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Sentences on Aden explosions case pronounced

BY RIDWAN AL-SAQAF
 ADEN BUREAU CHIEF
 YEMEN TIMES

Aden, August 3 (YT)—Sera Court of First Instances in Aden Saturday morning held its public session chaired by Justice Mohammed Mahmoud al-Gundi and pronounced the verdict in Aden explosions that had taken place in 2001 New Year and targeted al-Tawahi church, Saba News Agency office and Continental Hotel in Khor Maksar, Aden.

Four people were condemned in the explosions, namely, Nassir Ali Awad Al-Shaibah, Anees Mohammed Abdu, Fares Saleh Taher and Saleh Hussin Ali.

The court sentenced the first defendant to 6 years in prison, the second was sentenced to two years and half imprisonment and two years imprisonment for the third defendant. The court had acquitted the fourth defendant for the incomplete evidence and handed him over to the general prosecutor for investigations into trading in weapons.



Saleh Hussin Ali Fares Saleh Taher Anees Mohammed Abdu Nassir Ali Awad Al-Shaibah

Opposition loses SEC struggle

BY HASSAN AZZAEDI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Aden, August 1 (YT)—The Joint Meeting of the Opposition Parties has called upon the Supreme Election Committee (SEC) to retract its decision concerning the distribution of registration allocations among parties at the registration committees in accordance with the local election results and the referendum of the constitutions in 2001.

In a statement issued last Wednesday, opposition parties have strongly rejected SEC's decision. The statement added that the new decision might be enacted on purpose to deprive the opposition parties from participating in the coming elections. According to the statement, the opposition parties have shown great adherence to criteria and agreements, which have been agreed upon with the SEC.

"The SEC will be held accountable for excluding the opposition parties from participating in the elections," the statement implicitly referred to the General People's Conference (GPC) as the responsible party behind this action. *Continued on P 5*

Opposition parties meet U.S., international organizations

Sana'a, August 3 (YT)—Representatives of opposition Joint Meeting Parties and Islah party have Saturday met with American ISES and NDI organizations representatives plus a number of international organizations, concerned with civil society organizations affairs and elections, and a number of European diplomats.

Opposition parties have presented, during the meeting, their stance towards the question of forming electoral committees, confirming that the criteria they proposed for taking part in the committees of registration are the basis for their participation.

The parties have further mentioned that the Elections Supreme Committee is controlled by the ruling party and that the successive amendments effected by the government do undermine the entire process of democracy, and threaten future of democracy in Yemen. They claimed that following the 11 September events, the regime in

Yemen feels that the donor countries have been giving the question of security much more attention than others. On their part, representatives of the international organizations affirmed that they would play mediators role between opposition parties and the government, stressing it was necessary that dialogues continue till a stance satisfying all parties was reached, as dialogue serves the democratic process in Yemen.

Joint Meeting Parties had earlier asked the government to adopt on regular basis certain proportional representation in electoral processes to be given to the 21 political parties registered at the parties affairs committee, including the Yemen Socialist Party, according to the volume of its representation in the 1993 parliamentary elections.

As for the remainder proportions they asked to be distributed among the parties represented in the parliament according to number of votes each party wins.

Yemen seeks assistance to handle maritime patrol

Sana'a, August 3 (YT)—Prime minister Abdulqadir Bajammal called last week on donor countries to help Yemen in establishment of Coast Guard Forces, recently created in Yemen to fight terrorism and illegal immigration and providing safe navigation.

Bajammal said in the meeting held last Monday with donor countries and GCC ambassadors in Yemen, that due to the important role to be played by Yemeni Coast Guard with regard to securing safe navigation and

fighting terror, the donor countries are required to offer the needed support.

Yemen seeks to get gunboats, ships helicopters, radar systems and modern communications equipment as well as training those troops, as was mentioned in a press statement by commander of the Yemeni Coast Guard brigadier general Rasie.

It worthwhile mentioning that the United States has begun giving training to a first batch of twenty police officers on operating

radar systems, and communications in addition to learning English language.

NOTE

In the front page item entitled "104 detainees released" of last week's issue, a technical error in proofreading resulted in mentioned that Basheer Ali Ashedadi, Ahmed al-Khedr al-Baidhani, and Esam Ahmed Dabwan al-Mekhlafi were released, while the truth is that they are still in detention. Our apologies...

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Proposal Writing Course wraps up

BY MOHAMMED AL-MASANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Organized by Friederich Ebert Stiftung in collaboration with the Yemen Times Newspaper, the "Proposal Writing Course" was concluded yesterday April 4.

During the 50-hour extensive training course held at the Yemen Times premises in Sanaa, participants gained diverse practical skills in project proposal writing. More than 25 trainees participated in this course, which started on July the first.



Jameel al-Anisi

The training course hosted a number of prominent personalities involved in evaluating proposals presented by NGOs in Yemen. Among those guest speakers were Charles Heatly, the Political Secretary of the British Embassy, Mohammed Chraibi an NGO Researcher, and Hatem M. Bamehriz, Deputy Manager of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for International Affairs.

Jameel al-Anisi, the course trainer described the idea of such a course by saying, "the idea of training was first implemented by the American Embassy at YALI in 1999. The best aspect of this kind of training is that it is a thorough step-by-step practical experience," he said.

Unlike most short courses that provide "quick guides", this Proposal Writing course began with a series of introductory sessions on several developmental issues such as democracy,



Group photo of male and female participants and trainees of Proposal Writing Course held at the Yemen Times premises.

development, empowerment, community participation and sustainability, which was enriched by trainee's practical training abilities that involved the encouragement of discussions and sharing different views and opinions. The trainees were grouped into teams which they worked in throughout the different stages of the course including the planning, drafting, and applying stages. The teams are trained to conduct a participatory appraisal (by carrying it out in the field), analyze the data and work through strict and professional guidelines.

This includes writing a problem statement, defining the overall goal and objectives, defining activities and scheduling them, and constructing a budget that takes into consideration all activities involved in the project.

According to the instructions given, the information is then developed into a proposal. The writing is revised and refined several times until the end product is complete. After 50 hours of hard work, the trainees graduate after applying all the skill they have learned.

On the other hand, one of the female trainees, Maryam Ashowafi stressed on the benefit women would get from such courses. "The main goal of holding such programs is to raise awareness among Yemeni women working in NGOs of the need to acquire skills and propose projects courageously so as to become active members in giving a hand to the poor families, improving their living conditions and contributing to increase their income," she said.

She spoke highly of the organizers of this course including the instructor, Jameel al-Anisi for his strenuous efforts to make this program a success and she also thanked the Yemen Times for hosting this valuable training course.

Taiz University! Campus turns to battlefield

ABDUH M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a press release issued by the Executive Committee of the General Yemeni Students Union, (GYSU) at Taiz University, a security officer of the university pointing his pistol at a university student on June 28. The incident was followed by shooting fires at a number of students sitting next to the fence of the university campus.

In an unprecedented move, three female students were illegally incarcerated in individual prisons set up by the university security. Students at the university campus had no way except to protest against this flagrant violation and disregard for human rights. After mounting pressure was exerted on the security, those girls were all released.

In the same context, 20 students were also incarcerated in the criminal investigation jail of the city.

In response to recent incidents at the Taiz University campus, the GYSU filed an official complaint to the prosecuting attorney of Taiz Governorate asking for immediate intervention to release students who were unfairly detained in the criminal investigation jail. The complaint demanded the concerned bodies to compensate and rehabilitate students morally and materially.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the overall tuition fees along with entrance examination has considerably increased from YR 2,600 in the academic year (1998-1999) to YR 7,600 in (1999-2000). The fee increased to YR 7,900 in (2001-2002) during the academic year, (2002-2003) tuition fees

have also been set to increase to YR 10,000.

On the other hand, the GYSU at Ibb University sent a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh appealing to save the educational process and make the universities a place for acquiring knowledge and not a battlefield for causing troubles and disputes among political parties.

The GYSU expressed its deep concern over uncertain future of the educational system.

At the same time the GYSU at Ibb University has expressed its total refusal of the high tuition fees. Students claim that university campuses have become places for moneygrubbers, which resulted in having many poor students, who couldn't afford extra.

Yemen Airways receives its second Boeing 737-800 aircraft

Part of its modernization efforts, Yemen Airways (Yemenia) has received last Friday its second Boeing 737-800 aircraft. On Saturday, a reception took place at Sanaa Airport on this occasion with the presence of diplomats including Deputy Head of Mission of the British Embassy Ms. Jacqueline Lawson-Smith, officials, businessmen, media figures, and prominent guests, who joined Yemenia its celebration.

On this occasion, Mr. Amin Al-Haimi, Vice General Manager for Commercial Affairs of Yemenia expressed his delight to receive the aircraft, which he described as the safest, most technologically advanced, and most economical aircraft ever manufactured. This is the second plane of its kind to be received by Yemenia, which has been focusing on providing better quality service with greater flexibility to its customers.

"This is a result of hard work and dedication of Yemenia's Chairman and all who played a role in the success of this deal. We also thank H.E. President

Saleh for his continuous support to Yemenia." Mr. Amin said.

This particular plane has 154 seats distributed on the first and economic classes and also has the most advanced entertainment and luxury facilities. Those new planes are supposed to replace the older ones which are taken out of service in a gradual manner.

The Yemenia administration said that there are plans to expand and increase the number of international and Middle Eastern destinations Yemenia will fly to. However, there are certain marketing and economic plans that need to be drafted before this awaited expansion.

Mr. Amin concluded by saying, "We have short, middle, and long-term mar-



keting plans that would promote Yemenia on an international level and would introduce new distribution and sales mechanisms including online ticketing in cooperation with other international airlines and companies. We have stroke deals with several local and international tourism agencies to promote Yemenia on all levels, and we are optimistic that we will see good results soon."



2 Oil-bearing field explored

The Canadian petroleum company Calvalley, has an oil concession at sector 9 in Hadramout governorate has successfully finished its exploratory excavations.

Geological studies have indicated that huge oil reserves are discovered in

this sector.

In statement to the German news agency DPI, the company said the two oil fields in both 9 and 10 sectors contain huge hydrocarbon reserve.

The company intends to conduct further geophysical studies to know much

about the volume of oil sector and its quantities. The oil sector 9 area is 4728 square km. The first surveys, which have been conducted by the company in this sector, indicate the availability of huge oil reserves estimated at 3 billion barrels.

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Poverty alleviation strategy under heated debate

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Economic experts have expressed their skepticism about inability of the Strategy of poverty alleviation, prepared by the Yemen's Ministry of Planning and Development in cooperation with the World Bank, to realize its declared goals. In a seminar organized by the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies last Tuesday, the experts also criticized a number of the strategy's premises.

During the symposium, participants have criticized this strategy which is according to them unrealistic. "The new strategy has discarded several aspects including, failure in the developmental processes, inability to achieve an economic equilibrium and administrative corruption at the governmental bodies," Taha al-Ghaseel,

professor at Sana'a University said. Participant Dr *Mohammed al-Haweri*, a professor at Sana'a University said that new strategy has heavily relied on the private sector's capabilities to implement the desired goals.

Mansour al-Bashri, a participant, wondered how the strategy has entrusted the task of achieving development of the society with the private sector and setting up a five-year plan for that sector to create 800 thousand job opportunities.

In this respect, *Mohammed Yahya Assabri*, a well-known writer has criticized the data and information where the new strategy has heavily relied upon. He added further that the new strategy was inaccurate, uncertain, and unreliable.

He called for reconsidering the economic reform program through inte-

grating organizations, parties, and universities to prepare a comprehensive strategy for alleviating poverty.

On the other hand, *Mohammed Assabri*, a representative at the World Bank has defended the pros and cons of the poverty alleviation strategy considering its positive aspects are clearly seen than its negatives ones. He added further that the idea of preparing the poverty alleviation strategy had been still in its infancy stage. He added further that statistics of the poverty alleviation strategy and the five-year plan are paradoxical. "The statistics of the five-year plan are inaccurate and unrealistic and that the strategy has heavily depended on the governmental statistics," he concluded.

The seminar was attended by a number of specialists and experts and was conducted by Chairman of the Center, *Mohammed Ahmed al-Afandi*.

Solidarity festival to support Iraq, Palestine, & Morocco

Organized by the Arab League Colleagues Union, participants at a solidarity festival for Palestine and Iraq have declared their absolute support for the Palestinian issue, and condemned the US threat against Iraq and supported Morocco concerning the disputes with Spain.

The solidarity festival was held on July 30 at Aden University amid the presence of the Aden Governor, Taha Ahmed Ghanem.

In his speech, the Governor of Aden spoke highly of Yemen's stance towards the people in Palestine. He demanded the international community to put an end to the Israeli aggression against the defenseless Palestinians. Telegraphs were later sent to President Ali

Abdullah Saleh, the Secretary General of the Arab League and the Moroccan King.

The festival was attended by Abdulkareem Shaef, the Secretary General of the Local Council in Aden Governorate, Derhem Abduh Noaman, the Chairman of the Aden Free Zone, Naser Ali Naser the Vice Rector of Aden University, and teaching staff of the university.

Sandstorm encroaches on Aden

A heavy and mighty sandstorm struck Aden last Friday causing extremely low visibility resulting in stopping of traffic, closure of the shops and electricity outage. A 75-old Adeni man said that he never experienced such a storm in all his life spent in Aden. "Aden some times gets struck by sandstorm but not like this one" the old man said with amazement.

Campaign to curb revenge lunched

Preparations are in full swing by the Peace House Organization to launch a campaign to curb the revenge phenomenon in Yemen starting from August 8 and ending in early October. The campaign primarily aims at raising awareness among people of the devastating consequences of tribal revenge, which causes disastrous effects on the national level. Different tribal areas and cities where kidnapping and revenge incidents are widely spread such as Mareb, Jawf, Amran, Dhamar and Baidha are

planned to be the focus of the campaign.

A large number of posters and notices has been recently distributed pertaining to revenge and kidnapping and their negative impact on development.

Plastic art exhibitions, religious lectures and sermons are to be delivered to raise awareness among Yemenis of the need to curb this evil phenomenon, which has distorted the image of Yemen abroad and caused instability for a very long period of time.

Sales Tax Bill postponed

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has recently intervened and postponed the application of the proposed Sales Tax Bill until 2004. This happened despite the fact that the bill was already ratified by the cabinet in its regular meeting held in Sana'a on July 30.

The postponement of the new bill has come as a result of heated debates and objections from the Commerce and Industry Chamber Federation and the Yemeni Industrial Associations.

A few days ago, conflicting reactions were observed among Yemeni businessmen and investors over the Sales Tax Bill.

Iran & Yemen sign agreements

An executive program in the field of education was signed last week between Yemen and Iran within the framework of cultural, educational, scientific and technical agreements signed between the two countries in 1992.

The agreement was signed by Fadhil Abu Ghanem, the Minister of Education after his official visit to Iran. The executive program will be implemented through exchanging experiences in the field of printing, school supplies and textbooks and illiteracy eradication and teaching the grown-ups.

Al-Dhahbani responds to YJS statement

Ahmad Al-Dhahbani circulated last week a response to what has been mentioned about him attacking Chairman of the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS) Mr. Mahboob Ali and being suspended from his former position as financial manager of the YJS. This comes in response to what has been published in local press regarding the said dispute.

According to the 4-page response, the dispute that erupted between him and Mahboob Ali was not because Ahmad's son but because of financial

violations committed by Mahboob Ali during the term Ahmad was in office. The report accuses the YJS's Chairman of several violations and claims that those issues were the reason for having his suspension.

This is the first incident of its kind in which Mr. Ahmed Al-Dhahbani, who is a well-known journalist who worked as the news manager of the Yemeni national TV channel, is accused of insulting another prominent personality.

Kuwaiti Health Minister leaves Sana'a

Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al Jarallah, the Kuwaiti health minister left Sana'a for Kuwait on Friday August 3 after a short visit to Yemen. The Kuwaiti minister discussed the aspects of the cooperation between the Yemen and Kuwait. The Kuwaiti minister paid a visit to different Yemeni cities and

some Kuwaiti-financed establishments like al-Wahda Hospital in Dhamar which is to be opened in the coming few months. The total cost of the project is US \$ 7 millions financed by the Kuwaiti Charitable Association and the Yemeni Government and it capacity is 100 person.




Congratulations

Mr. Fadel Saeed

has been recently appointed as Executive Assistant Manager of the Aden Hotel. We have always highly appreciated his strenuous efforts in the field of tourism and believe that he will contribute greatly to Yemen's tourism industry in general and to Aden Hotel in particular.

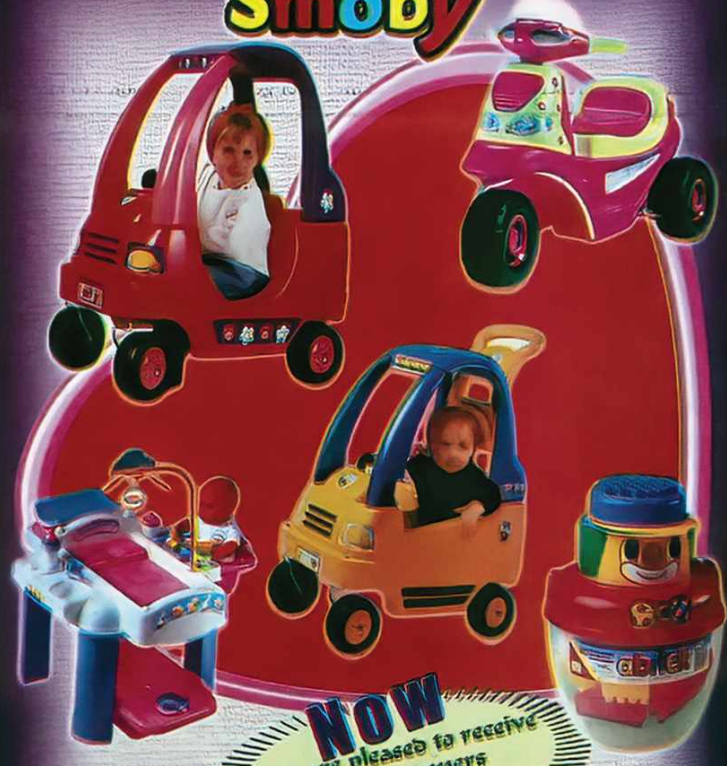
On this occasion, we would like to thank Aden Hotel owners' representative Mr. Abdulqawi Al-Muflehi and the hotel's General Manager Mr. Fadel Al-Hilali for their care and dedication in encouraging the hotel's qualified staff, wishing Mr. Fadel the best of luck in his duties.

Staff members and employees of Aden Hotel



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Self-exiled Journalists to return to Yemen

Several self-exiled Yemeni journalists who had fled the country to Egypt following the 1994 civil war returned back to their homeland on Friday August 2.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) had announced earlier last week

that a new batch of Yemeni Journalists would be returning to Yemen soon.

The YJS indicated that among those journalists are Mr. Sameer Moqbil of the Wahdwi Newspaper and Mohammed Abdulhadi, MBC's former correspondent in Aden.

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Chinese Army anniversary Celebrated

The Chinese Embassy in Sana'a celebrated the Chinese Army anniversary last Wednesday. The celebration was attended by Yemeni army bodies, diplomats, the attaché marshals in our country and the new Chinese Ambassador to Yemen, Gao Yusheng. Mr. Teng Hong, the Chinese Navy, Military, and Air Forces attaché delivered a speech in which he praised the Yemeni-Chinese relations and considered it historical in many ways. The 47-year-old new Chinese Ambassador to Yemen joined the Chinese Foreign Ministry in 1975, was employed in the Chinese Embassy in Sana'a during 1979-1982, worked as the Second Secretary for the Chinese Embassy in Egypt during 1988-1992, held the position of Chinese Embassy Advisor



Mr. Teng Hong, the Chinese Ambassador

to Egypt during 1996-1999 and from 1999 up to 2002 had been working as an Advisor for the Foreign Ministry West Asia and North Africa.

28 dead, 227 injured in traffic accidents in one week

Statistics indicated that a staggering 28 persons were killed and 227 injured in different traffic accidents around the country in the last week of July. The damage was estimated at around YR 5.5 million, was due to speedy driving and violation of traffic laws plus other factors.

Aden hosts taekwon do Arab championship

The Second Arab taekwon do championship for beginners has started yesterday August 4 in Aden's closed arena. The competition is organized by the Yemeni General Union for taekwon do and is financed by the Yemeni Youth Fund. The event will continue for three days until August 7th and will include the participation of 14 countries, namely Yemen, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Libya, Jordan, Sudan, Algeria, Emirates, and Bahrain. Female participants are from Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Kuwait and Yemen.

Arab teachers in Yemen complain

Around three hundred Arab teachers in Sana'a, who were contracted with the former Islamic Scholastic Institutes which were integrated more than a year ago into the Ministry of Education, appealed to President

Saleh to order the related authorities to pay them their salaries. The teachers said that they were astonished to find their salaries for two months unjustifiably withheld. The total deducted amount was around YR 30 million.

Emirates now operates airbus

330-200 aircraft on Dubai-Sana'a-Dubai

Mr. Adil Al-Ghaith, Manager of Emirates in Yemen said that the new Airbus 330-200 aircraft has started flights in the route Dubai-Sana'a-Dubai in March 2002. He added that the plane has played an important role in increasing ticket sales on Emirates due to the many special and unique features the new plane offers.



Mr. Adil al-Ghaith, Manager of Emirates in Yemen

The operation of the new aircraft is one of the many reasons that made Emirates the preferred airline for in Yemen and worldwide.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Mr. Adil Al-Ghaith said, "The number of destinations of Emirates airlines has increased dramatically. Perth, Mauritius, Osaka will be connected to

the Emirates network effective August, September, and October respectively.

the number of passengers flying from Sana'a on Emirates in the last two months has reached record levels, which resembles a steady growth of Emirate's activity here in Yemen just as the case all over the world.

It is worth noting that the international award winning airline Emirates flies from Sana'a three days a week. The flights are on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays and all planes from Sana'a take off exactly at 8:00 in the morning.



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For all the above positions, we are offering competitive salaries and benefits to the right candidates with appropriate experience and qualifications. Preference will be given to candidates who are fluent both in English and Arabic. All candidates should be computer literate and come from reputable companies.

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3rd NCPP held

Under the patronage of the Hadhramout Governor, Abdalqader Ali Helal and the Minister of Health, Abdunaser al-Munaibari, the 2nd preparatory symposium for the 3rd National Conference on Population Policies, (NCPP) titled "Alternatives scenarios & Future challenges" was held at the Hadhramout University for Science and Technology two weeks ago. The symposium was chaired by the Hadhramout University Rector, Ali Hood Baba'ad. Working papers were discussed by the teaching staff of the university. Working papers were centered on population policies, globalization, environment, natural resources, emigration and urbanization, social services.

The symposium aims primarily at preparing the final report, which will be presented to the 3rd National Conference on Population Policies as a focal point. It also aims at reviewing the Yemeni experiment in crystallizing its national policies including its human, technical and financial potentials with a view of achieving the desired goals.



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Local councils representatives in USA

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

H.E. Mr. Edmund J. Hull, the US ambassador in Sana'a met on Wednesday July 31st hosted a delegation of 15 Yemeni local council members, who left to the USA on Saturday the first of August to explore the American experience in running local government.

The ambassador welcomed the participants and wished them all success in their visit, which he hoped would provide them with valuable experience they could use once they are back in Yemen.

The 15 local council members were carefully selected to represent various political parties including the Yemeni Socialist Party, Islah Party, and the General Peoples Congress Party as well as one independent member with no party affiliation. One staff member of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which has been instrumental in planning for and organizing this trip, also joined them.

The individuals represented the following ten governorates: Abyan, Aden, Amran, Ibb, Al-Jawf, Marib, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Shebwa, and Taiz.

This visit is aimed at providing those local council members with the opportunity to learn and explore the methods of effective local governance and inter-relationship among local, state, and the



US Ambassador among the Yemeni delegation at the US Embassy in Sanaa - Photo by Fahmia Al-Fotih

federal governments in the USA. Moreover, they are expected to gain experience in methods of enabling the active participation of citizens in the political process to effect change and ensure stability in government and recognize the responsibilities of locally elected officials to serve their constituents. The delegation members are expected to eventually evaluate the U.S. political system and see what of the American system can be applied to the Yemeni system.

The visitors will also be meeting with

elected US officials, staffers at various levels of government, leaders and members of local and national citizens groups, representatives of the media, scholars, students and the other citizens.

In sum, the program is designed to illustrate the manner in which all levels of government in the United State serve as mechanisms that are responsive to citizens' concerns.

The participants expressed their delight to make the trip and hence have the chance to be familiar with the US local government system.

Fatima al-Horaibi, one of the female members of the delegation told Yemen Times "I am glad to be part of this delegation and take part in the International Visitors Program so as to have a closer look at the American experience in the local council system in the USA and I shall try to benefit from my experience as Americans have progressed tremendously in this field."

"Here in Sanaa, we still suffer from centralization and feel that we are connected to the central governor and I would like to know how we can bring about a smooth and gradual decentralization process by exploring the US example."

Ali Saleh al-Faheed, another participant said "We will be witnessing an advanced level experience in democratic practice. Our American friends resemble a good example to follow and we are confident that we would benefit greatly from our visit."

The trip is fully sponsored by the International Visitors' Program (IVP) of the U.S Department of State. The IVP is a means to introduce various aspects of American system in political, economic, social, and other aspects to international visitors. Special emphasis will be given to the exploration of American life and culture. The US administration believes that such visits will help in opening new channels between the USA and the rest of the world not only for professional development but also for cultural learning.

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Women's rights discussed

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of Prime Minister Abdulqadir Ba Jammal and the President of the Supreme Council for Women, the Arab Sisters Forum organized on Thursday, the first of August a national consultative meeting under the motto "Women's rights between the challenge of law and reality". The event was attended by Mr. Abdulkarim al-Arhabi Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, Mrs. Amal al-Basha Director of the Sisters' Arab Forum, Mrs. Rajani Khana Oxfam-Britain, Mrs. Hooria Mashoor Deputy Chairman of the Women's National Committee, and distinguished participants and guests.

Mrs. Amal al-Basha, the host and

Director of the Forum gave a welcome speech in which she emphasized the importance of organizing such a meeting to raise awareness among women and civil society organizations as well as the whole society on the need to focus on women's rights in Yemen. "This meeting aims at starting a dialogue to discuss an important issues resembled in the need to get more justice and equality for all citizens alike" she said.

She appealed to the government to modify some of the constitution's articles that are openly considered discriminatory including articles on nationality, law of penalties, etc. "In this meeting, I ask the government to eliminate all shapes of discrimination against women according to the constitution's articles which guarantee equality in duties and rights for both genders" she comment-

ed.

Mrs. Hooria Mashoor praised the crucial role that the forum had played in such a short time in keeping pace with new events and global changes. Quoting from the Holy Quara'n, she stressed that Islam guarantees rights of women and pointed out that many families still use force to have their young daughters marry in an early age, depriving them from education and other rights. She stressed on the need to mobilize the frozen articles of the constitution that are related to women's rights.

Then, Mrs. Rajani Khana gave a speech in which she said, "We are happy that the Republic of Yemen has signed the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which demonstrates its commitment to promote women's rights. Moreover the Yemeni society is becoming increasingly aware of this instrument and is beginning to present its perspectives and viewpoints by filing their own Shadow Report on CEDAW that is going to be discussed at the forthcoming UN special session to be held in New York in August."

She added that "the workshop is an exciting and challenging process that requires transparency, trust, solidarity and commitment to move towards gender equality in Yemen"

Mr. AbdulKarim al-Arhabi, praised the efforts in holding the event and thanked the participants by saying, "it is a pleasant moment to see that women have becomes aware of their rights and can frankly express their views benefiting from the given democratic margin they have" he said.

"The government has exerted a lot of efforts despite Yemen's strict and con-

servative society to enable women to participate in all effective sectors of life. We encourage women to continue in this path and wish them all success and hope they could achieve their expectations," he concluded.

Two workshops followed the inauguration ceremony. During those workshops, four papers were submitted by Mr. Izzeddin al-Asbahi Director of the Human Rights Information and Training Center, Soha Bashreen Media Consular in the forum, Mrs. Amal al-Basha and Hooria Mashoor. Following the workshops, the draft of the shadow report was presented.



Participants during the national consultative meeting

Continued from page 1:

Opposition loses SEC struggle

On the other hand, a one-week ultimatum was given to the opposition parties to present their lists in accordance with percentages that were given to the opposition parties during the former elections.

Abduh al-Janadi, a member and the Head of the Information Department of the SEC said that the door has been shut to prevent any dialogue or agreements particularly with regard to setting up registration committees. The dispute led to the postponement of the registration period one month. "This has entitled the SEC to postpone the

registration period till October instead of September," al-Janadi said.

During the period from August to October 2002 election committees are to be formed. Preparations are in full swing to train members of the election committees during the registration period to open the way for the registration period to start. All previous voters' names will be replaced with new names that will be registered.

The registration period will last for about 120 days and will be followed by the final preparations to hold the elections that are scheduled for April 2003.

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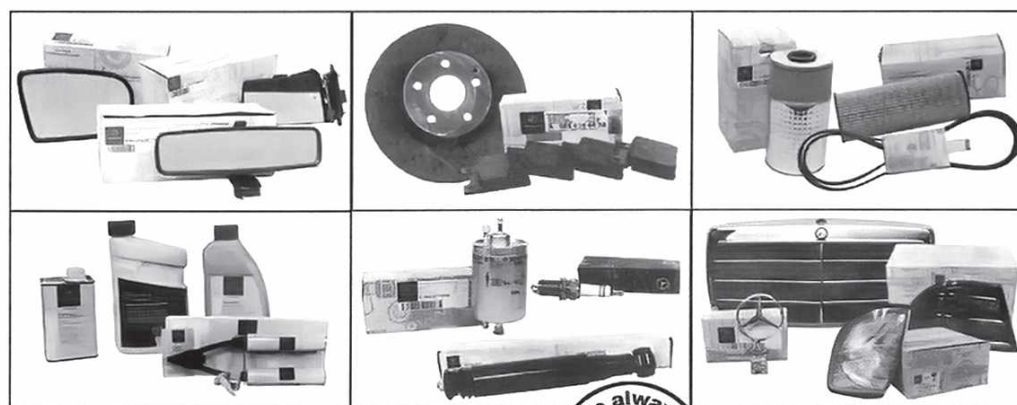
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Iraqi Ambassador to YT:

"Other Arab countries will subsequently fall prey to the USA if a unified stance is not taken,"

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Taha Yaseen al-Basri, the current Iraqi Ambassador to Yemen graduated from Baghdad University, College of Education in 1959. He then became a teacher following the outbreak of the 14 Ramadhan Revolution in 1963. Then, he spent most of his life in the field of journalism, where he worked for about 30 years. He worked in the field of the diplomatic corps for a short period of time and was appointed as a chief-in-editor of Iraq's al-Thowra official daily newspaper.

He was appointed Director of the Iraqi News Agency and then as a journalist advisor in Spain. The deputation period in Spain lasted for 4 years and was later entrusted with the diplomatic corps at the foreign ministry as an ambassador.

From 1976 to 1978, he worked as Deputy of the Ministry of Information and Culture and then as a Chairman of the Iraqi journalists Union for 4 years from 1982 to 1986.

He also occupied several positions as Director at foreign ministry Offices. Then he was appointed as a resident ambassador to Argentina, as a non-resident ambassador in Chile and Uruguay and then he was appointed as an ambassador to Italy for a short period of time.

Later on he came back to Italy after which he occupied several posts in Qatar until 1999 when he was appointed as Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Three years and a half have passed since he was appointed as an ambassador in Yemen. "During my stay in

Yemen as an ambassador, I spent charming years full of fond memories because Yemenis are so kind-hearted and of bright-minded. Yemenis were not spoiled by the modern era," al-Basri said.

Al-Basri added that the Yemeni-Iraqi relations had been deeply rooted in the past. "Iraq is the first Arab country where Yemenis go to study particularly in the field of armed training and thousands of Yemeni university students go to Iraqi universities to study in different academic fields," he said.

As for academic cooperation between Yemen and Iraq, the Iraqi Ambassador pointed out two kinds of scholarships:

1) Scholarships that have been granted by the state in accordance with agreements signed between the two countries.

2) Scholarships that have been signed between the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party and the political parties in the political arena. It has been agreed that a number of limited scholarships should be allocated and granted separately for members of each political party.

Students in Iraq are treated equally like any other Arab or Iraqi student. As a result of this, political parties have the desire to increase the number of scholarships each year.

The Yemeni-Iraqi relations have witnessed considerable improvements in different fields whether social, political, economic or cultural. Visits exchanged between the two countries at different levels have participated in consolidating those relations further. Recently, a trade zone agreement between Iraq and Yemen has been signed. This has opened the way for



Taha Yaseen al-Basri

open trade exchange and exemption of customs duties.

The Yemeni-Iraqi relations have been in continuous progress ever since al-Basri was appointed as an ambassador to Yemen in 1999. Yemeni-Iraqi trade relations were now gaining greater momentum. "More than 50 Yemeni companies working in the field of trade have started business relations with Iraq. As a first step, certain Yemeni products are in the process of being exported to the Iraqi markets. Such products include foodstuff, detergents, medicines, etc." he added.

"Yemeni businessmen are given the chance to import commodities and goods from other Arab countries to be exported to the Iraqi markets as well," he said.

In a question about Yemen's stance towards the sanctions imposed on Iraq, al-Basri said that last week there was a solidarity festival held at the Research and Studies Center in support of the Iraqi issue. "We make every effort to coordinate with the concerned bodies

to give the Iraqi issue and the Palestinian uprising in the Arab countries their due attention," he stated further.

The US dominance over some of the Arab orders has made many countries submissive to enemy's pressures. This has been represented by imposing the New World Order. In this regard, the Iraqi Ambassador commented, "What we see is that around 90% of the countries in the world are dominated by the New World Order led by the USA," the Iraqi Ambassador said.

He further made clear that the official stance of Yemen towards the Iraq's issue is one of the most honorable, which manifested itself in different angles including the call upon the international community to raise sanctions and its denouncing of the continuous threats of attacking Iraq.

As for trade exchange between Iraq and Yemen, al-Basri said that Yemen and Iraq had signed a memorandum of understanding, which was also signed with other Arab countries that had trade relations with Iraq. "Iraq is now looking for new trade opportunities to export its products. As a result of sanction imposed against Iraq, we are unable to export our products. Iraq is only allowed to export oil within the framework of the oil for food memorandum," he said.

Concerning lifting sanctions against Iraq, Mr. Taha said, "The President of Iraq once said that he doesn't expect the lifting of sanctions against Iraq at all. Nobody can expect to lift sanctions sooner or later. This issue is subject to international and regional changes. It may last for a long period of time and we have to deal with this issue in a

careful manner. In this respect, Iraq is and will remain steadfast for ever."

Unfortunately, there is no unified Arab stance in regard to sanctions because of the differences among Arab regimes, which reflects itself negatively on Iraq.

But according to the ambassador, there are some shining and promising examples such as Saudi Arabia's stance towards the imposed sanctions and its stance concerning the latest US threats

to strike Iraq, which is a new promising development. "I hope from the bottom of my heart that Saudi Arabia's stance will be the same of all other countries. What has been declared by H.H. Prince, Saoud al-Faisal of opposing any strike against Iraq is a promising step forward," he said. He added that defending Iraq means defending the whole Arab nation. "Iraq is not the only target. Other Arab countries will subsequently fall prey to the USA if a unified stance is not taken," he concluded.

Public institutions' survey started

The field survey for public institutions for the year 2002 started last Monday with a campaign to count and inspect governmental buildings and structures all over the country. This is part of the labor market information program activities in cooperation with the Social Fund, Central Statistical Authority and UNDP. The survey is being carried out with the participation of 106 researchers and chief of specialists of the Central Statistical Authority and the Ministry of Social Affairs. The survey aims at providing a complete database on all governmental institutions to improve labor offices services and to calculate small, middle and large public institutions in main cities and rural areas. The survey includes the inspection of more than 600 establishments in main cities and more than 453 in rural areas.

It is worth mentioning that the

financial budget allocated for the current survey will be about YR. 13,448,400 for the first stage of the 'survey, while the budget for the second stage will only be certain upon evaluation of the first stage's implementation.

The source of financing for the survey will be as follows: the UNDP will be providing \$124,000 (around YR 21,452,400), of which YR 13,448,400 of it will be allocated for financing the initial installations survey stage and YR. 8,004,000 of the UNDP's provided amount will be allocated for the survey implementation stage, documents preparation and training. Similarly, the Social Fund for Development contributed an amount of at most \$126,000 to finance the field implementation survey of the 2nd stage, office and mechanical equipments, and for printing the final results of the survey.

Thirty six years since HE, Shiekh, Sultan bin Zaed became the President of the UAE:

UAE celebrates

BY YASSER AL-MAYASSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United Arab Emirate will be celebrating this week the 36th anniversary of His Highness Shiekh Zaed bin Sultan's accession to presidency on August 6, 1966.

Shiekh Zaed bin Sultan was able to develop the UAE in all social, economic, cultural, political, and educational fields. At the educational level for example, the UAE advanced rapidly and has become among the highest nations in the world in terms of literacy rates.

Education has been one of the major priorities that Shiekh Zaed has been giving importance, resulting in a generation with high educational standards. More than million and a half students study at more than 1,072 schools. In addition to this, more than 17,000 university students study at the UAE universities. Apart from that, thousands of higher studies UAE students have been sent overseas to pursue quality studies in the USA, UK, Ireland, and other countries.

Priority has been given to healthcare services as well. An increasing number of hospitals emerged as man is considered the main factor and powerhouse in

building the nation.

At the developmental and industrial level, the UAE has witnessed dramatic transitions in this vital part. More than 11 industrial complexes have been established to meet the needs of different sectors of the community.

Despite difficult climatic circumstances and scarcity of water, the UAE has achieved a basic infrastructural foundation for agriculture. Date palm industry has been ranked first among other agricultural products. It is therefore exported to different countries of the world.

The UN's reports have confirmed that the UAE has achieved the highest growth rates of human development parallel to that of advanced countries. Highly developed social and economic programs have been implemented with a view of improving the standards of living of all citizens.

The UAE has been also progressing in all aspects by leaps and bounds enabling it to reach standards of advanced countries in many domains. In this regard, mass communication has greatly contributed to the political and social stability. The UAE mass media has been uniquely upgraded. The functions of wire services, weekly magazines, and monthly journals in the UAE have all been affected by the character of newspapers.

Public as well as private satellite services have been established with the aim of keeping in line with information technology in this globalization era.

The UAE has paid full attention to the protected areas. This was done with a view of reestablishing equilibrium between man and environment.

At the international level, the UAE has established strong relations with many countries of the world. The first Supreme Council of the GCC was held in Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital, which was the place where unforgettable stances towards supporting Palestinians emerged.

Yemeni-UAE relations

The Yemeni-UAE relations have wit-



Shiekh Zaed bin Sultan

nessed considerable growth in different vital fields as both countries have been seeking to improve these relations for the better.

Thirty million US dollars have been allocated for the second phase of Marib Dam project by Abu Dhabi Development Fund, which also financed several vital projects in Yemen. The second phase of the Marib dam includes the implementation of water channels estimated at 66 km long with the aim of irrigating wide agricultural lands ranging from 4,000 to 5,000 hectares.

The Yemen-UAE trade, economic and investment relations have flourished significantly in a time Yemen is entitled to join some of the institutions of the GCC.

Capitalists as well as company owners in the UAE have shown great interest to invest their capitals in the available investment opportunities in Yemen in the field of oil and mineral wealth.

Abu Dhabi Development Fund has agreed to accept private bids to implement certain projects. At the same time, steps are being taken to hand over the contracts to initiate implementing the Mareb Dam project with a view of augmenting the agricultural products.

The UAE has made great contributions to establish the first phase of the Marib Dam, which contributed tremendously to the agricultural production of the governorate of Mareb throughout the last two decades as the region has restored its agricultural reputation in growing different kinds of crops.

New bill for expatriates ratified

By Mahyoub al-Kamali
Yemen Times Staff

A bill that offers services, privileges and priorities to expatriates has been ratified by the parliament last week. The new bill comprises rehabilitating investment zones, housing areas and industrial complexes. The bill aims primarily to attract the Yemeni expatriates' capitals to be invested in vital investment fields available in the free zone and other productive sectors.

According to the bill, the Yemeni government will provide necessary information, legal consulting, technical aspects and publications with a view of attracting expatriates' capitals.

The new bill will allow the Yemeni expatriates to bring their private cars during their visit to Yemen along with

non-trade presents for only one year.

Tourist programs along with allocated pieces of lands and housing areas for the Yemeni expatriates have been entrusted with the concerned bodies.

The bill has exempted Yemeni expatriates from customs duties when bringing their furniture and other personal equipment. Only 50% of custom duties have been exempted in case expatriates bring their commercial equipment with them.

The new bill is considered a positive step towards attracting capitals of Yemeni expatriates to be invested in Yemen. The new bill also grants Yemeni expatriates additional privileges, which are not available in the Investment Law. It is expected that the new bill will also strengthen the expatriates' cling to their homeland.



تهانينا بعقد القران
وسط فرحة الاهل والأصدقاء والأحبة تم عقد قران الشاب الخلاق /
عادل عبد الهادي الهادي
تهانينا القلبية وأمنياتنا
الطيبة بهذه المناسبة، وعقبى
للفرحة الكبرى...
المهنون:
الأستاذ/ وليد عبد العزيز السقايف، عباس الضالعي،
محمد عبد الرحمن المسني

شيماء في منزل «أنعم»
اجمل التهاني مكللة بالورد والفل نزفها للاخ العزيز الأستاذ/
محمد محمد أنعم
سكرتير تحرير صحيفة الوحدة
بمناسبة ارتقاؤه مولودته الجديدة التي أسماها
(شيماء)
نسأل الله لها العمر المديد والعيش السعيد في كنف والدها، وان
يجعلها فرحة عين والدها وينبتها نباتاً حسناً... والى ألف مبروك...
المهنون:
بسام ورضا وعدنان واكرم السقايف، وحسين وعصام الكبيسي، وغنم الدبيعي وجميع الزملاء...

Powell still plans to meet Palestinians

JERUSALEM, Aug 3 (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Saturday he still hoped to meet Palestinian leaders next week despite the bombing of a Jerusalem university that drew swift military retaliation from Israel.

Israel responded to the deadly university bombing by sending troops into a militant Palestinian stronghold in the West Bank city of Nablus, demolishing houses of the families of Palestinian suicide attackers.

Powell condemned Palestinian attacks and mourned those killed, including five Americans and two Israelis who died in this week's blast at a Hebrew University cafeteria, but said the sides "can't give up" efforts to end 22 months of bloodshed.

"We can't walk away from it. We must continue to try to find a path forward," Powell told a news conference in Manila near the end of an eight-nation Asia tour. He made clear no dates or participants had been set.

Tensions on the ground continued on Friday as Israeli troops backed by tanks poured into the centre of Nablus, killing three Palestinians and seizing at least 30 suspects in what the army said was an effort to root out a "local terror network".

Soldiers went from house to house in the Casbah, or Old City, smashing holes in connecting walls to avoid exposure to gunmen outside, as they searched for militants.

The army also demolished the houses of families of militants and started to deport their relatives.

Bulldozers and army engineers razed four homes in three West Bank towns, at least three of which belonged to relatives of suicide attackers.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat condemned as a crime against humanity the demolitions that left dozens



Israeli army tanks are positioned in the Old City of the West Bank city of Nablus August 3, 2002. REUTERS

homeless.

"I am asking for quick international intervention from the United Nations. If they are not able to send forces, they should send observers," Arafat said in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Powell intends to meet Palestinians

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said last week he expected to visit Washington for talks on August 5 and 6 with Abdel Razzak al Yahya, the new interior minister also in charge of Palestinian security forces, and Trade Minister Maher al-Masri.

The meeting would be the most senior contact between the U.S. administration and Palestinian Authority since

President George W. Bush called in June for Yasser Arafat to be sidelined as Palestinian leader.

The United States has said Arafat can empower his officials to speak on his behalf at negotiations to push forward reforms that Bush said must take place before Washington would support the immediate creation of a Palestinian state.

In an effort to stop further attacks, an Israeli general signed orders on Thursday for the deportation from the West Bank to the fenced-in Gaza Strip of the brothers of two militants.

Israeli officials facing international criticism for the decision said they would deport only family members

who were

accomplices to the attacks.

A committee considering whether to approve deportation orders would resume its deliberations on Sunday, Army radio said. Lawyers for the two men said they would appeal to the

Supreme Court if the decree was not revoked.

The bodies of two of the Americans were flown home on Friday as the FBI launched an investigation into the attack, which drew words of outrage from U.S. President George W. Bush.

At least 1,477 Palestinians and 574 Israelis have been killed since a Palestinian uprising began in September 2000.

U.S. says Iraq offer does not alter view on Saddam

LONDON, Aug 3 (Reuters) - The United States said on Saturday Iraq's offer of talks on U.N. arms inspectors did not alter its ultimate goal of seeing President Saddam Hussein removed from power.

"We continue to favour the reintroduction of the inspectors and we are supporting them as much as we can," U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton told BBC radio. "But...our policy at the same time insists on regime change in Baghdad."

"That policy will not be altered whether the inspectors go in or not," added Bolton, Washington's arms control expert.

"The real question is the removal of Saddam Hussein and his continuing threat to peace and security in the region."

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Najji Sabri invited chief arms inspector Hans Blix to Baghdad for talks.

Hinting that Iraq might allow inspectors back, Sabri said the talks could "establish a solid basis" for the next stage of monitoring and inspection activities.

The letter was sent in a week that U.S. President George W. Bush repeated his commitment to a "regime change" in Iraq and his determination to look at "all options...all tools" to oust the Iraqi leader.

Bolton said the U.S. position on Iraq — dubbed by Bush along with Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil" — had not changed since the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

"I don't think our policy is tied to September 11, although we continue to explore what linkages there might be between Saddam and al Qaeda," he said.

"The threat that Saddam represents to our interests, the interests of our friends and neighbours in the region and to peace and security at large is what motivates us to think that regime change is the only way to eliminate that threat," he added.

Bolton refused to be drawn on how Saddam might be removed from power.

"There are all kinds of ways for regime change to take place," he said. "The Iraqi opposition has long felt that the country is really burdened intolerably by Saddam Hussein's presence in Baghdad, and that opposition continues to grow."

Bolton added that time was pressing and the United States was confident it would have adequate support for whatever action it might eventually decide to take.

NATO-member Turkey and Jordan, which both border Iraq, have this week expressed concerns about U.S. plans for war against Iraq.

EU to monitor Turkish reform package closely

BRUSSELS, Aug 3 (Reuters) - The EU said on Saturday it would closely monitor the implementation of a major reform package passed by Turkey's parliament, which abolishes the death penalty in peacetime to prepare the country for EU membership.

The European Union's executive Commission said it welcomed the reforms "as an important signal of the determination of the majority of Turkey's political leaders towards further alignment to the values and standards of the European Union".

It added, however, that the reform package needed to be "carefully analysed in order to fully assess its impact".

"Moreover, much will depend on its practical implementation that will be closely monitored in the months to

come," it said in a statement.

The Commission will present an assessment in the autumn.

The human rights reforms approved on Saturday include ending punishments for criticism of the armed forces and other pillars of the Turkish establishment, outlawing organ and people smuggling and easing restrictions on the Kurdish language.

The package was rushed through parliament by pro-EU forces who wanted to complete the reforms before campaigning starts for a general election on November 3. The package now only needs the president's ratification, expected to be a formality.

Ankara wants the European Union to set a date by the end of the year for Turkey to start membership talks.



Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit casts a vote during parliamentary debate on a series of human rights reforms designed to help Turkey meet EU membership criteria in Ankara early August 3, 2002. REUTERS

Bomb thrown at Fatah member's home in Lebanon camp

BEIRUT, Aug 3 (Reuters) - A hand grenade exploded outside the house of a Fatah member in Lebanon's Ain el-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp on Saturday, the second explosion in the camp in two days, a Fatah official said.

The explosion damaged the house of a member of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, but no injuries were reported. The man, his wife and two sons were asleep inside at the time, the official said.

A small bomb had exploded on Friday at the home of a Fatah official in the camp, causing damage but no injuries.

The Fatah official said he did not know who was responsible for the attack, or why the man was targeted.

The Ain el-Hilweh refugee camp is the largest of a dozen camps that are home to an estimated 350,000 Palestinian refugees and are effectively under the control of Palestinian factions.

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Iran and Saudi say oppose any U.S. attack on Iraq

TEHRAN, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal arrived in Iran on a one-day visit on Saturday as the two former foes said they opposed any possible U.S. military attack on their common neighbour Iraq.

Prince Saud told reporters at Tehran's airport that he would deliver a written message from Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah to President Mohammad Khatami at a meeting later on Saturday.

"We have a common position with Iran," Iran's state television quoted Prince Saud as saying.

"We oppose any military attack against Islamic and regional countries and we are both opposed to any American military attack against Iraq."

The United States is debating an attack on Iraq to topple President Saddam Hussein, seen as a threat due to his alleged efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Prince Saud also welcomed Iraq's offer on Thursday for the chief U.N. weapons inspector, barred since 1998, to return to Baghdad for technical talks.

"The return of U.N. weapons inspectors is the most appropriate way to ensure the safety of Iraq and its people," the state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

Iran, which fought a 1980-88 war with Iraq, has repeatedly urged



Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal (L) meets with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami in Tehran August 3, 2002. REUTERS

Baghdad to meet U.N. demands and eliminate any weapons of mass destruction.

Unlike Iran, Saudi Arabia is a key U.S. ally in the Middle East, but the conservative kingdom fears an attack on Iraq would bring instability to the volatile oil-rich region.

Iran fears an attack to oust Saddam would set a precedent for the U.S. superpower to use force to remove any government it dislikes.

The Islamic republic has been placed, along with Iraq and North Korea, in President George W. Bush's so-called "axis of evil" and some U.S.

officials have called for a change of regime in Tehran.

Relations between major oil producers Iran and Saudi Arabia have improved since the 1997 election of moderate Khatami, after nearly two decades of political and ideological tensions.

Angola's UNITA rebels disband their military wing

LUANDA, Aug 3 (Reuters) - The military wing of Angola's once feared UNITA rebel movement has disbanded, the latest stage in a peace process started after the death in combat of the group's charismatic founder, Jonas Savimbi.

Angop, the government's official news agency, said on Saturday the disbanding took place at a ceremony in the capital Luanda on Friday.

"UNITA military forces were Friday officially disbanded," Angop said.

The disbanding was originally scheduled for July 20 but that deadline was missed, raising concerns about a possible setback to peace in the south-west African nation that has known little but ruinous civil war since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Angop said 18 UNITA generals were commissioned and integrated into the Angolan army.

It said 5,000 UNITA soldiers would be assimilated into the regular armed forces and close to 80,000 other former fighters would be demobilised and integrated into civilian life.

Analysts have said only about 10,000 to 15,000 UNITA soldiers were still active in the bush when the two sides signed a historic ceasefire in April, triggered by Savimbi's death in a gun battle in February.

But it remains unclear how many have actually laid down their arms and UNITA is said to have deep political divisions.

UNITA was pounded into submission by a "scorched earth" policy that

saw government forces drive peasants off the land, depriving the rebels of vital food supplies.

But aid workers say that strategy has put tens of thousands of people at risk from starvation.

The war in the oil and diamond rich nation is believed to have killed about a million people and displaced millions more.

One of its worst legacies lies beneath its fertile soil in the form of landmines, which are strewn across the country.

Nigeria to postpone election for second time

LAGOS, Aug 3 (Reuters) - President Olusegun Obasanjo said on Saturday Nigeria's local elections, the first polls since military rule ended in 1999, could not be held on August 10 as scheduled because preparations were not complete.

Obasanjo said in a monthly national radio talk show that governors responsible for local elections in the country's 36 states had decided the poll would have to be put off for the second time to allow revision of the voters' register.

The polls were originally to have taken place in April, but were put back for the same reason.

Obasanjo said he was discussing the electoral crisis with political leaders on Friday when a spokesman for the governors came in and said: "By consensus we've decided that August 10 is unrealistic." The governors have yet

to decide a new date.

The postponement marks a major setback for the democratic process in oil-producing Nigeria, a country of 120 million that has not managed a successful transition between elected governments since independence from Britain in 1960. It could also affect presidential, national and gubernatorial elections early next year.

Any election would take place against a background of Nigeria's worst cycle of violence for decades, in which an estimated 10,000 people have died in three years. The end of 15 years of military dictatorship in 1999 released the pressure cooker of long suppressed grievances, leading to bloody outbreaks of ethnic and religious clashes across the country.

Political unrest has surged, notably since Obasanjo declared his re-election bid in April.

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S. African president congratulates Great Lake nations on peace deal

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 2 (Xinhua) — South African President Thabo Mbeki congratulated the Great Lake nations on the moves to bring peace to the region, the South African Press Association reported on Friday.

The peace deal signed this week by the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda was a rare gift of hope, said Mbeki in the African National Congress' online publication.

"We must take this opportunity once again to convey our salute to the governments of the DRC and Rwanda as well as the UN for the positions they have taken to ensure the speediest possible resolution of the conflict in the

DRC." "I am certain that our government and people will spare no effort in the attempt to move the Great Lakes and Africa to a stable peace," Mbeki said.

DRC president Joseph Kabila and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame signed the pact in South Africa's administrative capital, Pretoria, on Tuesday.

They also endorsed a plan to put the pact into action within 90 days.

The agreement provides for the withdrawal of some 20,000 Rwandan troops from the eastern part of the DRC, while the Rwanda Hutu rebels hiding out in this region would be rounded up, disarmed and repatriated at the same time limit.

Mbeki said the Great Lakes region appeared to be entering a time of peace, and the relatively short period set for the plan demonstrated the resolve of the two governments to speedily end the conflict.

"Of great importance with regard to all these matters is that, whatever the problems, all indications suggest that the Great Lakes area stands poised to break into a period of peace," he said.

"This is of great importance to the same question of peace and stability in our continent as a whole."

He said it was clear that ending the conflict in the DRC would have immediate implications for the peace process in Burundi.

Sudan's Bashir confident on ceasefire - media

KUALA LUMPUR Aug 3 (Reuters) Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir is confident talks set this month with the country's main rebel group will bring a ceasefire that ends the 19-year-old civil war, Malaysian media reported on Saturday.

Sudan and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) made a breakthrough last month to end the conflict that has killed two million people, and plan to thrash out a comprehensive peace deal in talks in mid-August. The war broadly pits the Islamic government in the Arabic-speaking north against the SPLA which seeks autonomy for the mainly Christian or

animist south. The conflict has been complicated by oil, ethnicity and ideology. "It is hoped that a ceasefire agreement would be agreed on once the parties meet in Kenya (later this month)," Bashir said at an international meeting in Malaysia, the Bernama news agency reported.

Bashir was attending the Global 2002 Langkawi International Dialogue, a forum for developing nations hosted by Malaysia.

Despite the peace initiative, aid workers said this week that Sudan launched a major offensive in the south with thousands of displaced people.

The SPLA said more than 1,000 people had been killed, although there was no independent confirmation of the fighting. "Once peace is achieved, the economic potential of Sudan will be unlocked, thus allowing Sudan to play its natural role as a powerful economic engine of Africa," Bashir said.

The July 20 breakthrough saw the two sides agree giving the south the option of breaking away from Khartoum rule, with a referendum to be held in six years.

Bashir, who heads an Islamic government which came to power in 1989, said both sides would prefer to keep Sudan together.

Vacancy Re-announcement (for second time)

The Al-Mahra Rural Development Project financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) announces its need to fill the following International Post.

Terms of Reference

Project title: Al-Mahra Rural Development Project
Post title: Adviser to the Project manager (International)
Contracted by: PMU
Duration: 18 months
Duty Station: Al-Ghayhah with extensive field travel.

Background

The Government of Yemen has received IFAD loan No. 528YE to finance Al-Mahra Rural Development Project and appointed UNOPS as cooperating agency. The overall project goal is to improve the wellbeing of participating smallholder households and rural communities through their engagement in the productive and sustainable use of their natural resource bases. To help achieve this goal, project investment will aim to (a) support the development of more self-reliant communities and strengthen the partnerships between all stakeholders in the economic development of Al-Mahra; (b) strengthen the capacity of male and female farmers and fishermen and their communities, particularly disadvantaged groups, to determine, access and use appropriate resources, technology and rural credit for agriculture, fisheries and livestock development; and (c) to build knowledge and capacity in public and private institutions and enterprises in Al-Mahra to deliver equitable, sustainable and profitable financial and technical services to the rural community. Overall investment will be geared toward ensuring a community and private sector-led primary industries sector in Al-Mahra that understands its natural resource base and uses it profitably and sustainably.

Qualification

The Adviser to the Project Manager shall have a PhD degree in Agriculture Economics or a related science. He/she will have at least 20 years experience in the Project Planning, implementation and management of Participatory development projects. Good communication skills fluency in Arabic and English and mastery of computer techniques, spreadsheet and database software (in particular MS Excel and MS Access) and good reporting techniques is required.

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the instruction of the Project Director and in close contact with the community development teams, the consultant shall:

- Assist The Project Director in day-to-day management of the project, embracing financial, technical and administrative programmes;
- Advise the Community Development Team on alternative approaches to community-based development and assist them to develop flexible and pragmatic approaches to the development of Social Agreements;
- Provide training for CDC and Society members in group formation and management;
- Train and assist the Monitoring and Evaluation adviser to identify key performance indicators, and prepare cost/benefit analysis and prepare community based monitoring activities;
- Assist PMU in planning and implementing the Strategic Planning Workshop;
- Maintain a broad oversight of project implementation suggesting new strategies and programmes as and when required.

Interested Applicants should submit their CVs plus their proposal for monthly remuneration not later than 30 days from the date of announcement in the newspaper to the following address: Project Director of Al-Mahra Rural Development Project; Headquarter office al-Ghayhah Fax No. 00967 5 611295 Tel: 00967 5 611297 or Sana'a Office at Al-Kaoulani Building, department No. 14, 2nd floor, Tel-fax No. 00967 1 205467.

India says Pakistani shelling kills three soldiers

SRINAGAR, India, Aug 3 (Reuters) - At least three Indian soldiers were killed in Kashmir when Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged "heavy" fire across a military line that divides the disputed region between the two countries, a senior army official said on Saturday.

"There is lot of firing going on both sides (in Kupwara sectors), we have lost a JCO (Junior Commissioned Officer) and two men," Lieutenant-General, V. G. Patankar told reporters.

"This time it (shelling) could be because infiltration is going on, it (infiltration) has started," Patankar, chief of 15 Corps of Indian army operating in the Kashmir Valley, added.

Kashmir is at the heart of a military standoff between the two nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan as New Delhi battles a separatist revolt in the state.

India accuses Pakistan of pushing Muslim rebels into Kashmir under the cover of artillery shelling. Pakistan

denies the charge and says it provides only moral support to the separatists.

Islamabad also says infiltration has stopped.

Close to a million soldiers are still massed along the border between the two nuclear rivals and the shelling comes after India announced on Friday dates for holding elections in the rebellious Jammu and Kashmir state.

The soldiers were killed late on Friday evening in Tangdar which is near the Line of Control in Kashmir's Kupwara district 87-km (54-miles) northwest of Srinagar, the summer capital of the violence-racked state.

India has said it would view Pakistan's actions in the vote run-up as "litmus test" of its pledge to curb militancy.

New Delhi sees the election as a way to bring peace and establish its legitimacy in the Himalayan region but separatists plan to boycott the poll and some militants have threatened to kill candi-

dates and voters.

Four killed in gunbattle

Officials say there was a brief lull in violence in Kashmir after Pakistan pledged in late May to halt militant incursions into Indian Kashmir from its soil.

But they say the violence is now back at previous levels.

Elsewhere in the state, two Indian paramilitary soldiers and two rebels were killed in a gunbattle on Friday night in Malpora village west of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir a police spokesman said.

Nearly a dozen militant groups are fighting New Delhi's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

More than 33,000 people have been killed in separatist violence in the region since the rebellion broke out in 1989. Separatists put the death toll closer to 80,000.

Calls for Afghan arms amnesty fall on deaf ears



Residents of Jaghatu district sit with an Afghan policeman (3rdL) before turning over their weapons to government officials in Wardak Province, 125 kilometres (80 miles) southeast of Kabul, in this photo taken August 2, 2002. REUTERS

KABUL, Aug 3 (Reuters) - In a country where owning arms is seen as a fundamental right, it was little wonder that a government delegation returned to the Afghan capital at the weekend with little to show for a rural amnesty on personal arms.

"We got a few guns...maybe around 10," said one Western diplomat who accompanied the mission to Jaghatu in Wardak province, around 125 kms (80 miles) southeast of the capital.

"But you definitely had the feeling that there were a lot more around, hidden away somewhere for when they might be needed," he said on Saturday.

The government last week ordered Afghans not attached to a recognisable branch of the national army to hand in any weapons, but few believe the regulation will result in anything more than a handful of old muskets or broken rifles being surrendered.

"We know that it may seem a hope, but we have to start somewhere," said an official from the Afghan defence ministry. "Anyway, even if it just makes people hide them away, it will be better."

Their first high-profile arms gather-

ing trip to the countryside turned into a farce on Friday.

After a long bumpy drive to Jaghatu, government officials including Interior Minister Taj Mohammad Wardak gave a series of lofty speeches urging the populace to surrender all weapons and put their trust in the national army.

The visit yielded slim pickings — which one cynic even suggested had been brought along by the delegation for just that eventuality.

"Here every man is born a soldier," wrote Lady Sale, the wife of the commander of British forces in Afghanistan, in 1842. "Every Afghan is armed with three or four knives of different sizes...pistols and a jezail (rifle)."

Those weapons were used to deadly effect by the Afghans against the British in those times, and the country has time and again united to fend off invaders — the latest being the decade-long Soviet occupation from 1979.

"They infuriated their opponents by either stealing their weapons or copying them to perfection," wrote Victoria Schofield in her book "Every rock,

every hill".

"Whereas they used Martini-Henrys and Lee-Enfields against the British in the 19th and 20th centuries, they have automatic Kalashnikovs to use against the Russians, for they steal and reproduce the rifles of their enemies with dexterity."

Gerald Curtis, a political officer in Afghanistan in the 1930s, said this tradition of bearing arms came about because the country had rarely enjoyed a strong central government, leaving each man to defend himself, his family and tribe.

"It can be argued that in a country where there is no Government to enforce sanctions on those whose conduct is injurious to others, the blood feud spares as much life as it destroys."

That lack of strong central government is what still drives Afghans today to stash a weapon or two somewhere around their home, analysts say.

President Hamid Karzai has said improving security is essential to dragging Afghanistan out of 23 years of occupation and conflict and revitalising a shattered economy.

Vultures scare Bangladesh flood victims

MANIKGANJ, Bangladesh, Aug 3 (Reuters) - About half of Bangladesh is underwater from the worst monsoon flooding in years and officials say the death toll is about 70 — small compared to floods in 1988 that killed more than 3,500 people.

The extent of flood-related diseases or illness such as diarrhoea has been relatively small, officials say but medical officers warn the situation may change for the worse when floodwaters recede fully.

And it is the worry about what could happen next that was foremost on the minds of villagers in Manikganj, 65 km (40 miles) from the Bangladesh capital.

In the flooded areas, people are concerned about a shortage of drinking water and their crops being damaged by the deluge.

Agriculture officials have yet to make an estimate of losses but say the damage to the rice crop may be extensive if the floods continue through this month. Bangladesh has not suffered a famine since 1974 and the country has produced bumper rice crops in the past four years.

Many villagers have stockpiled food in preparation for the annual floods but if they last longer than usual or damage to crops is greater than estimated, they would be in trouble.



Bangladeshi farmers process harvested jute plants in flood-hit Manikganj 65 km (40 miles) northwest of the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, August 2, 2002. REUTERS

Thousands of Indonesian Muslims rally for Islamic law

JAKARTA, Aug 3 (Reuters) - About 5,000 Indonesian Muslims marched peacefully through Jakarta on Saturday, calling for the nationwide imposition of Islamic sharia law to rescue the country from its many ills.

Chanting "God is Greatest" and carrying placards that read "we miss sharia", the crowd marched through central Jakarta to the top legislature, which is holding its annual session.

There, they urged legislators meeting on Saturday to change the constitution to introduce sharia across the world's most populous Muslim nation, which has overwhelmingly moderate religious views. The crowd dispersed peacefully after midday.

Conservative Muslim legislators, as they have in recent years, are expected to submit proposed constitutional changes during the assembly's 10-day annual session that would recognise sharia. That effort has failed to get much support in the past and key parties have already rejected the idea this time around.

"Save Indonesia with sharia," shouted hundreds of teenaged girls in white veils, as police cleared a path through the mid-morning traffic.

Older women carried babies in slings or pushed their children along in the odd pram.

Over the past 10 years, mosque attendance has risen and Islam become more important to the identity of Indonesians, but moderate Muslim leaders dismiss suggestions the nation could become an Islamic state in the decades to come.

Conservative Muslims believe sharia law would help root out woes like endemic corruption in Indonesia by imposing stricter punishments, although few favour drastic measures carried out in parts of the Middle East such as stoning adulterers.

The rally came a day after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Jakarta, pledging \$50 million to help the security forces fight terrorism while expressing admiration for a Muslim nation that "allows (its) diversity to flower".

Indonesia plunged into turmoil in late 1997 during the Asian financial crisis, and has struggled to rebuild its economy and manage a messy transition to democracy from authoritarianism.

The marchers came from a low-profile conservative Muslim group, Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia, which had predicted 20,000 would join the rally.

None of Indonesia's small extremist Muslim groups, some of which have members linked by neighbouring countries to terror organisations, were present.

Jakarta last year allowed sharia to be used in Aceh as part of an autonomy package designed to douse independence demands in the staunchly Muslim province on the tip of Sumatra island. There have been no reports of drastic punishments.

The annual session of the 700-



Indonesian Muslim women carry a banner reading "We miss Sharia" and march in Jakarta August 3, 2002. REUTERS

member People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) opened on Thursday.

Some 85 percent of Indonesia's 210 million people are Muslim, where

U.S. consulate bombing trial in Pakistan on Aug 10

KARACHI, Aug 3 (Reuters) - The trial of three leading suspects in a car bomb attack on the U.S. consulate in Karachi that killed 12 and injured 20 will begin on August 10, a Pakistan court official said on Saturday.

Habib Ahmed, assistant advocate general of southern Sindh province, told reporters police have submitted an "interim" charge sheet against the suspects in two cases — the consulate attack and a plot to kill President Pervez Musharraf. "The court has fixed August 10 to start a trial for the cases and has sent them (the suspects) to jail," he added.

Pakistan's paramilitary Rangers have arrested four people, including three leading members of al-Almi, an offshoot of the radical Harkat-ul-Mujahideen organisation, on suspicion of involvement in the June 14 attack on the U.S. consulate.

One of those arrested is now suspected of involvement only in the Musharraf assassination plot.

All of the victims in the fourth attack this year on a foreign target in Pakistan were Pakistanis.

Harkat-ul-Mujahideen has long been on a blacklist of organisations deemed "terrorist" by the United States and reportedly has links to Muslim separatists fighting Indian rule in Kashmir.

Two of the accused — Mohammad Imran and Mohammad Hanif, the head and deputy head of the organisation — admitted to their involvement in the consulate attack and a plot to assassinate Musharraf at a news conference

last month.

Failed assassination

The accused said they tried to kill Musharraf late in April, but their car bomb failed to go off. They said their targets included U.S. interests in Pakistan, such as fast food chains McDonalds and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Ahmed said three suspects in the U.S. consulate attack case — Mohammad Imran, Mohammad Hanif and Mohammad Ashraf — were charged with conspiracy, attempted murder, murder, use of explosives and terrorism.

"Those three and Waseem Akhter (another suspect) were charged with conspiracy, attempt to murder and terrorism and the judge has asked the ATC-1 (anti-terrorism court) to hear both cases," Ahmed said.

He said the police had named six other people involved in both cases who were at large.

"The police have named six other suspects, Shariq, Kamran, Jamil, Naveed, Habib and Mustafa, as absconders in both the cases," Ahmed added. Pakistan's cooperation with the U.S.-led coalition pursuing Osama bin Laden, his al Qaeda network and the Taliban in Afghanistan has angered Islamic militant groups.

Embassies and foreign companies have scaled back staff after a string of attacks against foreign targets, including a May strike in Karachi that killed 11 French engineers and three Pakistanis.

Legionnaires' outbreak could claim more lives

LONDON, Aug 3 (Reuters) - An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in north-west England could infect as many as 120 people before it is contained, with one in five likely to die, health officials and experts said on Saturday.

But as fears grew that the outbreak in the Cumbrian town of Barrow-in-Furness could be Britain's worst since 23 people died in 1985, officials said they were confident the source had been found, in a leisure centre air conditioner, and urged calm.

On Friday, an 89-year-old man became the first person to die and 54 adults were in hospital by Saturday — 19 confirmed cases and the rest showing symptoms of the pneumonia-like illness.

Ian Cumming, chief executive of the area's Morecambe Bay Hospitals Trust, said up to 10 people a day with symptoms were being admitted and this was set to continue for around 12 days.

"Incubation is between five and 10 days...it is usually six or seven days before symptoms show," he told

Reuters.

The projections were based on the fact the likely source of the outbreak, an air conditioning unit at a council-run entertainment complex in the town, had been closed on Thursday.

Local council leader Terry Waiting said the unit had leaked steam and was shut down for maintenance a day before the disease was confirmed.

He said tests were under way to confirm this was the source and said the cordoned-off building posed no danger to people.

Health officials echoed his comments at a news conference.

"If the source is where we think it is then control measures have now been taken and it doesn't pose a further threat to public health," said Professor John Ashton, regional public health director.

"There is no need for panic. It seems to be a local source, a local problem which is being tackled."

Professor Hugh Pennington, an eminent bacteriologist, said Legionnaires' was "the nastiest bug you can catch in

the environment" and it was likely more people would die. "In past outbreaks, as many as 20 percent of people who've been infected with it and become ill have died from this bug," he told BBC television on Saturday.

The disease, named in 1976 when an outbreak killed 29 people at an American Legion Convention in Philadelphia, is a form of pneumonia caused by bacteria living in water droplets.

Symptoms are at first flu-like, followed by fever and chills, then a dry cough.

Exactly half the 54 people still in hospital on Saturday were women. Nine people were in intensive care, including five whose condition was "giving cause for concern", the Morecambe Bay Hospitals trust said in a statement.

The age range of patients was from 18 to 89.

In the last major outbreak in Britain, 68 people were infected and 23 died in the town of Stafford in 1985.

Georgia seeks to appease Russia with rebel amnesty

TBILISI, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Armed fighters hiding in a remote Georgian gorge will be granted amnesties if they give themselves up, a top official said on Saturday, hoping to ease Russian fears Georgia is not doing enough to flush rebels from the area.

Moscow, which says rebels fighting in nearby Chechnya are using the Pankisi Gorge as a base, has in recent days issued a series of demands for Georgia to hunt down rebels, citing scores of incursions into the break-away region.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Russia would seek help from the international community if Georgia failed to take action, but Georgia has reject-

ed any notion of Russian military operations on its territory.

"Those people who give themselves up to the Georgian authorities unarmed will enjoy the same rights as other refugees," Georgian Security Minister Valery Khaburdzania told reporters after a delegation of U.S. congressmen met top officials and visited a military base just outside Tbilisi.

Khaburdzania added those accused of serious crimes would not be included in the offer.

U.S. instructors arrived in Georgia in May to lead military training courses intended to turn the ex-Soviet state's ragged army into a modern

force, with one possible task of removing rebels sheltering in the Pankisi Gorge.

"They don't think they've wasted their money," Georgian Defence Minister David Tevzadze said.

Officials in Russia's volatile southern fringe said the situation on the Russian-Georgian border was returning to normal after what media reports said was an incursion of up to 60 guerrillas from the Pankisi Gorge.

Moscow, which granted Chechnya de facto independence after a first 1994-96 war, returned to the region in 1999. It now says its forces control most of the region, but its forces come under regular attacks.

Sept. 11 report criticizes NY fire department

NEW YORK, Aug. 3 (Reuters) - New York Fire Department's response to the Sept. 11 attack at the World Trade Center was plagued by communication problems and discipline lapses, according to a draft report obtained by The New York Times.

The report by independent consultant McKinsey & Co. concludes problems with the radio system caused commanders to lose touch with many firefighters who went into the twin towers, the Times reported on Saturday.

It said lapses in discipline led firefighters to rush to the scene without checking in with commanders at designated staging areas.

A virtual absence of coordination with police officials, the consultants say, meant fire commanders had no access to reports from police helicopters that hovered above the 110-story buildings, tracking their structural integrity and the progress of fires

across the upper floors.

"This lack of information hindered their ability to evaluate the overall situation," the paper reported the draft report as saying.

Radio communications were sporadic and critical information was apparently never received by firefighters on upper floors in the building, it added.

The full report is due out as early as next week.

More than 2,800 people died, including 343 firefighters and 23 police officers, when the towers collapsed after being struck by two hijacked aircraft in an attack blamed by the United States on the al Qaeda movement of Osama bin Laden.

The draft, significant parts of which were obtained by The New York Times, acknowledges the attack, which triggered fires that trapped thousands of people, was an overwhelming event that required an unusual level of coordination.

But it says the department must improve its planning, overhaul parts of its training, acquire substantial new technology and coordinate more effectively with other emergency agencies.

"We believe that the FDNY (Fire Department of New York) cannot adequately fulfill its mission to the citizens of New York City unless the city or state governments establish a formal effective process of interagency planning and coordination," says the report.

It also says the department's Emergency Medical Service had serious problems deploying, tracking and controlling its ambulance and trauma personnel.

Overall, the draft says, the department needs to be run with tighter standards. "Accountability needs to be increased at headquarters and in the field," it says.

The consultant, which specializes in reviewing management practices, spent five months preparing the report.

Holiday makers in France traffic chaos

PARIS, Aug 3 (Reuters) - Thousands of holiday makers were caught up in traffic chaos in France on Saturday as they hit the road on their way to or from summer vacations, fuelling the year's worst traffic jams, road safety experts said.

Road safety officials said the traffic had started building up as early as 0230 GMT, with tailbacks in the worst hit areas going as far back as 150 kms (93 miles) by 0700 GMT.

"I have never seen such traffic jams," one motorist told French television station LCI in France's south-east Rhone-Alpes, the worst affected area as holiday makers tried to make their way to the popular Provence region.

Another motorist heading for Italy said he had decided to break for breakfast after more than an hour of crawling at snail's pace.

The government's road safety unit says the weekend will be exceptionally difficult with one wave of families leaving for their summer holidays, which usually last a month, as others return from July vacations.

It has classified Saturday's outgoing traffic as black, the worst rating on its scale of traffic congestion, and warned that nightmare tailbacks could total more than 500 km (310 miles).

"Saturday August 3 is the only day classified as black at national level in 2002," the department said on its Web

site (<http://www.bison-fute.equipement.gouv.fr/>). The normal ratings are green, yellow and red.

"As a reminder, in 2001 we registered 661 km of accumulated traffic jams at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday August 4. It could therefore be the heaviest day of traffic of the summer in both directions," it added.

No region seemed to have been spared, with traffic jams extending to France's borders with Spain and Italy.

"This weekend, motorists should favour driving on Sunday, when everything will be back to normal except for some possible problems in the Rhone valley," it said.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (ROAD SECTOR)

Invitation for Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study and Detailed Engineering Design for Amran-Aden Road – Double Carriageway (459 km) Section I: Amran-Dhamar (150 km) Section II: Dhamar-Ibb-Taiz (156 km) Section III: Taiz-Al Hutah-Aden (153 km)

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has received a loan from the Saudi Fund for Development, No. (22/389) and intends to apply part of the loan towards the Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study and Detailed Engineering Design of Amran-Aden Road – Double Carriageway (459 km).

Interested Consultancy firms (international and local) experienced in the field of Roads and Highway Engineering may obtain 'Letter of Invitation (LOI)' and the Terms of Reference (TOR) from the office of H.E. The Deputy Minister (Road Sector), Ministry of Public Works & Urban Development, 4th Floor, Building No. B5, Governmental Complex, Haddah Street, Sana'a – Republic of Yemen, Tel/Fax: 264070 with effect from the date of publication in the newspaper and shall continue upto forty-five (45) days against a payment of US\$.100/- in cash.

The interested Consultancy firms should submit their Technical and Financial Proposals separately in bound form to the following address:

The Deputy Minister (Road Sector)
Ministry of Public Works & Urban Development
4th Floor, Building No. B5,
Governmental Complex, Haddah Street,
Sana'a – Republic of Yemen
Tel/Fax: 264070

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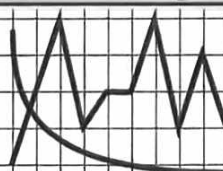
Application limited to Yemeni Nationals.
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Please do not phone us, we will call you for an interview, if you are a successful candidate.

YT Business



Marketing & trade, industrial exhibitions

BY ABDULAZIZ M. ABDULLAH-ADEN FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Among the most conspicuous successes scored by some national industrial establishments is the ability to market its products locally and externally. However, this cannot be done unless these products were subjected to pre-marketing studies the installation has learnt about consumption styles, consumers tastes, prices suitable for marketing its products, along with observing that installation's commitment to application of specification and standardization to its products. In addition, there are other essential conditions that help acquire reputation and publicity for this or that product. So, it is the institution's responsibility to exert great efforts to upgrade its capabilities of marketing and selling of its products. The increase of such efforts would support increase of that installation's production capacity, consequently all its economic and financial aspects would change and positive indicators would climb up as a resultant of its efforts. This also would lead to increase of its profits that ultimately benefit its owners and the state at the same time, regardless of that ownership (public, private or mixed sectors or cooperative).

Any installation, in order to raise the volume of its sale, has to work hard to promote and market its products by using all available media in this regard. Some of these means are within the



The success of Apollo Exhibition Center in promotion and marketing is a good example of the significance and importance of such events for efficient marketing

installation's capacity such as advertising in various mass media, including fixed advertising boards at entrances of major cities and posters. Another means is the distribution of gifts painted on them the name of the company or the product, for instance cigarette lighters, ball pens, office memorandums and calendars.

Nevertheless, there are other ways for enlarging the space of promotion and marketing the state has to play a big role in them as long as partnership between the state and the private sector has become an inevitable necessity. Hence comes up the necessity of the state giving an increasing attention to concluding

commercial protocols with sisterly and friendly countries aimed at increasing our country's trade exchange with them and working for holding more domestic and foreign trade fairs because they are considered as an essential factor to enhance the exchange of products through signing trade contracts at those fairs. But due to high expenditure needed for taking part in such fairs, the ministry of industry and trade and the chambers of commerce and industry have to play a big role in mustering all productive energies for the participation in those exhibitions. The federation of chambers of industry must have a permanent exhibition for all national prod-

ucts.

All those participating in internal trade and industrial exhibitions held around the year should bear all their costs and it should be taken into consideration that there should be a focus on reasonable costs of leasing areas for erecting such exhibitions. This would be an impetus for all installations and companies to participate in such exhibitions. There should be some future plans for encouraging small enterprises to take part in such exhibitions and to motivate young people contribute to building their own projects without depending on the state for granting job opportunities.

The Road Ahead

Preconceptions; the Anchoring Trap

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAQ r_saqqaq@hotmail.com

Making decisions is a very important part of management. And it is very important to take careful measures when making one, as a bad decision could affect businesses negatively or even damage them. Yet sometimes, bad decisions are inevitable no matter how good a manager is or how well-studied the decision process was.

There are two theories as to how human beings form their decisions; one states that all behavior is learned; the individual is the passive recipient of external and objective data. In the other, learning is a process of gaining or changing insights, outlooks, expectations or thought patterns, this theory takes into account not only a person's actions and the responses to these elicit, but also the interpretation the individual places on these. In both schools of thought, experiences proved that there are certain thought traps which yield relatively wrong decisions. The following example explains one of these traps; imagine you were to answer these two questions:

- Does a new Helicopter cost more than \$100,000?
- How much does a new Helicopter cost?

If these two questions were asked in the same order, the information in the first question will create a perception asking a person's mind about the price of the Helicopter, so when

answering the second question the answer could get affected by the first one.

On the other hand, if you ask someone else the same question and change the number in the first question to \$200,000 you will find that the answer will increase. This Process is called anchoring.

Anchoring is used a lot in businesses; for example sales forecast is done on the basis depending on sales of previous years, the old numbers become anchors which the forecasters use in adjusting the estimate for the coming year. Or while in negotiations, if the other party claims that the same product was sold for Mr. X for 10,000, that price becomes a "your anchor."

Another example is in real estates. Imagine that there are two apartments; A & B. Apartment A has 3 rooms & Apartment B has 4 rooms. If the rent for apartment A was thirty thousands, what is the expected rent for apartment B? The price of A helps you in estimating the price of B.

Effects of anchoring in decision-making are critical, but if managers are aware of the phenomena, the negative impact of it can be reduced by using a few precautions; such as taking all prospectors when making a decision and careful use of anchoring with advisers, or consultants. Also it is important to be open-minded.

And in negotiations; think through your position in order to avoid any anchoring from the other party.

End note: Anchoring is a great perception-making tool; use it to your advantage

Household economy in Yemen, dwindling

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sources of household economy in Yemen are facing a state of deterioration as people have abandoned breeding animal wealth and around 35% of the population discarded work in agriculture, added to that the migration of many farmers from the countryside to cities to engage in jobs other than agriculture.

Economic sources estimate that the proportion of those who abandoned animal husbandry in the countryside at about 60%, and 50% of the people relinquished breeding of chicken and sheep. Proportion of those who migrated from rural areas to towns is estimated at 30 to 40 percent of the population, a matter negatively reflected on sources of growth in family income.

Rural population has got influenced by urban life styles. They shifted to purchasing processed dairies instead of fresh. Therefore they have neglected raising cattle. Rural areas inhabitants have also got used to feed on cereals and imported processed goods.

Decline in rainfall and recession in amount of water reserves in the country are factors helped migration of farming labor. Also as a result of drop in family income levels and weakness of the purchasing power in the countryside the people there have used up the greater amount of income-raising sources.

However, rural people try to overcome their living conditions using traditional ways like cutting wood as fuel for cooking instead of gas whose prices soared from YR 50 in 1995 to YR 250, and YR 350 in the countryside.

On the other hand, Environment protection advocates have warned of cutting forest trees in nature reserves including Socotra, and Utma. Nevertheless, inhabitants of such areas think they do not have the purchasing power to afford using liquefied gas in

cooking and thus they do not care about rare trees and would not hesitate using their wood in their daily life purposes.

The economic studies say that fifteen years ago 75 percent of inhabitants in Yemen countryside were dependent in their living on raising animal wealth and work in agriculture. People think that government jobs or work in the free market or with private sector have contributed to the drop in proportion of animal and agricultural production and created new problems to those of limited income.

Workers at the free market told Yemen Times that their work around the month does not provide them with an income securing 25 percent of the needs of their families, whereas the families that preserved the folklore professions and continued working in agricultural and animal production, are leading a more secure life. Workers say that with increased costs of living in towns, most of their incomes goes to house renting, and electricity and water supplies bills. As for big families the situation is very hard to cope with.

Economic experts see that solving the problem of dwindling family income beings by the government support for farming activities, and encouraging families on raising animal wealth. Government has embarked on calling for investment in agriculture sector to create job opportunities for the unemployed. Cooperatives for breeding animals have been set up but are still limited and need more support and financing. Economic experts conclude that Yemen countryside needs providing new resources of water such as building dams and water barriers that would help settle of agriculture labor in addition to developing grazing areas for animal breeding. Such steps would surely lead to growth of income sources for household economy and improve the population living conditions.

Yemeni-Saudi trade exchange for better future

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen Customs Authority offer various customs facilities for importers and exporters, among these facilities is offering discounts in customs duties amounting to 10 percent to foreigners and 25 percent for expatriates. Customs resources have reported that during the first half of this year, customs revenues obtained at Haradh inlet in Hajja governorate and al-Buqah inlet in Sa'da governorate have amounted to YR 1,470, 894,124 billion, i.e. with an increase of YR 290 million compared to the same period of last year.

Trade exchange agreements between Saudi Arabia and Yemen has enhanced growth of Yemeni exports to Saudi markets and increased volume of Yemeni imports of goods and commodities from Saudi Arabia.

General Manager of Customs office at Haradh border inlet Ahmed Mohammed al-Haj said trade exchange between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is witnessing a noticeable boom. "The value of Yemeni exports to Saudi markets has reached YR 5 billion and 900 million during the first half of this year." The value of Yemeni exports through the Haradh inlet for the last year reached YR 8 billion. The amount of customs revenues, at this inlet, in the first half of this year, is amounted to over YR 694

million. In addition to this, the revenues of consumption tax totaled YR 525,300,000 million.

Customs facilities, offered at Haradh border inlet, helped increase of travel movement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, as the number of travellers to Yemen during the first half of this year reached 204, 709 thousand.

Yemeni authorities give a renewable 3-month residence permit for foreigners, and this in fact redoubles the volume of tourism revenues.

Total amount of revenues of Yemeni exports to Saudi markets through al-Buqah border inlet, for the period of January-June this year reached YR 949 million. Efforts are in full swing to improve customs procedures at the inlet

to facilitate exporting services and offering the best services to importers. The Director-General of al-Buqah customs office, Ahmed Rasa'e says that increase percentage in the volume of exports, during the first half of this year, reached to 265 per cent realizing an amount of YR 251 million, resulting an increase of YR 183 million compared to the same period of last year.

A new customs complex is to be built nearby the inlet aimed at upgrading the level of customs performance.

Agreements between Yemen and Saudi Arabia have been recently signed with a view of enhancing commodities transport movement and individuals travel movement all aiming at development of trade exchange.

Globalization era & information technology

BY MOHAMMED QASIM NOAMAN-ADEN FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

One of the most prominent developments the world has witnessed in modern history is that in the science and technology of communication. This has facilitated transfer of information over the world's remote parts to an extent that the world has become as a small village, where no barriers or obstacles can prevent the communication among peoples or even to reach the outer space. Such progress in the field of technology has become the axis of the extent of advancement achieved by this country or that. At the beginning of the last century develop-

ment of countries and peoples was measured in dependence on the proportion of those who were capable of overcoming illiteracy. Later the indicator of peoples progress pointed at the volume of university graduates and higher scientific degrees the people of a certain nation have achieved.

In this century the advancement of nations is measured by that nation's mastering of the technology of communication and information and the percentage of those dealing with these branches of science. Even illiteracy is measured by what proportion of the society is capable of handling modern means of communications, especially computers. Dividing the world nations

into developed, developing and underdeveloped categories is now defined under this scientific variable.

Advanced countries have managed to realize great success in industry of this technology and to invest it, the developing nations want to benefit from these developments and modern sciences through buying them and the attempt to benefit from them to the utmost. As for the underdeveloped countries they are still living in a pre-science and development era although there are limited chances and signs of benefiting from these developments especially among very limited segments of their societies. Despite that reality they are trying to come up with rapid developments.

The point is that benefiting from these developments by these countries is governed by providing cornerstones and constituents of the modern state, particularly in education and attention rendered to sciences as a foundation for development. Added to those constituents is providing climates of freedom and democracy and the people participation in construction and development. Creation of atmospheres of security and stability remains a major condition and element facilitating such changes. Holding exhibitions and conferences on these scientific developments ongoing in the world particularly in communications field, would be major factors for speedy transfer and exchange of this knowledge.

Bush manoeuvres give cause for worry

By Patrick Seale

The Arabs, the Europeans, and much of the international community, have every reason to be worried by the behaviour of the Bush Administration. Its explicit threats to make war on Iraq, its scornful dismissal of Arab and European opinion, its blind support for Israel, its apparent indifference to Palestinian rights and Palestinian suffering, above all its neglect of international law, all these are grave subjects for concern.

It is no exaggeration to say that, out of fear or arrogance, or a dangerous combination of the two, the Bush Administration appears to be leading the world into a new dark age of international anarchy. President George W Bush's 'war on terror' is threatening to undermine the rule of law in many important areas of international life.

In his State of the Union address of January 29, President George W. Bush, with characteristic bombast, declared: 'American will lead by defending liberty and justice because they are right and true and unchanging for people everywhere.'

Unfortunately, his actions fall far short of his rhetoric.

Consider the following:

- The United States has op-posed the International Criminal Court and has sought immunity for its citizens from its jurisdiction.

- In Afghanistan, it has repeatedly violated international human rights and humanitarian law. Specifically, it has transferred prisoners from Afghanistan to detention pens at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and held them there in conditions that amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; it has refused to consider them 'prisoners of war' under the Geneva Conventions; it has denied them access to legal counsel

and to family members; it is holding them for long periods without charge or trial; and it has threatened to bring them before military courts, which have the right to hand down death sentences without the possibility of appeal.

According to Amnesty International, the United States has also failed properly to address allegations of extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment carried out by U.S. soldiers on detained Afghan villagers. More recently, it has failed to investigate thoroughly the numerous occasions when innocent Afghans died as a result of US air strikes.

- Faced with American pressure, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has failed to renew the mandate of Mary Robinson, the outgoing UN Commissioner for Human Rights.

A former President of Ireland, Mrs Robinson was an outspoken critic of U.S. treatment of Afghan prisoners and of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. This was too much for Washington - and she lost her job.

Bush's new 'first-strike' doctrine - which is clearly in breach of international law and the UN Charter - is that America must be prepared to take preemptive military action even before any direct threat to it emerges. Bush seems particularly concerned to prevent, if necessary by military action, weapons of mass destruction being acquired by regimes, which the United States or Israel consider potentially hostile. "We must take the battle to the enemy, disrupt his plans, and confront the worst threats before they emerge," Bush declared at West Point military academy last month.

Iran's nuclear power

To quote a recent example of this way of thinking, The Washington Post reported this week without a hint of embarrassment that the U.S. and Israel

were discussing whether Iran's nuclear power plant at Bushehr, which the Russians are completing, should be allowed to open, or whether it should be destroyed by a pre-emptive strike, in much the same way as Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear facility in 1981!

Such aggressive talk, appalling in itself, drives a nail into the coffin of an international order based on law. Its immediate effect will be to induce states, threatened in this way by the U.S. or Israel, to seek to acquire a deterrent capability as soon as possible and at any cost.

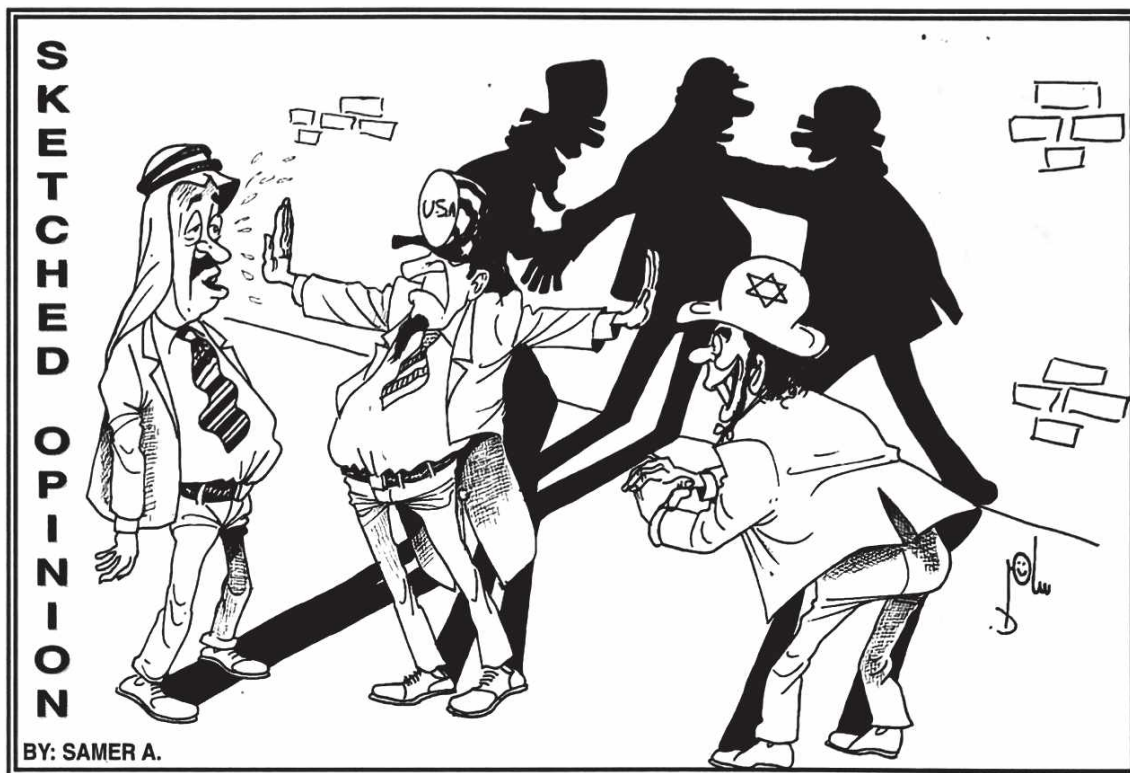
Instead of checking the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, it will greatly encourage it. America's preoccupation with WMD proliferation is also deeply hypocritical, seeing that it turns a blind eye to Israel's extensive WMD capability, while pressing ahead itself with the development of battlefield nuclear weapons in violation of its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The U.S. has also refused to ratify the proposed enforcement protocols to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions.

These are just some of the ways the Bush Administration is undermining international law and taking the world back to the law of the jungle - a world in which the strong can do what they like, international law counts for little, and raw military power is the only thing that matters.

Covering Israel's crimes

A dreadful byproduct of American behaviour is the cover it provides for Israel's crimes, as it wages its cruel colonial war on the Palestinians without so much as a word of reproof from Washington.

In its recent reconquest of Palestinian territories and its wanton destruction of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority and of every vestige of Palestinian statehood,



BY: SAMER A.

Israel has behaved like a terrorist state. The latest example, characteristic of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, was the recent massacre caused by dropping a one-tonne bomb from an F-16 war plane on a densely populated residential area of Gaza. The target was Salah Shehadeh, the local Hamas commander, but a great many innocent people were killed as well.

As Dr. Menachem Klein, a 'dovish' Israeli academic, wrote this month in a British journal: "The existence of (Palestinian) civilians and their right to life have been deleted from the screen of Israeli consciousness."

An insight into the dangerous thinking of Israeli 'hawks' may be gleaned from a sinister remark by Moshe Arens, a leading Likud politician and a former minister of defense and foreign affairs. Following the killing of Shehadeh, Arens declared: "This war will end only with our victory. Not in negotiations of one kind or another, or a cease-fire like this or that. Only our victory - and when we remember this, we'll also understand each and every operation."

Meanwhile, as numerous commenta-

tors have noted in recent weeks, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, usually considered a moderate, appears to have been defeated by the hawks in the Bush Administration, notably Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Behind these hard-line members of the Bush Administration lie a phalanx of fervently pro-Israeli figures who have campaigned vigorously for U.S. military action to reshape the affairs of the Middle East in Israel's and America's interest.

They include Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, Assistant Secretary for Defense Policy Douglas Feith, and Chairman of the Defense Advisory Board Richard Perle.

Under the Clinton Administration, the so-called 'peace process' was led and shaped by such pro-Israeli activists as Dennis Ross and Martin Indyk, who always sought Arab concession in Israel's favour. This was the main reason no peace was concluded with either Syria or the Palestinians in the decade after the Madrid Conference of 1991.

Today, when war rather than peace is

the priority, pro-Israeli activists in the U.S. Defense Department are in the ascendant. These men share a strategic vision of the Middle East dominated by the United States and Israel. One element of this vision, for which they are pressing hard, is the overthrow of Saddam Hussain, so as to bring Iraqi oil under American control and remove any potential threat to Israel.

Another is the breaking of the Palestinians' will to resist, so as to put an end to any hope of viable Palestinian statehood. A third is the 'taming' of Syria and Iran, the two powers which have so far resisted America's regional hegemony. The ultimate ambition is to defeat both Arab nationalism and militant Islam.

No doubt the next year or two will determine whether this vision is realistic or whether it represents the dangerous fantasies of a small group of men who have maneuvered themselves into positions of power in the United States.

Patrick Seale is an eminent commentator and the author of several books on Middle East affairs.

How to rekindle the peace process

MARWAN MUASHER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Two weeks ago I and two colleagues, Foreign Ministers Ahmed Maher of Egypt and Saud Faisal of Saudi Arabia, had a series of candid discussions with President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well as senior officials of the European Union, the United Nations and Russia. The focus was on achieving both short- and long-term progress in the moribund peace process.

As Arab diplomats representing countries that have either signed peace treaties with Israel or, in the case of Saudi Arabia, successfully advanced a viable framework for comprehensive peace in the region, we were heartened to hear Bush reaffirm his personal commitment to a two-state solution.

The president was quite clear on this point. He is not backing an interim arrangement. He is not espousing a series of protracted negotiations with no clear definition or endgame. Moreover, he stressed the critical importance of a timeline - within three years - as a means of offering a real sense of hope to the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

Our discussions were significant in another regard. We agreed that our differing opinions on the fate of the democratically elected Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, should not deter us from working together on other aspects of the peace process and from pushing ahead toward achievable objectives. One such objective, on which we briefed senior administration officials, was the ongoing, high-level, intensive cease-fire negotiations with all Palestinian factions.

King Abdullah II of Jordan, during talks in Washington last week, outlined his proposals for the next logical step following the president's vision. He emphasized the need for a plan of action with three major components: a set of obligations to be fulfilled by both sides, acting in parallel; a timeline for reaching these goals; and a monitoring mechanism to guarantee enforcement, no matter which party is in violation.

As natural allies of the president's efforts to move the region toward peace and away from mutual assured destruction, both populations should be made aware of the plan. The two peoples must be constantly engaged to ensure that the tragedy of the past two years does not repeat itself. For the Palestinians, with nearly 1 million people living under military curfew and 70 percent below the poverty level, such a plan offers what Bush's vision hopes to achieve: a clear path toward ending the occupation, and an alternative to the horrific agenda of those espousing suicide attacks.

For the Israelis, the plan would include the historic commitment of 22 Arab states to end the conflict, and a real sense of security, provided by the whole Arab world, something no amount of electric fencing or Israeli military occupation could ever guarantee. The Arab initiative put forth at the Beirut Summit in March offers comprehensive peace in the region based on the internationally recognized formulation of "land for peace" - a return to June 4, 1967, borders in exchange for normal relations and a collective peace treaty.

Quite frankly, the one missing element is Israeli willingness to negotiate seriously and in good faith. Israel has not presented a credible plan that could realistically address even the most fun-

damental of Palestinian positions. Instead, for more than 22 months, the timing of Israeli assassinations and incursions has unerringly derailed whatever tenuous negotiations were underway. To be fair, so have suicide bombings. We continue to condemn these bombings as morally and politically wrong. But the only response we receive from the Israeli side is seizure of Palestinian land, deliberate delays to vital humanitarian relief efforts and promises - not of a return to negotiations but of more such actions.

None of these draconian measures has dramatically improved Israeli security. Senior Israeli defense officials have determined that a political solution is the only viable means of achieving lasting security.

The peace process should be strong enough to guarantee children under the age of 5 a life free of malnutrition. It should guarantee that they can board a bus for school without fear. It should guarantee them a future of economic and political opportunity. Today, sadly, it cannot.

The EU, the United Nations and the Arab world have heeded Bush's call for international cooperation to restore momentum to the process and, by doing so, infuse the region with some measure of confidence in the future. We have gone as far as we possibly can without strong American leadership. Now it is time for Bush to join us in pressing ahead. Only then can we expect Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to participate in a constructive manner. Otherwise, we are left without a peace partner and without the possibility of achieving Bush's vision.

The writer is foreign minister of Jordan. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.



STUDY IN THE USA! MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

The American Embassy and AMIDEAST are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for master's degree studies in the United States under the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Program. Applications are for Fulbright grants beginning the 2003-4 academic year. Fulbright grants provide funding for two years of master's degree study in the U.S. in all fields of study except medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and engineering.

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Old mosques, temples, and churches of Aden

BY NASREEN SOOMAR - ADEN
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Aden is a Yemeni city with a great history that dates back to more than 3,000 years and was always famous for being a trade hub where merchants used to transport, import, and export their various goods.

Having a long beach that covers it almost from all sides, Aden remains the most open Yemeni city to the world, particularly in religious aspects. Aden served as the home city of fascinated generations of different races and religions who lived in the city for long periods of time and left it with manifesting impressions of fond and beautiful memories leaving behind temples, churches, and mosques some that were built centuries ago.

Among the religious fascinations in Aden are several religious buildings resembled in mosques, temples, and churches. Here a few examples were

selected.

The Aden Mosque

The Aden Mosque is among the oldest mosques in the Aden City. The mosque was built by Aban Bin Affan Bin Alhakam Bin Othman Bin Affan. Aban, a grand grandchild of third Muslim Khalifa Othman bin Affan lived a religious life and was known for his admiration of Aden as a city. He died in Al-Madina Al-Munawwara in 763 AH (After Hijra). This mosque was rebuilt many times, and in the year 1996 AD it was completely demolished and reconstructed into a real mosque in the same location, resulting in the loss of its historical characteristics. The mosque was characterized by beautiful ornamentation.

Aidrous Mosque

This mosque is considered one of the famous mosques in Aden City and is situated in the Aidrous neighborhood of Aden. It was built by Wali Said Abubakar Bin Abdulla Bin Abubaker

Al-Aidrous, who came to Aden City in 1458 AD and died in 1508 AD.

Alhashimi Mosque

The Alhashimi mosque is located on Alhashimi Street in the Sheik Othman district and is ascribed to Hashm Bahar before it was demolished by some Islamic extremists in 1997.

Three pillars forming an oblong shape built in the year 1960 were ornamented in the front side of the mosque. The construction of a replacement mosque is currently taking place.

Alasqalani Mosque

It is located on Alasqalani Street and was quite famous for having a number of great religious scholars. The mosque was demolished and rebuilt in the 1960s.

Other old mosques

Among other old mosques in Aden are Aliraq' Mosque, Alnoor Mosque both built in 1959 AD, Alrahman Mosque built in 1963 AD, Alrida

Mosque built in 1967 AD, in addition to a number of other old mosques.

Aden City also has some relics of Hindu temples and Jewish synagogues because of the presence of Hindu and Jewish communities in the past.

Shree Tricamiraiji- Haveli Temple

Located in Crater's Alasqacani Street, the temple was constructed in the year 1862 AD.

Sharee Ramji Temple

Located near the Police Academy College in Tawahi district, it was built in 1875 AD.

Hanoman Temple

Located in Sheik Othman district, the temple was accommodated in two lodgings for the Indian community. The temple was built in the year 1882 AD.

Shree Jain Temple

Located in Crater, it was also built in 1882 AD.

Shree Natajee Nandhir and Shree Shankar Hanoman Temples

Both temples are located in Crater and were built inside a large cave in the nineteenth century.

Shree Century

Located in Holkat Bay in Crater, the century had a 99-year lease signed on 29th June 1932 AD.

Aden City also has a number of churches. Before independence of former South Yemen 3,500 Christians used to live in Aden City, and the most famous churches in Aden City are:

Saint Anthony Church

Built in the year 1839 AD, the St. Anthony church is located in the Tawahi district and a school was attached to it. In the past, the school was called Tarist Brothers' school.

St. Joseph Church

This church was built in the year 1850 AD and is located in Crater.



St. Anthony Church

There is a school named St. Joseph's High School attached to this church. This school was once called the Roman Catholic Mission School.

St. Mary Church

St. Mary church is located on the hill opposite the group of Banks constructed in the Year 1871 AD in Aden. It was used for many purposes. Now it is serving as the building of the criminal technical investigation department.

Another unnamed church in Tawahi district built in the year 1692 AD is located in the Hafoon area.

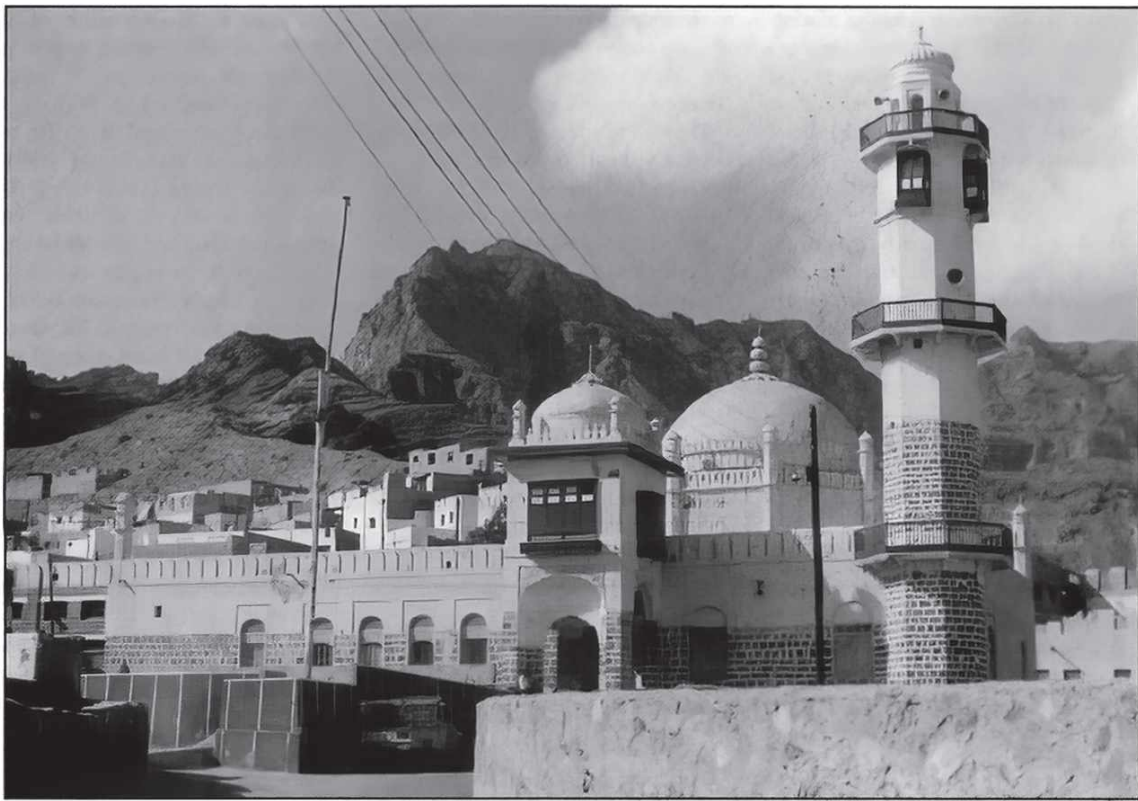
Danish Mission School / Bookshop

Facts reveal that there was a Danish Mission in Crater in the 20th century. It ran a school by the name of Danish Mission School. It also had a bookshop called D.A Bookshop.

Keith Falkoner Mission Hospital/School

There also was a Christian mission located at Sheik Othman called Reith F. Mission. It ran both a hospital and a school under the same name. However, at a later stage the hospital was renamed to "Dr. Affra Hospital".

This variety in the different religious buildings in Aden, many which are preserved until today, stands as an example of the tolerance and understanding of Islam as a religion and Muslims of Aden as a people. The ones running and operating whatever temples and churches active in Aden emphasize that the non-Muslim foreign communities living in Aden are freely practicing their religious duties peacefully and without any disturbance. The authorities in the governorate of Aden have expressed their readiness and willingness to do whatever possible to provide those communities with any facilities they need to practice their religions with ease and comfort.



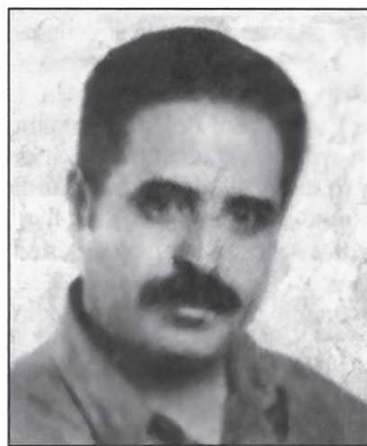
Al-Aidrous Mosque

Mental Proliferation, Hakim's Ninth Exhibition

BY SA'AD TAHER
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

At the gate of the house of culture in the end of Republican Palace street in Sana'a a banner referring to the plastic arts exhibition of Hakim AL-Akil drew my attention, recalling his third exhibition in 1995 which was held at Al-Afif cultural establishment in Sana'a. As I entered the gallery, I saw many young men standing in separate groups by 23 different-sized posters whispering and pointing to them. A butterfly was flying in the gallery. "Ah" I shouted voicelessly with wide-open mouth. "It is Hakim Al-Akil, the innovator artist whom I admired much." The smart gentle artist was stopped from time to time by some audience to sign his autograph on their little copybooks.

A young man seeing my card hanging on my shirt's pocket and sheets with camera hurried to me smilingly "Yemen Times, welcome to the exhibition" and handed me a catalogue, which I spent my time going through until the artist would be free. The title of the exhibition was "Mental splits" and it lasted for twenty days (20th April -10th May). A poem was presented by Mr. Khalid Al-Rowaishan entitled "A blue cloud and a lonely bird" praising Hakim and describing him as laughing dream bird followed. The critical essay by Hatem Al-Saker expressed "Mental Splits" in a vivid style. Next, a short biography of the artist, his qualifications and experiences was given. Twelve photos of the posters concluded the catalogue. Hakim sat down, I hunted the chance to inter-



Hakem Al-Akel

view him. With his lovely penetrating smile he welcomes YT.

Q: This is the ninth personal exhibition, when and where was the first one?

A: It was at central house, Moscow in 1992.

Q: What about the other ones?

A: The second was in state of Musm in Republic of Admortia in 1993, the third was at Afif cultural Est. in Sana'a in 1995, the fourth was in Sana'a in 1996, the fifth was at ACE in Sana'a in 1997, the sixth was at Expo in Sana'a in 1998 and the eighth was in Sharjah in 2001.

Q: What 's the total number of your exhibitions?

A: More than forty one in Yemen and abroad.

Q: Where could your works be seen?

A: Many are in Moscow, Italy, Beirut, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, England, Morocco, Egypt, France, U.S.A., the National Museum in Taiz, Yemeni Bank for Construction and Development, Immigration Office,

ACE, Ministry of Culture and Tourism and many other personal possessions.

Q: What are the main themes you adopt?

A: Through these plastic art posters I expressed different ideas such as Mental Proliferation, Everyday Night, Causing

Place to Come, By the Window, Mental Splits, Nights Tales, Renovated Dream, No, Merging and Creature's Changing.

Q: What about your upcoming projects?

A: I am doing my best to come back with new ideas in the next exhibition.

After having tea together, I repeated my congratulatory messages on this event and shook hands with him. "Say my greetings to lovely YT" he said.

After exchanging smiles and a "Thank you" message I concluded the meeting, took my equipment and left.

Al-Sultan Palace (Al Bagh) on the abyss brink

BY: SALEH ABDULBAQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

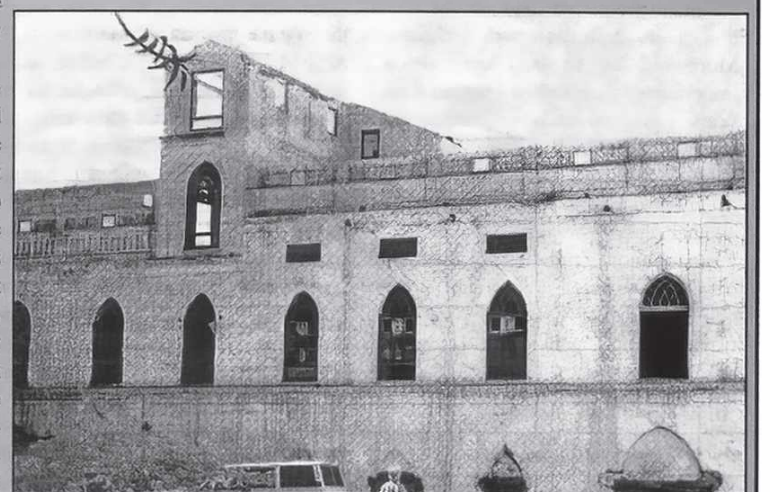
The government has been emphasizing lately the significance of protecting the cultural heritage of Yemen in all means possible. This comes in a time the heritage is truly exposed to neglect and destruction by so many careless individuals and entities. Time has come for the government to prove its commitment by solid action because it does understand the problems and recognizes the dangers facing the Yemeni cultural heritage including smuggling and extinction.

It is a pity to see the ancient Al-Sultan Palace (Al Bagh) in Mukalla City of Hadramout being exposed to wreckage by some people, who attempted to use the palace for their own interest despite the knowledge of concerned—or shall we say unconcerned—authorities. As a result of continuous negligence, the palace which represents the most important architectural feature of the governorate, was actually exposed to demolition and could have been totally destroyed if it were not for some faithful and honorable educated personalities of Hadramout who interfered on time to save the palace. Those individuals established a pop-

ular association called "Hadramout Home for Heritage and History" to protect such deep-rooted architectural buildings and sights. The association also called upon the local authorities to repair the damage caused to the palace and enable the association full access to the palace to ensure its safety in the future.

The association representatives also appealed through a letter to the Governor of Hadramout Mr. Abdulqadir Hilal to save this historical palace and disregard any attempts to convince him of using it for any other purpose. They assured him that they would want to introduce a model conforming to the efforts of the nation to protect Yemeni ancient heritage from demolition and extinction because a nation

without past is a nation without future. They expressed their hope in that the governor would respond positively to those demands, which are also the demands of the residents of the area around the palace.



Al-Sultan Al-Bagh palace in Mukalla

Drugs registration system and pricing of medicine in Yemen (1-2)

ALI MOHAMMED SAEED
M.Sc (PHARMACY)
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

A presidential decree issued in 1975 re-organized the Supreme Board for Drugs and Medical Appliances (SBDMA) signaling Yemen as a pioneer in the Arabian Peninsula in the field of controlling and supervising the import of medicine into the country.

The main task of the SBDMA is to organize and control the import and pricing of medicine and medical appliances in Yemen. In order to achieve this, SBDMA adopted a registration system for imported drugs of all types. It advised foreign manufacturers that if they intend to export medicine to Yemen, they should first register them properly. A registration file containing certain certificates, scientific documents and other material should be set up for each and every drug imported into Yemen.

To control the retail price, SBDMA adopted a certain pricing structure to determine the public price. The board demanded from manufacturers to print the public price by non-erasable ink on the outer carton/packet of the medicine. SBDMA applied the registration system to pharmaceutical preparation including the so called OTC preparations. The board also applied the registration mechanism to medical appliances such as cotton wool, bandages, plasters, disposable syringes etc. but requested less documents for this group of products.

The price structure: from the export CIF price to the public price.

SBDMA adopted the following price structure (during 1980-1993):

I. Landed Cost:

This is the cost equal to the CIF price plus 20%

(The CIF stands for Cost Insurance Freight)

20% are included to the price against the following:

- 1% -for obtaining the 'Import Permit'.
- 3% -for bank charges.
- 10% -for custom duty.
- 5% -for clearance, handling and transportation expenses.
- 1% - for damaged goods during storage.
- Total 20%**

Note: By the mid nineties, the Customs Authority reduced the customs of imported medicine to 5% instead of 10% which is applied until today.

II. Wholesale Price

This is the landed cost plus 10% (the 10% is the wholesale margin allocated for the importer/agent for ordinary medicine).

III. Public Price

This is the wholesale price plus 20% (the 20% is the retail margin allocated for the pharmacy). This percent was allocated for all items, either ordinary medicines, life-saving, bulky items (disposable syringes etc.), or OTC products.

Therefore, the price structure could be drawn in percentage as follows:

- a) CIF: 100%
- b) Landed cost: $100\% \times (20\%+) = 120\%$
- c) Wholesale price : $120\% \times 10\%=132\%$
- d) Retail price (public price) is: $132\% \times 20\%=158.4\%$

Note (1): By mid eighties, SBDMA realized that it needs to have an extra percentage on some items that are too bulky such as disposable syringes, cotton wool, bandages, I.V solutions, etc.. Those items have very low CIF prices, but their clearance, transportation and storage expenses are very high.



Yemen is a pioneer in the Arabian Peninsula in the field of controlling and supervising the import of medicine into the country.

Therefore, SBDMA allocated an extra 5% for clearance and transportation for such goods so that the landed cost for such products is CIF plus 25%.

Note (2): Some essential and vital drugs such as life-saving drugs and those indicated for very rare and special diseases are slow in sales. Therefore, SBDMA allowed a 15% (instead of 10%) as a wholesale margin for the importer, so that the wholesale price for such products is landed cost plus 15%.

Main slogan of SBDMA: "Medicine is a service, not a commodity"

This is why SBDMA decided that the 10% wholesale margin is enough for the importer to cover all other expenses such as: administration, marketing, stationery, rent of stores, salaries of employees etc plus profit. Actually, importers accepted such a low percentage despite the fact that this 10% is not enough to cover such huge expenses. Besides, SBDMA didn't include a single percentage as net profit for the importer

against his investment (capital), which is used for providing this medicine to the patient.

Annual Statistics Bulletin

SBDMA started in 1976 publishing its annual statistics bulletin. At the beginning, the bulletin started in low quality, but in time its contents and shape improved rapidly. The bulletin of 2000 was edited almost perfectly and came out in an excellent manner.

In its statistic bulletin for 1986, the board mentioned the following data:

Year	No. of Importers	Annual Import in USD	Exchange Rate
1976	27	12.5 million	1\$=4.57 YER
1986	17	25.0 million	1\$=9.02 YER

It is clear that the increase in the import during 10 years (1976-1986) was almost 100%

Current Registration requirements:
In October 1997, Ministerial Decree No. 233/10 specified the requirements for the registration of the manufacturer,

the registration of the pharmaceutical preparation and the registration of the medical appliances (cotton wool, bandages disposable syringes). The decree adopted the registration and laboratory analysis fees. The decree also demanded that every three years, the manufacturer and its registered products should be re-registered, and half the stipulated fees should be paid.

(A) Requirements for registration of the manufacturer and registration fee:

- 1- GMP: a certificate issued by the concerned authorities in the country of origin and to be certified by Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Yemeni Embassy.
- 2- An independent GMP to be issued by an international independent institution for inspection. SBDMA issued a list of the recognized institutions that do this work.
- 3- Site Master File: a comprehensive company profile with the details and diagram of the factory.

4- To pay US\$1,000 as a registration fee.

(B) Requirements for registration of a pharmaceutical product and registration fees:

- 1- Free on Sale: a certificate issued by the concerned authorities according to the format adopted by World Health Organization (WHO).
- 2- Certificate of a pharmaceutical product: to be issued by the concerned authorities in the country of origin and to be drawn in accordance with the format of WHO. This certificate should be certified by health authorities and the Yemeni Embassy.
- 3- Certificate of analysis results indicating the type of pharmacopoeia used for the analysis. Otherwise the manufacturer should send the method of analysis.
- 4- Declaration of prices in which the manufacturer should indicate the wholesale and public prices in the country of origin and the export CIF price requested by the manufacturer for the said preparation.
- 5- Stability study of the specific pharmaceutical product intended to be registered. A stability chart should be accompanied with the study.
- 6- The manufacturer should send 20 pieces of the said preparation to for analysis.
- 7- A comprehensive chart indicating various fees according to the features of the drug: whether it will be registered in its generic name or trade name, or whether it is mentioned in the National List for Drugs or not. Another comprehensive chart is set for the analysis fees: whether the sample of the product is for registration purpose or taken from the market or taken from the port.

To be continued next week.

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The Public Corporation for Radio & Television invites eligible companies to import and deliver multiform TV videocassettes.

Interested eligible companies can apply to the General Department of Radio & Television for collecting the tender documents at a non-refundable fee of US\$ 200.

A technical specification, general conditions, instructions, and contact's terms are all available in the tender's documents.

Bid envelopes will be opened at the Head Office of the corporation on Saturday 11: 00 a.m. (August 31, 2002) at the presence of the bidders or their representatives. Any bid that arrive after 10:00 of June 22 will not be considered.

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M - An Arab poet once said, 'How many friends you have when you count them, but in times of misfortune how few!'

will find himself cauterized even more! And he who delights in his cousin's misfortune will meet a sticky end!

he's got the 5 million riyals his mother bequeathed to him! I've seen what people are like! They rush around those who've got money, and disappear as soon as they haven't.

1 Cf. Qanun San'a, p. 14.



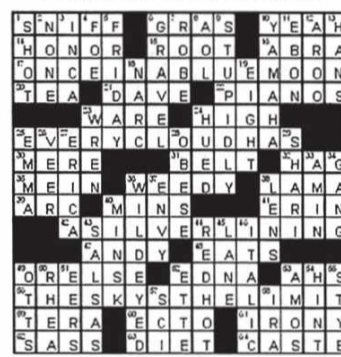
Mohammed Al-Shabani

The Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker March 1, 2002

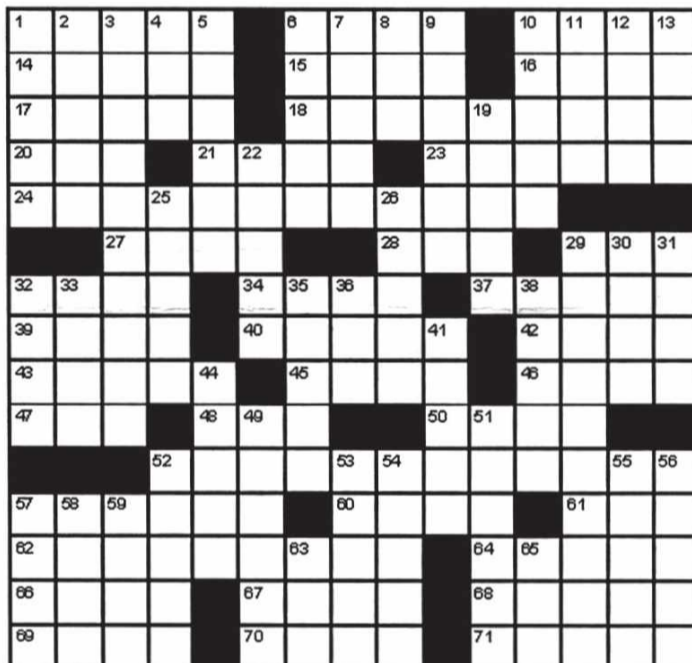
- ACROSS 1 Service song? 6 Mummy's home 10 Old Mogul capital 14 Football manufacturer's employ-ee 15 'The Love' (R.E.M. hit) 16 Skywriting maneuver 17 'Witness' sect 18 K 20 Lawn material 21 Goofy guy 23 Precisely 24 K 27 Candid 28 Bossy's fellow 29 Boozehound 32 Celebratory drink 34 Does not exist, in brief 37 One in a cast 39 'Splendor in the Grass' Oscar winner 40 K 42 Auction vehicle, perhaps 43 The March King 45 Esau's father-in-law 46 How some things come and go? 47 Casablanca to Tunis dir. 48 Airline regulating org. 50 'Piano Man' Billy 52 K 57 Walk a beat 60 Scour 61 Prefix with plunk or flog 62 K 64 Likely story? 66 Fat mouth 67 De Valera's land 68 Progeny 69 Legendary losing lagomorph 70 Swarm 71 Commits a deadly sin DOWN 1 Blood part 2 Island group studied by Mead 3 Biting critic's possession 4 WKRP newsmen 5 Alter ego in a Stevenson work 6 Godzilla's stomping ground 7 Bermuda, for one 8 Club or type of school 9 Brasserie 10 Fakir's deity 11 Kind of cheese 12 'Titanic' heroine 13 Nave neighbor 19 Winter warmer 22 vincit amor (love conquers all) 25 Fencing weapons 26 'Are not!' comeback 29 Buss illegally? 30 Klutz's comment 31 Where Priam held sway 32 Word with clock or penny 33 Party to 35 Word before 'fast' and after 'home' 36 Org. with Devils and Predators 38 Ring Apollo 41 Fix a copier, in a way 44 In progress 49 Ready to go 51 Out of the can, perhaps temporarily 52 Nehi flavor 53 Close call 54 Tribal pole 55 Offer refutation 56 Towels off 57 Way to go 58 Cause of a close shave? 59 Chairlift alternative 63 Dressy accessory 65 Shaq's alma mater

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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'K RATINGS' By Bob Peoples and Nancy Salomon



Horoscope

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Life's lessons come in many shapes and sizes. Sometimes we feel blessed by the eventual fortune.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) You have a resurfacing theme this week. Your goal is to 'walk your talk', while being a proficient leader.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20) How often do you develop the habit of looking at the advances of life? You place stress on those exceptional incidents that cause you inconvenience, discomfort, or unhappiness.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) You will often hear someone say, 'I just can't see that'. It doesn't really matter what they're talking about.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22) Are you able to look forward and backward at the same time? This is actually a wonderful quality that I know you possess.

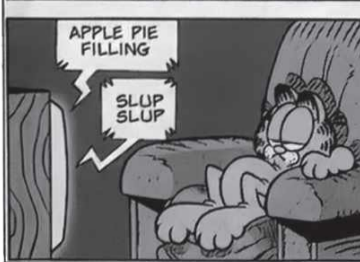
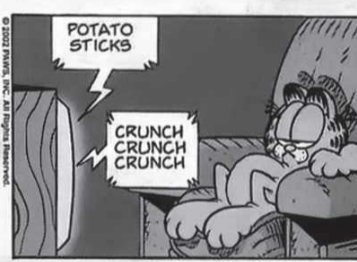
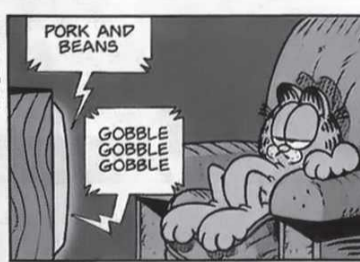
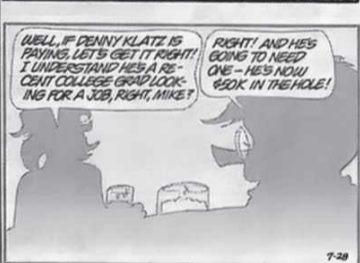
Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) What is your biggest agenda item this week? Do you have a plan ready? What direction are you going?

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22) Life is like a picnic: work hard for a fun outcome, watch out for the bugs, wait for the good food, and be sure to invite people that add to the event.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You can have the best of both worlds, but it requires how you communicate. Each person has their own way of expressing themselves.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Believe it or not, you're in the midst of needing and being able to make quick choices. They can always be changed again later, but sitting around, contemplating something won't work at this time.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) I don't mean to make you blush, but you have some serious seduction that you need to do on your loved one or the person of your affections.



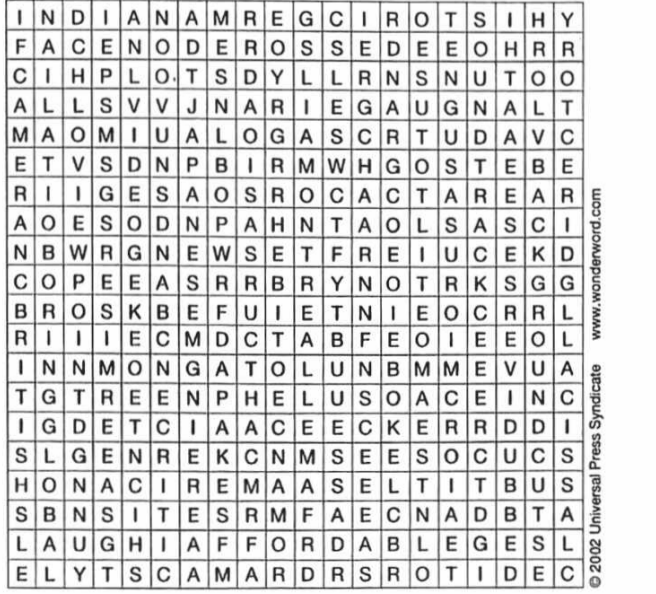
WONDERWORD by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list.

CLUES

- Actor Cannes Face Laugh Soundtrack Affordable Chamber Fame Lovers Spanish African Classical Film Montreal Speaking American Closed Frames Plays Stars Award Comic French Plots Story Background Country Gate Record Style Badge Crime Genre Redone Subtitles Bands Critic Gerne Religion Swarms Banner Culture Global Remakes Talent Beautiful Cuts Grand Role Toronto Bleak Dance Greece Romance Version Book Director Historic Screen Video Boring Diverse Indian Script Viewpoint Bows Drama Italian Shot Showcase British Dubbed Japanese Showcase Budget Editor Judge Sites Camera Egos Language Songs

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ANSWER NEXT WEEK Last Week's Answer: Rebel

7-Day Weather Forecast

Table with columns for Day, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun and rows for Aden and Sana'a with temperature and weather icons.

Ronaldo's agent talks to Real but no bid made

By KEVIN FYLAN

MADRID (Reuters) - Ronaldo's agent has told Real Madrid the Brazilian striker is ready to leave Inter Milan, the Spanish club's sporting director Jorge Valdano has revealed.

Valdano played down the chances of Ronaldo joining the galaxy of stars at the Bernabeu, though, saying Real were only "relatively" interested in the player, who led Brazil to World Cup glory by topping the scoring chart with eight goals.

Real would not be prepared to pay an "astronomical" sum to bring Ronaldo to the Bernabeu, Valdano said, and would not even consider a bid unless Inter decided they were ready to sell.

"Ronaldo's agent (Alexandre Martins) informed us that the player's intention is to leave Inter Milan," said Valdano, who was speaking in response to claims on a Spanish radio station that Real had signed the World Cup winner.

"I immediately spoke to Inter Milan directors, because we have a non-

aggression pact with their club. "The agent asked us if Real Madrid could be interested and what we want to make clear is that we would make no move unless Inter decided they wanted to sell.

"At the moment Inter Milan are not prepared to sell and Real Madrid are not prepared to buy.

"Some time ago, when some figures were put on the table, we were so far away we couldn't even get to 50 percent."

Real president Florentino Perez broke the transfer record twice in his first two years in charge to bring in Luis Figo for \$56 million from Barcelona and Zinedine Zidane for \$66 million from Juventus.

Ronaldo has experience of the Spanish game, having played a season at Real's great rivals Barcelona after moving to the Nou Camp in 1996 for a then world record \$19.5 million.

He scored 33 goals in 38 games that season as Barcelona won the European Cup Winners' Cup before joining Inter Milan for another world record fee of \$27.9 million.



Brazilian superstar Ronaldo (Reuters)

No to television replays anymore?

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - Sepp Blatter, president of world soccer's governing body FIFA, says he is opposed to the idea of using television replays to assist match officials.

Speaking after a meeting of the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) had elected Australia's Basil Scarsella as OFC president, Blatter said: "As long as I am president of FIFA, I am totally opposed to artificial help for referees in FIFA-controlled matches.



Sepp Blatter, President of FIFA (R)

"Any idea of television replays to sort out offside decisions or the like would take away the spontaneity of the game and destroy the human touch, which makes the game more popular."

Blatter acknowledged mistakes were made during the recent World Cup in South Korea and Japan, and that they had prompted scathing criticism from teams who believed they had been wronged by bad decisions from match officials, but said errors would always be made.

"The human touch is what is important, and while the matches are under the control of humans and not electronics, mistakes will be made," he said in Auckland. "But we must work hard to diminish them."

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Yemeni Coffee, Taste and Quality

PREPARED FOR PUBLISHING BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Coffee tree can be clearly seen grown in the northern, central, southern, and eastern parts of Yemen from Sa'ada in the north to Yafea'a in the south. The coffee tree also grows on the slopes of mountains valleys at the height of 100m-200m over sea level.



The total area planted with coffee trees represents 2.5% of the total arable land, that's around 33.000 acres spread over 12 governorates. Yemeni coffee is considered the best in terms of purity, low caffeine and side effects pesticides. And in spite of the long history of the Yemeni coffee dating back to centuries, it is not yet scientifically classified. A researchers has classified the Yemeni coffee into main three categories, Al Ayni, Al Tofahi, Al Dawaery. But recently the names came to be known by the areas producing it, for example, Al Audini, Al Hamadani, Al Ismaeli, Al Matari and others.

days and fame, but in the in the second half of the twentieth, the growing of the coffee tree decreased dramatically. Top of the main reasons behind such decrease is the non-stop of Qat growing nationwide, which threatens the existence of coffee tree. Nowadays, calls to take care of coffee tree rose again at both people and official levels to regain the highly considered position of Yemeni coffee among other categories in the world. Development

programs on how to cultivate the coffee tree have been set up to expand the area planted with coffee tree and investment opportunities in the this field. Hence, coffee trade has flourished and Yemen exported around 3199 tones of coffee during the year 2000, a matter that encourages farmers and the government to consider plans in this vital issue in order to restore the fame of Yemeni coffee locally and at the international level.

There are several ways for making the Yemeni coffee and the most popular one is the Arabian way in which coffee is to be mixed with spices till it boil. Till the '40s of the last century, Yemeni coffee had been in its golden

The Yemeni coffee is one of the best in the world. Yemen is famous for its coffee, which used to be exported to different parts of the world. Yemeni coffee with its unique flavor had been and still the favorite for both locals and foreigners.



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