

YSP denounces fatwa accusing Noman an Infidel

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) condemned Monday a religious edict or fatwa naming Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman, a prominent YSP leader as an infidel and is attributed to some group at al-Eman University headed by Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani.

The YSP said in a press statement that the "fatwa had been issued under political motivation, describing Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman who recently returned home from his exile in the UAE since the 1994 civil war as an infidel." It pointed out that discussions and religious sermons had been held to issue the fatwa. "The Politburo of the YSP denounced this fossilized way of thinking and the continuation of these tactics of calling people infidel and assassinations, violence and thought and political terrorism and discrimination that do not accept freedom of opinion of people," the statement said. The YSP demanded the authorities to take its legal responsibility towards this ten-

dency of naming its prominent leaders as infidel, ending up all factors that can destabilize security and peace. It also demanded that the fatwa issued during the civil war which named all socialists as unbelievers and that all acts against them were legal. It said also that the culture, mobilization and other measures taken on the basis of this fatwa should be abolished, urging all political forces in the country to work against such culture from school curricula, sermons of mosque preachers and mass media, enhancing tolerance and openness in the society.

Political sources at the opposition told Yemen Times that Abduljabar al-Marani and Abdulsalam al-Hariri, both are sons-in-law of al-Zindani, informed the committee concerned with the follow-up of the assassination of Jarallah Omar, assistant secretary general of the YSP that a fatwa calling Dr. Noman, first Parliament speaker after unification in 1990, an infidel has been issued. The two guys were afraid to be arrested as they were interrogated after the assassination of Jarallah Omar whose

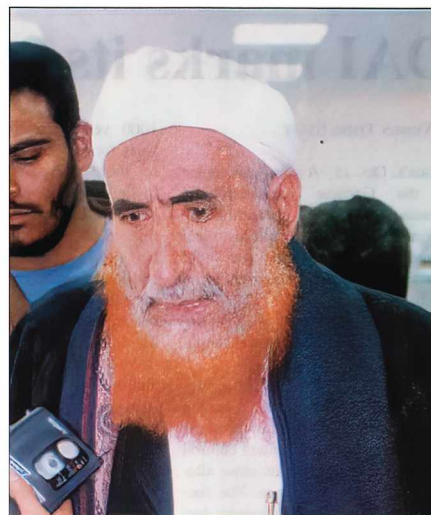
killer, Ali Ahmad Jarallah, was a former student of the al-Eman university. The killer of Jarallah who was sentenced to death in mid-September said during the tribunal sessions that all socialists and secular people are infidels who deserve death penalty. He based his assassination of Omar on an allegation that Omar demanded the abolishing of death penalty which is an abuse to human rights.

On his part al-Zindani, head of the Consultative Council at the Islah party, denied that he had issued such a fatwa against Noman. Al-Sahwa website reported that al-Zindani told a delegation of the opposition parties' coalition at his university that he did not issue the fatwa and told the opposition representatives that allegations with regard to the fatwa were baseless and very untrue.

Intellectuals and writers feel afraid to pronounce their ideas and express their views freely because of the existence of such groups which still paint those who oppose their thoughts of blasphemy and infidelity.



Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman



Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani

300 participants, some ministers & 100 working papers,

Sana'a hosts 8th Arab Conference on Mineral Wealth

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the motto "Towards an Ideal Investment for Our Arab Minerals," the 8th Arab Conference on Mineral Wealth started in Sana'a on October 13.

The conference, organized by Yemen Ministry of Oil & Minerals in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining, will continue till October 16.

Taking part in the conference are 18 Arab countries and 300 participants, a number of oil and minerals ministers, heads of Arab geological bodies and researchers. About 100 working papers and studies have been presented at the conference.

At the opening of the conference, a number of speeches were delivered by conference organizers dealing with main objectives of holding it and its positive reflections on the Arab world.

Dr. Ismael Naser Al-Janad, Chairman of the Geological Authority Survey and Mineral Wealth said in his opening speech, "The current scientific situation makes it imperative for all Arab countries to join forces and work jointly to benefit from their available potentials, to create an Arab integration and create investment opportunities serving development and economy in those countries, rich with various mineral wealth."

"The main objective of holding this conference is to introduce the Arab available potentials in the field of mineral wealth that regrettably not receiving the interest it should in many Arab countries, which play a great role in serving the social and economic development," Mr. Ismael said.

On his part, the general manager of Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining, the Chairman of the 8th Arab Conference for Mineral Wealth, Eng. Tala'at Bin Dhafer focused in his speech on the significance of Arab industrial coordination and integration and contribution to development of Arab economy.

"The Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining has concentrated in its programs regarding mineral wealth on a group of activities contributing as much as available to activate Arab coordination and cooperation in various fields of mineral activity, providing information, offering technical assistance and preparing geological maps. The



Vice-president Abduh Rabu Mansour Hadi, patronized 8th Arab Conference on Mineral Wealth

Organization also works for limiting impact of this industry on the environment," Mr. Dhafer remarked.

Yemeni Oil and Minerals Minister, Dr. Rasheed Baraba'a said: "What is needed by the Arab countries is to open horizons for investment, exchange expertise, enhance aspects of partnership and interests." Dr. Baraba'a indicated that Yemen as ambitious for an ideal utilization of this huge wealth by potentials available with the Arab countries.

He emphasized that investment opportunities of investment were available in Yemen and many high and unique investment advantages were granted.

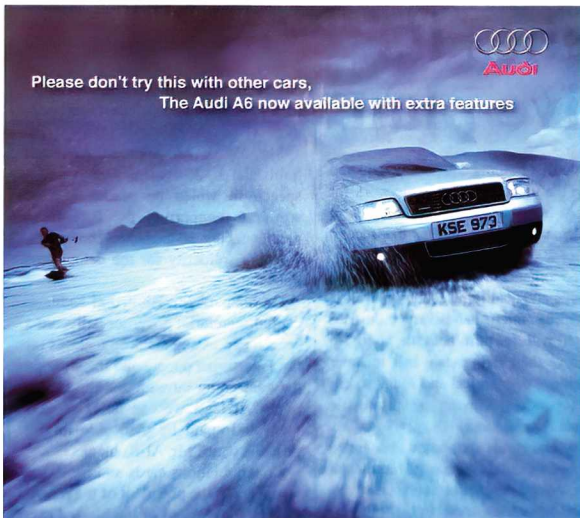
"This conference will be a good opportunity for Arab participants to get

acquainted with geological and mining advantages available in Yemen together with potential mineral wealth," the Oil and Minerals minister said.

Vice president Mr. Abduh Rabu Mansour Hadi who patronized the conference said in his remarks at the end of the opening meeting of the conference that the

huge mineral wealth possessed by the Arab homeland would enable it end poverty, unemployment and solve social and cultural problems, if it were used scientifically and in an integrated manner by the Arab countries.

Comprehensive coverage will be published next week.



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Five al-Qaeda Militants arrested, al-Nabi freed

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni authorities announced Monday the arrest of five al-Qaeda militants with some designs of explosives-making as well as financial remittances documents, a Yemeni official source said.

The arrestees are members of al-Qaeda cell that 11 of its members were arrested last month. The authorities found out with the arrestees maps and diagrams of how to make explosives, use of weapons as well as 8 money transfer documents which were done in a private bank in an African Arab country. A car used by those militants was also seized along with GSM mobiles. The authorities announced last week the arrest of 11 militants of the cell described as "dangerous and extremist".

On the other hand, the authorities

released Khalid Abdul-Nabi, leader of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army (AAIA) whom the government reported to have been killed in the confrontation between the AAIA militants and government forces in Huttat, Abyan last June. Abdul-Nabi surrendered to authorities after mediation with the government run by senior officials. Al-Nabi was reported to have been seen in his area in Abyan, trying with the authorities there to release some of his fellow men. He agreed with the authorities that he and his men give up their extremist views and violence in return of having government posts or returning them to their previous jobs.

Tens of people were killed or wounded injured and over 60 from AAIA in the fight between militants and government forces in Abyan last June. Tens had also been arrested while some others are still at large.

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Appeal for the release of political security detainees

Taiz, 14 Oct. Mothers, sisters and wives of detainees in the political security prison in Taiz last Thursday appealed to the authorities to release their men who had been arrested because of the 11th September events investigations.

The appeal was directed to the president of the republic and speaker of parliament, competent authorities and human rights organisations to apply the articles of the Yemeni constitution and the International declaration for Human Rights which Yemen had ratified to the cases of their relatives. They

demanding the creation of a committee to investigate into the circumstances of those detainees and to take right and fair measures in dealing with the cases to either release them or subject them to a fair trial according to the law.

The letter of appeal was presented during the sit-in that the relatives of the arrested men staged last Saturday in the governorate's yard.

And in the letter it was mentioned that the relatives fear that the political security prison would become like the Guantanamo Jail where the prisoners were chained like animals and treated

without dignity or in a humanitarian way.

The appeal concluded by requesting authorities to save their relatives from certain death in the suffering and non-human treatment which they receive in prison. And that reference should be given to the president's orders who is the head of the judiciary supreme council and the previous parliament committee on establishing a committee to see into the cases of these detainees, especially after the miserable conditions that their families have come to due to the loss of their supporters.

DAI marks its 25th anniversary

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Oct. 15_ A press conference on the German Archaeological Institute, (DAI) and its pioneering role in protecting and saving old historical monuments from decay was held Sana'a at DAI's headquarters on October, 15.

The DAI in Sana'a has been continuously researching the cultural monuments of Yemen.

With the establishment of a permanent scientific institution, German research work was able to fulfill its responsibility towards Yemeni cultural heritage, and to express its close allegiance with modern Yemen. The success of DAI's research endeavors during the past quarter century is largely the result of close cooperation with local institutions, in particular with the Yemeni Antiquities Authority which the research has always been carried out with in a climate of utmost mutual understanding. At the present time the outpost's research energies are concentrated on the Marib region. Apart from projects at the Awam Temple and in Sirwah, the planned excavations in Marib City play a key role for research of the Sabaeen culture, its beginnings, its development and its transformation into the Islamic society of Yemen. An element of continuity with earlier projects is the examination of the Sabaeen irrigation technology that for over

1000 years provided the economic basis for the Sabaeen culture. Parallel to these activities in Marib, the Institute is also pressing ahead with research elsewhere in Yemen, the most important currently defined target being research into the early Himyarite and the Himyarite culture of Yemen at the Jabal al-Awd. Despite its definite research plans, the Sana'a branch continues to reserve for itself the prerogative to react to emergency situations and to the requests of the Yemeni Antiquities Authority to save threatened finding sites and monuments. The German Archaeological Institute bears the responsibility for the tasks that arise from these threats to Yemeni cultural heritage, because it is the only and the oldest permanently active foreign institution devoted exclusively to archaeological research in Yemen. To mark the occasion of our 25th anniversary, the Sana'a Branch for the Oriental Department of the German Archaeological Institute is launching a new series of publications titled "Booklets on the Cultural History of Yemen". This series is intended to make available to a broader public the results the Sana'a Branch's research. With publication of the articles in three languages, the Branch would like to reach as many readers as possible, especially in Arabic-speaking regions. The booklets may be regarded as a contribution to the culturally political

work of the German Archaeological Institute in Yemen. They will enable anyone interested in Yemeni cultural heritage to acquire generally comprehensible information about the research activities of the Branch, and also at the same time about other work on the cultural history of the country.

Earlier this month, the DAI had organized a visit and all German community residing in Yemen were invited to pay a short visit to the famous archaeological sites in Marib. Over 60 participants had participated in this trip to Marib which was jointly organized with the German Embassy Sana'a. The German visitors were most impressed by the work, which over the last 3 decades has been carried out. Among the sites visited were the old Marib Dam, the Dam and Sabaeen settlement in Wadi Gufaina, the Bar'an Temple (Arsh Bilqis) the Awam Temple and the Sabaeen Cemetery next to this sanctuary.

The DAI has included the Dam in Wadi Gufaina in its work plan only this year. Apart from the excavations in Marib the DAI has started a new excavation site in Sirwah in 2001.

In its endeavour to spread the knowledge about Yemen's contribution to world culture, the DAI already has a tradition of inviting visitors to its excavation sites. The next field trip will be organized in the near future.



DAI's main mission is preserving the historical monuments in the eastern governorates such as Marib

Al-Magd Org. launches its human rights executive plan

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Oct. 14_ Under the auspices of Human Rights Minister, Mrs. Amat Al-Aleem Assowah, the Al-Magd Organization for Democratic Awareness, Development & Human Rights officially launched Wednesday its executive plan for the second half of 2003.

In this regard, the first training course on the Philosophical and Cultural Background for Human Rights, International Law on Human Rights, Woman's Rights Agreements, and the International Mechanism was held in Sana'a on October 15 and concluded its activities today, October, 16 at the National Institute for Administrative

Sciences.

Mr. Nabeel Ali Al-Hajj, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the establishment indicated that the course aimed basically at qualifying trainees in capacity building and promoting their scientific and practical skills in democratic fields and human rights. "This will enable our democratic organization to perform its role fully in disseminating notions of democracy and human rights," Mr. Al-Hajj remarked.

The training course training staff included a number of prominent academicians, democracy and human rights activists.

The training course has coincided with the Yemeni national anniversaries September and October revolutions.

The first training course is considered to be the mainstay of strategic work for the Al-Magd Organization in order to implement its plan during the second half of 2003.

The organization is due to provide training and qualifying centers as well as providing micro-handicraft industries which will in turn help the poor to improve their living standards in order to achieve economical and social stability towards achieving a sustainable human development.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by governmental and non-governmental representatives, media representatives, social dignitaries, members of the parliament and Shura council and a host of others.

Yemen cleric sees militants splitting Muslims

BY EVA SOHLMAN

TARIM, Yemen, Oct 14 (Reuters) - A moderate Yemeni cleric is leading a campaign to fight Islamic extremism with a message of peace and tolerance in one of the worst hotbeds of religious militancy.

Omar bin Hafeed is one of the five leading scholars in Yemen helping a government drive to "re-educate" militants, mainly prisoners held for planning attacks on Western and Yemeni targets.

Hafeed, who teaches at the Dar al-Mustafa Centre for Islamic Research in the eastern Yemeni town of Tarim, said Islam had greatly suffered from acts of religious extremism such as the September 11 hijacked plane attacks on U.S. cities.

"Islamic militancy has not only created a gap between the West and Islam, but has caused an even greater split within the Muslim community itself," he told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday.

"It has come to a point where Muslims are now afraid of each other," he said.

In addition to being blamed by the United States for the September 11 strikes, Yemen has accused bin Laden's al Qaeda network of being behind the 2000 bombing of the U.S. warship Cole and a French supertanker last year in Yemeni waters.

Government officials say some 20 people have been released after "re-education", while some 60 suspects remain in jail.

Amnesty International and the U.N. Human Rights Committee have criti-



Omar bin Hafeed

cised the arrests, saying suspects were held on unclear charges or outside the legal framework.

Hafeed said the "re-education" campaign employed tapes and other media to persuade militants to abandon violence, as well as discussions about the interpretation of the Koran.

"They are violating scriptures. The Prophet (Mohammad) opened his town and mosque to people of all religions. Even when he held power over other people, he tolerated them," said Hafeed.

The Mustafa Centre has some 700 students in Tarim and other branches, including several from the United States, Europe and Southeast Asia.

Hafeed said the gap between the West and Muslims could only be bridged through respect for each other's differences.

"We need to work to spread the understanding of tolerance and respect for opinions," he said.

Gas crisis in capital

Sana'a, 14 Oct. The capital Sana'a is nowadays witnessing a suffocating crisis in liquefied gas in most of the gas shops in the capital as the price of one gas cylinder rose to 350 Rials.

A Yemen Times reporter has made a tour of shops selling gas cylinders found out most of them close down and in asking about the reasons some gas sellers confirmed that available gas cylinders are not enough.

The newspaper reporter has tried to contact the Yemeni company for gas to know about the reason why gas cylinders are not available in the market but his effort went in vain. And thus this crisis is expected to remain as it is as long as the gas company does not act or even bother itself to pay filed visits to the markets to be seriously aware about the tampering with this very important commodity for the people.

Readers' Voice

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

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Will Tuesday Turkish embassy in Baghdad explosion make Turkey hesitate in sending troops to Iraq?

- Yes
- No
- I have no idea

LAST EDITION'S

QUESTION:

Do you think the US would win the UN support for Iraq's resolution?

- No 50%
- Yes 47%
- I don't know 3%

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Yemeni agricultural exports to KSA commenced

Sana'a, 12 Oct. A technical delegation from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia arrived in Yemen on Saturday 11 October to study the possibility of exporting Yemeni agricultural products to Saudi markets.

The delegation consisted of representatives of the Kingdom ministries of agriculture, health, industry as well as the general administration for laboratory and quality.

The Saudi delegation met with ministers of agriculture and irrigation, industry and trade and made a number of visits to establishments and agricultural production centers in Sana'a, Taiz, al-Hudaida and Ibb.

The delegation also paid a visit to the general body for specifications and standardization, veterinary laboratories and a number of agricultural exports centers.

Dr. Ahmed bin Abdulhamid al-Oafi general manager for laboratories and quality control in the Kingdom explained in a press statement that the visit would lead to developing trade exchange between Yemen and KSA.

The visit comes as a follow-up of the ministerial meeting held last August on discussing the issue of exporting Yemeni vegetables and fruits to the Saudi markets.

KAP celebrates 3rd anniversary of Intifadha



Sana'a, Oct. 14_ With a speech and art ceremony, the Kanan Association for Palestine, KAP marked last Sunday the occasion of the Yemeni revolution which has coincided with the 3rd anniversary of the Intifadha, (Uprising) in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Mr. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Salih, the KAP Chairman delivered a speech in which he placed a great stress on supporting the Palestinian people facing all possible challenges, showing solidarity for the defenseless Palestinians.

On his part, Mr. Ahmed al-Kuhlani, capital secretariat governor delivered a speech expressing his deep feelings for the Palestinian people and the struggle they are going through and the sufferings. "At least we can do is support them and stand by their side in any possible way," Mr. Al-Kuhlani said.

Congratulations cards and messages were sent to the president of the republic on the occasions of the blessed revolutions and confirming the good relationship between the two countries.



Top attendees during the third anniversary of Intifadha

Training for NGOs wraps up

BY FAHMA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sponsored and funded by the US embassy in Sana'a, the Society of Development Women & Children (Soul) concluded on Thursday 9 Oct. its 2-week workshop entitled "Building the institutional capacities of non-governmental organizations". The workshop was held at the Sana'a International Hotel.

The workshop was devoted to training 20 employees from 10 non-governmental organizations. The trainees received lectures on planning, management, and how to run their institutions successfully.

Yemen Times interviewed some of the trainees who appreciated holding such workshops, wishing to have similar useful ones in future.

Trainee Ahmed al-Ahmadi from Ebhar for childhood and creativity, said, "This is the first successful workshop I

have attended so far. The workshop was distinguished in organization and the fruitful results that we have got. The trainees who have joined this workshop have now the ability to prepare projects and plans as well as raise their abilities and capacities of the organizations we work for."

Aswan Shaher, Yemeni Female Journalist Forum, commented "This workshop is particularly distinguished by many things such as organizing, punctuality, the team spirit that prevailed us during the previous 2 weeks. These things we have found in Soul staff in which cooperation, coordination and automatic distribution of roles, the main traits of the staff."

She added "What attracted me most was the effective participation and dynamic spirit of the participants as well as the mutual respect that gave us a chance to benefit a lot. We have learned a lot of things in management, time, and

organization."

She concluded "I thank Soul society for its intensive efforts to promote and develop the NGO's work. It indeed deserves to be one of the successful civil societies."

Altat Sharf al-Adeen, Sa'da Charitable Woman Society, said "This workshop has gathered trainees from a number of governorates, organizations and parties who work in various fields and come up with one aim that is how to improve the Yemeni society via civil societies and NGO's."

Tawakul Karman, from Yemeni Female Journalists Forum, commented "What I would like to say is that we really have benefited from this workshop by its various lectures as well as from each other's experiences. What impressed me much is to see some participants who come from remote areas that wonderfully reflects their strong desire and will to improve their areas."

Japan supports school for the deaf and dumb in Aden, and al-Mahweet Republican Hospital

Two agreements were signed on Saturday in Sana'a under the Japanese scheme called "General Grant Aid for Grassroots Projects, which aims at supporting small-scale community-based projects in basic human need fields, such as primary health care, basic education in developing countries.

The first agreement was signed between Mrs. Hana Ali Naji, Chairperson of Deaf and Dumb Care and Rehabilitation Association and H.E. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan in Sana'a, in accordance with this agreement, the government of Japan will extend a grant aid amounting up to \$ 34,000 (Thirty-four thousand dollars), approximately six mil-

lion three hundred thousand Yemeni Riyals to procure a transportation bus for school for deaf and dumb in Aden. The bus will enable those students of the school to reach their association smoothly and safely to obtain training on certain skills of income generation nature to assist them in facing the requirements of life and to make them feel they could be creative, independent and of use to their society.

The second agreement was signed between Dr. Mustafa Ali Abdu al-Howish, Manager of Republican Hospital in al-Mahweet and H.E. Mr. Yuichi Ishii, ambassador of Japan in Sana'a. This agreement will make available to Republican Hospital in Al-Mahweet a grant amounting up to \$

28,000 (Twenty-eight thousand dollars), approximately five million one hundred and forty thousand Yemeni Riyals, to procure mobile X-ray machine and ultra-second machine, which will enable the hospital render better health services to the citizens of al-Mahweet City and neighboring districts.

These two projects are the first projects to be implemented under the above-mentioned scheme during this Japanese fiscal year (April 2003-March 2004). In the last fiscal year (April 2002-March 2003), the embassy of Japan extended grants under scheme amounting up to USD 468,368 to implement eight projects in a number of governorates.

Al-Qahira district in Taiz: Artistic portrait of celebration

BY AHMED SALEH AL-BUKHARY
YEMEN TIMES, TAIZ

Taiz, Yemen, 14 Oct.—In celebration of the country's anniversaries of 26th September, and 14th October, al-Qahira city in Taiz has put on its most beautiful dress of glamour and glittering lights decorating its streets with flags rising high and waving in the wind in proud declaration of our country's achievements. Especially in the night when the lights are turned on,

colorful street lights dance in celebration in that beautiful place.

The idea of decorating the streets is to involve everyone in the celebration and get the feel of the great occasions so that all people could celebrate the occasions. This is what the authority in-charge Engineer Ahmed al-Raima and his assistant Mr. Tariq al-Ashwal head of the markets and environment in the district believe in and are working so that it comes true.

Al-Muthafar and Salah districts have

been celebrating the occasions in a similar fashion especially with dying lots of streets and quarters' walls in white colors throwing an optimistic feeling all around. Of course these are results of hard work by Mr. Mohammed Saeed al-Sabri head of the administration and Engineer Najeeb al-Himyari head of the general administration in the districts where the al-Qahira Fort had been decorated and from where fire works shoot into the sky in celebration.

Sony organizes a seminar with clients

Sana'a, Oct. 14_ Al-Haidary Company the only agents for Sony in Yemen organized a seminar last Monday to endorse relations with its clients.

The seminar was attended by around 100 agents and authorized distributors for Sony in which Mr. Mohammed al-Haidary general manager of the company delivered a speech describing the strong relationship between the company and its clients and customers. New Digital products from Sony for year 2003 were introduced in the seminar especially the WEGAN product..

Mr. Kamal Regional officer for Sony attended the seminar and expressed his delight on being there and praised Sony-Yemen for the remarkable sales and distinguished reputation the company enjoys. He also commented that Sony will advertise soon through media tools about its various products in order to introduce them to customers and enhance the relationship.

A review for the al-Haidary company in the past few years was given by Mr. Abdulrahman al-Haidari who confirmed that there are unbeatable sales currently going on for the Sony products. He also introduced some of the new products explaining their characteristics and quality.



13-year unsettled case appeals to president

BY ABDUH MOQBIL ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen Times has received a petition letter last week lodged by Sheikh Mahmoud Abdullah Othman, the owner of the Alsobei Int'l. Corp. for Travel, Tourism, Hajj, Omrah & General Trading appealing to the president of the republic to secure justice for his 13-year-long unsettled case.

Final valid decisions have been issued in favor of his case including the delivery of what has been plundered from his house by his wife and her family. All those decisions have been issued by the Supreme Court, but nothing has been yet settled.

"The court of the first instance in Taiz has committed a crime because the court has pronounced a sentence in favor of the opponents. Apart of what has been plundered is given to my opponents and this has been issued by the court," the petition said.

"This is not only enough, the judge

of the same court issued a decision demanding a dowry of the wife whom she just lived one week with her husband. As an accomplice of her family, the wife stole everything from the house with an intention to kill me while I was praying in the mosque," the petition added.

The judge pronounced the decision with a prejudice in favour of the opponents including issuing a decision to close down the Alsobei Int'l. Corp.

With his orders, he also terrified the employees working for the corporation. "Such procedures have caused tremendous financial losses estimated at YR 500.000 every day," the petition said.

The Sheikh Mahmoud has petitioned to the president, HE. Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Justice Minister to the following:

- Orders should be given to set up a committee to evaluate the losses of the institution, which has been estimated at tens of millions, and every

day the losses increase due to its closure. What has been demanded by the judge to implement an impugned decision is actually fabricated by the same court against carrying out what the opponents should fulfill.

- The judge has to be held accountable to what he has issued against the investment establishment. This has taken in a time when the president of the republic has urged all local as well as foreign investors to invest in the country peacefully without causing panic or instability. This is because such behavior will at length harm the national economy and Yemen's safety. "We have been seeking to promote Yemen's standard and not to destroy the economy and encourage corruption," the petition added.

- Strict measures have to be taken against anyone who harms the national economy or terrifies investment and investors. The judiciary system is considered to be the central core for protecting investment and investors.

First regional conference for the disabled

Sana'a, 14 Oct._ Meetings of the 1st regional conference for the disabled was concluded in Sana'a last Monday. The conference was carried on for three days under the title: "Total merging and a better life for the disabled".

In the conference which was organized by the Arab Establishment for Human Rights between the 11th and the 13th of this month, a number of working papers were presented by intellectuals working on the disabled issues in the Arab countries, such as Jordan and Oman. From Yemen a number of concerned personalities participated in the discussions and in presenting working papers to the conference as well.

The conference discussed the Arab Establishment for Human Right's experience in the rights and status of the disabled children in Yemen and how to merge those unfortunate in schools and the obstacles that face employing disabled people and how to provide technical and financial support for those people with special needs.

Post Day marked

Sana'a, 14 Oct. _ Yemen represented in the general authority of post and postal saving celebrated on Thursday 9 October the International Day of post.

Mr. Mohammed Ali Morkham, general manager of the general authority of post, pointed out that on 9 of October all the members of post administrations in the international union of post celebrate this day to review what have achieved through the year as well as to discuss the future plans and what could be added to the current postal services.

He said further that the authority on this occasion is organizing seminars through which they give and explanation for the activities and services the authority does and let the citizens know the postal services.

Yemen Observer's latest publication

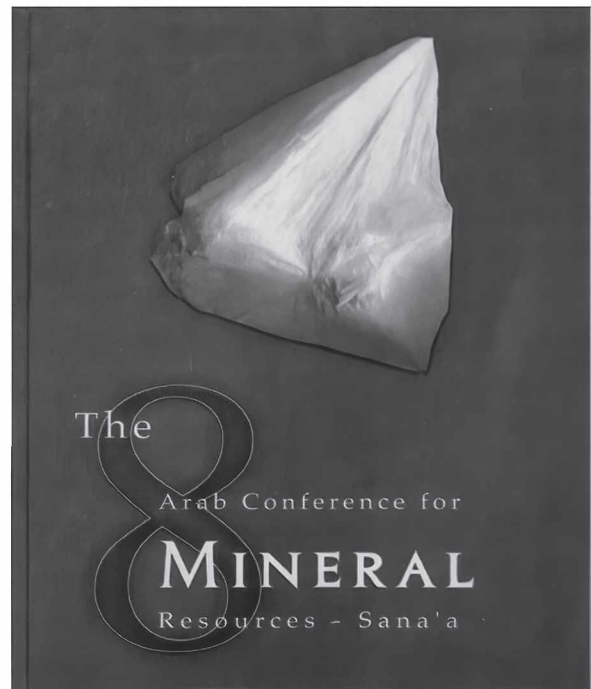
SANA'A, Oct. 14 — Coinciding with the 8th Arab Conference for Mineral Wealth in Sana'a, the Yemen Observer has just released mineral's prestigious colored documentary.

The new book is the fifth in a series published by Yemen Observer. This edition contains 100 pages and is divided into three chapters; the first chapter deals with the potential untapped minerals in the country and the exploration of metallic and non-metallic minerals to date. It also covers the geological features typifying Yemen as well as agriculture, water and dams.

The second chapter investigates the arenas of culture and tourism in Yemen. The third chapter gives detailed accounts of both focusing on Sana'a 2004 as Arab Culture Capital. It also reports on the Sheba

roaming exhibition currently on tour in Europe, the story of the Yemeni curved dagger the "Jambiah" and the unique blend of magic and mystery linked with Yemeni onyx.

The final chapter deals with Yemeni politics, the function of political parties, human rights, press freedom and other matters of public life in Yemen. A list of elite politicians, chiefly Prime Minister Abdul Kader Bajammal, Minister of Oil & Minerals, Dr. Rasheed Baraba, the General Manager of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Minerals, Talaat Al Dhafer, and the President of the General Authority for Geological Survey and Mineral Resources, Dr. Ismael Al-Jund have contributed to this edition.



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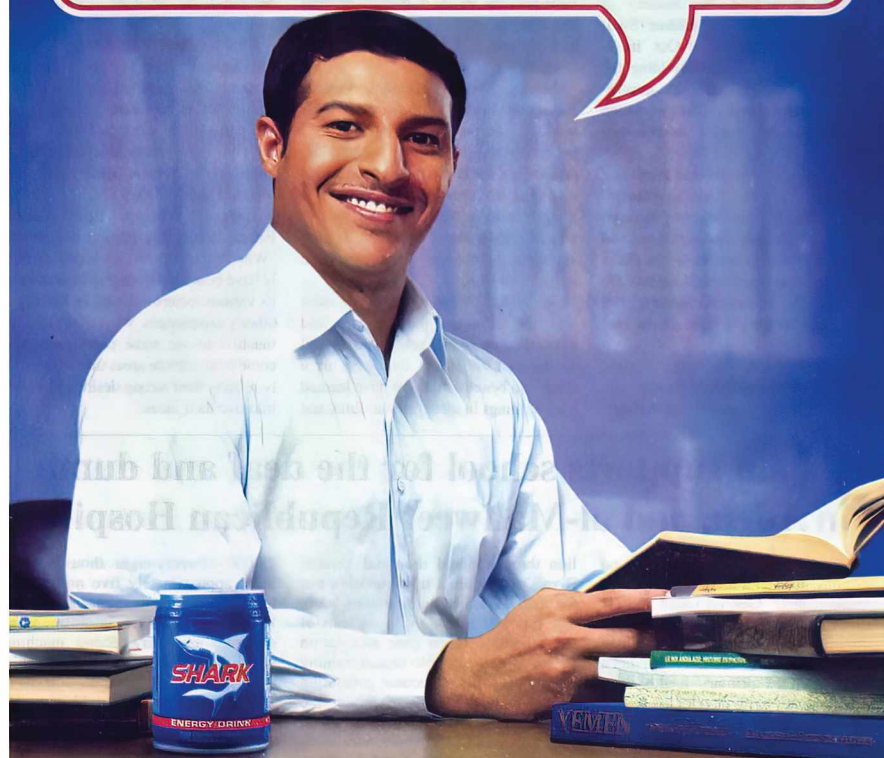
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Tourism partnership seminar



By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The seminar about partnership between the private sector and state in planning and development of tourism in Yemen concluded its events in Sana'a recently. The seminar focused on the future of tourism and its development and the role of the private sector in this and a number of working papers and discussions were presented in the seminar by a number of intellectuals and concerned authorities.

Of the main points in the seminar, were the obstacles and problems that face investors in the tourism sector in Yemen and what the private sector faces in this concern. Presentation of examples from the past was given and it was condemned that the state did not do anything about it. Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mr. Ahmed Sofan confirmed the government's interest in developing tourism, considering it as a main income for the national economy, but he also called for making this issue a public concern and not just the authorities'.

Government presents new tourist attractions in the Red Sea

Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr. Khalid al-Rowaishan commented that "there are steps taken to concluding a number of agreements with specialized multinational companies on tourist marketing and campaigning." And that the ministry is working on enhancing the tourist administration internally and facilitating tourists visits to the country and providing secure environments for



The panel during the tourism seminar

them.

Head of the Tourist development general body Mr. Mutahar Taqi emphasized that the surveys carried out by the body described 70 various potential tourist attractions. Six of which are ready for investment on the Arabian Sea coast. A documentary film which was screened in the seminar introduced Hunaith archipelago south of the Red Sea and the beautiful natural environments in the islands there where five excellent diving locations were identified. Private sector demands the government to remove obstacles against private investments.

The role of the government offices in developing tourism was discussed by Mr. Hamid Mohammed Jawhar consultant at the General Body for Tourism where he explained the potential of the private sector participating in the development and the local councils, although the private sector representatives expressed their complaints about the problems they are facing in investment and the governments helplessness in

these issues.

The working paper presented by the investors and businessmen society represented in the seminar by Mr. Abdulsalam Yaseen al-Ashwari conveyed that the problems still exist and that conflict in authorities and specializations between the administrative sectors in the government and the delay in paper work subject investors to mental and financial losses, including blackmailing and undue commissions. The paper also talked about the continuous deterioration in the environment and its negative impact on tourism. And he called for establishing specialized companies for tourist services and terminating the ugly security monitoring and supervision along with the bad side effects of it such as blackmailing tourist and so on.

As for the working paper of the Chamber of Commerce at the capital secretariat presented by Mr. Ibrahim al-Qassimi it mentioned the necessity of enhancing the tourist incentives that encourage tourists and tourist invest-

ments and to stop the surprise security campaigns that tourist establishments receive without care for the tourists and the customers in the establishments. Also financing and funding should be provided and facilities to investors in this field.

Dr. Tha'ir Sha'alan of the National Bank for Commerce and Investment presented a working paper in which he focused on the 11th Sept effects on the Tourists level and that tourists should be encouraged to visit the country reviewing the difficulties which the private sector faces in this concern.

Conclusion

The seminar focused on the difficulties facing the private sector in investment and identifying the problems in tourism. But the question which needs to be answered is whether the government will take those concerns seriously and do something to improve the situation or is it just a seminar held for the sake of publicity without follow-up on the recommendations and suggestions yielding by it? The government will not succeed in directing the tourist attention toward diving while the rest of the tourist attractions, historical and natural are suffering from worst conditions.

Traffic



By ISMAEL AL-GHABERI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In fact, the victims of traffic accidents may be more than those of wars or even those of natural disasters. Death of those who were involved in wars as they are likely to be killed, but in the case of traffic victims there is no rational reason for their death, they were unfairly killed by some semi-human beings who used to drive their vehicles in so reckless speeds, and sometimes with absent-mindedness, and with no knowledge of the rules and norms of driving. Let alone the fact that they are totally with no sense of responsibility.

As a result of that, traffic policemen are responsible for such tragic incidents and they should use iron fists to prevent such rash and foolish acts. This terrible behavior reflects misunderstanding of real objectives of technology. Seeing torn-limbs caused by traffic accidents immediately brings anger to the head as well as deep sorrow for the victim people. Besides, there is an outcry in the society against such cruel acts by those criminal sav-

ages, who misuse vehicles on highways.

Such acts leave one angry, astonished and unable to think quietly. They make one behaves unmercifully towards careless drivers, too.

There are strict traffic laws in all countries applied very accurately by everyone and include severe punishments, which are harder than those used against the most dangerous criminals, as the neglect of innocent people's lives will certainly give a drive to careless drivers to act more rashly.



But since the rule of law is sidelined in this area, we still witness these continuous violent accidents. Furthermore, there are traffic regulations in Yemen that almost are not applied and only controlled by money. Those who are able to buy too expensive cars are, of course, able to pay for their crimes.

Stationery

Al Zahra

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Security vital before political steps-Iraq Council

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia, Oct 14 (Reuters) - The foreign minister of Iraq's Governing Council said on Tuesday the U.S.-backed provisional body was willing to take on the role of "interim authority" but security must be improved before further political steps could follow.

A U.S. draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council proposed that the Governing Council come up with a timetable by December 15 for a constitution and elections, in cooperation with the U.S.-led occupation authority and a U.N. representative.

"We have always expressed our readiness, our willingness that as the Iraqi Governing Council we will be able to provide, to meet those deadlines," Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told reporters.

Zebari, in Malaysia for meetings ahead of a summit of Muslim leaders,

has held two days of talks with other ministers from the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Asked by Reuters to what extent the Governing Council was influenced by the United States, Zebari said: "Well, we are friends with the U.S., okay, we are allies."

"We work together, we have a convergence of interest, we are not opposed to each other."

Zebari explained why the Governing Council objected to OIC ministers seeking to draft a resolution setting a specific timeframe for U.S.-led troops to withdraw from Iraq.

"We want a transfer of authority as soon as possible. We as Iraqis are very keen to regain our sovereignty and independence as quickly as possible, as practical as possible," he said.

Speaking to reporters, Zebari said



Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari listens during the closing session of the 10th Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit's foreign ministers' preparatory meeting in Putrajaya near Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 14. REUTERS

establishing a new political order in his country would depend on how fast the security situation improves.

"A great deal depends on the security situation, on the security environment," he said. "Unless this is improved, it will be difficult to carry out any further political steps."

He also called on the United Nations to become more involved, but made no mention of giving the world body the central role that other OIC members have sought.

"Everybody agrees there should be an expanded role for the U.N. It has to be more involved and more engaged," Zebari said.

Zebari is accompanied by Iyad Allawi, the new head of the Governing Council under its rotating leadership, who will represent Iraq at the OIC summit on Thursday and Friday.

Saudi Arabia holds first human rights forum

RIYADH, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia was hosting a human rights conference on Tuesday, the first in the conservative kingdom which has faced international condemnation over its own rights record.

The Gulf state, the cradle of Islam, has come under harsh criticism from Western human rights groups for severe sharia law punishments, including public beheadings, and for discrimination against women. They also accuse Saudi Arabia of arbitrary detention without trial and torture.

But the more controversial issues were unlikely to be addressed at the Human Rights in Peace and War Conference in Riyadh, organised by the Saudi Red Crescent Society.

The conference was officially opened late on Monday, while the speeches and debating sessions began on Tuesday.

Organiser Saleh al-Tuwaijri told Reuters the forum would discuss issues such as human rights under Islam, implementation of international human rights laws and the rights of refugees.

"There is a misunderstanding between Islamic and Western societies and we believe the reason is a lack of intellectual contact. The more we can provide such contact, the wider the understanding for Islamic sharia in the West," he said.

"The West regrettably now looks at Islam and Arabs through certain groups of Muslims defaming Islam and we must show them the real picture of Islam," he said, in reference to militant organisations such as Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network.

Saudi Arabia, birthplace of bin Laden, is under pressure from Washington to implement reforms and crack down on militants after the September 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. cities, carried out mainly by Saudis.

Western critics blame Riyadh for allowing Islamic militants to seize on a lack of political freedoms to gain followers.

Interior Minister Prince Nayef on Monday rejected Western criticism of the kingdom's rights record as one-sided.

"We are used to hearing such accusations but unfortunately we never hear (the critics) when human rights...are violated by their own communities," Prince Nayef said.

He warned against protests — banned in the kingdom — during the forum after calls by exiles for vigils.

Iraqi Shi'ites clash in holy city, one dead

KERBALA, Iraq, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Rival Shi'ite Muslims fought in the Iraqi city of Kerbala late on Monday leaving at least one dead in the first armed clashes between Shi'ite groups since the U.S.-led war which ousted Saddam Hussein, witnesses said.

Hospital officials said one Iraqi was killed and 21 were wounded in the clashes, in which both sides were armed with Kalashnikov rifles. But an eyewitness said he saw seven bodies.

The fighting between followers of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and supporters of moderate cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani erupted around the shrine of Imam Hussein after dark on Monday and continued into the morning.

Iraqi police and Bulgarian soldiers deployed in the city as part of a Polish-led force in central Iraq sealed off the area around the gold-domed shrine on Tuesday and tried to calm the rival groups.

"There are wounded people still inside the area but it is too tense to remove them," eyewitness Sheikh Mohammed Kinaani told Reuters.

The shrine of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, is one of the most holy sites in Shi'ite Islam and a popular destination for pilgrims.

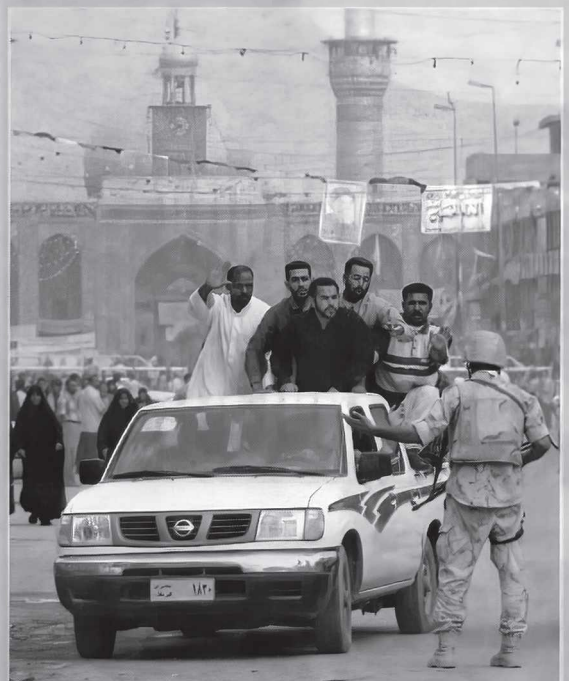
Moderate leaders of Iraq's majority Shi'ite population have advocated cautious co-operation with the U.S.-led administration in the hope of winning power in a future Iraqi government after years of oppression under Saddam's Sunni-dominated administration.

But Sadr has accused Iraq's occupiers of failing Shi'ites and last week announced he was establishing his own provisional Islamic government to rival the U.S.-appointed Government Council, made up of 25 Iraqis from across the country's ethnic and religious spectrum.

"After Moqtada al-Sadr declared his own government his people wanted to take control of the shrine and the Sistani people were the ones controlling it so this triggered the clashes," said Kinaani, a cleric who said he was not affiliated to either side.

Sadr has a strong following in Sadr City, the huge Shi'ite slum district of Baghdad named after his father, a revered cleric whose murder in 1999 was widely believed to have been ordered by Saddam.

U.S. soldiers set up extra checkpoints in Sadr City on Tuesday in an attempt to prevent Sadr's followers from heading to Kerbala, around 100 km (70 miles) to the south.



A Bulgarian soldier checks an Iraqi pickup truck near the Imam Hussein shrine in the holy city of Kerbala Oct. 14. REUTERS

Israel to expel 15 W.Bank Palestinians to Gaza

JERUSALEM, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Israel's military said on Tuesday it had ordered 15 Palestinian prisoners involved in "terror activity" to be expelled from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

It would be the largest deportation of its kind since the start of the Palestinian uprising for independence which began in September 2000 after peace talks became deadlocked.

The army said the prisoners had been transferred from West Bank prisons to a

detention centre on the edge of the Gaza Strip ahead of being released into Palestinian-ruled territory there. They were given 48 hours to appeal the move.

Palestinians and international human rights groups have opposed such action in the past as violations of international law.

Israel, which last year deported two Palestinians accused of helping a suicide bomber to the Gaza Strip, said it had issued the expulsion warrants for the 15 "to prevent the reabsorption of

those with warrants against them into the circle of terror".

None of the Palestinians due to be deported to the Gaza Strip had "blood on their hands", a euphemism for carrying out killings of Israelis, but they were all "involved in assisting terror activity," the army said without elaborating.

It said that the prisoners were being expelled because they could not be put on trial without revealing sensitive intelligence information.



A Palestinian schoolboy hurls a bottle at an Israeli army vehicle during clashes in the West Bank city of Nablus Oct. 14. The Israeli military on Tuesday ordered the expulsion of 15 Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank to the fenced-in Gaza Strip, the largest deportation of its kind in three years of Middle East violence. REUTERS

Iran denies hiding nuke site, says not making bomb

TEHRAN/VIENNA, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Two weeks ahead of a U.N. deadline for Tehran to come clean about its nuclear plans, Iran on Tuesday dismissed allegations by an exile group that it was hiding sites from U.N. inspectors to covertly make an atom bomb.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), which has accurately tipped off the international community about undeclared nuclear sites in Iran in the past, said Tehran was hiding another facility near Isfahan in central Iran.

"We have certainly not" hidden any facilities from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Akbar Salehi, told Reuters in Tehran. "This piece of information is absolutely baseless."

The NCRI, which in August 2002 broke the news about a large underground uranium enrichment facility at Natanz and other sites Iran later declared to the IAEA, said its information came from well-placed informers inside Iran.

"The (secret) site has been built to test centrifuges that enrich uranium," NCRI official Firouz Mahvi told reporters in Vienna. "It is located 15 km (nine miles) east of Isfahan under the name of Isfahan's Fuel Research and Production Centre."

Mahvi said unless the international community took diplomatic action to stop Iran's clandestine nuclear activities "it is very likely that by 2005" Iran will have an atomic bomb.

Washington agrees with the NCRI's

views on Iran's weapons ambitions, though U.S. analysts estimate that Tehran could not make an atomic bomb until the latter part of the decade.

Iran strongly denies it has any programme to make nuclear weapons and says it needs atomic power to generate electricity.

The IAEA declined to comment on the NCRI report. A Western diplomat familiar with the IAEA said information provided by the NCRI, which Washington lists as a terrorist organisation, should be taken seriously, though its record of accuracy was mixed.

"The IAEA has visited some sites the NCRI reported on this year," he said. "Some have turned out to be nuclear facilities and some have not. They do not have...100 percent accuracy."

Pledge of reform

Riyadh has pledged more reforms, including improving job opportunities for women, and the cabinet on Monday approved the country's first polls to vote for municipal councils.

Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy and its laws are based on a strict interpretation of Islam.

Forum organisers said some Saudi women would speak about violence against women and women's rights, and that Amnesty International and other international human rights bodies would attend.

Women in the kingdom are still not allowed to drive and cannot travel without a male companion.

In January, a team from New York-based Human Rights Watch became the first international independent human rights group to visit the oil-rich country and said then that Riyadh signalled its intent to implement tougher human rights standards.

It said Riyadh was reforming its judiciary by introducing clearer regulations and improved access by lawyers.

The kingdom punishes theft with amputation of the right hand and beheads murderers, rapists and drug smugglers.

South Korea rotates non-combat troops in Iraq

SEOUL, Oct 14 (Reuters) - South Korea prepared to send replacement non-combat troops to Iraq on Tuesday and said President Roh Moo-hyun would outline Seoul's position to the United States next week on a request for combat troops.

The United States asked South Korea last month to send the combat troops to help stabilise post-war Iraq. South Korean media have said Washington wants Seoul to commit about 5,000 troops and to make a decision by the end of this month. It has not said where it wants the force.

But the troop decision is likely to be complicated by Roh's call for a December referendum on his rule, a move that surprised political foes and friends alike.

Yonhap news agency quoted Roh's national defence adviser, Kim Hee-sang, as saying the referendum proposal would not affect the troop decision and it was not necessary to send a second survey team to Iraq, as some opposition politicians have urged.

But the Maeil Business Newspaper quoted an unnamed presidential Blue House official as saying Ra Jong-yil, presidential security adviser, told the United States, "Any decision could be made only after the dispute over the referendum is wrapped up."

South Korea has had about 700 medical and engineering troops working out of a U.S. base in the Iraqi town of Nassariya since May without incident.

Half of the 466 replacement troops were slated to leave South Korea for Iraq on Wednesday, and the remainder would go on October 22, defence officials said.

A South Korean fact-finding team sent to Iraq to study security said on its return last week the security picture



South Korean soldiers shout slogans at a departure ceremony at a military unit in Kwangju, Kyonggi province, about 40 km (25 miles) southeast of Seoul Oct. 14. South Korea will send replacement non-combat troops to Iraq on Wednesday and said President Roh Moo-hyun would outline Seoul's position to U.S. President George W. Bush next week on Washington's request for combat troops.

was mixed and did not commit itself on whether troops should go.

Roh, who is scheduled to meet U.S. President George W. Bush at an Asia-Pacific summit in Bangkok next week, faces a tough political decision in which he must weigh strong public

opposition to the Iraq war against Seoul's desire to shore up its military alliance with Washington.

Protesters demonstrated on Tuesday near the U.S. embassy against the request for combat troops.

The Blue House said Roh's agenda

for talks with Bush included North Korea, trade, their military alliance and an explanation of South Korea's stance on sending troops. It was not clear whether Roh would be in a position to say definitively whether Seoul could meet the U.S. request.

Indian police surround camp to block Ayodhya rally

LUCKNOW, India, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Indian police have surrounded a camp of 2,000 Hindu hardliners and arrested thousands more in a bid to block a potentially explosive rally on Friday to demand that a Hindu temple be built over a razed mosque.

More than 70,000 activists are heading to the northern town of Ayodhya that has been a lightning rod for Hindu-Muslim tension since the Babri mosque was destroyed in 1992, sparking some of India's worst religious rioting that killed 3,000 people.

Some of the 3,100 arrested so far have been released and sent back home, but police have also besieged a camp on Ayodhya's outskirts with about 2,000 activists inside.

"They can do whatever they like inside, but...they will not be allowed to step out of the premises," district magistrate Deepak Kumar told Reuters.

VIOLENCE FEARS

Police are on alert across northern India and troops are due in Ayodhya within the next two days to reinforce more than 10,000 police already deployed.

The last time Hindu hardliners called a rally in March last year, thousands also made their way to Ayodhya, but many were stopped by police and the protest fizzled out peacefully.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a hardline ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, has called the rally to push for a massive temple on what Hindus believe is the birthplace, before recorded history, of the revered god-king Ram.

The rally has fuelled fears of fresh

communal violence after more than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were burned or hacked to death last year following the death of 59 Hindus when a trainload of Ayodhya pilgrims was torched in the western state of Gujarat.

More than 20,000 activists have been piling into trains — some passing through the station where last year's trouble started — and buses out of Gujarat.

Another 50,000 are expected from the western Maharashtra state, whose capital, Bombay, was the scene of some of the worst rioting after the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

Tensions grew in the volatile western state of Gujarat where a 40-year old Muslim woman was killed after being hit by a teargas shell fired by police to disperse a mob that attacked a police station, a senior police official said.

The Muslim mob attacked the police station in the industrial town of Baroda, where a man wanted for several offences including murder and theft was detained, Police Commissioner Sudhir Sinha told Reuters.

Underscoring how quickly tensions can flare, four people were injured in a small communal clash in Bombay — after a Muslim boy made offensive comments to a Hindu girl.

Officials have temporarily barred the VHP's top three leaders from Ayodhya.

The government has banned the rally in line with a court ruling outlawing any religious activity near the disputed site until the issue can be settled.

Border commission rejects Ethiopian criticism

ADDIS ABABA, Oct 14 (Reuters) - A commission set up to define a disputed border between Ethiopia and Eritrea rejected criticism from Ethiopia that it was in "terminal crisis", according to documents obtained by Reuters on Tuesday.

Ethiopia wrote to the U.N. Security Council last month to protest at the Hague-based commission's decision to award the politically sensitive town of Badme to Eritrea, with whom relations remain bitter after their 1998-2000 border war.

The commission, reacting to the letter, said Ethiopia had agreed to accept its judgments on the boundary under the terms of a peace deal signed in Algiers in 2000 to end the conflict, which claimed an estimated 70,000 lives.

"Ethiopia characterises the situation as being one in which 'the work of the Commission is in terminal crisis'," said a copy of a letter written by the Boundary Commission to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, dated October 7, 2003.

"...there is no 'crisis', terminal or otherwise, which cannot be cured by Ethiopia's compliance with its obliga-

tion under the Algiers Agreement, in particular its obligations to treat the Commission's delimitation determination as 'final and binding,'" the letter says.

The objections raised by Ethiopia have fuelled doubts over whether the demarcation of the boundary determined by the independent commission will start as scheduled this month.

The U.N. Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea said last week the demarcation would go ahead as planned, but a diplomat in Addis Ababa who declined to be named said political and technical difficulties were likely to cause delays.

In his letter to the Security Council, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi asked the United Nations to establish an alternative mechanism to demarcate contested parts of the boundary, saying it was unimaginable for Ethiopia to lose Badme.

The Security Council rejected his demand, saying Ethiopia had agreed to accept the commission's ruling as final.

Eritrea had called for international sanctions on Ethiopia for refusing to accept the commission's ruling.

Liberia's new leader faces tough task of rebuilding

MONROVIA, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Gyude Bryant, a low-profile businessman, takes office as Liberia's new leader on Tuesday and will seek to disarm roving bands of fighters and rebuild the West African country after nearly 14 years of war.

Tens of thousands of people swamped the streets of the battle-scarred capital Monrovia on Monday to welcome home Bryant, who was picked by warring factions after ex-President Charles Taylor flew into exile in August.

"The expectations of the people are high and we need to deliver. We intend to deliver," Harry Greaves, an aide to the new leader, told Reuters.

Bryant, 54, is due to be sworn in at 11 a.m. (same GMT), guarded by troops from a United Nations force that is building up into the world's biggest U.N. peacekeeping effort.

Leaders of two rebel factions are expected at the ceremony under tight U.N. security to prevent a repeat of violence like that which left four people dead when one rebel leader tried to come to Monrovia earlier this month.



Businessman Gyude Bryant waves to the crowd as he arrives in Monrovia on October 13, 2003 to be sworn in as head of a government designed to rebuild Liberia after 14 years of war.

Bryant was picked as a neutral consensus builder, seen as someone who

could manage likely tensions within a government that will bring in rebels,

Taylor loyalists and civilian politicians.

An even bigger task will be disarming thousands of young fighters inured to murder, rape and pillage. After that, the government will seek to get hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians home and pave the way for elections in 2005.

More than 200,000 people have perished during fighting since 1989 in the country that was founded by freed American slaves more than 150 years ago as a haven of liberty.

Liberia has been given fresh hope since the departure of Taylor, who handed over to his former deputy Moses Blah as caretaker president.

Taylor is in exile in Nigeria, a fugitive from a U.N.-backed court in Sierra Leone that wants to try him for crimes in a civil war linked to Liberia's own struggle.

Former officials were philosophical about the end of his era. Taylor's cabinet director, Blamo Nelson, said: "The lid of the pot has been blown off. The steam is out. Now Liberia has to simmer down."

Nigerian union leaders arrested in fuel price row

LAGOS, Oct 14 (Reuters) - Nigeria's main trade union said on Tuesday that police had arrested seven of its leaders for demonstrating at petrol stations which failed to comply with a deal on fuel prices last week.

Under the deal, which averted a threatened general strike, petrol marketers were to reduce pump prices to 34 naira (26 U.S. cents) per litre from prevailing levels of around 40 naira. Prices rose in September, following a controversial decision to liberalise petrol prices in the world's seventh oil exporter.

John Odah, the General Secretary of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC),

said the union leaders were arrested in the capital Abuja on Monday. He said attempts by the NLC to have them released on bail had been unsuccessful.

"Seven officers and staff of the NLC were...rounded up at gunpoint," the union said in a statement.

"The arrests were effected by the police acting on orders from above to clamp down on the efforts of the NLC to monitor and enforce compliance with the agreed pump price of fuel products."

The statement said police have refused to grant them bail, insisting that only the presidency could order

their release.

Police were not immediately available for a comment.

The NLC has not threatened a new strike. But the continued detention of the unionists raises the possibility of such an action, with the union saying it will do all it can to enforce the 34 naira accord.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is going through one of its worst fuel shortages since the end of military rule in 1999, largely as a result of the petrol price controversy.

Only a few petrol stations have been selling at 34 naira, and many have simply closed temporarily.

Sri Lankan army blocks protest march in the east

COLOMBO, Oct 14 (Reuters) - The Sri Lankan army blocked hundreds of ethnic Sinhalese protesters on Tuesday from marching on a Tamil Tiger rebel camp in the island's northeast, fearing a confrontation between the two might turn violent.

The camp, which the Tigers built in violation of a 20-month ceasefire, has prompted accusations the government and monitors overseeing the truce are appealing the rebels to keep on track the process to end two decades of civil war.

"There will be an unnecessary problem if the protesters try to move inside. There could be some retaliation and people could be injured," said army spokesman Colonel Sumedha Perera,

who estimated 150 monks and up to 400 civilians among the protesters.

He said the protesters were about four km (2.5 miles) from the camp, but were being held back peaceably by army and police.

Reducing friction in the ethnically mixed east — part of the territory the Tigers claim as a Tamil homeland — is seen as one of the keys to a lasting peace once stalled peace talks resume, likely in the next several months.

But the controversial camp has provided ammunition to Sinhalese nationalist groups such as Sihala Urumaya, which led the march, who say the peace process is conceding too much to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE) and will lead to a divided country.

"If the premier could give an assurance to the country of the time and the date of the removal of the LTTE camp, we are still prepared to call off the protest," Sihala Urumaya leader Thilak Karunaratne told the island newspaper. Monitors overseeing the Norwegian-brokered truce and the Defence Ministry both urged the group not to continue the march.

"We do not need any third party into that sensitive area," said Hagarup Haukland, deputy head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission.

Residents said there had been no violence.

Pope John Paul II

(By Father Matthew Uzhunnalil S. D. B., Aden)

Among the world religions, Roman Catholicism can legitimately speak of a great world recognized leader in the person of Pope John Paul II, a Polish Pope and yet a spiritual leader. According to the Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Pope John Paul II is "the highest moral authority in the world".

This year on 16th October, Pope John Paul II will be 25 years as Pope and leader of the two Billion Roman Catholics of the world. He is 83 years old of which 57 he spent as a Catholic priest and 45 years as a Bishop. Roman Catholic Church can speak of great Popes like Gregory and Leo.

Yet I doubt if any one deserves the title 'great' more than this present Pope as he has affected the two thousand years of Papacy and church history as very few Popes have done.

The Pope's Silver Jubilee will be celebrated on 19th October 2003 on the same day on which he will officially declare Mother Theresa whom he admired much a "Blessed", the first step on her way to sainthood before thousands at the Vatican.

After the death of Pope Paul VI, a group of Roman Catholic theologians, made famous in the communications



His pontiff Pope John Paul II

- 2- an intellectual and a theologian
- 3- he should tackle the modern social issues

Yes they got a Pope that they asked for but may not be the one they wanted!

The achievement of Pope John Paul II are too many to enumerate. To give the spiritual food for his two billion Roman Catholic all over the world, he has sent out over 70,000 pages of official documents like Encyclicals, instructions etc. over ten millions of his book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope" were sold out and translated into 32 languages.

The Pope has a beautiful statement on Islam in this book: "the religiosity of Muslims deserves special respect. It is impossible not to admire for example their fidelity to prayer. The image of believers in Allah who without caring about time or place, fall to their knees and immerse themselves in prayer remains a model for all those who invoke the true God".

The international Youth Day is a genial idea of Pope John Paul II. The last in the series was at Toronto, Canada in June 2002. Even in a

Muslim country like Morocco, he spoke to about 50,000 youth in a stadium at Casablanca in 1985. At Manila in Philippines, he spoke to a crowd of about 500,000. Taken up by the enthusiasm of the pope, the youth assembled there shouted: "Pope John Paul II we love you, we kiss you." To which the Pope responded "I kiss you too... all of you... no jealousy".

The Pope is uncompromising in his principles regarding divorce, contraception, extramarital and homosexual relations. Life has to be protected from the womb to the tomb, he said. Human rights and economic justice must be meted out to all, especially to those in poor countries.

He is very human, loves nature, especially the mountains. Often he warned the world leaders about the world environment disasters that can affect humanity very adversely. He is a Pope who has tried to improve relations with all religions.

He was not afraid to make apologies for the mistakes made by the Catholic Church and the consequent suffering and sorrow caused to any one. The famous meeting at Assisi in Italy where all the world religious leaders came together at the invitation of the Pope and prayed together for peace in the world, is an achievement in the life of the Pope and this has become an annual feature. Pope John Paul II is the first Pope to enter a Muslim mosque and a Jewish synagogue.

He got on his knees at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi in India. He personally visited Ali Agca who shot at him to kill him and got his release from jail. The head of the Anglican church Archbishop William Carey, now retired, called Pope John Paul II "the spiritual leader of all Christians". Vatican has established diplomatic relations with Yemen. Our president and some of his cabinet colleagues were in Vatican where the Pope received them with great joy.

The Pope is very much interested in the development of Yemen. The Pope's ambassador to Yemen and to the Arab countries like Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea lives in Kuwait.

Lately he had been to Yemen to meet the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the governor of Aden. The Pope's Vicar, for the few lakhs of Roman Catholics living and working in the Arab region, is Bishop Bernard G. Gremoli who resides at Abu Dhabi. His seven predecessors lived and worked in Tawahi, Aden.

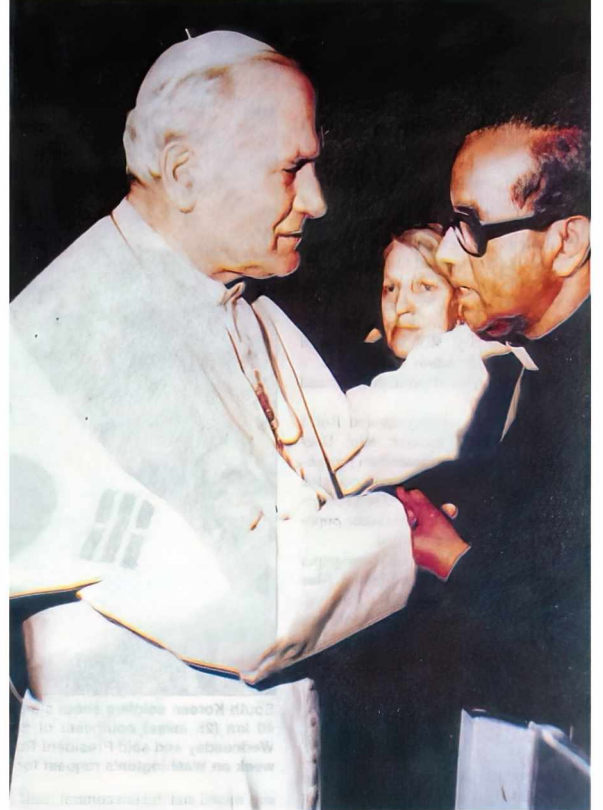
Every world leader who visited him including the Grand Mufti at Sana'a had something wonderful to say about

Pope John Paul II. The American president George Bush said thus about Pope John Paul II: "few imagined the course his life would take or the history his life would shape". To the poor, the sick and the dying, he carries the message of hope and dignity and solidarity with their sufferings.

Even when they are forgotten by men, he reminds them that they are never forgotten by God, the Almighty. This Pope has broken the record of the Popes not going out of Vatican. He has made over 100 trips out of Italy by visiting over 134 countries, meeting the people and the leaders of those nations. In total he has traveled over 1,170,113 kilometres more than three times the distance between the earth and the moon! Among his close collaborators, the cardinals who number over two hundred, he has appointed most of them.

Among the 4500 and more Bishops who help him to govern the Catholic church, more than fifty percent are appointed by him during his 25 years as Pope. The Pope had a special respect and admiration for Mother Theresa of Calcutta and he was deeply moved when he saw the poor, dying and abandoned are lovingly cared for by her sisters clad in their white blue bordered sarees.

Any one can go and see the works that these sisters do in Yemen. The sisters will welcome you. Though affected by Parkinson's disease with his left hand shivering, the Pope's mind is active and alert and he keeps on working, visiting and writing. During moments of Crisis, the world looks up to him for guidance. To the wealthy, this Pope carried the message that wealth alone is a false comfort. The goods of the world, he teaches



are nothing without goodness.

Our wealth must benefit all poor ones. To those in power, the Pope comes with a message of Justice and human rights. And that message has made dictators shudder and fall. It is not the power of armies or technology or wealth.

It is the unexpected power of that

baby born in Bethlehem, of that person called Christ who died on the cross, of a simple fisherman Peter who carried the message of hope to Rome. The Pope points always to things that last and above all to love that save. We thank God for this rare man, a servant of God and a hero of modern world history.



media by their open questioning of official Catholic teachings, wanted the next Pope to have these qualities:

- 1- he should be a non-Italian

من أجل بشرة أكثر جمالا

كومارك صابون للوجه

- فريد لجمال الوجه
- يزيل الندب والبثور
- أفضل صابون لشوائب الجسم
- مثالي لتبييض الوجه الفائق
- يحافظ على جمال الوجه مساويا للون الجسم

صنع في ألمانيا

كومارك الكريم الليلي

- يزيل الندب والبثور خلال الليل
- يزيل الشمس في ثلاثة أسابيع
- يزيل الدوائر الغامقة تحت العينين في ثلاثة أسابيع
- يزيل شوائب الجلد الوجه في ليال قليلة
- سر جمال الوجه الذي لا يضاهي

صنع في ألمانيا

مائي ليس كريم طبيعي للتجميل

- يزيل ندبات الجراحة
- يزيل جميع آثار الحروق
- يزيل آثار عمليات التجميل
- يزيل جميع آثار حب الشباب
- يزيل جميع آثار الندبات والجروح
- يزيل آثار وندبات الولادة القيصرية
- يزيل آثار حروق الحواض والقنوات

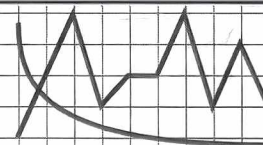
متوفر في الصيدليات ومجلات أدوات التجميل

الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية

مؤسسة العماد للأدوية والمستلزمات الطبية

صنعاء - ط: الشراعي، جوار البنك المركزي اليمني - هاتف: ٢٧٢٥١٣، ٢٧٢٥١٤، ٢٧٢٥١٥، ٢٧٢٥١٦، ٢٧٢٥١٧، ٢٧٢٥١٨، ٢٧٢٥١٩، ٢٧٢٥٢٠، ٢٧٢٥٢١، ٢٧٢٥٢٢، ٢٧٢٥٢٣، ٢٧٢٥٢٤، ٢٧٢٥٢٥، ٢٧٢٥٢٦، ٢٧٢٥٢٧، ٢٧٢٥٢٨، ٢٧٢٥٢٩، ٢٧٢٥٣٠، ٢٧٢٥٣١، ٢٧٢٥٣٢، ٢٧٢٥٣٣، ٢٧٢٥٣٤، ٢٧٢٥٣٥، ٢٧٢٥٣٦، ٢٧٢٥٣٧، ٢٧٢٥٣٨، ٢٧٢٥٣٩، ٢٧٢٥٤٠، ٢٧٢٥٤١، ٢٧٢٥٤٢، ٢٧٢٥٤٣، ٢٧٢٥٤٤، ٢٧٢٥٤٥، ٢٧٢٥٤٦، ٢٧٢٥٤٧، ٢٧٢٥٤٨، ٢٧٢٥٤٩، ٢٧٢٥٥٠، ٢٧٢٥٥١، ٢٧٢٥٥٢، ٢٧٢٥٥٣، ٢٧٢٥٥٤، ٢٧٢٥٥٥، ٢٧٢٥٥٦، ٢٧٢٥٥٧، ٢٧٢٥٥٨، ٢٧٢٥٥٩، ٢٧٢٥٦٠، ٢٧٢٥٦١، ٢٧٢٥٦٢، ٢٧٢٥٦٣، ٢٧٢٥٦٤، ٢٧٢٥٦٥، ٢٧٢٥٦٦، ٢٧٢٥٦٧، ٢٧٢٥٦٨، ٢٧٢٥٦٩، ٢٧٢٥٧٠، ٢٧٢٥٧١، ٢٧٢٥٧٢، ٢٧٢٥٧٣، ٢٧٢٥٧٤، ٢٧٢٥٧٥، ٢٧٢٥٧٦، ٢٧٢٥٧٧، ٢٧٢٥٧٨، ٢٧٢٥٧٩، ٢٧٢٥٨٠، ٢٧٢٥٨١، ٢٧٢٥٨٢، ٢٧٢٥٨٣، ٢٧٢٥٨٤، ٢٧٢٥٨٥، ٢٧٢٥٨٦، ٢٧٢٥٨٧، ٢٧٢٥٨٨، ٢٧٢٥٨٩، ٢٧٢٥٩٠، ٢٧٢٥٩١، ٢٧٢٥٩٢، ٢٧٢٥٩٣، ٢٧٢٥٩٤، ٢٧٢٥٩٥، ٢٧٢٥٩٦، ٢٧٢٥٩٧، ٢٧٢٥٩٨، ٢٧٢٥٩٩، ٢٧٢٦٠٠، ٢٧٢٦٠١، ٢٧٢٦٠٢، ٢٧٢٦٠٣، ٢٧٢٦٠٤، ٢٧٢٦٠٥، ٢٧٢٦٠٦، ٢٧٢٦٠٧، ٢٧٢٦٠٨، ٢٧٢٦٠٩، ٢٧٢٦١٠، ٢٧٢٦١١، ٢٧٢٦١٢، ٢٧٢٦١٣، ٢٧٢٦١٤، ٢٧٢٦١٥، ٢٧٢٦١٦، ٢٧٢٦١٧، ٢٧٢٦١٨، ٢٧٢٦١٩، ٢٧٢٦٢٠، ٢٧٢٦٢١، ٢٧٢٦٢٢، ٢٧٢٦٢٣، ٢٧٢٦٢٤، ٢٧٢٦٢٥، ٢٧٢٦٢٦، ٢٧٢٦٢٧، ٢٧٢٦٢٨، ٢٧٢٦٢٩، ٢٧٢٦٣٠، ٢٧٢٦٣١، ٢٧٢٦٣٢، ٢٧٢٦٣٣، ٢٧٢٦٣٤، ٢٧٢٦٣٥، ٢٧٢٦٣٦، ٢٧٢٦٣٧، ٢٧٢٦٣٨، ٢٧٢٦٣٩، ٢٧٢٦٤٠، ٢٧٢٦٤١، ٢٧٢٦٤٢، ٢٧٢٦٤٣، ٢٧٢٦٤٤، ٢٧٢٦٤٥، ٢٧٢٦٤٦، ٢٧٢٦٤٧، ٢٧٢٦٤٨، ٢٧٢٦٤٩، ٢٧٢٦٥٠، ٢٧٢٦٥١، ٢٧٢٦٥٢، ٢٧٢٦٥٣، ٢٧٢٦٥٤، ٢٧٢٦٥٥، ٢٧٢٦٥٦، ٢٧٢٦٥٧، ٢٧٢٦٥٨، ٢٧٢٦٥٩، ٢٧٢٦٦٠، ٢٧٢٦٦١، ٢٧٢٦٦٢، ٢٧٢٦٦٣، ٢٧٢٦٦٤، ٢٧٢٦٦٥، ٢٧٢٦٦٦، ٢٧٢٦٦٧، ٢٧٢٦٦٨، ٢٧٢٦٦٩، ٢٧٢٦٧٠، ٢٧٢٦٧١، ٢٧٢٦٧٢، ٢٧٢٦٧٣، ٢٧٢٦٧٤، ٢٧٢٦٧٥، ٢٧٢٦٧٦، ٢٧٢٦٧٧، ٢٧٢٦٧٨، ٢٧٢٦٧٩، ٢٧٢٦٨٠، ٢٧٢٦٨١، ٢٧٢٦٨٢، ٢٧٢٦٨٣، ٢٧٢٦٨٤، ٢٧٢٦٨٥، ٢٧٢٦٨٦، ٢٧٢٦٨٧، ٢٧٢٦٨٨، ٢٧٢٦٨٩، ٢٧٢٦٩٠، ٢٧٢٦٩١، ٢٧٢٦٩٢، ٢٧٢٦٩٣، ٢٧٢٦٩٤، ٢٧٢٦٩٥، ٢٧٢٦٩٦، ٢٧٢٦٩٧، ٢٧٢٦٩٨، ٢٧٢٦٩٩، ٢٧٢٧٠٠، ٢٧٢٧٠١، ٢٧٢٧٠٢، ٢٧٢٧٠٣، ٢٧٢٧٠٤، ٢٧٢٧٠٥، ٢٧٢٧٠٦، ٢٧٢٧٠٧، ٢٧٢٧٠٨، ٢٧٢٧٠٩، ٢٧٢٧١٠، ٢٧٢٧١١، ٢٧٢٧١٢، ٢٧٢٧١٣، ٢٧٢٧١٤، ٢٧٢٧١٥، ٢٧٢٧١٦، ٢٧٢٧١٧، ٢٧٢٧١٨، ٢٧٢٧١٩، ٢٧٢٧٢٠، ٢٧٢٧٢١، ٢٧٢٧٢٢، ٢٧٢٧٢٣، ٢٧٢٧٢٤، ٢٧٢٧٢٥، ٢٧٢٧٢٦، ٢٧٢٧٢٧، ٢٧٢٧٢٨، ٢٧٢٧٢٩، ٢٧٢٧٣٠، ٢٧٢٧٣١، ٢٧٢٧٣٢، ٢٧٢٧٣٣، ٢٧٢٧٣٤، ٢٧٢٧٣٥، ٢٧٢٧٣٦، ٢٧٢٧٣٧، ٢٧٢٧٣٨، ٢٧٢٧٣٩، ٢٧٢٧٤٠، ٢٧٢٧٤١، ٢٧٢٧٤٢، ٢٧٢٧٤٣، ٢٧٢٧٤٤، ٢٧٢٧٤٥، ٢٧٢٧٤٦، ٢٧٢٧٤٧، ٢٧٢٧٤٨، ٢٧٢٧٤٩، ٢٧٢٧٥٠، ٢٧٢٧٥١، ٢٧٢٧٥٢، ٢٧٢٧٥٣، ٢٧٢٧٥٤، ٢٧٢٧٥٥، 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YT Business



Cotton plantation & clothes industry

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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Cotton plantation is considered one of the most important agricultural products which should enjoy the utmost concern of the state, especially, if we knew that the cotton of our country is of the highest quality among all sorts of cotton and it has a well-known international reputation from long time ago. It is worth mentioning here that we export most of our production of cotton as raw materials, only part of it is used to operate the weaving and textile factories in governorates of Sana'a and Aden. Both factories have a large number of manpower amounting to more than 600 workers, but unfortunately our country is one of the most countries that squander its capitals and resources whereas we produce the worst products out of the best cotton in the world. The reason for that are the older technologies of the means of production of those factories.

The technology of weaving and textile factory in Aden governorate is of the thirties, for example and the re-operation of that factory does not achieve any economic revenues at all even if we want to realize the point of equality (no profit, no loss). So we see that one of the best solutions to deal with this situation, as long as we are aiming at providing many job opportunities to reduce the acuteness of poverty, to decrease the ratio of unemployment and do our best to promulgate the investment atmosphere and to talk always about offering the most possible facilities to attract investors, we see that it is very necessary that the state take actions to provide the essential financial funding to prepare a study concerning technical and economical feasibility for the industries of cotton spinning according to "term of reference" authorized standard assimilating within it the study of market and determining our needs of the various clothes and holding a

comparison between exporting cotton as raw materials and manufacturing it locally. In addition to studying cotton manufacturing as cotton threads, cotton clothes or mixed (cotton/polyester) taking into consideration the possibility of making use, as much as possible, of the recent abilities and the capabilities of Sana'a and Aden weaving and textile factories, we mean by that the human and material capacities of equipment, instruments, buildings and other institutions as well as professional and human cadres that possess the acquired experience. We have to determine the appropriate productive capacities of each of these factories, and should it be industry for weaving and textiles or should we specialize some of them to manufacturing only cotton spinning. It must be determined as what are the workshops



or plants that could possibly be erected as annexations to this large industry. The possibility exists for example to establish more than one factory for



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cloth industry, some of them are cotton clothes 100% others mixed cloth (cotton/polyester). Some cloth is required for making shirts, others for

trousers, cotton towels, socks and stockings, underwear, and so on. But we may come to a conclusion from that drama that we have to export products as cotton spinning and they are on demand in many countries as well as our country. What we like to say in this haste, that the cost of this suggested study to whatever amount it has come, we can regain it back. The results of this study will be in the form of a number of detailed studies for the above-mentioned projects. It is our duty to do our best to offer as much as possible of facilities, particularly because we know that the coun-

try as a whole will benefit from its revenues in many aspects: attraction of investors, erecting new investment projects, authentic diagnosis of the situations of both Sana'a and Aden Weaving and Textiles Factories. We have promulgated it among investors instead of selling it in its recent condition as a scrap thing with the cheapest prices. This means providing many job opportunities not only to

meet the demand of the projects that will be the result of this drama, but this will open a large and vast scope for sewing various kinds of clothes not only for the local market but also for exporting as long as we possess relatively better merits than others. We hope that cotton plantation will witness expansion instead of the decline which is existent now.

YR 76 billion for funding Social Fund for Development's projects

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government intends to increase the proportion of its contributions to funding projects implemented by the Social Fund for Development (SFD) from this year's amount of \$ one million to \$5.5 million for the year 2004. The aim is to expand activities of the Fund in public services and development.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, the executive manager of the SFD Abdulkareem al-Arhabi said support of donors and the World Bank (WB) for the projects it was funding was very important because Yemen is a large country and its people live in far apart population gatherings and further more the country has

lived disturbed years resulting from increasing population growth.

Mr al-Arhabi has made it clear that donors evaluate outcomes of the Fund's works as positive through a yearly sending of teams at a rate of 8-10 missions per year. The WB has assigned a specialized company for evaluation of the Fund's performance and its success in financing services and development projects, Mr al-Arhabi has added.

SFD has in the first stage implemented 3300 projects from which about 6 million and 600 thousand persons benefited. Those projects cost YR45 million. As for the coming phase 2004-2008 there would be 4400 projects to be implemented at a cost of YR 76 billion.

The SFD also receives support of the WB and Arab donors and funds that stand by Yemen and finance

development projects according to donors agreement for supporting Yemen strategy for fighting poverty. The Fund also gives attention to the remote Yemeni areas where it implements educational, and health projects and participates in local development projects, prepares income-yielding activities and a number of social and cultural programs.

The Yemeni government plan for fighting poverty aims at realizing primary education for all, improving woman's education and work, reducing infant mortality, improving maternal and general health as well as fighting malaria and preservation of environment.

Since its foundation in 1997 the Fund has adopted the important concepts and policies of new development, promoted for them and applied them in poor and deprived areas. The

fund has also adopted plans for participating with the local community in production, lowering costs of projects, developing the system of geographic information and distributing financial allotments and projects according to objective criteria and bases as well as supporting the civil society organisations.

In the third phase of 2004-2008 the Fund's operations would be built on the acquired experience and accumulated knowledge and concentration would be on human development as it is expected the implementation of 4400 projects at this phase at a cost estimated at \$400 million. Of these projects the education sector's share would be 38%. Among the education projects there would be an implementation of projects for training and qualification, and others in agriculture, health and lending programs.

Mohammed Ali Othman National School, Taiz Vacancy: Head of Secondary School

Mohammed Ali Othman National School, Taiz, is one of the longest established private schools in Yemen.

It operates three schools on the same extensive campus in Taiz, Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary schools, under a common central administration headed by the Principal. It offers a bilingual education in Arabic and English up to Grade 12, preparing students for both Yemeni and international qualifications.

A vacancy exists at present for the post of Head of Secondary School.

Candidates for the post should have at least ten years of post graduation experience in the field of education, with a degree in an academic discipline and a higher degree in Education. Fluency in both Arabic and English is essential.

Experience and qualifications in educational management would be a decided advantage.

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The Principal
Mohammed Ali Othman National School
P.O.Box 5713-Taiz
or phone: 04-211247, 04-223671

Closing date for applications is 20 October 2003.

Words of Wisdom



The Arab-Israeli peace process is not going anywhere. Many pro-peace people like myself are increasingly disillusioned by the crisis and impasse. The reasons for this are threefold: Israeli intransigence, American bias, and Arab weakness.

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

OUR
OPINIONYemen in
American eyes

Several days ago, I was talking with an American friend who had just returned from the USA. I wanted to talk to him longer about how Yemen is the eyes of Americans. I do know that the Western media has intentionally or unintentionally caused a lot of damage to Yemen's reputation. My American friend admitted that indeed, most Americans only know Yemen as a haven for terrorists and the Arab country where Osama bin Laden came from.

"Some may even think that Yemen is a country where people use donkeys and camels to get along," he openly said.

Yes, Americans may not know a lot about Yemen. They may think it is a desert country where civilization is still to come.

Yemen, like the rest of the whole Arab world, is seen in this negative view because of many reasons. The truth is that many Americans label Arabs as "terrorists" or "anti-American" from the beginning and with no proper justification.

Many believe that this is simply because of a cultural bias. The fact that there have been a number of terrorist acts perpetrated by Arabs - the first World Trade Center bombing, the African Embassy bombings, the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole - but that is only part of the reason behind this negative American view of Arabs.

Even American writers think in this way too. Famous American writer Lee Martin says that, "The negative stereotypes of Arabs in film and television have led people to direct violence and suspicion toward Arab-Americans. Singling out this particular ethnic group in our country is just as wrong as singling out people because of the color of their skin. Those who have tried to direct the unity of our country down the dark path of hatred and xenophobia do not have the right to call themselves Americans."

Coming to the solution and means to change this negative American view, we need to start a dialogue. They call it a dialogue between civilizations, and I can call it normal discussion. We need to open up to each other and start a channel. Our Arab media has already helped reveal that there can be professional journalism resembled in Al-Jazeera, etc. that can compete internationally. If CNN and NBC use clips taken by Al-Jazeera, then the Arab channel deserves respect and recognition.

Americans will slowly understand that Arabs, like them, are human beings living in cities where their people use cars for transport, students go to universities and families go to parks on weekends. We are all basically the same, and time will be needed for the negative image of Arabs to be cleared away.

As Yemenis, we can start with whatever means we have. An editorial like this could serve in bringing Americans closer to the real picture of Yemen. A newspaper like Yemen Times is published on the Internet twice a week. It uses email often and has a sophisticated internet message/article exchange network based on the Internet and used by all its stringers and bureaus in Yemen and abroad.

All of this is happening in the country where Osama bin Laden's family came from. The two facts do not contradict each other.

It will be a long and painfully slow process. But bringing those facts to Americans is needed to create better international relations between the peoples of the two countries. In fact, it is essential for a person to know who you really are before becoming your friend.

I am optimistic that the day will soon come when Americans see Yemen as it is rather than as it is portrayed in the media.

The Editor



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First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf

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Nepotism, epidemic ruining the society...

Urgently needed to be
weeded out for good

By A'AMAL AL-HENHENA
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Among the most lethal social problems or rather killing and destructive diseases is that of nepotism. It is a social ill usually and most apparently seen at government and in a less degree in private sector institutions and that is in terms of employment or giving licenses for implementation of projects and now it has crept even into the education sector at its various stages. Before going further in enumeration of the devastative results of nepotism, or favoritism, on the society and the state it would be useful to explain in brief what is nepotism. It is in a nutshell favoritism by those in power extended towards relatives, especially by appointing them to desirable positions. Those in power dispose favour to others unfairly or unreasonably. It is in fact a phenomenon to be found mostly in backward communities and countries where criteria of efficiency and qualification are not observed in appointments to positions at various public institutions offering public services to the society of a certain state. Those in power in so doing do not put into consideration the country's and the people's interests but rather guided by their personal relations or loyalty to their families and tribes, a way of preference of narrow interests to public ones. Another explanation to the spread of this phenomenon is the presumption that executive managers accepting to pursue the policy of favouritism are themselves unqualified officials and heedless of the drastic negative effects of it on the development and progress of the state and the society.

As mentioned above this social phenomenon is detrimental to the development and advance of any country and could be an indication of its backwardness among developed and civilized countries in the world. In developing and underdeveloped countries laws and regulations regarding employment and appointments to government positions are, however, prohibiting the practice of favouritism but senior officials and managers do not abide by partly because of weakness of supervision and monitoring by higher authorities of the state and partly because those offi-

cial are lacking of the sense of good citizenship and public interest. It is really a cancerous epidemic and without ending it the outcome would be tragic and disastrous to the society and the state. There is another reason why some people resort to using nepotism and that is, an insufficiency of employment degrees at government institutions against the larger number of applicants for them as well as an inactive private sector able to accommodate the number of labour the government cannot accommodate. Powerful and active private sector would rid the state of the problems of employing graduates in its institutions in large and unnecessary numbers. Another no less significant cause of the spread of this illegal method of acquiring positions is the absence of coordination between education and requirements of development in all its administrative, industrial and economic aspects.

What concerns me most here is the dissemination of the detriment phenomenon of nepotism inside the educational sector, particularly the university education. University education covers all facets and aspects of life and universities form the sources for supplying government and private sector institutions with specialized cadre. Thus the extension of this ill phenomenon to this vital institution means dissemination of this disease in all walks of the society's life. The university provides engineers, physicians, economists, pharmacists, teachers, administrative managers and many other specialties. The university is the most suitable medium for the progress and backwardness of the society. It needs to be protected against any social disease otherwise there would not be any progress to realize.

Many cases of patients' death in hospitals are attributed to ill diagnosis or wrong medication treatment. Buildings collapsing and, may be killing innocent people, could be ascribed to inefficiency of engineers or cheating in the use of construction materials and failure in economic plans and policies is also the product of inefficiency of those in charge because they were not well-trained and qualified at the university, as they have graduated and obtained their specialty degrees by virtue of favouritism. Teachers who are the most significant segment in the society can destroy many generations of the socie-

ty if they are not well-qualified and their degrees have been obtained by way of the illegal practice of nepotism.

Here in Yemen this phenomenon of nepotism is affecting all aspects of our life in a very eye-catching way. Nepotism is there everywhere. The society and the country as a whole are suffering greatly from this phenomenon and therefore it needs to be uprooted completely if we aspire to build an advanced society capable of keeping in pace with advancement and development of the world. Laws and regulations banning the practice of this illegal phenomenon must be activated. Strict measures and punishments must be given to those practicing it. There must be an imposition of very strong observation on senior officials' performance and make them accountable for bad management. There must be an activation and strict commitment of proficiency criteria in selecting people for government positions and dependence on the level of marks gained by students for admitting them to various faculties at the university and they should pass proficiency tests in the specialties they would be accepted in. Education should be meeting requirements of development in all of its aspects and this could be in coordination between government ministries and establishments and educational institutions. A high-ranking commission should be set up to practice monitoring and supervision on government institutions' performance to be directly affiliate and responsible to the cabinet or the presidency of the republic office.

Above all and foremost of all there must be a continuous national awareness campaigns against nepotism and its damage caused to the society. It should involve the family in the first place as the basic and most influential unit in the society. This campaign must be carried out by the government, all instruments of mass media, civil society organisations, political parties, religious leaders, especially mosque preachers who can educate people during prayers everyday, particularly in their Friday prayers sermons. All these efforts jointly would surely produce the desired results and lead us to build the model of the good and advanced society we hope to build in favour of our present generation and generations to follow.

Our role as Muslims

By ABDULLAH AHMED MUHAMMED
abdullah_19242003@yahoo.com

What's funny is that as I write this response to you from your website I can't but help notice the advertisement for an insurance company just above where I'm writing. The ad. features a globe, turning in the palm of a hand with the word 'Reliability' over the globe. Indeed as Arabs and Muslims we believe that Allah is the creator and sustainer of all existence. We believe that those trillions of laws behind all we know and all we are still yet to uncover are operating with purpose and under the exact instruction of their Creator, Allah. What's the point? Quite obvious really. Let's take the famous saying about us all being actors on the stage of life. So we are the actors. The stage, well it was already there - the lighting, the timing of everything until the final curtain falls. How we act? This is the question! Believe it or believe it not, as precisely as the stage has been set up precise instructions have been issued from the Director to the actors. Some actors choose to follow their instructions some prefer to 'ad-lib'. The world today is 'ad-lib'. A world sitting in the palm of the only manifest superpower, disregarding all

law, instruction, guidance and direction from the sustainer of motion, time and life itself, preferring instead to go it alone. Indeed all the major players in the world today do not resent this way of acting (ad-lib), rather their frustrations are in being thrown out of the 'lime-light', loosing out on the glory and the riches. The colonial history of any European big 'actor' is just as bad and in some cases worse than America today. Why does American policy look the way it does today? Simply because the world is in their hands and they can get away with it. No longer do the actors choose to please the audience; their director. They prefer instead to enjoy their lives and have maximum fun - sensual pleasure being the motivation. Can American foreign policy command the confidence of the world? No one likes a show off! More than this no one likes to be voiced over and made insignificant.

The play today shows us more horror, humiliation, destruction, abuse, corruption (corporate, governmental, social....) than at any other time in history. All of which are the real bitter fruits of independence from direction... of 'ad-libbing'.

How the story ends? That's the good part. Those who understand what life is all about, those who bring guidance from the stage setter Himself, well they return. True to every word, to

every direction they will right the wrong. Following rules and implementing laws so relevant, omnipotent and precise they will begin to set the record straight. With names such as the Economic System of Islam, the Islamic Ruling System, the Islamic Punishment System, the Social System of Islam, the Ameer of Jihad, the Wali, the Judge of Investigating State Oppression, the Moawins Tanfeedi and Tafweedi, the Shura Council and of course the Khilafah and the Khaleefah they will, by Allah's leave, act the way Allah desires and according to His law, demonstrating the correct domestic and foreign policy that will bring so many of today's helpless victims across every continent true hope for a life with reliability, far away from venomous blood-sucking corporate designs. A world in which honor has meaning and peoples divinely ordained rights are guaranteed as sacrosanct, a world turning not in the palm of America or any other secular state (Iran, S.A., Turkey, Yemen etc all included), indeed a world spinning on the axis of Islam. Real Islam - defended, protected, implemented and truly projected by the one true Islamic state... it's return promised by the Prophet Himself when He said : "... and then there will be Khilafah on the way of Prophet hood". (Iman Ahmed)

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

For sure, they
haven't got a case

As time rolls on, and life gets shorter for all, we cannot help but notice that all that war mongering prior to the Iraq invasion was not intended to enhance any genuine effort by its sponsors to do any good for either their constituents in the United States, or for the people of the Middle East.

Let us look at the major developments since the President of the United States, George W. Bush declared the major battles over last May. We should bear in mind that he did say major battles only, rather than claim that the war was over. It turned out in fact that the major battle was just beginning, and from the very early days of the post war period, it was clear that the real showdown that mattered was just beginning. In the war the US was challenged by an almost incapacitated regime that hardly proved a match for the wholesome and state of the art war machine that the war mongers have set in force to carry out their devious designs for the region. Now the real serious challenge surfaced, as the people of Iraq, with their limited means, came out to express their real disdain for this horrific uncalled for invasion of Iraq. The American forces were now pinned down in an erratic guerrilla war that has up to now taken more lives on the occupiers side than the systematic war effort did. Needless to say, Iraqi civilian casualties are an ominous sign that the peace they were hoping for is nowhere to be seen. This clearly showed that the Iraqis were just unwilling to succumb to the idea that they hailed the American "liberation" effort and in fact defied the American invasion with more resilience than they defied their own oppressive masters, which the American invasion was said to be based on (among many other unclear and unproven reasons).

If we just analyze the trends in this seemingly inconclusive hell that has been implanted for the poor Iraqis, after having gone through so many difficulties that sequentially followed each other, most of which they really had nothing to do with or have any say in its formulation. What we are now actually seeing is that the bloodshed is on the rise and the casualties on both the invaders and the victims of this invasion are increasing. This leads to the conclusion that the American war mongers surely had forgotten that foreign invasions are detested no matter what the motives are behind them and that the only situation that the invader should expect to find is mounting resistance that will go to great lengths to make the occupier's stay as unpleasant as possible. Moreover, it seems that the opposition is now expanding to include even some of those forces that originally at least held off their grudges against the invasion.

On the other side, the invader has not delivered any of the wonderful results that were declared as the original intentions of the Iraqis; the Iraqis have yet to enjoy the freedom they were promised, since they are still living under martial law and long curfews that hamper their movement and their quests for livelihood. Moreover, their daily lives are now put to the hardest tests of having to live with a services infrastructure that is shattered and not seeing any concerted efforts to bring it back to any level of normalcy. Even if the previous regime can be considered as oppressive, the regime went out of its way to ensuring that the population did not suffer from a failing infrastructure, notwithstanding the severe blockade and embargo of the most essential of the goods for the maintenance of a normal life. Yet the Iraqis must now face dark nights, unhealthy water and other shortcomings that are breeders of even greater discontent against the invasion. On the political front, it is obvious that the Iraqis and the rest of the world are not seeing any genuine efforts to return the political and administrative functions back to its rightful owners. The American Administrator is the functioning runner of the show in Iraq and no one seems to see any semblance of sovereignty in the Temporary Ruling Council, which has yet to display any manifestation of governance or trend towards taking the helms of authority in Iraq.

On another note, the American invasion of Iraq was supposed to be a shining beacon of peace and stability in the region. The violence in the Holy Land does not seem to be disturbed by the "Road Map" to peace or any other genuine efforts by the US to try to end the hostilities. On the contrary, the White House continues its blind support to the Zionist thugs of Ariel Sharon as he carries out his own mischievous agenda for the region. As if Iraq, was not enough, the American war mongers are setting their eyes for an extended destabilization effort towards Syria and Iran, for no substantive reasons other than fulfilling the wishes of the Zionist-evangelical coalition that sees the only basis for its own continuity is an endless era of violence, bloodshed and instability that the Arab and Moslem World must continue to face ad infinitum, just so the Zionist dream can be fulfilled with the least amount of challenge. That is the real story of Iraq and that is the dominating theme in US policy for the region. The trends manifest this so well and the inaction of the Bush Administration towards a more positive policy implicate that we have really nothing to look forward to.

Why the French back sovereignty for Iraqis

By JEAN BENOÎT NADEAU and JULIE BARLOW
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

The latest United Nations meeting on Iraq has sparked another wave of France-bashing in the United States. The better-informed argue that the French are acting out of self-interest. The less-informed accuse the French of trying to thwart U.S. plans in Iraq. The truth is somewhere in the middle. Yet one thing is certain: France's stance on Iraq is more the product of its own experience and history than rivalry with the United States.

In the events leading up to the war in Iraq, the French disagreement with the United States was over the means being taken to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction, not the end in itself. In the present controversy over rebuilding Iraq, it is again the means that France is questioning. Americans may wonder why the means are so important to the French.

The answer is in history. Occupation is a sore spot for the French.

When President Jacques Chirac of France argues that Iraqi sovereignty should be re-established as quickly as possible, his position is at least partly the product of France's own experience as an occupied country during World War II. After its humiliating defeat by Germany in May and June 1940, France was occupied for four years before the Allies landed in Normandy in June 1944.

When the Allies liberated France from German occupation, their intention was not to give France back to the French. Instead, they planned to install an Allied Military Government of Occupied Territory, or Amgot. This scheme for postwar transition would give Allies

control over currency, transport, the appointment of civil servants and war tribunals in formerly occupied countries. They assumed that the French would accept Amgot, given the shape the country was in. When the liberators landed, the paper money had already been printed.

But while Belgium and the Netherlands were put under Amgot, France never accepted it. General Charles de Gaulle, who led the Resistance, suspected that even though they were allies, the United States and Britain would use Amgot to force their values and customs on France. He also knew that after being occupied for four years, the French would never accept anything resembling another occupation, even if in the name of aid and reconstruction.

So eight days after D-Day, De Gaulle returned to France as head of a self-declared provisional government against the will of the Allies and began appointing his own government officials in liberated areas. He demanded that the Allies answer to civilian power in liberated areas. By mid-August, the Allies realized they wouldn't be able to apply the Amgot with French cooperation, so they dropped it.

France was the only German-occupied country of Western Europe that cleared up the mess of the war on its own. It might not seem like a comparable situation to what Iraq is facing, but it's worth recalling that after the war the French economy had shrunk 80 percent, the country was on the brink of civil war and had no democratic institutions. And still, France showed the United States the limits of American postwar hegemony, and French capacity to meet the challenge.

There's no doubt that De Gaulle's stance in 1944 was motivated by pride. And national pride certainly continues to

shape France's stance on Iraq. But it would be narcissistic of Americans to think that pride is directly exclusively at them. Chirac can certainly read the same hurt pride in the Iraqi people that the French experienced. No wonder he persists in arguing for the re-establishment of Iraqi sovereignty, even if Iraq doesn't have a constitution or elected representatives.

In France's experience of liberation, the exercise of sovereignty came first, then reconstruction, a new constitution and elections. De Gaulle took charge of postwar France without an elected mandate. He was an authoritarian leader, but he got results. Using autocratic means, De Gaulle averted the threat of civil war and kept the Communist resistance at bay. Two years after the war ended, France had a new constitution and held elections, though it took the French 15 more years to stabilize their democratic institutions.

Since the Iraqi crisis began, many Americans have criticized the French for not showing gratitude to the United States for having liberated them from German occupation. This is nonsense. France is full of memorials commemorating the sacrifices of Allied soldiers during the Liberation.

The French are suspicious of any country they see pushing the "gratitude" button to further their own interests. To this day, the French resent the fact that the U.S. government, in 1948, attached conditions to the Marshall Plan aid, such as allowing American movies to circulate in France.

Given France's history, it should come as no surprise that the French are pushing to re-establish Iraqi sovereignty. What's surprising is that Americans think it's all about them.

The writers are Montreal-based journalists and authors of "Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong."

'All that is needed is courage and leadership'

By JOHN V. WHITBECK
JORDAN TIMES

The feebleness, even at a rhetorical level, of the official Arab response to Israel's bombing raid deep inside Syrian territory has given rise to renewed lamentations regarding the humiliating impotence of the Arab world. As an editorial in Arab News (Jeddah) stated: "Impotence is a strong word, but impotence is precisely what Arabs on the street feel." However, the impotence so widely perceived and felt is not an objective fatality. It is a political choice.

The Arab world is not impotent. Indeed, it has it within its power to achieve Middle East peace with some measure of justice — not in some distant future but soon, and not through enhanced violence but through the intelligent and responsible application of restrained but sustained economic pressure.

A concerted, concrete and effective plan of action could take the form of a simple, easily understood and ethically unimpeachable "carrot-and-stick" approach, with both "carrot" and "stick" announced simultaneously.

First, the "carrot": the Arab League would formally reaffirm the wise and generous peace terms contained in its Beirut Declaration of March 2002, inspired by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's courageous initiative which offered full peace and normal diplomatic and economic relations between Israel and all Arab states in return for a total end to the occupation of all Arab lands occupied by Israel in 1967.

Some doubt that this offer, which was clearly the most generous Israel will ever receive, is still on the table. The Arab states should make clear that, at least for the time being, it is — and they should mean it.

Second, the "stick": the major Arab and Muslim oil producers would state

that until Israel complies fully with international law and UN resolutions, by withdrawing from all occupied Arab land to its internationally recognised borders, they will reduce their petroleum exports by increments of five per cent each month — month after month after month — and they should mean it.

It would, of course, be preferable if the United States, whose unconditional support of Israel has made possible its continuing occupation of Arab lands and prevented the achievement of peace, were to undergo a moral and ethical transformation and if Americans were suddenly to realise both that Palestinians are human beings entitled to basic human rights and that international law should be complied with by all, not only by the poor, the weak and the Arab. Realistically, after so many years of antithetical attitude, such a transformation is most unlikely to occur.

However, if Americans cannot be reached through their hearts or minds, they can be reached through their wallets. Money is the true religion of the United States. If oil prices were to soar and stock market prices to plunge, Americans would be certain to start asking why, precisely, Israel should be permitted to continue defying international law and UN resolutions and denying Palestinians their basic human rights and why the United States, alone, should be unconditionally supporting it in doing so — at the cost of both worldwide anti-American rage and sharply higher oil prices for Americans.

Since no American national interests are served by Israel's continuing occupation of Arab lands, no credible, non-racist answers could be offered, and, with oil prices rising, stock market prices falling and no reversal of these trends in sight, these questions would become more insistent and Israel's defiant position could rapidly become untenable.

Under pressure even from their only unconditional supporters, the Israelis

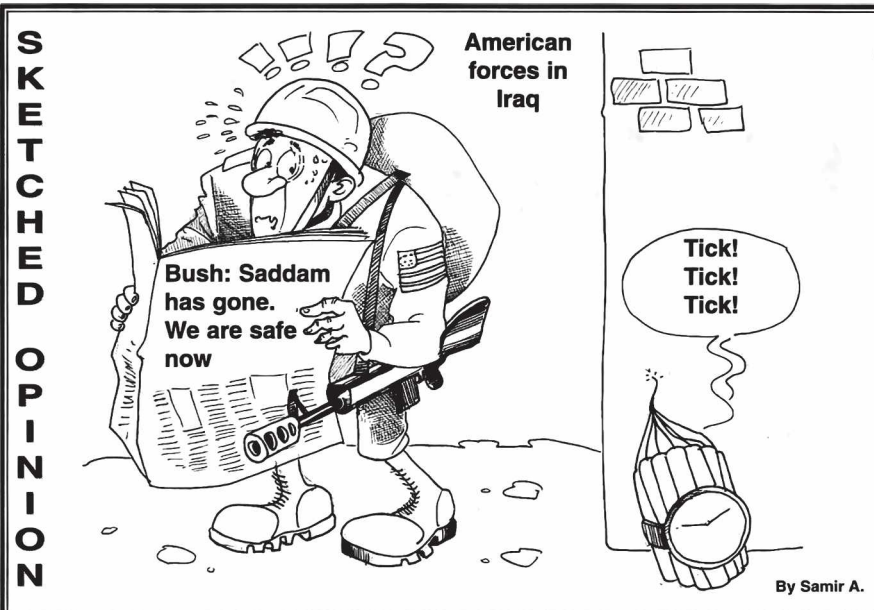
might well recognise, sooner than anyone would dare to hope today, that their own security will never be ensured as long as they illegally occupy Arab lands and that full compliance with international law and UN resolutions, in Palestine and Syria just as in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, is profoundly in Israel's long-term interest, has in any event become unavoidable and should therefore be embraced sooner rather than later.

While waiting for economic discomfort to stimulate common sense and produce the result that serves the interests of all, Arab and Muslim petroleum producers would suffer no pain or sacrifices. Each five per cent reduction in exports should result in a greater than five per cent increase in prices, and moderate but regular reductions in exports, unlike a sudden total embargo, should be technically, politically and psychologically sustainable.

Does no one in the Arab world recall the courageous leadership of King Faisal 30 years ago this month? For a brief, shining moment, the Arab world was respected. "Respect" is not a word anyone would associate with the Arab world today. Rather, as Western occupation armies rule Iraq and high figures in the Bush administration talk publicly of redrawing the map of the region to better serve Israeli and American interests, the Arab world's status approaches that of Africa when the imperial powers gathered at the Berlin Conference of 1885 to carve the continent up among themselves.

There is nothing inevitable about this. Impotence is not an unavoidable fact, and despair and resignation are not the only options. The source of the strength which King Faisal wielded so effectively is still there. All that is needed is the courage and leadership to use it wisely.

The writer is an international lawyer who writes frequently on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He contributed this article to The.



Syria needs its friends amid Israeli aggression

By LINDA S. HEARD:
GULF NEWS

A female Palestinian lawyer from Jenin blows herself up in a Haifa café — avenging the killing of her brother by Israeli troops — and, incredibly, Israel sees fit to punish its neighbour Syria for the ensuing carnage. Israel professes that its bombing of a long deserted camp north-west of the Syrian capital was in self-defence, which is so ridiculous as to be laughable.

Even if that camp had been in use by Palestinian militants — a claim denied by Syria — Darajat wouldn't have needed training to detonate an explosive belt. The intelligent lawyer with everything to live for wasn't a guerrilla; she was fuelled by raw hatred of the oppressive occupying state, which robbed her of her beloved sibling.

Darajat wasn't a natural-born homicidal maniac, a religious extremist or a political ideologue. She was just a girl with more than her fair share of all-consuming anger against a loathsome regime. That anger resulted in a tragic outcome for both Arabs and Jews. Whatever her motives, they had nothing whatever to do with Syria.

Invasion

Syria hesitatingly supported the American-led UN Security Council Resolution 1441, which partly legitimised the Coalition's invasion of Iraq. However, when Syria recently took its case to that same Council and asked it to pass a resolution condemning the Israeli aggression, instead of offering reciprocal support, the US threatened to use its over-utilised veto.

In other words, a virtual green light is given to Ariel Sharon to dole out more of the same. Worse, Syria is now at the receiving end of White House accusations in a fashion curiously reminiscent of the way that Iraq was nibbled at prior to the invasion.

Washington says that up to \$3 billion worth of Iraqi assets are deposited in Syrian banks and has asked for it to be handed over in case it is used to fund anti-American activities or to support exiled Iraqi officials. Syria has responded that Iraqi accounts have been frozen.

And besides a Congressional bill denouncing Syria as a sponsor of terrorism, criticising it for its "occupation" of Lebanon and... here we go again... accusing it of seeking weapons of mass destruction, George W. Bush has warned that sanctions may be imposed on Syria under the US Patriot Act.

Syrian President Bashar Al Assad has never made any secret of his opposition to the war but he was just one of many outspoken critics, including Jacques Chirac, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Vladimir Putin, Mahathir Mohammed, Hosni Mubarak, and Nelson Mandela. So why is Bashar Al Assad being singled out?

Put simply, this is looking more and more like a set-up, perhaps the setting in motion of a neocon agenda, drawn up in the year 2000 — the remodelling of the Middle East. If this sounds too much like a wild conspiracy theory, take a look at the following precedent.

As reported by The Guardian, "nearly 50 years before the war in Iraq, Britain and America sought a secretive 'regime change' in another Arab country they accused of spreading terror and threatening the West's oil supplies (pipeline from Iraq to Turkey via Syria), by planning the invasion of Syria and the assassination of leading figures."

Documents found among the private papers of former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan show how he and President Dwight Eisenhower conspired to fake inflammatory incidents on the Syrian border as pretexts for its planned subsequent invasion by Syria's pro-Western neighbours.

The report indicates that Syria must be "made to appear as the sponsor of plots, sabotage and violence directed against

neighbouring governments."

The scheme didn't come to fruition because at the time Syria's neighbours refused to play ball.

Another theory paints the American and Israeli focus on Syria as a red herring with Iran as the real objective. The US views Iran's nuclear programme with suspicion while it is known that Sharon considers Tehran a major hazard to his country's security.

Ironically, it is Israel, that poses a threat to the region. Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, recently announced that states "harbouring terrorists" are legitimate targets, although this message was later softened when Syria affirmed its right to retaliate should it be the subject of a further unprovoked attack.

Deployed missiles

Apart from the 200 plus nuclear missiles Israel is said to possess, we now learn that Israel has deployed Harpoon cruise missiles, armed with nuclear warheads in its Dolphin-class submarines.

The US, which invaded Iraq because in its view Saddam Hussain was developing weapons of mass destruction and is now pointing its finger at Syria and Iran, kitted-out the Israeli submarines, so Israel can "defend" itself against its enemies.

The Syrian President needs and deserves the principled backing of the Muslim world. If the removal of Saddam could be excused due to his brutal history, the defamation of Bashar Al Assad cannot.

Syria has been loyal to its fellow Arabs. It stood shoulder to shoulder with Egypt in 1967 and 1973 and it joined the coalition to defend Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in 1990.

It was instrumental in putting an end to the civil war in Lebanon and it has helped Jordan with its water shortage problem. If Syria is thrown to the wolves — or rather to the Washington's hawks and their Zionist buddies — then we are left to wonder: "Two down. Who's next to go?"

Editorial: A year on the wrong national path

The Capital Times

One year has passed since Congress authorized President Bush to order an invasion of Iraq. Those lopsided votes by the U.S. House and Senate represented a shameful abandonment of duty by the legislative branch of the federal government and set the nation on a path that has damaged this country's international reputation, emptied our treasury and cost the lives of at least 323 Americans, allied soldiers and countless Iraqis.

A year into the mess that Bush has made of our country's international relations, there are many who say they have come to realize that the vote to authorize the president to invade Iraq was a mistake. But it is important to remember that millions of Americans knew it was a mistake in October 2002. That this wisdom was not reflected in the congressional votes is a tragedy.

It is important to remember, however, that a majority of the Democrats in

Wisconsin's congressional delegation voted against the House and Senate resolutions. Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Reps. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison; Gerald Kleczka, D-Milwaukee; Tom Barrett, D-Milwaukee; and Dave Obey, D-Wausau, all voted against authorizing the president to take the steps that led to an unwise and unnecessary war.

Another member of the Wisconsin delegation, La Crosse Democrat Ron Kind, voted for the House resolution. But as the president sent clear signals that he was not going to work with the United Nations or consult with the Congress, Kind became a prominent player in efforts to slow the rush to war. The letter he authored with Ohio Rep. Sherrod Brown was one of the final initiatives to force the president to explain his actions and to detail the costs of war.

The rest of the delegation — Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., and Reps. Paul Ryan, R-Janesville; Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Menomonee Falls; Tom Petri, R-Fond du Lac; and Mark Green, R-Green Bay — all voted for the resolution and remain little

more than cheerleaders for the Bush administration's failed policies.

The next test for members of the House and Senate will come in votes on the administration's \$87 billion proposal to fund the U.S. occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan — a pair of countries that the administration promised would quickly become bastions of democracy that could be left to their own devices. Now, this huge expenditure is being described by the administration as a necessary investment in the stabilization of countries that have, in many senses, become less stable since the U.S. invasions.

The United States should not be an occupying force in Iraq or Afghanistan. If those countries need outside administration and policing, it should be done by the United Nations. The only funding that Congress allocates should be the money that is necessary to facilitate the transfer of authority in those two countries to an international force, to support any U.N. initiatives, and to pay for the safe return of our troops to the shores of the United States.

Wadi Thana:

Crises awaiting solution

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIADI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Wadi Thana is considered of the main valleys in Yemen where its waters pour into Marib Dam whose waterfall level reached 20,175 cubic meters during the last month. This dam feeds into the underground water wells in the area but the farmers can not make use of it for irrigating their fields.

The suffering of Wadi Thana people who live around the dam gets worse due to the precipitated water in the dam because the still waters created a suitable environment for mosquitoes and insects; it also covered some areas of their fields and forced them to move from the flooded areas. And in spite of the fact that large areas of their fields have been flooded with water yet they have not seen any projects by the government or by the UAE government which promised to build the dam in 1983. Still they are working hard to survive because their lands are their only source of income.

In a field visit by the Yemen Times to the valley a lot of facts were revealed and this is what we found:

Farmer Naji bin Saleh said that there are huge dry arable lands but because there are no facilities for removing the 'athl' trees more than seven years have gone by without being able to cultivate the land. The locals try to cut off those trees by simple axes and farm the available areas, yet water floods come in seasons and because they don't have facilities to organize the irrigation they face a lot of difficulties just to earn a living on their own lands.

Was the American ambassador aware of Wadi Thana's farmers' requirements before his visit to Marib?

Ahmed Saeed al-Zaiadi is the owner of the largest tomato and vegetables farm said: 'we need a lot of water to plant the vegetables and crops which we have in our fields such as tomato, onions, and potatoes and so on. So we worked on digging manual wells and use simple water



Tomato farmers, armed, ready for defending themselves, while the tribal conflicts prevent them from marketing their crops

pumps for pulling out water. Our limited abilities allow us only to cultivate a small portion of the available land, and the rest is covered with 'athl' trees which absorb dampness of the soil. He complains further by saying: 'where is the state? And where are the so-called international support and the American funding which we hear of? Water has flooded wide areas of our land and we have not seen anyone who would help. Some have been forced to leave because of the terrible conditions and others coming from Sana'a who are able and started investing in this area because we can't.'

About the American aid for this area Ahmed al-Zaiadi comments: 'we heard that our American friends will donate 15 million USD and we were quite optimistic but we came to know that we have been excluded from this

aid and this made us depressed. Because what the Americans provide it seems it will take its way into the authorities pockets in the Ministry of Agriculture and others just like millions of dollars granted to the Eastern Region Developing Body found their way else where. Ask the body what it achieved for the Marib people or others? I hope that the Americans would pay a visit to this place and see exactly what we are going through so that their support goes where it is needed. We are in urgent need for modern farming facilities, for ploughing and for irrigation etc.

Wadi Thana farmers are upset with the local and the American funding!

What about the agriculture office? This is what we asked another farmer Mr. Mohammed Tuaiman who said:

'we created tomato farms and others then we were faced by diseases and pests that completely destroyed what we made. We requested the agriculture office to provide us with a car for spraying the fields with chemicals and with anti-pests chemicals but the only thing they did was to send a man supposed to be an expert who made us pay for his traveling expenses and recommended us chemicals to buy which we obviously couldn't.'

Livestock projects

We met with one former farmer who shifted to the livestock industry and now raises sheep for a living he said: 'It was not possible to continue as a farmer because we didn't have any facilities so I shifted to breeding sheep. Now I am facing problems with 'alaf' (fodder). Ali Dowidan continued his story saying: 'we heard

that the Americans will start off a livestock project in Marib but it will simply be beyond us because we are excluded from everything and I fear that the authorities will as usual keep the money with them. We are thankful to the aid we get from the Americans but do they really know what goes on with their money? I wish I could get some small loans that would help me start off a business and provide my family with a good life.'

Conclusion

Wadi Thana has huge areas that could be invested. There are so many potential projects and enough manpower to carry them out. The only

missing link is the finance. Now hopes are hanging on the American support which was promised. Because the farmer's problems are not only how to plant his fields but they exceed that to marketing and selling processes especially that most of the people in the area are stuck in dreadful revenge killings issues that engage most of the people instead of being able to proceed further.

The concerned authorities should do something about this valley it's a shame that such great potential and source of income is being wasted just because the people in charge are not feeling enough sense of responsibility to carry on their duties.



Grazing herds



Typical way in bloughing land, proved its efficiency for small farms

He but them

BY HANI SALEH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

He lived in the vast world
Loving and nursing all:
Bees, roses, stars, people-rich and poor.
He watched, he communed with them,
He guided, he sustained them,
He was such a caring man.

He had the wit to do things;
Sense he talked,

With wisdom he thought,
Challenges he faced,
Risks he kept away
He was such a wise man

He feared and revered God
Virtue he practiced
Vice he shunned
Good he preached
Evil he fought off,
He was such a good man

In the little world he also lived

Known to many, ignored by a lot:
None saw his teardrops
None heard his heartbeats,
None soothed his pains
He was much of a forlorn man

He remained true to his principles
Innocence and beauty he adored
Fraud and hypocrisy he abhorred
Peace and justice he sought
Alien to all, incompatible with a lot
So peculiar was he in his time

He aspired to a single thing
Yet secretly envied for it
Constantly discouraged against it
Unfairly battled for it
Completely destroyed for it
He was rather an 'enviable' man

He sought the nurturance of a woman
Still, quickly charmed by good looks
Easily deceived by posing
Slowly trapped into love
Cruelly killed in action
He was quite an unlucky man

الف بـ ر د ك
أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدىها للأخ
عبد حاتم القاضي
بمناسبة إرتقاؤه مولودته الجديدة والتي أسماها
حبيبة
«جعلها الله قرة عين والديها وأنتما نباتاً حسناً وبارك فيها»
المهنتون: محمد حاتم القاضي، فؤاد حاتم القاضي،
عماد أحمد السقاف، بسام أحمد السقاف وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

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**Social Fund for Development:
Helping the community help itself**

Social Fund for Development launches its third phase

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) has launched the third phase of its projects on Wednesday October 8th in Sanaa.

The phase will include the implementation of about 4,400 projects with a total cost reaching YR 76 billion. The projects that have already been implemented in the first and second phases totaled 3,300 and cost around YR 45 billion. The number of Yemeni citizens who benefited from the project reached six million and six hundred thousand.

Helping the community help itself

Ever since it was established in 1997, the SFD has been financing and supporting thousands of projects in various fields. It focused on activities that help develop communities and small-scale enterprises. The aim behind that is to raise the standard of living for the poor and provide new sources of income.

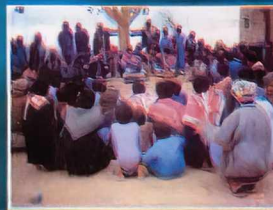
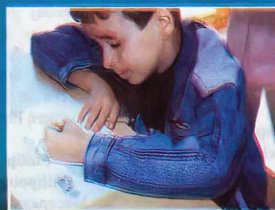
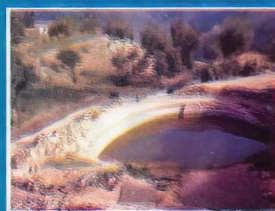
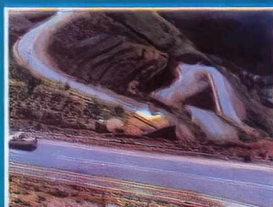
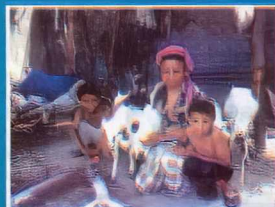
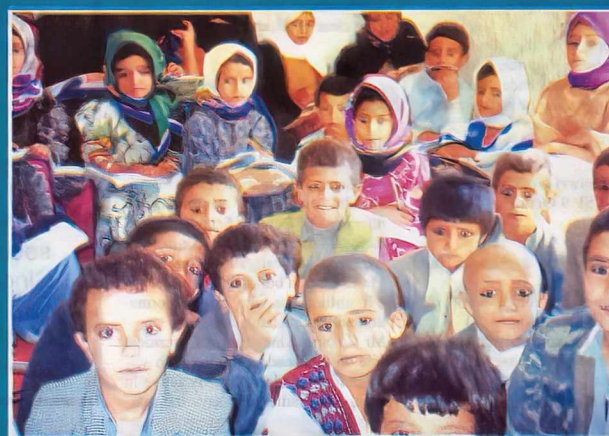
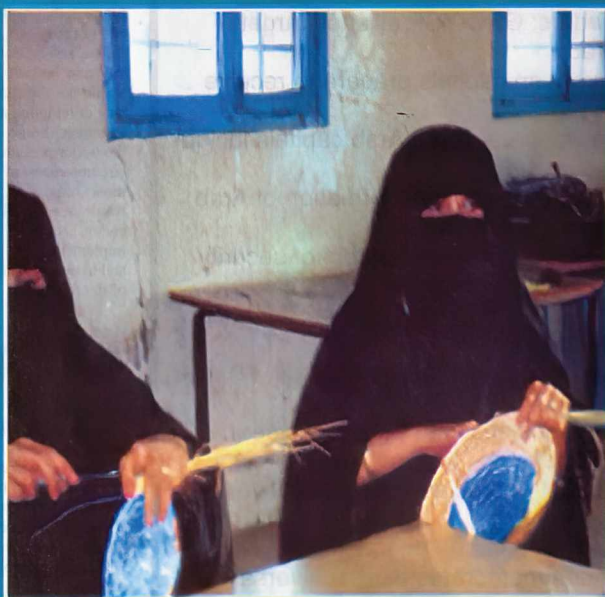
Basic principles guide SFD activities and investments. A variety of social, economic, and demographic data are used to identify areas and groups requiring assistance. Support is then targeted to the poorest and neediest of these groups. To promote sustainability, SFD projects are carefully assessed and monitored at every phase. In addition, the participation of local communities is strongly encouraged. Finally, the Social Fund has implemented numerous mechanisms to build its monitoring, evaluation, and organizational capacity.

About the SFD

The SFD was established in October 1997 by Law No.10 as one of the measures to cushion the effects of the government's reform programs on vulnerable groups, especially the poor.

The SFD was formed as an autonomous agency with financial and administrative independence, governed by a Board of Directors, representing the government, NGOs, and the private sector under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

The SFD seeks to reduce poverty by improving living conditions and providing income generating opportunities for the poor.



Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the People's Forces Union of Yemen (PFUY), 12 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- Yemen sits on corruption throne in the Arab region
- Secretary-General of the PFUY: Not worried about dialogue by any of the JMP parties with the authority, prefer to have collective dialogue
- Security arrests a 70-year old man and beats another
- Syria and Hezbollah threaten of retaliation if Israeli attacks repeated
- Aden refinery workers suspend strike
- U.S. demand Yemen to hand over elements accused of terrorism
- Wives and mothers of political security prisoners in Taiz stage a demonstration in front of the governorate building
- 643 teachers in Lahj demand dissolving duality

Columnist Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani says in an article that the Yemenis are unanimous about the existence of corruption. They most of the time complain from corruption practices; the opposition and authority. The astonishing thing is that corruption remains as it is without any change without being affected by the state of unanimity and complaint.

The writer maintains that corruption is a worldly phenomenon and not a Yemeni discovery but the difference is that we hear here and there trial of a minister or sacking a prime minister or an official because of corruption. Whereas in Yemen the one accused of corruption would be rewarded. If it is said a minister was relieved from his office it means he would be a member of the Shoura Council or to be appointed as an ambassador. The important thing is that, along with the increase of suffering from corruption, it remains dominant, and the corrupt are the most prominent achievement. As for confronting corruption is the absent element. This arouses a big question mark on the volume and existence of corruption, whether it is a fact or just an exaggeration and propaganda.

Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP 9 October 2003.

Main headlines:

- YSP condemns the aggression on Syria
- YSP welcomes the return home of Haitham and Muhsin
- Whirlwind at the construction site of the President Mosque causes death of some persons
- YSP official source: Response of the

GPC to Abdulghani statements, encouraging indicator for stabilization of pursuit of forgiveness, protection of the unity

- 14 October newspaper journalists threaten putting on red badges then partial strike

Columnist Khalid Salman says in his article the Yemeni Socialist Party sees the dialogue as a political educational value in the ordinary circumstances and under the extraordinary situations in the country and the rifts and crises besieging the country on all sides. Under such circumstances and situations and others altogether the dialogue would go beyond its value characteristic to the political necessity. The serious dialogue does not need messages and hints without a political horizon and complete conception of the extraordinary importance of dialogue. It does not need to talk about it with a half faith. Dialogue is need of tangible action and clear-cut policies making it not just a subjective desire but rather rational approach and a key for resolving problems and complications of the internal political situation. The homeland's current critical situation and compound crises is bigger than an individual political party to accomplish a project for an immediate salvation. Such a situation calls for joining all efforts and political unification and agreement on a genuine national program announcing the boycotting of the bloody inheritance and political violence of the past periods. It is a call for a détente and normalization of the political life away from slogans of disloyalty, confiscating rights and imposition of guardianship, which are political mistakes the ruling party has to overcome and to look at future away from yesterday's mistakes.

Once again we call for dialogue as a value and culture, a program and specific mechanisms. We call for a dialogue having clear goals and purposes.

Al-Isbou weekly, 9 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- Al-Hakeemi memorandum to prime minister: Information minister al-Awadhi hampers administrative reform at 14 October Establishment
- Refusal of continued control of Criminal Investigation on Saint Maria Church building
- YR million for who gives information about Cole attackers
- Mr Zakaria Ahmed writes a critical article on the trend of trading with science and knowledge which is active in Yemeni universities. He says the mar-

Main headlines

- YSP welcomes dialogue, calls for tackling impact of political conflicts
- Cuban call for reforming the UN
- Islah party political office head welcomes Arab preachers
- International organisations in Yemen, unprecedented security precautions
- President Saleh leaves for Malaysia
- JMP leaders: GPC-YSP alliance targets democracy
- Five European capitals prepare to receive Bush in protests
- CIA director visits some Arab capitals including Sana'a
- Politicians, MPs propose formation of Arab army to liberate Al-Quds
- JMP calls for disclosing secrets of security cooperation with America
- Tens of martyrs and wounded in Rafah city and refugee camp
- National Security Apparatus' budget, \$9 million
- Major persons accused of Cole incident, still inside Yemen
- Government depreciates the legislative power
- Islah party condemns aggression on Syria
- Hamas commemorates third anniversary of the Intifada
- Aden embraces the nation's festivals
- Aden property court decides 125 cases
- Due to Director General excesses, Establishments lose confidence in the Central Bank
- President Saleh: Mischievous with security and stability have to stop
- More than 11 thousand soldiers to complete security deployment plan
- Since beginning of this year 10882 infiltrators from the Horn of Africa captured
- Conflicting news on reasons of al-Basha attempted assassination

ketability and spread of the phenomenon of trading with the university book at most of the Yemeni universities has made the newly university graduates who have got degrees qualifying them to teach at the university do not hesitate from authoring a book or section of a book bearing his name on the cover while the content is from another book. Trading in fascicles mostly takes many methods. Most doctors at the university force students to buy the book he has written and some would change its cover every year to delude the student that this year's book is different than the one of the year before. What is more funny is that some doctors attach at the end of the book a sheet of paper he calls it as a research to force the student to buy and he puts a question on it that would get the student a high mark as a way of tempting and forcing the student to buy it. Some university doctors, as the writer presumes do not consider the circumstances of students because the most important thing is selling his whole quantity. The writer calls at the end of his article that time has come for implementing the university text book and to be circulated over all universities of the republic.

Al-Sahwa weekly, 9 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- Authority unifies teachers union by cancellation
 - A loan agreement aborts implementation of two strategic projects
 - Sudanese president al-Basheer: Garang has become a friend after signing the security accord
 - Citizens complain delay in issuing their passports
 - Vengeance cause migration of 150 residents from Shabwa to Abyan
 - A society for protection and maintenance of Aden's antiquities, established
- Columnist Mohamed al-Ghabiri writes on education crisis in Yemen saying no one disputes the existence of crisis engulfing education at all levels in Yemen starting from the ministry building to school, administration and everything related to it. The main of all reasons of this situation is absence of comprehension of the importance of education by the authority, administration and the society, the low level of capabilities and misuse of the available of them as well as the comprehensive corruption in life in general.

The first of steps to be taken to reform education is to provide a building for the ministry of education repre-

senting its status as an important institution. The second step is to reform mechanism of and subjecting it to objective specifications and criteria along with serious monitoring and application of the principle of punishment and reward. Education is the decisive factor in advancement and backwardness because it deals with the human and human brain and energy. There would not be any building without finding a mechanism for discovering talents and geniuses and then caring of them, developing and investing them. Education must be separated from the existing corruption in the general administration and public life and that can be accomplished by removing the elements that are not qualified for this profession.

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 9 Oct.2003.

Main headlines:

- President Saleh: Development process progresses good and we appreciate role of Funds and donor organisations
- Gulf Forum convenes in Sana'a, The EU chooses Yemen for holding the International Conference on democracy and human rights
- Yemen presents a working paper for developing mechanism of the Organisation of Islamic Conference work

Columnist Faisal Jalloul says in his article that forty years have elapsed since the eruption of Yemeni 14 October revolution that was launched a year after its sisterly counterpart of 26 September and they got united in the local political culture of the Yemeni revolution.

The unionist dimension is apparent in contributions of all the residents that succeeded on Aden after the foundation of the Socialist party regardless of the political circumstances and the ideology that surrounded those contributions. The unionist dimension of 14 October also appears in the central system founded after the independence when for the first time for centuries more than 20 protectorates were merged and the culture of separatism was destroyed. Even geographically the unionist dimension is apparent as the 14 October revolutionaries are affiliate of all parts of Yemen and of all social, sectarian and political groups of Yemen. It is also evident that the human geography has played a great role in suppressing the secessionist attempt and played a moral role in precluding the return of the Yemeni history to its former attitude.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al Ahram

Iraqi resistance launched a new series of sudden attacks against US-led occupation troops on Monday, leaving a US soldier killed and five others injured.

Al Akhbar

The United Nations warned against a human disaster facing Palestinians in the southern Gaza Strip area of Rafah after the sustained Israeli attacks which rendered thousands of Palestinians homeless.

Al Gomhuria

Foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference

(OIC) on Monday called on the United States to withdraw its troops from Iraq within the framework of timetable and condemned the Israeli practices against the Palestinians and Syria.

The ministers made the statement during a meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in preparation for the 10th OIC summit, which is to be held on Thursday and Friday.

The Egyptian Gazette

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Prime Minister Atef Obeid and senior army officers on Monday attended a special concert marking the celebrations of the Air Forces Day.

France

Le Figaro

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin launched the reform of medical assurances after the controversial reform of the pension system.

Le Monde

The exclusion of two Muslim girls from their school in the northern Paris suburbs for wearing Islamic headscarves in classroom caused deep division in France between traditional secularists and those who lobby against "anti-

Islamic discrimination".

La Tribune

The internet economy takes off with more investment thanks to the perspective of a growing market offered by the high-debit network.

Liberation

The French government proposes to increase defense spending in the period of economic difficulties. The military becomes too expensive and controversial.

Britain

The Times

British Prime Minister Tony Blair chaired the key meeting at which a question-and-answer strategy leading to the naming of David Kelly was agreed, the top civil servant at the Ministry of Defense said Monday.

Financial Times

Microsoft, the world's largest software company, and Vodafone, the biggest mobile phone operator, joined forces Monday to bring mobile data services to the personal computer.

Kenya

People Daily

Kenyan Vice President Moody Awori on Monday moved to quell renewed hostilities within the government over calls for the sacking of Raila Odinga as a minister, saying that continuing rows within the ruling NARC coalition could scuttle the government's attempts to fulfill its campaign pledges.

Daily Nation

Kenyan Minister for Agriculture Kipruto Kirwa has said that lack of information and the right equipment was to blame for low agricultural production in the country.

The Guardian

The amount of debt being chased by Britain's bailiffs has soared by 70 percent over the past two years to a record 5 billion pounds or 8.2 billion US dollars in fresh evidence of Britain's growing debt crisis.

The Independent

American biotech companies tried to lie to Europe in an attempt to force genetically modified crops upon them, Margot Wallstrom, the European environment commissioner, said Monday.

Philippines

The Philippine Star

Police and military authorities said Monday Al-Ghozi, an Indonesian who was one of Asia's most-wanted terror suspects, was killed in a shoot-out on Sunday with government forces in North Cotabato in the southern Philippines.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo praised the Philippine National Police Monday for the killing of Fathur Rohman al-

Ghozi, saying the death of the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist was a major victory in the war on terrorism.

Manila Bulletin

Malacanang (the presidential palace) denied Monday all accusations made by Senator Panfilo Lacson as it outlined point by point its defense on allegations of graft and corruption thrown against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and their associates.

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| Park Inn International | Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia | \$595 | \$700 | \$695 | \$900 | Category *** |
| Jakarta Hilton International | Jakarta/Indonesia | \$695 | \$920 | \$930 | \$1360 | Category ***** |
| Aston Atrium | Jakarta/Indonesia | \$770 | \$930 | \$865 | \$1185 | Category **** |

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E-commerce
components:
an overview

NAJEEB YAHYA
AL-SHARAFI
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- standards;
- software.

Communications options include:

- Telephone: dial-up connection or leased line.

- ISDN: basic rate or primary rate. Value Added Networks.
- X.400 – an International Standards Organization (ISO) standard for secure messaging.
- Networks: local area networks, wide area networks or intranets.
- The Internet: messaging, file transfer, Telnet, the World Wide Web, XML.

Standards

Standards are the means by which data is sent in an agreed format by Ecommerce trading partners.

In Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), standards pertain specifically to the syntax used to prepare messages for exchange. They enable, for example, one accounts system to understand an electronic version of an invoice sent out by another accounts system because the relevant pieces of data (e.g. invoice number) are always located in the same part of the message. In the case of EDI, these standards are generally nationally and internationally agreed by designated standards bodies, but in other applications proprietary standards have been adopted as *de facto* standards. An example is the 'gif' graphics format developed by CompuServe and now used for the incorporation of graphics in web pages. The 'jpg' format also used in web pages is, however, internationally ratified by the International Standards Organization.

It is preferable in the broader context of E-commerce, therefore, to look at standardization as 'the adoption of any standard way of formatting data adopted by a community of users'.

For example, in addition to GIFs and JPGs, surfers of the World Wide Web use:

- HTML – accepted as the standard HyperText Mark-up Language;
- PERL – accepted as a standard way of running scripts on-line;
- JavaScript – a script language from Netscape;
- Java – a programming language expressly designed by Sun

Microsystems for use in the distributed environment of the Internet. Standards ensure that all the members of a community can communicate with each other without needing to adopt individual relationships with any one supplier. To return to the example of EDI, imagine there are four trading companies each of which does business with all the others.

This may seem a little far-fetched, but it is not so long since import/export companies were using separate software packages to communicate with each of the major shipping lines they dealt with.

There are numerous standards used in the world of E-commerce, most of them specific to the type of application.

Software

Software is important at various stages in an E-commerce system. Broadly speaking, there are six functions of the software in the actual Ecommerce process:

- data extraction from relevant appli-

cation(s), or data entry;

- data encoding to agreed standard format;
- data transmission to recipient(s);
- data receipt by recipient(s);
- data decoding for internal applications;
- data insertion into relevant application(s).

Of course, software is used in a variety of other ways, such as for editing, programming, graphics, etc., but in terms of E-commerce, these are its key functions.

As an example, encoded data received from the World Wide Web is decoded by a web browser for the user to read in a predetermined format. As discussed above, the browsers have been written to use adopted standards such as GIFs, JPGs, HTML, PERL, JavaScript and Java. They are also ready to accept 'plug-ins', programs which use the standard interface of the browser to literally plug-in to it and add software capability (such as the ability to play a type of sound file).

Particularly significant for the development of E-commerce applications has been the emergence in 1998 of Extensible Markup Language (XML).

This has led to a significant increase in the power of E-commerce and other types of Internet-based data interchange. While XML was originally designed for the distribution of documentation via the World Wide Web, it is now widely accepted as a generalized method for interchanging information between computer programs over the Internet. Typical uses include the automatic updating of software, the interchange of secure payment instructions between computers, and the exchange of information between databases.

Business-to-Business E-commerce

There are four key areas of business-to-business E-commerce:

- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI);
- enhanced messaging: e-mail, voice mail, fax;
- teleconferencing;
- Integrated systems: intranets/extranets, database publishing, workflow.

Business-to-business E-commerce is experiencing massive growth, with US analyst Gartner Group forecasting a rise from a global spend of \$145 billion in 1999 to \$7.3 trillion by 2004 (accounting for 7% of all sales transactions).

In the UK, analyst Durlacher Research predicts that the business-to-business E-commerce market is set to open up in the European Union (EU). Business-to-business is forecast to be worth \$1.27 trillion in the EU in 2004, up from \$76 billion this year. It is expected to account for 12.7% of the EU's gross domestic product in 4 years' time.

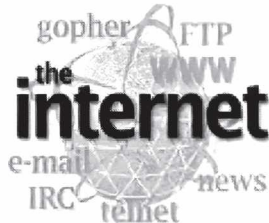
Electronic Data Interchange

As the personal computer became more and more ubiquitous so more and more information came to be processed and stored by companies electronically on in-house computer systems. It soon became apparent that about 70% of the data being input into a company's computer system had been output from its trading partners' computers. This meant data that was accurate and available electronically was physically being re-entered by hand, which was both time-consuming and liable to introduce errors.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) was developed to eradicate the need for re-keying in data, using agreed standards to enable computers to exchange electronic versions of standard forms (such as purchase orders and invoices). The aim was:

'to transfer data application to application, regardless of platform or operating system, without human intervention'.

A host of generic messages were provided for companies to exchange data,



and industry-specific messages were developed in a number of areas (such as the motor industry). The most common EDI messages are used to send invoices and purchase orders, but there are many, many other uses in a wide variety of industry sectors, including the health sector, banking, government, pharmaceuticals, and the automotive industry. The introduction of EDI made it possible to speed up the exchange of data and the processing of data which had profound effects on the ways some companies organized their businesses.

Sensitivity of the data meant that companies generally chose to send their messages via secure 'Value Added Networks' or VANs. They added value by offering users a complete audit trail of when the message was sent and received, and offering guaranteed service levels. (Offering guaranteed service levels on the Internet is far more complicated as there are so many companies operating various parts of the interconnecting networks.)

Enhanced Messaging

Not all information falls into the category of EDI messaging where the information can be taken directly from application to application, but the benefits of rapid delivery of information in various formats direct to the desktop of an individual within an organization soon became apparent. E-mail enabled messages to be sent quickly to one or many business contacts. Voice-mail could do the same thing with recorded messages. Enhanced fax enabled people to send and receive faxes from their own computer. Furthermore, received faxes could be reasonably accurately turned into text files using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software. Enhanced messaging solutions have even been set up to take advantage of different time zones – in some cases American companies are getting data processing done in places such as Ireland which are several hours ahead of them. This means that the work is ready as their own offices open in the morning.

The introduction of high bandwidth communications enabled videoconferencing to become a realistic option for businesses.

Teleconferencing

As higher bandwidth telecommunications options became available, it became possible to send and receive video and audio data simultaneously, and teleconferencing became a financially viable business tool. Teleconferencing is prearranging a telephone meeting between two or more participants and it requires much more bandwidth than a simple two-way phone connection (although audio conferencing does not). Where the teleconference uses cameras to send pictures it is called a videoconference, and participants can see still or motion video images of each other. Generally speaking, the special telecommunication equipment is set up in a designated room at the office of each participant. The business benefits are obvious for, although it is expensive, it is a lot cheaper than getting several participants to travel to a single destination for a meeting. As high-bandwidth connections become more commonplace, videoconferencing via desktop or even mobile computers is becoming a reality.

Book Review

A Text Book of English
Language Teaching (ELT)
for Yemeni Students

(A guide for teaching English in Yemeni schools)

By Dr. MNK Bose. Published by Obadi Studies and Publishing Center, Sana'a (P. O. Box 662). 148 pages

REVIEWED BY DR. RAMAKANTA SAHU

Dr. MNK Bose's "A Text Book of English Language Teaching for Yemeni Students" is a pioneering and scholarly study of the problems and prospects relating to the English language teaching enterprise in the secondary schools in the Republic of Yemen. Backed by a wealth of experience as a teacher of English and a teacher educator in premier institutes in India as well as in Yemen Dr. Bose is singularly and uniquely equipped to make a perceptive analysis, with remarkable precision and clarity, of the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) scenario in Yemen which seems to be in cross roads.

This book, the first of its kind in Yemen, exclusively focuses on the Yemeni ELT situation in the broader Arabi context. Most of what the author has stated in this volume is related to Yemeni school classes where English is taught in extremely difficult circumstances. It incorporates Dr. Bose's interactive experience with his students (teacher trainees) in the Faculty of Education, Hodeidah University and a cross section of teachers teaching in the schools in Hodeidah which he used to visit in connection with teaching practice as well as for classroom observation of pupil teachers.

The basic purpose of the book is to provide some professional help and advice to the teachers of English, and teacher educators in the Faculties of Education in Yemen in the field of ELT, where a little help is available in terms of teaching materials and standard textbooks. In the fitness of things, the book addresses a plethora of pertinent issues including the following:

- How to add variety to and remove boredom from an ELT classroom?
- How effectively and fruitfully can language games be played in an ELT classroom?
- How can language communicative skills be developed in the learner?
- How can we construct a realistic but effective curriculum?
- How can a teacher evaluate the performance of the learner throughout the year?
- How can a teacher construct reliable and valid test materials?

Questions such as these which confront any sensitive ELT professional, especially in Yemeni context, are very insightfully and lucidly discussed through the following fourteen informative units comprising the book:

1. The ELT situation in Yemen
2. The English curriculum for Yemeni schools
3. Approaches, Methods and

Techniques in ELT

4. The ELT materials for Yemeni schools
5. The teaching of Oral skills in Yemeni schools
6. The teaching of Reading skills in Yemeni schools
7. The teaching of Writing skills in Yemeni schools
8. The teaching of language elements in Yemeni schools
9. Remedial Teaching
10. Language games for Yemeni learners
11. Lesson planning and Classroom Observation
12. Language testing in Yemeni schools
13. Constructing a language test
14. Applied Linguistics and ELT

Each unit has been ramified into several sub-units to yield a comprehensive perspective to the aspect being highlighted.

Examples, wherever necessary, have been provided from the 'Crescent English Course for Yemen' materials which are used in this country.

Several recent works in the field of ELT have been referred to throughout the book, all of which are catalogued in the bibliography. Elaborate quotations from the books referred to have been scrupulously avoided, unless they are necessary, in order to make the reading of the book easy for the readers.

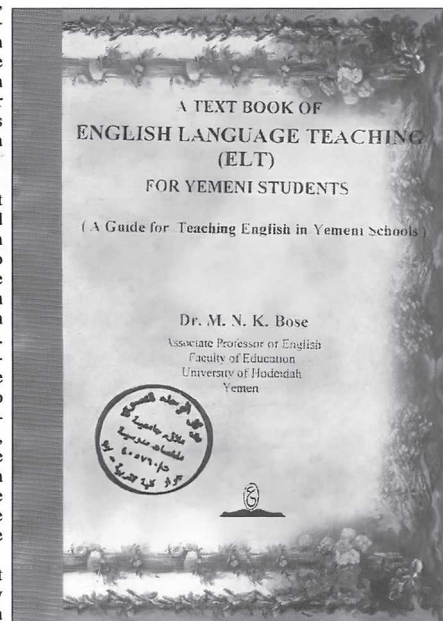
A brief but cryptic summary appended to each unit serves as an effective recap of the main ideas discussed. The author has very thoughtfully added some searching, elicitive questions, not so much to test the reader's conceptualization of each unit as to provide a roadmap for its better comprehension. The Worksheet that concludes the Unit serves to provide a practical follow-up to the ideas presented.

The book, which has a presentable get-up, has been made as simple and comprehensible as possible, keeping the students' level in view, at the same



Dr. M. N. K. Bose, Associate Professor, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University
P. O. Box No 70270,
Phone 00967-4-408738

time presenting a precious reservoir of practical pedagogic tips for practicing classroom teachers – thus making it an indispensable handbook for both. It has



a very rich potential for being adopted as an excellent text book at the Education Faculties, Teacher Training colleges and High Institutes in Yemen.

It is, no doubt, a valuable addition to the ELT materials in Yemen and is expected to adorn the shelves of teachers, teacher trainers, educational administrators, curriculum planners. It is also an invaluable companion to all those who evince some interest in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) in the Republic of Yemen.

Results of Fourth
Inter-College Literary
Competitions (2003)

Senior Group

Essay: "Peace Hath Her Victories No Less Renowned Than War"
1st: Saba Jarallah Saleh Gawbah
Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

Short story

1st: Mohammed Mohammed Saleh Al-Malahi "On the Embers of Waiting"
Faculty of Languages, Sana'a university

2nd: Saba Jarallah "Motherhood"
Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

3rd: Mohammed Naggi Saleh Humaid: "The Charm"
Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

Poems

1st: Saba Jarallah "Be A

Hero on Strike"

Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University
Mohammed Mohammed Saleh Al-Malahi: "The Lost Humanity"
Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University

2nd: Tawfeek Hameed "Alienation and Trespassers"
Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University
Tahani Omer: "Why My Heart Sinks"
Faculty of Education, Sana'a University

3rd: Rima Mohammed Ali Mothanna: "My Song"
Faculty of Education, Amran Sana'a University
Ghada Mohammed Al-Harazi: "Putout the Light"
Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

Junior Group

Essay: "The Value of

Time"

1st: Mohammed Abdul Kareem Modhaffer
Faculty of Education, Al-Mahweet

2nd: Samiah Al-Beshari
Faculty of Education, Sana'a University

Short Story

1st: Tahani Al-Aghbary: "His Eyes Yearned For Darkness"
Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

2nd: Sameer Annozaily: "We Are Here"
Faculty of Arts, Ibb University

3rd: The Real Love and The Honorable Death

Poems
1st Sameer Ahmed Annozaily: "Life Is Not A Race"
Faculty of Arts, Ibb University

Congratulations are being sent soon

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, Coordinator



Broken Wings

I turn my face towards the sky watching,
As the sun goes down.
Minutes seem hours
And hours seem days.
Why complain of the day,
When the night hasn't come yet?

A new fear is born inside my brains
As the day darkens and darkens,
Thoughts in me turn into a nightmare.

But still I can't gather my broken wings
And escape from the punishment of the night.

Iman Ibrahim Taiz

My Appointment

Don't ask me, my friend, don't ask me
Which time you'll see me?
Or where? Or how?
'Cause may I tell you I'll be here
Then I'll be there.
Don't ask me.
I know nothing about my appointment.
Many... many times,
I've come on time,
But... I haven't found me.

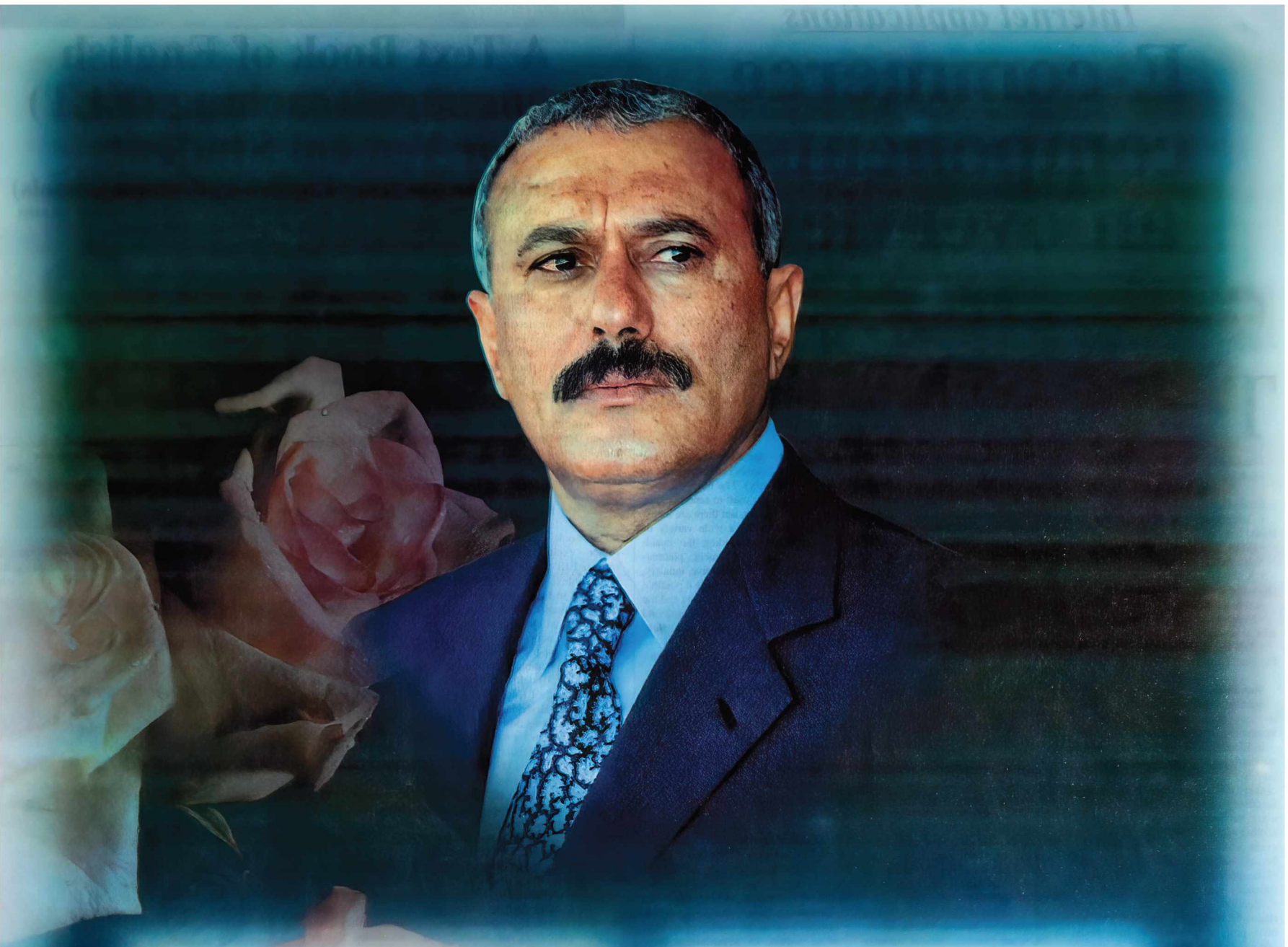
Sameer Ahmed Annozaily
Faculty of Arts,
Ibb University
Ibb

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

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

ramakantasahu@yahoo.com

Tel: (01) 465396 Mobile: 73889013 P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a



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*On the occasion of the 40th anniversary
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■ Villa consist of two floors with stone tiles courtyard part of it is a garden, the two floor consist of eight rooms, one saloon, 2 big halls, two kitchen, four bathrooms, four telephone lines, located at haddah st. next to french embassy, Sana'a, please contact Mr. Salem on 504811/12

■ For rent: Spacious 3rd and 4th floor villa with open floor plan 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen and 3 sitting rooms, everything large, partially furnished, large 12 libra, backyard with two car entry/exit points please contact mobile: 73776101 for English and 73707731 for Arabic.

■ Supper Lux Two Story+full basement Villa, located at Haddah, near world bank, consist of large living room, family room, 4bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, and open dining room, contact Mr. Ahmed Muraishi on: 7902784.

■ One story + full basement, large living room, dining room, family room, 3bed rooms, 3 bathrooms, large guards room, and cars parking. Located at Haddah Monthly rent of \$1,000, please contact Mr. Ahmed Muraishi on: 7902784.

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■ Yehya Alashwal, seeking a Job as a Driver, with driving license, please contact: 71713120

■ Ali Al-Yemany, Bachelor adegree in English of 88% top student, Faculty of education, Sana'a, Teaching English since 1998, Knows to use computer well, Tel: 71719294

■ Jihan Al-Dalali, English-second year at sana'a university, looking for a job as a secretary, please contact 71659264

■ Hana Al-Daiati, English third year at sana'a university, diploma of secretary, seeking a job as a secretary, please contact: 71659264

■ Ibtisam Al-Bahlohi, Secondary School graduate, and diploma in secretary, seeking a job as a secretary, please contact: 71659264

■ 15 years of experience in managerial cadre, very good knowledge in cargo, and couriers, experience in IBM brunch card system, also good in sales & marketing, administration, and troubleshooting, nationality Indian, contact 73810416

■ house maid available with good English Arabic language, does The House/Office cleaning, also good at cooking please contact 7907328

■ Abdulkareem Abdo Al-Fakeh fluent at English (American accent) good with computers prefer to work only with American establishments in yemen phone: 71719294.

■ A retired Yemeni well qualified freelance Arabic to english translator available in aden, documents sent for translation (Max 500 words) will be completed within 48hours, payment negotiable, call at 02-232500 anytime during working days and working hours or plot 90/8 sharia sahoth, khormaksar, Aden

■ Secondary School graduate-studying at Sana'a university-level one faculty of commerce, one and a half years experience in sales, good command at English, knows to speak Indonesian language, please call at: 7902397, 674-787

Real Estate

■ For sale a building consist of seven floors, each floor consist 2 large flats, "five big rooms" The first and second floor could be used as a bank or a trade center, or headquarters, the building is fully equipped with elevator and modern equipment, please contact: 73843172.

■ For sale or rent Two-storey villa at al-Asbahi has got a planted courtyard, fountain and seewash. For further information, you can contact Mrs. Um Akram on 73677128.

■ One story and basement, 3 bed rooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, dining room, study, kitchen with cupboards, garden, 3-4 car parking, and a large terrace, Haddah area, monthly rent 1,000, please contact Ahmed Muraishi on 73802855

■ A two story villa in Al-Asbahi along its Yard, each story has 5 rooms and 2 bedrooms, for more information please contact Tel: 73677128

■ For rent a two floors Villa with stone tiled courtyard, part of it is a garden, both the floors consist of 8 rooms one saloon, 2 big halls, 4bathrooms, 2 kitchens, and 4 telephone lines, Located at Haddah St. near french embassy sana'a, please contact Mr. salem at tel: 01-240310/504811/12 sana'a

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■ A foreigner wants to sell a car Mark II(Petrol) 1995 model, white colour with A/C, Engine, exterior and interior of the car in excellent condition, suitable for diplomats, Price: 1,3,50000 Y.R. please contact Mr. Sajid :73623205

■ For sale VW-Polo classic car model 2001, please contact 71616171

■ For sale Corona Toyota car 1989, in a very good condition, please contact: 71102061

■ To buy: Corolla, in a very good condition and a good price please contact: 71104733

■ Diplomat selling Toyota Corolla 1987 Compact model car, sparingly used, Duty paid. Expected price US\$ 3000 (negotiable). Contact M. Vasudevan, Tel. 441251/252.

■ For sale: KIA car model 91, in a very good condition with a prize of 330,000 Y.R. please contact Mohamed on Mobile: 71921072.

■ To buy: Cressida car, Model 90-92. Please contact Mohammed Ahmed on Mobile: 71105666

■ To buy: 92 model Mercedes benz Around 900,000 Royals contact: Mr. Shibly Al-shamiry, 71277523.

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■ For sale PIII in a very good condition 512 Ram, 500 Ghz, 20Gb hard disk, cd Rom, prize \$250 not ready for negotiation, please contact Mr. Abdulla Ahmed, Mobile: 71176455

■ For sale: A lap top Dell company P4, in a very good condition, 512 Ram, 1700 Ghz, 30 GB hard disk, cd Rom, DVD, Cd writer, with a prize of 1400\$, ready for negotiation, please contact Mr. Ali Saleh Ali, on: 71286716.

■ Needed Laptop Computer P3 or P4 in good condition. Contact: Mr. Waddah 73741479

■ For sale: Nokia phone 9210i in a good price, 3 months used, please contact Mr. Sami, Tel: 73216368

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■ Home Tution: A qualified experienced teacher having Master's degree available to teach Nursery, "O" and "A" level grades, please call: 73829909.

■ If you like to teach your child- private lessons- Arabic, English, or sciences for high school, please contact: 73770365.

■ Evening language classes, Urdu, English starting soon along with computer classes, please contact 410080- 425482.

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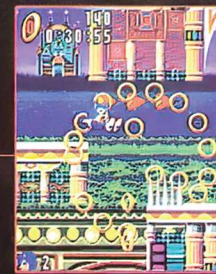
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