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Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar returns after several-month treatment abroad: **Spectacular welcome for Sheikh al-Ahmar**

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A massive public welcoming ceremony was arranged last Thursday for Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein at Sana'a International Airport upon arrival after more than 8 months for treatment abroad.

Sheikh Abdullah had to go through a series of medical examinations and treatments after he was injured in a traffic accident that took place in the Senegalese capital Dakar on March 11, 2004 while he was participating in the third conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Conference Member States (PUOICM).

Sheikh Al-Ahmar had been receiving medical attention in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for several months. Upon the traffic accident, he was taken to Paris, where immediate treatment took place as he was found to be injured and needed immediate medical attention. Despite some early reports at the time mentioned that the accident may have been a conspiracy, later reports confirmed that it was a result of a puncture of one of the back tires of the vehicle he had been using.

The welcoming ceremony included a brief statement by Sheikh Al-Ahmar expressing his gratitude for the concern and feelings of the Yemeni people towards him in the time of the accident and for the words of encouragement and support afterwards.



An archive photo portraying Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar when he was received at the Sana'a International Airport when he returned from his famous medical trip in March 1998. (source: alahmar.net) Al-Ahmar was received in a similar fashion last Thursday November 11, 2004.

Hundreds of people gathered at the airport to receive the prominent figure including tribal representatives, members of parliament, and members of Shura council, leaders of various political parties, scholars, sheikhs, the press, and many other personalities.

Furthermore, sheikh Al-Ahmar had also started receiving guests that conveyed their greetings and best wishes for his safe return at his home since Friday.

Sheikh Abdullah has been in Saudi Arabia before arriving to Yemen. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Al-Ahmar met with King Fahd bin Abdulaziz and was active in working closely with Saudi counterparts to enhance bilateral relations.

A biography

Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein bin Nasser bin Mabkhout Al-Ahmar was born in 1933 in Dhalima region of

Hashid of a family with a solid tribal history in the region of Hashid, who have had a major role in the modern history of Yemen.

He received his basic education in the village he was born in (Hisn Habour). Al-Ahmar has been active in the political domain and worked to achieve the revolution. Imam Ahmed has harassed his family many times, as his father and brother were both held prisoners.

His role was instrumental in assisting revolutionaries defeat Imam Ahmad and at the time the revolution took place on 26 September 1962, he was still in prison, but after he was freed, he quickly gained confidence and support by the revolutionaries and the public.

Ever since, he has been actively participating in promoting the revolution's goals during different eras of the republic.

In 1969, he became the head of the national council of the Arab Republic of Yemen.

In 1970, he was elected as the head of the Shura Council of the republic.

Moreover, in 1979, he became an active member of the Consultative Council and in 1982; he became a member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress until 1990.

Upon unity on 22 May 1990, he formed the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), which he continues to head today.

In 1993, he was elected into parliament and became the head of the parliament, the post that he still holds today.

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A ship sinks off Yemen's coast

Agencies- A ship owned by a Gujarati businessman sank Monday near Yemen in the Arabian Sea and its 10 crewmembers were missing, according to a media report.

Yasinbhai, owner of the Al Share-Hind merchant vessel, said it had sunk near Socotra Island in the Gulf of Aden.

"My ship collided with the wreckage of a sunken ship believed to have sunk 10 years ago. Of the 19 crew members on board, nine swam their way to the shore, while 10 are missing," Yasinbhai told a TV channel in Jamnagar, about 300 km from here.

"According to those who reached the shore safely, the missing crewmembers were in a life boat that is untraceable in the high seas.

Yasinbhai said he was keeping in touch with the Yemen government. "The officials of the Yemen government told me that they had launched a search and rescue operation," he said.

The ship had begun its journey a few days ago from Porbandar, a port town in the Saurashtra region, some 400 km from here, and was headed

for Somalia with a cargo of 550 tonnes of rice.

Local authorities at Porbandar could not be contacted for comments.

On the other hand, alsahwa.net reported a Pakistani fisherman saying that the ship which sank off Socotra coast had rescued him along with 8 of his comrades when their 70-ton capacity boat was wrecked somewhere between the Indian Ocean and the Arab Sea, close to Socotra Island.

Akbar Ali, the fisherman, told alsahwa.net that he and his colleagues had set off on a fishing trip from a Port in Pakistan.

"Our boat was shattered by the turbulent sea, and the ill-fated ship saved our souls," said he.

"The number of crewmembers of the ship was 19, eight of whom were rescued by Socotra residents and the rest are still missing," he added.

Official sources said the local security of Socotra had ferried the rescued on a military plane back to their countries- Pakistan and India.

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YSCP warns of toy guns

By FADHL MANSOUR
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In a letter to Minister of Interior, Governors and Heads of Local Councils, the Yemen Society for Consumer's Protection warns of the spread of toy guns.

The Yemeni market is flooded with these guns as Eid al-Fitr is nearing.

Officials at the YSCP seize the opportunity to turn the attention toward an important subject regarding everyday life and behavior inside the Yemeni society.

The society keeps on claiming for the restriction of toy guns and spreading awareness among people. Children should not be allowed to have toy guns.

What concerns everyone is that the

Yemeni market is flooded with real-like weapons sold in toyshops and junctures, in addition to the firecrackers available in every zone.

The danger of firecrackers is that they make children more aggressive and eager for violence in attempt to imitate the elder people. Children are often found to play with firecrackers at their homes and this in turn causes harm to their safety.

Toy guns are the source of pollution and chaos. Importing them with hard currency badly affects the economy of the country.

The YSCP appreciates if the concerned parties would stop importing these articles as well as to prohibit selling them in the market for the sake of public interest.

Course on banking concluded

By BASSAM AL-SAQAF
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The governor of the Central Bank of Yemen concluded on Nov. 9 a course on deterring money laundering and combating the funding of terrorism.

The course was organized by the Central Bank of Yemen and Banking Studies Institute.

As many as 40 participants from different parties took the course.

The governor pointed out in his concluding speech that Yemen is among the first Arab countries to issue legislations and carry out procedures combating terrorism, money laundering and banditry and kidnapping crimes.

Such efforts made Yemen rank 24th at the world level.

The International Credit Fund got full information about what Yemen has achieved to meet the decision of International Peace Council.

Simultaneously, Mr. Al-Samawi concluded five other courses for workers at the Central Bank of Yemen and the banking sector.

The courses focused on the clearance and financial analysis for banks as well as banking hazards and development facilities. 90 trainees from the Central Bank of Yemen and other Banks all over the country have attended the training course.

The governor referred to the stability of Yemeni markets, especially the rate of currency power. This encouraged the Yemen and Arab Capitals to be invested in joint projects estimated at hundred of millions of dollars.

The functions took place in the presence of Mr. Ahmad Ghalib Secretary of the Ministry of Finance & and President of the Money Laundering Committee, and Dr. Abdurrahman Khalfan, Director of Arab Investment Company based in Bahrain as well as a number of bank managers and central bank agents.

More lands plundered in Hodeidah

By YT HODEIDAH STAFF

Once again a Judge named Mohammed Abdullah Al-Akwa'a has been reportedly illegally found taking over more lands belonging to other citizens in Hodeidah province.

According to citizens in the region, this has been a habit of Al-Akwa'a who has been known to plunder lands of others for more than ten years.

According to witnesses in Hodeidah, in 1996, he took over

lands of citizens in the Salakhanah neighborhood of the city, and he repeated his act in the same year in Ghalil neighborhood.

In both cases, he seized large areas of land with the backing of armed men that belonged to the province's security department.

The verdict of the First-Instant Court ruled that those who demolished houses and terrorized people be tried. The sentence also stated that damage should be compensated for.



There used to be house standing in the place of these stones!



A scene depicting demolished houses

A contradiction was noted in the memos of the State's Real Estate and Lands Office. The first said that the land belonged to the government, while the second indicated that it belonged to the Vocational Training Center. The third memo said the land belonged to a governmental compound, while the fourth alleged that it was the property of Al-Akwa'a himself.

Due to excessive corruption and lawlessness, the plundering of lands by

influential figures in Hodeidah province had continued, causing the poor and helpless people of Hodeidah to surrender their fate and suffer from more poverty because they were deprived of using their lands for agricultural purposes.

Citizens of the area appealed many times to the authorities and to the international community to bring them justice and have their lands returned. However, so far there is no response.

SAF to organize democratic forum

By Yemen Times Staff

The members of the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights are going to hold on Nov. 23 the 3rd Democratic Forum in Aden.

"Women and Politics: Problems and Solutions" will be held within the program of women political empowerment in Gulf and the Arab Peninsula. It is an extension of the first two forums held earlier in Sana'a.

The one-day forum will have three sessions a field survey on women and political participation in Yemen. It will also include ten papers on women's participation in political activities.

The forum is expected to give an integrated view of the obstacles to women's political participation and the measures to push them into this kind of work.

The forum is under the auspices of Aden Governor Dr. Yahya Al-Shu'aibi.

Two men found dead in Taiz

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

A Taiz man, Abdu Naji Qaid was found dead in Quaydh Taiz, last week.

Investigations revealed that Qaid is suspected to be killed by Hayel Hamid, 21, who is suspected of firing fired gunshots at his chest in revenge for past quarrels.

Meanwhile, Abdurrahman Moh'd Ahmed Obadi was also found dead near the Sports Health Club in Taiz on Oct. 25.

It was concluded that he was also

shot dead, killed by a bullet wound to the head.

Suspect in that death is Murad Moh'd al-Hulais.

Reasons behind this particular crime are still unknown.

Incidents of murder and assassinations have increased noticeably in the last few years. Analysts believe that poor economic conditions and distrust in law enforcement authorities contribute to increasing violence.

Furthermore, the widespread availability of weapons in vast parts of the country is also a major contributor to instability and insecurity.

Republic of Yemen

Sana'a Basin Water Management Project Expression of Interest for Consulting Services

The Republic of Yemen has received a Credit (No. 3774-Yem) from the International Development Association (IDA) to assist in financing of the Sana'a Basin Water management Project (SBWMP) and intends to apply parts of the proceeds for consulting services for the technical assistance for (i) Hydro-geological and Water Resources Monitoring and Investigations under Sub-component 3 (d) of Component 3 of the project; and (ii) Baseline survey under Component 1 of the project.

The project is geographically spread over Sana'a basin in the Sana'a Governorate of the Republic of Yemen.

The period for providing the technical assistance for (i) Hydro-geological and Water Resources Monitoring and Investigations shall be up to the end of year 2008; and for (ii) Baseline survey shall be 4 months.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) represented by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the SBWMP, now invites eligible consultants to indicate their expression of interests (EOIs) in providing the above services for any or both of the items. The interested consultants must provide their approach and methodology, in brief, to undertake the above studies and other supporting information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in the most professional and timely manner. EOIs should also include a profile of the firm, key personnel and specific information regarding their relevant qualifications, description of their experience in similar assignments etc.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999) Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Expression of interest must be delivered, in a sealed envelope, to the address below by at or before 10.00 a.m. on November 30, 2004.

Firms submitting EOIs will be considered for short-listing, and a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) will be provided to the short-listed firms.

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Can integrate it into the education system

The challenges and benefits of granting human rights

By SAWSAN AL REFAI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

None denies the giant steps that took place in the field of education in Yemen after the revolution in 1962, yet we cannot but face the challenges of illiteracy in Yemen.

While being haunted with the strikingly high rates of alphabetical illiteracy; the world is becoming more and more concerned with "Right Illiteracy", a situation so much explicit in the declaration of United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004).

This decade was assumed to focus on the development and strengthening of comprehensive, effective and sustainable human rights educational programs at the local, national, regional, and international levels. I wouldn't want to ponder much on the question: which is more serious of a challenge in Yemen; alpha-

betical or right illiteracy?

That is simply because I genuinely believe that education and human rights are two faces of the same coin.

It might seem to be a bit ironic to discuss the issue of integrating human rights education into the formal educational system, taking into consideration the current high illiteracy rates, especially among women, and high drop out rates of students, and all the serious problems that face the situation of formal education in Yemen, a situation that has been resistant to all policies, plans and reform programs.

In a whim, if we consider that human rights education is an issue that should be addressed today, how can we address it? Do we have a balanced educational system that can handle changes in deep-rooted educational traditions? Can we suddenly decide to apply human rights to the educational system without taking certain measures and steps into consideration?

It is evident that the current humble efforts exerted by the government aiming at integrating human rights into formal education are yet not competent enough. Supplementing the educational curriculums with some environmental and civil rights topics is neither sufficient to integrate the human right concepts into the educational system in a holistic and sustainable manner, nor sufficient to attain major changes in entrenched attitudes and values not only of the students but also of teachers, parents and communities.

Do we want human rights issues to be celebrated one day in schools and neglected for the remaining days of the year?! How can we establish a system that will facilitate the process of integra-

tion between human rights and education?

We should convince ourselves as government officials, educators, and citizens that we can not deal with human right situations in Yemen unless we use Human Rights Education (HRE) as a strategy. HRE encourages critical thinking, and therefore eventually challenges oppressive power structures. It is also a catalyst of action and a sustainable process that mediates social transformation.

It is true that HRE is a difficult strategy to implement in urgent situations such as ours in Yemen. It is also plausible that there is a general lack of knowledge and understanding of HRE by funders and decision-makers who often require evidence of immediate and measurable impact.

Nevertheless, if HRE was based on sensitization of all society levels, it could be a highly effective strategy that can change the situation in Yemen dramatically even if after many years.

Integration of human rights and education is a giant step that can only be fully frame worked through a national plan. This plan will establish or strengthen the local human rights institutions and initiate steps towards national programs for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as enhance the opportunities for HRE among governmental, non-governmental, professional groups, and other civil society institutions.

All these stakeholders should be effectively involved in the process of need assessment in the field of human rights in order to set the human rights issues of priority that should urgently be addressed in formal educational curricu-

lums.

This also should undoubtedly involve teacher training programs, learning materials and textbooks, and extracurricular activities that should all be designed and provided in the school environment, in addition to major educational policy changes.

Aren't we becoming again too "dreamy"? This is a long, tough, and expensive journey. However, we as educators should start working on this long term goal now! Meanwhile, we can achieve some short goals that can include campaigning for the promotion of HRE by civil society organizations targeting donors, government officials especially those in the educational field, and general public.

Holding regular wide-based training seminars and workshops for school principles and teachers (especially those teaching social studies and Islamic studies) is a step that can take us forward. Extra curricular activities on human right themes is an accessible method that can be utilized in schools and require minimal changes in the current setup of the existing education system.

Student, youth, and sport clubs, scouts and guides camps, and informal educational institutes are all possible alternatives where HRE can take place.

I would like to stress finally, that education and human rights are strongly interlinked, and the integration process among the two is vital and can only be possible if partnerships, networks, and coalitions were established among different stakeholders of education and human rights in solidarity towards building a free, just and peaceful society.

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Looting and Destruction of Documents

In the chaos that ensued with the fall of Baghdad on April 9, 2003, U.S.-led coalition forces, Iraqi opposition groups, and individuals seized hundreds of thousands of Iraqi state documents from government buildings, Ba'ath Party headquarters, offices of the former intelligence and security apparatuses, military garrisons and other premises across Baghdad. Sensitive documents were later found in public buildings such as schools, as well as in private homes, apparently having been removed by officials of the former government, ostensibly for safe keeping, and then abandoned as military defeat became imminent.

Similar scenes were witnessed in other cities and towns across the country. Former Iraqi government officials shredded, burned, or otherwise destroyed many documents during the preceding weeks, while countless others were destroyed as a result of the wartime aerial bombing campaign. The widespread looting and wanton destruction of government property by Iraqis in the days and weeks after the war led to further destruction of documents that had survived the war itself.

Hundreds of thousands of documents nevertheless remained intact as sources of information about the practices of the Saddam Hussein government. It was an established practice of that government to record the brutal repression of the Iraqi population by its security and intelligence apparatuses in minute detail. Human Rights Watch's own work on the study and analysis of some eighteen metric tons of Iraqi state documents seized in northern Iraq by Kurdish political parties during the 1991 uprising demonstrated that those records, which detailed state policy involving mass executions, large-scale disappearances, targeted assassinations, torture, forced expulsion or deportation of civilians, and other egregious abuses, were largely accurate. Its assessment of those documents

over a two-year period between 1992 and 1994, together with its findings from several missions to Iraqi Kurdistan in search of corroborating forensic and testimonial evidence, enabled Human Rights Watch to argue that the 1988 Anfal campaign against the Kurds constituted genocide.

Despite the potential value of Iraqi state documents in yielding information that could assist in bringing to justice perpetrators of serious past crimes, U.S. and coalition authorities apparently put no effective plan in place to secure them in the immediate aftermath of the collapse of the Hussein government. While U.S.-led coalition forces claimed to have since seized very large numbers of documents, many others were pilfered, looted, or otherwise destroyed needlessly, resulting in the loss of potentially vital information.

Some of this destruction took place in the context of the widespread general looting in Baghdad and elsewhere. In many cases, the looting was carried out within sight of coalition military forces, which had apparently received no instructions about securing government documents or protecting the premises in which they were found. Additionally, other documents that survived or were not subjected to looting in a number of locations lay strewn about for days and sometimes weeks without being taken into coalition custody.

Human Rights Watch researchers witnessed such scenes in the cities of Kirkuk and Mosul in April 2003. When they visited government locations including former security and intelligence offices, some of which had been targeted during the aerial bombing campaign, they found thousands of files still

intact in filing cabinets or on shelving units. Human Rights Watch researchers witnessed Iraqis walking into government buildings. Their motives appear to vary from curiosity to a desire to find documents that would answer their questions regarding disappeared relatives.

At a girls secondary school in the al-Qadisiyya II neighborhood of Kirkuk, Human Rights Watch came across some ten large canvas sacks full of documents stacked in one of the classrooms. The guard working at the school told Human Rights Watch that Ba'ath Party officials had brought the documents several days before the start of the aerial campaign, and as such he presumed them to be valuable. He said no one had been sent to protect them or take them away for safekeeping, adding that he could not guarantee their safety for much longer.

In Kirkuk in mid-April 2003, Human Rights Watch visited a former security forces detention center and found an even larger number of documents, including hundreds of individual files on Iraqis who had apparently been held there in the past or had been kept under surveillance. Most were piled up on the floor in a state of disarray and were quickly coming apart as more and more people walked over them.

Others had been thrown out into the garden and exposed to the elements. A guard at the premises told Human Rights Watch that Kurdish political parties had already been to the site on April 10, the day Kirkuk fell, and had taken whatever documents they were interested in. In the courtyard there were sacks full of other documents which had been readied for collection by KDP officials, the guard said. Human Rights Watch also talked to several Kurds who had wandered into the courtyard, one of whom said he had found several CD-Roms on the premises purportedly showing the systematic rape of female detainees. He said he had taken them to his home for safekeeping, but had not reported his find to any officials and appeared reluctant to give them up.

Such scenes were repeated in many other locations across Iraq, and the consequent loss of vital evidence for future prosecutions is incalculable. As Human Rights Watch warned U.S. and U.K. officials at the time, the failure to protect security archives from looting and destruction also had the potential of contributing to retaliatory violence and vengeance killings, since the archives could identify tens of thousands of security agents and informers by name. Yet in Basra, for example, British officials publicly stated that they allowed the looting of Ba'ath Party buildings, which housed important archives, as a means of showing the population that the party had lost control of the city. The ease with which Human Rights Watch was able to enter government buildings demonstrates how lax coalition security was in the immediate aftermath of the fall of the Hussein

government.

The preservation of state documents are additionally vital for the survivors of over twenty-five years of state atrocities, since they can very likely yield information that could establish the fate of many of their missing relatives. They are also important for the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who were forcibly expelled from their homes and became internally displaced, or were deported to neighboring Iran, in implementation of state policy.

In the majority of such cases, documents in their possession including citizenship and nationality documents, ration cards, property deeds and the expulsion or deportation orders themselves were systematically destroyed or confiscated by Ba'athist officials, leaving the victims unable to establish their identities, place of birth, ethnicity or ownership of property. For many such people, official government records would be all they have to establish both their identities and those of their children, and to have the possibility of submitting claims

Such scenes were repeated in many other locations across Iraq, and the consequent loss of vital evidence for future prosecutions is incalculable

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Skull of a woman with a single gunshot wound, mass grave near Hadhar, south of Mosul. (c) 2003 Hania Mufti/Human Rights Watch

in the future for restitution of property and other rights.

In Baghdad and other major cities, the main caches of seized documents included archives of the Ba'ath Party, its Regional Command and various associated organizations; archives of the former security and intelligence agencies, including the General Security Directorate (Mudiriyyat al-Amn al-Amma), General Intelligence Directorate (Mudiriyyat al-Mukhabarat al-Amma), Military Intelligence (al-Istikhbarat al-Askariyya) and other affiliated apparatuses; archives of government ministries and their sub-departments, including census departments located in major cities; and archives of the armed forces and various paramilitary groups.

Little is known about the work undertaken on the millions of pages of documents which U.S. authorities said coalition authorities had taken into custody particularly those documents which were flown out to Qatar for study and analysis by the Iraq Survey Group (ISG) and other U.S. agencies. Requests by Human Rights Watch to make contact with ISG representatives, said to include U.K. and Australian experts, were not granted. U.S. Justice Department officials would only say that the ISGs priority in going through and analyzing Iraqi state documents were war crimes, and that the work they had carried out thus far was impressive.

Good work is being done but it is classified, they told Human Rights Watch. Some Iraqis associated with the Iraq Special Tribunal are said to be concerned that the ISG was entering the documents in its custody into a classified database in a manner that might make it difficult for the Tribunal prosecutors to access later.



Identity documents of a woman and her two children found in a mass grave near Mosul that is believed to contain the remains of hundreds if not thousands of Kurdish women and children executed by Iraqi forces in September 1988. (c) 2003 Eric Stover/Human Rights Watch

Documents Held by Iraqi Political Groups and NGOs

Sizeable archival collections were also seized by Iraqi political groups. In some cases they had planned to seize the documents ahead of the war and were therefore able to keep them relatively intact. Among the principal groups are the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the Iraqi National Accord (INA), and the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP).

One priority of all such groups has been to search through relevant documents in an effort to verify or uncover information about their members and their relatives arrested by the former

Iraqi governments security and intelligence apparatuses and, in many cases, clues as to where the victims had been buried. In some instances the documents yielded precise and accurate information about the location of mass graves where victims who were arrested and subsequently disappeared in custody were buried.

One of the more well-known cases, for example, was that of an estimated 5,000-8,000 Barzani Kurds who were rounded up by the Iraqi military from so-called resettlement camps in the vicinity of Arbil in 1983 and were never seen again. The victims, all males aged twelve or over, were believed to have been held prisoner for several months and then killed.

To be continued next issue

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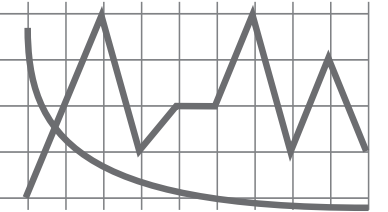
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شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

YT Business



Yemen Gulf Bank

Online banking set to grow

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen Gulf Bank, already a leader of Yemen's retail banking sector, is about to expand its internet banking services.

"We were the first to introduce internet banking three years ago, but now we are upgrading it to be a full-fledged operation," said Mohammed Al-Zubieri, Chairman of Yemen Gulf Bank.

Up to now, the bank's online banking, which is a rare service offered in the Yemeni banking sector, has allowed customers to take a look at their balances, stop checks and order new checkbooks. One of the features Yemen Gulf Bank is currently developing is transferring funds. In two weeks, customers will be able to transfer money to one of their other accounts in the bank.

The next step will be to let clients move money to another person's or business's account within the bank, followed by the most advanced service which is to transfer funds to an account in another bank locally or in another part of the world.

The biggest obstacle for the more advanced transfers is that the banking sector needs a new law to help protect customers and banks that use the service. Presently, a

customer transferring money to his or her own account within the bank is allowed.

"There is still no law to approve and control electronic banking or an electronic signature," said Al-Zubieri. "This is very important to banks and clients. If there is a dispute, we will go to court and the judge will not consider the electronic signature as a legal transaction."

According to Al-Zubieri, the Central Bank has recently drafted a proposal for the law and is in the next stage of being passed by the Parliament. "We hope that the law will be passed in one or two months," Al-Zubieri said.

When Yemen Gulf Bank entered the market in 2001, its strategy was to focus on retail banking. Soon after it opened, it was the first bank in the Yemeni banking sector to offer internet banking. Mobile phone banking was brought to the market by Yemen Gulf Bank, giving customers different services, such as checking their balances. It was the first Yemen-owned bank to set up an ATM.

A number of other



Mohammed Al-Zubieri, Chairman of Yemen Gulf Bank (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

commercial banks are focusing on retail banking to offset the limits of lending money and boosting their fee-based income. Arab Bank, based in Amman, Jordan, was the pioneer in bringing in a number of retail products and services a few years ago. It introduced ATMs and phone banking to Yemen, and was the first bank in the local market to issue credit cards under the bank's name.

International Bank of Yemen has been aggressive in the last year to capitalize on retail products and services. It now has more ATMs than any of its competitors and is a Representative of American Express and a Principal Member of Visa and MasterCard. The bank recently introduced a point-of-sale service that allows customers to use a card instead of cash to carry out a

transaction at over 150 retail outlets.

Yemen Gulf Bank is now putting together a point-of-sale service by developing a network. It plans to work with four other banks to give more customers access to using plastics at different locations.

"We are working with a company setting up a network between us and four other banks," said Al-Zubieri. "This will be better than doing it alone, and it will be better for customers from different banks to use the same points of sale."

Yemen Gulf Bank now has four ATMs and has placed them in locations the bank considers to be convenient to the customers, such as at Shamaila Hari supermarkets in Sana'a and Aden. It has plans to set up five more ATMs in public locations in the next few months. And although it is still operating out of one branch in the capital, branches in Mukalla and Hodeidah should be up and running next year.

But in the near future, Yemen Gulf Bank aims to increase the use of technology by expanding on online banking services.

"We are asking the government to pass the law very soon to allow full-fledged internet banking to be used. The world is moving forward rapidly, so we need to catch up," said Al-Zubieri. "As soon as the law is passed, we will implement advanced internet banking immediately."

Yemeni-Saudi Council to convene soon

More than \$400 million of Saudi investments in Yemen



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
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With talks on trade and economic investment on the table, the Yemeni-Saudi Joint Coordination Council will be held in Riyadh in a short while.

The council's meetings would be co-chaired by Yemen's Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal and Prince Sultan Bi Abdulaziz Al Saud, second deputy premier of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The council will also discuss Saudi support for Yemen in developmental fields.

Some sources have told Yemen Times that the volume of Saudi investments in Yemen have exceeded \$ 400 million among sectors of industry, tourism and mining.

More talks could open more opportunities for attracting more Gulf and Arab money in Yemen.

In this regard, the sources pointed out that among most significant Saudi projects are the Yemeni-Saudi Hospital, Movenpic Hotel in the capital Sana'a whose cost is about \$100 million, Holiday Inn hotel in Hadramout,

and two cement plants at a cost of over \$300 million.

There are also investment projects for production of granite and tiles, projects for the production of various kinds of mineral wealth, and projects established in form of building silos, grain grinding factories, confirming that Yemen's expectations are great.

Investment authorities have a promotional plan aimed at financial institutions and businessmen in the Gulf countries, China, Iran, India and Turkey. They do that through communication with Yemeni diplomatic missions to those countries.

The promotional plan includes conducting interviews with ambassadors of a number of friendly and sisterly countries to Yemen. It also includes contacting various media institutions just for providing ample information on aspects of investment and its sectors in the country.

In addition there is the organization of promotional conferences, symposiums in the Gulf States to give publicity to the Yemeni investment environment and opportunities available, in addition to encouraging neighbouring countries to invest in Yemen, including Saudi Arabia.

The number of agreements concluded with various world countries is estimated at around 40, in addition to the



signing of a number of protocols that give the State Authority for Investment (SAI) opportunity to exchange information and documents.

The promotional plan also includes targeting new investment opportunities in building joint Yemeni-Gulf tourist projects and concentration on promotion for the production of electronic calculators.

There are some studies for new investment opportunities, especially studies on opportunities in the Yemeni islands. Some investors complain of numerous sides they have to deal with, particularly concerning issues of pieces of land which are among the biggest impeding issues for the progress of investment in Yemen, according to investors.

Sources indicate that the problem of

plots of land in some areas is not an easy one and it exists in various parts of Yemen. Those sources believe that the right method for treating this situation is the establishment of industrial zones and providing them with necessary services so that the investors would be able to easily implement their projects.

The government is now speeding up the implementation of a scheme for the industrial areas that have been decided in five governorates; namely, Aden, Lahaj, Abyan, Hadramout and Hodeidah. Concerned parties are seeking to complete providing required services during the designed scheme.

There are also cases of Yemeni expatriate lands that are seeing hindrances in solving them due to trespasses by some influential persons. The sources

confirm that after holding symposiums pertaining to the improvement of the situations of the commercial judiciary, the State Authority for Investment made some interference at meetings with the Ministry of Justice with regard to the subject of commercial judiciary and that has resulted in agreement on drawing up a daring plan in this respect.

The SAI is still pinning hope on Saudi and Gulf brethren for investment in important sectors as there are great opportunities available in Yemen for establishment of investment projects. The Yemeni government encourages the building of such projects and the law of investment is considered among the best of laws with regard to protection of non-Yemeni investment projects and concerning granting those

more privileges, facilities and exemptions.

According to the same sources there is also now a great opportunity for the Arabs concerned and interested in investment in Yemen and that the SAI would grant them all services and they would get cooperation and tangible facilitation.

The total number of licensed investment projects registered with the SAI since its foundation in 1992 until the end of last September amounted to 5166 projects at a cost of around YR 1.4 trillion with fixed assets amounting to YR 563.2 providing about 158 job opportunities.

The number of investments in Yemen in 2000 reached 386 projects at a cost of YR 109 billion; and in 2001 reached 363 at a cost amounting to YR 79 billion; and in 2002 reached 382 projects at a cost of YR 104 billion; and in 2003 reached 338 projects at a cost of YR 106 billion.

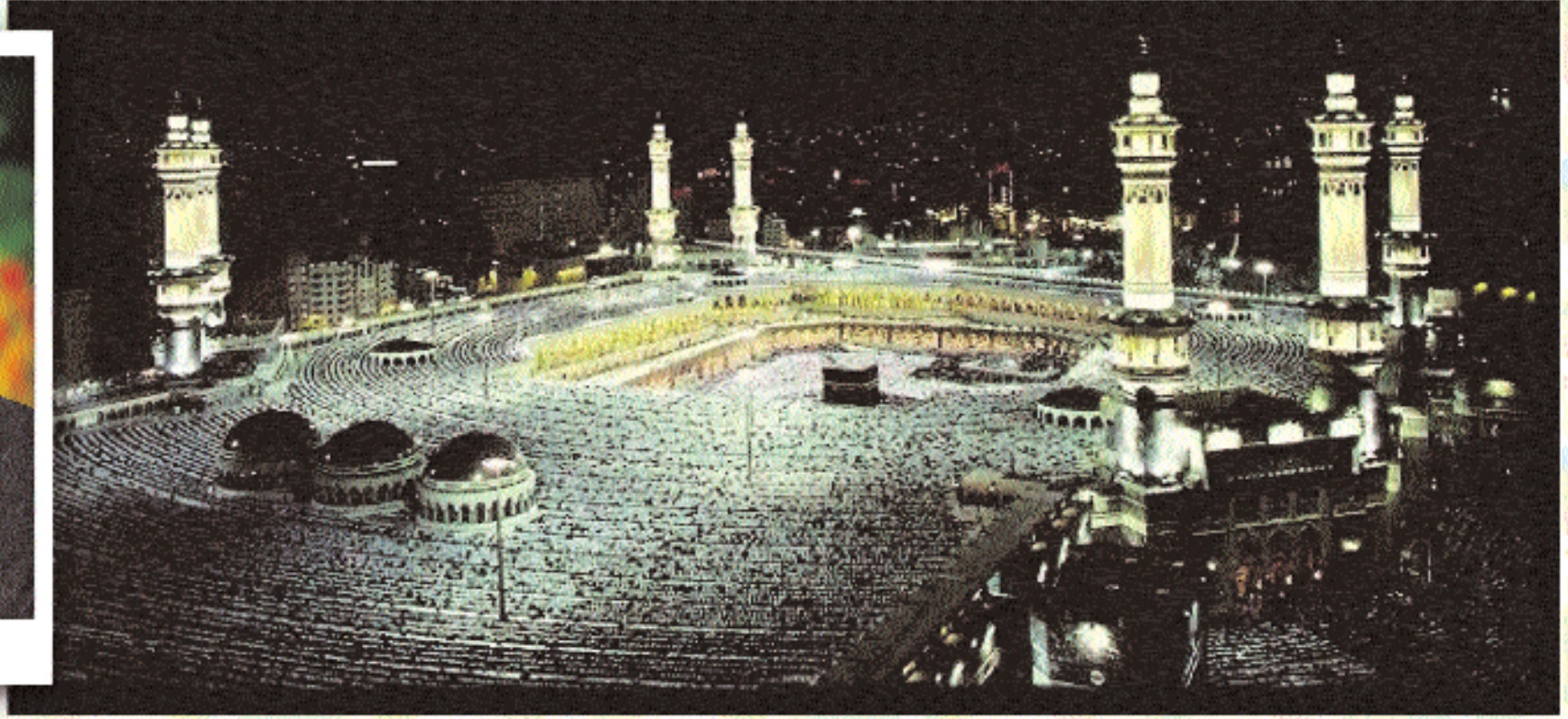
For all these reasons Yemen expects from the meeting of the Yemeni-Saudi council will lead to an increase in economic commercial cooperation between the two countries, and also more security and stability in the whole region.

Such cooperation, Yemen believes, would lead to establishment of investment partnership in areas available for the private sector in both countries.

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شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة



Getting away with murder in Darfur

By RICHARD N. HAASS

Darfur is shorthand for the latest example of a recurring international problem, one that gained headlines a decade ago in Rwanda. What should the world do when a large number of people are the victims of violence originating from within their own country?

Darfur itself is a region of Western Sudan comprised of Arab and African Muslims. Conflict erupted in early 2003 when rebels of the Sudan Liberation Movement attacked government troops in an effort to gain greater autonomy and resources for their region. Sudan government aircraft and government-supported troops (known as jangaweed) retaliated against not only armed rebels but also against civilians deemed to be supporting them. Villages have been emptied, women raped, non-Arab men killed.

The origins of the current crisis may be in some dispute, but the costs are not. More than 50,000 men, women and children have lost their lives; more than 1.5 million have been made homeless. This is arguably genocide, a word used by the U.S. government but by few others to describe what is going on in Darfur.

Meanwhile, world leaders are debating what if anything should be done. UN Security Council Resolution 1564, passed on 18 September 2004, reserves the bulk of its criticism for the government of Sudan. But the UN is not yet prepared to go beyond words. The resolution threatens that the Security Council will consider imposing sanctions against Sudanese leaders or against the country's important oil sector, but introduces no penalties at this time.

Why the hesitation? More than anything else it stems from international reluctance to challenge any government over what it is doing within its own territory. This reflects a widely-held view of sovereignty, one that allows governments to do essentially what they want within their own borders.

Such thinking is inadequate and outmoded. To begin with, there is a moral element. There is something wrong in looking the other way when one's fellow

human being is being slaughtered. We all have some basic obligation to one another.

There are as well pragmatic considerations. In a global world, what happens within one country can all too easily affect others. For example, refugees leaving Sudan can strain the stability of neighboring Chad.

Opposition to genocide and other large-scale acts of violence against a population also reflects the established principle that citizens as well as governments have rights. This principle is enshrined in various international documents, beginning with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Governments ought not to be allowed to massacre their own people. And weak governments should not be allowed to permit massacres to take place on their own territory even if they are not themselves carrying out the massacre.

What all this adds up to is a requirement for a concept of state sovereignty that is less than absolute. To be precise, we need to embrace a contractual approach to sovereignty, one that recognizes the obligations and responsibilities as well as the rights of those who enjoy it. Such an approach to sovereignty would essentially communicate to governments and their leaders that the rights and protections they associate with statehood are in fact conditional, and that governments and leaders would forfeit some or, in extreme cases, all of these rights and protections if they failed to meet their obligations.

This idea will only have an impact if the international community is prepared to go beyond voicing this principle and accept the necessary consequence: that other states and the world at large have a right and a duty to act to protect innocent life when it is jeopardized on a large scale.

Some movement in just this direction was suggested by widespread international support for the humanitarian interventions in Bosnia, Kosovo, and East Timor. Another sign of change is the basic document ("Constitutive Act") of the African Union, the regional organization launched in July 2000 to replace the ineffective Organization of African Unity. After citing the principle

of non-interference by one member state in the internal affairs of another, the document goes on to declare "the right of the Union to intervene in a member state pursuant to a decision of the assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity." Intervention in such circumstances can take any number of forms, from public rhetoric and private diplomacy to economic and political sanctions to armed intervention.

All of which brings us back to Darfur.

What needs doing? There is a need for massive assistance to the displaced people of Darfur. Those who have survived conflict require help if they are not to succumb to disease and starvation. There is also every reason to renew diplomatic efforts to bring about a lasting cease-fire and, following that, a settlement that addresses the grievances that helped bring about this crisis in the first place.

Two other points require highlighting, though. First, and consistent with UN

Security Council Resolution 1564, countries should provide the African Union with the logistical, material, and financial help it has asked for. With such support, AU-authorized troops could guard the refugee camps and, over time, protect villages so that men, women and children could return home in safety.

Second, the UN ought to make good on its threat and impose sanctions against the Sudanese government unless it stops using its aircraft to destroy vil-

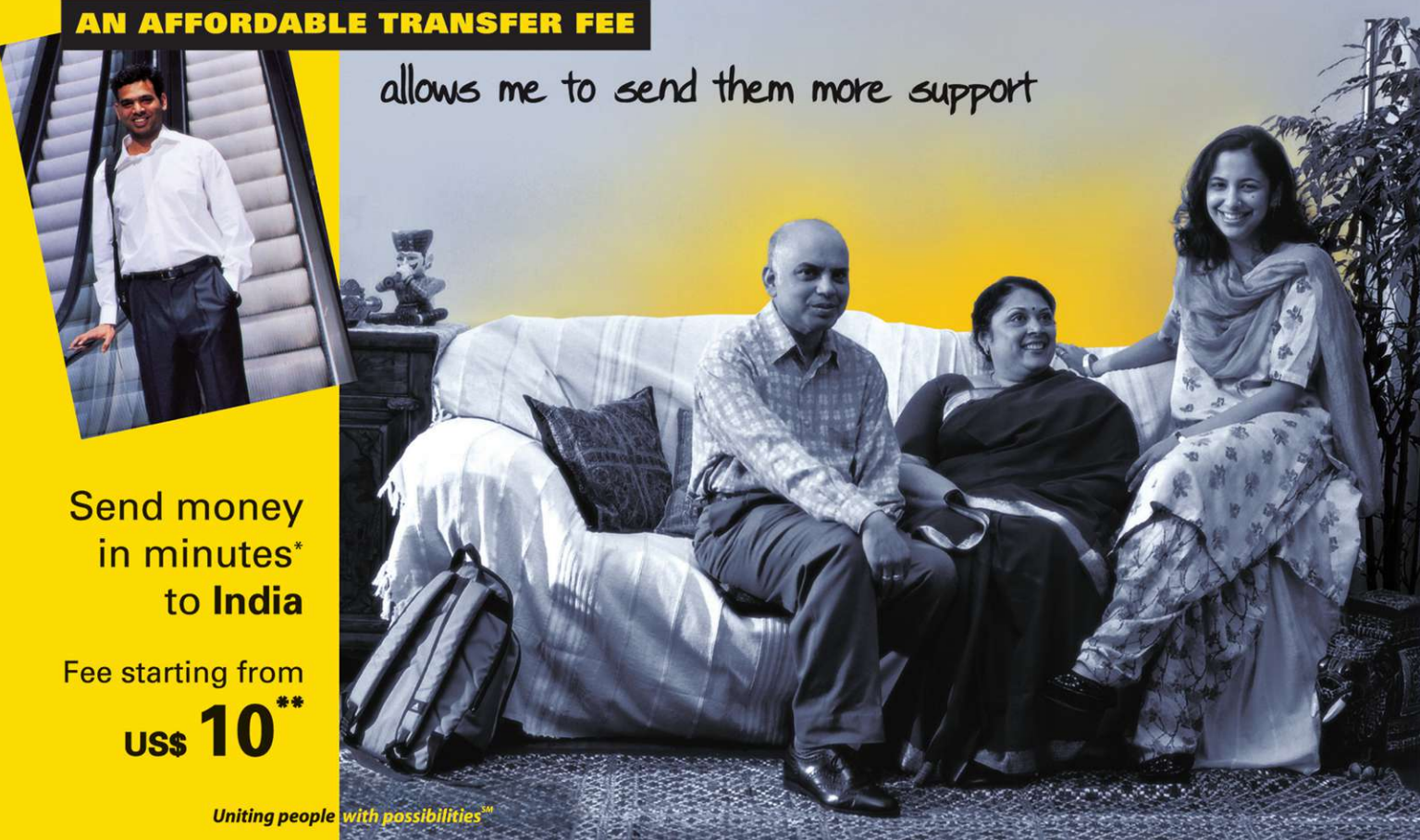
lages and unless it stops supporting the jangaweed. Criminal indictments for war crimes ought to be issued against specific officials who do not comply.

It is important that the world act, not simply to save the people of Darfur, but to prevent future Darfurs. A great deal of innocent human life depends on it.

Richard N. Haass, a former Director of Policy Planning in the US State Department, is President of The Council on Foreign Relations.

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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions: (73)
'Miss you' wishes

We have a yearning for happy memories, a wistful longing for something pleasant in the past. Going down the memory lane we recall those moments that have rolled by.

- I often miss our time spent together, especially the last time when you made me feel like I was the most important thing in the world to you. Come soon.
- Best wishes. Take good care of yourself. Time flies like an arrow. Hope I'll be seeing you soon. So long.
- Missing you. Wherever you are, it's your own friends who make your world.
- I was feeling a bit lonely and when I asked myself what I seemed to be missing the most, the answer turned to be you.
- Missing you so much and counting the day till we can be together again.
- My heart never knew loneliness until you went away. I'm missing you. I'll always be waiting for you.
- Thinking of you is my favorite time pass.
- You're special in a kind of way that words alone cannot convey, but still I feel you need to know how much I really love you. So if you're lonely, please be strong for we both know it won't be long before we feel... sweet embrace and stand together face to face and, though our parting may cause pain, when you're with me once again, the mists of longing when we part will turn to joy inside my heart.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- I am quite sorry to learn about the death of your grandfather.
- I went to see the film because it was too good.
- Aisha resembles with her mother.
- For hours I discussed on the point with him.
- He recommended for me to the Dean.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- No sooner **did he receive** the message **than** he went out.
- Now that we have shifted our house, **seldom do we** go to his house.
- Neither **did he come** nor did he send the money.
- Look up** these words in the dictionary and write down their meanings.
- The school is **much too small** to accommodate all the students.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Something that is very easy to do.
- The hottest days of the year.
- Having the corners of the pages bent down with use.
- Having, showing, or marked by merciless self-interest.
- A fight between armed aircraft.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- To remove from state ownership: **denationalize** (vt)
- The number below the line in a fraction: **denominator** (n)
- Discovery of the future by supernatural means: **divination** (n)
- A list of law cases to be tried: **docket** (n)
- Person who wants his doctrines to be put into practice: **doctrinaire** (n)

(B) Synonyms and antonyms

(I) Synonyms

Given below are some words followed by four answers. Mark the answer which is nearest to the meaning of the given word

- perpetrate**
a) to show plainly b) to see clearly
c) to be interested d) to shrink back
- impetuous**
a) hasty b) stimulating

- erratic
- disrespectful
- inquisition
- punishment
- long speech
- thorough investigation
- curiosity

Suggested answers to the last lesson's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. incense | to enrage |
| 2. evince | to show plainly |
| 3. impeach | to accuse |

(II) Antonyms

Given below are some words followed by four answers. Tick the answer which gives the opposite meaning of the word

- ascetic**
a) germ free b) artistic c) gloomy d) worldly
- repugnant**
a) plain b) brutal c) agreeable d) pungent
- stigma**
a) obstinacy b) honor c) disagree d) vision

Suggested answers to the last lesson's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|--------------|---------|
| 1. impious | holy |
| 2. enigmatic | simple |
| 3. sporadic | regular |

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- piteous, pitiful, pitiable
- emigrant, immigrant
- difference, deference
- desirable, desirous
- frantic, frenetic

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- abnormal** (adj) (different from what is normal, ordinary or expected): The abnormal child was taken to hospital.
- subnormal** (adj) (below normal): Temperature today is subnormal.
- sick** (adj) (unwell): He is sick of self-love
- sickly** (adj) (frequently ill): He has a sickly child.
- bier** (n) (movable wooden stand for a coffin or a dead body): The dead body was taken to the cremation ground on a bier.
- bear** (v) (carry): The laborer is bearing a heavy burden.
- expatiated** (vi) (write or speak in detail): The speaker expatiated upon the evils of environmental pollution.
- expiated** (vt) (made amends for): The sinner expiated for his sins.
- ceded** (vt) (yielded land or a right to another country after losing a war): In 1871 France ceded Alsace-Lorraine to Germany.
- seceded** (vi) (withdrew from a membership of a federation or organization): Pakistan seceded from India in 1947.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- in full swing
- not have the ghost of a chance
- as white as a sheet
- curry favor with
- in the pipeline

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- his days are numbered** (the end of some one or something is imminent): The old man's days are numbered.
- have no time for (someone / something)** (to despise someone or something): I have no time for hypocrites.
- have the time of one's life** (to enjoy oneself very much): I enjoyed myself at the excursion - I had the time of my life.
- turn one's nose up** (at something) (to treat something with contempt): She turned her nose up at the idea of being a teacher.
- in the nick of time** (at the last possible moment):

We reached the airport in the nick of time.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Complete the following sentences with a suitable word connected with 'work'. The first letter of each word is given.

- The p.... of Sales Manager was advertised last week in the national newspapers.
- So far we have had more than fifty a.... for the job.
- We are offering a s.... of \$1000 a month.
- We would prefer to appoint someone with a few years e.... in the field.
- High academic q.... are not so necessary for a job like this.
- In this company all e.... are treated in the same way.
- We believe that good working relations between m.... and s.... are essential
- We have chosen ten c.... to be interviewed next week.
- All staff are entitled to an annual share in the p.... of the company.
- The successful candidate will be expected to take up his/her a.... from next month.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions.

Pair of sentences which mean the same:

- The play was so good that she went back to see it again. It was the excellence of the play that prompted her to go back to see it again.
- Basham and I haven't seen each other for two years. It's two years since Basham and I saw each other.
- I go to the cardiologist less often than I should. I don't go to the cardiologist as often as I should.
- I regret not keeping in touch with her. I wish I kept in touch with her.
- 'I'm sorry I broke the vase, Jamal said to Majid. Jamal apologized (to Majid) for breaking the vase.

B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the maxim

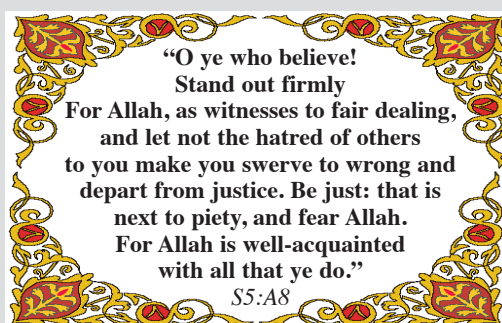
84: NO PAINS, NO GAINS

Last week's topic

83: MEN NEVER LEARN FROM HISTORY

History is a chronological record of past events. Ye it's more than a mere chronicle. It has a unique role for modifying the present and shaping the future course of events. Hence history is never dead, but has a living presence. However, the history of human civilization is full of events which serve to indicate that men are prone to committing the same follies over and over again. This is a clear proof of the fact that men don't pay heed to the warnings of history. It is also true in an individual's life. More often than not, individuals repeat the same mistakes which they committed in the past and ultimately come to grief. This maxim warns us against having a volatile memory. On the other hand, we should possess a critical faculty of mind and an adequate analytical ability not to indulge in the same vices or commit the same errors time and again. History shouldn't repeat itself.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

"Love is a battle, love is a war; love is growing up." -James A. Baldwin

A letter to the teachers of English: 66

Some avoidable problems in writing



DR. M.N.K. BOSE
(BOSE@y.net.ye)
Associate Professor of English,
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

In my last four letters I was sharing with you some of my ideas about developing your learners' handwriting in English. I hope you will find them useful in your classes. As I promised, Insha Allah, I will try to provide some help in this regard, in some way or other.

In this letter, I will look at some of the problems our students face in writing English; most of them are avoidable if we are a bit careful in correcting them in the beginning itself. Most of these problems arise because of wrong learning of the basics of writing such as the movement of the hands while writing the letters of the English alphabet. It is also true that the writing pattern in Arabic interferes with that in English; that is why most of our students write letters a, c, e, m, n, o, p, u, v, w in the clock-wise fashion, whereas they have to be written in the anti-clockwise fashion. My observation is that about 90% of our learners have this problem especially in letters v, w, u, if not in other letters; most of the teachers have this problem too. This reduces the speed of their writing and it becomes a serious problem at the time of writing examinations. They don't realize this when they often complain that they don't have enough time to finish the examinations in the given time.

Another common problem with our learners is the spacing between words, especially when the word is preceded by an indefinite article 'a'. I have seen a large number of my students writing with no space in between when they write words with an indefinite article 'a', for example: abook, along road,

aroom, aline, anotebook etc. It creates a problem with 'a long road' and 'a live chicken'; it is funny that some of them write words like 'abroad', 'about' with a space between 'a' and other letters; I am at a loss to find the reason for this error! Maybe that is how they are taught in the beginning classes! As I have said earlier, it is very difficult to remove such errors once they are entrenched in the learners' system. Spacing is not a problem with other words as it is a phenomenon in Arabic writing as well. Can any of my professional colleagues enlighten me as to why this only happens with the article 'a'?

Yet another problem in writing in our learners is the lack of speed. Most of them are very slow in writing English. Is it because of the nature of English writing, which is sharply different from that in Arabic? Or is it because of lack of motivation to write in English? Or is it so because they most often write in English things which do not interest them, such as copying the teacher's answers or some boring letter, or some useless transformation exercises? If it is the last, then this should concern us and it is our responsibility to find solution to this; the writing exercises should be made purposeful and interesting so that they develop an interest in writing in English. I have made some suggestions and you can think of more with a bit of imagination and innovation. Writing should be considered as an activity that empowers the learners to voice their own opinions rather than someone else's. It is important to plan each writing activity with care and, if possible, in consultation with the learners- at least in the higher classes. It is not impossible, but it needs a lot of hard work and patience. Let's attempt to achieve it and empower our learners to write what they want to. Good luck!

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

Doua'a

BY NASIRA ALVI
Nasira866@hotmail.com

When you visit Allah
That is to see Bait-ul-Allah
Say to Him
I always say Al Hamdollah
Whatever you have given
Subhan-ul-Allah
Ask Him
To forgive me
To bless me
A love of Him
A trust of Him
Ask Him
To ignore my
Present
Past
And to give me
The future
The fortune
From His kindness
From His sweetness

Ask Him
To bless me
The loveliness
The Greatness
The Brightness
In My life! Until! I alive
Ask Him! Dear! Ask Him
To see Yemen! Afghanistan
To see Iraq, Palestine
And see! My dear! Pakistan
Ask Him
To bless them
The power of Islam
The victory of Islam
The spirit of Jihad
Ask him
To shower on them
The peace
The love
In our sweet lands
Until the earth's rejuvenated
And the sky comes alive
Amen



The best time of the year

BY ASMA'ALI DAMMAG

Ramadan is like a dear guest visiting us, after we've longed for it the whole year. It drizzles spirituality and faith gleams around us. Its fragrance spreads everywhere, consoling the disturbed, despaired souls and curing the body wounds.

Ramadan is a faith voyage where the devout Muslim becomes in one accord, with the Almighty.

Such intimacy is created due to the devotion of worship and reading of the

Koran. Thereby the captive body becomes vigorous enough to defy its captor, the lusts of man, and is freed of its chains. Consequently, man's body and soul goes through the process of purification, and it gets contentment to live in peace and tranquility.

In this holy month Satan announces his bankruptcy, he is frustrated and despaired to see all those believers invoking Allah, the most compassionate, asking His mercy and contentment that is their only concern, leaving mundane matters behind.

WONDERWORD by DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: Match the letters in the grid to the words in the list. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally. Each word is used only once. The letters in the grid are arranged in a 10x10 grid. The words are: Abolish, Resurrection, Babel, Diet, Band, Bones, Wretched, Cerebral, Cereals, Cabbage, Canal, Coach, Cheese, Crown, Glass, Cuckoo, Crane, Cuckoo.

Abolish	Cross	Hurry	Exiler	Gubnor
Resurrection	Dura	Leral	Proseque	Suener
Babel	Deferm	Loggins	Prepae	Suggenors
Diet	Delete	Lester	Preve	Survays
Band	Disclayed	Lude	Preve	Suck
Bones	Net	Legis	Prugs	Sole
Wretched	Exermt	Loverst	Two	Wily
Cerebral	Exermt	Lucky	Permak	Wisey
Cereals	Exer	Lucky	Popy	Widowm
Cabbage	Exermt	Wally	Review	Wryed
Canal	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry
Coach	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry
Cheese	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry
Crown	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry
Glass	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry
Cuckoo	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry
Crane	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry
Cuckoo	Exermt	Wary	Wry	Wry

WORD SEARCH

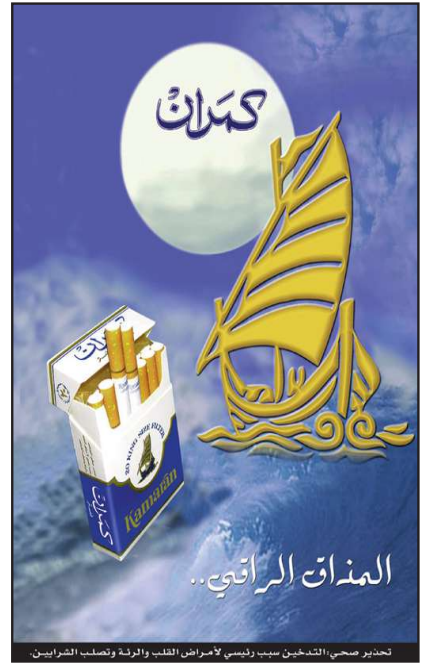


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Two-headed infant

ADEN BUREAU

A mother from Ghareer, in al-Rawdhah, delivered a two-headed and three-handed female infant at Shabwa Central Hospital. Dr. Arif Banafe'e, Director of the hospital, said that it is the first case to happen in the hospital. They, with Dr. Mohammed al-Juda'ai, Head of Surgery Dept., devoted their sincere efforts to prepare the convenient atmosphere for the operation and make it successful.

Though the hospital is not well equipped to receive such a case and perform the surgery, some specialized doctors, two Chinese doctors and Dr. Mustafa Abdulkhaliq, contributed to help the mother peacefully deliver her child.

It is worth noticing that the delivered female infant has two heads, three hands, of which one is with ten fingers, two respiratory systems, one urogenital system, one digestive sys-



The infant with three hands and two heads

tem, and two legs. She is in a good condition; her two hearts are beating 80 beats per minute. The surgeries monthly average carried out in this hospital is 140 and those concerned with women and delivery form a 35 percent.



Chinese doctors holding the two-headed infant

Cartoons are the art of modern prophets

Samir's satire is highlighted

BY RAMZI AL-ABSI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Cartoonists have been called modern day prophets. And it is fair to say that cartoonist Samir Mohammed al-Shammeri is no exception, having acquired that rare talent of honestly depicting emotions and thoughts on papers with paints.

He artistically brings the critical view and laughter, forming a wonderful satire, which is not merely realized but properly felt by all audience.

In the last exhibition that started Oct. 27, he showed 'sixteen (50 X 70cm.) portraits of his, which included symbolic descriptions of different issues. Each one of them has a puzzle and the beauty of this art lies in understanding.

The exhibition was organized by the Ministry of Culture at culture house in the frame of Sana'a, the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital. It was opened by Khaled al-Rowaishan, Minister of Culture.

The successful exhibition was not only for him, but another cartoonist, Esam Talal, and three artists, Amal, Reham, Moh'd al-Shameeri, (his brother) also appeared.

He has been present throughout al-Balagh Newspaper, since 1993, and also for many years at the Yemen Times.

"Not just in this exhibition, but in the previous one that was held in April 2004, and in the booklet published about it later, besides the other



Samir explaining his portraits to al-Rowaishan after opening the exhibition

three booklets, "Shrill Laughter" and the book of the capital's cleaning municipality, the focus is on the local issues.

When trying to highlight some Arab or international issues, we find ourselves repeating the same ideas. Some of them are similar to the local ones. Arabs' submissiveness, for instance, has been presented for a long time until it became a matter of routine. What makes this art interesting is its being connected with sufferings of people. So, I concentrate on the local issues more," Samir explained.

"Some prominent events or flashes happened on the Arab and international level may be focused on," he said.

"Our society is full of social and political subjects that deserve to be depicted. See for example the portrait titled Bara'a that describe the nature of Yemenis who dance as soon as the

listen to others beating the drums even if the shadow (representing the reality) shows their miseries," he



added. About the art of cartoon, he said that the secret of its interesting nature is that it honestly represents common people because the cartoonist is one of them. He is convincing himself while convincing others. There's no contradiction between the cartoonist's views and the others'. 'He shouldn't be confined within a limited scope, but move in all directions in order to make his works represent all classes of people. The cartoonist should be so; he shouldn't commit flattery but honestly depict his community.'

When talking about the situation of this art in Yemen, he said: "Music and painting are the most noble things all over the world, and they are underestimated in Yemen.



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