are joining a growing number of angry and disillusioned Iraqis in a sustained guerrilla war against our troops. On average, one American soldier is dying each and every day. Our men and women in uniform are understandably puzzled and frustrated by this; as well-equipped and well-trained as they were for war, they were not prepared — operationally or psychologically — for this kind of peacekeeping.

We didn't send our young people to war unprepared; we must not ask them to keep a difficult peace without a clear strategy and adequate resources to do the job. As of today, they have neither. The unanswered question is whether the president is open to taking a new, more effective

tack. So far in postwar Iraq, we see predetermined notions colliding with undeniable facts and refusing to yield.

During the 2000 campaign, George W. Bush and his supporters derided nation-building as a wasteful, liberal enterprise. They were wrong: It's vital to our security and the best way to conserve our victories in war in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Bush and his team were so convinced that peacekeeping is a poor use of resources that they ordered the Army's Peacekeeping Institute to shut its doors, making the United States unique among our allies in lacking such an institution. They were wrong: Well-trained peacekeepers stabilize a country and keep our own soldiers safe.

Administration officials insisted that we neither wanted nor needed any help from friends and allies. Again, they were wrong. Sharing responsibility with other nations will provide more, not less, control over the chaos, help us build a more peaceful, stable and democratic Iraq and demonstrate to the Arab world that the United States is not an occupier and an enemy, as radicals have asserted.

It's not as if the president and his team didn't have plenty of warning. A similar dynamic played out in Afghanistan — poor planning, little coordination and almost no follow-through. And many people, including me, admonished the administration about the price we would pay by repeating these mistakes in Iraq.

Nevertheless, this is no time for the administration to act defensive. This is a time for firm resolve and clear thinking, not overheated dialogue. What our troops need from their leaders are real tools to fight their real enemies — not taunts inviting more attacks. The president's "bring 'em on" challenge, beyond being unproductive, was unproductive. He shouldn't focus on getting a rise out of the

insurgents but on getting the insurgents out of Iraq.

Fixing the problems of postwar Iraq and getting the region back on track to peace and stability demand an honest assessment of the mistakes made and swift action to fix the damage done. The recommendations that many of us made prior to and during the war are still applicable — and workable. In particular, I would urge the president to take the following steps immediately:

- Commit more U.S. troops and resources to Iraq. Despite the president's assertion that we have enough troops there, we clearly need both more forces and the right kinds of forces — and we need them now. In Kosovo today there are 16 peacekeepers for every 1,000 citizens; in Iraq, a much more dangerous and tumultuous place, the ratio is less than half that.

- Ask NATO to assume command of the forces in Iraq. America cannot sustain supplying 150,000 out of 160,000 of the troops on the ground for any length of time — but the nations we need as partners are unwilling to join forces with us under unilateral American command. NATO command is the answer; as we saw in Kosovo, it works.

- Immediately release a plan and timetable for creating an Iraqi interim authority with a real stake in the country's political future. The administration's repeated postponements have sowed confusion, doubt and anger among ordinary Iraqis and emboldened the radicals and terrorists.

- Make clear to Iraq and the world that the critical decisions about Iraq's oil will be made by Iraqis, and set up an international monitoring agency to show that all oil deals are above board. After initial presidential platitudes that Iraq's oil is for Iraqis, the Bush administration has taken steps that would allow the U.S.-British coalition to control the flow of oil for

some period of time. Iraq's oil — the nation's heritage and its economic lifeblood — must be controlled by Iraq's people. Every last penny must be invested in the country's reconstruction, and the world needs to know it.

- Develop a clear process and timetable under which the people of Iraq will shape their own permanent government. With cynicism this high, "trust us" won't work.

- Work with the Iraqi people and the United Nations to propose an orderly, fair and effective system for public prosecutions of Saddam Hussein and his loyalists. The Arab world needs to see that we believe in justice — not just vigilantism.

Unlike some in my party who continue to question our use of force in Iraq, I have not wavered in my belief in the justness of the war we fought. In this, I know I am following in the proud tradition of Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy and Clinton, all of whom were ready and willing to apply our military might when necessary to protect our security.

But those great Democratic leaders also recognized that force alone could not keep us safe. The same holds true today. If we are to win the wider war against terrorism, we must do more than throw Saddam Hussein out of power. We must lift up the moderate Muslim majority around the world and give them the tools to take down the radicals who want an endless holy war.

The best way to do that is by demonstrating — through words and deeds alike — that we are democracy-builders, not empire-builders; peacekeepers, not profiteers. If the Bush administration continues behaving as though "to the victor go the spoils," to the victor will also go all the responsibility, all the risks, all the wreckage — and all the blame for what happened in Iraq after Hussein was gone.

Young Yemenis and Canadians working together for a better future:

Yemeni-Canadian relations take on a new dimension!

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The relations between Yemen and Canada were first established in 1976. Since then, Yemen and Canada have been working steadily towards increasing and reinforcing these relations in various areas. One of the major areas in which Yemen and Canada have been cooperating is trade relations. Yemen imports machinery, cereals, paper board, dairy products, and motor vehicles from Canada, while Canada imports coffee, mineral fuel, raw oil, precious stones and metals, and inorganic compounds from Yemen.

Today however, the Yemeni-Canadian relations are taking on a new dimension with the introduction of the Yemeni-Canadian Relations Council (YCRC).

Established in Calgary, Canada, YCRC (members.shaw.ca/ycrc) is a non-governmental and non-profit youth organization. It is a group of young, enthusiastic, and result-oriented individuals from the two countries with the aim of enhancing the bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Yemen and Canada while promoting cultural awareness and understanding between both the Yemeni and Canadian societies.

To achieve this, the YCRC aims at enhancing these relations in two main areas specifically the business and socio-economic development aspects of society. To this affect, the YCRC seeks to involve stakeholders from both nations in various initiatives that meet the needs of the Yemeni and the Canadian



societies.

One of these initiatives is the YCRC Youth Conference which will take place in Yemen during the summer of 2004. In line with the mission of the organization, the YCRC Youth Conference 2004 aims to develop the skills of young Yemeni youth and equip them with the potential to contribute to the development of Yemen benefiting from the Western experiences in this field in general and from the Canadian experiences in specific.

"Today's youth has a critical role to play in creating a better world in the future, especially for us in Yemen. The synergies of combining practical real life skills with the technical skills acquired from stan-

dard education will dramatically enhance the abilities of our youth to meet tomorrow's challenges and create a more prosperous Yemen for all of us." YCRC president, Ahmed Al-Awah said. "Our youth must be equipped with the necessary skills tomorrow's world will demand and the numerous professional opportunities it has to offer."

"It is apparent that our future requires education and innovation to develop and maintain an efficient, competitive and successful workforce," commented the YCRC vice president Rafat Al-Akhali, who is currently in Yemen and working on establishing the organization's presence in Yemen. "The YCRC in its Youth Conference

2004 will run various activities and sessions that will aim at developing the entrepreneurial and leadership skills within the Yemeni youth."

The YCRC hopes that the skills that the youth will acquire, would assist in overcoming the challenges existing today in our society and serve as a kick-off for creating a synergy of efforts between the youth, government and businesses operating in Yemen.

Today the YCRC consists of more than 20 members and a Board of Advisors consisting of various business and community leaders from both countries. The YCRC aims at actively involving all stakeholders in the promotion of Yemeni-Canadian Relations.

The Rising Eagles

By ALAWI ABDULLA ABU BAKIR TAHA
ONE DARK ANGEL © 2003
SINGER, SONGWRITER, UK
ADAM_TAHA@YAHOO.COM

The beauty of Yemen when I open
the great window
To let the light, the light, the light
shine through!

By the stars and the angels that fly
By the sweet Yemeni Youth that
learn to laugh and cry
By the moon that shines its radiant
light
By the Lord who controls every-
thing with His Might

Nor man or woman has given me an
education
Nor an atom of knowledge came
from this system
But see then the might of my pen
See this oh children of Yemen
See how I bring walls crashing
down as stars dance in the horizon
See how one from a country called
Yemen can be born with such skills
If they ask about me! Tell them 'he
is one of the Rising Eagles!'

By the cold breeze that touches your
face
And the last jigsaw in our lives that
come into place
By my fellow men and women that
race
Against time and into life's great
maze

Born to rise and fly free
And those of courage walk with me
And those who want to pave their
destiny
And make every Yemeni Youth
walk and stand free

By the autumn, winter, summer and
spring
By the birds that come to sing
By the good will men and women
bring
By the glory of Allah, Mighty is He,
the true King

Ask them! Who has the passion?
To paint a great dream in the hori-
zon?
So they speak of the nobility of the
next generation?

I say to England! We came from
Yemen
Some from Sanna and some from
Aden
And many started with nothin'
To see they're dreams paint the
horizon
Like Queen Sheba and king
Solomon

Our legacy reaching our motherland
- Yemen?
Show me who the real women and
men
Of Sanna or Aden!

Great walls I see and I shall bring
them down
Come, let them build more and
watch them crash to the ground
Knowledge is my shield and mighty
is my pen
For here stands before you a poet
from Yemen

Tell them to come! Come and walk
with me
Come! And walk with a Rising
Eagle and set your mind and soul free!
Come! And let us with the might of
the pen, unite and paint a great destiny
Share our skills within this country,
our people and each and every com-
munity

Great words do many weave and
lies do they plough
On the canvas of our children's
mind and they don't know
Of the consequences of ignorance
but I will show

Come if your words are true but
stay where you are, if you're words
are empty
Many are those who desire a jour-
ney
To fill their own belly
Come to me if you are true to the
cause to help our community
Show yourselves if you are a true
Yemeni!

**CANADIAN
nexen**

**VACANCY
YARDMAN**
Yemeni Nationals

Location: Central Process Facilities, Hadramout Governorate
Department: Drilling
Posts: Two Positions
Working Schedule: 28 days on / 28 days off

Job Duties:

- Responsible for overseeing material movements for Service rig operations to and from field locations to the Taj Rig yard.
- Responsible for maintaining high corporate & industry tool standards of all non-stock items (ie fishing tools, downhole tools & specialty items)
- Supports Service Rig operations including "on call" 24 hours per day for unplanned emergencies.
- Stages, issues and mobilizes materials and equipment as required for Service Rig Tool Pushers & Supervisors from the Taj Rig Yard.
- Ensures that all Heavy Equipment used is certified & operated in a Safe manner complete with Certified Operators (loaders, forklifts, cranes etc).
- Receives incoming Service Rig spare parts stock items from WHSE & assists putting them into inventory. Checks item numbers, bin locations & that the correct item was actually received.
- Allocates contractor resources where needed and prioritizes work activities. Assesses and dispatches the use of contractor rental equipment required to handle material movement to & from the Taj Drilling Yard. Will be required to "hotshot" equipment to locations on request.
- Demonstrates thorough knowledge of Forklift / Loader operations to meet Nexen safety standards.
- Maintains orderly housekeeping in the Taj rig Yard, Fishing tool workshop, archives container and all other non-stock item containers.
- Participates in the year-end physical inventory audit.
- Prepares Shipping Manifests & Gate Passes for material & equipment movements. Assists in cost allocation variance verses actual accruals each month. Develops & maintains a non-stock item databases & maintains up to date (ie fishing tools & assorted downhole equipment).

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of Technical Diploma.
- 3 years experience in warehousing and drilling materials.
- Strong computer skills, good working knowledge and usage of: Excel, Word, Outlook. Must be capable of learning SAP and working with SAP processing applications.
- Strong command of written and spoken English.
- Working knowledge of Downhole tools.
- Strong working knowledge of rig components, associated equipment and transportation requirements.

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address.
Not later than July 24, 2003

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen
Human Resources
P. O. Box 15137
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No. 01-269899
Attention: Senior Supervisor, Human Resources

- Please make sure that your CV contains all the needed personal and qualification information, no need to attach any certificates unless we request them.
- Please don't call us, we will call you if you are selected for test and interview.
- Please include in your application the job you are applying for.
- Unclear and untyped CV's will not be considered.

**CANADIAN
nexen**

**VACANCY
SLICKE LINE
OPERATOR**
Yemeni Nationals

Location: Central Process Facilities Hadramout Governate.
Posts: Two Positions
Working Schedule: 28 days on / 28 days off

Job Duties:

Assists the Senior Slickline Operator in the following tasks:

- Maintaining slickline tools, truck and slickline unit components to ensure readiness.
- Operate the slick line winch for slick line Operations, includes Driving truck within Masila block oilfields.
- Redressing all downhole tools associated with slick line activities.
- Running and retrieving downhole wireline tools and electronic gauges. Prepares these tools for installation in wells.
- Directs the contract labor crew in routine maintenance of the slickline tools and to make sure work is completed properly in a SAFE and TIMELY fashion.
- Organises the material and equipment required to do the specific job.
- Ensure that all the work area e.g. shop, well sites, trucks are cleaned up are kept clean and tidy after an operation.
- Carry out other similar or related duties as required such as ensuring that all personal protective equipment, required for each specific job, is being used while on location, Reporting daily activities to the Slickline Senior Operator and May backfill for the Slickline Senior Operator when absent.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of Technical diploma in a drilling related discipline, and 4 years' experience with operating heavy equipment such as picker or small truck mounted crane.
- Good knowledge of English.
- Posses a heavy Equipment and Crane Operators Certificate.
- Basic knowledge of all slick line tools and related downhole equipment.
- Able to perform manual labor.
- Valid Yemeni drivers License.

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address.
Not later than July 24, 2003

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen
Human Resources
P. O. Box 15137
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No. 01-269899
Attention: Senior Supervisor, Human Resources

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- Unclear untyped CV's will not be considered.

Psychiatric & Mental Health Hospital

BY NADIA AL-SAQQF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In the heart of Capital City Sana'a, and around a hidden corner in Al-Safiya you would have never thought that this magnificent project exists. The main sections are recently built and still it provides a variety of services from a simple checkup, medication and wards for resident patients. That is the Psychiatric & Mental Health Hospital that when it was opened it was meant to be a reference in psychiatric health in Yemen.

The People who make it happen

"It isn't a one-man's show", Mr. Fahmi Mohammed Al-Hakimi general manager of the hospital said. "It started almost 13 years ago and during the years it was implemented and new sections and resources have been added. Islah Charitable Society headed by Mr. Tariq Sinan has continuously helped us and especially Dr. Hameed Hussain Zayad who funded building the women's section and continues to help us at the hospital. The hospital received great support from Mr. Mahfooz Shamakh especially his financing the building and opening the men's ward at the hospital. As the psychiatric situation here in Yemen is ignored and not taken care of, so it's high time something professional is being done." He added.

Quite true, especially that just in the '70s something other than prison was waiting for the unfortunate mentally ill people. In 1966 Al-Salam Clinic was established in Al-Sheikh Ottman, Aden. Then in 1970 work started in the psychiatric clinic at the Jumhori Hospital in Aden, followed by establishing a Kuwaiti-funded hospital for mental care in Aden also.

In Sana'a, there was an attempt to establish a clinic in the Jumhori Hospital but it failed and instead of that patients were sent to prison to be kept there. Perhaps the period most active is in the late '80s and early '90s when in Sana'a a section was opened for psychiatric medicine containing 27 beds and an out-patient clinic for consultancy in Al-Thawra hospital, and a psychiatric health center for women was funded by Islah Charitable Society. In addition, there were sections and clinics opened

in Hudeida, Dar Al-Salam Hospital and a psychiatric clinic in Al-Olifi Hospital, and in Taiz a hospital for mental diseases and the prison's sanatorium and a psychiatric in Al-Thawra University.

Psychiatric & Mental Health Hospital

The hospital started in July 1991 under the name Psychiatric Care Home, the time it was opened it received 24 female cases that were detained in the female prison women's mental section. And until the end of 2001 the beneficiaries from the hospitals services reached 35000 cases. Today, the hospital consists of:

The out-patient clinic that receives patients in the morning hours for con-



Dr. Hameed Hussain Zayad

sulting, medication and follow-up.

The diagnosis unit where medical equipment such as C.T. Scan 0, an encephalogram 256 channels, x-rays and a complete laboratory.

Resident patients wards for men and women supporting 60 beds for women and 140 for men, average stay here is around one and half to two and half months according to the case.

Medication through work and rehabilitation section, this section aims at enhancing patients' confidence and independency so as to support his/herself once they are out of the hospital and carry on a normal life.

Social Medication Unit, this is a unit where the coordination and cooperation

between the patients and their families is taken care of. It concerns with solving social matters of patients as per available resources.

Natural Medication Unit, mainly for neurological patients who need rehabilitation.

The Hospital has a large garden with trees and flowers and a water fountain creating by that a relaxing ambience for the patients. The hospital also has a special suite consisting of a number of in-suite private rooms.

How things work

Mr. Fahmi Al-Hakimi general manager of the hospital expressed his appreciation to the staff and friends of the hospital especially Dr. Ziyad and Mr.



Mr. Fahmi al-Hakimi general manager of the hospital

Shamakh who made this great work come true. "We made it a point to build the hospital according to the highest international standards so as to provide the best medication and services to our people. We have 96 staff members as for now and we are looking to hiring more as well when we can. Our hospital's mission is to make the psychiatric health in Yemen better." He said.

Development fund

As to how the hospital operates he explained that patients are received in the out-patient clinics where they are examined and diagnosis is made. Prescription is done and patients can buy their medicines from the hospital's

pharmacy which supplies medicines at very low prices in comparison with the market. If the patient requires sleeping in, then he is admitted to the in-patient section according to the case. The patients at first are taken care of hygiene-wise as they get their hair and fingers nails cut, they are bathed and given new clothes to wear. The treatment includes rehabilitation through the 6 sections available at the hospital; carpentry, carpet making, classrooms, tailoring, leather profession. There is a social unit that takes care of the relations between the patient and his family and their communication during the treatment period.

"The worst difficulty that we face always is that of patients' relatives, who precisely take the hospital as a shelter for their unfortunate ones and they really don't think of taking them back. This adds burdens to the hospital. After the patient is recovered and ready to merge into the society again, we have difficulties in convincing their families to take them back" Mr. Mujeeb Alrahman Futayma public relations officer said. "We are a hospital not an asylum!" he added.

As for the expenses, the hospital provides its services at a very nominal fee, and many of the poor patients are exempted from charges, explained Mr. Futayma.

Bed Supporting Project

The hospital has started a campaign for supporting beds in the in-patient wards. The psychiatric patient is probably the worst and less fortunate kind of patients. Not only because of the disability as such, but also because in a way he becomes a source of inconvenience to those taking care of them. Of course unless they are specialized personnel and professional people who are able to provide him with the required care and assistance to get better. Therefore, it is quite important that the hospital has sleeping facilities for those who require it. And this is the reason behind this project, especially that such patients many times require a longer period of medication. The project calls on kind people to support the expenses of one bed or more so that this facility would be available for the patients. The cost of supporting one bed is 362,500 Yemeni Riyals per year. This means that by donating 362,500 Riyals means helping all those who require using this bed during one whole year. The hospital provides supporting slips to the donors and provides them with regular reports as to the actions regarding that/ those beds. It's quite a humanitarian move to support this project especially that the hospital provides this facility to the needy for free.

Al-Thaqafa Al-Nafseeia (Psychiatric Education) Magazine:

The Psychiatric & Mental Health Hospital publishes a periodical specialized in mental health. The magazine is of 8 pages and contains a variety of psychiatric and mental health related topics.

"So far we have published three issues of the magazine and we are about

Bed Supporting Cupone

To the manager of the psychiatric and mental health hospital

HEREBY I AGREE TO COVER CHARGES OF () BEDS IN THE HOSPITAL

Name:

Tel:

Fax:

Signature

bed coverage cupone of the bed supporting project

to publish the fourth one soon, the magazine aims at educating people generally about psychiatric health. Our specialists write those articles and I supervise and do the editing, we hope that through

reading the articles people who visit the hospital would become more aware," said Mr. Mujeeb Alrahman Yaiha Fotaima public relations officer at the hospital and in charge of the magazine.



An interior scene of hospital section

New medicine Will they benefit poor people?

BY MOHAMMED A. AL-SHAQQA' E
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Day by day new medicines are discovered for healing different diseases and the industry of medicines tremendously developed and created new and unique means for giving the medicine and introducing new medicines in to the markets.

Moreover, it has been benefited from the genetic technology in preparing new medicines and with assistance of computers, new medicines and creative medical ways are developed.

World companies of medicines industry have been competing to introduce new drugs into world markets and looking for efficient substances and isolating them from the natural products.

American authority for food and medicines has agreed recently on a tremendous number of new drugs that will replace the old ones in the pharmacies. There is a long list online with new names of drugs that recently approved.

Yet, there is still a question, whether the third world poor people who represent most of the population of the world will benefit from these new medicines.

The answer of course is no. Because of globalization and the adopted international resolutions especially relating to the individual property and patents on inventions, the fate of medicine industry in the world becomes in the hands of the multi-national big companies that sell the new drugs in the third world countries with high prices that the poor citizens of those countries could not afford and could not buy. And the political regimes in these countries could not violate the international conventions that the big companies have imposed on the international community.

Mr. Car Labor in London Newsweek paper has pointed out that five prominent medicine companies currently control the medicine industry in the world. And the domination of these

multi-national companies in the medicine-making field has extended to the international laws on protecting the intellectual property and the invention patents. So the implementation of protection of intellectual property means according to the rules of the world trade organization, implementation of the protection for each creativity and intellectuality process as well as the product, for at least 10 years.

The control of these multi-national companies represent big challenges to all the third world industry companies, added to that the companies of sexual medicines which still produce medicines that have lost the invention patent.

The multi-national companies have become the only power in the making-trading of medicines over the world without a competitor. They control every new medicine and sell it to anyone and with the price they decide without consideration to the third world poor people and their needs for such new medicines which are difficult to be obtained as their prices do not go with the low-income of the individual in the third world.

One of these companies' managers says that the company will not abandon its invention patent even if it is described of being greedy.

A representative of these companies also has declared that the multi-national companies do not work for poor people welfare and happiness as they are businessmen rather than clerics.

Yet, will we stand in this developing world hand-folded against greediness and hunger of these companies that only care about profits they gain from the poor people in the third world?

We have to depend on ourselves to develop our means in finding out new natural substances and invest them properly.

We have to also form international alley to disclose all these companies' inhuman practices for not allowing them exploit our weakness.

We have to develop our national industry and link it to scientific research centers to find out solutions for our medical problems.



A building of psychiatric & mental health hospital

National program to fight leprosy

A big success



BY YASSER AL-MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Leprosy is one of the diseases which all world health organizations and authorities are unanimous to eradicate.

Yemen is one of the 125 world countries in where the disease is widely spread. Thus, the national program for fighting leprosy was established. In 1989, the first agreement was signed between Yemen Public Health ministry and the German organization for fighting leprosy. The work started through this typical project in three governorates; Taiz, Ibb and Thamar.

After the Yemeni unification the

campaign for fighting and eradicating leprosy has extended to the eastern and western governorates and then to Hodeidah and other northern provinces to include all the Yemeni cities.

The program, along with Yemeni association for elimination of leprosy could successfully eradicate the disease. Those efforts have reduced the percentage of infection to two patients in each 10 thousand citizens.

With extensive and continuous fieldwork in the effort for fighting the disease, the percentage of infection dropped to 3 patients out of 100 thousand citizens. This percentage is tremendous, that few countries in Middle East have reached, such as Egypt, Sudan and Syria.

The annual report of 2002 about fighting leprosy and other diseases issued (who issued it and when?)

affirmed success of the Yemeni health authorities' efforts in this field to the extent that Yemen was granted the "Horshai Sasako" prize.

The Yemeni association for fighting leprosy, chaired by Dr. Abdulaem al-Qubati, the supervisor at the hospital of venereal and dermatological diseases in Taiz City, managed to eradicate this disease.

Because of its tangible efforts, the association has deserved the prize that is \$80 thousand. This prize is granted to all the distinguished non-governmental associations and others supporting health activities and upgrading services all over the world.

The final annual report on the program of fighting leprosy in Yemen, confirmed those 14 training courses that the Public Health Ministry has implemented in various governorates

of Yemen throughout the year 2002 and spread awareness via various means.

The report assured that the hospital of venereal and dermatological diseases in Taiz, which offers services to the leprosy patients, had established 6 clinics in 2002, and those clinics render their services to the leprosy and tuberculosis patients and motherhood and childhood and family planning as well.

Those clinics focus their mainly on the 181888 poor patients. Three volunteer surgeons from Austria have visited the hospital till the end of 2002.

A lunatic asylum has been still under construction in Hadramout with a total area estimated at 20.000 square km.

The land has been fenced with an overall cost estimated at YR. 3.387.700.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Isbou weekly, 3 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- Al-Ahmar domination prevents majority from determining fate of parliamentary committees
- Unidentified persons tried to kill Al-Isbou newspaper publisher
- Security coordination between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to be broadened

Columnist Jalal al-Shara'bi wrote an article on the Kuwaiti parliamentary elections that have been recently held. The writer says that perhaps indications point out that corruption and deformations in the administration are characteristics of the coming stage in Kuwait. Bribes have mingled with tribal loyalties and buying votes and all came in coincidence with extravagant spending on elections campaigns. In Kuwait a democracy giving the man the right to elections and nomination and withheld that right from the woman so that to be an instrument for overbidding and an issue for soliciting emotions and winning electors for winning the elections battle of half democracy. Democracy in Kuwait is inevitably heading for a crossroads where corruption is surly coming and the squandering of money in millions of dollars by the candidates something horrific. How come a candidate spends ten million dollars to win a seat at the parliament without putting in mind that his intentions and tasks would be related to trade? This state of affairs is not confined to Kuwait, for the parliamentary elections in Yemen have disclosed such orientation and given birth to an undeclared party, i.e. the "businessmen".

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

Main headlines:

- Islah: GPC divided the society to overly rich minority and destitute

majority

- Parliament continues violating the law
- Labour, smuggling drugs and weapons, top Yemeni-Saudi talks
- On Jarala Omar assassination, defense lawyers: Influential forces benefited from killing architect of the JMP
- For condemning Israel, Security arrests worshippers in the grand mosque in Sana'a

Columnist Ali al-Ashwal asserts in his article that fighting corruption has become a national question pre-occupying everyone in this country. Since the very beginning of publishing about this issue it was associated with committing violations and excesses at various official institutions and their branches and aggravation of detriment mistakes and negatives without in return the existence of any accountability. Beneficiaries of this phenomenon continued further in repeating their acts by committing more such violations and excess that resulted in squandering the public property and spending it on fake projects. Those corrupts have in the course of years become the only ones possessing wide-range authorities and having he upper hand in deciding the policies and the authorities of decision-making. As a result of the imbalance in society caused by the spread of corruption and its rootage, the unfortunate outcome is all values and good traditions have fallen and were replaced by violation of the honor and ethics of professions and there came the loss of morals of public services.

Annas weekly, July 2003.

Main headlines:

- The Saudi-Yemeni meetings concluded under unordinary challenges
- A new draft law canceling local councils in the capital

Main headlines

- American and other foreign military hunt down for Huttat terrorists
- Law suit against trading groups supporting terror
- Government approves employment criteria depending transparency and equality
- Eritrea releases 113 Yemeni fishermen
- Government negotiations with extremists in Huttat flounder
- Military trial for Guantanamo detainees, news on arresting Ayman Dhawahiri & Abu al-Ghaith

- Islah's Shoura demands raising employees' salaries

- Parliament decides the issue of choosing heads of the parliament's committees

Columnist Nasser Yahya writes on the 7th of July anniversary saying as Yemenis however we might politically differ on assessing an event like the secessionism and the war that preceded it, secessionism represented for many a ghost of a calamity, for them personally and in general at the level of the homeland. Specifically it would have represented for them a human tragedy returning the state of families division between the two parts of the homeland. Personally, the 7th of July was the end of months of fears, public and personal. The return

of division would have been representing for me a personal tragedy too. My family was almost halved between Aden and Sana'a. The success of secessionism was meant that to return divided as we were before the unity, belonging to two hostile states and the relation would be worse than it was before the unity. Most probably any project for a new unity would be something impossible, as what happened after the failure of the Egyptian-Syrian unity in 1961. I don't want to open the old wounds but the anniversary of July 7 is an important landmark in our contemporary history and I call for deriving lessons from it. The state of the division and separatism the Arab nation is living is not something imposed and we could not get rid of

it. Here it is the Yemeni unity going ahead on its road and all the dangers threatening it to return to the state of division have disappeared. This is what confirms the success of the Arab choice of unity and its ability to face the challenges. The current events prove that the nation would not have present or future but with a unity associated with freedom and sound democracy where the people are the owner of the decision in choosing and ousting their rulers.

Al-Haq weekly, 6 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- 52 children smuggled to be used in begging and other acts
- Two lovers kill an innocent youth near Taiz university wall
- large quantity of cable burnt near Jabal Hadeed military camp

Columnist Hadi Habeeb says in an article that the American occupation of Iraq has inaugurated a new colonialist stage that can be described as the phase of the American colonialism. Petroleum has remained a target for the colonialist powers since the world war one up to now. The question is which of the two colonialisms better The European old one adopted the principle of divide and rule to ensure its domination over all the riches including petroleum. It has partitioned the lands and peoples and planted dissension between the rulers lest they should approach each other and unify their ranks. The new American colonialist epoch of Bush Jr. is following the policy of dividing the divided and partition the partitioned, not only in our Arab region alone but also in Africa and Asia. The evidence is what is implemented in dividing the region on ethnical and sectarian bases so that to make it easy to control and seize the riches, specifically the petroleum. By reading this road map we would find that the lands rich with oil in Saudi Arabia are situated in the eastern

area, which has a dense Shiite population and having historical extensions with the Shiites of Iraq and Iran. After the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comes Iraq. The areas of the biggest production of oil are in Rumaila in the south and Kirkuk in the north where the majority is Sunnis. It is not something unknown for the Yemenis how the areas where petroleum oilfield are situated and how they pose a threat to the Yemeni territorial integrity.

Al-Shumou weekly, 5 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- Two American explosives experts behind the blasts in Riyadh
- Public property prosecution re-opens file of corruption in endowment ministry
- On table of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council talks, Yemeni-Saudi joint investments, privileges for the Yemenis
- Two ministers in the former cabinet to stand investigations on charges of corruption soon
- Agriculture ministry permitted import of Israeli-made insecticides
- Saddam inside Iraq, the American government issue contradictory statements

The newspaper editorial says corruption and normalization are two parts of the same coin. Nothing wrong for corruption to occupy the first place as its destruction is more dangerous than normalization. The nature of corruption is to destroy all human values, principles and morals, though the most apparent features are theft and seizure of the state's or others properties.

It is regrettable that corruption in our society to become a phenomenon. Its continuation and development leads us to cultural, political and economic normalization in accordance with the manner the corrupts want.

World Press

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

Britain

The Times

Public support for the war in Iraq and trust in British Prime Minister Tony Blair have fallen sharply over the past month with the killing of British and American troops and the row over the Government's dossier on Saddam Hussein's weapons, an opinion poll for the Times showed on Tuesday.

The Daily Telegraph

British Prime Minister Tony Blair suffered a setback on Monday in his efforts to show that he did not overstate the case for war in Iraq when the foreign affairs select committee said the jury is still out on his claims about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The Daily Telegraph

The BBC said that it had been "vindicated" by the foreign affairs select committee. It had no reason to apologize to Downing Street or retract its report questioning the

prominence given to the claim that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction could be deployed within 45 minutes.

The Financial Times

The British knew very little at the start of the Iraq war about how Saddam Hussein planned to oppose the coalition or whether his troops had the will to fight, the British government admitted on Monday.

British Ministers believed the Iraqi regime might use weapons of mass destruction "if it could make the capabilities available for operational use," said document from the Ministry of Defense.

The Independent

Britain and the United States had no clear intelligence on whether Iraq could deploy its supposed weapons of mass destruction during the war, the Ministry of Defense admitted on Monday.

Japan

Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi denied that he might have his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) move its presidential election forward to make his reelection more likely.

Yomiuri

Japan eyes 10 to 20 percent target for cutting expenses at independent

administrative entities to be established in October.

Nihon Keizai

Cases of uncompensated overtime work hit 30-year high in Japan in 2002.

Mainichi

Tokyo's Nikkei Stock Average briefly recovered 9,800 level.

Kenya

Kenya Times

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki was Tuesday due to leave for Maputo, Mozambique, to attend the African Union summit.

East African Standard

Linah Kilimo, Kenyan minister in the office of the vice president, has decried the rising cases of Female Genital Mutilation in the country, saying the outdated practice is contributing to illiteracy among girls.

Daily Nation

Kenyan police Monday released a Pakistani national who was arrested last week on suspicion that he was linked to terrorist activities, because they "have not found any evidence to charge him."

Germany

Die Welt

Shortly before a decision in the bitter power struggle in IG Metall, its leaders fight with each other in public.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The opposition CDU will endorse a "seriously financed tax reduction", its presidency said on Monday.

Handelsblatt

The Italian government has come increasingly under criticism in Europe.

Scholarship Opportunities in the United States

The Public Affairs Section at the American Embassy in Sanaa announces the availability of a limited number of scholarships for Yemenis wishing advanced training, study, lecturing and research opportunities in the United States. Scholarships are as follows:

*** The Fulbright Post Doctoral Research Program:**

This program is for research and/or university lecturing in the U.S. The requirements are:

- The applicant must be a Ph.D. holder and wish to conduct further research in his/her field; and submit:
- A precise and detailed research proposal for a project that requires being in the U.S.
- Proficiency in English appropriate to the proposed lecturing or research project to be carried out in the United States.

For more information and application forms, please contact the Public Affairs Section at the American Embassy. Telephone # (303-180/81). Deadline: August 15, 2003.

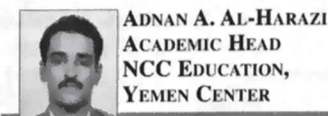
*** The Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program:**

This is a one-year fellowship program for professionals in applied fields that combines academic training in an American university (non-degree program) and field experience. Requirements are:

- International TOEFL score of at least 525.
- Five years of work experience in public service fields such as: communications /journalism, natural resources and environmental management, public policy analysis and public administration, economic development, agricultural development/agricultural economics, finance and banking, human resource management, law and human rights, urban and regional planning, technology policy and management, education (including educational planning, educational administration, curriculum development and the teaching of English as a foreign language), and public health policy and management, including HIV/AIDS policy and prevention as well as Drug abuse education, treatment, and prevention.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with an excellent academic record.

For more information and application forms, please contact the Public Affairs Section at the American Embassy. Sanaa Telephone # (303-180/81). Deadline: August 15, 2003.

An introduction to the Internet Basics of HTML



ADNAN A. AL-HARAZI
ACADEMIC HEAD
NCC EDUCATION,
YEMEN CENTER

In the previous lessons, we said that web pages are actually HTML files. HTML stands for HyperText Markup Language, the most used programming language in formatting Internet web pages. There are several versions of HTML. The latest version is HTML 4.0. HyperText here means the text that references another text in a nonlinear method. You click over links in form of words or images to move from one source to another in the Internet. Markup here means putting the text, images or pictures along with tables in one page in an understandable way. And finally, Language means programming language. It is worth bearing in mind that there are other languages used in web pages designing but HTML was the first and is still the dominant language.

Browsing Web pages

When you type the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of any web site in the Internet, the browser requests an HTML page to be transferred from the web site server (serving computer) to your computer. Then your browser interprets the contents of this HTML file and displays the result of the interpretation in the computer monitor. You can also open the HTML file and look in the coding that formats the page. To check the code of any HTML page, you just go to View menu in your browser and down to Source. For example, when you try to apply this to www.yementimes.com you will find the source of this page which will look something like fig 1.

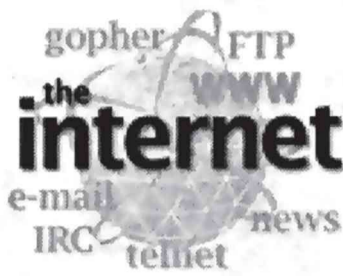
As you can see in fig1, HTML consists of text and tags and is intended to be read by a browser that uses the tags to decide how to display the text. The browser is also expected to recognize and play any graphics or audio included in the HTML. The source of the HTML consists of simple ASCII text (text consisting of just the normal characters that can be typed at the keyboard). Because of that you can just use any simple text editor program like NOTEPAD to create HTML source and that is what we will use in applying our examples. Other powerful editors that are available can also be used such as Micro Soft FrontPage, Macromedia Dream waver and others. However NOTEPAD is the best tool to practice coding in HTML.

HTML Source

A good way of starting to learn HTML is to experiment with some simple text and tags. We will use the Yemenkids website example as a framework for this experimentation.

Now we need to introduce some formatting. HTML formatting is all accomplished with tags, so you need to become familiar with the concept and the details. Tags usually come in pairs. One tag (the start tag) switches on some formatting feature and a second tag (the end tag) switches that feature off. Sometimes the end tag is not necessary and can be omitted. Tags are delimited by angle brackets < >. The brackets contain a name and possibly other information that identifies what the tag should do. The end tag is identified as an end tag by a slash / inside the angle brackets.

Lets start NOTEPAD and try some of these tags. To start NOTEPAD you



The tag should be at the first line of your HTML file as you can see in our example in line 1 the tag "<HTML>". In line 8 I had to close this tag to terminate the code by using the closing tag "</HTML>". It is worth bearing in mind that the tags don't have to be written in capital letters; however, having them capitals will make the code easy to read. So we have to know that "<HTML>" and "</HTML>" tags are used to delimit an HTML document.

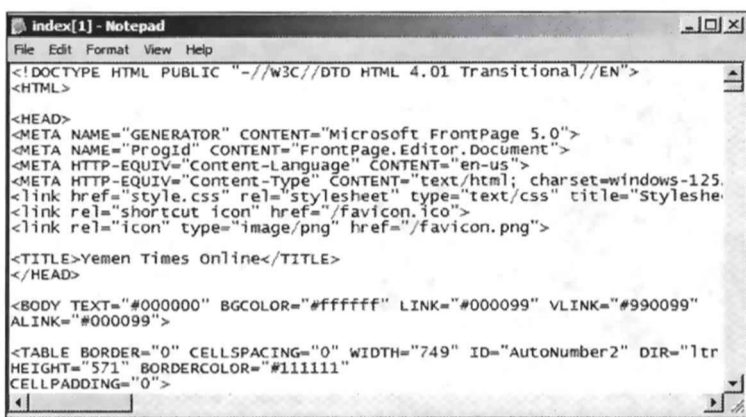


Fig 1 HTML source code

need to go to "Accessories" in your start menu programs and you will find NOTEPAD there. Type the following code in NOTEPAD and please don't include the numbers because we just need them to refer to the lines for explanation.

When you finish typing the code saves the file as index.htm or index.html either will work fine. If you didn't, the file will be saved as text file and you will not be able to browse by using the Internet explorer. After you save the file go to the folder where the file is saved and click on it to run. The file should have an Internet explorer icon. The result of running this file is an empty white web page except for one line that displays "welcome to Yemen Kids On-line Website". Ok, how did that happen? Let's go back to the code.

HTML Starting

Any HTML file should start with the starting tag that tells the browser that this file should be dealt as an HTML

- 1 <HTML>
- 2 <HEAD>
- 3 <TITLE> Yemen Kids On-line </TITLE>
- 4 </HEAD>
- 5 <BODY>
- 6 Welcome to Yemen Kids On-line Website
- 7 </BODY>
- 8 </HTML>

The effect of the start tag is to inform the browser that an HTML document follows.

Head

The "<HEAD>" and "</HEAD>" mark off information about the whole document. This information is not displayed when the page is browsed but it is used by the browser and any audit applications in the client computer. Most of the time the information in the "head" is to tell about the standards used by the web designer during the coding. The web page is not affected if the head tags are omitted.

Title

In line 3 I have included the title of the web page. The title of the web page is always displayed in the top left corner of your computer browser when you browse the web page. So between the opening and the closing tags of the title I typed "Yemen Kids On-line" and that will be the title of this web page. In line 4 I closed the head which means that the title of the page is to be used as information about the document.

Body

The "<BODY>" and "</BODY>" tags define the body or text of the page. All the content which is intended to be read goes here. In the body I just needed the web page to display one sentence that says "Welcome to Yemen Kids On-line web site". In line 7 I closed the body tag to delimit the content of the web page.

Next week: More about HTML.

Department of English, Faculty of Education, Amran, Sana'a University, Sana'a

Annual Function Held

The Department of English, Faculty of Education, Amran (Sana'a University), following its tradition, organized an annual function on 29th June, 2003 to give farewell to the outgoing Level Four students of the four-year Bachelor's degree course. It was attended by the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Abdullah Al-Najaar, Vice Dean, Dr. Abdul Hameed, Head of the Department of English, Dr. S.K. Mukul, Dr. R. Nair, Mr. Ali Dawley, teachers from other departments and a large number of students. The function started with the recitation of the verses from the Holy Quran.

Certificate of Merit

At the function, the Dean, Dr. Abdullah Al-Najaar awarded the Certificate of Merit to Dr. S.K. Mukul, Head of the Department of English, in recognition of his hard work, excellent teaching and skilful management. He also awarded the certificates to Dr. R.Nair and Mr. Ali Dawley. The Department of English acknowledged a sense of gratitude to the Dean, Dr. Abdullah Al-Najaar, and recognized his merit as a sound scholar and able administrator. It passed a resolution and conferred upon the Dean the Certificate of Merit for his great efforts to promote education and raise its standards. Besides, three students from Level Four, Reema Mohammed, Eman Mohammed

and Ahlam Mansoor were also awarded certificates for securing first, second and third ranks respectively in Level Three examinations last year. Many other boys and girls received prizes and certificates for their active participation in curricular and extracurricular activities of the Department.

In his keynote address, the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Abdullah Al-Najaar, appreciated the contributions of Dr. S.K. Mukul and the teachers of the Department and urged the students to emulate their high ideals. He stressed the need of learning English language and using it regularly. When one stops using a language, one forgets it. Practice makes a man perfect. The Vice Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Abdul Hameed, gave an eloquent speech, appreciating the efforts of the Department of English to help students develop their talents by arranging extracurricular activities.

In his speech, Dr. S.K. Mukul, Head of the Department of English, acknowledged a sense of gratitude to the Dean, the members of the Department and the students without whose active cooperation this function could not have been arranged at the end of the academic year. He expressed his sentiments, recounting his past experiences which he had while teaching the outgoing students. He cited quotations from poetry and drama, expressed his mixed feelings of joy and sorrow and called upon students to be honest and hard-working.



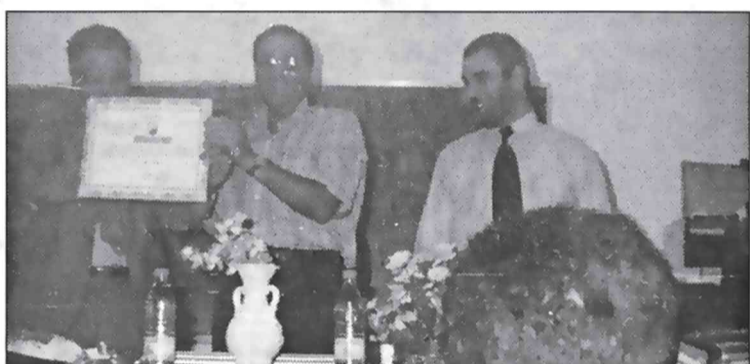
Dr. Abdullah Al-Najaar,
Dean of the Faculty

He said, "Honesty is the best policy." Nothing can excel this. The beautiful are those who act beautifully. Further, Dr. Mukul asked the students not to be charmed by the physical beauties of the world but to shoulder the responsibilities that they have. They have many promises to keep and many miles to go. Life is a journey indeed. He quoted the lines from Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

Dr. Abdul Hameed, Vice Dean

Dr. S. K. Mukul, Head of the Dept.

Reema Mohammed



Dr. S.K. Mukul (C) receiving the certificate of merit from Dr. Abdullah Al-Najaar, Dean (L), as Dr. Abdul Hameed (R) looks on

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep.

At the end, Dr. Nair gave a vote of thanks to the Dean, the Head of the Department of English, its members and the students for their active cooperation.

The Importance of Teaching English Literature in Schools



BY MOHAMMED AZIEM
AL-BASHIR
M. A. IN ENGLISH

English is an international language, as we all know. Therefore, the role it plays is very significant. For this reason, all efforts should be made in order to enable the students master this language. In my opinion, as a teacher of English language at schools for more than two decades, English language is easy to master. But, what I see now is something different. Nowadays, a majority of the students refrain from using this language.

Many of my students at school tell me with frustration that they find English a difficult language to learn. I do know, that they sincerely want to master the language, use it and eventually make a suitable, beneficial career out of it. Even after attending

summer courses in English, they voice the same complaint. I look at them with sorrow and pity. I feel sympathetic towards them. I know the real cause leading to their ignorance, although they are clever enough to master any language. The crux of their problem is that they are never taught English literature. Most of what they have been taught is communicative English, tenses and grammar with their dull and dry drills. English literature is undeniably the essence, the core. Moreover, an assimilative study of English literature increases their vocabulary, enlightens their minds through reading of literary texts and enables them to speak fluently. Above all, English literature instills into them the love of the English language.

What stimulated me to initiate a further discussion on this topic is the report by Dr. Ayid Sharyan in Yemen Times on the symposium held at Ibb University, 'English Literature Teaching in Yemen: Problems and Prospects.' Before this, I had already

read the articles delivered by Professor Thakur in Yemen Times, "Teaching Language through literature: Problems and Principles." In my view, the problem begins at the school level. Since we do not teach literature in schools; how can we expect the students to master the language and in the end appreciate its literature? The futility that Professor Thakur talks about, marked by an escape from the text, springs from here.

When the British colonized a country, they planned in the first place, to teach the natives their language to assist them with the administration of that country. They realized that learning the English language would be futile if not accompanied by teaching English literature. For this reason, English literature had been taught from the beginning. In my opinion, the British would not have been interested in the teaching of their literature unless they considered it a means of learning the language. Those countries which were once colonized by Britain, after they won their freedom rejected the English literature and stuck to the language teaching, those countries in fact, made a grave error of judgment. Ironically, proficiency in the English language which they aimed at deteriorated when they dropped out the English literature, defeating their basic goal.

To return to the point, it is time to teach our students English literature in schools in order to set them free from the agony and enigma of the problem of learning English. Dr. Thakur rightly recommends, children's literature. We can bring into the syllabus simplified English stories. Also, the syllabus can include simple lyrical poems such as 'Lyrical Ballads' by William Wordsworth. In addition to this, we can teach the students plays in simple English to understand and act out. In this way, we can, to a considerable extent, solve the problems students face in mastering the English language.

I hope Professor Thakur with his glorious contributions to teaching English language through literature, Dr. Ayid Sharyan with his great efforts to facilitate the learning process through 'Literature Textbook Series' and those who are engaged in this field, will help to see this project implemented. All this is for the sake of our students at school who are in dire need of help to master the English language, and who will, eventually, make the future students of the university.

Readers' Forum

Will you keep guiding us?

Dear Dr. Bose,
It is a great pride and pleasure for me to point out that I was a student of yours during your tenure at Hodeidah University. In fact, no words can adequately articulate how lively, wonderful and enjoyable your lectures were. I miss every moment I spent with you either inside or outside the class. Now you are teaching in Ibb University. Reading your column "Letters to English Teachers" is the only way for me and for many other University and school teachers to learn something very useful from you. Trust the word, even village school teachers who hardly look at the textbooks before they teach their students have begun to consider reading Yemen Times a must for many good reasons, the most important of which is the Education page that includes "Letters to English Teachers" by you. A word of sincere gratitude and appreciation is, therefore, due to you for your efforts.
You may think that I am exaggerating, but really I am not. Any one will agree with me that if he keeps reading Dr. Bose's "Letters to English Teachers" or if luckily happens to meet him personally definitely he'll learn a lot.
Dr. Bose, my dear teacher, the suggestions you make in your letters are well-taken by one and all. And as a matter of fact by the efforts you put in, you are not only helping English teachers improve their professional equipment, but also the Yemeni English learners have a better and a richer teaching and learning atmosphere. Kindly keep guiding us, would you?
Yours affectionately,
Arif Ahmed Al-Ahdal, Demonstrator
Education College,
Hodeidah University

Looking for life
When smile disappears
When the world darkens
In the whirlpool of life torment
Where would the human being be?
Torture with affliction and the agony
Teething with bitterness and desperation
Why does the world suffer thus?
It comes and goes without hope

Goal or purpose
But where does it go to?
Love becomes rarest of the rare
And the malevolence appears in its ugliest form
Where is the humanity heading
In the desert sand of affliction,
bitterness or anguish
Smile from the lips fast withers
Let's discover the inner spring of life
And restore the lost paradise
Hajer Ismael Shebam
APTECH, Sana'a

Name: _____
Age: _____ Province: _____
Tel: _____

This week's question:
Will it be ok if one of the tags was in capital and the other was in small?
example: <body> hi </BODY>

Your answer: _____

Those who send the correct answer (along with all the required information) will have the chance to win a free computer course at NCC after the draw. The date of the draw will be announced later



Contributions, including articles views and comments for publication in this page may please be addressed to:

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Tens of thousands follow Foe to burial

BY TANSA MUSA

YAOUNDE (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of people have jammed the streets of Cameroon's capital for the burial with full national honours of midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe, who collapsed and died during the Confederations Cup.

Some climbed on roofs or up trees to get a view of the coffin as it was borne through Yaounde. Many wore copies of his number 17 shirt.

An autopsy showed on Monday that Foe died of a heart problem when he collapsed during Cameroon's 1-0 victory over Colombia in the Confederations Cup semi-final in France on June 26.

"He fought like a real lion, sought perfection, and loved his game, and whatever he earned he shared with all," said Bishop Joseph Akounga Essomba in his tribute during a nearly three-hour requiem mass.

Sepp Blatter, president of World soccer body FIFA, joined Cameroon's President Paul Biya and other important figures from the central African country for the mass.

Work came to a standstill in Yaounde as the presidential guard fought back crowds trying to get a closer peep.

"Here is the whole Cameroonian nation rising in unison to pay the last tribute to the fallen national hero," a state radio journalist commented. "No, it is the whole world," his colleague said.

Before Foe was lowered into the ground, he was knighted as a Commander of the Order of National Valour. As the family threw handfuls of soil onto the coffin, an outburst of wail-

ing swept back from the graveside.

Foe generosity

Foe was known in Cameroon for his generosity as well as his skills on the pitch, and his death came as a particular blow to those he had helped.

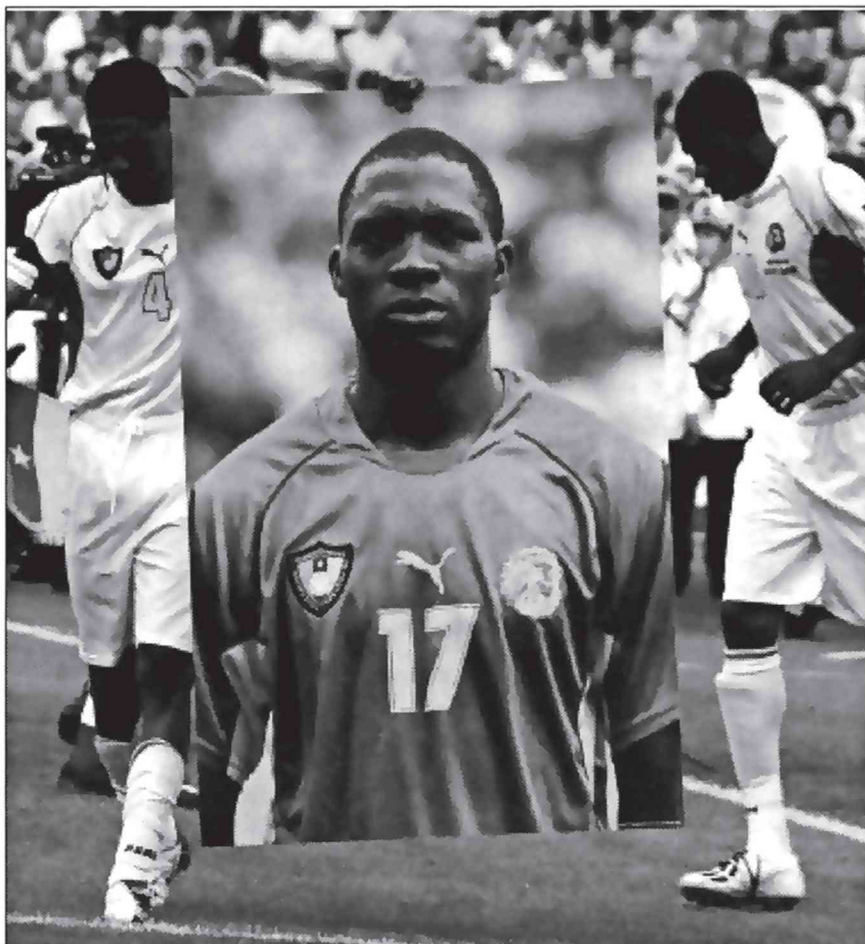
"For three years he is the one who paid my boarding fees and met my needs. Now he is gone. What shall I become?" asked 14-year-old Paul Nlib Njab at a centre for the handicapped.

Foe was born in 1975 at a village some 18 km (11 miles) south of Yaounde.

His footballing career began with second division side Garoua before he moved to the prestigious Canon of Yaounde and from there to Europe, where he played for French clubs RC Lens and Olympique Lyon as well as English sides West Ham United and Manchester City.

Foe, who had 65 caps, featured in two World Cups, 1994 and 2002, and twice won the African Nations Cup with Cameroon in 2000 and 2002.

He leaves behind a wife and three children, the youngest just two months old.



Cameroon captain Rigobert Song (L) and Mohamadou Idrissou carry a picture of Marc-Vivien Foe in this file photo. Foe died of natural causes when he collapsed during a Confederations Cup semi-final last month and no stimulants were found in his body, an autopsy found. REUTERS/Philippe Wojazer

Qualifier wins U.S. Women's Open

PORTLAND, Oregon (Reuters) - Hilary Lunke became the first qualifier to win the U.S. Women's Open after sinking a 10-foot birdie putt on the last hole to win by one shot after an 18-hole playoff at Pumpkin Ridge.

The 24-year-old American won her first LPGA Tour title after finishing with a one-under-par 70 in a three-way playoff ahead of compatriots Angela Stanford, who shot an even-par 71, and Kelly Robbins, who had a round of two-over 73.

Lunke had missed a putt of similar length on Sunday that would have given her the title after 72 holes. Instead, she ended regulation play at one-under par, tied with Robbins and playing partner Stanford at the Witch Hollow course.

The trio got off to a slow start on Monday with Lunke making par for a lead she never relinquished as the other two players recorded bogeys on the first hole.

Lunke had two birdies and a bogey to finish the front nine two ahead of Robbins and four in front of Stanford. On the back nine Robbins came within a shot after a birdie at the 10th but then lost momentum, making bogey and double bogey on the 13th.

Stanford had three birdies in the first five holes of the back nine to draw even with Lunke. However, a bogey at the 17th put the pressure on. All three players then birdied the last hole with Lunke staying calm enough to sink the winning putt.

"I kind of switched into match play mode once we were up by 17 green and I knew she was making it and I was preparing to make it on top of her" Lunke said of the final two

holes. "I was just trying to put a good roll on it and hopefully it would go in, and if it didn't I was prepared to go extra holes."

Thrilled

Robbins, who has not won since 1999 and has only one major title, the 1995 LPGA Championship, said despite losing she had been thrilled with the day.

"I was just thrilled to be a part of today and to have a chance," said Robbins. "It would have been a surprising win the way things have been going for me."

"I was just so pleased with myself yesterday and the way things went for me to get me into the playoff."

"Today, I wasn't really sharp early and that kind of hurt me and then made a mistake on the back, which, the way those two were playing, you just couldn't do."

Lunke, who had won just over \$65,000 in her career collected \$560,000 for the victory.

Her husband Tylar caddied for her during the week and she said the experience had been unforgettable.

"It was just a dream out there for us. It was so nice to go through that experience with him."

"Who knows what will happen with the rest of my golf career but I will always look back and remember this time that we had together."

"It was just awesome," Lunke said.

It was the second three-way playoff in the championship's history. Britain's Laura Davies beat American Joanne Carner and Ayako Okamoto of Japan to win the title in 1987.

England overshadows Tri-nations

BY JULIAN LINDEN

SYDNEY (Reuters) - A team who will not even be competing overshadow the annual Tri-nations competition which kicks off this weekend.

The southern hemisphere's annual championship is normally the highlight of the international rugby calendar. But the World Cup and the current form of Six Nations champions England have reduced this year's tournament to the status of a warm-up event.

The three teams, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, have made no secret that they are all looking beyond the Tri-nations to the World Cup, starting on October 10.

While they remain the only countries to have won the World Cup, the Tri-nations will be as much about finding a way to beat England as it will be about beating each other.

"There's a fairly common theme running through all the countries who are striving to be World Cup contenders at the moment," said Australia coach Eddie Jones.

"I think everyone would love to be at their best (for the Tri-nations) but we're preparing for something else further down the track when you really do want to be at your best."

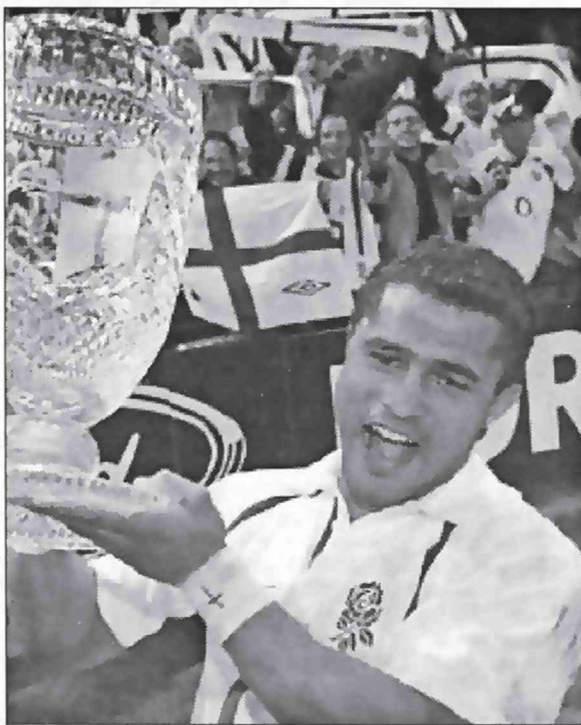
Experiments

New Zealand and South Africa have adopted the same dogged approach and plan to use the home-and-away series to experiment with new players and tactics.

New Zealand, Tri-nations champions in 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2002, are the favourites to win again this year with Australia their biggest danger.

South Africa are given little real hope of winning after an indifferent run of form over the past year.

The All Blacks beat Wales (55-3)



England's Jason Robinson holds aloft the Cook Cup in front of English supporters after defeating Australia at Dockland Stadium in Melbourne June 21, 2003. The World Cup and the current form of Six Nations champions England have reduced this year's Tri-nations tournament to the status of a warm-up event. REUTERS/David Gray

and France (31-23) after opening their season with a narrow loss to England (15-13) that has raised fears down under that the World Cup could be won by a northern hemisphere team for the first time.

With time quickly running out, former captains Taine Randell and Anton Oliver and proven match winners Andrew Mehrtens and Christian Cullen all missed selection for the Tri-nations as New Zealand coach John Mitchell wielded the axe.

"We just need to tidy a few things up," Mitchell explained.

The All Blacks have a powerful lineup with pace to burn in their forwards and backs but their set piece tactics were inadequate against the English and the French.

The Europeans also exposed problems in the Wallabies pack, forcing Jones to re-think his team's strategies.

"There's no doubt the southern hemisphere teams got a little bit of a lesson from the northern hemisphere sides, particularly in terms of the lineout," Jones said.

"We've got to build on those and look at how we can improve on those set piece tactics."

The Springboks won the Tri-nations for the only time in 1998 but have finished last each of the past four seasons

and will struggle to improve on that if their early season form is anything to go by.

They laboured to beat Scotland (29-25) and (28-19) in a two-match series then needed a last-match penalty to see off Argentina (26-25) in their most recent outing.

Like Jones and Mitchell, South Africa coach Rudolf Straeuli has been experimenting with his lineups but wants to start finalising his team during the Tri-nations.

"I am happy with the sifting that has gone on and now look forward to the challenge of Australia and New Zealand," he said.

The series begins this Saturday when South Africa hosts the Wallabies in Cape Town and ends on August 16 when New Zealand plays Australia in Auckland.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

WHEN I GOT BACK TO HELP HOMER, I FOUND HIM TIED UP IN HIS WORK...

HEY, I WAS SERVING A VITAL FUNCTION TO THE SHIP

HE'LL MAKE A NICE CUSHION AGAINST THE ROCKS

WHEN I TRIED TO GET HIM UNTIED, A VIOLENT STORM SUDDENLY BLEW IN AND ENTPANGLED ME IN THE ROPES WITH HOMER. THE STORM RAGED FOR DAYS...

IRONICALLY, WE WERE THE ONLY ONES ON BOARD TO SURVIVE BECAUSE WE WERE TIED DOWN!

UM, I HAVE TO FESS UP, GUYS... THAT WAS ME. I ACCIDENTALLY HIT THE DIVINE WIND KEY REACHING FOR MY COFFEE

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS WHERE WE ENDED UP

I THINK IT'S TIME WE ESTABLISHED AN IMMIGRATION POLICY

To be concluded next year in Homer's first graphic novel, "Legacies!"

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7-Day Weather Forecast					
Sana'a			Aden		
Day	Hi	Lo	Day	Hi	Lo
Thu	30	14	Thu	39	29
Fri	31	14	Fri	39	29
Sat	30	14	Sat	38	27
Sun	30	14	Sun	39	27
Mon	31	14	Mon	39	28
Tue	31	14	Tue	38	28
Wed	30	14	Wed	37	28

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY BY Eugenia

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
This can turn into a very creative day if you get together with other creative people. Don't be afraid to take the risk of letting the people with whom you are dealing know your thoughts, beliefs and intentions.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You will be dragged into something you've been avoiding. Don't refuse to confront a situation that is rapidly being blown out of proportion. Take action now.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Your intuition is telling you not to trust people with your ideas or your professional intentions. Take care of any misconception before problems develop. Tread carefully.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Money matters should be dealt with quickly and efficiently today. You can come into a bit of a windfall. Don't let anyone hold you back or make you feel like less of a person.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Don't sit around - this is a day for travel, adventure and discovery. Utilize whatever opportunities you have to learn new information.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
A situation regarding a personal relationship will have you confused. Avoid saying anything that will lead this person on. You should be enjoying the company of people who intrigue you mentally.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
It will be important for you to get out and meet new people today. A change of friendship is required. Make room for those people with common interests.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
It's time you started to take control before someone else starts making your decisions for you. You may be confused about your direction. Check out some organizations of interest.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
Watch your spending habits today. There will be lots of temptations and someone may try to talk you out of you money. Be careful and conservative in your financial dealings.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Delays, due to no fault of your own, will cause friction with clients or those you have to deal with regarding policy. Don't avoid these people; keep them posted and be completely honest in your assessment.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You can make a change when it comes to your work. Aggressively pursue whatever it is that will bring you satisfaction in the workforce.

Quality people produce quality services



About New Horizons Computer Learning Center

For New Horizons, it all began in the year 1982. Over the years, they have continuously evolved, setting their sails in alignment with the winds of change. Today, they are the world's leading IT training company worth USD 512 million. With over 281 centers, 2000 classrooms, 2700 instructors spread across 51 countries; including locations all over Saudi Arabia and across the Gulf countries. New Horizons Computer Learning Center Sana'a is part of New Horizons worldwide network. New Horizons trains more students than any other IT training organization. In 2001, Fortune listed them among the "100 Fastest-Growing Companies in America", while Business Week featured them in its "100 Hot Growth Companies". New Horizons is all set to introduce its world-proven expertise to Yemen. Through content that's in tune with the ever-changing world of IT. Time-tested training methodologies. Highly qualified faculty. Strict adherence to international training standards. These are the values that set New Horizons apart from most IT education models being used across the world

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- Multilingual Courseware
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The success of the New Horizons customers is realized through training classes, but the foundation of New Horizons is based on inspiring students and companies to become more productive and successful in their daily activities. New Horizons see it on their students' faces every day. It's the confidence that comes from learning



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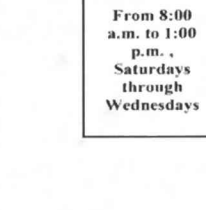


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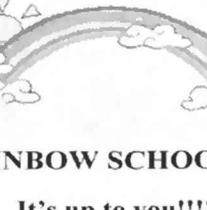


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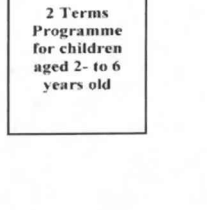


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Iranian twins die after historic surgery

BY JACQUELINE WONG AND KATHERINE ESPINA

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Pioneering surgery to separate Iranian twins joined at the head ended in tragedy on Tuesday when the women died from massive blood loss on the operating table in Singapore soon after doctors separat-

ed their enmeshed brains. The deaths of Laleh and Ladan Bijani, 29, abruptly halted a historic 50-hour operation by a team of 28 specialists and 100 assistants to separate siblings fused at the head, or craniopagus twins, as doctors call the condition. The twins' homeland of Iran was plunged into shock and grief after

television there broke into regular programming to announce the news. President Mohammed Khatami had pledged on Monday to pay the cost of the operation, estimated at \$300,000.

At Raffles Hospital in Singapore, hundreds of supporters and friends of the twins wept and hugged each other.

"When we undertook this challenge we knew the risks were great," hospital chairman Loo Choon Yong told reporters. "We knew that one of the scenarios was that we may lose both of them. Ladan and Laleh knew it too.

"We were hoping to try and do better than the worst odds. But alas we didn't make it."

Ladan began to lose blood at around 2 p.m. (0600 GMT), and died at 2:30 p.m. (0630 GMT), doctors said. Brain surgery continued on Laleh, who died at 4 p.m. (0800 GMT)

"Raffles Hospital regrets to announce that the Bijani twins, Ladan and Laleh, have both passed away during surgery to separate them," the hospital said. "The twins lost a lot of blood and were in a critical situation as the surgery was coming to an end."

Ladan, the more outspoken twin, had wanted to lead a separate life as a lawyer in her home town of Shiraz, while Laleh said before the operation she wanted to be a journalist in Tehran. Both held degrees in law.

The unprecedented operation led by neurosurgeon Dr Keith Goh ran into several major complications and took far longer than expected. The women's blood pressure had been fluctuating and surgeons discovered the brains were more closely linked than had previously been thought.

Tears and ethical dilemma

Dozens of supporters of the Bijani broke down and cried in the hospital. A group of weeping Iranian expatriate women were escorted away by friends.

"I was shocked. I still don't believe it. Ladan was very friendly, she always liked to joke," said Hossein Afkami, 42, an Iranian who has lived in Singapore for 15 years.

After the operation began on Sunday, doctors opened the joined skull of the pair, peeling a strip of scalp from each woman. The bone proved surprisingly thick, causing delays.

The surgical team then battled to reroute a shared vein on Monday that drained blood from the twins' brains to their hearts. Then five neurosurgeons began the extremely delicate process of prying apart the brains millimeter by millimeter.

Ladan had been considered more at risk after receiving a new vein about the size of a finger grafted from her thigh.

Singaporean Armila Teo, 48, wept in the hospital lobby after the news of Ladan's death. "I'm very upset," she said. "Even if I'm not related, the emotion just overcame me."

German doctors turned the Bijanis away in 1996, saying it could prove fatal to separate the two. But they were determined to lead separate lives, and came to Singapore in November to undergo months of tests.

Twins joined at the head occur only once in every two million live births, and successful separation is even rarer.

Singapore doctors did a similar operation in 2001 on infant girls from Nepal, but experts said an operation on adult twins was unprecedented.

Goh was assisted by Dr Walter Tan, a plastic surgeon, and Dr Ben Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Carson separated twin boys joined at the head in Germany in 1987 and six-month-old twin girls in 1997.

The operation has reawakened the ethical concerns that surround high-risk surgery when a life is not at stake.

Dr Richard Ashcroft, head of medical ethics at London's Imperial College, said last week there would be no controversy if the sisters were at risk of dying without the operation. But they were not.

"It's a genuine moral dilemma," he said. "And where you have a dilemma, people will make different decisions because there is no obvious answer what the right thing to do is."



Hospital sources at Raffles Hospital in Singapore said that Ladan Bijani (L) and her conjoined sister Laleh had both died July 8, after two days of unprecedented, high-risk surgery to separate their heads and brains. Doctors said that 29-year-old Ladan passed away first and a hospital nurse told Reuters that her sister Laleh died a short time later. The conjoined twins from Iran attend a news conference at Raffles Hospital in this photo taken in Singapore June 11, 2003. REUTERS



Neurosurgeon Keith Goh (C), head of the surgical team which operated on conjoined Iranian twins, attends a news conference with Dr Ben Carson of the U.S. (R) and Dr Loo Choon Yong at Raffles Hospital in Singapore, July 8, 2003. The 29-year-old Iranian twins, Laleh and Ladan Bijani, died after two days of unprecedented high-risk surgery to separate their skulls and brains, doctors said on Tuesday. REUTERS



Singaporean Muslims offer prayers at Raffles Hospital in Singapore, July 8, after the announcement that the 29-year-old Iranian twins, Laleh and Ladan Bijani, died. The twins died within 90 minutes of each other after two days of unprecedented surgery to separate their skulls and brains, doctors said on Tuesday. REUTERS

CONJOINED TWINS SURGERY

Rear view of conjoined head

The first stage involved opening up the twins' combined skulls to expose the brains. This took longer than expected because the skull bones were thicker, especially where they were fused together

Detail view of brain separation

The next stage is to separate the two brains. A vein from Ladan's right thigh will duplicate a shared major blood vessel between the brains. The skulls will then be reconstructed with muscle and skin grafts.

Source: David Rini, Johns Hopkins University

Iranian twin sisters joined at the head faced a second night of life-threatening surgery on July 7 as Singapore doctors expressed cautious optimism the operation to separate them was going well. The second stage of the craniotomy, or opening up the combined skulls of the 29-year old twins, Laleh and Ladan Bijani, involves severing blood vessels and veins around the women's two brains and may take the team of five neurosurgeons up to 10 hours to complete. Reuters

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