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Inside:   **3** UN powers re-think Lebanon draft  **5** Yemeni aid for Lebanon continues  **8** An interview with Jean Latute

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Salaries paid to Yemeni teachers are not enough to maintain their living for even one week. Do you think the government negligence of this serious question affects the education process in the country?

No (5%)
 Yes (95%)

This edition's question:
 Do you think businessmen paying 1 billion Yemeni Rials to support the electoral campaign of President Saleh has caused the ongoing price increase?

- Yes
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 - I don't know

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Opposition not happy with SCER regarding agreement of principles

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Aug. 9 — In a press conference last Monday, the four opposition parties of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) announced that they will stick to the imperativeness of accurate and true implementing of the agreement of principles, considering its articles as national pledges. They held the ruling party responsible for committing what they described as grave violations of the constitution, the law and the agreement of principles.

In a statement distributed at the press conference, the opposition parties waived returning to the parties' leading bodies to adopt a suitable stance if the JMP reaches a deadlock with the authority and the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) on implementing the agreement of principles. They also warned against breaches resulting from procrastination in fully executing the agreement as a whole.

Leading member of the Nasserite Organization and deputy chairman of the JMP executive committee, Mohammed Al-Sabri, said all options are open before the JMP, "either serious



Some opposition leaders at the press conference.

PHOTO BY TAWFIQ AL-ABSI

participation or active boycotting," if the authority and the ruling party don't stop violating the constitution.

"Under the evidence prepared beforehand in an illegal manner, sound polling won't allow the correct expression of the voters' will," he added, wondering about the SCER's failure in making special arrangements to enable four million Yemeni expatriates to exercise their constitutional right to choose the presi-

dent of the republic.

JMP spokesman Mohammed Qahtan ascertained that the SCER didn't undertake its duties legally or constitutionally because it didn't determine mechanisms to monitor media if their impartiality is violated, as well as the neutrality of governorate and district governors, whose impartiality the constitution stipulates.

Continued on page 2

Saudi scholar publicly criticizes Hezbollah

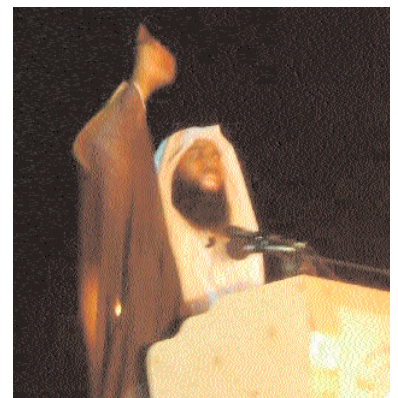
By: Sa'eed Al-Batati

MUKALLA, Aug. 8 — Participating in Al-Bahr Education Camp with other Saudi scholars, well-known Saudi scholar Sheikh Badr Al-Mashari publicly criticized Hezbollah, accusing it of being a Shiite party and declaring that no one should support it.

At a Monday gathering in Mukalla, Al-Mashari stated, "Muslims shouldn't be pleased with losses afflicted upon Israel and one shouldn't support all resistance parties in Lebanon [hinting at Hezbollah]. Further, one shouldn't stand with them in the same trench"

To attendees' surprise, Al-Mashari added, "We are pleased at the victory of the junior enemy (Hezbollah) against the higher enemy (Israel), but our criticism of Shiite Hezbollah doesn't mean we support Israel or will be silent about its crimes or justify them under the pretext of fighting Hezbollah."

Speaking the same language of Saudi authorities, Al-Mashari went on to say, "We need to stand with unarmed Lebanese people, provided that we start fighting those who fight



Sheikh Badr Al-Mashari criticizing Hezbollah.

Allah and His messenger. Leading them are the United States, Israel and Hezbollah, as they are our original enemies, yet we must support those poor unarmed people in Lebanon."

Additionally, Al-Mashari criticized the U.S., describing it as a crusader country and declaring that Muslims will defeat the U.S. and make jihad against it a judicial obligation upon all Muslims.

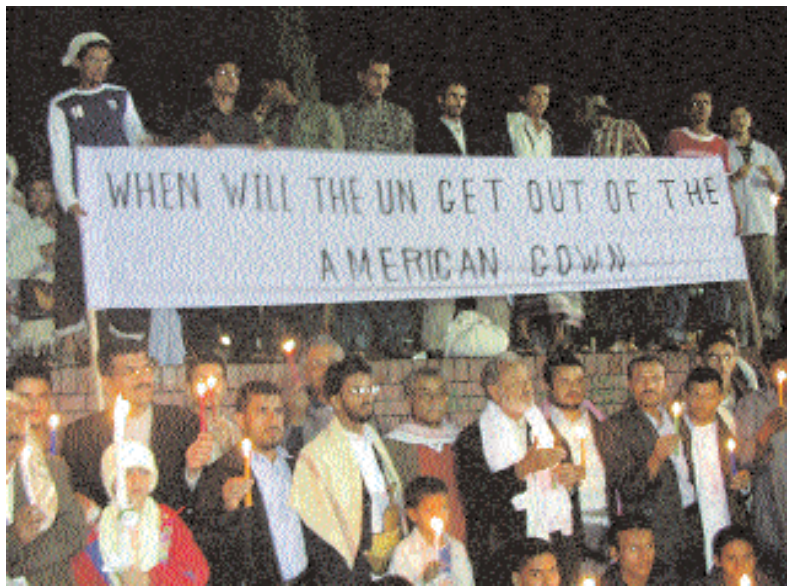
Continued on page 2

NGOs denounce massacres in Lebanon and Palestine

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Aug. 8 — The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and several civil society organizations (NGOs) held a gathering in Sana'a on Tuesday, lighting a large number of candles to support Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against and in protest of Israeli aggression upon them, as embodied in the atrocious war in Lebanon.

The professional unions issued a statement confirming that the Israeli attacks on Lebanon are under U.S. military and diplomatic support, in addition to British logistical support. The



Participants from NGO lit candles in solidarity with Lebanese people.

statement declared that the professional unions in Yemen hail the steadfastness and brave resistance of Arabs in

Lebanon and Palestine and warned against supporting the U.S.-British-Zionist scheme aimed at liquidating the resistance and imposing Zionist normalization on the Arab nation.

The statement pointed out that standing by resisters in Palestine and Lebanon requires all forms of support



Two Japanese women expressing their solidarity with Lebanese people.

with all available means, including donations, demonstrations and sit-ins, as well as media efforts to pressure Arab nations, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and United Nations establishments to work to change the state of inability and surrender to U.S. and Zionist hegemony.

Continued on page 2

Arab summit to be held next week

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug 9 — In preparing for the meetings of Arab Foreign Ministers, the Arab League Council is going to hold an emergency summit following the return of the League's delegation from New York. The summit will be held in Mecca next week, according to Al-Thawra daily.

The same source mentioned that the summit will discuss the situation in Lebanon and Palestine. In a relating

matter, Arab Foreign Ministers, in their emergency meeting held Aug 7, welcomed King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz's call for holding a summit in Mecca.

Yemeni Foreign Minister, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, who attended the meetings of Arab Foreign Ministers' Conference, told Yemen News Agency, Saba, that the conference assured its support for Lebanon and the demands of the Lebanese government's seven points put forward in the Rome Conference.

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Collapses and house cracks in Taiz

By: Yemen Times Staff

TAIZ, Aug. 8 — The locals of Gabal Al-Domlo'ah area, Taiz, live a life of horror and fear due to the successive collapses and cracks of their houses caused by environment factors as for rains and erosion.

Three houses reported to be completely collapsed while another three houses are collapsing.

Wazae, one of the sufferers, said that the house holding him along with two of his married brothers as well as their sons, started to crack two weeks ago after these land fractures were confined to neighboring houses.

"When we saw that the house was submerging and leaning in a surprising way we carried some of our luggage out the house as soon as possible" said Wazae.

"We are about three families with 26 people, most of them are women and children," added Wazae. "We along with other suffering families informed the governorate and district's local council, but they were not responsive. Our situation gets worse day after day and we cannot rent even a small flat. We are not employees and have not a fixed income."

He hopes authorities will help compensate them for their lost houses.

At one of the other houses, the



The resulting damage of a collapsed house in Taiz.

Sa'eed family is also facing difficulty.

"When our house collapsed, we turned to live in a hut or in the open. We are leading a life worse than Akhdams' (Yemeni black people). Everything we possess was lost and even this house on which we spent millions of Rials. So who will compensate us and look into our situation?" asked Hajja Nema Sa'eed, 60.

Sadek Abdullah, 28, only has one leg as his other leg was lost in an accident, now has a damaged house, but it is better than those houses around him. Still his house is not away from danger as the rock over-

looking his house is fractured and could fall.

Being handicapped and jobless and only collecting social insurance Abdullah pleads with the officials to look into his situation as the house might collapse or be destroyed by the rock at any time.

This is an appeal made by the locals in Gabal Al-Demlo'ah to all officials in the governorate and all concerned authorities, starting from the district's chief and public works office and ending with the governor of Taiz, particularly when there were promises to compensate them.

Contraceptives shipment arrives in Yemen

HODEIDAH, Aug. 6 — A new commodity shipment consisting of seven equipped vehicles and two containers with 83 pallets of contraceptives arrived Saturday at Hodeidah port.

Donated by the Royal Netherlands Embassy and procured by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the shipment is expected to cover national contraceptive needs for 2006 and 2007. Dr. Arwa Al-Rabea, Deputy Minister of Health and Population, the UNFPA's Hans Obdeijn and Roelof C. Buffinga, deputy head of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Sana'a, received the shipment.

Al-Rabea declared that the contraceptives will be free of charge to couples and distributed through all Yemeni district health units. "Citizens easily can obtain these devices at health units," she added.

Obdeijn stated that the UNFPA seeks to ensure that the contraceptives are accessible in every Yemeni district,



Officials celebrate the arrival of the contraceptive shipment at Hodeidah.

PHOTO BY ABDULWAHAB ALSOFI

noting that other shipments will be arriving to cover all Yemeni locations.

Buffinga asserted that distributing the contraceptives should be accompanied by enhancing the awareness of

targeted families. "Families need to be convinced to use these contraceptive devices. There is low awareness about risk prevention involved in unintended pregnancy," he added.

Continued from page 1

Opposition not happy with SCER regarding agreement of principles

Qahtan added that the law not only mentions media impartiality during the election campaigning period, but also providing equal opportunities for all political parties and organizations to submit their visions and programs during the election period and other periods in general.

He expressed astonishment at extensive media coverage on the Yemeni satellite channel and newspapers of the five-day General People's Congress's seventh extraordinary conference devoted to GPC candidate Ali Abdullah Saleh. He also wondered at the SCER's stance of arguing that it's not forced to implement the agreement of principles, holding it responsible for not fulfilling its duties as stipulated by law and referendum.

Qahtan also mentioned that the SCER ignored 8,800 fake election cards bearing the names of Arab artists like Nancy Ajram and pictures of some trade products, questioning why the SCER didn't send them to courts and general prosecution, how the cards were granted to Arab artists and who was responsible for it? He expects SCER members nominated by the JMP will hold a press conference in a few days to inform the public about real situations within the SCER.

The JMP statement on violating the

agreement of principles alleged that the ruling party has procrastinated in implementing the agreement regarding expanding SCER membership, as well as delaying enabling the additional two members to undertake their job until now. The statement mentioned that there was no response to forming a technical team to be entrusted with examining the electoral record and insisted on limiting its role to receiving names suspected of correctness and confining checking to the SCER's technical apparatus, which has managed the registration process and failures accompanying it.

Proving the existence of disorder, the statement announced 160,000 Sana'a cases involving names of children ages 5 to 10 but does not mention the children to age 18. At the time of announcing sending 8,800 election card cases to Prosecution, the SCER didn't send those granted the cards to Prosecution.

The opposition statement warned against setting off armed forces against the JMP. It alleged media violation of the agreement of principles via propaganda for the GPC candidate and refusing to cover JMP activities, indicating that this represents the most dangerous constitutional and legal violations, adding that instigating anything against the opposition during employee meetings and training courses of the civil as

well as military establishment is a clear infringement of their neutrality.

"The ruling party has potential state and local authority leadership in the electoral process who are not in favor of proposals offered by international organizations specialized in tackling the electoral registry," the statement read. It cited official media propaganda devoted to covering GPC seventh conference proceedings, whereas they declined to cover activities of the JMP candidate.

For his part, Qahtan, head of Islah's political office, didn't rule out that the SCER members representing the JMP will hold a press conference to clarify what's going on inside the commission. Dr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Qubti, head of the Yemeni Socialist Party political office, hinted that the JMP will go to 'the court of the people.'

More than once, the JMP confirmed the elections' importance, especially under the exceptional circumstances Yemen is experiencing, in addition to it being a constitutional mandate, for which all circumstances must be prepared to hold them at their fixed time in a free and decent manner. JMP said the upcoming elections could express the people's will and be the gate through which Yemen will step on the right path of political and national reform and building a modern Yemen.

Crimes in Sana'a on increase

SANA'A, Aug. 8 — This year crime is on the rise. An official report, released by Sana'a governorate security administration, revealed the crime rate increased in the first half of this year by 12 percent compared to last year.

The number of crimes registered during the first period of this year reached 307 cases, while they were 273 cases during the same period of the last year.

The report also indicated that the total number of accidents, criminal crimes and unintentional crimes and traffic accidents recorded within the

governorate reached 566 cases — with 307 criminal crimes, 39 unintentional crimes and 220 traffic accidents.

The criminal crimes were the highest with 307 crimes, among these crimes are attacking with intention to kill using guns and light weapons with 129 crimes, intentional killing with 43 crimes and then come tribal robbery with 25 cases. All these crimes are normally caused by tribal conflicts and revenge.

Additionally, the reports listed 13 cases for authority resistance using guns and 10 cases for simple and inten-

tional harassment cases and eight cases for looting personal properties using light weapons. There were also seven cases relating to the public money and four cases of car stealing and drinking.

There were 39 unintentional accidents — with 8 cases for mishandling of guns and 5 each of drowning and electrical shock and then cases relating to suicide and falling as well as other accidents.

The causes for these crimes ranged from the tribal conflicts with 103 cases, personal cases with 57 crimes, revenge with 24 cases and lastly material gain.

Al-Bahr: Tourism and Supplication

By: Saleh Al-Batati

Mukalla, Aug. 8 — A summer camp is making huge gains this year due to its diverse nature.

The annual activities staged on Al-Mukalla Khour are the first of its type in Yemen as it calls to Allah and spreads the noble mission via tourism.

The camp is in its second session and it continues from Aug 1 to 11. The positive results of this year's activities are seen in the large numbers of attendees. Around 700 people attended Sheikh Adel Al-Moqbil's lecture titled "Magician's Deceit" and Badr Al-Mashari's lecture was attended by more than double, among them were 1000 women, in spite of the fact that the lecture was delivered during the rain.

The idea of the camp came to them last year, based on similar camps in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait. Those in charge of these camps liked to transfer this idea to Yemen in general and Al-Mukalla in particular, thus becoming the first camp of its type in Yemen, according to Dr. Fahmi Bin Bishr, the camp's public relations manager.

It is an educative and invocative



Attendees at Al-Mukalla Khour ceremony.

camp and it discusses all problems of the society via fatwa and lectures given by senior religious scholars from Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Moreover, the camp also deals with health and social issues as well as amusing aspects and competitions.

"The camp is run by a group of volunteering youths who primarily adopted the idea and many who came to provide their help, may Allah bless them," said Bin Bishr.

"The camp is conducted under the supervision of the local council and supported by Hadramout governor, Abdulkader Hilal, as well as donations

provided by charitable personalities and merchants in return for advertisement. Regarding the budget, we allocated YR 5 millions for this year in order to avoid the deficit of the last year," said Bin Bishr.

The senior Sheikhs in Saudi Arabia came to the camp after personal coordination with the camp administration.

We sometimes confine ourselves to sending calls for them from the governor or the local council and we pay for their travel and settlement. We were able to bring together a number of Sheikhs including Badr Al-Mishari, Adel Al-Moqbil, Suliman Al-Jibilan and Fahd Al-Amoush from Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Awdah Al-Khamis from Kuwait as well as Sheikhs Ahmed Al-Mualim and Nazem Bahabarrah from Yemen, Bin Bishr declared.

Next year Bin Bishr said they will try to improve and prolong the camp's summer session and choose suitable times to match with occasions such as Eids and Ramadhan.

Five killed in a helicopter crash

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug 9 — Five military personnel were reported dead after the fall of a Russian helicopter over Al-Hayma district, Sana'a Governorate.

An official source told media the MI-17 helicopter crashed into a mountain as it was flying at a low altitude due to bad weather. On board was the 3-member crew along with two passengers.

Three people tried to jump out the helicopter to escape death before it crashed into the mountain, but they died. The two other two passengers suffered severe burns from the crash and a rescue team rushed to the accident's location, but all onboard passengers were dead.

The fall of this helicopter comes three days after the fall of another helicopter on Sunday, Aug 6 and all media covered the incident and said it was removed by a large military

vehicle. Yet, the Ministry of Defense denied the incident and said the helicopter took off after it had made an emergency landing.

Before Sunday's crash the captain recognized a technical fault and led the helicopter away from Busan village, Arhab district, to the south of the capital, before its crash. According to sources, one of the three-member crew was lightly injured in his head while the helicopter was damaged.

Saudi scholar publicly criticizes Hezbollah

On the other hand, outstanding Hadramout religious figure Sheikh Ahmed Al-Mualim noted, "We are for every missile fired into Israel and we invoke blessing on any movement whatsoever targeting Israel."

Al-Mualim went on to say, "Personally, I don't think Hezbollah will continue or achieve victory over Israel in their ongoing battle with it because there are a lot of flaws in their doctrine."

Al-Mualim justified his attitude, saying he's afraid Hezbollah will turn to fighting Sunnis, just as Iraq's Al-Mahdi

Army, which was one of the most opposing parties to the existence of U.S. occupation forces and now is one of the deadliest killers of Sunnis.

According to Al-Mualim, he's afraid Lebanese Shiites will turn against Sunnis like Iraqi Shiites did, as they share the same beliefs.

Attendees expressed dissatisfaction at Al-Mashari's address. Abdullah Abdurabu commented, "Sheikh Badr is a guest and we respect guests, but his speech and criticism of Hezbollah is not accepted." He also questioned, "Have you seen any war craft fly from

Saudi Arabia or Yemen to attack Israel?" He further added, "I am with anyone who hits Israel, even if it was Britain"

For his part, engineer Saleh Al-Qarmashi remarked, "I was surprised at Sheikh Al-Mashari's speech. At present, it isn't time of differences. We must stand in one line, whether Sunnis or Shiites, in the face of the joint enemy. If Israel enters Lebanon today, tomorrow it will enter Syria and then Egypt and Saudi Arabia. We must forget about our differences until the war ends because any difference will weaken the nation."

NGOs denounce massacres in Lebanon and Palestine

The unions' statement demanded Arab nations expel U.S. and British ambassadors, recall Arab ambassadors to Israel and work to cancel agreements of normalization and surrender with Israel, "whose army's arrogance has ended under the painful blows dealt by the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance, the will of the Lebanese and Arab steadfastness."

The statement also criticized legal opinions made in the U.S. by some religious scholars "who have been exported to Arab world."

The gathering also staged a sit-in, wherein a large number of journalists and medical and education union leaders participated, in addition to some foreign citizens from Japan, who said what's happening in Lebanon and Palestine are crimes against humanity that are shaking the world and that the war is unjustifiable.

The Yemen Times interviewed several of the Japanese nationals, including first-time Yemen visitor, Yuma Fujii, who said she doesn't know about Japanese-Lebanese relations, but she sympathizes with Lebanon because "We know it as a

country of peace." She ascertained that the Israeli military campaign in Lebanon isn't just fighting, but an occupation or an attempt at occupation.

"We all love the Arab nations and I wish the wars would stop in the Middle East because there are magnificent countries everywhere. We're here to tell the Japanese people how great are the Arab nations. The Japanese people know that the Middle East has become a dangerous area and for this reason, the war must stop," Fujii added.

Japanese student Tsuyoshi Koyama affirmed that the message he wants to convey through this solidarity is that he's present in Yemen to participate with Yemeni and Japanese university students to hold a dialogue on civilizations and the possibility of building East-East confidence to develop relations. He affirmed "despite the difference in our ideas. I think the war must stop immediately because it's killing innocent civilians in a country that remains occupied by another country and is detaining its citizens."

Japanese citizen Takushi Sasuda said,

"Solidarity against the war is a call to stop it. The war is destroying everything and doesn't create peace and justice but rather creates hatred. The Japanese people are for peace and against war and killing. The war in Lebanon has no justification. It's unreasonable and unbelievable that Israel can launch war on a state just for the kidnapping of two of its soldiers. This is something strange and we appeal to peace-loving nations to work and call for stopping this war."

Abdulwahab Saif from Marib governorate also was interviewed, confessing that it's painful to see what's happening in Lebanon and Palestine and the ugly massacres shaking the world, especially the killing of children and women.

He continued, "The duty falls on us all to cooperate and help the peoples of Lebanon and Palestine. Today, the aggression is on Lebanon and Palestine and in the future, it will include all Arab nations. We demand opening the door to jihad and we in Marib are ready to offer 20,000 fighters for the sake of dignity. We ask the media to urge people to donate to Lebanon and Palestine

UN powers re-think Lebanon draft

French and American diplomats at the United Nations are beginning work on re-drafting their plan to end the crisis in the Middle East.

An Arab League delegation argued that a resolution should call for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

But France and the US do not want major changes to their text and diplomats at the UN say prospects for an early vote on a peace plan are fading.

Israel is considering a plan by the army to push further into Lebanon.

The security cabinet will hear details of an army plan to take control of areas used by Hezbollah to fire rockets into Israel.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has given the military permission to present the plan, but has refrained from expressing his own view.

Refugee camp hit

Meanwhile Israel's campaign continued, with 120 air strikes overnight and clashes with Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon.

A two-storey building in the town of Mashghara in the eastern Bekaa Valley was levelled, trapping five people under the rubble.

Medical sources told Reuters news

agency a local Hezbollah official lived there.

And for the first time since the start of the conflict, Israel struck Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, Ein al-Hilweh, near the port city of Sidon.

The Israeli army said it was targeting a house in the camp belonging to a member of Hezbollah. Lebanese officials say at least one person was killed.

Lebanese and Palestinian officials said the settlement was hit by a shell from an Israeli gunboat, in the first attack on the camp during the current fighting.

On Tuesday, Hezbollah fired dozens more rockets at Israel, while an Israeli strike killed 13 villagers as funerals for earlier victims were held.

The strike, on the southern village of Ghaziyeh, also left about two dozen people injured, local officials said.

'Bloodbath'

The Arab League's representations to the UN Security Council come after Lebanon said it found aspects of the draft resolution unacceptable.

As well as the demand for an Israeli

pullout to be included, there is also dispute over wording which currently demands that Hezbollah ends all attacks and Israel only ends "offensive" military operations.

"It is most saddening that the council stands idly by, crippled, unable to stop the bloodbath which has become the bitter daily lot of the defenceless Lebanese people," the delegation head, Qatar's Sheikh Hamad bin Jasssem bin Jabr al-Thani, told the meeting.

Lebanon, which has put forward its own seven-point proposal for peace, said the current resolution was flawed.

"Regrettably, the draft resolution not only falls short of meeting many of our legitimate requests, but it also may not bring about the results that the international community hopes it would achieve," acting Foreign Minister Tarek Mitri told the council.

"We requested an immediate ceasefire. What has taken so much time is still not an immediate ceasefire."

Veto-wielding Russia earlier said it would not vote for any resolution which did not have the backing of Lebanon.

The BBC diplomatic correspondent says the UN is likely to offer some new language to bolster Lebanon's government and push on towards a

Cubans adjust to life without Fidel in charge

By: Anthony Boadle

HAVANA (Reuters) - Cubans adjusted to life without Fidel Castro in charge on Tuesday as the veteran revolutionary recuperated from surgery that forced him to relinquish power for the first time in 47 years.

The initial shock of Castro's hand-over to brother Raul eight days ago appeared to be wearing off and Cuba watchers said they expected little change on the Communist island Fidel took over in a 1959 revolution.

Even though neither Castro has been seen since the transfer of power was announced July 31, Cuban officials and allies have repeatedly said the ailing "commandant" is getting better and the country has had a successful temporary transfer of power.

The Communist Party newspaper Granma said Vice President Carlos Lage was meeting in Bogota with heads of state attending the inauguration of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe to update them on Castro's "positive recovery" from surgery for intestinal bleeding.

In the crumbling Cuban capital, workers paved streets and tidied boulevards before a summit of the Nonaligned Movement of developing nations next month.

In some parts of the city, authorities resumed distribution of Chinese-made refrigerators, rice steamers, fans and electrical stoves to replace millions of old household appliances.

The drive was Castro's latest pet project to save energy and end power outages. Cubans get free basic health care and education, but many struggle to get by in daily life.

Cubans were still concerned about Castro's condition, but relieved the country had not fallen into chaos.

"People are getting used to the idea that Fidel will be out for weeks, for months or maybe forever," said driver Manuel, a Havana resident who said life was getting back to normal.

"At first we were very frightened," Aleida Guevara, daughter of Castro's late guerrilla comrade-in arms Ernesto "Che" Guevara, said in an Internet chat on the Foreign Ministry's Internet

site. But now, she said, "El Comandante is improving," and, "We are calm."

Return not complete

The return to normal was not quite complete because the government kept police and security forces, including military reservists, on alert.

Along the coast, authorities urged residents to watch for an invasion force from Castro's arch enemy, the United States.

The administration of President George W. Bush has urged Cubans to push for democracy in this time of flux, but insists it has no plans to invade the island 90 miles from Florida.

Cuba experts in a round-table discussion at the University of Miami said they believed Fidel Castro's era was at an end, but doubted Raul's rule would bring great change soon.

"He will not make any major structural changes in the economy at least for a year or even longer, and certainly no political changes," said Jaime Suchlicki, head of Cuban studies at the Miami school.

Suchlicki and Brian Latell, former CIA agent and author of the book, "After Fidel: The Inside Story of Castro's Regime and Cuba's Next Leader," said Raul Castro, 75, wore a bulletproof vest and hat during a June speech to the military, indicating the change of power may already have begun then.

In another sign that an era was passing, Gustavo Arcos Bergnes, who fought alongside Fidel Castro at the start of his revolution and later went to jail for opposing him, died on Tuesday at the age of 79, fellow dissidents said.

Arcos was in Castro's car during a near-suicidal assault on the Moncada garrison in the eastern city of Santiago in 1953 that launched Castro's armed struggle.

He was named ambassador to Belgium when Castro took power but in 1964 became disillusioned with the government's authoritarian turn, returned to Cuba and spent a decade in prison.



Israel is not required to pull out of Lebanon under the current text (Reuters).



Israel's raid on Ghaziyeh came as funerals were held for earlier victims.

vote in the next few days.

Earlier, the UN abandoned its daily attempt to get an aid convoy from Beirut to south Lebanon, citing security fears.

"There has been so much bombing. There is no guarantee of safety," Christiane Berthiaume of the UN's World Food Programme told the BBC News website.

"It is really very bad. It is getting worse."

"We have not been able to maintain a rhythm of two convoys per day, but even two would not be enough. A good number would be six."

The decision came a day after Israel imposed an open-ended curfew on all residents south of the Litani River.

Israel said any moving vehicles in the zone - up to 30km (18 miles) inside Lebanon's border - would be destroyed.

Leaflets dropped in Tyre, the biggest Lebanese city south of the Litani river, said operations against what they described as terrorist elements would be escalated with extreme force.

Nearly 1,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in the conflict, the Lebanese government has said. More than 100 Israelis, most of them soldiers, have also been killed.

Source: bbc.co.uk



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The candidate will be familiar with log interpretation techniques

The position will also require in depth knowledge of and adherence to the Company's Health Safety and Environmental procedures.

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The position is based in Sana'a with possible assignment to production site.

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5 years experience required in the field of Customs/Finance

Very good knowledge and understanding of Customs Laws in Yemen

Management capabilities

Application Criteria

- Applications must be submitted no later than 1st September 2006

- Handed-in CVs will not be considered

- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.

- Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Total E&P Yemen

- If you meet the above requirements, please send your CV in English with a short covering letter explaining your qualification and motivation to the following address:

Human Resources Department
Total E&P Yemen
P.O. Box 842
Sana'a, Yemen

Or by e-mail to: tawfik.aklan@total.com

VACANCY NOTICE

Title: ICT Assistant

Grade: G-5

Contract type: SSA

Duration: one year

Date: August 02, 2006

Deadline for application: 20/08/2006

Duty Station: Sana'a

Unit: Office of the representative

WHO-Sana'a

Description of duties:

Under general supervision of the head of the office, the incumbent performs the following tasks:

- 1- Provides technical support required for the administration and operation of the WR Office Local Area Network, Wide Area Network and Internet-based communications including hardware/ software requirements, network protocols, data security measures and assists in system integration through multiple LAN servers and protocols.
- 2- Coordinates with the Informatics Management Support unit at the Regional Office, the installation, set-up, implementation and training for computer applications to facilitate workflow and implementation of technical programmes including standard office applications, Internet and e-mail services, Regional Activity Management System (RAMS), the Imprest Account, Country Activity Management System (CAMS) and other country office applications on the country office LAN.
- 3- Installs, sets up, assists in configuration and certifies compliance with standards and specifications of new hardware and software in offices of WHO supported projects in the country.
- 4- Provides information technology training services leading to better use of IT resources by WHO staff through assessment of needs and provision of training sessions.
- 5- Implements in collaboration with technical and administrative officers computer applications to facilitate workflow and implementation of technical programmes.
- 6- Conducts assessment and evaluation of ICT needs in support of WR office and national health programmes and communicates results to the Regional Office for coordination and approval of action.
- 7- Prepares and verifies receiving reports of newly received data processing equipment for the WR office and other WHO supported projects and dispatch them to the Regional Office.
- 8- Any other data processing and telecommunication related task, as assigned by the WR.

Qualifications required:

- Graduated from Computer sciences university.

- Minimum five year experience in similar function.

- Very good knowledge in English and Arabic

Applications should be sent to:

World Health Organization, Ministry of Health building - El Hasaba Area
P.O Box 543 - Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Only candidates under serious considerations will be contacted for interview and test.

من ٥,٠٠٠ ريال إلى ٥,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ ريال

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Qat hinders women's political participation

By: Faisal Al-Safwani

Many leading women in the country confirm that qat hinders their participation in political activities, excludes them from decision-making and prevents them from exercising their constitutional rights.

University of Sana'a sociology lecturer Dr. Afaf Al-Haimi says chewers smoke heavily during qat sessions and sit on the ground, which inhibits women's participation. She explained that since men usually exercise their political and partisan activities during qat sessions, it is at this point that qat becomes a hurdle to women's political participation.

"I think it's a shame on men if they invite women to sit with them because if these same men were asked to allow their wives to attend qat sessions with other men, they would never accept. So women rarely are invited for political discussions or work during qat sessions," Rashida Al-Hamadani, head of the National



Women's Committee alleged. "More than once, I and some other women were invited to attend

afternoon qat sessions, which usually are held in diwans without any chairs or desks," she said, "I attended such

sessions more than once and felt embarrassed within the first minutes, which compelled me to leave with my friends."

Qat sessions can lead to interesting experiences for some women. Fawzia Nu'man, former deputy chairperson of the Yemeni Women's Union, was working with some of her friends and was shocked on the first day of work to find that the men had moved the desks and chairs to sit on the ground.

Women then refused to enter the hall, preferring to sit alone outside of it. When cabinet chairman, Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal arrived, he was surprised to see women standing outside in the hall. Nu'man approached Bajammal and asked him to allow her and her friends to participate in the cabinet's activities. The prime minister then ordered all cabinet members to sit on chairs so women could participate.

Nu'man affirmed that she has experienced this same issue several times because most of the time, she participates in cabinet work during afternoon qat sessions. "I was torn between joining qat sessions with

men for the sake of work or withdrawing from any task. Most of the time, I preferred to withdraw," she noted.

According to Shoura Council member Muna Basharahil, most women who win local council posts can't perform their duties in a better way, as a great portion of the tasks take place during qat sessions.

"While preparing for the seventh general congress of the General People's Congress, I and two of my friends excused ourselves from working on the committee authorized to prepare a report," Basharahil recounted. "When we came for work in the afternoon, other committee members were coming in with bundles of qat. They then sat down and started chewing and smoking until the hall became full of smoke, forcing me and my friends to withdraw and not attend any part of the session."

It has been made apparent that qat hinders women from participating in various political activities, particularly committee work, conference arrangements and writing reports, as men prefer working during qat sessions.

Social researcher, Maha Awadh believes that insisting on chewing qat during work sessions is male behavior aimed at refusing women's participation and forcing them to return home.

"Chewing qat at work sessions is an insult against women, as well as a violation of their legal and constitutional right to participate in political activities," she added. "Some people ask, 'What hinders women from attending qat sessions and why do most women consider qat chewing harmful?'"

"Why do men raise such questions while they know that qat chewing is a male-related habit?" Awadh asked.



EMBASSY OF INDIA SANA'A INDEPENDENCE DAY 2006

The Embassy of India, Sana'a cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join the celebrations of 60th Independence Day of India on Tuesday, the 15th August, 2006 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy at 0800 hours.

PROGRAMME

0815 Hours

- Flag Hoisting
- National anthem
- Reading of the President's Address
- Patriotic Songs/Cultural Events organized by the Indian Embassy School, Sana'a
- Refreshments.

To all members of Indian Community
In the Republic of Yemen

- PS: (i) The recipient of this circular may kindly circulate the information to other Members of the Indian community known to him/her.
(ii) It is requested that cameras/bags etc. should not be brought inside the premises. Otherwise these will be kept at checking-point at owner's risk.

Yemeni aid for Lebanon continues

By: YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemenis continue showing moral as well as financial support for Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

As part of such support, the Yemen Popular Committee (YPC) to support the Relief of Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples has been staging various festivals involving numerous activities in solidarity with sufferers in both Arab nations. The YPC staged most solidarity activities last week at the Resistance Tent in Sana'a.



Mohammed Ghaleb Nashwan

Several speeches were given and poems recited by participants and talented children during the event, which stressed support for Lebanese and Palestinians, as well as launching fundraising campaigns for them. The

festival plans to deploy fundraising campaigns throughout the country and continue any relevant activities.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week ordered the government to transfer YR 450 million as part of installments to support Palestinians. The president also requested transferring YR 1 billion in financial support from Yemeni businessmen for his election campaign to Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Additionally, the government is coordinating with its Jordanian counterpart to assist Yemeni airplanes carrying relief and assistance to Palestinian and Lebanese peoples to land in Beirut and Gaza airports.

Mohammed Ghaleb Nashwan, an 80-year-old Yemeni, decried Arab leaders' passive stance and confirmed that he's ready to sell all his property and make donations to militants in Lebanon and Palestine. He asked Arab leaders to use oil as a weapon to stop the war. "As we all belong to the same religion, despite being Sunni or Shiite, we must support Lebanon and stop Israeli aggression."

When asked, the majority of child participants denounced Arab nations' stance on the situation in Lebanon. "If people have a clear conscience and if you fear God, they must stand with the resistance and Hassan Nasrallah," said 6-year-old Lebanese child, Na'eem Mur'ee, "Children in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq are exposed to risk, while the children of

Arab leaders lead safe lives." Asked if he had something to say about Arab leaders, the child replied, "We want Hezbollah to bear with the passive attitude of Arab leaders - victory is coming, inshallah."

At the Resistance Tent, Kamal Al-Hamdi, representative of CAC Bank (which holds the account for donations), noted that three children have come and donated their weekly pocket money. He also recounted that a woman was on her way to pay her electric bill when she saw the tent. She came over and donated half of



Na'eem Mur'ee talking to Yemen Times reporter.

the bill amount saying, she doesn't care about the electricity as much as helping "her brothers and sisters in Lebanon and Palestine."

YPC chairman Yahya Saleh stated that five airplanes now are ready to

transport food and medical relief, pointing out that such relief includes 36 tons of medicine from 21 medical firms at a total cost of YR 45 million. He said it also includes 84 tons of food, in addition to 26 tons of food and medicine from the Yemeni Economic Corporation.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population Health Reform Support Project Credit 3625 Credit Administration Unit (CAU) Announcing Vacancy for the Post of Executive Secretary Of the Credit Administration Unit

The World Bank financed Health Reform Support Project Credit 3625 seeks applicants for the position of Executive Secretary at the Credit Administration Unit who will work under the direct supervision of the Credit Administrator. The Executive Secretary will report and be accountable to the Credit Administrator, and will work closely with other CAU staff, relevant departments of the Ministry of Health and Population, and all other relevant/ related parties of organizations as necessary.

The executive secretary will be responsible for the following:

- 1- Under the supervision of the credit administrator the executive secretary will provide overall administration and office management for the CAU.
- 2- Act as the focal point for all dialogue and follow-up on all pending matters with relevant bodies or parties.
- 3- Provide administrative and secretarial support to the credit administrator and CAU staff including but not limited to verbal and written communication, documentation and archiving.
- 4- Ensure high quality and appropriateness of outgoing correspondence, communication and other related documents/paperwork.
- 5- Manage the filing system, records, and security of all CAU documents.
- 6- Schedule appointments of the credit administrator and CAU staff and handle the logistics of conferences and workshops.
- 7- Monitor, regulate and supervise the daily attendance of CAU employees and generate a monthly report on this.
- 8- Write the minutes CAU meetings of other meetings as required by the credit administrator.
- 9- Ensure that the CAU has and adequate stock of office supplies, stationary, consumables, refreshments, etc.
- 10- Provide support to visiting specialists and IDA missions.
- 11- Manage, implement and supervise all the day-to-day needs of the CAU such as repairs and maintenance.

Qualifications:

Essential:

- A minimum of bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- A minimum of five years experience in executive office logistics management.
- Very good experience with computers and office software and programs.
- Fluent in Arabic and English.
- The ability to supervise and motivate others to achieve positive results.
- Very good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Good entrepreneurial skills.
- Previous work experience with international organizations.

Applications with CV's, and copies of supporting documents should be submitted to the CAU within two weeks of the advertisement of this post to the HRSP Located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Al-Hasaba, Sana'a.

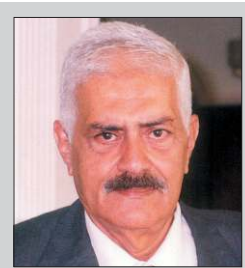


The Resistance Tent in Sana'a.

Administrative reform (2-2)

Comprehensive visualization of a modern state

The administrative corps needs to have adequate examination in selection of successful senior administration leaders and creative ones. There must also be continuous development process and offering services to the public easily, improvement of operation style, shortening series of procedures, discussion of aspects of mismanagement. The state administrative system should be restructured in order to remove interference in specialties. There must be a mechanism program for the process of creative management work with all its various dimensions so that not to be just reactions or security measures ending with the end of the effect of event. Thus, there will be no curing and program for the future. More over the will of creativity needs the necessity of reforming the society's culture, including the culture of leadership. The recent events have revealed grave mistakes by government parties and the reason behind that is that we have not succeeded in selecting administrative leadership for government ministries and institutions. It is also because we have depended on the approach of courtesy and political and social balances. This is the basic aspect that is beginning to gradually destroy us socially. Unless all become aware of this dysfunction disasters will continue befalling us. There is a common agreement on the existence of administrative disorder and obvious ignored negligence and therefore the culture of fighting corruption must prevail and spread in addition to stressing the attitude of discarding and prohibiting the corrupt administrative practices. The authorities must purify and rectify some legislation that are exploited for personal interests and purposes unlike the basic goals of the law, such as excepting for the purpose of covering a recent subject regarding the keeping in office of some of the pro-regime leaderships or that did not offer



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

magnificent services to the state. On the other hand, the central apparatus of monitoring and audition that performs the monitoring of the administration system, issues many reports containing many violations and excesses made by many government institutions, but unfortunately those reports have lost their importance and do not form deterrence. Therefore, I call for reconsideration of the legislations, regulations and consideration authorities where there are many loopholes. I also call for the punishment of the failing director/minister and reward the distinguished head of the establishment according to the principle of reward and punishment. This procedure enables us to encourage cadres to competition for the interest of the society. Finally, there must be a stop in appointment of former military men in civil establishments and installations and stop unleashing slogans and statements. We must choose the proper person for the proper place. We have to choose the talented people and those of long experience according to objective criteria. Selection and appointment in leading posts in any sector is a very important and dangerous process. Appointment can be linked to qualification for leading posts in addition to setting up a committee specialized in considering this process and submitting appointment recommendations and this committee should be affiliate of the head of the state. We hope this reform will be adopted after the upcoming presidential and local elections.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development.

Upcoming presidential elections determine Yemen's next political course

With the Yemeni parliament approval of the list of candidates for presidential elections begins the final chapter of what will determine the form and course of the political life for the next seven years. The real competition in these elections is going to be between the two parties of the Yemeni political system. The ruling elite, represented by president Ali Abdullah Saleh and the opposition parties grouped in the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), represented by candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan. There are three other candidates, but each has a role created by the leading two parties.

Candidate Yassin Abdeh Saeed represents forces called the reproduced parties that have been licensed by the authority to split the opposition and disrupt its movement. His choice came because of similarity of his name with Dr. Yassin Saeed Nouman, a leading opposition personality

and is meant to confuse the campaign of the opposition candidate Bin Shamlan among constituencies where the majority suffers from ignorance and illiteracy. The candidate Ahmed al-Majeedi is meant to serve interest of the ruling party and its candidate. He is from the YSP and had previously assumed a post of a Governorate Governor after the Yemeni unity. His nomination gives the impression that there is division in the bloc supporting the YSP and to confuse the Bin Shamlan campaign. However those two candidates cannot affect the campaign of the opposition nominee.

The fifth candidate is part of the tactics of the JMP and meant for supporting the campaign of Bin Shamlan with an estimated YR 25 million in addition to his representative in the committees oversee-



By: Mustafa Rajeh

ing procedures of voting and vote counting.

These elections are held under political scrutiny, the first of their kind in Yemen. This year's election is unlike 1999 when a nominal candidate, Dr Najib Qahtan, competed with the current president. Now there is presently a large opposition alignment including the southern socialists and the Islamic Islah party, a longtime ally of president Saleh.

Moreover the independent candidate Bin Shamlan also enjoys support from outside the alliance that has selected him to represent it in the election.

The ruling party is active nowadays and some observers commented on the situation by describing it as "the opposition party" and this is attributed to fears of the ruling elite that many and various fac-

tors could gather and act in favor of the opposition candidate.

The upcoming presidential elections are dominated by the political stamp, unlike the parliamentary elections that are prevailed by the social characteristic and influence of tribal and personal relations in the regions and villages.

So the elections of Sept. 20 will be like a referendum dividing the voters into two groups. One group supports the existing situation with followers casting their votes for the current president to continue to rule for another seven years. The followers of the second group are those who oppose the policy of the president and the ruling elite. They find that the present situation does not represent them or express their interests and aspirations. Those will choose the candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan. That is the choice.

Mustafa Rajeh is a Yemeni journalist and human rights activist.

Saudi-Egyptian-Jordanian axis in service of the Zionist solution (Part 2 of 2)

Diplomacy to disarm resistance

By: Mohammed Abdulhakim Diyab

The first level of the plan undertaken by the Zionist military establishment, assisted by the latest American-made war arsenal and supported by Zion-Arab system which possesses influence and control over Arab decisions. The second level is carried out through the role entrusted with Saudi-Egyptian-Jordanian axis and its employment as a bridge for the military and political effort of the Zion-Arab axis to pass on, similar to what happened with Iraq. The third level is the revival of the checkbook diplomacy in which Saudi Arabia was experienced at the stage of transferring the region from the state of nationalism to the Saudi isolationist sectarian state, in the form of financial bribes facilitating the required inroads. Then began the arms deal with France at a cost of about \$4 billion with the aim of attracting France towards Saudi Arabia so that they leave the Lebanese affair in the hands of the Zionists and the Americans. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia deposited a credit of \$1 billion to the Lebanese government. We are not against supporting Lebanon as a government and people, but this financial support is not innocent and it is meant to place the Lebanese government in confrontation with the resistance, consolidation of occupation and disarming the Hezbollah. This is tantamount to complete national and religious crime. For the same goal the Saudi government put an asset of \$250 million for the

Palestinian authority to isolate the Palestinian resistance from its Lebanese sister and deal a blow to possibilities of their cooperation. The fourth level is the pumping of new bloods into the Zionist legitimacy, the current expression of the international legitimacy in a manner that the Rome conference to be the basis of this continuation in a bid to overcome possibilities of real Arabisation or internationalization. The aim is also to impose a Zionist version of international legitimacy so that the situations follow a course in favor of occupation, colonization, racism and expansion of the Zion-Arabs sphere of influence that play a decisive role of the Judaization of the official Arab stance. The check-book diplomacy also aims at supporting the Future Current and employs the 14 March current for the task it has been established for and bet on the return of the civil war in favor of chaos.

By going back to Egypt we find that the Egyptians are no longer satisfied with denunciation and condemnation and staging demonstrations. Operation rooms are established all over the country along with a state of general alert aimed to overcome security oppression that prevents them from offering financial and in kind support to the Lebanese, Palestinian and Iraqi resistance. Those who visit Cairo at this time will find it is on its way to regain its popular and Arab national role. Arab popular and national delegations visit it and meetings were held for various professional unions and federations and also representatives for the National Arab con-

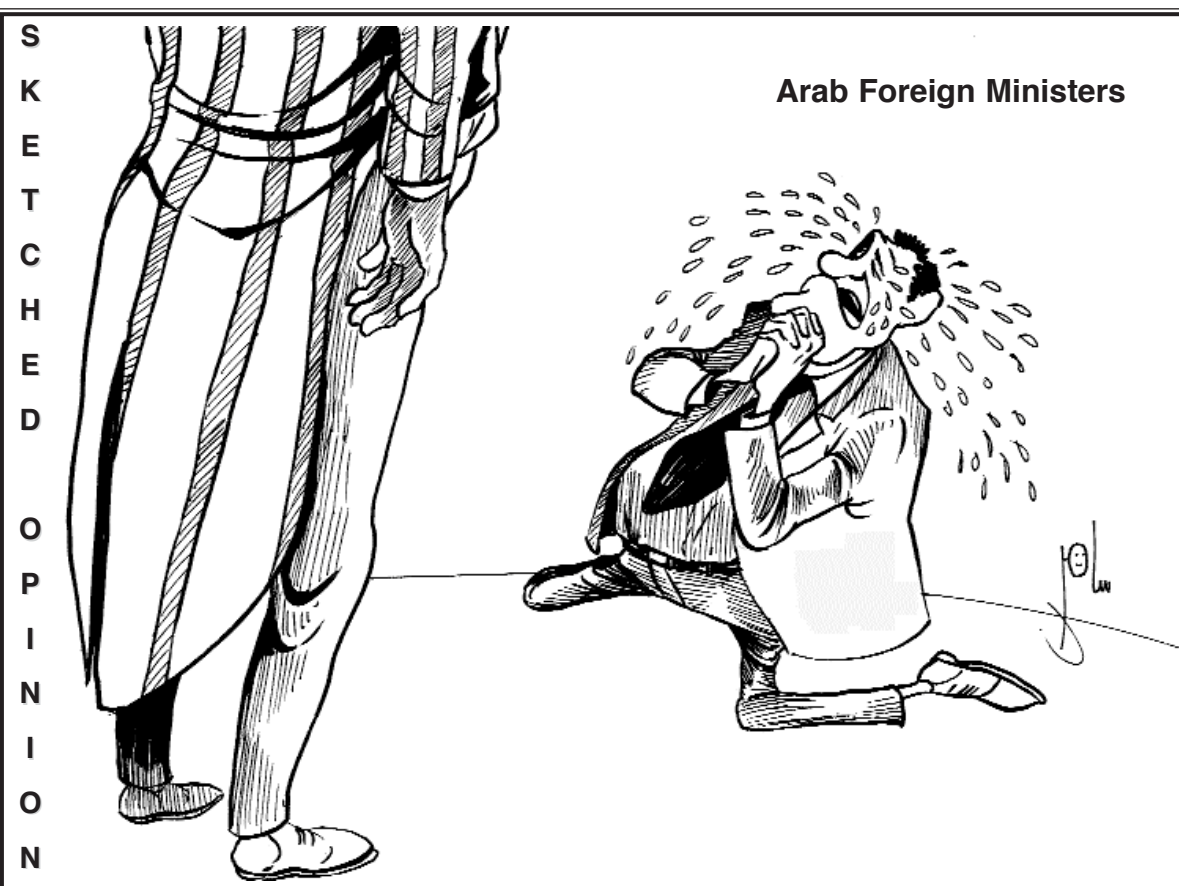
ference, mainly its secretary-general Khalid Al-Sufyani, and representatives for the National Islamic conference and the conference of Arab parties. Those organizations, conferences and federations considered themselves in a state of continuous session in response to any support received.

If that has restored Cairo to some significant role, it has also exposed a setback because of the spineless official stance. If Hosni Mubarak and his son continue in facing the current angry population it is expected that this will not pass in peace. Mubarak has seemed confused in his latest stances and behavior and statements, reaching the point of blaming the American administration for placing Saudi Arabia at the head of the Arab axis of defeatism. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice did not visit Mubarak and did not include him in the program of her contacts, and Washington did not accept to receive his foreign minister as it did with Saud al-Faisal the Saudi Foreign Minister and therefore he described what America is doing in the region as destructive chaos. We consider this language as part of the Egyptian official address.

The continuation of fighting between the Lebanese resistance and the Zionist enemy and a Palestinian participation as well as an Arab popular depth has for the first time achieved a kind of strategic deterrence. This time the deterrence made by the people and that has made future of the Zionist entity questionable. This heralds that what is going on ushers the beginning of the countdown for disap-

pearance of racist colonialist entities, as the racist entity of South Africa had disappeared. The situation has also put the future of Arab rulers at risk. It is expected that this will increase the rate of work for bringing nearer the day of liberation and return and it will develop the relationship among the Arab forces of resistance to expand the front of confrontation and increase instigation against the Arab official system that proved its inability to. This view is what we perceive in Egypt where Hosni Mubarak is under pressure of forces demanding him to sever the diplomatic relations with the Zionist state and expel its ambassador from Cairo and freezing the work in the Camp David treaty. There is nothing that Mubarak can offer and the people put no wager on anything hoped for from him. Finally, the Saudi-Egyptian-Jordanian axis and its extensions are proposed to impose the Zionist solution, preparation, financing and participation, and they have their previous achievements in this regard. Nevertheless, the possibility of that is weak. The confrontation has overstepped its third week and the resistance is still keeping its superiority and capability of dealing painful blows. This war, though started by the Zionist state, is expected to develop into a direct American war and this is the greater challenge for the Arab nation and the Islamic world.

Mohammed Abdulhakim Diyab is a writer and political analysts from Egypt. He is a prominent member of the Arab National Congress.



Letters to the Editor

World War

This week marks the anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which brought a sudden end to the long Second World War. We might have expected that such expressions of man's inhumanity toward man might ultimately have conferred upon our societies the wisdom to truly value life and liberty. Unfortunately, in the years following World War II, after the collapse of Nazism, the West voluntarily succumbed to a new dictatorship of relativism that is no less evil than the fascism that preceded it. This new tyranny recognizes nothing as being definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of satiating one's own ego and desires.

We have seen the contemporary results - nihilistic yet impeccably democratic legislation that repudiates life itself! I am thinking here of existing, enacted and pending articles of legislation that legalize various drugs, prostitution, contraception, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion, euthanasia, and genetic manipulation. Human beings are not raw materials to be exploited or commoditized that can be bought and sold. To suggest otherwise is to endorse a macabre interpretation of progress.

Today, the West cries for liberation from the tyranny of Modernity being imposed by liberal governments as they seek new and ingenious ways of undermining morality and embracing nihilism. Is this the path western civilization wishes to traverse? Are we to remain self-exiled victims of our own life-repudiating self-absorption?

I suggest that the initial step to halting this demoralizing slide toward an anti-life state philosophy is available to us today. But this will also take a great effort on the part of us all. We need to re-examine the Godless assumptions that we permit to serve as the foundation of our own individual lives. We need to go beneath the surface, without yielding to the propaganda of the Enlightenment with its false promises. Then and only then will we be able to breathe a new and vibrant culture of life back into our society.

Perhaps, in time, and through the promotion of a culture of life, western civilization - indeed all peoples and nations - will come to experience a new liberation based on the realization that it is not selfishness or war but truth that sets us free.

Paul Kokoski
paulkokoski@mountaincable.net

About 9/11

There has been a lot of misleading news about what was going on at NORAD on 9/11. Did the Pentagon lie to the 9/11 Commission? Accusations are flying because NORAD's jets were everywhere on 9/11 although not where they should have been - intercepting rogue-hijacked aircraft. The Pentagon, in their defense, claim, "There is no evidence that our senior Pentagon commanders intentionally provided false testimony to the Sept. 11 commission about the military's actions on the morning of the 2001 terrorist attacks." And, I believe that this is true.

NORAD did indeed carry out their orders on 9/11 with military precision. But on 9/11, NORAD was under the command and control of Vice President Dick Cheney - and he knew exactly what he was doing when he executed "stand down" orders to the military. Cheney was in charge! Not the Pentagon!

In my opinion, the government is lying about 9/11. I believe it was an "inside job," and the 9/11 investigation should be reopened immediately.

Harold S Kramer
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How can we stand by and allow this to go on?

They wrote the names of the dead children on their plastic shrouds. "Mehdi Hashem, aged seven Qana," was written in felt pen on the bag in which the little boy's body lay. "Hussein al-Mohamed, aged 12 Qana", "Abbas al-Shalhoub, aged one Qana." And when the Lebanese soldier went to pick up Abbas's little body, it bounced on his shoulder as the boy might have done on his father's shoulder on Saturday. In all, there were 56 corpses brought to the Tyre government hospital and other surgeries, and 34 of them were children. When they ran out of plastic bags, they wrapped the small corpses in carpets. Their hair was matted with dust, most had blood running from their noses.

You must have a heart of stone not to feel the outrage that those of us watching this experienced yesterday. This slaughter was an obscenity, an atrocity yes, if the Israeli air force truly bombs with the "pinpoint accuracy" it claims, this was also a war crime. Israel claimed that missiles had been fired by Hizbollah gunmen from the south Lebanese town of Qana as if that justified this massacre. Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, talked about "Muslim terror" threatening "western civilisation" as if the Hizbollah had killed all these poor people.

And in Qana, of all places. For only 10 years ago, this was the scene of another Israeli massacre, the slaughter of 106

Lebanese refugees by an Israeli artillery battery as they sheltered in a UN base in the town. More than half of those 106 were children. Israel later said it had no live-time pilotless photo-reconnaissance aircraft over the scene of that killing a statement that turned out to be untrue when The Independent discovered videotape showing just such an aircraft over the burning camp. It is as if Qana whose inhabitants claim that this was the village in which Jesus turned water into wine has been damned by the world, doomed forever to receive tragedy.

And there was no doubt of the missile which killed all those children yesterday. It came from the United States, and upon a fragment of it was written: "For use on MK-84 Guided Bomb BSU-37-B". No doubt the manufacturers can call it "combat-proven" because it destroyed the entire three-storey house in which the Shalhoub and Hashim families lived. They had taken refuge in the basement from an enormous Israeli bombardment, and that is where most of them died.

I found Nejwah Shalhoub lying in the government hospital in Tyre, her jaw and face bandaged like Robespierre's before his execution. She did not weep, nor did she scream, although the pain was writ-



By: Robert Fisk

ten on her face. Her brother Taisir, who was 46, had been killed. So had her sister Najla. So had her little niece Zeinab, who was just six. "We were in the basement hiding when the bomb exploded at one o'clock in the morning," she said. "What in the name of God have we done to deserve this? So many of the dead are children, the old, women. Some of the children were still awake and playing. Why does the world do this to us?"

Yesterday's deaths brought to more than 500 the total civilian dead in Lebanon since Israel's air, sea and land bombardment of the country began on 12 July after Hizbollah members crossed the frontier wire, killed three Israeli soldiers and captured two others. But yesterday's slaughter ended more than a year of mutual antagonism within the Lebanese government as pro-American and pro-Syrian politicians denounced what they described as "an ugly crime".

Thousands of protesters attacked the largest United Nations building in Beirut, screaming: "Destroy Tel Aviv, destroy Tel Aviv," and Lebanon's Prime Minister, the normally unflappable Fouad Siniora, called US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and ordered her to cancel her imminent peace-making trip

to Beirut. No one in this country can forget how President George Bush, Ms Rice, and Tony Blair have repeatedly refused to call for an immediate ceasefire a truce that would have saved all those lives yesterday. Ms Rice would say only: "We want a ceasefire as soon as possible," a remark followed by an Israeli announcement that it intended to maintain its bombardment of Lebanon for at least another two weeks.

Throughout the day, Qana villagers and civil defence workers dug through the ruins of the building with spades and with their hands, tearing at the muck until they found one body after another still dressed in colourful clothes. In one section of the rubble, they found what was left of a single room with 18 bodies inside. Twelve of the dead were women. All across southern Lebanon now, you find scenes like this, not so grotesque in scale, perhaps, but just as terrible, for the people of these villages are terrified to leave and terrified to stay. The Israelis had dropped leaflets over Qana, ordering its people to leave their homes. Yet twice now since Israel's onslaught began, the Israelis have ordered villagers to leave their houses and then attacked them with aircraft as they obeyed the Israeli instructions and fled. There are at least 3,000 Shia Muslims trapped in villages between Qlaya and Aiteroun close to the scene of Israel's last military incursion at

Bint Jbeil and yet none of them can leave without fear of dying on the roads.

And Mr. Olmert's reaction? After expressing his "great sorrow", he announced that: "We will not stop this battle, despite the difficult incidents [sic] this morning. We will continue the activity, and if necessary it will be broadened without hesitation." But how much further can it be broadened? Lebanon's infrastructure is being steadily torn to pieces, its villages razed, its people more and more terrorised and terror is the word they used by Israel's American-made fighter bombers. Hizbollah's missiles are Iranian-made, and it was Hizbollah that started this war with its illegal and provocative raid across the border. But Israel's savagery against the civilian population has deeply shocked not only the Western diplomats who have remained in Beirut, but hundreds of humanitarian workers from the Red Cross and major aid agencies.

Incredibly, Israel yesterday denied safe passage to a UN World Food Programme aid convoy en route to the south, a six-truck mission that should have taken relief supplies to the south-eastern town of Marjayoun. More than three quarters of a million Lebanese have now fled their homes, but there is still no accurate figure for the total number still trapped in the south. Khalil Shalhoub, who survived amid the wreckage in Qana yesterday, said that his family and the Hashims

were just too "terrified" to take the road out of the village, which has been attacked by aircraft for more than two weeks. The seven-mile highway between Qana and Tyre is littered with civilian homes in ruins and burnt-out family cars. On Thursday, the Israeli Army's Al-Mashriq radio, which broadcasts into southern Lebanon, told residents that their villages would be "totally destroyed" if missiles were fired from them. But anyone who has watched Israel's bombing these past two weeks knows that, in many cases, the Israelis do not know the location in which the Hizbollah are firing missiles, and when they do they frequently miss their targets. How can a villager prevent the Hizbollah from firing rockets from his street? The Hizbollah do take cover beside civilian houses just as Israeli troops entering Bint Jbeil last week also used civilian homes for cover. But can this be the excuse for slaughter on such a scale?

Mr. Siniora addressed foreign diplomats in Beirut yesterday, telling them that the government in Beirut was now only demanding an immediate ceasefire and was not interested any longer in a political package to go with it. Needless to say, Mr Jeffrey Feltman, whose country made the bomb which killed the innocents of Qana yesterday, chose not to attend.

Source: The Independent (UK)

The Muslim civil war

Is the Sunni-Shia divide in the Middle East now deeper than the antagonism between Israel and the Arabs? You might think so given the response of some Arab governments to Hezbollah's decision to attack Israel. Even as Israeli bombs fell on Beirut and Tyre, Saudi Arabia, perhaps the most conservative Arab Muslim state of all, openly condemned the actions of the Shia Hezbollah in instigating conflict with Israel. Never before in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict has a state that considers itself a leader of the Arab Muslim peoples backed Israel so openly.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia's breach with Hezbollah is not a one-time occurrence. Egypt and Jordan have also roundly condemned Hezbollah and its leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, for their adventurism.

What is behind this stunning development? Are we seeing a fundamental shift in relations between Arab nationalism and Islamic sectarianism? Is Saudi Arabia's Sunni government more concerned and frightened by Shia Islam than it is committed to Arab unity and the Palestinian cause?

Arab denunciations of Hezbollah suggest that the Muslim sectarian divide, already evident in the daily violence in Iraq, is deepening and intensifying across the Middle East. President George W. Bush's desire to shatter the Arab world's frozen societies was meant to pit the forces of modernization against the traditional elements in Arab and Islamic societies. Instead, he appears to have unleashed the region's most atavistic forces. Opening this Pandora's Box may have ushered in a new and even uglier era of generalized violence, perhaps what can only be called a "Muslim Civil War."

The Shia-Sunni divide has existed from the dawn of Islam, but the geographical and ethnic isolation of non-Arab Shiite Iran, together with Sunni Arab countries' dominance of their Shia minorities, mostly kept this rivalry in the background. These tensions further receded in the tide of the "Islamization" created by the Iranian revolution, for in its wake Arabs' sectarian identity as Sunni was pushed further into the background as a generalized "Islamic" assertiveness appeared.

That all changed when Al Qaeda, a Sunni terrorist force that draws heavily on Saudi Wahhabi ideology and personnel, launched its attacks on America in September 2001. A specifically Sunni brand of militant Islam was now on the march. When the United States initiated wars on both the Sunni Taliban in Afghanistan and the Sunni Iraqi regime, this new radical Sunni strain became even more emboldened.

The region's newly assertive Sunni



By: Mai Yamani

Arabs perceive Israel and the West as being only one threat, the other comprising the so-called "Shia crescent" - the arc of land extending from Lebanon to Iran through Syria and Iraq that is inhabited by the allegedly heretical Shia. Saudi Arabia's rulers, as custodians of the Muslim faith's holiest places in Mecca and Medina, perhaps feel this threat most keenly.

In Sunni eyes, the Shia not only dominate the oil-rich areas of Iran, Iraq, and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia, but are - through the actions of Hezbollah - attempting to usurp the role of "protector" of the central dream of all Arabs, the Palestinian cause. It is because the Saudi royal family derives its legitimacy from a strict form of Sunni Islam and doubts the loyalty of its Shia population that the Kingdom has turned on Hezbollah.

Ironically, it is America, Saudi Arabia's longtime protector, which made Shia empowerment possible by overthrowing Saddam Hussein and bringing Shiite parties to power in Iraq. The Bush administration seems to recognize what it has done; as the Shia arc rises in the east of the Arab Muslim world, the US is attempting to strengthen its protection of the Sunni arc - Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia - in the region's west. Israel, the once implacable enemy of the Arab cause, now seems to be slotted into this defensive structure.

But such a defensive posture is bound to be unstable, due to pan-Arab feelings. Today, ordinary Saudi citizens are glued to Al Jazeera and other Arab satellite TV networks to follow events in Gaza and south Lebanon. They see Arab (not Shiite) blood being shed, with only Hezbollah fighting back. In their eyes, Hezbollah has become a heroic model of resistance.

This is causing the Saudi state to deepen the Sunni-Shia schism. Following the Kingdom's official denunciation of Hezbollah, the Saudi state called on its official Wahhabi clerics to issue fatwas condemning Hezbollah as Shiite deviants and heretics. Such condemnations can only sharpen sectarian divisions within Saudi Arabia and the region.

As these antagonisms deepen, will the Sunni regimes come to believe that they need their own Hezbollah to fight in their corner? If that is what they conclude, they need not look far, for many such fighters have already been trained - by Al Qaeda.

Mai Yamani is a Senior Research fellow at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Source: Project Syndicate.

From war to peace

Haifa, Beirut and many other Lebanese and Israeli towns and villages are under fire. Who would have thought this possible a few weeks ago? Across the globe, the reaction to the images of destruction and death in Lebanon, but also in Gaza and Israel has been one of abhorrence.

Of course, it was well known that Hezbollah - viewed with good reason as a terrorist organization - had been stockpiling an arsenal of Katyusha rockets, as well as longer-range guided missiles.

Nor was it a secret that Hezbollah operates as a state within a state, with its own highly motivated private army and terrorist structures. It is Hezbollah, not the Lebanese government and its army, which has controlled the Lebanese-Israeli border ever since Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000.

Although Hezbollah presides over two ministers in the Lebanese government and several members of parliament, it does not act in the interest of the Lebanese state. Rather, its interests are defined in Damascus and Teheran, where much of its arsenal originates. This outside control is the principle cause of the present tragedy, which essentially constitutes a "proxy war."

Who is acting as a proxy for whom and for what? Let us retrace the precipitating cause of this war. Within Hamas, which is also strongly influenced by Syria and Iran, a fundamental debate had arisen as to whether, in the aftermath of electoral success and the ensuing mandate to govern the Palestinian territories, the organization should recognize Israel? Agreement was imminent when the Hamas leadership abroad (which is based in Damascus) ordered the attack on a military post in Israel in which several soldiers were killed and one was abducted.

The outcry in Israel and the resulting massive Israeli military response inevitably causing high Palestinian casualties was clearly anticipated and indeed an integral part of the cold calculations of those who organized the attack. The emerging Palestinian consensus was torpedoed and recognition of Israel rendered irrelevant, and the radicals once again proved victorious.

A few days later, Hezbollah followed suit and abducted another two Israeli soldiers on the Lebanese-Israeli border making it clear that Hamas and Hezbollah had coordinated their actions to provoke a large-scale confrontation with Israel. All this happened only days before the G8 meeting in St.

Petersburg, where the issue of Iran's nuclear ambitions was a main priority.

The current war in Lebanon is not a war by the Arab world against Israel; rather, it is a war orchestrated by the region's radical forces - Hamas and Islamic Jihad among the Palestinians, Hezbollah in Lebanon, together with Syria and Iran - that fundamentally rejects any settlement with Israel.

Conflict was sought for three reasons: first to ease pressure on Hamas from within the Palestinian community to recognize Israel; secondly to undermine democratization in Lebanon, which was marginalizing Syria; and thirdly to lift attention from the emerging dispute over the Iranian nuclear program and demonstrate to the West the "tools" at its disposal in the case of conflict.

Moderate Arab governments understand full well the issue at stake in this war: it is about regional hegemony in the case of Syria with Lebanon and Palestine and, on a wider level, Iran's hegemonic claim to the entire Middle East. Yet the war in Lebanon and Gaza could prove to be a miscalculation for the radicals. By firing missiles on Haifa, Israel's third-largest city, a boundary has been crossed.

From now on, the issue is no longer primarily one of territory, restitution, or occupation. Instead, the main issue is the strategic threat to Israel's existence.

The rejectionist front has underestimated Israel's determination and capacity for deterrence. It has proven that there is no way back to the *status quo* in Lebanon, and it revealed Iran's hegemonic aspirations to the entire world.

The folly of this is readily apparent, because it doesn't require much imagination to see what the Middle East would look like if an Iranian nuclear umbrella were shielding the radicals.

This miscalculation will become obvious as four developments unfold:

- Israel avoids being sucked into a ground war in Lebanon;
- UN Resolution 1559 - which requires the disarmament of all militias in Lebanon with the help of the international community - is enforced and a return to the status quo rendered impossible;
- today's de facto "anti-hegemon" coalition, comprising moderate Arab countries (including



By: Joschka Fischer

moderate Palestinians), is transformed into a robust and serious peace initiative; the Middle East Quartet, led by the US becomes actively engaged for a viable solution and provides the necessary political, economic, and military guarantees to sustain it over time.

Israel has a key role to play here. Twice, it withdrew its troops unilaterally behind its recognized borders, namely from southern Lebanon and Gaza. Both times, Israel's land-for-peace formula resulted in land for war. Now, with Israel's existence under threat, peace with its Arab neighbors seems a more distant prospect than ever.

I believe that today's war in Lebanon can open up a new opportunity for peace. The sooner the guns are silenced in Lebanon the better. But let's not forget the war's starting point: the clash within Hamas over whether to recognize Israel. And let's not forget the attitude of moderate Arab governments toward this war and to the hidden intentions of those who sought it.

Israel's security makes a restructuring of Lebanon's internal organization and a guarantee of its state sovereignty nonnegotiable. Now is the time to play the Syrian card and bring President Bashar al-Assad onto the path of normalization. With the Golan Heights, Israel has the key element in its hand. Without Syria, Iran would be alone. Iraq, too, would

profit from such a development.

Finally, things are not as hopeless for the Palestinians as they may seem. In Israel's prisons, a consensus has developed among leading Fatah and Hamas Palestinian inmates on accepting a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders. This new Palestinian realism must be supported. But there can be no way past the historic date of June 1967 (for both sides).

In Israel, has the realization of a new strategic threat made debates about land and settlements seem obsolete? Because this war is directed against Israel's existence, strategic and thus regional security will gain much greater emphasis.

How then, will Israel define its security in the future? Currently, Israel emphasizes massive deterrence, but it would be well advised to utilize the political and diplomatic possibilities presented by this war and take the initiative from a position of strength to offer a comprehensive peace to all those who are ready to recognize its existence and permanently renounce violence, not just in word, but also in deed.

Now is the time to think big! This applies not only to Israel and its neighbors, but to the US and Europe as well. This war offers a chance for lasting peace. We must not let it slip away.

Joschka Fischer, a leader of the Green Party for nearly 20 years, was Germany's Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor from 1998 to 2005.

Source: Project Syndicate/Institute for Human Sciences, 2006.

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Jean Latute:

“Expect a giant leap in the nature, quality and pricing of telecommunication services in Yemen”

The Telecommunications Industry in Yemen attracts considerable investments especially within the last few years. YemenTimes spoke to Mr. Jean Latute, Chief Executive Officer of TeleYemen – the largest telecommunications provider in Yemen, with regards to the recent developments in the Telecommunications Industry in Yemen.

Interviewed By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

TeleYemen is the flagship Telecom operator in Yemen. How did you get where you are today?

The original objective of TeleYemen was to provide customers in Yemen with reliable international telecommunications. TeleYemen is a trade name of the Yemen International Telecommunication Company, formed in January 1990. It's a joint venture company between the government-affiliated Public Telecommunication Cooperation and the Cable & Wireless Corporation, who were the major shareholder and was also managing the company until it sold its shares to its Yemeni Partner in December 2003.

In 2004 TeleYemen restructured and 25% of its shares were sold to the Postal Deposits Authority. Additionally, a 5-year management contract was signed with France Telecom to manage TeleYemen until December 2008, in order to bring the company up to date and provide excellent international telecommunications as well as the Y.net Internet services. TeleYemen also provides corporate telecommunications and Internet solutions for companies operating in Yemen.

We are very optimistic about the growth potential of the Telecommunications Industry in Yemen

Tell us a bit about yourself, when did you join TeleYemen?

I joined TeleYemen in November 2004, before which I was the Chief Information Officer in the Jordan Telecom Group, where I was based in Amman for over three years. Technically I am a telecommunications engineer and a business management graduate, and I have considerable experience in various domains of Telecom including wireless telecommunications and Internet services.

How do you evaluate the telecommunications industry in Yemen, with three mobile phone operators and a fourth upcoming?

We are very optimistic about the growth potential of our industry in Yemen, it is the fastest growing mobile phone market in the region and we believe the growth of the industry in Yemen will increase with the overall growth of the national economy within the next few years. New technologies will play a major part in developing the industry, and you can expect to witness a giant leap in the near future with regards to the quality and pricing of services especially to corporate solutions and international communications. For example, we have allocated over \$36 million for a project called FLAG, aimed at connecting Yemen with four continents utilizing advanced technology to enable TeleYemen to offer services considerably cheaper compared to our current rates. We are also introducing a new advanced 'International Switch' to meet the expected annual increased traffic of around 20 percent from the introduction of the FLAG project. This project was



Mr. Jean Latute, CEO of TeleYemen

already announced by His Excellency the Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology, and also by Director General Manager of the PTC in the local media, and the project will be operational in September.

TeleYemen's revenue increased by 16% in 2004 to reach YR22.4 Billion with a net profit of YR 2.3 Billion.

How profitable is TeleYemen compared to the rest of the industry?

As a whole the telecommunications industry is enjoying a boom period in Yemen. TeleYemen's revenue in 2005 has increased by 16 percent from 2004 and reached YR22.4 billion with a net profit of YR 2.3 billion representing 10.2 percent of revenue. Additionally, we were able to reduce costs by 8 percent after taking strong measures to control piracy – also known as BY-Pass. Our current performance is in line with the 5-year business plan administered by France Telecom running to December 2008. However, we are still in midway in our plan and we expect the upcoming financial results to be very satisfactory and to exceed the expectations of our shareholders – The Public Telecommunications Corporation and the Postal Deposits Authority.

People are the most important asset of the organization and we are keen to invest in our Human Capital

You mentioned something about BY-Pass, what is BY-Pass and how does it affect your operations and services?

It is a global threat affecting all countries and it refers to an illegal method where the caller undertakes an international phone call which registers in the system as a domestic phone call and hence charging only the domestic rate for the international call. We are tackling this issue with two methods. One method is through the BY-Pass Committee, relying on the help and the support of the official bodies where we manage to discover the criminals and force them to close their unlawful practice.

The second method is to provide our customers with best quality service for a very reasonable price, for example the cost per minute to gulf countries at off peak is only 82 Rials (62 Rials with my

Best Number), and this allows consumers in Yemen to enjoy the cheapest telecommunications rates amongst Gulf countries.

You mentioned that TeleYemen was able to score good financial results. How does that reflect on human resource aspects such as development and training of the staff?

The social and human aspects are not forgotten, in fact we have a very generous policy in that regards, for example the training and development budget was doubled in 2006 because we believe that people are the most important asset of our organization and we are keen to invest in our human capital especially as we look forward to upgrading our technology and provide a better service for our customers.

Employees of TeleYemen enjoy a very reasonable compensation package with various benefits and promotion schemes, we even have a voluntary early retirement package for those wishing to enjoy an early retirement.

France Telecom expressed its desire to become a partner in TeleYemen if conditions allow.

What are TeleYemen's future growth plans?

We have recently started to market Yemen Mobile products and this is quite normal as both companies are in one group. This style is inherited from France Telecom in order to build the 'Integrated Operator' image offering convergent services for our customers.

Other plans follow the successful introduction of "My Best Number" and "The Booster," and ADSL services in addition to three international tariff rebalancing schemes: we are launching shortly "Blad Asham and Egypt Region" and the "Horn of Africa Region" promotional campaigns. These campaigns will offer our customers cheap rates to call any country in these two regions. We always think of ways and means through which we can offer customers good services at lower cost. With regards to our Corporate Customers we are revising TeleYemen product rates and we are working on volume discount offers.

Another prospective plan is for France Telecom to raise its relationship to partnership status in TeleYemen if conditions allow. We have expressed this desire to our employer the Public Telecommunication Corporation and to his Excellency the Minister of Telecommunication & Information Technology.

Minister of Oil and Minerals Khalid Bahah:

We will crack down on corruption in the oil industry

By: Yemen Times Staff

During a coordination meeting between oil production and exploration companies and subcontractors in the oil industry, Minister of Oil and Minerals Khalid Bahah indicated that the ministry will move the oil industry into a new era with the purpose of having a fair mutual interest with all oil companies operating in Yemen.

He also indicated that several subcontracting firms have become a burden on the industry, as such firms lack vision and are trying to increase their "share in the pool" rather than increase the pool's overall size, metaphorically speaking regarding the range and nature of services they provide for the oil industry.

Bahah also expressed a strong stance against corruption within the oil industry, indicating that firms that are transparent and ethical in their dealings and operations in Yemen will receive full cooperation from the ministry and other government agencies, while those firms and subcontractors participating in any corruption activities will be blacklisted and risk their operating license.

He also said that utilizing the services of any individual or VIP in the country in order to evade regulations and win bids and contracts not only is unethical but illegal, thus emphasizing the stance of himself and the ministry against such behavior, and stressing that he'll not



Mr. Khalid Bahah

tolerate any firm or subcontractor using influential individuals or personalities to realize their interests with the ministry.

The environment and Yemenization also were important concerns Bahah raised in his speech, as the ministry has received complaints from several governorates regarding environmental damage. Additionally, he clarified that Yemenization is a priority for the ministry, considering the high percentage of unemployment among university graduates while many junior positions are filled with expatriates.

He applauded the efforts of Canadian Nexen regarding its scholarship scheme, the high percentage of Yemeni personnel working in the company and corporate social responsibility Nexen adopts in advising other firms working in the oil industry to follow suit and learn from its example.

Full details of the meeting will be published on this page next Thursday.

Business in brief

Bahah: Yemenizing oil jobs is ministry priority

Aug. 7 – During a coordination meeting between oil exploration, production and oil subcontractors, Minister of Oil and Minerals Khalid Bahah indicated that Yemenizing jobs in the oil sector is a priority for the ministry in order to facilitate creating local expertise and, in turn, local oil exploration and production companies, as well as subcontractors, thus indicating that Yemen plans to repeat the example of Safer Oil Company, the first Yemeni company to undertake oil exploration and production activities.

1,341 hectares allocated for tourism zone in Aden

Aden's Free Zone Authority has allocated 1,341 hectares of land for establishing a tourism zone to include parks and recreational areas, children's playgrounds, a sports arena and a golf club, as well as six locations for constructing tourism-oriented premises like hotels and resorts, as well as a green belt barrier to protect the zone from environmental hazards, winds and sandstorms from the north.

Businessmen applaud Saleh's donation

Aug. 6 – The Yemeni Council of Businessmen and Investors has issued a press release applauding President Ali Abdullah Saleh's decision to donate funds the business community raised to support his re-election campaign. So far, more than YR 400 million has been transferred to Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, the president's nephew and head of the committee to support resistance in Lebanon and Palestine.

Unannounced hike in foodstuff prices

Aug. 5 – Despite a recent Minister of Trade decree regarding stabilizing grocery and foodstuff prices, numerous items have witnessed price hikes ranging from 5 percent for milk, flour, sugar and mineral water to 35 percent for eggs, leaving consumers to blame middlemen and retailers as consumers learn about government policies and instructions aiming to stabilize grocery and foodstuff prices.

YFMF to hold business journalism workshop

The Yemeni Women's Media Forum (YFMF) will conduct an Aug. 12-15 workshop to train 30 journalists and media personnel in business journalism. The workshop will focus on developing skills needed to develop a business news story and an understanding of the local economy within both domestic and global contexts.

MATRADE comes to Yemen

The National Trade Promotion Agency of Malaysia will participate in the Aug. 13-18 Sana'a International Exhibition, organized by Apollo International Exhibitions, promoting more than 100 Malaysian companies' products, including foodstuffs, furniture, building materials, apparel, household and catering equipment and industrial chemicals, among others. The annual exhibition is considered one of Yemen's largest business and trade events, as many international firms and organizations participate in order to locate agents in Yemen and expand their operations into Yemeni markets.



Yemen mobile phones market is the fastest growing market in the region.

إعلان

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The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

But what about you?

By: Barkatullah Marwat
marwat@kuwaitnet.com

“Forget about Bush; forget about Osama, but what about you? Tell me what you did for me when I created you and put you on the earth in order to worship me? Weren't you told that the world you were born into and stayed in was like a farming field? So go reap what you sowed there.” If such a question was posed by Allah Almighty on the Day of Judgment, what would your answer be?

At present we appear to be drunk, lost in the materialism of worldly affairs; and although some of us are living our lives within the parameters set by Islam, these may or may not be so visible to the public. This reminds me of a saying, "True friends are precious and rare like pearls and diamonds, while fake friends are scattered everywhere like autumn leaves." Thus those whose first and top priority is to please Allah may not be caught so easily by our eyes. Islam means submission to Almighty Allah; it also means 'peace', to make and maintain peace rather than spreading waves of terror across the globe.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, what Osama is doing is not 'Jihad', and yet what George Bush is doing is not war against terrorism either. Both of them are responsible and accountable to Almighty Allah for what they have been rendering.

Needless to say, the Holy Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] is given the title 'Rehmat-al-Aalameen' rather than Rehmat-al-bait [not for his home but for the whole world till the day of Judgment]. Whoever practices Islam by following in his footsteps is a true Muslim. In fact, the holy Prophet faced countless hardships, struggles and humiliation from the people to whom he

brought the message of Allah. Yet he never reacted badly and instead he prayed to Allah for their forgiveness and reformation. If he did so, who are we who cannot follow his example? His life should be a role model for the entire of humanity, not for Muslims alone. Politically, he created the first constitution [historically termed as the 'Charter of Medina'] to the world. To be brief, Islam is a complete and perfect code of life, and those who follow it truly will find salvation.

Now let us see how many Islamic countries enforce the Islamic system. Only in Saudi Arabia can some of its enforcement be clearly recognized, while other Islamic countries seem to be afraid of enforcing the Shariah [Islamic laws] due to reasons best known to them. Is this not a shameful matter for the Muslim?

Sometimes we seem to lose our identity by adopting and copying others. For instance, if you came cross a clean-shaven man, wearing a stylish suit, speaking fluent English and drinking wine...in that moment you may be confused as to whether he is a Muslim or non-Muslim. In fact he may be a Muslim. So under which category should he be placed? Similar is the case of our political, social, judicial and economic systems, which are being [or have been] coated with the Western world's golden water of democracy. Is there no democratic concept in Islam? If there is, then why have our honorable rulers been avoiding its introduction and implementation in the Islamic world?

It can be seen here that the government has set up speed cameras and warning signs along the roadside, saying 'speed leads you to prison or death', aimed at catching the menace speeding. Daily, we read in the papers that a road accident has resulted from speeding. But even then, this problem is not taken care of. Is speeding not an act of

attempted suicide, which is strictly forbidden in Islam and other religions too? But who cares?

What Allah made clear in the Holy Qur'an could not be challenged, though it is said that at the advent of Islam, some of the ignorant poets referred to the holy Prophet Muhammad [PBUH] with different titles and nick names, appropriate for such as a magician. Unsurprisingly, they failed to compose even a single verse of similar effect to a piece of verse from the Qur'an when pasted on the wall of holy Ka'aba by Ali bin Abu Taleb (RA).

Let's not forget that all our actions are carried out with two intentions: 1) to seek the forgiveness of Allah, and 2) personal publicity. I still remember a news item that appeared in the Arab Times some three or four years back, saying that a Kuwaiti citizen paid KD 125,000 for the bail of those who were in jail for minor offences, so that they could be released for the holy month of Ramadan. The most impressive aspect of this kind gesture was that the individual requested the media not to mention his name, as he wanted to remain anonymous. Such things as these are done for the sake of Allah's forgiveness. Yes, Allah knows everything. 100 fils spent in His way, such as a donation to a needy and deserving man, may earn His forgiveness, rather than millions of dinars just for publicity purposes.

As regards poverty, everyone is poor except the one who has secured much out of worshipping Allah Almighty. We may consider a man to be poor when he possesses nothing but money. Those who have money may still not be happy or content with their life; as if they are devoid of internal happiness then they are as poor as if they had no money at all. The other day I happened to read a statement of the Chairman of the international company Microsoft, Bill Gates, who is regarded as one of the richest men in the world. He commented, "I

wish I were not so rich a man." The point I wish to make is that happiness, mental and spiritual satisfaction and peace do not lie in wealth, but only in worshipping Allah Almighty in a true sense. Those Muslims, Christians or Hindus who go regularly to places of worship may find some Divine satisfaction.

Fundamentalism is, in fact, the basis of all learning and knowledge. For instance, a doctor cannot be a competent doctor unless he has the fundamental knowledge of his career. A journalist cannot be a confident one until he knows the fundamental concepts of journalism and mass communication. According to the definition made by Merriam-Webster dictionary, fundamentalism is "a movement in 20th century Protestantism emphasizing the literally interpreted Bible as fundamental to Christian life and teaching." On the contrary, the Oxford English dictionary has a different definition, terming Muslims as fundamentalists. Amazing!

History of the promised land

By: Paul Kokoski
paulkokoski@mountaincable.net

The Israeli-Arab conflict has a storied history that cannot be reduced to a single incident initiated by Hezbollah. There are, in fact, many who criticize Israel for the manner it incorporated the West Bank and Gaza into the Israeli security system after defeating the Arab armies in 1967. After the war, Israel decided to establish new Jewish settlements in these areas. Many of the 2 million Palestinians who lived in these areas were either intimidated into moving or forced to flee their ancestral homes. These bullying tactics persist today as many Palestinians continue to be treated as citizens without rights.

The root of the present crisis in the Middle East lies in Israel's existence as an independent state with indefinite borders. Only when Israel is given definite and final borders by the international community and by all the Arabic states will there be real hope for peace.

It should also be noted that Israel's original claim to the "promised land" is biblical. They were not the first settlers of this land, but rather the "chosen people" and they took it by force after Moses died. The Messianic King, promised by Scripture, later went unrecognized by the Jews. In this Messiah, Jesus Christ, God is no longer tied to a specific geographical area of a place that we might call Israel. God's kingdom is a universal kingdom today. Israel has to be realistic and know that they cannot impose only their idea on all the Arab countries. All the people of the earth are the People of God and the Jewish people are not alone the chosen people. God is not a real-estate agent.

It is easy for supporters of Israel, in this new ecumenical age, to suggest continued violence as being necessary

since Israel possesses U.S. backed military strength. This kind of thinking, however, which betrays an ability to rationalize without thinking rationally, is clearly unacceptable. Can any lasting peace ever be achieved through violence? Though Israel has won mostly all her battles in the past this has not won for her a lasting and just peace.

Force is never a legitimate solution to any problem as long as the possibility of dialogue exists; as long as there are some still willing to place their trust in man and his ability to reason. Terrorism is, and always will be, a show of inhuman ferocity and it will never solve conflicts among. Only reason and love are the valid means of surpassing and resolving disputes between people. No situation of injustice, no feeling of frustration, no philosophy or religion can justify such an aberration.

The recent cycle of blind violence we are witnessing in Lebanon is the result of injustices and imbalances that create conditions favoring an uncontrollable explosion revenge. When fundamental rights are violated, it is easy to fall prey to temptations of hatred and violence. Nonetheless, we must keep in check our base impulses and together work to build a global culture that restores hope in the future for the young.

Presently we must raise our prayers for an immediate cease-fire to the fighting in the Middle East, for humanitarian corridors to be opened in order to bring help to the suffering peoples, and for international leadership in new efforts to negotiate for a lasting settlement.

In reality, the Lebanese have the right to see the integrity and sovereignty of their country respected, the Israelis the right to live in peace in their State, and the Palestinians have the right to have their own free and sovereign homeland.

In your eyes

By: Hail Ali

*In your eyes
I found myself
For my God
I praised
Didn't they say
"You will be a loser"
With your eyes
You will be a problem
In my life
I didn't believe them
Nor care...
So
I see my ships
Sails into...
Language impossible bitch
Your eyes like water continent,
I take side to thin eyes
When ever I see the land...*

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 A powdery starch
- 5 Sound hoarse
- 9 Takes off the top
- 14 Word with tag or double
- 15 Predatory whale
- 16 1995 Rookie of the Year Nomo
- 17 Donegal river
- 18 Wall Street pessimist
- 19 World record?
- 20 Where one's first savings are deposited?
- 22 Memo taker
- 23 Source of bun seeds
- 24 Legal eagle, briefly
- 26 Study, study, study
- 29 "Songs of a Wayfarer" composer
- 33 Chinese mammal
- 37 Catch of the day, perhaps
- 39 "O patria mia" singer
- 40 Matty or Moises
- 41 Satellite of Saturn
- 42 Habeas corpus, e.g.
- 43 It comes before the storm
- 44 It may get a part
- 45 Edible ray

DOWN

- 1 Flight to a landing
- 2 Mountaintop home, perhaps
- 3 Bust targets, sometimes
- 4 The end, in Athens
- 5 Kind of baron
- 6 Side squared, for a square
- 7 Feature of some car radios
- 8 Cold-weather coat
- 9 California peak

10 Where headlines were made, Dec. 17, 1903

- 11 Groundless, as speculation
- 12 Intend to say
- 13 Just passable
- 21 Disco classic
- 25 Treasury Department agents
- 27 About a third of Earth's land mass
- 28 Recurring theme
- 30 Old Italian money
- 31 Check copy
- 32 Feet per second, e.g.
- 33 It's set by a runner
- 34 Ladd of films
- 35 Vincent Lopez theme song
- 36 Blockhead
- 38 Video game and film star Croft
- 41 Fare-well link
- 45 Leak through slowly
- 47 Not so important
- 49 Stevenson character
- 51 Dilapidated dwelling
- 53 Plays miniature golf
- 54 It provides showers
- 55 Skyline feature
- 56 Classified, as blood
- 57 Cookie magnate
- 58 Astronomer's sighting
- 59 Canter, e.g.
- 61 California campus
- 62 Mixologist's measure

"YOUNG AT HEART" by Alice Walker

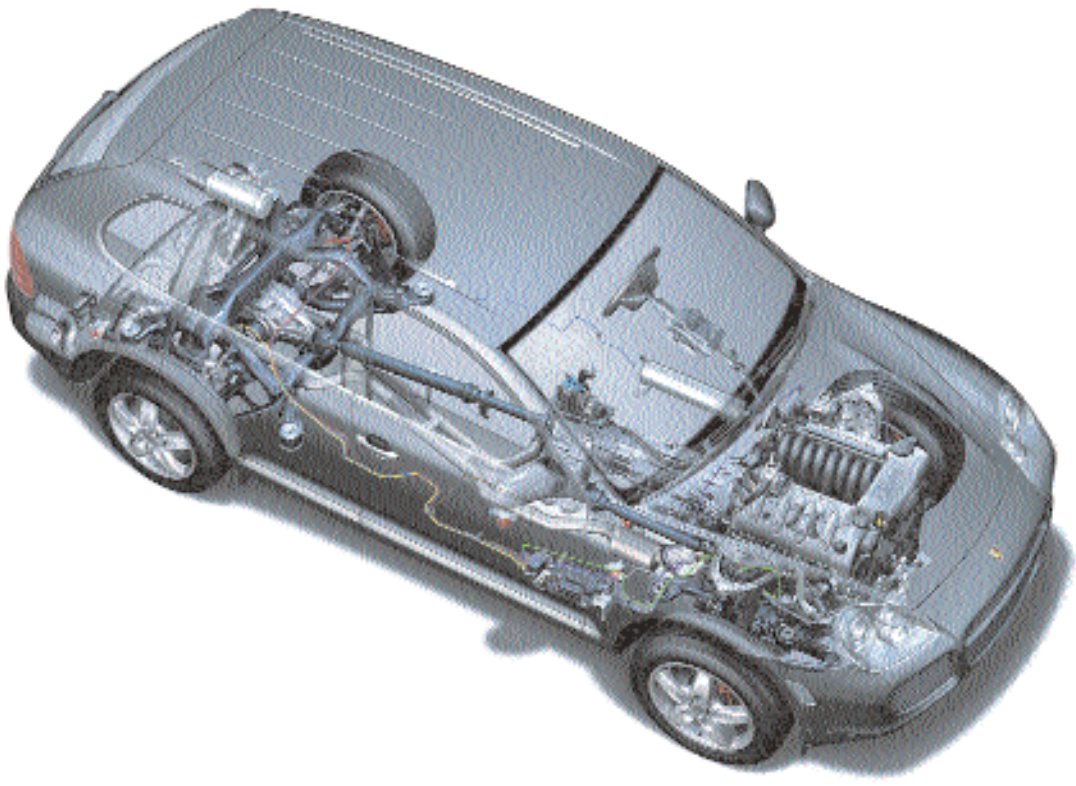
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Russia arrests art theft suspects

Police investigating the theft of hundreds of artworks from the Russian Hermitage museum have arrested two suspects, Russia's Interfax news agency has reported.



Madonna with Child and two works by Leonardo da Vinci.

Museum staff have asked dealers and collectors to help them recover the missing items - mainly silver and enamel pieces from the Middle Ages and 19th Century.

On Friday an antiques dealer in Moscow handed over to authorities a gold- and silver-plated chalice that had come from the Hermitage.

Source: Al-Jazeera

Interfax quoted a source as saying that the suspects have confessed to stealing the artefacts, worth about \$5 million, over a period of six years.

They are alleged to have colluded with a curator at the museum who died suddenly during an audit of the museum's collections, the agency said on Saturday.

"Two people suspected of stealing exhibits from the state Hermitage collections were detained overnight," Interfax quoted the source as saying.

Officials investigating the theft could not be reached for comment.

Items recovered

Investigators recovered one of the missing items in a rubbish bin this week after an anonymous phone tip-off.

The icon of the Church of the All Saints had been left in a bin near police office in St Petersburg.

The thefts came to light only when curators carried out their first comprehensive inventory of the museum for decades. Questions have also been asked about the level of security at the museum.

The Hermitage is home to a massive collection of sculpture, paintings and historic artefacts that was started by Empress Catherine the Great in 1764.

It houses several Renaissance paintings, including Raphael's

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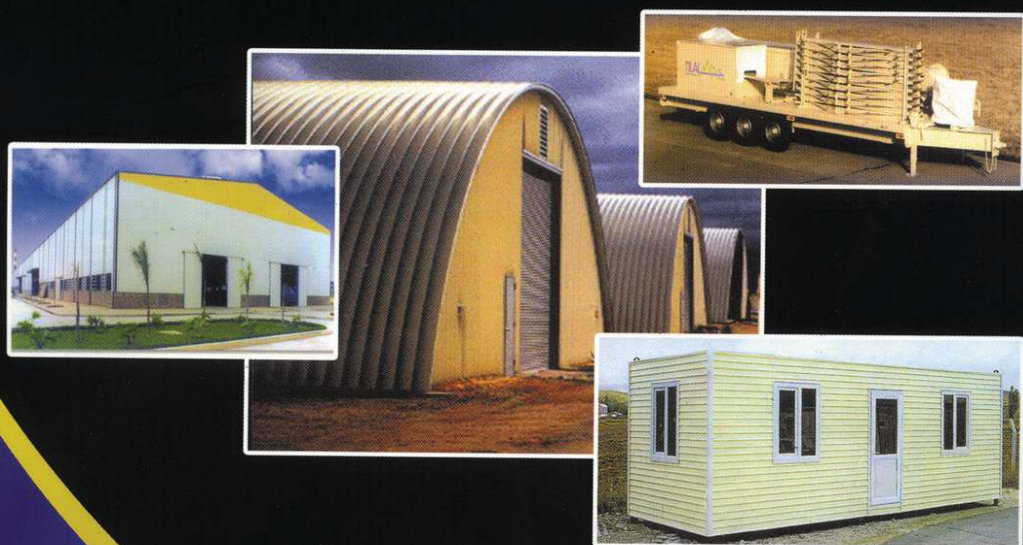
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