

Hertz

Take A Break From Your Work
Load and Take
Hertz
Along with you.....

Universal Rent a Car
Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625

YEMEN TIMES

Sana'a: Hadda St. (01) 441099/87/6, Zubairy St. 249878
Aden: (02) 245627/8, Taiz (04) 252455
Hodeidah: (03) 288689, Mukalla: (05) 354844
Seiyun: (05) 404288, Ibb: (04) 407418

Monday, 29 November 2004 • Issue No. 794 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Danish mission arrives to help

Building a new media

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Propents are hoping it's the first indication that a new, stronger and more liberated media is coming to Yemen.

A Danish Joint Preparatory Mission concerned with the formulation Joint Yemen Media Development Program arrived in Sana'a Saturday.

The team which is composed of five media experts is to follow up the previous mission that visited Yemen last June and came out with the set-up of seven working groups including Access to information; freedom of the media; strengthening the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS); professional training of journalists; upgrading of schools of journalism; supporting private publishers; and Gender (as a cross cutting issue).

Yemen recently slipped to 135 out of 167 countries in a global ranking of press freedom.

In cooperation with the working groups and other stakeholders, also in the provinces, the preparatory mission is to develop a strategic framework for the program, including indicative priorities for the different components and a six-month start-up phase of a Joint Yemen Media Development Programme with an action plan for specific pilot or short-term projects and activities.

It is meting also through consultation to establish strategic objectives as well as organisational and operational modalities for donor co-operation on a Joint Yemen Media Development Program. Specific pilot or short-term projects and activities are to be developed.

The team is to pay a visit to Aden and Taiz so as to hold meetings with as many media stakeholders as possible for the purpose of reaching goals of the program.

A joint roundtable of the working groups and the donors is to be held next Dec. 6, where the working groups are to present their findings to the donors.

The event will be attended by government and ministries, international organisations and donors.

The Danish aim that the program will become an open-ended comprehensive 5-10-year program having the support of all donors. It will have a six month start-up phase starting in January 2005.

Taking a break from his shoe repair business, a Yemeni man in Sana'a reads an Arab newspaper.
(Yemen Times photo by Jamil Abdul Karim.)

CBF holds roundtable on NGOs

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Cultural Bridges Forum (CBF) was to be held today, Nov. 29, its second roundtable discussion on "Activating the role of Yemeni NGOs" at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a.

The program was to last for four hours, and was to include a speech by CBF Chairman Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, followed by a speech by Mr. J.F.L. Blankenberg, the Ambassador of Netherlands to Yemen.

It included a thorough open discussion about means and ways to enhance the role of Yemeni NGOs in nation building and development.

The event is expected to conclude with a recommendation that would be circulated and kept as a reference for similar initiatives and for the local and donor communities.

NGO representatives, journalists, intellectuals, politicians, and diplomats were invited to attend the event, which is second to a similar roundtable held on October 10, also at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a.

The CBF is a Yemeni NGO established in January 2004 by Dr.

Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, who is currently the Senior Political Advisor of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Its General Secretary, Jamal Al-Awadhi, who is also a journalist and a human rights activist, describes the CBF as "an entity that works to promote civil values in Yemen by carrying out activities to bring decision-makers, civil society, and other major players in the community together to help build a more developed and democratic nation."

Al-Banna stabbed foreigners to "Get closer to God"

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The trial of Mohammed Jaber al-Banna, accused of stabbing three foreign citizens in Sana'a during the war on Iraq, started Saturday in a Sana'a appeal court.

The prosecution has accused al-Banna of attempting to kill a Dutch, a German and an Austrian citizen, using a dagger. The prosecution showed the court the seized materials which included a dagger, hand grenade as well as a computer.

The defendant said he carried out the crime "to get closer to God."

He also said he received a support of \$60,000 from a "benevolent" without disclosing his identity when he was in Britain with his father. However, advocate Saleh al-Tayaar alleged that his client suffers from mental disorder and demanded that he should be attended by a doctor in the court.

The Sana'a appeal court also decided to postpone the case of the 15 convicted al-Qaeda militants until next Saturday in order to allow the defendants time to refute the case presented by the prosecution.

A lower Sana'a primary court sentenced August 28th one al-Qaeda militant to death while 14 others received

prison terms of three to 10 years after being found guilty of forming an armed group and carrying out attacks on Yemeni and Western targets, mainly the attack on the French oil tanker Limburg.

Appeal court judge Saeed al-Qatta'a ordered the prosecution to provide the defendants with pens and papers to write their appeal suit as well as copies of the penal and criminal laws as they complained they could not refute the claims of the prosecution due to lack of writing materials.

Another five al-Qaeda supporters were sentenced to 10 years in jail for bombing the French supertanker Limburg. They are Omar Saeed Hasan Jarallah, Fawzi al-Wajeih, Mohammed Saeed Ali al-Amari, Fawzi Yahia al-Hababi, and Yasser Ali Salem (tried in absentia).

The two brothers Fawaz al-Rabee and Abu Bakr al-Rabee were also sentenced to 10 years in jail. The conviction of Fawaz al-Rabee, the ring leader, included the attack on the US Hunt Oil company helicopter and the detonation of explosions at a civil aviation authority building.

Continued on page 4

WHITE HOUSE STORES
Import and Export

"NOT JUST STORES"
Quality and Best Choice

R.Y-Sana'a-Showroom No(21) S.T.C.,
Algeria St.Tel.: 448483-Fax:448484,
P.O. Box:15371, Sales Dept.: 71803222

SONY

Tel: +967 (1) 280495 / 271893
الجندري للتجارة المركز الرئيسي صنعاء

All services, spare parts and maintenance available at:

Suzuki Yemen (Member of Bamarouf Group) عضو مجموعة بامروف
Head Quarter: Al-Mimlah Road, Sheikh Othman Aden; Tel: 346000, Fax: 340049

Ban also lifted on U.S. arms Russian arms sales to Yemen grow

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It was announced last week that Yemen's imports of weapons from Russia is expected to rise this year.

According to Sergei Chemezov, General Director of Rosoboronexport – the state-owned defense export company in Russia – arms delivered from Russia should clear \$100 million in 2004.

"Our developments enable us to count on expanding military and technical cooperation between Moscow and Sana'a in the years ahead," Chemezov told Russian Itar-Tas news agency last Tuesday. "Exports did not reach such heights in [the previous five-year period]."

Russian military exports reaching Yemen now include helicopters, infantry fighting vehicles, ammunition and small arms, Chemezov said. He added that Yemen has shown interest in acquiring new military aircraft, vehicles and air defense systems.

In 2003, Russia reported that their arms sales totaled \$5.1 billion. Yemen is Russia's fourth largest arms customer, and in recent years has purchased hundreds of millions in military equipment.

Russia first started delivering military equipment in 2000, providing Yemen with 31 modern T-80 tanks. The two governments signed a contract for MIG-29 fighter planes and the first delivery took place in 2002.

"The development of the relationships between Yemen and Russia and the United States concerning arms is happening at the same time and is normal," said Ahmed Al-Kibsi, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University. "Yemen has an excellent relationship with both countries, not only for arms but also for cooperation on the war on terror."

Last September, the United States lifted its 14-year ban on arms sales to Yemen. The ban on weapons and mil-

itary equipment came from Yemen's position following the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Yemeni officials said that the lifting of the ban would help Yemen fight terrorism. Yemen joined the United States on the war on terror after the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001.

Yemeni government officials said that the United States provided roughly \$100 million in aid to support the fight against terrorism, mostly for technical equipment and training, before the ban was lifted. The Yemeni government said that it would begin concentrating on receiving spare parts for military equipment after the ban ended.

Last spring, the United States delivered nine gunboats to Yemen to help the newly established Yemen Coast Guard protect the country's coastline and ports. Several months ago, the United States decided that its warships could refuel at the port of Aden due to improved security. US warships stopped arriving at the port after the bombing attack on USS Cole four years ago.

Chemezov came to Yemen as part of a Russian delegation last week. During the visit, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Sultanov met with Yemeni officials and President Ali Abdallah Saleh. Sultanov said the talks concentrated on the war on terror, but also included a possible solution in Iraq and regenerating the peace process between the Israelis and Palestinians.

"I am very happy because there are no real differences between the Russian and Yemeni viewpoints regarding key issues, and this lays the groundwork for closer cooperation," said Sultanov at the end of talks.

Last April, President Saleh held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow that included furthering arms deals between the countries.

Growing demand Policewomen on the way

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government is in the process of bringing 500 women into the country's police force, said the Ministry of Interior last week.

"This is the third bunch of women recruits to enter the police academy in order to meet the growing demand for female cadres needed in many government institutions and installations," said an official at the ministry last Wednesday.

The first group of women, which amounted to 450, graduated at the police academy to become police officers three years ago. The new group, which was selected out of a large number of applicants after a careful screening process, is expected to take on a variety of responsibilities at different locations, including police stations, airports and women prisons.

The women in the program will go through a training program for six months before becoming official policewomen.

"It's very important that they are hiring and training policewomen," said Ramzia Abbas Al-Eryani, Chairwoman

of the Yemen Women's Union. "This will be very important for women in prison and women arrested and interrogated. This will be good for women in any situation where she is uncomfortable, and it will be important for her safety."

Al-Eryani added that the Yemeni government is showing more attention to women issues, which is important to the development of women in many areas. She said, however, that a lot of work needs to be done. "The rights for women are in the constitution but are not applied because this is a conservative society," said Al-Eryani.

According to the United Nations 2004 report on the status of Arab women, Yemeni women received the lowest share of non-agricultural wage employment among Arab countries (7% in 2001). The highest in the Arab world was 27% in Morocco.

The report also said that the gender gap between adult literacy is the biggest in the region (30% for women and 70.5% for men). Yemeni girls are behind other Arab countries in having girls enrolled in schools. The World Bank estimates that only 39% of school-age girls are enrolled in primary

school.

The Ministry of Education, with the support of donor countries and The World Bank, has been building more classrooms and schools and recruiting more teachers to boost the enrollment of girls. Even though the enrollment of girls is on the rise, many continue to drop out after basic education in rural areas due to early marriages, and Yemen's population growth rate, which is one of the highest in the world, is working against the efforts taken to get more girls to finish their education.

The number of women who participate in politics has declined in the last decade. Following the elections in 1993 and 1997, two women took seats in the parliament. After the 2003 elections, only one woman became a member of the parliament. The Women National Committee, headed by Rashida Al-Hamdani, is promoting a quota system so that 30% of the seats in the parliament will be taken by women.

"It is important to see changes because in decision making, men do not see women's participation in society as necessary," said Al-Eryani.

Car in Abu Shawarib's death is found

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Wohda weekly sources released that the Yemeni Security authorities have found the car which caused the fatal accident of the late Gen. Mujahed Abu Shawarib while he was on the Amran highroad two weeks ago.

The sources added that a Mercedes car with a Saudi plate number, carrying four persons intercepted Abu Shawarib's car.

Security authorities found the car last week in Haradh, an outpost on Yemeni-Saudi borders, as it attempted to escape into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi car caused the rollover of the car of Abu Shawarib, and fled the scene, but security authorities reported it in all the outposts and checkpoints.

Arab Parliamentarians meet on child protection

Amman - The First Arab Parliamentary Conference on Child Protection was inaugurated on Nov. 22 by Abdulhadi Al Majali, Speaker of Jordan's House of Representatives and Nouridine Bouchkouj, Secretary General of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

Members of Parliament from the Arab Parliamentary Union discussed collective strategies to further strengthen their role in the implementation of the Conventions of the Rights of the Child, with a special focus on child protection issues.

The Conference was organized by the Jordanian Parliament in coopera-

tion with the Arab Parliamentary Union, and supported by the inter-Parliamentary Union and UNICEF.

Mr Al Majali had explained that the Jordanian Parliament works on developing child protection mechanisms to ensure that every child has the right to free primary education to secure the physical, mental and social well being of the child.

At the conference an Arabic version of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Inter-Parliamentary Union Handbook on Child Protection for Parliamentarians was launched. The handbook spells out practical ways in which Parliamentarians can make a difference.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

When do you think Sana'a is going to face a water shortage crisis?
- Within ten years
- Within 50 years
- Not in the foreseen future

last edition's question:

Do you expect the Iraqi elections to be held on 30 January 2005?

Yes 55%
No 45%

Go to our website at:
yementimes.com/#poll
and have your voice heard!

Senior Polish delegation concludes visit

MOHAMMED BIHN SALAM

A high-ranking Polish delegation, headed by Dr. Boguslaw Zaleski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, is leaving Sana'a today concluding its four-day visit.

During their stay in Yemen they conducted extensive political discussions centered on Yemen-Poland issues of cooperation. Talks and discussions were held by foreign ministries of the two countries.

The two sides discussions dealt with various issues that the two friendly countries were interested in, covering regional and international issues particularly the situation in Iraq, fighting terrorism, and conflict in the Horn of Africa region.

New Taiz education officer welcomed

TAIZ BUREAU

A reception was held Tuesday 23 November to welcome the newly appointed Director General of the Taiz Education Office Dr. Mahdi Abdul-Salam, and also to bid farewell to Hussein Hazeb, former Director General.

Mr. Hazeb was moved to Sana'a Education Office, while Dr. Mahdi was brought to the new post from Aden Education Office.

The event was attended by Ahmed Khaled Ali, officer of legal affairs at the Taiz Office and a number of concerned officials.

Speeches were delivered highlighting the 'commendable role' of Mr. Hazeb who has been praised for exerting efforts to improve the quality of education in the province. The guests agreed that it was necessary for the process to continue during the coming period and vowed to cooperate with the new director general so as to accomplish the set educational objectives.

Dr. Mahdi started his duty by giving directives to various departments to make weekly reports, and meet with other governmental bodies including the local council to maintain coordination among the different sectors.

The British Embassy-Sana'a would like to invite applications for the post of

Projects Officer - Political, Economic and Development

The British Embassy-Sana'a is seeking an enthusiastic self-starter to fill the position of Projects Officer (Political, Economic and Development). The job holder will be working under the direct supervision of the Political, Economic and Projects Section, British Embassy and, for some projects, under the guidance of the Department of International Development. The project Officer will be responsible for:

- Networking with the local donor community and acting as a focal point for project proposals
- Analysing and preparing proposals and sending them to London for approval where appropriate
- Maintaining accurate financial reports for different types of projects and reporting on monthly basis
- Monitoring and Evaluation of projects
- Preparing regular reports
- Providing representational assistance to the Political, Economic and Projects Section when necessary

We are looking for candidates who have:

- Some Experience in development and in particular with project analysis
- Experience of dealing with budgets and some financial management
- Fluent Arabic and English
- Good computer skills and knowledge of word & Excel
- Political insight-some of the projects have political goals
- Integrity, commitment and respect for diversity
- Resilience and willingness to travel within Yemen and occasionally abroad

The starting salary for this post is subject to previous experience but will not be less than US\$727 per month. If you are interested in applying, please send your detailed CV along with a covering letter stating why you would be good at this job to britemb-sanaa@y.net.ye. Deadline for receipt of applications is 4 December 2004. Only candidates who fulfil the job requirements will be shortlisted and contacted for an interview.

To boost tourism

Conference on opportunities in Yemeni Islands

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The first international conference on investment opportunities in the Yemeni Islands started in Nov. 28 and will continue up to Dec. 4 2004.

As many as 150 foreign, Arab and local personalities, businessmen and entrepreneurs will take part in the event. The conference is to discuss around 60 working papers, some of which are devoted to the entrepreneur studies in a number of tourist, industrial and medical areas.

It is the first time to see social figures and personalities of distinction

inhabiting the Yemeni Islands partaking in such an important event. They will review all the distinctive characteristics of the Yemeni Islands and propose their suggestions about their knowledge of the Yemeni Islands which number 200, scattering throughout the regional waters in the Red and Arab Seas and Indian Ocean.

The Yemeni Islands enjoy nice weather, unparalleled environments and geographical terrains.

The conference is an opportunity for promoting tourism in the country, which has been suffering since 1998. As a result of terror acts, the number of tourists visiting Yemen has gone down.

In 2003, the number of tourists reached the 90 thousand and is considered the largest one so far. These tourists, 57 percent of whom were Saudi nationals, spent \$139 million.

The number of Arab tourists increased five times over the last five years to reach 105,284 tourists from the Arab countries, however, the rate of European tourists has gone down.

The steps taken by Yemen follows the rapid move witnessed by tourism globally. Reports indicate that in 2000 there were more than 100 million tourists touring countries all over the world.

The Yemeni Islands Authority suf-

fers from a lack of tourism components such as providing adequate accommodation for tourists and other relevant facilities.

The infrastructure in Yemen forms a complicated problem hampering the tourism development. Nether marine camps, sport yards, gardens nor marketing centers are seen to attract visitors.

The conference aims to propose a study demanding the government to provide the necessary support and basic services in tourism-attracting areas, as well as to carry out advertising promotion for such areas and paving the way for foreign investment.

Vacancy Announcement

A pioneering company specializing in Logistics & Oilfield Services announces its need for employees to fill the following vacancies:

- An Oil Station Supervisor;
- Personal Affairs Manager;
- Internal and External Female Correspondents;
- A Female or male Secretary and Receptionist; and
- Public Relations Officer.

The applicant should:-

- be a Yemeni national;
- hold a university certificate;
- have no less than five years of related experience;
- be good at spoken and written English; and
- be a computer-literate.

Interested applicants meeting the above requirements have to bring their current CVs and copies of the qualifications and experience certificates and contact us by:

Tele Nos: 613662, 613945 or Mobile: 73833483

Fax: 613864

P.O.Box: 3065

New cosmetic branch in Aden

By REDHWAN AL-SAQAF
ADEN BUREAU.

The new branch of Al-Rehab for Perfumes was officially inaugurated in Crater Center, Crater town, Aden Governorate on Nov. 15.

Branch Director Jalal Muhammad Ba-Nafae said "In fact that the tendency that we pay attention to currently is towards increasing the investment in Aden town and Yemen in general, especially following President Ali Abdulla Saleh's address inviting immigrant Yemeni capitals for investment.

"As a result we laid down a foundation stone for establishing al-Rehab for perfumes in the Industrial Zone in Aden Free Zone, Aden. As well, we are currently studying for opening a number of other projects in the rest of

the governorates, as this is reflecting what Shiekh Abdul Rehman Muhammad Banafae is paying attention to."

He said the exhibition contains several divisions is a special section for antiques and the original Yemeni heritage, women's hair dressing accessories, and a section for international perfumes as well as a section for a concentrated perfumes which we produce to al-Rehab for Perfumes industry.

Further to this is a division for cosmetics and couffaire, and special shaving machines which operate automatically and through remote controls as well as massage instruments, indicating, that the show room is considered a mini museum for the tourist.

So, the visitor briefs the portraits and maquettes of the Yemeni and international tourism in addition to the prominent Yemeni ancient museums, taking into consideration the role played by the leadership of Aden Governorate represented by Dr. Yehia al-Shouaiby, the Governor of Aden.

"Regarding the latest project, we are presently carry out building beauty statues in Aden, as we have started by establishing one at the Airport Roundabout, and we will shortly inaugurate the same," said Ba-Nafae.



Jalal Muhammad Ba-Nafae

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ministry of Water and Environment
The Environment Protection Authority

PAM & CZM Project

PAM & CZM Project announce for secretary position vacancy with the following qualifications:

1. Diploma certificate in Secretary after university degree (University Degree in Works Administration or English Language is preferred);
2. Mastery in English Language;
3. Not less than five years of experience on secretary works;
4. Ability of using computer and office machineries/equipments;
5. mastery on Arabic and English typing;
6. Release certificate from the last employer (after selection);
7. Experience on the World Bank – financed project (preference).

Willing Yemeni Persons who have the above qualifications and experiences should submit their applications accompanied by recent CVs, and copies of their qualifications and experience certificates to the PAM & CZM Project within 7 days from date of this announcement, applications reach after the above mentioned date will not be accepted.

The selected candidate will need to go through an interview. Applications are to be mailed or delivered to: The Environment Protection Authority, Protected Areas & Coastal Zones management Project, Banks Complex Building, 5th floor, Al-Zubairy St., TelL 01 218709 Fax: 01 467075, P. O. Box: 4227, Sana'a.

The British International School



Your First Choice

Tel: 01-422518, 01-414368, Fax: 01-422519

Email: tbi2003@yahoo.co.uk www.tbischool.com,

Trust the experts to educate your children!

Teachers' Aid After School Clubs!

Computer instruction for all ages

Year 11 (IGCSE) Ministry Exams for Year 12
Preparation for TOFEL in Year 11&12 Six from
College for A'levels (2 Year Study)

Working hours from 9 am- 1 pm

Inauguration Wales Int Institute for Lang. & Computer

Especially for the children

Handle television with care

BY SAMIA AL-NABHANI
TAIZ BUREAU

The Arab family is better than the western one in terms of social cohesion, but it has less facilities and its motion is limited. The Arab family has no institutions to help it and no laws to protect it economically and politically. Child upbringing is not only the responsibility of the family but the modern technology and the devices introduced by it to the world have their share in the child upbringing.

The family

The Arab family cannot provide the adequate protection for its individuals from any technological invasion, which always encompasses it. Cultivating children and implanting love in their hearts cannot keep them away from the violent world.

Most of the reputed Arab figures, whom we know suffered a lot for the sake of survival, and this took years of their youth before they tasted success when they became old.

Figures published by the human organizations about Arab children who join the labor market at an early age arouse horror inside ourselves. There are many little children who shoulder the entire responsibility of their families in many rural and urban areas across the Arab World.

In its magazine published in 2002, the U.S.A. prevented numerous deals of ready-made clothes manufactured by one of the Arab countries from being purchased because it explored that laborers in such factories are children below the work age.

By this we feel guilty either of the deliberate killing of children or denying their basic rights for education. The pressure of life caused the loss of contact between different generations.

In a study focusing on the time par-

ents take for serious talk with their children, it has been revealed that in the Netherlands time allocated for this does not exceed more than a few minutes a day. The American children were the luckiest as they have a few more minutes a day to talk with their parents.

One of the researchers majoring in child studies stated that what matters is not the duration but it includes the quality of talk between children and their parents.

A lack of time in turn breeds negative attitude in children toward their parents. The child may lose confidence in itself, feels that he lives alone, so he resorts to watching T.V. and playing with electronic toys.

Children are in persistent need of the exchange of thoughts and ideas with those who are elder than him. By this they develop their style of thought and self-confidence. Numerous research affirmed that children receiving support and encouragement from their parents are happier and show more, concentrating on their education and others.

Parents who support their children are divided into 1) those who attempt to create self-motivation in their children and 2) those who feel satisfied only at helping their children in the fields they are interested in. Children belonging to the second category are often found happier but not better in terms of achievement than those who belong to the first category of parents.

The upbringing of a child is not only limited to the family and the educational institution but the modern technology and its products has a big share in the process.

Lilian Lorsa a female scientist at Child Studies Institute (CSI) in America said, "if we want to understand the child of today who became a T.V. viewer before being enrolled in school and the danger of television does not only affect learning, it has been affirmed that those who spend

more than one hour and a half hour of time before the TV screen are not good at reading, writing and mathematics. Moreover they stick to this habit at the expense of their concentration in the classroom.

The television has its influence on the personality of the child. He usually feels content with what appears in the screen, and such satisfaction is the beginning of the unconscious imitation. The child as a result loses perception of all what he does.

The Egyptian Al-Hawadith Magazine mentioned in one of its articles the tragic incidence of the child who jumped off a tall building in the city of Cairo to assert himself more able to imitate the superman, the flying man in the T.V. program for children and adults.

The television affects the life of children and takes them early into the world of adults, a world of violence and contradiction. This is clearly apparent in motion pictures series that are full of beasts and war of stars and

frightening shapes. Recent statistics released that the child who watches T.V. three hours a day is supposed to have seen at least 800 murder crimes and 100 scenes of violence.

A child says, "I love watching the political programs." When asked why? Because actors appear usually in growing disputes and speak about war and when it ends. I hate war and Israel but not Amro Mosa, he said.

The school also has its share in the child upbringing and it is considered one of the significant factors in developing the child. The school has to stop the traditional methods of teaching students audiolingually like parrots.

Intellectuals and scientists from the middle class

Scientists interested in the studies of gifted children noticed that 80 percent of them came from middle class families. The advancement of a society is measured by what this category of people brings forth of the educated cadres, active thinkers and leading figures.

Intellectuals keep on saying it is a troublesome category expecting to reach the prestige of the aristocratic one.

A clear-cut evidence is that the great blind intellectual Taha Hussein and Al-Aqqad were brought up in middle-class and needy families but proper upbringing and education have the virtue in making them great achievers. Taha Hussein however was blind but his heart and mind were active.

Children coming from the middle class families are found to read much more and love the collection of information but we can not deny that this category and its individuals are put under threat.

The problem of television is increasingly exacerbating in the Arab world and not only in our country. After having an access to the satellite broadcasting, it became impossible to control what is daily transmitted by the various space channels. The state became unable to do so leaving the task to the family.

Space channels convey to us a colorful dream of an advanced world living in open freedom. As the Arab family shoulders the entire responsibility alone, it has to put clear-cut policies to encounter this device (television). This device has to be employed in a better way since it is part of the life of children outside our own will.

Some studies stress that the child can acquire many linguistic skills from the T.V., besides buying books and newspapers.

Psychologists advise us to switch off the television when a frightening scene is viewed because such scenes accompany the child during his sleep.

On the other hand, the school is responsible for guiding the child and explaining to him how to differentiate between the picture he sees in the screen and the reality.

Our duty as Muslims is to implant in our children the Islamic teachings and morals and to give them the access to useful space channels and keep them away from others.

EU Film Festival wraps up

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The free European Film Festival is concluded today at the Sana'a Cultural Center with the Turkish film, "Dar alada kisa paslasmalar," which is the 10th one.

This wonderful joint cultural initiative that was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Embassies of the Czech, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey as well as the French Cultural Center and the British Council.

The festival that came in the framework of Sana'a, the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital is held for the eighth time in Sana'a and the first in Aden.

It was noted that the EU Film Festival was started on Nov. 23rd with two Dutch films, "Father and Daughter" and "Young Kees". Right before introducing and showing the films, Johan F.L. Blankenberg, Ambassador of Royal Netherlands in

Sana'a, spoke to the audience inaugurating the festival and welcoming them cordially.

The festival included ten of the European films that have suitably given a unique opportunity for Yemenis to get different European perspectives on various aspects of life at both the present and near past time.

"Pane e Tulipe" (meaning "bread and Tulip flowers"), the Italian film that was shown Nov. 27th is one of those films. It narrates the real Venice, the rural surroundings and the people's lifestyles.

It depicts the European nature, the dark small restaurants and old hotels. The story of the film is about the vacation of a housewife, Eisabella, a boring middle-aged woman, with her two sons who are teenagers, and her crafty tyrannical husband. Eisabella was left by the bus of the journey and by her family members.

This film is distinguished with its romantic comedy.

An enormous audience attending reception

Continued from page 1

Al-Banna stabbed foreigners to "Get closer to God"

Al-Rabee also was fined \$100,000 to compensation to the civil aviation authority for the building damage. He also participated in the murder of Khasroof.

The other five militants (Ibraheem Mohammed al-Huwaidi, Aref Saleh Ali Mujali, Mohammed Abdullah al-Dailami, Abdulghani Ali Hussein Kaifan, and Kasem Yahia al-Raimee) were sentenced to five years in prison.

They were found guilty of plotting attacks against the US, French, UK, Cuban and German embassies, plotting to assassinate former U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull as well as intelligence officials.

The two defendants- Khaled Ahmad al-Jalob, and Saleem Mohammed Ali al-Dailami, were sentenced to three years in prison for falsifying documents relating to the various attacks.

Iraqi election boss says he alone can't delay poll

BAGHDAD, Nov 27 (Reuters) - Iraq's top elections official said on Saturday he alone could not delay a planned Jan. 30 poll, as a growing number of political parties have demanded amid surging violence, but did not rule out a postponement.

"Legally, to be frank, we don't have that ability," the head of Iraq's electoral commission, Abdul Hussein Hendawi, told Reuters a day after 17 political parties called for a delay of up to six months because of unrest sweeping the country.

A party headed by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, the Iraqi National Accord, put its name to the petition. But Allawi's government reiterated its line on Saturday that the election should go ahead as scheduled.

There was no let-up in violence across Sunni areas of Iraq on Saturday. Insurgents attacked U.S.-backed forces near Baquba, north of Baghdad, fighting erupted in Ramadi to the west and 17 bodies were discovered in Mosul, in the north.

Hendawi said his Independent Electoral Commission, set up by the United Nations earlier this year, was a technical body and not empowered to have a say in legislative issues.

He said any delay to the poll would have to be discussed by Iraq's electoral commission, interim government, interim parliamentary assembly and the United Nations, not to mention the country's religious leaders.

"We need coordination with all relevant parties, religious authorities and international experts," he said.

Groups including the two main Kurdish parties and one led by U.S. ally Adnan Pachachi also signed the petition.

But the most significant obstacle is Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's

U.S. soldier waits atop armoured vehicle in Baghdad An undated handout photograph released on Nov. 26, shows U.S. Sergeant 1st Class Julio Escudero from Charlie Troop, 1st Battalion, 4th Cavalry of the 1st Infantry waiting on his M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, at the front gate of Forward Operating Base Wilson before heading back out for an improvised explosive device sweep near the Iraqi capital Baghdad. REUTERS

most influential Shi'ite cleric who commands huge sway with the country's 60 percent Shi'ite majority.

Sistani has repeatedly called for early nationwide elections, which are expected to cement growing Shi'ite political power after decades of suppression under Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Muslim.

Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic

Revolution in Iraq, one of the main Shi'ite parties, said no delay would be accepted under any circumstances.

"This would mean that the terrorists have been able to achieve one of their main objectives," he told Reuters.

In the wake of the U.S. offensive in the Sunni city of Falluja, Sunni Arab parties and clerics argue a surge in violence in Sunni-dominant areas of Iraq has made it impossible to hold viable

elections in just two months' time.

"It is unthinkable that a large and important section of Iraqi society be left out of the political process," Pachachi told a news conference at his Baghdad home on Saturday.

"Security has to improve to enable people to vote without fear, with full security and without intimidation or pressure."

PLO's Fatah eyes first internal election in 14 years

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Nov 26 (Reuters) - The PLO's mainstream Fatah faction took a major step on Friday towards its first internal election in 14 years, a move that should allow a new generation of Palestinians to join its decision-making process.

"The vote constitutes an important step to pump new blood in the movement," said Fatah member Mohammad al-Horani.

All 107 members of the Revolutionary Council, the second highest institution in the group, voted unanimously to hold the faction's 6th Conference and Fatah election on Aug. 4, 2005, Palestinian officials said.

The decision, against the backdrop of Yasser Arafat's death on Nov. 11 and a Palestinian presidential election slated for Jan. 9, must still be ratified at an as-yet unscheduled session of Fatah's top-drawer Central Committee.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fatah last held a fac-

tional conference 14 years ago, when Revolutionary Council and Central Committee members were elected in exile.

Twelve local leaders were appointed to the Revolutionary Council after Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza under interim peace deals with Israel in the early 1990s, but activists from a generation of Palestinians raised in Israeli-occupied territories have demanded stronger representation.

Fatah official Ahmed Ghneim said there would be "wide participation" by the younger Fatah members.

"It would be the first ever meeting that would bring together all generations of Fatah and it should give a chance to the younger generation to join decision-making bodies," said Central Committee member Abbas Zaka.

The Revolutionary Council also proposed holding a legislative election on May 15. Palestinians last elected a president and parliament in 1996.

Palestinian gunmen from Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades march carrying a picture of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Mahmoud Abbas during a rally in the Balata refugees camp in the West Bank city of Nablus Nov. 27. Jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti has decided not to run in Palestinian presidential elections, an official said, following pressure from the ruling Fatah faction to support Mahmoud Abbas. REUTERS

Reforming Palestinians disband Gaza security force

GAZA, Nov 27 (Reuters) - Palestinian officials disbanded a Gaza security force feared by civilians and under fire by human rights groups in one of the first concrete steps toward security reform in months, a security official said on Saturday.

The dominant Fatah movement, also carrying out reforms after the death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, said it was trying to unify militant groups operating under its banner in a single command to staunch factional infighting and centralise decision-making.

Rashid Abu Shbak, a senior Gaza security official, said the 70 members of the Department of Protection and Security, a force known by ordinary Gazans as the "Death Squad", had been re-assigned.

"The security and protection department has become a source of accusation and doubts. As a preventive security service we are keen to defend the rights of the citizen," Abu Shbak said.

He told reporters Fatah had also formed a committee to unify armed groups, including the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which has carried out attacks against Israel but was also a party to internal Palestinian unrest earlier this year.

"We have held a number of reconciliatory meetings in the Fatah movement to create an atmosphere that will allow us to deal with problems which have emerged in recent years," said Abu Shbak, who is also a senior Fatah official.

Several armed groups operate under the Fatah banner in Gaza, including the prominent al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

Lecturer killed

Earlier in the day a bomb killed a lecturer in his office at Gaza City's al-Azhar University - an attack Palestinian security sources blamed on

Rashid Abu Shbak Palestinian preventive security chief speaks in front a picture of former President Yasser Arafat during a news conference in Gaza Nov. 27. REUTERS

internal unrest.

Security officials said the bomb was planted in Yasser al-Madhoun's desk in his office on the pro-Fatah university campus.

Unprecedented internal unrest in the months before Arafat's death posed the greatest challenge to his leadership since he returned to the Palestinian territories a decade ago. The armed groups muted their

aggressive demands for reforms when Arafat fell ill, and since then Palestinians have tried to form a united front in the absence of the man who for decades led their struggle for statehood.

Abu Shbak said the steps being taken to rein in militants would not hamper the Palestinian struggle against Israel.

Yemen Times logo and masthead in Arabic script. The masthead includes the title 'Yemen Times' and the date '29 November 2004'. Below the masthead is a large, stylized graphic element consisting of a grid of Arabic characters and symbols, possibly representing a newspaper's layout or a specific theme. The text 'Yemen Times' is repeated at the bottom of the graphic area.

Words of Wisdom

The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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

OUR OPINION
Time flies,
Do we care?

Iwould like to make an interesting comparison between the world and Yemen in terms of the value of time. The fact that in the rest of the world, time actually flies. This saying is indeed quite surprisingly true nowadays more than ever. Things are coming one after the other very quickly in a pace never anticipated.

Let's take the press for instance. News reports come and go on the fly. Conflicts here, accidents there, agreements here, and workshops there. It is a world accelerating so quickly to the level that we are simply unable to cope with as well as we'd like to some days.

This reminds me of the time I visited Japan and saw how Japanese people would literally run along the sidewalks to reach appointments, make deals, and do other things that are for them vital and necessary for their work.

The same case applies for other developed countries, which are giving time the greatest value it ever had since the time of cavemen. Yet one feels pity for their children and grandchildren who would have to live in a world of continuous stress and anxiety realizing that time is definitely not on their side.

Now, let's take the comparison to Yemen and see how time is valued here.

I was in Aden a few weeks ago and noticed how in some ways, time is simply stuck in this part of the country. I saw people lying on the sidewalk with qat in their mouth chewing pleasantly and looking at the whole world and its developments with little care.

They are still happy about it. They know that they don't have a lot else to do, so why panic and worry?

A lot of people in Yemen are suffering from isolation because they don't think they need to do anything in their spare time, which is in fact, most of the time. A statistic revealing that more than 20 million hours are wasted every-day on Qat shows how severe our situation is.

But who cares?

As one guy once told me, why care about the world when you are deeply satisfied inside and comfortable on your mattress chewing qat and watching the world go crazy?

It is indeed an interesting philosophy, but which in my opinion is not entirely correct, because such thinking makes us suffice with the level of quality of life we are living in today. It makes us not think or plan further than our nose, and makes us depend on things to solve themselves automatically.

I'm afraid that reality shows that such imagination is a formula for suicide.

Today, Yemen is suffering from an unprecedented unemployment rate. We have crossed all the red lines in level of poverty. We are facing a nearing water crisis, and we may as well end up in drought if nothing is done.

Doesn't this mean that lying on the sidewalk chewing qat is the solution?

I believe that even though a lot of Yemenis claim that God will take care of things, this is wrongly understood. God will not bring food to our mouths. This illusion will have to be removed out the heads of Yemenis if we are to have a better future.

Let us all realize the problem. We have a problem of perception of culture and of awareness. It comes back to education, some may say. But I also believe that role models in the country should increase in number to help show the entire Yemeni community that work and extra work will not harm. "Hard work never hurts," is my dad used to say.

This is the time when we are very much in need for such a vision.

The Editor

In the wake of Arafat
Will Palestine get an Allawi?

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
 adelkhawlani@yahoo.com
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Palestinian issue, which has been the most complicated globally for a long time, is closely similar to that of Iraq and not different from the Afghan one.

The fall of the former Iraqi regime is also very similar to the end of Arafat by Israel, aided by close retinue who are opportunists interested in securing power at the expense of their nations.

Palestine like Iraq is a victim of conspiracies plotted against its leader. People in both countries led homogenous lives. The state of Arabs nowadays, and the US-backed interim government of Iraq, force us to anticipate the appearance of a new Allawi backed by Israel in the holy lands of Palestine.

The death of Arafat will be grieved forever as he proved to be a virtuous leader of the militant movement for four decades and an experienced statesman who refused to abandon any rights for the Palestinians, despite international pressure and Arab silence towards the Palestinian issue.

The homogeneity of both situations appeals to us that Palestinians in the new post-Arafat era may experience a tragic

democracy like Iraqi people taste under Allawi, whose job is guiding the occupiers to kill innocent families and demolish their houses.

Instead of bringing security and stability to his people, he insists on implanting the US democracy, which is reflected in the killing of the wounded, humiliating their corpses plus suckling the wealth of the country.

With Bush's winning the election for a second presidential term, Sharon's thick neck is getting thicker. The latter surely seizes the opportunity of the Arab silence and the passive role of the United Nations to expand the roots of the Zionist state and transgress the Palestinians' rights for settlement. Sharon is lavishly supported to fold up the road map and extend his separation wall over the Arab land. He is currently watching with curious eye disputes and conflicts among the Palestinian factions over the death of Arafat and the coming elections to ultimately plot the appearance of a totally new agent to serve the Zionism

If Abu Ammar died from poison, it would be a regretful fact for those who have a clear conscience in Muslim and Arab nations. Was Israel behind that? If yes, who was in the company of Arafat to ably do so? Was he a Jew or a Palestinian pretending his love and loyalty to the statesman just in lip-service? It is a poisonous snake, which we will

explore soon along with its poison.

Abu Ammar led a virtuous life full of struggle until he died as a martyr of the land.

Why are the two Islamist resistance organizations (Hamas & al-Jehad) planning to boycott the state presidential elections due in January 2005? Are they both convinced that another Allawi is due to appear in Palestine?

The truth will be unveiled soon. Why did explosions and chaos happen in the mourning tent inside which there were Palestinians; either rulers or ruled they are? Was the explosion plotted by the ruled for the rulers or vice versa? Has not it been thought of as the initial tragedy of Palestine's Allawi?

Conflicts and skirmishes among Palestinian factions do broaden the gap for a new Allawi to appear in Palestine to abandon the rights of his nation and do everything, even impossible, at the expense of his subjects to gratify Sharon as the old one is extremely sharp at pleasing the Superpower of the world.

Palestinians' rights for weaponry are denied. The Israeli prisons do not receive as many Palestinian militants as before for the sake of handing the job to the Palestinian prisons to shoulder the responsibility.

Such facts are to get worsened with the possible appearance of Palestine's Allawi, otherwise, there is a chance for a Karzai as a substitute.

COMMON SENSE
 By Hassan Al-Haifi

It is not just the ruling regimes' fault

Needless to say, the Arab World, and for that matter most of the Moslem World is passing through its most difficult of times. Amidst the political stagnation one is bound to notice in almost all the countries of the region, there is the pitiful economic picture, manifested by little or even negative economic growth, widespread poverty and deprivation of the most basic of social services. Even in those countries that have ample resources and substantial means, one cannot fail to detect the unfortunate malignant cultural abyss that characterize the seemingly plastic affluence that may be apparent in these states, despite the heavy investment in education and the easy access to the cultural developments outside their countries.

Undoubtedly the repressive nature of most of the states in the Arab and Islamic World has been a major factor in the poor performance of these states in achieving meaningful economic and social development, as well as in the lack of cultural inertia that can be manifested in the vibrancy of the society. It is scientifically found that the human mind's ability to create and innovate will be severely hindered when confronted by so many rules and procedures that regulate the circulation of knowledge within the society or the ability to access knowledge quickly from overseas. Yet, most of the countries of the region have deliberately set in all these obstacles to a free exchange of ideas within the society and with the outside world, without regard to the obvious cultural degradation that such obstacles have created and without concern for the obvious effects such obstacles have on development. So, we find most of these states undergoing serious studies to determine the obstacles to growth and development, and more often than not, they will be funded by the international donor community or through bilateral cooperation arrangements. But these studies would never directly point to the impact that severe repression of a political nature stands behind most of the failures achieved by these states. If any political factors are shown, they normally point to opposition forces against the prevailing regime and the ongoing power struggles that plague most of these societies, and would clearly highlight the innocence of the prevailing regimes from any contribution to such economic, social and cultural retardation.

However political repression, emanating from the ruling regimes is not the only problem leading to such failures in development. Through a labyrinth of legislative and regulatory procedures and activities that may not necessarily be supported by political justifications, most of the regimes will tend to impose all the jurisdictional dictates and codes that simply keep their people bogged down in a bureaucratic quagmire, even for access to the most basic of services, or in order to undertake any meaningful enterprise or venture that will help raise standards of living or enhance cultural and social levels within the society. On the other hand, any collective efforts are almost discouraged by the imposition of severe guidelines on the formation of community groups or civil society organizations, not to mention political parties or organizations. Thus, it is not hard to see why one finds collective or community action at very insignificant levels in most of the Arab States and Moslem countries. The argument is that such collective action could ferment and develop into political desires and aspirations (So What?) and thus lead to challenges against the prevailing order. What eventually arises is a tight net establishment with strong links to the strong centers of power, or influence within the regime, monopolizing all access to economic enhancement and social services, not to mention the resources of the country that are availed to them alone, without being subjected to any jurisdictional or regulatory hindrances.

But, the regimes are capable of creating this block on the development of sustainable economic livelihoods and cultural expansion not just by their repressive tactics and measures, but thanks to those who are able to see the deliberate efforts by the existing regimes to maintain a lid on the enhancement of their people's welfare and social development. This comes about because these people "who know better" are not maximizing the potentials of their intellect towards challenging or doing away with any repressive measures that are imposed on their people. This is so, even with their entrance within the establishment. On the contrary, some of these intellectuals will tend to try to make up for the loss of their elitist status, by finding niches within the existing social and political establishment, which they can enter and which will compensate for their inability to let genius do its work to fulfill their livelihood needs and their desire for social status. Moreover the closed doors to mass collective action that repression has created tends to produce an attitude of "what can I do all by myself" except be an immediate victim of repression and no one will raise a finger in their defense. We have seen this in the exaggerated measures taken against those few in these countries, who have raised their voices too high above the red lines of limited democratic activities by those regimes that boast of some lip service to democracy. These red lines, by the way, have no legislative or nationalistic ordinances to substantiate them or justify them. More often than not, these red lines were the master work of educated lawyers and intellectuals, who have found their niches in the establishment and decided to render their intellectual prudence towards serving the regimes and thus ensure that they themselves avoid becoming victims of repression (economically and socially and not just politically). These intellectuals will go out of their way to exaggerate their praise for the rulers and go to the length of attributing saintly or godly qualities of the rulers at the expense of their own dignity and in total abeyance of their intellect. Efforts to rejuvenate communal spirits within these societies are non-existence, because the intellectuals who can inspire such spirits have either become slaves of the prevailing social order (with all its maladies) and void of any real patriotism or even concern for the overall welfare of their societies. The few that might display any semblance of such patriotism or concern will be found in the prisons maintained by the regime or struggling to eke out a half way decent living, with very little time for meaningful social and cultural enhancement of themselves or their society - a vicious cycle of endless despair.

If women are repressed ...
Don't blame Islam

ALAWI ABULLAH ABU BAKIR TAHA
 adam_taha2000@yahoo.com
 FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I have read a recent letter written by S. Zeschky titled 'a request about Nadia Mohsen. I'd like to reply to Zeschky.

First, you and everyone has the right to request but what you don't have the right in doing, is labeling the Muslim nation with pure ignorance and I quote from your own words:

"Moslems: A religious sect where a bunch of good-for-nothing men like to demonstrate their manhood by suppressing, raping and physically punishing their women. On their own they would not be able manage anything. - Far beyond civilization and worse than in the Stone Age."

Shall we bring some facts to your attention? The Arabs use to kill their newborn daughters and it is only when Islam, through the leadership of Muhammad and the guidance from God that this was abolished. Only through Islam was this done this and stopped.

Secondly, while women in the western world were not allowed to vote, were not allowed to have their name on the wealth of their husband, were not allowed to speak their mind, Islam was far ahead of your world and liberated Muslim women to have God given rights. Man is the oppressor NOT Islam!

It women have the right to vote, it gave the Muslim women right to speak, be heard instead of being a product, a tool, a doormat, to such that even when one of the Kalifahs, spoke about something concerning the dowry, a woman stood up and spoke it was her God given right to ask as much dowry she wanted, and so the leader responded that she spoke the truth, and

delighted by her wisdom.

Aisha one of the mothers of the believers, was also a shining star for the Muslim nation; for men and women as a wise, legendary teacher many came for advice when Muhammad died.

Islam took women from what barbaric men once treated them as nothing but dirt, to noble creatures to be treated with respect and honour, and raised high, to such, men and women are equal in the sight of God in righteousness, and he or she is better in righteousness is known to God, Allah the All Mighty alone.

If anything happens and its wrong, then blame it not on Islam but the hypocrisy of men and corrupt governments. You didn't do that instead went one step further and mentioned 'Muslims.'

You label me, my fathers, my forefathers, my mother, my grandmother and the many brothers and sisters in Islam who sacrifice their whole lives enriching the British community in UK by giving their many hours to nurture their children because the education system teaches to only consume information not to think!

Thirdly, what you call and I quote again from your words "on their own they would not be able manage anything. - Far beyond civilization and worse than in the Stone Age."

I laughed at this one because it was the western world that was in the Stone Age Zeschky. Your world were still throwing dirt into the streets, didn't have toilets, the disease were coming from the rivers while the Muslims were great inventors, scientists, legendary astrologists and had a true understanding about nature, the universe. Here's where I teach you about the influences of the "stone age" world you talk about, and simplify it for you:

Between the ancient civilizations, namely the Egyptians, Greek, Roman, Persian, Indian, and Chinese, and the Renaissance era in Europe, there was a gap, c o m m o n l y called "the dark ages", during which the flame was lit and

raised, not by the West. Far from it Zeschky but by another culture and people called the Muslims. The very people you quoted as, "On their own they would not be able manage anything."

Abu-Bakr Mohammed Ibn-Zakaria Al-Razi 841-926 A.D, known to the Western World as Razes. He was the chief physician in Baghdad. His books on medicine were translated into Latin, French, Italian, Hebrew, and Greek. He wrote a treatise on measles and smallpox called "de Peste or de Pestilentia" which was translated to Latin in 1565 A.D. It is a masterpiece in clinical medicine (Browne 1962). It describes the clinical difference between the two diseases so vividly that nothing since has been added (Keys 1971).

And I can give you, hundreds, to thousands that invented, that liberated men and women, that traveled to the four corners of the world, that discovered America before Columbus did, that stood and even terrified the Emperors of Rome. Knowledge that was either burnt, duplicated, stolen by the western that live in the dark ages!

Next time Zeschky, aim your words at the corruption of the Yemeni government to the Yemeni government not the Islam because that's what you did very slyly, and then label it on Islam. It is the ignorant men who do not adhere to the true call of Islam that treat our people like animals especially when a journalist are being imprisoned and treated like animals. That's what you should have said because that's the truth but you didn't use your head.

Just because its an Arab country and the man on the system and ruling it Arab and has a Muslim doesn't mean, he will implement 'shariah' law to give women their rights. The stench of government corruption is also the mirror of society not the mirror of religion, but a spiritual decline and their lack of being pro-activeness and caring for each other, that overwhelms the nation itself to be nothing but a puppet of their egos and selfishness.

Islam is pure, truth but when handed to man, it must be a man that lives for God alone to serve his people. The government doesn't serve its people but takes from them, and so the cycle begins in which people also take for just themselves from others.

Letters to the Editor

A comment about Isaacs in Somalia

I don't have too much to say, but I do see that your article talking about Isaac and Sool/Sanaag wasn't accurate. First of all, the Isaacs didn't fought for freedom, they fought against the freedom of Somali state. Another thing is "There is not what we call a Somaliland state" so you don't have to mention that in your articles, otherwise you will approve it. One last thing, be careful about expressing your ideas about Sool and Sanaag people. They are not fighting their freedom. They were always free.

Cabdillaahi Ciise Xamari xamari1001@yahoo.com

his/her own views. But when you're reporting to the world you have a duty to show all sides, and it seems that you're only telling yours.

It's time for you tell the news how it is and stop changing it just to make good sales. Don't sell out. It's pathetic!

Brendan M mute040@muffinsandshotguns.com

Too much freedom is indeed not good

It was pleasing to see that I other can feel the same as some Americans. "Too much freedom is not good," which was written by Salah Abdulrahman was a nice comment published in a recent edition of Yemen Times.

I just found your online paper. I shall revisit your site again and again.

Building For Rent

A fine building ready for rent in the Hadda Area of Sana'a, situated south of Hadda Hotel, near the Japanese Embassy. Owner would like to have leased to a foreign embassy or consulates in Yemen, or to an international donor agency operating in Yemen.

The specifications of the Building

- Two storey main building with external accessories.
- Total leased area (compound garden and building 3,500 square meters,
- Total area of main building 1,800 m².
- Large halls and rooms.
- Large water cistern with 100 cubic meter capacity
- Underground electricity cable
- Ten telephone lines
- Located on two wide streets (24 meters and 12 meters).
- Ample parking space outside the compound.
- Three building entrance doors; Four gate entrances.
- Ready to make any additions, adjustments or extensions, in accordance with the requests of the entity leasing the premises, based on their requirements.

For additional information or inquiries, please contact us at the following numbers:
In Sana'a: 967 1 333808 Mobile 73706808 Fax 328640
Mail: PO Box 11612, Sana'a Republic of Yemen

YEMEN TIMES
 Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
 First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
 by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
 Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa

Head office:
 Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

Email: yementimes@yementimes.com
Website: http://www.yementimes.com

Branches:

Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-857, 346596; Fax: +967 (2) 347-456 Email: ytabden@y.net.ye	Taiiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah Tel: +967 (4) 217-156 Tel: +967 (4) 217-157 P.O.Box: 5086, Taiiz Email: yttaiiz@y.net.ye	Hodeidah Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah Tel: 00971 506589158 Tel: +967 (3) 206-886
---	---	--

Regional Distributors

KSA: Saudi Distribution Co. Jeddah, Tel: 6530909 Tlx: 605350 P.O. Box: 13195	Qatar (Doha): Dar Al-Sharq Printing, Publishing & Distribution Tel: 4664265, Fax: 4661865 P.O. Box: 3488	Dubai: Dar Al-Hikma Tel: 00971 506589158 P.O. Box 2007
--	--	---

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name and signature, address and telephone number. Letters should not exceed 2,000 characters in length. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances.
- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

The Democratization of Europe

A few growing pains

By MICHEL ROCARD

Europe's integration project is historically unprecedented. For the past millennium, Europe has lived in an uneasy equilibrium, giving birth to every great empire that dominated and pacified the world in the last 500 years.

Its eight or nine principal nations made war on each other whenever one threatened to seek and secure mastery over the others. Europe gave us the last two world wars, and to the balance sheet of monstrosities must be added its grotesque refinements in the art of murder: the Holocaust and the Gulag.

Sixty years after the end of the last war – a pittance in the light of history – 25 European nations, including nearly all of the countries on the Continent, are united in a common project that guarantees a definitive peace.

The institutionalization of Europe makes war impossible and it motivates reconciliation: between France and Germany, between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland, and soon between Hungarians and Romanians. At the same time, deep economic integration and a common commercial policy make the European Union a zone of prosperity that is relatively well protected against contemporary financial crises.

Those who dream of a single federal nation, capable of asserting a strong foreign policy backed by potent armed forces, are perhaps disappointed by the

shape of today's EU. But it is a mistake to focus too much on the Union's shortcomings and ignore the extraordinary reality that exists before us. Although Europe is more a space governed by a shared rule of law than an expression of a unitary political will, it is currently becoming the greatest economic power in the world.

This is a historical event of enormous significance. But that hasn't silenced the EU's critics, who complain that it was the child of unelected technocrats and of governments negotiating treaties behind the backs of their people.

This is true, but only up to a point. In the past, Europe has suffered from a lack of democratic legitimacy. But from one treaty to another (there have been eight altogether), from one stage of integration to the next, national governments, sensitive to the perceived "democratic deficit," gradually enlarged the powers of the European Parliament. What was originally a consultative body has slowly evolved into a parliament like any other.

Indeed, the only attribute of a national parliament that the European Parliament still lacks is the power of legislative initiative. Otherwise, it is a normal legislature, evolving into the bearer of popular confidence – or the lack thereof – in the government (in this case the European Commission).

Although the authority to vote a government in or out stems from the treaty of Amsterdam, which was ratified in 1997, the European Parliament has not used it – until now. In the last week of

October, Italy's candidate for the position of European Commissioner for justice, freedom and security, Rocco Buttiglione, declared before the Parliament that homosexuality is a sin and that women's purpose should be to stay at home and be protected by men, so that they can raise children.

Nobody questions Buttiglione's right to think this way. But his doing so disqualifies him from a position of leadership in an area in which the European Parliament has for more than 20 years consistently affirmed a far more progressive line, be it on the rights of minorities – including sexual minorities – or on equality between men and women.

Nor did the European Parliament stop with Buttiglione. MP's were also shocked to learn that the Dutch candidate for the position of Commissioner for Competition sat on the boards of many powerful financial institutions, which would make her both a judge and a party in proceedings before the Commission.

The arrogance of the Commission's president-designate, José Barroso, and his obvious contempt for Parliament, did the rest. With the confirmation vote about to take place, Barroso preemptively withdrew his proposed Commission, knowing that he would lose.

Some have called the withdrawal of a proposed Commission an institutional crisis. But that is absurd. What is a rebuke to Barroso marks a consolidation of democracy for the EU. After all, checking the power of the executive is

SKETCHED OPINION

The government

By Samer A.

what parliaments are supposed to do. Barroso remains personally charged with forming the Commission, and has a few weeks to propose another team. The same thing could happen in any of our national parliaments.

Europe needed this rebalancing of powers so that it could be recognized as a fully democratic polity. The legitimacy of the new Commission will only be strengthened after a second round of scrutiny. By asserting its democratic prerogative, Europe's Parliament has strengthened Europe.

Michel Rocard, a former Prime Minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.

Parties

Democracy

Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

When basic needs go unmet

Is technology a curse?

We have a lot to thank for having these technological advances, making our lives more simple and less complicated and we must admit that it is becoming a small world in easy contacts and exchange of news and information.

But is this really where we're heading? Or are we surfacing a gigantic catastrophe in future scientific development? Take for example cloning, it has been mentioned decades before even experimenting on and has succeeded with animals but the human mind will go at any length to experiment on humans. Is this a red line we must not cross or is it a start of a new evolution of human cloning.

Do all the science fiction novels and films have a hand in this human thought of advance development? There are many questions to be said than answers and even that has its limit. As for computers they have become a necessity in our lives whether at work or at home. The same goes to the Internet, which has nowadays become an addiction to many people.

But now we have another heroine busting the markets: The cell phone video camera. This is also another way to loot money from light headed people who find themselves cool having a mobile and walking the streets with their phones stuck to their ears.

Such type of cell phones are being misused and there is nothing better than looting money out of our human state of mind, of arousal and excitement a definite soft spot in most of us. Thus, those having such cell phone video cameras should be prudent and preferably keep in mind the Arab proverb, which goes: "whoever digs a hole (i.e. a trap) for his human brother, will himself one day fall into one".

Now, that the year 2004 is ending and time is moving fast. What have we achieved? Although we have made improvements on the sewage and road system all is incomplete, as there are streets still in dirt accompanied with leakage of tank sewages?

Why? Because, simply none of our responsible men is willing to take the matter in his own hands and their only

scapegoat is: There is not enough money to cover the expenses, while huge amounts are being wasted and stolen in broad daylight. The government is laying out projects that cost millions of dollars while our streets are not as they should be but alleyways and streets filled with dirt and mud along with litter? Is it that they can't wait or typically find our streets of less importance?

Unfortunately streets and sewages in Yemen are only taken care of, if they are in strategic public places or accompanying the homes of our so many responsible people, leaving us as victims of a crisis to put up with the litter, dirt and dust which in this account our children bear out the consequences being the victims of infections such as skin and bowel infections along with serious eye diseases (sometimes poorly treated in Yemen) that are provoked by dust and dirt which our children mostly play with instead of – should be – grass.

But who will listen? If we are real good Muslims why don't we remember the prophet's (PBU) words clearly: "If any of you undertakes a task, then do it well." Which is not happening here. Some redone streets although having sewage they haven't any drains and although having been paved have not any pavements but ones still in dirt!

It is sad to mention that many of our good men (the official & responsible) who have had the recurrent honor of travelling abroad haven't had the slightest thought of putting our country's tidiness first rate in a list of renovations, building projects and inaugurations.

How can we be proud of building a project when we notice that most of our streets are still undone and not completely fine?

When I am out on my way to work I find the cleaners sweeping the dirt off the road none that comes always from the pavements, which are still dirty. Here, a question arises? Why do our responsible people like to go abroad frequently? The answer is simple.

Because, they can have big travel allowances in USD and also because it is beautiful and it is time to make our country beautiful too.

(8) Both of those regimes do not confront their enemies directly but prefer to use a third party. During the cold war America avoided any confrontation with the Soviet Union because of the consequences and the problems that might bring about. America and the Soviet Union had a war using third parties.

The same thing happens with the Saudi regime. Given the constitution of its military force the Saudi regime is incapable of confronting any outside threat. This has been proved throughout the years. The Saudis do not fight the Yemen war without the help of the Americans or defend their territory. This does not mean that it is a peaceful country or that the regime believes in peace.

We find that both countries try to use third parties in order to fight their wars.

This happened when the Saudis financed Saddam Hussein in order to fight Iran for almost a decade. There is no direct confrontation with the opponent but the conflict is resolved by using a third party in order to make sure that victory is achieved.

So with these common characteristics are we surprised that a temporary marriage has developed into a permanent relationship against all odds?

Dr Madawi Al Rasheed has written several books including Politics in an Arabian Oasis; Iraqi Assyrian Christians in London; and A history of Saudi Arabia.

Taming voodoo economics

By J. BRADFORD DELONG

Americans have once again finished a presidential campaign season in which the quality of the debate over economic policy was abysmal. On the Republican side, hacks, spin masters, and many people who ought to have known better suddenly developed an extraordinary appreciation for something called the "CPS Household Survey of Employment" as a supposed guide to month-to-month changes in the labor market.

The CPS survey was never designed to do this, but it offered the most favorable gloss on the Bush administration's dreadful record on employment.

On the Democratic side, the same sorts of hacks and PR men focused like a laser beam on the bad employment news of the George W. Bush years, ignoring the good news about output and productivity.

And, again, Republicans responded tentatively, by focusing on the unemployment rate rather than on the job numbers – as if it were a good thing that the lousy labor market since 2001 has artificially depressed the number of people looking for work.

Similarly, Republicans glibly touted the Bush tax cuts – the equivalent of

what President Bush's father, President George H. W. Bush, two decades ago called "voodoo economics" – as the acme of economic wisdom.

They paid no heed to the large drag that Bush's unbalancing of America's public finances will impose on the US economy over the next several decades. Democrats, for their part, pretended that the tax cuts had *already* harmed the economy, when they ought to know that the greatest damage is still to come.

The Republicans magnified their economic quackery by frantically trying to minimize public perceptions of the long-run fiscal problems of America's social-insurance system, largely to deflect attention from the fact that Bush threw away the budget surpluses President Clinton had bequeathed him – and with them what may have been the country's last best chance to fix things in this regard short of some form of disaster.

These same Republicans also argued for government spending restraint while blocking the institutional changes to Congressional procedures needed to make spending restraint possible.

All of this economic legerdemain was magnified by television, print, and Internet journalists. Aside from a small number of good stories in the business press, it is difficult to argue that anyone

who read or listened to English-language media coverage of the campaign could have learned anything interesting or relevant to the question of whose economic policy was likely to be better for America.

The economics profession bears part of the blame for this. Nobel Prize winners such as Edward Prescott have no business talking about the benefits of tax cuts without pointing out that a tax cut accompanied by spending increases is not a tax cut at all, but rather a tax *shift* onto the future – and a tax shift that raises risk and discourages accumulation.

But much of the problem stems from an under-briefed, undereducated, and uncurious press corps. Indeed, the tendency towards superficiality in coverage of economic issues may have led campaign managers to believe that the press will so distort their message that they dare not even try to set out what they regard as the true rationales for their economic policies.

At this point, I as a pundit am supposed to come up with my magic plan, my clever scheme for fixing things and putting the world to rights. I don't have one.

But there is one glimmer of hope. The past two generations have witnessed the rise of independent central banks whose monetary policy, largely insulated from partisan politics, aims for the maximum possible employment and purchasing

power consistent with price stability. Monetary policy in the industrial core has been far from perfect in this age of independent central banks, but it has been much better than what came before, representing a victory for technocracy.

The American political system, at least, appears incapable of setting out the central fiscal policy issues in ways that give voters a chance to make informed judgments and distinguish between candidates—even between candidates whose programs are serious and those whose programs are mathematically impossible jokes.

It may well be time for another technocratic push: a Fiscal Stabilization Board that would take its place beside the Federal Reserve Board. Just as the Federal Reserve exists to ensure that monetary policy is not inconsistent with price stability, the Fiscal Stabilization Board would guarantee that spending authority remains in line with the legislated level of taxes.

Let the debate begin.

J. Bradford DeLong is Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley and was Assistant US Treasury Secretary during the Clinton Presidency.

U.S. and Saudi are twins

By DR MADAWI AL RASHEED

In a recent lecture to London's Gulf Cultural Club, Dr Madawi Al Rasheed pointed out some striking similarities between America and Saudi Arabia. She referred to America as the large empire and Saudi Arabia as the small empire. According to Dr Al Rasheed these two empires have entered into a temporary marriage against all odds.

There are common grounds between the American and Saudi regimes in all their shades:

(1) First of all both are isolationist regimes which established their hegemony on the rule and defeat of others. The US established its empire on the ruins of Europe. Saudi Arabia established its hegemony in the region on the ruins of other countries, for example Egypt after 1967.

(2) They both use the rhetoric of being the benevolent force to spread their hegemony. "We are the goodies!" America uses democratic values and democratic reforms as a pretext to go and invade other countries. Saudi Arabia uses the rhetoric of Islam, that is it is doing good for other Muslims and against this background it allows its mil-

itary bases to be used against other Muslims.

(3) Both use external immigrant labour to build capitalist economies that actually do not produce much. According to a recent report America is a consumer society – it is not a society that produces lots of things. The same thing can be said about Saudi Arabia.

(4) Both are racist regimes. Compare for example the experience of Blacks and Hispanics in the US and immigrant labour in Saudi Arabia. Both countries import highly skilled labour. If you look at how American hegemony developed in the 20th century, America received a lot of highly skilled labour – immigrants who migrated from Europe into the USA and also from South-East Asia (Chinese and Japanese) to work in highly specialised industries.

But at the same time it used unskilled immigrant labour to do the menial jobs.

If you go to Los Angeles or San Francisco you know exactly who is sweeping the floor in hotels and who is cooking in the kitchens. And the same situation tends to be applicable in Saudi Arabia. The highly specialised oil industry and the banking system have a lot of highly specialised American or European labour but at the bottom level

the menial jobs are done either by Asian or Arab labour.

(5) Both regimes endorse the rhetoric of exceptionalism. This idea is well ingrained in the American psyche about America being an exceptional country. Likewise the Saudi regime does not tire of repeating al hussisia Saudia – we are such a special people. We are beyond historical trajectories, we are actually outside history because we are special people. This is a sort of embedded rhetoric that perhaps we are also chosen people. The Americans believe that they are chosen people among other chosen people. And the Saudi regime definitely thinks it is unique and special.

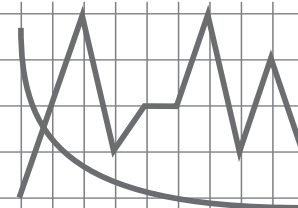
(6) Both use religious discourse when they are actually talking about politics. Religious discourse describes political decisions and they invoke religious discourse of morality and religion in order to justify relationships with other countries. We have seen this increasingly with the Bush administration – the axis of evil, right and wrong. And the same thing also tends to happen with the Saudi regime.

(7) They both have a media empire or at least they aspire to control the media and control minds with the media in order to propagate their own point of

view. The American media empire is one of the biggest in the world in terms of Hollywood films and news. The same thing happened with Saudi Arabia. Since the demise of the Arab press with the Lebanese civil war in the late 1970s and throughout 1980s the Saudis seized the opportunity to control that media. Initially they used Lebanese, Palestinians and later on Iraqis to man the media empire that they built over the years. London served as one of the magnet areas for the Saudi media empire. Both the Saudis and the Americans use minorities from those countries in order to provide the personnel for this media empire.

The Saudis are very good at using minorities in the Arab world, for example Lebanese Christians, Palestinians and even Iraqi Assyrians and other minorities to run their media empire. The same thing happens with the America media, especially that which targets the Arab world. If you look at Al Hura for example, the American channel, we find that America relies on these minorities in order to run their media empires that target specific populations in the Arab world. Recently Kuwait is playing the role that Lebanese used to play for the Saudis.

YT Business



Energy of our future

When the oil runs out

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	185.1100	185.3100
Sterling Pound	343.5500	343.9200
Euro	240.0200	240.2800
Saudi Rial	49.3600	49.4100
Kuwaiti Dinar	628.0500	628.7200
UAE Dirhem	50.4000	50.4500
Egyptian Pound	29.6900	29.7200
Bahraini Dinar	491.0100	491.5400
Qatari Rial	50.8500	50.9100
Jordanian Dinar	261.0900	261.3700
Omani Rial	480.8000	481.3200
Swiss Franc	157.1700	157.3400
Swedish Crown	26.4100	26.4400
Japanese Yen	1.7561	1.7580

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

BY SHAKER AL-MOLSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Oil is the sinews of the modern life, providing the world with power. It supplies fuel for factories, heavy and light industries and generates electricity. Not only that, oil derivatives are used to make a diversity of products including clothes. Oil is also the raw material of many plastic products.

Unfortunately, this valuable substance which has been relatively recently introduced into man's life is going to be exhausted. This is a prediction based on up-to-date studies. People in the oil industry confirm this end and show their apprehension of the future. The Association for the Study of Peak Oil (ASPO) is sending warnings on this issue, and so do many other experts, for governments to make precautions before it is too late.

What is the oil peak?

Demand continues to rise but oil reserves are becoming exhausted. Thus within the coming few years, the era of cheap unlimited energy is expected to come to a close. This phenomenon is known as "peak oil production" or "oil depletion". In other words, peak oil indicates that we have consumed as much as half of the total oil reserves and that we are going down the curve.

Industry consultants IHS Energy recently reported that 85 percent of all the oil ever discovered is now in production, and only half the total produced last year was replaced by new field discoveries. Annual consumption has now exceeded new discoveries every year since the early 1980s. Overall worldwide oil discoveries have been declining steadily for the past 40 years and data shows that the volume of oil consumed by mankind annually equals 1.07

cubic miles, while estimated worldwide oil reserves at the beginning of 2004 equals 34 cubic miles.

This means the world has 34 years of oil left at current rates of consumption. But the world's demand for oil and natural gas continues to increase as industry is expanding and many communities are joining become more industrialized. So a more realistic estimate of the remaining period of the oil era is "25 years," unless new discoveries of reserves are made.

The problem, however, is not running out of oil as much as it is running out of cheap oil, which is the resource upon which every aspect of industrial civilization is built. Oil plays such a fundamental role in the world economy that we will not run out of the stuff before we run into a crisis of untold proportions.

According to the best estimates of a number of respected international geologists, including the French Petroleum Institute, Colorado School of Mines, Uppsala University and Petroconsultants in Geneva, the world will likely feel the impact of the peaking of most of the present large oil fields and the dramatic fall in supply by the end of this decade, 2010, or possibly even several years sooner. At that point, the world economy will face shocks.

How will it impact the world?

Cheap oil underpins our current lifestyle. It provides cheap transport by car or bus, cheap food, cheap goods, cheap manufacturing, cheap energy, and cheap products. It runs national and international trade.

Increasing demand for oil and less reserves imply paying more for oil which consequently means an increase in the price of almost everything that drives the modern economies. It is the next looming crisis which will effect everything, as energy could get a lot more expensive - affecting where you live, cost of travel, cost of electricity, and even costs of food. Some pessimists claim they will be a vehement

Reserves
Time

Oil is expected to peak by the end of this decade, and finish somewhere between 2030-50. As we slide down the curve, the oil will become gradually hard to extract causing the world to go through times of distress.

Wind energy is one of the alternatives to the energy from oil. These plants generate clean energy that doesn't harm the environment, but they disfigure the landscape, and need strong wind.

struggle for areas rich in energy sources and destruction will take place as well as famines and die-offs due to a decline in the land productivity which depends mainly on oil-powered machinery.

Possible alternatives:

In the face of such a problem, it is necessary for people to focus attention on the possibility of a world far less dependent on oil. There are actually alternatives to oil in case we run out of it. But they are not as efficient and cheap, at least so far.

The world may be forced to get back to basics. Before oil, coal was the bedrock of the industrial revolution. However, coal gives off large quantities of the greenhouse gases, causing climatic changes. Though, technology can help improve the situation, the reserves of coal are also subject to the peak oil effect, that is it is a finite supply which will be gradually more difficult to recover. Shale oil and tar sands represent another source of energy, but it is not economically viable to utilize. Shale oil is essentially unborn oil that can be made into a fuel by strip-mining, crushing, and heating the rocks until you generate a usable liquid. This may be done by the help of heat from nuclear plants but the process may result in pollution and distortion of the landscape.

Some, especially vehicle manufacturers, foresee a change from an oil-based economy to one based on hydrogen as cell fuel. But there are only two commercially viable ways of making hydrogen. One is to make it out of methane, which is a fossil fuel. The other is to use fossil fuel to generate the electricity that you need to electrolyze water and get hydrogen. Yet either ways are energy-negative, meaning that you will always have to put more energy into acquiring and processing it than you will ever get out of it.

The nuclear possibility can yield an incredible amount of energy but in half a century the world's nuclear industry has had at least three serious accidents: Windscale (UK, 1957), Three Mile Island

(US, 1979) and Chernobyl (USSR, 1986) were catastrophic. Many people therefore reject new nuclear plants in the belief that more accidents are inevitable. And apart from that, the industry still shows no sign of being able to get rid of its waste in safety.

A third category of fuel comes under the heading of renewables. Solar energy (light from the sun) has proved itself to be a good source for electricity. However, not all places are sunny and the solar cells are relatively expensive. More generated electricity needs a larger area of solar panels, which is not convenient. Other renewable sources like hydro-electric power have been tested. Wind and wave power has promise. But there are relatively few places on earth where the wind blows strongly and steadily enough for it to be a dependable energy source. But, how these sources can suitably and sufficiently be made to energize the modern life is still a hurdle.

A glimmer of hope

Many measures should be put into play to avoid the problem of power shortage. People should conserve power. Most of us still waste fuel on a prodigious scale, and the savings we could make by more efficiency, and by just switching off, are immense.

Our hope lies on scientific research and probable solutions to find new sources of power, and improve available ones.

So far it seems that the only possible substitutes for our fossil-fuel dependency are solar power and nuclear energy. The efficient exploitation of nuclear energy depends on man's ability to harness it. Developing a way of running this highly sophisticated civilization on those resources is an enormous challenge. Whether we will be able to cope with it remains to be seen.

Translator

YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY is currently seeking to contract a professional Translator to work in its Sana'a Office.

Major Responsibilities:

Translate correspondence & legal documents from English into Arabic and vice versa.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must have a university degree from a recognized and reputable university.
- Must be proficient in English & Arabic, both spoken & written.
- Must have a minimum of 5-10 years experience as a translator.
- Must have a strong work ethic with "can do" attitude.
- Must be able to type both Arabic and English.

All Candidates must be YEMENI NATIONALS.

Deadline for the application: **December 10, 2004.**

If you meet the above requirements, please forward your **resume only** to

YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY
Attn: Human Resources manager
P. O. Box 481
Or
Fax: 1-414-610
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Please do not phone us. We will call you for an interview, should your credentials meet our needs.

Supported by ILO

Information bank for women to be established

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Labor Ministry has the intentions to establish an information bank for female Yemeni workers.

The bank is due to operate according to instructions by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and is fund-

Yemen, U.S. planning free trade

The UPI has reported that Yemen and the United States of America are preparing a plan to start a free trade zone between the two countries. According to official Yemeni sources, the main aim of this zone is to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

Nabil Sheyban, director general of the International Cooperation Department in the Yemeni government told UPA that the agreement is expected in the near future when Yemeni and American Trade and Investment Council members will meet.

If an agreement is made, Yemen would then be the second Middle Eastern and Arab country to have a free trade zone with the United States. Bahrain agreed to be one earlier.

"We hope the U.S.-Yemeni Trade and Investment Council will be able to boost trade and investment relations between the two countries," Sheyban added.

ed by the government of Netherlands through its embassy based in Sana'a.

Najwa Al-Qusaifi, expert of the ILO for the project of enhancing the Woman's administrative skills, pointed out that the strategy of the project, supported by the ILO, is to provide the branches of Woman Development Administration with computers for the sake of documenting data related to women workers and their issues.

The branches will be provided with relevant research and studies to be conducted by individuals, organizations and official parties, either local or foreign.

Research and studies are conducted for the sake of upgrading the general administration for developing Yemeni woman to be a source of information.

The information bank is due to have a new means to type such research and publish it.

The international expert expects the information bank to contribute to defending women and raising awareness among people about the role of woman in the development process.

The media has its role in spreading public awareness about the problems encountered by women. Publications and pamphlets are widely spread to reveal issues of Yemeni women.

Official reports mentioned that women workers reach 23 percent of the total workforce in Yemen, whereas the number of female graduates doubles that of the males.

Traditions and customs restrict women from having public-sector jobs.

The Yemeni government gives women precedence over men in the strategies of rural development, particularly in the fields of education, the fight against poverty and illiteracy eradication.

OPPORTUNITIES For Talented People

we are one of the leading Soft drink company in & looking for talented Sales force to fill the vacant positions & to expand the business.

Branch Sales Managers

Yemeni national, University graduate, addition qualification in Sales & Marketing would be an advantage. Minimum five (5) years experience in FMCG/food items, minimum two years managerial, experience in reputed company. Over all responsible for the assigned territory. Candidate should be team player, sales target oriented, capable to work & lead the team in tight competitive environment & high level of commitment is must.

Adequate command over English is essential. Age below 40yrs.

Sales Supervisor

Yemeni national, University graduates fresh/ 2-3 years experiences in sales, go getter, target oriented, team player, ready to in tight competitive environment. High level of commitment is must. Knowledge of English language would be an advantage. Age below- 35yrs.

candidates must be prepared to work anywhere in Yemen. Salary+ incentive+ other benefits as per company policy

P.O. Box: 456-Sana'a R.O. Yemen-Fax 341598 E-mail: sbiyemen@y.net.ye

Where poppies grow row by row

Afghanistan still land of opium

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The amount of land used to grow poppies in Afghanistan skyrocketed this year, according to a United Nations report released last week.

According to the Afghanistan Opium Survey of 2004 by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), land for poppy cultivation reached 131,000 hectares in 2004, up 64% from last year and a dramatic increase from 8,000 hectares in 2001.

The report said opium poppies are now being planted in each of the country's 32 provinces and 87% of the world's supply comes from Afghanistan. Drought and disease limited the production of opium as harvesting went up 17% from 2003 which produced 4,200 metric tons.

Through the use of a satellite imaging system, the US government came out with more startling results. Its report said that poppies were cultivated in 206,700 hectares this year.

The figures on opium production came after Hamid Karzai was elected last month as Afghanistan's first president since the Taliban regime was ousted in

late 2001. In his acceptance speech, Karzai vowed to eliminate drug trafficking. "There will definitely, definitely not be any drug thing in Afghanistan. We're going to be dedicated, strong in working against that," said Karzai.

But Karzai's commitment to tackle the drug business came at a time when opium production is seen as a threat to Afghanistan's security.

"In Afghanistan, drugs are now a clear and present danger," said Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of UNODC. "The fear that Afghanistan might degenerate into a narco-state is slowly becoming a reality as corruption in the public sector, the die-hard ambition of local warlords, and the complicity of local investors are becoming a factor in Afghan life."

The Afghanistan government has declared that opium production has become its number one concern. "Eradicating poppy cultivation is on the top of our agenda," said Lutfullah Mashal, Special Assistant to the Minister of Interior. "Our eradication task force is ready, and the goal is to eradicate 90% of poppies in the next 12 months."

Last week, the US government stepped in to implement a more aggressive plan:

The poppies farm are found in all the provinces of Afghanistan providing income for many people in this war-torn poor country.

Drug enforcement agencies asked Congress for \$780 million to tackle the drug business. The new US effort will include increasing the eradication of poppies, arresting and prosecuting traffickers, and providing alternative crops for farmers.

But the fight against opium production will face challenges. Farmers have complained that they have not received assis-

tance in finding an alternative crop, and if there is help, some of them might be reluctant. Even though the price of a kilogram of opium has fallen recently – from \$283 to \$92 per kilo – the income from opium for farmers is still 12 times more than what they can get from growing wheat.

Another concern is how the Afghanistan government and security forces will be able to handle conflicts if they arise in the eradication process. The growth of the drug trade may generate resistance. The UNODC report estimates that 10% of the country's population, or 2.3 million Afghans, are now involved in the drug business. Opium production pulls in around \$2.8 billion annually and takes up 60% of the nation's gross domestic product. "Opium is the main engine for economic growth and the strongest bond among previously quarrelsome people," said the report.

The newly formed Afghan National Army only has 17,000 soldiers, and under US military training, it is not expected to be 70,000 strong until 2007. US troops, numbering 18,000, are preoccupied with the Taliban in the south while 9,000 NATO-led peacekeeping forces mostly operate in the capital.

Warlords who took part in the toppling of the Taliban have been holding onto their fiefdoms while being equipped with armed militias. Analysts have expressed concern that those involved in the profitable trade probably include warlords, provincial governors, and police and army officials. The UNODC has warned that organized crime involved in the drug trade has become well established in the last few years. Costa said that Afghanistan, once only a supplier of the raw material, now has enough labs to convert three-quarters of its opium into heroin.

"Drug lords might aim at destabilizing the security of Afghanistan to try and continue their business," said Syed Alamudin Atheer, Deputy Director of Afghanistan's Counter Narcotics Directorate. "There might be terrorist activities related to

drugs."

Although Afghanistan's counter-narcotics police were able to destroy a number of poppy fields this year, until now no drug lords have been arrested and taken to court. The judicial system is still in the process of being developed, and according to a UNODC official, it will take time for it to be able to handle cases related to the drug business.

Unlike the Taliban regime that was able to force opium production to diminish near the end of its rule, the new government and international assistance will face many obstacles to win the war on drugs in Afghanistan.

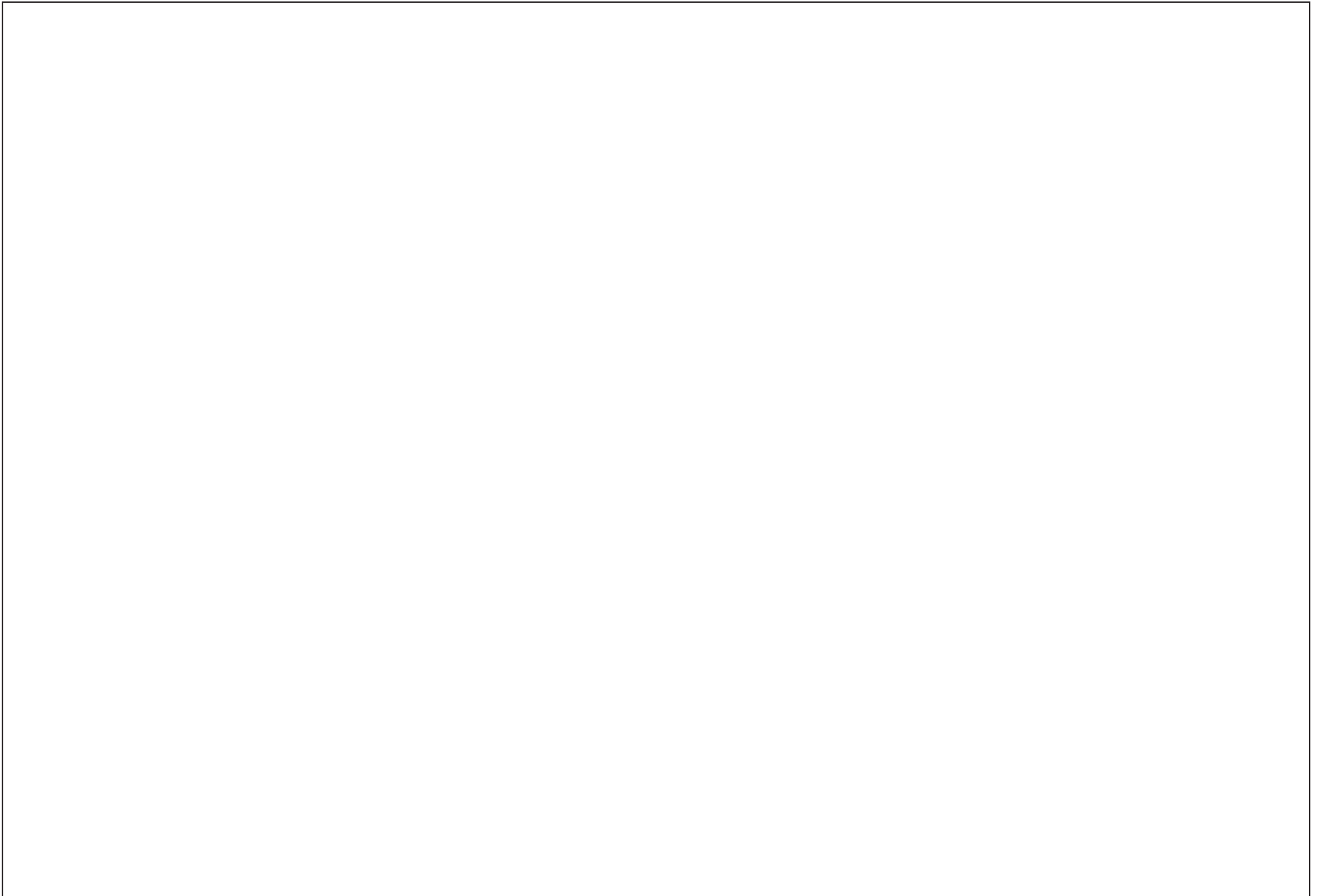
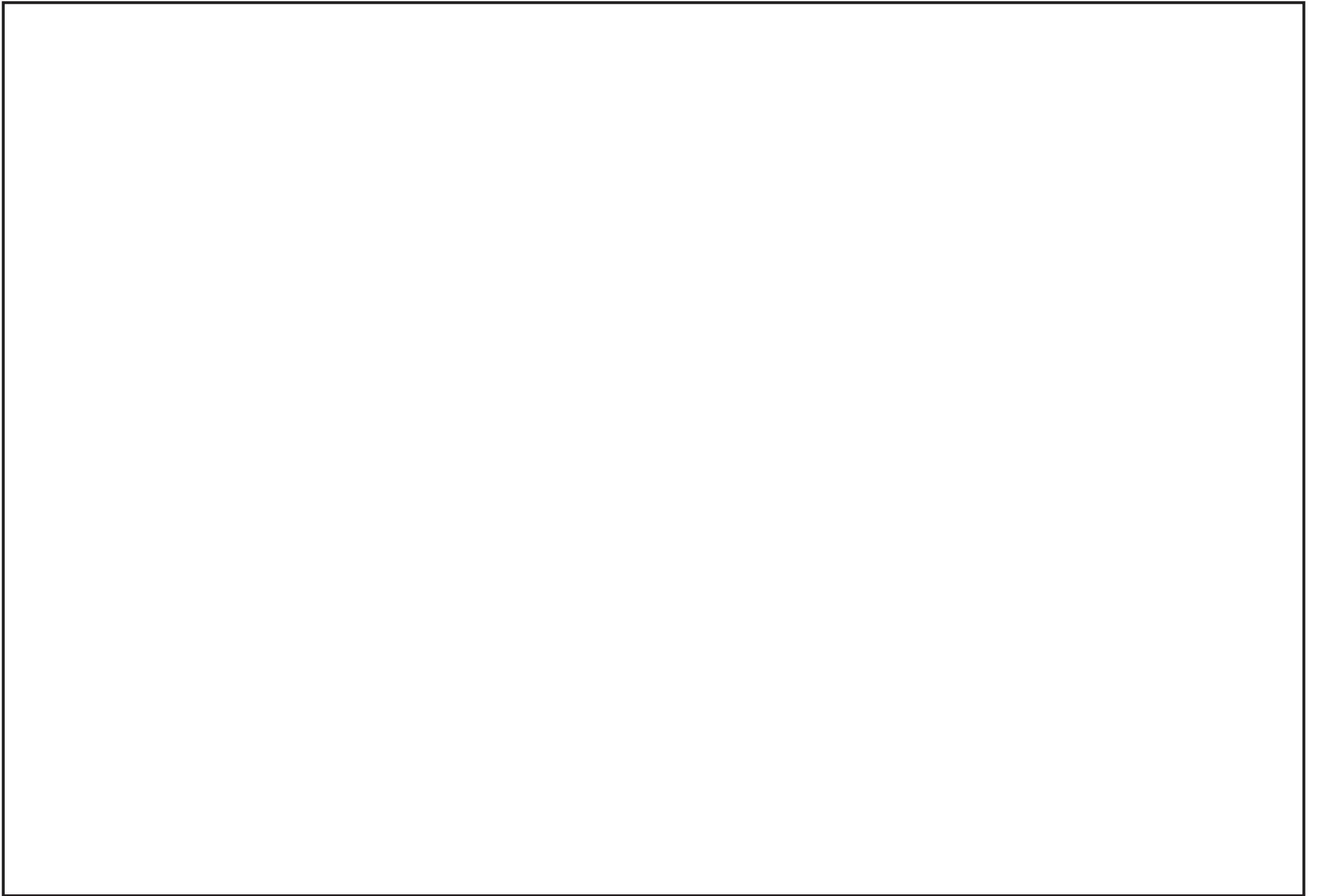
"It will be a long and difficult process," said Costa. "It cannot be done ruthlessly as it was done by the Taliban, nor with mindless disregard for the country's poverty."

Congratulations

We present our congratulations and sincere wishes to Capt. **Abdulkhaliq Al-Qadhi, Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer of Yemeni Airways on the occasion of his being appointed as the Chairman of Arab Air Carriers Organization. We wish him the best of success.**

Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Al-Dulaimi, Chairman of Yemen Space, Mr. Essam Abdullah Al-Dulaimi, Executive Director and all the Staff.

Though the world has been aware of the wide-spread cultivation of opium flower in Afghanistan, it has not succeeded in eradicating it nor limiting its proliferation.



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education,
Mahweet
ramakantasahu@yahoo.com
Tel: (01) 465396
Mobile: 73889013
P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a

260

I. What to Say

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

The actual intensity of the dynamic spirit of togetherness is gauged when two loving hearts are separated. Although out of sight, yet each feels the throbbing impulse of healthy togetherness and the lingering fragrance of lasting comradeship.

- Missing you a lot, round the clock and I somehow hope we get to meet each other really soon.
- Missing you ever since you've been away. Everything around seems to have lost its charm and elegance. Thinking of you and all your special ways, of listening, loving and sharing, and wishing with all my heart, that you're back again soon.
- Missing you so much and counting the days till we can be together again.
- Missing you. Since you've left, I've been missing you even more that words can say; the void is being felt more and more, making me feel blue – Nothing seems right when you're not around... I'm lonely and incomplete without you I miss you!
- Time is too slow for those who wait. Miss you so much.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Though you have a strong body, but you are a coward.
- Keep us informed as we are anxious for your welfare.
- I am writing a letter with green ink.
- He went to Mahweet in bus.
- She congratulated me for my success.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

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

III. Increase Your Word Power**(A) How to express it in one word**

- A place on the ocean where ships cannot move because there is no wind.
- To make an animal able to live with man and serve him.
- Unavoidable destruction or death.
- A medicine taken to improve the performance of people or animals.
- Sleeping-room with several or many beds.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- Something that is very easy to do: **doddle** (n)
- The hottest days of the year: **dog-days** (n)
- Having the corners of the pages bent-down with use: **dog-eared** (adj)
- Having, showing, or marked by cruel, merciless self interest: **dog-eat-dog** (adj)
- A fight between armed air craft: **dogfight** (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.

- appease**
a. anger
b. to assist
c. to pacify
d. to surrender

- expunge**
a. to blot out
b. to borrow from
c. to squeeze dry
d. to forgive

- culminate**
a. to slander
b. to reach a final effect
c. to overwhelm
d. to heap together

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. perpetrate | to perform |
| 2. impetuous | hasty |
| 3. inquisition | thorough investigation |

ii. Antonyms

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

- recoup**
a. to worsen
b. to strengthen
c. to trap
d. to recover

- slacken**
a. to activate
b. to quench
c. to delight
d. to muse

- skepticism**
a. doubt
b. assent
c. confess
d. gullibility

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. ascetic | worldly |
| 2. repugnant | agreeable |
| 3. stigma | known |

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- accessory, accessory
- infer, imply
- food, diet
- histrionic, historic
- distinction, distinctness

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- piteous** (adj) ("feeling pity", arousing pity"): She heard the piteous cries of the woman.
- pitiful** (adj) (shameful; causing low opinion or pity; arousing contempt): The poor old man was a pitiful sight.
- pitiable** (adj) (deserving only contemptuous pity): Her condition was really pitiable.

Note: Each of these words can express one of these meanings.

- emigrant** (n) (a person who leaves one's own country in order to go and live in another country): He is an emigrant from the country that he lives, and the practice is called 'emigration'. A ship full of emigrants left the coast for America.
- immigrant** (n) (from the point of view of the country an emigrant enters, the same person is an immigrant): A large population of Latin American countries were not aborigines but immigrants.

- difference** (n) (the state of being unlike): There is a wide difference in the tastes and attitudes of the husband and the wife.
- deference** (n) (the act of showing regard for another's wishes, opinion, etc.): Students should show due deference to their teachers.

- desirable** (adj) (worth having): My presence is not desirable here.
- desirous** (adj) (feeling or having a desire): The desirous candidates may attend a walk-in interview.

- frantic** (adj) (wildly excited with joy, pain or anxiety): The drowning man sent frantic cries for help.
- frenetic** (adj) (showing over-excited behavior): He is a man of frenetic views on religion.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- pave the way for
- sweat it out
- seal the fate of (someone/ something)
- in the teeth of
- have time on one's hands

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- in full swing** (going ahead busily or vigorously): After a new session begins, classes are held in full swing.
- not have the ghost of a chance** (not to have any chance of success): I don't have the ghost of a chance to win.
- as white as a sheet** (very pale in the face because of fear or illness): The criminal looked as white as a sheet when he was apprehended by the police.
- curry favor with (some one)** (to try to gain someone's favor): He is trying to curry favor with the Governor.
- in the pipeline** (in preparation, but not yet ready): A

new educational plan is in the pipeline.

IV.**(A) Grammar**

Complete this story with the correct form of the verb in brackets

It was 6.30. We (arrive) ---- at the station at 6.15 and my two sons and I (wait) ---- for an announcement (say) ---- that our train (depart) ---- on schedule at 7.00 The children (look) ---- at the books in the news agent's, try ---- to choose something to occupy them on the long journey. Suddenly the loud speaker (begin) ---- to make cracking noises and a barely comprehensible voice (announce) ---- that because of engineering works on the line, the train (delay) ---- for at least half an hour.

We decide ---- to have a snack in the station buffet. We (just arrive) ---- at the door, (struggle) ---- across the crowded station with all our luggage, when someone quickly (stick) ---- a notice on the inside (say) ---- CLOSED. We (know) ---- we (be) ---- in for a long, boring wait.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

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

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions**NO PAINS, NO GAINS**

Sincere and creative efforts pave the way for achievement in any field. All monumental works in the field of art, literature, architecture as well as all discoveries in the arena of science and technology speak volumes about man's persistent endeavor to achieve them. On the other hand, the idle and the shirkers are losers. Therefore, one should be inspired by the vision and the spirit of attainment and ignore the hardship that one may face in the process. We should learn from lives of great men to make our own life sublime by transforming disadvantages to advantages by a healthy positive attitude. An unsuccessful man says, "it is possible, but difficult". But a successful man says, "it is difficult, but possible." Thus it is the attitude that makes all the difference. It is, therefore, a rule of thumb not to be overawed by the problems involved in an enterprise but muster physical and mental vigor and vitality to surmount them and achieve the goal.

IV. Pearls from the Holy Quran

To those who believe and do deeds of righteousness
Hath Allah promised forgiveness and a great reward.
S5. A9

V. Food for Thoughts

"Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!"
—Anne Frank

A letter to English teachers: 68

How to develop listening skills in your students (1)

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

Dear Fellow teachers,

I have, in my last few letters, dealt with the writing skills – the importance, how to develop them, what help is provided in the textbooks etc – and I would like to take up another skill, listening skill, in this and the following letter. Listening skills are the primary ones in any language as the learners have opportunity to develop them before they develop any other skill; in other words, they first listen to a language, whether it is their mother tongue or any other tongue.

I am of the opinion that listening skill have a low priority for Yemeni learners of English, if you consider their needs for using English. This is because they have fewer occasions to listen to and speak English compared to those to read and write. However, one can't deny the importance of listening skills in English and we have to develop these skills in our learners from the school level.

Some of us wrongly think that learners will automatically develop listening skills in English, if they listen to English on the radio, TV or in the class. This thinking may be the result another misconception that we have developed the listening skills in our mother tongue without much conscious attention to the skills; this is not true because we develop these skills in our mother tongue mainly because of our conscious (and sometimes unconscious) attempts to listen to others in order to understand what they want to convey. It is, therefore, necessary that we should develop these skills through conscious attempts in our English classes.

Most of us are aware that hearing

is different from listening; we hear all kinds of noises that are produced around us, if our ears have no problem, such the noise of the motorcycles, car horns, noise from the loudspeakers (which are really loud), but we listen to something only when we are interested in it, such as the 'adha'a' from the mosque, the news which concern us on the TV. The interest to listen to is something crucial in any listening activity. When do we have interest to listen to something? When what we listen to has some relevance to us; what we listen to is necessary for us; what we listen to has some useful message for us. Don't we listen to, with more attention, when someone speaks about our family in the market? Don't we listen to, with equal attention, when there is some news about our city/village on the TV? This is a natural human tendency and we should make use of this while teaching listening to our learners in our English classes. The listening activities, therefore, should have these characteristics viz., interest, relevance and usefulness.

There are many ways to develop listening skills in our learners, but all of them are based on one important principle, namely, the activity should capture the attention of our learners. The CECY (Crescent English Course for Yemen) has many listening activities at different levels. For example, look at pages 44,48, 72 in WB 1; 28, 52, 118, 119 in WB 3; 52, 80, 108 in WB 4; 56, 62 in WB 5; 20, 30, 44, 64 in WB 6. All these activities are interesting and challenging to the learners of the class concerned. You can also notice in each of these activities that the learners have to listen to some information and do something with that information; this is how listening is made useful and purposeful, without which learners are not going to listen to the information. Let's continue the discussion in the next letter.

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

Learning

make it to be reckoned.

History unravels the truth,
That none can miss.
Great places... Athens, Alexandria,
Buddhaya, Mecca...
Great people... Mohammed,
Lincoln, Gandhi, Einstein

Are glittering pointers
To the value of learning over ages.
All branches of knowledge should be pursued
With a vow to replenish your nation,
to be raised.

In all spheres of learning,
Religion, science, art... yearning
Should be there to excel.
Then and then only, could you in
progress revel.

Ye, men of courage and faith,
March ahead on the road of learning.
Ye, children of Yemen, never compromise on learning.
Surely, then, the golden age of
Yemen will be born, in truth.

Beware

See who knows not
And knows not he knows
not:

Is a fool;
Shun him

See who knows not
And knows he knows

not:
Is a simple;
Teach him

See he knows
And knows not he
knows:
Is asleep;

Wake him.

He who knows
And knows he knows:
Is wise;
Follow him.

By Lady Burton

Please don't say goodbye

How can you let our love die?
Why do you hurt me, oh!
Why?
You can say "Sorry", of course you can say
You can't say "bye" 'cause we have a common way

You can forgive me but just try
I really miss your beautiful eye
Say my name and I'll come
Because you're heart is my home

Come here and near,
Don't be shy
I'll keep you safe in my eye
Love is not a word to say, nor a game to play
You can come today and everyday

It seems so far and so high
Yet with love we can fly to the sky
Your beautiful eyes deserve this song
For this, we've been waiting for long

And spread your wings my love to fly!
It's time to cheer, so don't sigh
I can't believe you can say bye
Please don't say goodbye

By Ibrahim Mohammed
Ba-Monger
English Department
Faculty of Education,
University of Since and
Technology
Seyoun, Hadramout

CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE

البنك التجاري اليمني
YEMEN COMMERCIAL BANK

The Bank Offers
HIGHEST RATE OF INTEREST ON DEPOSITS
 in Yemeni Riyal or US Dollar

البنك الذي يمنح
 أعلى سعر فائدة على الودائع لأجل
 بالريال اليمني والعملات الأجنبية

Head Office: Al-Rowaishan Building, Al-Zubairi St. P.O.Box:19845 or 160 Sana'a
 E-Mail address: ycbho@y.net.ye, Web Site: www.ycbank.com.
 Fax: (967-1) 284656, Secretary Telfax: (967-1) 277238, Exchange: (967-1) 284272/6,
 Tel: 277324, 277378, 277354, 277381, Telex: 3427 YCBHOS YE.

Growing up in war, Iraqi kids are hopeful but wary

His heroes may be the same as any 11-year-old living in Europe or the United States, but the rest of Mowaffaq Abbas's life could hardly be more different.

A Baghdad schoolboy, Mowaffaq must regularly evade the threat of suicide car bombers, violent kidnappers and armed insurgents just to get to school each morning.

And once he's there, he's hardly any safer. Earlier this year a car bomb blew up near his school, destroying walls, blowing out windows and wounding several pupils. One teacher lost his memory and hasn't got it back, Mowaffaq said.

He's not just unlucky — his 13-year-old brother Mohammed has had similar experiences. Some months ago, a man was shot dead in front of him as he was cycling to another school.

"His blood splattered onto me," Mohammed recalled.

"I couldn't sleep for two days ... I avoid that route now.

"Every night I go to bed not knowing if I'm going to wake up tomorrow," he said as he took a break from helping his father run a small shop next to their house in Baghdad.

For school-age children in Iraq, the events of the past 20 months have been like one of the violent movies they all seem to love, except with the action going on all around them 24 hours a day.

From the bombing of Baghdad that

launched the war last year, to the bombs and shootings that put the capital on edge every day, it has been a tumultuous time for all Iraqis, but particularly for children.

Yet, rather than seeming scarred, distraught or jaded by the violence, Mowaffaq, Mohammed, their brothers and friends seem surprisingly well-adjusted.

While they are unhappy about the lack of security, and often scared, they remain confident about the future and entertain ambitions they say they couldn't have held if Saddam Hussein was still around.

See the world

Mowaffaq is a soccer fan who lists basketball star Michael Jordan and England footballer David Beckham among his heroes. He dreams of becoming a translator and travelling the world.

"I think the chances are better for me now than they were under Saddam," he said, although he worries that by the time he's old enough to work all the foreigners will have fled Iraq, meaning he won't have anyone to translate for.

His eldest brother Mohammed is fascinated by science.

"I want to be a weapons scientist and I think that after the war my chances have got better," he said. "I've seen lots of ammunition, mortars, bombs and that sort of thing, and I've looked inside them and it's really fascinating."

Asked what he thought of those who

use crude science to make bombs, causing almost daily casualties, he is dismissive.

"I don't want to have anything to do with car bombs, don't be silly. I'd like to be one of those scientists who is a complete specialist in their field, where there are only three or four of them in the country."

The brothers say some of the boys at their schools talk in glowing terms about those fighting the insurgency, but they are the minority and are shouted down by others.

"Every time those kids say they support the attacks they back it up by saying, 'Well, my dad said this and my dad said that', so it's obvious where they get it from," said Mohammed.

"Sometimes I joke with them and say that I'm going to go and tell the Americans what they've said."

Freer but not happier

While education, work and other opportunities may open up for the brothers in time, their day-to-day existence is much more restricted now than it was before the U.S. invasion.

The street they live on, which houses the French embassy and several news organisations, is fenced off at either end by high concrete blast walls — protection against suicide bombers. There are spikes in the road to stop vehicles and armed guards on duty.

The children seldom venture beyond the perimeter except for school.

Friends come to visit and they play soccer and basketball in the dusty and

deserted road, which was once a busy two-lane street full of traffic. But it's not like being free, they say.

"This area where we are, this street, it's safer than where my friends live, but we can't go out to play football, we can't go to do taekwondo. We're stuck," said Mowaffaq, looking around in exasperation.

"Under Saddam it was more secure. Even though it was an oppressive regime, we could still go around and visit friends after school," he added. But he doesn't want Saddam back.

"Before the war, who could speak against Saddam? They would cut his tongue out right away. Now we can say what we like."

While the children are no fans of Iraq's insurgents, they don't exactly revere U.S. soldiers as heroes either.

"I don't consider the Americans enemies. I think they came here to help a poor country and sometimes they're good to us," said Mohammed. "The thing I don't like is that when they're attacked, they fire back randomly, just shooting at everything."

"My cousin was killed for no reason. He had seven kids."

"When the Americans first came, I was happy," said Mowaffaq. "But then my hopes faded when they didn't provide security. That was a big mistake and it affects us everyday."

Yet they also don't think the Americans should leave: "They have to stay and bring us security and make sure we have elections," said Mowaffaq. "If they leave now, we'd be in a mess." Reuters

Iraqi 11-year-old boy Mowaffaq Abbas (R) plays football with his older brother Mohammed near anti-blast walls outside their house in Baghdad, Nov. 25. His heroes may be the same as any 11-year-old living in Europe or the United States, but the rest of Mowaffaq Abbas's life could hardly be more different. A Baghdad schoolboy, Mowaffaq must regularly evade the threat of suicide car bombers, violent kidnappers and armed insurgents just to get to school each morning. REUTERS



CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - SAL

CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS

- ⊕ Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- ⊕ Heavy, light industrial plants.
- ⊕ Power and desalination plants.
- ⊕ Fuel and water storage tanks.
- ⊕ Oil fields ancillary installations.
- ⊕ Air purification for industry
- ⊕ Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- ⊕ Offshore structures and underwater works.
- ⊕ Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- ⊕ Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities.
- ⊕ Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- ⊕ Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs.
- ⊕ High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- ⊕ Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution systems.

Sanaa
 Tel: (967-1) 441638
 Fax: (967-1) 441630
 E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye

Aden
 Tel: (967-2) 377328
 Fax: (967-2) 377716
 E-Mail: cccaden@y.net.ye