

Yemen says: 18 refugees drown after forced off ship

SANAA, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Eighteen refugees, mostly Somalis, drowned and more were feared dead after they were forced off a ship as it neared the coast of Yemen, a Yemeni official said on Saturday.

The official told Reuters the 18 were part of a group of around 100 refugees trying to reach Yemen by sea. He said 55 people, including a number of Ethiopians, had been rescued and around 27 were still missing after Thursday's incident. He gave no further details.

The office of the U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says illegal migrants are often forced into the sea while still some way off shore by captains seeking to evade Yemeni coastal patrols.

Last month, the agency said a group of 30 Somali refugees was forced at gunpoint to jump into the water as they neared the southern coast of the Arab state. Only 18 of them reached shore.

The UNHCR estimates that there are more than 70,000 refugees in Yemen, most of them Somalis. The Yemeni government puts the figure at more than 165,000.

Palestinians in Yemen support Arafat

Sana'a, Sept. 13—Organized by the Palestine Embassy, a sit-in representing the Palestinian community in Sana'a was staged here today in a protest against the Israeli decision to send Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to exile. Many Yemenis from the public and private syndicates and societies also took part in the sit-in.

A speech was delivered by Palestinian Charge d' Affairs focusing on conspiracies set up by the Israeli government Prime Minister Ariel Sharon against the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority.



In his speech, he demanded the European community and the United Nations to pressurize Israel to stop it from taking such a serious decision that could have long-term repercussions in the future.

Sheikhs skip payments, while the poor in Taiz live on garbage

Taiz, September 9 - Sources close to the Water Project in Taiz informed the Yemen Times Taiz bureau that the authorities have failed to convince a rich sheikh living in one of the high class localities in Taiz to pay an amount close to YR one million to the water authority, while in a nearby neighborhood, poor citizens live on food remains found in garbage cans. The poor

have also been deprived from water and electricity services due to their inability to pay the cost of installation and fees.

The issue has gone even further to result in huge gaps between the rich and the poor in the city, as authorities have failed to enforce the law on the powerful to pay their water fees, while preventing the poor from getting the basic services.

Teachers demand review of redistribution list

Taiz, Sep. 13 - Teachers rallied last Saturday in the streets of Taiz demanding the immediate cancellation of the decision taken by the Ministry of Education to redistribute many teachers in the city of Taiz and send many of them to rural areas.



A rally staged by teachers in Taiz city demanding review of redistribution list

The rally started at the Education Office in Taiz and continued until the Taiz governorate headquarters, which is about 6 km away.

Female teachers told the Yemen Times that the decision of the Teachers Redistribution Committee and the Education Office in Taiz was a violation to the Education Minister's decree concerning teachers' distribution to remote areas.

Even the physically handicapped were included in the teachers' redistribution list. According to the decision, Yaser Abdurrahim, a physically handicapped teacher will be sent from the al-Farouk School in Taiz City to Dhubab, a region close to the Bab al-Mandab straight near the Red Sea.

On his part, Mr. Ahmed al-Ansi, the Deputy Assistant of Taiz Governorate met the teachers and listened to complaints. Teachers were asked to lodge complaints about the new distribution list.

Female teachers were particularly furious about the decision. A female teacher working for more than 11 years in the Azoura School in Taiz is

to be transformed to the outskirts of the city. She said that for eleven years she has been working happily in Taiz City and would reject any post in a remote area.

The majority of the teachers exposed to redistribution see the decisions taken to be a mere political decision and not for the benefit of education.

The decisions have come in bad timing for many teachers who may not have enough time to adjust to their new locations because the decisions came at the beginning of the new academic year.

Many educational experts say that this might weaken the quality of education in Yemen even further.

Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Yemen Bureau resigns

Mr. Anwar Al-Ansi, Chief of Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel in Sana'a has on September 11, 2003 tendered his resignation of his office.

Al-Jazeera accepted Mr. Al-Ansi resignation and appointed Mr. Murad Hashim, its correspondent in Sana'a as an acting director of its Sana'a office as from September 11, 2003.

A lecture by prominent journalist Post-war Iraq: Challenges & ambitions

Sanaa, September 13 - During the regional conference "Role of Free Arab Media in Economic Development" to be held during 13-15 September in Sanaa, a number of side activities will be taking place in Sanaa. Among those activities will be an open lecture to be given on September 13 at 19:00 at the Yemen Times premises in Sanaa by Mr. Saad Al-Bazzaz, prominent Iraqi journalist and editor-in-chief of the London-based Daily Azzaman newspaper.

Al-Bazzaz will be giving a lecture on "Post-war Iraq: Challenges and ambitions", in which he will describe the conditions of Iraqi people after the end of the coalition (US-UK) war on Iraq and the challenges faced by the new government and future ambitions for a prosperous Iraq.

The lecture, which is open to the public, will be an opportunity for those interested to know more about



Mr. Al-Bazzaz

the current conditions in Iraq from a person who has analyzed the situation from all dimensions and can give a comprehensive and accurate picture of the whole situation.

Monitoring needed in our markets

Sana'a, Sept. 13- In a statement published last Tuesday, the Yemeni Society for Promoting Domestic Products demanded that the cabinet set up a committee chaired by the vice prime minister, Mr. Ahmed Sofan to review means related to protecting consumers and ensuring permanent markets for domestic products.

An emphasis was placed on the need to reactivate the standardization authority as well as determining procedures to conduct the necessary checkups for foodstuff material and drugs.

This is expected to be achieved through mapping out a national strategy to protect consumers and national industries.

It is to be mentioned here that the Yemeni markets are flooding with every imaginable competing brands from the region and the world.

Distributed by Yemen Times Guide on Yemeni banks issued

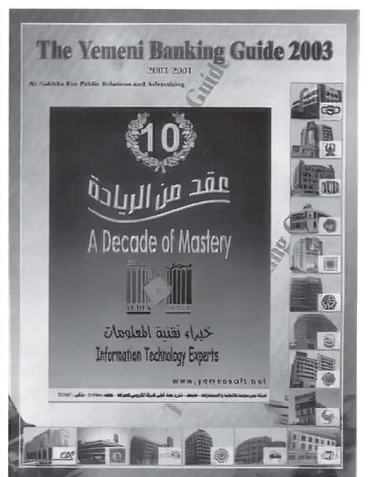
Sanaa, Sept 13 - Al-Nukhba for Public Affairs and Publishing has recently released the Yemeni Banking Guide 2003, which was distributed by Yemen Times and sponsored by Yemen Times and the Yemen Banks Association.

The guide has been rated by many as so far one of the best banking guides published in the country. The guide includes accurate and significant information about most of the banks in Yemen.

Dr. Fuad Shaker, the General Secretary of Arab Banks Union, and Mr. Ahmed Al-Khawari, the Head of the Yemeni banks Association have introduced the guide to the readers and Mr. Yaser al-Mayasi, a Yemen Times journalist, has edited it.

The guide aims at having the public become acquainted with the bank services offered in Yemen. Its objective is to inform the readers about the pace of technological and service-oriented growth of banks operating in the country.

The guide contains four main chapters about the Yemeni Central Bank, governmental banks, private commercial banks, and Islamic banks and foreign banks operating in Yemen.



The guide also includes some financial studies and statistics related to the banking field. Besides the information it includes on how banks operate in Yemen, the guide also provides information about general and Islamic banking laws.

Part of the guide was written in English, while the rest is in Arabic language.

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Hand extended to government

In his speech during the opening ceremony, Dr. Paul Pasch of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung confirmed that the conference was aimed at building "bridges between Arab governments and free media towards achieving greater economic development in the Arab world."

In his statement to participants and guests, Mr. Mahboob Ali, Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate also focused on the need to bring the media and Arab governments closer together to achieve what is best for Arab nations. "We see that the influence of the media has become strong and immense in many countries throughout the world. It is time that we join forces and build bridges of understanding and cooperation between the media and governments just to cope with the needs of today's world."

The conference, which will be concluded today, will bring about recommendations on how to establish a better and solid role of the media in promoting economic developments.

The sessions

The first session of the conference held on Saturday included working papers presented by Dr. Mohammed Abdurashed of Aden University on "Means and tools that can be used by the free Arab media in supporting economic development." In his paper, Dr. Abdurashed argued that there were several ways to assist economic development. "There are direct and indirect ways to achieve that. Among the direct ways are the immediate effect media reports have on supporting certain companies or goods, and promoting certain investment fields by providing publicity and information. Indirectly, the media can be an opinion maker and raise awareness among the public about values such as democracy and elections. When citizens are aware of elections for example, they could elect those who have the skills and qualifications to carry out the positive reforms



Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times



Mr. Mahboob Ali, Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate



Dr. Paul Pasch of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

needed for the society."

The second paper was presented by Mr. Walid Abdulaiz Al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-Chief of the Yemen Times, on "Steps to be taken for the media to support economic development." In his presentation, Al-Saqqaf put stress on the priority to free journalists from strings attached to them, which consequently prevent them from reporting accurately. He said that the main idea behind freedom of the press comes in financial independence, professionalism, and political independence. This would give media enterprises the means and motives to report on financial corruption, mismanagement, anti-investor regulations, and other issues that hinder economic development. "There should be serious steps taken to reform press laws and regulations and reform the judicial system before journalists can write freely and hence become active in supporting economic development."

Al-Saqqaf also emphasized the role businessmen play in supporting the media by marketing through them to build their capacity and benefit from their growth. "Companies and media establishments can help each other grow" he said. Furthermore he noted that the donor community and international organizations have a major role

to play by supporting independent media morally and financially through capacity building projects, financial assistance, training, and free consultations.

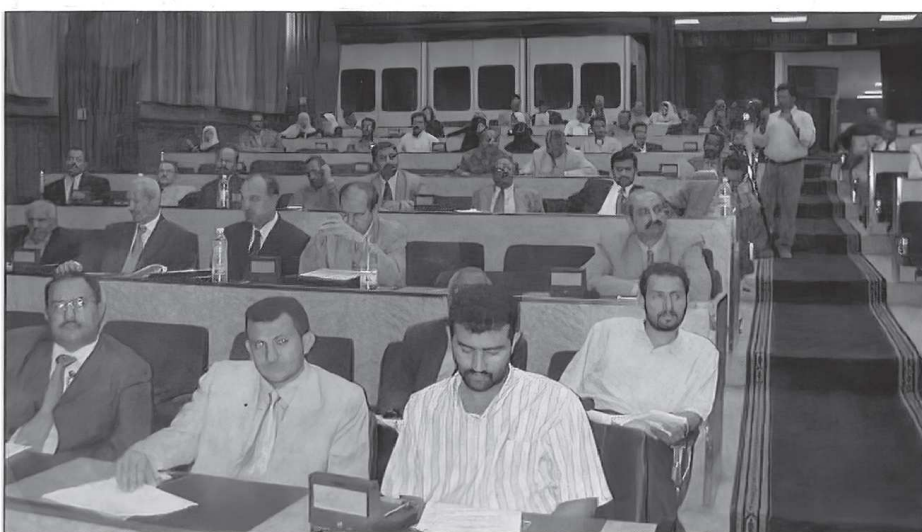
"But all of this cannot happen unless the government respects the media and becomes convince of the role it could play in this regard," he concluded.

The Italian Ambassador to Yemen H.E. Mr. Giacomo Sanfelice di Monteforte gave a presentation on "European perspective: Is lack of media freedom a factor behind poor economic performance in the Arab world?"

In his speech, the ambassador gave a briefing on the European example and the freedom of media in the European Union. He stressed on the fact that Europe's economic growth was possible due to the high level of democracy and freedom lived in Europe. "Freedom of the media for the EU is very much central in the multiple European activities," he said.

As for the Arab world, Mr. Monteforte concluded in his paper that human development is the essence and basic of development in all other sectors for the Arab world. He obtained this conclusion from the Arab Human Development Report 2002, which said

that "the pattern of economic growth in the Arab region in the last three decades resulted in fluctuating performance....Growth in the Arab countries has been hampered by low and declining labour productivity."



Mr. Monteforte concluded his paper by stressing that "the social and cultural development of the people is of critical importance: Liberating human capabilities through good governance and human development in the Arab world is very likely to be the challenge ahead for achieving better development performances."

"To this end, there is no possible doubt that the freedom of media can play a critical role." After all, the "media are the mirror in which every country sees itself" and hence, free media, according to Mr. Monteforte, is of major significance "in the determination of the economic performances of every country."

In the second session entitled "The Arab Media as an observer and analyst", a papers was given by Dr. Taha Al-Fussail of Sana'a University on the "Free Arab media's role in questioning Arab governments and point to financial and administrative corruption plus monitor economic performance" and another paper was given on "The free media's role in reviving economic activities in the Arab world" given by Dr. Hussein Jaghman of the Media Training Institute.

The two papers had similar contents on the need to have the media analyze economic information and present it in plain language to the public to provide a complete picture that reflects reality.

"Economic media are still inexistent in the Arab world, and I believe we will wait far too long before they can be achieved," Dr. Taha said.

On the other hand, Dr. Jaghman stressed on the fact that vulnerable and weak media cannot help promote economic activities because they have in themselves failed to achieve financial independence and capacity building. "How can the media help in reviving economies of Arab countries if they are helpless and economically not viable?" he asked.

The second day witnessed nine papers discussing various topics con-

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cerning the role of the free Arab media in economic development.

The first session of the second day was on "Relations between Arab governments and Free Arab media" and had the following papers:

1- "Partnership, not enmity" between governments and free media in the Arab world (how to notify and convince governments of the importance of free media to support the economy) by Mr. Qadiri Ahmed Haidar of the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research.

2- Importance of transparency and giving information in Arab governments and how the media can benefit from such transparency by Dr. Mohammed Abduljabbar Sallam, Vice Dean of College of Information, Sana'a University.

3- Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel's prospective: Role of the free Arab TV networks in supporting economic development in Arab countries by Mr. Sameer Khidir, Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel

The second session of the second day was on the "Influence of professional journalism and electronic (Radio, TV) free Arab media in economic development" and had the following papers:

1- Need to liberate electronic Arab media (TV, radio) besides printed press to support economic development by Dr. Omar Thabet of the Faculty of Information, Sana'a University.

2- Role of professional journalism, credibility and responsibility in promoting and enhancing Arab economies by Mr. Abdulbari Taher of the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research.

3- Iraqi free media's role in rebuilding a strong Iraqi economy by Mr. Saad Al-Bazzaz, Editor-in-Chief of Azzaman Newspaper

The third and final session of the second day was on "Free Arab media and developed countries" and had the following papers:

1- Role of the international organizations and donor countries to empower free Arab media to be an active player

in Arab economies by Mr. Mohammed Al-Sabiri, Sana'a University.

2- Learning from successful experiences of modern countries, whose free media had a role in developing the economy by Dr. Abdullah Al-Zalab, the General Manager of the Media Training Institute.

3- How to reform Arab laws according to international standards with a view of model laws in the developed world (Jordan perspective) by Mr. Khaled Al-Zubaidi, the Managing Editor of Amman-based Addustour Newspaper

The third and final day of the conference to be held today will be covering the aspects of globalization and the World Bank's book, "The Right to Tell" which revolves around the idea of the conference.

During the day, there will be only one session entitled "Economy, Media, and Globalization" and will include three working papers.

The first working paper will be "Argument on political and economic dimensions in the Arab media" to be presented by Dr. Hassan Zined of the German Network Deutsche Welle (DW).

The second working paper will be on "Economic media in a globalizing world" to be given by Mr. Walid Chuqair, Al-Hayat Newspaper's Beirut Bureau Manager.

The third and final paper of the conference will be presented by Mr. Robert Hindle, the Resident Representative of the World Bank office in Sana'a and will be on the World Bank and its book "The Right to Tell".

It is expected that the conference will be a foundation stone for future works in this particular field, focusing on cooperation between the media and government, especially as many officials have expressed gratitude and appreciation to the organizers of the event due to its importance in bringing forward ideas dealt with for the first time in the country and the Arab world.

In-house medical training course wraps up

BY ABDUH M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Sep. 13 - Under the motto of "Towards Promoting Medical Work Qualitatively and Quantitatively", an in-house training course was concluded on September 10 at Athowra Hospital.

The training course was financed by the Technical and Vocational Training Fund and organized by the Yemeni Center for Information and Technical Education part of the 2003 training activities program. More than 30 participants took part in the training course.

The training course, which started on August 4, focused on the medical statistics of the hospital staff including technicians, pharmacists, medical practitioners and doctors.

During the closing ceremony, participants were presented with their certificates.

On his part, Mr. Mohammed Ali Rajeh, the General Manager of the Yemeni Center for Information and Technical Education expressed his appreciation for making the training course such a great success. "We are deeply indebted to the pioneering role performed by the Technical and Vocational Training Fund in order to promote the medical cadres' performances in all different sectors in Yemen.

"Such courses are of great importance to promote the performance of medical cadres in the field of conducting statistical studies and get informed of how to avoid defects while medical cadres perform their duties," Mr. Rajeh noted.

The training course aims basically at:

- Equipping trainees and participants with the technical skills and getting acquainted with the basics of collecting statistical data in the field of the medical sector.
- Getting acquainted with designing questionnaire lists as well as assessing them.
- Informing participants and trainees of the different types of sam-



Mr. Mohammed Rajeh

ples and how to select them.

- Promoting the capabilities of participants in how to present the statistical data and find statistical indications, which help, in adopting medical decisions.
- Improving analytical and statistical capabilities of participants.
- Providing participants



with records and medical samples and teaching them how to have them indexed.

- Using computer software to analyze statistical data.

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Tribe, state relationship crisis

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The recent events that have taken place in Sana'a between Jahn tribe, a main branch of Khowlan of the Bakael tribes, and the state reflected the extent of the crisis between the tribe as a social entity state authorities as government institutions.

The government measures taken recently against most of the tribes and their sheikhs have represented the political leadership's present intention to dismantle the two sides' alliance that lasted throughout the past decades. That alliance had its justification in the past but nowadays the state is no longer in need of it after it has built a new military force guaranteed the Saudi non-interference after the border demarcation agreement. The KSA was used to be an influential party in such conflicts.

Yet the tension between tribes and the state authorities, which sometimes reaches its peak, keeps possibilities of bloody clashes open between the two sides if authorities measures against tribes would not follow laws and regulations.++++

On the other hand, the acts some tribesmen resort to for getting their legal or illegal demands through practicing kidnappings and other violent acts have formed an embarrassment for the government and Yemen sustained because of that heavy financial losses.

Presently the government authorities have reinforced their military presence and security deployment in areas of tribal tension and they use intensive force sometimes to impose the state standing, using military tanks and helicopter gunships in their fighting with some tribes.

In spite of facilities some tribes have lately offered to state authorities in tracking down some tribesmen perpetrating violent act in the tribal areas, the government in some cases took members of some tribes as hostages and sometimes launched random strikes against them.

After the September 11 events, some parties saw that tribal areas in Yemen could be suitable shelter for elements belonging to al-Qaeda and other terror-

ist organisations who think that the tribal social environment a suitable place for them. The government authorities launched military campaigns against tribal areas but lost tens of soldiers resulting from the mistakes committed during the campaigns of hunting down terrorist elements. This is what happened in Eida Valley, in Marib in December 2001, and in al-Hazm and al-Shaef districts in al-Jawf in 2002.

Many observers see that tribal regions lack the essential constituents for life despite their living in petroleum regions and areas rich with mineral wealth as well as important historical sites representing Yemen's civilizations.

The tribes in those areas the state of intentionally keeping them in their deteriorated conditions and depriving them of development projects to ensure changing the concepts of their sons and provide stability for them. Another accusation is that the state keeps on feeding tribal wars between various tribes following a divide and rule strategy so that the tribes are exhausted financially and militarily.

The ironic thing is that even though the Americans confirm their belief that terrorists are hiding in some of the tribal regions and that the authorities are chasing them there, yet the American authorities have realized the true development problems those areas are suffering from, therefore they have recently allocated millions of dollars for development projects to be implemented in the most tense tribal areas.

Many see that if the state instead of buying loyalty of tribes heads and sheikhs through financial gifts, it could have initiated development projects in order to enhance the life in those regions, making development and services as an alternative to the continuous drainage of money spent on army units deployed in those areas for fighting those tribes.



Tribesmen, a strong hankering after buying and possessing different kinds of weapons



Military vehicle

Complicated problem in Yemen

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Revenge is still a serious and complicated social problem in Yemen that had appeared since very old days, especially after the time of colonialism and it has been cherished as a result of ignorance and uncivilized traditions.

The revenge problem is a result of absence of justice among people that is replaced by oppression, injustice and the different forms of fanaticism.

Islam and other heavenly religions have prohibited this crime and put various punishments against its perpetrators. Revenge spread in Yemen can be attributed to the absence of justice and not having final sentences in many cases at courts of law.

Recently, Yemen has witnessed horrible events due to vengeance incidents that are posing a threat to security of the society as such incidents have extended even to worshipping places and mosques.

The officially reported figures on revenge and surveys warn against genuine danger that should be strongly faced. In 2001-2002, 3960

persons were the victims of revenge incidents and 36196 criminal cases were recorded in 2002 only, while 1097 crimes recorded by the end of 2002.

Through a careful reading of these figures, we would realize the importance of how imperative it is to tackle this lethal social problem that needs to be uprooted whatever the costs were.

Many analysts, writers and people interested in this phenomenon are not amazed by these large figures as they are partly the result of the large number of weapons in possession of the people in Yemen, estimated at about 60 million pieces. However, a report about the light and medium weapons issued in Geneva recently has indicated that there are 9.6 million arms pieces in Yemen, an average of 40 pieces for each 100 people.

Yet, the revenge problem is still a persistent problem as long as weapons are the hand of indifferent and ignorant people who are destroying whole families.

So unresolved crime disputes, especially murder cases and lack of awareness campaigns about this problem make the revenge phenomenon a culture that cannot be easily removed.

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Arafat condemns exile plan; Israel calls it defence

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Sept 13 (Reuters) - A defiant Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Saturday condemned an Israeli threat to exile him as a bid to eradicate Palestinian independence, and appealed for international intervention.

Thousands of Palestinians rallied in support of Arafat in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Protesters formed a human chain around his battered headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, vowing to sacrifice their lives on his behalf.

Violence erupted in the city of Nablus, where Israeli troops killed an elderly bystander during clashes with Palestinian gunmen, witnesses said. Military sources said soldiers had been pursuing a militant and could not confirm the death.

Israel cited self-defence as justification for Thursday's security cabinet decision to "remove" Arafat after two suicide bombings killed 15 Israelis on Tuesday in the latest surge of violence in a three-year-old Palestinian uprising for statehood.

"The danger here concerns Israel's determination to cancel the Palestinian partner and the Palestinian Authority," Arafat told diplomats and dovish Israelis who visited him to mark the 10th anniversary of interim accords that gave Palestinians limited self-rule.

Arafat said he was still committed to the latest peace drive, a U.S.-backed "road map" to Palestinian statehood. "All this requires the international community pressure Israel to stop its policy," he said.

Arafat said Palestinian reform could take place if Israel stopped its military strikes. Israel says it reserves the right to act pending a Palestinian Authority crackdown on militants.

Israel Stands firm against Arafat

With U.S. backing, Israel blames Arafat for fomenting militant violence — a charge he denies. But Washington does not want the 74-year-old ex-guerrilla leader exiled, fearing this would finish off the already tattered road map.

The U.N. Security Council on Friday echoed U.S. concerns. A statement read by Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry of Britain warned Israel that removing Arafat would be "unhelpful."

Reeling from scores of suicide bombings and other attacks in the revolt that erupted in September 2000, Israel stood firm.

"No country would allow others to dictate how it should protect its citizens," said Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "Arafat is a terrorist leader. We have no war with the Palestinian people and their aspirations."

Israel has not specified how or when its decision would be implemented. Sources have said that Israeli special forces are set to pluck Arafat from his headquarters, where blockades have kept him confined for 21 months, and then to send him abroad.

Palestinians throughout the territories rallied in Arafat's support and pledged to defend him with their lives. There were similar protests by Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.

"What the criminal decision made by the Israeli cabinet has done is really beyond all expectations. There is spontaneous support (for Arafat) by the Palestinian people," Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister Nabil Shaath said.



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat gestures during a rally in his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah September 13. Israel rebuffed Saturday a U.N. Security Council warning not to go through with its threat to exile Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, saying national security was at stake amid a new wave of suicide bombings. REUTERS

Randa Taher and her two children were among the demonstrators outside Arafat's headquarters on Saturday.

"I will be part of human chain to defend him," Taher, 38, said from her protest tent near the compound, next to a pile of cars crushed in past raids by Israeli armoured columns.

She said Israeli forces would have to get past her and her 12-year-old twin son and daughter, Yazan and Farah, to seize Arafat. "They cannot expel him. It would be over my dead body," the civil servant said.

Angry Iraqi town buries dead, U.S. says sorry

FALLUJA, Iraq, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Hundreds of Iraqis chanting "America is the enemy of God" and shooting in the air on Saturday buried eight of 10 guards apparently shot by U.S. troops who mistook them for anti-American rebels.

More than 36 hours after the deaths, the U.S. military apologised for what it called an "unfortunate incident" in the rebellious town of Falluja, west of Baghdad.

"We wish to express our deepest regrets to the families who have lost loved ones," military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel George Krivo said in Baghdad, promising a high-level investigation.

With Falluja seething, mourners crammed its main mosque where the corpses were kept and local police had to fire warning shots in the air to disperse demonstrators when the first coffin was carried to a cemetery.

Sunni Muslim clerics issued a "Declaration by the people of Falluja" condemning the deaths, announcing three days of mourning, and calling for a general strike on Sunday.

Witnesses said a joint patrol of local police and a U.S.-trained security force were chasing thieves shortly after midnight on Friday when U.S. soldiers opened fire on them.

The U.S. statement said its soldiers were responding to an initial attack from a truck when the guards were caught in confused fighting that lasted for three hours.

A Jordanian guard at a local field hospital was also killed in the shooting in Falluja, part of the so-called "Sunni Triangle" where support for deposed dictator Saddam Hussein remains strongest.

Jordanian newspapers said U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell telephoned his Jordanian counterpart, Marwan al-Muasher, to "express regret" over the hospital guard's death. Powell will travel to Kuwait and Iraq after Saturday's talks in Geneva on Iraq's future.

In Falluja, two other Iraqi security



A crowd carrying the Iraqi flag accompanies the body of a dead policeman to his funeral in the town of Falluja September 13. Hundreds of Iraqis chanting "America is the enemy of God" and shooting in the air began burying on Saturday 10 local guards killed by U.S. troops who mistook them for anti-American rebels. More than 36 hours after the deaths, the U.S. military apologised for what it called an "unfortunate incident" in the rebellious town of Falluja, west of Baghdad. REUTERS

personnel injured in Friday's shooting died of their wounds overnight. Eight died immediately.

Falluja "Martyrs"

"The total number of martyrs became 10," said General Raed Abdul Latif, who heads the U.S.-appointed police in Falluja.

Locals were also mourning the death of a three-year-old girl who witnesses said had been shot in the head by American soldiers during street fighting late on Friday.

The town has been a cauldron of hostility to U.S. forces, particularly since troops shot dead at least 13 Iraqis — said by locals to have been unarmed — during a late April march.

There were chaotic scenes on Saturday at Falluja's main mosque, where several hundred people carrying an Iraqi flag gathered to pray over the coffins and protest.

The crowd fired machine-guns in the air and shouted slogans including "America is the enemy of God," "The blood of our martyrs will not go in vain," and "Falluja will keep its

jihad", the latter a term for Muslim holy struggle.

The mosque's imam, Fawzi Shafi, told mourners in an address: "Let the Americans get their hands off the city."

A local sheikh Abbas Ahmad added: "We bid farewell to these brave men who died so we could sleep assured."

Residents said they were dumbfounded by the shooting of the guards in a local security force set up by the Americans. Conspiracies were rife, with some speculating it was a deliberate ambush.

Around the town, graffiti read: "We have the right to kill the American occupiers" and "U.S. will pay in blood for oil".

"The fall of Saddam Hussein has given birth to thousands of Saddam Hussains," said resident Hamza Ibrahim.

Elsewhere around the country, an Iraqi bystander was shot and killed when he was caught in the crossfire of a battle between guerrillas and U.S. troops in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, a U.S. commander said.

Libya, UTA families disagree over pay-out size

By Paul Carrel
PARIS, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Libya and families of 170 people killed in the 1989 bombing of a French UTA airliner over Niger said on Saturday they disagreed on how much Tripoli should pay out under a compensation deal.

The development came a day after a key Libyan negotiator unveiled conditions for the pay-out, throwing into doubt the compensation deal concluded on Thursday which paved the way for the lifting of U.N. sanctions against Tripoli on Friday.

In a joint statement issued on Saturday, the families and the private Libyan fund that will handle the payouts said they were on track to reach a compensation deal within a month of Thursday's accord but disagreed over the size of the pay-out.

"The ongoing negotiations will allow to set up the final amount and the payment mechanism, but also to organise an event giving evidence of the reconciliation," the fund and the families said in the statement.

The fund, which is run by Saif al-

Islam, son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, believed the sum paid to the family of each victim should not be greater than \$1 million, it said. The families wanted more.

On Friday, al-Islam told the French daily Le Figaro that as part of an overall settlement, Libya wanted to resolve the cases of six Libyans convicted in absentia by a French court in 1999 for the bombing, and whom Tripoli insists are innocent.

Libya also wanted to upgrade relations with Paris by signing a friendship pact, al-Islam said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said his comments "were not an official government statement."

Al-Islam made the remarks a day after France withdrew a threat to veto the end of U.N. sanctions against Libya in Friday's U.N. Security Council vote — a move which was prompted by Tripoli making the promise of new compensation.

Al-Islam's comments prompted fears that Tripoli wanted to weaken the compensation accord, which was

already expected to be less favourable than the \$2.7 billion pay-out Tripoli is to make for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

In Libya, al-Islam is regarded as instrumental in Tripoli's drive to normalise relations with the West. Diplomats say his views often reflect his father's thinking.

In Saturday's statement, the families and the Libyan fund said they were negotiating on the basis of a "constructive and faithful relationship".

A visit by some relatives of the victims to the site of the crash could be organised in conjunction with the pay-out, they said. The plane exploded over Niger in West Africa.

The Lockerbie settlement, agreed earlier this year, dwarfed the \$34 million pay-out accepted by France in 1999 for the UTA bombing and prompted it to deploy its U.N. veto as a lever to secure more cash for victims' relatives, among them Africans, Americans and Britons.

Pressure mounts for Iran to prove not making a-bomb

By Louis Charbonneau
VIENNA, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Russia gave explicit public backing on Saturday to a U.N. watchdog's resolution which has given Iran seven weeks in which to let the atomic agency verify it has no secret nuclear weapons programme.

The clear words from a country that had been seen as trying to counter American pressure on Iran will not be welcomed by Tehran, which says the setting of the October 31 deadline is proof it is the next target of a U.S. invasion.

Following intense U.S. pressure for action against Iran, the 35-nation governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) passed a resolution on Friday demanding Iran answer many outstanding questions about its nuclear programme.

The resolution implies that if the IAEA still has doubts about Iran's atomic programme in November, its board might declare Iran in breach of international obligations and report it to the U.N. Security Council for possible economic sanctions.

Approval of the resolution ignited the wrath of Tehran. Iran's ambassador to the IAEA in Vienna, Ali Akbar Salehi, said it showed Washington intended to invade Iran as it did Iraq.

He rejected the ultimatum and said Tehran would begin a "deep review" of its cooperation with the U.N. watchdog.

A Saturday editorial in Iran's headline newspaper Jomhuri-ye Eslami said Iran should follow the example of North Korea, which on December 31 expelled all IAEA inspectors and later withdrew from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"It should be accepted that the correct

way was the one North Korea chose," the paper said.

Russia, which diplomats said had fought hard to weaken the U.S.-backed language of the resolution to protect billions of dollars of nuclear deals with Tehran, ultimately backed it.

"(The resolution) is a serious and respectful appeal by the agency for Iran to cooperate with IAEA...and do so without delay," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak told Interfax.

Iran denies U.S. allegations that it has violated the NPT in its effort to develop atomic weapons secretly.

But Anoush Ehtesami, professor of international relations at Britain's University of Durham, said some in the military were keen to leave the NPT to follow Pakistan's and India's example.

"The lesson Iran has learned...is that you can have a clandestine programme, and when you complete it you declare your nuclear status and after a little period of economic sanctions the world moves on," he told the BBC.

What Iran Must do by October 31

Friday's resolution said Iran must fully cooperate with the IAEA to enable it to verify the "non-diversion of nuclear materials" to a secret weapons programme.

By the end of October, Iran must give the IAEA a "full declaration" of uranium enrichment-related imports, especially "imported equipment and components stated to have been contaminated with highly enriched uranium particles".

The IAEA's discovery of weapons-grade enriched uranium at an enrichment facility at Natanz sparked fears that Tehran has been secretly purifying uranium for use in nuclear



Iran's influential former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani speaks at the Tehran Friday prayers September 12. Rafsanjani said on Friday Iran should not be compelled to agree to intrusive inspections of its atomic programme, which is being debated by the U.N. nuclear watchdog. REUTERS

weapons.

Iran blamed the uranium on contaminated components bought abroad, an explanation that has met with widespread scepticism.

The resolution also called on Iran to immediately suspend all uranium-enrichment activities for the time being.

Tehran must also grant "unrestricted access" to IAEA inspectors throughout the country and permit them to take environmental samples wherever they choose. Tehran has refused to let IAEA inspectors to take samples at some sites.

Finally, by the end of October Iran must "remedy all failures" and take all steps necessary for the IAEA to "resolve all outstanding issues involving nuclear materials and nuclear activities" in Iran.

Saudi Arabia says expelling Arafat would kill peace

RIYADH, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia on Saturday slammed Israel's threat to exile Palestinian President Yasser Arafat as an attempt to bury the U.S.-led road map to peace and warned that such a move would destabilise the entire Middle East.

"What they are trying to do is to finally ring the death knell of the road map and prevent peace from being established in the Middle East...and hopefully this won't be left unchecked by the international community and the United States in particular," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said.

"(Arafat's removal) would be the last nail in the coffin of the peace process and no doubt it will destabilise the region," he told a news conference in Jeddah, broadcast on television.

Israel rebuffed on Saturday a U.N.

warning not to go through with its decision to "remove" Arafat — citing self-defence amid a new wave of suicide bombings — while Arafat condemned the threat as a bid to eradicate Palestinian independence.

With U.S. backing, Israel blames Arafat for fomenting militant violence, a charge he denies. Washington does not want him exiled, fearing this would finish off the already tattered road map and boost Arafat's standing among Palestinians.

The Saudi foreign minister said the kingdom's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Abdullah, has told the U.S. administration that expelling Arafat was a "dangerous measure which would lead to an explosive situation in the region".

Prince Saud also called for a central U.N. role in postwar Iraq to help re-establish security and independent Iraqi

rule.

He also reiterated Riyadh's criticism of a U.S. congressional report that implied the kingdom's complicity in the September 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. cities, blamed by Washington on Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda group.

The report was released in July with a section on Saudi Arabia still classified. Washington rejected Saudi requests to declassify it, on grounds it would compromise intelligence.

"We do not fear the truth...We can only clarify our position and whoever wants to understand will understand and whoever has an interest in making false accusations against the kingdom will continue to do so," Prince Saud said.

The report deals with whether there was Saudi support for the hijackers, 15 of whom were Saudi nationals.

Rebels storm army camp in Indian Kashmir, 3 dead

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 13 (Reuters) - At least three Indian soldiers were killed and three wounded on Saturday when suspected Muslim rebels stormed an army camp in India's Jammu and Kashmir state, police said.

"The militants attacked the camp early in the morning and are believed to be inside. Firing is on and details are awaited," a senior police official told Reuters.

The attack took place at the Bungush area near the border with Pakistan in Kupwara district northwest of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has been at the heart of decades of rivalry between the nuclear-armed neighbours, which went to the brink of a fourth war in 2002. Mainly Hindu India has long accused Muslim Pakistan of supporting the rebels. Pakistan denies the charge.

Elsewhere, Indian soldiers shot dead 10 militants in separate gunbattles across the valley including four rebels who were trying to slip into Indian territory from Pakistan controlled Kashmir, police said.

Violence has surged in Kashmir in recent days and is threatening peace moves between India and Pakistan.

Ties between the two-nuclear capable neighbours have improved slightly in recent months but India has linked fresh talks to an end to attacks by Islamic rebels.



Kashmiri villagers attend the funeral of Mohammed Yousaf Parray alias Kuka Parray, in Hajan, 40 kms (25 miles) north of Srinagar, September 13, 2003. Police said that Parray, a top counter-insurgency leader and a former lawmaker was killed along with two other activists by separatist militant when his vehicle was fired at in the Hajan village. REUTERS

Ivory Coast rebels reject key appointments

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast named key ministers in its power-sharing government on Saturday, but rebels dashed hopes that a big obstacle to peace had been removed as they swiftly rejected the nominations.

A statement announced that Rene Amani was appointed defence minister and Martin Bleou interior minister nearly six months after the rest of the government was put in place under a deal brokered by former colonial ruler, France.

But rebels holding the largely Muslim north of the world's top cocoa grower since a failed coup on September 19, 2002 said those names were picked by President Laurent Gbagbo alone.

"It is scandalous," said Sidiki Konate, a spokesman for the rebels — now dubbed the "New Forces" — in their central stronghold of Bouake. "We have a delightful president who is ready to restart the war."

The two ministerial posts, controlling the army and police, have a vital role in disarming fighters and restoring the government's authority across a country that was once a rare island of stability in troubled West Africa.

Despite the rebels and opposition politicians having joined Gbagbo's loyalists in the coalition government,

progress towards peace has been slow and mistrust burns in all quarters.

"I think that with everyone working together we can get over the difficulties and Ivory Coast can be reborn," Bleou said.

Rebels said their main objection was to Bleou, who heads a human rights group and is seen as close to Gbagbo, rather than Defence Minister Amani, who was prominent in the cocoa sector and is widely regarded as politically neutral.

Although there has been no fighting since May, no real start has been made on disarmament — which was meant to have been completed before the emotive anniversary of the failed coup.

Diplomatic pressure has intensified in recent weeks to try to make sure that everyone respects the peace accord as the date approaches.

The rebels accuse Gbagbo of rearming for a possible return to war, while his supporters accuse them of plotting to overthrow him.

Diplomats said the timing of a decision by the United Nations on Friday to relax its security warnings for staff across Ivory Coast appeared to be as much meant to shore up the peace process as anything.

"This is the carrot. It is saying to everyone that if you keep on with this peace process, normality can return," said one diplomat.

Typhoon Maemi hits South Korea, at least 58 dead

SEOUL, Sept 13 (Reuters) - A typhoon packing record strength winds slammed into South Korea killing at least 58 people and forcing about 25,000 to flee from their homes, authorities said on Saturday.

At least 27 people were missing and the death toll was expected to rise, officials said.

"We're still getting damage reports and expect more casualties," an official at the National Disaster Prevention Headquarters told Reuters.

Typhoon Maemi, with winds of up to 216 kph (134 mph), a record for South Korea, tore into southern parts of the peninsula on Friday night, carving a swathe of destruction before heading out to sea on Saturday. Maemi means "cicada" in Korean.

"It's terrible, it's unbelievable," Park Young-chun, a farmer in the southern Kyongsang region, told YTN television.

"All my grape fields are devastated. How can I send my kids to school with nothing left," a weeping Park said.

YTN television said rescue workers were trying to reach 10 people trapped in the basement of a collapsed shopping centre in the southern city of Masan.

The storm brought big cranes crashing down onto roads and docks and ripped ships from their moorings, tossing them against each other. At least 82 vessels sank in huge seas and fishing boats were stacked like driftwood on shore roads.

The most affected area was South Kyeongsang province where at least 15 people drowned and roads were swept away in mud slides.

Up to 453 mm (17.8 inches) of rain was dumped across some areas. Billboards were sent flying, trees were uprooted and power lines brought down.

Authorities issued flood warnings for areas along the Nakdong river, which flows through the centre and south of the country, as full dams had to open their flood gates.

About 25,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes, the disaster office said.

"Water poured into my house in a minute. I couldn't get anything out except myself," Choi Joong-kwon, a resident of Taegu city, told YTN.

Train derailed

A landslide in central Chungcheong province derailed a Seoul-bound train and 28 passengers were injured, television said.

The typhoon forced four power plants to stop operations, cutting electricity to 1.4 million households, as the country celebrated the three-day Chusok (Thanksgiving) festival.

Prime Minister Goh Kun chaired an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss rescue operations. The government promised tax relief for affected individuals, companies and farms.



Vehicles float in a parking garage after typhoon Maemi lashed through Masan, about 430 km (267 miles) south of Seoul September 13. The powerful typhoon pounded the southern areas of South Korea over the Thanksgiving holidays, leaving at least 36 people dead or missing and forcing thousands to flee, authorities said on Saturday. REUTERS

"I can feel what it's like becoming a real beggar in one day and how that can happen," Lee Ok-ja, a housewife in Pusan, one of the hardest-hit cities, told reporters.

South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries Co, the world's largest shipbuilder, said the typhoon had damaged two vessels being built for the oil industry.

The incident involved a 200,000-tonne offshore storage facility being built for Exxon Mobile Corp, and a

37,000-tonne petrochemicals carrier being built by Hyundai Mipo Dockyard for a German company.

Typhoon Maemi was on Saturday night moving over the Sea of Japan, where it had weakened considerably, the meteorology department said. The country's capital, Seoul, was unaffected.

South Korea is often hit by typhoons at this time of year. Last September, Typhoon Rusa killed more than 100 people.

Peacekeepers roll up to Liberia's second city

BUCHANAN, Liberia, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Truck loads of Peacekeepers thundered through deserted Liberian villages haunted by unruly fighters on Saturday to deploy at the threshold of the anguished rebel-held second city of Buchanan.

A month after pariah leader Charles Taylor's flight into exile raised hopes of an end to nearly 14 years of mayhem, West African peacekeepers have this week started to fan out from the capital Monrovia into a land where gunmen hold sway.

The Ecomil force had tried to negotiate with the rebel faction known as Model to move into Buchanan and its port, but was refused permission to deploy further than a bridge some 12 km (7.5 miles) from the city itself.

"We are praying for them to come into town. The rebels are looting and harassing people. There is sporadic shooting," said Albert Samuel, a Methodist minister inside Buchanan.

"We won't feel safe until we see our Ecomil brothers in town." Aid workers say that inside the city are at least 30,000 refugees, who have had almost no outside help because humanitarian agencies are unsure of security. Buchanan is about 120 km (75 miles) southeast of Monrovia.

Malnutrition is a growing problem and cholera is spreading. The dumping of bodies in wells used for drinking water has added to the health risks in the once-thriving timber port.

Model rebels and the larger Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) faction have signed a peace deal with Taylor's chosen successors.

But sporadic skirmishing has continued between rebels and loyalist militias acting on murky orders.

The 550 troops from Nigeria, Benin and Togo drove down the road towards Buchanan through a shattered landscape on Saturday. Elsewhere, people have turned out to cheer them. Here, there were only a few civilians left to celebrate.

The frontline is unclear and loyalists are barely possible to tell from the rebels — mixing the same scraps of combat gear, sports clothes and uniquely Liberian touches like women's wigs.

Fighters on both sides danced and cheered as the peacekeepers moved through their makeshift checkpoints with a message that the war was over.

A U.N. force is due to arrive in coming months to carry out disarmament. A transition government will take office in one month to start work on reconstruction and preparing for elections in two years.

"Taylor got us into this mess and now he's left and gone, I'm tired of fighting. I don't want to be a soldier all my life," said Martin Chea, a fighter at the last loyalist checkpoint before the no man's land of tangled bush.

Pakistani foreign minister plans India visit

KATHMANDU/SRINAGAR, India, Sept 13 (Reuters) - Pakistan's foreign minister said on Saturday he would visit India next month but surging violence in disputed Kashmir cast fresh doubts on tentative peace moves between the South Asian rivals.

Khusheed Mehmood Kasuri said in the Nepali capital, Kathmandu, he planned to visit India to invite Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to a regional summit in Islamabad in January.

Ties between the nuclear-armed rivals, which nearly went to war for a fourth time last year, have improved

slightly in recent months but India has linked fresh talks to an end to attacks by Islamic rebels fighting Indian rule in Kashmir.

But police in Muslim-majority Kashmir said 28 people were killed on Saturday — the highest one-day casualty figure in two months.

Five Indian soldiers, 16 rebels, six civilians and a pro-India politician were killed and 25 people were wounded in various clashes across the Muslim-majority region, they said.

Kasuri is on a tour of south Asia to invite the region's leaders to a summit of the seven-member South Asian

Association for Regional Cooperation. Its last summit was postponed after India declined to go because of tension with Pakistan.

"I plan to go to the other three countries, and that would be some time in October," Kasuri told reporters, referring to India, Bhutan and the Maldives, which, together with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, make up the group.

"This time the indications are that the Indians will attend," Kasuri said.

Rebels Raid Camp

But hours before Kasuri spoke, four

Indian soldiers including an officer were killed and six wounded when suspected Muslim rebels stormed an army camp in Indian Kashmir, the second attack on an army camp in 10 days. Police said one militant was killed.

More than a dozen separatist rebel groups have been battling security forces in Indian Kashmir since 1989.

India accuses Muslim Pakistan of supporting the rebels. Pakistan says it only offers political and diplomatic support to what it calls a Kashmiri freedom struggle.

After teetering on the brink of war

last year, the neighbours have taken tentative steps to improve ties in recent months following a call for talks in April by Vajpayee.

They have restored full diplomatic links and resumed a cross-border bus service that was suspended in the wake of a bloody December 2001 raid on the Indian parliament that India blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

But after more than 50 people were killed in car bombings in Bombay last month, and a surge of violence in Kashmir, Vajpayee ruled out talks with Pakistan unless there was an end to attacks.

Apart from the attack on the army camp near the border with Pakistan, police said Indian soldiers killed 15 militants in separate clashes, including four trying to slip into Indian territory from Pakistani Kashmir.

Four civilians were killed including three in a bomb attack believed aimed at Indian troops.

One Indian soldier was killed in another clash and a former rebel who switched sides and became a prominent pro-India politician was killed with two associates in another rebel attack, police said.

Russia opposition parties launch election campaign

GENEVA, Sept 13 (Reuters) - The world's five most powerful countries emerged divided on Saturday after four hours of debate on Iraq's political future, but there was no replay of pre-war acrimony and they agreed to press on to find an agreement.

"Discussions today were not intended...to devise

specific solutions," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told reporters after the meeting of foreign ministers from Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States in Geneva.

"They will contribute to building consensus towards the future of Iraq, including the definition of the U.N. role."

With U.S.-led forces in Iraq taking casualties almost every day and the cost of its occupation mounting, Washington sees a new U.N. resolution it has drafted as a way to coax other countries to pitch in with cash and troops.

But it does not believe Iraqis can take power as quickly as European governments — especially France — are proposing.

France, which has insisted on a timetable for the handover of executive powers to Iraqis, made it clear that it wanted to avoid another transatlantic bust-up.

Asked if Paris would use its veto to block Washington's resolution, Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said: "We are here...to try and find solutions, not to create new problems."

On the ground in Iraq, opposition to the U.S. presence is growing. In Falluja, west of Baghdad, Iraqis chanted "America is the enemy of God" on Saturday as they began burying 10 police and security guards shot mistakenly by U.S. troops.

U.S. President George W. Bush, pressing his case for help from abroad, urged allies on Friday to join the effort to build a stable post-war Iraq and said free nations could not be neutral in the "fight between civilisation and chaos".

A British official in Geneva said that after the wrangling earlier this year over U.N. approval for the U.S.-led



British Foreign Minister Jack Straw (LTR), Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov pose for a group picture at the Palais des Nations in Geneva September 13. REUTERS

invasion of Iraq in March "we all knew where we were coming from", and so there were no heated exchanges at Saturday's meeting.

Echoes of Pre-War Drama

Nevertheless, the standoff between the Big Five powers — the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council with veto powers — had echoes of the pre-war drama, with Britain backing the U.S. stance and Russia and China taking a low-key position.

Villepin said ahead of the meeting that Paris wanted a U.N. resolution that hands executive powers over to Iraqis, possibly within a month, and provides for elections by next spring.

Washington says the French proposal is a recipe for chaos in Iraq, where the U.S.-backed Governing Council has little clout.

Powell — who later left Geneva on the way to Kuwait and Iraq — said the French proposal was "totally unrealistic" and the United States would reject it. "Of course, there are differences of opinion on certain aspects of our draft resolution," Powell told reporters.

"The important thing...is we spent our time today looking for points of convergence, and there are many,"

Powell said. "And we have gotten a better understanding of our views which we can communicate to our permanent representatives back in New York for them to pursue the work next week."

A British official quoted Foreign Secretary Jack Straw as saying that all five countries agreed on the need to transfer power to the Iraqi people and the need to ensure both security and good governance in the process.

"The issue is what are the steps and staging posts between where we are now and where we are going," Straw was quoted as saying.

Amendments put forward by France and Germany to the draft U.N. resolution would push U.S. occupation forces under diplomat Paul Bremer to the sidelines.

Europe's fiercest opponents of the war, they are now seeking to dilute the U.S. role, in part to prevent Washington reaping any long-term political and economic benefit from the invasion.

However, Powell told reporters on the way to Geneva that Americans would have to stay in charge until a new Iraqi army and police force take shape. "We are not going to second that (U.S.) force to anyone else," he said.

Cancun steels for protests as trade talks progress

CANCUN, Mexico, Sept 13 (Reuters) - World trade negotiators were making progress on Saturday in an attempt to bridge deep divisions between rich and poor nations and revive chances of sealing a global market-opening pact by the end of 2004.

As 2,000 anti-capitalism protesters marched toward the heavily guarded World Trade Organization meeting, ministers started to make concessions particularly on agriculture, which holds the key to the overall success of the talks.

"Our sense is that things are moving in the right direction in terms of an attitude favorable to negotiating," said U.S. Deputy Trade Representative Peter Allgeier.

"There was movement, in some cases significant movement," WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell said after Friday's sessions.

Protesters gathered in this Caribbean beach resort on Saturday and marched toward police lines around the hotel zone. Dozens were clearly ready for a fight, wheeling shopping trolleys and garbage cans filled with sticks and stones.

Inside the talks, ministers need to find enough common ground by Sunday to revive hopes of concluding a new trade pact that the World Bank says would add more than \$500 billion a year to global incomes by 2015.

Negotiators labored late into Friday night to produce a compromise text to be presented to ministers as a basis for a frenzied final spurt of bargaining.

"Obviously, the proof is when we see the text, how we all react to that. But our impression overall... is that countries do want to sit down and constructively negotiate a text," Allgeier said.

Agriculture is key because it is the livelihood of billions of people in developing countries, which are demanding that the United States and the European Union slash the huge subsidies they pay their farmers.

These handouts, the poorer nations say, limit their access to world markets and perpetuate poverty. Rich countries retort that they have already taken big

steps to reduce the politically sensitive subsidies.

An accord would provide only a broad framework to guide negotiators in their work at WTO headquarters in Geneva. No figures on subsidy or tariff cuts will come out of Cancun.

"There will be an accord, but it won't be an accord that defines commercial rules," said Brazilian Agriculture Minister Roberto Rodrigues.

Muscle flexing

Poor countries, which make up three-quarters of the WTO's 146 members, have flexed their muscles like never before at Cancun by forming a powerful new "Group of 21" that includes China, India and South Africa as well as Brazil.

But the response of rich states is that with a host of competing political concerns — U.S. presidential elections next year and the entry of 10 new members into the European Union — they have limited room for concessions and poor countries should not push their demands too far.

Cotton has emerged as a litmus test of the willingness of rich states to keep their promise that this round of trade talks would focus on improving the lot of developing nations.

In a gesture of goodwill, the EU unveiled a plan for WTO members to phase out their most trade-distorting forms of cotton support, including those to promote exports.

The move came in response to an impassioned plea by four west African states — Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad — for an end to massive subsidies, particularly in the United States, which they say are crippling their economies by depressing cotton prices and blocking export opportunities.

Other issues divide the meeting and could still block an overall accord in Cancun even if a deal is struck on farming.

The EU and Japan are pressing for guidelines on foreign investment and competition to be grafted onto world trade rules but they have found virtually no allies among poor nations.



A protester is surrounded by police as she tries to reach the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting venue in Cancun, September 12. A small group of protesters probed police lines as a diversion for a larger group of protesters to stage a protest outside the summit venue. REUTERS

استمتع كل يوم للجدد دون توقف... اتصل الآن!

بشرى ناشتر كي سبيستل

اتصل واتصل..
 منة الحوار الكوميدي مع فنان المونولوج كالحمد المطري...
 استمتع بأعلى وأخر الفكاهات اليمنية والعربية (مصرية، خليجية، شامية، ...)

مؤشرات المال العالمية..
 تيقك على اتصال مباشر مع حركة الأسواق العالمية للتعرف لحظة بلحظة على مؤشرات المال وتداول الأسهم وأسعار العملات والمعادن ..

جوال المسافر..
 تعرف على خطوط السفر ومواعيد رحلات الطيران للشركات الناقلة من وإلى مختلف مطارات الجمهورية...
 تعرف على آخر مستجدات رحلات الطيران ساعة بساعة ..

طرائف وفرائف..
 إثارة وممتعة.. ورحلة بين طرائف العرب وغرائب العالم...

خط الاستعلامات
 تعرف على جميع خدمات جوال فون وأرقامها...
 سجل ملاحظتك ومقترحاتك حول خدمات جوال فون..

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NATURAL JUICE

YT Business



Yemen Insurance market gains new ground

By RICHARD MOORE
SPECIAL TO YEMEN TIMES

MANAMA, Bahrain: Yemen's insurance sector continues to come under the global spotlight as the nation strengthens its industry objectives.

The Yemeni government established the Yemen Insurance Federation in 1998 as a prelude to its national action plan, according to Arab Insurance Group (ARIG) market analyst Hameed Al-Ammadi.

"Its aim was to unify the efforts for all local companies, to create an integration and expansion to retain local premiums, and to back legislation regulating the industry," he explained.

"The Federation also wanted to increase insurance awareness among member companies, as well as the market in general."

Mr. Al-Ammadi says the Federation has become active in most promoting most insurance lines, notably industrial, commercial, marine/air cargo and transport.

He says the Federation has achieved many of its goals due to the close co-operation of its members, but that there still is a lot of work ahead.

Mr. Al-Ammadi is no stranger to Yemen insurance market. He has been working with its Federation since its inception and he continues to provide positive forecast for the market.

"The Federation now wants to enhance insurance awareness among the public, which is now in the final stages of drafting a national advertising campaign with input from the insurance companies themselves," he explained.

"The Federation continues to organise meetings with Yemeni

insurance company executives to discuss different views and to solve common problems."

Mr. Al-Ammadi says it also conducts regular employee training programmes, which have helped to close procedural gaps and develop a unified processing system acceptable outside the country.

"Consequently, the Federation has become the focal point where insurance sector employees at all levels can discuss their issues and problems as they arise, and offer solutions accepted by all parties," he remarked.

Mr Al-Ammadi says Yemen's current tough market conditions resulted in creating new large pools buying out small and weaker companies that are unable to cope.

"For this reason, the Yemeni market is no different than other Arab markets where retentions have been imposed by international insurance companies compensating losses," he said.

Mr. Al-Ammadi says price hikes and conditions have hardened engineering, fire, transport, and even life covers.

He says the market will remain unchanged until retention levels increase and Yemeni companies are able to face risks.

Mr. Al-Ammadi is confident in Yemen's marine insurance market, citing the recent rate cut for shipping companies operating in the country.

Marine market underwriters led by Lloyd's syndicates charged 0.4% of hull value for a single call into a Yemeni port immediately after the attack on the Limburg late last year, compared to a rate prior to the attack of 0.025%.

But in June, Yemen announced it had deposited \$50 million at HSBC Bank in London to help pay for losses



Yemen General Insurance Co building

in the event of another terrorist incident, which led to underwriters resetting their rates to 0.0875% of hull value in the case of container ships and 0.15% of hull value in the case of tankers.

From August 12, these rates have fallen further to 0.075% of hull value for container ships and 0.1% of hull value for tankers, following the publication of a rather positive security report by Hudson Trident, a maritime security services specialist.

This gave underwriters an update on security provisions the Yemeni government was making, including improving coast guard response times and re-assessing how vessels that come into Yemeni ports were treated.

Apart from this and the \$50 million cushion, Mr. Al-Ammadi points out that the attack on the Limburg happened at the end of last year and indicated that the "market's view on war had softened to a certain

extent".

He says the authorities in Yemen are taking further steps to improve security, and that shipping companies may see another decrease.

The Limburg was valued at about \$70 million but it was a large vessel, and the chance of exhausting the \$50 million government ship surety was slim.

At the end of July, marine war underwriters led by Lloyd's announced they would cover vessels

operating in Yemen for hull and machinery losses up to a maximum of \$150 million each after the government agreed steps to tighten security.

They also agreed to offer professional indemnity insurance to cover ships' third-party liabilities, as well as crew personal-accident policies, in exchange for the government imposing higher security standards and commissioning the security review.

Budget deficit drops to YR 18 billion,

Low indicator on non-oil exports

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Final account indicators revealed that actual revenues of the State budget for the fiscal year 2002 amounted to YR 579 billion, 254 million and 726 thousand.

An official report explained that the total public expenditure reached YR 597 billion, 788 million and 382 thousand whereas indicators of non-oil export revenues are still low.

The report has considered that estimations of the increasing deficit of the budget has not been compatible with orientations of the financial and economic reform program, which aims at containing that deficit and keeping it within save boundaries throw developing external exports.

Despite that the budget deficit while

it is under preparation other being the year 2003 registered around YR 63 billion, in a progressive indicator reflecting low proposition of growth in the gross domestic product and non-improvement in non-oil exports in addition to weakness of imports and continuation of involution rate at a percentage ranging between 9 -11% according to the World Bank.

Official figures indicate that Yemen's non-oil exports have recorded slight growth during the past two years. According to these figures the value of agricultural exports amounted to 2.94%, fish 1.35%, Industry 1.10% steel scrap 1.35% and other exports at 0.14% out of the total value of exports in the past two years that where estimated at YR 19.151 billion of the total value of exports amounted to YR 377.782 billion in 2000. According to exporting indicators of non-oil products Yemen

exports 30.14% to Saudi Arabian, 23.38% to the Emirates, 5.94% to Somalia and 4.09% to Djibouti and also to Ethiopia, Egypt, Jordan, Eritrea, Sudan, America, France, Britain, China, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, India, Oman, Turkey, Kuwait and Germany.

The government is seriously considering decreasing the existing impediments before non-oil exports including direct export/import, without middleman between importers and exporters.

The Higher Council for developing exports is working at preparation of technical studies on external markets in a manner leading to improvement of agricultural and fish marketing services, and saving areas of transport at Yemeni ports.

The government has directed productive authorities, especially in the industrial sector on the necessity of

adopting the criteria implemented in the GCC countries regarding standardization and quality for offering a national industry attracting confidence of consumers at Gulf and Horn of Africa countries.

The Higher Council of development of Yemeni Exports has suggested certain points, including establishment of a bank for supporting exports and increasing Yemenis participation of foreign Trade Fairs for promoting to Yemeni products.

The Yemeni government is trying to getting rid of dependence on oil as a major source for supporting the budget, as the value of oil exports constitutes around 94.23% of total revenues of exports.

This urges Sana'a to develop its non-oil exports in order to obtain revenues from save sources to support the budget and put an end to financial deficit

\$137 million, volume of balance of trade, Yemen & Indonesia, serious steps towards partnership

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and Indonesia are endeavoring to enhance their economic and trade relations in the light of the results of the Indonesian vice president Dr Hamza Haz 's visit to Yemen. The Indonesian vice president was accompanied by a big delegation comprising large number of businessmen and investors. The visiting Indonesian delegation had closely got acquainted with investment opportunities in Yemen in vital fields.

Dr Haz visit to Yemen has given momentum to pushing bilateral relations in various areas in addition to the convening of the second forum of Yemeni and Indonesian businessmen. The forum discussed chances for establishment of partnership and cooperation between the two sides in economic and trade areas.

The Indonesian Charge d'Affaires to Sana'a Sumargo Ali Margono said the two countries had a joint willingness for consolidation of relations and expansion of cooperation fields in various aspects.

Economic and trade relations between Yemen and Indonesia have in the recent period witnessed remarkable growth in the volume of the exchange of trade between Jakarta and Sana'a. Figures indicate that the volume of trade exchange in the last year had risen to \$137 million compared to \$75 million in 2000.

The value of Indonesian exports to Yemen had in 2002 registered around \$82 million, that is a drop by 7.5% compared to 2001. On the other hand the value of Yemen exports to Indonesia in 2002 increased remarkable to amount to about \$55 million in comparison with the year 2001 the year 2001 that amounted to merely \$ one million.

Words of Wisdom



My country has great possibilities. That is how I always felt. And I am happy that a broad sector of young Yemenis agree with me. This country will work and can offer its people a good life. And as our system evolves, it will offer countries a good partner and a positive contributor in creating a peaceful and harmonious world.

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

OUR OPINION

Just for the sake of official media coverage

The conference organized by Yemen Times during 13-15 September in Yemen in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung has demonstrated an important fact to all.

When no one came to represent the government in the opening ceremony, due to emergency obligations, some thought the event could become less significant.

What I realized is that many people started talking in town about how the newspaper managed on its own to open the event with splendid attendance and excellent quality.

"If you had such a successful opening session without any representative of the government, why then invite some officials to inaugurate your activities in the future?" said one of the guests to the conference. He suggested that any official or representative of the government will add little to the success of this great activity.

When thinking about it for a moment I thought about the reasons why we in the Arab world tend to invite officials all the time to inaugurate or open our activities. Is it a habit, or is it show loyalty?

The conclusion I arrived to was so simple, "To get coverage in the media." Yes indeed, all official media organizations in the country and in many other Arab countries would not cover an event no matter how important it is unless it is being organized under the auspices of an official or attended by an official.

This is exactly the problem we suffer from in the Arab world when we talk about freeing the media. Imagining a massive international conference held by a local NGO or a network of NGOs in Sana'a without the auspices of any official. The news item about this huge event may never find its way on the front page of the official daily, it may be thrown in any of the inside pages, if mentioned at all. On the other hand, insignificant news about congratulatory letters from heads of state may be on top of the front page.

Our problem in the Arab world is that our official media is living far behind most of the world. They are on the same tone set up tens of years ago. They continue to broadcast their TV news in the same fashion with priority given to what heads of states do and what they don't, leaving behind all the other more significant news items.

Until when will our official media stay behind? Why can't the official media see where the world is going and cope with the global changes around them?

I certainly believe that this phenomenon is temporary and will fade away sooner or later. Signs are already coming. Looking at the ratings of Arab satellite TV channels, we can clearly see that official channels receive the lowest ratings of all, and their ratings are even going down deeper. Even officials that I know have many times admitted that their official channel it is the least channel they would like to watch.

Slowly the same thing will take place in the printed press. Time will come when independent or opposition newspapers emerge to become more powerful and can carry out greater activities compared to the local press.

It is already happening in Yemen. Looking at the number of readers of Al-Ayyam daily and comparing it to official newspapers, one would understand that the readership of Al-Ayyam is in increase while that of official newspapers is decreasing.

The threat will be even more evident when such independent newspapers prosper and grow to compete even more, then readership-wise, it would not be as important to have news items of the inauguration of a certain official on official media because not many would be interested.

I am sure time will prove how right my opinion is, and then, believe me, not many people will go around running after patronage of our officials.

The Editor



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First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdalaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Remembering of September 11 terror attacks:
Yemen rejects & falls prey to terrorism



BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of International changes took place on the political and military map of the world since the events of 11 September 2001, after which American had announced its embarkment on a long-term war on terror. That war began with Afghanistan and was with the invasion of Iraq under the pretext of ousting Iraq's president Saddam Hussein and destroying Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction. And according to the latest statements by American officials Iraq is being described as a battlefield in the war against terror.

Undoubtedly, the current US-led war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq had been preceded by some Arab countries in the fight against those terrorist elements, as that happened with Yemen and then the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. But, when will the anti-terror war come to an end?

On remembering the anniversary of the 2nd anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, the question here is "What has Yemen achieved in its war against terrorism?"

Has Yemen fallen a prey to terrorism? Has it declared an anti-terror war after the events of the September 11 or were those events a help in that war and took it out of the impasse it had fallen in specifically since the explosion of the USS Cole destroyer on October 12, 2000?

Has also the US-led anti-terror war had its reflections on relations and cooperation with Yemen?

It is commonly known that Yemen has become a key target of terror groups when they considered it a safe haven for them for carrying out terror operations against Western interests. Political observers see that the terror incidents in which a number of Western tourists were killed in Abyan in December 1998 were the beginning of Yemen's dilemma with those terrorist groups. Those incidents and those before in Aden and later had forced Yemen to engage in a war against terror with various means.

During all those long years, Yemen's economy and its foreign relations have been negatively affected by terror acts perpetrated by terror groups here in Yemen.

In 1996, a female foreign tourist was shot dead in Sana'a.

Yemen was then haunted with doubts that it had become a key target by those elements and under a western patronage, and that had been revealed clearly in the official information address at that time.

The president's speech on June 27, is a clear testimony of his strong determination. An emphasis was given by him on Yemen's policy to uproot terrorism in all its forms. It is an anti-terror war as well as plucking out its roots. "Yemen has been greatly affected by the September 11 attacks. We at that time alone have done our best to fight terrorism. Following the September 11 attacks, a cooperation with the US and EU was made to fight terrorism" the president said.

Yemen's anti-terror war before Sep.11.

Following the incidents that were committed by the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army at the end of 1998, Yemen, adopted strict military measures against that group. It had taken precautionary measures for fear that it might encounter revenge acts.

As a result foreigners as well as Arab returnees were deported. Latest statistics indicate that around 14,000 people have been deported by Yemen.

Some political observers see that Yemen's policy in its anti-terror war stems from its fear of being a key target of terror acts by those groups who have been financed by some countries.

The Yemen's seriousness to execute death against Abu Hassan Al-Mehdhar is a strong confirmation of its seriousness on anti-terror war policy.

Letters to the Editor

A question to the government of Yemen

I would like to ask the government of Yemen one single question: "Please tell us, when there will be genuine change in our country?" I am asking this question because we as Yemenis abroad - and definitely Yemenis in the country - are tired of the same miseries and people in the country. We like to see some change for the better! Is this day ever going to come?

Mohamed Algaithi
qtpie52191@yahoo.com

On the Najaf attack

The attack on the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf is a hideous act. There are fingers pointing towards Saddam loyalists, foreign mercenaries and even the Sunni Muslims. But when the matter is analyzed, one would wonder who would benefit from such an attack. The Americans - by creating a rift between Shiite and Sunni Muslims in the country - would be able to have a stranglehold over Iraq. Moreover, the target in this attack was the SCIRI leader Ayatollah Mohammed Hakim Al-Bakir, the Iranian backed spiritual leader. Everyone knows about the rift prevailing between Tehran and Washington. The SCIRI leader's presence would bring Iranian influence in Iraq which would not be beneficial to the Americans.

There is one other thing I ponder about. Let's say the Americans are not behind this attack. Then, how come the group which carried out this bombing managed to kill over a hundred people and manage to kill no - or a few - Americans?

Shabbir Khambaty
shabbu_30@sify.com

Waiting for things to get better in Yemen

I have many dreams of going back home and practicing medicine there to help my people whom I had promised to serve them when I left Yemen 20 years ago after high school. I am dreaming of saving money to open my own hospital not for profit but to help those who have no money to travel to other countries for medical reasons. I visited Yemen last year and have noticed many changes. I was very interested in the health-care system. I visited Sana'a University and many hospitals in Sana'a with my friend Dr. Khaled Jaghman. I was not happy with what I saw. I was

discouraged by many Doctors not to go back to Yemen and waste my future there. My heart was broken when I saw many neglected patients in their hospital beds. I was also devastated by the situation of doctors also. I have decided to stay in my new city New York, USA and practice medicine here until things get better - if they will ever get better - in my native country.

Dr. Ali Obali
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About answers to Al-Haifi's and 'tribesmen fed up'

Answers to Al-Haifi let me clear some facts:

1. Such acts are crimes and the persons who did them must be punished.
2. The reasons of the acts and backgrounds are different.
3. The goal of the acts is different

On point one, there can be no discussion. On point two and three: The Yemeni persons, who did this crime acts, was in a helpless situation, they achieved an impasse. Individual and family problems as soon as they are satisfied of "no hope of justice", they fell into the vicious circle. The goal of such acts is to break through this vicious circle. The acts could be prevented, if rational person were there and let them speaking about their problems. But nobody was there. They ran amok, they are amok persons.

Now coming to Bernstein's acts in Palestine due to points two and three: Bernstein was not in a helpless situation and did not achieve an impasse, he was in might position and has the fully right and justice on his side as an Israeli citizen. He did not fall into a vicious circle. He did his act with fully conviction and fanaticism. His goal was to kill Muslims and terrorize. He is a terrorist. Bernstein was full of hate and soulless. He did not regret his act until this day.

I hope that the difference is now shown. Partiality and hypocrisy are ab.

As for my comments on the 'tribesmen fed up' editorial, I want to say that I can only say this article has hit the core of the problem and express "the wisdom of the Yemeni people". Why not, the prophet Mohammed (SAS) said that less than 1400-year ago. Please let me use this word, the Yemeni has the best nose for justice. The Yemeni is proudly with sympathetic, strong with

Letters to the Editor

justice, can give and receive. Give him the chance to build up an existence, give him the chance to work for a better future, gave him the chance to bear responsibility, give him the justice and he can make the impossible possible. The German people, who visited Yemen or worked in Yemen, say to me always that the Yemeni people have the spirit of enterprise and creativity and that are the fundament of a better future and in addition they say, we were at the beginning so like the Yemeni people without any resources and we got the success"

G.S. Abdullah, Germany
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About your 'early marriage' article

As an American woman who converted to Islam in Yemen (alhamdulillah), I find the article published recently in your newspaper about early marriage to be based on good intentions but have many inaccuracies. I realize in Yemen that many women do marry at the ages of 12, 13, etc. with examples from my husband's (who is Yemeni) own family. However the problem is not as much the fact that these women may have children at a young age as the fact that they do not have access to good, healthy food; and care by a doctor (prenatal care) during their pregnancy (as the author stated). Even here in the US prenatal care during a woman's pregnancy can make a big difference in outcomes. However if we follow Islam which says that the woman, in general, is in a state of nifas for 40 days and if she exclusively breastfeeds (i.e.: no other solid foods or other liquids) her chance of becoming pregnant before six months is only 2% according to medical studies and the continued breastfeeding and also continues to provide protection against pregnancy though at a reduced rate. The problems in Yemen do not stem from over-population (as the West would like to have you believe) or from early marriage.

The problems in Yemen stem from a society that has many people who are ignorant, many people who are addicted to Qat, and corruption at high levels, etc. If the land and water used for irrigating Qat were used for good foods and wisely many problems with people having enough to eat would disappear. I do agree that many of the men do need

to be more sensitive to their wife's needs, but this is less of an issue it seems to me as many men seem to treat their wives well. However, I did not spend a lot of time in the villages so I cannot speak for there, and Allah (swt) knows best. The answer as always is to follow Islam correctly to the best of our ability with the help of Allah (swt).

Sr. Zainab
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Protest public school tuitions

It is really true that in Yemen the basic education is not totally free of charge? I'm shocked if this is the case. I think that in most countries of the world public education is totally free because it's for the good of the country in every way if as many people as possible are educated. As a mother of 4 kids enrolled in public school in Saudi Arabia, I find that it's so difficult and costly just to provide all of the folders, pencils, pens, backpacks, art supplies, etc. that the school demands. I cannot imagine paying for tuition as well, especially if one has a large family.

We all can find a way to get school supplies, at least the minimal amount, but as for tuition for several kids for a poor family it would be impossible. I wonder if the Yemeni people can make a protest against this unfair practice of charging for public school in the form of a peaceful demonstration, getting media coverage on a national level. If that doesn't work, then they need to appeal to richer Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia for donations. People here in Saudi Arabia are always happy to give money for a good cause such as for Palestinian, Iraqi and Afghani brothers and sisters. Perhaps the Yemeni folks working in Gulf countries ought to spread the word that help in this area is needed so more Yemeni kids can have their right to go to school and live up to their fullest potential. At the very least, the educated Yemeni population should try to offer assistance to a neighbor in the form of paying tuition for one kid, or tutor the child for free so they can at least read and write and do basic math. I think that this would be a great thing for all Muslims to do, i.e., to lend a hand in helping our Muslim kids are educated.

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COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Who is the real obstacle to peace in the Holy Land?

Thomas L. Friedman wrote in the *New York Times* of September 10, 2003: "... message to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon: Palestinians are not leaving either, and your iron fist will not make them accept Israeli settlements or a truncated Palestinian state. If you think Oslo was a failure, look at your alternative (Italics by CS). In three years, some 850 Israelis have been killed under your strategy. Yours and Hamas's are two failed strategies that add up to a human meat grinder. You want Israelis to believe they have no other choice, but they do. It is to use Israel's amazing inner strength to take a different set of Israeli actions, like really uprooting settlements, to stimulate a different set of Palestinian reactions, like controlling suicide bombers".

Thus, Ariel Sharon and his security cabinet were not fooling anyone by their callous decision to avail themselves with the discretion of "getting rid of Yasser Arafat" as the obstacle to peace, etc. The continuous stalling and maneuvering by the Israeli Government are not new to anyone familiar with the developments in the region over the past half century and surely this decision is just one of the many steps that the Israelis have taken to make sure that the "Roadmap" to peace, like the other peace initiatives before that, is never allowed to take off.

In this context, one must bear in mind that the truth of the matter is that Ariel Sharon threw out any hopes for peace and actually erased all the progress that was engineered by the Clinton Administration over eight long years of genuine peace-keeping efforts with one stroke of his chauvinistic arrogance even before rising to the premiership of the Israeli Government some three years ago. The world has not forgotten the famous Sharon controversial and provocative walk accompanied by thousands of heavily armed Israeli security guards through the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, before becoming Prime Minister, just to spearhead the alternative he had in mind for the Israeli Government to pursue from then on. That walk was a clear act of intransigence aimed at fueling Palestinian (as well as Arab and Moslem) anger and a clear signal that the Israeli Government had an agenda to fulfill, for which peace was to be shoved aside "for awhile" until the Palestinians will simply have nothing to look forward to in any future relationship with the occupiers of their land. That walk was the trigger for the ongoing violence that was to ensue henceforth, which the Palestinians originally began by mild mostly peaceful protests, which were then met by a stranglehold occupation that was unleashed with all the war machinery at the disposal of the "Israeli Defense Forces" against rock throwing demonstrators. In the wake of severe military reprisals against an unarmed population trying to save themselves from extinction. In the meantime, the Israeli provocations of settlement building and further encroachments into Moslem and Christian holy sites and places of worship were unabashedly carried out, thus fueling more anger amongst the Palestinians. Some of this anger began to translate into the most extreme measures of resistance against the weakest points that could be found, simply because there was no other recourse, with the Israeli Army strangling them at every corner.

One must bear in mind that the Israeli losses of 850 lives (the number may be exaggerated significantly) still represent less than 1/4 of the Palestinian lives that were lost, most of whom are unarmed civilians and a third of whom are children, not to mention the many times that number who were wounded and detained. One only has to refer to the human rights reports on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza to get an idea of some of the horrific conditions faced by the Palestinians by the ugliest form of occupation of modern times. No one should be fooled into believing that this illegal occupation is merely a security measure "to protect Israelis", especially when bearing in mind that most of the protest activities were taking place in the areas where the Palestinians were living. The suicide bombings only commenced months after it was apparent that Ariel Sharon and his thugs were actually carrying out a systematic effort to make life as miserable as it can be made for the Palestinians. The protection of Israeli citizens did not have to involve the destruction of the entire administrative and institutional infrastructure, which literally was intended to paralyze the Palestine Authority, and thus render ridiculous any claims that the Palestinians were not doing anything to secure their "extremists". To put it bluntly, how could they?

A question that arises from this ridiculous assertion by the Israelis is, if the Israeli Army with all its mechanized and institutional might was unable to guarantee the security the Israelis were supposedly seeking, how should Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Authority, with their hands literally tied behind their back do so accordingly? What Sharon was really doing was not securing Israelis, but in fact creating the bedrock for a climate of violence, through which he can carry out the continued annihilation of any hope for any Palestinian state of viable standing. What must be borne in mind is that the Palestinians have already lost so much and have accepted this loss graciously by accepting to live side by side with an Israeli state, which was created at their expense and with great suffering. Yet, in the arrogant chauvinism that drives extreme right wingers in Israel, such as Ariel Sharon, there is no intention or desire for any Palestine state of any kind. Otherwise, why throw out all the previous progress made, in which the Palestinians were already the recipients of the short end of the stick anyway?

Notwithstanding the provocative decision of the Israeli Government, it was clear that Yasser Arafat, truly has more going for him than the Israelis (and the Bush Administration) care to admit. The Palestinians understandably were not about to let Ariel Sharon easily brush off their only symbolic figurehead, not so much because there are no other Palestinians to take his place. On the contrary, Yasser Arafat has come to represent the persistent Palestinian struggle to save as much as possible of their identity, which has been so much eroded by the continued unjustified and illegal occupation. Yasser Arafat, after all did set the foundations for this identity and has truly sacrificed so much to keep it alive, despite the ugly Zionist machine that is at work to destroy it before it has a chance to be set firmly in place. Maybe it is time for the Israelis to start looking for a more rational alternative to Ariel Sharon - for sure, the real obstacle to peace in the Holy Land and a condemned murderer by his own people!

Bush reinvents Iraq

BY JOHN M. CURTIS
JORDAN TIMES

Addressing a national TV audience, President George W. Bush tried to stem growing criticism over his Iraq policy, leading to a steady erosion in his approval ratings, now hovering around 50 per cent. Bush told the nation that Iraq was now the "central front" in the war on terrorism, promising to seek better international support to help pay a whopping \$87 billion price tag, estimated for the next fiscal year.

"We will do what is necessary, and we will spend what is necessary to achieve this essential victory in the war on terror, to promote freedom, and to make our own nation more secure," said Bush, signalling, in no uncertain terms, that there is no exit strategy in sight. By placing Iraq on the frontlines in the war on terrorism, Bush once again justifies the mission based on national security. Though Congress is expected to grant Bush's request, Iraq will surely become a pivotal issue in the 2004 elections.

Last fall, the White House waged a fierce public relations battle, insist-

ing that Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction threatened US national security, culminating in Secretary of State Colin A. Powell's powerful Feb. 6 multimedia speech to the UN Security Council, giving the UN didn't bite, the White House embarked on a new "preemptive" strategy, justifying war on the basis of perceived threats to national security.

Discounting the work of Dr Hans Blix and his team of UN weapons inspectors, the US waged war on Iraq March 20 for the expressed purpose of ridding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Baghdad fell on April 9, but the US forces found no weapons of mass destruction, despite insisting that Iraq represents a threat to US national security. Since the end of formal combat operations on May 1, the mission has now changed.

Bush's speech switched gears, announcing that "Iraq's reconstruction" — not Saddam's disarmament — was the current mission, prompting his request for an additional \$87 billion. But beyond the cash, the president is asking American troops — and indeed the international com-

munity — to sacrifice lives for Iraq's reconstruction. "We are rolling back the terrorist threat to civilisation, now on the fringes of its influence, but at the heart of its power," declared Bush four days before the second anniversary of Sept. 11, pointing his finger at Saddam Hussein — not Osama Ben Laden — for terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon. Ben Laden, not Saddam Hussein, was responsible Sept. 11, but he and his key henchmen remain fugitives in the no-man's-land between Afghanistan and Pakistan, not, as Bush suggests, in Iraq.

Seeking a new UN resolution for international help in Iraq, Bush hopes to add multinational forces and defray astronomical costs. Yet, opponents to the war, especially France, Germany and Russia, have serious reservations about committing troops and money without the US ceding control to the UN.

Only two weeks ago, terrorists blew up the UN headquarters, killing 20, including the brilliant 55-year-old Brazilian UN chief Sergio Vieira de Mello — a tragic loss to the world body. "Terrorists in Iraq have attacked representatives of the civilised world, and opposing them must be the cause of the civilised world," said Bush, encouraging the UN to join the US' battle with Al Qaeda and other foreign terrorists now sabotaging Iraq. But unlike the US, the UN didn't wage war on Iraq encouraging Islamic radicals to now make Iraq their new cause celebre

SKETCHED OPINION



BY SAMER A.

against the West.

Like the Russians in Chechnya, the US finds itself battling Islamists seeking to expel the US and other foreign forces. Now equated with the US, the UN has become a target of Islamic radicals, creating problems for all foreign troops or personnel engaged in peacekeeping. Now magnet for terrorists since the fall of Baghdad, Bush identifies Iraq as the "central front" for the war on terror. Before Operation Iraqi Freedom, US and foreign intelligence speculated that Saddam was building A-bombs and biological and chemical weapons. Since the war ended, those same agencies — including the International Atomic Energy Agency

— now point to Iran and North Korea as feverishly pursuing atomic weapons. With no WMD found and Iraq no longer a threat, White House calls Iraq its "central front" in the war on terror, apparently due to the presence of foreign terrorists.

Bush insists that the current US strategy involves "destroying the terrorists, enlisting the support of other nations for a free Iraq and helping Iraqis assume responsibility for their own defence and their own future".

"Winning the peace in Iraq is essential to winning the war on terrorism," said House Majority Leader Tom Delay (R-Texas), reinforcing the idea that Iraq is indeed the "central front" in the war on terrorism.

Without finding WMD, the White House changed the mission to "democratising" Iraq by picking leaders friendly to the US. By committing the US to "finish the job," Bush has given Iraq a blank cheque and endangered US forces, currently sitting ducks in a bitter guerrilla war. Before going to war, no one talked about "liberating" Iraq — only disarmament. Battling terrorists in Iraq won't contain Iran, North Korea or a global menace like Osama Ben Laden busy plotting his next attack.

The writer is editor of OnlineColumnist.com and author of 'Dodging the Bullet' and 'Operation Charisma'.

The ugly exploitation of Sept. 11

BY PAUL KRUGMAN
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

In my first column after the Sept. 11 attacks, I mentioned something that everyone with contacts on Capitol Hill already knew: That just days after the event, the exploitation of the atrocity for partisan political gain had already begun.

In response, I received a torrent of outraged mail. At a time when the United States was shocked and terrified, the thought that America's leaders might be that cynical was too much to bear. "How can I say that to my young son?" asked one furious e-mailer.

I wonder what that correspondent thinks now. Is the American public — and the news media — finally prepared to cry foul when cynicism comes wrapped in the flag? America's political future may rest on the answer.

The press has become a lot less shy about pointing out the Bush administration's exploitation of Sept. 11, partly because that exploitation has become so crushingly obvious. As The Washington Post pointed out on Thursday, in the past six weeks President George W. Bush has invoked Sept. 11 not just to defend Iraq policy and argue for oil drilling in the Arctic, but in response to questions about tax cuts, unemployment, budget deficits and even campaign finance. Meanwhile, the crudity of the administration's recent propaganda efforts, from dressing the president up in a flight suit to orchestrating the ludicrously glamorized television movie about Bush on Sept. 11, have set even supporters' teeth on edge.

Yet it's almost certainly wrong to think that the political exploitation of Sept. 11 and, more broadly, the Bush administration's campaign to label critics as unpatriotic, are past their peak. It may be harder for the administration to wrap itself in the flag, but it has more incentive to do so now than ever before. Where once the administration was motivated by greed, now it's driven by fear.

In the first months after Sept. 11, the administration's ruthless exploitation of the atrocity was a choice, not a necessity. The natural instinct of Americans to rally around their

leader in times of crisis had pushed Bush into the polling stratosphere, and his re-election seemed secure. He could have governed as the uniter he claimed to be, and would probably still be wildly popular.

But Bush's advisers were greedy; they saw Sept. 11 as an opportunity to get everything they wanted, from another round of tax cuts, to a major weakening of the Clean Air Act, to an invasion of Iraq. And so they wrapped as much as they could in the flag.

Now it has all gone wrong. The deficit is about to go above half a trillion dollars, the economy is still losing jobs, the triumph in Iraq has turned to dust and ashes, and Bush's poll numbers are at or below their pre-Sept. 11 levels.

Nor can the members of this administration simply lose like gentlemen. For one thing, that's not how they operate. Furthermore, everything suggests that there are major scandals — involving energy policy, environmental policy, Iraq contracts and cooked intelligence — that would burst into the light of day if the current management lost its grip on power. So these people must win, at any cost.

The result, clearly, will be an ugly, bitter campaign — probably the nastiest of modern American history. Four months ago it seemed that the 2004 campaign would be all slow-mo films of Bush in his flight suit. But at this point, it's likely to be pictures of Howard Dean or Wesley Clark that morph into Saddam Hussein. And Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has already rolled out the stab-in-the-back argument: If you criticize the administration, you're lending aid and comfort to the enemy.

This political ugliness will take its toll on policy, too. The administration's infallibility complex — its inability to admit ever making a mistake — will get even worse. And I disagree with those who think the administration can claim infallibility even while practicing policy flexibility: On major issues, like taxes or Iraq, any sensible policy would too obviously be an implicit admission that previous policies had failed. In other words, if you thought the last two years were bad, just wait: It's about to get worse. A lot worse.

Palpable and should be recognized

Democracy trends

BY ADIB F. FARHA
THE DAILY STAR

Despite claims to the contrary and the Zionist-inspired mudslinging regarding the absence of democracy in Arab countries, the general trend in most Arab countries reveals a slow but consistent progress toward more freedom and a steady change toward democracy. The fact that this trend is concomitant with American pressure for the same is not something about which to be apologetic. By the same token, it is difficult to objectively assess whether this budding trend would have emerged naturally, even without an external factor prodding these countries to adopt democratic practices. Nevertheless, the transformation witnessed in more than one Arab regime from a one-party rule to a more pluralistic political structure, or from an absolute monarchy to a consultative system are commendable and warrant encouragement.

Regrettably, while these regimes work earnestly to modify their systems of governance against strong inertia and significant resistance to such conversions from beneficiaries of the existing modus operandi, the US appears to be hounding the decision-makers in those countries for "lack of democracy." This places the latter between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, they face potentially destabilizing resistance from the old guard and cronies of the old system who accuse them of bowing to Western pressures and who might not hesitate to undermine those decision-makers under one pretense or another to protect their privileges. On the other hand, the US fails to acknowledge the ongoing changes and continues to pressure them and raise the ante. Observers often wonder whether the escalating pressure is out of naivete that fails to recognize the underlying risks involved in sudden change, or whether it is simply an excuse to

keep these regimes in the "dog house" as a pretext for punitive measures to serve other purposes. Others yet wonder if all the talk about lack of democracy is not intended to continue to present Israel as "the only democracy in the region," as Israel and its supporters claim.

It is indeed odd that Israel, a professed theocracy, is touted as "the only democracy in the region" while countries such as Saudi Arabia are criticized for adopting Islamic Sharia as its constitution. While any Jew born anywhere in the world is eligible for Israeli citizenship under Israel's "right of return" policy, Palestinians who were thrown out of their homes are denied their own right of return. Moreover, Israeli Arabs are second-class citizens in Israel. Yet the West unabashedly continues to refer to Israel as a democracy.

Admittedly, Saudi Arabia remains a monarchy. However, it would be unfair not to recognize the steady progress toward a more orthodox practice of shura (consultation), which is an Islamic embryonic version of democracy that is age-old but that had been voided of its content over time. A center has recently been announced by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah to promote wider dialogue while existing consultative councils are gaining more say in the affairs of the state. Additionally, Saudi Arabia has liberalized its economy to allow a wider share for the private sector and has abolished the system of "sponsorship" of foreign enterprises, which had ensured that an elite group made considerable commissions from this quaint system without any significant effort. Of course, the Saudi public does not enjoy suffrage and government officials continue to be appointed by royal decrees. Nevertheless, do proponents of an overnight change from an absolute monarchy into a full-fledged democracy truly think that the Saudi population is ready for it yet? While the US and its press refer to

Wahhabism, the state religion, as the most dangerous form of fundamentalism and have all but waged war against it, do these same critics believe that if Western-style democratic practices were to be implemented overnight, they would produce a "more friendly regime" and one that would "promote world peace?" Wouldn't the West reject the outcome just as it snubbed the results of the most recent elections in Algeria, where the Islamists won and the government, under Western pressure, annulled the results? Syria is another case in point. It is criticized for "lack of democracy" and US pressure for internal change continues to escalate. Here again, there is no denying that Syria has been under a one-party rule, which allowed only a token representation of "other" parties. Nonetheless, its ambitious, Western-trained, and progressive young president has recently introduced significant changes toward more democratic practices that the US fails to recognize.

Syria has made noteworthy changes in its economic, educational, and political systems in the past few months. On the economic front, remarkable measures have been announced such as allowing foreign banks to operate in Syria for the first time in more than three decades. It is also making an earnest effort to qualify for membership in the Euro-Med Partnership and, thereafter, in the World Trade Organization. This entails major modifications in the social, political, and economic systems and noteworthy adaptation toward market economies and liberal policies. To the question, "Are these changes enough?" the answer is an unqualified "no." But an equally timely question would be, "can the present regime effect change at a much faster pace without counterproductive results?" The answer to the latter question is also an unequivocal "no." Of course, this positive trend should proceed and escalate. But caution is warranted to avoid the pitfalls in which other

countries that moved too suddenly from centralized economies to market economies fell. On the educational front, the decision a few months ago to change school uniforms from the former military-inspired khaki colored uniform to more pleasant colors is hardly insignificant. It was a harbinger of more significant noteworthy changes and a forerunner to several planned steps to improve the educational system. Since then, Syria has licensed the opening of the first three private universities.

On the political front, Syrian President Bashar Assad has recently decreed that members of the ruling Baath Party will no longer be allowed to monopolize government positions. He has already assigned several non-Baath Party members with wide international experience in major Cabinet posts. The forward-thinking minister of national economy Dr. Ghassan Rifai, a former World Bank senior executive who lived in the West for many years, is a prime example. Additionally, the distribution of pro-democracy petitions, which once earned signatories a near-permanent residence in one of Syria's jails, are now allowed by the state and even get published in state-owned newspapers. These landmarks should not be underestimated. The trend toward democratic practices in all aspects of life is tangible in the Arab world today. It remains short of the lofty goal of full-fledged democracy, for practical reasons and not for lack of good intentions. This trend should be encouraged and rewarded. Moreover, the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict has been a convenient pretext for Arab regimes to strengthen their stranglehold on their constituencies and to oppress freedoms in the name of thwarting "external threats." Besides ending decades of bloodshed that has derailed social and economic development in the region, a rapid resolution of this chronic conflict would eliminate this excuse and help promote the cause of democracy.

Tourism in Yemen:

Tourism promotion needed



BY HASSAN AL-ZAEDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Many countries hold tourism industry as a main source for national economy.

In Yemen which possesses many beauties and tourist attractions tourism industry has gone through ups and downs.

Damage to tourism and national economy has taken many forms.

The biggest damage resulted from the murder of some tourists in December 1998 in Abyan. This incident and other incidents helped slow development of tourism in our country.

Yemen is gifted with diverse natural resources, which make it the magnet for tourists and visitors.

Yemen also possesses a rich historical heritage, natural biodiversity and diverse climate.

In Yemen, you can find the tourism of desert, sea, and the volcanic water hot springs which make Yemen as one of the most significant destinations for tourists.

But during the last few years, tourism and tourist facilities have been greatly affected and the flow of tourists has been greatly reduced due to terror acts.

This includes killing of a number of tourists in Yemen by the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army during the end of 1997.

The global crisis represented by the September 11 in the US and the war

launched against terror and organizations, which support terrorism, are other motives behind the deterioration of tourism in Yemen. Some of the Western countries have warned their citizens against traveling to some countries specifically Yemen.

But tourism bodies don't do anything with regard to exploring alternatives to attract the Gulf countries tourists instead of westerners.

Yemen will be the best place for tourism if tourist potentials have been greatly promoted. We have met some of those Gulf citizens tourists and talked about the tourist potentials and their promising future. We have found out that there are certain demands and needs they have in mind and there are many issues the concerned authorities have to tackle for tempting Arab tourism which is lacking propagation. Millions of US dollars are spent in the western countries and of no avail.

Naser Mohammed, from Saudi Arabia said:

"I have visited Yemen three times. We want to visit the whole of Yemen. But time doesn't permit. During a three-day time, I have visited Sana'a, Yareem, Dhamar, Taiz and now Ibb." We have enjoyed the attractive scenes of nature and mildness of the weather, unlike that in Saudi Arabia," he said.

We are provided with useful information about the most significant regions from our friends here in Yemen or from information gathered during our journey to a number of places in the republic.

Hussein Mohammed, Saudi Arabia, Najran, said that Yemen is gifted with

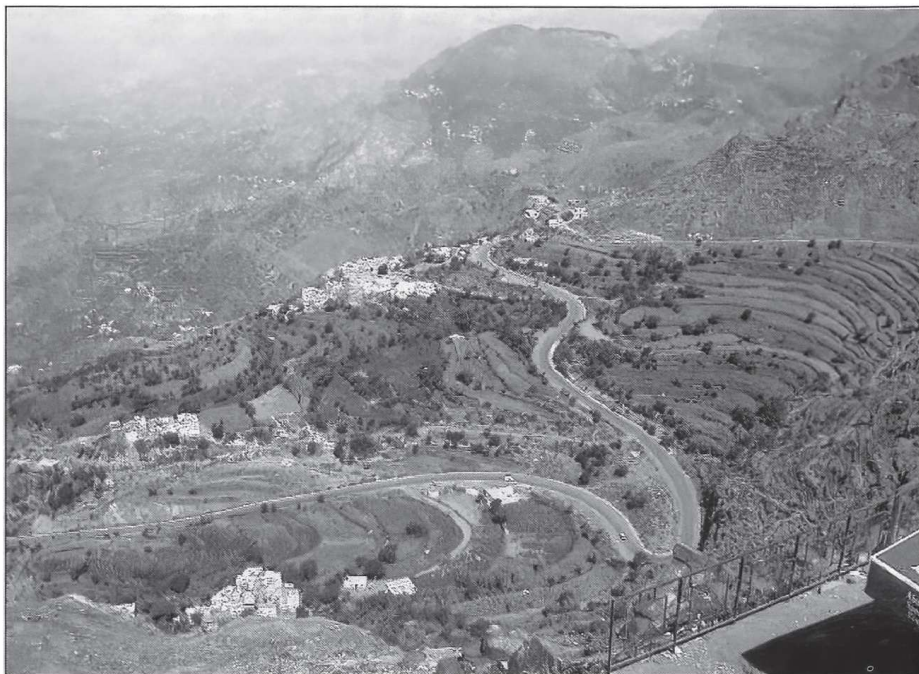
a number of natural constituents, which make Arab tourists hanker to revisit it. "But it has been still lacking of some significant factors which should be provided for tourists and visitors," Mr. Hussein said.

A large number of tourists along with their families and cars come to Yemen. What is needed is for instance to expand highways, which link the Yemeni cities together. An interest should be paid with regard to establishing health resorts. Clean-up campaigns have to be continued. "We have faced so many difficulties when driving our car. We have visited a number of Yemeni cities and found that some of those streets are filled with water during the rainfall," he remarked. "There aren't also health tourist resorts along roads where a visitor or tourist can enjoy the beauty of nature. "There are of course some rest houses and parks, but they are not fully equipped. There some tourist attractions which are of great strategic importance, but they are in need of repair and attention," Mr. Hussein said.

Arab tourists, particularly from the Gulf states, do not any longer have great fear concerning security issues that were propagated about Yemen and that is due to their realization of the actual reality in Yemen and the Yemeni citizen who carries arms.

The removal of such fear from minds of many Arab tourists doesn't mean that all hindrances are removed.

Some Arab tourists mentioned some of these hindrances, for instance the Saudi tourist's Hussein says: "One of the hindrances is that the Yemeni



Natural landscape-Ibb

security bodies at the border inlets set a condition on the necessity of leaving our passports with them. This of course would restrict our movement and in case we wish to leave the country we have to return to the same border inlet through which we enter despite the existence of many other inlets between Yemen and the Saudi

Arabia. He says we wish this question would be solved.

He added that concerning security aspects the country is safe and its people are good and hospitable.

This is a reflection of the distinguished relation between the people, he added.

He concluded by saying that he has

visited many Arab and western countries as a tourist but in fact, Yemen, with its natural landscapes and climate diversity is more entertaining than many of the western countries.

If such simple measures have been taken, Yemen could be the most important attraction frequented by the Gulf citizens every year.



Gulf tourists in a recent tour of Yemen



Folklore dances entertain tourists

Dialogue between cultures

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

DW is one of far-reaching institutions for international media and cultural work. Intercultural dialogue includes promoting the German language. It means far more than conveying an authentic picture of German reality.

Yemen Times reporter Ismael Al-Ghabri met with Dr. Reinhold Meyer who is in charge for Middle East and Africa in DW in Germany and filed this interview.

Q: Why does Germany need Deutsche Welle and what's the use for people all over the world?

A: Whether in Washington or Vladivostok, Dar es Salaam or Delhi it is outside our borders whoever wants information in their mother tongue about Germany or German perspectives about international events finds what they are looking for: either on the

latest satellite DW-TV, one of DW-Radio's 30 services or on the internet at DW's WORLD.DE. In addition we offer German TV the best of public TV programs in Germany. In the German media landscape, only DW is able to distribute original, up to date, authentic and, credible reporting all over the world.

Q: What target groups you are addressing?

A: The opinion leaders in our regions are a priority for us; those who form the opinions and political objectives in their society or those who will grow to do so. In addition we want to inform those who speak German or learn to speak it, as well as Germans who spend some weeks or more away from home. Finally, for Germans who live abroad, Deutsche Welle always has been a bridge to their home country. Around the world roughly 28 million listeners switch on DW's radio on a regularly basis and over 22 million viewers regularly watch DW-TV. I can

proudly state that no other instrument of international media and culture from Germany reached so many people.

Q: What is the benefit for German taxpayers?

A: The benefits for the taxpaying citizen and hence for our community can be reduced to one simple denominator: Deutsche Welle promotes Germany's international standing. It brings Germany's political, economic and cultural interests to the targeted regions and observes the process of European unification. Culture often is the basis. Global perception of Germany is ambivalent. Therefore we must continue to eliminate image problems in foreign relations. International broadcasting is a decisive means of spreading information from Germany and for conveying an image of Germany. Deutsche Welle brings people all over the world closer to our country.

The 'dialogue between cultures' is



Dr. Reinhold Meyer in an interview with the Yemen Times reporter

DW's very own theme. How do you implement it? The global presence of DW-WORLD.DE creates a cultural bridge between Germany and peoples all over the world who are interested in

our country and its people, its culture and its real life. This is not a one-way street but especially with the possibilities of the Internet it is a real dialogue. Hence, we are mediators in the

dialogue between cultures and we represent understanding. International understanding is the unspoken program mission of Deutsche Welle.

Q: DW is turning 50. Is it feeling its age or coming to life?

A: Deutsche Welle is a vigorous media company that stands for innovation and flexibility in its programming technology and administration. Our quality programs are in all of our media and enjoy high esteem around the world. To ensure this, our maxims remain independence and credibility. We hold an excellent position with the international competition.

DW is not at the same time moving its headquarters from Cologne to Bonn. Are you happy to come to the former capital? The move to Bonn is a chance for Deutsche Welle. Our new address is Europe's most modern broadcasting center our multinational team of employees from more than 60 countries will soon feel 'at home' in Bonn.

Reproductive health, Pillar for population policies

Reproductive health represents the pillar on which population policies are built. Concern with this issue is considered an important entrance to enhancing the qualitative and quantitative conditions of the population.

Moreover, working in the reproductive health field- whose status is deteriorating must be done in light of the cultural, social and religious particularities of the society and careful handling of related factors. For it is undoubtedly that working in such a sensitive issue would require great skills and high qualifications and knowledge. Many international organizations have taken the responsibility for participating in improvement of the reproductive health

in Yemen, and now the GTZ's office affiliated to the German-Yemeni cooperation's Office is working hard on a family health and planning project in Sana'a.

Ms. Karen Nelson spoke to Hassan al-Zaidi of the Yemen Times about this project saying:

"The project is operating for the past two years in seven governorates; Marib, Sana'a, Amran, Hajja, Abyan, Ibb, and Mahwait. We have trained 2 men and two women in each governorate in administrative and technical aspects related to their work, and we trained them in modern as well as training methods. They have also been given special training on teenage and growing phases. These trained groups, whom we call as supporting groups,

have received a number of courses sometimes reaching 9 courses all conducted by the family health and planning project.

In their turn the supporting groups carried on a number of courses and lectures for staff in the health sector in the district especially those working with reproductive health.

Generally speaking, the project is very assuring and we believe that those supporting groups have the ability to set up executive plans for their work every year and implement them. They also have the qualifications to work as teachers and trainers using all teaching methods visual and audio. The delighting fact is that those groups work together in team spirits both men and women in each governorate. Some of

the supporting teams still require support from the project although many other groups have become completely independent and can work without the project's aid. This is because all whom we have trained are in the first place employees with the health ministry's offices in the districts, the reproductive health department, and they probably would receive funding from other donor organizations.

The official in-charge of reproductive health at the health ministry has sensed the importance of training and so she had requested the project to train two more villages in other governorates where the project has not reached yet. The objective is to generalize the training and with equal opportunities in all aspects, although previously women were being targeted more than men."

As for Ms. Nelson's evaluation of reproductive health in Yemen she said:

"Through our observations from our field visits to various governorates where we work, we have seen that there is progress in this field, especially among many of today's youth. Actually this also varies from place to place, and some regions are still in dire need of development in this issue especially that the numbers are not encouraging. I believe that the manager of the reproductive health department at the ministry is really concerned with this issue and focuses efforts to educating people and decreasing the birth rate as well as providing health services to all."

As for the continuity of the project, she expressed that:

"We do not have a fixed time and the Germans are still in the evaluation and revising stage now. And they are trying to negotiate with other organizations regarding the continuity, but the project



Karen Nelson



Saleh al-Badani

will not stop yet it may start working in different frame providing the same service though."

Mr. Saleh al-Badani, deputy of the reproductive health project also contributed to this conversation saying:

"The courses provided aim to follow-up; generalize the supporting groups' performance and exchange of experience between all teams. All participants described their experience during their work. And I can say that the project has achieved great success in supporting decentralization in the seven governorates. Motherhood and childhood issues are supported by many funding organizations and we in turn are focusing on reproductive health and relating motherhood and childhood aspects. We are not limited to training of cadres and performance but we also attend to the needs of health centers in the districts and fulfill some of those needs. The project has furnished the motherhood and childhood offices in most of the

districts it had worked in.

We also were able through our work with the targeted groups to get involvement from schools, non-governmental organizations, and women societies in health education."

Mr. Abdulbasit Saleh, groups' trainer says:

"The group that I had worked with is very good and they have active opinions and activities. In the whole of my career life, which is 21 years in human power training and development, I have not faced an experience like this one."

The discussion included a number of the trainees who have expressed their appreciation and gratefulness to the efforts exerted by the people in charge. And they were happy to enhance their own qualifications and abilities through the course and through cooperating with the project, an event that would reflect positively on their performance and work relating to reproductive health



Group photo for participants in a family care training course!

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Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 8 September 2003.

- Main headlines: - Fish wealth minister answers MPs questions - Former parliament speaker Dr Yassin Said Nouman back home - Ethiopia allows Yemenis deported during the Socialist rule to return - Yemen wins world forum for agricultural research's coat-of-arms

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Makaleh says in his article that following his return from Washington, the Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon said he had not offered any concessions. It is well-known for all those who have followed up the "road map" it calls on both Palestinian and Israeli parties to offer concessions. Although the Palestinians have now nothing to concede but their lives. Nevertheless the road map still urges them to offer more concessions against a total refusal by the other party that impudently declares it would not concede anything now or in the future. This is the declaration that none of the Arab leaders mentioned about it and sponsors of the road map, mainly the White House that did not feel that Sharon's statement was in fact an outrageous offending of the White House itself.

Sharon is an apparent aggressor and a killer and does not equivocate in his hostile policy and those who double-cross are those who pretend that they do not understand him, whether they were Arabs or foreigners.

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 11 Sept. 2003.

- Main headlines: - Religious scholars committee concludes its second round of dialogue with youth back from Afghanistan - Al-Rahma House for girl orphans wraps up activities - The president receives a message from Pakistani president - New batch of Yemeni exiles abroad returns in a few days time - Columnist Iskandar al-Asbahi says in his article that years pass and

investment impediments are still prevalent its environment as if those hindrances are having legal structure and a bureaucratic practice and basic structures and others on which much has been said and written.

This is the general picture in mind that seems to have settled in a manner arousing frustration dominating over the will for creating the climate attracting local and foreign private investments in an orientation making the private investment effectively present.

It occurs to me that this image that has been fixed in mind despite of its much effect on reality is in line with facts but rather relatively. The impediments of investments are in fact attributed to a psychological factor rather than the actual hindrances that we have got bored of mentioning them. I think this condition has dominated over mentality and minds of investors and those responsible for investment policies to an extent that we have not seen any new investments.

I think we have to explore a new style in thinking about an environment attractive to investment. So why don't we set up an agenda on impediments an alternative solutions and arrangements to surmount them within a fixed time table?

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 9 Sept. 2003.

- Main headlines: - Government draft law expected to send thousands of employees to unemployment - A court sends Aden security chief to prosecution - Yassin expected to be named assistant secretary general of the YSP - Political Security organisation arrests 65 persons at storming the Grand Mosque - Nasserite's head of the information office Dr Dahhan condemns the EU decision of enlisting Hamas on terror list - Manipulation of tender on a building for fighting TB in Aden - Columnist Waheeb al-Nussari says

Main headlines

- FM Dr al-Qirbi: Yemen's project does not cancel Arab League, rather enhances its role
- Yemeni Women Union holds its first conference in Sana'a, 250 representatives from all governorates take part
- Education minister al-Jawfi calls on political parties not to make education issues an occasion for hair-splitting
- The president in opening Yemeni women conference: The woman partner in building, not elections merchandise
- The president endorses the death sentence against Nabeel Nankly
- Indonesian vice-president visits Yemen
- Yemen maintains its demand for handing over Guantanamo detainees
- Confirming arrest of al-Ghamdi, security source: A number of wanted to be repatriates between Yemen and Saudi Arabia
- Saudi border force kills two Yemeni citizens
- Entrepreneurs' conflict & contracts' lobby behind postponement of signing loans agreements
- Taiz teachers demonstrate against the education plan for redistribution of teachers
- Yemen continues demanding for the return of its citizens detained abroad
- Agriculture minister says agricultural exports to Saudi Arabia back previous level
- Yemen discusses with Ethiopia the return of Yemenis nationalized properties
- Israel recruits Arab spies to penetrate Islamic groups
- Grand Mosque detainees condemn American pressures on Yemen
- British embassy blast implementers to be released
- Taliban implemented a plan to kill the U.S. Defence Secretary

in his article that each academic year there are more hindrances and difficulties imposed by the ministry of education with its extempore decisions that cause impeding reform of the educational process, especially at the basic and secondary stages.

The new academic year has received about 5 million students, but the education ministry's decision of raising tuition fees and unifying school uniform for the basic and secondary school stages has aroused resentment of the citizens as the decision deprives the majority of the sons of the people, i.e. the poor, of the opportunity of continuing study. Educationists see that the ministry's imposition of buying the unified uniform with registration as a trading process seeking for gaining profits without deeming to or taking care of schools curricula and qualification of teachers.

On the other hand the ministry's decision of redistribution of teachers among schools and specifying schools for girl students and others for boy students has disclosed the existence of shortage in school buildings and that most of them need maintenance. Moreover the accumulation of corruption issues and not reforming the educational process resulted in shortage of female teachers and degradation of the level of teachers' efficiency.

Al-Wahda weekly, Sept. 10, 2003.

- Main headlines: - Parliamentarian committee recommends stop of activity of violating fishing companies - Al-Hattar: We succeeded in dialogue with 70 detainees to be released soon - Journalists denounce the chairman's statements, demand holding the general conference - Education ministry: Thursday an official school day at all education institutes - Sana'a, regional headquarters for election training and qualification centre - Training course for technical and vocational teachers in Aden - Volume of imports via Hudeida

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al Ahram
German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will visit Egypt during his Middle East tour including Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates from Oct. 4-7.

Al Akhbar
Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher expressed deep sorrow over the death of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, who was stabbed to death by an unknown assailant in Stockholm.

Al Gomhuria
Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk

Hosni is to open Sunday the project of restoration of Bab Zowalia in Islamic Cairo after completing and developing the renovation works in association with the US research centre and funded by the USAID.

The Egyptian Mail
Egypt and Italy Friday called on the Israeli government not to take any measures against Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. It followed a decision on Thursday by Israeli security cabinet to "remove" Arafat, a move that drew warnings from around the globe that the Jewish state risks whipping up violence across the Middle East.

Britain

The Independent
British Prime Minister Tony Blair was accused on Friday of using "false pretenses" to win the crucial Commons vote on war with Iraq.

The Financial Times
Leading trade powers warned on Friday that this week's World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Mexico risked failure unless countries immediately abandoned entrenched positions and held serious negotiations over the next two days.

The Guardian
The worsening international crisis over Iran's suspected nuclear program escalated on Friday night when the United Nations set Teheran a deadline of 48 days to come clean on its nuclear activities.

The Times
BBC's director general Greg Gylfe will be called before the Hutton Inquiry on Monday to be asked why the BBC refused to back down in the row with Downing Street that led to the death of government scientist David Kelly.

India

The Times of India
India Friday strongly disapproved of the Israeli cabinet's decision to expel Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

The Hindu
The country's 700 km short-range and 1,500 km medium-range surface-to-surface Agni I and Agni II missiles were being inducted into the armed

forces, top Defense Ministry officials said Friday.

Hindustan Times
Ahead of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's address to the United Nations General Assembly session, the Cabinet Committee on Security Friday reviewed the security situation in the country for over two-and-a-half hours.

France

Liberation
Three issues fueled the tension between Paris and Brussels — the Stability Pact, subsidies to enterprises and the European Constitution.

Le Monde
Israel threatened to expel Arafat from Palestine, which drew worldwide opposition. Washington, the principal partner of the Jewish state and the Palestinian Authority in the negotiation, also called on Israel to correct mistake.

Le Parisien
The "Week of Mobility and Public Transport" is to start Tuesday and peak on Sept. 22 with the sixth "Day of in City without my Car." A total of 683 European cities will join the Week and 1,126 join the Day as an effort to save their environment from worsening pollution.

Pakistan

The News
President Pervez Musharraf Friday said India is in a "no-win situation" and if it dares to go for a misadventure, it will have to repent as Pakistan will respond exactly in the same manner.

Dawn
Pakistan Friday condemned Israel's decision to oust Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat from Palestine and called upon the international community to urge Israel to reconsider the decision.

The Nation
India and the United States on Friday completed a week-long joint military exercise in the disputed Ladakh region of Kashmir. However, the exercises will be extended for another week.

Kenya

East African Standard
Kenyan first lady Lucy Kibaki on Friday expressed concern over millions of children languishing in poverty in the country, disclosing that nearly half of the 16.2 million children in the country live below the poverty line.

Kenya Times
The Kenyan government is set to hire international law firms and auditors to help it recover more than 240 billion shillings (about 3.1 million US

dollars) stashed in foreign accounts, the country's Assistant Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs Robinson Njeru Githae said.

Daily Nation
Former US ambassador to Kenya Johnnie Carson on Friday said in Washington that the US should be more generous in helping Kenya. He urged the United States to create an investment fund of up to 75 million dollars to be used for projects in Kenya.

Japan

Asahi, Yomiuri, Mainichi, Nihon Keizai:
The Tokyo metropolitan government and 15 banks that filed a lawsuit seeking to abolish a local corporate tax targeting major banks have reached a broad agreement, under which, the government will return some 234.4 billion yen (2 billion US

dollars) to the banks.
Yomiuri
Local education boards in fiscal 2002 found 289 teachers at public primary, middle and high schools incompetent to instruct or supervise students, said the Education, Science and Technology Ministry.

Philippines

Manila Bulletin
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday appealed to politicians with ambitions for office to take power through the vote in next year's elections as she vowed to crush forces plotting to overthrow her government.

The Philippine Star
The military announced Friday that US and Filipino military forces will

hold an amphibious exercise next week in the northern Philippines to enhance military cooperation between the two countries.

Philippine Daily Inquirer
Armed Forces' vice chief of staff Lieutenant General Rodolfo Garcia said Friday that authorities are laying out an elaborate security plan for the Oct. 18 state visit of US President George W. Bush.

Nigeria

This Day
What ended in a tragedy for an Iranian Siamese twins earlier this year, started on a promising note for Nigerian born Sobowale-Davies Siamese twins, as they were successfully separated after a delicate six-hour surgery on Friday.

Weekend Vanguard
Beninese authorities on Friday handed over the alleged car robbery

kingpin Ahmadu Tidjani to Nigerian security officials in line with the agreement signed by both countries last month to jointly fight cross-border banditry.

Saturday Punch
The unending crisis in the Niger Delta in south Nigeria has provoked fresh travel warnings from the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia, which alerted their nationals of grave risks to foreigners in the area.

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (55)
Expressing emotions (IX)

In so far as emotion and thought constitute its staple content, poetry has been one of the most apt forms for the expression of emotions. This fact is brought to focus by Pritchard when he says "Poetry, as a rule, is the expression of the emotions at their highest pitches while prose fitly expresses normal and ordinary events." Admittedly, poetry gives permanence to moments of ecstasy and exaltation. It gives form to sensations of excitement and enthusiasm. It has been our endeavor to present through this column a selection of immortal lines from the annals of English poetry to facilitate a proper appreciation of a spectrum of emotional expressions through the texture of poetry. Here are a few more extracts which are expected to augment enjoyment and appreciation of the subtleties of emotion.

There's nought in this life sweet
If a man were wise to see't,
But our melancholy
O sweetest Melancholy!

Then stretch our bones in a still gloomy valley;
Nothing's so dainty sweet as lovely melancholy.

But you may stay yet here a while
To blush and gently smile
And go at last.

R. Herrick: To Blossoms
Withdraws into its happiness;

A. Marvell: Thoughts in a Garden
Happy the man, whose wish and care
A few paternal acres bound
Content to breathe his native air

In his own ground
Bleat, who can unconcern'dly find
Hours, days, and years, slide soft away
In health of body, peace of mind,
Quiet by day,

Thus let me live, unseen, unknown
Thus unlamented let me die;
Steal from the world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie.

A. Pope: Ode on Solitude
With heavy sighs I often hear
You mourn my hapless woe;
But sure with patience I can bear
A loss I never can know.

Then let me not what I cannot have
My cheer of mind destroy
Whilst thus I sing, I am a king
Although a poor blind boy.

C. Cibber: The Blind Boy
Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the poor.

T. Gray: Elegy
O My Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June
O my Luve's like the melody
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

And fare thee weel, my only Luve
And fare thee weel awhile!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

R. Burns
Yet, ah! Why should they know their fate,
Since sorrow never comes too late,
And happiness too swiftly flies?
Thought would destroy their paradise!
No more; - Where ignorance is bliss,
'Tis folly to be wise.

T. Gray: Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College

II. How to Say it Correctly

- We walked till the river and back.
- I was hearing her sweet song.
- Can you supply me all I need?
- We remained in a very good hotel.
- The murderer was caught and hung.

Answers to last week's questions

- He asked me what games I played.
- I told him not to come on Monday.
- Honesty is the best policy.
- I asked him whether he was going.
Note: where 'or not' is implied, 'whether' must be used, not 'if'. Unlike 'whether', 'if' does not expect a 'yes' or 'no' reply.
Ex: "I shall speak to him if he comes."
- Look! Two boys are fighting.
Note: The present continuous (and not the simple present) must be used to an action going on at the time of speaking.

III. Increase Your Word Power

A) How to express it in one word

- Attack the good reputation of.
- Thinking and acting in a way that shows an expectation of being defeated.
- The act of deserting a political party to join an opposing one.
- A person in a law trial against whom a charge is brought.
- To deceive so as to get something unlawfully.

Answers to last week's questions

- A written and signed agreement concerning the ownership of land or property: **deed of covenant** (n)
- having firm roots or strongly fixed in ones nature: **deep-rooted** or **deep-seated** (adj)
- To decrease in area, force, range: **de-escalate** (vt)
- In actual fact, thought not perhaps according to law: **defacto** (adj)
- Misappropriation of money entrusted to one: **defalcation** (n)

B) Foreign phrases

- Give the sources of origin and meanings of the following phrases
- meter
 - metonymy
 - mime
 - mimesis
 - mnemonic

C) Words often confused

- Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words
- sometime, sometimes
 - orchard, meadow
 - truism, altruism
 - travel, travail
 - shop, soap

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- loose (adj) (unbound): I love to wear loose clothings during the summer months.
- lose (adj) (to bring to ruin or destruction): I have lost confidence in him.
- quiet (adj) (still, calm): I love the quiet ambience of this place.

- quite (adv) (completely): It's quite warm outside.
- hope (vt) (to want something to happen): I hope I am not disturbing you.
- expect (vt) (think something will happen): We expect that the war will end soon.
- rob (vt) (take personal property, money etc. by using force): The man was robbed of his belongings at knife point.
You can't rob me of my happiness.
- steal (vt) (to take another's property in a secret or surreptitiously): All his valuables were stolen last night when he was away.
- amputation (n) (act of cutting someone's arm, leg, etc. by surgery): His left arm was amputated after the accident.
- imputation (n) (a statement that someone is guilty of a crime or wrong doing): It is the first time that he had to face such imputations from a subordinate.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A) Grammar

Choose a suitable word from the list below to complete the sentences.

- Currency, cost, salaries, wealth, expenses, change
- The — of sending holiday postcards to all our friends was enormous.
 - When you go abroad, make sure you take enough foreign — with you.
 - Could you give me some — for the telephone, please?
 - A country's — is measured not only in financial terms but also in respect of its natural resources.
 - When you travel on business, you are allowed to claim —.
 - Teachers' — are lower in this country than in many other parts of the world.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The injured motorist was taken to hospital.
- The man was suffering from severe damage.
- The soldiers captured the terrorists without harming the hostages.
- Cigarette smoking can ruin your health.
- It's only an injection! The needle won't hurt you.
- You've spoiled the surprise by telling him!

B) Composition: Paragraph writing

Expand the idea contained in the proverb
35: PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Last week's topic:

34: EMPTY VESSEL SOUNDS MUCH
Men of substance are polite and modest. Enlightenment endows them with humility because they have gained a wide and deep perception about the affairs of men. But those who are devoid of any intrinsic merit or have a little learning love to show themselves off. Sometimes this is a compensatory strategy to hide their ignorance. Such men are likened to empty vessels which produce a loud sound if one strikes them. Men of learning, by contrast, are vessels filled with some matter and do not emit such loud sound. Thus an empty vessel is a metaphor for unskilled, ignorant people who try to deceive the world into believing that they are not hollow, but solid. A perceptive and pragmatic person knows the real worth behind their deceptive appearances.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Of those who answered
The Call of Allah
And the Messenger,
Even after being wounded,
Those who do right
And refrain from wrong
Have a great reward"
S3:A172

VI. Words of Wisdom

"They who forgive most shall be most forgiven."
—P. J. Bailey

A LETTER TO THE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH: 26

Writing autobiographies enhances self-esteem



DR. M.N.K. BOSE
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Associate Professor of
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Dear Fellow teachers,

Sometime ago I wrote about the importance of the learner's self-esteem and why the teacher should respect it and do everything to keep it up. A learner whose self-respect is high learns willingly and well. This is what the humanistic approaches such as the Community language learning, the Suggestopedia and the Silent method are preaching: don't do anything in the classroom which hurts the learner's self-esteem; do everything to reduce his/her anxiety, fear, tension for better learning. Isn't it natural that his/her anxiety and fear for the examinations will result in lowering his/her performance?

There are several ways to foster the learner's self-esteem, the foremost among which is to give him/her a patient hearing when he/she wants to say something in the class. He/she may make mistakes but what he/she wants to convey is more important than his/her mistakes and so you can be patient to hear his/her message.

This is necessary in higher classes, where the learners are adolescents and adults and their expectations are high. They are in a stage when they expect others to take them seriously, to respect their views and their pride will be badly hurt even by an insignificant event. The teachers teaching these

learners ought to have more patience and greater concern for them. Most of the problems between the teachers and learners happen at this stage.

The books on ELT, especially the ones which recommend the humanistic language teaching, have a number of suggestions in this regard. One of the suggestions is to practice writing autobiographies, writing about himself/herself. This can be practiced in early classes as well as in later classes. In the preparatory classes, the learners can be asked to write a paragraph about themselves, using simple sentences such as 'I am Hytam. I am Yemeni' etc. In higher classes the sentences can be complex such as 'I am Figri. I come from Yemen. My village is on the Ba'dan mountain's etc. It has been found that writing about themselves makes the learners feel proud about themselves. I have tried this myself in my classes in the college for using certain grammar items and I have found interesting results; some of them are honest to point out their negative qualities. Some of them write 'I get angry at silly things', 'I envy my close friend when he gets more marks' (these are the corrected versions of their wrong sentences). The point here is that learners enjoy writing autobiographies and this will certainly enhance their self-esteem.

Moreover, this is another way of bringing them closer to you and develop a liking in them for the English classes. I am sure you have your own activities like the one suggested here. Try them. Good luck.

Yours fraternally,
Dr.M.N.K.Bose

New science emerged Neuro Linguistic Programming (PART 1)



BY ESSAM ALI
ALHADAD
APTECH COMPUTER
CENTER

Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) is the name of a new science - It started in the mid seventies by two American Scientists Dr. John Gardner, a linguist and Richard Bandler, mathematician and an expert in psychology, in addition to his experience as a computer programmer.

This Science is based on discovering different types of people's reactions to mental stimuli and emotional factors that affect people's behaviors.

We can say that it's a science that shows us the interior world of human beings and their potential abilities, it provides us with different tools and skills that help us recognize the human personality, our way of thinking, our behavior, our performance, our principles, and different milestones that we cross in our life of creation and success. It also provides us with different ways, by which we can cause the desired positive changes in thinking, behavior and feelings of human beings and their abilities to achieve their goals. All these effects are based on many experimental rules that we can apply and measure their effects easily.

The spectrum of applications of NLP has been extended to affect almost every field of our life like education, physical & mental health, trading, business, advertising, training skills, personal matters, & family matters.

One of the most important fields that muslims can benefit from this science is to spread Islam and their beliefs all around the world.

Aspects of NLP

NLP is a science based on testing and experimenting and leading into clear and absolute results in a number of fields. For example:

Consciousness limits in human beings and limits of senses: place, time, things, events, goals, self satisfaction and relations to others.

Mental state: How we measure it and recognize it and how to change it. Rules

of human senses in forming mental states.

Thinking modes and the rules in memorizing process, creativity, relation between the languages and thinking. It deals with how we can use our senses in thinking process, how we identify ways of thinking of the people, the relation between thinking and physical (physiological) body functions, how to create intimacy between people, rule of intimacy in affecting people, how to understand human's behavior, how to change negative values that limit our abilities, the role of language in limiting our experience, how to overcome these limits and how to use language to reach human minds and hearts to cause positive changes in values and concepts, individual treatment for fear, and psychological instability, how to treat paranoid and how to control our habits and change them, skills improvement and how to reach our limits of performance and abilities to improve our personal performance.

NLP Bases

NLP works on 4 main aspects which are the following:

1- The target or goal: What We want.

There are many ways that help us to know what we want, what is better for us, ways to ease our work to reach our goals. It helps us to have a stable mental state toward our goals in the future. It helps us also to believe in ourselves and clearly take decisions and good steps and expect the consequences of our decisions.

2- Senses: They are our ways to get contact and awareness to our surroundings. NLP works on the senses to improve them and focus on the spectrum of these senses. It helps our senses to be better in ability and more efficient in their rules within our standard limits.

3- Flexibility: It is the crux of any evolution, change or success. If we don't have flexibility, we'll be prisoners to routine. Any one who has flexibility in his thinking and behavior has more control over himself in different situations.

4- Initiations and work: The base angle of the four aspects. If we don't do anything We won't get anything.

These four aspects are vital. To practice NLP we have to perform all these four without exception.

To be concluded next week

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Alga | Cool | Grow | Natural | Salad |
| Almonds | Copy | Health | Noodle | Seed |
| Apple | Corn | Herbs | Nutrition | Shallots |
| Apply | Couscous | Iron | Nuts | Shape |
| Artichokes | Cranberry | Juice | Oats | Shop |
| Avocado | Curry | Last | Oils | Soup |
| Bagel | Diet | Lemon | Olives | Soya |
| Bananas | Dine | Lentil | Orange | Spices |
| Barley | Dips | Lettuce | Paste | Teas |
| Basic | Dish | Life | Peach | Tofu |
| Basil | Eggplant | Limes | Pies | Tomato |
| Bean | Fiber | Maize | Pita | Tradition |
| Beet | Flour | Mango | Portion | Veggies |
| Benefit | Food | Meal | Pots | Watermelon |
| Beverage | Fruit | Melt | Powder | Weight |
| Boil | Frying | Menu | Prepare | Wheat |
| Bread | Garlic | Mint | Raw | Zucchini |
| Carrot | Grains | Mixes | Recipe | |
| Choice | Grape | Mushroom | Rice | |
| Cook | Green | Mustard | Roots | |

Injuries hit Man United

By Pete Oliver

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Champions Manchester United could be without seven senior players through injury in today's premier league match at Charlton Athletic after international duty took its toll on their squad.

United's bid to bounce back from their 1-0 defeat at Southampton has been hampered by fresh injuries to Nicky Butt, Mikael Silvestre, John O'Shea and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

With midfielders Paul Scholes (hernia) and Kleberson (shoulder) and defender Rio Ferdinand (kidney infection) already out, manager Alex Ferguson's squad will be stretched to the limit at The Valley.

"The injury situation is unclear at the moment," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday.

"Paul Scholes is obviously out. We're just monitoring that one at the moment. There's no real progress there.

"Nicky Butt has come back with an injury, Mikael Silvestre's come back with an injury and John O'Shea and (striker) Ole Solskjaer have come back with injuries.

"They have done a little bit of light training and some are getting treatment. We are taking 20 players down to London, which we have to do in this situation because we're unclear of the fitness of the players."

Ferdinand has also been told by the club's medical staff that he still cannot play as a result of the kidney infection that forced him to miss England's games against Macedonia and Liechtenstein in the past week.

Midfielder Butt collected an ankle injury in Macedonia and Ireland defender O'Shea looks set to be ruled out with ankle problem.

With Wes Brown a long-term absentee due to a knee injury, United could find their defensive resources stretched, particularly if French international Silvestre does not recover in time.

Paolo Threat

Captain Roy Keane may again be forced into service in the back four but Ferguson believes that his squad has the versatility to cope with their current problems.

He said: "We have got players who can adapt and apply themselves in different ways.

"Quinton Fortune and Phil Neville can play in different positions. Roy Keane could go into the back four and Gary Neville could play centre back.

"We've got cover in that respect. You've got to have a nucleus of players who can play positions in the modern game. We'll be okay."



Champions Manchester United could be without seven senior players through injury in Saturday's premier league match at Charlton Athletic after international duty took its toll on their squad. In a file photo Manchester United's manager Sir Alex Ferguson shouts at his team during the Champions League match against Real Madrid on April 8. REUTERS/Ian Hodgson

United go to Charlton on the back of two indifferent performances against Wolves and then Southampton.

Ferguson does not underestimate the threat posed by the London side, particularly after their signing of Italian Paolo Di Canio who interested the Old Trafford boss two seasons ago.

But he is expecting his side to bounce back to form in a bid to catch up with leaders Arsenal who have a three-point lead at the top.

Ferguson said: "Charlton have added one or two players, Matty Holland, (Hermann) Hreidarsson from Ipswich and Paolo Di Canio.

"That's an amazing signing because I bet almost every manager thought about that one.

"He's a fantastically talented man, so we can expect a difficult game."

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مليون مبروك يا أحمد

بزفافه الميمون ووسط جمع من الأهل والأصدقاء

أحمد بن عبدالقادر فرادي

وبعثة المناسة ذى أسس آيات التماس وأطيب التبركات
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Aden	Hi	37	38	39	39	39	38	38
	Lo	28	28	29	29	29	28	27

Garfield comic strip panels showing him and Odie. The dialogue includes: "HERE COMES MY BIG GREETING", "HEY! WHERE'S MY BIG GREETING?", and "SLURP!! OH, THERE IT IS".

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
You will have a much better handle on your professional goals today. Take the ideas that you have been working on and elaborate on your concept. It may not be the right time for presentation.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
You may be emotionally confused if you let someone influence you. Focus on yourself and make the changes that you feel are right for you. Be creative and a little bit daring.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Clear any mess that you've left. If you straighten your environment, you will feel better about moving forward. Organization will help you get back on track.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Opportunities to meet new people will develop if you actively pursue one of your interests. You will be able to share thoughts and pick up information. It's time to get serious about your future.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
You probably won't get along very well with some of your peers today. Concentrate on your professional goals and refrain from meddling in other people's business.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Your business savvy will pay off today. You will be able to make some profound statements that will leave everyone thinking about future prospects. Your creative talent will be recognized.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Check out any opportunity to make extra cash. A worthwhile investment will pay off. Take the initiative and help an older person. Changes at work will end up in higher earnings.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Your partnerships may be on shaky ground today. In both your business and your personal life it will be important that you explain exactly what your intentions are and how your partners fit in the picture.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
If you aren't working you should be out looking for a job. You will be able to impress anyone who interviews you or looks at your resume. Be prepared to adapt.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Let your true colors show. Socializing with colleagues should bring you some interesting information. Business trips will be very successful.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
The changes you make to your home will lift your spirits and help you avoid an argument with a loved one. Helping someone out should bring you a little extra cash.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Communicate with others today. Love connections can be made or new friendships developed. Your perception regarding others will be right on target.

Human freedom and free software:

why choices about technology matter to human rights advocates

BY PATRICK BALL AND MIGUEL CRUZ

Human rights advocacy depends on the ability to gather, analyze and share information, and computer technology is central to each of these activities. For many human rights workers, word processing, spreadsheets and databases comprise a substantial share of their day-to-day activity, while e-mail and the Web have dramatically altered the practice of outreach, fundraising, and fieldwork. A growing number of social justice projects, such as large-scale statistical analysis of human rights abuses for the case against former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic, would have been impossible without computers.

The ability to advocate effectively for improved human rights has come to depend on software, which is largely under the control of a small number of private, mainly American-based companies. Through restrictive licensing agreements, increasingly intrusive technological methods, and the support of government regulations aimed at fighting piracy, companies that create and distribute software are exercising increased control over its use. Meanwhile, according to US Department of Commerce figures, the cost expenses have grown steadily over the past decade.

There is an alternative to commercial software. There exists a growing amount of software that is not and cannot be controlled by either government or corporations: "Free software is called "free" not because it carries a zero-dollar price tag, but because of the freedom it gives to its users, though license terms granting the right to copy, analyze, modify, and redistribute its content.

Free software is developed by computer programmers who draw their rewards from the exchange of knowledge and technique, and from the stature and career advantages conferred by working at the leading edge of the field. Though free software had its genesis in the arcane world of mainframes and servers - where it still continues to dominate the Internet's Web and e-mail infrastructure - it has evolved to incorporate the same kind of user-friendly graphical desktop applications found on the prevailing Microsoft - based systems.



For the past two years, staff at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Program have done all of their work from word processing, Web surfing and e-mail, to statistics and data processing - using free software. Although some initially found the transition difficult, rapid advances in GUI (Graphical User Interface) application quality since mid-2002 have made it much easier to use, to the point where many find the free software alternatives conducive to greater productivity than their commercial counterparts. While the effort required to implement a free software-based work environment has decreased, the relative cost and loss of freedoms imposed by commercial software have continued to grow. The time has come for a critical evaluation of what our technology choices imply for our human rights work.

Complementary approaches to freedom: Technical and legal

The free Software Foundation describes free software as granting:

The freedom to run the program, for any purpose... [t]he freedom to study how the program works, and adapt it to your needs... [t]he freedom to redistribute copies so you can help your neighbor... [t]he freedom to improve the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits". In practice, these characteristics derive from two crucial differences between commercial and free software; namely, the practical freedom conferred by open source code and the legal freedom conferred by the licensing terms.

Each free software package is distributed with open access to the "source code", the form in which the program was developed by its authors. This access offers technically advanced users the ability to understand how the program functions, and if necessary, to change how it works or even to incorporate parts of it into an entirely new program. Of course, not every user has the technical skills or free time to analyze the source code for each piece of software used. Having the source code for software is like having a car that comes with detailed plans and a full set of spare parts. If need to solve a problem or change how it functions, you may not want to do it yourself, but at least you can choose who does it for you, without regard for monopolistic pricing or licensing restrictions that conflict with your specific requirements. And you can deal intelligently with the people who work on the software, making rational decisions based on benefits and risks. If everyone had this same sort of car, then knowledge about how to maintain it would tend to spread, resulting in a broad base of expertise. Many human rights organizations are short on money but wealthy in community contracts; the openness of free software offers the potential to build local self-sufficiency. Human rights organizations that choose to purchase expensive proprietary software are contributing to the flow of capital away from the grassroots level... the second key difference is the license the user must accept. Unlike commercial licenses, which are long lists of things you may not do, in general the only restrictions placed on free software concern re-distributing it under on free terms. You can copy, trade, analyze, modify, combine, and even sell free software, as long as you do not try to prevent the purchaser from exercising this same set of rights. Basically, the free software license is a license that tells you what you can do.

Direct costs of commercial software and the piracy quandary

Commercial software is expensive. A retail license for Microsoft Office alone costs \$ 450USD; the typical assortment of software can more than the computer it runs on. This often means that cash-starved organizations on the wrong side of the digital divide may be faced with a choice of either make unaffordable expenditures on software, or ignore the law and turn to piracy. Human rights organizations that choose to purchase expensive proprietary software are contributing to the flow of capital away from the grassroots level and into corporate bank accounts, and from the South to the North. This same money, if spent on hiring members of the local community to install and support free software, would instead be going toward developing local technological capacity. Those who choose to make unauthorized copies of commercial software are increasingly vulnerable to legalized harassment from governments enforcing international and domestic copyright law. International trade agreements authored with extensive support from American-based software industry associations, such as the treaty establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization, oblige signatory governments to criminals duplication, analysis, or modification of software by its purchasers, even for private use. In 1998 the United State paved the way by enacting the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMC), which has already been used to jail and (ultimately unsuccessfully) prosecute a visiting Russian programmer who had developed a method to make Adobe eBook documents available to the blind. Such criminalization marks a significant departure from the historically civil nature of copyright law. Because the

DMCA considers any modification or technically unsupported use of software to be a copyright violation, it has far-reaching impact on the freedom to use computers.

Piracy is widespread in the developing world, and the United States applies considerable diplomatic pressure on governments to crack down on offenders. Imagine the perspective of a repressive government: if it can both placate the US and the World Trade Organization and silence or inconvenience a local human rights defender all in one move, so much the better. The human rights movement has learned how to respond when one of our colleagues is imprisoned on charges of sedition. How will we respond when human rights activities are imprisoned

many organization are at the mercy of each new virus that enters their facilities through e-mail or disks. Countless hours are lost to wiping hard drives and re-installing software in attempts to remove viral infections, and more hours still are lost when malicious viruses destroy data. While the improved situation in free software environments stems in part from their smaller market share and the consequent lack of interest among virus authors, there are also philosophical and architectural differences. Security is considered a core value in the free software community, and without marketing departments clamoring to introduce features first and patch holes later, it is an implementation priority as well.



for software piracy? However, severe the laws may be, the imprisoned activist may well have broken those laws. Commercial software may come with other licensing restrictions that go well beyond questions of cost and the freedom to copy. The license for some versions of Microsoft's HTML editing program FrontPage, for instance, bars its use in creating pages that criticize Microsoft. What if software licenses begin prohibiting their use in any action critical of, say, a government on the grounds that such criticism aids terrorism? Some customers are discovering that their licenses contain provisions entitling software vendors to conduct surprise inspections of their books or facilities, which can be costly and disruptive. They may be required to perform additional record-keeping concerning software installations and expenditures, and make these records available upon request. Meanwhile, a growing number of software manufacturers are moving from the conventional one-time license fee model- in which an organization pays once for a piece of software and is then entitled to use it forever - toward a subscription - based model, in which software "expires" and ceases to function after a certain period if a compulsory upgrade is not purchased.

How safe is your data? And is it really your data?

There is a strong incentive for commercial software manufacturers with large market share to create programs that save documents in secret formats that only their own products can reliably read. This creates a barrier against switching to competing software, because a customer would lose data or formatting in the process. But sometimes - commercial software disappears; companies go bankrupt or product lines are discontinued. Later, organizations may upgrade their computer hardware, and discover that the new equipment is no longer compatible with the discontinued software. When this happens, files can become "orphaned", which means that you may not be able read your own data. In the free software world, the incentive structure is entirely the opposite of orphaned files. Developers are encouraged to write programs that save files in public, open formats because this helps their products gain acceptance and avoids duplication of effort. Even if a free software program uses a unique format to store its data, because the sources code is readily available, any competent programmer can extract the data from saved documents. Free software is also largely free of the virus problems that plague the Microsoft world. Without the resources to subscribe to update services from anti-virus software companies,



deliberately crippled at the request of intelligence or military groups? While there is currently no substantial evidence that such actions have been taken, there is also no mechanism for conclusive disproof. Consider the combination of the following factors: Governments are beginning to understand the power that civil society has gained by using technology; civil liberties have been greatly restricted and domestic and international intelligence activity greatly increased in Western countries as a result of the 9-11 attacks; governments are under increasing pressure from big media producers to crack down on illegal copying of music and movies. All of these pressures increase the potential for collusion between software manufacturers and governments to produce "backdoors" that allow access to your computer. New technologies demanded by media producers and currently being designed by software and chip manufacturers are intended to protect the "digital right" of big media companies. That is, these technologies are intended to prevent users from making copies (legal or not) of movies, music, and software. Documents determined to be unauthorized may delete themselves automatically, or audits of all software installed on a computer may be reported remotely without the user's knowledge. The problem is that these measures will enable organizations that control these technologies to also control major portions of users' computers. Human rights groups cannot afford to let anyone else control their information management systems. Free software alone may not be enough to prevent so-called "trusted

computing" initiatives from limiting users' ability to control their own equipment. Time will tell, but for human rights workers, this is an area of serious concern. On possibility is that these changes will result in the emergency of a complementary free hardware movement.

Making the switch

Getting started using free software is not a trivial undertaking. The transition does require some effort, and may require help from technical experts dedicated to free software. However, owing to its steady improvement over the past few years, it is finally a realistic option. There are word processors that read and write Microsoft Word files. There are databases, Web browsers, e-mail clients, and spreadsheets equal to or better than anything in the proprietary world. AAAS has been conducting presentations on free software in human rights to people in the technical community for approximately a year, and after each lecture participating experts ask how they can help. We think that it is time to being these communities together and we want to help to make that happen. We invite groups that are willing to make a commitment to free software to e-mail us so that we can put you in touch with experts who can help you do it.

The human rights community uses information to promote human freedom, and depends on technology to make this possible. We believe the time has come think critically about how our technology choices affect our mission and our goals.

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Ayoob distinguished sweet tune

BY YASSER AL-MAYASHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF



Ayoob at the moment of honoring

Finally, the ministry of culture and Tourism has honored the well-known and creative vocalist Ayoob Tarash Absi.

People highly praised and appreciated this wonderful step taken by the ministry of culture and tourism represented by Minister Khalid al-Ruwaishan, as Ayoob has given all love and loyalty to Yemen and deserves that recognition.

The ceremony held last week at the cultural center in Sana'a was attended by a number of the artist's admirers and lovers. Ayoob has enriched the Yemeni song with a number of distinguishing art works, establishing a school the new young generation of artists will benefit from in future.

This recognition has come on the occasion of declaring Sana'a capital for Arab culture.

Ayoob who was born in 1942 is considered a successful singer that could with his own efforts bring his art to reality.

He who studies the career of the artist will stand honorably and gloriously in front of him. He has not come from a rich family but rather from a poor one and could with hard and arduous efforts push his own way in life. His fame as a creative singer was not admired only by the Yemeni audience but it has extended to a very large Arab audience as well.

The head of the world Arab institute in Paris said that the artist Ayoob Tarash was generally considered a remarkably distinguished tune in the Arab world.

Ayoob has won admiration of the various social classes of the Yemeni society. He could sing for farmers, workers, army men, immigrants and students.

The national famous work is the national anthem of the republic of Yemen.

Life school is the one that Ayoob has graduated from, where he could sing what people feel. As Ayoob believes in work and creativity, he has not left his job in Yemenia airlines since 1970 till 2001. He also has worked in the

Yemeni Bank for development and constructions in Taiz.

He is really the creative and talented vocalist who has attracted hearts and feelings of people with his sweet, charming and beautiful voice.



(l-r) Yemeni artists Abdubaset Absi, al-Akhfash and al-Harithi congratulating Ayoob's honoring

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