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Discussions believed to be underway

## US ships are not to refuel in Aden — yet

YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
SANA'A -- Yemen and US governments are discussing arrangements for American ships to refuel at Aden port, according to Yemeni sources.

It would be the first time US ships have been in Aden since the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, an American ship, in the port for refueling.

The sources say a U.S. military team of 15 members arrived in Sana'a recently to lay the groundwork for such refueling operations.

An unnamed government official said this decision comes as a result of the better stability in the country and tightened security measures Yemeni government has taken.

A CNN report, however, says American officials deny they will begin refueling their ships again in Aden.

It says the US Central Command, which directs forces in the region, will make the final decision in consultation with the US

Navy. "Yemen is still a dangerous place," was the comment of one unnamed American official. He also said returning ships to Aden carries a psychological effect for American troops.

The CNN report said that while the US Navy considers Aden a useful port, officials say the American military has other options in the region which are just as reliable, such as the French naval base in Djibouti.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department said last week that U.S. diplomats at its embassy in Sana'a can bring their families back to Yemen.

The U.S. diplomats sent their families back to the US after the September 11 attacks on America.

While it says diplomats families can return, the State Department maintains that the level of threats against U.S. interests is still high in Yemen, and it's advising non-diplomats to avoid coming to the country,

particularly after the March 15 attack on the US embassy.

It pointed out that terrorists linked to al-Qaeda may be plotting to carry out terrorist acts against US interests and has warned US citizens in Yemen to be on high alert.

Sameer Yahia Awadh, a 25-year-old student, threw grenades at the U.S. embassy on March 15, but caused no damage.

He is expected to be charged with terrorism, exposing people's lives to danger and illegal possession of explosives.

Yemeni police said his family confirmed he was psychologically disturbed, but he will be shown to a specialist to make sure of this.

Other sources said that Awadh bought the grenade from Jehana weapons marketplace and carried out this act to express resentment over the US stand towards Israel and its threats to attack Iraq.

Sources also said that Awadh is a policeman at the Central Security Forces.

## Demonstrations support Palestinians

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

Thousands of Yemenis took part in nationwide demonstrations last week to express their anger towards the Israeli oppression against the Palestinians and against a possible US strike against Iraq.

The protesters were mobilized by political parties, including the ruling People's General Congress.

They demanded the Arab leaders meeting in Beirut on Wednesday to take up courageous resolutions towards the Palestinian cause.

They demanded Arab leaders take serious action, including giving financial support to the Palestinians.

They also called on the UN to give the Palestinians justice by sending monitoring teams to the occupied territories.

Protesters in some areas burned out a effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, as well as US flag.

Opposition parties delivered a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, asking for meeting with them before flying to Lebanon.

Yemenis and Arabs are putting their hopes on the Beirut Summit for some fruitful progress in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Angry demonstration in Taiz. Tuesday 19.

## Four left dead Officials quiet on Amran blast

AMRAN —A car bomb explosion that killed four people on March 20 in Amran remains a mystery.

Yemeni police in Amran governorate have not disclosed reasons behind the explosion which also left three injured.

Sources in Amran told Yemen Times that a Toyota four-wheel drive car was spotted at the explosion site.

A bus carrying four soldiers was passing by the driver of the car which had explosives, including T.N.T.

After the huge explosion, two soldiers plus the driver of the car and one of his companions were left dead. Two other soldiers and a passer-by were seriously injured.

The sources said the car driver may have set the explosive so he was not discovered.

The explosion coincided with a proposed visit of a senior government official to Amran.

But there is no available information about the motives behind the blast, whether it was a booby-trap or possibly a terrorist act.

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### Thirty mine fields demined

ADEN - Thirty minefields have been completely demined in southern cities including Lahj, Abyan, Ibb and Adhalae.

The progress was celebrated during a ceremony at the National Demining Center here on March 20.

During the celebration, the Chairman of the National Demining Center, Mohsen al-Yousifi, spoke

about the diverse activities performed by the demining center.

The celebration was attended by the Governor of Aden, Taha Ahmed Ghanem, the Governor of Adhalae, Qasem Saleh al-Junaid, the Chairman of the National Demining Center, the British Ambassador to Yemen and the German charge d'affaires.

### Yemeni Exporters meet

By/ Mujahed AL Musa'abi  
YT Staff

Under the motto "Toward development and strengthening of exports competitiveness capabilities for non-oil products, Yemeni Export Supreme Council held on March 18 the first consultative meeting for Yemeni exporters at the Police Officers Club in Sana'a.

The objectives of the meeting were highlighted by YESC General Secretary, Noman al-Mulsi, as creating permanent activities to increase the size and value of the Yemeni exports, obtaining the best exploitation of the Yemeni energies and resources, etc.

Yung Whee, an exports development consultant at the World Bank, illustrated the south Korean experience in building up an export foundation.

Vice Minister of Trade & Industry



called on the public and the private sectors to cooperate in order to obtain the desired export development.

The event was sponsored by the prime minister, Abdulkader Bajammal, chairman of YESC, and was attended by more than 80 Yemeni exporters, officials, economists, and the WB Exports Development Consultant, Yung Whee.

### Ministry of Information to be tried

Ibrahim Hussein has disclosed his intention to file a lawsuit against the Ministry of Information for refusing to license a newspaper called the al-Shafafiya (transparency).

Hussein said the minister of information had, 8 months ago, promised him to license the paper. "However, he has not fulfilled his promise," he added.

### Fifth issue of 'Republican Guard' issued



The fifth issue of the Republican Guard Magazine was published in February 2002.

The magazine focuses on military aspects and other internal and external issues in the region.

Political, military, scientific and other topics have been dealt with by the issue, including the political impact upon globalization, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Socatra island, and other scientific and cultural issues.

### In Brief

- A man was killed in Dhamar last Thursday when he tried to throw a bomb for expressing his happiness on his friend's wedding. Unluckily the bomb went off at his hand leading to his immediate death.
- Japanese Ambassador to Yemen is holding a reception party for celebrating Yemen-Japanese relations tomorrow at his residence.



Chairman of the Radio & Television Sector of Yemen's Satellite Channel, Abdulghani al-Shamiri recently returned from Dubai after taking part at the Arab technology forum, organized by the French Embassy in the United Arab Emirates in cooperation with some

French companies.

- Minister of Culture, Abdulwahab Rawih, received on March 13 an invitation to hold a Yemeni cultural week in the Sultanate of Oman.
- Central Organization for Audit & Control (COCA) will hold a three-day training course for 200 of its employees as of March 25.
- Events of the national meeting for eradicating poverty began on March 20 under the motto "Poverty an Outrageous Violation of Human Rights". The meeting is organized by the Women's Forum for Study & Training in cooperation with the UK-based OXFAM.
- Al-Gomhuriya Press Establishment held on March 23 in Taiz a forum for discussing the future of education in Yemen.

- Judge, Mohammed Esmael al-Haji, vice-chairman of the Higher Judicial Council and chairman of Yemen's Clerks will take part at the international conference on Islamic doctrines to be held in the Algerian capital from March 25 to 28.
- Ahli of Sana'a sport club celebrated on Thursday the World's Day of Women as well as the Mother's Day in recognition of their role in building societies. The program included a number of events and competitions during which many prizes were given away to the participants.
- The Tourism Promotion Board took part at the Berlin international exhibition held between March 16 to 20. Many agencies and hotels took part at this meeting.

### 26 September Newspaper celebrated its 1000 edition

The 26 September Newspaper celebrated its 1000 edition on March 18 2002 in Haddah Hotel.

Speeches were delivered during the celebration. The Legal Affair Minister, Dr. Abdullah Ahmed Ghanem delivered a speech on this occasion on behalf of the Prime Minister, Abdulkader Bajammal. He said that the newspaper rightly depicts with credibility the goals of the two revolutions September 26 and October 14.

During the celebration, some of the 26 September Newspaper staff were honored in appreciation of their efforts in developing the newspaper.

It is worth-while mentioning that the 26 September Newspaper could cope with new changes in the world in terms



of globalization and could introduce new equipment and highly developed press techniques.

The celebration was attended by a

number of ministers, security officers, editors-in-chief and foreign and Arab media correspondents.

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## Rome swamped by 2 million protesters

ROME (Reuters) - Up to 2 million workers descended on Rome on Saturday in a massive show of force against the killing of a government adviser and against labor reforms the murdered man had helped write.

More than 9,000 buses and 60 special trains brought members of Italy's largest union, the CGIL, from all corners of Italy to the capital and central Rome was blocked off to all traffic.

There was a heavy police presence on watch for any disturbances. Hundreds of anti-globalization protesters mingled with the crowds of unionist and non-unionist marchers.

Television broadcasts and union leaders estimated the turnout was "up

to 2 million" people. Police said there were at least a million protesters and thousands were still arriving hours after march got underway.

Originally designed as a protest against the government's plans for radical labor market reform, the protest was recast this week as a demonstration against "terrorism" following the assassination of government adviser Marco Biagi.

Biagi, a highly respected economist who had worked with both the previous center-left administration and the current conservative government on labor issues, was gunned down in front of his home on Tuesday as he bicycled back from work.



Protesters wave flags as they take part in a mass demonstration in Rome March 23, 2002. More than one million trade unionists converged on Rome to protest against the murder of a government adviser and against labour reforms the murdered man helped to write. REUTERS/Dylan Martinez

## Massive no-fly zone ordered for G-8 summit in Canada

OTTAWA, (Xinhua) — A massive no-fly zone is being established over Kananaskis County in Canada's western province of Alberta for a G-8 summit to be held on June 26-27, it is reported here Friday. Canadian military officials say the restricted airspace — which runs from southeastern part of British Columbia Province to Alberta's Capital city of Calgary — will be patrolled by CF-18s poised to shoot down unauthorized aircraft. "We don't want any-

one to come into this airspace, but if it were to happen, the aircraft could expect to be intercepted and forced down by armed aircraft," Lt.-Col. Benoit Carrier of Canada's Department of National Defence told reporters.

The no-fly zone will be in effect from June 25 to 28. It's the largest restricted airspace ever authorized by Transport Canada. The area affected is a 150-kilometre radius of the wilderness park.

## Riot police mobilized as Bush sets to visit Peru

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) - President Bush on Saturday goes to Peru to lend support to the democratic government of President Alejandro Toledo, as terrorism fears weighed heavily on his planned 17-hour stop.

Peru mobilized thousands of riot police, readied planes and sent out warships on Friday to keep Bush safe during his visit, while the government promised to crack down on terrorism following a bomb attack that killed nine people near the bunker-like U.S. embassy in Lima.

Bush will be the first sitting U.S. president to visit Peru. He is to stop in El Salvador on the way home to Washington on Sunday.

Toledo has hailed Bush's visit as a slap on the back for democracy after the Andean nation's reputation was tarnished by the corruption scandal that felled the hard-line regime of former President Alberto Fujimori in 2000.

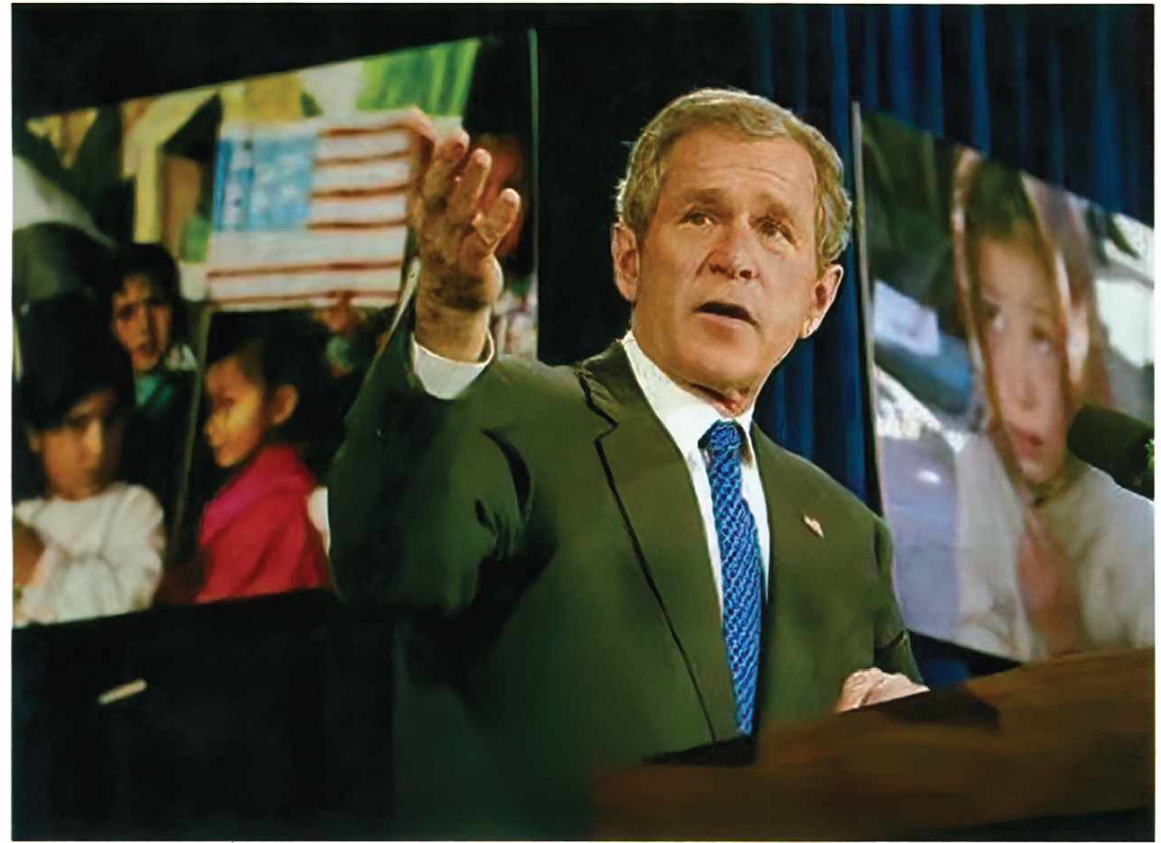
Bush, on a four-day swing through Latin America, "will demonstrate support for a relatively recently elected government that practices pro-democracy reform and also understands and believes in the basic market approach to development," said a senior U.S. official.

Bush on Thursday dismissed the still-unknown bombers as "two-bit terrorists" and vowed that the attack would not keep him from going to Peru.

At a news conference on Friday with Mexican President Vicente Fox, Bush said he would analyze all options available to help Peru fight terrorism in the wake of the bombing.

Bush has offered military training and equipment to Yemen, Georgia and the Philippines to help them quell militants linked to Saudi-born extremist Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. The United States this year is sending \$75 million to help Peru with drug interdiction, law enforcement and security. But Bush said the top priority for Peru is help with its economy.

"The first place we need to help Peru" is persuade the U.S. Congress to



The White House said on March 21 that Bush still plans to visit Peru this week despite a bombing near the U.S. Embassy in Lima that killed nine people. Photo by Win McNamee/Reuters

renew the Andean Trade Preference Act, which offers trade benefits for the Andean nations of Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia, he said.

Bush is to meet Toledo privately, then hold a separate session with Andean nation leaders.

Bush was going to Lima after attending a U.N. development conference in Monterrey, Mexico, where he promoted a three-year, \$10 billion plan for assistance to developing nations that undertake reforms to root out corruption, open markets and respect human rights.

The United States is pushing to curb the flow of illegal drugs from the Andean region, which produces most of the world's cocaine. The United States is the world's top drug consumer.

## Cuba insists Bush behind hasty Castro summit exit

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) - Cuba accused President Bush on Friday of threatening to boycott this week's U.N. aid summit in Mexico unless Cuban President Fidel Castro was made to leave, but Bush insisted he didn't pressure anybody. Castro abandoned the summit meeting in Mexico's northern city of Monterrey on Thursday,

shortly before Bush arrived, and a senior Cuban official said the communist leader was asked by Mexican officials to make himself scarce.

"We received very senior people from the Mexican government before the conference who indicated they had been subjected to U.S. government pressure, specifically threats from President Bush that he would

not come to Monterrey if Fidel Castro came," said Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's national assembly.

Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox, the summit host, both denied the allegations but the dispute threatened to end a recent easing in U.S.-Cuban tensions and hit Cuba's long-standing friendship with Mexico.



Cuban President Fidel Castro speaks to the media as he prepares to leave the Monterrey UN summit on financing development.

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# Middle East meeting ends without result

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - U.S.-mediated talks aimed at forging an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire ended without result on Friday but another meeting was expected soon, despite the third suicide bombing in as many days. U.S. officials have heaped pressure

on the adversaries to show restraint and give the cease-fire mission of Washington's Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni a chance to bear fruit.

Israel has said that if a truce is reached it will lift its travel ban on Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to

allow him to have talks with Vice President Dick Cheney, and to attend an Arab summit next week in Beirut devoted to a Saudi-initiated Middle East peace plan.

Friday's talks took place at a secret location in Israel's biggest city Tel Aviv as another Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up after the taxi he was in was halted at an Israeli army checkpoint in the occupied West Bank, injuring a soldier.

An Israeli security source said the talks were held "at the Americans' behest, although frankly we were reluctant to do so given the continued Palestinian terrorist attacks."

"The meeting ended with no concrete accomplishments as far as we were concerned. We agreed to hold another meeting early next week, possibly on Sunday," he told Reuters.

A senior Palestinian security source said only that clashing Palestinian and Israeli conceptions of the truce were discussed and "there will be further similar meetings in coming days."

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the third suicide bombing in three days.

In a statement, the Israeli army said the bomber would have struck a civilian area in nearby Israel had his taxi not been halted in the northern West Bank just short of the boundary.

Three other Palestinian deaths were reported on Friday.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot dead an armed man approaching a crossing point with Israel, military sources said.

In the southern Gaza town of Rafah, a four-year-old Palestinian girl died a day after being hit by Israeli gunfire, Palestinian hospital officials said. Military sources said troops had fired in the area after coming under grenade attack.

And a Palestinian shepherd was shot dead after being detained by Israeli troops near the West Bank town of Nablus, his family and local medics said. The army said it had shot dead a man in the area after spotting him planting a bomb on a road.

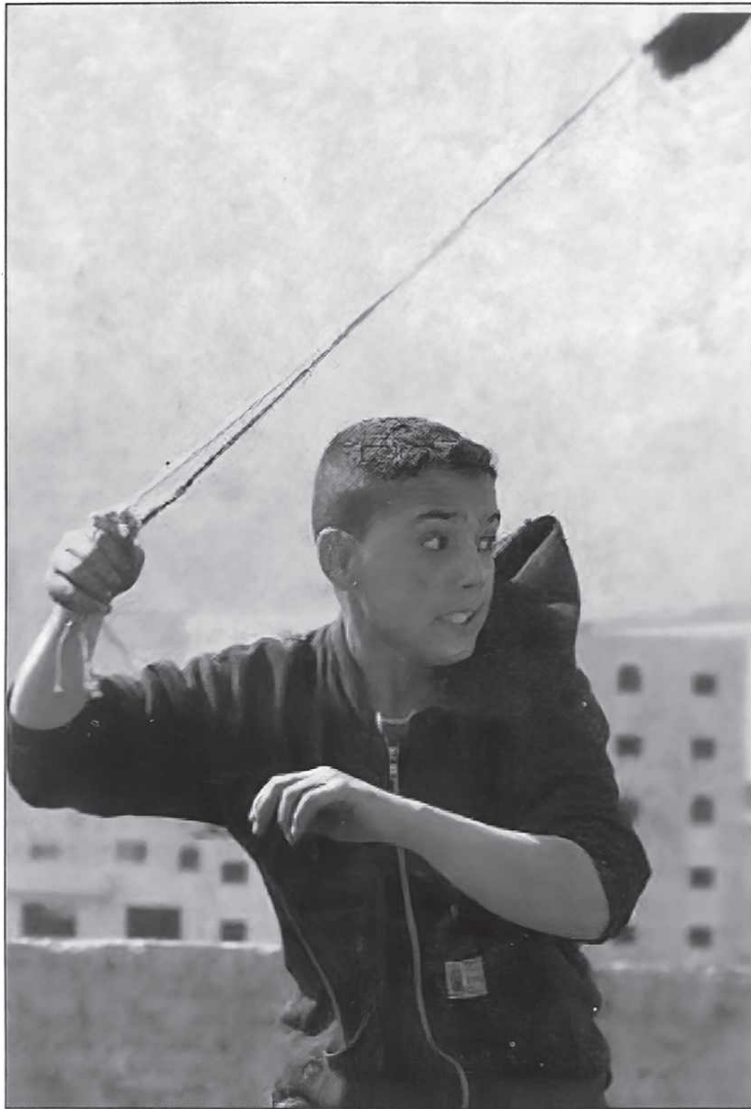
Zinni, a former Marine Corps general, revived U.S. Middle East diplomacy this month after a drastic surge in the bloodshed, which has killed at least 1,090 Palestinians and 355 Israelis since September 2000.

Zinni convened the Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs to try to salvage his truce mission, battered the day before by a Palestinian suicide bombing in downtown Jerusalem that killed three Israelis and wounded over 40.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem bombing. Arafat's Palestinian Authority condemned it and said it would bring the perpetrators to justice.

Militant commanders on Friday dismissed Arafat's call for calm to avoid undermining Zinni, saying their acts were legitimate responses to army killings of Palestinian civilians, particularly in a recent offensive into self-rule zones.

Palestinian officials say, however, that the Israeli army's destruction of Palestinian security infrastructure, closures of towns and clampdowns on main roads have made it difficult for Palestinian security services to track down and jail militants.



A Palestinian youth uses a sling shot to hurl stones at an Israeli position during clashes in the West Bank City of Ramallah.

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## Military move on Iraq is not imminent: Bush

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) - President Bush said on Friday he believed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, but that the United States had "no imminent plans" to attack.

"What I've told others, including President Fox, is we have no imminent plans to use military operations," Bush said in Monterrey after meeting with Mexican President

Vicente Fox. "We'll be deliberate. We'll consult with our friends and allies. But we'll deal with Saddam Hussein, and he knows that," he said, adding "We'd like to see a regime change in Iraq."

In his State of the Union address earlier this year Bush included Iraq in a three-country "axis of evil," with Iran and North Korea, that might be future targets in the U.S. war on terrorism.



U.S. President Bush addresses the UN summit on financing development, in Monterrey.

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1. Professor Peter Ladefoged (UCLA, California)
2. Prof. Damodar Thakur (University of Sana'a)
3. Professor Abdelrahman Abdrabou (Vice-Rector, Hodeidah University)
4. Dr. Christine Coombe (Zayed University, Dubai)
5. Ms. Katherine Bird (Zayd University, Dubai)
6. Dr. Ali Nihat Eken (Bilkent University, Turkey)
7. Prof. Niloufer Bharucha (Bombay University now in Cologne, Germany)
8. Dr. Sridhar Rajeswaran (Formerly in Hodeidah University)
9. Dr. Robert Hill (Milan University, Turkey)
10. Ms. Olha Madylus (British Council, London)
11. Professor T. Balasubramanian (Hodeidah University)

## Zayed's message to Arab summit

President His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan has always championed collective Arab moves over individual stands and he would love to see such moves at next week's Arab summit in Beirut.



Under the title Zayed and the Arab Summit a new publication released by the Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow-up highlighted the President's attitudes towards the need for common Arab positions over the past 30 years.

The centre, in a statement summing up Sheikh Zayed's stands and ideas, said it had issued the new publication to mark the pan-Arab summit opening in the Lebanese capital on Wednesday amidst mounting tension in the region.

"His Highness the President is one of the Arab leaders who have always called and stressed the need for giving priority to joint Arab action over all other individual moves out of his conviction that collective action is the source of the Arab nation's strength and glory," it said.

"Going through His Highness's previous statements and addresses, one can see they all underscore such a stand which has never been a result of tactical or transitional options but a deep-rooted conviction."

The centre said Sheikh Zayed is recognised by several Arab generations as a leader who has "always championed and supported national causes because he believes that cohesive Arab

action is a sacred task."

The book highlighted Sheikh Zayed's statements and addresses at Arab summit conferences over the past three decades. It noted that the President spearheaded a collective Arab campaign against the West during the 1973 Middle East war when he urged them to cut off oil supplies saying "the Arab oil is not dearer than the Arab blood."

It also quoted him as saying before an Arab summit in Algeria following the 1973 war: "The greatest victory against our enemy is our solidarity. Such solidarity which was demonstrated in 1973 was a total surprise to all countries."

"But unity and solidarity did materialise at the battlefield without meetings or conferences...it was an unprecedented unity of will and we must struggle to preserve it in the same way as we struggle to preserve our lives and freedom."

## Kuwaiti Ambassador Yousef A. al-Onaizi to YT:

# "Notion of democracy is loved by all nations and has been desired by all"

The Yemeni - Kuwaiti relationship has been strongly established in the past and has witnessed dramatic shifts in various ways. Evidence of strength and deep relations between Yemen and Kuwait are showing themselves in fields of education, health, development and more in Yemen.

The Kuwait Ambassador to Yemen, Yousef Abdullah al-Onaizi has stressed that the president of the republic said once that no one could hinder the bilateral progress of the Yemeni - Kuwaiti relationship. More light on this topic has been shed by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Yemen.

Ismael al-Ghaberi of the Yemen Times recently met up with H.E, the Kuwaiti Ambassador and conducted the following interview:

**Q: How do you assess the Yemeni-Kuwaiti relationship?**

**A:** Undoubtedly, the Yemeni-Kuwaiti relationship has witnessed dramatic shifts in all aspects. We thank God that the two sisterly countries could exceed the past conflicts and the Yemeni-Kuwaiti relationship has been progressing rapidly. It is firmly established in the past that the Yemeni port has become a spot for Kuwaiti ships. In addition to this, there are the cultural links which have in turn motivated the two leaderships in the countries to push them further for the better.

**Q: You have represented your country in different countries of the world. What are the benefits that you have had from this?**

**A:** Diplomatic missions are interesting and have useful benefits. It familiarizes one with what is going on this world. It also makes possible to establishing relations with active officials and dignitaries in society, and know nations' cultures. I have been able to



President Saleh shakes hand with Kuwaiti Ambassador during the Kuwaiti Cultural Week

make use of these active officials, their experience and dignitaries.

My writings also positively reflect the facets of these relations in some of the Kuwaiti newspapers. I'm about to write a book focusing on my trips and Yemen is also included in this book.

**Q: What are your impressions of Yemen?**

**A:** I'm deeply impressed by the Yemeni people and establishing relationship with them, whether security officers or the common men. Yemenis are away from fraudulence, flattering and malice and that is why I liked Yemenis.

**Q: How do you perceive Yemen's access to some of the committees in the GCC membership?**

**A:** As a matter of fact, the GCC's approval to accept Yemen gradually in the GCC will enhance and consolidate the strategic relations in the Peninsula, due to its strategic location in addition to the human resources and the attractive nature which is bestowed to Yemen.

**Q: Are there any bilateral agreements between the two countries?**

**A:** Actually, there are several agreements between the two countries in the

field of cultural and information. Visits between the two countries is clear evidence in this aspect.

**Q: What does Kuwait gain from the democratic practice and general freedoms?**

**A:** The notion of democracy is loved by all nations and has been desired by all. As a country, Kuwait has made use of this experience a lot and we thank God that Kuwait can cope successfully with the democratic practice. I'm sure that we don't worry about the democratic notion in Kuwait because democracy in Kuwait is deeply rooted in the past.

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Muscat, March 23 (ONA)— The Sultanate and the People's Republic of China signed at Grant Hyatt Muscat Hotel here today three agreements on cooperation in oil field and sale and purchase of Omani crude oil with China.

Salim bin Mohammed Sha'aban, Oil and Gas Ministry Undersecretary signed the agreements on behalf of the Omani government, while directors general at the Chinese national oil establishment and some Chinese companies signed for their country's side.

The signing ceremony was attended by Maqbool bin Ali Sultan, Commerce and Industry Minister and Wu Yi, Chinese State Councilor, the Chinese ambassador to the Sultanate, the delegation accompanying the state councilor and oil and gas ministry officials.

Sha'aban said the first agreement was a MoU between the Sultanate and the Chinese national establishment which desired to enter into activities relating to oil sector such as exploration and other services.

He said discussion was currently underway with the Chinese establishment to grant it some concession areas if the two sides agreed on the terms of the relation binding them, noting that the MoU stressed the willingness of both sides to cooperate in this field and adding that even if the two sides did not agree on the concession areas the MoU would be valid.

He pointed out that the other two agreements were on renewal of sale and purchase contracts of Omani crude oil with Chinese companies, as China wished to increase its purchases of Omani oil through direct buying from the government, noting that China used to buy Omani oil through Western companies. However, some Chinese companies had recently expressed their wish to directly purchase Omani oil and it was agreed with them, he said.

Two Chinese Companies would purchase 34,000 barrels of Omani oil daily and that the Chinese side intended to purchase more quantities of oil which the Sultanate would avail during the upcoming period, he added.

The agreements signed with the Chinese companies renewed the sales contracts for a year to start from upcoming July

## Oman and China – oil agreement



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# Americans start partial withdrawal from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - Heavy security surrounded the U.S. embassy and three consulates in Pakistan on Saturday as diplomats decided how many staff to keep after Washington ordered families and non-essential people to leave.

Five days after a grenade attack on an Islamabad church killed five people, including two Americans, the State Department said the security situation in Pakistan warranted the withdrawal of all but vital personnel.

The decision also comes two months after Daniel Pearl, The Wall Street Journal's South Asia bureau chief, was abducted and murdered in the southern port city of Karachi while working on stories about militant Islamic groups.

No one has claimed responsibility for the church attack but suspicion is aimed at radical Muslim groups opposed to President Pervez Musharraf's active role in the U.S.-led

war on terror and his clampdown on Islamic hard-liners.

"This is going to be an expeditious but orderly departure," the U.S. diplomat told Reuters. "It's all the dependants at the embassy. The numbers of non-emergency personnel will have to be determined."

He said embassy would not furnish travel details for security reasons.

"We don't want people knowing which planes they're on or what's going on," he said.

On Monday, the embassy had begun a lower level of staff reduction known as an "authorized departure," meaning it would offer flights home to those who choose to leave.

The United States announced a similar departure from Pakistan last September after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Dependents were allowed back in January.

# Afghan Taliban prisoners freed, thousands stay

SHIBARGHAN, Afghanistan (Reuters) - Hundreds of former Taliban fighters were freed in a goodwill gesture in this northern Afghan town on Friday, but thousands were still held in appalling conditions in one of Afghanistan's harshest prisons.

Heavy prison gates were flung open and most of the 258 released captives poured out in a chaotic and jubilant mass from the prison of Shibarghan where they had been kept for four months.

Groups of relatives, tears in their eyes, rushed to hug their emaciated but happy kinsmen, some of whom could not walk on their own and were supported or carried by their fellows.

Minutes earlier the inmates, soaked by rain and huddled in the muddy prison yard, had heard Deputy Defense Minister Abdul Rashid Dostum say that Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai had ordered their release in a sign of reconciliation marking the spring holiday of Nauroz.

Karzai said at Thursday's Nauroz festivities that a total of 300 Shibarghan captives would be freed

to mark the holiday, which celebrates the spring equinox and the New Afghan year, revived after being banned for years by the purist Taliban movement.

"Today is the happiest day in my life," 18-year old Muhammaddin told Reuters before leaving the prison.

"I will now return to my home and will serve only my mother and father," said the pale and weary peasant dressed in tatters.

Like most of the more than 3,000 prisoners held in this town some 85 miles west from the regional capital of Mazar-i-Sharif, Muhammaddin was captured after laying down his arms following fighting in nearby Konduz province in the U.S.-led "war on terror."

Roughly 3,000 other inmates remain in the crumbling, but well-guarded, prison.

The three dank and overcrowded cell blocks, with a stench of unwashed bodies and from which erupt monotonous pleas for help and mercy, more resemble cattle sheds or ill-kept stables than a jail.



Former Taliban fighters sit in their cells in the prison in northern Afghan town of Shibarghan, some 130 km west from Mazar-i-Sharif, March 22, 2002. Hundreds of former Taliban fighters were freed in a goodwill gesture in Shibarghan on Friday, while thousands still stay in appalling conditions in one of the country's most grisly prisons.

# Bangladesh and India start border talks

DHAKA (Reuters) - Bangladesh and Indian border security chiefs began talks for resolving disputes on their border which often result in the exchange of fire and deaths, officials said.

"The three-day meeting will try to remove existing irritants between the two friendly neighbors," Colonel Ahmedullah Imam, of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), paramilitary border force, told Reuters.

Gurbachan Jagat, Director General

of Indian Border Security Force (BSF), arrived in Dhaka on Friday for talks with his BDR counterpart Rezaqul Haider.

The meeting came after the two countries' border forces exchanged heavy fire this month over a disputed tea garden on their 4,000-km (2,500-km) frontier.

Neither side suffered any casualties in that clash.

Dhaka said the firefight started after their troops tried to stop Indians from

planting tea bushes in the plantation, which Bangladesh said had been extended into the border zone in contravention of a 1975 treaty.

India will table at least eight issues including trans-border crimes, the alleged flow of Bangladeshis into India, and Indian insurgents' activities in Bangladesh, another BDR official said.

Indian BSF forces shot dead 70 Bangladeshis for an alleged illegal crossing into Indian territory after April last year, BDR statistics said.

# Nepal says 20 Maoist rebels killed in assaults

KATHMANDU (Reuters) - Nepal said on Friday its soldiers had killed 20 rebels in 24 hours of operations against the Maoist guerrillas trying to overthrow the constitutional monarchy.

Defense Ministry spokesman Bhola Silwal said a dozen rebels died in gunbattles on Friday in Syangja and Parbat in west Nepal and in Sankhuwasabha in the east.

The others were killed elsewhere in the Himalayan kingdom on Thursday, Silwal said in a statement.

Indian pledged on Thursday to offer intelligence, equipment and training to help Nepal crush the insurgency. The offer was made during a visit to India by Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur.

Nepal mobilized its army last November after the guerrillas broke a truce and resumed their violent campaign to set up a one party communist republic in Nepal.

More than 2,900 people have been killed since the conflict first erupted in 1996.

# Twelve killed, 42 wounded in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (Reuters) - Twelve people have been killed and 42 wounded in separate shootouts and explosions in the past 24 hours in India's revolt-racked Kashmir region, police said on Friday.

Separatist violence has surged in recent weeks across the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir which remains at the center of a long military standoff between India and Pakistan.

At least 42 people were wounded on Friday when unidentified militants hurled grenades into crowded public areas in south Kashmir, police said.

"Militants lobbed a grenade at a marketplace in Shopian that exploded and injured 25 civilians," a police official told Reuters. Shopian is 30 miles south of Srinagar, the summer capital of the Himalayan state.

Seventeen civilians were wounded when unidentified militants hurled another grenade at a bus station in Anantnag, the main town in southern Kashmir, a police spokesman said.

None of the more than a dozen guerrilla groups fighting Indian rule in the Muslim-majority state have claimed responsibility for the blasts. Some accused pro-India groups for the attacks.

"We strongly condemn these grenade attacks. These attacks are the handiwork of pro-government militants," a statement from the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen said.

"Pro-government militants will try to continue such acts in future, but we will not let them succeed in their nefarious designs," Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen said.

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen are fighting for Kashmir's merger with neighboring Pakistan. At least two pro-India groups are helping Indian security forces to combat militancy.

Suspected rebels shot dead four Muslim villagers including a woman in Doda and Udhampur districts, south of

Srinagar, late on Thursday, police said. Elsewhere, Indian security forces shot dead eight rebels in separate gunbattles across the region, police said.

More than 33,000 people have died since Islamic guerrillas seeking either independence or union with Pakistan

launched a revolt in late 1989. More than 550 people, mostly rebels, have been killed since January this year in the region.

India, which controls 45 percent of Kashmir, accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim militants.



An unidentified man holds a bottle of fluids for blast victim Abdul Shaban, at a hospital in Srinagar, Kashmir March 22, 2002. At least 42 people were wounded when unidentified militants hurled grenades into crowded public areas in the revolt-racked Indian Kashmir region, police said.

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## Zimbabwe to seize more farms, defies pressure

HARARE (Reuters) - Zimbabwe's government on Friday earmarked more white farms for seizure in defiance of rising international pressure against President Robert Mugabe after his controversial election victory.

The government published in the state-owned Herald newspaper a list of 388 farms for seizure — including ranches owned by South Africa's wealthy Oppenheimer family, which has huge mining interests in southern Africa.

"Notice is hereby given...that the President intends to acquire compulsorily the land described in the schedule for resettlement purposes," read the advertisement.

It did not give a time frame for the seizures, but owners have until April 22 to lodge objections.

The announcement comes on the heels of the southern African nation's one-year suspension from the 54-nation Commonwealth this week after its election monitors said the March 9-11 presidential election was neither free nor fair.

On Wednesday, opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Morgan Tsvangirai appeared in court on treason charges.

A barely heeded three-day strike called by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) to protest against violence collapsed on the final day, Friday, with workers claiming that fear of reprisals and harsh laws had driven protesters back to work.

"The environment in which we are operating is so cruel...we are going to evaluate the weaknesses and what we could have avoided," said ZCTU president Lovemore Matombo.

The United States on Thursday warned African countries they could lose U.S. aid if they did not take a stand against Mugabe's re-election, rejected by many observer missions as fraudulent.

"They are essentially saying 'to hell



Zimbabwean workers of slain farmer Terry Ford line the wall of the Highlands Presbyterian Church in Harare at his funeral.

with the Commonwealth.' The government is clearly unrepentant and we are going to see worse trouble, with pressure growing for a new election," said John Makumbe, a political science lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe.

"They will need to keep the land issue alive so that they can use it in case there is an election re-run. More farmers are going to be driven off their land."

Mugabe — who says it is immoral for the 4,500 white farmers to occupy

70 percent of the country's best farm land — vowed at his inauguration to press ahead with the land reform program.

The government wants to seize at least 8.3 million hectares (20.5 million acres) of the 12 million hectares (29.6 million acres) in white hands. It has so far listed about 6,000 farms, representing about 90 percent of commercial farm land, for seizure, but not all have been taken yet.

## Former Rwandan priest arrested on genocide charges

ARUSHA (Reuters) - A former Rwandan Catholic priest charged with involvement in Rwanda's 1994 genocide has been arrested in Cameroon and will be transferred to a U.N. tribunal in Tanzania, the Internews agency said on Saturday.

Hormisdas Nsengimana, 48, was a rector in Rwanda's southwestern Butare province and is accused of playing a leading role in the killing of ethnic Tutsis in the province. He was arrested on Thursday, the independent news agency said.

Around 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred in Rwanda by extremist Hutus in the three months from April to June 1994.

The prosecution quotes Nsengimana as telling a Tutsi priest in March 1994: "I hate Tutsi. You will not last long and you will see your fate soon."

Nsengimana is charged with genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and crimes against humanity, including murder and extermination.

He will be transferred to ICTR detention facilities in Arusha, northern Tanzania soon, a source at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda told Internews.

The tribunal has convicted eight people and acquitted one since the United Nations Security Council set it up in 1995.

## Africans must learn from Zimbabwe's mistakes: Mbeki

JOHANNESBURG — South African President Thabo Mbeki on Friday urged his countrymen to learn from Zimbabwe's mistakes and avoid similar problems at home.

In an article published in the ANC (African National Congress) Today, Mbeki said that Zimbabwe held important lessons for South Africa, especially in building a non-racial society, as well as issues of social transformation.

The fact that Zimbabwe had been independent for 22 years, showed that these were not easy matters to deal with, he noted.

"As a country we must learn everything we can from the experiences of our neighbor, so that we do not repeat mistakes that have been made... At the same time, we have to continue to strive to ensure that the negative consequences of such mistakes do not spill over to any of the countries of our region."

"Our approach to any adverse matter that might arise in Zimbabwe must ensure that we do not encourage the emergence of similar adverse responses in our countries," Mbeki said.

Zimbabweans, he said, had a common task to identify for themselves what was in their national interests and the common challenges that faced them, regardless of race, ethnicity and gender.

They also had to build a truly non-racial society, as well as ending any ethnic tensions that might exist, Mbeki said.

On Zimbabwe's suspension from the

Commonwealth for a year, Mbeki said the 54-member body was committed to supporting Zimbabwe

's process of reconciliation, facilitated by Nigeria and South Africa.

It had also agreed to urgently assist Zimbabwe to address the current food shortages, help resolve the land question and support its economic recovery.

"(These) lay the basis for Zimbabwe to extricate itself from the political and economic crisis it confronts, with the support of the Commonwealth and the rest of the world," Mbeki said.

South Africa was inextricably linked to Zimbabwe and had sought to contribute everything it could to help Zimbabwean find solutions to these problems, to avoid a further worsening of the situation, he said.

It was South Africa's duty to work diligently to help realize the goals set by the Commonwealth, he said.

"We will have to approach our collective task in an honest and principled manner, without being driven by any desire to create a situation of confrontation. Undoubtedly, the Commonwealth will also adopt a similar posture."

He repeated that the future of Zimbabwe must and would be decided by its people.

"To be productive, our interventions in this regard can only be as friends who act to support democracy, peace, stability and prosperity for all the people of that country," he said.

## Angolan government forces try to contact rebel chiefs

LUANDA, March 22 (Xinhua) — The Angolan government army is working for the establishment of contacts with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) military chiefs in Ganda, Central Benguela Province, a senior government official said on Friday.

Angolan news agency Angop quoted Major Mimoso, head of the Angolan Armed Forces Municipal Command in Ganda, as saying that "

some letters have been addressed to the UNITA military chiefs, through the Church and relatives of UNITA officials, as well as civilians coming from the bushes."

However, since the cessation of the offensive movements by the government army on March 14, there has not been any signals from the UNITA forces, despite the letters that the armed forces sent for the restoration of trust, Mimoso said.

## Announcement

### Nabors Drilling International Ltd

Nabors Drilling International Ltd in the Republic of Yemen registered at the Ministry of Industry & Trade in accordance with the cabinet decree No. 18 ( January 24, 2001), announces that according to the document submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Trade on behalf of the parent company in December 10, 2001:

Nabors Drilling International Ltd branch in Yemen will replace Nabors Yemen Ltd in Yemen. Accordingly, Nabors Drilling International Ltd branch will be responsible for all the commitments and dealings on behalf of Nabors Yemen limited.

### Notice:

***Nabors Drilling International Ltd branch will be in the same premises used by Nabors Yemen Ltd.***

## إعلان

### من شركة نيبورس الدولية للحفريات المحدودة

يعلن فرع شركة نيبورس الدولية للحفريات المحدودة  
Nabors Drilling International Ltd

في الجمهورية اليمنية المسجل لدى وزارة الصناعة والتجارة بموجب القرار الوزاري رقم (١٨) وتاريخ ٢٤/١/٢٠٠١م، بأنه بموجب الوثيقة المقدمة الى وزارة الصناعة والتجارة الصادرة عن المركز الرئيسي للشركة بتاريخ ١٠/١٢/٢٠٠١م فإن فرع شركة نيبورس الدولية للحفريات المحدودة في الجمهورية اليمنية سوف تحل محل فرع شركة نيبورس اليمن المحدودة في الجمهورية اليمنية.

وعليه فإن فرع شركة نيبورس الدولية للحفريات المحدودة

Nabors Drilling International Ltd

يعلن على كل من له علاقة بفرع شركة نيبورس اليمن المحدودة في الجمهورية اليمنية بأنه سوف يتحمل كامل المسؤولية نيابة عن فرع شركة نيبورس اليمن المحدودة بالنسبة لكافة الالتزامات المستحقة او التي سوف تستحق على الفرع المذكور مستقبلاً.

علمًا بأن أعمال ومقر فرع نيبورس الدولية للحفريات المحدودة هي نفس أعمال ومقر فرع نيبورس اليمن المحدودة.

ولهذا لزم الاعلان.



# YT Business

## Yemeni Development Foundation: Empowering communities, broadening horizons

By KAREN DABROWSKA FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

When he talks about the death of a Yemeni worker in a factory in the north of England where he was receiving only £1.50 an hour, Mohammad Almasryabi the Chief Executive of the Yemeni Development Foundation (YDF) talks as if he has lost a member of his family.

Almost as tragic as the death itself is the fact that other Yemenis were lining up at the factory gates eager to take the job in an establishment which is clearly violating health and safety regulations and taking little notice of the basic minimum wage of £4.00.

Almasryabi is a man with a mission. He is determined to broaden the vision of the Yemeni and other immigrant communities in Britain who are stuck in the stagnant factory culture focused on menial jobs, the family and politics in their home country thousands of miles away from Britain.

At a recent lecture to the British-Yemeni Society he described how his concern about the social exclusion of the Yemeni community prompted him to set up the YDF.

The history of the Yemeni community in Britain can be traced back to 1865. It was the first Arab community and one of the first ever ethnic groups to settle in the UK. The community at the time was made up mostly of single men working as sailors and workers on British merchant and navy ships. Some Yemenis joined the British army and others worked at the docks.

Yemeni men gradually moved from the unsettling work of sea life to that of the steel factories and foundries. Some married English, Welsh and Irish women but others preferred to lead a semi-single life with their wives back home in Yemen going backwards and forwards for a few months or weeks.

In the late 70s many Yemenis lost their jobs due to the industrial decline and the closure of factories. Many left the UK to the Gulf States and some to the USA to seek better job prospects.

According to the YDF's latest annual report, the present situation of the community is improving: a younger generation is emerging better equipped



Mohammad Almasryabi: A man on a mission to broaden people's visions.

with the necessary skills, education and culture to meet the challenges of life.

Today there are around 40,000 Yemenis in Britain originating mostly from rural areas in north Yemen and the southern regions, from Ibb Shamir district of Taiz to Dhali, al Shuaib Yafi in Aden.

The community still consists mostly of men working in the steel industry, mainly in Birmingham and Sheffield. Some hold on to their 'own' towns where they spent their youth and have joyful memories in Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, South Shields, Middlesborough, London and Liverpool.

Economically, some members of the community have taken up the challenge of setting up their own business such as small corner and grocery shops. A number have started to prosper and others such as Prince Naseem Hamid, have become household names in both Britain and Yemen.

But the YDF is quick to point out that socially the community is still far from progressive, and marriage and issues relating to the role of women are

still causing concern. Although there are no religious barriers in lifting the cultural restrictions on women many do not play an active role in British society or the Yemeni community. Politically the community is still under-represented and its influence is negligible.

"I wanted to raise the profile of this community", Almasryabi explained. "Many Yemenis came to Britain with the idea that they would earn some money and go back home - but they never went home. Yet even some members of the third generation have the idea they will return to Yemen."

There are more than 20 Yemeni organizations in Britain but, according to Almasryabi, many are inward looking. The YDF set up 18 months ago, originally planned to concentrate its efforts among the Yemenis. But today it is working with eight Yemeni organizations as well as communities of others, such as Somalis, Algerians, Iraqis, Bosnians, Kurds, Albanians and Kosovans. A Somali doctor with 20 years experience in his country was assisted in identifying a course at

tude to the participation of women in the management of the organizations it works with.

Since its establishment it has presented a paper on Yemen at the European NGO Forum Conference organized by the EU in Brussels parallel to the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held promotional networking meetings and workshops with various economic regeneration agencies to promote the needs and interests of its members, assisted seven groups to receive grant aid from various sources and received requests for support from over 20 grass-roots voluntary organizations to provide a range of training and development services.

As well as helping to build bridges of co-operation between Yemeni communities, immigrant communities and the host society, YDF is also working at the street level in Yemen by assisting organizations which will help alleviate poverty and reduce disease.

In a country where there is no social security Almasryabi is especially concerned about the plight of the handicapped and the cure of childhood diseases such as hydrocephalus which can lead to permanent disability.

The YDF has signed agreements of co-operation and partnership with ten Yemeni NGOs in various parts of the country concerned with the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled people, vocational skills training for children and poverty-stricken men and women, primary reproductive and health care and mental health.

Almasryabi has personally checked out the activities of the NGOs YDF supports and warns of many so-called charitable societies which have an impressive name on a big building and are little more than a qat chewing venue to enhance the founders' status.

"We are optimistic, we are ambitious, we are committed and we are convinced that the results of our work will be fruitful", he says with a confident, sincere non-arrogant pride.

YDF can be contacted at Magnolia House, 73 Conybere Street, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0YL, UK: tel 00-44-121-685-1800 fax: 00-44-121-685-1801, email admin@ydf.org.uk website www.ydf.org.uk



### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial as of March 23

Curr.	Buying	Selling
USD	171.200	171.460
GBP	242.510	242.880
EUR	151.9700	152.200
SAR	45.650	45.720
KWD	558.130	558.980
AED	46.610	46.680
EGP	40.140	40.200
BHD	454.120	454.810
QAR	47.030	47.100
JOD	---	241.900
OMR	---	445.360
DEM	77.700	77.820
CHF	103.170	103.320
FRF	---	23.200
ITL	.078483	.078602
NLG	68.960	69.060
SEK	16.190	16.210
BEF	3.7700	3.7400
TPY	1.375155	1.377244

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

### In Brief

#### Total banks budgets surge

The overall budget of commercial banks operating in Yemen rose to YR 358 billion in 2002 against YR 299 billion at the end of 2000, an increase of 20 percent. The amount of deposits at banks amounted to YR 308 billion to the end of the last year, against YR 251 billion at the end of 2000 at an increase rate of 19 percent.

#### Yemeni agricultural products to Saudi Arabia

Saudi customs General-Director, Saleh Ali al-Barak, said, the Saudi markets are now open for all Yemeni agricultural products conforming to the Saudi standards. Yemeni agricultural products will also be prioritized at the Saudi markets for its relative quality, according to the statement of al-Barak following his meeting with Yemeni officials in Sana'a.

#### Immigrants protection draft law

The cabinet has approved a draft law for protecting and supporting immigrant's investments. The cabinet has also decided to raise the minimum pensions to 7,000 as of 2002.

#### Oil promotion symposium

A symposium for promoting oil is due next April in Doha, Qatar. Available oil and mineral projects in Yemen will be marketed during this symposium.

## Moving toward better loan policies

By MAHYOOB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES ECONOMIC EDITOR

Yemen's government is moving towards a revamped policy on foreign loans and assistance, due to its inability to go ahead with some projects that are funded from outside the country.

This change comes after warnings that foreign loans are wasted, while many areas of the country are still deprived of basic projects.

According to some officials, financial sources the overall debts of Yemen total \$4.9 billion of which \$1 billion are loans used for development projects constructed after 1995 and during the economic reform program. Outlining an appropriate mechanism for organizing loans is another step to protect public properties and reduce the size of loans.

The current economic reform program aims to reduce the amount of foreign debts. Despite the success of the government through the assistance of the donor countries in rescheduling the foreign loans, which dropped from \$10 billion in 1994 to less than \$3.9 billion in 1997, the government resorted to ask for loans again, which raised Yemen's

debts to \$4.9 billion at the beginning of 2002. Despite all these loans, many of the projects funded through loans are still incomplete.

Yemen needs a radical solution to end its current dependency on foreign loans and this might be achieved through adopting these mechanisms:

- Assess the volume of crippled projects, find the reasons behind that and hold those responsible to be accountable.
- Map out the needs of the remote areas for development projects and specify the ratio of the needed financing as per the local and foreign funds.
- Entrust the implementation of those projects to specialized financial committees. These committees should also be held accountable in case they fail to carry out the duties entrusted to them.

Now, it is no longer acceptable for Yemeni to ask for loans merely for purchasing arms, as it will have to repay those. The repayment period will extend for 20 years. Most of these debts are owed to Russia, which has exempted Yemen from 67% of the debts owed to it.

We hope that the new proposal concerning the proper utilization of loans will have fruitful results in implementing development projects in Yemen.

## Yemen and the GCC get closer

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's partial access into the GCC indicates improved relations with its neighbors and better opportunities to improve the republic.

In a symposium organized by the General People's Conference (PGC) "Yemen and the Gulf Council", participants concluded that Yemen stands to gain with its gradual access to some of the institutions of the GCC.

The political consultant of the President, Abdulkareem al-Eriani has denied that politics will be an impediment to Yemen's eventual total access to the GCC membership.

In his speech at the opening of the symposium, al-Eriani said that Yemen has been desiring both help and partnerships in investment, commerce, and economic areas.

Being members of the GCC will help these partnerships, and narrow misunderstandings.

The Head of the Culture and Information Division, Hameed al-Awadhi indicated that Yemen's access to some of the institutions of the GCC will strengthen the bilateral relation-

ship and coordination within the framework of missions of both sides.

Total membership requires a comprehensive understanding of the GCC institutions.

The Chairman of the Division Economy at the PGC, Mohammed Abduh Saeed sees that Yemen's access to some of the institutions of the GCC will help economic relations and promote initiatives for investment.

In addition to this, making use of human resources and encouraging the role of the private sector in this respect, will help a lot in consolidating economic growth and broadening the horizons of bilateral cooperation.

Hamood Monassar, a journalist, said that Yemen possesses human resources which makes it fit for demands of the Gulf market.

Investment opportunities also can be found in Yemen in different aspects such as, commerce, industry and natural resources. Yemen's strategic location overlooking on the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and the Horn of Africa makes Yemen a vital spot.

The symposium concluded that there should be more discussion of future development between Yemen and the GCC countries.

### Training Program at the Ministry of Planning & Development



The Ministry of Planning & Development invites university graduates to the training program it will organize in economics, civil engineering, statistics, information systems/computer and English translation. The ministry will later select some of the best participants to join in work at its different departments.

#### Requirements:

- 1- Very Good university grade in one of the abovementioned fields.
- 2- Should not be above 30 years old.
- 3- Very good command of English. Applicants should have a certificate of completion.
- 4- Good computer skills (Windows applications). Applicants should have certificates proving that.
- 5- Applicants will have to successfully go through an interview and other tests.

The training program will last for 3 months during which trainees will be offered training allowances. Later, trainees who successfully pass the training program will be selected to work with the ministry. Females candidates will have a specific share of the accepted participants.

Interested candidates can apply to the Human Resources Department of the Ministry of Planning & Development located at al-Huriya street.

**Deadline: One week from publishing this announcement.**

# Al-Jazeera's general director to YT

## "Al-Jazeera influences Arab political decisions"

BY MOHAMMED H. AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The new media is doing much to change the Arab world. The release of a number of satellite TV channels and internet sites is, of course, making radical changes in Arab public opinion.

Al-Jazeera is the leading channel that has broken barriers in various ways.

Yemen Times met Mohammed Jasim al-Ali, al-Jazeera board member and general director at "The New Media and Change in the Arab World" Conference in Amman and discussed with him issues relating to new media and the experience of al-Jazeera in this respect. Following are edited excerpts of the interview.

**YT - How do you think the New Media Conference is important in bringing private Arab media together?**

**al-Ali -** I think the Arab world needs independent and private media organizations to come together. They can play a considerable role in the drive to change. The government media is marginalized. Therefore, their role in the future is very significant and pivotal. Such meetings for private media enable us to exchange views and cooperate as well as compete. The New Media Conference brought us closer and we discussed how to improve our job in the future.

**YT - How far do you think new media is changing the Arab world?**

**al-Ali -** The new information technology is a great revolution that is bringing the world community closer and closer. The so-called "invasion" which we used to fear for a long time is now among us. Censorship is no longer effective for information.

This, of course, was an important reason behind the launch of satellite TV channels. In the beginning semi-independent channels were born, but they couldn't change strongly. Later, the phase of private channels came to life.

Regardless, whether we agree or disagree with al-Jazeera experience, it is a turning point in the history of the Arab media. It has been able to change many concepts which we believed for a long time to be true. It has also affected other media organizations. Now, there is a tendency for more freedom and we hope the drive of change will speed up and grow further.



**YT - Do you believe that for this reason al-Jazeera has disturbed Arab regimes?**

**al-Ali -** Al-Jazeera chose another way different from other media channels. It specialized in news reporting. This was not done by others in such a specialized manner. The BBC tried to broadcast in Arabic but later it was, unfortunately, closed down.

When al-Jazeera came to existence, there were a lot of red lines and taboos that were not to be crossed. However we went beyond them.

Some officials in the Arab world had different views of us in the beginning. But now after five years, they realize that al-Jazeera is a reality to be recognized.

Frankly, Arab officials who used to refuse to participate in analytical news reports or debates on sensitive issues, now take the initiative and show interest in taking part in discussions of hot issues.

**YT - Does this mean that new media is forcing even the Arab 'Big Guys' to deal with the new changes?**

**al-Ali -** Of course. Our experience in al-Jazeera makes us feel that there is a change and people have started to interact with the media. Governments have realized the importance of the media and the interaction with it. Al-Jazeera could considerably influence the political decisions in the Arab countries.

We believe there is no absolute free-

dom. There was pressure from the US administration on the US as well as Arab channels not to give chance to the Taliban and al-Qaida leaders to appear and present their opinion. But our mission is to give different opinions an opportunity to be presented.

This doesn't mean that we support one side against the other. For instance, when we make Israeli officials appear on al-Jazeera, it doesn't mean we favor their views. It is the professionalism that makes us do so.

**YT - It is said that freedom in the world has been changed by the attacks on the U.S.A. Do you agree?**

**al-Ali -** Yes, of course. I do believe before the September 11 attacks, there were more freedoms for the media but now those freedoms have been restricted.

Journalists are now obsessed with the ghost of self-censorship, as a number of freedom-restricting laws have been made in the U.S.A, Europe and Arab countries.

In al-Jazeera we are trying to maintain the bond of trust between us and the viewers. It is now difficult to direct them to watch a particular channel for the information sources. So we do care about our credibility and we will continue to work in the same way.

**YT - To what extent has the war in Afghanistan helped al-Jazeera?**

**al-Ali -** The war in Afghanistan helped us a lot, since we were the only

Arab channel operating there. How would have the world's media operated if we were not there? Was it going to present the opinion of one side only?

We had the same experience during the Desert Fox operation in December 1998. We were the only channel covering this operation.

But the war in Afghanistan gave us more publicity all over the world. We could at times be the sole source of information. This brought us closer to the other media organizations as well as viewers. Most people all over the world are now familiar with al-Jazeera. We are now a source of news.

We now have agreements with CNN, ABC, NBC, FOX, BBC and German ZDF. Another agreement with the Japanese NHK is underway.

Our cooperation with CNN is particularly important, in the sense we agreed that correspondents of both of our stations can appear on our two channels. We have a meeting next April with CNN to discuss what we did in the past and how to further cooperate in the future. We would like to have similar cooperation with Arab channels.

I believe one of the most important recommendations of the new media conference is to establish a body uniting all independent Arab channels. We need such organizations or unions, for we are faced by many difficulties and constraints. We should hurry to find support from media establishments in the Arab World.

**YT - How do you manage finances?**

**al-Ali -** As you know, when al-Jazeera launched in 1995, it was loaned 500 million Qatari Riyals by the Qatari government for five years. The loan ended in November 2001 and now we are self-financed. We have tried to find other sources of income other than advertisements and selling documentary programs to other channels.

The most important thing is how to deal with the information and become its producer and exporter rather than consumer. We are operating from the Middle East, which always has escalating events.

Middle East and Islamic countries are a good place for specialized news channels. We sell photos, information and hire our devices to other channels. This generates money. Al-Jazeera is also a pay-TV channel in the USA, Australia, Asia, Africa and Latin America. The September 11 incidents helped us to join cable TVs in Europe, the USA and Asia. So we invest in these fields and get a good amount of money.

**YT - What are your future projects?**

**al-Ali -** The board members of al-Jazeera headed by Sheikh Hamd bin Thamer have ambitions to improve the services of the channel. Over a year ago we launched al-Jazeera net service. We will soon launch a serialized documentary channel in Arabic. We are studying a project of starting an economic channel plus other ambitious projects.

I believe we can improve our work better if we depend on a qualified team as well as introducing highly advanced technology to our work. We depend on these two elements in our work.

With regards to broadcasting in English, in our next meeting of the board members, we will discuss a project of launching a channel in English. Right now, we broadcast in Japanese for four hours a day though a cable network in Japan. We have signed an agreement with a US company to broadcast in English for 12 hours a day through live interpretation for our programs to reach people in the USA.



**Yemeni Development Foundation**

People For Sustainable Development  
Company limited by guarantee No. 3945492

Yemeni Development Foundation is a young, dynamic non-profit organisation, which exists to support "invisible" ethnic groups. YDF has programmes in Yemen and in UK.

YDF currently seeks to appoint an experienced and motivated:

**\* Administrator**

Duties include the daily reception and administrative duties of the organisation.

Essential personal specifications include: IT skills, filing, fluency in English/Arabic.

**\* Project Officer**

Essential personal specifications include: fundraising, project design and management.

Salary: negotiable depending on experience and qualifications

Working for YDF is interesting as you will be working in a stimulating and supportive environment with plenty of personal and professional development opportunities, as well as dealing with people and groups with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

For more information and job descriptions please contact us.

Interested applicants should apply with up-to-date CVs with recent photographs to:

**Mohammad Almasayabi**  
Chief Executive  
Yemeni Development Foundation  
Magnolia House, 73 Conybere Street,  
Birmingham, B12 0YL, UK  
Tel. 00 44- 121- 685 1800  
Fax. 00 44 -121 -685 1801  
Email: admin@ydf.org.uk

## Aden Free Zone: three years on, a success



**Engineer: Adel Mohammed Othman**

In March 19, 1999, the first ship arrived at the Aden Container Terminal and unloaded its containers.

**Aden's Containers Terminal features:**

The excellent strategic and geographical

location of the port of Aden is what actually makes Aden Container Terminal excel over the other container terminals in the region. The calm waters surrounding the port of Aden is yet another advantage which is coupled with a deep harbor that enables it to receive the biggest ves-

sels in the world. Ships coming from the Suez channel to Far East ports need not to adjust their routes to reach the Aden Container Terminal. Still, the 24-hour service and the fast routine-free procedures are another advantage enjoyed by Aden Container Terminal.



wing to the strategic and geographical location of the city of Aden and as part of the political leadership's commitments for developing the Yemeni economy, Aden Free Zone has been established.

Now, as we are celebrating the 3rd anniversary of operating the Aden Container Terminal, we should remember the beginning of this giant project.

The start was in March 1996 when the General Authority for Aden Free Zone signed an agreement for upgrading the projects of the Aden Free Zone with Yeminvest. The agreement stipulated the establishment of a container terminal project and a project for the industrial and warehousing zone.

The work at the zone was divided into three phases. The total distance of the dock is 1,650 meters. Five harbors have been constructed to receive giant vessels with the capacity of 500,000 containers a year.

## Financial Accountant - Marie Stopes International Yemen

MSI is working in over 35 countries worldwide to provide reproductive health services, so enabling couples to have children by choice, not chance. We are now looking for an experienced accountant to work in our expanding Yemen programme and to take responsibility for developing and maintaining systems to ensure that the financial management of projects and financial reporting to donors are efficient effective.

With two to three years' experience in an accounting role in a commercial environment including experience of analyzing and monitoring project accounts, you will also ideally have experience of PC-based systems development, multi-currency accounting, reporting to external funding agencies and/or grant/restricted fund accounting. An excellent communicator a customer-focused, you will have good organizational skills and demonstrate attention to detail and analytical approach. IT literate and competent using Windows-based applications, you will have proven systems development ability as well as training skills.

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# The Katharina M & the Yemen Islands in the Red Sea

BY FUTURE TOURS INDUSTRIES FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Immersed in the clean and unspoiled water of the Red Sea, near to Salif port lies Kamaran island of Yemen rated among the potential tourist destination in the Red Sea. Rivers of twisted black solid lava flow from the huge volcanic cone of AL-Zubair. Lion island drawing lunar shapes between the deserted stony landscape and the sunset. On the other side of the island, there are spectacular salted pools, deep enough to swim in and between sparse bushes and colonies of giant calm scattered on the sand. In the sky, flocks of boobies and gannets and flamingoes circle low protecting their nests and eggs, while a pair of sailing dhows erodes the canal. The area has all qualities of several interesting activities provide an ultimate relaxing experience.

### Kamaran: Welcome to Paradise

Welcome to Kamaran, the island of Two Moons in the heart of the southern Red Sea. A mysterious and fabulous archipelago a few miles off the coast of Yemen, isolated for years from the rest of the world. Because of its strategic position Kamaran, with its eight main islands and a dozen smaller ones, has finally opened up to tourism and even with some limitations, it is a favorite spot for sea and nature lovers interested to protect marine wildlife.

### Combine sailing comfort with pleasure

An exclusive nature with an invitation to visit the fascinating islands where no buildings exist on the islands (except for a tiny restaurant at Qrand Kamaran), horries or local reliable boats. The only means of discovering this wonderful place is by private boat. The only boat allowed navigating regularly managed by an Italian company with the necessary permit for the transportation of passengers, cruising, and disembarkation at the various islands. Up until last November, Katharina M, a splendid 36-meter wooden teak, built entirely in mahogany in 1994. Is now handled by Future Tours Industries, your partner for a quality tour to true Arabia with aims and assets build close working partnership gaining trust of their clients by providing the best of services in a friendly and efficient manner, that can make all your dreams come true.

Uqban, Al-Badi, Kutman, Antufish, Al-Mudak and further away Az

Zubair, Saba and Quoin are spread over radius of fifty miles along the west coast of Yemen, almost at the end of Acquario di Allah. They form an amazing itinerary varying from crystal-clear lagoons and deserted beaches of the nearby islands to the sharp ridges and the volcano cones of Az Zubair, a whole night and day's journey from the coast.

### Make your wishes come true

The port of departure is Salif, a small town five hours drive from Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. Katharina M docks there from October to late April, the only convenient place to fill up with food and fuel. Then, depending on the sea and the wind conditions, the guests together with captain Maurizio Pazzelli 41-year-old Italian of Eritrea origin, with sound experience of the Red Sea, and his professional team can choose to stay along the beaches of Grand Kamaran or navigate up to the bays of Uqban. You can either scoot away in the tender and tangled canals of Ashoura Lagoon, populated with tern, pelicans and eagles or go fishing for tuna and barracuda near Antufish. The boat has two tenders for land excursions and offshore fishing, but snorkeling and diving are the favorite daytime activities: wit equipment for 15 people. Underwater, ray fish, white fin sharks, nurse sharks and hammerhead, turtles, grouper, dolphins and a large number of the barrier reef of the Red Sea are nearly always there.

### High-class service and cuisine

The boat navigates by night, choosing a place to go diving in the morning. They find a good anchorage for lunch and maybe disembark on Grand Kamaran for a short walk in the village. The only inhabited villages are Makram, a fistful of houses on the West Side. Ras Al Yemen on the south coast and Kamaran town, the biggest town on the island with three thousand inhabitants, a half-ruined fort on the hill and some military camps. The place deserves a visit, with its streets of earth & woman with traditional veil, great fun meeting interesting people, children with henna decorated hands and fishermen living in colonial style stone houses built by the British in the forties. This is the only contact with the population throughout the entire journey, except for the dhow and hourly (the local sailing boats) loaded with fish coming along the Italian Ketch to exchange information, groupers and barracuda with drinks, water and medicine, Katharina M.

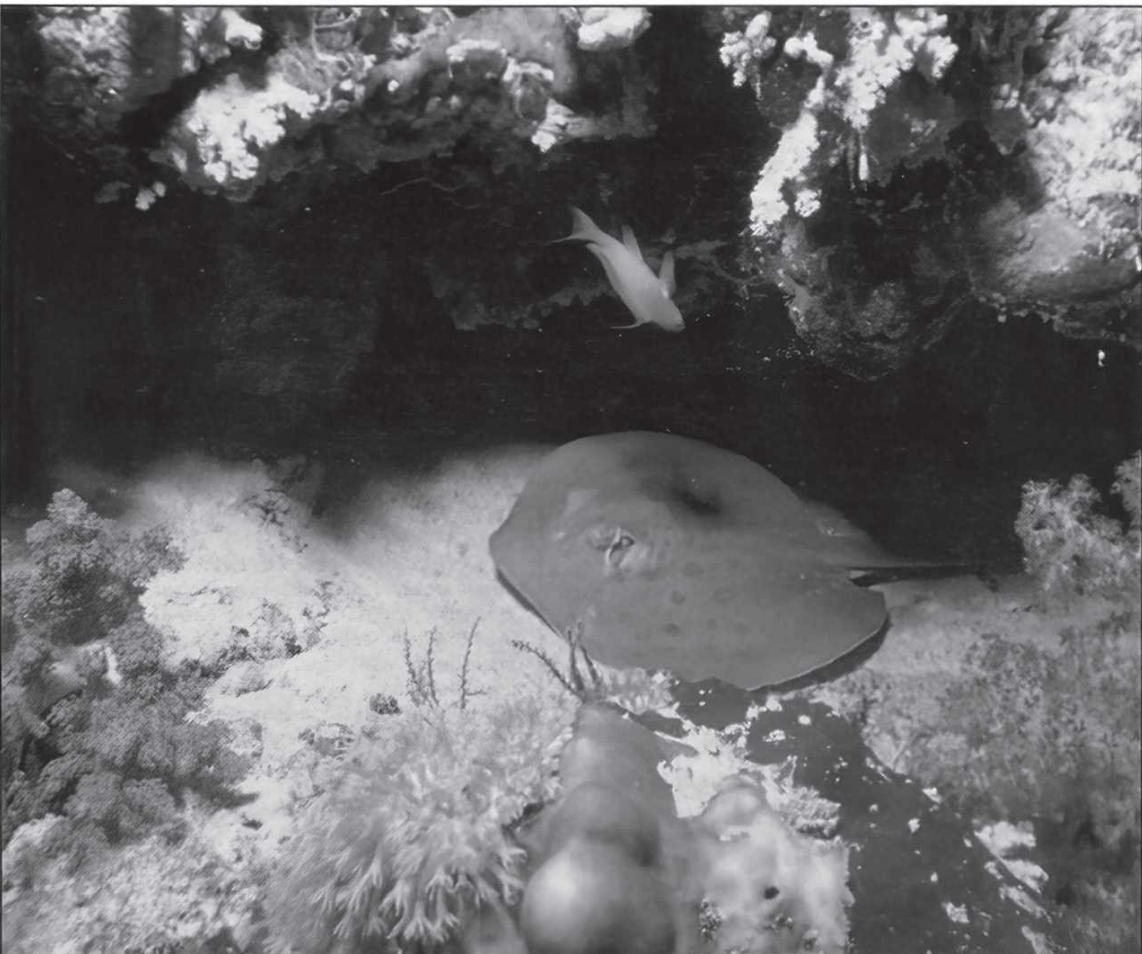


Katharina M

In the meantime, remains moored to a block of lava, on a calm sea and the crew prepares aperitif and dinner. The captain is busy on the beach fighting with heaps and crabs, which are soon to become a delicious dinner. And to complete the scene, the moon luminaries the starboard side of Katharina M emerging from the cliffs, while pelicans go and hide in the almost invisible crater of Az Zubair.

The following domestic programs are proposed for exploring these beautiful islands:

1. Weekend cruise: (Wednesday to Saturday) covering Kamaran group of islands.
2. Full week cruise: (Sunday to Sunday): covering Kamaran & Zubair groups of Islands.
3. Ten days cruise: Covering Kamaran, Zubair & Hanish groups of islands.



Examples of some of interesting marine life in Kamaran.

## حقق أحلامك مع أريال وبامبرز

**أسماء عملاء مراكز الإشتراك بمسابقة أريال وبامبرز**

اسم العميل	العنوان
١- لحد أحمد بالندر	شعوب
٢- جلال محمد صالح	الحصبة
٣- جلال محمد سعيد	سوران
٤- ياسين علي بسلامه	الغزل والنسيج
٥- ياسين النجار	جولة شيراتون - مسوك
٦- نبيل الهروي	نعم
٧- عبدالله مرشد الضمري	المشهد
٨- علي حسين زايد	باب سلام
٩- محمد محسن المطري	جامع الرماح - الدائري - خولان
١٠- عبدالكريم عبده الرمي	الصالفة
١١- عبدالخالق الكعبي	شارع تنز - فرزة تنز
١٢- محمد سعد سلام	شميلة السوق
١٣- قاسم محفل	سوق عتم - مقترع من شارع تنز
١٤- يحيى الجابري	شارع تنز المرور
١٥- أمين الشيخ	منجح السوق
١٦- عبدالرحمن ناصر المجعلى	شارع الكهرياء
١٧- أحمد مبخوت القفري	شارع مجاهد
١٨- محمد منصور الططاب	شارع هائل
١٩- محمد الصلوي	شارع المطار بجانب وزارة الداخلية
٢٠- أحمد الحصري	الروضة بجانب مدرسة الجول الجديد
٢١- قائد الصلوي	شارع المناه بجانب مخبزة الشيباني
٢٢- بقالة الجعفري	شارع صفر - حده المدينة
٢٣- بقالة الجزيرة	حده الفندق بعد فندق برج حده
٢٤- بقالة الجزيرة	الحي السباني بجانب جامع الصديق
٢٥- بقالة الأيون	شارع الزراعة أمام صارة البرج
٢٦- بقالة الأراج	الدائري الجامعه صارة الخولاني
٢٧- بقالة الزكري	شارع هائل - وسط شارع هائل
٢٨- بقالة بحر العرب	مدينة الأصمعي
٢٩- بقالة الليل	الزيري - مخمل جولة البقعة - باب البقعة
٣٠- بقالة الرمي	خلف البنك العربي - علي عبد المغني
٣١- بقالة الصلوي	القاع - جولة القاع
اسم العميل	العنوان
٣٢- فهمي البقعي	عدن - ملاحك شارع الخير
٣٣- عبد الشري	عدن - الشيخ عثمان حافة القريشه
٣٤- حسن عبدالله باحميش	عدن - كريتر سوق الطعام
٣٥- أمين الخديدي	عدن - الشيخ عثمان السيله الشارع العام
٣٦- عبدالله عوض النقيب	عدن - الشيخ عثمان الشارع العام
٣٧- عبدالله محمد بار شيد	عدن - كريتر سوق الاتحاد
٣٨- مطهر الجردلي	لحج الحوطه للشارع العام
٣٩- بقالة الهذاف	المعلا للشارع الرئيسي
٤٠- بقالة الهدف	عدن كريتر شارع حسن علي
٤١- مركز الحي التجاري	عدن - الشيخ عثمان شارع الفرزه
٤٢- بقالة النصر	عدن - المنصور يحيى عبدالعزيز عبدالولي
٤٣- بقالة المدينة	عدن - القوعه للشارع الرئيسي
٤٤- بقالة قصر الروضة	التوامي
٤٥- محلات زينة	عدن الصغرى (البريقة)
٤٦- محلات مصور	خورمكسر
٤٧- بقالة اليمدا	المنصورة
٤٨- الدرحتي	
اسم العميل	العنوان
٤٩- عبدالسلام الشريحي	سوق الأشبط
٥٠- بقالة الجول الصاعد	شارع المقترع
٥١- علي الحميري	باب موسى
٥٢- بقالة البحر الأحمر	٢٦ سبتر
٥٣- قاسم نعمان الثوابي	سوق الجملة
٥٤- عادل المقطري	المركز
اسم العميل	العنوان
٥٥- زكي الأغريري	الكعب
٥٦- جمال البدائي	الجمالية
٥٧- حميد الريشه	كلايه
٥٨- بقالة الربيع	شارع المرور
٥٩- بقالة الأسرة السعيدة	المجاهد
٦٠- نجيب سعيد قاسم	شارع الحويان
٦١- بقالة ياسين	جامع الخير
٦٢- نجيب علي مرشد	حارة مستشفى الجمهوري
٦٣- بقالة الفخري	حارة مستشفى الثورة
٦٤- وضاح الحمادي	ببر باشا
٦٥- بقالة الصفا	شارع جمال
اسم العميل	العنوان
٦٦- يحيى جبالي	الشارع العام الأعلى
٦٧- محمد عبد الجليل الحبيشي	شارع العدين
٦٨- محمد عبدالهالب الدعيب	الشارع العام الأسفل
٦٩- عبده عطوان	السوق المركزي
٧٠- بقالة بخدال	شارع الثورة
٧١- بقالة بخدال	شارع الثورة
٧٢- بقالة الوفاء	مفرق جبله
٧٣- بقالة اللواء الأخضر	الشارع العام
٧٤- بقالة الأسرة	السوق المركزي
٧٥- بقالة الأرياف	شارع تنز
٧٦- باسم العواضي	شارع السبل
اسم العميل	العنوان
٧٧- سوهر ماركيت الروزي	الحي التجاري
٧٨- مركز النجوم	شارع صنعاء
٧٩- سوهر ماركيت أفريقيا	شارع صنعاء
٨٠- حامد أحمد سعد	جمال
٨١- مركز الحمادي	شارع الحكيمي
٨٢- حمود عبدالودود مرشد	باب مشرف
٨٣- عبد الغفار آل غير	المطراق
٨٤- بجاش ياسين الزريق	مدينة العمال
٨٥- محفوظ الحمادي	شارع شمسان
٨٦- محمد مهدي المتوكل	خليل
٨٧- ابراهيم أحمد الوصافي	الكورنيش
اسم العميل	العنوان
٨٨- بقالة أبو صدام	بوش
٨٩- بقالة اندوسيا	الديس
٩٠- بقالة الشرق الأوسط	الديس
٩١- بقالة باحلمومين	الشرج
٩٢- بقالة الجزيرة	الشرج
٩٣- بقالة الصفا	المكلا
٩٤- بقالة حي السلام	المكلا
٩٥- بقالة مقبول	فوه
٩٦- بقالة الجديدي	فوه
٩٧- بقالة بافخوس	فوه
اسم العميل	العنوان
٩٨- بقالة الوصافي	فرزة عتمه
٩٩- عبدالله طوان	النقطة شارع صنعاء/تنز
١٠٠- مركز البن والقهتر	شارع صنعاء/نقر عبر خابوط
١٠١- خالد القرني	شارع صنعاء/جول معسكر أبو صهيبي
١٠٢- عبده الحيمي	شارع المنزل
١٠٣- بقالة الجبلاني	تقاطع شارع ردا مع المنزل
١٠٤- جبر الروم	الميدان
١٠٥- بقالة المجاهد	الدائري الغربي
١٠٦- بقالة غفاره	الدائري
١٠٧- بقالة	سوق الرويع
١٠٨- عبدالله المرهبي	معيبر
١٠٩- ثابت التسويقي	الشارع العام

Words of Wisdom



The Arab-Israeli peace process is not going anywhere. Many pro-peace people like myself are increasingly disillusioned by the crisis and impasse. The reasons for this are threefold: Israeli intransigence, American bias, and Arab weakness.  
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf, (1951-1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR OPINION

Pathetic

During my trip to Italy, Austria, and Germany last week, I found out a sad and shocking reality. I discovered that Arab leaders are a bad example of Arabs to the West.

In a time when Europe is developing a union that is creating a potential second world superpower, as it is expanding cooperation among its members financially, administratively, and in other areas, Arabs -- through their disputes and internal conflicts and problems -- continue to run in circles without achieving anything.

Values such as hard work, honesty, dedication, freedom, organization, enforcing the law, and other values of the West are being seen as "cultural invasion."

Arabs would rather stick to their ideas and culture that are out-dated, negative and harmful.

I do not mean to say that all Arab culture is wrong, nor do I mean to indicate that Western culture as a whole is perfect. But frankly, I wish we had 10% of the positive values of the West.

Arab leaders, with a few exceptions, have served as the worst example for their people. Oppression, humiliation, inefficiency and corruption are the trademarks of those leaders, which are automatically absorbed by their people.

I can even see this effect on the older generation of Arab communities in Europe, who are still holding to their old ways. They don't plan ahead, they rarely look for new opportunities, they seldom compare themselves to those who are better, and most pathetically of all, most of the time they're at odds with their Arab colleagues. Meanwhile, the younger generation is somewhat more enlightened, hard working, ambitious, and looking for new ways to progress and become an active part of the communities they live in.

Unfortunately, Arabs abroad misinterpret Islam and think that isolation and old values, even if wrong, are necessary to preserve Islam. The reality is that Islam urges Muslims to work harder, integrate into communities, and look for better opportunities.

Islam is a religion we are proud of, as it is a religion of peace, honesty, efficiency, and dedication. If those old-thinking Arabs think they represent Islam, they should ask themselves why their neighborhoods are the highest in crimes and thefts, why their education level is low, and why they are not well-respected.

In brief, the conditions in the Arab world are pathetic. And unless we do something about getting out of our stagnancy, we will find ourselves thrown in the trash can of human civilization.

The Editor

Arafat will be there . . .  
. . . even if in spirit



BY SAADI SALAMA  
PALESTINIAN DIPLOMAT IN  
SANA'A

When delivering a joint press conference with the USA Vice President Mr. Dick Cheney, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon showed his typical arrogance. He did not know that Palestinian President Arafat is not dying to attend the Arab League summit in Beirut, and that H.E. will never beg or demand to leave for this meeting: That is because President Arafat is fully aware that he can attend the meeting either in person or spiritually, not only in Beirut but elsewhere in the world where the Palestinian issue is in the center of discussions.

Thus all Sharon's statements and demands are empty, and when Sharon imposes conditions, he knows that these conditions are indications to his political bankruptcy.

Sharon can prevent Arafat from attending the summit meeting, but that is the difference between these two leaders. One sits on the top and looks down, and the

other participates with and shares his people's suffering.

The latest Israeli creation is to steel cage Palestinian workers. This is the Jewish mentality of treating the weaker by humiliating, confining, and preventing their president from leaving the home land or returning back.

Sharon has repeatedly made mistakes, ever since he started his term in office by spreading murder and destruction against the Palestinians and their property. He has exposed the Jewish prejudice and racist practices to the whole world, to a degree that his people, if being not racist or prejudice, should bring him to justice to protect themselves from his acts.

President Arafat will be in Beirut whether present or present absent! He will deliver his speech to the summit meeting like everyone else, even under the Israeli tank canon barrels a few meters away from his office.

Sharon's threats will not stop the Palestinian president that gains his immunity from the people. Sharon is not confronting the Palestinians alone, he is confronting all Arab leaders who will assemble in Beirut and speak against Sharon's humiliating messages on the entire Arab world.

We do not know if Mr. Cheney is aware of the entire Sharon scheme and desire to have the U.S agree to his plans. But what we do know that the Arab League summit will reveal more of this scheme and expose lead to new precautions taken to protect the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab world. I believe that the Arab League summit comes at a crucial time, for it is not dealing only with the Palestinian issue, or just with the issue of Israeli state terror, but with the earthquake that took place last September 11th.

We have to defend ourselves against a tide that is led by the Jewish lobby in the USA, a lobby that is attempting to divert the path of war against terror into a war against the Arabs, Islam and Muslims.

How can we protect ourselves, the Palestinians who are at the front line of the battles, as Arab Nations?

The answer will be available to the leaders at the summit. They will conclude that it is about time to unite and make a historical decision to create a mechanism to protect Arab interests, to form a solid block that can influence the US administration to change its path.

Danger is all around us, but it is not unbeatable, providing its dealt with it in a modern, developed and united manner.

Are we thinking ahead?

Mohamed Zaid Al-Jerhoom  
zaid\_aljerhoom@yahoo.com

In my previous article I dealt with the outrageous unemployment problem in our country, since being unemployed too, I had decided to go abroad, hoping for better opportunities. However, I guess I am destined to live out of my beloved country.

I had to get a visa from the Saudi Arabian embassy to start the routine immigration procedure.

What struck me was the huge number of Yemenis waiting in long lines at the embassy's gate. More than 200 Yemenis apply daily to try their luck in getting an escape ticket out of Yemen and into the neighboring kingdom.

They seemed to desperately want to leave, as if a war has erupted or a deadly epidemic has taken its course and they want to run for their lives.

The government of Saudi is to be thanked for allowing such a number of Yemenis to apply daily. We must be grateful for their continuous support and acceptance of our terrible economic reality.

What is the role of our government in this regard? Are they concerned about the huge number of Yemenis applying for immigration regardless of their education, illiteracy, age, profession, or occupation?

I know that the government is in great need of a hard currency, but is it on the expenses of the poor people?

Coming back to the main point, while getting my paperwork done, I had to talk with a lot of these applicants. The younger ones claimed they had to leave schools in order to support their families. They also said education in general is useless, whereas the older ones proclaimed their departure to provide their loved ones with a better life standards since the cost of living in Yemen has become to high compared to income. They emphasize that most Yemenis these days could not afford even the daily expenses.

All of those I spoke to say that the government seems to be so dependent on its peo-

ple's earnings abroad, it's as if it has no other source of revenue.

The government is elected to serve the people and to provide them with requirements in all walks of life. However that is not the case on the ground.

If we have a look at developed countries such as Italy, we find the Italian government takes great concern in the emigration of its people, and the increasing number of elderly people compared to the younger generation. They are taking broad steps to deal with the future.

While in Yemen tend to be worried about today but usually are not concerned about tomorrow, including the future consequences of the increasing immigration cases.

I know if you ask an ordinary man whether he would prefer saying or leaving, he will gladly prefer leaving because of the depression and frustration of the deteriorating living standards. The pain and suffering of his family compels him to do so.

Another example of perfect governance is the Japanese administration, which is so worried about its elder generation being neglected, that it has decided to re-employ retired people and utilize some of their invaluable expertise.

We are not asking our government to rise to the Japanese example. All that we are asking is to employ the young generation? The Yemeni youth are the pillars of any nation. They are the present and the future.

The government should at least take precautionary measures regarding the probability of the return of hundreds of thousands of Yemeni immigrants to their country for any reason. We remember what happened in 1990 when a politically motivated-decision caused two million Yemeni immigrants to come back in the form of human influx.

Our country is rich with natural resources. It has historical and geographical features that could attract tourism and enhance the economy. The country has all the factors to make Yemenis living here live a decent and luxurious life. So where have those resources gone?

Who is the beneficiary?

American Muslim wants to help us

Gary Vey  
garyvey@viewzone.com

I am a professional computer programmer and a friend of Yemen. I recently visited your beautiful land and its honorable people and was very much impressed. There are few places left on this Earth that have retained such kindness to strangers. There is a simplicity and innocence and, mostly, a devotion to the One God, Allah.

I have been very fortunate to be invited to participate on Yemen's Tourism Boards, to promote tourism to this land through my understanding of the Internet. This new technology can do much to benefit Yemen and the people and economy. But I want to do more.

I extend this offer to any business and government agency in Yemen to give my services of programming and designing web pages, e-commerce and intra-net programming in return for your kind hospitality and friendship. I wish to live as a Yemeni man and require only your safety and kindness, plus a means of arriving in Yemen from my current home in Boston (America).

I also have a friend, currently in China, who is an expert with Oracle database systems. Together we can construct almost anything your country, business or government needs to have a state-of-the-art internet presence. And we offer this to you now with friendship and peace.

I have just embraced Islam and wish to be in a land where I can devote myself to do the work of Allah, to serve people in Yemen. This is reward enough for me and for my soul.

Please let your government know of my offer. Please also write to me and allow me to offer my work for you, in the name of the Almighty. I am anxious to live in Yemen and to be one of Allah's most loved children on Earth.

COMMON SENSE



Hassan Al-Haifi

Remembering a historic sacrifice

The significance of Islam is that it underscored the Divine's abhorrence of tyranny, injustice, oppression and persecution, in all their manifestations. Moreover, Islam entails the commitment of faithful Moslems to stand up to all forms of limitations on their basic rights of political participation, and to government by the will of the people and for the overall welfare of the society.

On the other hand, authoritarianism is viewed by Islam to be akin to polytheism, because dictators and tyrants tend to grant themselves extraordinary powers and authorities, which often circumvent Divine ordinances or take their place. This is infringing upon Divine legislative authority and a serious transgression, which digress from the just ordinances of the Lord are bound to lead to injustice and violations of basic human rights guaranteed by Islam.

After the assassination of Ali Ibn Abu Talib, the Fourth Orthodox Caliph, the supreme authority was usurped by the Umayyads. The latter turned the Islamic State into a private family enterprise, with absolute authority and a disregard for the will of the people. They ignored the limitations on the abuse of power and responsibility that Islam ordained.

Hussein Ibn Ali Ibn Abu Talib, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed [P (through daughter Fatima)] and son of Ali (the Fourth Caliph) was well versed in Islamic jurisprudence. He was also renowned for his piety and perception of the fundamental social and political ordinances taught by his grandfather and applied by the Early Caliphs that followed Mohammed's death, especially his father Ali. Ali was reputed to be the most outstanding reference for interpreting Islamic ordinances and theology and for applying Islamic jurisprudence. His contribution to the defense of Islam and the unequalled prowess and fearlessness in upholding human rights and advocating for the deprived and discontent are uncontested.

Because of his background, Hussein and his high degree of scholastic attainment, and as Umayyad rule has turned into a clear violation of the fundamental social principles of Islam, many Moslems came to Hussein, urging him to lead them in revolt against the Umayyads. Yazid Ibn Ma'awiyah (Ma'awiyah, Yazid's father, tried to wrest the Caliphate from Hussein's father, Ali, but only succeeded when Ali died; he then passed it down to Yazid at the end of the Seventh Century) was ruthless and dealt harshly with all opposition, especially from the House of Ali. The Umayyads viewed the latter as their most threatening opponents.

The people of Iraq wrote to Hussein imploring him to come to Iraq and they were ready to rally around him en masse to kick out the oppressive Umayyads. Iraq was the former stronghold of Hussein's father, Ali and the Iraqis were undergoing severe persecution and embezzlement by the Governor of Yazid.

Driven by piety and a strong belief that Islam and tyranny cannot coexist, Hussein raised the reform banner, leaving Medina for Kufa, Iraq accordingly, with an entourage of about 150 close kin and supporters.

However, learning of the advent of the Prophet Mohammed's grandson Yazid instructed his Governor in Iraq, Abdullah Ibn Ziyad, to prevent his arrival to Kufa and to bring their heads to Damascus. With a force of 4,000 strong, well-armed and highly paid troops, Yazid surrounded Hussein and his humble entourage at a place called Karbala, blocking them from access to water from the nearby Euphrates River.

Notwithstanding the absence of the support promised by the Iraqis, Hussein decided to fight to the last drop of blood and opted for the ultimate blessing of martyrdom in battle against tyranny. His companions also refused to surrender and the entourage gallantly fought until all of them, including the children and women, save a few, were brutally killed and subjected to mutilation. Their heads and the survivors were sent to Yazid, in Damascus.

Most Moslems view this tragedy as a symbolic battle of Truth, for which Islam really stood, vs tyranny and transgression, in general, and the oppressive deviations from Islam introduced by the Umayyads in particular. The sacrifice made by Hussein inspire Moslems to this day to be ready to give their lives to confront all forms of tyranny, persecution and injustice -- the real antithesis of Islam.

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

A Turkish opinion on Israel

Being a Turk proud of his nation, I feel ashamed of the new agreements with Israel that the Turkish Government has signed recently. I do protest the move and want history to witness this Turkish person's disapproval of his governments support to a racist regime, guilty of crimes against humanity. I do stand with the People of Palestine and I know for sure that the majority of the Turkish People support their cause.

I wonder if anyone remembers what Bush and his Team said about Palestine while building his coalition in the "War against Terror"? He was talking about a Palestinian State. Did anyone believe that he was sincere? It was just a move like offering candy to kids. Now that Cheney is on his way to build a new coalition

against Iraq, they have remembered Palestine. Does anyone believe they are sincere now?

Yes, let us be against terrorism, but let's be against all kinds of it, no matter who the victims are. A baby killer is a baby killer whether he is doing it for a just cause, or under orders of a War Criminal. Do not let yourself be fooled.

Yilmaz Ak  
yilmazak@yahoo.com

We are more than a match for Israel In Jeddah, 57 Muslim governments met under the aegis of the Organization of Islamic Conference, and threw their weight behind the proposal for recognition of Israel. Even though the Muslim countries collectively possess more than enough means to eradicate this oppressive

state, they have chosen to invoke Allah's (swt) anger by moving to recognize it. Allah (swt) revealed an ayah which can be rendered in English, "Allah forbids you friendship with those who fight you because of your faith, and drive you from your homes, and support (others) in driving you out, from turning to them (for friendship and protection); and for those who turn to them for friendship, they are truly the wrongdoers." [TMQ 60:9]. Israel cannot be recognized as its crime against Muslims did not start in 1967, but in 1947 when it occupied Islamic land for the first time. Islam forbids the recognition of Israel and there can be no peace between Muslims and Jews, whilst the Jews have authority over any part of Islamic land.

Abdullah Wesam  
abdullahwesam@yahoo.com

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Arab summit, Arab League and Arab world?

# Not a hope in hell!

BY AHMED ZAHRAN  
FIRST LIEUTENANT  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The upcoming Arab Summit Conference being held in the Lebanese capital of Beirut comes at a time when the Palestinian uprising is still mounting its anger against the Zionists. It comes at a time when the Palestinians, the national authority and its president have all passed through difficult situations. Israeli president Aril Sharon, who some consider a war criminal, has imposed a blockade on the Palestinians which may prevent its Yassar Arafat from attending the summit. Is the Palestinian president going to attend the summit or not? If not, it will be the first time he's absent from such a summit.

**Arafat usually leads way**

Usually, Arafat leads the way to such summits. At this critical moment, then, who is going to deliver his country's speech? Will Arafat's seat remain vacant? Who will dare to replace this vacant seat and deliver his speech? In my opinion, the person who is going to deliver Arafat's speech will be a traitor.

We appeal to the European Union and the Scandinavian countries, specifically Belgium and France, to intervene to provide us with international peace forces to protect the isolated Palestinian people from the Israeli aggressors. The coordinated and organized terrorism practiced

by the Israeli forces against the defenseless Palestinians is a flagrant violation of international conventions.

The Palestinians don't possess missiles, tanks or anti-air defenses to protect themselves. Their only weapon is their trust in God and keeping faith when they know their cause is right.

So, who is the real terrorist? Is it the usurper and attackers, or the isolated landowners? We wonder, when will the prejudiced attitude of the Americans come to an end? The US has shown sympathy towards Israeli demands.

**Similar attitudes**

We might also wonder about the difference between the Labor and Likud parties. Both of these parties have similar attitudes and both have been supporting the Israeli aggression. Consequently, who is the responsible for massacres and killing so many innocent people at the al-Aqsa mosque?

Israeli leaders are, in the opinion of some, real war criminals and they need to be held accountable for killing innocent children such as, for example, Mohammed Addorah and Eman Hajo, plus others. They also killed Palestinian leaders such as, Abu Ali Mustafa and Mohammed Abu al-Hunod.

They pretend they are peace-keepers in front of the world. And they may even be peacekeepers, because this is a way to continue the procrastination and fraud which is desired by Aril Sharon.

**Wanted a handshake**

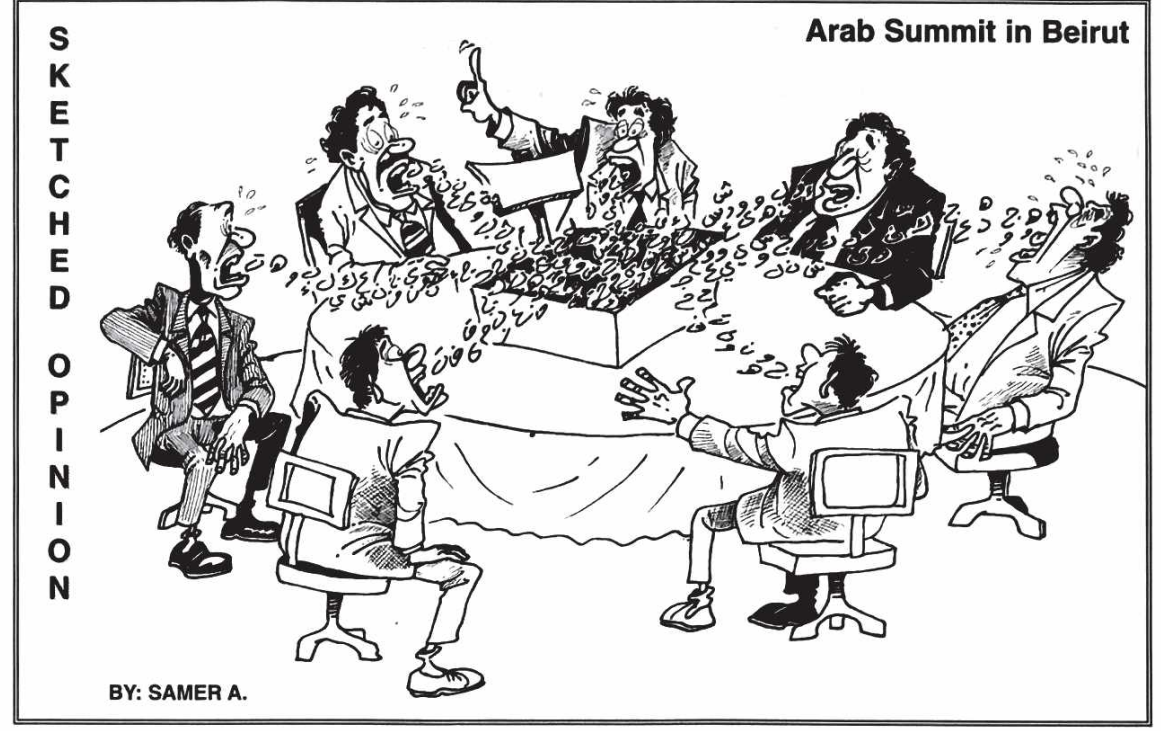
Conversely, consider when Arafat wanted to shake hands with former Israeli president Yitzak Rabeen at the White House. Arafat is not a fraud and has shown good intentions to reach an acceptable reconciliation to this long conflicts. UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 238 resolutions, concerning the withdrawal of the Israeli forces to the pre-1997 borders, have proven to be of no avail.

US president George Bush has stated that he is disappointed with Arafat. As a matter of fact, the US president has never met up with Arafat since he started his term of office. Yet he has met with Sharon several times.

We don't know what is the hidden reason behind the US attitudes. But it seems to some that the US wants to remove the Palestinian president and wants to find alternative leadership.

Still, the Palestinians have fought tooth and nails for the sake independence and freedom. Palestinians are intractable and that Arafat will be their leader forever, because he has been their symbol for peace for decades. We can safely say that the Palestinians will not accept a new alternative and that Arafat is the leader and the soldier who represents the Palestinian authority.

Palestinians have adhered to cease-fires, but the Israeli government has continued in its aggressions and murdered its leaders. Israel has also accused the national authority of smuggling weapons,



but the whole world hasn't seen the real problem, or that Israel seized that weapon's ship far away, 500 km from Gaza's beaches.

**Palestinians have no weapons**

In this case, no one has accused Israel of piracy, even if this ship belongs to the national authority. Israel has launched a war against Palestinians using American weapons. What about Palestinians? What kind of weapons are they going to use? They have the right to defend themselves against such aggression. If Palestinians wanted to get weapons, will they buy them from Israel itself?

Report have stated that this ship in question belongs to a weapon dealers who wanted to sell the weapons to Somalia or any other African country.

In his speech condemning terrorism and terrorists, US president, George W. Bush has included Jihad, Hizbu Allah and Hamas movements within the terrorist groups in the world. He declared that Iraq and Northern Korea are countries which harbor terrorism. The US has sent its forces to the Philippines to carry out military maneuvers, as if that's part of the real the war against terrorism, that the war

in Afghanistan is a mere training for the US military forces.

It seems that the US administration is going to launch war against Abu Sayyaf Group or Moro Group in the Philippines, and then against Iraq. The US has divided the world into the so-called terrorist and non-terrorist countries. Who is the real terrorist? Wasn't it America that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan? The US knew at that time that the majority of people they would kill were innocent civilians.

**Overthrow Iraq?**

Now US policies, through its support of Kurds in Iraq, are geared to overthrow the Iraqi regime. But if the US really wants to launch war against terrorism, Israel is among the countries which commit sea piracy and genocide, in flagrant disregard for international conventions.

The US stance towards Israel is considered to be the green light for Sharon to do whatever he desires. Sharon bitterly regrets not killing the Palestinian president in 1982, when the Palestinian forces were besieged in Beirut.

Now Arabs as well as their leaders are disappointed and nothing has been

accomplished, except condemning and denouncing people during successive Arab summits. Arabs must be preoccupied with this thorny issue because it is not only an issue of Palestinians, but one for all Arabs.

Arabs have to think of their own interests. They are in dire need of a real leader to lead them to the right track. Unfortunately, what we see is that Arabs are always submissive and docile to the US demands.

**Demonstrations suppressed**

Demonstrations have been suppressed, and we don't see any sense of an authentic Arab patriotism. Not only this, the US has demanded some Arab countries to close the religious institutions and schools. It is also reported that donations that have been collected for the Palestinians be frozen in the pretext that the money aids terrorism. Some of the Arab countries have positively responded to these demands and they, of course, declare that they have made friends with the US.

Now the US and Israel are bargaining to allow Arafat to attend the summit. We will wait and see.

# Cheney fails to get Arab endorsements

By Robert Fisk,  
Special to Arab News

Rarely can a US Vice President have met such a devastating rebuff from America's Arab allies; not a single Arab king, prince or president has been prepared to endorse a US attack on Iraq. Even in Kuwait — where Dick Cheney arrives today before going on to Israel — an opinion poll suggests that more than 40 percent of its citizens are hostile to Washington's policies. In every Arab capital, Cheney has been politely but firmly told to turn his attention to the bloody Palestinian-Israeli war, and to forget the "axis of evil" until President Bush brings Israeli allies into line.

All Cheney's efforts to pretend that the conflict in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, are separate from Iraq — or "two tracks" as the American cliché would have it — have failed. Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah met Cheney at the end of a long red carpet at Jeddah airport, but the Saudi press were not so polite. Editorials in other Gulf papers uniformly condemned any assault on Iraq. Prince Abdullah has gone out of his way to explain to American television audiences why he opposes military action against Saddam Hussein, while Americans have been told that they cannot use the massive Prince

Sultan airbase in the Kingdom for any war against Baghdad.

Repeatedly, Arab leaders have turned Cheney's arguments about America's "war on terrorism" around. For them, the terror is being inflicted upon the Palestinians by the Israelis, and Cheney's reminders of Saddam's brutality carry little weight. If Saddam is overthrown, Iraq could break apart, the US Vice President was told several times, with incalculable effects on Iraq's Muslim neighbors.

Even the small United Emirates had no time for the Cheney argument. The Vice President's spokeswoman, Jennifer Millerwise, said that Cheney "made the point that Al-Qaeda can't be allowed to reconstitute" in the Middle East, a remark that was smartly followed by a statement from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahayan. He was, the government said briskly, opposed to military action in Iraq.

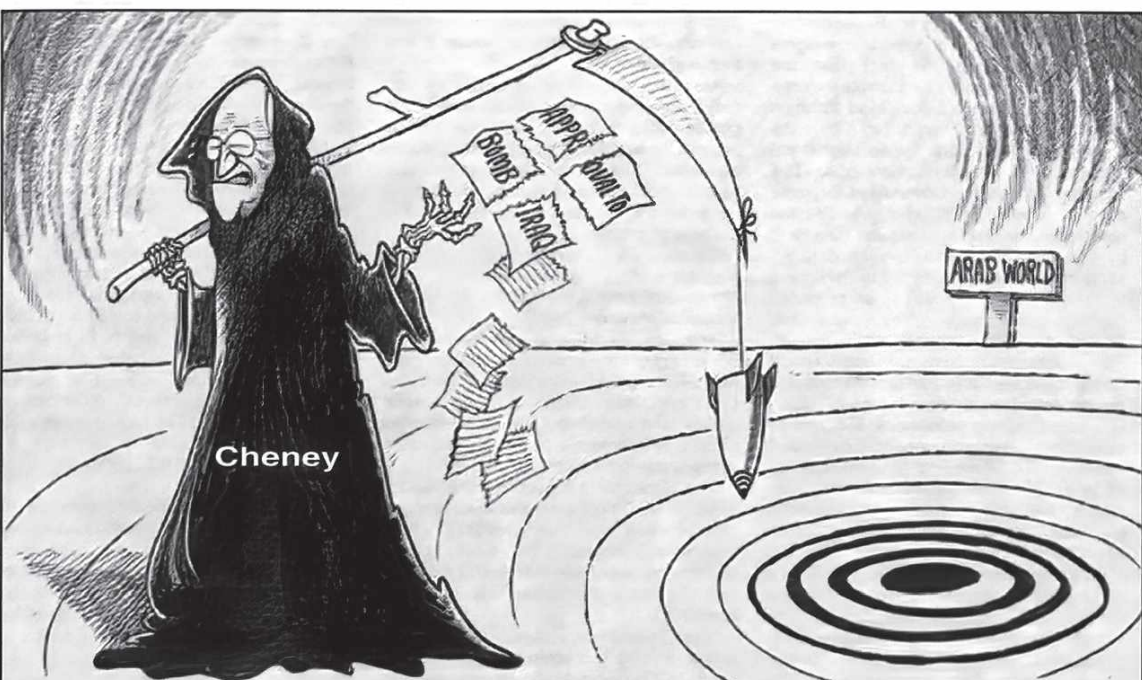
The Arabs might be forgiven their confusion over Cheney's objectives. If America wishes to pursue its "war on terror", what has Iraq got to do with it? Where is the evidence that Saddam was involved in the crimes against humanity on Sept. 11 last year? There is none. So, Cheney has invented a new dogma for the Arabs — and for the US servicemen, who gathered to listen to him aboard the aircraft carrier John C. Stennis in the Gulf. "The

United States will not permit the forces of terror to gain the tools of genocide" he announced.

Saddam has "weapons of mass destruction" — though that is not the view of some members of the old UNSCOM inspection team — and they could fall into the hands of Osama Bin Laden. Since Bin Laden hates Saddam and has gone on record as saying as much, just how the Iraqi weapons, if they exist, would reach America's nemesis is unclear.

And the Arabs have been asking themselves what this new "genocide" is supposed to be. Who is threatening genocide in the Middle East? Who is being attacked? The Kuwaitis, of course, still believe that Saddam threatens them, but their government has been shocked at the opinion poll which showed such anti-American sentiments amid a population that was liberated by a US-led coalition only 11 years ago.

It is symbolic that the one Middle East nation that supports a strike at Iraq is Israel — whose own war with the Palestinians has so angered America's Arab allies. Destabilization is the word the US Vice President has been hearing from the Arabs. Cheney will, therefore, hear what he wants to hear from Sharon, the man whose reoccupation of Palestinian territory has done so much to destroy Cheney's mission. (The Independent)



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Recently released by the US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

# Report on human rights in Yemen - 2001 (continued from last issue)

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate defends freedom of the press and publicizes human rights concerns. For example, in February they organized a seminar regarding legislation pertaining to journalism. Critics claim that the syndicate is ineffective because it has too many nonjournalist members who support government policy. In 1999 several independent and opposition party journalists formed a rival union, the Committee for the Defense of Journalists, under the leadership of Hisham Ba Sharahil, the publisher of al-Ayyam newspaper, to defend more vigorously journalists harassed by the Government.

Customs officials confiscate foreign publications regarded as pornographic or objectionable because of religious or political content. In April PSO officials in Taiz detained Faysal Said Fara'a, the director of a private cultural center, for a day of questioning following his alleged receipt of banned books dealing with the opposition. There were no reports during the year that the Ministry of Information delayed the distribution of international Arabic-language dailies in an effort to decrease their sales in the country, as had occurred in previous years. However, authorities monitor foreign publications, banning those that they deem harmful to national interests. For example, in 2000 the owner of a Sana'a bookstore was arrested by the PSO for selling banned copies of an edition of the London-based Arabic magazine al-Magalah, which featured a cover story on President Saleh's son Ahmed, the Commander of the Republican Guard.

An author must obtain a permit from the Ministry of Culture to publish a book. Most books are approved, but the process is time-consuming for the author. The author must submit copies of the book to the Ministry. Officials at the National Library must read and endorse the text. Then it is submitted to a special committee for final approval. If a book is not deemed appropriate for publication, the Ministry simply does not issue a decision. Publishers usually do not deal with an author who has not yet obtained a permit.

Internet use has increased significantly. An estimated 30,400 persons use the Internet, and 7,600 persons subscribe to it. There are over 70 Internet cafes in Sana'a and approximately

30 in other cities. The Government does not impose restrictions on Internet use, but most persons claim that equipment and subscriptions costs are prohibitively high. Teleyemen, a parastatal company under the Ministry of Telecommunications, is the country's sole Internet service provider. The Government does not block politically oriented web sites; mowj.com, the web site of the Yemeni National Opposition Front, which had been the only political site blocked by the Government, apparently has ceased operating (see Section 1.f.).

Academic freedom is restricted to some extent because of the extreme politicization of university campuses. A majority of professors and students align themselves with either the ruling GPC party or the opposition Islaah party. Each group closely monitors the activities of the other. Top administrative positions usually are awarded to political allies of these two major parties. There were several clashes between GPC- and Islaah-affiliated students during the year, but no serious violence.

## b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

The Constitution provides for freedom of peaceful assembly; however, the Government limited this right in practice. The Government claims that it bans and disrupts some demonstrations to prevent them from degenerating into riots and violence. The Government requires a permit for demonstrations, but it issues them routinely. Government informers monitor meetings and assemblies. The opposition claims that the Government sometimes detains activists for questioning in order to prevent them from organizing demonstrations, for example, in April 2000, the Government held 19 opposition activists in Abyan governorate for questioning for several days to prevent a demonstration. Draft provisions of a Police Law enacted in 2000 would have permitted police to open fire on gatherings of five or more persons if police suspected imminent violence or criminal activity; however, the provisions were removed after a campaign by human rights organizations, opposition political parties, and the press (see Section 1.d.).

In April a demonstrator was killed and another wounded when a soldier fired into a crowd protesting a zoning decision in the al-Dalah governorate. The dispute reportedly centered around a local official's decision to prevent a resident from building an extension on his house. According to press reports, the homeowner had obtained an official permit from municipal officials to build the extension and refused to stop work. Security officials were dispatched to enforce the official's decision, a crowd gathered, and tensions escalated. After the shooting, there was a brief spontaneous demonstration. Authorities reportedly arrested the soldier, but there was no information regarding whether he was disciplined. Residents of al-Dalah long have resisted central government authority, and the governorate for many years has been the scene of frequent (and at times violent) clashes between often armed residents and security forces.

In October police in Hajja governorate broke up a Nasserist Party-organized student demonstration protesting U.S. military strikes in Afghanistan. Several of the organizers were detained briefly for questioning; it is unclear whether they had a permit.

There were a number of small, peaceful demonstrations during the year, most of which were to protest U.S. foreign policies in the Middle East. In February a small group of Baathist demonstrators in Sana'a marched to U.N. Development Program headquarters in Sana'a and presented a letter condemning U.S. actions against the Palestinian and Iraqi persons. There were small pro-Palestinian

demonstrations in April in Taiz governorate. In Sana'a in May, there was an "oratorical festival" at the Palestinian Embassy to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of "al-Nakbah," the 1948 Palestinian defeat. In September there were several demonstrations in Sana'a and other cities commemorating the first anniversary of the al-Aqsa Intifada. Also in September, students in Taiz governorate demonstrated against an increase in university fees. In October thousands of persons in Amran governorate protested peacefully against U.S. actions in Afghanistan; during the month, there were additional small demonstrations in other governorates. The Constitution provides for the freedom of association, and the Government generally respects this right in practice. Associations must obtain an operating license from the Ministry of Social Affairs or the Ministry of Culture, which usually is a routine matter. Government informants monitor meetings and assemblies.

The Government cooperates with NGO's, although NGO's complain that there is a lack of response to their requests from government officials. The Government's ability to be responsive is limited in part by a lack of material and human resources. In January the Parliament passed the controversial Law for Associations and Foundations, which regulates the formation and activities of NGO's (see Section 2.b.). The Government introduced the proposed law in 1998, but as it typically does with Government initiatives with which it disagrees, Parliament indirectly asserted its legislative prerogative by refusing to take action. While more liberal than the law it was designed to replace, the 1998 proposal still contained significant limitations on NGO's. For example, the draft law would have made it illegal for NGO's to seek and obtain foreign funding, required that all NGO's be members of a national federation of NGO's, and prohibited nonmember participation in NGO deliberations or administration. Claiming that the bill, if passed, would severely restrict the development of civil society, a group of human rights activists and journalists vigorously campaigned against it. Parliament finally passed the new NGO law, but removed all the most problematic provisions.

All political parties must be registered in accordance with the Political Parties Law, which stipulates that each party must have at least 75 founders and 2,500 members (see Section 3).

## c. Freedom of Religion

The Constitution declares that Islam is the official religion and also provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respects this right in practice; however, there are some restrictions. Followers of other religions are free to worship according to their beliefs and to wear religiously distinctive ornaments or dress; however, the Government forbids conversions, requires permission for the construction of new places of worship, and prohibits non-Muslims from proselytizing and holding elected office. The Government does not designate religion on passports or identity cards. The Constitution states that Shari'a is the source of all legislation.

Under Islam the conversion of a Muslim to another religion is considered apostasy, a crime punishable by death. There were no reports of cases in which the crime was charged or prosecuted by government authorities. In January 2000, the director of the Aden office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) received a report that authorities arrested a Somali refugee, who allegedly had converted from Islam to Christianity after his arrival in the country, on charges of apostasy. The UNHCR's investigation found that police in Aden previously had detained the refugee on criminal charges in Aden and at the UNHCR's al-Jahin camp. Although the refugee was registered with the UNHCR under a Christian name, he maintained an address in Sana'a under a Muslim name, was married to a Muslim woman, and possessed an Islamic marriage certificate. The UNHCR believed that authorities detained the refugee on criminal rather than religious grounds. The refugee was not charged formally and his trial was canceled. Authorities remanded him to immigration detention, then released him in July 2000. With the Government's knowledge, the UNHCR arranged for the refugee to be resettled in New Zealand; he and his family departed the country in August 2000.

Official government policy does not prohibit or prescribe punishment for the possession of non-Islamic religious literature. However, there are unconfirmed reports that foreigners, on occasion, have been harassed by police for possessing such literature. In addition some members of the security forces occasionally censor the mail of Christian clergy who minister to the foreign community, ostensibly to prevent proselytizing.

There are unconfirmed reports that some police, without the authorization or knowledge of their superiors, on occasion have harassed and detained persons suspected of apostasy in order to compel them to renounce their conversions.

The Government does not allow the building of new non-Muslim public places of worship without permission; however, in 1998 the country established diplomatic relations with the Vatican and agreed to the construction and operation of a "Christian center" in Sana'a. The Papal Nuncio, resident in Kuwait, presented his credentials to the Government in March. The country's ambassador to Italy was accredited to the Vatican in July 1999. President Saleh paid an official visit to the Vatican at the time of his state visit to Italy in April 2000. Weekly services for Catholic, Protestant, and Ethiopian Christians are held in the auditorium of a private company in Sana'a without government interference. Christian church services are held regularly in other cities without harassment in private homes or facilities such as schools, and these facilities appear to accommodate the small numbers

involved.

Public schools provide instruction in Islam but not in other religions. However, almost all non-Muslims are foreigners who attend private schools.

In 2000 the Government suspended its policy (enacted earlier that same year) of allowing Yemeni-origin Israeli passport holders to travel to Yemen on laissez-passer documents. However, Yemeni, Israeli, and other Jews may travel freely to and within Yemen on non-Israeli passports.

The Government has taken steps to prevent the politicization of mosques in an attempt to curb extremism. This includes the monitoring of mosques for sermons that

*The constitution provides for freedom of peaceful assembly; however, the government limited this right in practice.*

incite violence or other political statements that it considers harmful to public security. Private Islamic organizations may maintain ties to pan-Islamic organizations and, in the past, have operated private schools, but the Government monitors their activities. In May the Government mandated the implementation of a 1992 law to unify educational curricula and administration of all publicly funded schools. Publicly funded Islamic schools will be absorbed into the national system. This process had begun by year's end, but the full implementation of the law is ongoing.

Following unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, owners of property previously expropriated by the Communist government of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, including religious organizations, were invited to seek restitution of their property. However, implementation of the process, including for religious institutions, has been extremely limited, and very few properties have been returned to any previous owner.

A small bomb blasted a 12-foot hole in the wall of Christ Church in Aden on New Year's Day; there were no reported injuries. A few weeks later, the authorities arrested five individuals, whom they believe are linked to extremist Islamic groups. Their trial began in April but had not concluded by year's end (see Section 1.e.). Also in January, in the village of Dhabyan in Amran governorate, an armed (Muslim) individual opened fire on worshippers during evening prayers at the local mosque. Four men were killed and 17 wounded, 7 critically. The shootings appeared to be criminally rather than religiously motivated.

Nearly all of the country's once sizable Jewish population have emigrated. There are no legal restrictions on the few hundred Jews who remain, although there are traditional restrictions on places of residence and choice of employment (see Section 5).

d. Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration and Repatriation

The Government places some limits on freedom of movement. In general the Government does not obstruct domestic travel, although the army and security forces maintain checkpoints on major roads. There were a few reports during the year that security forces at checkpoints killed or injured persons whom they believed were engaging in criminal activity and resisting arrest (see Section 1.a.).

In certain areas, armed tribesmen occasionally man checkpoints alongside military or security officials, and subject travelers to physical harassment, bribe demands, or theft.

The Government does not routinely obstruct foreign travel or the right to emigrate and return. However, journalists must have a permit to travel abroad. There were no reports that the restriction on journalists was enforced during the year (see Section 2.a.). Women must obtain permission from a male relative before applying for a passport or departing the country.

Immigrants and refugees traveling within the country often are required by security officials at government checkpoints to show that they possess resident status or refugee identification cards.

During the year, in an intensified effort to address terrorism and perceived religious extremism, the Government enforced existing laws that previously had been applied only erratically, and deported foreigners who were in the country illegally or whom it suspected of inciting violence or engaging in criminal acts. The new initiative was not applied to refugees and there were no reports of due process violations.

The law does not include provisions for granting refugee or asylum status in accordance with the provisions of the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. However, the Government continues to grant refugee status on a group basis to Somalis who have arrived in Yemen after 1991.

In 2000 the Government offered asylum to 8,043 Somalis, who fled the fighting in that country. This brought the total number of registered Somali refugees in the country to 56,524. The Government also cooperated with the UNHCR in assisting refugees from Eritrea (2,560 persons), Ethiopia (1,203 persons), and various other countries (252 persons). The Government permitted the UNHCR to monitor the situation of an estimated 2,000 Iraqis in Yemen.

Approximately 42,532 Somali refugees have been integrated into society and no longer are receiving food or financial assistance from the UNHCR. However, they remain eligible for medical treatment at UNHCR facilities in Aden and Sana'a. In addition the UNHCR provides small loans to refugee women who wish to initiate income-generating activities. Somali-language

education is provided in urban areas of Aden.

The UNHCR provides food and medical assistance for up to 14,265 Somalis and Ethiopians at the new al-Kharaz refugee camp in Lahaj governorate. (Construction of the al-Kharaz camp was completed in December 2000; the UNHCR relocated all refugees to al-Haraz from the old al-Jahin camp in Abyan governorate in June, and al-Jahin is now closed.) Children receive schooling in the camp, and adults are eligible for vocational training.

The UNHCR, in coordination with the Government, issues identification cards to Somali refugees. The UNHCR is discussing with the Government the registration of

President to dissolve Parliament without a referendum in rare instances, and abolish the President's ability to issue decrees while Parliament was in recess. Another approved amendment transformed the 59-member Consultative Council, an advisory board to the President, into a 111-member Shura Council. The new Council, like the old, advises the President on a range of issues and consists of presidentially appointed members chaired by a former prime minister. However, unlike its predecessor, which had no constitutional role, the Shura Council has limited legislative and candidate approval powers.

Formal government authority is centralized in Sana'a; many citizens, especially in urban areas, complain about the inability of local and governorate entities to make policy or resource decisions. Responding to these concerns, in January 2000, the Parliament passed the government-submitted Local Authority Law. The law, considered by the Government as an important part of its ongoing democratization program, decentralizes authority by establishing locally elected district and governorate councils. The councils are headed by government-appointed governors. The first elections for the councils were held concurrently with the constitutional referendum in February.

In some governorates, tribal leaders exercise considerable discretion in the interpretation and enforcement of the law. Central government authority in these areas often is weak.

In general the elections and referendum appeared to be free and fair; however, there were several problems. Approximately 28 persons were killed and 47 wounded in election-related violence. On February 25, a reported shootout between GPC and Islaah supporters in Ibb governorate left 6 persons dead and 10 injured. In two separate incidents in Taiz governorate on February 21, four persons were killed in the GPC-Islaah exchange of gunfire, and four security officials were wounded when a dispute over vote counting reportedly turned violent. There were some reports of fraud, as well as logistical problems in voting procedures. Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported on claims that the Supreme Elections Committee issued a directive advising and monitoring candidates to prevent campaigning for a "no" vote in the referendum; however, this allegation could not be confirmed. There were unconfirmed reports that some authorities harassed opposition candidates during the time leading up to the elections.

## Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government

The Constitution provides citizens with the right to change their government; however, there are significant limitations in practice. The Government by law is accountable to the Parliament; however, the Parliament is not yet an effective counterweight to executive authority. Decisionmaking and real political power still rest in the hands of the executive branch, particularly the President. In addition the Constitution prohibits the establishment of parties that are contrary to Islam, oppose the goals of the Yemeni revolution, or violate the country's international commitments.

The President appoints the Prime Minister, who forms the Government. The cabinet consists of 35 ministers. Parliament is elected by universal adult suffrage; the first such election was held in 1993. International observers judged the parliamentary elections (held in 1997) as "reasonably free and fair," despite some problems associated with the voting.

Ali Abdullah Saleh, the President and leader of the GPC, was elected to a 5-year term in the country's first nation-wide direct presidential election in September 1999, winning 96.3 percent of the vote. The Constitution provides that the President be elected by popular vote from at least two candidates endorsed by Parliament, and the election was generally free and fair; however, there were some problems, including the lack of a credible voter registration list. In addition the President was not opposed by a truly competitive candidate because the candidate selected by the leftist opposition coalition did not receive from the GPC-dominated Parliament the minimum number of votes required to run (the other opposition party chose not to run its own candidate, despite its seats in Parliament). The President's sole opponent was a member of the GPC. There was no significant violence associated with the election.

Although the Constitution permits Parliament to initiate legislation, to date it has not done so. Parliament generally is relegated to debating policies that the Government already has submitted, although it increasingly and successfully revises or blocks draft legislation submitted by the Government. In addition the Government routinely consults senior Parliamentary leaders when it drafts important national legislation. Despite the fact that the President's party enjoys an absolute majority, Parliament has rejected or delayed action on major legislation introduced by the Government and has forced significant modification. The Parliament also has criticized strongly the Government for some actions, including the lifting of subsidies and other economic reform measures mandated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Ministers frequently are called to Parliament to defend actions, policies, or proposed legislation, although they may and sometimes do refuse to appear. Parliamentarians at times are sharply critical during these sessions. Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff attend foreign NGO-sponsored training workshops designed to increase their independence and effectiveness. Following a constitutional referendum in February, the President no longer has the authority to introduce legislation and promulgate laws by decree when Parliament is not in session.

In a national referendum held in February, citizens approved several amendments to the Constitution, including amendments that would extend the terms of Members of Parliament from 4 to 6 years and the President from 5 to 7 years, allow the

President to dissolve Parliament without a referendum in rare instances, and abolish the President's ability to issue decrees while Parliament was in recess. Another approved amendment transformed the 59-member Consultative Council, an advisory board to the President, into a 111-member Shura Council. The new Council, like the old, advises the President on a range of issues and consists of presidentially appointed members chaired by a former prime minister. However, unlike its predecessor, which had no constitutional role, the Shura Council has limited legislative and candidate approval powers.

Formal government authority is centralized in Sana'a; many citizens, especially in urban areas, complain about the inability of local and governorate entities to make policy or resource decisions. Responding to these concerns, in January 2000, the Parliament passed the government-submitted Local Authority Law. The law, considered by the Government as an important part of its ongoing democratization program, decentralizes authority by establishing locally elected district and governorate councils. The councils are headed by government-appointed governors. The first elections for the councils were held concurrently with the constitutional referendum in February.

In some governorates, tribal leaders exercise considerable discretion in the interpretation and enforcement of the law. Central government authority in these areas often is weak.

In general the elections and referendum appeared to be free and fair; however, there were several problems. Approximately 28 persons were killed and 47 wounded in election-related violence. On February 25, a reported shootout between GPC and Islaah supporters in Ibb governorate left 6 persons dead and 10 injured. In two separate incidents in Taiz governorate on February 21, four persons were killed in the GPC-Islaah exchange of gunfire, and four security officials were wounded when a dispute over vote counting reportedly turned violent. There were some reports of fraud, as well as logistical problems in voting procedures. Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported on claims that the Supreme Elections Committee issued a directive advising and monitoring candidates to prevent campaigning for a "no" vote in the referendum; however, this allegation could not be confirmed. There were unconfirmed reports that some authorities harassed opposition candidates during the time leading up to the elections.

The multiparty system remains weak. The GPC dominates the Parliament, and Islaah is the only other party of significance. All parties must be registered in accordance with the Political Parties Law of 1991, which stipulates that each party must have at least 75 founders and 2,500 members. Some oppositionists contend that they are unable to organize new parties because of the prohibitively high legal requirements regarding the minimum number of members and leaders. Twelve parties participated in the 1997 elections, compared with 16 in 1993. The YSP and several smaller parties boycotted the 1997 elections, leading to lower voter turnout in the south. These same parties also boycotted the country's first nationwide direct presidential election in September 1999, but they returned to active political life by participating in the February local elections and constitutional referendum.

The Government provides financial support to political parties, including a small stipend to publish their own newspapers. However, the YSP claims that the Government has yet to return the assets that it seized from the party during the 1994 civil war.

An extensive cabinet change in April expanded the Cabinet from 24 to 35 ministers, restructured existing ministries, and created several new ministries to place greater emphasis on important national issues, such as population, the environment, and human rights. The new government program focuses on domestic reform, with particular attention to human development, including education, economic development, electoral reform, political decentralization, judicial reform, and human rights.

Although women vote and hold office, cultural norms and religious customs often limit these rights, and the numbers of women in Government and politics does not correspond to their percentage of the population. Two women were elected to the Parliament in 1997 (the same number as in 1993), and an increasing number hold senior leadership positions in the Government or in the GPC. The country's first female minister was appointed in April (see Sections 4 and 5), and 35 women were elected to the local councils. Voter registration of women is less than half that of men.

Many Akhdam, a small ethnic minority who may be descendants of African slaves, are not permitted to participate in the political process, mainly due to their inability to obtain citizenship. There no longer are any credible reports that citizen members of religious minorities are not permitted to participate in the political process.

## Section 4 Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

The concept of local nongovernmental human rights organizations is relatively new, with the first groups forming only in the years since unification. During the year several groups held workshops and other activities without government interference and often with government support.

The Government cooperates with NGO's, although NGO's complain that there is a lack of response to their requests from government officials. The Government's ability to be responsive is limited in part by a lack of material and human resources (see Section 2.b.).

The Taiz-based HRITC, perhaps the country's most respected domestic human rights NGO, places particular emphasis on

education and NGO training. During the year, the HRITC sponsored numerous public lectures, training workshops, and conferences, and participated in several meetings of the international human rights community. For example, in January it conducted a workshop on public participation in the electoral process to encourage and educate citizens on the February local elections and constitutional referendum. In March the HRITC organized a seminar to develop ways to address the legal and other problems of female prisoners in Taiz Central Prison, an initiative it hopes to expand to include other cities (see Section 1.c.). In February and May, it conducted NGO management training workshops. In October it held a forum to discuss women's rights. The HRITC publishes the quarterly human rights journal Our Rights and regularly prints and distributes a brochure entitled "Know Your Rights." Several donors have supported the HRITC. The HRITC did not conduct any investigations into alleged human rights abuses during the year.

The Sana'a-based NGO Forum for a Civil Society focuses on human rights within the context of establishing a legal framework for prosecuting violators and helping to reconcile draft legislation that is inconsistent with the Government's human rights policy or stated responsibilities. The forum was instrumental in raising public opinion and opposition to problems within the draft NGO and police laws (see Section 2.b.). The forum also is reviewing the Personal Status and Civil Procedure Laws to investigate how the laws affect women's rights (see Section 5). The forum also is involved in anticorruption endeavors. The group publishes the monthly Al-Qistas.

In June the reenergized Yemen Institute for Developing Democracy (YIDD), which had been relatively inactive in the past few years, organized the Yemeni Democratic Forum, an ad hoc group of political party, government, and NGO officials to debate and discuss the Government's draft Elections Law. The YIDD's objective for creating the group was to create a mechanism that would promote democratic participation and government-civil society engagement.

In 2000 the Organization for the Defense of Human Rights, a lawyers' group formed in 1999 by attorney and parliamentarian Mohamed Naji Alao, discovered that several illegal private prisons were being operated at government facilities in Sana'a. He reported them to the President, who immediately ordered the unlawful prisons closed and offenders arrested (see Section 1.c.).

The Aden-based Yemeni Organization for the Defense of Liberties and Human Rights continued to suffer from a lack of funds, which limited its activities. It continued to publicize human rights abuses, particularly in the south.

During the year, al-Nushataa, or The Activists, a group formed in 1999 by former members of the Yemeni Human Rights Organization (YHRO), with financial assistance from a foreign embassy, established a human rights journal, which published its first edition in April. As it did in 2000, al-Nushataa also organized a children's parliament and other activities to familiarize secondary school children with electoral procedures and processes.

The National Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development (NCHRDD) participated with other organizations in prison inspection tours.

During the year, several NGO's, often with government support, focused on prison reform (see Section 1.c.). In addition to the March HRITC workshop, in April the al-Aff Young Girls Forum organized a seminar aimed at improving conditions in the country's women's prisons. In June under the patronage of the new Minister of State for Human Rights and in association with the International Human Rights Legal Group and the Arab human rights forum al-Shaqiq conducted a 3-day program on protecting female prisoners' rights. Women's rights activists attended the program from Tunisia, Egypt, Pakistan, Malaysia, and the United States, as well as Yemen.

In 1998 and 1999, Penal Reform International (PRI), a London-based NGO, conducted a fact-finding mission to Yemen and, with the support of a foreign embassy and the Government and with the assistance of the HRITC, organized prison management training workshops for prison and security officials. PRI identified several issues of concern, including the mistreatment of prisoners, lack of education and resources for prison officials, and unsanitary and overcrowded conditions.

AI, HRW, the Parliament of the European Union, and the Committee to Protect Journalists observe the country closely. The ICRC maintains a resident representative. The Government has given these groups broad access to government officials, records, refugee camps, and prisons. The Government had acknowledged some abuses that were alleged in a 1997 AI report and rejected other allegations. AI's follow-up report, issued in July 1999, criticized the Government for not keeping its promise to investigate some of these abuses. The Government claims that it responded to AI and passed the results of its investigations to the UNCHR, but that the information the organization provided was inadequate for effective investigation and conclusive action.

The Yemeni Human Rights Organization (YHRO), which was founded by the Government, is headquartered in Sana'a, with branches in seven other cities. Oppositionists as well as some human rights experts have viewed its findings as unobjective. The YHRO appeared to be inactive during the year.

The Supreme National Committee for Human Rights (SNCHR), which was formed in 1997 and reported to the Deputy Prime Minister who is also Minister of Foreign Affairs, was dissolved in June, reconstituted, and then placed under the authority of the new Minister of State for Human Rights.

# Report on human rights in Yemen - 2001 (continued)

The SNCHR had been responsible for ensuring that the country met its obligations with respect to implementing international human rights conventions and investigating specific instances of abuse. The committee viewed as its highest priority education as a means to effect cultural change. It undertook several human rights educational projects, including incorporating human rights education into secondary school curriculums and providing human rights workshops for police officers and other security officials. The committee was less active in investigating specific cases of abuse. Some observers believe the dissolution of the SNCHR and the reassignment of its experienced staff will impede human rights progress and delay action while a new committee begins to function within government bureaucracy after a complicated transition. Others believe that human rights issues will be more effectively addressed by activists and professionals in the field as opposed to Ministry of Foreign Affairs personnel.

The Government created a new Human Rights Ministry in April. The country's first Minister of State for Human Rights, Dr. Wahibah Fare'e, is a prominent women's rights activist and the founder of Queen Arwa University. She is the country's first female minister. Dr. Fare'e has identified women's rights, the rights of children and persons with disabilities, and prison reform as her priorities. Since her appointment, she has attended a number of human rights conferences and workshops.

In October 2000, the Human Rights Committee of the President's Consultative Council (now the Shoura Council), in cooperation with the NCHRDD, inspected several police stations in Sana'a to determine whether police were following proper procedures and to develop recommendations for the Minister of Interior regarding training for police officers (see Section 1.c.).

The Parliament's human rights committee participated in prison inspections in Hodeidah, Hadramaut, Abyan, and Lahaj governorates during the year. The committee publicized its findings and developed a set of reform recommendations for the Government. The committee's chairman claims that he would prefer to increase the activities of the committee, especially in the area of press freedoms, but cites lack of official and financial support as constraints. The committee has no authority except to issue reports.

The Committee to Combat Torture is composed of 100 senior parliamentarians and party leaders, including some opposition members, but apparently was inactive during the year.

The Center for Future Studies, a think tank affiliated with the Islaah Party, issues an annual report on human rights practices, providing a wide-ranging overview of human rights. There is little follow-up to the report.

## Section 5 Discrimination Based on Race, Sex, Religion, Disability, Language, or Social Status

The Constitution states that "all citizens are equal in general rights and duties," and that society "is based on social solidarity, which is based on justice, freedom, and equality according to the law," however, discrimination based on race, sex, disability, and, to a lesser extent, religion, exists. Entrenched cultural attitudes often affect women's ability to enjoy equal rights.

### Women

The law provides for protection against violence against women; however, such provisions rarely are enforced. Although spousal abuse reportedly is common, it generally is undocumented. Violence against women and children is considered a family affair and usually is not reported to the police. In the country's traditional society, an abused woman is expected to take her complaint to a male relative (rather than the authorities), who should intercede on her behalf or provide her sanctuary if required. One survey conducted by Sana'a University and the Dutch Ministry of Justice found that nearly 50 percent of the 120 women interviewed stated that they had been beaten; 1 in 5 claimed to have been threatened with death. Despite the high incidence rates reported, only 3 percent of women had ever sought help from an outsider or the police. The only institutionalized aid program for victims is a small shelter for battered women in Aden.

Rape is prohibited by law; however, it is a widespread problem.

The press and women's rights activists only recently have begun to investigate or report on violations of women's rights. NGO-sponsored conferences in April and September attempted to raise the media's awareness of violence against women. The Women's Forum on Research and Training, with assistance from a foreign embassy, conducted a workshop on domestic violence for security and NGO officials in September. The issue of violence against women became a topic of heated public debate in 2000 following the murder of two female students at Sana'a University's medical school and extensive press reports documenting the authorities' dismissive treatment of the female students' concerns and inadequate attention to their security.

Prostitution is illegal; however, it occurs in practice.

The Penal Code allows for leniency for persons guilty of committing a "crime against honor," a euphemism for violent assaults or killings committed against a female for her perceived immodest or defiant behavior. Legal provisions regarding violence against women state that an accused man should be put to death for murdering a woman. However, a husband who murders his wife and her lover may be fined or imprisoned for a term not to exceed a year. Despite the apparent sanctioning of honor killings, most citizens, including women's activists, believe the phenomenon is not widespread. Some Western NGO's claim that the practice is more prevalent, but admit to a lack of evidence to support such claims.

Female genital mutilation (FGM), which is condemned widely by international health

experts as damaging to both physical and psychological health, is practiced by some citizens. According to a 1997 demographic survey conducted by the Government, nearly one-fourth (23 percent) of women who have ever been married have been subjected to FGM. However, the prevalence of the practice varies substantially by region. Citizens of African origin or those living in communities with heavy African influence are more likely to practice FGM. For example, according to the survey, approximately 69 percent of women living in coastal areas were subjected to FGM, compared with 15 percent in mountainous regions, and 5 percent in the plateau and desert regions. The procedure mainly is confined to excision, with infibulation being practiced only among East African immigrants and refugees. FGM rarely is reported among Shafai Sunnis, and the Zaydi Shi'a reportedly do not practice it at all. The Government's publication of the data on FGM was an important first step in addressing this problem. In January the Cabinet issued a decree making it illegal for public or private health service practitioners to practice FGM, and some government health workers and officials continue to discourage the practice actively and publicly. However, FGM technically remains legal, and local women's groups have not adopted the problem as a major concern.

Women face significant restrictions on their role in society. The law, social custom, and Shari'a, as interpreted in the country, discriminate against women. Men are permitted to take as many as four wives, although very few do so. By law the minimum age of marriage is 15. However, the law largely is not enforced, and some girls marry as early as age 12.

The law stipulates that the wife's "consent" to the marriage is required; "consent" is defined as "silence" for previously unwed women and "pronouncement of consent" for divorced women. The husband and the wife's "guardian" (usually her father) sign the marriage contract; in Aden and some outlying governorates, the wife also signs. The practice of bride-price payments is widespread, despite efforts to limit the size of such payments.

The law provides that the wife must obey the husband. She must live with him at the place stipulated in the contract, consummate the marriage, and not leave the home without his consent. Husbands may divorce wives without justifying their action in court. A woman has the legal right to divorce; however, she must provide a justification, such as her husband's nonsupport, impotence, or taking of a second wife without her consent. However, the expense of hiring a lawyer is a significant deterrent, as is the necessity for rural women to travel to a city to present their case. A woman seeking a divorce also must repay the mahr (a portion of her bride price), which creates an additional hardship. As a woman's family usually retains the mahr, the refusal by a family to pay the mahr effectively can prevent a divorce. The family's refusal to accept the woman back into the home also may deter divorce, as few other options are available to women. When a divorce occurs, the family home and older children often are awarded to the husband. The divorced woman usually returns to her father's home or to the home of another male relative. Her former husband must continue to support her for another 3 months, since she may not remarry until she proves that she is not pregnant.

Women who seek to travel abroad must obtain permission from their husbands or fathers to receive a passport and to travel (see Section 2.d.). They also are expected to be accompanied by male relatives. However, enforcement of this requirement is not consistent.

Shari'a-based law permits a Muslim man to marry a Christian or Jewish woman, but no Muslim woman may marry outside of Islam. Women do not have the right to confer citizenship on their foreign-born spouses; however, they may confer citizenship on children born in the country of foreign-born fathers.

According to a 1995 Interior Ministry regulation, any citizen who wishes to marry a foreigner must obtain the permission of the Ministry. A woman wishing to marry a foreigner must present proof of her parents' approval to the Interior Ministry. A foreign woman who wishes to marry a citizen man must prove to the Ministry that she is "of good conduct and behavior," and "is free from contagious disease." There are no corresponding requirements for men to demonstrate parental approval, good conduct, or freedom from contagious diseases. Although the regulation does not have the force of law and is applied irregularly, some human rights groups have raised concerns about it.

The Government consistently supports women's rights and the expansion of the public role of women. The President frequently speaks publicly about the importance of women in politics and economic development. In 1999 the Prime Minister mandated that all ministries must promote at least one woman to the director general level; during the year, the Interior Ministry, which in 2000 was the only ministry without a female director general, appointed one. In addition in late 2000, the Ministry of Interior initiated an aggressive campaign to recruit and train female police officers; the new officers completed training and were deployed in March. Several ministries have a number of female directors general. In 2000 the Prime Minister established the Supreme Council for Women, an independent governmental body charged with promoting women's issues in the Government. With the Government's active support, bilateral and multilateral donors have initiated long-term (1994-2004) projects worth \$31 million (4.96 billion riyals) aimed at advancing vocational education and reproductive health for women and girls.

According to 2000 Government statistics, approximately 68 percent of women are illiterate, compared with approximately 28 percent of men. The fertility rate is 6.5 children per woman. Most women have little access to basic health care. Only

approximately 22 percent of births are attended by trained health-care personnel. In some cases, women do not use clinics because they are unable to afford them or reach them from their remote villages, have little confidence in them, or their male relatives or they themselves refuse to allow a male doctor to examine them. Donor-funded maternal and child health programs attempt to address these issues through programs designed to train midwives who serve rural populations.

In general women in the south, particularly in Aden, are better educated and have had somewhat greater employment opportunities than their northern counterparts. However, since the 1994 civil war, the number of working women in the south appears to have declined, due not only to the stagnant economy but also to increasing cultural pressure from the north. According to the UNDP, female workers account for 19 percent of the paid labor force. There are no laws prohibiting sexual harassment, and it occurs in practice.

The National Women's Committee (NWC), a government-sponsored semi-independent women's association, promotes women's education and civic responsibility through seminars and workshops and by coordinating donors' programs. The committee's chairwoman sits on the Prime Ministerial Supreme Council for Women. In July the NWC, in a legal reform project financed by the World Bank, completed a 6 month review of 58 significant national laws to find and rectify provisions that discriminated against women or violated equal status requirements agreed to by the Government in international conventions. The NWC's 7-member legal committee, consisting of lawyers, women's rights experts, and Islamic scholars, found that 10 laws contained discriminatory language or "negligence with respect to women" and that 15 others were ambiguous because the laws used the masculine impersonal pronoun when the statutes governed women as well as men. The team identified sections of the law with such problems, developed revised language, provided a legal justification, and offered an Islamic interpretation to validate the change. The Cabinet has approved the recommended changes in principle, with some revisions; the NWC is working with Parliament to formally change the law; however, Parliament passed no legislation regarding this matter by year's end.

There are a number of recently formed NGO's working for women's advancement, including the Social Association for Productive Families, which promotes vocational development for women; the Women and Children's Department of the Center for Future Studies, which organizes seminars and publishes studies on women and children; the Woman and Child Development Association, which focuses on health education and illiteracy; and the Yemeni Council for Motherhood and Childhood, which provides microcredit and vocational training to women.

### Children

While the Government asserts its commitment to protect children's rights, it lacks the resources necessary to ensure adequate health care, education, and welfare services for children. The Government does not provide free medical care to children. The UNDP estimates that 30 percent of children are malnourished; a 1997 demographic study by the Government put this figure at 50 percent, and indicated that half of all children under 5 years of age exhibit stunted growth. The infant mortality rate in 1999 was 75 deaths per 1,000 births, down from 105 per 1,000 in 1998. Male children receive preferential treatment over female children; after the age of a year, male children have a 12 percent greater chance of survival than females, a result of the comparative neglect of female children.

The law provides for universal, compulsory, and free education from ages 6 to 15; however, the provision regarding compulsory attendance is not enforced. Many children, especially girls, do not attend primary school. According to a UNDP report released during the year, average student attendance in primary schools is 76 percent for boys and 40 percent for girls. In rural areas, 52 percent of children attend school; the rate in urban areas is 81 percent. Education for females is not encouraged in some tribal areas, where girls often are kept at home to help their mothers with childcare, housework, and farm work. According to UNICEF's "Report on Children and Women in Yemen: 1998," an estimated 40 percent of primary-school-age children (ages 6 to 15) do not attend school. Some rural areas have no schools for their school-age population. In 1998 to encourage girls' attendance at school, the Government passed a law that eliminated school fees and the requirement of uniforms for girls. According to the UNICEF report, enrollment of girls in school increased by 4 percent in 1998.

In 1999 following an inspection of Sana'a central prison, the Supreme National Committee for Human Rights arranged for minors who previously had been incarcerated with adults to be incarcerated separately in two age groups: 11 to 14 years old; and 15 to 18 years old. Fifty juvenile inmates were moved from the prison to an orphanage run by the Ministry of Social Affairs, where they attend school and participate in other activities (see Sections 1.c. and 4). The committee also initiated a project, with the support of local businessmen, to build the country's first youth reformatory (see Section 4). In February the U.N. High Commission on Human Rights and the Government entered into a mutual agreement to develop specific programs to address the problem of juvenile delinquency by establishing a national mechanism for the administration of juvenile justice.

Child marriage is common in rural areas. Although the law requires that a girl be 15 years of age to marry, the law is not enforced, and marriages of girls as young as age 12 occur.

Child abuse is not prohibited by law, and it was a problem.

Child labor was common (see Section 6.d.).

Female genital mutilation (FGM) was practiced mainly on young girls (see Section 5, Women).

The new Minister of State for Human Rights stated in April that the issue of children's rights would be at the top of her agenda. In 2000 the Prime Minister established the Higher Council of Motherhood and Childhood (HCMC), a semi-autonomous interministerial entity responsible for formulating policy and programs to improve the status of children. The HCMC participates in the World Bank's Child Development Program and the Arab Council for Childhood and Development's program for street children.

### Persons with Disabilities

Persons with mental and physical disabilities face distinct social prejudices, as well as discrimination in education and employment. In 1998 the Government mandated the acceptance of persons with disabilities in universities, exempted them from paying tuition, and required that schools be made more accessible to persons with disabilities; however, it is unclear to what extent these laws have been implemented. There is no national law mandating the accessibility of buildings for persons with disabilities. Some persons with disabilities are reduced to begging to support themselves. Patients with mental illness, particularly those who commit crimes, are imprisoned and even shackled when there is no one to care for them. In some instances, authorities arrest persons with mental illness without charge and place them in prisons alongside criminals (see Section 1.c.). The ICRC, in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society, built and now staffs separate detention facilities for prisoners with mental illness. These facilities are located in Sana'a, Ibb, and Taiz, and collectively are able to care for a population of about 300 persons.

Public awareness regarding the need to address the concerns of persons with disabilities appears to be increasing. For example, during the year a privately-funded center for persons with hearing and speaking impairments was established in Taiz. In 2000 donors financed the establishment of three new schools for persons with disabilities in Taiz governorate.

The Handicapped Society, the country's largest NGO involved in assisting persons with disabilities, was founded in 1988 and has branches in 13 governorates. Funded by international donors (primarily the Swedish organization Radda Barnen) and a modest annual grant from the Government, the Handicapped Society provides rehabilitation assistance and vocational training, and sponsors cultural and sports activities. The Ministry of Education has assigned three teachers to teach students at the disabled-accessible classrooms at the Society's Sana'a branch. Believing that the needs of women with disabilities were not being addressed adequately by the Handicapped Society, concerned citizens in 1998 established, with government support, the Challenge Society. The Challenge Society provides 85 females with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 30 with medical care, support services, and vocational training. In 2000 three teenagers with disabilities toured the country on specially adapted bicycles and, supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and private sector contributions, took their bike tour to several Arab countries.

### Religious Minorities

Apart from a small but undetermined number of Christians and Hindus of South Asian origin in Aden, Jews are the only indigenous religious minority. Their numbers have diminished significantly—from several tens of thousands to a few hundred—due to voluntary emigration over the past 50 years. Although the law makes no distinction, Jews traditionally are restricted to living in one section of a city or village and often are confined to a limited choice of employment, usually farming or handicrafts. Jews may, and do, own property.

Non-Muslims may vote, but they are prohibited from holding elective office. Christian clergy who minister to the foreign community are employed in teaching, social services, and health care. Occasionally the security authorities harass such clergy by censoring their mail, ostensibly to prevent proselytizing (see Section 2.c.).

### National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities

Citizens with a noncitizen parent, called "muwalladin," at times face discrimination in employment and in other areas. Persons who seek employment at Sana'a University or admission to the military academy by law must demonstrate that they have two citizen parents. Nonetheless, many senior government officials, including Members of Parliament and ministers, have only one citizen parent. In some cases, naturalization of the non-Yemeni parent is sufficient to overcome the "two-Yemeni-parent" requirement.

A small group of persons claiming to be the descendants of ancient Ethiopian occupiers of Yemen who later were enslaved, are considered the lowest social class. Known as the "Akhdam" (servants), they live in poverty and endure persistent social discrimination. Beginning in September 1999, the Government's Social Fund for Development (SFD) initiated a program for "special needs groups," which focused particularly on the Akhdam. During the year, the SFD continued to conduct an education project for Akhdam children in Hodeidah governorate, provided support to an NGO conducting field research on Akhdam needs in Sana'a governorate, improved the quality of the water supply and built two classrooms for the Akhdam community in Taiz governorate, and coordinated with NGO's in Sana'a, Taiz, and Dhamar governorates on issues regarding education and Akhdam street children. In July several Akhdam-origin citizens in Taiz governorate established the Free Black People's Charitable Organization to fight discrimination and improve conditions for their community.

There have been reports by human rights groups that some immigrants of African origin have difficulty in securing Interior Ministry permission to marry citizens. An Interior Ministry regulation requires that marriages of citizens and foreigners be approved in advance by the Ministry (see also Section 1.f.).

Tribal violence continued to be a problem during the year, and the Government's ability to control tribal elements responsible for kidnappings, shootings, and other acts of violence remained limited. During March persons were reported killed and 11 wounded in tribal disputes between the al-Uaimat and Wadeah tribes in Amran governorate. In January ten tribesmen were killed and seven injured in confrontations between the Dahma and Wa'ila tribes in Sa'ada governorate. In May five persons were killed in a drive-by shooting in Sana'a. Witnesses said that the incident involved the Abu Nashtun and al-Faqih tribes and was related to an incident between the two tribes that had occurred 10 years previously. Also in May, in the ongoing feud between the Marib-based al-Zaydi tribe and the Sana'a-based Sanhan tribe, a child was killed and two adults injured in Marib when security forces were dispatched to rescue five kidnapped Sanhani children. In July in Marib governorate, 15 tribesmen were killed when a reported land dispute between the Jahm and Nahm tribes escalated into violence. Also in Marib in July, 11 soldiers and 2 tribesmen were killed when security forces were deployed in the region to arrest 2 Jahm tribesmen suspected of bombing the country's main oil pipeline. In October 6 tribesmen were killed and 16 injured during 2 days of tribal violence stemming from a land dispute in Hajja governorate. Tensions, which periodically escalate into violent confrontations, continue between the Government and the Khowlan, al-Zaydi and Jahm tribes in Marib governorate.

### Section 6 Worker Rights

#### a. The Right of Association

The Constitution and Labor Law provide that citizens have the right to form and join unions; however, this right is restricted in practice. The Government seeks to place its own personnel in positions of influence inside unions and trade union federations.

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Yemen (GFTUY) remains the sole national umbrella organization. The GFTUY claims approximately 350,000 members in 14 unions and denies any association with the Government, although it works closely with the Government to resolve labor disputes through negotiation. Observers suggest that the Government likely would not tolerate the establishment of an alternative labor federation unless it believed such an establishment to be in its best interest.

Only the General Assembly of the GFTUY may dissolve unions. The law provides equal labor rights for women, and it confirms the freedom of workers to associate. The Labor Law does not stipulate a minimum membership for unions, nor does it limit them to a specific enterprise or firm. Thus, citizens may associate by profession or trade.

The Labor Law provides for the right to strike; however, strikes are not permitted unless a dispute between workers and employers is "final" and "incontestable" (a prior attempt must have been made to settle through negotiation or arbitration). The proposal to strike must be submitted to at least 60 percent of all concerned workers, of whom 25 percent must vote in favor of the proposal. Permission to strike also must be obtained from the GFTUY. Strikes for explicit "political purposes" are prohibited.

There were several small strikes during the year. In April workers at the National Dockyard in Aden struck for 3 days to demand equal employment benefits with workers at the Port of Aden. These demands were met. In May employees at the General Corporation for Foreign Trade and Grain in Sana'a held a 1-day strike to protest the plan to transfer the building in which they worked to the Ministry of Higher Education; the Government agreed to seek another building for the Ministry. Also in May, the staff at the al-Thawra public hospital struck for 3 days for higher wages; a compromise solution was reached. The national teachers' union conducted a 2-day strike in several governorates in September to pressure the Government to implement the new Teachers' Law, which increases benefits. Teachers at Sana'a University struck for approximately 3 weeks in September to demand equal pay as foreign instructors at the university. There were no reports of violence in connection with these strikes.

The GFTUY is affiliated with the Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and since November with the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The GFTUY withdrew from the formerly Soviet-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions in January.

#### b. The Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively

The 1995 Labor Law provides workers with the right to organize and bargain collectively. The Government permits these activities; however, it seeks to influence them by placing its own personnel inside groups and organizations. All collective bargaining agreements must be deposited with and reviewed by the Ministry of Labor, a practice criticized by the International Labor Organization (ILO). Several such agreements exist. Agreements may be invalidated if they are "likely to cause a breach of security or to damage the economic interests of the country." Unions may negotiate wage settlements for their members and may resort to strikes or other actions to achieve their demands. Public sector employees must take their grievances to court.

The law generally protects employees from antiunion discrimination; however, during the year the International Confederation of Labor Unions identified weaknesses within this law. Employers do not have the right to dismiss an employee for

union activities. Employees may appeal any disputes, including cases of antiunion discrimination, to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. Employees also may take a case to the Labor Arbitration Committee, which is chaired by the Ministry of Labor and also consists of an employer representative and a GFTUY representative. Such cases often are disposed favorably toward workers, especially if the employer is a foreign company.

There are no export processing zones (EPZ's) in operation; an EPZ is planned for Aden.

#### c. Prohibition of Forced or Compulsory Labor

The Constitution prohibits forced or compulsory labor, and there were no reports of its practice. The law does not prohibit forced or bonded labor by children specifically, but such practices are not known to occur.

#### d. Status of Child Labor Practices and Minimum Age for Employment

The law does not prohibit forced or bonded labor by children specifically, but such practices are not known to occur (see Section 6.c.).

The established minimum age for employment is 15 years in the private sector and 18 years in the public sector. By special permit, children between the ages of 12 and 15 may work. The Government rarely enforces these provisions, especially in rural and remote areas. The Government also does not enforce laws requiring 9 years of compulsory education for children.

Child labor is common, especially in rural areas. Many children are required to work in subsistence farming because of the poverty of their families. Even in urban areas, children work in stores and workshops, sell goods on the streets, and beg.

Many school-aged children work instead of attending school, particularly in areas in which schools are not easily accessible.

The results of the 1994 national census showed that 231,655 children between the ages of 10 and 14 years, or 6.5 percent of all children in that age group, were working. Experts believe that the number has increased since 1994.

In 2000 the President's Consultative Council (now the Shura Council) adopted the ILO's Child Labor Strategy to address persistent child labor problems. A special council, under the leadership of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, uses the strategy as a government-wide guideline for enforcing existing child labor laws and formulating and implementing new laws.

In June 2000, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor signed a \$1.3 million agreement with the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). During the year under the program, the Ministry established a child labor department and will begin to train teachers to make school curriculums more relevant to rural children, mobilize media to discuss child labor, establish a microenterprise program to help families establish businesses that will allow their children to stay in school, and seek the support of civil society to remove children from hazardous jobs. In addition in 2000, the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs in 2000 developed a plan to establish six centers for street children in six governorates over the next 5 years. Two centers were completed during the year.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor occasionally inspects factories in the major population areas. Ministry officials state that they lack the resources to enforce child labor laws more effectively. However, since a great percentage of the country's underage work force is in the agricultural sector in remote rural areas, it is difficult for the Government to protect most child workers.

#### e. Acceptable Conditions of Work

There is no established minimum wage for any type of employment. The Labor Law states that "it shall not be permissible that the minimal level of the wage of a worker should be less than the minimal wages of government civil servants." During the year, the Government increased civil servants' wages. According to the Ministry of Civil Service and Social Security, the average minimum wage of civil servants is approximately \$44 to \$56 (7,500 to 9,500 riyals) per month, up from \$37 to \$56 (6,000 to 9,000 riyals) per month in 2000. Private sector workers, especially skilled technicians, earn a far higher wage. The average wage does not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. A combination of inflation and the loss of government-provided subsidies continued to erode wages.

The law specifies a maximum 48-hour workweek with a maximum 8-hour workday, but many workshops and stores operate 10- to 12-hour shifts without penalty. The workweek for government employees is 35 hours: 7 hours per day from Saturday through Wednesday.

The Ministry of Labor is responsible for regulating workplace health and safety conditions. The requisite legislation for regulating occupational health is contained in the Labor Law, but enforcement is weak to nonexistent. Many workers regularly are exposed to toxic industrial products and develop respiratory illnesses. Some foreign-owned companies as well as major manufacturers implement higher health, safety, and environmental standards than the Government requires. Workers have the right to remove themselves from dangerous work situations and may challenge dismissals in court. These laws are respected in practice.

#### f. Trafficking in Persons

The law prohibits trafficking in persons, and there were no reports that persons were trafficked to, from, or within the country.

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# Major news items in leading international newspapers

Provided by Xinhua

## Egypt

The following are major news items in leading Egyptian newspapers.

### Al Ahram

Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Obeid is to hold a ministerial meeting on Saturday to discuss ways of removing obstacles impeding investors' businesses.

Ten ministers will attend the meeting to discuss the problems in the industrial estates and free Zones.

### Al Akhbar

Before his departure on Sunday for Beirut to attend ministerial preparatory meetings for the Arab summit, Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said that Egyptian policies are prepared under President Hosni Mubarak's directives, free of any pressure and fully independent.

He added that Egyptian priorities are to stop all means to deprive the

Palestinian people of their rights.

### Al Gomhuria:

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he has not received any official invitation so far to meet in Cairo with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, but he made it clear that he is having incessant contacts with U.S. President George W. Bush to mull over the developments of the Palestinian-Israeli conflicts.

### Egyptian Mail

Thousands of Egyptians Friday staged a pro-Palestinian demonstration inside a major mosque in Cairo.

The worshippers in the Al-Azhar Mosque condemned Israel for its ruthless attacks on the Palestinians. The demonstrators called on Arab leaders during their coming summit in Beirut to offer more support to the Palestinian uprising.

## India

The following are major news items in leading Indian newspapers on Saturday.

### The Times of India

In yet another indicator of the rapidly growing Indo-Israel defense relations, the government has decided to purchase long-range "aerostat programmable radars" from Tel Aviv.

### The Hindu

India and the United States on Friday concluded a brainstorming session on Afghanistan and agreed that there was an urgent need to raise an

indigenous Afghan armed force. The agreement was reached in New Delhi between U.S. president's special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and India's special envoy on Afghanistan S. K. Lambah.

### Hindustan Times

The ruling National Democratic Alliance led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) thrashed out a truce and decided on Friday night to work together for the remaining months of its government's term till October this year, thus the political storm that threatened to rock the alliance has blown over at least for now.

## Britain

The following are major news items in leading British newspapers on Saturday:

### Financial Times

Marconi's survival was thrown into fresh doubt on Friday after the once high-flying telecoms equipment group was forced to rip up a crucial refinancing deal with its banks and warned of a continued slump in sales.

### The Times

One of the dominant voices of the 20th Century in Britain has been silenced: Baroness Thatcher has decided to follow doctors' advice and will never make a speech in public again.

### The Daily Telegraph:

A British woman struck down by an illness that left her paralyzed was told by the High Court on Thursday that she could insist on having her life-support system turned off.

### The Independent

Ben Hollioake, one of the best British cricket players, was killed on Thursday night in a car crash on his way back from a family celebration as relatives followed behind.

### The Guardian:

Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative Party leader of Britain, will signal a major repositioning of the party on Saturday when he pledges to champion Britain's "vulnerable" people who have been neglected by the Tories for more than 10 years.

## Kenya

Major news items in leading Kenyan Newspapers

### East African Standard

The British Royal Navy will station two aircraft in Kenyan port city Mombasa to join three German navy surveillance planes already there in the war against terrorism. Saturday Nation:

Nine Kenyan villagers have been struck dead and 12 others badly injured Thursday by lightning while sheltering in a church during heavy rain.

### Kenya Times

The Kenya Professional Nurses Association averred on Thursday that the much publicized nurses strike would take place on April 2 if the government does not give in to their pressure and improve their terms of service.

## South Africa

The following are major news items in leading Nigerian newspapers on Saturday.

### Saturday Punch

The Nigerian government Friday defended its decision to denounce introduction of the Sharia legal system in some states, saying that the much-needed foreign investment inflow will elude the country if governors of the Sharia states are allowed to continue carrying out the controversial Islamic code.

### The Guardian

The special squad of 856 anti-robbery policemen started operation on Friday in Lagos to stem violent crimes in the commercial center of Nigeria.

### Daily Times:

Nigerian Inspector General of Police Tara Balogun has said members of the Nigeria Police are soon to start enjoying overseas training facilities to improve their performance.



Kuhail Cartoon - Arab News

## Pakistan

The following are major news items in leading Pakistani English newspapers on Saturday.

Americans were among five people killed in a church bombing.

### The Nation

The Pakistan Day will be celebrated on Saturday with solemnity and sobriety this year in view of the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

### The News

President General Pervez Musharraf on Friday said the Gwadar deep sea port project will further strengthen the strong relations between Pakistan and China.

### Pakistan Observer

Pakistan and China signed here on Friday a memorandum of understanding and an agreement for increasing cooperation in mineral and technical sectors.

### Dawn

The United States on Friday ordered the departure of all non-essential personnel and their families from its posts in Pakistan, less than a week after two

## Philippine

The following are major news items in leading Philippine newspapers.

and academicians. It is worried that what happened in Afghanistan, where many civilians were killed as a result of the U.S.-led campaign against terrorism, might happen in the Philippines. 2

### Today

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration warned the people Friday that El Nino, which is expected to hit the country in July, is likely to produce crops.

Happy Easter

فندق شيراتون صنعاء  
**Sheraton Sana'a**  
HOTEL

Happy Easter

**"Oh! here comes Peter Cottontail,  
Hoppin' down the bunny trail, Hippity hoppity  
Happy Easter day"**

**Easter Sunday, Family Lunch  
in Sheraton Gardens  
with Live Entertainment by Kryptonite Band**  
from 11 am till 3 pm  
at YR 200 plus 12% tax for adult  
YR 1200 plus 12% tax for children under 12 years old  
**FREE OF CHARGE for children under 5 years old**  
Lots of fun, Games for Kids  
Easter Bunny will hide some special egg in the garden,  
Happy Hunting...! Happy Easter...!

Happy Easter

For reservation, please contact  
Food and Beverage Department  
Tel: 237500 - 135 (ext)

Happy Easter

**Canadian Nexen**

# Vacancies

**Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen is offering the following job opportunities for Yemeni Nationals**

<p><b>Location:</b> Masila Block Operation Hadhramout Govt. Yemen</p> <p><b>Work Schedule:</b> Rotational schedule (28 days on / 28 days off)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRODUCTION ENGINEERS</b></p> <p><b>Job Duties:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitors electrical submersible pump (ESP) performance.</li> <li>Prepares ESP repair programs for the service rigs in orders to execute work identified in item (a) above.</li> <li>Captures well sub surface data for Petroleum Engineering Group, Calgary.</li> <li>Prepares a variety of daily and monthly reports.</li> <li>Carries out other similar or related duties such as undertaking small projects as assigned.</li> <li>Prepares remedial workover programs for water shut offs and plug backs.</li> </ol> <p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering or equivalent.</li> <li>6 years' experience in an applicable operation.</li> <li>Excellent computer skills including Word, Excel and Access.</li> <li>Very good knowledge of English.</li> <li>Valid Yemen driving license.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMPLETION SUPERVISOR TRAINEES</b></p> <p><b>Job Duties:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans and organizes daily rig activities.</li> <li>Ensures that all components such as packers, nipples, ESP, and flow control equipment etc. are properly measured up and run in accordance with the program prepared by Production Engineering.</li> <li>Carries out standard well control procedures.</li> <li>Completes daily reports of rig activities.</li> <li>Monitors costs of well projects as estimated by Production group.</li> <li>Carries out other similar or related duties such as ensuring that Services are efficiently planned and managed and follows specified procedures in case of unusual occurrences.</li> </ol> <p><b>Minimum Requirements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering or equivalent.</li> <li>6 years' Oilfield experience including well servicing or drilling.</li> <li>Computer skills including Word and Excel.</li> <li>Very good knowledge of English.</li> <li>Valid Yemen driving license</li> </ol>

If you have the above requirements, please send your resume to the following address **Not later than March 31, 2002.**

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

- Unclear and untyped resumes will not be considered.
- Please don't call us, we will call you if you were selected for test and interview.



# Press Scanner

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



**RAY weekly, organ of Sons of Yemen League party, 19 Mar. 2002.**

2002

## Main headlines:

- All are concerned about achieving comprehensive reforms in Yemen to play its regional and international roles - For fighting terror: National Defense Council approves the Yemeni-American cooperation  
Yemen's foreign minister handed the British file condemning Abu Hams  
- 23 Judges come under investigation  
- Economists warn against unprecedented collapse of Yemeni exports.

Columnist Taha al-A'meri has this week written on the journalists' recent sit-in called for by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate in solidarity with the Palestinian people. He says it has been regrettable that the majority of participants in the strike were the Palestinians while many of those who have called for it have stayed behind. Nevertheless the image of the sit-in has embodied the destiny of the resistant Palestinian who has to fight on all fronts and in various directions for the sake of the victory of his cause.

The sit-in called by the journalists syndicate has unfortunately been a scandal for the syndicate and its members for failing to respond in a way the occasion deserves.

At all events the sit-in lasted just for a couple of hours and although the announcement was published in all newspapers the journalists lagged behind the event. But it is believed that the failure was the product of the unsuccessful relationship between the syndicate and its members, especially that the syndicate did not provide itself with a status listed under the serious action till it has become unable to muster ten percent of its members without the intervention of other supportive sides.



**Ash-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of Yemeni Popular Forces, 17 Mar. 2002.**

## Main headlines:

- Martyrs of Palestinian Intifada rise to 1193  
- Joint Meeting Parties reject aggression on Iraq, condemn American bias to Israel  
- Dangerous escalation in dispute between Al-Bahm and Al-Twaini tribes  
- Investigations continue with the person who implemented bomb attack on U.S. Embassy in Sana'a.

Editorial of the weekly has discussed the security question in the country saying the state administrations realize that security is an inseparable part of and to ignore any of aspects would cause the collapse of its other aspects. The essence of real security is justice and no real justice can be achieved without independent judiciary. Consequently, independent judiciary would not be realized without actual sovereignty of canon law.

Aspects of security flaws are too many to count and to review what happens in the capital it would be enough to give a picture of the situation.

The capital that should be a haven for security and safety has become a place dangerous for those going to it seeking peace and safety but those who have any tribal revenge would pursue their victims in the capital and would kill him in broad daylight and then escape unharmed. Of course there are other aspects of security violations and acts of crime to be seen in the capital.

The editorial says that if the government has resolutely and strongly took action against crimes and punished, it would then not be forced to mobilize stronger forces to pursue wrongdoers and criminal and things would not have been aggravated to this extent.

Security is an essential condition for attaining social justice which in turn is the condition for stability leading to continuation of prosperity of both the state and the society.



**AL-Wahdawi Weekly, organ of Nassirite people's Unionist organization, 19 March.**

## - Main headlines

- U.S. forces arriving Sana'a secretly, naval vessels prevent Yemeni flight over the red sea.  
- U.S. presence heralds civil war in Yemen.  
- U.S. congress refuses promised financial grant for Yemen.  
people's demonstrations in Yemen condemn Zionist massacres, refuse surrender initiatives.  
Arab parliamentarians meet Zionists in Morocco.

Hamdi al Bukairy has written in his analysis that the U.S. president Bush summarized essence of the American strategy regarding Yemen when he said "so that Yemen would not change into another Afghanistan" Observers see the remark as summing up U.S military security circles' plans towards Yemen. Outwardly, it does not mean dealing a military strike to Yemen, but it implies that it depends on condition that Yemen does not change to a "new Afghanistan"

The analysis further comments on probable prospects by expecting it to worse than the war launched on Taliban movement in defeat out of rule.

As for the Yemeni official attitude, it sees the American Way a chance for developing capability for the military establishment for domestic purposes. It also sees it an opportunity to preserve a kind of elasticity in the relationship with Washington, a situation makes Yemen attention similar to, that given to GCC states, and consequently a solution to Yemen's economic and social crises.

It is to be concluded that the American was against terror began to take a new shapes after the afghan experiment. Here remains the alignment of Yemen's domestic front and participation of all political forces to be aware of what's going on, an urgent demand. It is particularly noted that the government find itself embraced against the Americans demands and pressures, taking into account that the country's international problems do not accommodate all these challenges.

The actual demand before describing the authority of squandering the national sovereignty, the political forces that oppose the security opposed on what's going on, should not take it accuse for rejection. At any rate there must not be an overlooking of the Yemeni masses who when it comes digression, they would fiercely express their anger.



**AL-Mithaq Weekly, organ of the people's general congress party, 18 Mar. 2002.**

## Main headlines:

- After his talks with U.S vice-president, Yemeni politicians, media men praise the president's stances supporting the Palestinians cause, refusing a strike against Iraq.

president Saleh lauds Holland's support for development in Yemen.

- Prime minister Ba Jammal, continued efforts to declare Sana'a capital for Arab culture in 2004.

- Massive Palestinian demonstration, sit-in in front of UN headquarters in Sana'a.

- Dr. Wahiba Faire: Incorporation of human rights concepts development.

The newspaper's editorial stresses that the Palestinian Intifada has proved that it is the most capable factor of scoring victory for a just and comprehensive peace founded on the principle of land for peace and establishment of the Palestinian state with al Quds as it's capital. The whole world has realized the steadfastness of the Palestinian people as an example in resisting state terrorism. This has been expressed by just stands by the European countries and made the UN comprehend seriousness of the Sharonite danger. Thus the visit of the U.S envoy Zinni to revive the peace negotiations comes to represent a desire for coming out of the state bottleneck Israel experiencing. The U.S must bear consciously its responsibility and should realize the volume and justice of the Palestinian people struggle and cause. It has become impossible that matters take place in accordance with dreams of Israeli neo-

nazism. There are at the same time rivers of Palestinian blood shed for dignity and independence and for sublime goals not to be conceded at all event.



**As-Sahwa Weekly 21 March, 2002**

## Main headlines:

- Parliament speaker walks out of opening meeting of inter-parliamentary union, protesting attendance of a Zionist delegation.

- Government to raise prices next September.

- Diplomacy in services of security premonition.

- Shaikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar: I refuse to listen to the enemy address, whose hands sward with Palestinian blood.

The newspaper has this week desired it's editorial to shed light on the Palestinian resolution, saying only Palestine knows the meaning of wrath and how to maintain a revolution fed by more than 50 years of pain. It is a revolution surpassing the narrow term of Intifada. The Palestinian revolution comes amid a state where Arab people fearful of the will of life, they dare not express their anger even for themselves, how come then they could become angry for the sake of Palestine?

The Arab masses are demanded to express a real wrath, not governed by official orders and direction, and it should be effective.



**26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed forces, 21 Mar. 2002.**

## Main headlines:

president Saleh: Merciless response against those violating security and general stability, struggle for freedom, justice, independence, legitimate.

- Received message from president Saddam Hussein, president Ali Abdullah Saleh Renews Yemeni refusal of any military against Iraq, calls for lifting sanctions

Yemen participation in Arab Economic Council meetings in Beirut. intensive preparation Yemeni expatriates 2nd conference in Sep.

British cooperation positive responses regarding Abu al-Hamza Al Misri trial.

- U.S. Department of state orders it's diplomats and families back to Yemen.

- 16 ambassadors seemed, expected changes in diplomatic service.

- New Use's Ambassador to Yemen.

Columnist Iskander al-Asbahi says in his article despite disputes engulfing Arab relations or pressure resulting from current regional and world situations, the 2nd regular Arab summit in scheduled to be held in its fixed time and venue. The Arab leaders are going to convene in Beirut next Wednesday and Thursday to study a number highly important dossiers at the time all Arab minds and eyes are cast towards their meeting. The Arab nation hope that her leaders would come out with resolutions upgrading Arab solidarity to the level of action in facing the challenges rising to the level of sacrifices offered by the Palestinian people and their mighty steadfastness against the Zionists war machine and their crimes.

We fully realize that the summits are not fours or prestos for addressing fiery speeches or recording instantaneous political stances. We all comprehend that the summit must come out with courageous resolutions characterized by the power of action in support of the Arab cause of Palestine, struggle of the Palestinian people and rejection of aggression on Iraq. The coming Arab Summit is to be held amidst a threat of hitting Iraq, strengthening and backing the separatists in southern Sudan and instigating crises here and there throughout the Arab homeland aimed at weakening Arab stands, resolutions and actions versus present challenges the Arabs confront. We understand that Israel does not aim at achieving a just and comprehensive peace, but rather wants Arabs' submission to it's own version of settlement breaking the Arab will.

## TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to the resolution of the Supreme Tenders Committee No: (166) dated 18/2/2002, The General Corporation for School-Book Printing Press announces its need to contract a Consultant Company with international expertise to undertake the following:

- 1) To carry out a thorough survey for the schoolbook requirements for a period of not less than 5 to 10 years.
- 2) To identify the available capabilities of the corporation and the machines in use.
- 3) To prepare a comprehensive study, including specifications, general and special conditions for procurement and supply of the printing press for the Corporation.
- 4) To prepare the full tender documents.
- 5) To prepare a short list of a number of specialized international companies to participate in the tender.
- 6) to conduct an analysis and evaluation process for the bids and submit a clear and specific recommendation on the award of the tender and deliver the same to the Corporation for review and approval.

### Clarification Data on the Tender

- 1) Period to contact qualified companies is one month as of date of finishing the study.
- 2) Analysis of results of contact wit the companies shall not be more than 20 days.
- 3) Period of the study indicated under item (3) above is 30-45 days as of date of signing the contract with the Consultant Company.
- 4) A complete copy of the study, analysis, results of contact with Companies and conditions is to be prepared in both Arabic and English languages.
- 5) An Arabic-speaking representative of the Consultant Company must be present at the time of presenting the final results.
- 6) Bids if international consultant companies must be in both Arabic and English languages.
- 7) Consultant Company must have the necessary experience in this field.
- 8) Consultant Company must present its bid in 2 separate envelopes, one to include the required experience in this field and the other the financial offer.
- 9) For inquiries or information required by bidding consultant companies, contact must be established with the Corporation at any time on telephone No. 320368/332634, 73766070, Fax No: 321253.
- 10) Bid envelopes of consultant companies shall be opened at the premises of the Head Office of the Corporation, Sana'a, Al-Jiraf, Airport Road at 11.00 a.m of Wednesday 17/4/2002.

Prof. Abdelaziz M. al-Tareb

## "This will lead inevitably to the need for an Arab free trade zone."

**T**he Yemen Times recently interviewed Prof. Abdelaziz M. al-Tareb, the Arab region chairman of the European Marketing & Promotion Association (EMPA). Following are edited excerpts from the conversation.

**YT: You've just awarded the Yemeni Industrialists Association an honorary fellowship of the EMPA. Why did you choose this timing?**

**al-Tareb:** From the beginning we've been following the activities of the association, especially at the beginning of the current year. These activities, which aim to promote export and marketing as well as make preparations for the program Made-in-Yemen, are important. We believe that exporting and opening new markets are pivotal for progress, particularly in this new age of wide-open, fierce competition. Undoubtedly, those who can firmly exist at local markets will be able to be more competitive at foreign markets.

**YT: What are the objectives and characteristics distinguishing the Yemeni industrialists program?**

**al-Tareb:** We believe that the objectives should not be restricted to the Yemeni Industrialists Association, but all private and public sector enterprises should be targeted. We should pay attention to quality, specifications and standards, all which are key elements for boosting marketing.

**YT: Do you think that adopting the privatization program will help boost the Arab economies?**

**al-Tareb:** Strengthening the role of private sector is essential for any economy. Arab decision-makers as well as academicians are now more

Administrative Development.

**YT: What is your assessment of the economic situation in the Arab world in the wake of the September 11 attacks?**

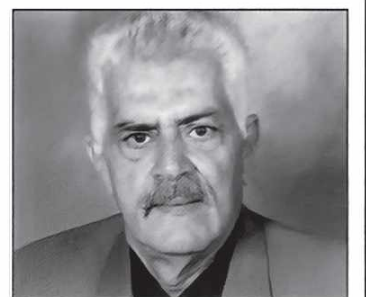
**al-Tareb:** There are so many challenges facing the Arab states, so we have to prepare ourselves amid the uncontrolled flow of products, services and information technologies. Arab countries have been affected greatly by the drop in oil prices plus other factors that have further weakened Arab economies. This will lead inevitably to the need for an Arab free trade zone.

**YT: How do you evaluate the experiences of the economic reform programs adopted by some Arab countries like Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt and Yemen?**

**al-Tareb:** These countries have started their economic reform programs a long time ago; thus they have taken an important step in regard to the transition to the open market economy, free trade and joining the World Trade Organization (WTO). The economies of these countries are now varied and are no longer dependent on one source of national income. As for Yemen, the economic reform program is a heavy burden. But it has achieved remarkable progress in the exchange rates. Yet, the government should aim at creating more job opportunities and review the government payroll, which will help stabilize the country.

**YT: Do you think that adopting the privatization program will help boost the Arab economies?**

**al-Tareb:** Strengthening the role of private sector is essential for any economy. Arab decision-makers as well as academicians are now more



convinced that liberalizing trade and economy, as well as empowering the private sector, should be well-regulated. This is because the ultimate goal from liberalizing an economy and adopting privatization is improving its use of resources. Yet, we have to take all the precautionary measures to control any potential negative impacts of these programs.

**YT: What is your assessment of Yemen's democratic experience?**

**al-Tareb:** Yemen has made great strides in fostering democratic principles since the reunification of the country in 1990, although there is still along way to go. All political components should work to straighten this process by presenting platforms that help the country. Opposition political parties should, indeed, act as shadow government. We shouldn't be afraid of strong opposition since it has an important role to play.

**TY: What do you expect for the future of Yemen?**

**al-Tareb:** The past is part of the present, and I'm actually very optimistic of a good future. Further, I'd like to make the people ready for the future because the market is the prime mover of our businesses. We have to be ready to deal with new variables shaping up our world. We have to strive to build giant joint ventures in every part of the economy.

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للبيع: سيارة بيجوت شنته 405 GL، دفع أمامي موديل ٩٢ مجهزة، لون الأزرق في حالة جيدة جداً، ٦٠٠٠٠ ريال.  
إبراهيم جاسم: ت: ٧١١-٣٣٣٥  
للبيع: سوزوكي، لون اخضر بحالة جيدة جداً، ومزينة لمدة ٦ أشهر وبسعر مناسب، محمد الحمادي: ت: ٤١٠٤٥٩

**سيارات**  
للبيع: سيارة دايو (سيلو) موديل ١٩٩٩م، كاملة التحسينات Air Bag - A.B.S., مكيف فنتح لون ابيض، قطعت مسافة ٤١٢٥٦ كم، حالتها ممتازة، السعر ٧٥٠ الف ريال، عماد: ت: ٦٧٠٩٧٨  
للبيع: سيارة سكودا فاليا جديدة بالجمارك موديل ٢٠٠١، وجميع الكماليات، بناتي، اللون زيتي، السعر اقل من سعر موديل ١٩٨٨، مسجلة ١٩٨٩، بحالة ممتازة، لوحة بيلوماسية، عائد لأحد موظفي السفارة البولندية، للتفاصيل والاتفاق، رجا، الاتصال على هاتف: ٢١١١٣٧٨

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**وظائف شاغرة**  
يعلم د/ شهاب المحققي عن حاجته لسائق يحمل رخصة القيادة وخبرة في مجال التوزيع والتسويق، ويستفسر: يرجى الاتصال على الرقم التالي: ٠١-٣٦٠٤٩٤

يعلم فندق تاج مرس السياحي عن حاجته لموظفين في مجال الخدمات وموظفي استعلامات، فقل من لديه الخبرة والكفاءة في الأعمال الفندقية ارسال سيرته الذاتية أولف العمل في صندوق البريد رقم ٢٠٦٠ - قيد المرسي، أو الاتصال على: ٧١١٣٤٧

مطلوب: طبيب أسنان، ذات خبرة، للعمل في مركز الوليد لطب الأسنان، دوام كامل (صنعاء، الصافية)، د. خالد الحجاجي، ت: ٤١٥٩٧٨

٢٤٣٧٣٦ فاكس: ٢٠٥٦٩٦ سنوات. للاستفسار: ٢٠٦-٢٩٢، فاكس: ١٥١٥١

يطلب مكتب آزال للطباعة والترجمة عن حاجته إلى موظف، يجيد الطباعة عربي/إنجليزي، على ان يكون لديه خبرة سابقة في هذا المجال، فقل من يتوفر لديه ذلك، الحضور إلى إدارة المكتب، صنعاء، شارع تغز، ت: ٦١٠٥٥٢، ٧١١٣٧٥

شركة رائدة تعلن عن حاجتها لمندوبي مبيعات مؤهلين، ص. ب. ١٥٣٨٥، صنعاء، مطلوب: موظف بيع تذاكر، على ان تكون لديه خبرة واسعة في هذا المجال، ت: ٧١١٣٣٨٥، ٤٢٠٧٠٤، سيار: ٧١١٣٣٨٥

شركة رائدة تعلن عن حاجتها لمندوبي مبيعات مؤهلين، ص. ب. ١٥٣٨٥، صنعاء، مطلوب: موظف بيع تذاكر، على ان تكون لديه خبرة واسعة في هذا المجال، ت: ٧١١٣٣٨٥، ٤٢٠٧٠٤، سيار: ٧١١٣٣٨٥

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## Improve Your English

## 1 2 6



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu  
Associate Professor  
College of Education, Mahweet  
ramakantasahu@yahoo.com

## I. What to Say

Situation and Expressions (9)  
Advice and Suggestions

Advice is giving one's opinion to another about what to do or how to behave. Most of us are used to giving advice more often than receiving it. Advice given in an inappropriate way can potentially cause misunderstanding. So one should be very careful about who to advise, when and for what purpose. Here are some expressions used in giving advice.

- It's better for you to be more mindful about your health.
- Better see me in my office.
- You better approach him directly
- I'd advise you to be more patient.
- Let's be cautious in our dealings.
- You should be careful while driving.
- I'm telling you this for your own good.
- Why don't you try to understand what I'm saying?
- You may not realize it now. You'll understand it later.
- Bear in mind what I say.
- Don't forget to take your medicines everyday.
- Why can't you come to the class in time?
- Never make hasty decisions. Haste is always waste.
- Remember to post these letters.
- Don't be in a hurry to decide.
- Look before you leap.
- Take your time. Don't be in a hurry.
- Hurry up! It's time.
- You should be careful in exercising your options.
- Better late than never.
- Think before you ink.
- Never mind his words. Look up and look ahead.
- Mind your business.

## II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

- The absence of the captain shot down the team's aspirations.
- Senior officers are being relieved of their services in contravention of the Ministry regulations.
- Parking facilities have been scrapped in Hadda Street.
- The miscreant robbed money and jewelry from the passengers.
- The impoverished rights of the citizens must be restored soon.

## Answers to last week's questions

- It **caused** him a great deal of sorrow.
- The take off of the plane was delayed owing to an engineering **fault**.
- A crowd assembled outside **shouting** anti-government slogans.
- We are planning to **put up** a skit on the annual Day function.
- There has been a **rapidly increasing (rising)** demand for the new grammar book.

## III. How to express it in one word

- Person signing an agreement or a document jointly with others.
- Substance designed to make hair or skin more beautiful.
- Relating to the whole universe or cosmos.
- Theory of the origin of the universe.
- Place where people from all parts of the world are found.

## Answers to last week's questions

- Working together for a common purpose: **Cooperation (n)**
- Bring or put together into proper relation: **Coordinate (vt)**
- Sole legal right by the author or publisher of a work: **Copyright (n)**
- Line or ring of police or soldiers acting as guards: **Cordon (n)**
- Natural sequence or outcome of

something: **Corollary (n)**

## IV. Grammar and Composition

## a) Composition

Match the following sentences to the incomplete letters (A, B, C, D) which follow:

- I would like some information on the courses you offer at your college.
- Please find enclosed a cheque for \$50.
- I refer to your letter dated 30/1/2002, your reference number B302.
- I am writing to inform you of an apparent error in your records.

## Letter A

.....  
This is to cover the enrollment for the spoken English and Personality Development Course (Feb. 23rd to 27th). Please forward a receipt to the above address.

## Letter B

.....  
It seems you have my address as P. O. Box 14534, Sana'a. My correct address is P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a. Consequently correspondence from you has been delivered to my neighbor's mail box. Thank you for your cooperation in correcting this detail.

## Letter C

.....  
My interest is in computers. I have done two beginner courses in the subject and now wish to attempt a more advanced course. Could you please send me any brochures that you have available, including details of cost and enrollment procedures? Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

## Letter D

.....  
You said that I would shortly receive a refund of \$45 for overpayment of the course fees. Six weeks have now passed and I have not received anything from you. Could you please look into the matter? I would appreciate prompt action.

## b) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences of your own  
Admit to, admit of, adjacent to, adjudicate upon, adjust to

## c) Words commonly confounded

**Differentiate between the following pairs of words:**  
1. between, among  
2. amorous, amorphous  
3. compare, comper

## Answers to last week's questions

a) **Composition**  
MILLER, George A (ed.) 150  
Psychology: **The Science of Mental Life**  
London: Hutchinson 1964  
(Hutchinson Science Library)  
388P Illus Bibl. Glossary  
33401 33402 33404  
33405 36982 40696

- The abbreviation 'ed.' stands for 'edited by'
- The publisher's name is Hutchinson, and it is published in the year 1964.
- The shelf mark is 150.
- Yes. The book has a bibliography.
- It is part of a series titled **Hutchinson Science Library**.
- Yes. There are some illustrations furnished in the book.
- Yes. If I wanted to know the meaning of certain psychological terms, there is the **Glossary** at the end of the book that would be of help.

- There are six copies in the library (as indicated by their accession numbers)

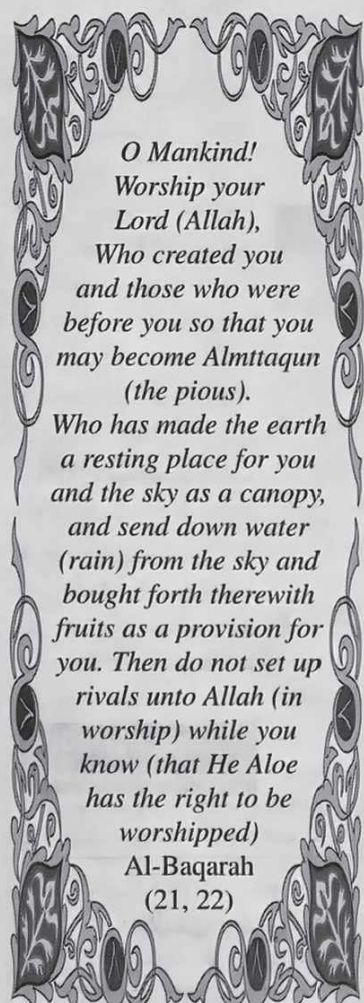
## b) Idioms and phrases

- add to** (increase)  
Please don't add to my misery.
- be addicted to** (be devoted to or attached to a practice)  
He is addicted to drinking/smoking.
- in addition to** (as well as).  
In addition to being a competent teacher, Mr. Saleh is a good human being.
- Address oneself to** (tackle or solve)  
We should learn to address ourselves to the problem facing us.
- adhere to** (stick to)  
We must adhere to our ideals.

## c) Words commonly confounded

- amazement (n)** (to be filled with great surprise or wonder)  
He looked at me in amazement.
- surprise (n)** (feeling caused by something sudden or unexpected)  
His failure did not cause any surprise as he was very careless about his studies.
- amenity (n)** (Things or provisions that make life easy or pleasant)  
Sana'a has all modern amenities such as an amusement park, playing fields, etc.
- facility (n)** (aids or circumstances which make it easy to do things)  
The Faculty of Education Amran has the facility of a Language Lab.
- amiable (adj)** (easy and pleasant to talk to)  
He is an amiable person
- amicable (adj)** (friendly)  
We want an amicable settlement of all problems between India and Pakistan.
- amoral (adj.)** (not concerned with morals)  
Art is neither immoral nor moral; it is amoral.
- amphibian (n)** (animal able to live both on land and in water)  
Frog is an amphibian creature.
- amphibious (adj)** (vehicles adapted for both land and water)  
In modern warfare many amphibious vehicles are being used.

## V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



*O Mankind!  
Worship your  
Lord (Allah),  
Who created you  
and those who were  
before you so that you  
may become Almttaqun  
(the pious).  
Who has made the earth  
a resting place for you  
and the sky as a canopy,  
and send down water  
(rain) from the sky and  
brought forth therewith  
fruits as a provision for  
you. Then do not set up  
rivals unto Allah (in  
worship) while you  
know (that He Aloe  
has the right to be  
worshipped)  
Al-Baqarah  
(21, 22)*

IV. Words of Wisdom  
"We profit little by books  
we do not enjoy"

—Sir John Lubbock

## LEARNING STYLES AND STRATEGIES (9)

## Taking Examinations



Debi Prasad Sahu,  
PGT  
DAV Public School,  
Chandrasekharapur,  
Bhubaneswar, Orissa  
(India)

Examination is a heart throb to almost all students. It is the logical end of the academic calendar and constitutes the phase through which the year's toil is realized. It therefore creates in most learners a fear that is known as exam fever or phobia. But you should have a positive attitude to exam. You should view it as the mechanism through which you get the fruit of your labor. If you know how to prepare for the exam in a precise and intelligent way it would be a potentially exciting and satisfying experience instead of being a frightening monster. For those of you who neglect their studies through the academic year and suddenly wake up to the task when the exam is round the corner are natural to panic. But if you mind your lessons and prepare for it well ahead of the dates of exam, you needn't worry too

much.

Many of us are so frightened of the exam, that despite a reasonable preparation, we lose our cool in the exam hall and fail to reflect our abilities in the exam. Here I am concerned with giving you some practical tips on how you should go about in the exam hall. You should leave for the exam hall with pen, pencil and scale well before the beginning of the exam. Take your seat in the hall and before the exam begins, mentally revise the main points of some of the topics you consider as potential questions. Don't go on leafing through your books or notes till the last moment. Keep your cool and have self confidence. After you are handed down the question, begin by surveying the exam questions. Read the instructions carefully and be sure to follow them exactly. Select the questions which you think you are best equipped to answer. Do the easy questions first. Leave the ones you're unsure of, to be attempted later.

It is very important to time your answers. Some students spend too much time in answering the first question. As a result other answers become a casualty. If you are required to

answer four questions in two hours, no answer should take more than thirty minutes. Try to complete the answer in twenty five minutes and keep five minutes for revision. Remember, revision is a must if you want your answers to be fool proof. Organize the answers in your mind before writing these on the answer book. In case, an answer needs more time than allocated for it, leave the answer at that point when time for it is over and go over to the next question. Leave some space after the incomplete answer so that you can return to complete it at a later stage when you can save some time from other questions.

While taking the exam, maintain a positive attitude. If you feel negative thoughts are entering your mind, say to yourself 'I've studied hard and I'm doing fine.' Keeping mental equilibrium is of vital importance during the exam hour. When you're finished with all the questions, check your work carefully. Reread the material if you have mentioned the correct number of questions and have written your name, name of the subject and date correctly on the cover of your answer book.

When you feel certain you've done your best, hand in the answer script to the invigilator and quietly leave the hall.

Wish you good luck and success in your studies. (Concluded)

Thank You  
Dr. Sahu

## Dear Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,

I would like to express a well deserved compliment to you for your big efforts towards illuminating us with correct English usage through more than a year or so Yemen Times. In fact, my tongue would be agog with lots of thanks and unlimited gratitude which I wish to express eloquently for your unselfish and helpful personality. In addition there are lots of words stored up in my mind which I acquired from reading Yemen Times, especially the education column. But unfortunately due to lack of continual writing and speaking practice my memory does not help me remember them at the time of need. Although I read Yemen Times regularly the education column, I think reading alone is not enough if not accompanied by writing and speaking about anything around. Acquiring knowledge of new words without using or practicing them in a regular manner daily is useless and likely to be forgotten or unlikely to be retained by memory when a sudden need occurs for them. However, my great teacher, I would try to express my feelings towards your concern and personal sentiment for your dear Yemeni English readers. We have learned a lot from you regarding most aspects of the English language, which indicates that you are always kind and are willing to teach us. So, please do accept expression of my gratitude more than which you deserve for your devoted efforts.

By the way I came upon your remarkable invitation for readers' suggestions on the 100th lesson of Improve Your English in issue No 39 of Yemen times dated 24, September 2001.

I accordingly suggest the following:

- Publishing captions of the lessons is not enough for us to keep as references.
- I suggest that all the lessons from the beginning should be printed and published in a single volume.
- In my view, this book will be interesting and many students will buy it, even Yemeni teachers may also buy it.
- It will be useful and beneficial for earning good revenue and can be promoted in or outside Yemen. It will certainly be useful for all learners of the English language.

To conclude, I expect your acceptance of my above suggestions keeping in view your learners' interests.

Thanking you

Yours truly,  
Abdulmajid Ahmed

## Dear Abdulmajid,

Your comments and suggestions are well taken. The proposal of bringing out all the lessons published in the column "Improve Your English" is under our active consideration. We hope that the proposed book will see light of day. Inshallah, in foreseeable future.

Our sincere thanks for your interest in the column "Improve Your English".

Best Wishes

Sincerely  
Ramakanta Sahu

## TIMES QUIZ (23)

## Questions:

- Which of the following atmospheric gases strongly absorb the heat energy and retards relative cooling of the earth?  
a) Nitrogen oxides  
b) Ozone  
c) Sulphur dioxide  
d) Carbon dioxide
- The minimum temperature ever recorded on Antarctica is  
a) -30C  
b) -88C  
c) -120C  
d) -7C
- When an organism is benefited without affecting the other, it is called  
a) Parasitism  
b) Commensalism  
c) Saprophytism  
d) Symbiosis
- An anaemic person has a low haemoglobin content. Which mineral intake would be advised by the doctor?  
a) Magnesium  
b) Sodium  
c) Iron  
d) Iodine
- Who is the inventor of the

## printing press?

- Elias Howe
- W. Thomas
- J. Gutenberg
- R. R. Bennett.

## Solutions to Times Quiz (22)

- When a bicycle pump is used to inflate the tube it is found that it gets rather hot after a while. This is because air when compressed suddenly gets hot due to conversion into heat energy of the mechanical work done in compressing it.
- Digital type of computers are known for their high accuracy.
- Liquid hydrogen is used to drive rockets.
- The pigment called **Renin** is responsible for colour of the skin.
- Water gets cooled in an earthen pot and not in a metallic pot because earthen walls have pores and water gets evaporated taking heat from water



## YOUTH FORUM



## The Mirror of Truth

The truth is lost  
Everywhere but in children's eyes  
Lines, the fate wrote, tell  
The story of man's end  
The falling leaves of trees  
Tears rolling down from wound cheeks  
Fear writ large in the eyes.

In their eyes,  
The night is spread all over the city  
Darkness, fire, ashes, destroyed houses  
Blood here and there,  
Scattered bodies  
All are found.

The dull clouds of war  
All wear clouds of grief  
Fire gradually will eat into life  
All are waiting for,  
The cruellest, unknown fate  
That will come today or tomorrow

Blood and tears flow  
Due to all the sins, war creates  
Waiting for tomorrow with peace,  
Searching here and there,  
Peace everywhere dies,  
Except if you look into  
The children's eyes.

Abdulghani Ahmed M. Al-Badani  
libb

## Hope and Life

Hope is the invisible power that leads us towards serious work, and helps us to reduce our suffering, and makes us think about a bright future.

Therefore if any one doesn't harbor a hope or he is hopeless, in my opinion, he hasn't any scope to make his heart shine, and to make his face bright.

Also hope constitutes a path to wards the best in spite of complex and baffling problems certainly, you will ask how to make this happen.

The simple reply is that the hopeful person has an invisible message to say to himself even when he is getting suffering. He keeps saying this is not the end yet, the days which are coming are going to be the best. Therefore hope is indeed a helper.

So we must be hopeful in order to get a beautiful and happy life.

Finally, we can say hope is the write face to life.

Basheer Amin Al-Selwy  
Level 2, Faculty of Education,  
Art and Science, Khawlan



# Briton wires nervous system to computer

By **Jeremy Lovell**

LONDON (Reuters) - A controversial British robotics scientist has had his nervous system wired up to a computer in an experiment he hopes will eventually give paralyzed people more control over their own bodies.

Kevin Warwick, professor of cybernetics at Reading University, southern England, has had minute sensors implanted into the main nerve in his left arm and hooked up to a radio transmitter which will send and receive messages from a computer.

"We have a serious goal, a very medical goal of helping people with spinal injuries and the like where there is a break in the nervous system," Warwick told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"We will be sending signals from

the nervous system to the computer by radio and back the other way."

He said the idea was to record on a computer the signals sent, for example, when a finger is moved and then to play them back in the hope of activating the finger by remote control.

News of the research came on the same day that a court made British legal history by allowing a woman, paralyzed from the neck down and kept alive by a machine, to order doctors to turn off her life support because she had no quality of life and knew it.

### REMOTE CONTROL

The professor said the aim of his experiment was to give people with spinal injuries at least some ability to move by remote control or to give

them back the control of their bodies. Warwick, who has made a name for himself investigating artificial intelligence and the potential for directly linking men to machines, said the operation to fit the implants at Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary, about 55 miles from London, had been a total success.

The next crucial stage would come next week when the radio/computer link will be established and the researchers would find what, if any, signals were being picked up.

"I am hopeful because I am already getting tingling sensations in my index finger," he said.

Warwick said there were 10,000 nerve fibers in the main nerve which controls most of the hand.

But with only 100 sensors implant-

ed in the nerve, it was like looking for a needle in a haystack to know exactly which bits of the hand had been wired up to the computer.

"Which pins are linked up with which nerve and whether we have got this finger or that finger remains to be seen," he said.

"That will be one of the first things, mapping out the pins and how they link up. Which pins have got motor signals on them, which pins have got sensory signals on them. Until now there have only been theories."

Warwick, who shocked the scientific world in 1998 by having a silicon chip transponder implanted in his left arm, has been featured in the U.S. magazine "Wired" and in 2000 gave the critically-acclaimed Royal Institution Christmas Lectures.

# Ikeya-Zhang streaks across northern sky

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Comet Ikeya-Zhang, discovered by two amateur astronomers in February, can be seen streaking across skies over the Northern Hemisphere for the next several weeks, scientists said on Thursday.

No telescope is needed, but binoculars are recommended to see the comet, the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics said in a statement.

To find Comet Ikeya-Zhang, look in the western sky shortly after sunset and locate the planet Mars -- that will be a red point of light about 18 degrees up from the horizon. (An outspread hand at arm's length covers about 15 degrees, so Mars is a bit higher than one hand-span.)

To the right of Mars are two bright stars in a nearly vertical line. The comet is at the same height as Mars, to

the right of the two bright stars about as far again as the distance from Mars to the stars. Observers should be able to see the comet's bright, star-like nucleus surrounded by a fuzzy cloud of dust and gas called the coma. The comet's tail streaks points nearly straight up from the horizon.

The comet should be visible in the west-northwestern sky for several hours after sunset for the next few weeks, according to The Planetary Society, which seeks to encourage exploration of the solar system.

First detected on Feb. 1 by amateurs in Japan and China, respectively, Ikeya-Zhang was last seen in 1661, according to the Harvard center's Brian Marsden.

On this trip, the comet came closest to the sun on March 18 and now is headed back into deep space.



Comet Ikeya-Zhang on the evening of Thursday, March 22, 2002, pictured by the MicroObservatory telescope in Cambridge, Mass. The MicroObservatory project, created by the Science Education group at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, allows students and teachers across the nation to use telescopes over the Internet to take pictures of objects in the night sky.

# Dell chief is unfazed by PC rival from China

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Often imitated but still the king, top PC maker Dell Computer Corp doesn't seem too worried that a China rival is adopting its made-to-order model to defend itself against Dell in the crucial mainland market.

"It's not surprising," chairman and CEO Michael Dell, 37, told reporters in Hong Kong on Friday as he wound down a tour through Asia.

Earlier this week, Beijing-based Legend Holdings Ltd. said it would step up made-to-order computer sales in an effort to capture an expected surge in replacement purchases and fend off encroachment from Dell.

"We've seen a number of competitors try this in the past," the youthful founder of the Round Rock, Texas-based Dell said.

"You can judge for yourself whether competitors succeed in that or not. I guess most people would say that they didn't. Whether Legend will succeed or not, I don't know. We'll have to see," he said.

### Eyes on China

Legend dominates the mainland PC market with a 31 percent share.

China accounts for seven or eight percent of worldwide personal computer sales and is set to surpass Japan next year as the second biggest PC market after the United States, with projected unit sales of 13 million, according to International Data Corp.

Although Dell's slice of the China PC pie is hardly Texas-sized -- its market share there in the fourth quarter grew to 4.6 percent from 3.6 percent a year earlier -- the country is a rare growth driver for the embattled industry.

Dell, battling International Business Machines for supremacy among foreign PC makers in China, is the only outsider gaining market share there, according to IDC.

Dell fared better than its rivals during a dismal 2001 for the global PC industry and has been closely watched in China, where local firms enjoy the lion's share of the computer business.

Still, Salomon Smith Barney ana-

lyst Richard Gardner said recently he does not expect a cake-walk in China for foreign players because brand-name recognition and distribution relationships favor local players at present.

Legend is one of China's most recognizable brands, and has a well-established distribution network.

Dell has adapted its direct-to-customers model, which is novel in China, to account for the fact that most consumers don't have credit cards. Dell has set up payment arrangements with banks in China, and lets buyers pay on delivery.

The company, which relies even more heavily on enterprise customers in China than it does in most places, is also courting consumers with a mass-produced model called the SmartPC, which starting at 4,998 yuan (US\$603) is cheaper than Legend's entry-level machine but also strays from Dell's made-to-order mantra.

"We still expect it to be relatively slow going for vendors such as Dell in China," Gardner said last week in

Taipei.

Kitty Fok, PC analyst at IDC in Hong Kong, said Dell has been performing well in the mainland.

"They're getting a lot of momentum in terms of corporations and also the SME (small and medium-sized enterprise) segment," she said.

However, PC sales growth in China's biggest cities -- Dell's main market thus far -- is slowing, and with its no-middleman model Dell will face a challenge as the opportunity shifts to secondary markets, Fok said.

Michael Dell, who visited Beijing and Shanghai this week, said its business in China is profitable and is growing faster than it has in any other new market Dell has entered.

"My belief is that the Dell business model is not an Anglo-Saxon business model or one that's constrained by boundaries," Dell told a conference earlier on Friday.

He said the firm will continue to "tailor and tweak" its methods, citing the Smart PC, which it has begun selling in the United States.

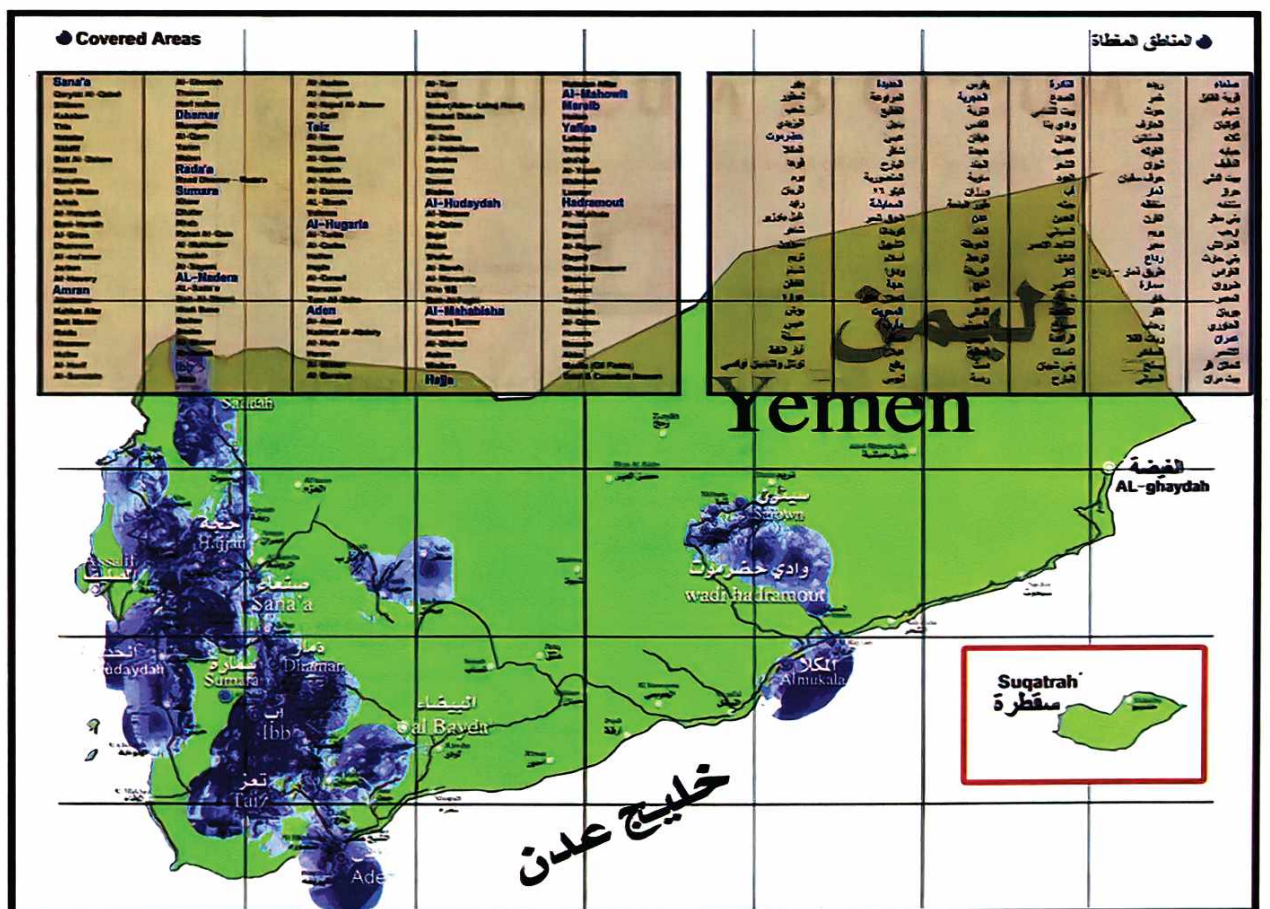
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SabaFon sets high standards for site selection and the quality of its network. Hence the importance of its well-trained staff and its successful alliance with "Siemens", the German telecommunications giant, are some of the key factors for this success.

Today, SabaFon covers a wide portion of the Yemeni population in all major cities, villages and roads. The company works on two main directions: a) covering new areas with SabaFon network; and, b) enhancing places that have been already covered. Therefore, while subscribers will always find new places being opened, they will also notice that the quality of the coverage service is always improving all over Yemen.

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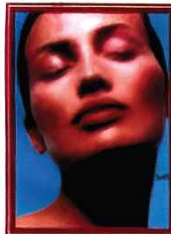
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Yemen Times sponsored the Mother's Day festival at the Sana'a Trade Center from March 18 to 21, 2002. During this celebration students from the participating schools performed music concerts and other theater performances. Also, during the event mothers of top students were honored. Al-Qima Schools, Nahda Schools and the Egyptian School took part at this event.



At the end of the event many prizes were distributed and a raffle draw on valuable prizes for the families shopping at the center was made. Special gifts were also given away to the top students.

The function was attended by a number of VIPs. The management of the Sana'a Trade Center promised that there will be many distinguished events during the few coming months.



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BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
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Accor was first introduced to Yemen in 2001 when the HSAG opened the al-Saeed Mercure Hotel in Sana'a. The hotel occupies a good location in the heart of the city just a few steps away from one of Sana'a's finest commercial centers. The hotel has 70 spacious rooms including 35 well-designed suites centrally air-conditioned, direct dial telephone, satellite TV, coffee shop, business center, meeting room, banquet hall and a restaurant.

The group will be inaugurating its 5-star Sofitel Hotel in Taiz on May 22 which will be one of the best hotels in Yemen by quality of the building and location, etc.



chain of hotels in these countries to make propaganda for Sofitel in Taiz," said Mr. Morel.

"I have found that life here is different. Yemen gets advantage of the climate and its nature. The way Yemenis live and act is also different. People are very friendly and simple and they do things with respect. I am sure that in the future this will be one of the main points to attract tourists," he added.

Commenting on Yemen's tourist potentials Mr. Didier said improving Yemen's image abroad and cleaning cities are the major points that should be tackled properly if tourism wanted to flourish.

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And still is there one of the most distinguished traits of the Accor group of hotels; quality service. "Taking care of our guests is our business," said Mr. Didier G. A. Morel, General Manager of the al-Saeed Mercure and Sofitel Taiz Hotels.

Mr. Morel has been in Yemen for almost a year and he very much believes in the future of tourism in Yemen.

He told the Yemen Times that after the inauguration of the Sofitel Hotel in Taiz he would bring more tourists from abroad.

"For the first two years I will start with the Middle East. I am sure that there will be good potentials especially for people from Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Qatar, etc. to come here. For this I will be using our

interesting things in it to see, but they are scared. Unfortunately, any simple incident in Yemen is heavily covered in an unfavorable manner by the Western media, when such incidents are internal problems between the government and some people," he said. He added It was the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism to show people abroad that this country is safe.

However, he thinks that the government has been acting wisely. "This will help improve the image and picture of Yemen abroad," he observed.

Mr. Morel deplored the spread of plastic bags in many places. He said some places are not dirty but are covered with plastic bags which give a disgusting looking. "I have been to Mokha last weekend and I was shocked to see the small area totally covered with plastic bags, although the city is very small and can be easily managed and organized to be one of the finest tourist resorts in the country," he said.

The government has made a lot of efforts to keep cities clean but such efforts are always cheapened when received by ignorance and negligence of people.

To make it a habit for people to keep their cities and areas clean Mr. Morel has suggested to make some incentives.

"In France, for example, there is an annual competition among towns on the best and most beautiful flowers they grow. This can be done here. A city can be divided into parts and a special kind of prize can be announced for the cleanest area, for example," he suggested.

Before he ended his speech, Mr. Morel disclosed that the Hotel is planning to train local staff to work in the hotel instead of hiring foreigners. He said it was not nice to see most of the 5-Star hotels having more than 70% of their employees from abroad because there is no suitable hotelery school in Yemen.

Mr. Didier Morel has been working for the Accor Group of Hotels for more than 27 years.

He worked in many of the Gulf countries and France. He first came to the Gulf in 1975 when he was 20. He spent more than 17 years in UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, etc.

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