

Mr. Eric Frager to Yemen Times

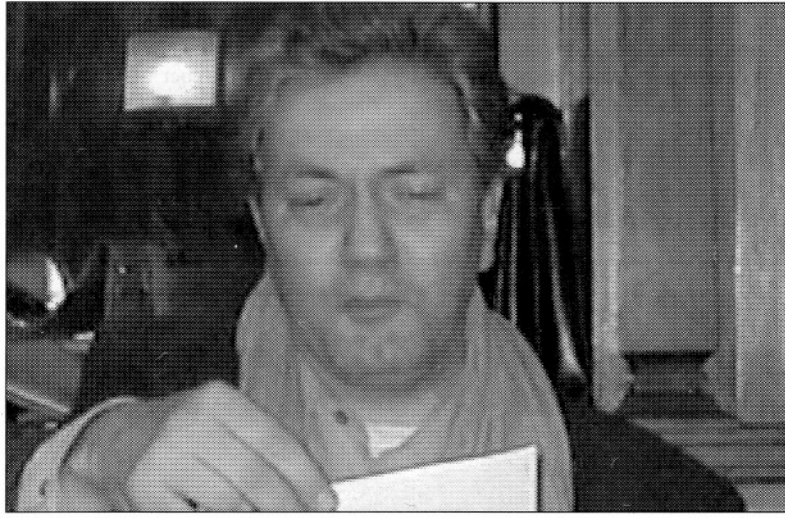
"I have established an association and named it 'Le Cercle Franco-Yemenite'"

BY YAHYA AL-OLFI
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Mr. Eric Frager aka Eric Yahya is a Frenchman deeply involved with Yemen. He has supervised some projects in Yemen, went through good and bad times and is married to a Yemeni lady. He goes by another Arab-French name "Eric Yahya".

During the past few days I met Mr. Eric Frager aka Eric Yahya, who I was told was here to organize the Yemeni contribution to *THE ARAB MUSIC FESTIVAL*, which is sponsored by the Institute of the Arab World in Paris. Below are excerpts of the interview conducted with him, hours before his departure to Paris "The City Of Demons And Angels" as described by Ibrahim Nagi, a prominent Arab poet.

Q: Mr. Eric when was your first



Mr. Eric Frager

visit to Yemen?

A: I was here during the eighties of the past century and at the outset of the nineties, I have gone through good and bad moments in Yemen and promise you here to highlight them in another

occasion if possible.

Q: We've heard that you are heading a cultural association interested in Yemeni culture; can you give us a glimpse of it?

A: Being deeply interested in Yemeni culture in general I have established an association and named it "Le Cercle Franco-Yemenite".

Q: Could you describe the cultural event that has necessitated this visit to Sana'a?

A: I am here to follow-up the participation of the Yemeni singer Al-Morshedi in a cultural event that is due to take place on 19 June 2004.

Q: Al-Morshedi alone?

A: Well, you know that Al-Morshedi is one of Yemen's most prominent living singers and of course he shall be accompanied by Mr. Rushdi Abduljalil and a band of musicians from Hadramaut, although I had hoped for the participation of others, who for one reason or another, will not be able to

show up.

Q: Your association is solely involved in the preparation of this project, or there are others?

A: In addition to "Le Cercle Franco-Yemenite", there is "CEFAS" headed by Mr. Jean Lambert. As for sponsors, there will be Yemenia and Tihama Tractors amongst others.

Q: Which areas will receive the revenue of this event?

A: Obviously there will be charity sales and the revenue will be allocated to assisting Yemeni students in France.

Q: Having visited Yemen in the early eighties, what are your current impressions?

A: Well, during the eighties Sana'a was less crowded and the people had a better standard of living. Nowadays I have noticed that it has grown larger and thus become more crowded. It lacks the urban services necessary for a city of such magnitude. Unfortunately, the utilities present are designed for the time being, not for the future. Projects should be sustainable and last for a long time to come. I hope that this aspect will receive more attention.

Q: So, Bon voyage! And we are awaiting your promise of a full interview about your experience in Hajja prison?

A: Well, O.K. d'accord.

Conclusion of training session on the status of refugees

The training session for the Yemeni media focusing on the 1951 Agreement and 1967 Protocol related to the situation of refugees, was held during 14-16 June.

The trainees discussed the issue of international protection and the role of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, in addition to elaborating on the type of protection available theoretically and how to distinguish a legitimate refugee from others. The session reviewed some of the problems facing refugees in Yemen, and the stances of the Yemeni government and people toward refugees considering that Yemen hosts a large number of refugees, especially from Somalia.

Mr. Khaled Fansah, the legal consultant at UNHCR, presented a detailed explanation of the standards, dimensions and definitions of the 1951 Agreement and 1967 Protocol.

The participants pointed out the importance of having a national law that regulates the rights of refugees and defines and determines the pre-requisite conditions to obtain this right.

The training session came following the report that recently discussed in Parliament, which cited violations of refugees' rights and crimes committed by some refugees in Yemen.

Ms. Nafisa Al-Jaefi, Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood presented a speech in which she welcomed the governmental and non-governmental bodies. Al-Jaefi said "Today we conduct a workshop to raise awareness about violence against children through which we shed light on the various forms of violence practiced against children as social problem."

She further said "The Results of a study in the field of violence against children that was conducted with collaboration of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, UNICEF, WHO and Save the Children Sweden will be introduced and displayed. There are also local studies related to violence against children conducted in Lahj, Al-Mukla and Aden governorates, which will be displayed as well. That vividly reveals the rising awareness of children rights."

Elisabet Sundstrom, Advisor on Violence and Abuse at Save the Children Sweden, "I think it is a very positive step for the Deputy Minister of Education to acknowledge that there is violence in schools. I think there is very good work being done by the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood. I am very happy that they are very open here in Yemen to cooperate with NGOs."

She concluded "I hope this workshop will end with some kind of committee recording everything that happens and which will work together with the Ministry and Higher Council, NGOs and agencies. It is not only to address this issue but also hopefully to build overall coordination."

Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arahbi, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Mr. Abdulaziz bin Habor, Deputy at the Ministry of Education, along with representatives of UNICEF, the World Health Organization (Who) and Save the Children Sweden attended the workshop.

Violence against children

Breaking the silence... strengthening responses

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Violence against children is a social pattern found in every country in the world. It occurs in varied situations, in innumerable forms and in many different degrees of severity. This violence may range from killing, torture, and exploitation to a deliberate act of punishment or just the impulsive reaction of an irritated parent or teacher. In every case, it is a breach of fundamental human rights principles.

Respect for human dignity and the right to physical integrity are principles of universal application. Yet the social and legal acceptance of different forms of violence against children, including the hitting and other humiliating forms of treatment of children by

adults persists in most countries of the world.

Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Arahbi, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, delivered speech in which he said "Violence against children is a widespread phenomenon and we have started to accept it as a harmful social problem that should be dealt with. Everybody knows that the government has exerted many efforts in issuing the necessary regulations and laws to protect children's rights. Al-Arahbi further explained "There are a number of programs designed and now being implemented in different dimensions. Childhood has become an essential issue for the government and the community. Fighting the violence against children is a great challenge. So we cannot depend completely on the state to solve such problems, but also must involve civil society organizations."

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Vincent Guiltat:

"Yemen athletics have unique talents"

BY MOHAMMED SAEED AL-MEKHLAFI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF, ADEN

Yemen Times met with Mr Vincent Guiltat, 'Charge de Mission' responsible for Youth and Sport at the French Embassy to discuss his work in Yemen:

Q: Could you give us a brief account of yourself?

A: I am Vincent Guiltat, and I came to Yemen one year ago to take charge of Sports and Youth cooperation between the French embassy and the Yemeni Ministry of Youth and Sport, holding a masters' degree in sport sciences.

Q: What is the nature of the support being given to Yemen?

A: As is well known, France and Yemen having deep relations in many educational, cultural, health fields. Concerted youth and sport cooperation started three years ago, with Yemeni Federation of Judo.

Now we try to improve this part of cooperation through offering many materials by which Yemeni athletics can cope with contemporary progress in the world of sport. In addition to that, we have held a number of symposiums including various courses focusing on Yemeni youth and sport. Last year seven French youths visited, Sana'a, Taiz, Manaka and Mokalla to taken an overall picture of ancient and historical Yemeni sites, culture and traditions which reflected a positive view of what written and spoken about Yemen in the media.

Q: Yemen has recently witnessing a significant development in sport. How do you handle that?



Mr Vincent Guiltat

A: In reality it seems very difficult to me to evaluate the level of athletics in Yemen. In short they have various unique talents, but need to be extensively supported.

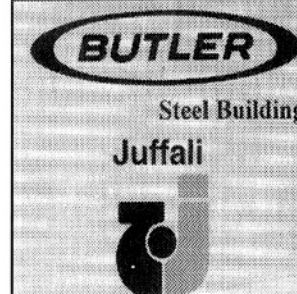
Q: What are your future plans?

A: We want to support women's sport because it has an important impact on health and education. We intend to hold a conference concerning women's sport, in cooperation with the Yemeni Ministry of Youth and Sport. Likewise, we will organize an international half marathon in Sana'a, in which many athletes from different countries will participate.

Q: At the end, do you want to say something to Yemen Times readers?

A: Of course, I would like to thank the Yemen Times for giving me a chance to say something important to Yemen Times readers. Sport is a cornerstone for any country.

I am very happy to work here in Yemen. When I leave Yemen, I am sure to transmit a good picture about Yemen to the French people.



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Al-Hothy appeals

He has declared himself in rebellion against the state, the constitution and the law. Al-Hothy supporters have also looted a water project, depriving other citizens and security forces of clean drinking water.

Sheikh Al-Hothy has denied on some satellite TV channels all the above allegations and has confirmed that the true motives behind the mili-

tary campaign was because he is adhering strongly to the slogan "Allah Akbar (God is great), death to America and Israel, victory to Islam and the Muslim". He pointed out that the charges are official provocation against him and aimed at mobilizing soldiers and public opinion with false rumors and that the true motives behind the military campaign will be

revealed in due course.

Sheikh Hussein Al-Hothy has sent a hand-written letter addressed to President Saleh through some mediators. Yemen Times obtained a copy of the letter.

The letter states, "I have met with Mr. Ghalid Al-Moaid, my brother Yahya Badr Al-deen, and Shiekh Al-Dahman and we talked about many issues, including your displeasure with me. This has astonished me since I am certain that I have done nothing

that would have led to such a feeling. I do not work against you, I appreciate you and what you do tremendously, but what I do is my solemn national duty against the enemy of Islam and the community... America and Israel. I am by your side, so do not listen to hypocrites and provocateurs, and trust that I am more sincere and honest to you than they are. When we meet, if God is willing, I will talk to you about matters that are of great concern to you all. The brothers will explain to

you about the details of my meeting with them.

A number of Yemeni religious figures who previously expressed their discontent about Al-Hothy in the official media are now expressing their regret of the killings and destruction inflicted on a number of villages and the use of heavy weapons and warplanes against weak citizens. They call on President Saleh to intervene to halt the fratricidal bloodshed and to order the related authorities to end the mili-

tary campaign against citizens.

On their part, citizens of Mran (Khulan Amer) and nearby regions and the citizens from the devastated areas in Sadaah Governorate, in an urgent appeal, call on international and humanitarian organization to bear their duties immediately and urgently to end this unjust war and rescue thousands of families who are under threat as the ongoing war is demolishing homes over the heads of children, women and the elderly.

Guidance Conference calls for tolerance and modernization

Dr. Mohamed Sayed Tantawi, Sheikh of Al-Azhar, pointed out that one must have the ability to adjust in one's rhetoric to changes at the local and international levels whilst taking into consideration a good sermon and its ability to influence society.

During the days of the conference, several working papers from Islamic intellectuals were discussed with emphasis on the importance of the

modernization and renewal of Islamic rhetoric to encourage moderation and reject extremism and terrorism, which are not by any means connected to Islam.

This conference is considered the first, following the terror incidents that extremists have been carrying out in the region in the name of Islamic Jihad, which the conference rejects in part and as a whole.

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Guerrillas launch new Iraq raids, US hunts Zarqawi

ARBIL, Iraq, June 26 (Reuters) - Six guerrillas were killed in clashes on Saturday in Baquba, a town north of Baghdad where fighters have proclaimed loyalty to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the U.S. military said.

Washington, which says Zarqawi is linked to al Qaeda and has masterminded a series of deadly attacks in Iraq, said it may have come close to killing the militant in an air strike on Friday on Falluja, some 50 miles (30 km) west of Baghdad.

"He remains the number one target inside this country. He is a very effective terrorist," said Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for the U.S. military in Iraq.

Washington has put a \$10 million price on Zarqawi's head.

In violence elsewhere, a car bomb killed a man and wounded 40 people in Iraq's Kurdish city of Arbil on Saturday as guerrillas kept up a bloody drive to derail a U.S. handover to an interim Iraqi government in four days' time.

In Baquba, guerrillas attacked a building belonging to a moderate Shi'ite political group, killing three guards.

Two other guards were wounded in the attack on the office of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq in the mixed Sunni-Shi'ite town.

Building blown up

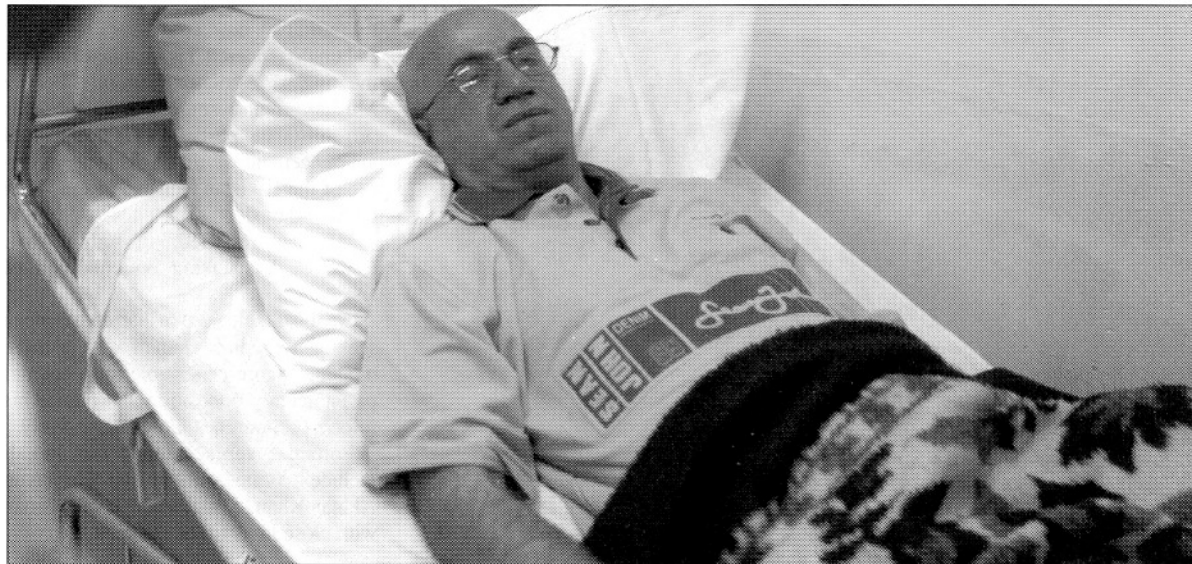
Guerrillas also blew up a building used by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's Iraqi National Accord party, police said.

Kimmitt said one of the six dead guerrillas was found with TNT strapped to his body.

The U.S. military said an American soldier died of his wounds overnight after an ambush in Baghdad, bringing to 623 the U.S. combat death toll in Iraq since last year's invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

U.S. and Iraqi officials say they expect more violence in the run-up to the June 30 handover. A string of attacks on Thursday killed about 100 people in five cities.

A group led by Zarqawi claimed responsibility for those attacks and on



Mahmoud Mohammed, culture minister in the Kurdish regional government and chairman of the Kurdish Democratic Party for the city of Arbil, rests with light injuries in a hospital after a car bomb blast in the centre of the northern Iraq city of Arbil June 26. A car bomb explosion killed a man and wounded 40 people in the Kurdish city of Arbil on Saturday as insurgents kept up a bloody drive to derail Iraq's transition to an interim government in four days' time. REUTERS

Friday U.S. planes bombed what the U.S. military called a "known Zarqawi network safe house" in Falluja.

A U.S.-led coalition official said between 20 and 25 people were killed in the air strike, the third on suspected Zarqawi safe houses in Falluja this week.

Kimmitt told a news conference several cars were seen driving away from the house after it was hit.

"It's the coalition assessment that it could have been Zarqawi and his key leaders," Kimmitt said. "It may not have been. Only time will tell."

House reduced to rubble

The house was reduced to rubble, but one Falluja resident at the scene said no one had been killed in the strike.

"I swear to God, nobody died here except this rabbit," said a man in an Arab robe, dangling a dead rabbit in one hand.

Falluja's tribal leaders denied on Saturday that Zarqawi was in the town.

"This is a lie to excuse the strikes by

occupation planes on the houses of citizens," said a statement from the General Council of Falluja Tribal Leaders.

It echoed earlier denials by militants in Falluja who said they needed no help from foreign fighters to keep U.S. forces out of their home town.

The blast in Arbil, some 350 km (220 miles) north of Baghdad, killed a shopkeeper and wounded Mahmoud Mohammed, culture minister in the Kurdish regional government.

"It is like any terrorist attack. They want to end peace and democracy. The only language they know is violence. They don't want the situation to go well for the Kurds," he said.

Arbil relatively violence free

Arbil has been relatively free of trouble since U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq last year, though twin suicide attacks on Kurdish party offices in February killed more than 100 people.

In another attack in the north, gunmen

ambushed a police patrol some 30 km (19 miles) south of Kirkuk on Saturday, killing one policeman and wounding another, police said.

Zarqawi, who has claimed responsibility for beheading an American and a South Korean, threatened this week to assassinate Allawi.

The Iraqi prime minister vowed in turn that his country's fledgling security forces would crush Zarqawi and other guerrillas with the help of a multinational force of 160,000 mostly U.S. troops due to stay after June 30.

Allawi has asked NATO to help train Iraqi forces.

NATO nations settled a dispute over how to respond to the call on Saturday, averting a public row two days before the opening of an alliance summit in Istanbul.

But NATO's role in Iraq will be a far cry from the deployment of troops originally sought by Washington. France and Germany, which opposed the Iraq war, shot down that idea.

Egypt President has successful back surgery:TV

CAIRO, June 26 (Reuters) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had successful back surgery in Germany on Saturday and has been moved into the recovery room, state television reported.

Uncertainty over Mubarak's health has caused concern in Egypt, where the 76-year-old had not appointed a vice-president, the usual route to power. He has delegated his duties to Prime Minister Atef Obeid during his absence.

"The president was moved into the operation room then the operation was completed and the surgery ended successfully thank God," Health Minister Mohamed Awad Afifi Tag el-Din told Channel One on Saturday.

He added the president was currently in the recovery room.

The German specialist treating the president told the television channel

that the physiotherapy Mubarak had been undergoing for a slipped disc had not relieved the pain as quickly as he had expected, so he had advised Mubarak to have an operation.

"This morning we told the president about this and that he should have an operation, and he agreed immediately," said Heinz-Michael Mayer in the television report that was translated into Arabic from English.

During the operation, Mayer said doctors in the Munich Orthopaedic Centre had located the problem and had removed the cartilage that had been putting pressure on the spine.

"President Mubarak...is in a very good state and...tomorrow morning we expected he will be able to move out of bed and in the next few days he should be able to walk," said Mayer, who is head of the Centre's spinal unit.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak REUTERS

Bomb explodes in Istanbul, no one injured



Turkish Navy underwater assault (SAT) commandos in an inflatable craft patrol past a Romanian frigate (R) and a Bulgarian frigate anchored in the Bosphorus, Istanbul June 26. U.S. President George W. Bush and other leaders are expected to arrive to attend the NATO summit in the heart of Istanbul, as the city anticipates anti-NATO demonstrations amid high security. REUTERS

ISTANBUL, June 26 (Reuters) - A bomb hanging from an Istanbul overpass exploded on Saturday in an apparent anti-NATO protest as police secured the area, but nobody was injured, state-run Anatolian news agency reported. The blast, the latest in a series of explosions in Turkey, came amid heightened security worries ahead of a NATO summit being held in the city on Monday and Tuesday. U.S. President George W. Bush is one of more than 40 world leaders attending the summit. Those concerns were also fanned by a report on Saturday of a bomb blast in a hotel in the southern resort of Antalya. But officials subsequently said the explosion was due to a gas explosion which caused a wall to collapse and kill one woman. Anatolian said police teams went to the scene of the bombing in Istanbul after a

tip-off, halted traffic and were setting up a security cordon when the device exploded.

A banner was also suspended from the overpass and read "Murderer NATO". Bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion of a second package attached to the banner but no explosives were found inside it.

Earlier this week there was a similar blast on an overpass in the city which injured one officer as he seized the device, attached to an anti-NATO banner.

Security has been stepped up in Turkey ahead of the Istanbul summit, with police conducting searches of pedestrians in the streets and searching passengers on the road to the airport.

A bomb blast on an Istanbul bus killed four people, including the bomber, and

wounded 21 others on Thursday in an attack blamed on left-wing extremists. Kurdish separatists and Islamic militants are also active in Turkey.

Anatolian also said police had arrested a member of the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) suspected of coming to Istanbul to carry out "sensational acts", along with four other people.

It said the suspect had carried out armed actions for the PKK in southeast Turkey and had been trained in camps along the Iran-Iraqi border.

Police also carried out a controlled explosion of a package in a park in Ankara. Bush will be staying in the capital on Saturday night. The package had been made to look like a bomb but only contained a stone wrapped in sheets of newspaper, Anatolian said.

Burns calls Gaza pullout "moment of opportunity"

RAMALLAH, West Bank, June 26 (Reuters) - A senior U.S. envoy on Saturday urged Israel and the Palestinians to fulfil commitments and take advantage of the "moment of opportunity" offered by the Israeli Gaza pullout plan.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State William Burns spoke to reporters after meeting Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie following talks with Israeli leaders on the plan.

"We genuinely believe that this is a moment of opportunity that none of us can afford to miss," Burns said. "The Israelis and the Palestinians must fulfil obligations in order to take advantage of that."

Burns was meeting Israeli and Palestinians after the Middle East Quartet lent support to an Egyptian initiative to promote the Israeli pullout by pressuring Palestinians to reform their security forces and offering training.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has won Cabinet support in principle for the plan, which calls for the evacuation

of all 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and another four in the West Bank. A second vote is necessary for implementation.

Egypt is also seeking a total ceasefire to smooth the way for an Israeli withdrawal.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat told foreign diplomats that he was committed to a truce, at least during the Olympics to be held in Greece from Aug. 13-29.

"I announce our commitment and respect of the Olympic truce," said Arafat, in reference to an ancient Greek tradition in which hostilities ceased during the games to allow athletes and spectators to arrive at the festivities and return safely.

Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman earlier this week gave Arafat two months to make good on promises to reform his security forces if Egypt is to help the Palestinian Authority maintain law and order in Gaza after an Israeli withdrawal.

Sharon has welcomed Egypt's

involvement in his Gaza disengagement plan but has made clear he does not view the Egyptians as mediators between Israel and the Palestinians.

Egypt is demanding that Israel withdraw from all of Gaza, including a corridor along the Egyptian border, and commit itself to fully implement the Quartet's "road map" peace plan calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005.

Burns said after meeting Qurie that Washington was determined to help "seize the opportunity presented by the Israeli initiative to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the West Bank as a step in the full implementation of the road map."

Qurie told reporters he discussed the Palestinian Authority's security, economic and administrative reforms with Burns.

"We discussed our obligations as well as those of the Israelis and the Quartet," Qurie said.



Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian stone thrower during clashes after a protest of Israeli and Palestinians against the construction of Israel's controversial security barrier in the West Bank town of A-Ram June 26. REUTERS

Indonesia presidential hopeful says will fight graft

JAKARTA, June 26 (Reuters) - Indonesia presidential hopeful Amien Rais, battling to at least get to a run-off race to lead the world's fourth most populous nation, told 100,000 supporters on Saturday he would fight hard against graft if he wins.

Corruption is endemic to Indonesia, according to independent groups, and it is one of the top issues among the five presidential candidates as the July 5 ballot date nears.

If no contender gets a majority in that vote, a run-off between the top two will be held in September.

Polls show Rais and vice presidential running mate Siswono Yudhoyono in a tight race with two other tickets for second place. The surveys' leading pair, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Jusuf Kalla, lack the necessary majority to avoid a run-off.

"Both of us will work day and night to uproot corruption from top to bottom," Rais said, chief of Indonesia's top legislative body, told cheering supporters waving banners and posters.

They nearly filled the stands of Indonesia's largest stadium, which has a capacity of 100,000. Witnesses said thousands more supporters stood on the stadium grounds in sweltering weather. Fire hoses sprayed water to cool them off.

It was the biggest crowd any candidate has drawn so far in the presidential campaign that began June 1 in this sprawling country of 220 million people.

Rais, who once led 30-million strong Muhammadiyah, the country's second-largest Islamic group, urged voters to give him an outright victory.

Rais is a moderate Muslim but his



A supporter of Indonesian presidential candidate Amien Rais at Bung Karno stadium attends an election campaign rally in Jakarta June 26, 2004. Indonesia is due to hold its first direct presidential election on July 5. REUTERS

politics are more populist than some of his competitors, regarded as likely to stick closer to the pro-market economic reform line recommended by the International Monetary Fund.

"We will not easily release state-owned enterprises for sale to external parties. And we will stop the mafia network that has been chopping our forest," Rais said, referring to the illegal logging operations that have infuriated environmental groups.

Part of the programme the country has been pursuing under incumbent President Megawati Sukarnoputri entails privatisation of state enterprises, a number of which have been sold to foreign interests or consortia that include them.

Besides, former Security Minister Yudhoyono and Megawati, Rais is also competing with ex-armed forces chief Wiranto and incumbent Vice President Hamzah Haz.

Pakistan's prime minister tenders resignation

ISLAMABAD, June 26 (Reuters) - Pakistan's Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali offered to resign on Saturday, party sources said, ending a 19-month tenure during which he failed to emerge from the shadows of the powerful military.

Jamali tendered his resignation after meeting President General Pervez Musharraf, and sources from Jamali's pro-military party said a formal announcement would be made at a meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League later on Saturday.

"He has resigned," a senior PML leader said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Analysts believe Musharraf has been seeking to replace Jamali with a more dynamic figure better able to counter parliamentary opposition and pursue his reform programmes more aggressively.

Potential replacements for Jamali include Commerce Minister Humayun Akhtar Khan, a successful businessman with close links to the military.

Parliamentary standoff

Musharraf has been locked in a bitter standoff with members of the parliamentary opposition, ranging from the exiled former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to a six-party conservative Islamic alliance. The opposition complains that the

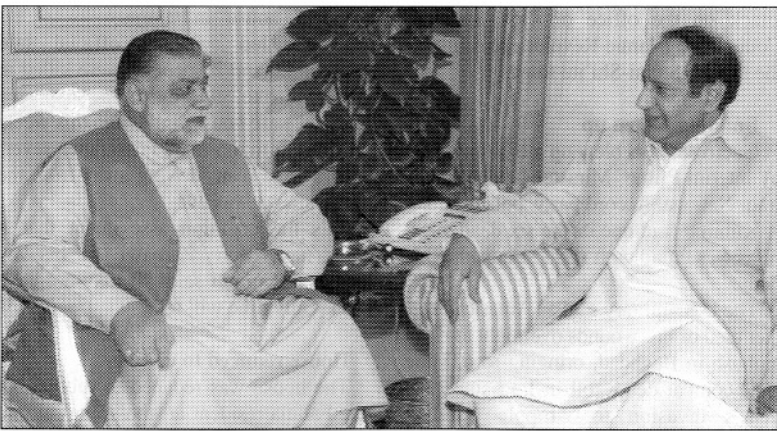
general has stifled democracy since he took power in a bloodless coup in 1999, when he ousted then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, now also in exile. In the latest political clash, the Islamic bloc demanded that Musharraf fulfil his commitment to step down as head of the army by the end of the year.

The president has hinted he may not honour a deal whereby he promised to hand in his uniform in return for opposition support for controversial constitutional amendments that gave him the power to sack the prime minister and dissolve parliament.

Musharraf is a key player in U.S. foreign policy, dropping Pakistani support for the Afghan Taliban in 2001 after the September 11 attacks on the United States that year and transferring hundreds of al Qaeda suspects into U.S. custody.

Jamali's resignation offer comes on the eve of talks between Indian and Pakistani bureaucrats in New Delhi, the first time the neighbours have met to discuss their central Kashmir dispute since leaders held unsuccessful talks in mid-2001.

Political analysts said Jamali's resignation was unlikely to have a major impact on the negotiations in the long term or on Pakistan's role in the war on terror, since Musharraf controls key foreign policy decisions.



Pakistan prime minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali (L) meets his Pakistan Muslim League party chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain in Islamabad in this January 14. REUTERS

Body of slain S.Korean hostage arrives home

PUSAN, South Korea, June 26 (Reuters) - The body of Kim Sun-il, the South Korean hostage who was beheaded by militants in Iraq, arrived in his home country on Saturday, where his family has been waiting for the corpse for a funeral.

A black Cadillac carried the coffin of Kim to a hospital in the city of Pusan from an airport at around 9 p.m. (1200 GMT) together with his bag, CD player, guitar and other belongings he used during his one-year stay in Iraq.

A 33-year-old Arabic interpreter and devout Christian who dreamed of missionary work in the Arab world, Kim was decapitated after Seoul rejected militants' demand to pull military

medics and engineers out of Iraq and drop plans to send more troops.

Kim had planned to marry an Iraqi woman, a local news agency reported. He had been keen to come home next month to celebrate his father's 70th birthday.

As the coffin was taken from the car, relatives, friends and other citizens cried and wept, calling his name.

His body left Kuwait on Friday on a U.S. military jet, and passed through Dubai before arriving in Incheon International Airport.

His younger sister, friends, South Korea's Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and other government officials held a brief mourning session at the

airport in front of Kim's coffin wrapped with the national flag.

His body was taken on a military transport plane to fly to Pusan, his hometown on the Southern tip of the Korean peninsula.

Some 1,000 protesters gathered around the hospital to mourn Kim and rally against Seoul's plan to send an additional 3,000 troops to Iraq. Riot police struggled to stop them from entering the hospital.

Meanwhile, more than 5,000 people gathered in the centre of the capital Seoul to show their grief over the death of Kim and stage a candle-lit protest against the plan for more troops.



Honour guards carry the body of South Korean hostage Kim Sun-il upon its arrival at the airport in Pusan, about 420 km (262 miles) southeast of Seoul June 26. Arabic-speaking interpreter Kim, who was an evangelical Christian and had worked in Iraq for a year for a South Korean firm supplying the U.S. military, was decapitated by Muslim militants in Iraq after Seoul rejected their demands to pull 670 South Korean military medics and engineers out of Iraq and drop plans to send 3,000 troops. REUTERS

Two die in attack on Afghan women poll workers



An unidentified relative of a wounded woman sits by her bedside at a hospital in Jalalabad June 26. Three women working to register voters for the Afghan elections were killed and 17 female election workers were wounded when a bomb destroyed their bus in the eastern city of Jalalabad on Saturday, officials said. REUTERS

JALALABAD, Afghanistan, June 26 (Reuters) - A bomb killed two women working for the U.N.-Afghan electoral body and wounded nine female poll workers and two children on Saturday, in one of the worst attacks on preparations for Afghanistan's elections.

The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the attack, which was a further setback for President Hamid Karzai's efforts to bring peace to a country U.S. President George W. Bush has described as a role model for Iraq.

The blast destroyed a bus in the eastern city of Jalalabad which was taking the Afghan women to register voters for the polls scheduled for September, which the Taliban and allied Islamic militants have vowed to disrupt.

"We did this because we warned people not to get involved in the election process," Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi said after contacting Reuters by telephone. "This only strengthens the foundations of the American-backed government."

He said the guerrillas had also killed two U.S. Marines in an ambush in the eastern province of Kunar on Thursday night, but had released a Turk kidnapped in March while working on a reconstruction project, partly because he was a Muslim.

U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said the Jalalabad attack was proba-

bly aimed at discouraging women from voting.

He said two women were killed while three were in critical condition, along with a child who was accompanying his mother. He said nine women suffered lighter injuries.

Earlier, he said a child was also killed in the blast.

Jalalabad police chief Mohammad Younis Noorzai said the bomb was planted inside the minibus. "It was a locally hired van and we have arrested the driver, who was also wounded," he said.

The U.N. spokesman said the number of women registering in the eastern region had been rising fast despite traditional restrictions on women's rights.

"They will not reach their goal," he said of the attackers.

The attack was just the latest on the voter registration process and an upsurge in militant violence in the run-up to the polls has raised doubts as to whether they can be held on time.

Slow registration of women

About 4.5 million of nearly 10 million eligible voters have registered, but the process has been slowed in the south and east by militant violence. Female registration has lagged, partly due to problems recruiting female workers.

The attack came just after Karzai

appealed to NATO on Friday to honour its pledge to send more troops to protect the presidential and parliamentary polls.

At a summit in Istanbul next week, NATO is to announce that its 6,400-strong peacekeeping force will take command of four or five military-civilian reconstruction teams in northern Afghanistan and deploy about 1,200 troops for the polls.

But this will fall short of at least 5,000 extra troops the government and the United Nations say are needed, and the deployments will be to relatively secure areas, not to the south and east where militants are most active.

Analysts say Bush, Karzai's main supporter, wants a September poll so that he has a foreign policy success to balance against Iraq before his own re-election bid in November.

Ahmad Nader Nadery of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission said the attack should be a "strong message" to NATO.

"If the international community wants a peaceful transition in Afghanistan, there definitely needs to be an expansion of NATO into more insecure places," he said.

Until Saturday, at least 33 foreign and Afghan aid workers had been killed in 18 months, severely disrupting aid and reconstruction work, as well as hampering election preparations.

Irish protesters invoke Shakespeare to blitz Bush



A lone protester wears a hat with anti-Bush and anti-war badges during a peaceful protest outside Dromoland Castle where U.S. President George W. Bush is a holding US-EU summit with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in Ireland, June 26.

REUTERS

CLARECASTLE, Ireland, June 26 (Reuters) - Irish protesters used Shakespeare to blitz George W. Bush on Saturday, invoking Macbeth, a ghost and a witch to cast a spell on the U.S. president and drive him, symbolically at least, from Irish soil. Some 500 demonstrators marched on Dromoland Castle, the 16th century turreted mansion in western Ireland where Bush was meeting European Union leaders for a summit.

When they were stopped at a police road block, they staged their own version of Shakespeare's bloody Scottish tragedy.

First, a ghost with a whited-out face read the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq. Then a woman dressed as Lady Macbeth read a list of Iraqi victims.

Finally, a woman dressed as a witch with a black pointy hat and a flowing cape cast a spell on a man wearing a Bush face mask. The man crumpled to the floor as the witch ordered him to leave Ireland and end the occupation of Iraq.

The protesters held up a banner adorned

with a quote from Macbeth, Shakespeare's powerful drama of death, destruction and ambition in feudal Scotland.

"There's the smell of blood still," read the banner, on which was painted a gory hand. "All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand."

Some 50 police officers watched the drama unfold from behind their road-block, just half a mile from the castle where Bush was staying for the EU-U.S. summit. The protest passed peacefully and the crowd dispersed after around 90 minutes.

The staging of "MacBush" was one of several events organised by demonstrators to show their anger with the president's visit.

Some 10,000 people marched through Dublin on Friday night in opposition to both U.S. policy in Iraq and Ireland's decision to host Bush and allow U.S. jets to refuel at one of its airports en route to the Gulf.

Further protests were expected later on

Saturday before Bush leaves for Istanbul, where he will attend a NATO summit.

The Irish have mounted a huge security operation to protect the president, with 6,000 police and troops on the ground backed by planes, helicopters, surface-to-air missiles and tanks.

"One can only assume that if (Irish Prime Minister) Bertie Ahern is prepared to deploy tanks, he is also prepared to use them on the Irish people," said Roger Cole, chairman of the Peace & Neutrality Alliance protest group. "That is a disgrace."

Bush's visit has contrasted sharply with those of previous U.S. presidents who were warmly welcomed in Ireland — particularly those with Irish roots.

John F. Kennedy was greeted with almost religious fervour in 1963, Ronald Reagan had a pub named after him in his ancestral village in Tipperary when he came in 1994 and thousands of well-wishers greeted Bill Clinton when he came to Dublin.

Likely next Chechnya head promises no let-up in war

MOSCOW, June 26 (Reuters) - Chechnya's likely next president, Alu Alkhanov, said on Saturday Russia should stick to its hardline policy despite a decade of failure in crushing guerrillas in a spreading war.

Rebels killed almost 100 people this week in their most spectacular attack for years. The raid on Ingushetia, on Chechnya's western border, also involved Ingush fighters, highlighting how the war has infected adjacent areas.

But Chechen Interior Minister Alkhanov, backed by the Kremlin to replace the murdered regional president, said there would be no new tactics in the quest to crush the separatists.

"We do not have to rethink anything, all our forces know their job, I do not see the need for any change in tactics," he told reporters.

"There is no necessity to change anything in the Chechen Republic, we just need to strengthen our policies," Alkhanov, a career policeman, also has the support of murdered president Akhmad Kadyrov's officials.

His backers include Kadyrov's son Ramzan, who controls a militia of thousands of former rebels blamed for mass murder and kidnappings.

With support from Chechen officials, Ramzan's militia and Moscow, he is practically unassailable in the August 29 poll.

The separatists, who kill police and troops daily, briefly ruled a de facto independent Chechnya until President Vladimir Putin sent troops into the region in 1999 for the second time since the collapse of Soviet rule.

Putin has refused calls by liberals and some Western leaders to negotiate with the separatists whom he has linked to international terrorists.

The rebels are led by former President Aslan Maskhadov and warlord Shamil Basayev. Alkhanov promised to secure their capture.

"Maskhadov and Basayev would not come to any (peace) talks, because they



Chechen Interior Minister Alu Alkhanov, a leading candidate to be next president of Chechnya, speaks at a news conference in Moscow, June 26. Alkhanov spoke on the situation in the Chechen Republic and measures aimed at preventing terrorism. REUTERS

have their orders from international terrorist organisations," he said. "Work to detain them is continuing, I do not want to say it will happen tomorrow or the next day, but sooner or later the problem will be resolved," he said, hinting that the rebels were also securing support from the West. "The West's secret services are very interested in the Caucasus, especially the North Caucasus," he added.

He said policies implemented by Kadyrov's government were showing success, that compensation for

destroyed property would be paid to 39,000 people by the year's end, and that the rebel forces had been reduced to a rump.

"No one knows exactly how many fighters there are, but our information shows there are a few hundred."

Their numbers are not increasing, and every day they are going down," he said.

Chechen activists disagree, pointing to army statements showing that many of those detained are teenagers who clearly joined the rebels after 1999.

For The Second Time

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
SOCOTRA CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - Coordination Unit



الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة المياه والبيئة
برنامج صون وتعمية جزر سقطرى - وحدة التنسيق

SOCOTRA CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT Environment Protection Authority Post advertisement: Terrestrial Ecology Officer (TEO)

Indicative terms of reference:

Socotra Conservation and development programme (SCDP - www.socotraisland.org), is seeking a dynamic and motivated individual with background in ecology, botany, zoology natural sciences or related topics, to join and support the EPA terrestrial research team as a technical staff in the island of Socotra.

The TEO will work under the direction and the guidance of the team leader of the EPA terrestrial ecology research section (Socotra), and shall have the following broad responsibilities:

- provide assistance and technical support to the EPA Socotra multidisciplinary team of terrestrial ecology researchers.
- participate in and support the EPA's long-term ecological monitoring program overall the archipelago. This entails a wide range of tasks including botanical surveys, herbarium preparation and maintenance, zoology and taxonomy research, collection of samples and field expeditions in Socotra and in the outer islands, computer-based data analysis, report writing and GIS data handling.
- Interact with National and international scientists and experts of government and non-government agencies and universities who are working with the EPA and SCDP towards the protection of the terrestrial biodiversity of the Socotra archipelago.
- Contribute to the work of other sections of the EPA and SCDP team in the island (environmental awareness, marine ecology, protected areas management, environmental impact assessments, ecotourism, community development, support to local NGOs and Socotra Conservation Fund, water resources management, support to the health sector, local governance, etc.), as requested by line management.

Qualifications:

Applicants should possess the following key qualifications:

1. bachelor of Science degree in relevant topics, or two years of college courses, or equivalent combination of education and practical experience.
2. good spoken and written English and Arabic
3. full immediate availability and demonstrated lack of any other employment
4. willingness to be posted full-time in Socotra, and to spend a significant amount of time working in demanding field conditions, with frequent in-island travel and camping outdoor as required.
5. good knowledge of terrestrial ecology and principles of wildlife conservation.
6. computer literacy (MS office, databases, GIS).
7. Ability to work effectively within the context of a large national and international team.
8. good communication and interpersonal skills.
9. Yemeni nationality. Applicants from Socotra island will be given priority consideration.

Conditions of Employment:

The initial appointment will be for one year and will include an initial three months probation period. Contract is renewable for up to 4 years, based on annual performance evaluation. A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered on the basis of qualifications and experience. Duty station: Hadibu, Socotra island. The SCDP is an equal opportunity employer.

Applicants should submit, by June 2nd 2004, an application letter in English language describing their interest in the position advertised and curriculum vitae (in English) by fax or email to:

Socotra Conservation and Development Program, Coordination Unit; Ministry of Water and Environment,
Sana'a, Yemen; Tel: +967-1-425 310; Fax: +967-1-425 309;
email: scdp@y.net.ye

SOCOTRA CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT Environment Protection Authority Post advertisement: Marine Ecology Officer (MEO)

Indicative terms of reference:

Socotra Conservation and development programme (SCDP - www.socotraisland.org), is seeking a dynamic and motivated individual with background in marine ecology, fisheries, biology, natural sciences or related topics, to join and support the EPA terrestrial research team as a technical staff in the island of Socotra.

The MEO will work under the direction and the guidance of the team leader of the EPA marine research section (Socotra), and shall have the following broad responsibilities:

- provide assistance and technical support to the EPA Socotra multidisciplinary team of marine researchers.
- participate in and support the EPA's long-term marine monitoring program over all the archipelago. This entails a wide range of tasks including marine surveys, fisheries data collection, marine specimens collection preparation and maintenance, marine zoology and taxonomy research, scuba-diving and collection of samples and field expeditions in Socotra and in the outer islands, computer-based data analysis, report writing and GIS data handling.
- Interact with National and international scientists and experts of government and non-government agencies and universities who are working with the EPA and SCDP towards the protection of the marine biodiversity of the Socotra archipelago.
- Contribute to the work of other sections of the EPA and SCDP team in the island (environmental awareness, terrestrial ecology, protected areas management, environmental impact assessments, ecotourism, community development, support to local NGOs and Socotra Conservation Fund, water resources management, support to the health sector, local governance, etc.), as requested by line management.

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Words of Wisdom



It is my belief that terrorism will be something with which we are destined to live, and it will be a main feature of the 21st century. It is therefore important for our universities and specialized institutes to offer studies on it. If our world is to grow more open and to ensure cooperation among all, we should also try to address the grievances of all members of society.

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



OUR OPINION

Development is possible only when time is valued

The value of time is best appreciated in developed countries. It is unfortunate that in Arab countries, particularly in Yemen, time is given the least importance, and then we wonder why we are far behind.

Qat: the enemy of time

In Yemen, we suffer from an evil disease called 'qat'. By chewing qat for many hours in the afternoons until late at night, we are wasting valuable time that could have been used for many other more useful activities. In Sanaa and other cities, it is common to find men lying on the street sidewalks chewing qat, doing absolutely nothing useful. They pass time talking with each other and watching passers by. This is indeed a dangerous indication that our population is becoming a burden on, more than a source of help for, the country's development.

Employees and vacations

It is quite obvious that the value of time not recognized by many government employees, who take one vacation after another, and tend to escape their working environment for a cup of tea or for a chat with another employee somewhere in the corridors. This has become a widely accepted culture in government offices, but it is also of grave consequence for the pace of life and development in the country.

So many cases of frustrated investors, for instance, have been reported as those investors are faced by stagnant governmental procedures that are very slow and painfully bureaucratic. Eventually, the papers get processed after many days or weeks, or the investor loses patience and ends his plans for investment in the country.

This is a direct negative consequence of the disregard of time.

A few examples

There are very few examples of Yemeni leaders in their fields that are examples of the appropriate and efficient utilization of time. The institutions run by those few individuals are more like beehives in which all employees work in a dedicated and efficient manner. This consequently results in a positive reputation for the services of this institution.

Among those individuals—in the government sector—that I would like to mention gladly is Engineer Abdulmalik Al-Muallimi, who is the current Minister of Telecommunication & Information Technology. He has proven himself worthy of the post of minister and surpassed many expectations in the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated.

This has—as suggested earlier—indeed proven to be the vital element which made the ministry one of the most active and well-appreciated for its fabulous role in promoting communication related services and projects.

The least one could do is hope that others would take this minister as an example for his appreciation of and respect for time.

Prerequisite for a prosperous Yemen

The efficient utilization of time is essential for Yemen to progress and become prosperous. This can start with a slow but gradual process to introduce a culture of appreciation of time. This can only be achieved if proper and long-term strategies are applied in schools, the media, government, and other sectors to emphasize the value of time and if dedicated people like Mr. Muallimi are appreciated and encouraged.

The Editor



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Reforms and Modernization in Yemen (2)

Lessons and experiments

BY PROF. ABDUL AZIZ AL-TARB
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I wrote in last week's issue about the beginning of a new era that has begun in Yemen that witnesses more focus on internal matters and genuine work for reforms aiming at the achievement of comprehensive reforms. This era requires of all of us collective and intense efforts in all fields since what we are seeking is not limited reforms or humble or modest accomplishments, but rather comprehensive work at the local and national levels.

We could learn from the lessons and experiments of others when we seek to implement modernization and reform in Yemen.

Romania has been able to accomplish a large proportion of the prerequisite conditions for joining the European Union in the social, political and economic fields. The date to join the European Union has been set for 2007. The set of reform operations carried out by Romania in order to meet conditions for membership in the European Union represents a practical experiment that could be of great benefit, if it were studied and analyzed, in the Yemeni experiment.

Also, what happened in the Federal Republic of Russia is near a miracle considering the situations following the collapse of the USSR and the complete deterioration that had reached all aspects of life, which negatively affected the stature of Russia on the international level. Russia, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, seemed as a regional country of moderate or limited power, despite its immense nuclear capabilities and economic potential that could make her the second power after the United States of America.

Russia witnessed a chaotic situation without precedent and complete collapse, famine in some parts, not to mention the prevalence of corruption, bribery, theft and a high level of organized crime. Living conditions deteriorated to the degree that many scientists sought job opportunities abroad for better living opportunities. Many people expected that Russia would never rise up again while several regional and international powers sought to get a piece of the pie: a portion of the fading empire. Needless to mention the marches of poor and desperate Russian residents and the flight of many scientists and youths to other foreign countries seeking better living opportunities, many of whom ended up having jobs that were degrading and unsuitable for citizens of a superpower that had been for four decades the second pole in the bipolar world system.

President Putin achieved tremendous progress in various fields to prevent a complete collapse and in putting a limit to Russia's setbacks. He admitted the deteriorating situation his country had reached, and he installed a clearly-defined set of plans to handle and to treat the problems encountered. He quickly regained control and restored discipline to the state's various corporations. He has gradually but steadily regained also the state's powerful image internationally. Moreover, during this period, he was able to strengthen the country's economy and to create an atmosphere for the flow of foreign investments to the level that Russia achieved a surplus of 47 billion USD in the commercial balance as Russia's experts reached 107 billion, whilst imports were valued at only 60 billion USD.

The examples are many. Egypt has sent to jail a former governor and a former finance minister on corruption charges for 7 and 10 years respectively. Other officials

and banks' chairmen are awaiting trials. The fight against corruption is also taking place in Syria and Bahrain.

The Asian Tigers provide other well-known examples of similar reform and development.

To make it clearer, we are with President Saleh, "Hand in hand for the development and construction of the country", as the Yemen Times magazine's says. In order to clarify the dimensions of the reforms and modernization we call for, I clearly say that Yemen has achieved a reasonable degree of success in development and modernization. It has successfully accomplished genuine development noticeable to ordinary citizens in fields such as the country's in roads and telecommunication infrastructure, but it is still short in the education, health, vocational training, agricultural marketing and a modern administrative system.

The political will is essential as well as the intention to commence a true reform operation in various fields through selecting qualified officials, personalities and dignitaries, known for their honesty, integrity, loyalty and sincerity who are committed to be accountable for the consequences of their actions and to carry out transparently their missions to serve the best interest of country and to realise the ambitions of the President.

The Republic of Yemen will not be able to rise up to reach its appropriate stature without the collective efforts of all, where everyone carries his or her duty and job properly with the conviction that good deeds receive appropriate merit and bad deeds are met by the appropriate punishment. Furthermore, the Government will always need the support of the private sector to contribute its share to the development and building of the country toward genuinely comprehensive development.

Agony of the two occupations

BY ABDUL KARIM AL-HUBAISHI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Arab world will always remain the Arab world, and make no illusion that the 22 Arab states with their ineffective Arab League that represents them will maintain this name, regardless of the fervent attempts to rename it as the bigger or smaller Middle East.

In the past decades, since the forceful occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights, this divided nation has worked hard to end the Israeli occupation and genocide against the defenseless Palestinians, by resorting to the authority of the UN and the multilateral consent of the international community, who gave its verdict in the famous resolution 242, ordering Israel to end its occupation. Unfortunately, resolution 242 constituted for Israel and America nothing more than a joke. In the following decades the Arabs were drawn to prolonged deceptive negotiations sponsored by the US known as the Mid-East peace process, the aim of which was to gain time to change the facts on the ground by pushing out more Palestinians from their homes and farms and replacing them with imported settlers who now occupy the thousands of settlements which cover all of the part of Palestine occupied in 1967. All built simultaneously with ongoing deceptive US-sponsored mid-east peace process. After changing the facts on the ground, changing Palestinians homes and

farmlands into alien settlements, President Bush's ugly statement came up in the face of the anguished Palestinians "Palestinians have to accept the reality on the ground".

The most appalling and outrageously heart-sickening issue in the Arab world, irrespective of their national affiliations and border divisions from the Atlantic coast to the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is the striking symmetry of the two occupations and effect of mixed sadness and anger that overcomes them when they watch the gruesome atrocities on the TV happening in both occupied Palestine and Iraq. The intimidated Arab regimes watch these abuses of power and war crimes are ruthlessly committed against their brethren without daring to say a word. On the other hand, the astounded international community who expected an Arab reaction also opted to watch quietly. Some European politicians openly stated that they cannot be expected to be more Arab than the Arabs who are silent.

This political vacuum of the Arabs further encouraged what is now the merged administration of Bush and Sharon to escalate their human rights abuses and genocide beyond imagined limits, which in turn has driven a deep wedge of hatred between the Arabs and the American people.

I was appalled and greatly shocked when I heard the news of the brutal execution of the American hostage in Riyadh, having in mind the shock of his family and friends when they received

the news, which has also shocked the Arab world who are not used to see such savage acts. However, I was even more shocked when I watched on the evening news of that same day an American F-16 missile strike on residential housing in Falluja, in which more than 22 Iraqi civilians were killed. Their bodies were being dragged out from the rubble and among them women and children. One should ponder, whether an American or Arab, which of the incidents has a greater magnitude of savagery.

America has been a friend to the Arab region and the Arabs were proud of that positive peaceful relationship. The fact is that the good America we have known is hijacked. Many prominent American figures have spelled out this before me. It is hijacked by an invincible virus called the Zionist lobby, which holds a tight grip on the giant's economic, media, and decision-making arteries. The lobby is always working in the dark shadows with no known leadership. Nowadays it is manifest when we see President Bush, Colin Powell and Dick Cheney giving their allegiances to Israel in front of crowds of Aipac members. The rank and file of the Zionist lobby who are the key players in the Bush administration are mainly Jews who have shed their Jewish names to adopt new Christian names like George and Johnson. Their goal is to direct the superpower's global military reach to the Arab world to which they have an historical hatred. May God bless America and may God save America from the evil of the Zionist lobby.

Letters to the Editor

Free Abu Ghraib prisoners

Over a thousand people have been released from the Abu Ghraib prison. If they were guilty, then why were they set free? If they were innocent, then why were they detained in the first place?

All prisoners, whether American or Iraqi, military or civilian, deserve to be free from torture.

Chuck Mann
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Northern Cypriot to visit Yemen

Karman Al-Khalidi's nice article "A Glimpse at Northern Cyprus" reminds me about another and longer article I read about Yemen with its interesting occupants who created marvelously architected towns, delicious meals and

unique drinks.

While the mentioned article may arouse interest of some Yemenites to visit my country, it worked already vice versa and awakened my interest to visit Yemen.

Cavit Tahir Gelenler
cavittg@yahoo.com

Objection to Samer's cartoon

I want express my sincere disappointment and sadness at the publication of the recent cartoon by Samer in Issue 748, Volume 13. It depicts a man we are to assume is Jewish by the Star of David on his shirt (only the Nazis required Jews to have a Star on their shirt), but who is drawn to be ugly and vicious (greeting the door with a drawn knife). The letter carrier has a letter marked "The Human" and the Jewish

Letters to the Editor

man says "We don't have anyone with such a name."

The obvious message from this is that Jews are not human, but rather a rapacious, ugly sub-human. Is this the opinion of the Yemen Times that Jews are not human? Has the Yemen Times considered that this is the same type of propaganda used by neo-Nazis today, the same neo-Nazis who also hate Arabs? This is dangerous, because it legitimizes hate.

Furthermore, it is un-Islamic. I showed this cartoon to a Muslim friend, who found it outrageous. All of the prophets before Muhammad (PBUH) were Jews. Were they not human?

Or perhaps Samer wants to say that Jews today are not human because of the actions of the Israeli government.

Certainly there are actions of the Israeli government that deserve condemnation - even the Israelis criticize their government - see <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/440541.html>

But are there not governments of all ethnic groups that have acted in an immoral way? Are the governments of the Arab countries universally good? Are all Jews responsible for the actions of the current Israeli government?

Let us move on from this destructive insulting cartoon, recognize our common humanity, and work together to create a world of peace and justice. I hope The Yemen Times can see the wisdom of this, and repudiate the message of this cartoon.

Charles Esser
chz_sr@yahoo.com



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The Iraqi quagmire: A Blessing for Israel

With the June 30 deadline approaching for the "handover" of Iraq to a provisional Iraqi Government, with the idea that Iraq is now regaining its sovereignty, albeit in US neo-con vocabulary or double-politic lingo, it might be worthwhile to look at the socio-economic arithmetic that has surfaced from the Iraqi mess. This would obviously entail a brief review of the winners and losers out of this predicament that is bound to have regional and international repercussions for some time to come.

In more ways than one, the observer is inclined to be lead to the conclusion that the ill conceived, poorly planned American misadventure in Iraq has so far shown more losers than winners amongst the various stakeholders, whether they are directly involved or simply part of the "collateral damage". Even the Americans, who have been gulled to embark on a major escapade, of significant military engagement with poor assessment of risks and unclear perceptions as to the ramifications involved and the outcomes to be expected are not reaping noticeable gains, with a clear detraction of moral astuteness in the conduct of foreign policy never before known in the exercise of US foreign policy. For all intents and purposes, one is satisfied in assuming that there are still unclear rationales that seem to be of importance to those in the present US White House Administration, for going through such an immense effort to mislead even the American people themselves to such awesome commitments. We have yet to find comfort in any contentions by the sponsors of the Iraqi War and trying to look for answers in ideological persuasions is no less confusing. This tangent from responsible superpower behavior has yet to shed convincing light as to the "returns" hoped to realize from an American perspective, if we can rule out the few economic interests that will always thrive on a war setting, which in itself is simply not enough to be assumed as a logical justification for all this mayhem. With the American rationale for the war effort so fuzzy, one is tempted to seek some extraordinary forebodings that induced the United States to side track from the legitimate war on terror, which the whole world would have liked to take part in without hesitation, had the early momentum generated by 9/11 been fully taken advantage of.

It is no secret that up to now, the Israelis are the first to gain from the situation in Iraq, regardless of its short-term and long-term results for the major role player and they are not hesitating one bit on making sure that their gains are sustainable and extended. It is no secret that those leading personnel in the Bush Administration are staunch supporters for the Zionist state and it is surely to the credit of Israeli intelligence that much of the picture for the WMD rationale for the war is derived. The Israelis have more calculated reasons for enticing the present setting in the region. For one thing, the Israelis were troubled by the rise of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the obviously effective influential role in the region Iran has wrested for itself. Israel regards Iran as its ideological anti-thesis. Thus, an American indefinite presence in Iraq would serve as a relaxing buffer from any eminent direct threat from Iran. The Israelis have worked diligently in persuading the United States government and public of the "Islamic" threat to western civilizations, especially that coming from Iran. The strongly pro-Israel press in the United States spared no effort in constantly projecting a demonic posture for Iran, even though there is no real tangible evidence to support such an image, when recalling the rather sensible behavior that Iran has shown since the Khomeini Revolution removed the despotic regime of the Shah. Needless to say, the challenges overcome by the Revolutionary regime have even made Iran the more frightening to Israel and to even some of her fellow Moslem and Arab states. Thus, this factor is a strong possible rationale for believing that Israel was strongly involved in persuading the US to get bogged down in Iraq, as subtle as the effort may have been.

So, what is Israel making out of this adventure? Israel has been given a free hand in more ways than one to be present in the Iraqi theater. With sovereign decisions in the hands of the Americans now and for some time to come, the Israelis were quick to establish their presence. There are now over 250 Israeli firms with varying degrees of activity. Not surprisingly, many of these firms are owned or run by "former" Israeli officials, many of whom hail from the defense and security establishment in Israel. Needless to say, the Iraqis were not allowed to counter such an entry, since most Iraqis would obviously not be so enthusiastic about such an influx, especially as Iraq does not yet have any formal relations with Israel. Yet, the Americans in Iraq are persevering in imposing this open presence of the Israelis, without regards to the obvious unfavorable reactions of most Iraqis to this imposition of a country that has yet to prove its desire to live in mutual cohesion with the very people it has uprooted out of their land, let alone its neighbors. Moreover, the Israeli secret police is active throughout Iraq and are seeking to make ethnic integration impossible, with their active prodding of Kurdish nationalism. On the other hand, the recent troubles that Israel has caused for Turkey are indeed raising eyebrows among neighbors with whom Israel does enjoy some normalcy in relation. So when Turkey begins to make an issue of this meddling in Kurdish affairs, Turkey starts to witness a series of "bombings" that are of dubious backgrounds. The message is clear, Israel will insist on continuing to give everyone in the region a hard time, because, it first of all does not want to see countries like Turkey ever gain prominence in western eyes and second of all it can count on American cushioning to engage in any activities, open or clandestine that will serve its desire at monopolizing power in the region and dictating its will.

Of course, the biggest loser has been Iraq. For close to a year and a half, the Iraqis have watched helplessly as all semblances of normal secure lives is wrenched away from them without any apparent rest from the mayhem in the foreseeable future or even in the long run.

YT Business

Popular density doubles,

Poverty, crimes and social problems

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A newly issued study on population says that popular density in Yemen doubles the rate poverty, crimes and social problems at a time the government is preparing to conduct the census next December.

The study pointed out that the process of economic and social development impacts with slowness of achieving tangible progress in question of family organization. Information is still inaccurate in the field of health, agriculture, education, water, electricity, in addition to determination of a map defining the population needs. The study ascribed the causes in the slowness of the development process to the increase in rates of population growth that affects the government plans with floundering in providing requirements of the population.

The study has made it clear that a 30% of women use methods of family planning, a matter affecting the rise of population inflation proportion especially after the total population size has reached at 19 million people at present compared to 4 million people in 1950. 50 percent of the population is under

the 15 years of age while 80% of them live in the rural areas. It is expected that the population volume would be 35 million people in 2025.

In parallel to that the study indicated that the agricultural area would get reduced from 2.6 billion hectares to 1.2 billion hectares associated with deterioration in the level of productivity of arable lands. It is therefore the government is attaching hope to the next census to gather accurate statements on the population and heads for encouraging the agriculture of strategic crops such as coffee, cotton and wheat. The study also indicates that Yemen would in ten years need the provision of 8 million tons of cereals every year while at present it does not produce but 248 thousand tons against a consumption volume reaching around two million tons a year.

The study has further mentioned stressed that Yemen would be at the threshold of a food crisis if it continued this productive situation as it is up till now.

The said study warned against the existing variance in the process of population distribution. The Yemeni population of 19 million people is distributed as follows: 13.9% of the people in the governorate of Taiz which compris-

es of 9 districts, 12.4% in the governorate of Ibb consisting of 20 districts, 12.1% in the governorate of Sana'a with 10 districts, in Hudeida governorate, with 26 districts, the population rate is 11.1%, in Hajjah of 24 districts the population rate is 8%, in Dharmar it is 6.6% and in Al-Muhra it is 0, 7%.

The difference in population density is between 4385 people in a square kilometer in Sana'a and two people in a square kilometer in the governorate of Al Muhra. This imbalance in population distribution has increased the average of poverty. The percentage of those people living on less one dollar per day is 45.2% in 1998 while the population increase has led to that 200 thousand people are yearly joining the labour market under an unemployment growth rate reaching 4% a year.

For all the above reasons the government is trying by the process of census to reach accurate data on the volume of population and their distribution in order to work for finishing development plans according to correct information helping the accomplishment of projects assisting the execution of services and developmental projects in the country and containing crimes resulting from population increase, as well as finding solutions for their causes.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.5900	184.7900
Sterling Pound	338.1800	338.5400
Euro	223.3600	223.6100
Saudi Rial	49.2200	49.2800
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.1500	626.8300
UAE Dirhem	50.2600	50.3100
Egyptian Pound	29.7000	29.7300
Bahraini Dinar	489.6400	490.1700
Qatari Rial	50.7000	50.7600
Jordanian Dinar	260.3500	260.6300
Omani Rial	479.4900	480.0100
Swiss Franc	147.9300	148.0900
Swedish Crown	24.4200	24.4500
Japanese Yen	1.7033	1.7052

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



Increased numbers of unemployed workforce, one of the problems of high rate of population density

Growth of Yemen's exports to Asian and Arab markets



By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

There has been a substantial growth in Yemen's exports to Asian and Arab markets in many various commodities and products. Products and commodities

such as fish, honey, coffee, vegetables, fruits, cigarettes and medicines are the main articles of exports.

Figures issued by the ministry of planning and international cooperation mention that the total value of Yemeni exports to Asian and Arab markets IN 2002 amounted to YR 551.4 billion with a growth amount of YR 103.1 compared to the previous year.

Yemeni exports of to non-Arab

Asian markets occupied the first place out of the total exports reaching a proportion of 80.5%. Yemen markets its exports of oil, leather, scraps, coffee and fish to China, Thailand, India, South Korea, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, and Japan.

Arab countries come in the second place of Yemeni exports by a rate of 12.5% and the main commodities exported to them are fish, honey, coffee, vegetables, fruits, cigarettes and medicines. As for the American countries, they occupy the third place for Yemeni exports by a proportion of 1.7% and Yemen's exports to them have in 2003 risen to YR 11.764 million. The United States of America is considered the most important of the countries that especially import from Yemen the oil, fish and coffee.

The European group comes in the fourth place as the proportion of Yemen's exports to its members has amounted to 2.6% with a value of YR 12.825 million. The fifth place in Yemeni exports is taken by African countries by a proportion of 1.2% with a value of YR 7.909 million.

However, Yemen imports from Arab countries the highest rates of imported goods by a rate of 41.3%. The more important countries Yemen imports from are the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Egypt and Jordan. Concerning Yemen imports from other countries, the Asian countries occupy the second place, the European group third, and the American countries the fourth.

Data mention that the balance of trade between Yemen and other groups is tilted in favour of those countries and the Yemeni government is still planning to increase its external exports.

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Einstellungsvoraussetzungen:

- Perfekte Beherrschung der arabischen Sprache
- Sehr gute Deutschkenntnisse (mündlich/schriftlich)
- Englischkenntnisse wünschenswert
- PC-Kenntnisse
- Hochschulabschluss oder Berufserfahrung

Aufgabenprofil:

- Auswerten der jemenitischen Presse
- Erstellen von Pressezusammenfassung; Vorbereitung von Pressemitteilungen
- Kontakte zu jemenitischen Journalisten, Behörden und Nicht-Regierungsorganisationen
- Vorbereitung von Pressereisen

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Frauen und Schwerbehinderte werden bei gleicher Eignung bevorzugt.

Yemeni-Singaporeans organised the first Arab Festival in the tiny Southeast Asian city state

BY JOHN R. BRADLEY*
SINGAPORE
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Arab Singaporeans still maintain very close contacts with their relatives back in Yemen, where most of them originally come from, and last week the first Arab Festival in Singapore celebrated these common historical roots.

The festival was organised by Mr Ameen Talib, the Yemeni-Singaporean proprietor of Cafe Le Caire on Arab Street, and The Arab Association Singapore.

The week-long event, which attracted more than 20,000 visitors, included performances by local Arab pop band Al-Wahada, belly dancers, a shopping bazaar, heritage tours and a series of lectures.

'We wanted to create greater awareness of the Arab community and culture in Singapore,' said Mr Talib.

'And we wanted to undermine stereotypes about Arabs that sometimes get portrayed in the media. Arabs are fun-loving. We like to have a good time. We're just like everyone else,' he told Al-Ahram Weekly.

When Stamford Raffles founded Singapore in 1819, he hoped to attract Arab traders, long the most vigorous, most travelled businessmen - from the East Indies to Africa. Raffles anticipated a rapid growth in Arab immigration, and his blueprint for Singapore included provisions for an Arab district.

In giving instructions to a Singapore housing committee in 1822, he stated: 'The Arab population would require every consideration. No situation will be more appropriate for them than the vicinity of the Sultan's residence.'

The old part of Singapore centred on Arab Street, Baghdad Street and Muscat Street, where the festival took place, still offers an intriguing glimpse into the Muslim way of life.



Yemeni Singaporeans in one of their activities

The area is dominated by the gold dome of the Sultan Mosque - and Arab Street itself is a riot of colourful textiles from all over Asia and the Middle East, and home to a growing number of Arab-themed restaurants and coffee shops.

The Arab Association Singapore believes that the local Arab population numbers about 10,000. The association became an officially registered voluntary organisation in 1946. The objectives then were to promote and enhance Islam as well as the use of Arabic language.

Also, the association has taken the responsibility for promoting better understanding among Arabs and other races in Singapore through educational, cultural, social, arts and sports activities, as well as through cooperation and affiliation with other bodies with similar objectives and interests.

By the time the association was founded, the Arab traders were the wealthiest community in Singapore - and you do not have to look far to find evidence of how their civilising influence contributed to the city's develop-

ment.

Syed Ali Mohammed Al-Juneid, for instance, donated a large plot of land near Victoria and Arab Streets to Tan Tock Seng's hospital.

He also built public wells across town to provide free water, at a time when none was being supplied by the municipality.

The Al-Juneid family - after whom Aljunied Road is named - made large donations to the construction of the Town Hall (now the Victoria Memorial and Concert Hall), while paying for the building of public bridges.

The Al-Kaff footbridge on the Singapore River takes its name from another prominent Arab family, which built the first Japanese Gardens opened to the public before the World War II (where the Sennett private housing estate is today).

The Alkaff mosque still stands nearby.

That not all of the festival's participants were Arabs is a clear sign that, even for many among the latest generation of non-Arab Singaporeans, the Arab legacy in the city is still impor-

tant.

Local architect Kelvin Ang set up a display of photographs he took while on a recent trip to Yemen. 'I wanted to reveal to Singaporeans the beauty of the place and of the people I met in Yemen, to give people an image and also to dispel stereotypes,' he told Al-Ahram Weekly.

'I think of all the places in Singapore that bear the mark of the works of the pioneering Arab families, and how this contribution should be acknowledged. Especially now, we need to dispel the stereotypes that we have of each other. My fellow citizens who are Arab should feel proud of who they are and what they have contributed to our country.'

It is no small irony, in the light of the growing influence of radical Arab ideology in the region, that the moderate Yemeni-Singaporean community here says it is now facing an identity crisis. This is partly because Yemeni-Singaporeans have stopped sending their children back there, but also because the newest generation does not speak Arabic.

At least during the Arab Festival they got a taste of where their forefathers grew up, when a little bit of Yemen was recreated on their doorstep.

* John R. Bradley, formerly managing editor of Arab News, Jeddah, is author of the forthcoming book, *Saudi Arabia Exposed: Princes, Paupers & Politics in the Wahhabi Kingdom*. His website is www.johnrbradley.com.

Can child labor be eradicated in the world?

BY FATMA AL-AJEL
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Child labor has been defined as any work anywhere. It is easy to see children working in factories, shops and in the streets. The streets, in the end, are the place where most children work. They work as sellers and road-sweepers. Most of the child laborers are under 14 years of age.

There are over 1,000,000 child workers in the world. Children mainly find employment. Child laborers are often paid very little for long hours of labor. They accept this situation because they need money to support their family, and sometimes they are not paid at all. Most of child workers take jobs on false promises of high pay, but when they work, they face reality. In addition to that, most of these children work in terrible conditions with low wages and poor food and shelter. They fall prey to various diseases, especially lung-disease and breathing problems because most of the child workers labor in factories or in the streets.

There are many reasons for child labor, but the chief reason for child labor is the poverty of the people. Child labor is considered an extra hand to supplement the family income. These children, under 14 years of age, find a job easier than those in middle age, so many families force their children to labor.

Another reason is that many children have no chance to study or be educated, so they remain illiterate and come to accept work anywhere. They have

no aim for their life or future. They work just to get money and that is enough. Most of these children work in factories, shops or even work in the street to sell anything, wash the cars or sweep the roads. These places are very dangerous places for children.

A further reason is that many families force their children to work as beggars. These families believe that the beggars get a lot of money quickly with few difficulties, regardless on the children's feeling, personalities or their future. People are careless about what their children will be in the future. They grow up to become criminals as robbers, burglars or shop lifers.

When one asks who is responsible for the growth of child labor, the family, society and the government share the blame. Firstly, the family must take care of their children. Also, society and the government must work together to solve this problem. It is spread throughout the world. Everyday sees new faces working or begging in the streets. Secondly, the government should introduce comprehensive laws regarding child labor and prohibit the employment of children under 18 years of age. Society must coordinate with government to build enough schools for the large number of children.

However, the solution to the child labor problem is in the hands of the government that may support families to teach their children and then develop the society. The government should help working children pursue their studies to have a proper education and learn a skill that would enable them to survive. At this time, children will contribute to develop their positions in the society and improve their countries.

Ekhwan Thabit School

Wasn't built in a day

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

A few years ago no one had heard about Ekhwan Thabit School. But today it has become one of the best schools and one of the most prominent educational edifices in Sana'a belongs to Al-Sabeen area.

One, who knew Ekhwan Thabit School 5 years ago would not recognise it today.

One who visits Ekhwan Thabit School will have an impression that it is a new-established institution. However, it is not new at all!

The school today is for girls but once it was for boys!

Many questions have come to my mind. So to fulfill my curiosity, I went there and met the school headmistress, teachers and guards.

Somia Shajera, a teacher 'Ekhwan Thabit school was very dirty and a rubbish dump. The rubbish was everywhere. Most of the school's windows and doors were broken. Even the teachers seemed as if they were not real teachers. It was as if we were living in a zoo. There was no system at all. It was impossible to find system until Amatalslam Al-Koli, the headmistress, came and beautifully changed everything.'

She added 'Once I preferred to teach in a village rather than teaching in Ekhwan Thabit. Frankly speaking, now the difference is vast. The school was lacked even a tree. Now, thank God, the school has become organized and it is now on everyone's tongue.'

She further said 'The guards were careless. You could not find them in their places regularly. Entering and leaving school was possible at any time. Anyone could enter the school, and you felt you were not in an educational institution. Now everything has been changed. You can find the guards in their proper places during working hours and there is a system to enter or leave the school. In short, there is a great tremendous change between Ekhwan Thabit yesterday and Ekhwan Thabit today.'

Hassan Ali Al-Syakhie, school guard, said 'School was completely ruined; doors and windows were broken and bathrooms were very dirty. There wasn't a single tree in the school. Now the school is cleaner, pro-



School students gathering in the courtyard

vided with doors and windows and beautified with trees as you see in front of you.'

'We used to fight with parents but now there is stability and parents have started to understand the law and regulations. When the headmistress took over the school, parents strongly opposed that as they wanted the school to be for boys instead for girls. However, the headmistress, Amatalsam, wisely convinced them. We struggled to make this a good place.'

We met the headmistress, Ms. Amatalslam Al-Kholi, 'First Ekhwan Thabit School was a boys' high school and we were in Al-Shami school for girls and were so close to Ekhwan Thabit. Naturally, it created and caused many moral problems and harassments, and instead of teaching we were so busy solving those problems and preventing harassment. I was obligated to put an end to all this. So I frankly displayed this case in front of the Ministry of Education and in the end they made Al-Shami school an elementary school and changed Ekhwan Thabit to a girls' school, and took the boys to another school.'

About the beginning in Ekhwan Thabit Ms. Al-Kholi said 'I along with my staff and students moved from Al-Shami to Ekhwan Thabit and when we first came to Ekhwan Thabit School all we found was indifference and I found it a desert. I did not know how they were teaching then. There was no

archive for students' files or official documents. It was a big battle to change. It took time to fix doors, windows, bathrooms, classrooms and repaint the school. It was a really hard job.'

About the needs of the school she said 'The school is only two floors and we have noticed the crowded classes as an increasing number of girls want to continue their education in school near to their residence. So we wish we could add another floor. We also need to update the laboratory as we don't want our students to study theoretically, we want them to practice. We also need computers, as they are the only communication tool of today. Our library is short of books and I think we have to pay attention to students in this age and let them become accustomed to reading and independent research.'

The sad thing is about the school, Ms. Amatalslam Al-Kholi said, is that 'The school is deprived from any support or help as it carries a commercial name. My school is not treated equally with public schools. So we are deprived of many things because of this false thought. We really do not receive any support from the people the name of whom the school carries. At the same time I cannot forget that here there are some personalities that always offer their help, such as Abdullah Al-Basheer. But what I want to emphasise here is that all the things you see here are our own efforts'

The Internet in the Arab World: a new space of repression?

Internet in Yemen: All roads lead backwards

BY THE ARABIC NETWORK FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION

The Internet became available in Yemen in 1996. From this time on, two Yemeni companies have controlled Internet service provision: Teleyemen and The General Institution for Communication. The number of the Yemeni Internet users in 2004 was estimated to be only 150,000. The total number of subscribers is far less than this number, as every subscription is used by more than one user.

In June 1997, the number of Yemeni Internet users was estimated to be 920. In November 1997 the number fell to 840 users, and in October 2000, there were 2000 users. The number multiplied quickly after the year 2000 and reached more than 150,000 in April 2004. The latest estimation is considered to be quite small in comparison to the population in Yemen, which is around 20 million.

Statistics show that there were 140,000 personal computers in Yemen in 2003, which means that there were roughly 7 personal computers for every 1000 people. By the end of 2002 there were 248 Yemeni websites on the Internet. There were 51 governmental websites, 15 news websites, 24 embassy and organizational websites, 91 private business websites, 23 educational websites, 6 bank and insurance company websites, and 7 websites of forums and various Internet services.

As reported by Al-Hayat, 76% of the Internet users are males and 24% are females. Those who have a university degree constitute 50% of the total number of users. 40% of the users are between 21 and 25, 31% are between 26 and 30, and 15% are

between 31 and 35.

Removing the Barriers

Both the Yemeni Ministry of Communications and the Yemeni Ministry of Culture have banned and monitored many websites, actions that have led to a decline in Internet usage in Yemen. Governmental policy is not limited only to monitoring the websites. The government went further when it ordered that Internet cafes remove the barriers separating one user from another, thereby violating users' privacy. Visitors of these Internet cafes were used to having a private cabinet to themselves and to logging on to the websites they chose without being seen by anyone else.

'use of the net cafes has declined, notably because the visitors cannot enjoy privacy when surfing the Internet. Visitors consider the removal of the barriers to be in violation of their privacy because they feel that they are monitored when they want to check their e-mail or send messages or something of that sort' Tawfeeq Mohammad, Yemeni net cafe owner

The net cafes in Yemen are important due to the economic problems in the country which make it difficult for people to afford both a personal computer and the expensive Internet connection. It is said that, for a period of time, some officials in the Ministry of Communication cut the free Internet connection service provided by the state in order to make users turn to the paid Internet connection service.

In 2000 the number of the net cafes in Yemen was about 50; the number increased over the years until there were 250 net cafes in Sana'a, the Yemeni capital, alone. Moving the barriers between the users in the net cafes has led to a more than 300%

decrease in net cafes' revenues and the bankruptcy of a majority of the net cafes. Many other Yemeni net cafes closed due to the administrative and technical monitoring imposed on them. Such monitoring contradicts the government's repeated statements that Yemen is broadening the field of communication and information technology to a larger audience and that it intends to establish an e-government. It is expected that the recent regulations will continue to cause the number of net cafes to decrease.

Explaining the government's use of censorship Kamal Al-Gabry, a director in the Ministry of Communication, has asserted that 'censorship is very important, because the Internet is a double-edged sword.' Opposed to Al-Gabry's opinion are some Yemeni law professionals who think that the authorities have grossly violated users' right to privacy and have broken the laws that safeguard the right to free communication. They also believe the blocking and banning of websites to be a means of control adopted by a Ministry of Communications that has modeled itself as the protector of the values and the morality of Yemeni people.

The Yemeni government, like other governments which ban and censor websites, justifies the bans with calls for the preservation of 'morality.' The ban extends to other political and cultural websites. The Elaph news website, run by a London-based Saudi commercial company, was banned for a period of time upon grounds that the site was posting 'sexual material.' However, the real reason for the ban as stated by the Yemen Observer website was that Elaph had published reports containing personal criticism of the Yemeni President Ali Abd'allah Saleh and his elder son Ahmed.

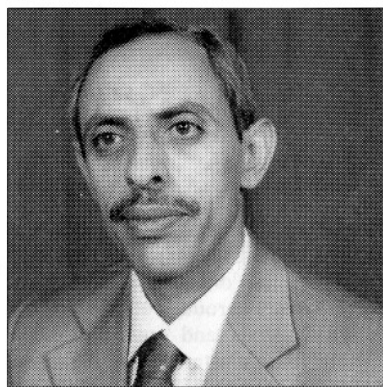
A protected heaven in Yemen

BY ENG ALI A. AL-FADEEL,
DG, PMA & CZM PROJECT

Yemen enjoys important and rich biological diversity, both in its fauna and flora. Many parts of the country contain globally important plant and animal species, many of which are found only in Yemen. The country has, therefore, received international recognition. The richness in species number and diversity and international recognition initiated the establishment of protected areas in many parts.

The Government of Yemen has received a grant from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), under the supervision of the World Bank, to establish a plan for the management of four areas prior to declaring them as protected. The affected areas are:

- 1- Bura'a forest in Al Hudaidah Governorate.
- 2- Hawf Forest in Al Mahra Governorate.
- 3- Sharma-Jethmun coast in Hadhramout Governorate.
- 4- Belhaf-Burum coast in Shabwa



The Government of Yemen has received a grant from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), under the supervision of the World Bank, to establish a plan for the management of four areas

and Hadhramout Governorates.

The project is implemented by the Protected Areas and Coastal Zone Management Project (PAM & CZM Project) through the Environment Protection Authority.

A supervision mission from the World Bank is visiting Yemen during the period 22 - 29 June 2004. A program is prepared for the mission to hold meetings with project staff, officials from concerned ministries and other stakeholders to discuss various issues related to the project, including progress and constraints facing the project.

The Forest of Bura'a

This forest is located on the edges of Wadi Rijaf, Bura'a District in Al Hudaidah Governorate. It covers an area of 4100 ha, and contains a wide biological diversity, especially in its flora. The forest receives a substantial quantity of rainfall, resulting in a thick sub-tropical forest. Several species of birds have been reported to occur in this forest. It is also one of the few areas of Yemen where one can see large numbers of baboons foraging in the trees.

Hawf Forest

This unique forest is located in the eastern part of the country, adjacent to the borders with Oman. It is located in a mountainous area that covers an area of 30,000 ha. It is characterized by a wet and foggy period during summer and early fall months. Several species of plants, including orchids, have been recorded in this forest.

Sharma-Jethmun coastal area

This coast is located in Hadhramout Governorates and extends for 50 Km. This coast is a globally important site for sea turtle nesting. At least three species of turtles have been reported to visit this area during July - September every year to lay their eggs.

Belhaf-Burum coastal area

This is a long coastal zone that extends for 75 Km from Belhaf in Shabwa Governorate to Burum in Hadhramout Governorate. It is rich in coral reefs and various colorful fish species, in addition to mangrove trees.

The PAM&CZM Project aims to prepare a management plan by hiring specialized international and national consultants. The consultants are conducting field studies in the above-mentioned areas and conducting training seminars and workshops for local communities and representatives of stakeholders. These studies and training seminars will form the basis for protected areas in Yemen.

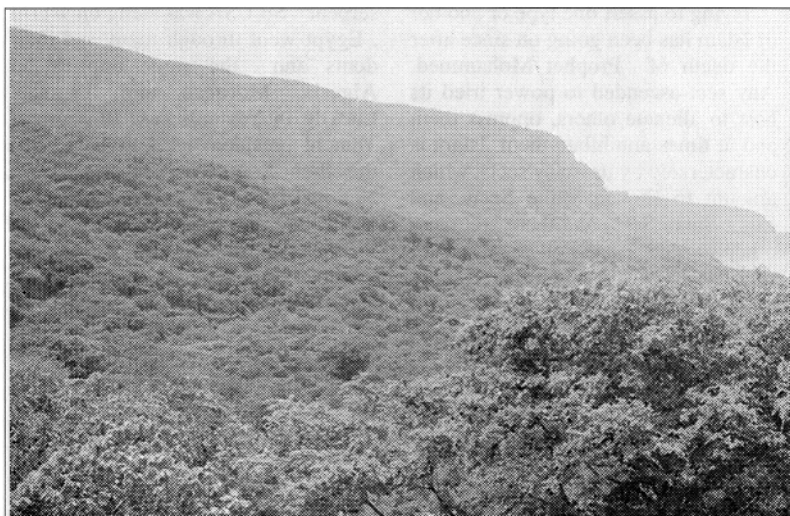
Achievements

Several studies have been conducted by the consultant consortiums in Bura'a and Hawf Protected Areas. These include the following:

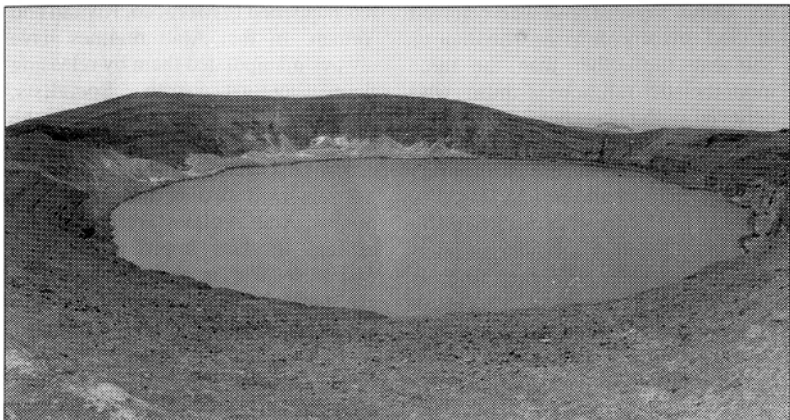
- 1- Community based management plan.
 - 2- Training needs assessment report.
 - 3- Land tenure, legal studies and economic opportunities report.
 - 4- Eco-tourism strategy and action plan.
 - 5- Biodiversity management plan.
 - 6- Natural resource.
 - 7- Socio-economic studies.
- Activities in the coastal zones are still ongoing because of delay in signing the contract with the consultants.

Constraints

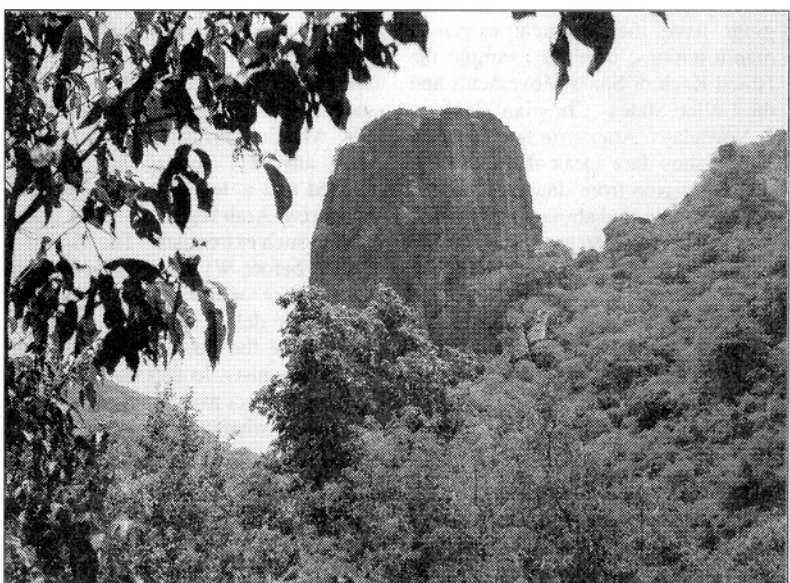
The project has experienced several constraints and difficulties which resulted in delays and lags in implementing activities in the field. These are due to certain international events connected to the September 11 attacks and the war against Iraq. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that all activities will be finished by the end of December 2004. Each consulting consortium will then submit a final report, which will include all outcomes. These are hoped to form the basis for protected areas in Yemen.



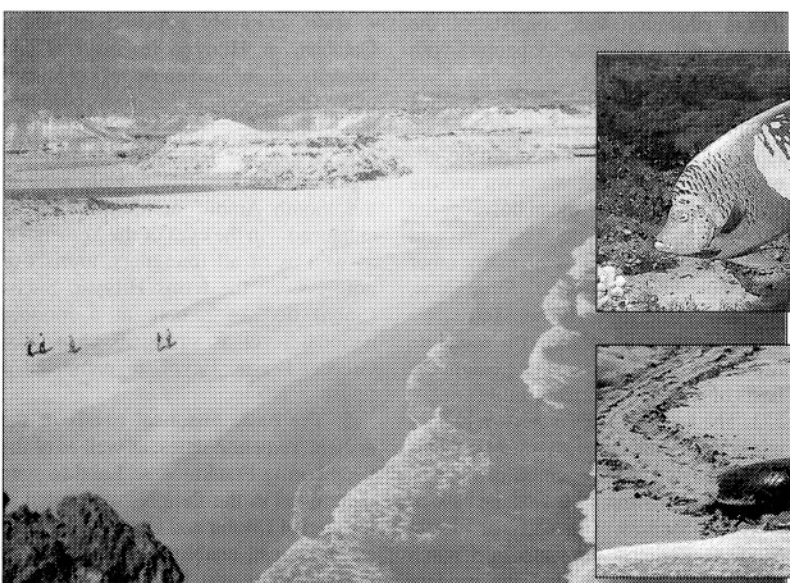
Hawf Forest in Al Mahra Governorate.



Shawran lake, Bir Ali



Bura'a forest in Al Hudaidah Governorate



Bura'a forest in Al Hudaidah Governorate



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PREQUALIFICATION BRITISH EMBASSY, SANA'A, YEMEN

Her Britannic Majesty's British Government intends to build a new Embassy in Sana'a, on a 10,000 m² site on the Al-Diary Sheraton Ring Road and seeks expressions of interest from Class 'A' (or Equivalent) building contractors (or constructors) wishing to pre-qualify to tender for the civil, structural, mechanical and electrical works.

The new Embassy will be approximately 1200m² (gross internal floor area) on two floors and will include extensive external works within the site boundary comprising perimeter walling, roads, pavings, terracing and landscaping.

Tender documents including detailed design drawings and bills of quantities will be released to pre-qualified Contractors later this year (September/October) and construction is intended to commence early in 2005 following a short period of mobilisation. The construction programme will be 12 months, and completion is anticipated early in 2006.

Only contractors who have recent previous experience of constructing similar high quality projects in Yemen or neighbouring countries acting in the capacity of main contractor are invited to apply.

Responses, in English should be submitted by the Company or Joint Venture (hereafter referred to as 'the Company') strictly in accordance with the following criteria, which will be used by the Selection Panel in the UK to assess suitability for pre-qualification. In the event of a Joint Venture response it shall be clearly stated which Party's documentation is being adopted by the Joint Venture:

- Name of Trading Company or Joint Venture making the request for pre-qualification.
- Copy of company Registration/Trading Certification in Yemen.
- In the event that the Company is not currently registered in Yemen, what action will be taken to register and by when.
- In the case of a Joint Venture, a copy of the Joint Venture Agreement signed and dated by all parties and endorsed for this specific Project.
- Previous similar projects in Yemen and surrounding countries completed within the last 10 years given Contract Value, Date of Commencement and Completion, Client contact details (for taking up references) and photographs if possible.
- Copy of last three years' audited Financial Accounts including Balance Sheets and Profit/Loss Accounts signed by the company Secretary and Auditor. (In the case of Joint Ventures, this information will be required by all Joint Venture parties).
- Statement of Current Capacity to undertake the work in accordance with the quality and completion requirements detailed below.
- Copy of Quality Assurance Certification or Company Quality Control method Statement.
- Copy of Company Operational Health and Safety Procedures.
- Method Statement detailing how you would ensure that high quality construction will be achieved whilst maintaining contract completion within the stipulated period (12 months) without compromising health and safety standards.
- CV's (limited to maximum of two A4 pages for each CV) of the following personnel who will be assigned to the project.
 - Contracts Manager
 - Site Agent (Manager)
 - Site Engineers (Mechanical, Electrical and Structural)
 - Quality Control Supervisor
 - Health and Safety Supervisor
- Relevant Corporate Literature (Note: irrelevant literature will be disregarded).
- The pre-qualification submission should be signed by the authorised signatory of the Company or Joint Venture and their role clearly stated.

The British Government's foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will be the Employer under the terms of their Standard form of Contract (GC/Works). The FCO will provide a full time Clerk of works for the entire duration of the project including the Mobilisation Period and Post Completion Client Fit-out Period.

An Assessment Panel in London comprising (inter alia) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Project Sponsor, the project manager and the Design Team Leader will assess the expressions of interest submitted in response to this pre-qualification advertisement.

The Assessment Panel may disregard respondents who do not comply strictly with the above criteria, or who provide excessive superfluous pre-qualification material or who do not provide all information requested.

One Original and one Authenticated Copy in A4 format of the Expressions of Interest should be submitted to:

Her Britannic Majesty's Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Estate Strategy Unit
Apollo House (17th Floor)
36 Wellesley Road
Croydon CRO 9 YA
United Kingdom
Attn. Mr. K. Hutchings (Project Sponsor)

To arrive not later than 12.00 noon on 28th July 2004

Any queries during the preparation of the Expression of Interest should be sent by email to the Project Manager, Gleeds; alan.turner@gleeds.co.uk

Historical greatness, diachronic trends and main challenges of Yemen

BY PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD SHAMSADDIN MEGALOMMATIS
mhmd7shams7meg@yahoo.fr
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Since Napoleonic France attempted to act as successor to Imperial Rome, Czarist Russia and the USSR behaved always as the Third Rome (survivor of the 1453 fallen Constantinople), and last but not least Nader Shah of Iran was acting inspired by Darius and Shapur I, there would not be any mistake if Yemen would take into consideration the historical pillars of its natural expansion, and envision an appropriate, a genuinely Yemenite, future for itself and the surrounding area.

The diachronic imperial method and approach to expansion can apply to smaller countries as well, and if the proper study is carried out, all the targets can be materialized through peaceful conversation, consultation and the common desire for progress. Of course, this would displease colonial powers that want the colonized African and Asiatic countries to be continuously absorbed in vain campaigns and in impossible fake visions, but too bad for them! There are many in our world to believe that the future must exist for all without any discrimination!

Arabia and Yemen as distinguished by the Periplus of the Red Sea.

In a previous feature, we had the opportunity to follow the anonymous author of the 1st century CE text in his description of the Yemenite colonial presence in Azania, i. e. the Eastern African coast, in the south of the Horn of Africa, and up to the area of today's Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. He did so, while describing the navigation from Suez down to Rhapta, on today's Tanzanian coast.

Starting by paragraph 19 of his text, the author describes the navigation at the Eastern edge of the Red Sea. He refers to Leuke Kome ("White Town") as the first harbour and port of call on the sailor's way to the south. Since the departure is given not from Arsinoe (Suez) but Myos Hormos (the Mouse's Bay), which corresponds to al Ghadaq - Hurghada in the Egyptian Red Sea coast, and the distance mentioned is 1000 to 1500 stadia (1 stadium equals 185 m), we deduce that Leuke Kome must be identified as the modern coastal town Al Wadhj.

The text refers to the Roman military presence ("ekatontarchos": a centurion, officer leading 100 Roman soldiers), Roman fiscal presence ("paleptes tes tetartes": a customs officer dispatched in order to get 25% of the passing merchandise as tax), as well as a land road to the Aramaic Nabataean capital Rekem / Petra of King Malichus (certainly Malichus II). The Roman garrisons ensured safety for the land trade, since the main part of the merchandises (sent to Rekem and further on to Jerusalem, Damascus, Antioch, or Palmyra) was transported from Yemen by sea to Leuke Kome. Who were the inhabitants of that place? Since Leuke Kome does NOT belong to 'Arabia', we can deduce that they were probably Aramaeans, possibly of the highly civilized Nabataean branch, since the text makes a striking differentiation between them and the Arab inhabitants of the coast immediately in the south of Leuke Kome.

According to the Periplus of the Red Sea, civilization ends at Leuke Kome, and starts again around Mouza that is in the modern Yemenite Red Sea coast. What lies between them is the realm of Arab barbarism according to the author of the text (paragraph 20), which reads as follows:

"Immediately after this port (Leuke Kome) starts Arabia, which is extended alongside a large part of the Red Sea. It is inhabited by various peoples and tribes, whose languages differ either a little or totally. The coastal zone features many groups of huts of the fish-eaters, whereas the inland includes hamlets and

pastures, being inhabited by a people who speak two languages and have a perverted character. These people rob those who deviate from their sailing just in the middle of the sea, and come near by their coasts. They arrest all the shipwrecked, so that they make later use of them as captives. That is why the Kings of Yemen attack them, and hold many of them as prisoners. They are called Canraites (note: this is the single time this term was used in Ancient Greek literature). Truly, any sort of navigation nearby the coast of Arabia is particularly dangerous, and this area is characterized by a lack of ports and offers few possibilities of anchorage, being full of perilous rocks, difficult of reach because of the rocky precipices, and awful from any viewpoint. That is why when we sail south, we navigate in the open sea, and as fast as possible, until we reach the Katakekavmene Neso ('Scorched Island'). Immediately after that island, there are plenty of lands inhabited by civilized people, who have large cattle, and use camels for their trade and transportation".

Here we are already among the ancient Yemenites!

The Katakekavmene

Island can be identified with Farasan

islands, a slightly north of the

Northern Yemenite

borderline. The

text enters then

paragraph 21, as

follows:

"Beyond these

areas, in the last

bay of the coast

that is extended

on our left during

our navigation, lies

Mouza, which is an

official ("nominon"):

controlled by the

state) port of call. If

we follow the correct

navigation line to the

south, it lies in a

distance of 12000

stadia from

Berenice. The city is

exclusively

inhabited by Yemenites,

captains and

mariners, and is

burgeoning with

commercial activity (lit. "the

trade is exceeding")

since it plays a vital

role in the commerce

up to Barygaza, and in

this business the Mouza

people use their own

equipment".

It is essential to notice the

radiation of the Mouza

trade, technology and

navigation up to India,

since Barygaza is to be

found in the area of today's

Mumbai (Bombay). The

reference to the presence

of mariners and sailors

makes of Mouza a 'haut

lieu' of 1st century CE

navigation in the Indian

Ocean.

Historical confusion perpetuated

for modern diplomatic interests

The modern science of

philology helps in

identifying precisely the

names of ancient peoples

referred to within various

historical texts. When

Herodotus speaks of 'Scythians',

he refers to the ancient

people whose traces can

be found in Asia and in

Europe, throughout the

steppes and the plains of

Russia, Ukraine and

Germany. But when

Michael Choniates, Michel

Psellos and other Byzantine

academics use this same

term in the 11th and in

the 12th centuries CE, they

simply mean 'Turks'!

Every historical term has

its history, evolution and

specifications.

1. Confusion of terms 'Yemenite' - 'Arab' in the Antiquity

The ancient Yemenites

developed culture and

civilization at the

confines of the then

known world. When we

first find other people

referring to ancient

Yemenites, we notice

that the way to reach

Yemen (Sabaa, Himyar,

Awsan, Minyan, and

Qataban, let alone

Hadhramawt) was

through Arabia. The

earliest mention of

ancient Yemenites

does not come before the middle of the 8th century, and emanates from Assyrian - Babylonian Cuneiform sources. Then come references in Ancient Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Aramaic, and so on. But the only way all these various peoples, namely the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Hebrews, the Greeks, the Aramaeans and the Romans, could view the peoples and the states of ancient Yemen was a purely topographical - geographical one: Yemenites were 'beyond the Arabs', their land was far-off, and one should first cross Arab lands to reach Yemenites.

This way the confusion started between the terms 'Arab' and 'Saba', 'Himyar', etc. The generic term 'Arab' started being attributed to all the Yemenites as well. At the end, the entire peninsula was called Arab! The cultural and civilizational distinction between Yemenites and Arabs was however clear, as we observed already in the aforementioned text of the Periplus, but the term Arabic was prevalent for generic references to Ancient Yemenites.

2. Confused terms: Arabic and Persian Gulf, Red Sea in the past and at present

Since the Egyptians had very limited presence on their Red Sea coast, and Meroe - the great Sudanese state of the Antiquity - had no presence at all, it was only normal for Ancient Greeks to call the area we call today Red Sea "Arabios kolpos", i.e. Arabic Gulf. This tendency was reinforced by the Yemenite presence started at the Farasan islands and in Mouza (al Mokha), two places that are very much in the

south. Modern Arab politicians wishing to call the Persian Gulf 'Arabic Gulf' make many historical mistakes, but are mostly contradicted by the historical reality that in antiquity there was an Arabic Gulf, but this was what we call today 'Red Sea'. When the author of the Periplus of the Red Sea refers to the 'Red Sea', he means a) the Arabic Gulf (what we call today Red Sea), b) the Persian Gulf, and c) the entire Indian Ocean from the eastern coast of Africa to Indochina and Indonesia (an area named as 'Chryse' - golden by the author of the Periplus of the Red Sea). In other words, the term 'Red Sea' in antiquity covered a much larger area than in our times.

3. Modern fake scientific terms: South-Arabic, Sudarabique, Suedarabisch

The confusing names of ancient authors can be understood in terms of lack of information, lack of method or a lack of proper exploration. Modern confusion is at times inexcusable.

From the very first moments of modern Western exploration and study of the Yemenite past, it became very clear to all sorts of related academics, epigraphists, Semitic linguists, archeologists, historians, philologists, etc. that:

- The different Yemenite epigraphic monuments were testifying to various languages that had nothing to do with Arabic, and that they were closer to Gueze (Ancient Abyssinian)
- The diverse ancient philological sources relating to ancient Yemenites testify to a certain confusion with regard to racial / ethnic / national names, regrouping at times ancient Yemenites with Arabs.
- The Greek and Latin sources (the

longest and better studied until now) relating to ancient Yemen testify to a clear-cut understanding of the tremendous cultural differences separating all the various ancient Yemenite peoples from the Arabs.

- Throughout Yemenite past, Sabaeans and Himyarites approached sometimes the point of unifying almost the whole of Yemen.

And of course, they knew of the extensive use of the term 'Yemen' throughout the Islamic ages for the whole area south of Asir, and west of Oman. Yet, they introduced the meaningless, pale and historically fake term "South Arabic" (Sudarabique, Suedarabisch, Sudarabico), which means nothing.

This has been a conscious and devious effort to disentangle the glorious past of Yemen from its own present and future, and to deprive the modern state from the immediate attribution of the past glories - since the modern state of Yemen is the inheritor and the custodian of the country's national cultural heritage and identity. Acting like this, the disreputable Orientalist researchers wished to achieve many goals all at once:

- to disorient modern Yemenites engaged in the study of their own past.

- to make modern Yemenites unable to duly and proficiently incorporate the past's achievements, culture, identity and character into the modern country's 'nation building' in the way and to the extent Greeks or Italians were able to.

- to deceive large numbers all over the world by means of a term that would not directly imply the Yemenite identity of the monuments or the history narrated, presented, developed and/or studied.

- to add one more point of overall misrepresentation of the ancient Orient within the discipline of Orientalism.

The disastrous work brought an excellent result for the colonial powers' researchers, who initiated the term, being the leading specialists in "South Arabic studies"!

Q: Can you say 'Soudarabologist'?

A: Of course not! But you can say Egyptologist, Classicist, Hellenist (for specialists in Greek Studies)...

Go to Google and check: 'South Arabic Studies' has no less than 258000 references! 'Yemenite Studies' gathers just 5800 references, whereas the acceptable but not recommendable 'Yemeni Studies' rises the references number up to 25000!

Modern Yemenites should demand the exclusive use of the term 'Yemenite' by all Western scholars searching Yemenite past in their writings and bibliography from now on.

Q: Why Yemen cannot accept the term 'South Arabic' anymore?

A: Why would Greece reject the term 'South Balkan Studies' for research pertaining to Ancient and Medieval (Byzantine) Greece?

The reasons for rejecting forever the term 'South Arabic' are many. Here are some:

- It is unrelated to the racial / ethnic / national identity and hypostasis of the national group concerned, that is, the modern Yemenites.

- Consequently, the false term is a multiple de-personifying factor.

- It presents all the Ancient Yemenite peoples as just groups living in an area at the southernmost confines of the area inhabited by another people.

- So, automatically it subordinates Yemenites to that people.

- That people (namely: Arabs) had no connection with the glory of the Ancient Yemenite past, be it Sabaeans, Himyarite, Qatabani, Hadhramawti, Minyan, Awsani or other. So, it is particularly erroneous as a term, since it permits an unbelievable confusion and eventual attribution of moments of the Yemenite past to ... Arabs.

- It represents the modern Yemenites as a pale people without past, since there is no apparent connection between



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Extremist Islam, moderate Islam and Arab hypocrisy

It should not be forgotten that extremism in all dogmas, doctrines, different religions and sects around the world is hideous and tend to demonstrate the monster aspect of humans embracing those beliefs, just take any one of them and you shall for sure find that one day their atrocious symptoms took place here and there. Being an extremist is clearly noticeable if you adamantly believe that you are 100% right and the others are wrong, if you believe that your religion is the right one and others are not, if you believe that your sect is right and the others have a wrong one. I have met many such religion followers (Christian, Jewish, Hindus and Muslims) and found the same human tendency to clutch to one's religion even if one is not a practicing believer.

Trying to assert one type or another of Islam has been going on since after the death of Prophet Mohammed. Any sect ascended to power tried its best to alienate others, oppress them and at times annihilate them. Islam is characterized by its many sects, which amount to Eleven Shiite Sects, and Eight Sunni Sects and there are many others which I am not cognizant of such as Ahmadiya, Bahaia etc... Having many sects in Islam makes it easy for everyone to find justification for his actions e.g. there are verses calling for overpowering other sects and religions while at the same time there are verses calling for peace and cohabitation. I was in fact astonished to come across verses in Koran which if applied and correctly interpreted shall make it easier to face fanatic Muslims e.g. Quran says "Those who believed in God, became Jewish, Christian or Sabaeah (i.e. other than the three monotheistic religions), those who believed in the hereafter and the good-doers. Each and every one of them shall have his recompense from their god and they should not be feared or felt sad for. So it is very difficult to monopoly Islam or consider an interpretation correct and the other is wrong. Such moderate verses of Quran are mostly shunned or ignored. In point of fact, Muslims should learn to respect each other first, in order for them to respect other religions and beliefs. Intolerance in religion is not an Islamic trait but many other religions have their Radical extremist manifestations, take for example the Israeli Kach or Shass Movements and the United States' Christian Zionists.

Nowadays, Arab elite fear for their lives if they dare speak about separation of religion from state policies and many of them fled abroad just because they made a reference. In order to counter terrorism, such elite should be permitted and defended by the Arab governments. We can be sure that there is no terrorists hiding, when such people are permitted to voice their opinions through our many Arab satellite channels, just give them at

least 10th of the time permitted to the religious savants. The other day I was listening to an interview with one of such elite. Although he made us understand his veiled point of view he could not dare divulge it clearly? In fact even Arabs living in London and Washington DC cannot!

During Cold War, USA sought to evict USSR from Afghanistan and hence in a way or another encouraged Radical and Extremist Islam? This took much effort, time and money? But, After the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan the different Islamic factions of Afghanistan fought each other while Arab Extremists returned to their respective countries with their heads filled with the incitement that was blessed by the Arab regimes and CIA. The Arab proverb says: "that whoever breeds serpents shall for sure find his eventual end at the sting of a serpent". So USA was stung on 9/11th. Egypt went through many sad incidents and the same applies on Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia? Luckily in Yemen's case the current Yemeni president used them against the then Southern Yemeni backed National Front and during the War of 1994, but, they are still there, waiting for the right moment. I have accidentally met some here and there and they still find people such as Bin Laden, Abed the assassin of Baptist Americans and Sawani who assassinated the Yemeni Socialist Party Assistant Secretary as their heroes. They still possess incitement cassettes, videocassettes and published material. They are present in All Arab Capitals and Arab regimes are hypocritical regarding this, even after what has happened in Morocco, Riyadh and Yemen. In fact Arab regimes have always manipulated them by releasing them against Arab Socialists, Modernists etc. and sometimes the other way round. Such games of course did give immediate benefits but remained also as undefused time bombs. Arab regimes are now hypocritical in their approach towards extremists fearing their backlash. So as long as there is no clear-cut approach to remedy such phenomenon by defusing them through many means, extremists shall re-occur as long as the basis is there. One thing must be clear religious related parties should be banned because they are a manifestation of the strength of such groups. Egypt for example banned the Muslim Brothers Movement and was successful in silencing Muslim terrorists. Muslim terrorists can emanate from any sect and if otherwise is alleged that is to me a mere outright hypocrisy. Arab regimes should cease calling such extremists "The Misdled". Saudis before 9/11th were welcomed everywhere without visas now all embassies delay issuing them visas because of the deeds perpetrated by such extremists. In fact any Arab has become subject to suspicion wherever he goes or whatever he does.

South Arabic and Yemenite.

- The term is particularly damaging in the sense of created difficulties with regard to the establishment of an all-encompassing Yemenite national history, with an appropriately managed historical education that consists of the basis of nation-building for peoples with a great past.

'Sabaeans' or 'Himyarite' Studies would be certainly far more appropriate terms, although they would not be all-embracing terms. But when we use the term Assyriology, we mean however the study of the Ancient Assyrians and Babylonians, as well as of many other Mesopotamian peoples, Sumerians, Elamites, Amorrites, Hurrians, etc.

The introduction of the term Yemenite Studies is strongly recommended on the basis of several historical truths.

1. The term matches a modern racial / ethnic / national name. It must be therefore preferred in recognition of the historical ties existing, as it was the case of Roman Studies (instead of Latin Studies). Perhaps, the Catholic Church insisted on the latter, but the modern Italian state has always been fond of the

former.

2. Yemen itself, as a name, has a great historicity that goes back to pre-Islamic and pre-Christian times with several epigraphic mentions.

3. Although Yemen was a small tribe - state, certainly eclipsed by Saba, Qataban, or Himyar, its survival and modern all-inclusiveness of character make of it excellent for diachronic historical use.

4. Because of the modern radiation of the term, the historical significance of the 'South Arabic' antiquities will be enhanced - in the eyes of the Yemenites, as well as of all foreigners, tourists or not -, since the terms Himyar, Sheba (Saba) do not radiate at a modern national level as strong as terms like Greece, Persia, Egypt, to name but a few.

5. The basic historical trends of the ancient Yemenite states, as well as of the neighboring Frankincense Land (a state mentioned in the Periplus as located at the area of Dhofar and Oman), will be of easier access, enabling further national emancipation and liberation from the shackles of colonial traps and schemes.

Yemenia holds conference for marketing & sales for Gulf & South-East Asia

Yemenia pursues perfection

Meetings of the 26-27 June two-day conference for marketing and sales managers of regional Yemen Airways (Yemenia) branches in the Gulf and South-East Asia was held in Sana'a Saturday.

Mr. Ameen al-Haimi, Deputy GM for Commercial Affairs delivered an address at the beginning of the conference confirming that the meeting came as a result of accumulations of work that had taken place.

He had also talked frankly with the managers about certain significant points and about setting up convenient plans to address them.

Among those points, he had mentioned, were sticking to working hours and professional treatment with clients and also getting acquainted with the new systems Yemenia had adopted lately. Such systems are considered strategic and include the MIDT and FFB systems, Mr al-Haimi

Yemenia اليمنية

said.

Mr. al-Haimi told Yemen Times that there were good results Yemenia had achieved last year representing a success proportion by around 8% and as for what has been achieved during the first quarter of this year, the percentage was about 27% at the level of all the Yemenia lines.

The reason was that in the last year the markets were affected by events and wars that took place in the region, in addition to the rise in fuel prices.

He added that during this year, Yemenia would add to its airliners fleet two airplanes of the type 330, representing the most modern planes in the world of aviation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nabil Al-Faqeeh, Yemenia's Marketing Director said that the conference was part of a series of meeting during which ideas

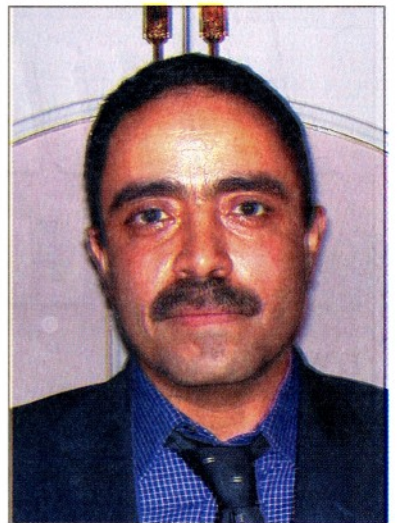
would be exchanged with employees on the ground in different parts of the world concerning means to promote

Yemenia services by setting standards that enhance quality.

"Amid tough competition, the conference tackles the problems that may occur during summer vacations and discusses strategies to handle them," he said.



Mr. Nabeel Al-Faqeeh



Mr. Ameen Al-Haimi



A view of the panel

جنرال GENERAL

الاختيار الذكي في عالم الراحة
THE INTELLIGENT CHOICE IN COMFORT

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غرفة - شقق - أجنحة فاخرة

ابتداء من 2004/6/25 الى 2004/9/25

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Mahweet
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Tel: (01) 465396
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242

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (68)
Friendship Day (III)

Friendship is an invaluable treasure. It lends luster and glory to life. A friend is an asset of a life time and adds meaning to a person's worth. That is why it is said, a man is known by the company he keeps.

- A friend like you is a special gift to me, a delight to the eye and wrapped with affection. The essence of our friendship lies in your unbeatable faith in me, the way you synchronize your thoughts with mine and your utmost patience to lend me your ears and heed my problems. You are worth a million praises, my friend!
- Dear friend! You've always been there in my hours of need, setting a true example that 'A friend in need is a friend indeed'. I'm truly thankful for everything you've done for me.
- Friend! I'll always stand by you. We find that we can handle any challenges life sends, if we rely on our inner strength and the help of caring friends.
- The way our friendship is growing suggests that we surely have a long way to go, friend!
- Nothing on earth can make life more worthwhile than a true, loyal friend and the warmth of a smile - for just like a sunbeam makes cloudy days brighter, the smile of a friend makes a heavy heart lighter. This is a warm and loving message for a special friend.
- You have made my days a lot more brighter and my burden seem lighter. You're really special for being all the wonderful things that make you a special friend. You surely deserve a lifetime, filled with joys that never end.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- They are twins, but they are not at all like one another.
- Have you seen either of those four boys?
- Richard was beaten in the final because Tom had trained harder than him.
- In the end it was me who solved the problem.
- Politicians forget that it is us voters who have to pay.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- There are reports that the university will close on 1 September but in fact the holidays will begin on 15 September.
- We usually go on a picnic on the last day of December, but we are going on the New Year's Day this year. (omit 'definitely')
- I was not aware that my colleagues knew it was my birthday, so it was a surprise to find a card on my desk. (omit 'actually' and 'real')
- Basham is very well-organized and keeps his books all together.
- He didn't seem altogether pleased when he heard the news.

III. Increase Your Word Power

- Something that exists in or moves through air.
- Science dealing with the forces exerted by air (or other gases) in motion.
- Science of aviation.
- Person who claims to have great love for and understanding of what is beautiful in nature.
- Study of the cause of a disease.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Army officer who does office work for a superior officer: **adjutant** (n)
- Officer in Command of a country's warships: **admiral** (n)
- Period of life between childhood and maturity: **adolescence** (n)
- Make impure or poorer in quality by adding something of less value: **adulterate** (vt)
- An exciting or dangerous journey or activity:

adventure (n)

(B) Words and phrases of foreign origin
Give the source of origin and meaning of the following:

- orientalism
- orismology
- ottava rima
- oxymoron
- palacography

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- officialese**: A term coined by Sir Ernest Gowers in *Plain Words* (1948) to denote the pompous, abstract, euphemistic, polysyllabic periphrastic and circumlocutory language often used by officials, bureaucrats, politicians, sociologists, educationists and others. Ex: 'We are in receipt of your esteemed order of the 29th instant and beg to inform you that ...'
- onomatopoeia** (Gk. 'name-making'): The formation and use of words to imitate sounds. For example: 'ding-dong', 'crackle', 'whizz', 'zoom'.
- opera** (Lat. 'opera'): Dramatic composition with music.
- opere citato** (Lat. 'in the work cited'): Often abbreviated to op. cit. it refers to a book to which reference has already been made.
- operetta** (It. 'little opera'): A light drama consisting of musical interludes and spoken dialogues which are often satirical.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- respectable, respectful
- re-dress, redress
- ostensible, ostentatious
- honorary, honorable
- gracious, graceful

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- acquire** (vt) (gain for oneself by skill or ability, by one's own efforts): He has acquired a reputation as an excellent classroom performer.
require (vt) (need): The situation in my family requires that I should be there with them.
- arrogate** (vt) (claim, assert): Please don't arrogate any motive to my words.
- derogate** (vi) (take away a merit, good quality, right, etc.): All his remarks were meant to derogate the honor enjoyed by the Minister.
- visitors** (n) (persons who visit): There are many summer visitors at the hill resort.
visitants (n) (a supernatural visitor): Angels and spirits are heavenly visitants.
- strict** (adj) (stern, demanding): The Dean of our Faculty is a strict disciplinarian.
severe (adj) (rigorous, violent): The police were quite severe with the thief.
- timid** (adj) (easily frightened): He is as timid as a rabbit.
coward (adj) (person who runs away from danger): He is a coward who cannot face his enemy boldly.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases in illustrative sentences

- the die is cast
- be with someone in spirit
- put two and two together
- loom large
- have other fish to fry

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- give (someone) cold shoulder** (to ignore someone deliberately): I got the shock of my life when my most intimate friend gave me cold shoulder.
- put on your thinking cap** (to think of a way to solve a problem): It is high time you put on your thinking cap to evolve a remedy to the problem.
- a leading light** (an important person): Chomsky is a leading light in modern linguistics.
- bag and baggage** (with all one's belongings): The British colonialists left India bag and

baggage.

- donkey work** (the difficult and unrewarding part of a task): The Head always wants me to do the donkey work for him.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Use the following notes to make sentences of your own using 'so' or 'such'

Remember: the noun comes before 'so' but after 'such' (a)

- students / enthusiastic (so)
- car / expensive (such)
- rent / high (so)
- city / crowded (such)
- football players / good (so)
- coffee / strong (so)
- journey / long (such)
- children / naughty (such)
- film star / talented (so)
- company / successful (so)

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The length of the stick was six feet.
- She was in the same class as her cousin.
- She had less money than her brother.
- The police man made the men go away.

(B) Composition

Complete Majid Al Ali's letter of application using the following verbs:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| contact | discuss | employed | welcome |
| involved | apply | enjoy | notice |
| advertised | matches | | |

Majid Al Ali
Al Rakas Street
Hayel Street
Sana'a

The Cultural attaché

Indian Embassy
Djibouti Street
Sana'a

Dear Mr. Krishna Kumar,
I am writing to — for the position of Public Affairs Associate which was — last week in Yemen Times.
Although I am presently — by a non-profit making organization, it has always been my intention to work in an embassy. I would particularly — the chance to work for your organization and as you will — on my enclosed CV, the job you are offering — both my personal and professional interests.

My work experience has familiarized me with many of the challenges — in public relations today. I am sure that this, together with my understanding of the needs and expectations of your organization, would be extremely relevant to the position. Moreover, I am fluent in English and would definitely — working in a professional environment.
I would be pleased to — my CV with you in more detail at an interview. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to — me if you require further information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely,
Majid Al Ali

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Those who disdain His worship
and are full of pride, He will
gather them all together to answer
to Him."
S4: A172

VI. Words of Wisdom

"I count life just a stuff
To try the soul's strength on."
—Robert Browning

Evaluation of English Course for Yemen



By SHEIKH EL-DIN
MOHAMMED NUR ALI
AN ENGLISH TEACHER
(M.A. DIPLOMA)

As a member of the Evaluation committee constituted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education – Guidance Sector, I would like to make some observations on the efficacy of the Secondary School English syllabus and Crescent series (Book 2).

I would like to evaluate:

- Topics (Themes and variation)
- Their suitability for the targeted age groups
- Focus on the environment
- Illustrations
- Coverage of the four skills
- Audio-visual aids
- Library

Making a curriculum or syllabus is something difficult, especially when the language is not one's mother tongue. One must take into account the three pillars of education i.e. the student, teacher and syllabus added to the learner's family and the learning environment.

The student is the target and means of the educational process. He is the intrinsic core of the educational edifice. The most important factors in the determination of a child's capacity to learn are the following:

- The family environment. This includes a) The income level b) Parents' education c) number of children in household etc.
- Peer group interaction i.e. the type of children with whom an individual child associates.
- Personality i.e. the child's inherited intelligence and mental abilities
- Early nutrition and health.

The English textbook Crescent series for Yemen was originally written for the Gulf and it was amended by Longman Company to cater to Yemeni students. Consequently, some Yemeni topics were inserted. There are no Yemeni place names or references except for a few names of people and some illustrations. Although the subjects are, to some extent relevant to the Yemeni context, the current syllabus needs to be permeated by the indigenous Yemeni spirit.

1) Topics

The subjects must cover all the branches of knowledge i.e. there should be lessons about geography, history, religion, maths and science added to environmental issues such as ecology, and the customs, habits, belief, culture etc. The student must feel that he is a part of the Yemeni cultural ethos. Thus he has to affect and be affected by all the living and non-living things around him. Due to that there should be a variation not only in the themes and topics, but even in the genres i.e. poetry, prose, plays, stories, dialogues, conversations etc.

There are altogether seven units. There are a variety of subjects and drills which can be categorized as follows: 9 songs, 15 short stories, 21 structures, 13 tables or sentence-making exercises. That is good, but the lessons are very short with few new vocabulary. I notice that surprisingly there is not enough coverage about Yemen. There is no information about the Yemeni regions.

2) Suitability for the targeted age groups

Since the students are in their adolescence, there should be topics that absorb their attention. So they need some songs or some sort of activities involving dramatization to hold their attention. I think the present book is suitable for their age but it needs more drills and exercises and more quizzes with attractive illustrations and, of course, something more about Yemen, its people, its past, present and future.

3) Environment

The environment is the combination of people, animals, things and events that affect the globe. It is all the surroundings, especially the material and spiritual influences that affect the growth, and development of a living being. There is a natural environment as well as a man-made environment, including the industrial one. The

wood, forest, river, lake, valley, mountain, animals and air etc. are the natural environment added to the buildings, factories, vehicles and machines with their impact for environmental pollution as the man-made environment. The lessons must teach the student to learn the relationship between him and his environment, especially the immediate environment. He has to see the interaction between him and his environment, how it affects him positively or negatively and how he can create suitable or beneficial situations to live happily. There are, of course, some lessons about animals with photos and illustrations of natural phenomena followed by some activities. There is the picture of a zoo with different kinds of animals.

4) Illustrations

These include all the photos and pictures, including sketches, or cartoon. There are also maps. I think the pictures, drawings and photographs are clear and well-drawn and colored; but some pictures do not reflect the Yemeni national dress.

5) The four skills

The four language skills are speaking, listening, reading and writing

a) As regards speaking, this is done by the teacher and student by means of presentation, chorus practice, dialogues or individual reading. There is another kind of speaking exercise using the audio and video cassettes. There are many activities in the book for speaking, including songs, dialogue, conversation, structures and dramatization.

b) For listening, students first listen to the teacher when presenting the lesson and using the audio-visual aids especially the cassettes, radio or through dramatization.

c) Reading is the most suitable medium for teaching new vocabulary and structures. There are two kinds of reading i.e. silent reading and reading aloud and each one has its own rules. When one reads silently one must use only his eyes not lips, not vocalize or sub-vocalize, especially in the class, at a library or else where. Secondly, one must read quickly, comprehend the main ideas and digest what he has read. Reading practice prompts the student to be creative in the long run. For the cultivation of the reading skills, there should be provision of supplementary reading materials.

d) Writing is the skill of using graphemes in an efficient way. At an early stage students have to practice hand writing, paying special attention to the rules of mechanics of writing as well as punctuation. It is a pity that there is no exercise on handwriting for beginners and no practice of cursive writing in the workbook.

6) Audio-visual Aids

The AV aids in general are valuable supplements to any curriculum or syllabus. They are divided into three kinds: audio aids, visual aids and audio-visual aids. Audio aids include tapes, radio and CDs. The most important visual aids are books, the board, computers, charts, maps and TV/video. Audio-visual aids, as the name implies, include elements of both of these groups, most importantly TV and computers.

I notice that the only aids used in a typical Yemeni classroom are the books and the board with some actions. The syllabus of course includes cassettes, but they are not available and, if they are available, there is no tape recorder or TV available. In a model situation there should be language labs, which is almost impossible in the current Yemeni secondary school context.

7) Library

The library is the nerve-center in every educational institute because textbooks are in themselves limited in topic coverage. So the student can promote his extensive reading habits by using the library and thus widen his knowledge. There are few schools that have libraries, and those tend to have few books. The library facilities should be improved at the earliest.

The above points are some of the pertinent observations. Of course there can be many more.

All our efforts should be geared to facilitate the efficient acquisition of this very essential global language.

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Advertisement | Creative | Megahertz | Scale | Talk |
| Alarm | Days | Message | Schedule | Test |
| Amateur | Director | Mike | School | Time |
| Announcer | Disk | Music | Select | Tone |
| Area | Event | News | Series | Topic |
| Audio | Fact | Night | Sets | Transmit |
| Bands | Games | Plugs | Ship | Trip |
| Beach | Guests | Point | Shows | Tuning |
| Beat | Hear | Police | Signal | Turn |
| Billboards | Hits | Power | Snooze | Type |
| Bulletin | Home | Press | Snow | Voices |
| Buzz | Humor | Promo | Songs | Volume |
| Cable | Info | Public | Sound | Wave |
| Call | Jogs | Push | Speaker | Weather |
| Cars | Jokes | Quote | Sponsor | Wire |
| Cast | Listen | Relate | Sport | Work |
| Channel | Live | Reports | Station | |
| Clock | Local | Rock | Stock | |
| Communication | Media | Sale | Syndicated | |

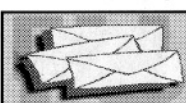
ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Sizes

OVER THE RADIO

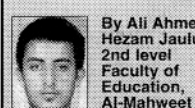
Solution: 10 letters

D	N	U	O	S	B	O	M	O	R	P	D	I	S	K	M	S	R	A	C
I	E	R	O	C	K	E	F	A	C	T	O	E	S	W	E	N	A	S	O
R	E	T	I	M	S	N	A	R	T	H	C	W	S	V	D	O	E	I	M
E	N	P	A	S	I	J	O	T	J	I	A	T	E	Y	I	W	H	G	M
C	O	E	A	C	S	C	H	O	O	L	I	N	M	R	A	L	A	N	U
T	T	G	T	L	I	V	E	V	K	M	T	S	N	M	E	D	U	A	N
O	E	H	L	S	A	D	S	T	E	L	H	C	A	E	B	R	D	L	I
R	K	A	U	C	I	C	N	T	S	I	A	T	R	S	L	V	I	V	C
W	C	M	A	M	H	L	O	Y	P	A	E	T	E	E	E	A	O	W	A
T	O	B	S	E	O	U	O	L	S	U	C	I	H	R	A	L	C	N	T
S	L	R	D	G	Q	R	Z	E	R	T	R	B	T	G	U	T	N	S	I
E	C	U	K	A	U	T	E	M	R	E	U	I	A	M	U	O	I	E	O
T	L	P	S	H	C	L	R	O	S	Z	S	M	E	N	U	N	C	V	N
E	G	S	I	E	A	P	H	Z	E	I	W	N	D	S	I	A	E		
C	U	P	L	R	T	S	O	N	M	S	L	K	C	O	T	S	L	W	T
I	E	E	E	T	T	S	I	E	I	S	W	E	T	Y	P	E	B	J	A
L	S	A	L	Z	S	G	N	O	S	T	R	O	P	E	R	R	U	O	L
O	T	K	A	S	H	T	T	U	N	I	N	G	H	S	U	P	P	G	E
P	S	E	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	H	M	R	O	S	N	O	P	S	R
S	D	R	A	O	B	L	L	I	B	U	L	L	E	T	I	N	R	U	T



YOUTH FORUM

Why do you study English?



By Ali Ahmed
Hezam Jauli
2nd level
Faculty of
Education,
Al-Mahweet

Dear classmate:
Let me ask you these questions: Why do you study English? Do you have a specific destination? If yes what is it? Do you want to be a teacher, a translator or a doctor?
Dear, I am sure that you belong to one of these two types of students. You may

study so as to be an educated and cultured man, to be a respected person in your society. That is to say, your main ambition is how to be a good, fluent speaker of the English language not merely to earn a handsome salary after graduation. If you study to get a vast knowledge in this language you must not restrict the time of studying to the college or school. You have to be an active researcher who reads anything about this language, who checks many libraries to read and to enlarge his background.

The clever students try to develop themselves during the long vacations such as the summer vacation. Dear, the English language is a foreign language. It is not even the second language in our country. I want to say that you have to practice it or else you will forget some of your vocabulary since you don't use them.
And remember my dear, if you want something sincerely, you will surely achieve it. Finally let's remind our selves that where there is a will, there is a way.

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Dutch beat Swedes 5-4

FARO, Portugal (Reuters) - The Netherlands has beaten Sweden 5-4 in a penalty shootout after their Euro 2004 quarter-final finished goalless at the end of extra time.
The Dutch had made their exit from

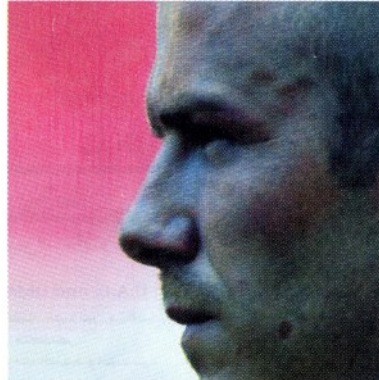
the European Championship on penalties in the three previous tournaments. The Netherlands will play Portugal in the semi-finals in Lisbon on Wednesday.



Ruud van Nistelrooy of the Netherlands (R) is tackled by Sweden's Olof Mellberg (L) and Alexander Jakobsson (bottom, C) during their Euro 2004 quarter-final soccer match at the Algarve stadium in Faro June 26.
REUTERS



Beckham may have problem with nerves



David Beckham

BERLIN (Reuters) - England captain David Beckham has a problem with nerves when it comes to taking penalties in big tournaments, according to former Germany coach Franz Beckenbauer.

Beckenbauer said after Beckham's failed spot-kick in the Euro 2004 quarter-final defeat by Portugal that he could not understand how someone who takes such dangerous free kicks could miss so many penalties.

"It's quite possible that Beckham suffers from a mental block at big tournaments," Beckenbauer said in a column in Bild newspaper on Saturday.

"He was sent off at the 1998 World Cup, and now he missed two penalties against France and Portugal. Beckham appears to have a problem with nerves."

Beckenbauer captained and coached German sides to World Cup victories in 1974 and 1990.

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