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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Economic warning at Islah conference

# "Potential disaster"

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar, speaker of Parliament and head of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), warned of stormier waters ahead in Yemen's political and economic life.

With an oil price hike still around the corner, in fact, Yemen's economic situation entails a "potential disaster," while addressing the Islah's Third Conference on Feb. 12.

He said "the current deteriorating political and economic situation necessitates a responsible stand taken by all political and social forces, working together, not from personal or party interests, to take the country away from the dark impasse it is going through, before it is too late.

"The economic situation entails a serious potential disaster and that adding more burdens on the ordinary citizens will lead to more congestion and increase the level of poverty. All wise men should work to avoid the disaster," he said, while addressing 3,000 conferees, hinting at the upcoming rise in the price of oil derivatives which the government approved of in the 2005 budget.

The Islah party said this conference, which was held amid heavy security measures, is focusing on the freedoms and the living standards of the people.

Yemeni Socialist Party's assistant secretary-general Jarallah Omar was



Some of the 3,000 in attendance at the Islah Party's conference Saturday.

assassinated during the first round of the Islah conference held in December 28, 2002.

Al-Ahmar said that his party, despite of the difficulties it has been facing, decided to hold this round in order to "enhance the Shura and Democratic path the party has taken."

He stressed that "the democratic process in Yemen has deteriorated tremendously during the last two years

which we can not accept." He called the Islah members to work hard "through enhancing the freedoms and exercising their constitutional rights away from extremism."

The Parliamentary speaker did not talk elaborately, as usual, on the Arab and Muslim or world current issues. He glanced at what he said the miseries of the people in Palestine, Iraq, Chechnya and others who he said "deserve our

support and we should help them as much as we can."

It is expected that the party should have discussed the issue of the next leadership of the party which will be elected during the fourth conference to be held in December 2006.

Al-Ahmar and Mohammed al-Yadumi, Secretary-General are expected to leave office then, as they can not run for these positions again.

## Yemeni editor still can't appeal, but . . .

# Al-Khaiwani case stirs CPJ action

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Penal Department at the Appeal Court announced in last Tuesday's ses-

sion that the case of Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani, Editor-in-Chief of Shura Weekly Newspaper, is adjourned again until March 1.

Defense lawyers said that it was obvious that the court did not hasten the case procedures, contrary to the directives of President Saleh stating that case procedures for al-Khaiwani's case should be accelerated since it has been delayed for several times.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the Committee to Protect Journalists met with Yemen's ambassador to the United States, Abdulwahab Abdulla al-Hajiri on Saturday to express deep concern about the imprisonment of a Yemeni opposition newspaper editor and a recent spate of criminal convictions handed down against several other journalists.

Following the meeting, CPJ

Executive Director Ann Cooper said, "Those who embrace democratic values do not put journalists in prison for what they publish. If Yemeni officials are serious about democracy and human rights, they will free Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani immediately, allow suspended papers back on newsstands, and cease their harassment of the media."

Continued on page 3

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## Follow-up to 2000 Jeddah Treaty

# Yemen gets border posts

Saudi Arabia has given Yemen several posts as part of a new border agreement in this country's north, a Yemeni source said Saturday.

According to Sahwa.net, the hand-over operation started a few days ago

in secrecy and is continuing in the Meady region in northwest Yemen.

"Yemeni and Saudi military officials held a meeting in a border area between Mawsam in Saudi Arabia and Meady in Yemen, during which border posts in Mawsam, Ras Mawaj and Hathira were handed over to the Yemenis," the unidentified source said.

He said more border positions will

be returned to Yemen in the near future in Ghizan area.

Riyadh handed Sanaa several border posts in the southeast last June, notably an area of 25,000 square miles (40,000 square kilometers) in the Badhi and Kharakhir regions.

In return, Yemen dropped claims against the border province of Assir, which includes the cities of Najran, Ghizan and Khamis Msheit. (UPI)

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## In case of Sheikh Al-Moayad

# Al-Anssi to testify

BY NEWS SERVICES

An FBI informant who set himself on fire in front of the White House last December will be called as a witness for the defense of Yemeni Sheikh Al-Moayad, who was accused of aiding Hamas and al-Qaida.

Lawyers for Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hasan Al-Moayad and his assistant said they have subpoenaed Mohamed al-Anssi, who helped build the FBI's case by posing as the go-between for Al-Moayad and another informant playing an American Muslim who wanted help funneling millions of dollars to terrorists.

Al-Anssi appeared in headlines of major US newspaper and on TV screens in the US and throughout the world for trying to commit suicide for allegedly not receiving the promised money from the FBI, who he also said did not return him his passports.

He has never appeared at the trial, but has nevertheless been a central figure because he was the prosecution's main informer, helping F.B.I set up a sting to ensnare the Sheikh Al-Moayad.

Al-Anssi is the sole source of some of the government's most dramatic claims about Al-Moayad, including the allegation that the Sheikh said he personally



Mohamed al-Anssi, 52, who set himself ablaze in November 2004 outside a White House, will be testifying in the case of Sheikh Al-Moayad. At the time, Al-Anssi, who reportedly worked as an FBI informant, suffered injuries that weren't life threatening. REUTERS

handed \$20 million to Osama bin Laden. Defense lawyers said they would request the unsealing of a bank fraud case filed against Al-Anssi in Brooklyn federal court last year.

If al-Anssi does appear as a witness, that and other information he gave prosecutors could be heard by the jury. But the defense is expected to attack him as an opportunist and a liar who fed the F.B.I. false information in exchange for lucrative payments.

Continued on page 3

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## Conflicting reports

## Saleh: al-Eriani is a brave figure

By MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Saleh recently congratulated Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eriani, his Advisor for Political Affairs and Secretary General of the General People Congress (GPC), for being one of the courageous men and leading Yemeni personalities that has served Yemen patriotically, particularly in matters related to the demarcation of borders with neighboring countries.

During his visit to a military camp in Hadramout, east of Yemen, the President said: "Dr. al-Eriani contributed much to the national interests of Yemen and his prominent contributions are highly regarded by the leadership and all the



Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eriani

Yemeni people as well.

Media reports over the last weeks said that al-Eriani's resigned from his post as a Secretary General for the GPC, the ruling party, because of disputes among leaders at the party, as well as his suffering from some health problems.

Last week, Dr. al-Eriani said he is still doing his tasks as Secretary General of the ruling party and he denied he ever showed any resignation.

Al-Eriani added: "what happened was, due to health problems, all the financial and administrative issues at the GPC were left to Assistant Secretary General at the party, Sadiq Amin Abu Ras Minister of Local Administration, while I was abroad."

## 20 per cent of deficit now in Sana'a

## Growing water shortfall looms

By Ismail Al-Ghabri  
Yemen Times Staff

Yemeni Minister of Water and Environment Mohammad Lutf Al-Eriani said last week that the annual shortage in water is now estimated at one billion cubic meters.

He said 20% of the deficit is in the Sana'a basin.

In a special workshop related to the implementation of the water sector strate-

gy and investment program in the capital, the minister pointed out that water deficit is due to increase during the upcoming period due to the rapid population growth, the increasing demand for water and the deterioration of traditional irrigation means.

He confirmed that the annual consumption of water is estimated at 3.5 billion cubic meters while the underground nourishment is only 2.5 billion cubic meters.

On his part, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Sufan said that the water shortfall is considered one of the most challenging problems that hinders the development process in the country.

He pointed out that his government is working hard to bring possible solutions for such problem through tackling the phenomenon of population concentration in hills mountainous areas, as well as through developing the coastal cities and the population increase in the urban areas.

Sufan also pointed out that the government is on the way of implementing highways network from east to west as well as in the Arab and Red Sea to create more economic activities.

This comes at a time when the Ministry of Oil and Minerals is intending to extend the natural gas pipelines during to all the coastal areas.

Government sources released that the Ministry of Water and Environment is exerting intensive efforts to bring solutions to the water crisis, such as the provision of labs and other facilities for distilling water.

Doing so, the government takes for granted the large cost of such projects and profits from experiences of Gulf countries.

Meanwhile, 30 researchers were intending to hold a symposium on Feb.14 on the reality of water resources in the city of Taiz.

It is worth mentioning that some of international reports revealed that pure water services does not cover more 37% of population living in main cities.

## Republican Guards hold checkpoints around capital

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Republican Guard and Special Forces, under the command of the President's son Ahmad Ali Abdullah Saleh, have increased the number of checkpoints at the entrances of the capital, particularly to the northeast of Sana'a.

The Special Forces usually inspect vehicles entering the city but have provoked numerous queries on their recent stringency.

Sources at Special Forces say that the security authorities have received threats

of potential attacks by some of al-Houthi's supporters, who are expected to come from Sa'ada through al-Jawf and then into the capital.

The Special Forces seized a truck loaded with a number of explosives inside including a mortar this week, but sources did not mention who was responsible.

The series of negotiations between al-Houthi followers and the Yemeni authorities failed when al-Rizami (al-Houthi's top supporter) returned from the capital at the end of last month without reaching a solution.

## Taiz gets ready for WB chairman

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

A meeting was held in the Taiz Governorate governmental bureau Feb. 9 for bureau general managers, headed by Mr. Shouqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed, Chairman of Planning, Budgetary and Finance committee in the local council, to talk about a number of projects funded by the World Bank.

Among them are protecting Taiz town from flooding, the infrastructure project,

health and educational projects, highways and organizational building for local councils, and also the handicapped sector support.

The meeting has confirmed on the necessity of speeding up the preparation, arranging, and equipping the party location dedicated for receiving Mr. James D Wolfensohn, Chairman of the World Bank, in Taiz - which will be set up in al-Be'arah Housing Town and in which student celebration and popular bands will show in addition to deaf, dumb, orphans

## 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:

Do you think the economic "disaster" spoken of most recently by Islah (see p. 1) will come to pass in Yemen due to fuel price hikes.

- Yes, price hikes will be a disaster.
- No, price hikes are a reasonable part of World Bank reforms needed in Yemen.

## last edition's question:

Do you think the last agreement between Mahmoud Abbas and Ariel Sharon will pave the way for permanent peace in the area?

- No 62%
- Yes 38%

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## Yemenia gets improvements for YR 1.8 billion

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Air Yemenia is in the process of completing the first phase of its plan to improve the ground services for the passengers, airplanes, and cargo services in the airports of Yemen.

The work to be carried out by the company involves international companies and the purchase of modern equipment worth about YR 1.8 billion YR one billion eight hundred million, according to Air Yemenia chairman Abdul Khaleq Saleh al-Qadhi.

It's to improve services rendered in

Sana'a and Aden international airports, plus Sey'un, al-Mukalla (Rayyan), Taiz and Hodeidah airports.

Phase I of the plan, worth YR 1.2 billion, is expected to be achieved in June and involves items such as buses, passengers staircases, instruments, luggage loading and carrying carts, power generators, air-starter instruments, supplies wagons, cleaning equipment.

Phase II of the same project starting in July will be finished by the end of 2005, at a value reaching to YR 600 million.

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## Language class to graduate

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

Preparations in the Languages Center of Taiz University are taking place for the graduation of the first group of Master Degree graduates in both Arabic and English.

Dr. Waheebah Muharram, Dean of Languages Center, said that the preparations include the arrangements for the celebration of the center that started in 2000/2001 for diploma students.

She indicated that there is an ambitious plan submitted by the leadership of Taiz University to the Ministry of Higher Education, aiming to change the center to be "Faculty of Tongues and Translation."

She expressed her enthusiasm in turning the project into fact, due to the importance of providing specialists in languages and translation, to serve different faculties of Taiz University and the community.

She assured that the project is given vast consideration by the political leadership for preparing qualified cadre in translation work.

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- Preparing written reporting
- Contributing to the development and production of appropriate tools for the dissemination of the mission of the ICRC, the Red Cross — the Crescent Movement, and international humanitarian law

The position is based in Sana'a and involves some traveling to the field. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Persons of suitable qualification are invited to present their application including an up-to-date CV in Arabic and English, and a writing sample in English latest by 20 February 2005 to:

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Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.



IWA's 2nd annual art show

# Picturing the needs of women

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The International Women's Association (IWA), a charity organization based in Yemen, held its second annual art show last Thursday at Taj Sheba Hotel.

On display were paintings from a number of prominent Yemeni artists which drew over 200 people, both expatriates and Yemenis, to attend the exhibition.

IWA, an independent organization which was established 20 years ago, carried out the art show to collect funding that can be used to support groups in Yemen that are in need of humanitarian assistance. It also aimed at providing an opportunity for local artists to show their work to a larger audience.

"We wanted our art show to benefit in two ways," said Lisa Lavergne, co-chairwoman of IWA. "One is for people, especially those from the expat community, to become acquainted with Yemeni artists and their paintings, which can help support them. The sec-



Mazhar Nizhar, a well-known artist in Yemen, displays his paintings at the IWA Charity Art Show. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

ond is to raise money for charities that IWA supports. The art show is our biggest fundraising activity."

IWA has 80 members, including a 10-member committee made up of Yemeni and foreign women. The organization's aim is to seek out and assist those in Yemen that are receiving limited support from other organizations or institutions.

"Most of our activities are for charity, and we support a number of groups in Yemen," said Trish Gifford, co-chairwoman of IWA. "Our focus is to help groups that are receiving little funding from elsewhere, mostly women and children. We are always looking for organizations and institutions that need help. It is an ongoing process, and we will continue to find those that are in need of more support."

Up to now, IWA has worked in a number of areas, such as at the Beggars Center in Sana'a, the Girls Juvenile Center, and with the Yemeni Education

and Relief Organization which helps to support children from poor families so that they can go to school. The organization has also been involved in Al-Sada Society which teaches sewing skills and literacy for women. At the Central Prison in Sana'a, IWA has provided medication and clothes for women and children and school material for men.

IWA is now looking into offering aid to Yemen's most marginalized group, commonly called "Akhdam" in Yemen's society, planning primarily to help children go to school since a large percentage of them are working to support their families.

According to Mazhar Nizhar, one of Yemen's most famous artists and whose paintings were displayed at the art show, the charity event was a good chance for upcoming artists to become better known among those interested in Yemeni art.

"Yemen's young artists had a very

good opportunity for a large number of people to come and become familiar with their work," said Nizhar. "It is always good for many of us to display our work in one place and at the same time."

The number of artists that contributed their paintings to the exhibition increased from IWA's first art show last year, including several that came from Aden. Along with being able to sell their work, each artist donated a painting for a raffle and the profits went to charity.

Several sponsors, including Canadian Nexen, Yemen Catering &

Services, Rainbow Graphics and Taj Sheba Hotel, helped put on the exhibition, and entrance tickets and raffles brought in substantial funding for charity work.

Many of the people who attended the art show were impressed in seeing Yemeni paintings, especially expatriates who saw them for the first time.

Carolyn Han, author of From the Land of Sheba: Yemen Folktales, said, "I think Yemeni art carries the essence and spirit of the people. It is so diverse, and the cultural heritage that makes up the art is displayed in the images that we see at the exhibition."

## Raha Taxi becoming big player

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Raha Transport Co. Ltd. inaugurated its transportation services Feb. 9. Since the company started with more than 200 taxis, it now has plans 1,000.

During the inauguration party, Muhammad Ahmed al-Basha confirmed that such steps include opening branches in Aden and the rest of the governorates, and striving to develop and modernize means of transportation to be with more safety and comfort.

"The high quality of service is the main target of the company. The new taxi will reflect the real picture of the



capital Sana'a," al-Basha said.

Ziad Mohammed A. Majid, one of the company's founding members, confirmed that the company has provided 22 job opportunities during this stage.

It will provide more work chances for the youths, as it is a first Yemeni company specialized in rendering transportation services to all the community sectors, the visitors and tourists too.

Further, the company offers several specialized services, such as family service, kid's service, school service, airport service and VIP services too.



People taking a look at paintings from Yemeni artists at the IWA Charity Art Show. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

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US trade deficit

# Greenspan play politics

By MELVYN KRAUSS

**O**n the eve of the last G-7 meeting in London, US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan did a startling about-face by soft-pedaling America's trade deficit. "Market pressures... appear poised to stabilize and over the longer run possibly to decrease the US current-account deficit and its attendant financing requirements," he said. But just two months earlier, in Frankfurt, Mr. Greenspan had cautioned that the US deficit could not go on forever without the dollar depreciating. What is going on here?

To be sure, the US trade figures have improved somewhat. The expected December trade deficit is \$57 billion—an improvement on the record \$60.3 billion gap in November. And the November figure will be adjusted downward because of a recently discovered statistical error by Canadian authorities.

But politics, not economics, explains why the Fed chairman changed his tune about America's weak external position. Mr. Greenspan's statement in Frankfurt in November alarmed senior European Central Bank (ECB) officials, who considered it a "provocation"—one that promptly sent the dollar into an unwanted tailspin.

The last thing the Fed Maestro needed was a repeat performance on the eve of the G-7—a meeting that is supposed to exemplify international co-operation. So Mr. Greenspan decided to extend a peace offering to the Europeans.

Politics also explains Mr. Greenspan's pre-G-7 comment that "the voice of fiscal restraint, barely audible a year ago, has at least partially regained volume."

The Fed chairman is "hearing voices" because he is a team player who wants to encourage US budget cutting. How would it look if he had openly expressed misgivings about Bush's plan to cut the budget deficit in half by 2009 just days before it was made public? What Mr. Greenspan chose to overlook, however, is that most experts are extremely—and rightly—skeptical of the Bush plan, which leaves out big-ticket items such as the cost of the Iraq War, and uses an unrealistic benchmark from which to measure the alleged 50% cutback.

Timing the budget's release for just after the G-7 made for a harmonious London meeting in which both Americans and Europeans could claim that the US was taking care of business—that is, its twin fiscal and current-account deficits.

The Europeans gladly went along with this charade because they now fear dollar depreciation more than

global imbalance. So far, Europe's fragile economic recovery has been based largely on exports. The euro's rapid appreciation against the dollar threatens to undermine this foundation.

But internal European Union studies indicate that European exports are more closely linked to changes in external demand than the euro-dollar exchange rate. So long as external demand holds up—and recent growth numbers from China and the US are positive in this regard—Europe's exports should continue to perform well.

In any case, protecting exports by resisting euro appreciation—or, more precisely, dollar depreciation—is a poor way to promote economic growth. A strong currency keeps both inflation and ECB interest hikes at bay. This helps boost private consumption and investment.

Moreover, because crude oil is priced in US dollars, a rise in the euro means a fall in energy costs. This, too, helps European growth. Over the longer term, a strong currency promotes efficiency in export industries, further insulating competitiveness from exchange-rate effects. Dollar depreciation improves Europe's terms of trade and real income.

America's fiscal and external deficits will not disappear just because the chief magician at the



By Samer A.

Federal Reserve waves his wand and says abracadabra. On the contrary, the longer Greenspan plays down America's dangerous macroeconomic imbalances with happy talk, the more damage they will ultimately inflict on the global economy.

What the world needs now is the realist Greenspan of Frankfurt, not the cheerleader Greenspan of London. Simply put, there *must* be dollar depreciation to keep global imbalances in check. Instead of catering to European fears and prejudices about exchange rates, the Fed chairman should put politics aside and stick to sound economics.

*Melvyn Krauss is a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.*

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## Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alolfi@hotmail.com

### Too much TV

## The Arab

# anesthetization

**T**he countdown resumes as MBC "1" has launched its fourth free channel "4" with its series of news from America's CBS and ABC broadcasting corporations throughout the day resuming till midnight with drama, reality TV, comedy and celebrity news for many to enjoy.

Well, the good news is that it's working just as it did two years ago with their 2 channel which is now a movie channel with its non-stop films—Keep on rolling folks! But the bad news is "What's next?"

For the MBC (Middle Eastern Broadcasting Corporation) it is truthfully felt that they really did succeed with the "2" channel, two years ago. But was it wise and necessary to launch a third channel "3" for kids in most cases diverting them from their homework? And a fourth one which was absolutely unnecessary as all the drama, comedy and celebrity news were broadcasted on "2"?

For most of us it's like deleting dessert off a menu as all the latter blended with the films on "2" making it quite appetizing and

desirable. But now we're going to be torn apart between the two of them: Which, why, and when.

Apart from the wise decision to air America's news broadcast it is just too much, too many and although we can never forget the undeniable success of MBC1 in its past it is only too fair to admit that it has lost its significance between the three channels making it the least watched channel making "2" and "4" the most watched and no doubt the kids would love MBC 3 as it has proved a real challenge to Bahrain's "Space Toon".

Is it "War of the Channels" within the Arab Nation?

Unfortunately, it is a thing most of us are aware of, but can't stop, because of the addiction, and there is no denying that we all love TV and if we can't watch it we still need it, a necessity a part of our bondage as a community and a nation and some do go along by the proverb "Know thy enemy" and learn the way of the west to their own interest.

As we are forced to watch TV, it is only wise to take the good and leave the bad not forgetting we have lives to lead and we should all learn so as not to make further mistakes in the future.

### Mainstream American opinion

# US responding to terror

By MIKE ZOLOTAS  
mike\_zolotas@hotmail.com

**R**ecently, as apart of a course provided by my university, I have been studying history related to the current political state of countries in the Middle East. Included in this study, I have been reading various local newspapers to gain a cultural perspective.

Having read Yemen Times, granted that it has only been a brief amount of time, it seems that their have been incredible exaggerations given in its editorials section as to why US foreign policy is on its current course, and what actual American opinion is. While I can speak only definitively for myself, I would like to give a few brief points about what it is like domestically in the United States.

For the most part, US citizens do

not 'hate' Islam. The policies undertaken in the past few years, such as the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, have been responses to a growing trend of terrorism both foreign and abroad (the 9/11 attack, numerous US embassy bombings, the USS Cole etc.) against the United States.

American foreign policy of the past is not concurrent with policies of today. By this, I mean that the United States does not attempt to overthrow democratically-elected governments (Such as what happened in Iran). America has realized the error of such policies, and the horrible effects they had.

These policies were driven by Cold War fears of Communist ideology, which stated that eventual armed conflict with the west would occur. These fears do not exist today; America has no intention, nor desire of becoming an 'empire'.

Israel always seems to be a topic

of conflict. From my perspective, US citizens don't give a 'blank check' to all Israeli action, nor do Americans hold Palestinians as the sole cause of the conflict. It seems that is a tough dilemma: Israeli settlers promote Palestinian reaction in the form of suicide bombers.

The suicide bombers (whom I consider outright murders) then kill innocent civilians. Because of these bombings Israel is then forced to respond militarily. It's a never ending cycle, and one cannot label one side or the other as the sole cause of the conflict. Americans are also aware of how WWII forcefully reshaped the area Israel now occupies and how this contributed to a great amount of anger.

US policy on Iraq is widely misinterpreted, and I was somewhat troubled to find some writing that this is Zionist Conspiracy so Israel has a buffer zone (Which is a utter

fallacy. Israel can more than defend itself militarily). Iraq was invaded for a few reasons:

1) Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator, who had no qualms about killing/torturing his own citizens.

2) Saddam Hussein openly stated his intent to attack America

3) He stated his intent to develop weapons of Mass Destruction

4) He had no qualms about using WMD's, which is clearly shown in his attacks on Iranians in the Iran-Iraq war.

5) We supported him in the Iran-Iraq War and he turned out to be a brutal dictator. This can, in a small way, be viewed as a righting of a wrong. Clearly, Saddam was not only a threat to the United States, but also to the stability of the surrounding region.

I hope that my own views on this situation, which I consider relatively mainstream, are somewhat interesting to read.

### Democracy over?

# The return of the king in Nepal

By KUNDA DIXIT

**E**very time we in Nepal think things can't get worse, they do.

In 2001, as our Maoist insurgency intensified and casualties soared, almost the entire royal family—including King Birendra—were massacred by one of Nepal's princes.

The next year, parliament was dissolved and local elected bodies were disbanded. As political parties bickered, King Gyanendra, who succeeded his murdered brother, sacked the prime minister in 2002 and ruled through an appointed cabinet.

Last week, King Gyanendra sacked his prime minister again, declared a state of emergency, and suspended civil liberties. Nepal's 15-year

experiment with democracy now seems over. Since February 1, the Nepali media have been subjected to absolute censorship. Nothing that goes against the "letter and spirit" of the king's dismissal of his government is allowed to be printed and broadcast, and "action will be taken against anyone violating the notice."

Armed soldiers now sit in newsrooms, vetting the galleys before they go off to press. Sometimes, they change headlines that they think are critical of the royal move. Nepal's vibrant FM radio stations—once models for decentralized public-service broadcasting and community radio—have been prohibited from broadcasting current affairs. Some FM stations have been locked down and are silent.

The BBC's Nepalese service, which used to be relayed through a network of

12 FM stations all over the country, has been stopped. All Indian news channels have been dropped from cable networks. On Saturday, two senior journalists were detained for issuing statements critical of the crackdowns.

Newspapers and magazines are blandly reproducing official pronouncements and reports from the state-run news agency. Some have taken the risk of resorting to metaphors and allegory, while others poke fun at the whole thing by writing editorials on ballet or bee-keeping. At least one newspaper came out with its news pages completely blank.

Most young journalists, especially those in radio, have been shocked by the censorship. The freedoms that they were so accustomed to, and maybe even took for granted, have now been snatched away. But, for older journalists like me, there is a strong

sense of déjà vu—the controls hark back to the times of the partyless absolute monarchy that existed here before 1990, when self-censorship was the order of the day.

Back then, irrational news decisions, sycophancy, and propaganda were passed off as journalism. In those days, editors, reporters, and columnists played a cat-and-mouse game with the authorities, resorting to satire, humor, or metaphor.

But punishment could be harsh. Many journalists spent time behind bars, and there was a price to be paid when the morning newspapers contained even accidental typos, such as occurred when a headline concerning a royal birthday read "suspicious" instead of "auspicious."

Old jokes from the pre-1990 days have returned, like this one: a man was walking down a Kathmandu street,

shouting, "Down with dictatorship in Pakistan." A policeman grabbed him and took him in. At the police station, he asked the protestor, "Why are you denouncing dictatorship in Pakistan when it exists here?"

To be sure, many Nepalis have welcomed King Gyanendra's move this week. Much of the public is disenchanted by the instability caused by fractious and corrupt parliamentary leaders and by the Maoist insurgency, which has cost 12,000 lives in nine years. If this is what the king had to do to restore peace, they say, so be it.

After all, the king has staked all and gambled his own throne by taking over power.

They have a point. Many expect the king to pull a rabbit out of his hat, to restore peace and start raising the living standards of Nepal's 25 million people, most of whom live below the

poverty line. In his speech on February 1, King Gyanendra said the Nepali people would have to temporarily give up democracy in order to save democracy, and many Nepalese will go along with that, at least for a while. The king has a window of opportunity to deliver on his promises.

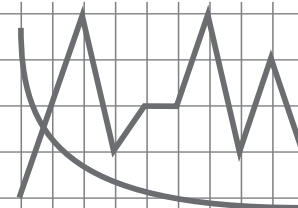
Perhaps King Gyanendra does have something up his sleeves. In the long run, however, the answer to Maoist totalitarianism is greater and more inclusive democracy, a vibrant free press, and civil liberties. Curtailing freedom merely polarizes society. Indeed, even as a short-term strategy against the Maoists, it may well prove counterproductive.

Kunda Dixit is the Editor of the *Nepali Times*.

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# YT Business



## Industry meetings

# Yemen and Jordan enhance ties

By Ismail Al-Ghabri  
Yemen Times Staff

Ministers of Industry and Commerce of both Yemen and Jordan signed on Feb.7 a report on how to enhance economic and trade ties between the two countries.

It's also geared to increase cooperation in the areas of health, medicine, electricity, industry, transportation and education.

Recent discussion has also included social development, media, tourism, social insurance and many other sectors of relevance.



The joint committee emphasized the necessity of trade exchange through boosting joint investment projects from both countries. The committee also discussed the means of cooperation through the establish-

ment of joint projects and organizing several trade exhibitions for products from both countries.

During meetings of the supreme committee, ten agreements and memorandums of understanding on

tourism, social insurance and culture were signed between both sides.

The Jordanian side delivered to the Yemeni delegation various projects, memorandums of understanding and executive projects in the areas of civil

protection and civil defense as well as the protection of plant and folklores.

Dr. Khaled Rajeh, Yemeni Minister of Industry and Commerce confirmed the necessity of enhancing trade and economic ties between the countries, increasing investment opportunities and taking an advantage from sectors in both countries like agriculture, medicine and fisheries.

The Jordanian Minister of Industry and Commerce stated that his country will exempt Yemeni products it imports from customs.

He also pointed out the importance of efforts exerted by Yemen in joining the International Trade Organization and reinforcing the role

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	186.7900	187.0300
Sterling Pound	346.5600	347.0100
Euro	238.4200	238.7300
Saudi Rial	49.8100	49.8700
Kuwaiti Dinar	639.6700	640.4900
UAE Dirhem	50.8600	50.9300
Egyptian Pound	32.0900	32.1400
Bahraini Dinar	495.4400	496.0800
Qatari Rial	51.3200	51.3900
Jordanian Dinar	263.4300	263.7700
Omani Rial	485.1600	485.7900
Swiss Franc	152.8900	153.0900
Swedish Crown	26.2400	26.2700
Japanese Yen	1.7697	1.7720

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

of the public sector in both countries through the establishment of a joint work council.

It is worth noting that the amount of trade exchange between the two countries reached over the first ten months of the last year around 20 million Jordanian diners, 17.2 million diners of which are exports.

Chemical products, dispensary drugs, papers and electrical equipment account for the bulk of the exports while fisheries, dairies and tea counted for the bulk of imports.

### Legislative and financial steps taken

## Fighting money laundering crimes

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Along with the rest of the Arab world, Yemen is continuing to fight money laundering.

But the battle is ongoing, according to specialists like legal expert Dr Akram Abdulrazzak al-Mashadani, who notes that money laundering is a crime resulting from other criminal activities.

Thus, money laundering is considered a crime used for finding an outlet for the criminals and to overcome the difficulty of dealing with outputs of their crimes like the drug trafficking, weapons smuggling, slave trading, financial corruption outputs and embezzlement.

International laws about money laundering are based on rules and terms of the UN agreement pertaining to fighting drugs. The justification of that is that drug activities are the source for dirty

money due to their financial revenues.

Now studies indicate that activities of financial and administrative corruption in developing countries, especially by the influential persons and those in control, result in the creation of huge illegitimate wealth.

The modern development of technology, computer and internet, reveals that illegal money from those crimes is huge. The republic of Yemen has taken important steps towards prevention of the crimes of money laundering. In 2003 it passed a law fighting money laundering.

A unit was formed in the Central Bank to specialize in combating money laundering.

In compliance of that law all banks working in Yemen have to commit themselves to not open accounts or preserving accounts for people of unknown identities or through correspondence.

The banks are also to verify identities of clients by depending on official documents.

## Social Fund goes to 1,037 projects

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Social Fund for Development says their 2005 work plan will entail 1,037 projects at a cost of US \$80 million, and will target the social safety network, and small enterprises.

The projects are comprised of 174 organizational training and support programs, costing US \$2.8 million, and 33 small enterprise projects, costing US \$3.2 million.

There will be 454 education projects costing US \$41.6 million,

149 water and environment projects at US\$12.472 million.

The plan also allocated US\$11.2 million for executing projects in the social protection unit – the entire intervention, the health, and those of special needs also.

The cultural heritage unit the rural highways includes the execution of 76 projects with value of US \$ 8.8 million split up into 41 highways sector projects with value of US \$ 5.2 million, and 31 projects in cultural heritage at a value of US\$3.5 million.

The fund in the last year worked on 1118 projects at a value of US \$79.3 million, 969 of which were executed.

## SIEMENS

### Job Vacancies

SIEMENS AG, Communications – Mobile Networks, Yemen Branch is seeking highly qualified local personnel for the following positions:

**One IN Engineer**  
**One Accountant**  
**One Storekeeper**

Candidates must have the following basic requirements:

- Hardworking and highly motivated person
- Fluent in English and Arabic languages
- Must be computer literate

**Additional requirements for IN Engineer**

- Computer engineering graduate with minimum rate very good
- Minimum two years experience in UNIX system administration
- CISCO certified engineer (CCNA) with one year field experience
- Minimum one year experience in the IT, TCP/IP protocol, computer LAN field and IP sub-netting

**Additional requirements for Accountant**

- Bachelor of accountancy graduate with minimum rate very good
- Minimum two years experience in bookkeeping or related field
- Knowledge of peachtree accounting software is an advantage

**Additional requirements for Storekeeper**

- University graduate with minimum rate very good
- Minimum two years experience in warehouse keeping or related field
- Knowledge of any logistics software is an advantage

If you fulfill the above requirements, please send your CV and application letter to the following address:

Fax: 412314  
P.O. Box 18611  
Sana'a, Yemen

## Agricultural exports reach YR 22 billion

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's agricultural exports have reached around YR 22 billion, an increase of YR 8 billion from 2003, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh has equipped a vessel owned by the Yemeni Economic Corporation to ship the products to foreign markets.

Sources have advised The Yemen Times that the vessel is currently the only means of transporting Yemeni agricultural products by sea.

The vessel is to be equipped with cold storage containers to preserve the products during the trip.

Agricultural sources are anticipating improvements in Yemeni agricultural exports into neighboring markets by building a number of new exporting centers.

Negotiations with two international companies are currently taking place to assemble agricultural tractors and plants with a value of approximately \$US 5 million.

Sources said that the concerned

authorities are about to achieve the irrigation network project for

producing and distributing water pipes, at a lower cost that help

farmers increase agricultural crops, and push up the exports ceiling.



Yemeni produce.



بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره

نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى الأستاذ

**منصور سعيد**

**عبدالإله**

لوفاة المغفور لها - بإذن الله تعالى - الفاضلة

**والسدته**

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدها بواسع رحمته

وعظيم غفراته ويسكنها فسيح جناته «إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون»

الأسيفون:

عماد السقاف، عارف الزريقي

وموظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز ومجلة الأسرة والتنمية

## Teachers need to be qualified

BY ABDULWAHAB ABDULQAWI AL SOFI  
ABDULWAHAB\_ALSOFI@YAHOO.COM  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**H**odeidah -Teaching is an art before it is a mere job. It is the greatest profession on the globe. It also the most dignified occupation.

The learning process depends on four main elements. These elements are serious students, qualified and prepared teachers, curriculums and the school administration. Unless these pillars of the process coexist and are available, the teaching process will never be successful.

The students and the school curriculums need coordination and cooperation between the educational management and the society from which students come.

And it's the teacher who is the main corner stone of the process.

He or she is like the main artery that provides blood to all parts of the body. Teachers do activate the teaching process essentially.

This is aside from qualified teachers improving the learning process and leading it to success. They can promote it to the peak of success.

Teachers who are careless and unqualified can weaken the process to its worst case through students as well. Students are really like a clean paper on which teacher can write whatever he or she wants.

All teachers' behaviors, their conducts — either bad or good — are stuck in students' mind. Therefore, teachers who carry bad qualities compose bad words and impressions in students' minds.

They are so strongly associated with their teachers that they imitate

their teacher in everything.

Moreover, the influence of teachers on students often surpasses even parental influence. Teachers convey moralities politeness and ethics to students easily.

Unfortunately, there are some teachers performing their duty in schools without any good manners. Some of them smoke cigarettes in schoolrooms during teaching.

This disaster, some teachers have inflicted with in our school in front of our kids does inflate to students' desire because these bad habits will be stuck in students' minds. In addition to that, we find many teachers have high abilities and morality but they don't feel the prick of conscience and its torture.

Others are academically weak with bad morality. Their tongues are very vulgar to use bad words in the school classes. I have heard and seen that some teachers are using filthy words to their students.

It is shame to be mentioned. These kinds of teachers defame the good teachers reputation. Teacher must cultivate ethics during teaching, before teaching students their lessons.

The main role of a teacher is to change darkness to light, not the opposite. That's why; teachers have a high dignity and prestige in his society when they replace illiterate and ignorant persons by moral and educated and cultural students.

It is said that a teacher is a burning candle for illuminating to others, but teachers with bad qualities are like candles burning students.

Finally, I call the educational management and all concerns to check teachers' ability and morality well before sending them to schools. They have to qualify academically and morally, before going to schools.

# Qataban and Tamane

BY ABDUL MAJID SHER\*  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**T**he Austrian traveler-scientist Glazer was the first to identify the location of ancient Tamane', the capital city of the ancient Yemeni Kingdom Qataban. He stated that it was situated along Beihan Valley. The came in his book "The Abyssenians in the Arabian Peninsula and Africa", which was published in Muneich in the year 1895. Today, the site is known to be Hajr Khahlan city lying towards the left side of the bank of Wadi Beihan, where it comes almost close to flowing its water to the desert plateau.

The first explorer to visit the site was the English traveler Berry in the year 1900. Khadi M. Al-Akwa made a search on a book entitled "The language and descendants". The word Qataban had been written in that book as reference to one of the rulers known by the name Qataban bin Ramada. As for the word Tamane' comprising four Arabic alphabets, it was seen on some of the ancient money coins discovered lately (in 1892 and 1894) in Yemen. However, the mystery of both names

was solved later in 1924 by the scientist Rhodo Canaces who discovered the first ancient inscriptions telling about this Kingdom. These were discovered on some ancient walls he found in Hajr Khahlan. Thus it became clear that it was the real site of Tamane' city of ancient Qataban state. It was regarded the second biggest city of ancient Yemen after Mareb. Belieny, another foreign explorer, stated that there used to be 65 temples built all around Tamane'.

Most history records stated that ancient nation of Qataban believed in worshipping the stars in general, and the three main gods and goddess in particular i.e. the sun, moon and Venus. The last was ranked the first, while the sun had the last rank of worship. This was indicated through interpretation of their words of repeating calls to their gods. For Venus, Ashtar was the mediating god, and was highly valued for any affairs dealing with their ordinary life, such as irrigation.

However the main official god of Qataban State was the moon, as it was known by the name "Amm". In fact the city itself had the lable of "Am tribes". The citizens of Qataban were called the "Sons of Amm", while their King was "The head of Sons of Amm".



A carving of a woman's face for the tomb made in Qataban in the 1st century AD.

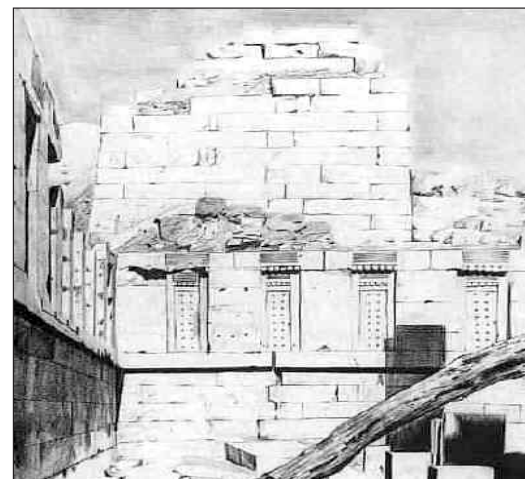
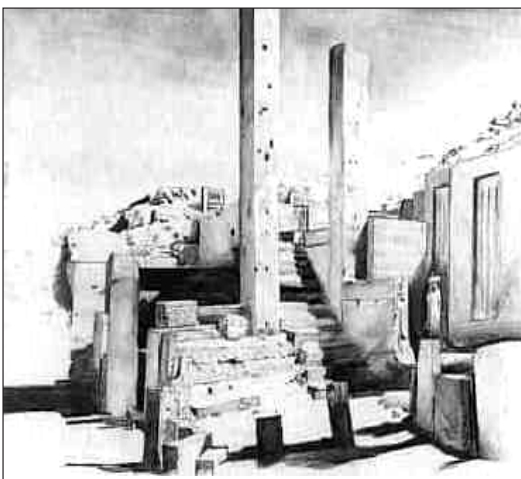
Moreover, kings of Qataban were known not to practise the autocratic rule-

ing of the State. They had around them several local representatives assigned to the regions, together with, chiefs of the tribes. These had participated and advised the kings on all matters related to the issuance of decrees and laws, as well as, the usual running affairs of the throne. This meant there were some sort of a parliamentary system exercised by the State of Qataban.

In religious matters, the King used to be the head of all temples, and was referred by the term Al-Mukareb i.e. the religious "pope" for all semi-unions of Qataban's tribes.

Some sources also indicated the actual residences of Qataban tribes were to exist on the high plateau of Beihan Valley i.e. between Beihan and Hajr bin Hameed. One archeological site was discovered lately in Hajr bin Hameed by digging through twenty underground layers of soil, and a depth of 15 meters. The date of the site relates back to the eleventh century B.C. Thus, Wadi Beihan is considered one of the most ancient inhabited areas in Yemen.

\* Mr. AbdulMajid Sher is a staff writer at the Ministry of Information in Sana'a, Yemen. He compiled the story from a history book entitled "Papers in the history and archeology of Yemen"



Sketches trying to describe how Tamane may have looked. (Source: British-Yemeni Society)

The Embassy of The United States of America announces for an immediate job opening within its organization.

## "Shipping Assistant"

The position is located in the General Service Office, American Embassy, Sana'a. Incumbent supervises the Shipping Section, arranges and facilitates the incoming and outgoing shipment and customs clearances of household and personal effects.

### Required Qualifications:

**Education:** College education is required.

**Prior Work Experience:** Three years' of progressively responsible experience in customs work or a closely related field. Some supervisory experience is required.

**Language Proficiency:** Level III (good level) English ability is required; fluent Arabic reading and writing is essential.

**Ability:** Must have good interpersonal skills relating to protocol with Republic of Yemen Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and Custom officials of Airport custom, packing and transfer companies, and with U.S. Citizen personnel.

**Grade/Salary:** \* EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-06 (to be confirmed by Washington)

\*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-08

**How to apply:** All Interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sana'a, Yemen, Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than February 26, 2005.

**NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

Ministry of Finance  
Civil Service Modernization Project  
Implementation Project Unit

### Accounting & Financial Management Information System (AFMIS) Request for Expression of Interest of International Advisor for the AFMIS Conceptual Design

The Government of Yemen, GOY, is conducting a Civil Service Modernization Project, CSMP, which comprises, among other component, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting management Information system, AFMIS that is supervised by the Ministry of Finance, MOF, through a Project Implementation Unit, PIU, and funded by the International Development Agency, IDA, and the Government of Yemen.

AFMIS is designed to address three major parts of public finance management reform; those are budget preparation, budget execution and accounting. AFMIS is a main component of the whole modernization project, and will accommodate certain agreeable sets of reform steps in the public expenditure process, of Yemen, both at the Central and Local Authority Levels. The system in its first stage will be rolled out the three large spending units, and ultimately to all other governmental spending units. At this stage of implementation it has been agreed between the GOY and World Bank that technical assistance (TA) is needed to mitigate potential project implementation risks in the areas of Project management, conceptual design and third-party testing. To address these needs and help ensure that the target milestones of the AFMIS component are met, the Bank has proposed deploying the above-mentioned three advisors, and this TOR is the subject of the international technical assistance advisor needed to help in producing a conceptual design document.

#### Responsibilities

1. The International Advisor for AFMIS Conceptual Design. Will help the MOF develop a conceptual design document that sets out a coherent model for the budget management framework on a whole and shows how the proposed AFMIS would fit into this overall framework.
2. Mainly, the International Advisor should produce a model that provides clarity about the new framework to concerned officials, the project implementation team and the contractors.
3. The International Advisor must be a ware of the great deal of the necessary details work that has been done in developing AFMIS technical and functional specifications by building on this work and towards a coherent and internally consist framework incorporating revision to these specification in particular the conceptual design should produce a conceptual Model to:
  - Clarify the deliverables, modules and sub-modules to be provided as part of an integrated system and specify the central role of the general ledger.
  - Specify the accounting basis to be followed for initial AFMIS implementation and describe a transition path for any move in the long term to full accrual accounting.
  - Specify the GFS 2001 compliant budget classification to be implemented as part of the AFMIS emphasizing that this can be done while remaining on a cash basis of accounting.
  - Develop and obtain approval of the chart of accounts to be implemented as part of the AFMIS.
  - Clarify the accounting process relating to receipts and payments and the manner in which are to be reconciled with CBY data;
  - Describe the budget execution functions currently undertaken by the CBY that are to be taken over by the MOF; and
  - Clarify whether the system is to be based on centralized or distributed database architecture.
  - Show the inter-relation among the various or sub-modules.
  - Provide business process description for each modules and sub-modules including input, process, and output, for each module.
4. The international consultant will directly report to the Head of the Steering Committee, and the Manager of the AFMIS PIU. Copies of all documents should be sent in parallel to the project PIU, the project advisor on project management and the head of the steering committee.

#### Qualification and experience

- M.S/PHD in public finance with extensive knowledge in IT for AFMIS implementation.
- Perfect English Language
- At least 10 years proved knowledge and experience in AFMIS Conceptual Design for Public Sector.

#### Deliverables

- AFMIS Conceptual Design Document submitted to the Minister/Vice Prime Minister and the World Bank
- Conceptual design finalized and approved by the World Bank and the Government of Yemen.

#### Scope of the Mission

- 6 months period of short term assignments.

The consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines selection and employment of consultants by World Bank borrowers (current edition, January 1997, and revised in September 1997 and January 1999, May 2002 and May 2004.

#### Males and Females will be accepted in this position

Candidates who have the necessary qualification are invited to submit their Curriculum Vita with a copy of their qualification no later than 28 of February, 2005 to the following address:

Ministry of Finance, AFMIS Project Coordinator's Office  
Alsafia-Sana'a-Yemen  
Tel: 504164, 504161 or by email: [afmisyemen1@yahoo.com](mailto:afmisyemen1@yahoo.com)

# We can do greater good

## Kyoto has wrong priorities

By BJORN LOMBORG

**W**hen the Kyoto treaty enters into force on February 16, the global warming community will undoubtedly congratulate itself: to do good they have secured the most expensive worldwide treaty ever. They have succeeded in making global warming a central moral test of our time. They were wrong to do so.

Global warming is real and is caused by emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). But existing climate models show we can do little about it. Even if everyone (including the United States) applied the Kyoto rules and stuck to them throughout the century, the change would be almost immeasurable, postponing warming for a mere six years in 2100 while costing at least \$150 billion a year.

Global warming will mainly harm developing countries, because they are poorer and therefore less able to handle climate changes. However, by 2100, even the most pessimistic forecasts from the UN expect the average person in the developing countries to be richer than now, and thus better able to cope.

So Kyoto is basically a costly way of doing little for much richer people far in the future. We need to ask ourselves if this should be our first priority.

Of course, in the best of all worlds, we would not need to choose our priorities. We could do all good things. We could win the war against hunger, end conflicts, stop communicable diseases, provide clean drinking water, improve education and halt climate change. But we can't do everything. So we must ask the hard question: what should we do first?

Some of the world's top economists - including three Nobel Laureates - answered this question at the Copenhagen Consensus last May. They found that dealing with HIV/AIDS, hunger, free trade, and malaria were the world's top priorities, where we could do the most good for our money. Moreover, they put urgent responses to climate change at the bottom of the list.



Factory fumes contribute much to global warming.

In fact, the panel called these ventures - including Kyoto - "bad projects," because they cost more than the good they do.

As the economics of climate change has become ever clearer, warnings from the global warming community have become shriller. For example, the head of the UN Climate Panel says, "We are risking the ability of the human race to survive."

Such statements make headlines, but they are nonsense. For example:

- At a recent meeting at Exeter in the UK, some participants warned of a 50-50 chance that the Gulf Stream winds could collapse within a century. Such a scenario looks great in the movie "The Day After Tomorrow," but it is unsubstantiated. As one presenter at the conference summarized: "No models have shown a complete shutdown, or a net cooling over land areas. Hence a

shutdown during the twenty-first century is regarded as unlikely."

- Recently, a coalition of prominent environmental and development organizations claimed that malaria would increase in a warmer world. This has some theoretical validity, but ignores malaria's dependence on poor infrastructure and health care. Indeed, throughout the cold 1500-1800's, malaria was a major disease in Europe, the US, and far into the Arctic Circle. Malaria infections didn't end because it got colder (it actually got warmer), but because Europe and the US got rich and dealt with the problem. With developing countries getting richer over the century, malaria is similarly likely to decrease rather than increase.

- We are told that sea levels will rise - by roughly 50 centimeters by 2100 in some scenarios. This is correct, and it will clearly cause problems in low-

lying countries like Bangladesh. But the alarmists neglect to mention that sea levels rose through the twentieth century by 10-25 centimeters. Did anyone notice? The rise in the twenty-first century will be worse and should not be trivialized, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that the total cost of adaptation will be around 0.1% of GDP.

The "end-of-civilization" argument is counterproductive to serious public debate. It makes us believe that we only have one choice. Yet the reality is that we can choose to make climate change our first priority, or we can choose to do a lot more good first.

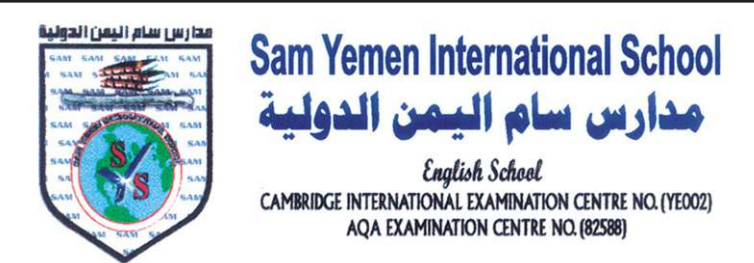
To say this is not to suggest laissez faire. Far from it. Thousands died in Haiti during recent hurricanes, but not in Florida, because Haitians are poor and cannot take preventive measures. Breaking the circle of poverty by addressing the most pressing issues of disease, hunger, and polluted water will not only do obvious good; it will also make people less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

We live in a world with limited resources, so caring more about some issues means caring less about others. If we have a moral obligation, it is to spend each dollar doing the most good that we possibly can. With Kyoto, the world will spend \$150 billion a year on doing little good a century from now. In comparison, the UN estimates that half that amount could buy clean drinking water, sanitation, basic health care, and education for every single person in the world. Which is better?

Global warming really is the moral test of our time, but not in the way its proponents imagine. We need to stop our obsession with global warming and start dealing with more pressing and tractable problems first.

*Bjorn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, editor of Global Crises, Global Solutions, and author of The Skeptical Environmentalist.*

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Sam Yemen International School is seeking to employ highly qualified and experienced teachers in the following specializations:

- 1- **MATHEMATICS TEACHER** (Higher secondary level, I.G.C.S.E system, required for extra classes).  
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**Qualifications:** (M.S.C).  
**Experience:** Not less than 3 - 5 years.
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**Qualifications:** (M.S.C).  
**Experience:** Not less than 3 - 5 years.
- 4- **ART TEACHER (Female)**  
**Qualifications:** Graduate.  
**Experience:** Previous teaching experience required.
- 5- **MUSIC TEACHER (Female)**  
**Qualifications:** Graduate and should be able to teach with notes.  
**Experience:** Previous teaching experience required.
- 6- **OFFICE SECRETARY (Female)**.  
**Qualification:** B.A (required professional typist in Arabic and English and photoshop designing with 3 years experience).  
**Experience:** Previous teaching experience required.

Applicants should be fluent in English and preferably with American or British accent. Interested candidates are requested to contact the following phone numbers:

Tel. No.: 440353, 4 extension 2.  
Mobile: 77206705.

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- 4- مدرسة موسيقى (على أن تكون خريجة وتحمل خبرة في مجال التدريس لمدة ثلاث سنوات).
- 5- مدرسة رسم (على أن تكون خريجة وتحمل خبرة في مجال تدريس الرسم لمدة ثلاث سنوات).
- 6- سكرتيرة مكتب (على أن تكون خريجة ومتمكنة من الطباعة العربي والإنجليزي وتستخدم برنامج التصاميم (الفوتوشوب) بطلاقة، وخبرة لا تقل عن 3 سنوات).

هاتف: 440353/4 تحويلة 2، محمول: 77206705

### Ministry of Finance Civil Service Modernization Project Implementation Project Unit

#### Accounting & Financial Management Information System (AFMIS)

##### Request for Expression of Interest of International Advisor/An AFMIS Component Test Third Party Consultant

The Government of Yemen, GOY, is conducting a Civil Service Modernization Project, CSMP, which comprises, among other component, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting management Information System, AFMIS that is supervised by the Ministry, MOF, through a Project Implementation Unit, PIU, and funded by the International Development Agency, IDA, of the World Bank, WB and the Government of Yemen.

AFMIS is designed to address three major parts of public finance management reform; those are budget preparation, budget execution and accounting. AFMIS is a main component of the whole modernization project, and will accommodate certain agreeable sets of reform steps in the public expenditure process, of Yemen, both at the Central and Local Authority Levels. The system in its first stage will be rolled out the three large spending units, and ultimately to all other governmental spending units. At this stage of implementation it has been agreed between the GOY and World Bank that technical assistance (TA) is needed to mitigate potential project implementation risks in the areas of Project management, treasury design and third-party testing. To address these needs and help ensure that the target milestones of the AFMIS component are met, the Bank has proposed deploying the above-mentioned three advisors, and this TR is the subject of the third party tester for AFMIS application Software to be produced by the project contractor.

#### Responsibilities

In general, the Contractor selected to do the testing should be familiar with the following aspects while doing the testing of AFMIS. The contractor is expected to perform, inter alia, five main testing activities. These five activities collectively ensure that the AFMIS software that has been written and produced by Yemen soft is error and bug free. The major testing activities are:

- ∞ Creating a Test Plan
- ∞ Designing Tests
- ∞ Implementing the Test cases
- ∞ Executing Tests
- ∞ Evaluating Test results

Each of these activities has inputs and output test assets associated with each; each activity will require certain assets as inputs produce other test assets as outputs and may use these assets interchangeably.

- Ensuring that all Software component comply with the approved conceptual design documents, the following tasks should be carried out
- Performing application Software test process in accordance with all General Condition clauses and special condition clauses stated on the project contract signed between AFMIS and the contractors (Yemen Soft and CEW) on 31/5/2003:
  - The deliverable, modules, and sub-modules must be provided as part of an integrated system with clear specification for the central role of the general ledger.
  - A transition path for an AFMIS move to full accrual base accounting is well defined, implemented, and produced
  - While remaining on a cash basis of accounting, a GFS2001 compliant budget classification is to be implemented as a main part of AFMIS
  - A confirmed chart of accounts is developed and implemented
  - A budget execution function currently undertaken by the CBY is taken over by MOF through AFMIS application
  - Business process description for each modules and sub-modules is reflected in AFMIS deliverables through input process and outputs.

#### Qualification

- MS/PHD in computing with extensive knowledge of governmental public expenditure computerized system.
- Perfect English Language.
- Experience in AFMIS Conceptual Design, Networking and Implementation.

#### Deliverables

For each module and sub-modules of AFMIS in accordance with the responsibilities mentioned above a testing procedures document includes the following:

- Test processes
- Test indicators
- Test data
- Test indicators and measurements
- Test results

#### Scope of the Mission

Short term visit to Yemen each two months for a period of one year.

The consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines selection and employment of consultants by World Bank borrowers (current edition, January 1997, and revised in September 1997 and January 1999, May 2002 and may 2004)

#### Males and females will be accepted in this position

Candidates who have the necessary qualification are invited to submit their Curriculum Vita with a copy of their qualification no later than 28 of February, 2005 to the following address:

Ministry of Finance  
AFMIS Project coordinator's Office  
Alsafia-Sana'a, Yemen Tel: 504164, 504161  
Or by email: [afmisyemen1@yahoo.com](mailto:afmisyemen1@yahoo.com)

### Ministry of Finance Civil Service Modernization Project Implementation Project Unit

#### Accounting & Financial Management Information System, AFMIS

##### Request for Expression of Interest of International Advisor for the AFMIS Project Management, IAPM

The Government of Yemen, GOY, is conducting a Civil service modernization Project, CSMP, which comprises, among other component, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting Management Information System, AFMIS that is supervised by the Ministry, MOF, through a Project Implementation Unit, PIU, and funded by the International Development Agency, IDA, and the Government of Yemen.

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#### Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all involved to ensure that the Project management Advisor has the ability to independently with all parties concerned within the ministry of Finance. He should be present when possible as an active participant in the work of the steering committee.

The International consultant/Project management Advisor will report to the PIU Manager. He/she is to advise and evaluate the coordination of technical, management and user requirements; advise the MOF on international best practices and develop a strategic action plan for the next 12 months on the major milestones and specific deliverables/He will undertake two-week supervision mission to Sana'a each month for the next six months to review, advise and assist the GOY in implementing the AFMIS component.

International consultant will work closely with the AFMIS Ministerial Committee comprising of senior MOF officials and key user groups/he would also work with relevant line ministries and the AFMIS vendor. S/he will have equal reporting responsibility to the Minister of Finance and the World Bank.

The project management advisor will, inter alia, carry out the following tasks:

- Ensure progress of AFMIS implementation in relating to timing and recourse
- Advise and review and revise the project plan in accordance with the conceptual design to be produced by the International Advisor for AFMIS conceptual Design and the project vendor have it submitted to the AFMIS Ministerial Committee and Adopted by the Minister of Finance/vice prime Minister by the end of June 2005
- Supervise and support the work of the International consultant for the conceptual design and of the AFMIS vendor
- Ensure coordination between AFMIS development and GFS adoption for budget classification (action plan to be adopted by may 31, 2005 for GFS), and help ascertain which GFS measures may be adopted by AFMIS depending on technical resources and capacity
- Report to the AFMIS Ministerial Committee on a bi-monthly basis on AFMIS progress, raise issues needing to be solved before the next step, ensure that support and help are provided to the relevant units of the Ministry of Finance as needed.
- Ensure Ministry-wide information and dissemination on AFMIS progress.
- Ensure timely information of the Minister of Finance/Vice Prime Minister
- Build capacity and transfer knowledge

#### Qualification and experience

- MS. In business administration Information systems, Public finance, or related subject. A minimum 11 years experience in project management.
- Demonstrated experience in the management of comparable projects in developing countries, particularly in the Middle East Region.
- Superior proficiency in the English language; knowledge of Arabic would be asset (otherwise a translator will be provided by the IDA credit)

#### Deliverables

Regular/Periodic Report at the end of each visit

#### Scope of the Mission

Two weeks visit per month for a period of six months.

The consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines selection and employment of consultants by World Bank borrowers (current edition, January 1997, and revised in September 1997 and January 1999, May 2002 and May 2004.)

#### Males and females will be accepted in this position

Candidates who have the necessary qualification are invited to submit their Curriculum Vita with a copy of their qualification no later than 28 of February, 2005 to the following address:

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Alsafia-Sana'a, Yemen Tel: 504164, 504161  
Or by email: [afmisyemen1@yahoo.com](mailto:afmisyemen1@yahoo.com)

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INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

## YR 2,500,000 In Prizes

### TeleYemen Hands Over Checks to Two Lucky Winners

In a ceremony held at the Taj Shiba Hotel, here in Sana'a February 8, 2005, TeleYemen handed over its prepaid cards sweepstakes. The grand prize of YR 2,000,000 was handed over to the lucky winner, Abdul-Muhammad Ali from Aden and the second prize of YR900,000 was given to the lucky winner Hassan Muhammad Al-Dabbani from Sana'a District in Hadramout.

The checks were handed over to the winners by Mr. Abdul-Wahab Abdul-Ghassab, chief financial officer of the company and Mr. Jean-Michel Ranchon, Commercial & Marketing Director. TeleYemen, organized a sweepstakes on its prepaid cards of international calls from any telephone numbers, land or mobile that was used during the period 4-31st of December, 2004.

**LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY**

Khalid Al-Dabbani, indirect sales manager, explained that the company organized the sweepstakes to reward people who are using the services and to make others aware of the use of using TeleYemen's prepaid cards service. He added that the company is working hard to be the forefront to provide leading-edge telecommunication facilities and other various services. He indicated that there is a number of marketing plans to promote customer loyalty, which will be offered to them to boost the company's interaction with its client base.

TeleYemen prepaid cards enable customers to make direct international telephone calls from any land or mobile phone without the need for subscription or monthly billings. The service uses a system which deducts payments directly from the value of the card which comes in different denominations. The cards are marketed to the public through various channels and are available in groceries, telecommunication centers and many post offices. It can be easily used to make an international call from the store, home or from a Yemeni Mobile Phone.

TeleYemen provides state-of-the-art telecommunication solutions and services to all the segments of the Yemeni community. It also aims at achieving reasonable profits to enable itself to continue updating its infrastructure to keep abreast of technological progress, and to establish a good reputation that guarantees the continuation of its success in the world of telecommunication.

**WHY PREPAID CARDS?**

The prepaid card is meant to cover the customer monthly billing and he doesn't have to sign a contract. By using this service, you can call the utility number 194. This card is available in different denominations to suit the customer's budget. It can be used while traveling across the Yemeni cities and the card cost to the user will be much less than that charged by banks and other telecommunication facilities. Furthermore, ease and flexibility of the service allows user to control the cost of international calls and know the cost of the call in advance. In the high-tech world of telecommunication, there is only a place for professional service and reasonable tariffs. TeleYemen has it all with destinations all over the world at incomparable prices and services.

**TeleYemen INTERNET**

The company has been a provider of the Internet services since 1996. It has expanded and enhanced the service to suit the technological progress and the demands of market. Internet rates have been reduced three times. The services provided are as follows:

- 1- Internet through landlines.
- 2- ISDN
- 3- Prepaid Internet cards "Easy Access"
- 4- Leased lines (up to 2 Mega byte per second)
- 5- Website hosting and domain name registration
- 6- Fixed personal numbers.
- 7- E-mail box for every domain name.

There are many reasons why customers prefer TeleYemen internet service such as:

- instant activation of the service (upon registration)
- higher speed compared to other ISPs.
- Server up time is excellent.
- flexibility of using the service through any telephone line in the country.
- state-of-the-art filtering of e-mail attachments.
- efficient system for blocking pornographic websites.
- Secure and reliable e-mail.

Photo: top of winners & TeleYemen Staff

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

The new year will offer new services to all customers that will respond to all the customer needs and with regard to the Internet, they will also be distinguished services that will serve the field of business in particular. All these services will be characterized by the highest speed and following very advanced software and hardware," says Khalid M. Al-Dabbani, indirect sales manager. TeleYemen is always updating all the technology that is being used in order to keep pace with new high-tech among at providing quality service," he added. TeleYemen is also distinguished in their other services.

Mr. Jean-Michel Ranchon, Commercial & Marketing Director "we are working not only on the technical side, we are also working on the intelligent network platform and we are also promoting services and our distribution channels. He added, "In TeleYemen we take care of all the needs of our customers and we address specific offers based on what our customers are looking for. Take for example, the Prepaid Cards service which can be used to make phone calls to any where in the world using land lines or Yemeni Mobile Phone (calling on prepaid)." He added that there are many ways to make international phone calls, but to insure that the customer is being billed at the right tariffs, there are only two ways: ISD subscription or TeleYemen prepaid cards.

A view of the awards ceremony

# Improve Your English



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P. O. Box 14533, Sana'a

# 265

### I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (76):  
Job advertisement (II)

**L**anguage of ad is bound to be captivating in order to capture the consumers' attention and win their hearts. Especially when an organizer looks for the potential work force of the right ability, aptitude and attitude, the ads need to be extremely apt and appropriate.

- Do you wish to make your dream come true while your friends sleep?
- Touch the future of Telecom with —
- If you are looking for an environment with endless learning opportunities and best recompense, then be part of one of the finest institutes. Be part of the vibrant team of —
- "My perks include developing self-confidence, self-esteem and discipline. I work for —"
- Are you sure you are 'you'? If this be so, a leading group committed to aesthetics and modernity is looking for you or your clones who can make an impression of individuality.
- Want to kick start your career in banking? We are looking for graduates to aggressively promote competitive financial products of the bank.

### II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. He had hardly recovered from his illness than he had another heart attack.
2. Supposing if I give you a cheque how will you deposit it?
3. As he is generous, so he spends lavishly.
4. They had hardly gone a few yards that they met Rashid.
5. Unless you do not give up bad habits you will have to repent.

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. He parted **with** his friend due to ideological differences.
2. An honorable person prefers death **to** dishonor.
3. I introduced my friend **to** my neighbors.
4. She must be compensated **for** the loss suffered by her.
5. The milk was **too** hot to drink.

### III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. To work on or talk about silly things.
2. Of a liquid to flow or fall out in drops little by little.
3. A short private road leading from the street to a house.
4. To rain in very small drops or very lightly.
5. Ready to fall asleep.

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Written order for payment of money by a bank: **draft** (n)
2. To cause (someone) to feel weak after illness: **drag down** (vt)
3. A network of actions and methods for catching criminals: **dragnet** (n)
4. A very attractive person of the opposite sex: **dream-boat** (n)
5. A person fond of looking smart in fine clothes: **dressy** (adj)

#### (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

1. **chide**
  - a. to make fun of
  - b. to rebuke
  - c. to cheat
  - d. to flatter
2. **riddle**
  - a. to entangle
  - b. to question
  - c. to explain
  - d. to fill with holes
3. **stringent**
  - a. shrinking
  - b. long drawn-out
  - c. sarcastic
  - d. severe

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Word	Synonym
1. deport	to banish
2. alleviate	to lessen
3. chauvinism	blind patriotism

(ii) Antonyms

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

1. **adornment**
  - a. blemish
  - b. perfect
  - c. sincere
  - d. approve
2. **refinement**
  - a. spotless
  - b. courage
  - c. vulgarity
  - d. poverty
3. **optimism**
  - a. dread
  - b. despair
  - c. abandon
  - d. straight forward

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Word	Antonym
1. aggravate	pacify
2. exhilaration	despondery
3. pensive	jubilant

#### (C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. as, like
2. alibi, excuse
3. elapse, lapse
4. fruit, fruits
5. enough, sufficient

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **authentic** (adj) (known to be true :an authentic book or document is one in which things stated are as they really happened): The certificate produced by the candidate was authentic.
1. **genuine** (adj) (true; really what it is said to be. A genuine book or document is one that is written or made out by the person whose name it bears. It is opposite of 'fake'): It is uncertain whether the book is genuine.
2. **attempt** (vt) (to make an effort to do something with some hope of success): He attempted to accomplish the difficult task.
1. **try** (vt) (to test by use and experience, but with greater uncertainty of result): I'm not sure of the outcome, but shall certainly try once.
3. **cavalcade** (n) (company or procession of persons on horseback or in carriages): The cavalcade in the ceremonial parade presented an interesting spectacle.
1. **procession** (n) (number of persons, vehicles, etc., moving forward in an orderly way): The marriage procession forced the traffic to come to a grinding halt.
4. **forceful** (adj) (full of force): The speaker presented a forceful argument.
1. **forcible** (adj) (involving the use of force): The police made a forcible entry into the building.
5. **limit** (n) (the farthest edge or point): You must observe the limits of decorum in your words and acts.
1. **limitations** (n) (disability or inability): I'm aware of my limitations.

#### (D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

1. in the long run
2. play it safe
3. make (someone's) blood run cold
4. take the bull by horns
5. take one's life in one's hands

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **go in one ear and out the other** (to make no impression): You have no mind to learn. That's why the lesson goes in one ear and out the other.
2. **like a lamb to the slaughter** (meeting danger or difficulty quietly and without resistance): The murder accused went to the execution ground like a lamb to the slaughter.
3. **bring home the bacon** (earn enough money to support one's family): He went abroad for five years and brought home the bacon.
4. **get lost** (a rude way of telling someone to go away): 'I don't want to see your face. Get lost,' shouted the angry husband at the wife.
5. **be behind bars** (be in prison): The culprit was apprehended and is presently behind bars.

### IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Match what the speaker is doing in sentences 1-10 with the ways of talking below suggesting, repeating, threatening, denying, claiming, warning, replying, admitting, promising, advising

1. I'm fine, thank you.
2. If you don't shut up, I'm going to hit you very hard.
3. Don't go too close to the dog – sometimes he bites.
4. I stole the money from the desk.
5. I had absolutely nothing to do with the robbery. I wasn't even in the country.
6. I won't ever forget you, and I'll write every day.
7. Why don't you go to the cinema this evening?
8. As I said before, I think you're making a mistake.
9. There's definitely a ghost here – I've seen it with my own eyes.
10. I think that if I were in your position, I would talk to her and tell her exactly how you feel.

#### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. I'm afraid my salary leaves me **little** money to spend on entertainment.
2. Fortunately I have made **very few/a few** good friends since I came to live here.
3. I find **little** time for reading.
4. There are **a few/very few** jobs available in this area.
5. **Few** people came to the meeting.
6. There was a **very little** turn out of supporters at the football tournament.
7. You've been eating biscuits again. There are **very few** biscuits in the tin!

#### (B) Composition

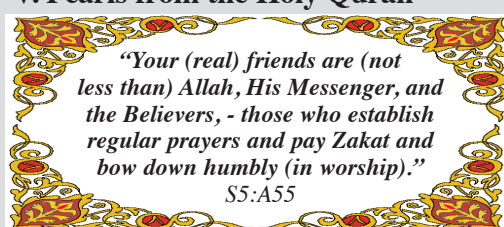
Expand the idea contained in the maxim  
**89: ONE SPARROW DOES NOT MAKE A WINTER**

#### The previous week's topic

**88: ONE IS AS YOUNG AS ONE FEELS**

Youth is not a mere phase in the course of one's physical growth and development. More so, it is a mental condition characterized by interest, enthusiasm, verve, vivacity, energy, dash and drive. It symbolizes a spirit of flamboyant intoxication and of triumphant stride..It signals a time to go flashing from one end of the world to the other both in mind and body. Imbued by an unconquerable will ,energized by an indomitable power and an irrepressible urge, youth is indeed,a metaphor for relentless exploration and expansion. As such, it has little to do with chronological or physical age because it is concerned with the typical mindset or mental make up. A person may be old in age but still young in mind or spirit if he is capable of displaying youthful exuberance and vigor,that is, if his inner springs of hope , aspirations and joy are alive. So there is no one -to- one correspondence between physical and mental age. Youth is a matter of attitude, perception or feelings, and is not dependent on chronological age.

### V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



#### VI. Food for Thought

**"We are one, after all, you and I. Together we suffer, together exist, and forever will recreate each other."**  
—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

### A letter to the teachers of English: 75

## Teaching a poem in the Secondary class (5)



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

ple, a few sample questions for the poem 'Leisure' can be,

- What is full of care? Why?
- Why do people not have time to stand and stare?
- Why does the poet want us to stand and stare at several things?

Where does the smile begin? What can it enrich?

These are in addition to those given in Workbook 6 page no.93; I am sure you can think of better questions, if you spend sometime for it. These and similar questions test the understanding as well enable the learners to appreciate the poem. You can also ask about the poetic features employed in the poem , but keep them to the minimum, because these will lead to analyzing the poem into pieces and destroying it.

Some of us, especially those teaching at the higher level, are fond of asking students questions that are more difficult than the poem itself. In a study of the question papers used in a university for literature courses, one of the researchers has found that most of them focus on the technical aspects of texts, asking the students to 'explain' or 'discuss' or 'elucidate'; much of what is asked for requires simple recall of materials that has been analyzed in the classes, 'insulting their intelligence'. It is time we wake up and do justice to our profession in the universities, treating students as matured individuals and test their critical thinking and creative abilities.

To sum up, test poems without killing the interest of the learners; let them appreciate poems in English and attempt to write a few in English. Don't allot too many marks for testing poems. Find out a better way to test poems. Good luck.

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

#### Dear Fellow teachers,

**I**n the last four letters I discussed the teaching of poems and presented my vies about what poems are, how they are different from other writings, how they should be taught in order to bring about the messages they convey without destroying the beauty of the writings and how the poem "Leisure" prescribed in the secondary three can be taught for the benefits of the learners.

In this last letter in the series I intend to share my views about how to test the poems, if we have to test them at all. I personally feel that poems are not for testing in the examination, but we have no choice, do we, in this matter. If we have to test poems, as the system demands, these are my views in this regard:

First of all, why am I against testing poems? Poems, as I stated in my early letters, are for reading and enjoying and how can we measure the degree of enjoyment with questions in the examination? Most of us destroy our learners' interest in reading more and more poems in the name of tests, and make poems a subject for scrutiny and examination; there cannot be a worse way to kill our learners' love for poetry.

As we have to test poems how do we do it? One of the ways of testing a poem is to test the learners' understanding of it by asking simple but challenging questions. Watch my adjectives: simple, challenging. The language of the question should be simple but the message you are testing should be challenging. For exam-

## Love, a double-edged weapon

BY SAEED OMER AL-BATATI  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION – SEIUN  
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#### Love is blind

As love dominates the mind, it makes the lover look through one eye feeling his beloved's white side only. As a result, he condones and overlooks her wrongdoings. Even if his beloved made a serious mistake, he vindicates this behavior what ever it was.

#### Love in the past

Love has always affected its victims down the ages. The pre and early Islamic areas abound with many examples.

Perhaps no one has undergone love like Qais and Layla, his beloved, Antara and Abba, and Jameel and Bothina. Those lovers were poets, so they wrote the most deeply moving and interesting love poems in Arab culture which depict the ocean of love they have sunk into..

#### Love in the age of technology

Nowadays, love is just like what it was in the past as far as its impact is concerned. However, a clear difference is that in the present age technology is used as a powerful medium for conveying the cadences of love. Moreover, in the past love was purer than it is today. In the modern age love is marred by falsehood and deception.

Deceptive love is discernible now, most notably among university students. Some students spend their time looking for a girl as a pastime, not seeking pure love.

Unfortunately some girls fall an easy prey to the cunning machinations of those wolves. They are tricked by their sweet talk. I earnestly hope simple and innocent ladies would realize the dangers of falling in false love and shun it by all means.

#### Common fallacy

Often one comes across dodgy people who are wolves in sheep's clothing. Outward appearance can sometimes deceive. Some people are outwardly pious but their inner characters are as devilish I'm trying here to refute the theory of a "love at first sight." Your first meeting with any person cannot give you a sound judgment about him/her. It only starts takes you to the brink of a fragile love as the proverb says "easy come, easy go".

#### Everlasting love

It is your right to love, but you have to know to whom you give your heart. To create a steadfast and everlasting love, you need to know enough about your beloved, their personalities interests, needs and motivations, in order to get them willing to listen to you. This love cannot be easily shaken by the wind of change.

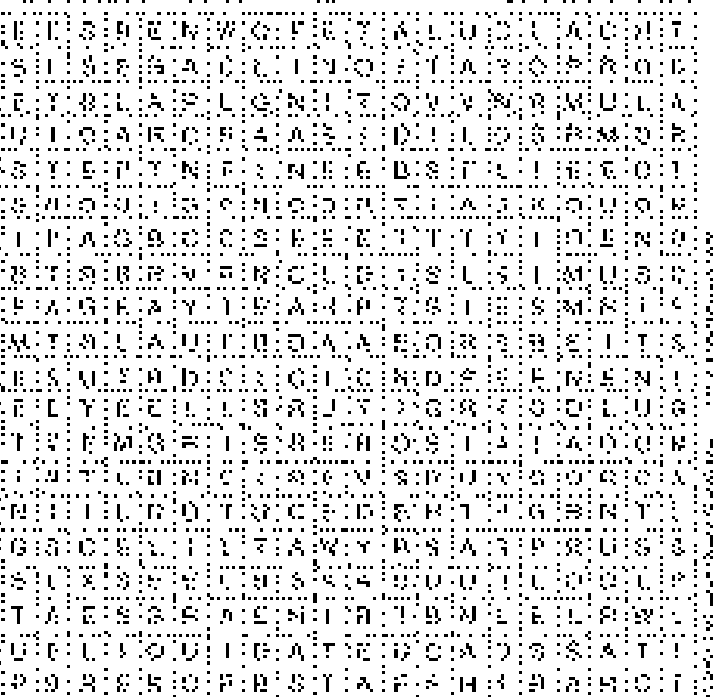
You can trust that person completely and safely divulge your secrets to him/her. Mind you, better look before you leap.

### WONDERWORD BY DAVID OUELLET

WONDERWORD: Another fun word puzzle for you. The words are all 6 letters long and are made of letters that are used in the word 'WONDERWORD'. The words are listed in the clues below. Can you find all the words? The words are listed in the clues below.

CLUES			
Antonym of Bored	Opposition Bater	Grand Crown	Destiny Grave
Antonym of Crazy	Orderly Dress	High Inside	Predict Precedence
Antonym of Rude	Polite Date	Invest Inside	Road Today
Antonym of Calm	Excited Estate	Law Laws	Sanction Saw
Antonym of Cold	Hot Fog	Many Miserable	Shade Shrimp
Antonym of Quiet	Loud Fury	Large Merry	Shout Sold
Antonym of Old	Young Fidelity	Nights Others	Sight Special
Antonym of Calm	Excited Calm	Many Others	Shout Staff

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# Aceh's mentally ill suffering after tsunami

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Feared by their relatives and locked away for hours every day, life was never easy for patients at the only mental hospital in Indonesia's tsunami-devastated Aceh province.

But the giant waves that tore through the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, the day after Christmas swamped the dilapidated collection of low-rise hospital buildings several

kilometres from the sea.

The tsunami that killed tens of thousands in the city filled the 300-bed facility with thick black mud that is only now being shovelled out by Australian soldiers.

The lives of those who inhabit the concrete cells and wards will take much longer to rebuild.

Some traumatised patients climbed trees to escape the water, while the rest fled into Banda Aceh, doctors told



A resident of Banda Aceh's mental hospital, the only mental facility in Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh province, is seen on Feb. 10. Located a few kilometers from the sea, patients climbed trees or fled into the city when the Dec. 26 tsunami destroyed parts of its perimeter wall and filled wards with mud. REUTERS

leaders, they said.

Help may be on the way.

The Turkish Red Crescent Society, already working with the World Food Programme to provide emergency relief to the hospital's patients, said it was in talks with the government about building a new facility.

"There is a proposal for the construction of a new hospital building, but in the first three months they need emergency things like food," said Bulent Ozturk, an official from the Turkish group working at the hospital.

He said plans included a new trauma centre to cope with an influx of tsunami-related patients, but said it could be more than a year before the new building is ready.

Kris said the number of patients at his hospital was set to rocket as dozens of aid groups and foreign armies wound down medical operations at makeshift

refugee camps.

A 2002 survey showed many Acehese already suffered trauma after nearly 30 years of rebellion in the province, he said.

"I think it will rise three or four times from the tsunami," Kris said, but he added the stigma of mental illness may keep some needy people away.

"We already had a trauma centre, but nobody came, because they thought if they come here it means they are mad," Kris said.



Residents of Banda Aceh's mental hospital, the only mental facility in Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh province, are seen on Feb. 10. Located a few kilometers from the sea, patients climbed trees or fled into the city when the December 26 tsunami destroyed parts of its perimeter wall and filled wards with mud. To accompany feature Quake Indonesia Mental. Picture taken Feb. 10. REUTERS

Reuters.

Of 350 hospital patients, only about 140 have returned after the earthquake and tsunami. Many are filthy and wild-eyed.

They have been joined by about a dozen people suffering trauma from the tsunami, the first of many health officials expect to need help after a disaster that left more than 230,000 Indonesians dead or missing.

"The shock caused by extreme life events such as disasters can express itself as mental disorders, depression and sleeplessness," said Dr Kris, chief of medical services at Banda Aceh Mental Hospital.

The Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami struck more than a dozen nations around the Indian Ocean rim, leaving nearly 300,000 dead or missing from Thailand to Somalia.

Help on way

As many as 90 percent of survivors may have suffered psychological trauma. Children are most at risk, mental health experts said at a meeting in Thailand this month.

Tens of thousands would need either medication or counselling by doctors, relatives and religious

## Correction

We apologize to the German Embassy for not mentioning the currency name (Euro) & also for the mistake of date in the issue No. 815 in which was mentioned Feb. 3, whereas it should have been Feb. 7. Our apologies are to all those concerned.

## Villa for Rent



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