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10,000 troops besiege al-Houthy

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM,
YEMEN TIMES STAFF,
REUTERS

Yemeni forces killed seven supporters of an anti-U.S. rebel religious leader on Saturday, raising the death toll in nearly three weeks of clashes to at least 179, the Web site of Yemen's ruling party reported.

"Government forces have carried out a fierce assault since Saturday morning against remaining followers of Hussein al-Houthy leading to the death of seven of his supporters and the wounding of three others," the Web site of the General

People's Congress party quoted a military official as saying.

"This raises the number of those killed and injured among Houthy's supporters to around 85 in the last 48 hours," the official said but did not give a breakdown.

Ten thousands military troops supported by advanced weaponry and artillery including fighting jets, tanks, and various heavy armed vehicles, have surrounded the hideout of Shekh Hussein Badreddin al-Houthy, who is currently being protected by his loyalists near the Haidan and Muran chain of mountains close to the Yemeni-Saudi border.

The latest news from the region of confrontations was sketchy and did not provide specific details about the operations and the conditions of the besieged area. al-Houthy has been surrounded for more than three weeks and his hideout has been shelled continuously killing scores of his members, yet not enough for his surrender.

Al-Houthy supporters deny

Sources close to al-Houthy denied news items published in the governmental press claiming that he is a radical extremist who has caused harm to his people and the area. "Such information

is wrong and unjust and attempt at trying to damage the reputation of al-Houthy, who has noble national and Islamic objectives that he believes in. Such actions will not make al-Houthy run away and leave his people behind no matter what the consequences," said the source, which requested to stay anonymous.

The source told Yemen Times that al-Houthy and many of his followers are still in the Muran area, and claims that the governmental forces, despite their might and number, will not affect their morals and determinations.

Continued on page 7



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Cole/Limburg suspects threaten to chop off prosecutor's leg

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The suspects on trial on charges of several terrorist attacks threatened on Saturday to amputate the leg of the chief prosecutor, Saeed al-Akil. The eighth hearing session witnessed a tussle between the prosecutor al-Akil and the 14 suspected al-Qaeda militants. Militant Qasem al-Raimi

accused al-Akil of being rigid and obstinate with them. "You will pay the price if you continue to be obstinate with us," al-Raimi said while addressing al-Akil, whose house was attacked last week with a hand grenade.

Al-Akil asked the court judge Ahmad al-Jermuzi to consider this a "real threat against him" but he addressed the suspected terrorists "I am not one of those people who can be frightened by threats and I will continue to serve my country until we achieve justice."

Continued on page 7



Al-Qaeda suspects shown in their cell during the hearings. The suspects threatened on Saturday to amputate the leg of the chief prosecutor Saeed al-Akil (inset) amid the shock of attendees. Photo by Mohamed Al-Qadhi / YT Staff.

Yemen requests extradition of Cole suspect

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has officially asked the United States to hand over one of the main suspects of the October 2000 bombing of the destroyer USS Cole near Aden, official Yemeni sources have disclosed.

Continued on page 7

ICRC studies sending team to Saadah

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation to Yemen, Mr. Martin Amacher revealed to the press on Saturday that the ICRC is studying the possibility to send a team to investigate and assist the victims of the violence still continuing in Saadah.

Continued on page 7

Mixed responses to dispatching troops to Iraq

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Soon after the US-led coalition handed over power to the Iraqi interim government at the end of last month, the Yemeni government offered to send troops to help stabilize the war-torn country.

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In Brief

78 suspects in 59 cases before the public prosecution

Security authorities throughout the Republic of Yemen continue to complete the legal procedures on various kind of cases that are still pending to transfer them to the public prosecution.

In Sana'a Secretariat, the security authorities during three days of July have completed the legal procedures on 59 cases involving 78 suspects before they could be transferred to the public prosecution.

The filed cases include 19 cases involving first offences, 4 cases attempting murder, 8 misdemeanors, and 7 shooting incidents.

Employment discrimination

Somayah Sofyan Haider is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts, French Language Division, with a very good grade point average. Yet she was unable to obtain the post of assistant professor.

The job was granted to someone else with less qualification, as if our compatriots in Taiz City were cursed to be refused jobs despite their higher qualifications.

32 killed in traffic accidents

The Police Traffic Department reported that 200 traffic accidents took place during the first week of July in various areas of the country.

According to the department's statistics, 32 persons were killed in those accidents, 208 persons received different injuries, including 109 with serious temporary or permanent disabilities. The material losses were estimated at 15 million Yemeni Riyals.

Most of the above mentioned accident were directly caused by high speed driving and lack of regular mechanical maintenance of vehicles.

Iraqi community in Yemen happy with authority handover

Members of the Iraqi community living in Yemen are still visiting their embassy in Sana'a to offer their congratulations and express their happiness at the recent handover of power to an Iraqi national interim government.

Immediately on the announcement of the transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi interim national government on 28 June 2004, the Iraqi community in Yemen received the event with much ecstasy.

Many Iraqis living in Yemen have visited the Iraqi embassy in Sana'a to offer congratulations to the Charge d'Affaires, Mr Fadhil al-Azzawi.

The embassy staff had on 28 June given a party on the occasion attended by a host of Iraqi nationals living in Yemen.

On 28 June 2004, the former US civil administrator of Iraq Paul Bremer handed over in a formal ceremony authority in Iraq to an Iraqi government headed by Prime Minister Dr Ayad Allawi and the new president of the Republic of Iraq, Sheikh Faisal Ajel al-Yawer.

Training session for Red Crescent Association

The Yemeni Red Crescent Association in Sana'a organized during the period 10-13 July a training session for directors of its publishing and information divisions.

The session, organized with the cooperation of the International Red Cross mission in Yemen, aimed at informing the 27 trainees who represented Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, Taiz, Al-Hodiedah, Abyan, Amran, Hajah, Al-Baidha, and Dhamar how to utilize the publishing portfolio. The workshop also listened to lectures on the International Red Cross and about the Yemeni Red Crescent.

Statement condemning Al-Hothi

Mr. Yousef Abdul Jaleel, director general of Al-Mansourah Province and chairman of local councils chaired a broad meeting of the local councils in the presence of a number of social dignitaries and interested individuals. The meeting was concluded with the issuance of the following statement:

1- The condemnation and denunciation of the activities and actions of Hussein Al-Hothi that aim at damaging the interests of Yemen.

2- Confirming solidarity with the political leadership in handling this case and confirming the council's confidence in the wisdom of President Saleh in bringing Al-Hothi and his fol-

lowers to justice.

3- Al-Hothi bears the responsibility for the bloodshed caused to civilians using his unauthorized and secret organization.

4- The important role of the opinion leaders in increasing the level of awareness of society in general and youths in particular in teaching them the true spirits and moderation of Islam and in condemning all forms of extremism and actions against the interests of the country.

5- Praising the role of the security and armed forces in maintaining security and stability and in their confrontation of this disturbance.

Republican hospital hosts training session

TAIZ BUREAU

The Republican Hospital in Taiz hosted during the period July 6-8 the first training session concerning preparations for prompt responses to emergency situations and disasters with the participation of 30 health workers.

The session, organized by the Ministry of Health and Population with the cooperation of the World Health Organization was aimed at getting workers in the health sector to be fully prepared to react promptly to disasters. The session focused on efforts to increase the competence of related workers in the early detection and planning to confront emergency situations through defining the type of disasters expected.



The trainees received lectures from Dr. Hisham Al-Zein, the representative of the WHO and Dr. Ali Sareah, director of the Emergency Department at the ministry.

Vice mayor of Taiz, Mohamed Al-Haj, Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Gharbani, director general of the hospital, and Dr. Abdullah Nadeem, director of the Emergency Division of the hospital attended the opening session.

New batches graduated from Military Institute for Languages

BY MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A ceremony was held Wednesday 7 July at the Military Institute for Languages in Sana'a on graduation of a number of new batches from various languages departments. The graduated batches were the 25th English language (American curriculum) and (British curriculum), batch 25 for French language, batch 20 Russian language and batch 17 Amharic language (an ancient Yemeni language).

In his address at the ceremony Air Force Brigadier General Qassem Abdulsallam al-Shaibani he touched on the steps taken by the Institute during the 2003-2004 academic year and what had been accomplished in qualification of Yemeni military cadres and training them on various world languages, adding that the Institute was soon to embark on opening other



Brigadier General Ali Saeed Ubeid handing certificates to graduates

departments for teaching the German and the Persian languages. Brigadier General al-Shaibani also mentioned that the number of the graduated military students in those batches was 133 and was looking forwards to see the number being doubled in the coming academic years.

The ceremony was attended by Staff Major General Ali Saeed Ubeid, Deputy Chief of Staff for training affairs and educational institutions, who lauded the efforts exerted by the Institute administration and the teaching staff, urging the graduates to improve their level and continue in developing their learning of languages. The ceremony was also attended by representatives of American, British, French, Russian, Iranian, and Ethiopian military attaches and a number of heads of military academies and schools.



Language courses graduates, Yemeni and foreign military officials attending the graduation ceremony

Amnesty International calls for Sa'ada inquiry

Amnesty International, the international human rights organisation, has written to the Ministry of Interior to demand an inquiry into the accidental deaths of civilians during the ongoing clashes near around Sa'ada. The organization demanded that the results of the inquiry be made public and that any individuals identified responsible for civilian deaths be prosecuted.

The number of civilian casualties is not known, in part due to the difficulty of distinguishing between combatants and non-combatants.

The organization urged the ministry to ensure that detainees captured during the fighting are treated in accordance with international standards. Amnesty expressed specific concern about the possible use of torture and incommunicado detention.

The letter drew attention to the responsibilities of the Yemeni government under international agreements, particularly the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law enforcement Officials and the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. The letter quoted Basic Principle 9, 'In any event, intentional lethal use of firearms may only be made when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life', and Basic Principle 8, 'exceptional circumstances such as internal political instability or any other public emergency may not be invoked to justify any departure from these basic principles.'

Amnesty International hope to verify compliance with these international principles.

Broad meeting on current events in Haidan province, Saddah

TAIZ BUREAU

Mayor of Taiz, Judge Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajry, chaired a broad meeting on Monday July 5 during which they discussed the ongoing developments and events in Haidan province of Saddah governorate in addition to other issues of public interest.

The meeting was attended by the secretaries general of the local councils,

directors of government offices and directors of police stations.

Taiz Governorate condemned the misleading illegal concepts and wrong ideologies that were promoted by Hussein Badr Al-Deen Al-Hothy aiming at disturbing the peace and harmony of society and to instigate sectarian conflicts among Yemenis, not counting the losses of innocent victims from Al-Hothy's actions.

Captain Abdulghani Al-Saqqaf appeals to the President

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam
Yemen Time Staff

Captain Abdulghani Ismail Al-Saqqaf, in a letter addressed to President Saleh, the commander in chief of the armed forces demanding to be retired, and that the president provide him and his comrades and officers with all of their legal rights.

He indicated in his letter that he was a private in "Al-Arouba" brigade in 1962 with the military identification number 222, the beginning of the

Yemeni revolution, and that he was one of the pioneering fighters in defending the revolution. He was also involved in the defeat of Sana'a siege in 1967. He received his military education in five sessions in Cairo, Egypt.

He claimed that all of his documents were burnt by the separatists and the enemies of the revolution in retaliation for his pro-revolution stances. He was compelled to migrate to Saudi where he stayed there until 1990 following the unification of the country. That was when he began to seek to regain his

rights, as did those who had left due to political or economic conditions. Since then, he has been trying to obtain his rights.

He also urged the president to grant fair treatment, considering the struggle he had been going through. He hoped that the president would take into consideration his difficult financial and health conditions and to issue instructions to related authority to facilitate his retirement procedures and to release all of his compensation payments.

Woman killed, prison inmate escapes prison in woman's cloths

Tageah Mohamed Mahdi, 50 years old, a resident of Maweyah Province, Taiz, was shot and killed late in the evening of Sunday, July 4th by Ahmed Najy Hamadi, who was able to flee the site. The security authorities are interrogating some of his relatives as the two sides have an ongoing dispute over a piece of land.

Two inmates at Sharab Prosecution Prison, Abdul Malik Bajash and Abdulrazaq, escaped the prison, but were soon arrested. One of the two inmates was wearing woman's cloths in an attempt to escape.

Yemen Times learned that Mr. Mansour Al-Alwe, chief of the court of appeal in Taiz Governorate, ordered the questioning of the security guards responsible for the escape of the two inmates. The inmates were charged with the attempted murder of Ahmed Qaid Al-Mekhlafi.

Yemen and Gulf bank opens its first branch in Aden

Following the major successes and accomplishments achieved by Yemen and Gulf Bank since its foundation four years ago at the hands of an elite of bankers, businessmen, social and economic figures and investors, Yemen and Gulf Bank intends to expand the scope of its services to other governorates of the Republic of Yemen.

The bank recently announced to its clients that it would open its first branch at Khour Maksur, Aden, on Monday July 12 in order to present the best banking services possible, which include:

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Yemen celebrates World Population Day

The Republic of Yemen, along with the other countries of the world, celebrated on Sunday, July 11 the annual World Population Day.

The celebration this year comes amid the evaluation of the Yemeni experiment in the field of population issues and related activities for more than one decade. Efforts aimed to create a balance between available resources and population demands in order to achieve

sustainable development in the light of the population explosion and population problems in Yemen.

The evaluation aims to determine the extent and effects of these problems for the progress of development in Yemen and how to ease the negative impact of the population explosion. Population issues in Yemen are very complex and broad and the challenges gain a new aspect every day.

Ministry of Health shuts down 650 health establishments

Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Mohamed Al-Name said that his ministry, has ordered the shutting down of 650 health services because of their violations of health regulations. This action comes within the inspection campaign of hospitals, clinics, dispensaries and pharmacies throughout

the Republic of Yemen

He added that the ministry is implementing an intensive campaign aiming at increasing health education and preventive measures in addition to conducting a study to reformulate laws and legislation related to the health sector.

US Embassy marks July 4th with a charity activity

The US embassy in Sana'a celebrated Independence Day on Sunday, July 4th, according to established local tradition by renovating the new children's cancer ward and waiting room the Republic Hospital.

More than 25 diplomats, including the ambassador and his deputy, volunteered their time and efforts for the event. The volunteers worked more than four hours to paint pictures on the walls and figures on the ceiling to create a pleasant and calm atmosphere for the sick children. In addition, carpeting was installed and a playhouse was

added to a corner of one of the rooms. All the materials were bought with the embassy July 4th funds, which will also be used to provide toys to children in the coming months.

Th embassy has, for the past few years, decided not to put on an official July 4th event. Instead, activities are planned each year to help a deserving charity in Sana'a. Last year, embassy volunteers landscaped the yard of the Blind Girls' School in the city and the previous year water fountains were donated to the girls' school adjacent to the embassy.

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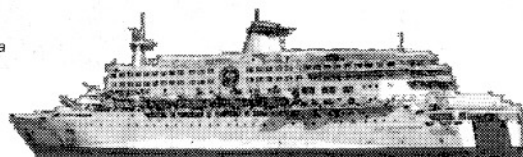
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Lawyers Syndicate in Sana'a hold forth conference

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of Dr. Adnan Al-Jafri, minister of justice, the Sana'a branch of the Lawyers' Syndicate will hold its forth general conference during the period July 14-15, under the slogan "Towards the development of the legal profession and incorporating the authority of law principle".

The conference will be held inside

the "Grand Hall" at the Faculty of Law of Sana'a university and will be attended by nearly 600 lawyers, social figure, politicians and representatives of political parties and civil society organizations.

Among the activities of the conference will be to discuss the general and financial reports, presented by the incumbent presidium and to elect a new presidium. This conference comes a short period after the national general conference of the Lawyers' Syndicate, held in the middle of April.

It comes as a step to strengthen the work of the syndicate and to show the distinguished role that could be played by civil society organizations in serving the citizens and the country and in developing the path of democracy in Yemen.

Sana'a branch includes in addition to Sana'a Secretariat the representative from Hajah, Sadaah, Al-Mahweet, Marib, Al-Jouf and Amran Governorates.

From victims to re-builder of society

Woman as peacemaker

UNIC, YEMEN

While the plight of women in war often gets close media attention, what is often overlooked is the vital role played by them in negotiating peace and rebuilding societies.

The recent commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide brought renewed focus on one of the many troubling aspects of those events: the deep trauma faced by Rwandan women who had survived the massacres after suffering indescribable humiliation, violence and sexual abuse. But today, as Rwanda moves gradually towards democracy, a lesser-known story is emerging: the vital role played by former victims in the efforts to build a new society.

In the September 2003 parliamentary elections in Rwanda, women secured 49% of seats in the legislature – the highest number of women parliamentarians anywhere in the world, overtaking Sweden with 45% and way above world average of 15%. In May 2003, Rwandans ratified a new constitution allotting 30% of decision-making positions to women, a step inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women. However, the election results

went beyond the prescribed quota, an outcome for which Rwandan women lobbied heavily. As the country undergoes a period of reconstruction, women are playing an ever more active role. With a cadre of women parliamentarians assuming leadership responsibilities, this praiseworthy development will need to be accompanied by sustained measures to promote democracy at all levels.

While too often reporting of women in conflict situations shows them as powerless victims, the reality, often glossed over, is that in post conflict situations women are at the forefront when it comes to negotiating and building peace. As Secretary-General Kofi Annan has pointed out, "Women, who know the price of conflict so well, are also better equipped than men to prevent or resolve it. For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls". There are many stories that remain to be told about women from all walks of life who are making a quantum leap from lives in the private sphere to leading the way in reshaping their societies. Between 2000 and 2002, elections were held in 23 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with increases in the number of women parliamentarians in 14 of

them. In most cases, significant increases have been achieved through the use of quotas.

At the peak of the crisis in Liberia, women of the Mano River region (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone) came together to form the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET). So powerful was MARWOPNET's voice that it was invited to the ECOWAS-sponsored peace talks on Liberia in Akosombo, Ghana, and later was invited to be one of the signatories to the peace agreement. Now upon their return to Liberia, many of them will run for political office.

Women as torchbearers of peace are making a difference in hot spots of every region of the world. Palestinian and Israeli women have joined forces and work together as advocates for peace. In Nepal, women who were victims of violence are seeking representation in peace talks between the government and Maoist rebels. Women's women's peace caravans venture into the most treacherous conflict-ridden interiors of Colombia to protest against the civil war and negotiate with the guerillas. Throwing themselves into peace processes with enormous courage and determination, women in politics, through their often unseen and unsung work, are bringing peace to many troubled countries.

600 International companies participated in JITCOM

BY FAHMA AL-FOTHI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

JITCOM 2004 was concluded on Friday 9 July 2004.

The exhibition was opened on Monday and was attended by Vice President Abdolrabo Mansour.

Around 600 national, Arab and international companies in the computer and telecommunication field participated in the exhibition.

Omar Al-Nehmi, the marketing manager of Apollo for international exhibitions, told Yemen Times "The exhibition is supported by His Excellency the President of the Republic. The exhibition contains everything relating to up to date digital technology with the participation of 50 companies and 600 specialist agencies working in the telecommunications and computers field."

He further said "We in the Apollo



Company seek to expand our experience and work, open the door competition in front of the international companies and know the latest developments."

He also pointed out that the exhibi-

tion tries to present local industry, supports the infrastructure for the programming industry in Yemen and pushes it towards greater competitiveness and participation in the national economy.

Drama from real life Murder at Jamal Street

BY ABDULWAHAB A. AL-SOFI FOR YEMEN TIMES
Abdulwahab_alsofi@yahoo.com

The following story persuaded me to write this article. It is a tragedy story in which a 25 year old daughter killed her mother. It is an atrocious crime. It made my hair stand on end.

The family contains two daughters, the mother and the father. They live in a flat in a big building in Jamal Street in Hodeidah. Last month one daughter was in the flat with her mother while the other daughter and father were at work.

The crime was committed at eleven o'clock in the morning. The daughter stabbed her mother several times in the chest and head.

Eyes witness said that the mother could leave the flat to help herself to the hospital, but she dropped faint and was lying next to the gate of the building. She was rescued but died on the way to the hospital.

The father came back to home after the police had taken the daughter to the central jail, and his wife had died.

Now, the girl is still under arrest. It is said that there is a third party to the crime, but they are still unknown. It is a mystery that no one can fathom so far. We are very sorry that these incidents exist in our Moslem society.

We have to examine these cases well and then review our family problems concerning our unmarried daughters and sisters. We should take care of our daughters and sisters. It is not wise to imprison women at home. This results dire consequences. It leads them to rebellion in many cases.

On the other hand, we do not wish to overturn all Yemeni traditions. It is a happy medium we seek. The delay in girls' marriage leads to psychological difficulties for some girls as many people's tongues condemn girls severely and they may kill them sometimes. Unmarried women who are more than 30 years old are rejected by our society. They think that girls at this age have lost their chance to marry. This traditional idea is widespread in Yemeni society. This illusion is stuck in girls' minds. They will

not reject this notion unless sociologists, psychologists, parents, teachers and Islamic preachers denounce these wrong concepts.

Before going on into details, we have to ask a pivotal question. Why do youths abstain from marriage? The answer is easy but it is a Herculean task to get a solution. Some educated young men prefer to live single than to marry for financial reasons, as marriage requires 40 thousand per month at least.

The reality is that a man has no age limit to getting married, whereas a woman is considered to be unsuitable after 30. A man can marry a girl of 16 years old however old he is, as long as he has the ability to pay for the marriage. That is why women usually do not get married when they are more than 30 years old.

In addition to that, about three girls are born for each boy nowadays. To prove this, check how many girls and boys there are in families generally. Consequently, our religion allows Moslems to marry four women. Unfortunately, many men cannot get married once. This is because of dowry customs, class discrimination and wedding costs. The result is more dangerous than we expect. It is time that parents had to purchase husbands for their daughters as our grand father's said.

We are coming to an actual catastrophe – secret marriages have started in our society. Illegal relationships continue. We have to be aware of these events and stop them. These matters must be taken into consideration and are the responsibility of us all. We also should contribute to solving them. Parents have to be careful. Mosques' preachers should continue encouraging marriage. The Ministry of Information should not ignore these problems. T.V is a very good medium to convey the message, which will certainly encourage people to get married. Make girls accept marriage to a married man. The fourth authority, journalism, must encourage the multiple marriage. T.V is influential for all kinds of people. It convinced us to consume spoiled food. Why don't we use it for helping people to get married?

Lecture on Protection of children's rights law

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Ms. Shaza Mohamed Nasser is one of the skillful and pioneering attorneys in the Republic of Yemen. She has had many participations and a large and broad presence in most of the activities related to liberties and rights inside the Yemeni arena. She is one of the most dedicated advocates in the field of human rights and the defenders of the most vulnerable segment of society, young or old.

Last week, Ms. Shaza delivered a valuable lecture at the Italian Organization Forum for Research (Ricerca Cooperazione).

We thought that it would be useful for the benefit of all to print the lecture.

First: the introduction

As a mother and a lawyer, I have been very concerned about Yemeni children and their future. The love of children and motherhood are my shadow everywhere I go. I always try to settle any quarrels between children and I would find myself standing against anyone threatening, intimidating or attacking children.

The Yemeni family must participate in enhancing the protection of children's rights. The family and not the state bears the first responsibility toward children and to ensure minimum basic rights in providing them with clean cloths, appropriate nutrition, security, and organizing their time for playing, resting and studying. The family has the burden and bears the responsibility to protect children from any harm they may encounter.

Second: Law no. 45, 2002

A: the objectives of Children's Rights Law No. 45, 2002

- 1- the right to live
- 2- the rights to express freely their opinions and to form associations and clubs to practice cultural and social activities.
- 3- the right to nationality
- 4- the rights to breast feeding from

their mothers and from others based on medical reports with the approval of parents and two relative witnesses, with the emphasis on breast feeding.

5- the law discusses the subject of belonging to one's family in detail although it was mentioned in Personal Identification Law No. 20, 1992 and its amendments in 1998 and 1999.

B: The law outlines the ages for males and females for nursing periods of 7 and 12 respectively. The law sought that children be close to their mothers. If fathers were very strict, the law emphasized the importance of also having a woman to care for them. Article No. 34 confirms the right of the mother to custody of the child if the mother becomes widowed or divorced. It also indicated that expenses are to be borne by the father. The law defines also the process of paying alimony and expenses if the father, or whoever is legally responsible, is imprisoned.

The Yemeni legislators set the age of 15 as the age of adulthood and for a person to bear responsibility for their behavior. It is considered the age for the person to commence practicing his or her civil liberties, if he or she is mentally sound.

Article (62) the illegality for the guardian to relinquish or to terminate responsibility for the child. The law sets the age of 10 years old for the child to be able to determine with whom he or she wants to be, but to remain under guardianship until the legal age.

C: The law confirms the responsibility of the state for providing basic health care services to mothers during pregnancy and childbirth. It obliges the state to providing free medical treatment to children who are unable to cover their expenses.

The law touches upon issuing health ID cards for children from birth until they reach the age of going to school. Vaccinations are to be provided free of charge, whilst parents bear the responsibility to ensure that their children receive the required treatment.



Shaza Nasser

Child nutrition

The Yemeni legislators confirm the importance of naturally breast feeding by increasing mother's awareness level of its nutritional value to the child. They do not permit launching of promotional campaigns for manufactured milk as the alternative to mother's milk.

Children's education

The law confirms the provision of free education for children. The law urges the state to assist poor families in order to allow their children to go to school. The law also confirms the rights of children to having free time, play time and to have various cultural and social activities including sports, arts and recreations. It endeavored to protect children by restricting their entry to movie theaters according to their age and the category or type of movies suitable for them.

Alternative childcare services

The law deals with the importance of having nursing, fostering, and orphanage homes to care for children as an alternative to family care if necessary, and to facilitate social, health and educational institutes for all. The state assumes also the responsibility to assist handicapped children by granting them additional services and privi-

leges. It also allows them to establish charities that are dedicated to assisting this segment of society.

Caring for child laborers

The legislators set the age of 14 for children to work, and the age of 15 to commence industrial work. They also set restrictions on the ability of children to sign contracts to ensure the children's rights to receive their full wages, health care and compensation for work injuries in accordance with the effective laws. The law stipulates conducting a physical and medical check up to determine the children's suitability for specific working conditions. It determines working hours of six hours per day with a one hour break, so that the child would not work 4 consecutive hours.

The Yemeni legislators emphasize that the child is not to remain 7 hours continuously at the work place and not to work overtime or to work during weekends or at night between 7pm-7am, with the obligation of employers to pay for their days off.

The law emphasizes the importance of the state to taking measures to protect homeless children and victims of natural and man-made disasters. The state is to care for the orphans and not to lead them to become street beggars.

The law prohibits the granting of drivers' licenses to minors and prohibits them from riding motorbikes under the age of 10 years old.

The children are protected from the dangers associated with armed conflicts and are not to be involved in war or recruited by the military before the age of 18.

The law touches upon the protection of children from economic and sexual exploitation and exposure to illegal drugs through the adoption of several preventive measures.

Finally, the law embraces a number of punitive measures to urge families or guardians to protect their children, but we have to present and to implement the law in rural areas before urban areas.

I hope that I have been able to summarize the law that protects children rights.

Four Palestinians killed in Gaza car blast-medics

GAZA, July 10 (Reuters) - Four Palestinians, including three militants, were killed when their car exploded in the central Gaza Strip on Saturday in a blast that Palestinian security officials blamed on Israel. But Israeli military sources denied the car blew up as a result of a helicopter missile strike, tank attack or any other military action.

Security sources said the blast appeared to have been caused when explosives blew up prematurely. Three of the dead were militants from the Popular Resistance Committees who were in the car during the blast, medics said.

The fourth was a motorcyclist who was driving past at the time of the explosion near the central Gaza Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

The explosion ripped through the car turning it into a pile of smoking wreckage and scattering body parts and metal pieces across Gaza's coastal road.

Palestinian security officials at first said the explosion was the result of an Israeli helicopter missile attack on a black Mercedes-Benz travelling on Gaza's coastal road towards Gaza City. But they later said it was caused by tank shells.



Palestinian inspect a car after it was destroyed by an explosion in Gaza, July 10. Four Palestinians, including three militants, were killed when their car exploded in the central Gaza Strip on Saturday in a blast that Palestinian security officials blamed on Israel. REUTERS

Palestinian witnesses said they saw helicopters flying overhead before the explosion. Israeli helicopters frequently

fly over the Gaza Strip.

Israeli helicopter gunships have carried out numerous strikes against militants' cars in Gaza. There have also been

numerous incidents when explosives detonated prematurely while being transported.

Britain decides not to prosecute Muslim cleric

LONDON, July 9 (Reuters) - Britain decided on Friday not to prosecute a leading Muslim theologian accused of inciting racial hatred. Egyptian-born cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who condemned the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States but condones some suicide bombings, is currently on a week-long speaking tour of Britain.

Police had received a complaint from the Board of Deputies of British Jews alleging incitement to racial hatred by the theologian, who has been banned from entering the United States since 1999.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service said it had reviewed material submitted by the police "in relation to interviews with Yusuf al-Qaradawi broadcast in this country."

"We have advised the metropolitan police that there is insufficient evidence that a criminal offence has been committed," it added in a statement.

Arguing his case on suicide bombings on BBC television, Qaradawi said on Wednesday the act was justified in certain circumstances.

"It is allowed to jeopardise your soul and cross the path of the enemy and be killed, if this act of jeopardy affects the enemy, even if it only generates fear in their hearts, shaking their morale, making them fear Muslims," he said. "If it does not affect the enemy then it is not allowed."

"Allah is just. Through his infinite wisdom he has given the weak what the strong do not possess, and that is the ability to turn their bodies into bombs, like the Palestinians do."

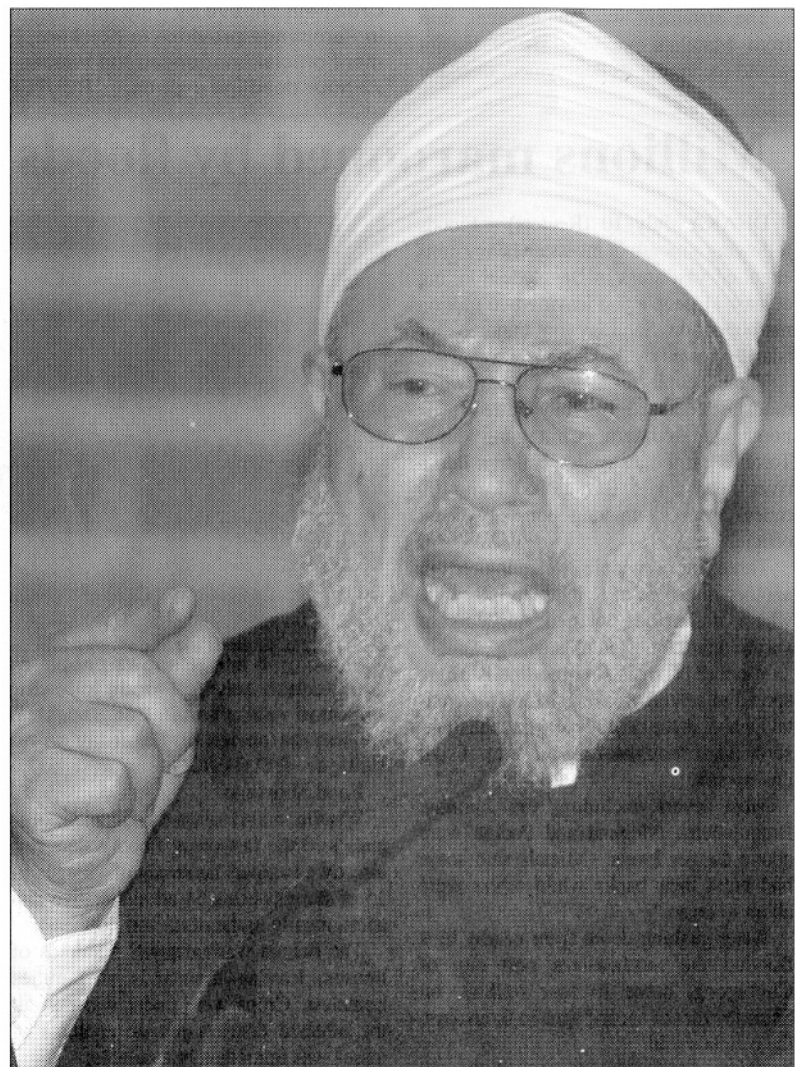
Prime Minister Tony Blair said the Qatar-based Qaradawi would not be allowed to overstep the line, but that any case to expel the man would have to be watertight.

"We will keep it under very strict review. There are rules that have to be applied and those rules will be applied to this particular individual," he told parliament.

Qaradawi is revered in much of the Muslim world for his intellectual rigour and ability to adapt the fundamental tenets of Islam to the modern world.

A prominent poet, writer and public speaker, Qaradawi has a reputation for spurning extremists which is seen by some to be at odds with his known support for Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel and statements deemed to be homophobic.

After Sept. 11 he urged Muslims worldwide to donate blood to help the victims and also condemned the 2002 Bali bombing as barbaric and immoral.



Egyptian-born Muslim cleric Yusuf Al-Qaradawi addresses the Muslim Association of Britain in London, July 10. Leading Muslim theologian Qaradawi, who condemned the September 11 attacks and the Bali bomb but condones some suicide bombings, will have all his speeches monitored during his visit, Britain's Home Secretary David Blunkett said on July 7. REUTERS

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Saudi Arabia says preparing for local elections

RIYADH, July 10 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia has prepared the ground for municipal elections promised by the absolute monarchy and will start organising election centres and voter lists later this year, a government minister said on Saturday.

Municipal Affairs Minister Prince Mutib bin Abdul-Aziz was quoted by the official news agency SPA as saying the move was part of efforts to give Saudi citizens a greater role in running local affairs.

The conservative Gulf kingdom announced last October it would hold municipal elections — the first in four decades — after pressure from the United States and domestic reformers to grant some political participation and freedom of expression.

Prince Mutib did not say whether women, who are still forbidden to drive in Saudi Arabia, would be allowed to vote or stand in the elections.

Prince Mutib said teams of legal, religious and technical experts had set up a basic framework for the elections and that

"regulations for election of municipal councils will be published soon. God willing," SPA said. Election centres, dates for voter and candidate registration and procedures for electing 178 municipal councils would be determined according to a fixed timetable, it added.

"That will begin after the end of the summer holidays and the beginning of the academic year (in September)," the agency quoted the prince as saying.

When it announced in October plans for elections — seen as the first concrete Saudi political reforms — Saudi Arabia said half the council members would be elected and that preparations for polls should not take more than a year.

But diplomats see little chance of the elections themselves taking place by then.

The arrest of several pro-reform activists in March and the government's ongoing battle with militants have also overshadowed the cautious reform programme championed by de facto ruler Crown Prince Abdullah in recent months.

Cautious reform The United States is eager to promote reform in the Middle East and has encouraged its long-standing ally, the world's biggest oil producer, to speed up change since the September 11, 2001, attacks which were carried out by mainly Saudi hijackers.

Saudi Arabia, which is also the birthplace of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and home to Islam's holiest sites, says it will not allow its cautious programme of political change to be influenced by outside pressure. Crown Prince Abdullah vowed in January to press on with "gradual and studied" change.

"We will not allow anyone to stand in the way of reform whether through calls for immobility and stagnation or calls to leap into darkness and reckless adventure," he said.

Saudi Arabia has been under the dynastic rule of the house of Saud since its foundation in the 1930s. Diplomats say local elections were held in the parts of the western Hejaz province until the early 1960s.

Hizbollah says only resistance can destroy barrier

BEIRUT, July 10 (Reuters) - Palestinian resistance and not an international court ruling is the way to destroy Israel's West Bank barrier, the leader of Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla group has said.

The U.N.'s World Court ruled on Friday that the partially built barrier, which cuts into the West Bank, was illegal and should be dismantled.

"Some might be pleased by this decision but it has no real or effective value," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hizbollah's leader, said on Friday night.

"What removes the barrier in

Palestine is the will, determination and resistance of Palestinians, with the backing of the (Arab) nation."

Hizbollah guerrillas were the main force battling Israeli occupation of south Lebanon in the 1990s until Israel withdrew in 2000.

Nasrallah blasted the United States and said all its politicians and military leaders supported Israel. Washington has made clear that it opposed the U.N.'s involvement on the barrier issue after Friday's ruling which is non-binding.

Israel says the barrier keeps out Palestinian suicide bombers who

have killed hundreds of people in Israeli cities.

But Palestinians say the barrier, which has separated thousands from fields, schools and hospitals, is an "apartheid wall" that will deny them a viable state.

They intend to take their case to the U.N. Security Council, where the United States has frequently vetoed anti-Israeli resolutions in the past.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud welcomed the court's ruling and urged the Security Council to force Israel to dismantle the barrier.

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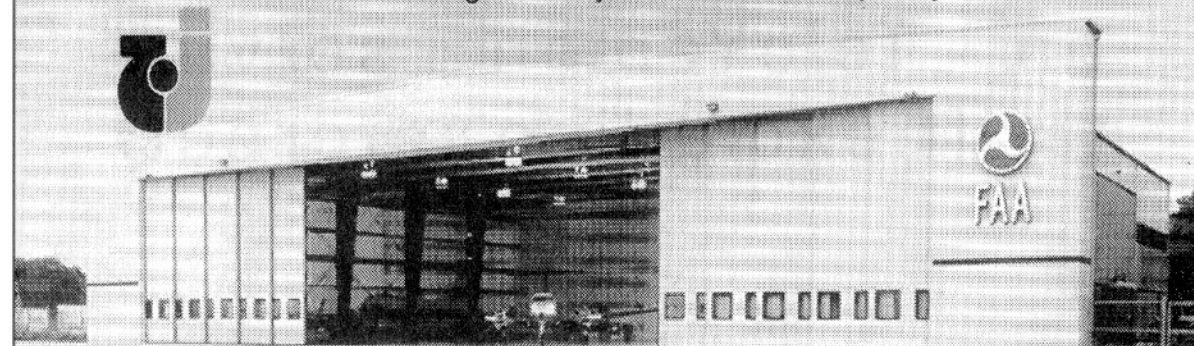


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Japan party chiefs make last pitch for Sunday poll



Japanese voters listen to the last election speech of the Liberal Democratic Party at Ginza district in central Tokyo July 10. Japan's ruling and opposition party chiefs made final appeals to voters on Saturday, a day before the election that could determine the fate of Prime Minister Koizumi. REUTERS

TOKYO, July 10 (Reuters) - Japan's ruling and opposition party chiefs made their final appeals to voters on Saturday, a day before an election that could determine the fate of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Koizumi's ruling coalition cannot be ousted from power as a result of the election for parliament's upper house, as it holds a majority in the powerful lower chamber.

But a poor showing in elections for the upper chamber would weaken his clout and might invite calls for his resignation.

Koizumi, his voice hoarse on the final day of the election campaign, urged scores of voters who were gathered in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district despite pouring rain, to vote for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Yasunori Yamazaki, a 31-year-old computer engineer who stopped to listen to LDP members stump as he was passing by, said he was undecided but leaning toward voting for the ruling party.

"If you look at Japanese politics up to Koizumi, Koizumi is so much better,"

Yamazaki said.

Such support would be welcome for Koizumi and his party in what could be a tightly contested election.

A survey published by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper on Friday showed that voters were about evenly split between the LDP and the main opposition Democratic Party.

In 1998, Ryutaro Hashimoto was forced to resign as prime minister following a disastrous LDP performance in an upper house election in which it only won 44 seats.

While Koizumi stumped in the urban centres of Osaka in western Japan and Tokyo, Katsuya Okada, the leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, spent the day in southwestern Japan, seeking to bolster support in closely-fought rural districts where his party has traditionally been weak.

Ambivalent voters

Friday's emotional reunion of a Japanese woman abducted by North Korea decades ago with the U.S. ex-soldier she married and had to leave behind in the

communist state when she came home in 2002 just might tip the scale toward the LDP.

Japanese media gave heavy coverage to the Jakarta reunion of Hitomi Soga with Charles Robert Jenkins — who Washington says deserted in 1965 — and the couple's North Korean-born daughters, and some voters might credit Koizumi with making it possible.

That would be a welcome relief for the prime minister, whose party has been on the defensive over public dissatisfaction toward government-sponsored pension reforms — a key election topic.

Voters are angry at the ruling camp for raising contributions and cutting benefits, but many are also unconvinced that the opposition would do much better.

"The Democrats are very similar to the LDP and too much can't be expected of them," said a 64-year-old pensioner in Shinjuku, another busy Tokyo shopping district where candidates stumped.

But he said he had already cast absentee votes for the Democrats because he favoured change.

Filipino hostage in Iraq close to release - Arroyo

MANILA, July 10 (Reuters) - A Filipino truck driver held in Iraq under threat of execution appeared close to release on Saturday after President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said he was being brought to a Baghdad hotel.

Arroyo called the family of Angelo de la Cruz to say he was being brought to the hotel following negotiations with militants who had demanded Manila withdraw its troops from Iraq, the Philippine Secretary of Labour said.

Asked by a television reporter if this was a positive development for the release of Angelo de la Cruz, labour secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said: "Yes." Government spokesman Ignacio Bunye said the government hoped he would be released within hours.

"There is no actual turnover," he said. "Indications point to that direction. We are waiting for this positive development in a few hours."

Celebrations erupted in De la Cruz's home in Pampanga north of Manila, which is also Arroyo's home province, after the report of his imminent release.

"It's a miracle. Our prayers have been answered," said Yolly Layug, one of a large group of family and friends who had gathered at Angelo's home to pray for his release.

The Philippines had earlier pleaded with militants not to kill De la Cruz after television showed him making a "final appeal" for his life, saying it would withdraw its humanitarian force within weeks.

Foreign Secretary Delia Domingo Albert said that Manila had already planned to pull out its 51-strong force on August 20, when its one-year mandate expires.

The statement was an apparent shift from Manila's previous stance that it would reconsider its deployment then, but

other government officials said there had been no change and were adamant the government would not give in to militants' demands.

"The decision (to withdraw) has really been taken since the day we went to Iraq a year ago and said we would stay for a year," Albert said in an interview with CNN.

Leftist groups opposed to the government's support of the U.S. military campaign in Iraq have held protests to demand Arroyo withdraw the force, while the pow-

erful Catholic Church has also called on her to intervene.

De la Cruz's family said he went to Saudi Arabia a year ago to work as a trailer driver after a long period of unemployment, joining about 8 million Filipinos working overseas to escape poverty at home. At least 4,000 Philippine civilians work in Iraq, many employed by contractors and working in U.S. military bases. Three Philippine workers have so far been killed in attacks by insurgents opposed to the U.S. military presence in Iraq.



Relatives rejoice upon learning the released of Filipino worker Angelo de la Cruz held captive by Iraqi militants in their hometown in Buenavista village in Pampanga province in northern Philippines July 10. A Philippine government official announced the release of the Filipino hostage hours before the 72-hour deadline expires. REUTERS

Millions marooned by floods in Bangladesh

DHAKA, July 10 (Reuters) - Floods following a month of incessant heavy rains engulfed vast areas in Bangladesh killing at least 11 people and leaving two million marooned on Saturday on hundreds of islands created by the deluge.

Three people died on Saturday when mudslides caused by rain buried their home in southern Chittagong area. Torrents carried away two children into a river near Cox's Bazar, 160 km (100 miles) from Chittagong port city, local officials said.

Three more people were injured in another mudslide in Rangamati hill town, where authorities warned residents to vacate their homes on hillsides.

Weather officials said the floods might spread to central areas, including the capital Dhaka, in the next few days as the monsoon had brought heavier than usual downpours.

Most rivers including the Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Meghna and Padma were above danger levels. Officials said some had burst their banks while others were about to do so.

Water gushing down from nearby hills flooded the southeastern port city of Chittagong, home to four million, on Saturday for the second time in three days, the officials said.

Water levels in Kaptai Lake in Chittagong Hill Tracts also rose "dangerously" threatening a 230 megawatt hydro-electric plant, officials said.



A video grab image shows people walking through flooded roads in Bangladesh July 7. Floods following a month of incessant heavy rains engulfed vast areas in Bangladesh killing at least 11 people and leaving two million marooned on Saturday on hundreds of islands created by the deluge. REUTERS

Food Shortage

Weather and disaster management officials said the fast-rising flood waters had already swamped hundreds of villages in 15 of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts, mostly in the north and northeast.

The deluge washed away hundreds of houses, leaving thousands of families homeless. Crops were under water in all the affected districts but no estimate of losses was immediately available.

Many families took shelter on boats, highways, schools and government buildings, witnesses said. They faced shortages of food and drinking water as relief agencies could not reach victims in remote

areas. In Sylhet, where six people have died in the floods in the last two days, stranded people begged for food from reporters, a Reuters cameraman in the area said.

Imtiaz Ali, stranded with his family in a half-submerged house in Sylhet, said: "We have been without food for three days. No one has come to our rescue."

Officials said heavy rain and strong currents prevented them sending relief to remote areas.

"The situation is really bad with half of the district already flooded," said a Sylhet official, by telephone.

Importance announcement from TeleYemen

In accordance with the law number 14 of 2004, concerning the general sales taxation, we would like to draw our customers' attention that effective July 1st 2004, there will be a 10% addition on TeleYemen service tariff excluding internet.

Extension Announcement of CACB Tender NO. (1) of 2004 (Purchase of an Integrated Computerized Banking System)

The Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank (CACB) announces that the above CACB tender is extended as follows:

- New Deadline for submission of bids is at or before 10:00 a.m. of Sunday the 1st of August 2004.
- Bid envelopes will be opened at 11:00 a.m. of the same day at CACB Head Office in Sana'a.

Schroeder, Fischer pledge to fight next election

NEUHARDENBERG, Germany, July 10 (Reuters) - Germany's ruling coalition of Social Democrats and Greens pledged on Saturday to fight the next general election in 2006 together and made clear major new policy initiatives are off the agenda for now.

Speaking after a two-day cabinet conclave, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, who is also Greens leader, said they were focused on implementing the government's economic reforms and winning a third term.

The meeting marked the end of a turbulent year-long battle by the government to push its unpopular "Agenda 2010" reforms through parliament that culminated on Friday with the adoption of measures to trim unemployment benefits from next year.

A poll to be published by Der Spiegel magazine on Sunday found only 39 percent of Germans want Schroeder to play an "important role" in the future, his worst showing in the quarterly survey.

More than two thirds of respondents said they were unhappy with his work while support for the Social Democrats slipped to a record low 23 percent.

But Schroeder, who seems to be over the setback of having to give up leadership of his Social Democrats earlier this year, gave no sign he was about to change course.

"We are going fighting into the second half of this legislature with the aim of winning a third," Schroeder said.

"We are half way and the situation is anything but easy ... but I am sure if we keep the same spirit it's a very realistic forecast that we will not only fight (the



German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (L) and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer address the media during a news conference in the gardens of Neuhardenberg Palace east of Berlin July 10. On Saturday the German federal cabinet hosted by Schroeder finished its two-day meeting. REUTERS

next election) together but also win it," echoed Fischer.

Schroeder said the government's immediate focus was on implementing reforms that were already on the table, saying a decision on whether to tackle health service financing — widely seen as the next major challenge facing any government — had been postponed until another cabinet conclave in September. "That's what we will be concentrating on in the near future," Schroeder said. "We want to demonstrate implementation is possible because that's all people are interested in."

In an answer to critics who say the jobless benefit cuts could cause widespread hardship, especially in eastern

Germany, Schroeder pledged to hold talks with eastern state premiers, who voted against the legislation in the upper house on Friday.

He also said from January 1, 2005, the government aimed to make sure every unemployed person under 25 would receive an offer of work or training, and also to work with local authorities to develop employment schemes to allow the long-term unemployed to supplement benefits.

Fischer also called on local authorities to plough the money they save from the unemployment benefit reforms into child care. Germany could not afford lots of young, qualified women not working because of lack of day care facilities, he said.

Georgia, facing separatism, vows to repel aggression

TBILISI, July 10 (Reuters) - President Mikhail Saakashvili, confronting disturbances in a separatist region, said on Saturday Georgia wanted no resumption of war but vowed to repel any "aggression" that might threaten his ex-Soviet state.

Saakashvili was addressing military graduates amid fresh clashes in South Ossetia, a region that broke away from Georgia at the end of Soviet rule and wants to join Russia. Four Georgian soldiers and one Ossetian were injured.

Russia, accused by Georgia of abetting the separatists, urged Saakashvili's administration and the region's leaders to halt all armed incidents and hold new talks.

Saakashvili, who has made restoration of authority over breakaway regions a priority for his new government, said Georgia, on Russia's southern flank, would tolerate no attempt at subversion from infiltrators.

"Should there be any aggression from outside, we will meet it with aggression," Saakashvili told the graduates. "Great battles await Georgia...and we shall win them."

Saakashvili, who led protests last November that prompted veteran leader Eduard Shevardnadze to quit, said Georgians would "fight for peace and do everything possible so that not a single drop of blood will be spilled".

He said Moscow was being drawn

towards a conflict that would pit Georgia directly against Russia and called for efforts to ensure no such thing would occur. Armed fighters, he said, were pouring in to the region, recognised internationally by no one.

"If scum and scoundrels of one sort or other...are intent on spilling blood in

Georgia, let them come!" he said. But speaking later in Tbilisi, he played down any suggestion of conflict.

The turbulent south Caucasus region of which Georgia is a part is a transit route for oil from the Caspian basin, making it strategically important for both Moscow and Washington.



Georgia's separatist South Ossetian soldiers sit on an armoured vehicle as they go to their positions at the village of Prisi, July 10. Four servicemen from the Georgian interior forces were wounded nearby the communities of Eredvi and Argviti in South Ossetia on Saturday morning, after Ossetian military fired upon a police outpost, the police of the Shida Kartli district, within which South Ossetia is located, said. REUTERS

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Continued from page 1

10,000 troops besiege al-Houthy

"al-Houthy has been supported by more tribesmen who decided to stand by him in solidarity. Now his defenders have increased in two folds.. al-Houthy's only case is against the USA and Israel as he called for their destruction many times... He had been warned that if he doesn't stop his anti-US and anti Israel slogans, he would be punished.. We hope that the Yemeni public would be aware of the real reasons why al-Houthy is being attacked and not listen to the governmental media" the source said.

Government shows progress
Meanwhile, the government has been

keen to signal successes in their attacks against al-Houthy. It had revealed the killing of dozens of al-Houthy's followers and announced financial awards up to YR 10 million to anyone who leads to his place. The government had also launched arrest campaigns in Sanaa, Amran, Hajja and Saadah governorates against those who are believed to have close ties to al-Houthy. Tribal sources in the area said that in Al-Mahabisha district in Hajja province, security forces took some elderly people hostages as they were unable to find the young suspects thought to have relations with al-Houthy.

Opposition expresses concern

The opposition on the other hand, expressed concern, disappointment, and outrage at the so-called "the use of excessive force" in the case of al-Houthy. They called for a peaceful solution to the conflict and accused the government of using al-Houthy's case as a political maneuver to threaten and accuse of disloyalty to those who oppose it and hence, "neglect the constitution and governmental laws", which would result in consequences that would affect the overall stability of the country.

Cole/Limburg suspects threaten to chop off prosecutor's leg

The house of al-Aki was attacked last Tuesday with a hand grenade thrown by someone whom police said was arrested. The attack took place at 3 AM and caused no harm. Security sources said the perpetrator was captured and was found to have kinship links to the suspected terrorists on trial.

The trial started on June 29th with the first hearing of the tribunal of 15 suspected terrorists charged with sev-

eral terrorist operations and plots. The prosecution charge the fifteen suspected terrorists with blowing up the French oil tanker 'Limburg' in Mukalla in October 2002, carrying out several explosions in Sana'a, killing one soldier and plotting to blow up the US, UK, French, German and Cuban embassies in Sana'a as well as plotting to kill the US ambassador to Yemen, Edmund Hull. Some of the suspects denied the charges but some

admitted them, mainly the plot to kill the US ambassador. Saleem al-Dailami said that they wanted to restore the dignity of the government by killing Edmund Hull and take revenge for Abu Ali al-Harithi, who was killed by an American drone in the desert of Marib in November 2002.

During the hearing on Saturday the advocates of the suspects presented their defense against the charges made against their clients.

Yemen requests extradition of Cole suspect

Officials said that the Foreign Ministry sent on Wednesday an official request to Washington demanding the handover of Abdul-Raheem Al-Nashri, who is believed to have masterminded the attack on the US ship as it was refueling at the Yemeni harbor of Aden. The Defense Ministry's newspaper, "26 September", quoting government sources, said, "Contacts are under way with US authorities to extradite the Yemeni citizen Abdul-Raheem Al-Nashri." A Yemeni counter-terrorism court on Wednesday charged Al-Nashri and five other suspects with the attack.

Prosecutors charged Al-Nashri, who is being tried in absentia, with ordering

and funding the bombing of the USS Cole on Oct. 12, 2000. The five accomplices, who appeared before the court, were accused of having been involved in the planning the attack. The attack, carried out by two suicide bombers using a small boat laden with explosives, killed 17 American sailors onboard the vessel and wounded 39 others.

Al-Nashri, also known as Mullah Bilal, was reportedly arrested in the United Arab Emirates in November 2002 and handed over to the US authorities. He was described at the time as Al-Qaeda's chief of operations in the Persian Gulf.

Among the defendants who

appeared before the Sana'a court on Wednesday were three key suspects in the attack: Jamal Muhammad Al-Badawi, alias Abu Abdurrahman, 30, Fahd Muhammad Al-Qasa'a, also known as Abu-Houdhifa, 30, and Maamoun Ahmad Saeed (Amswa), 30. The two suspects are police officers Ali Muhammad Al-Muraqib, 30, and Murad Salih Al-Saruri, 27. They are charged with providing the other suspects with forged ID documents. The six men were accused of "forming an armed band to carry out terrorist acts, endangering state security and the stability of society, and harming the country's highest interests."

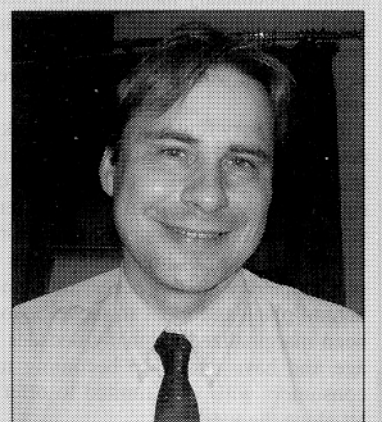
ICRC studies sending team to Saadah

The international humanitarian body said it would cooperate with that Yemeni Red Crescent Society in gathering information about the possibility of providing medicine and emergency aid to those who had to flee their areas and those who were directly or indirectly affected by the violent confrontations between the Yemeni military forces and al-Houthy's armed men. Mr. Amacher said he would try to establish a cease-fire status, which would facilitate the delivery of relief aid to the affected areas.

Mr. Amacher added that he would meet with Deputy Interior Minister to know about the situation in the Saadah region and would try to talk with the other side in this conflict, which represents al-Houthy.

Mr. Amacher's statement, which was made during a training course held in Sanaa to build the capacity of volunteers at the Yemeni Red Crescent Society, has come after al-Houthy and tribal and religious leaders in Saadah pleaded to the international community and specifically to the ICRC to intervene and save the situation from further deterioration.

The fighting that had erupted almost a month ago has caused tremendous damage to security and stability of Saadah and has also, according to local sources, led to the killing of as many as 500 and injury and fleeing of thousands. Most of the killings are said to have resulted from the use of heavy weaponry by government security forces, including helicopter gunships.



Mr. Martin Amacher

Mixed responses to dispatching troops to Iraq

The Yemeni offer comes after Jordan's King Abdullah II was the first Arab leader to announce that he would be willing to send troops to Iraq if the Iraqi government requested it. Bahrain soon followed the two countries by offering naval forces.

In Yemen, there are different opinions concerning the government's decision to offer military assistance to help Iraq.

According to Ahmed Al-Kibsi, vice president for academic affairs and professor of political science at Sana'a University, the offer fits in with the peace initiative the Yemeni government put together and proposed at the Arab summit in May.

"Yemen proposed a peace initiative that included Arab troops replacing coalition troops," said Al-Kibsi. "It was made before the summit as a possible solution to end the bloody struggle that has continued in Iraq."

Yemen's "roadmap" for peace aimed at finding a solution for both the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and bringing peace to war-torn Iraq. It included adding the Arab league to the international quartet of the European Union, Russia, United Nations and the United States, using an international force to protect Palestinians and creating a Palestinian state in the territories the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war.

For Iraq, the Yemeni proposal called for the Arab League, the United Nations and the US-led coalition to set up a committee to work on building security using international forces under UN command. An Iraqi sub-committee would draw up a constitution, elections would be held in a year and Iraqi forces would be fully established in two years.

At the summit in Tunis, Arab leaders backed the land-for-peace plan for Israel and Palestine that had gained support at the 2002 Arab summit in Beirut. But some believe that, although Yemen's offer was a positive gesture to assist the country in need, sending troops is not likely to happen.

"I don't think sending troops to Iraq is

realistic," said a government official to Yemen Times. "I don't think the Iraqi government will accept forces from any Arab country."

Soon after Arab troops were offered to help stabilize the country, the Iraqi interim government came back with a lukewarm response.

Hamid Al-Bayati, deputy foreign minister of the interim government, expressed that, whilst Iraq would not give a formal response to Jordan and Yemen, Iraqi policy generally does not allow troops from any neighboring countries to enter Iraq.

"We have sensitive issues with Turkey. We have sensitive issues with Iran, which might want to send troops," said Al-Bayati. "It's quite complicated."

Turkey has a long history of fighting with the Kurds, who now control northern Iraq, while Iran, a Shiite-majority country, is seen as possibly having influence on Shiites in Iraq. Iran and Iraq fought a war in the eighties that lasted for eight years.

Mansour Zindani, a member of the Yemeni parliament and the foreign relations committee, is skeptical about offering troops to Iraq. He argues that the offer may have made Yemen's position unclear.

"It turned out to be of two opinions from the Yemeni government," said Zindani. "The first declaration from the foreign ministry said the Yemeni government offered military assistance. The second day it said it would not send any troops unless the coalition troops withdrew. The Yemeni position was not clear. From one side Yemen wants to help Iraq. From the other side, Yemen will not help Iraq because it knows its people would refuse any help the Iraqi government because Yemeni people believe the government is a puppet government set up by the United States. It appears that one declaration was for the Americans and the Iraqi government and the second declaration was for the Yemeni people."

Zindani also says that the situation in Iraq would make it difficult for troops from any country to bring stability.

"It would be difficult for the Yemeni government to help the Iraqi people since there are divisions within the country," said Zindani. "Of course I support the withdrawal of coalition troops, but I believe that there is a good chance there will be a civil war and our troops may get caught up in it, which will be very dangerous."

The Iraqi interim government, headed by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, is facing major challenges to get the country back on its feet. The first elections since the Saddam Hussein regime was ousted 14 months ago are scheduled to take place on January 31, 2005. But violence in Iraq has continued. According to a recent report from the US Congress, insurgent attacks surged from 411 in February to 1,169 in May. The majority of Iraqi people are receiving fewer hours of electricity per day than before the war. And the report also says that Iraq's new civil defense, police and security units are poorly trained and are experiencing mass desertions.

To help build security, Allawi recently signed the National Safety Law, allowing the government to impose martial law and detain terror suspects. This will probably help the government secure the nation, but some are worried about the law.

"Security is the first thing we need, but the new law may allow the government to fall back and do just the same as Saddam did in the past," said an Iraqi living in Yemen.

Under the UN Security Council resolution that was drafted on June 8, the coalition forces are allowed to stay and attempt to secure the unstable country. Recently the US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff said that because of the way things are going, US troops may stay in Iraq up to five years.

"We welcome the sovereignty the Iraqi government received from the coalition forces," said the government official. "But it's too difficult to predict when the coalition forces will leave."

Words of Wisdom



There are newspapers that are owned and operated by the army, government, independent companies, political parties, special interest groups, etc. In other words, the written media offers a variety of views and positions. But the state enjoys full monopoly over radio and television stations.

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



OUR OPINION

Haikal's image of today's Arabs

In a new series on Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, prominent Egyptian intellect and writer Mohamed Hassanain Haikal presented an excellent conclusion that truly shows the level of weakness reached by Arab regimes. He explained how Arab leaders kept on viewing news channels and reading newspapers but failed to realize the importance of getting to know the ultimate meaning of what they watch or read, and what others are planning for them. "They have become occupied with the tiny details and have not been able to see the overall picture," he said.

Then I thought to myself, how could this be? We watch news coverage from Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, the Arab world, Europe, and elsewhere. We sympathize with plights of Arab victims here and there, but go on with our daily lives as normal. We ensure that our own lives are ok, and disregard the world around us. But when it comes to our leaders, whom we think know much more, we are told that they very rarely try to figure out how such incidents far away from us could affect our region in the future.

But what if Haikal is right, and what if we simply being ruled by leaders who are unable to get a concrete meaning from all of this, and continue to live their lives with the expectations that everything will be ok, while ignoring the fact that many of the developments happening now in some areas of the Arab world will definitely have their effect on the other Arab countries? They will affect us, our children, or our grandchildren.

Haikal added that each Arab leader has decided to draw a border around his territory and isolate himself from the world, thinking that as long as he is alright, everything will be fine. This has proven to be disastrous, because we are weakening while other countries, which Haikal specifically mentioned as Turkey and Israel, are getting stronger. "Those two countries seem to be the ones opening up and moving cleverly to have influence in the region, while Arab countries are in stagnancy," he said.

Perhaps very few intellectuals think in the way Haikal does. But there is a reason behind this small number of intellectuals who may be the only ones who know it right. Our Arab regimes have systematically imposed willingly or unintentionally an environment in which we are all in pursuit of bread to feed our children. We were preoccupied with the necessities, and have hence left behind plans and ideas to move beyond them. We have been marginalized for many decades in the information age and have ended up becoming mere receivers and consumers with very limited to offer our communities, let alone the world.

Hence, it is only normal for us to conclude that our status today is not unexpected or bizarre. Mr. Haikal reaffirmed that the Arab world has become uninterested or unaware of the real meaning of the picture when we put all the small pieces together. This is truly a dark picture that Haikal is painting. But a lesson that I learnt from his talk is that many of us think that we are intellectuals who know the game and how things are moving. But we feel humbled when a person like Haikal gives us a more confident picture of developments happening now and their implications in the future.

I cannot challenge the thoughts of Haikal, but if he is correct, I would not be surprised. Many disappointments have come from our leaders, and adding one to them would not make a lot of difference.

The Editor



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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

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

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

Branches:
Aden Bureau Chief:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596;
Fax: +967 (2) 347-056
Email: ytaiden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156
Telefax: +967 (4) 217-157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: ytaiz@y.net.ye



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Reforms... Where to (4)

By PROF. ABDUL AZIZ ALTARH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

People and various media organizations have begun talking about meetings of the eight largest industrial countries, the G-8. What they discuss and what will come out from their decisions is not yet known.

At the time, the Arab leaders, kings and presidents came out from their Tunisia summit with merely an honorary pact, a mechanism for cooperation, and activating the Arab House, "Arab League", on the condition that each country would bear the mission of reforming his own country while the Arab League, represented by its General Secretariat, would only supervise the progress and development of this or that path.

Thus, I say and repeat that we, in Yemen and in other Arab capitals, ought to start now so that others will sense that we are serious and that we want to develop our life and the living conditions of members of our societies. Elections would be considered more practical, as part of required and need change. However, these changes and reforms must begin prior to

January 2005 (before the scheduled elections to be held in Iraq). If elections were to succeed in Iraq before we embrace any practical steps and major reforms, that could throw more pressure in the region.

Thus, it is in the interests of the people and the Arab rulers to begin reforms by permitting more freedoms and democracy. We want to cherish the good memory of Arab leaders who go down in history as leaders who helped their people and community. Reforms are the demands of the general public in every Arab and Muslim country.

How to translate and how to commence reforms:

• Arabs and Muslims are to be governed under their free will and to change rulers who were unfit to govern them.

• Arabs and Muslims want legislation and political, administrative and judicial systems to be based on their deep-rooted cultural and religious heritage.

• Arabs and Muslims want the education system to raise men and women who would contribute to making a civilization and to give their contribution to humanity from their intellectual and scientific ingenuity and creativity. They must come out

of this state of being dependents of the West, that is directly and indirectly aggressive toward them, or dependent on the East that is awaiting any arising opportunity to dominate in their turn Arabs and Muslims and to take their share of the pie.

• Every Arab and Muslim want to enjoy and to cherish their beliefs, freedom and identity in words and deeds and in movement, not constrained by anything except general laws that are respected and obeyed by everyone. Arabs and Muslims want to be tried, when necessary, by courts that are only governed solely by the constitution and effective laws.

• Every Arab and Muslim citizen want an independent judiciary that is based on justice and not the executive branch of the government without being vulnerable to intimidation and threats from any powerful or influential figure.

• Arab and Muslim want and want...

Thus, this could be done either on the free will of those who could and would want, or for all to wait for the typhoon where faith will not prevail and help those who had insisted on not having any previous faith. A word to the wise.

Mr. President... Stop the Saddah war!

By MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Abduljabar Saad, the known writer and politician wanted to express his personal views on today's hottest issue that has preoccupied the general public, the young and the old, men and women, with the presentation of an honest and sincere message to the president of the Republic of Yemen concerning the ongoing bloody events in Saddah Governorate between the security forces and Al-Hawthi's supporters. I have tried very hard to summarize it without distorting its contents.

Excepts:

I was surprised at the high number of casualties, misplaced citizens and detainees, in addition the scenes of violent bombardment and destruction broadcast by various satellite channels, and at Al-Hawthi's letter printed on Yemen Times' front page. I found myself compelled to write and to present my humble advice as I felt it was my duty and part of my responsibility as a decent compatriot and a faithful Muslim.

You were very wise and your statements were accurate, due to your good sense and prudence. There was just one element that I wish to comment on, that is that you hastily resorted to the military option since Al-Hawthi, through media-

tors, had promised to come to you, which was sufficient to release the state's grip on him and his followers after he had suspended his activities. Where would have been the harm if he had taken another three weeks to come to you? During the extra grace period, the government could strengthen its security positions in the region and to monitor his activities closely while rectifying at the same time the provocations and ill-advised behavior of some state officials.

Mr. President, any war must be motivated by religious convictions required to encourage and strengthen the combatants morale to sustain battles until objectives are achieved successfully. These strong convictions apparently were demonstrated by Al-Hawthi's followers and not the military forces. If he were the outlaw portrayed and a rebel against the law and the state, why had he voluntarily committed himself to turn himself over to you? Why did the troops have to rush into fighting him? Victory at this point, if we look into the subsequent development and sectarian conflicts locally and at the regional level, can only be considered as a defeat, and what a defeat!

I just do not know how you Mr. President were not aware that the 'Faithful Youths' could have been confronted by the youths of Emna's University, in a similar to their confrontation with the separatists in the 1994 war.

What would be the harm, in a demo-

cratic society such as our, from a group of youths chanting weekly or even daily some anti-American and Israeli slogans, "Death to America... Death to Israel"? It is true that loud voice should not be raised inside a mosque even if it is during reciting of verses from the Holy Book of Quran, but if some insist on doing so, they could have been provided with the chance voice their opinions at later times when the worshippers have left the mosque, instead of detaining hundreds of them without court hearings, trials or specific accusations.

According to Islamic legislation, Al-Hawthi does not necessarily have to render himself to be tried, but according to the verse in Quran, "When two groups fight each other, settle between them fairly..." Even if the situation results in fighting between rebels and the state, and the fighting ends when he decides to obey, he does not bear any punitive consequences.

Finally, we are not with the 'Republic of Bush' or his democracy and we are not with the religious clerics such as Abu Hamza Al-Masri or his extremism. But we could ask ourselves the question, why can't we accept a democratic Imamate regime—like other democratic Kingdoms in many countries- if that were the choice of the people through democratic practices. That would be sufficient to save us from the democracy of Bush or the extremism of others!

Same sex marriage: It's about tolerance and equality

By CHRISTOPH LOMBARDO
Christoph.Lombardo@yahoo.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

As a gay man living in Yemen, I read with some concern Paul Kokoski's commentary printed on 24 June entitled "The Fallacy of Same Sex Unions."

Mr. Kokoski wrote a lot in his commentary about morality and the nature of sexual orientation, most of which seems to reflect his own personal feelings and a rationalization of what appears to be his personal prejudice on the subject. But what Mr. Kokoski does not mention is that gay people do not chose to be gay any more than heterosexuals choose to be het-

erosexual. I think by now we all agree that one is born straight, gay or bisexual, and that one does not choose one's sexual orientation anymore than one chooses one's gender or race. Assuming we are all creatures of God, is it not therefore God that made us the way we are — be it heterosexual or homosexual?

Apart from tolerance and equality (something sorely lacking in most countries including the United States), same sex unions — or same sex marriage if you wish to call it that — is also about equal rights under the law, including the right to inherit property, to make communal decisions, spousal benefits, family reunification and the right to other legal privileges (and responsibilities) married couples have and take for granted. These are the

things gay people are struggling for through marriage or civil union, and one day, like other minorities before us I am certain we shall attain it.

Mr. Kokoski shows his true colors when he states that "sexual orientation does not constitute a quality comparable to race, ethnicity, gender or age in respect to non-discrimination." Given the fact that we are all creatures of God with attributes given to us by Him, on what basis does Mr. Kokoski therefore make such a statement — his religion, sense or personal propriety, self-righteousness or just plain bigotry?

I thank the Yemen Times for printing this rebuttal, especially given the cultural norms of some of its readers that may run contrary to my comments above.

Letters to the Editor

Why keep Saddam's wife in Yemen

I wish to ask your president Ali Abdulla Salih, why he enabled the wife of Dictator Saddam Hussein to stay in Yemen. Saddam had killed hundreds of thousands from Kurds and Shiites in Iraq, and can you tell us about the place of Kurdish virgin girls who Saddam's regime sent them to Arab countries theatres and night clubs please ask

Sajida. May be she knows about them.

Abu Ahmed Iraqi
admin@sotaliraq.com

About the 'Abyssinia' article

An interesting article by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shamsaddin on the so-called "Abyssinia" vs. "Ethiopia" nomenclature. If one follows Prof. or Dr. Muhammad Shamsaddin tale

Letters to the Editor

Abyssinians may well claim back Eritrea, Yemen, lands as far as India. I like to remind Prof. or Dr. Muhammad Shamsaddin that Abyssinian rule stretches North, South, East and West from what he now limits it to be.

According to the Professor, Ethiopia is the current Sudan but ruled all over Abyssinia. Based on his tale the ancient name of the current Ethiopians is

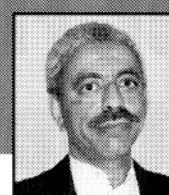
Abyssinia. That is fine.

If the Professor's plea to the current Ethiopians is to reclaim the lost empire, indeed

the Professor is making a valid point. What the Professor fail to mention is how to go about resurrecting the lost empire.

I am all ears. Indeed Ethiopia stretch her hands unto God.

Tsehay Demeke
tsehaydemeke@yahoo.com



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Policy manifested in theatrics - final

In the United States, the recent findings of the Select Congressional Committee looking into the intelligence output that eventually brought on the fantastic flop of the Bush Administration in Iraq, only went on to display the undeniable assertion that the Bush Administration finds in theatrics a sound basis for running affairs of state in the United States. There is really no need to delve into the details of that record as most people are quite aware of all the fallacies that were conjured up to justify a massive military engagement in a country that was already in such a horrendous state even before the Americans came in. But even before that, the Bush Administration went on to set the venue necessary in preparation for such a dubious adventure. Taking a cue from the tragic events of 9/11, the Bush Administration manifested its assertions where priorities should really lie. While America was "under attack", the President of the United States went on to direct his attention to visiting a school and spending some time with some children. This display of sweetness remains a mystery to many people in the United States and has even resulted in assertions that the Bush Administration may have been actually aware of the coming of those tragic moments in the history of the world and not just of the United States. So, to affirm its resolve, as called for by the tragic attacks on New York and other symbolic symbols of American might and economic strength, the White House began a seemingly earnest attempt to hit back at the alleged culprits, letting anger become the driving force, yet without even setting in place the legal basis and groundwork and the appropriate plans that were to make the effort decisive and worthwhile. Nevertheless, most of the world showed tremendous understanding for the American desire to dress the wounds of an ugly attack. So came Afghanistan and the termination of the Taliban regime, but the real targeted suspected perpetrators were somehow able to snake away from the formidable attack and remain loose and seemingly safe from any danger. With the world expected to carry on with its understanding of American feelings, the Bush Administration then decided to pursue other items on its agenda that seem to be somewhat distant from the "war on terror", that it has declared. Thus the various and systematic efforts were launched to engage the United States in adventures, the ulterior motives of which have yet to come to light. Of course, many in the world tried to get the United States to remember that they are all in this world together and that any unilateral approach to carrying out any international action, especially involving the use of force, requires really sound reasoning and logical assessment of the facts. No, said the Bush Administration, we are out to get Saddam Hussein and to show the rest of the Arabs that the United States means business. So, to convince the world and the American Congress and taxpayers, the Bush Administration carried a bundle of theatrical performances, which rested on well engineered deceit and exaggerated assumptions that were not substantiated by any legal or even substantive grounds. All this, just to show that a dead dragon was the world's most dangerous enemy and deserved the punishing strike of American firepower.

The war on terror shifted to a new theater that was for all practical purposes not associated with any of the justifications behind the war on terror. So from the threat of terror from a loose band of international renegades, to a threat from a well established "demon", who was once the owner of one of the most deadly arsenals in the region, but now lacked the energy to kill a mouse, let alone pose a threat to the United States.

Without seeming to undermine the obvious right of anger of the United States at 9/11, many in the world, including the faithful ally Tony Blair, suggested earnestly and in good faith, to the United States that one effective method of closing the doors for any further spread of terrorism would probably to bring to a conclusion the Middle East conflict for once and for all. Every effort was made to illustrate to the Bush Administration that the terrorists are taking advantage of the humiliating situation faced by the Palestinians under a cruel and unjustified occupation, to unleash their ugly displays of violence and thirst for blood. Moreover, there is really a need to fully understand the phenomenon of terrorism and the underlying forces that seem to have allowed proponents of this ugly sadistic craving an unusually well placed network, that seems to actually grow and become further entrenched as time goes on. Yet, the Bush Administration went further than encourage the Israelis to carry on with their inhumane treatment of the people they have subjected to so many injustices and in fact gave Ariel Sharon their blessings for all his connivance and his own unleashing of state terror in the Holy Land. There was nothing more that the terrorists could bank on to give "sympathetic legitimacy" to their madness.

On another note, the Bush Administration did not suffice with theatrics on the international arena, but rather assumed that if theatrics can work elsewhere (and they haven't), then they can also help the Bushies have it their way at home. So all kinds of simulations were ready to keep the American people on the scare, including recurrent warnings of "imminent" terror attacks, without given any concrete evidence to warrant this "boo" mentality. So, carry on Mr. Bush and rest assured that you can fool some people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time. We will soon see if the American people will realize that they really expect a lot more down to earth leadership than the melodramatic flare they have come to witness from their present leadership.

YT Business

Merchants raise prices under pretext of taxes increase

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.5700	184.8000
Sterling Pound	337.2200	337.6400
Euro	224.5900	224.8700
Saudi Rial	49.2200	49.2800
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.0900	626.8700
UAE Dirhem	50.2500	50.3100
Egyptian Pound	29.7500	29.7800
Bahraini Dinar	489.5800	490.1900
Qatari Rial	50.7200	50.7800
Jordanian Dinar	260.3200	260.6500
Omani Rial	479.4300	480.0300
Swiss Franc	147.5300	147.7200
Swedish Crown	24.5200	24.5500
Japanese Yen	1.7071	1.7092

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Merchants in Yemen have recently launched a new price dose on some goods under pretext of taxes increase on them pursuant to a law lately issued. But the increases included a number of goods on which consumer taxes have not been imposed.

Dr Khalid Rajih Sheikh, the minister of industry and trade said the increases created by some merchants were illegal and groundless and were not included in the consumption tax.

The minister added that the items included in the new tax were cosmetics, soap, detergents, sweets, biscuits, ice cream, jelly and telephone and post services, all which are items not pertaining to citizens' essential needs. The minister industry threatened of no remission with merchants who have imposed illegal increases on some

goods. There would be supervision and follow-up for the purpose of ensuring stability of prices in the market.

The ministry of industry and trade has established a special operations room for follow-up and evaluation and control of violating merchants in order to protect the citizen against the new prices. Merchants have seized the opportunity of amending the article (9) of the income, consumption and production taxes law to increase prices of some goods on their own aimed at gaining profits at the expense of the citizens who do not possess the ample purchasing power to encounter the new prices.

The ministry asked consumers to report on any violation to enable the ministry detects it and apply the decision of taxes amendments without causing harms to the citizens and the low level of their income.

The government had postponed putting into force a new price dose of economic and financial reforms till after the rainfall to make room for the citizens to bear consequences of an increase in prices of oil products and other services.



Foreign assets of banking sector amount to YR 1 trillion & 20.8 billion

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni banking sector has achieved a noticeable growth in its foreign assets to till the period ending at the end of last May. The assets amount reached YR1 trillion and 20.8 million, compared to YR 991.7 billion at the end of April 2004, registering an increase by YR 29.1 billion during only one month. This indicates to a big improvement in the balance of payments.

An official report issued by the Central Bank of Yemen mentions that the

bank's budget till the end of May 2004 amounted to YR 987.622.004 billion capable of covering 15.4 months of imports. The report has further mentioned that the proportion of the commercial and Islamic banks unified budget at the end of last May has risen by YR 6.4 billion to reach at YR 605.3 billion while the value of its foreign assets amounted to around YR 155.8 billion.

The report has further indicated that the volume of reserves has during the same period risen by YR 1.7 billion to reach YR 93.6 billion, whereas the deposit certificate dropped from YR 37.5

billion at the end of last April to YR 36.8 billion at the end of last May.

According to the same report, the total of credits presented by the private sector banks amounted to YR 153.1 billion against YR 152 billion during this period. As concerning the treasury orders and the operations of re-purchasing of treasury bonds operations with commercial banks they have amounted to about YR 133.3 billion till the end of May against YR 229.7 billion at the end of April.

The Central Bank of Yemen report has also indicated that the total of

deposits at the commercial banks have risen from YR 507.8 billion at the end of April to 511.1 billion at the end of May, while the monetary supply rose from YR 832.4 to YR 824.9 billion during the same period.

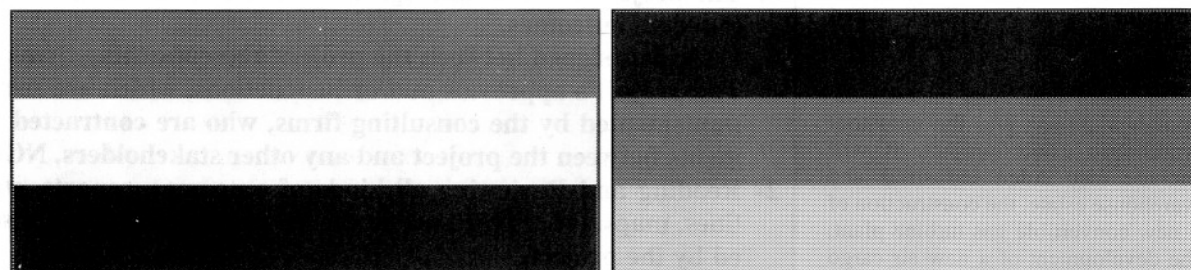
The net of the Yemeni government liabilities were recorded till the end of May as creditor asset a sum of YR 19.8 billion against YR 2.4 billion at the end of April as an indicator of a big increase in the government's local indebtedness. The private sector liabilities also increased from YR 152.5 billion to YR 153.6 billion during this period.

Germany allocates euro 37 million for development in Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The file of annual negotiations between Yemen and Germany focused on appropriation of an amount of euro 37 million as an assistance from the German government for development in Yemen distributed on the dossier of financial cooperation with a sum of euro 24 million and the file of technical cooperation with an amount of euro 13 million.

The annual negotiations held in Sana'a co-chaired by deputy premier, the minister of planning and international cooperation Ahmed Soufan and the head of the cooperation with the Middle East department at the German ministry of economic cooperation resulted in signing minutes of developmental cooperation and an agreement for cooperation in implementation of



basic education strategy.

The negotiations minutes stipulated on enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in sectors of waters, sewage, education, public health, population and economic cooperation, especially that Germany is considered one of the main partners of Yemen in the area of developmental cooperation and supporting the course of economic and financial reforms in Yemen.

Mr Soufan viewed results of the discussions as positive and poring into

serving future cooperation between the two countries, mainly in dealing with programs benefited by Yemeni committee particularly the committee on dealing with issues of corruptions and improvement of government management in addition to other developmental areas such as waters sector. In a press conference held by the Mr Soufan and the German official, Mr Soufan said the agreement on cooperation between the sides to develop basic education in Yemen would help improve outputs of education with the strategy of poverty

alleviation. As for the German official, he had affirmed continuation of Germany's support for economic, political and social development in Yemen, pointing to the support his country was offering for the implementation of economic, financial and administrative reforms gong on in Yemen.

A number of German non-governmental organisations are carrying out implementation of development and services projects in Yemen as part of Germany's schemes aimed at assisting the poor and underdeveloped countries.

Vacancies



Invites applications for the posts of

Maintenance Manager

The incumbent should

- Be an Engineering Graduate (Mechanical/Electronics/ Electrical)
- Have an experience of more than 5 years in the maintenance field (preferably in the same field or medium engineering industry)
- Have knowledge of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Maintenance
- Have exposure to the Manpower Management
- Have exposure to the Breakdown, Preventive and Scheduled maintenance systems
- Have knowledge of budgeting and spare parts management
- Have knowledge of English and preferably Arabic

Branch Manager

The incumbent should

- Be a graduate of any discipline
- Have an experience of five to six years at Executive/ Managerial level in Consumer products industry (FMCG)
- Be capable of handling full job responsibilities of Branch independently
- Have knowledge of English (Speaking & Writing as well)

Senior Executive - Finance & Accounts

The incumbent should

- Possess Post Graduate qualification in Accountancy (Preferably Professional Qualification).
- Have thorough knowledge of accounting, treasury operations and local taxation laws.
- Be capable of independently handling the entire accounting function, liaising with Banks, Financial Institutions and handling of taxation matters.
- Also be responsible for handling monthly and annual closing of accounts and handling audit requirements.
- Have good working knowledge of Computers and a thorough understanding of system requirements is a must.
- Have 6-8 years experience in a manufacturing Company, Exposure in a well known FMCG is desirable.
- Have good knowledge of English.
- Be self-driven and capable of functioning independently in his or her functional area.

Please send your C.V within seven days to
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Part V in a series

Yemen:

Claiming the future



IRENA KNEHTL
IRENA_KNEHTL@MAKTOOB.COM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In part four of her discussion of the economic development of Yemen, Irena Knehtl analyses the development of the republic since unification, and highlights continuing challenges and opportunities.

22nd May 1990 – Yemen unites into Republic of Yemen

... like a candle I glow
while burning away...

As the history of Arabia is one of perpetual motion and covering phenomenal distances, so has Yemen over the past years made impressive strides forward and set the stage for sustainable nation building. It has introduced a multiparty system, embarked on democratization and local government experiments, and is committed to the free market and an enterprise economy. Further implementation of economic reforms, rationalization and efficiency building will create an attractive environment for investment. Yemen has been scripting a new economic future for itself as it draws big plans. The basis for 'New Yemen' is one of intensive development in many areas during which it aims to explore new ways

- for creating jobs and production opportunities in a constrained industrialized economy and
- exploring economic liberalization for exports while
- further developing a culture of entrepreneurship with
- and economic policy of diversification/reducing dependence on oil,
- continuing the local governance experiment
- increasing the importance of human choice, and
- developing a foreign policy to maximize flexibility

History teaches us that the path to success is always arduous, strewn with challenges and hurdles. However nations like Yemen stand this test of time in order to achieve political, social, economic and cultural harmony. Yemen's journey from a traditional, underdeveloped at the start to a modern developing economy has been remarkably rapid.

Investment, for example, is now open for all in numerous fields, including oil, gas and mineral. Oil and gas have become the foremost sectors and the backbone of the economy. Efforts have been exerted to create a favorable climate for foreign investment, and facilities are being offered increase available resources.

The Yemeni Investment Law

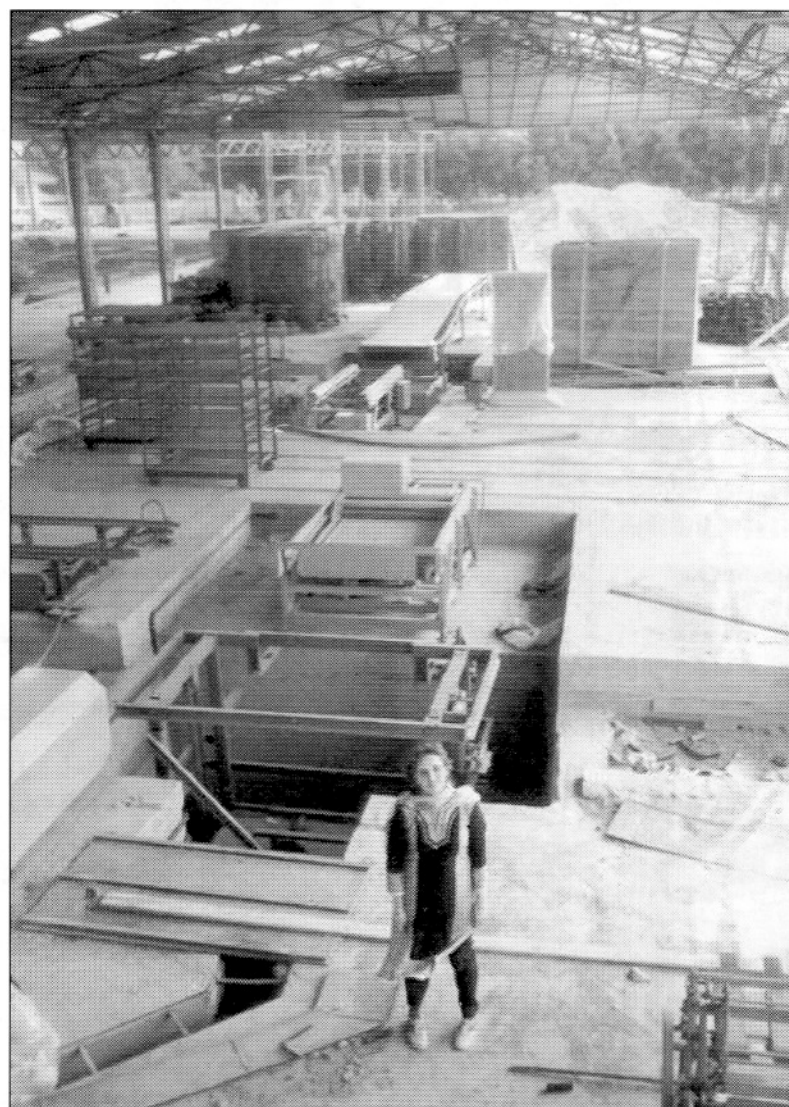
The Yemeni Investment Law aims at mobilizing and facilitating the influx of potential local Arab and foreign capital and providing the private sector with the impetus for more involvement and investment endeavors.

Facilities and Incentives

The General Investment Authority acts as one window authority for investors. Simplified procedures for project licenses now ensure waits of a maximum of 30 days for health and fishery projects and 15 days for others. Duty exemption of fixed assets required for establishment, extension and development, tax holidays from 7 years to 16 years and duty rebates for the exported portion of production are also now in place.

Guarantees and incentives

Existing guarantees and incentives



Yemen Industrial development

for investment include:

- Guarantees against nationalization, seizure and restrictions
- No difference drawn between Yemeni and foreign investors
- Ease of capital and profit movements
- Investors' freedom of choice and operations
- Freedom of administering projects with regard to employments, pricing, products and export
- Freedom to buy or lease land or property
- Training funds for labor-intensive and export-oriented projects
- Easy procedures for bringing in skilled expatriates

Yemen is also a member of:

- The Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation
- The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- International Convention for the Settlement of Investment Disputes

All procedures were simplified to attract local, Arab and foreign investment.

Investment Opportunities

Yemen's most obvious investment opportunities lie in oil, gas, mineral exploration, agriculture, fishery, infrastructure and tourism, including the whole range of economic, production and service sectors aiming at the creation of new job opportunities and the application of the appropriate technology.

Opportunities are available for specialized agricultural production, including fruits, and vegetables, oil seeds, spices, garden seeds and flowers that could be attractive to innovative local investors as well as foreign.

Conditions also favor specialized livestock and poultry operations and fish and shrimp farming. Food processing for domestic use and export also has an enormous potential for expansion.

The country will only benefit from investment when the capital inflows lead to the increase in growth without any changes in trade conditions.

The Aden Free Zone

... here we are all strangers
strangers are relatives...

Through history Aden has been a port of commercial importance and a meeting point of ships coming from the Red Sea, from India, from the Persian Gulf and from East Africa. The port of Aden is also one of the world's largest natural harbors located at the crossroads of the Red and the Arab Sea with direct access to the Indian Ocean. Once a top international shipping port and the second largest bulk port, Aden is set today to remake its name.

Aden Free Zone now aims at facilitating industrial development and the flow of trade between countries, i.e. among the Indian Ocean community of countries of which Republic of Yemen is a founding member. It is further initiating economic cooperation among the Red Sea countries to build cooperation among countries and act as regional information highway and investment center. The private sector has taken the lead in financing and operating most of the projects needed for regional growth. Yemen may in fact play the role of a bridge in the Indian Ocean community, now fastest growing behind the Asia-Pacific Rim. To the east is Japan as global economic superpower, to the west an increasingly united Europe revitalizes its former industrial base.

As 'Aden Free zone includes the container project and the industrial warehouse estate project. It will include also Aden industrial and warehouse estate, the construction of a new convertible gas turbine plant, the development of a new air cargo village and construction of an international airport, new sewage and water treatment facilities, and development of new tourist facilities.

Free Zone incentives include:

- Exemption from taxation on industrial and commercial profits for 15 years with a possible extension for a subsequent 10 years,
- 100 percent foreign ownership permitted and encouraged
- Free transferable capital and profits not subject to exchange

controls

- Income tax exempted salaries.

Due to Yemen's excellent geographic position on the main shipping route between Asia and Europe, and en route to Australia and South Africa, the Aden Container Terminal not only will reduce shipping rates, but act as a natural product distribution and service center. The world "middle" in Middle East carries great significance to the region in trading terms. Through history, the Middle East has functioned as a link between east and west. Of all possible locations Aden is the most strategically placed, for it offers the minimum deviation from the East-West route.

Aden is becoming a transshipping location to recon with.

Also all other Yemeni ports are ideally positioned for economic growth.

Yemen – Unique Tourism Product

Yemen has excited the imagination of travelers through the ages.

Once such account reads: "Here they traveled through landscapes they did not know, the like of which they never seen before. The journey took them through remote mountains ranges, dissected by mystifying wadis, and into a mysterious and rarely seen power of light and beauty. There were houses in search for light reaching the sky, terraced fields of wheat and barley, pines, plots of vegetables. Far below a yellow haze hid the Desert of the East"

Not only unknown but also unreachable and therefore unknowable, Yemen was the most curious in its customs and philosophies, the most unique in its fauna and flora where its landscapes and people changed from one place to the next.

Today travel is no longer a philosophical matter, it is business. In the days of instant information, we have lost a sense of purpose and more importantly and sadly – a sense of history. But if we were to look over the whole world to discover the country most richly endowed with all the wealth, power and beauty

which nature can bestow, some sort of paradise on earth, I should point to Yemen. Yemen is incomparable in the wealth and variety each terrain boast it charm. Yemeni really is complex and varied. n

Yemen as international tourism destination will not take off until we go beyond a simple "pure tourism" approach, which means the development of cultural tourism. Yemen's comparative advantage over other destinations on the peninsula lies in its thousands of years of cultural heritage. That should be developed and promoted with tourism. It should project Yemen as a great civilization. This age old civilization rightfully deserves to be viewed with respect. Yemen has a cultural heritage of exceptional antiquity.

Scenic beauty, dramatic terrain and friendly people, Yemen has the magic formula that appeals to tourists worldwide. Tourism can bring visible prosperity and employment opportunities in short time. That "miracle" is distinctly achievable.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ministry of Water and Environment Environment Protection Authority PAM & CZM Project

The Protected Areas and Coastal Zones Management Project financed by GEF announcing for its need to recruit an Environmental Specialist Consultant.

Term of References

Background

The Government of Yemen has received two small GEF grants to help conserve coastal and marine biodiversity along the gulf of Aden coast in the Governorates of Hadramout & Shabwa, and biodiversity in two terrestrial areas of Jabal Bura'a and Hawf in Governorates of Al-Hodaidah and Al-Mahrah. The activities carried out through the above grants are expected to result in building the EPA capacity and local communities in the management of protected areas through the establishment of terrestrial protected areas and developing integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans, the definition of a sustainable plan for their management and preservation.

Location of Work: PAM & CZM Project H.Q., Sana'a

Qualification

- 1- PhD or MSc Academic Degree in Environment fields with a background in biological sciences (Marine and/or Coastal Habitats is preferred),
- 2- A Minimum of 15 years experience after last qualification degree, with at least 5 years of experience in the field of environment,
- 3- Mastery in English Language,
- 4- Good ability in using computer (i.e Word and Excel programs, etc..),
- 5- Excellence in Reporting in both Arabic and English Languages.

Duties /Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the project director, the Environmental Consultant will be responsible for the implementation of the following tasks:

1. Fully understanding and aware of the following documents:
 - a. The project's two Grant Agreements and its annexes, which include objectives, activities, expected outcomes,
 - b. Contracts signed between the project and consulting firms and their annexes,
 - c. The project's approvals and/or instructions, which are related to the consulting activities implemented by the consulting firms, who are contracted by the project, or those agreements between the project and any other stakeholders, NGOs, and local communities,
- 2- Reading and Reviewing all kinds of outcomes, reports, studies, strategies, plans, guidelines, maps, etc., which are prepared/produced by the consulting firms, who are contracted by the project,
- 3- Ensuring the conceptual compatibility of the outcomes mentioned in (2) above with liaison documents mentioned in (1) above,
- 4- Preparing and submitting at the proper time reports to the project director by any comments, notes, advises, remarks, etc.. related to each of the above mentioned outcomes submitted by any of the consulting firms contracted by the project,
- 5- Attending and/or participating in meeting, workshops, seminars, etc., according to the projects needs,

Interested Applicants should submit their applications with their CVs not later than 10 days from date of this announcement to the following address:

The Environment Protection Authority, Protected Areas & Coastal Zones Management Project, Banks Complex Building, 5th floor, Al-Zubairi St., Tel: 01 218709, Fax: 01 467075, P.O. Box 4227, Sana'a

Yemen Smile Organization, a pioneer and unique example of charity, devotion, and humanity:

Making a child smile for the 1st time

By Yemen Times Staff

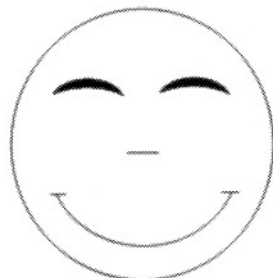
For so many years, Yemeni cleft lip and palate children and citizens were deprived from the ability to have free-of-charge surgeries to bring them their normal smile. For children who suffered from such disease, they would usually have to travel abroad for treatment. Most Yemeni families cannot afford the high expenses of travel and accommodation, let alone the cost of surgery.

However, for all those families, good news has finally come.

With the official birth of YSO (YSO) in 2004, this deprivation was put to an end. YSO, a multinational cleft charity registered locally in Yemen, is now open to the public and ready to help hundreds of cleft lip and palate children of Yemen with free surgeries.

Advanced equipment, dedicated staff

Besides the fact that the non-profit charity is equipped with the most advanced technology in its field, it is also supported

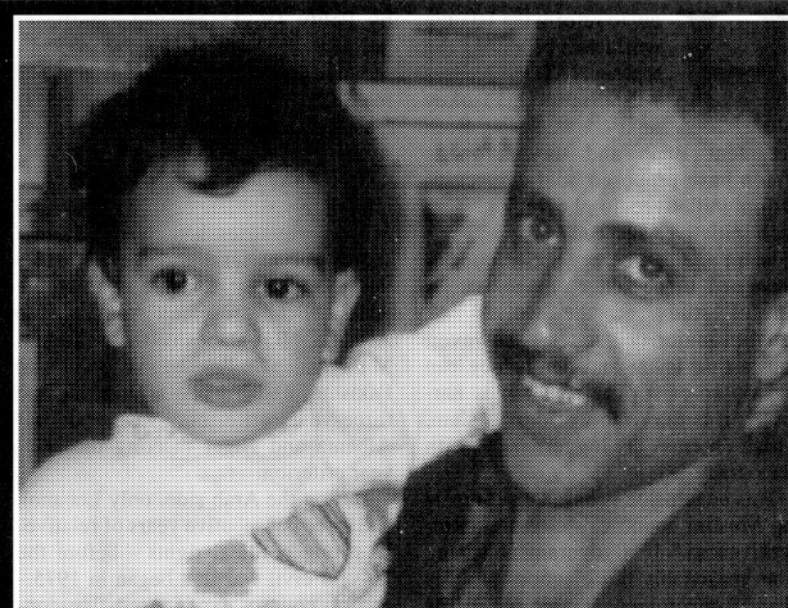
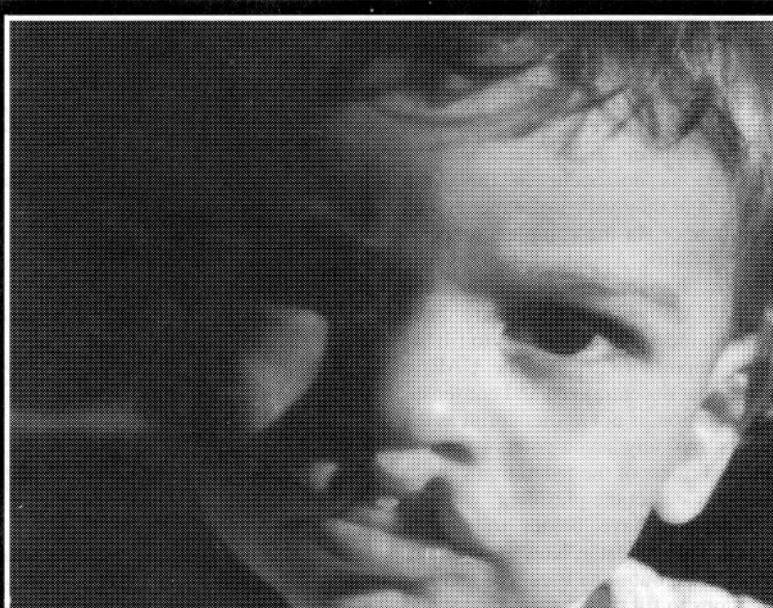


YEMEN
SMILE

profile and away from the glimmer of the press, the organization has been working behind the curtains to help children all over the country for nothing in return. In the last seven months alone the charity has helped over a hundred cleft children from all over Yemen.

Initiative well-received

The YSO initiative was well received by



Left: 9-month old Abdullah was suffering from a cleft lip and his father decided to take him to YOS for free surgery, Right: A few months after the successful surgery, not only is Abdullah happy, but so is his father and all the staff of YOS...

"The moment the child opens his eyes and smiles for the first time is an unimaginable moment of joy and happiness for us and for the child." A. Al-Gunaid



YOS Local Chairman Abdul Nasser Al-Badani (Sam)



Dr Bona Lotha, Head of the YSO Mission

by dedicated and hard working Yemeni and foreign staffers.

The Local Chairman Abdul Nasser Al-Badani, known as Sam, along with his Yemeni colleagues and members of the international community have decided to help cleft children have a smile that they always dreamed of, and get back into the community as healthy and proud individuals.

Even though it has rather been lower-

the Yemeni community and donors in Yemen. In the official opening ceremony of the new headquarters of YSO in Sanaa on June 17, Mrs. Frances Guy, UK Ambassador to Yemen has praised the efforts of the association and expressed commitment of the UK embassy to support the association's noble and charity work in all possible means.

Meanwhile, Yemenis attending the ceremony expressed deep satisfaction for all

Training for the future

On another level, YSO does not only offer free and direct services to its patients, but it trains local and foreign surgeons to carry out surgeries with the latest cosmetic techniques of cleft repair.

This is part of the organization's ambitions and objectives to leave behind a fully equipped center to be run by Yemenis.

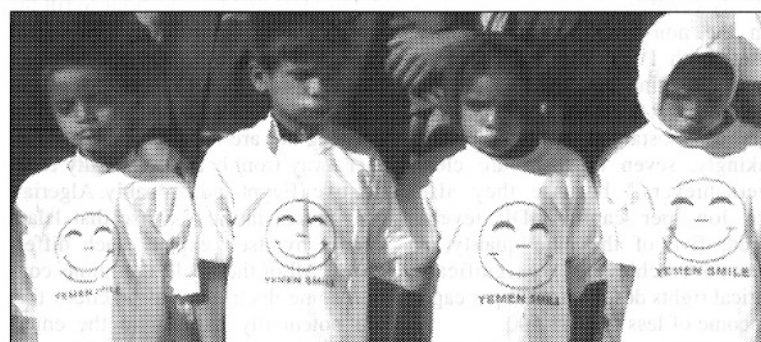
This would guarantee sustainable and everlasting charity service to the Yemeni people.

Help from Yemen & Singapore

Dr Bona Lotha, Head of the YSO Mission and an internationally renowned expert in cleft surgery, travels regularly to Jibla and Saadah to help these children and train the surgeons.

On the other hand, Dr. Yeap Choong Lieng at Singapore's Mount Elizabeth hospital also helps the charity by providing the latest hi-tech innovations in the field of cosmetic surgery, and is always there for assistance when needed.

Bringing a smile on children's faces



Some cleft children operated in Sept 2003 in Sa'adah by YSO at the Worldwide Services Hospital

According to chairman Abdul Nasser Al-Badani (Sam), head of mission Dr Bona Lotha, and Executive manager Akram Al-Gunaid, the main objective of YSO is "to make cleft children in Yemen smile normally again."

In fact, they have also pledged to positively reply to each and every case of cleft children approaching them. "We are here to help Yemenis with cleft problems. We are here to offer a helping hand directly by carrying out free surgeries directly and for

future generations by training staffers who can carry out our mission in the future." Dr. Lotha told Yemen Times.

"We have great hopes that many children who never thought would smile again, will indeed smile, and receive life with hope and great ambitions."

"We want to make every child that comes to us smile again. We do this out of our love to make others smile. And when they are happy, we are too."

It makes us happy too

Akram Al-Gunaid, the Executive Manager of YOS also explains, "Yemenis who want to come to us must never hesitate. They will always receive hospitality and help in all possible ways."

You see, by coming over to YOS, they are not only helping themselves or their children, they are also helping us in YOS. You cannot imagine the joy that Dr. Lotha and all the staff enjoy when they see the child smile after years of despair and isolation.

This in itself is the inspiration that makes Dr. Lotha and all his team work harder and better. We are the ones who should thank our patients for making our day when seeing a child smile for the first time. The moment the child opens his eyes and smiles for the first time is an unimaginable moment of joy and happiness for us and for the child."

"This is our mission, and I believe with such a noble and humane mission, we are destined to be instrumental for spreading happiness and joy in hundreds and thousands of Yemenis in the years to come."

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Djibouti	253	121	128	91	96
Egypt	20	121	128	91	96
France	33	190	200	143	150
Germany	49	190	200	143	150
India	91	173	182	130	135
Italy	39	190	200	143	150
Jordan	962	121	128	91	96
Kuwait	965	131	138	99	104
Lebanon	961	138	145	103	109
Oman	968	131	138	99	104
Qatar	974	131	138	99	104
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بِقُلُوبٍ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدَرِهِ
نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَ التَّعَازِي وَأَصْدَقِ الْمَوَاسِئَةِ إِلَى
الْأَسْتَاذِ عَصَامِ مَحْفُوظِ
الْوَفَاةِ الْمَغْفُورِ لَهُ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى
وَالِدِهِ
تَعَمَّدَهُ اللَّهُ الْفَقِيدَ بِوَسَاعِ رَحْمَتِهِ وَعَظِيمِ غُفْرَانِهِ
وَأَسْكَنَهُ فُسَيْحَ جَنَاتِهِ وَبِطْنِ أَهْلِهِ وَذَوِيهِ الصَّبْرِ وَالسَّلَوانِ
«وَأَنَا لِلَّهِ وَأَنَا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ»
الْأَسِيفُونَ:
جَلالُ الْوَجِيهِ، وَضاحُ عَقِيلِ السَّقَافِ،
رَشِيدُ عَلِيِّ السَّقَافِ، عَزالِدِينِ الْحَرِيبِيِّ.

Improve Your English



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

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I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (68) Friendship Day (V)

It takes ages for forging a lasting friendship; but losing a friend takes no time. It's therefore incumbent upon a person to carefully consistently and conscientiously work towards consolidating friendship and strengthening the bond of love and comradeship. One should do or say nothing that might adversely affect the relationship.

- Friends share their dreams with one another. We've clicked our fingers together, breaking into melodies... unveiled each other's hopes and dreams, smiled and wondered when they would come true... Time performs its ritual and changes a lot; but our friendship is the same, even better when the foundation is strong and as lovely as ever.
- Because you're always willing to lend a helping hand, because you listen carefully and try to understand, because I know you'll be there when I need you by my side, because you are someone I can trust and in whom I can confide, because you try to make me smile when I'm feeling blue, and because you share and care and give so very freely, too... because you're someone on whom I can depend, you're the kind of person, who makes the most special kind of friend.
- A true friend lies, only to save a dear companion and always strikes the right note to set the mood swinging with joy. He is one of a kind who denies to be selfish and is helpful in difficult times. A true friend is rare and I'm lucky to have you always.
- Friend! I promise to care about you and to be someone you can really count on, to listen to you, to try my best to understand and to do whatever I can to help you find the answers you need to cheer you on, to encourage you to become everything you can be and to remind you that you're very special to this world and to me.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- The temperature of our environment is becoming dangerously hot.
- Aisha always believes that her brothers were treated more favorably than her.
- The guard commanded the prisoner to sit down in an angry voice.
- He realized that his watch was slow with a shock and that he would be late for his appointment while he was cleaning his teeth.
- This house needs painting badly.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Ahmed Azzan is the runner **who** I think will win.
- Gloria was the star **whom** the crowd flocked to see.
- I have seen the traveling arrangement, and you and **we** are starting at different times.
- The height of the building is 40 meters. Or, the building is 40 meters high.
- The rainfall of Cherapunji in India is greater than that of any other place.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Languages that combine simple words into compounds without change of form or loss of meaning.
- The scientific study of soil and the growing of crops.
- A military officer who helps an officer of higher rank in his duties.
- A place where military air crafts land and take off.
- The movement of air over the surface of an air craft in flight.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Pleasant and easy to talk to: **affable** (adj)

- Be engaged to marry: **affiance** (vt) (usually passive)
- Project for planting large areas with trees: **afforestation** (n)
- Business to be discussed at a meeting: **agenda** (n)
- Person employed to find suspected criminals: **agent provocateur** (n)

(B) Words and phrases of foreign origin

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following:

- paradox
- paragraph
- parallelism
- paraphrase
- parataxis

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- pamphlet** (Gk 'pamphilos', 'beloved of all'): Small paper-covered book, especially on a question of current interest.
- panegyric** (Gk 'pertaining to public assembly'): A speech or poem in fulsome praise of an individual, institution or a group of people.
- pantomime** (Gk. 'all interior'): It is an exotic and spectacular entertainment particularly suitable for children.
- parable** (Gk 'side separation'): A short and simple story, related to allegory and fable, which points a moral.
- paradigm** (Gk 'example'): A pattern, exemplar or model.

(C) Words Commonly Confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- acuity, equity
- affection, affectation
- confess, acknowledge
- admittance, admission
- besides, beside

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- ghastly** (adj) (causing horror or fear): She fainted at the sight of the ghastly accident.
- ghostly** (adj) (looking like a ghost): His ghostly appearance terrified everyone.
- compulsion** (n) (bringing about by force): He had to sign the statement under compulsion.
- obligation** (n) (condition that indicates what action ought to be taken): I am under contractual obligation to teach in Sana'a University.
- conscious** (adj) (awake, aware): We should be conscious of our rights and duties.
- conscientious** (adj) (guided by one's moral instincts): President Saleh is a conscientious ruler.
- handsome** (adj) (of fine appearance, especially of men): He is a handsome fellow.
- beautiful** (adj) (giving pleasure or delight to the mind or senses): She has a beautiful face.
- choir** (n) (company of persons trained to sing together): The hymns were sung by a choir.
- coir** (n) (fiber from coco-nut shells, used for making ropes, matting, etc.): Coir matting is a flourishing industry in India.

(C) Idioms and Phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- do one's bit
- put the cart before the horse
- have one foot in the grave
- feel at home
- fall flat on one's face

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- in the soup** (in serious trouble): He is in the soup after the act of forgery came to light.
- a bone of contention** (a cause of argument): Possession of the ancestral house is a bone of contention between the two brothers.
- cry one's eye out** (to weep bitterly): When she got the news of her failure in the exam, she cried her eye out.
- a dark horse** (a person about whose talents, abilities, etc. little is known): Our team is rather a dark horse and we don't know how it's going to

- perform in the tournament.
- let the cat out of the bag** (to reveal the secret): We wanted to give our friend a surprise, but his careless slip let the cat out of the bag.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence printed before it

- The exam was much easier than I had expected. I had expected _____
- She sprained her ankle and she broke her wrist as well. Not only _____
- I'm going to get someone to make some new curtains. I'm going to have _____
- Rania felt upset because they hadn't invited her to the wedding. Rania felt upset because she _____
- 'It was wrong of you to stay out so late,' said Jamal. Jamal told his son that he _____
- People say Chinese food is the best in the world. Chinese food _____
- Please don't let me forget to go to the dentist. Could you _____
- It is three weeks since I saw Mansour. I _____
- 'Wouldn't it be a good idea to apply for a job with the Yemen Times?' Mujib said to me. Mujib suggested _____
- The bank manager will only give me a loan if I am sure that I can repay it. The bank manager won't _____

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- That's a lovely photo of you. **When did you have it taken?**
- These clothes are very dirty. Do you know **where I can have them dry cleaned?**
- I think your car needs a bit of attention. When was the last time **you had it serviced?**
- Their house will be much warmer this winter because **they have central heating installed.**
- He couldn't eat properly because **he has his back teeth taken out.**

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
72. IF YOU WOULD HAVE PEACE, BE PREPARED FOR WAR

Last week's topic

71. IF WISHES WERE HORSES, BEGGARS COULD RIDE THEM

It is very easy to indulge in wishful thinking and build castles in the air. But it is very hard to realize any of them without cultivation of hard work or sustained efforts. If one wishes to achieve something great and good, mere imagination wouldn't help. One needs to properly plan it out and work consistently with an unconquerable will, a strong determination and a keen foresight to creatively transform the vision to a concrete reality. Annals of world history are replete with glorious examples of men of vision who have left behind footsteps on the sands of time by dint of their relentless endeavor. Had it been easy to achieve one's dreams, any one would have the wishes fulfilled. But success is not a cake walk. Being merely an armchair philosopher lost in the ivory tower of dreams leads one nowhere. What's needed is a vision coupled with an iron will and a concrete action plan.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"If ye come to a friendly Understanding, and practice Self-restraint, Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful
S4:A129

VI. Food for Thought

"Life is never so short, but there is always time for courtesy"
—Emerson

English Studies in Yemen: some observations



By R.S. SHARMA
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES
SANA'A UNIVERSITY

These observations apply to English studies in the Arab World in general, and in the Yemeni society in particular. They are based on a long experience of teaching English to the speakers of Arabic in Indian and Arabian universities; but they are not to be treated as definitive and are open to further discussion and consideration.

Study of English presents special challenges to the speakers of Arabic and therefore it is not surprising that on the whole, to communicate through English is not quite satisfactory in Yemeni society.

Genealogically and typologically, English and Arabic are miles apart. English is an Indo-European language while Arabic belongs to the Hamito-Semitic family. English is mostly an uninflected language in which word order has assumed a crucial importance. Consider, for example, the following:

- (1) John killed the tiger.**
The tiger killed John.
- (2) ..an awful pretty girl**
.. a pretty awful girl
- (3) Only, he invited me to dine with him.**
He invited only me to dine with him.

On the other hand, Arabic is a highly inflected tongue, having not only prefixes and suffixes but also infixes; the verb takes pronominal suffixes and even linking words, such as *alladi*, are inflected for gender, case and number, when the antecedent is definite.

Even while writing Arabic, the hand must move from right to left, which, according to one Arabic scholar, is more logical. However, a close look at the composition tasks of students will reveal that this habit is a cause of spelling errors involving transposition of adjacent letters.

So, for a native speaker of Arabic, learning of English is an uphill task in writing, pronunciation, grammar, and usage. I shall clarify this point by discussing just a few interesting errors which actually came to my notice.

Once a student approached me and said, 'Sir, do you bray?' When he received a stony look from me he added, 'to Allah'. Only then I realized that he was in fact trying to say 'pray'. Now [p], which is an importation from Persian has been accommodated in Arabic phonology as an allophone in free variation with /b/. That is why we often hear *haber* in the place of *paper*, and so on.

Italian /l/ and /i:/ are often pronounced /el/ or /i:/ with slight lengthening and once a native speaker told me he heard *six o'clock* as *sex o'clock* and felt highly embarrassed. We often find *her* pronounced with an open /e/.

Quite sometimes, a straightforward application of the norm may lead to an error, because English is perhaps more idiosyncratic than Arabic or Hindi in phonology, structure and vocabulary. Once a group of Arabic students accosted a teacher with, 'Sir, you enjoyed us very much. "Normally, *en* (also *em*) is prefixed to yield the sense of 'put into or on' as in *entrust* or 'bring into the condition of 'as in *enslave*. Unfortunately, *enjoy* is an exception: it does not mean 'give pleasure'; it means 'take pleasure', as in 'I enjoyed the music'. Arabic students often confuse 'learn' and 'teach' because both these verbs are derived from the same root.

Finally, a few examples of syntactic lapses. In correcting students' papers, I often come across the type of mistakes exemplified by 'This is the book which I bought it'. Analytically this is a case of L1 interference. Arabic has no relative pronoun (except *alladi* as a linking word when the antecedent is definite) and it habitually uses pronominal suffixes added to the verb. These things lead to the use of *it* in the above sentence, although English grammar does not require it. I resorted to the transformational approach in explaining the English structure, in the following simplified manner:

This is the book (I bought the book.)

This is the book (I bought which)

This is the book which I bought.

Clearly, 'which' has replaced 'the book' and has been moved from the object position: there is no need to add the pronominal object *it* to the verb. Some other cases of syntactic errors are:

- wrong use of tense** (Arabic verb has no formally distinguished tense forms)
- omission of the the verb be** and

iii. use of the adjective after the head noun

In spite of such difficulties, proficiency in English must remain a desirable objective, not only in the Arab world but also in all the so-called developing nations (I would prefer to call them 'differently developed nations'). It is in our interest to promote and strengthen the study of English because it happens at the moment, to be a readily available medium for expression and dissemination of new knowledge and it is primarily the basis for designing and operating media equipment including the internet. Ability in English can bring to us new knowledge in science and technology; it can open new avenues of employment in companies and it can assist in promoting indigenous business. A clear example is provided by India's momentous rise in outsourcing, which is now an important means of foreign exchange earning for the nation. This phenomenon has been possible, I think, owing to the fact that the Indians engaged in IT enterprises possess a good command of the English language. By English language I mean 'world English' and not 'British or American English.' And it is of vital importance that English syllabi should be geared to the needs of each developing nation and not to the superstition that English carries some kind of imperial prestige.

I shall now turn very briefly to the specific areas of English study which, I believe, answer the needs of Yemen in particular and of developing nations in general. The guiding principle to be strictly followed should be English for use, not for linguistic knowledge, which means more practice and less theory.

The first component will consist of pronunciation, basic grammatical structure and basic vocabulary. In pronunciation word stress, sentence stress and distinctive features must be given adequate attention. Without proper stressing, intelligibility in English will be very difficult to achieve. I can recall an Englishman telling me that whenever he heard the word *necessity* pronounced with the primary stress on the first syllable, he took it for the word *nasty*.

The second component must deal with the issues of communication - its strategies and forms:

(a) Face-to-face communication including kinesics: dialogue and conversation, interview, group discussion, conference, lecturing, public speaking, etc.

(b) Telephonic communication and its strategies.

(c) Written communication: paragraph building and paragraph linking, memorandum, reports, letter-writing, forms of electronic communication, C.V., resume, etc.

(d) Research Writing, and so forth

So far, I have focused on what is needed by the learners for practical use and for earning their livelihood. Now I must mention what is needed in a functional way, in a deeper sense.

The third component will comprise literature in English. Literature in any language can deal with the principal malaise of the modern world, namely, the crisis of values. But, since we are here concerned only with English studies, we must focus on literature in English. In my opinion, the text which is considered for classroom teaching must satisfy the following two conditions:

(a) It must deal with universal human values, such as love, compassion, equality, friendship and with conflicting elements within human nature.

(b) It must sensitize the reader to forms of beauty as well as pain and suffering.

Finally, it must be accepted that the literary scenario and canon are undergoing a drastic change and in modern times the most vibrant and powerful literature in English is being produced by four groups of authors: Indians and Pakistanis, African Americans, Caribbeans, and Africans. Since the cultures or sub-cultures they belong to and the socio-economic set up they live in have a great deal in common with the Arab world and since their societies have a diffused but widespread Arabic element, their writings in English are bound to make a persuasive appeal to the students of English Literature in this country. It would, therefore, not be inappropriate to consider for study some internationally recognized writers of the above groups and to give them a place on the syllabi for English literature. I believe authors like R.K. Narayan, Arundhati Roy, Khwaja Ahmed Abbas, Tony Morrison, Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, and V.S. Naipaul have a great deal to say to the post colonial and developing societies; they are also capable of making an intimate appeal to our mind and heart.

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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

Answer	Click	Hospital	Orders	Signal
Apologies	Commercials	Important	Page	Songs
Apply	Count	Information	Patience	Sound
Assistance	Decoder	Inner	Period	Speak
Audio	Desk	Instructions	Phase	Stage
Bank	Dial	Interruption	Phone	Still
Blare	Distraction	Later	Phony	Suspended
Booths	Duration	Links	Quit	Switch
Boring	Emergency	Loathing	Recording	System
Brief	Fade	Machine	Reoccur	Tapes
Bugs	Fax	Maintain	Repeat	Timing
Bureau	First	Media	Return	Title
Business	Forgotten	Mental	Rigged	Wait
Call	Friend	Message	Ringing	Yak
Cancel	Gaps	Music	Selling	
Chat	Glum	Next	Service	
Chime	Gripes	Number	Short	
Clear	Hang-up	Operator	Shut	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Journalism

HOLDING ON THE PHONE

Solution: 7 letters

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

Training courses for Scout leaders

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Among the activities that the ministry of Youth and Sport has been organizing to promote Yemeni sport and under auspices of Mr. Abdulrahman AL-Akwa'a, the minister of youth and sport, the Scout Association concluded on Wednesday 7 July a 6-day training course for leaders of scout centers in different districts.

Al-Akwa'a along with a number of scout movement members attended the closing ceremony that took place at the Youth Palace.

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Radaee, head of the Scouts Association, told Yemen Times "In fact the Scouts movement has organized courses in different areas. Today we conclude this training for the scout leadership of the districts. There are 50 leaders from different



governorates"

He further said "We focus through holding such training courses to develop and improve these leaders' skills to enable them to lead and manage the Scout Movement successfully in their

areas. Moreover, we focus on social development and try to participate in solving social problems along with NGO's. In addition we want to draw youths to the 150 summer centers available to exploit their strength."

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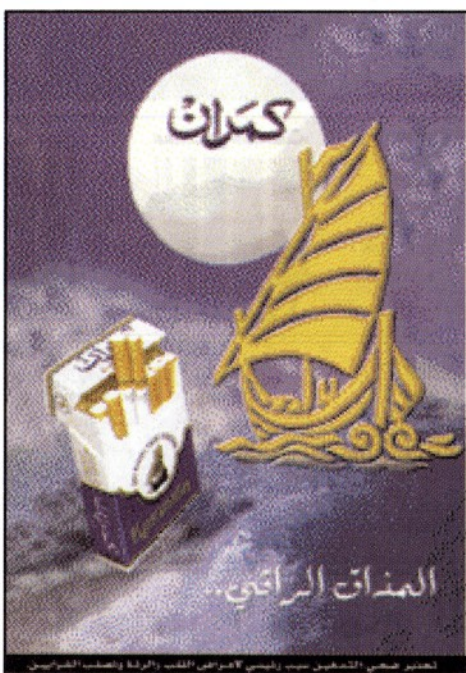
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