





Monday, 8 August 2005 • Issue No. 866 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf

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P8

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Tribal rallies support al-Moayyed

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Thousands of tribesmen in different parts of Yemen denounced last week the verdict issued by the U.S. Brooklyn court against Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed. The denunciation was stronger in Khawlan to which Sheikh al-Moayyed belongs.

Sheikhs, tribesmen and prominent figures from Khawlan and Amran rallied in Jihana last Thursday in a meeting expressing solidarity with Sheikh al-Moayyed, called in recent publications "father of the needy".

Those tribes issued a statement strongly denouncing what they termed "transgression against one of their prominent tribesmen and his companion Mohammad Zaid". They insisted on the concerned authorities to help secure the release of the pair, acquit them and give them material and spiritual compensations.

The statement appealed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, being the top official in the country, to have a prompt intervention to persuade the U.S. authorities to free the pair.

Khawlan tribes urged all Yemenis including sheikhs, officials, social figures and ordinary citizens, as well as all political parties and civil society organizations to play a positive role and denounce such aggression against one of the prominent national figures whom Yemen is proud of. According to tribal sources, this



The sentence against Sheikh Al-Moayyed evoked a nation-wide solidarity and support. Photo: Khawlan tribes express their solidarity. YT PHOTO BY ALI GHALIE

transgression is not only against and meet with President Saleh with Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed, but also against every noble man in Yemen. The statement stressed the necessity of a prompt solidarity with al-Moayyed to ensure status and dignity of Yemen.

The assemblies set up a committee representing the seven tribes in Khawlan to follow up the case, coor-

the intention to urge the Yemeni government to exert pressure on the U.S. authorities to free the two Yemeni prominent personalities.

All Yemeni tribes have been invited to hold an emergency meeting in the capital to discuss the case and take a unified stand toward it.

It is worth noting that the U.S. traveled to Germany for medical dinate with the concerned authorities Brooklyn Court issued a verdict last treatment.

week, sentencing Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed to 75 years in jail on charges of supporting terror and funneling money to the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas and al-Qaeda Organization. The victim was detained along with his companion Mohammad Zaid in the German city of Frankfort after he

MP still hostage, fighting renewed in Al Jawf

BY HASSSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Fighting renewed last Saturday between the two main tribes of Hamdan and Shawlan in the governorate of Al Jawf, 160 km to the northeast of the capital Sana'a. Four men were killed and tens were wounded in that fighting, when groups from the two sides met near the Al-Salman, military checkpoint in Al Jawf city

entrance.

This dispute, which is 25 years old, renewed because Hamdan tribe accuses Al-Shawlan tribesmen of the attempted assassination against their leader sheikh Hassan Abdullah Al-Iraqi head of the Al Jawf local council An unidentified group shot Sheikh Al Iraqi last Wednesday, near Saba news agency. He was hit in the head and he is now being hospitalized in Saudi Arabia. Five men from each of the two rival

tribes, Hamdan and Shawlan, on top of them MP Alokimi, were detained. This is said to be ordered by the president to impose appeasement and stop the fierce fighting in which all types of weapons were used.

Security forces launched an arrest campaign on the Alshawlan tribesmen in Sana'a. The interior ministry is said to be holding about 13 members of this tribe

The vengeance driven tribal vio- and economic stocks.

Experts warn of

possible locusts outbreak

lence, has so far claimed five thousands lives, according to formal estimates.

The Yemeni tribes have lately pressured the government over the petroleum price hikes. They blocked the highway roads, leading to shortage in cooking gas in most Yemeni towns.

Some tribal sources think that the government has an inclination to keep the Yemeni tribes engaged in continuous conflict to exhaust their military



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DLCC vehicles still hijacked in Marib



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BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen agricultural experts are afraid that locusts breakout in some African countries will affect their country wherein some breakout has been seen in some of the southern and Northern areas.

"Scattered adults are present in the summer breeding areas in the interior of Yemen and in Rajasthan, India but no significant developments are likely in either country," said a press statement issued by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 21 July.

"We are very warned about the situation in Yemen as swarms of locusts have been found in some of the African countries, mainly Sudan and Eritrea which are very close to the coats of Yemen. Limited number of locusts has been found also in the governorates of Shabwa (474 km to the south of Sana'a) and Marib (173 km to the northeast of Sana'a). Teams have been sent to the field to monitor the situation," Fuad Bahakeem, FAO National Professional Officer for Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant, Pests Diseases (EMPRES) central region said.



Abdu Al-Rumaih Fuad Bahakeem

"As the situation in Eritrea is still unclear as we have received information that swarms of locusts have been located. Although the situation in Yemen is still not threatening and worrying but the danger lies in the potential swarms that might invade the country from the African Horn countries as well as the potential rainfall in some areas. We have to monitor and be on alert," he added.

Abdu Far'e al-Rumaih, general director of the Desert Locusts Control Center (DLCC) said that the central region countries have discussed in their meeting Sudan during the period 23-29 July the situation of desert locusts. "We have found out that Darfor constitutes an imminent threat to the neighbouring countries as swarms of locusts have raided Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia and Eritrea. Continued on page 3







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Around the Nation



Times features

Readers' Voice

'Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with

us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local

This edition's question:

Do you think eating locusts is

a good way in fighting the

locust invasion in Yemen?

insecticides

solution

agenda?

No

Yes

Yes, and they are nutritious

No, they are contaminated by

I've never considered such a

Last edition's question:

Do you think that king Fahdís

death will leave an influence

52%

41%

7%

in the Kingdomís political

Yemen

affairs.

Opposition leader appointed advisor to Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- A Republican Decree was issued last Saturday, under which the prominent opposition leader Ali Saif Hassan, who was affiliated to the Nasserite Party, was appointed an advisor to the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

The Republican Decree was issued after Ali Saif Hassan was summoned to the Presidential Palace following his statement to one of the independ-

ent newspapers that he intended to run for the forthcoming Yemen's presidential elections.

On the other hand, Abdullah Sallam al-Hakimi, another Yemeni opposition leader living in Cairo, has announced through a local newspaper that he would run for the coming presidential elections scheduled September 2006.

It appears that opposition leaders who declare to take part in Yemen's coming presidential elections receive presidential honouring.

Teleyemen launches bill payment through Post Offices



The Yemen international Telecommunications Company, Tele Yemen launched Wednesday, 3 August, _2005.bill payment services through post offices and the Internet, www.post.ye.

In a press conference, held at the information Technology city; and attended by Tele Yemen's Chief Executive Officer, The GM of the public Postal Authority, PPA, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology and TeleYemen, Tele Yemen's CEO, Jan-Michel Latute confirmed that this was a step forward to facilitate bill payment for the company's subscribers and to provide better services for the public at large. He added, Tele Yemen was working at making the company customers -oriented, which responds to the public's requirements and needs. Mr. Latute confirmed that the use of the Post Office and the e-Rial for the bill payment comes as part of the ongoing effort of the Company and the PPA and to keep pace with technological development to provide better and time saving services for the company's subscribers. He pointed out that Tele Yemen would benefit from the vast postal network, which is spread throughout the country to deliver TeleYemen's services to the public at large.

HOPE Forum Calls for equal citizenship for Yemeni Jewish community.

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a,- Professor Mohamed Yahya Al Sharafi, the founder chairman of the Hope forum had led a delegation representing the HOPE Forum on a visit to the Jewish members of the HOPE in Raida town. The Jew members of the Hope had given the delegation a working luncheon party in honor of the delegation. Professor Al-Sharafi was accompanied by Sheikh Abdul Qawy Shawia and some other leading members.

Professor Al Alsharafi presided over the meeting. The meeting listened to a briefing by Mr. Masha Saeed, the head of the Hope Forum branch in Raida and other Jewish members who explained the difficulties they were facing. They said that, "We thank the government authorities that have told us that all funds for building our synagogue and the Jewish Children School are allotted for them under the government development plan and they are now ready to start launching the project. But unfortunately, when we tried to start the project some extremist fanatics prevented and threatened us from ever trying to build a Jewish school and a synagogue, and told us that they were carrying out a fatwa and strict orders issued by some religious scholars, prohibiting on Jews to build any temples or schools in Yemen." They said that they decided to pay no attention to those threats and to carry on with their projects. "But unfortunately, when we contacted concerned government officials we received from them negative attitudes towards our issues.'

After a thorough discussion, professor Alsharafi addressed the attendants from Moslems and Jews, carrying the following historic statement:

The Hope Forum is established according to the Hope (The Human

Findings of a field inspection pro-

gram revealed flaws in the performance

of some of the local councils and their

administrative bodies, in fifteen gover-

norates. This is discovered in the fields

of levying taxes, following systemic

procedures when carrying out projects

or implementation of plans and budg-

BY ISMAIL ALGHABRI



Optimal Psyche) Theory and the Islamic Moderate contemporary School of Thought. We believe that the human phenomenon is one, & all humans are equal in rights and duties. They are brothers in origin, life, fate & the one omnipresent, omniscient, Omnipotent God. And all Human rights should be respected by all Humans. We in the HOPE Forum call for justice, freedom, peace, security and tolerance between all the peoples of the universe regardless of their race, religion, cultures and all other parameters, because they are colors and symptoms of the same essence, mankind, and the homesapien race. These meanings should be regarded very carefully nowadays, since our green planet have become by the virtue of God and the recent technology revolution, a small village in space and a glance of time and all the peoples are on their way to become members of one Human nation with multiple, tribes clans and families. We are not going to accept neither tolerate any injustice held against an original member of our Yemeni society since the dawn of history. I mean the Jewish community, yes; they are our brethrens of country, and the one God who created the monotheistic Abraham faith and us all, that includes Jews, Christians and Moslems. Our Islamic faith obliges us to believe in all apostles of God, the Holy Quran says:

((He hath ordained you the religion which He commanded Noah, and which we have revealed unto thee and which we commanded Abraham, and Moses, and Jesus: saying, Observe this religion, and be not divided therein. The worship of one God, to which thou invitest, is grievous unto the unbelievers: God will elect thereto whom He pleaseth, and will direct unto the same him who shall repent.)) Chapter 42, Shurah . Verse 13

We condemn the evil ideology of hatred and terrorism. It is definitely not Godly, neither it is Islamic, definitely it is satanic.

Hope Forum calls for equal citizenship for Yemeni Jewish community. Their constitutional rights must be activated and never denied.

Yemeni Jews must not be discriminated and should have their full rights

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to worshipping and education according to their own religion, faith and private convictions, without the least Moslem community interference.

They have the rights that the state should respect and finance building of their synagogue and children school in Raida town and wherever they live.

They together with their children should be completely respected and securely protected from religious fanatics in our society.

Yemen is one of the original homes for the Jews. They originated from this land long, long ago since the kingdom of Sheba and the epoch of King Solomon and the kingdom of our great mother queen of Sheba. And their presence shall continue here as that of ours. We call upon all NGOs to participate

in our efforts for this justified purpose.

Dysfunction in local governance performance

Yemen: Secret detention centres Salah Nasser Salim 'Ali speaking about his secret detention

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE BY US AUTHORITIES.

Two men in a Yemeni prison have told Amnesty International how they were held in US secret detention in solitary confinement for over one and a half years without seeing daylight, mostly shackled and in handcuffs, with no

that co-operate in committing such human rights abuses - as Jordan, Indonesia, and Yemen appear to have done - are equally at fault."

Salah Nasser Salim 'Ali has a daughter he has never seen, who was born nearly two years ago while he was being detained. His wife says she has been traumatised by what happened and is struggling to bring up her daughter ets. There is also poor performance in the administrative systems is carried

supervising authority performance. Abdulwahab Al- Ghradhi, deputy

minister for the financial and local sponsorship in the Ministry of local governance said that, their ministry in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance carried out the program last May. The program revealed that the levying of local recourses in some of

out without formal receipts or sometimes with old receipts. They also found that coordination was missing between financial offices and the accounts units in governorates.

The program was carried out by 115 of the officials of the ministries of finance and local governance.

The field program team toured 15

governorates and 30 districts. It concentrated on the regularity of the meetings of the local councils and the procedures that are taken against absentees. It also explored however, emergency meetings are ever being held. They also looked into the administrative practices of the local councils, pursuant to the authorization that is entrusted to them by the local governance law.



chance of communicating with their families, lawyers or humanitarian organizations. They had no idea in what country they were in.

Salah Nasser Salim 'Ali and Muhammad Faraj Ahmed Bashmilah, two Yemeni friends who were living in Indonesia, told Amnesty International that they were separately detained, Salah in Indonesia in August 2003, Muhammad in Jordan in October 2003. Salah was flown to Jordan. In a report published today, both men say they were tortured by the Jordanian intelligence services for four days, and then flown to unknown underground jails where they were held in solitary confinement without charge by US guards for over 18 months. In May 2005 they were finally transferred to Yemen, only to be imprisoned there by the Yemeni authorities.

"We fear that what we have heard from these two men is just one small part of the much broader picture of US secret detentions around the world," said Sharon Critoph, North America researcher at Amnesty International, who interviewed the men in prison in Yemen. "The US authorities must disclose the identities of all people who are being held in secret, where they're being held, and open these places up to international scrutiny."

"The USA and other countries must end the practice of secret detention. Not only do such conditions encourage torture and ill-treatment, but to be "disappeared" from the face of the earth without knowing why or for how long is a crime under international law and is an experience no-one should have to go through," said Sharon Critoph. "States

alone

Throughout their experiences, neither friend knew the other was detained. Both men described their first secret detentions as being in an old-style underground facility with high walls. It took 3.5 - 4.5 hours to fly there from Jordan. After 6-8 months they were transferred to a modern purpose-built prison run by US officials, a three-hour plane journey away. Again, they had no idea where it was. Both men thought it was underground because they had to go down stairs to enter and up to leave. In both places, Western music was piped into the cells 24 hours a day.

The men's account of the modern prison suggests the use of psychological techniques to obtain information. They were interrogated every day by US personnel. Muhammad Faraj Ahmed Bashmilah described the guards and interrogators as being fully covered 'like Ninjas".

"It is the final injustice that both Muhammad and Salah find themselves imprisoned yet again, this time by the Yemeni authorities - who themselves admit they have no reason for holding them except that their transfer from US detention was conditional on doing so," said Sharon Critoph. "The Yemeni authorities should release these men from detention immediately if they are not to be charged with a recognisable criminal offence and given a fair trial."

"The Jordanian authorities should investigate the allegations of torture against Muhammad Faraj Ahmed Bashmilah and Salah Nasser Salim 'Ali and ensure anyone responsible is brought to justice," said Sharon Critoph.

SANA'A- As part of the annual exhibitions and festivals organized by Expo Company for International Exhibitions, Mr. Ahmad al-Kuhlani Ministry of the State Secretaryand General of the Capital inaugurated on Monday the first of August the Summer Exhibition

and the Electrex Festival. The event is to involve wings from Iran, Egypt, Svria and China, in addition to other world companies in the field of electricity, electronic devices and housing furniture.

Omar al-Nihmi, Apollo Marketing Officer said the exhibition is staged every year within the summer activities to meet all the needs of the con-



sumer.

Summer and Electrix Festival

staged at Expo Sana'a

He added participants compete during the exhibition to offer the best commodities and services for the Yemeni consumer. The exhibition covers three wards of Iranian, Egyptian, Yemeni and Chinese products; the ward of clothes and furniture, the ward of electricity and electronic devices, and the ward of Child First Festival. The exhibition will involve a num-

> ber of societies at the capital city of Sana'a showing handicrafts and other articles, in addition to the entertainment program for children and families, planned to be displayed during the exhibition.

It is worth mentioning the exhibition will last from August 1-9.

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Around the Nation

Yemen: Journalists complain increasing violence during riots

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni journalists complained they had received harsh attacks from the police and security men while covering the latest riots that swarmed the country over oil price rise last week. "More than 10 such incidences were recorded within only two days," said Hafez Al-Bukari, General Secretary of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS). "The Ministry of the Interior has not seriously dealt with continuous complaints and communiqués, which were issued by YJS.

In a roundtable organized by the YJS Sunday to discuss such abuses, Mohaboob Ali, YJS chairman described these incidents as "regrettable". "We have interfered to get some of our colleagues released. We can not accept such practices and some officials from the ministry of interior should have attended this debate," he said.

During riots which claimed the lives of around 50 people, the army and security forces in Yemen have arrested a number of journalists covering the events and attacked others, confiscating their cameras and film. Some journalists have been banned from covering the event.

In other cases, Yemeni correspondents for foreign media have been barred from sending news reports using Yemeni TV satellite stations despite agreements that allow them to do so

"When I was shooting the riots, policemen arrested me and put me in jail for three days. I was accused of instigating the riots. I was put in a small cell with other 16 prisoners and therefore, I used to stay up late in the evening and sleep during the day as the room was not vacant enough for all of us to sleep at the same time," Ali al-Awadhi from al-Asima weekly newspaper said.

The situation for Yemeni journalists has gotten riskier, according to the YJS, since the July 17 attack on the managing editor of independent daily newspaper An-Nahar. The editor, Hajei Al-Jehafi, was injured after a booby-trapped letter exploded in his face. "I have received several threats from an influential social figure after criticizing his practices with the ordinary citizens of his area. When I found that the threats are reaching my family, I have taken my wife and children back to my village where they can be safer," al-Jehafi said.

As the An-Nahar staff could not get any reaction from the ministry of interior, they have plead for political asylum." As we have lost hope that the nobody will stop the man carrying out his threats to kill the editors of the paper, we appeal to all countries and organizations that respect human rights to help us escape this country in which the life of the people has become very cheap," said a statement sent by the paper.

Local and international journalists' organizations have expressed concerns over the increasing attacks against Journalists in Yemen after a marked rise in abuses in 2004, which have seen the country drop 33 places in the world press freedom index over two years.

"It [2004] was the worst year for press freedom and journalists in Yemen, Mohammed Sadeq al-Udaini, director of the Centre for Training and Protection of Journalists' Freedom (CTPJF), earlier said. He said that the CTPJF reported over 120 cases of violations against journalists in Yemen, adding that this marked the most ruthless attack on press freedom since the country's unification in 1990.

"We are gravely concerned about these attacks on journalists in Yemen," said Aidan White, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists based in Brussels. "We stand in solidarity with the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate as it fights to maintain a free press and insure its members' safety", he added in après statement issued July 29th.

The correspondent of the Associated Press and APTN TV appealed to the (YJS) to take an action towards the threats he has been receiving during the last few weeks. He pointed out that the following days, security men wearing folk dress kidnapped one of his assistants working in his office and took him Tuesday, July 26th to the 22 May police station where he was interrogated for three and a half hours at night. "He was beaten up and tortured and questioned about my movements, the people who come to the office from the US embassy and foreigners as if my work as a journalist has become so suspicious. After they failed to force him to spy on me in the office, he was released and came back to the office only 4 am," he said. He further said that his landline phone service in the office was cut in addition to the monitoring of his movement, email address and the office.

It is unclear why the number of violations of press freedom have risen so rapidly in the past year, but media representatives say it is in response to greater press criticism of the government. "I think the government has succeeded in mobilizing the hostility of the police against journalists who are considered agents. This is really part of the battle that democrats including journalists are fighting to establish real democracy. It is not that easy to move from totalitarian system into a democratic one, "said Mohammed al-Sharabee. He added that the ministry of interior has adopted a hostile attitude towards the media. "This is very clear as the minister of interior himself refuses to talk to journalists except for those working for the state-run papers," he added.

The annual worldwide press freedom index published last January by press watchdog Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) showed that Yemen's position had dropped from 103 in 2002 to 136 in 2004, listing it below Afghanistan (97) and Somalia (130).



outbreak This is sending alarms that we

should get ready for any possible invasion," said Abdu Far'e al-Rumaih, general director of the Desert Locusts Control Center (DLCC).

He said that field reports have shown that the situation in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf countries is still under control expect in some parts of Yemen. "We have received field reports from the governorate of Shabwa (474 km to the south of Sana'a) that the numbers of locusts have begun to increase as locusts sellers have begun selling them in the marketplace. We expect the situation to be similar in Marib province (173 km to the northeast of Sana'a). There is an outbreak also in some areas of Hadramut. These governorates are summer breeding areas for locusts," he added. However, he said that the situation in Yemen despite such information is still stable and that they are getting ready for a field survey in the potential areas to be hit by the locusts.

In case of possible breakout of ocusts in Marib, the situation will be worse as the DLCC refuses to enter the area as their equipment and some of their agricultural experts have been looted by some big tribal figures demanding the government to release some of their detainees. 'We can not go to Marib any more as two of our vehicles were snatched by the tribesmen July 2, 2005. The two vehicles have very precious devices which we could not get back and therefore, I will not put my other stuff in danger again," he explained. "We can not assess how danger-

ous and alarming is the situation in Yemen only on the basis we get from Eritrea as we are sending an expert over there Friday, July 5. We are also expecting some invasion of locusts to Tihama valley through the Red sea. However, I can frankly say that we are not as ready as we were last year as some of the devices and vehicles have been kidnapped by some tribesmen in Marib."

They include survey and field equipment, communications means, and two vehicles, which cost more than \$200,000. The tribal military person who kidnapped them is now asking for the release of some people jailed on charges of terrorism and al-Qaeda. The DLCC has addressed the presidential office, the ministry of interior and the political security office to take an action and get back the hijacked vehicles but no way

The DLCC has 37 sprayers and



Box 2002, Sanaa, Yemen Phone: 370 191-2 Fax: 370 193 Email: gordonblackie@qsi.org Web site: http://yem.qsi.org

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Embassy of India Sana'a **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

The Embassy of India, Sana'a, cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen along with their families, to join in the celebration of 59th Independence Day of India on Monday, the 15th

August, 2005 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy at 0745 hours.

PROGRAMME

- Flag Hoisting 0800 Hours

- National Anthem

- Reading of the President's Address to the nation
- Patriotic Songs / cultural events organized by the Indian
- Embassy School, Sana'a
- Refreshments

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enough pesticides, according to Far'e, but it is lacking sufficient vehicles for there are only 12 vehicles while, in their contingency plan, there is a need for 50. They have enough pesticides 37 sprayers but without vehicles. They have good communication system, as there are 45 sources of information in various areas of the country. Yemen has been, according to

Far'e, awarded by the FAO due to its good steps in the fight against locusts as the staffs of the DLCC has succeeded in using the most advanced technology in remote sensing to control locusts breakouts in 2002 and 2004. It has been even chosen as a regional office for the Desert Locust Control Committee in central region.

The worst invasion Yemen has was in the years 1986, 1987 and 1993. The invasion of 1993 hit many areas in Yemen and caused a lot of damage and loss in the meadows and plants.

In Yemen, there are two types of locusts, according to the FAO expert, Fuad Bahakeem. They are desert locust and African migratory; the latter is common in the coastal areas.

The insects, which weigh about two grams, can eat their own weight of vegetation in a day. When breeding conditions are right, they form dense and highly destructive swarms occupying several square kilometers that can strip an area of greenery within hours



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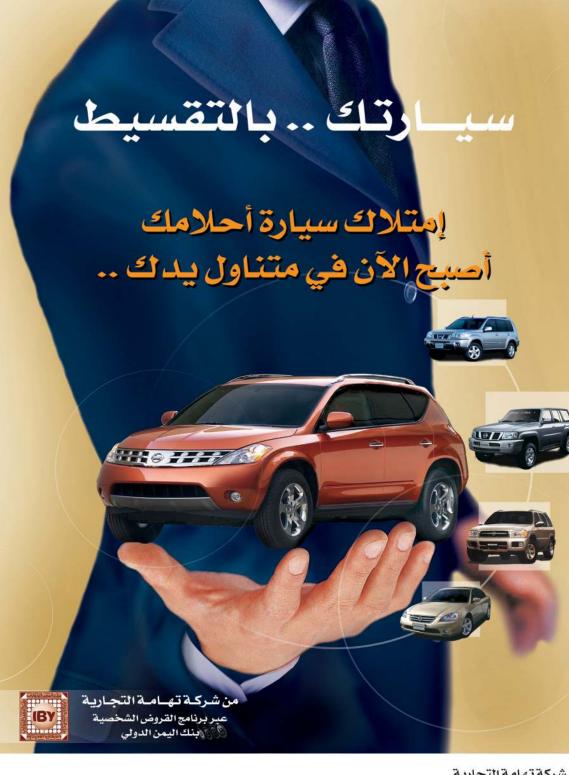
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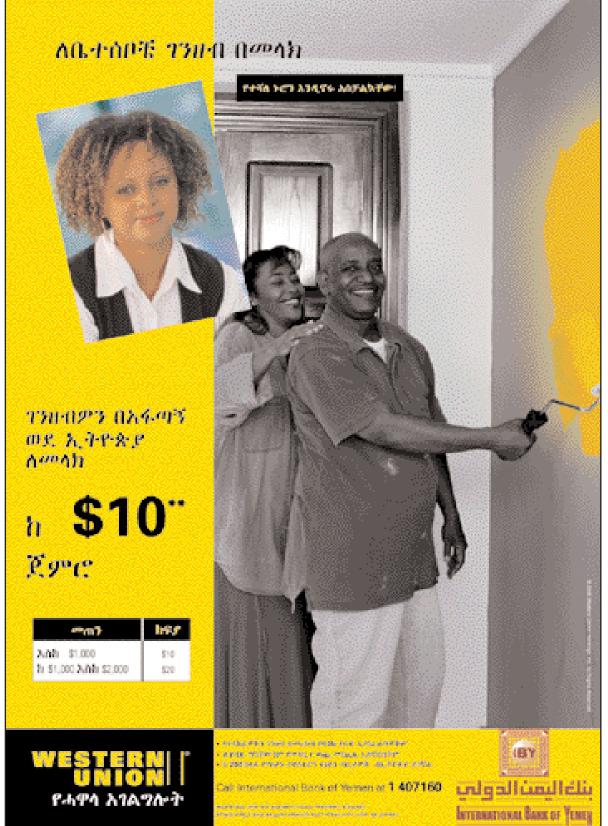








NISSAN



Report

The road to Baghdad An agonizing adventurous trip

BY MOHAMMED KHIDR mmkhidr@yahoo.com YEMEN TIMES STAFF

have recently traveled from Damascus to Baghdad to visit my family there after more than five years, using the highway linking the two capitals. It was my first time after the occupation of Iraq to use this way back home. I hired a modern car from Damascus to carry me as I preferred it to big passenger busses that usually carry tens of passengers and waned to feel more comfortable on this long and tiresome way especially during the summer time when the desert between Damascus

and Baghdad burns you with its scorching heat that reaches sometimes to fifty degrees centigrade in the shade. I asked the driver if we could begin our travel early in the evening to avoid the scorching heat, he told me he would have preferred that but it was more risky because of various unpredictable dangers of the road. He told me the border point between Syria and Iraq would not open by American and Iraqi soldiers before 8 o'clock in the morning

because of a curfew they impose to prevent "terrorists infiltration" across the borders into Iraq. We have agreed to launch our trip at four o'clock after

The road began winding up speedily as we sped along it towards Baghdad. I thought everything was going to be smooth and without disruption. The road runs inside vast barren land and for long distances one would not see any living thing on both sides of it. You would easily feel the boredom of the trip. Being absent from Baghdad for several years I asked the driver many questions on the situation in Iraq and in Baghdad in particular and he was telling me about the events that had taken place in the country since the occupation and the walks of life how they were going on and a variety of matters. Nevertheless, you feel the road has no end. It is really boring.

To my surprise, I found out, we were part of a kilometers-long queue of cars, buses and large trucks waiting to be allowed into the Iraqi territories.

> After getting tired of talking and listening to the radio I wanted to drowse away the way and so closed my eyes to have some rest. After a while, I sensed



Driver Abu Hiatham while explaining to me the situation on the highway

midnight so that so that to arrive at the border point at seven am, an hour earlier than opening of the border point.

the car was drawing to a stop. "Why have you stopped the car, anything wrong has happened?" I asked the driv-With the first streaks of the morning er. He said, "Look ahead of you, there light, we have arrived at the point. To is an American patrol using armored vehicles and tanks. we have to stop away from them at least one kilometer otherwise they will shoot us without any warning." Americans are thus panicked and suspicious of all Iraqi civilians and passengers regardless of their age and sex. I think they realize they are occupiers and aggressors against the people of Iraq, not liberators as their propaganda machine and their administration used to claim. The Americans blocked the road for more than quarter of an hour without crossing it the other side disregarding the great number of cars and trucks that stopped on the expressway. In a few

area extending between Ramadi and Falluja. You would be attacked and robed in broad daylight. At least two speedy cars carrying gunmen with covered faces would block the way of a car of passenger bus ordering its driver to stop. Attackers order passengers at gunpoint to dispense with their possessions of money and jewelry or otherwise got killed, a threat which they do. Being obedient to the attackers threats the passengers could continue their trip with broken hearts because of their loss of possessions. My driver told me a real story but in a manner of a joke. He said once a family hired a car to take its members to Baghdad on this same road.

encounters on his way to Baghdad on

that road is the much possibility of

being suddenly attacked by armed rob-

bers, especially on the road nearby an

The father was talking to the driver about robbery incidents on the road. In a way assuring him the drivers jokingly told the man not to worry, claiming that robbers were his friends. The father was muck alarmed and feared the driver thinking he was an accomplice of robbers. Immediately the father of the family ordered to take them back as

he was canceling his trip and with that, the driver lost fees of the trip without realizing how dangerous his joke was and what loss it had caused him. Taking the road from Amman or Damascus to Baghdad is risky and there are possibilities of being robbed of your possessions by gunmen. Passengers on those roads are frequently disturbed by sudden stoppages because of American troops patrols that do not care if people are delayed for long time on that barren road.

On our way, we happened to have one of our car's tires blown up and we were forced to stop and change the flat tire. It chanced that we stopped in a place not very far from an American military unit on tanks and armoured vehicles stationed on the side of the road. While we were changing the damaged tire an American patrolling armored vehicle approached us immediately ordering us very harshly with threats to finish changing the damaged tire in no more than five minutes or otherwise we would face the danger of punishment. We were stopping more than two kilometers away from the American military unit. They are supposed to guard the highway and defenceless passengers against robbers or help them in cases of incidents but the fact is quite the opposite.



Some trucks were waiting at borders for several days to have their turn of passage.

travel back and forth Iraq.

After the fall of the Iraqi former regime on 9 April 2003, the road linking Syria to Iraq have been witnessing an active movement of travel by Iraqis and others for visits and commercial purposes. Thousands of passenger buses and cars, lorries, trucks and trailers, cross the Iraqi-Syrian borders daily and border points are always crowded with those vehicles around the clock. Baghdad-Damascus road extends to

more than 800 kilometers. It has two wide well paved lanes inside the Iraqi territories but becomes only one lane from the border point right inside the Syrian territories until the city of Damascus. The road goes across the vast Iraqi west desert that extends into the Syrian territories with very few highway rest houses along the road inside the Iraqi territories and several petrol stations for vehicles refueling. In each rest station, there are of course

restaurants, groceries and shops for passengers to buy their needs on this very long road.

In the days before the occupation of Iraq by the US-led coalition armies, the flow of movement of various vehicles on both the Baghdad Amman and the Baghdad Damascus was normal and almost safe, but since the occupation in 2003, the whole situation has changed drastically. The change has been in fact not to the better but rather to the worse.



my surprise, I found out, we were part of a kilometers-long queue of cars, buses and large trucks waiting to be allowed into the Iraqi territories. One cannot see the beginning of the waiting line of vehicle waiting their turn to be allowed after inspection by American and Iraqi soldiers. I asked the driver about the length of time we were supposed to wait there; he told me he could not give me a definite time because opening the border point is more often subject to temperament of the border soldiers. I got out of the car and walked along the line of waiting vehicles. I saw many painful pictures

of passengers and drivers very tired of waiting especially as the sun began to sting with its heat the people in waiting. Drivers and passengers have gone to sleep in their seats, children were sometimes crying because they were confined to the spaces of cars and mothers create every means and tricks to

quite them. There were three or four parallel lines of stopped vehicles, some them on the dirt roads.

Several hours passed until we were inspected and allowed to enter the Iraqi border territories in preparation to resume our long trip after finishing passport and customs procedures. It was a great relief for all, passengers and drivers. Some trucks, unlike passenger vehicles said they were waiting at borders for several days to have their turn of passage.

After more than twelve hours of such painful and adventurous risky trip, we arrived in Baghdad completely exhausted and annoyed and to recover from all that it took several days to feel relieved.

American troops and Iraqi authorities should work hard to provide comfort to passengers and trucks drivers carrying goods into the country. They have to protect them against robbers. But that is not what they are concerned about.

Since the aftermath of the US-led war on Iraq in 1991 that followed the invasion of Kuwait by the former Iraqi

regime of Saddam Hussein, civilian and I saw many painful pictures of military flights back and forth Iraq have passengers and drivers very tired come to a standstill. Iraq is a landlocked country bordered by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Kuwait, and Iran. Overland highways linking Iraq to Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

minutes, the number of stopped vehicle was in tens or more. The driver told me to prepare myself to this scene to happen many times until we arrive in Baghdad, and that's what actually happened.

of waiting especially as the sun

began to sting with its heat the

people in waiting.

Later we continued that disturbing journey. On different distances, one can observe on both sides of the highway remains of burned or exploded cars and other vehicles for various reasons.

The other aspect of the risks one

and Syria were all blocked because borders were blocked between those countries and Iraq. The only remaining outlet to Iraq was the road linking Jordan to Iraq. It is a long highway extending to more than one thousand kilometers. Since the end of the Kuwait war until a few years before the US-led war of invasion on 20 March 2003 on Iraq that toppled the Iraqi former regime and the state the Amman Baghdad highway remained the only way the Iraqis and others used in their

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8 August, 2005

Middle East / World



Thousands mark Hiroshima A-bomb 60th anniversary

BY GEORGE NISHIYAMA

HIROSHIMA, Japan (Reuters) -Tens of thousands of people from around the world gathered in Hiroshima on Saturday to renew calls for the abolition of nuclear arms on the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city.

Under a blazing summer sun, survivors and families of victims assembled at the Peace Memorial Park near "ground zero," the spot where the bomb detonated on Aug. 6, 1945, killing thousands and leveling the city.

The anniversary comes as regional powers meet in Beijing to urge North Korea to give up its nuclear program,



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi bows before the cenotaph, paying respects to the victims of the world's first atominc bombing during the ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the nuclear bomb attack at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, Saturday, Aug, 2005.



Mourners gather for the occasion

seen by Tokyo as a threat and one of the reasons behind rising calls in Japan to strengthen its defense and seek closer military ties with the United States.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was among those attending the ceremony in Hiroshima, 690 km (430 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

At 8:15 a.m., the time when the U.S. B-29 warplane Enola Gay dropped the bomb, people at the park and throughout the city observed a minute's silence in memory of those who perished.

Bells at temples and churches rang and passengers on the streetcars that run throughout the city bowed their heads in remembrance of the dead, including those incinerated while riding the streetcars.

"This Aug. 6 ... is a time of inheri-

tance, of awakening, and of commitment, in which we inherit the commitment of the bomb victims to the abolition of nuclear weapons and realisation of genuine world peace," Hiroshima mayor Tadatoshi Akiba told the gathering

Akiba said in his Peace Declaration that the five established nuclear powers - the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China - as well as India, Pakistan and North Korea were "jeopardising human survival."

The Hiroshima bomb unleashed a mix of shockwaves, heat rays and radiation that killed thousands instantly.

By the end of 1945 the toll had risen to some 140,000 out of an estimated population of 350,000. Thousands more died of illness and injuries later.



The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The project offices will be based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now preparing to recruit the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

SENIOR DRAFTSMAN – New Sana'a Offices project - Reference No. 013

Reporting initially to the New Office Manager, the ideal candidate will have an excellent knowledge of Architectural and Civil (including Electromechanical) design. The post will involve the drafting and checking of CAD engineering drawings, plus the preparation, checking or correction of hand drafted sketches based on notes or verbal instructions. Duties will also involve the control, checking and follow-up of hard copy and electronic documentation between YLNG, the Architect and the Engineer. The initial position will end in December 2005. The incumbent may then be retained for the construction phase, reporting to the on-site Quantity Surveyor and helping to ensure that ongoing works comply with the approved design. The job holder will also manage the preparation, updating and follow-up of all relevant drawings and sketches for inclusion in the "as built" documentation. At all stages, the incumbent will assist with the control of all records in accordance with the document management system. This temporary position is based in Sana'a and will cease in September 2007.

QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER – Reference No. 15

Working at the Balhaf project site and reporting directly to the site Construction Manager, the successful candidate will ensure that the Site Preparation Contractor, suppliers and sub contractors implement effective Quality Assurance and Quality Control processes commensurate with the contract requirements. This will involve the vetting of the Contractor's proposed QC personnel to ensure their competency. The job holder will also ensure that all work is carried out to specification and will notify the Construction Manager in the case of non-compliance. The incumbent will also assess all requests for deviations to contract requested by the contractor and will make recommendations for acceptance or rejection to the Construction Manager as appropriate. Candidates must be graduate QC Engineers with extensive experience in the engineering, procurement, sub-contracting and construction industries and a minimum of five years' experience on similar large-scale projects. This is a temporary position with a duration of two years.

CIVIL ENGINEER - Reference No. 16

Based at Balhaf and reporting directly to the Site engineer, the successful applicant will ensure that the Civil works carried out by the Site Preparation Contractor, Plant Contractor and sub-contractors comply with contract specifications. The incumbent will control civil engineering activity and will ensure that detail and construction engineering data are available on time. Additional duties include the checking, preparation, issue and implementation of detailed construction engineering documentation and verification that procedures, method statements, drawings, calculations and personnel lists are available whenever required. The job holder will also control and verify work progress, ensuring that all construction documentation is updated and that all contractor equipment is available, safe and fit for purpose. A key responsibility will be to ensure that contractor HSE procedures and training are acceptable and are being rigorously applied. The successful applicant will be a fully qualified Civil Engineer with a minimum of five years' experience in analyzing and troubleshooting on major civil projects. This is a temporary position with a duration of two years.

HEAD OF OPERATIONS ACCOUNTING - Reference No. 17

Reporting directly to the Finance Manager, the successful candidate will implement, control and maintain the Operational and Financial Accounting functions and systems including Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Fixed Assets and Materials to ensure that financial data is accurately captured and reported in a timely manner. As the project approaches its operational phase, the job holder will also develop a role for Sales and Production Accounting in conjunction with the Financial Reporting Group and the Production Division. The post further involves the development and maintenance of the accounting manual to ensure that principles such as GAAP, the Chart of Accounts and Accounting Procedures are correctly applied and observed. The job holder will develop control standards in cooperation with the Head of Internal Controls and will ensure that periodic Ledger Closure timetables are observed so that reports can be issued efficiently and on time. The successful applicant will be a professionally qualified accountant with a degree in accounting or finance and at least 10 years' Operations Accounting experience within an oil and gas international environment. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

HEAD OF TREASURY - Reference No. 18

Reporting directly to the Finance Manager, the job holder will develop, implement, control and maintain Treasury processes and systems including cash, loan and risk management. Duties will include the opening, closing and operation of all bank accounts in accordance with Delegation of Authority procedures, the development of systems for cash deposits and foreign currency transactions in conjunction with Yemeni and offshore banks and the provision of cash forecasts to shareholders via YLNG management. The role will also involve the development of corporate banking relationships with national and overseas banks for project financing purposes and the creation of online payment systems and controls procedures as well as verifiable drawdown processes for project financing. The successful applicant will have a minimum of 10 years' professional experience of which two must have been in a similar Treasury role, and an Accounting, Financial or Treasury degree or commensurate professional qualification. This permanent staff position is base in Sana'a.

Iran won't be intimidated, **new president says**

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran's new President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Saturday the Islamic Republic, facing intense pressure from the West over its nuclear ambitions, would not be intimidated.

Taking the oath of office in parliament following his stunning June election win, the former Tehran mayor said his priority would be to tackle unemployment and his foreign policy would seek to reduce international threats.

"We are logical and respect international rules, but will not give in to those who want to violate our rights," he said in a brief address. "The Iranian nation cannot be intimidated."

The European Union on Friday offered Iran a package of incentives to scrap nuclear fuel work while saying it would be sent to the U.N. Security

However, in spite of the heightened tension surrounding the issue, he made no direct reference to it during his speech.

"Seeking justice, peace and the removal of threats are three main elements of our foreign policy," he said.

The former Revolutionary Guard, who upset political veteran and former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to win June's election, swore his oath of office on the Koran before embracing Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi-Shahroudi.

MONOPOLY ON POWER

His arrival in office brings to a close Khatami's largely unsuccessful eightyear experiment in reforms. Religious conservatives now enjoy a monpoly on power, dominating parliament and controlling key bodies such as the armed forces, judiciary and broadcast media The president in Iran appoints ministers who manage the day-to-day business of government. However, the government's power is checked by several of unelected bodies answerable to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the most powerful figure in Iran who is appointed for life.

speech to the need to tackle poverty. "People's main concerns are unemployment, welfare and the gap between income and expenditure," he said, but gave no details of policies he would adopt.

Deeply loyal to the values of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Ahmadinejad has been plagued by rumors about his past activities since his election win.

The United States says he was a leader in the student movement behind the storming of its embassy in Tehran after the revolution and is trying to determine whether he was a hostagetaker himself, which he and those who took part deny.

Ahmadinejad also faces massive economic challenges in a country where growth is slipping and oilfields, the country's lifeblood, are losing capacity.

Council if it did not.

Iran, which denies U.S. accusations that its nuclear energy program is a smokescreen for making atomic bombs, said on Saturday the EU proposal was unacceptable. It says it will remove U.N. seals on some nuclear equipment this week

Ahmadinejad, 48, who replaced reformist cleric Mohammad Khatami, is a religious conservative who diplomats expect will adopt a tougher approach in the nuclear negotiations.

Elected with strong support among the devout poor who feel Iran's massive oil wealth has passed them by, Ahmadinejad devoted most of his

His victory has unsettled the investment community. He has vowed to clean out corruption in the oil industry and give preference in investment deals to local over foreign firms.

Analysts say investors should take a "wait and see" approach, arguing that Ahmadinejad took a pragmatic line as mayor of Tehran and could well do so again as president.

Ahmadinejad has two weeks to nominate his cabinet ministers to parliament for approval.

Cheney pays respects to Saudi's King Abdullah

Dick Chenev and former President Bush offered condolences on Friday to Saudi Arabia's new ruler King Abdullah over the death of King Fahd, a close U.S. ally during his 23-year rule.

Saudi state television showed the two men embracing Abdullah and his deputy, Crown Prince Sultan, at the king's farm on the northeastern outskirts of Riyadh. Journalists were not allowed access to the U.S. delegation.

Ties between the world's superpower and the global oil giant, whose strategic alliance dates back 60 years, were strained by the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington that were carried out largely by Saudi hijackers.

The two countries say they have worked hard to restore the close links. Saudi Information Minister Iyad Madani said they had a "bumpy ride"

either side of the ocean.

Bush himself has had close ties with Saudi Arabia's royal family for decades. In 1990 he won Fahd's agreement to send half a million troops to Saudi Arabia to launch the war on Iraq that forced it to end its occupation of Kuwait.

But the decision to station non-Muslim soldiers in Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina, angered many Saudis and was a principle grievance of Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden.

Fahd died on Monday and was immediately succeeded by Abdullah, who received pledges of support from tens of thousands of Saudis across the Gulf state that is both the world's biggest oil exporter and the cradle of Islam.

Sheikh Abdulrahman al-Sudeis,

RIYADH (Reuters) - Vice President recently but reached a "fuller under- preacher at the Grand Mosque in the standing of how things function on holy city of Mecca, said Muslims who fail to support Abdullah would die outside the faith of Islam.

> "The pledge of allegiance is stipulated under sharia (Islamic law) and the Koran and is a religious duty," he told worshippers at the main Friday prayers.

"We renew and reaffirm this legitimate pledge of allegiance to our leaders, may God grant them success," he added.

Cheney and Bush were accompanied on their brief stopover, which lasted barely three and a half hours, by former Secretary of State Colin Powell and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace.

Saudi television also showed Abdullah greeting Spain's King Juan Carlos and Lakhdar Brahimi, special envoy of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

IMMIGRATION COORDINATOR – Reference No. 19

Reporting directly to the Logistics Manager, the successful applicant will develop, implement, control and maintain the Immigration activity of Yemen LNG, ensuring that the Visas and Work Permits for expatriate personnel of all nationalities are approved and renewed in good time, enabling them to commence and continue work for YLNG without difficulty. The job holder will establish and maintain excellent relationships with Governmental and Immigration Agency representatives and will develop and maintain relevant Contractor and Secondee Immigration Control procedures and databases. The successful candidate will have a minimum of five years' experience in an identical role and must be able to demonstrate a high level of perseverance, resourcefulness and effective performance in similar posts. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a, but may involve travel to ports, airports and the Balhaf site in order to ensure that personnel movements are facilitated with minimal difficulty.

PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS ASSISTANT - Reference no. 20

Working in the Security Operations section of the Security department, the Personnel Movements or "Personnel On Board" (POB) Assistant will produce accurate daily updates of all staff and contractor personnel engaged on the project and currently in Yemen, together with details of their location. This will involve daily liaison with YLNG's Operations personnel, partner companies and with Contractor representatives to obtain accurate, timely data. The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal skills, a clear understanding of the importance of the task and total commitment to getting the job done. The ideal incumbent will have worked previously within the Security industry or in an industry where confidentiality is the highest priority and will be able to demonstrate complete trustworthiness with highly sensitive data. This temporary position is based in Sana'a and will have a duration of three years.

SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR - Reference no. 21

Reporting initially to the Head of Recruitment, the incumbent will work in a small team which, with external specialist assistance, will recruit the entire staff workforce of YLNG over a three-year period. The successful candidate will be an experienced HR generalist, ideally with substantial experience of employee relations, aptitude testing and large-scale recruitment projects. Accreditation in the validation of assessment and psychometric tests, and experience of job evaluation would be an advantage. Working in close cooperation with the Training section and with the outsourced recruitment contractor, duties will include the preparations for the recruitment campaign, the monitoring of the selection and testing phase and full participation in the final interview process for the selected candidates. This is a permanent staff position, based in Sana'a but with extensive travel to the Balhaf site, throughout Yemen and on occasion, overseas.

All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential, and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs.

Applicants should send their CV with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post to:

The Human Resources Department Yemen LNG Company

P.O. Box 15347 Sana'a, Yemen

Deadline: Friday, 19 August 2005

Candidates applying from outside Yemen may apply by e-mail to: HR@YEMENLNG.COM.YE Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG. Please do not send your CV more than once and do not telephone the company to discuss your application

Company website WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

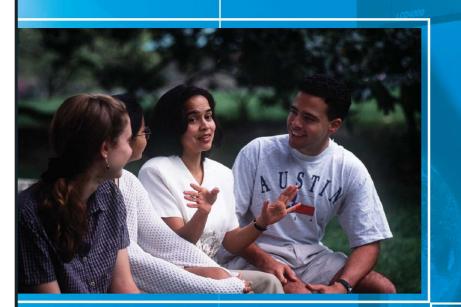




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8 8 August, 2005

Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



Mohammed Khadir is one of the Yemen Times staff from Iraq who has just returned from a short visit to his homeland. Starting from this issue you will read about his journey and stay and his reflections on what is going on there. As you will read his words it would become clear that what is perceived from an individual's point of view especially one with abilities to analyse and judge for him or herself is very different from what politics and politicians wants to be believed.

While murder becomes a normal event and mothers rock their children to sleep on the sound of bullets and bombs it is interesting how the people survive and still continue their daily lives. "If it does not touch you personally or injure a relative, the event of a bomb exploding right next to you could be forgotten as soon as you walk by from the scene." He explained when I asked him about safety in Baghdad.

What is worth remembering is how Iraq was the prime of the Arabian countries a few years ago, and this makes me wonder whether the USA politics are still perceived as error-proof or a doubt is finding its way through to the American minds. I say American because the rest of world knows better. I am not anti America, not at all, I just would like the world to be fair and just in the ways the powerful use their power.

Do they want Saddam Hussein back? Would the Iraqi people wish that time reverses so that they choose other options? Mohammed thinks not. "No, I would not think that the people regret getting rid of Saddam, but they do they regret what is happening now and how things turned after Saddam and with the new system control."

Anyway, that is that... I leave you to read through and form an opinion for yourself, and please remember that you are reading a media report of a man talking about a place he still calls home.

Opinion **Condoleeza Rice** between the two visits less than sixty



By Prof. Dr. by Ms. Rice to all she met Abdulaziz al-Tarb with directing those messages to the Arabian peo-

ple generally and some to specific Arabian governments or political leaders and intellectuals.

States

In her both visits to the troubled region she ensured to directly connect with intellectuals and academics and create informal relations with them

The first message seems to be a form of an apology or confession or maybe a letter of repent regretting the political mistakes committed by the United States when it opted for stability on the account of democracy and this took place through encouraging cruel regimes and dictatorships in the region throughout the previous sixty years. It is understood from this letter that USA regrets its previous policies promising not only not to repeat them again but also to promote democratic systems in the future. The foreign minister in one of her speeches during one of her visits said: "the United States throughout the last sixty years worked towards establishing peace and stability in the middle east regardless of democracy and now we have achieved neither. Today we aim at taking a new political strategy that would promote democratic trends for the people."

The second message reveals to be a policy to encourage Egypt to recover its leadership role in the region through modernising and reclaim its strong position ion the Middle East politics. Egypt was in the past the liberal heart of the Arabian nations and was the decision maker in critical situation. And finally it drew the highlights of progress to all Arabian nations through difficult economic transformation through peace agreements with Israel, which I consider a short falling

peace.

By STEVEN VINCENT

TIMES SYNDICATE)

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he British call it being

"switched on" _ a state of

high morale and readiness,

similar to what Americans

think of as "gung-ho" atti-

soldiers

tude. During the 10 days I recently spent

embedded with the British-led multina-

tional force in this southern Iraqi city, I

The third message was a message of clarification. The US wants to ensure that democracy is sustained in the region and will accept what the people demand for themselves confirming by that George Bush's statement in his second election for presidency: "the United States will not impose its governing style on those who don't want to as our sole purpose is

to assist others in a suitable manner to express their opinions, avail their freedoms and choose their path. The various societies would find various forms of democracy that would be most suitable to their cultures.'

The messages and press statements as I realised and any political science student or armature would realise, is how her statements were steaming from an ideology that has no relation whatsoever with analysis of the democratic conditions and systems in the Arab world, yet this ideology is governed by the stance the Arabian countries has towards the USA policies in the region. The human rights issues, democracy and freedoms according to this vision are only put in effect when the targeted country has opposing stances to the American-Israeli policies. As for the cooperating systems they just receive a light scolding or criticism in order to fool the public opinion and in some times the US turns a deaf ear to violations of those systems. For example is the situation of human rights in Syria worse than that in Yemen or Libya? The answer is quite clear and needs no clarification.

most attractive is regarding her statements regarding the situations in Egypt, Lebanon, and Iran post the elections. After the US seemed to be practising pressures on Egypt to the extent that it refused to attend the G8 meeting that was supposed to be held in Egypt now it has found in the same country a strategic ally and friend.

USA wants Egypt and through it other Arabian systems to play a role that is not related toe democratic transformations

Switched off in Basra

mistic estimate: One young Iraqi officer

told me that "75 percent of the police-

men I know are with Muqtada al-Sadr _

he is a great man." And unfortunately,

the British seem unable or unwilling to

The fact that the British are in effect

"No one trusts the police," one Iraqi

strengthening the hand of Shiite organi-

zations is not lost on Basra's residents.

journalist told me. "If our new ayatol-

lahs snap their fingers, thousands of

police will jump." Mufeed al-

Mushashaee, the leader of a liberal

do anything about it.

because it realises that the leaders will not sacrifice their power and are not ready to let go of power for the sake of democracy and will not yield to any pressures on this front, it also realises that the democratic transformation in the region would mean to instate a regime that is not very agreeing with the American politics. And in spite of those two issues the United States talks about promoting democracy because this way it ensures two points: one is to appear in front of the public opinion nationally and internationally as a promoter for freedoms and human rights and the other, is to be able to put pressure on governments to force them to give more compromises that would help the American policies in Palestine and Iraq. The US politics achieved great success in freeing the Israeli spy Azzam Azzam and in carrying out the Quiz agreement and the gas agreement with Israel and to create diplomatic ties with the Egypt and Israel a fact that the Islamic and Arabian world and Egypt do not approve of especially that this comes in a commercial deal that has nothing to do with democracy.

Therefore I would really recommend the Arab governments and public NGOs and political parties to study all the alternatives away from the American bets and allegations in the region. The governments should play a leadership role in their policies and not just mere translation of instructions coming from the west through the political attaches and embassies of the supreme powers. If not then the national and regional security would be at stake and the lesson of Iraq is still present for those who want to learn as a debt on the USA's policies shoulders and the American policy is still questionable to what is happening today to international security and economy.

When will be read through the lines and understand the events as they really are and not in light of angry reactions of cruel ambitions? Weren't the elections in Iran successful? Then why the American anger? Would we as Arabic people and intellectuals understand the meaning behind the events, I hope so because this is an ideal experience even if the US and its allies don't think so.

brightest spot of the liberated Iraq. "Are

the police being used for political pur-

poses?" asked Jamal Khazal Makki, the

head of the Basra branch of the Sunni-

dominated Islamic Party. "They arrest

people and hold them in custody, even

though the courts order them released.

Meanwhile, the police rarely detain any-

one who belongs to a Shiite religious

An Iraqi police lieutenant, who for

obvious reasons asked to remain anony-

mous, confirmed to me the widespread

rumors that a few police officers are

party.'



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

any people tend to have a two-sided coin view of the world, in which there is evil and there is good. That is all very simplistic, but nevertheless it reassures them that people do not have to decide between so many different alternatives on which to embark as we try to give meaning to our life, on the assumption that we are on the good side. Most people cling to the belief that they are the manifestation of the good side. Realistically, however, this would leave very few people, who would then deserve to be confronted by the majority of self proclaimed do-gooders. If indeed the majority of people are on the good side of the coin, then there would be very few problems in the world, there will not be a need for armies and WMD and all the destructive machinery made under legal licenses, to supposedly protect good from whoever dares to uphold evil in this world.

Sixty years ago two Japanese cities became the first victims of the most destructive weapons mankind has ever devised. Hundreds of thousands were killed and many more were injured as the people of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were within seconds no more to be the residents of two humming urban metropolises. They saw their cities hit by a fireball the likes of which could not be visualized by any of them. One can imagine how terrifying for the survivors of these two holocausts to have to live with this horrible nightmare all their lives. For some, the psychological repercussions were so great, that death would have been a merciful escape from the ugly visions that constantly raced through their minds.

The Japanese at the time were supposedly fighting on the evil side of the coin in the most destructive war that human history has ever seen and the battles of which literally circled the globe. But was the evil that they represented the embryo of the people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima? It is always a tragic consequence of war that it is always the civilians whose casualty meters run at tens of times the casualty meters of those manning the guns on any conflict. For the most part these civilian casualties are the victims of attacking armies that take pleasure in taking some revenge from the civilians of their defeated enemies. Or, they are caught in the cross-fire of combating armies, whose ordnance launchers for the most part miss their intended marks and land on civilian homes, work places, schools, parks and thoroughfares. They are simply collateral damage. Imagine they are not even casualties- they are collateral damage! World War Two introduced aerial bombardment on a massive scale and many millions of people have just then recently rushed to the cities. Rural life was unable to sustain but a small proportion of the population, in those countries that have adopted the mass production technologies evolving from the Industrial Revolution. In war, these massive agglomerations of people turn into sitting ducks, as rows upon rows of bombers hover above them to release their payload, with the pilot not having the faintest idea where any of his arsenal of bombs of different weights and destructive force really landed. It does not matter, when the pilots return to the base, they will all get together and celebrate their direct hits. They will also be consoled by the knowledge that the planes that were shot down during the raids have already been replaced by brand new bombers, with added perfection, such as bigger and more destructive payloads of TNT. But the climax was to be brought on by the Manhattan Project, a top secret operation, by which Washington was to make sure that its world supremacy would be underlined with a lesson to the sponsors of evil, who dared to challenge the White Man's Burden, and actually thought they were a world power to be reckoned with. The Manhattan Project was over and the war was drawing to a close it seems. The output of the Manhattan Project needed to be tested. This is not so much because scientists wanted to see exactly how much destruction can be made by these new determinants of world power in the new age of peace that was to follow the defeat of the evil Axis Powers. Scientists had a fairly good idea of how much destruction is packed into each bomb, depending on its weight, size and destructive material. The politicians were the ones doing the testing this time. Power needed to be emphasized as the safeguard against evil and if the world was sold on the premonition that the United States and her allies were representing the good side of the coin, then an opportunity should not be allowed to slip away. Power is with the good side and proof to the world is in order that it is the good side that will safeguard all the good things that humanity has been yearning for, for centuries. So, what if a few hundred thousand yellow skins loose their lives, their children, their homes, as long as the world learns the lesson that challenging the White Man's Burden is an unforgivable sin, which calls for a taste of purgatory now and not in the hereafter. There was no plan to ever use the A- Bomb on say Italy and Germany, because these states are in the epicenter of western culture and their blood is made of heavier protoplasm. Besides their kamikaze (remember the word for suicide bomber then) were a real pain in Pearl Harbor. Can you imagine, not letting these yellow skins get punished for having the audacity to send their suicide bombers on the naval base that represented the extent of white supremacy in the Pacific Ocean? That is out of the question. For the Italians and the Germans, what they did was normal for white people to do and thus could never be considered candidates for such a massacre of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki genre. A lot of white folks would even suggest the very names of the cities are enough grounds for giving them a taste of real white man destructive power. They are not only hard to pronounce, most whites would have a fit trying to spell them. So, it was bombs away and General Macarthur took over Japan without loosing a man for conquering the Land of the Rising Sun. The Japanese generals knew full well that even twenty thousand kamikazes could never outdo the destructive capabilities that whitey has in his stores. Moreover, the honor codes of warfare have long ago been shelved, but for whitey honor only comes with what your bombers can deliver and not how they deliver their payloads. So, now good will be dictated by whitey for sometime to come until the Heavens decide otherwise and then God Al-Mighty will tell everybody, Whites, Blacks, Yellows, Pagans, Christians, Jews and even Moslems, you got it all wrong folks!

Yet the final note and perhaps the one

And from this I could conclude that the

The Editorial Board

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many switched-on involved in what the British call "secureform." rity sector An effort to maintain peace while training Iraqis to handle their own policing and security, security sector reform is fundamental to the British-American exit strategy. As one British officer put it,

"The sooner the locals assume their own security, the sooner we go home." From that perspective, the strategy appears successful. Particularly in terms of the city police officers, who are proving adept at the close-order drills, marksmanship and proper arrest techniques being drilled into them by their foreign instructors. In addition, police salaries are up, the officers have shiny new patrol cars, and many sport snazzy new uniforms. Better yet, many of the new Iraqi officers seem switched-on themselves. "We want to serve our country" is a repeated refrain.

From another view, however, security sector reform is failing the very people it is intended to serve: average Iraqis who simply want to go about their lives. As has been widely reported of late, Basran politics (and everyday life) is increasingly coming under the control of Shiite religious groups, from the relatively mainstream Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq to the bellicose followers of the rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Recruited from the same population of undereducated, underemployed men who swell these organizations' ranks, many of Basra's rank-and-file police officers maintain

dual loyalties to mosque and state. In May, the city's police chief told a British newspaper that half of his 7,000man force was affiliated with religious parties. This may have been an optipolitical organization called the Shabanea Rebellion, told me that he felt that "the entire force should be dissolved and replaced with people educated in human rights and democracy."

Unfortunately, that is precisely what the British aren't doing. Fearing to appear like colonial occupiers, they avoid any hint of ideological indoctrination. In my time with them, not once did I see an instructor explain such basics of democracy as the politically neutral role of the police in a civil society. Nor did I see anyone question the alarming number of religious posters on the walls of Basran police stations. When I asked British troops if the security sector reform strategy included measures to encourage cadets to identify with the national government rather than their neighborhood mosque, I received polite shrugs: not our job, mate.

The results are apparent. At the city's university, for example, self-appointed monitors patrol the campuses, ensuring that women's attire and makeup are properly Islamic. "I'd like to throw them off the grounds, but who will do it?" a university administrator asked me. "Most of our police belong to the same religious parties as the monitors."

Similarly, the director of Basra's maternity hospital, Mohammad Nasir, told me that he frequently catches staff members pilfering equipment to sell to private hospitals, but hesitates to call the police: "How do I know what religious party they are affiliated with, and what their political connection is to the thieves?"

It is particularly troubling that sectarian tensions are increasing in Basra, which has long been held up as the

perpetrating many of the hundreds of assassinations _ mostly of former Baath Party members _ that take place in Basra each month. He told me that there is even a sort of "death car": a white Toyota Mark II that glides through the city streets, carrying off-duty police officers in the pay of extremist religious groups to their next assignment.

Meanwhile, the British stand above the growing turmoil, refusing to challenge the Islamists' claim on the hearts and minds of police officers. That detachment angers many Basrans. "The British know what's happening but they are asleep, pretending they can simply establish security and leave behind democracy," said the police lieutenant who had told me of the assassinations. "Before such a government takes root here, we must experience a transformation of our minds.'

In other words, real security reform requires psychological as well as physical training. Unless the British include in their security sector reform strategy some basic lessons in democratic principles, Basra risks falling further under the sway of Islamic extremists and their Western-trained police enforcers.

Steven Vincent, a freelance journalist killed Tuesday night or Wednesday morning in Basra, Iraq, wrote an op-ed for The New York Times that appeared in the Sunday paper. In it he criticized the British for allowing Shiite religious parties and militia forces to take control of Basra.

Steven Vincent, the author of "In the Red Zone: A Journey Into the Soul of Iraq," was writing a book about Basra

Press - Op / Ed



an Alternative to a Political Party? Politicians, Think tanks and NGO's representative acceded that tribe is of great influence more than the political parties and NGOs.

general of the Yemeni Congregation for

Reform party said "The deep rooted

tribal influence managed to keep up

with political changes since the early

days of Yemeni modern state. Thereby,

tribesmen used to have a very strong influence on the regime more than the political parties." Al-Anisy continued

'There is no wide difference between

the tribal political influence and the

political influence of the political par-

ties. We can't judge that the effective

role of tribe is due to the passive role of

the political parties, but it is rather

because of the tribes predominated role

Dr. Mohammed AL-Mekhalfy, membe

of the Central Committee of the YSP

stated that the regime has been promot-

ing the tribal relations and role, while

political parties and organization only

given the chance within a genuine dem-

ocratic atmosphere and real pluralism"

Al-Mekhalafy added "the political

authority tilts to the tribe and the poor

performance and ineffective role of the

political parties is due to the lack of the

Ali Saif hussen, Chairman of

Democracy Developing Forum, said

"Tribe can't replace the political par-

ties." Dr. Adel Al-Shargaby, from

Sana'a university stated that the tribe

has greater influence than political par-

ties, because it has obtained large eco-

factual democratic conditions."

in the political process from the past"



<u>(EME)</u>

• 3 Yemenis Were Martyred in Iraqi Resistance Drive.

Aug. 2, 2005.

- 36 Million YR Embezzlements at Hudeidah University.
- Hundreds of Detainees and Financial Conditions to Release them.

The paper published an informative report issued by the Central Organization for Audit and Control (COCA). The report brought to the lights an immense corruption afflicted the state's general budget enormous loses. The COCA's report asserted that the costumes relieves and reductions over some imported goods and autos sustained the state's general budget around 154,634,204,564 YR. The report disclosed that the state-owned lands and real estates are being looted by corrupt officials and influential figures. The state's real estates which had been robbed in the capital secretariat worthwhile some 21billion YR.. The report also revealed that the un employment rate reached to 47%.



Main Headlines

- President Interrogates Detainees over Diesel Demonstrations.
- Al-Houthi Suspends His Negotiations with Authority.
- American Development Agency Threatens to Halt its Health Services.

The independent paper ran a survey to answer the question: Could a Tribe be

regime is still authoritative and oppressive, on the other hand, the political parties aren't independent from the state, almost all political parties leaders receive their salaries from the state consequently they are under the state con-Mr. Abdel-Wahab Al-Annesy, Secretary trol."

> Al-Sahwa, Aug. 3,2005.

Main Head lines.

· Political Parties and NGO s Condemn Verdict Against Al-Moya'd. · Lawsuit Against Govt.

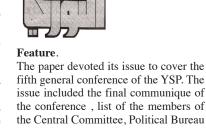
The paper reported that hundreds of citizens have been held in custody over the protestations against the reduction of subsidies on fuel. It reported that more than 185 citizens were arrested and put in jails in the governorate of Al-Dale'a. In Hodeidah there are about 190 people in custody and about 40 person in Aden and some 100 in Taiz.



Main Headline

- Concerns About International Violations Against Journalists. Arresting Aden Refinery Syndicate
- Chairman. · Old Guards Dominate the Political Bureau of YSP

nomic and financial power, moreover The prominent columnist Dr. tribe has got great military power so that tribesmen can mobilize enormous mili-Mohammed Abdel-Malek Al-Motwakel tants within few days. As a result of this penned a commentary suggesting a political reform in the Arab world as the it has strong influence upon the regime." Dr Al-Shargaby debated that only single way to keep the foreign the weakness of the political parties is intervention out of the domestic affairs. attributed to the regime stance." The He stated that Arab world political arena



Europe, thy name is cowardice

BY MATHIAS DOEPFNER

he writer Henryk Broder recently issued a withering indictment: "Europe, your family name is Appeasement." That phrase resonates because it is so terribly true. Appeasement cost millions of Jews and non-Jews their lives as England and France, allies at the time, negotiated and hesitated too long before they realized that Hitler needed to be fought and defeated, because he could not be bound by toothless agreements.

Later, appeasement legitimized and stabilized Communism in the Soviet

ernment - and, if polls are to be believed, the German people – actually believe that creating an official state Muslim holiday will somehow spare us from the wrath of fanatical Islamists. One cannot help but recall Britain's Neville Chamberlain on his return from Munich, waving that laughable treaty signed by Adolf Hitler, and declaring the advent of "peace in our time.

What atrocity must occur before the European public and its political leadership understands what is really happening in the world? There is a sort of crusade underway – an especially perfidious campaign consisting of systematic attacks by Islamists, focused on civilians,

I fear that it stems from the fact that we Europeans are so materialistic, so devoid of a moral compass. For his policy of confronting Islamic terrorism head on, Bush risks the fall of the dollar, huge amounts of additional national debt, and a massive and persistent burden on the American economy. But he does this because, unlike most of Europe, he realizes that what is at stake is literally everything that really matters to free people.

While we criticize the "capitalistic robber barons" of America because they seem too sure of their priorities, we timidly defend our welfare states. "Stay out of it! It could get expensive," we cry. So, instead of acting to defend our civiour 35-hour workweek or improving our dental coverage, or extending our four weeks of annual paid vacation. Or perhaps we listen to television pastors preach about the need to "reach out to terrorists," to understand and forgive.

These days, Europe reminds me of an old woman who, with shaking hands, frantically hides her last pieces of jewelry when she notices a robber breaking into a neighbor's house. Appeasement? That is just the start of it. Europe, thy name is Cowardice.

Mathias Doepfner is CEO of Axel Springer, the German media group.



has been witnessing an widespread popular movements seeking for an urgent political reform as a prerequisite for the overhauling He argued that the conflict between the popular forces looking for reform and the political elites throughout the Arab world might create the ideal conditions for the external powers intervention. Since the authoritarian regimes usually resort to the foreigners powers to secure their existence at helms on the other hand the popular movements might be coerced to demand an external protect them from the despotic authorities Thereby, the political reform is an imperative to prevent the foreign powers from intervening in our affairs.



and survey dealt with the participants views and impressions on the conferSILVER LINING By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

Actions...not talks

read a funny news story in al-Thawara last Friday. It was about some directives given by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the government to start implementing an austerity policy. This is fine so far and this is what we all are looking for. But, the news report also said that the directives included also stop of acts of theft of public and private properties including pieces of land belonging to endowment by some high ranking officials and other influential guys. It also said that these people should not drive fashionable cars so as not to hurt the feelings of the ordinary citizens. It also pointed out that the medical aid given to big officials to go abroad should be stopped and that they have to support their claim for such an aid with "real" medical certificates not fake ones which they easily get from some doctors.

The content of such directives is a real condemnation to the political regime and a concrete evidence on its leniency with corruption. How come that they know that some big guys take by force the properties of the state and the people while they are silent and mute. They also know that there is corruption in the medical aid given to the officials and just close their eyes. I know that the big guys and tribal leaders do not have to go around to get any money from the public treasury.

But, talking about these practices in such a way means that they are not serious about it and just to strike the ego of and fool the ordinary citizens. I believe there is no need for the

lish a news report in al-Thawara that some officials should avoid driving fashionable cars just to show respect to the poor who are not able even to make ends meet. Mr. President, I think to keep the hearts of the poor unbroken is to hold corrupt thieves and crooks accountable, not requesting them even through the media to avoid driving their lavish cars and hold extravagant ceremonies, spending millions on them. What about the military cars that

are of different colors and hues?. The first model of any car produce goes immediately to the security and military personnel. I believe the government spends through its nose on buying cars for these institutions. It is these people who drive in a crazy way, passing over all traffic rules and regulations without any care to the people in the streets who feel disgusted whenever they see a military or security car, symbol of snobbery and heedlessness. Most of the time, drivers of such cars are kids. What about the military guys who strip ordinary people their pieces of land and sometimes they rob their lives too when neces-

The poor are fed up and do not need directives that never see the light of day. They just need turning such directives or orders into practice and a legal system with real functioning and power. These people need to receive full care and attention from the political regime and authorities all the time, not just at critical moments like those we are going through after the decision to rise fuel price. They want laws and orders that are enforced and con-

Union, then East Germany, then throughout the rest of Eastern Europe, where for decades inhuman, repressive, and murderous governments were glorified.

Appeasement similarly crippled Europe when genocide ran rampant in Bosnia and Kosovo. Indeed, even though we had absolute proof of ongoing mass murder there, we Europeans debated and debated, and then debated still more. We were still debating when finally the Americans had to come from halfway around the world, into Europe yet again, to do our work for us.

Europe still hasn't learned its lesson. Rather than protecting democracy in the Middle East, European appeasement, camouflaged behind the fuzzy word "equidistance," often seems to countenance suicide bombings in Israel by fundamentalist Palestinians. Similarly, it generates a mentality that allows Europe to ignore the nearly 500,000 victims of Saddam's torture and murder machinery and, motivated by the self-righteousness of the peace movement, to harangue George W. Bush as a warmonger.

This hypocrisy continues even as it is discovered that some of the loudest critics of American action in Iraq made illicit billions - indeed, tens of billions - of dollars in the corrupt UN "oil-for-food" program.

Today we are faced with a particularly grotesque form of appeasement. How is Germany reacting to the escalating violence by Islamic fundamentalists in Holland, Britain, and elsewhere in Europe? By suggesting – wait for it – that the proper response to such barbarism is to initiate a "Muslim holiday" in Germany.

I wish I were joking, but I am not. A substantial fraction of Germany's gov-

that is directed against our free, open Western societies, and that is intent upon their utter destruction.

We find ourselves faced with a conflict that will most likely last longer than any of the great military clashes of the last century - a conflict conducted by an enemy that cannot be tamed by "tolerance" and "accommodation" because that enemy is actually spurred on by such gestures. Such responses have proven to be signs of weakness, and they will always be regarded as such by the Islamists.

Only two recent American presidents have had the courage needed to shun appeasement: Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. America's critics may quibble over the details, but in our hearts we Europeans know the truth, because we saw it first hand. Reagan ended the Cold War, freeing half of Europe from nearly 50 years of terror and slavery. And President Bush, acting out of moral conviction and supported only by the social democrat Tony Blair, recognized the danger in today's Islamist war against democracy.

In the meantime, Europe sits back in the multi-cultural corner with its usual blithe self-confidence. Instead of defending liberal values and acting as an attractive center of power on the same playing field as the true great powers, America and China, it does nothing. On the contrary, we Europeans present ourselves, in contrast to the supposedly "arrogant Americans," as world champions of "tolerance," which even Germany's interior minister, Otto Schily, justifiably criticizes.

Where does this self-satisfied reaction come from? Does it arise because we are so moral?

lization, we prefer to discuss reducing **Copyright: Project Syndicate**, 2005

president and the government to pubcretized.

The EU's small leaders

BY HAROLD JAMES

he defeat of the EU's Constitutional Treaty in referendums in France and the Netherlands has, it seems, given rise to a new consensus that further enlargement of the Union should be slowed down, or even stopped. Advocates of this position see EU voters as terrified by the consequences of the May 2004 enlargement of the EU, when eight formerly communist states joined, and angry that they were not consulted about it.

One set of fears concerns the labor market - the so-called "Polish plumber" question. In this interpretation, wages were eroded and jobs were lost because of the inflow of poorly qualified and cheap central Europeans. Particular cases, such as the elimination of German meat processing and packing jobs, or casual workers in France, were widely discussed as evidence of a new threat.

But the "Polish plumber" is actually a weak bogeyman. First, there had already been a substantial flow of workers before enlargement. Poles had worked in some agricultural jobs - in sugar beet and wine harvesting – even during the communist era. With the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, labor flows, both legal and illegal, became much greater.

Second, inflows of new workers bring substantial benefits as well as losses: in

France, which suffers a shortage of some 6,000 plumbers, there must be plenty of households that would be pleased to find someone qualified to do repair work.

Finally, the enlargements of the 1980's, when Greece and then Spain and Portugal joined the then European Community, were not very disruptive. By themselves, the labor-market implications of poor countries' accession to the EU simply are not very dislocating.

What makes the debate so passionate in 2005 is a new fear that did not exist in the 1980's: that the new members have a different social model, in which workers' rights and the welfare state will be eroded. It is not so much the Polish plumber as it is the Slovak 19% flat tax that is the challenge to the older West European social model and welfare state.

The EU's large states feel particularly vulnerable, and it is there that the biggest shock to expectations has occurred. In the past, France and Germany were the motors of European integration. Now they are the countries that feel most threatened, and bookshops in both countries are full of alarmist and sensational accounts of national decline.

Germany's post-1949 Federal Republic was accustomed to being regarded as Europe's great economic success story, but it never really recovered from the post-unification recession of the early 1990's, with growth sluggish to non-existent. The consensual society

that was at the center of the Federal Republic's Wirtschaftswunder now looks inflexible, throwing up obstacles to change.

Germany is surrounded by small states that all seem to be prospering more in today's geo-political and geo-economic environment. These include not only the rapidly growing formerly communist countries to the east, Poland and the Czech Republic, but also Denmark, the Netherlands, Austria, and Switzerland, upon which Germans traditionally looked down. Now, as one mordant and widespread slogan puts it, Austria is "the better Germany."

Many French writers also express a vivid feeling of national decline, and many ordinary citizens believe that the rules of the global economy work against French national interests.

In short, the large states still have illusions, encouraged by their political elites, about what the state can do to guide economic development. By contrast, the small European states - whether in Eastern or Western Europe - have been much more flexible in responding to the challenges of the modern globalized economy.

Politics can offer all kinds of goods that voters find very attractive: tax breaks, subsidies, and social benefits. But small states are less likely to think that they can create the rules of the game, and accordingly they are more willing and

able to make adjustments. They are more keenly aware that if they try to redistribute too much, they will simply drive away the factors of production: capital will flow elsewhere, and labor will likewise migrate.

The same sort of logic applies to the large states: France and Germany are losing skilled labor at the same time as they are drawing in cheaper labor from Eastern Europe. The result is that they are feeling less French or German, creating greater political room, on both the left and the right, for nationalist *ressentiment*. In the earlier rounds of European integration, from the 1950's to the 1980's, the big states received very obvious gains, which their politicians could easily present as such to voters. But since 1989 – or since the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1992 - the political dynamic has changed. It is now the EU's smaller states that gain the most from wider and deeper European integration. If the large states are to obtain similar gains, and their politicians are to recover voters' respect, their governments will have to accept the small-state logic and abandon the Great Power posturing of the past.

Harold James is Professor of History at Princeton University and author of The End of Globalization: Lessons from the Great Depression. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.

Business & Economy



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Business

\$96 million for **Investment in real estate**

he State' Real Estate started implementing \$96- million worth projects for developing and improving Yemeni cities and ports in cooperation with the WB in the governorates of Sana'a, Hodeida and Hadramout.

The project is planned to be implemented in 12-year time within the frame of procedures and plans taken by the State's Real Estate to invest in properties and lands owned by the government, economically exploiting them in a modern method to raise annual revenues.

The project aims to upgrade the infrastructure and prepare government's lands and estates to be convenient for investment to ensure direct profit for citizens and to cope with the ongoing economic reforms in the States' Real Estate within the financial and administrative

program currently implemented by the and economic development carried out government.

In cooperation with the parties concerned, the State's Real Estate has worked on limiting specialization duality and raised its annual revenues to 500 million riyals in 2004.

The Area and Estate Record has finished works of the geographical cooperation of Yemen with modern network of geometrical points and area triangles that were undertaken by the French Geographical Institute.

Of the operational procedures implemented by the State's Real Estate, the establishment is working on a project for modernization of Yemen's map that started ten years ago with a total cost of 50 million French francs.

The project is aimed at fulfilling the needs and requirements for the social

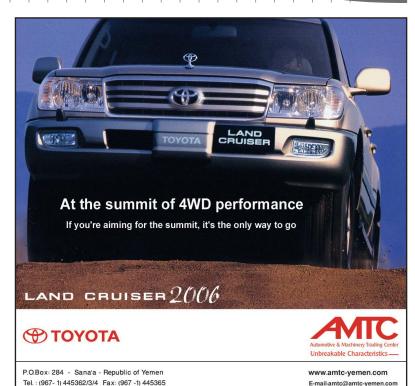
by the Yemeni government. Works of geographic formation will help bring the geometrical foundation, the base of plan-related works, most important of which is the recording purposes of the in-kind estate.

The in-kind estate recording system works on raising the level of economic and social development through encouraging investment in all aspects of development and providing the database related to the estate wealth inside Yemen.

Currently the State's Real Estate is finalizing the works of G.P.S. system, which operates for specifying four points or signals. These are coordinates associated with land and reporting them directly to the head-office that contains the station. It has a great role in the process of fixing land and preventing any intrusion. This system includes two kinds of use: office use and field use either from real life situation or from the map

The State's Real Estate faces plentiful of problems and obstacles during work which are, according to reliable sources, the lack of aerial outlines, documents and malpractices as well as the randomly-built houses in some areas.

The sources specify three main causes behind obstacles and problems facing activities of the State's Real Estate. Article 10 of the law No. 21 issued in 1995 confirmed that State's Real Estate is the only side responsible for dealing with issues related to government lands and properties, however, there are some ministries and institutions continued to issue contracts for lands used by them.





To alleviate poverty and improve national economy **WB offers lavish** support to Yemen

By Mahyoub al-Kamali Yemen Times Staff

he World Bank has confirmed that Yemen has the largest number of projects supported by it in the Middle East and North Africa. It is a fact showing strong ties and support for the WB to Yemen. The additional support offered by the WB depends on the performance projects fund and the application of a policy required for reforms including judiciary reform and specifying the prices of energy services.

A statement issued by the UN Media Center indicated that Yemen had good facilities, pondered upon as factors for development including its tourist and cultural heritage. For upgrading these facilities, Yemen is advised to continue exploiting its national workforce to strengthen its institutions and improve the investment climate.

The WB and donors may help the Yemeni government in reaching the

said that making a change is the responsibility of Yemenis.

He pointed out the support offered by the WB through closer partnership with the Yemeni governorate and the WB's strategy that concentrates on fighting poverty by offering loans, technical support, and analytical and consultant assistances.

ìThe strategy of helping the countryî is considered as a WB's plan to be implemented during 3-5 years according to the economic and social performance of the country, the official challenges facing development and the government's development strategy.

This strategy offers the previous assistance programs for the country implemented by the WB and gaining lessons and experiments for the future. The current strategy of helping the country extending between 2003 and 2005 is in the hand of all the people and stands for part of the WB's policy in uttering information. The strategy will be developed during 2006-2010 in consultation with the Yemeni government, donors, and

poverty alleviation strategy and the third development five-year plan, both are considered two documents of the national policy that reflect pledges of the Yemeni government toward its nation.

The statement mentioned that through its support in form of loan policy, the WB pursues precious efforts to ensure joint consultation by the two sides and the transparent process that guarantees using loan revenues for purposes for which loans were granted. Drawing convenient attention will help achieve the economic goals, in addition to efficiency and fairness in the purchasing process funded by the WB. Moreover, the WB gives more priority to supporting administration and reforming the government's purchasing systems in the indebted countries.

Raising the level of efficiency and transparency in managing expenditures of public resources has a correlation with poverty alleviation and achieving continuing development.

The former WB President signaled

the Yemeni government has been distinguished with continuing consultancies and coordination for improving the economic situations and the living standards of the Yemeni people. He added that Yemen was facing several challenges, but alleviating poverty remains the prime challenge. This problem got magnified due to the rapid population growth in the country estimated at 3% every year, the sharp illiteracy rate, mainly among females, the high unemployment rate and water shortage. Because of such big challenges, the WB concentrates on enhancing economic development and alleviating poverty in the country. Yemen is classified among the

poorest countries in the world according its average per capita income that is US\$ 570. Consequently, Yemen receives financial assistance from the International Development Institution, one of the WB establishments that offer easy International The loans. Development Institution provides financial assistance through interest-

fruits of its efforts, and as Mr. Jims the civil society. This strategy is out that since Yemeni joined the WB free loans that can be paid back in 40 Walfenson, former WB President based on the government's new in 1969, the WB's cooperation with years.





Culture **History of Yemeni jambia**

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

lobalization couldn't deprive the Yemenis of their Jambia. It is considered as a symbol for the Yemenis.

History of the jambia.

One needs to know what a Jambia is before knowing its history. It is a name given by the Yemenis to a sort of a twisted dagger. It is worn around the waist in many cases towards the side and hence the name Jambia from "jamb" which means in Arabic side.

There are several theories about the origin of the Jambia. There are historical facts, concerning the existence of the Jambia revealling that it used to be worn at Sheban times, in the Himiarite kingdom. They take the statue of the Sheban king (Madi Karb 500 bc) as proof. This statue, which was discovered by an American mission in Marib in the 1950s, was found to be wearing a Jambia

The president has lately given the national museum a present of bronze pieces that go back to the Himirite era. These pieces were used for ornamenting Jambia sheaths. Researchers depend on the still on going habit of ornamenting the handles of the Jambia with old Himirite golden coins.

Structure and make

Iambias constitute of a handle, the blade and the sheath in which the blade is put. It is made of a certain sort of wood, to hold the blade that is fixed to the waist in a neat way. The belt that holds the Jambia is made of tanned leather, or some thick cloth. There are specialized markets and handicraft markets that decorate it with golden wires

The Jambia handle often tells of the social status of the man who wears it. They are made of the African rehnsorus's horn, ivory and also (Almoswae) horn. A kilo of this often costs \$1500. The manufacturers receive this through smugglers, due to the international ban on this stuff. This contributed to the retreat in the manufacturing of valuable Jambias. The Rehnorus horn is considered to be the



most precious. The Jambias value increases as it acquires modern and old qualities.

Qualities of Jambia in Yemen

The most famous sort of the Jambia is that which has a "saifani" handle. It has a dim yellowish luster. When it is clearer, it turns into a yellow color. This is called saifani heart.

Some of the saifani handles are called "Asadi", when they turn into greenish yellow. When the handle becomes Whitish yellow, it is called Zaraf, There is also Albasali (onionish) kind whose color looks like white onion.

The saifani Jambia is often worn by dignitary persons; among them are the Hashimites (descendants of the prophet - mpboh), the judges, famous merchants and businessmen. Some of these Jambias cost about Yr 70 millions, like that of sheikh Al-Shaif, which goes back to Imam Yahia Hameed Aldeen. The ordinary Jambias cost about Yr 10 50 thousands.

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Jambia and the Yemeni culture

Jambias are often inherited, because of their symbolic social meaning. It is a sign of loyalty to tribal norms and social prestige. The social importance of the Jambia led the Yemenis to make a lot of poems that describe the Jambia. When individual and tribal disputes break out, the Jambia is used as a means of arbitration, which is called in Yemen Alfara'a (reconciliation) and

Adl (justice). He who abandons his Jambia, whatever the conditions are, would be defamed by his peers and acquaintances. The Jambia should not come out of its sheath except in extreme cases. Or as it is used in the famous Yemeni (bara'a) dance.

Officials and government employees are forbidden to wear their Jambias during the working hours. The judges, ulma MPs, and sheikhs are exempted. Prominent sheikhs are often keen to put on their Jambias. Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussien Al-Ahmar, the speaker of the parliament is often keen to put on his Jambia even if he is going abroad.

Literary Corner By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The Structure of Dreams in the Story of Joseph and His Brethren (3 of 3)

Author: Dr. Rivadh Al-Qirshy Language: Arabic Publisher: Ministry of Culture and Tourism Year Published: 2004 Number of Pages: 140

ith this surprising statement to his brothers, they answered, "Then, aren't you indeed Yusuf or Joseph?" He then gave them a robe to take back to their father to place it on his face, by which he will retain his vision again. He asked them to bring his parents and the rest of the clan to Egypt. When they all arrived, Joseph told his parents to step up to the pedestal where he was sitting and all of a sudden the parents and eleven brothers bowed and prostrated to him in praise. With this dramatic climax, the Qur'an brings us right back to the beginning of the story, after the introduction: "We herein relate to you the best of tales or stories"..." (Holy Qur'an XII/v. 2): The story starts with the coming of young Joseph to his wise father reveal ing to him a peculiar dream he had: Then, Joseph said to his father: 'My dear father, I visualized 11 planets and the sun and the moon – I saw them for me, in prostration" (Holy Qur'an XII/v.3). Yes, the story of Joseph began with a dream, and it is clear from the outset that the story revolves around dreams and the interpretation of dreams. Of course, for prophets of God, dreams have far more significance than those of laymen. Dreams are either predictions of what may come to be seen as a reality in real life, or are Heavenly instructions that must be fulfilled [the Patriarch Ibrahim's (PBAH) dream that he was slaying his son Ishmael, for which the Lord later had absolved Ibrahim, accepting an animal sacrifice instead, after testing the faith of both the father and son, who both obediently acceded]. Thus, the author of the book gives great importance to the number of dreams that arise in the story. He makes the dreams the axis on which the story revolves. In this first dream, the author suggests that this beginning entry into dream brings Joseph his first encounter with the supernatural or the spiritual, and this was clearly noticed by his father Jacob: "Son, do not relate your dream to your brothers, lest they plan some mis*chief against you*" (Holy Qur'an XII/v.4. With a heritage of prophecy, Jacob knew that his son was speaking of a destiny that will be laid out in the Heavens and feared that his brothers might be driven by jealousy to harm Joseph. At the same time, the author notes that in relating this dream to his father, Joseph, even at such a young age was feeling a sense of pride, to the extent that he didn't even bother to ask his father for an interpretation, but related it as a way of affirming his claim to some distinction - for the ego anyway. By the time Joseph was in prison, he had developed sufficient wisdom and knowledge to be able to decipher the mysteries of slumber vision and thus, when two of his prison mates revealed dreams that they simultaneously had: One dreamt to be brewing wine for his master and the other one was carrying bread from which birds were nibbling. Joseph's prognosis: the former will be serving his master wine, while the latter will be crucified and birds will be eating from his head. With this dream over with, years pass by and one of the inmates is found serving in the Court of the Pharaoh. At this juncture the Pharaoh has his seven good years and seven bad years dream. Remembering his good fortune with Joseph in prison, the former inmate then suggests to the Court to bring on Joseph to interpret the dream. With this dream convincingly interpreted, after all the advisors and officials of the Pharaoh could not find any interpretation thereof, Joseph's life changes from an era of torment and suffering to a new period of his life where he will be a member of the nobility and instead of being owned and submissive to the will and dictates of others (as a slave), he will be dictating the fate of others and delivering the mission of justice and equity that his faith in God would compel him to fulfill. With Joseph being far away from his folks, he was convinced that serving as Trustee for the Stores of the Pharaoh, he will again be able to have fate work for him to resolve his yearning for his folks. Perhaps his own dream, which he related to his father was still in his mind and he knew that something had to come out of it. The author analyzes each of these dreams rather deeply. For Joseph, the

first dream was an eve-opener for him to the world and to himself. Although we could not get an interpretation of the

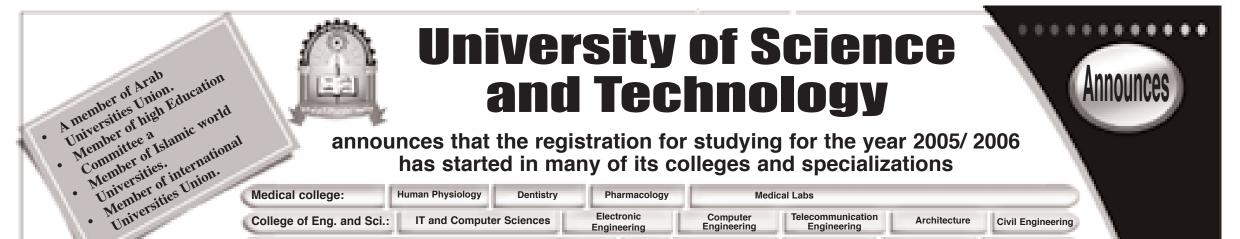
dream revealed to Joseph by his father we are clearly convinced that the dream was projecting a great destiny for the lad, so anything that happens in between was merely a stepping stone towards this destiny. He accepted being a slave, without contest, through which he was able to relish in the learning experience of being a part of the entourage of a great nobleman. He prayed to God to allow him to go to jail because this way he can maintain his purity and innocence and not be overtaken by the evil and temptations that had tested his will to resist, otherwise he would loose the chance of a heavenly guided destiny he was still awaiting.

8 August, 2005

Then the dream of the two inmates is analyzed, but given a rather low keyed significance by the author, except that they provided a medium by which Joseph's fate was to evolve later. At this juncture, I am not in agreement with the author, as he gives a low grading for the dreams of the inmates. How a dream becomes the pathway to greater inroads into life should not be downplayed, as the dreams of the inmates are the middle and pivotal rudder in the ladder of dreams in the story. The twin dreams of the inmates is the turning point in the fate of Joseph and without them, he would have never been able to have reached the Pharaoh's

With Joseph in the aristocracy, after the coming and going he has subjected his brothers to, it was time to lock up the story, with the return to the original dream. The bowing of his parents and brothers to Joseph finally revealed to the reader of the Qur'an the interpretation of the initial dream that started it all. Furthermore, all the jealousies and evils that his brothers sought amongst themselves also have been climaxed with an atmosphere of goodness and forgiveness, for the Lord has made a happy conclusion for all involved - all of which made Joseph the proud beneficiary of a fate decided by dreams - a little déjà vu with spiritual spicing

' This is not to imply that these narrations given are fiction, but because of their beauty and emblematic implications and the spiritual aura around them, they are like tales of enjoyable fiction. ² I.e., I dreamt













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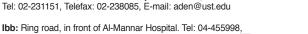
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Eng. Abdulaziz Mahyoub to Yemen Times

"We are in dire need to increase our water resources"

BY RIDHWAN AL-SAQQAF YEMEN TIMES ADEN BUREAU

ost water basins in Yemen are subject to heavy consumption because of a dramatic rise in demand for water, as the population rate keeps growing, in addition to the expansion in agricultural and industrial projects. Wells are drilled indiscriminately and in large numbers. All this has led to a sharp decline in underground water reserves and to varying waters' degrees of saltiness, according to conducted studies and regular well surveys.

Like other areas in the country, Aden province has seen increased urban activities in different aspects due to the population growth and availability of a wide range of investment options economic, social, etc. The same is true for neighboring areas in Lahj and Abyan. The agricultural areas have widened and new lands have been cultivated. Many investment and service facilities now exist and urban planning is still conquering new areas and tightening the knot around water basins and drinking water wells.

To shed light on this issue, Yemen Times interviewed Eng. Abdulaziz Mahyoub, General Manager of Aden

Healthy body.

Water Resources.

Q: How can we tackle the currently deteriorating water situation?

A: Actually the Water Resources Authority was established in 1995 for this purpose. It started executing its tasks with the purpose of regulating water consumption and ensuring best use of water resources.

Consequently, the Ministry of Water and Environment was created in 2004 in order to organize the water sector through establishing an institutional foundation to manage water around the country in an integrated manner and hence provide an investment friendly environment likely to cope with Yemen's exacerbating water problem.

The Ministry was assigned one of the most critical development tasks, which is the paucity of water and the challenge of how to supply people with pure water in rural and urban areas. Not only that, it is also responsible for treating wastewater, managing water resources and planning how to use them according to water legislations.

Q: What are the most important routine tasks of the Aden Water **Resources Authority?**

A: Our Office carries out its assignments in the provinces of Aden, Lahi,



Abyan, and Dhale' in accordance with the National Program for the Integrated Management of Water Resources (2003-2008), supported by the UNDP. Being a member in Aden Province's Executive Council, Aden Local Water and Sanitary Sewage Authority and several other committees related to water and environment, the Office takes up a number of different responsibilities that directly touch the life of people.

The Office also coordinates well with the other government offices, Aden University, research centers and scientific and technical committees, exchanging data and setting up studies and researches.

Q: Could you give us a thorough idea about the water situation in Aden, Lahj and Abyan?

A: I may summarize it in the following points:

First: Exhaustion:

All studies conducted on the underground reservoirs point to water imbalance, discernable more in recent years because of changes to water usages. Second: Pollution:

The signs of pollution have appeared in some basins at different degrees. It is important to realize such a danger before water becomes too impure to use it. We cannot afford treatment costs.

O: What do you think are the recommendable solutions?

A: It is a challenge. To deal with these problems and their sever consequences necessitate that we take a number of swift and radical measures that aim at developing water resources, rationalizing water use and slowing down consumption rates as well as fighting pollution. Unless we increase water resources, we won't be safe. We are in dire need to increase our water resources.

Rationalizing water consumption entails adherence to the following:

1- Rationalizing agricultural consumption. That can be achieved through using advanced equipment to optimize the irrigation efficiency especially in water-poor areas in proportion

with the quantities of renewable waters based on the water balance of each basin. We should install meters on wells to make sure the pumped water doesn't exceed a particular point. And we must ensure that water should be always distributed according to a plan. Another measure is to plant trees that resist drought and enlarge rain-depending agriculture.

2- Household water rationalization: The water-distributing network has to be maintained to bring down quantity of leaked water and meters should be replaced to gauge consumed water. A set of regulations should be drafted to specify water quantities to be consumed in facilities that need large water quantities such as mosques, schools, camps, hospitals, etc.

Price of water used for miscellaneous purposes like car washing and swimming pools, need to be redefined in order to limit water usage in similar activities.

3- Developing water resources: Increasing planned building of dams, water barriers, cisterns, and tanks. Encouraging rain harvesting and reusing wastewater and treatment plants' output.

We should make the utmost use of conventional and non-conventional irrigation methods, form water groups and basin committees, conserve trees and botanical cover, boost public efforts to implement projects that develop water resources. Funds should be made available for establishing seawater distillation plants, which are inevitable especially in coastal areas.

Concerning pollution, we need to reduce over-pumping in coastal areas so as to prevent seawater from mingling with underground water. Cesspits should be far from water basins and the sanitary network has to be maintained so that public water is not polluted.

Moreover, fertilizers and pesticides having detrimental effect on water resources should be specified. Dumpsites, on the other hand, must be chosen according to studies. We should address the consequences of dumping wastes in valleys or near water basins and establish more laboratories that analyze water samples and detect pollution sources. There is the communica-

tion aspect. Official media including (TV, Radio, and papers) are required to launch a water awareness campaign to shed light on the problems and introduce ways to rationalize water consumption in a manner that conforms to the spirit of Islam. Educational curricula are a good way to influence the public opinion. However, it is important to promote new irrigation technology. Farmers should be encouraged to purchase them. It should be a continuous campaign run by organizations, associations, sports clubs, woman associations, and schools using a variety of Eng. Abdulaziz Mahyoub different ways like posters, booklets, articles, newspa-

per caricatures, instructions on electricity, water and telephone bills.

We have to take care of another yet significant issue and that is "legislatures". We should apply legal provision aimed to protect water from exhaustion and pollution. Violators should be made liable to penalties under the Water Act. Well drilling has to be regulated. Importation of drilling equipment as well as indiscriminate drilling should be stopped. Rig owners have to abide by law and do not drill wells unless they have permits from the concerned authority.

Q: What is the role of the local authority in this issue?

A: Being administrative bodies elected by the people from different categories, the local councils are urged to contribute to these efforts by applying the rules of the Local Authority regarding water resources, which state the following

Supervising and monitoring the implementation of water policies and protecting water basins from exhaustion and pollution; paying attention to water resources development by encouraging dam and water barriers construction. Thus the Local Authority's system

forms a crucial component of the strategic vision for an integrated development project. The Local Authority laws represent the legal manifestation propped constantly by real interest and directives from the political leadership.

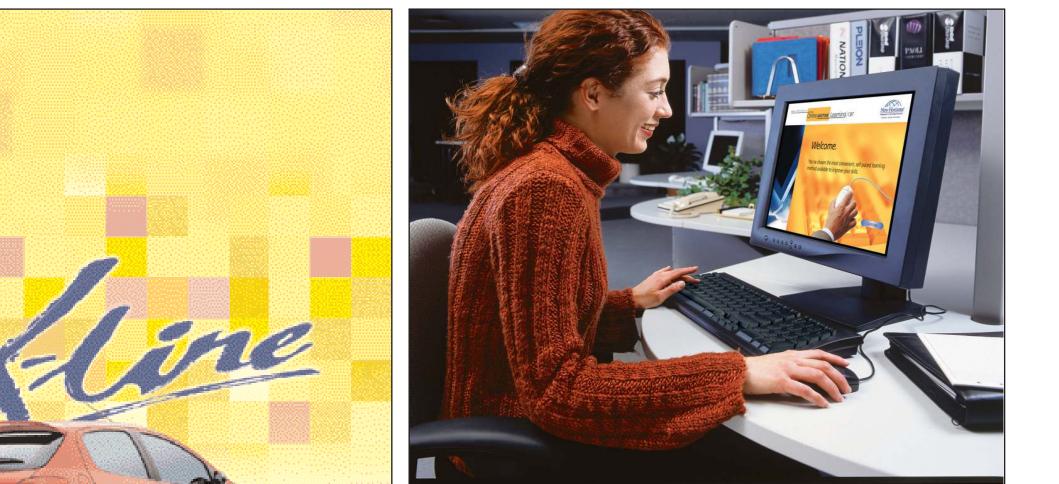
Therefore, all policies, legislations and measures elicited by the Water Resources Authority and Ministry of Water and Environment from the Legislative Authority require active participation on the part of local councilors, security, water user associations to contribute effectively to the plan through the following:

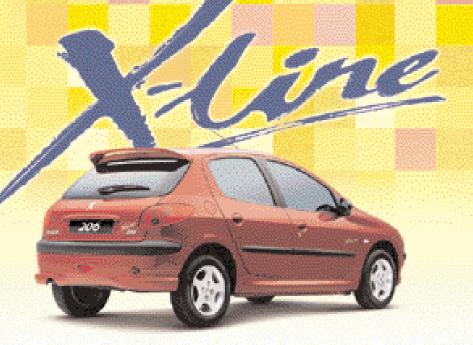
1- Participating in the awareness program and teaching the community about the seriousness of the water condition

2- Creating associations to protect water resources from exhaustion and pollution

3- Applying the legislations and laws and prioritizing water uses.

4- Public participation by prompting local councils to stop any indiscriminate drilling of wells.





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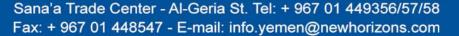
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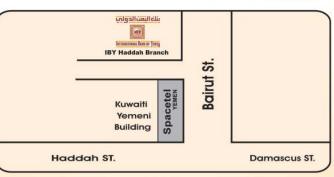
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Promoting academic writing in English for the World Wide Web: Part II

n Part I of the article, I drew attention to two conventional modes of information interchange that academics normally resort to, in satisfying their academic needs and raised the question of what it means to satisfy such needs in the context of the Web environment. I also considered in some details the problems of electronically simulating academically oriented 'speech'. The article ended with the sug-

gestion that an inter-institutional collaborative project involving interdisciplinary researches, to be carried out in different stages may be a good starting point for progress in the area of Academic Writing in English for the Web.]

The first stage of the project may desirably concentrate on an academically oriented interaction with the Web regarded as a collection of written texts. To this may eventually be added the additional components that effectively handle speech recognition and speech synthesis.

A brief discussion of 'information interchange through written texts' is obviously suggested.

Though in the conventional information interchange settings, people more readily resort to speech than to writing, because speech is more universal than writing, - in the context of the computer use in general, writing (namely, 'keying in') is far easier to process than speech. Though an oversimplification, for the sake of effect, one may claim that 'writing' is 'speech' minus features like voice quality that are specific to the individual speaker, and, therefore, far less ambiguous. Because of this reason, EAP for the Web in the form of written texts, is far simpler an entity than EAP for the Web in the form of spoken discourse. This explains the uncontrolled proliferation of written documents, available as web pages for us to access and the almost total absence of 'spoken discourses' as 'interactive' web pages. Where available, such web pages 'as speech' can only provide links to other web pages through graphics or 'html' anchors, at present, and not through 'spoken signals' ('hsml' anchors?).

Whether in the form of 'speech' or 'writing', for academic materials in English for the Web, to be regarded as "excellent", one must pay attention to two things: (a) quality control measures, and (b) accessibility procedures.

the technical terms in their respective fields. This may mean Augmented Network of all the technical terms relating to the discipline, demonstrating both the semantic and logical relationships that obtain PROF R K among the terms listed, showing how the discipline

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academic purposes. The moment the Internet detects an intention on the part of someone to create a web page, it can prompt him to use something like "an Internet Style Manual". This, of course, is a matter of detail and need not be gone into any further.

creating

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(b) Accessibility procedures:

In the first place, accessing a web site or a web page is different from using links within a page to move to other sections of the same page. A university homepage is a good example of the second kind mentioned. An academic will have need to do both. Early on in the paper, keyword-based searches were shown to be inadequate for academic purposes; a keyword is a unique index that does not recognize meaning as 'substance': it does not recognize the social. political, moral, ethical, and emotional dimensions of a term keyed in by the user. For a search to be cost-effective. relevant, and to have high quality, a search engine should go far beyond a 'keyword-based' search, and be made 'intelligent'. An 'intelligent' search engine makes a rational decision when prompted to select 'matches' for a given 'term' from among a huge list of web pages which would otherwise qualify as 'matches', from the point of view of a 'keyword-based' search. In other words, it knows its user, it keeps track of his/ her academic interests, and knows what exactly he/ she needs at a particular point of his/ her pursuit, keep all the 'false' candidates at bay, and thereby makes the search cost-effective, and relevant and ensures speed of access.

What does an engine of this dimension look like? To answer this question, one enters an area where it is difficult to resist the temptation to become technical. But keeping the interests of an EAP audience in view, I would like to avoid, if you will pardon the expression, the 'nitty-gritty' of information technology and keep to a reasonably broad statement of the issues involved. 1. To start with the engine should successfully avoid what is called 'user disorientation'. The term may be best illustrated by means of an anecdote. Ali brings Adel, a blind man, the news of Ameen's death. The following conversation takes place: Adel: That's terrible! Well, how did he die?

obtained through Yahoo and MSN search engines for "Government and Binding Theory of Syntax".] (transparencies)

In order to avoid 'user disorientation', the engine must develop a 'user profile'. which means the same as keeping track of his/ her interests and maintaining a record of all the web pages that he/ she visits, associating his / her identity with the resulting record and, on the basis of this, understand his/ her continually changing 'schema'. In cases where the engine has found a large number of matches for the search term entered, but is not sure which of them are likely to be more relevant than which others, even after applying its knowledge of the user's schema in narrowing down the matches, it may resort to an interactive questioning based search. That is, by seeking further clarifications about the 'semantic load' of the 'search term' keyed in. 'Flagging' is a technique commonly used for developing a user profile.

2. Let's examine, in the next place, how a search engine is related to what is called 'a knowledge representation system' and what additional features are needed to be incorporated into such a system, if the search engine were to function 'intelligently'. A knowledge representation system is a network of semantically related terms, a way of organizing 'content', the search engine's schema, in a manner of speaking. The web pages constituting the search space are linked to this network, for optimal output, and in view of this, it may be said to operate midway between the user and the searched-for-hits. Such a network for EAP will require millions of terms, to be involved in an enormous number of semantic as well as logical relations with each other. For the search engine to be intelligent', the knowledge representation system on which it is mounted should include an inference engine, in addition to an exhaustive representation of concepts in an extremely finely tuned network of semantic and logical relations. The inference engine to be used with the knowledge representation system is intended to deduce the exact field of knowledge to which the user's search term belongs. The moment a search term is routed through it, it should be able to match it, not just against an identical term in the repertoire of terms with in the Knowledge representation system, but against an entire network of relations that the term enters into. This is necessary for it to identify the user's area of academic interest appropriately.

3. Thirdly, we know that an academic not only searches an existing body of

the guidelines for the use of at, for example, the search results that I he/ she requires. It must be programmed to learn through its interactions with the users, and this is the main concern of 'machine learning', a branch of Artificial Intelligence.

4. And then there are cases where the user is not able to clearly spell out his query. It is possible that he/ she only has partial knowledge of the subject matter about which they seek more information. This is where the search engine turns to 'default reasoning', fuzzy logic, or a probabilistic model of reasoning to make bold guesses about the user's needs.

5. Most important of all, the search engine should have recourse to what is sometimes known as 'exclusion handling'. Exclusion handling is a matter of deciding fairly early on in the search path, 'what not to choose' as against 'what to choose', so that the search space for the term entered is drastically narrowed down at the very beginning of the search and the other procedures are then able to work more effectively.

In sum, we need a search engine that will make a rational choice of matches / hits from those that are available, taking into account, the user's schema, his / her purpose, and specific needs, social, political, emotional, or whatever. It should not waste his / her time by providing him with irrelevant hits. If a particular web page is considered to be very relevant to a user's purpose, the search engine must have a way of identifying this, even if it does not contain any of the search terms specified by the user.

The implication of all this for academic writings in English for the Web is enormous. At a very broad level, two sets of actions to be implemented concurrently are suggested: There is a colossal body of existing literatures on various academic disciplines which urgently require to be converted into a machine readable format, so that one may get ready in time to usher in an era of the inevitable 'paperless, printless societies'. Secondly, an elaborate set of very meticulously worked out conventions for prospective writings in English for academic purposes need to be developed. According to a recent study, for example, people searching the web for huge amounts of information soon begin to suffer from visual fatigue and grow impatient for summaries. This implies that structural changes may have to be brought about in the way people write for the Web. Lengthy preambles will soon be out of fashion and every section of an article may have to begin with the conclusion first and give details of the reasoning processes that yield the conclusion later. Again, information may have to be so laid out as to promote scan-

AN ENGLISH-TEACHER AL-SADDA, IBB abdulkreem_h_alawage@yahoo.com

very much .

important sectors such as :trade,technology, tourism, and teaching, besides for writing significant literary works .

Thus they would be aware of the advantages of English and unleash best efforts study it eagerly .

It is so difficult to persuade people either young or old to accept new ideas because it is a new challenge for them which needs a long time to Most of them seem to think that it is accept them as is the case of English. Some students say that English is not a good language and it is not important to be learnt ,although the beginners seem well disposed towards the idea So they should have a sound motivation from the early stages.It is rightly said,' Catch them young'. So if we want our students love English and study it eagerly we should advise them and clarify why they should pay more labour in learning English and reveal its usefulness and advantages for all its learners.

Poetry Corner

Smiles and tears

By Arif Ahmed

DEMONSTRATOR,

FACULTY OF EDUCATION,

TIVOLI

cheer.

N.B.

HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY

AL-AHDAL,

With smiles and tears I'm here today To wish that time a cassette could be Which at any time I could re-wind To please my ears, heart and mind.

How fast those days have gone, my dears?! How come our smiles're mingled with tears?

Why did we meet and now we do part? Is that our journey's end or just the

start? If ever you happen to feel sad Think back of our golden days

When sessions were held on different stairs Soon, I'm sure, you will be all

smiles.

With a smiling face, yet tearful eyes

Poetry Corner

When in Copen you must visit Tivoli. To my surprise, I found it quite ordinary.

Water levels, in huge lighted glass tubes, rising and falling

and in the whole garden these were the only objects worth observing.

I was returning empty-handed, and then

spotted a pretty police-woman at the gate.

Can I take a photograph? Why not, she signalled back.

She took on a heroic pose with a million kroner smile.



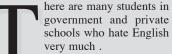
SATPATHY

I raised the camera, got nervous, what if I forget to click!

Then there was the flash, she bowed and waved her hand but forgot to take the smile back from my camera.

Why Yemeni students hate English

BY ABDULKREEM AL-AAWAGE



imposed upon them. It is a foreign language which is absolutely unnecessaryfor their communicative needs. Another contributory factor for their hatred is that they are taught by teachers who lack the commitment, passion and professionalism, especially at the initial years of learning

(a) Quality control measures:

In the case of academic materials "in print", (whatever the language), a discerning reader can easily make out which book or journal article is worth reading and which is not. Editorial committees of many different persuasions are constantly at work to weed out rubbish from getting published in internationally reputed journals or as monographs. The quality of a book is often guaranteed by the name that a publisher has. On the other hand, apart from the "firewall", which has non-academic reasons for filtering out sensitive materials, there is hardly anything worth its name to control the quality of the academic materials appearing on the Web. There is of course a popularity rating for many of the sites, which is determined by the number of visits that have been made to the site by the users. But a popularity rating is not the same as a quality rating. But this is not something that is difficult to achieve. Experts from different academic departments of institutions of higher learning from different parts of the globe can form editorial committees under the auspices of any reputed publishing agency, review the materials (including their links), and assign a suitable quality index to them.

Again, when it comes to writing for a journal or publishing a book on any academic topic, the writer is often guided by well-known style manuals, like the MLA Style Sheet, or the Chicago Manual of Style. In the case of the Web, there is an urgent need to create a set of guidelines for the academically oriented writings in English for the Web. The academic departments of various universities may take the lead in this regard, and lay down Ali: He choked while drinking milk. Adel: What is milk?

Ali: Milk is something while in colour.

Adel: What do I, a blind man, know about colours? What is white, tell me. Ali: Well, white is the colour of a

heron. Adel: You are testing my patience.

What is a heron?

Ali: Well, heron is a water bird, which looks somewhat like my hand bent like this . Can you feel it and see?

Ali bends his hand in the shape of a bird and guides Adel to feel it. After doing so, Adel exclaims:

Adel: No wonder the fellow got choked. Anyway, what made him drink something so big and crooked?

The anecdote is of course unreal and illogical, but it makes a point. It demonstrates a failure on the part of the interlocutors to sustain the theme of their conversation. Something comparable to this often happens when one browses the Internet, and before long one feels totally lost among a barrage of irrelevant hits. A failure to sustain the theme would yield quite interesting results if one were browsing the Internet for distraction, but very often it can be frustrating where the search is academically motivated. [Look

knowledge, but also contributes to it. When a new concept is floated, a new theory is formulated, or a hitherto-takenfor-granted paradigm is questioned, the 'knowledge representation system' on which the search engine is mounted may require to be altered, if not thoroughly revamped. In other words, a knowledge representation system should continually change to reflect the currency of everyday language. This will only be possible when the system is able to ask the user questions, every now and then, to clarify its own doubts and there by learn more about his topic of interest, and accordingly serve him with the information that

ning rather than intensive reading. Conventions like these and many more of them need to be widely circulated among institutions of higher learning in different parts of the world, so that EAP on the Web becomes standardized. This speaker is aware that he is not the first to make a recommendation of this nature. But the recommendation can bear repetition.

Finally, a few disturbing questions: Where will all this take us ? Do we want to pursue this effort to its logical conclusion? Isn't there a point at which the machine stops and the man takes over? And the audience may add their questions to the list.

Since teachers are the role models for the students, they should cultivate a positive attitude in them for this global language.

For example he/she can say that English is the language used in the

FUT TO THE TEST AVERNORD. BY DAVID OUELLET

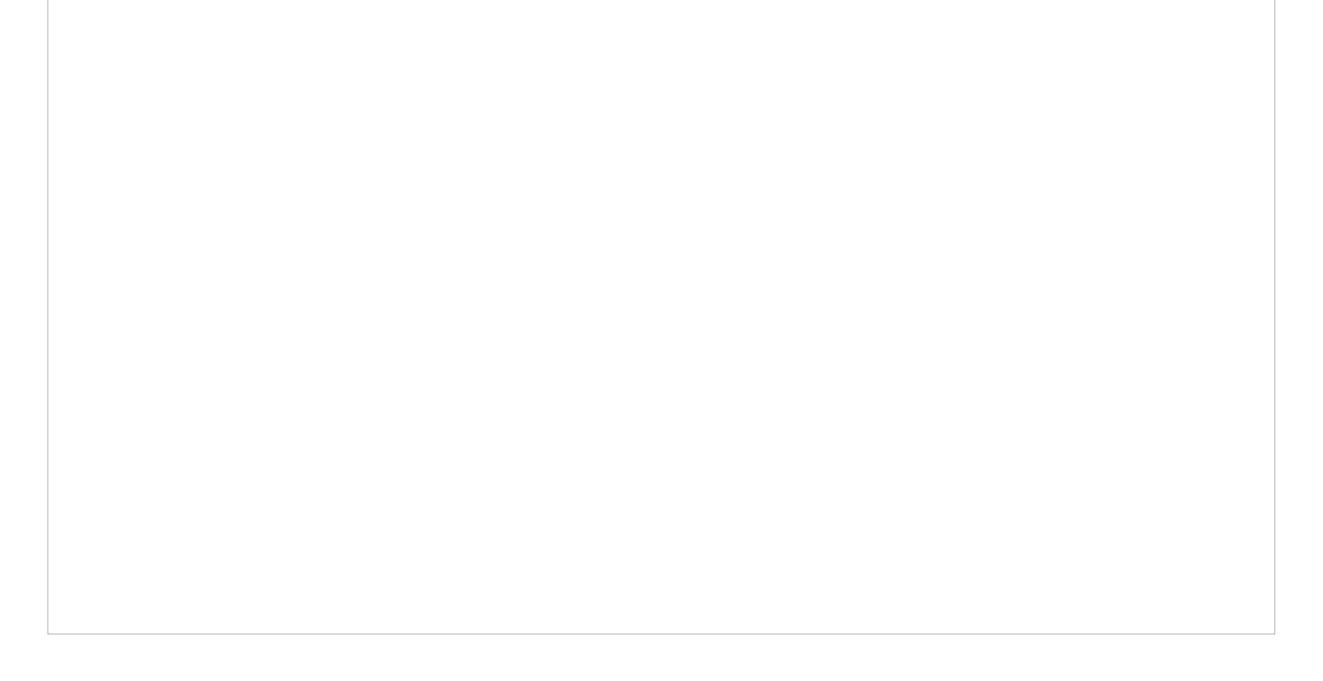
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS PAGE







Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder

By Yasser al-Mayasi Yemen Times Staff ymayasi@yahoo.com

n the last issue, a friend of the Yemen Times Corinne Levey wrote a beautiful article on Yemen and the perception of this country in the outside world. She touched on many critical points such as no available information and documents on Yemen, lack of media interest in this country whether local or international - of course unless it is linked to terrorism- and finally the absence of dialogue between Yemen and the rest of the world. Corinne found out that most of what she heard about Yemen before she came here to study Arabic did not hold true. And this surprised her and upset me. It upset me because this means that my country is portrayed negatively and tourists are actually discouraged from coming to my homeland. It upset me that although I know, Corinne and other friends of Yemen know how beautiful this country is and how it does not deserve this reputation.

And this has made me want to write more about Yemen. Sadly we don't realize many of our local issues until someone from outside points them out for us, nevertheless Yemen or as known in the past Arabia Felix is a legend that must be told.

Terrain

This country in the south-west corner of the Arabian Peninsula fascinates every visitor with the variety and the contrasts of the vegetation, landscape, the architecture and the people. Picturesque urban settlements with houses of clay, bricks and stone and colorful markets with the sounds, fragrances, and faces from





view of Haraz - Safan

breath away. The dessert in Hadramout and Marib are excellent for safari trips and adventure while the oasis in south Yemen would prove your dreams come true.

History

You will meet the old wisdom and the art of the Land of the Queen of Sheba everywhere - in the antique ruins, in the mosques and on the facades of the houses.

The old history and rich tradition of the Yemeni people are the sources of their identity, dignity, kindness and hospitality.

Sana'a has been inhabited for more

heritage can be seen in the 103 mosques, 14 hammams and over 6,000 houses, all built before the 11th century.

PHOTO BY MUKBID AL-SUDORI

Zabid was the capital of Yemen from the 13th to the 15th century. It played an important role in the Arab and Muslim world for many centuries because of its Islamic university. Unfortunately, the city is currently in decline and in a very poor state of conservation.

Nicknamed the "Manhattan of the desert", Shibam is one of the oldest and best examples of urban planning based on the principle of vertical construction.

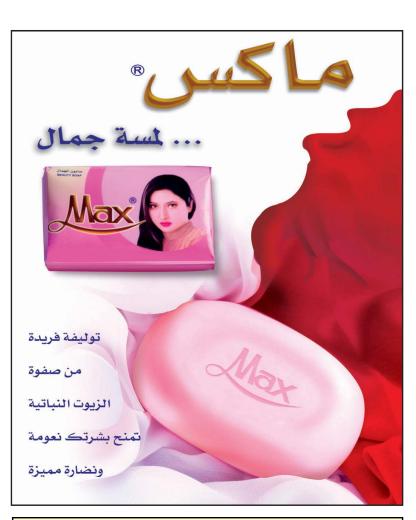
governmental bodies working in the field of tourist promotion is one of the reasons behind failure of tourism promotion in the country. Numerous governmental parties concerned with tourism are found to work without any coordination, in addition to investment and material gain being the primary aim of the private sector. Yemen's guests including tourists and foreign visitors do not seem to be interested in search of excellent hotels to reside in as they look for attractive tourist sights to explore the reality of Yemen.

It is not strange to say that tourists promote the Yemeni tourism better than the concerned authorities. They write wonderful stories and convey good impressions about Yemen that help attract great influxes of tourists.

Tourism officials should take into account that tourism promotion cannot be

achieved by external participations and staging international exhibitions. They should bear in mind that tourism promotion is an art that requires knowledge and scientific skills. They must know that tourism promotion has become an "industry", and the skilled person is the one who masters it.

For a better tourism promotion, officials at different tourism authorities should be replaced by other people skilled enough in the field to help increase tourism-related revenues. So that one day we can say - for once not ironically - "welcome to Yemen".





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