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Advocates Quit & Prosecution Asks for Upholding case for Final Hearing

Suspects acknowledge link to Bin Laden & al-Houthi

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Again, 11 advocates quitted the tribunal of the alleged 15 al-Qaeda suspects, one still at large, charged with several terrorist operations in protest of not having access to copies of the investigations report while the prosecution demanded upholding the case for the final hearing next week.

The prosecution charged the fifteen suspected terrorists in the first hearing



Suspects stand behind bars in the holding cell of a Yemeni anti-terrorism court July 31. REUTERS

held May 29th with blowing up the French Oil Tanker 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.

In Saturday's hearing session the prosecution insisted that the court should probe into the seized explosives and weapons as well as other evidence for the terrorist operations and plots allegedly carried out by the defendants. The prosecution brought into the courtroom (as exhibits) 310,5 kg, 114 out of them are sticks made of C3 explosives, 238 sticks of T.N.T., 506 sticks of T.N.T explosives, 2 rockets, launcher and other stuff which were seized in a flat at al-Qadiyiah zone after an explosion in April 2002.

Continued on page 7



Criminal evidence expert Abdul Latif al-Matari displays to judges a shoulder-fired missile launcher as part of a cache of weapons and explosives seized with 15 suspects standing trial in a Yemeni anti-terrorism court in Sana'a July 31. REUTERS

Talks with al-Houthi, hopeful prospects

BY MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 31 July The 26-member mediation committee chaired by Assistant Secretary-General of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform Party (Islah), Abdulwahab al-A'nisi, maintained Saturday its good offices for containing the confrontation which has been going on for about 45 days between government forces and supporters of cleric sheik Hussein Badrudin Al-Houthi.

A source close to Sheik al-Houthi said that al-Houthi welcomed receiving members of the committee in small groups as he received on Saturday morning the first group comprised of five members, namely, Air Force Brigadier General Mohammed Shaef

Jarallah, from the Shura Council, Sheik Mohammed Abdullah Badrudin; member of parliament, Sheik Mohammed Thawaba, Sheik Saleh al-Wajman and member of parliament for the ruling party Yahya Badrudin al-Houthi, brother of sheik Hussein al-Houthi.

The source added that intermittent skirmishes were still being heard, accusing some military elements are behind such incidents in an attempt to impede mediation efforts scheduled to continue for one week.

On his part, one member of the committee, who asked not to be identified, told Yemen Times in a telephone statement confirmed success of mediators in obtaining pledges from sheik al-Houthi and field military commanders to abide by cease-fire decision but he did not deny happening of some skir-

mishes without causing any casualties between the two sides. He added that, "The situation in Haydan and nearby areas have become under control," and that the five members of the mediation committee who had met Saturday with al-Houthi for paving the way for the plenary meeting, had expressed their satisfaction over results of the meeting.

In the light of the results achieved by the small committee, a large-scale study was scheduled to be conducted on Sunday among the 26-member committee in the city of Sa'ada to define a mechanism for the next steps in the dialogue with sheik al-Houthi, expressing his optimism in their success unless there would be some unexpected hindrances blocking the way to reaching necessary conclusions for the crisis.

Iraq asks for Muslim troops

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Last Thursday, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi asked Muslim nations to send troops to help stamp out insurgency and stabilize the war-torn country.

Allawi's appeal came a day after Saudi Arabia announced its proposal to bring Muslim forces together to assist bringing peace to Iraq that is continuing to experience ongoing violence.

Allawi stressed that a Muslim security force would not only help defeat insurgents in Iraq but also militant groups that are a threat to the rest of the Islamic world.

"The leaders of this region must unify and must stand as one group against those gangs, against those terrorists and those

criminals who are threatening and causing a great deal of harm to the Arab world and the Islamic world," said Allawi as he was joined by Secretary of State Colin Powell at a news conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Iraq still holds that bordering countries should not be allowed to join a force entering the country with fears that it could lead to political conflicts. Over a dozen Muslim countries not bordering Iraq are asked to contribute, including Yemen.

Continued on page 6

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Agriculture office broods to nourish Taiz basin

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Eng. Abdullah Al-Janadi, general manager of Taiz Agriculture and Irrigation Office, said the office has conducted field surveys to make use of rainwater on all sides of the foot of Sabir Mountain.

"Judge Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri, Governor of Taiz and the Higher Council, supports the efforts to utilize rainwater in the provision of drinking and irrigation water as well as nourishing the underground water," he added.

He pointed out that Al-Dhabab and Talooq areas have been surveyed, and places suitable for erecting water facilities have been spotted.

A few days earlier, surveys were being conducted in Haimatin area, and

recommendations at the end are expected to be presented to the governorate and the local council. They will be discussed and funding sources will be sought in order to finance the projects for nourishing the Taiz basin.

Some 18 water projects including dams, and barriers, have been constructed, and a vital project is being implemented in Haifan, and another in Al-Madahij, said Eng. Al-Janadi.

These projects mark a noticeable improvement towards lifting up the irrigation sector.

"The Agriculture and Irrigation Office has submitted some 10 studies to the governorate to further its efforts in resolving the water crisis," he concluded.

Rehabilitating of national volleyball coaches

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The national Olympic Committee and the Volleyball general federation concluded on Thursday 15 July a 12-day training course where 26 national coaches from different clubs were rehabilitated according to rules of the Asian Federation of Volleyball.

Mr. Mohammed Monassar, the deputy of Youth and Sport ministry, Mr. Moahmed AL-Ahajari, the head of the National Olympic Committee, Mr. Adel Wadie, the head of general federation of

the volleyball along with two international lecturers; Mr. Hussein Imam, Sudanese, and Mr. Abdulkader Walad Ammar, Algerian, attended the closing ceremony.

The trainees had received practical and theoretical studies relating to law of the International Union of the game and the modifications that it had recently made.

The trainees were honored along with their lecturers.

It is worthy to mention that the national team of volleyball will participate in the Asian Championship that will be held in Qatar next September.

The Yemeni Female Media Forum Promoting female journalists skills

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Considering reporting as one of the important styles and forms of journalistic work and to strengthen skills of journalists in writing press report, analyzing news, gathering information and conducting field research, Yemeni Female Media Forum (YFMF) concluded on Wednesday 28 July a training course for 20 female journalists from different official and private mass media organisations in Yemen.

Mr. Mahboob Ali, chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, and a number of the local newspapers' editors attended the closing ceremony.

Mr. Mahboob praised the efforts of YFMF in qualifying and training of Yemeni female journalists in spite of its recent foundation.

On the hand, Ms. Rahma Hujaira,

the head of YFMF, delivered speech in which she displayed what the YFMF has achieved and the activities it is going to accomplish.

She also thanked all those who cooperated with and supported YFMF since its foundation.

Dr. Abdullh AL-Zalab and Dr. Nishwan Al-Sumairi were lecturing the 4-day training course and Mr. Nabeel Al-Sofi, editor of Al-Sahwa newspaper, gave a lecture on the final day on his experience as journalist.

The trainees who were awarded certificates at the closing ceremony, expressed their gratitude for YFMF for giving them such opportunities to apron their skills in journalism and refresh their information too.

The training course started on last Saturday, sponsored and funded by SabaFon Company and took place at the TMC-Yemen Hall at the eight floor of the AL-Saeed Trade Center.

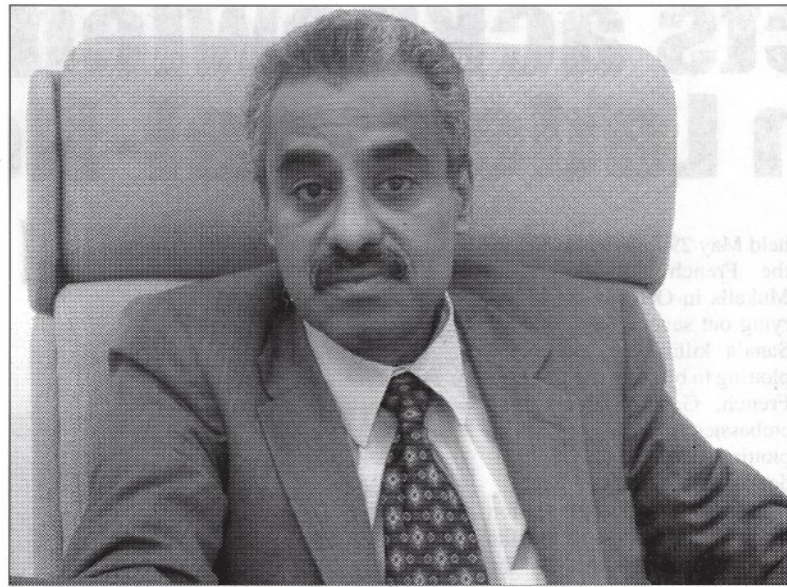
Sana'a University hosts Yemeni studies 5th international conference

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Organized by Sana'a University, the fifth international conference of Yemeni Studies will be held during the period between August 30th-September 1st, said the Sana'a University rector.

The conference entitled "Sana'a: The Civilization and History" will address the question of the heritage and epigraphy in Yemen, Sana'a throughout history from the point of view of architecture, cultural and folk heritage. Dr. Saleh Basaura told Yemen Times that a number of professors and researchers from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, Egypt and Jordan will take part in the event organized in collaboration with Yemenia Airways. "The event is one of the activities run by the university to activate scientific research and to observe the Sana'a Arab Cultural Capital 2004," Basura said. The first international conference was held in Aden in 1975, the second, fourth and fifth in Sana'a while the third was hosted by Aden.

He said that the university has completed the screening process of the 10 Books Publication Contest run by the university. He said that among 40 books, the committee has chose 25 and the final results of the 10 winners will



Dr. Saleh Basaura

be announced this month. The contest committee invited Yemeni and Arab applicants who wrote books on Yemen history, architecture geography, manuscripts, libraries, and Islamic studies. The winning books will be published at the expense of the university while the authors will be awarded.

Concerning the other activities and plans of the university, the rector said that the university will start afternoon diploma courses for those people who are unable to attend morning courses,

from this academic year. The afternoon tuition will be between YR40, 000 - 60,000 per year. These courses starting from 3pm to 7pm would cover business administration, accounting, law, languages and computer science.

Sana'a University has seen some improvements since Basura was appointed its rector by the end of last year. The man has done a lot for Aden University and is expected to do more for Sana'a University unless crippled by the corrupt lobby.

Al-Questas issues a new issue

Several of new issues of seasonal magazine Al-Questas specializing in legal culture and civil community issues were produced. The new issue of this magazine contained several reports such as The Year 2004 is the year of the Courts and the Suits, a Survey of small arms i.e. from Daggers to Janbiah, the Corruption is the governments guidance towards poverty and crisis, reformation in the Arab world and the Greater Middle East Initiative, in addition to topics on International pardoning, the space control over administration works in Yemen.



Conclusion of Arab Humanitarian Development Report

A Discussion session on the 2nd Arab Humanitarian development report for 2003, from the Yemeni point of view, was concluded at Aden University. It was organized by Aden University in collaboration with the UNDP. The discussion session has dealt with the paper work and the interventions of the 2nd Arab Humanitarian development report, during 27th-28th July 2004, under the title

"Towards Knowledge society and Yemeni status Issues". The papers contained the economical growth and the humanitarian development in the Arab homeland, the lessons learned from the Yemeni economy, the economic and social infrastructure and its impact on the knowledge system of the Yemeni, the role of the private sector in development, and the gap in digital IT.

Illiteracy eradication consultative meeting

The third Consultative meeting of the Director General for illiteracy eradication and elders teaching in Sana'a will start on Monday 2nd Aug. 2004. The meeting will be attended by more than 22 directors from different governorates of the Republic. This meeting continues for three days and will be devoted to discussing the forth coming activities of the illiteracy eradication and elders teaching in the whole

Republic's governorates and expanding its teaching events by accepting a larger number of candidates in illiteracy classes in addition to reviewing and discussing the newly admitted syllabuses for 2004/2005. Additionally, the meeting will draw up the future plan for subsequent years and review what the illiteracy eradication bureaus have achieved in their Governorates for 2004 and 2003.

Social Development annual report

By: ISMAIL AL-GHABRI YEMEN TIMES STAFF.

The annual report of the Social Development Fund for 2003 was recently issued. The report comprised the report on the Fund operations, which were carried out in education, culture, water, environment, health, social protection, training and organization support and small enterprises development lines. The report also, comprised a number of the projects approved for financing since the establishment of the fund until the end of

2003. The number of projects has reached 3,300, at an estimated value of approximately US\$250 million, whereas the incurred value amounted to approximately US\$182 million, and the direct applicant beneficiaries from the same have reached approximately 7 million people or 49%. It is worth mentioning that the Yemen Government established the fund in 1997 as a financially and administratively independent organization, combining members representing the government, civil society establishments and the private sector.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

Do you think the initiative calling for sending peace-keeping Arab and Islamic forces to Iraq would help improve security in Iraq?

- Yes, I think it would
- No, it would not have much effect
- I am not quite sure

last edition's question:

Would the US push for military intervention for Sudan's Darfur region?

- No, I think it wouldn't for the time being 47%
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Training course & workshop on Jabal Bura'a

The Yemen Protected Areas PAM-SCZM Project, affiliated to the General Environment Protection Authority, held Monday July 26 a training course on management of Bura'a sanctuary.

The Project is also preparing for the first workshop on managing and protecting this sanctuary situated to the east of Hodeidah city.

Final management field studies are expected to be finished within the next five months, after which the reserve will be officially announced a natural reserve.

Some 30 participants take part in the course, among them residents of the district, and technicians from the ministry of water and irrigation and the environment protection authority. The course

comes within the awareness program the project implements through british company RWA International and Yemeni CTTC center.

The workshop, expected to be held on August 9, will be attended by 35 participants from the local community, and representatives of several sides concerned with Bura'a reserve. Many papers will be discussed most important of which is the management plan. Local community and responsible authorities will be involved in preparing the plan, environmental tourism strategies.

Bura'a reserve is situated 50 km to the east of the city of Hodeidah, characterized by an abundance life forms including extinct-threatened animal and plant species, as well as rare ones.

Proposals to develop the Yemeni Islands

The General Corporation for the development and improvement of Yemeni islands has prepared a portfolio of executive project proposals. It presents the know-how on how to protect the ornamental fish, the coral reef and sharks (from the natural risks and human intervention), in addition to forestry and island protection projects and the creation of fixed centers on islands and farsighted strategy in addition to a tourism directory which will distinguish tourist locations from the islands in preference to a number of other projects.

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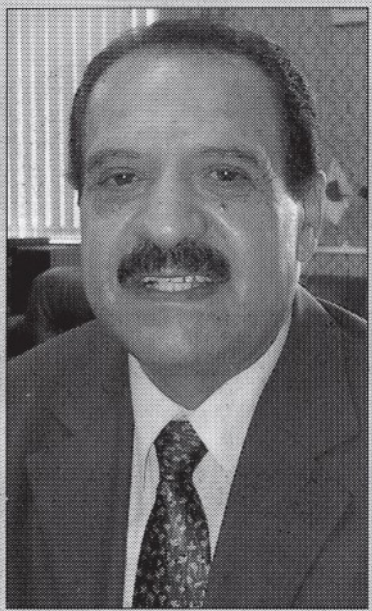
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Yemeni ambassador to Japan Mr. Ali Al-Sakkaf to YT:

"I'm expecting a torrent of Japanese companies to invest in Yemen given that the country is virgin territory and of vast potential."

One of the main donors and contributors to Yemen's development is no doubt, Japan. Being the second largest economy of the world, Japan's assistance to Yemen was instrumental in many aspects including municipality related projects. Hence, Yemen and Japan enjoy a strong and unique relationship based on mutual respect and understanding.

To focus more on the relations between the two country, Yemen Times met with Yemen's ambassador to Japan, Mr. Ali Aidroos Yahya AL-Sakkaf, who has been serving as the ambassador of Yemen to Japan since 2003. During the interview, Mr. AL-Sakkaf focused on cooperation and relations between the two countries. Here are excerpts from the interview.



Mr. Ali Yahya Al-Sakkaf

Q: How do you assess Yemen-Japan relations today?

A: With the reference to events and figures, I could say that Yemen - Japan relations are excellent, and Japan enjoys a prominent position in the Yemeni foreign policy agenda. Japan is one of the main countries that provide aid and assistance to Yemen. Japan has enjoyed the respect and appreciation of Yemen, not only because of the package of aids and assistance, but because of its foreign policy orientation in general, which has been appreciated by the whole world. Yemeni people don't hide their admiration for the Japanese expertise in particular in fields of man-

ufacturing, technological advancement and utilization of science and knowledge in favor of mankind.

Q: The Japanese government is among the largest donors to Yemen, what are the fields of donations?

A: Japanese donations mostly cover technical fields, infrastructure-development like education, health, training as well as cultural aids and environmental assistance.

Q: This year, there will be Japanese cultural activities in Yemen to commemorate Sanaa as the capital of Arab culture 2004.

Could you brief us on that?

A: The Japanese Embassy in Sanaa, in cooperation with Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Yemen, will be holding cultural activities in Sanaa from July 28th-30th, in line with activities commemorating Sanaa as the capital of Arab Culture in 2004. Such activities, which include the showing of Japanese films and briefing on its history, as well as showings of Japanese folklore, fashion etc, would be a significant addition to our efforts toward consolidating people to people relations. It is noteworthy that Japanese culture is affluent with values and norms, which I believe, would be admired and commended by Yemenis.

Q: What about Yemen's participation in Aichi 2005 in Nagoya?

A: The participation of Yemen in EXPO 2005 AICHI is very important, given that this is a good opportunity for our country to show itself in this international festival, which continues for six months. We need to show the world that Yemen is still holding to the meaning of Arabia Felix. The coming EXPO 2005 is a chance to carry out some activities including promoting the tourism industry and touting for world investment etc. The republic of Yemen has already confirmed its participation and presented it comprehensive view in regard to that. Recently, a delegation from Yemen visited Japan to see the site of the Yemeni booth at EXPO in Nagoya city, and exchange views with the secretariat of the Exposition. A reciprocal Japanese delegation is currently visiting Yemen,

continuing the exchange of views with the relevant authorities there.

Q: What would you like to convey to the Japanese government and embassy in Yemen through the newspaper?

A: I would like to congratulate the Ambassador, Ichie for the achievements he is accomplishing in Yemen, as well as the respect and appreciation he is getting from various levels. I would also like to extend my gratitude to him and the members of the embassy for their efforts in strengthening bilateral relations. I believe such efforts reinforce the efforts we are exerting here in Tokyo, to achieve the noble objectives we all are seeking. For the government of Japan I would like to extend my gratitude for the aid and support it has extended to the Republic of Yemen. In the coming years, I'm looking forward to seeing more promotion and development in cooperative bilateral relations. I'm expecting a torrent of Japanese companies to invest in Yemen given that the country is virgin territory and of vast potential.

Q: Any other comments?

A: I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Yemen Times newspaper for the opportunity to address its esteemed readers and brief them on some glorious points of our diplomatic relations with Japan. It is also my pleasure to commend you on the efforts of the newspaper in increasing knowledge and enlightening in our country.

Public Works Project

One of the successful projects

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, the Minister of Planning and Int. Cooperation, a 4-day workshop to improve the field survey for the public works project was concluded on Wednesday 28th July.

Under the title "For targeting the poor and needy sector" and under the auspices of Mr.



Mr. Abu Baker AL-Kerbi, the minister of foreign affairs and steering committee member, attended the inauguration ceremony in which he assured as to the importance of participation in different social and political activities and civilian societies in supporting the country's efforts that seek to achieve a balanced development via fair distribution among the governorates. He added that the partnership would yield fruitful results in curbing poverty as in accordance with the government's priorities. The minister also praised the results that the PWP has achieved in success-

fully making it an example for other developments in Yemen.

On the other hand, Mr. Saeed Ahmed Abu, the PWP director, stressed the importance of engaging all the concerned bodies in collecting data to evaluate the tools of collecting data about the local communities that benefit from PWP."


He added "The PWP administration seeks to develop performance via previous experience and the similar international experiences. There are about 40 participants of the PWP cadre that will be trained for four days in an extensive training program in the field survey."

Nasra Salim Daair, Investment Planner, told the Yemen Times "The main objective of the workshop is to train engineers on improved methodology and tools for targeting poor and deprived communities and data collection of the beneficiaries."

She further said, "The participants actively discussed each field, its relevance, participating, and the best source of information. The trainees discussed also on the importance of data collection for monitoring performance of the project during evaluation."

She added, "The tools will be modified accordingly and take into account the comments and discussions"

She concluded, "The participants discussed issues very positively and the PWP expects that this training workshop will yield improved approaches and more accurate and relevant data that is relied upon for evaluation."




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Turkish International Schools' students Nour Ali Shaban & Marwan Sami Zaid represented Yemen at the 2nd International Computer Project Olympiad & won Bronze Medals.
The 2nd "ICPO" in Turkmenistan was a great success with the participation of 46 projects from 29 countries during the five day event (25th - 29th April).

Prof. Al-Tareb in Yemen

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tareb, the Regional President for Arab Countries at the European Marketing and Promotion Association (EMPA), and Chairman of the Arab Foundation for Administrative Development (AFAD) and Chairman of the Arab Group for Investment and Development (AGID), is currently in

Yemen to meet with officials at various levels.

Prof. Al-Tareb is expected to present feedback and advice concerning issues related to investment, development,



Prof. Al-Tareb

governance and the Aden Free Zone. It is worth noting that Mr. Al-Tareb will be ending his term at EMPA this year and has been called by the Yemeni government for a potential role in the developmental efforts of the country in the years to come.

American embassy inaugurated classrooms

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr. Nabeel Khouny, the American Embassy Charge de Affairs in Sana'a inaugurated four electronics teaching classrooms at Alluqiah School, where ten computer systems and accessories

were also provided. The aim is to benefit students from using the equipment by dealing with the Internet, and to get in touch with their relatives in the United States of America and the rest of the world, and so on.

The American embassy has carried

out their same project in number of schools in the Republic of Yemen. This comes as the second project in the Capital Sana'a, so far.

The inauguration aforementioned was attended by the Director General of the Capital Sana'a and a number of interested people.



Taiz Republican Hospital gets cardiac appliances

The General Republican Hospital in Taiz has received Saturday 24th July, sophisticated cardiac catheterization equipment from the Ministry of Public Health and Population, as part of its efforts to improve healthcare services in the province.

"Work is underway to complete the catheterization and cardiac intensive

care departments which will be equipped with new and very modern appliances," said Dr. Abdul-Salam Al-Dhursi, General Manager of the hospital.

It is expected that the equipments will greatly improve the diagnosis and treatment of subtle cardiac illnesses in Taiz.

Two of the hospital staff members have been sent to the Sana'a Al-Thawra Hospital to be trained in operating the new equipments.

The general manager commended Minister of Public Health, Taiz Governor, and Dr. Abdul-Nasser Al-Kabab for the procuring of the equipment that cost YR 90 million.

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Crédit Agricole Indosuez wishes to inform its valued clients that the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of Crédit Lyonnais and Crédit Agricole Indosuez on 30th April 2004 approved the transfer of the Corporate and Investment Banking division of Crédit Lyonnais (Banque de Financement et d'Investissement "BFI") to Crédit Agricole Indosuez.

The new entity, formed by the partial merger, has adopted the new legal company name of **CALYON** and will trade under the brand name of **CALYON Corporate and Investment Bank**.

Consequent to the above and following the approval of the Central Bank of Yemen and of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, all branches of Credit Agricole Indosuez in Yemen are renamed **CALYON Corporate and Investment Bank**.

Talks held in Iraq to free seven hostages

BAGHDAD, July 31 (Reuters) - An Iraqi mediator and a representative of a Kuwaiti firm held talks on Saturday to try to free seven of the company's employees held hostage in Iraq, the mediator told Reuters.

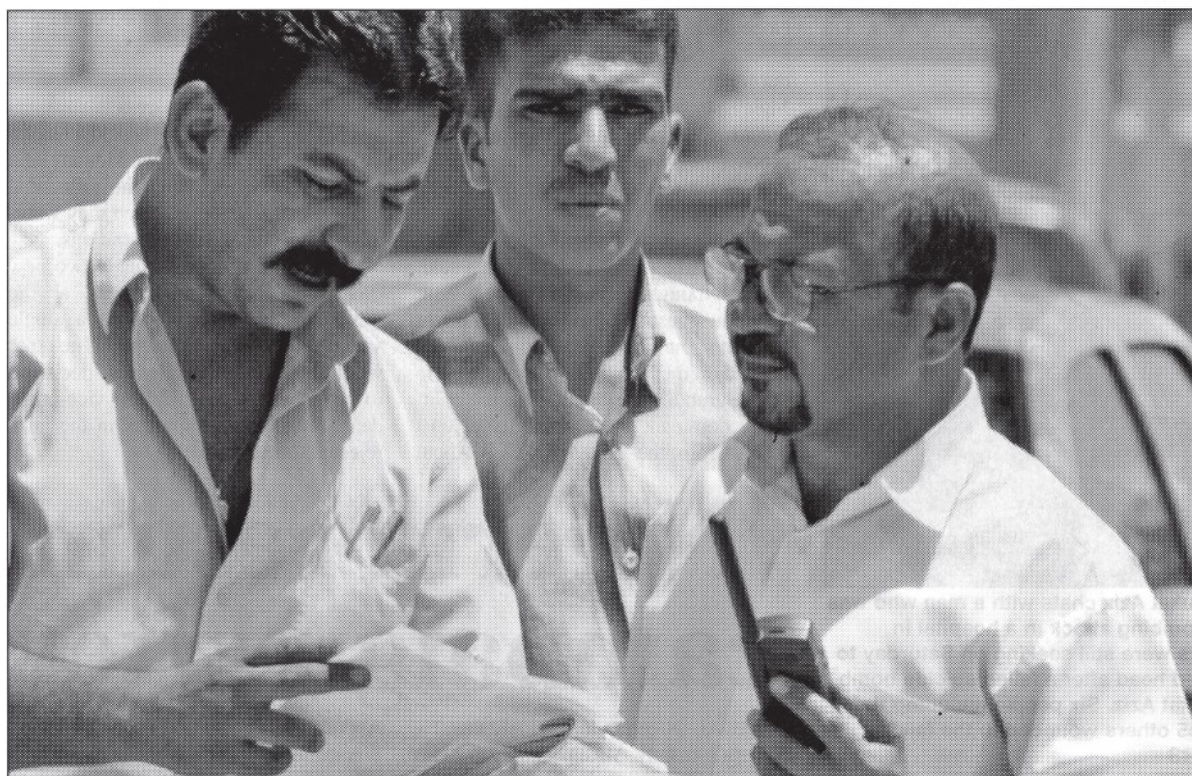
"We hope to reach a positive outcome for the sake of these hostages and rescue them," mediator Sheikh Hisham al-Dulaymi said as talks started earlier in the day. The Kuwaiti and Gulf Link Transport Company has sent a representative to Baghdad for talks with Dulaymi to try to win the release of three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian kidnapped this month by a group calling itself the "Black Banners" brigade of the Islamic Secret Army.

A source at the talks who declined to be identified said the Kuwaiti firm had agreed to one of the demands of the kidnapers — ceasing to work in Iraq. But the firm told Dulaymi that another demand — the release of Iraqi prisoners in Kuwait — was impossible for a private company to achieve. The talks were also focusing on compensation which the kidnapers want the firm to pay for Iraqi victims of fighting and U.S. air strikes in the restive city of Falluja.

On Thursday, the kidnapers issued a videotape showing one of the Indian hostages, Antaryami, dressed in orange clothing and with a gun pointed at his head.

A voice on the tape threatened to execute one of the hostages the following day unless negotiations got under way. Kidnapers in Iraq have repeatedly dressed hostages in orange before killing them, usually by beheading. The clothing mimics the orange jumpsuits worn by prisoners in U.S. detention facilities, including those at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Indian junior foreign minister Edappakath Ahamed said an envoy to Oman was being sent to Baghdad to help negotiations.

Dulaymi is the head of a major Iraqi tribal group and said he had acted as mediator in freeing other hostages in Iraq, including three Japanese who were



Representative of Kuwaiti company talks with official at headquarters of tribal leaders association in Baghdad regarding hostages release. The representative of the Kuwaiti & Gulf Link Transport Company, Mehdi Saleh (R) talks with the public affairs officer of the National Association for Iraqi Tribal Chiefs and Leaders, Miqdam al-Hamdani (L), upon their arrival to the association's headquarters in Baghdad July 31. Talks began on Saturday between an Iraqi mediator and a representative of a Kuwaiti firm to try to free seven of the company's employees held hostage in Iraq, the mediator told Reuters. REUTERS

Jordanian truck drivers hostage has pledged to release the men after establishing they were not carrying goods to U.S. troops, relatives said on Saturday. Mohammad Hassan Abu Jafaar, 45, the brother of Ahmad Hassan Abu Jafaar, one of the four drivers seized on Tuesday, said his brother's kidnapers allowed him to speak to his family on Saturday in the first phone contact since their abduction.

Hostage crisis

Dozens of foreign hostages have been seized in recent months, most of them truck drivers working for foreign companies delivering supplies to U.S. forces or Iraqi companies. At least eight hostages have been killed — four were beheaded.

An Iraqi government source said the Iraqi authorities were speaking to foreign transport companies to urge them to employ Iraqi drivers in an effort to stem the wave of kidnappings.

An Iraqi group holding four

released in April and two Russians were freed the following month.

he was in good health and treated well by the Iraqi resistance," Abu Jafaar said. A militant group in Iraq said on Thursday it was holding the four Jordanians to put pressure on their transport company to stop cooperation with U.S. forces in Iraq.

The fate of two other Jordanian drivers abducted last Monday by a group calling itself the Mujahideen Corps remained uncertain, relatives said. A Somali driver is also being held in Iraq, by a group linked to al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Earlier this week, kidnapers executed two Pakistani hostages.

A Turkish truck driver, Mehmet Dayar, held hostage in Iraq for 12 days has arrived home in southeast Turkey, having been released after pledging never to return to Iraq, CNN Turk television reported on Saturday. (Additional reporting by Y.P. Rajesh in New Delhi, Suleiman al-Khalidi in Amman and Daren Butler in Istanbul)

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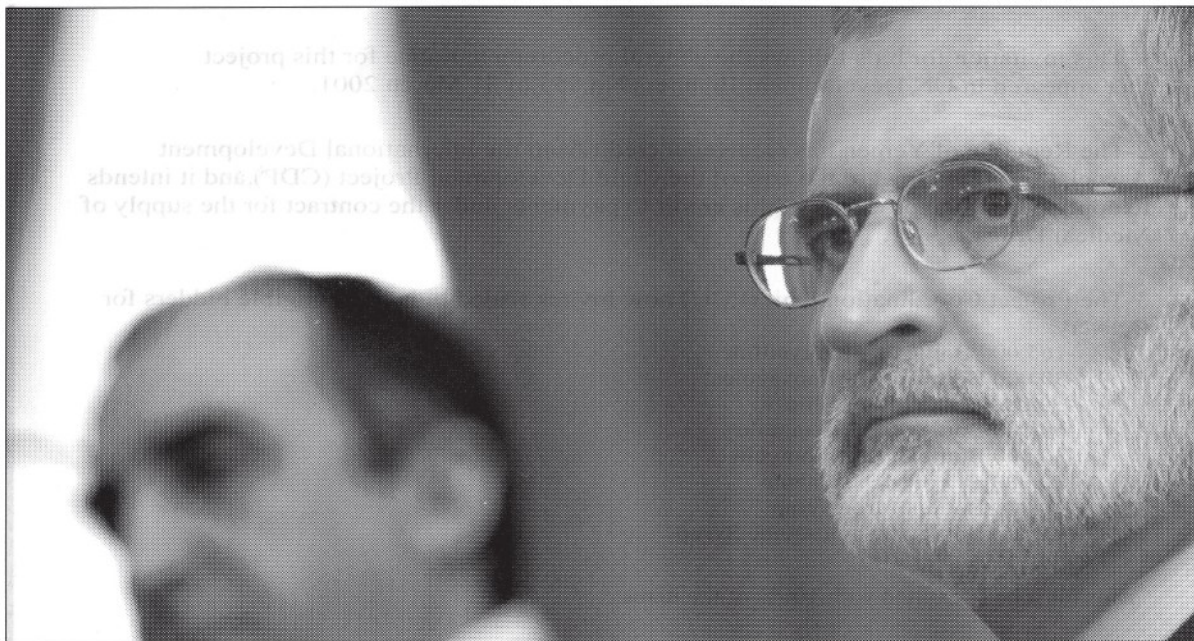
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Iran says has resumed building nuclear centrifuges



Iranian Foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi talks to the media during a press conference in Tehran with his Azeri counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov (L) July 31. Kharrazi said Iran has resumed building centrifuge parts saying "We will not allow anyone to deprive us from our legitimate right of peaceful nuclear technology". REUTERS

TEHRAN, July 31 (Reuters) - Iran has resumed building centrifuges that Washington says are intended to enrich uranium to weapons-grade for use in atomic warheads, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said on Saturday.

Iran's decision backtracks from a pledge made in October to the European Union's "big three" member states — Britain, France and Germany — to suspend all uranium enrichment-related activities.

"We have started building centrifuges," Kharrazi told a news conference.

Iran said it would restart making centrifuges to retaliate against a resolution from the U.N. nuclear watchdog last month that deplored Tehran's failure to co-operate fully with inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Diplomats say Iran has also restarted work at a uranium conversion facility near the central city of Isfahan.

This plant turns processed ore, or yellowcake, into uranium hexafluoride gas which is pumped into centrifuges to form enriched uranium.

During a meeting in Paris on Thursday, Iran told the EU "big three" that it would not surrender its right to proceed with uranium enrichment.

The IAEA says the enrichment suspension was meant to cover both centrifuge construction and the uranium conversion plant.

Enrichment not restarted

However, Kharrazi gave assurances that Tehran had not resumed enriching uranium, the key part of the process which can either produce fuel for power stations or bomb material.

"Based on our agreements in October, we have accepted suspending uranium enrichment and we are continuing that suspension based on our definition," he said.

Iran says enrichment activities only

refer to the actual process of enriching uranium and argues it is free to continue work on centrifuges and production of uranium hexafluoride gas.

It says the gas is then stored and not pumped into the centrifuges which spin at supersonic speed.

Iran insists it needs enriched uranium for power stations being built to meet booming domestic demand for electricity.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell warned Iran on Thursday that its case was increasingly likely to be referred to the sanction-imposing U.N. Security Council for failing to meet IAEA commitments.

Kharrazi said such comments were part of pressure to deprive Iran of its legitimate right to peaceful nuclear technology.

"We just want to produce fuel for our plants and we are not after nuclear weapons," he said.

Washington says Iran's nuclear programme is a cover for seeking atomic weapons.

Foreigners abducted, buildings torched in West Bank

NABLUS, West Bank, July 31 (Reuters) - Palestinian gunmen briefly abducted three foreign church volunteers and militants torched government buildings in the West Bank on Saturday, confronting Yasser Arafat with a fresh wave of lawlessness.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat condemned the violence, voicing concern about "sliding into chaos" which could harm international support for the Palestinians.

Armed Palestinians seized the men — an American, a Briton and an Irishman — as they returned to their rented home in Nablus and whisked them away at gunpoint, Palestinian security sources said.

The foreigners, members of a Christian charity believed to be affiliated with the Union Church in the United States, had been teaching English classes in Nablus, said Yousef Saadeh, the head priest at a local Roman Catholic Church, who had hosted them.

They were released unharmed overnight after police surrounded the place where they were being held in the Balata refugee camp, the sources said.

"We are safe and doing well," a 22-year-old American who identified himself only as Phil told Reuters after he was freed.

No Palestinian group claimed responsibility for the kidnappings, but security sources suspected they were carried out by a breakaway group of

President Arafat's Fatah movement. The hostage drama lasted little more than two hours but was a reminder of the growing breakdown of law and order in Palestinian areas, that poses the gravest challenge to Arafat's rule since his return from exile 10 years ago.

Militants with grievances against Arafat's political appointees and security services set fire to two Palestinian Authority buildings in the West Bank town of Jenin. Both structures were completely gutted, witnesses said.

It was the latest in an outbreak of internal unrest that began in the Gaza Strip earlier this month with the brief abductions of a police chief and four French aid workers by gunmen demanding anti-corruption reforms.

Arafat's problems far from over

Erekat told Reuters the violence was "totally unacceptable" and that nobody should be "taking the law into their own hands". "I believe these foreigners in Nablus were helping the Palestinian people.

What happened will affect international support for the Palestinians. Sliding into chaos will reflect negatively on Palestinian national interests," Erekat said. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie, who had threatened to quit over the Gaza chaos, agreed to stay in his post this week after Arafat granted him some powers to reform security services.

But Saturday's surge of internal

upheaval showed that his problems were far from over.

After their release, the foreigners took shelter at the home of Palestinian lawmaker Ghassan Shaka, a former Nablus mayor. He said they would not speak to the press.

"They are my guests. I want to be sure they will be safe," Shaka told Reuters.

Shaka said he had intervened at Arafat's behest to help free the hostages.

He demanded the kidnapers be tried in court, and that Qurie move swiftly to "restore order and the rule of law." As the hostage drama unfolded, militants torched buildings in Jenin early on Saturday in anger at the mayor's refusal to meet their demands.

A leader of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group in Arafat's Fatah movement, said it had torched the governorate because a mayor appointed by Arafat had refused to pay salaries to Al Aqsa gunmen or to cooperate with the group.

The group also set alight a one-storey structure housing the Palestinian intelligence service, saying its officers had been spying on Al Aqsa members. Palestinian calls for reform have multiplied amid a brewing factional power struggle in the Gaza Strip, in anticipation of Israel's planned withdrawal of troops and settlers from the coastal enclave and four West Bank settlements in 2005.

Diplomat in Cairo commits suicide, police sources

CAIRO, July 31 (Reuters) - A German diplomat in Cairo died after throwing himself from the second floor of his 16th-floor apartment, security sources said on Saturday.

An official from the German embassy in Cairo refused to com-

ment when contacted by Reuters.

The sources said the 34-year-old second secretary threw himself from the window during the early hours of Thursday morning after leaving a note complaining about family problems.

There was no sign of violence at the apartment in an upper-income Cairo neighbourhood and police had ruled out foul play, the sources added.

The diplomat's name was not immediately available.

Pakistan seeks to identify bomber from severed head

ISLAMABAD, July 31 (Reuters) - Pakistani investigators sought on Saturday to identify a suicide bomber from his bloodied head after a failed assassination attempt on prime minister-designate Shaukat Aziz.

Police have yet to blame any group. But a previously unknown group claiming to be linked to al Qaeda said it had carried out the attack against one of the men of the "American infidel in Pakistan", and threatened more attacks.

Aziz, 55, currently the finance minister, escaped unhurt in Friday's attack near Fatehjung, in the central province of Punjab, where he was campaigning for a by-election.

Police found a grenade at the scene of attack, which killed Aziz's driver and six others, and wounded at least 45 people.

The body of the attacker was blown into several pieces. Police have found his head, hands, legs and mutilated parts of his torso, and say he was clearly a strong, well-built man.

After his near escape, political colleagues said Aziz recounted to them how a bearded man had run up against the driver's door of his car and blown himself up.

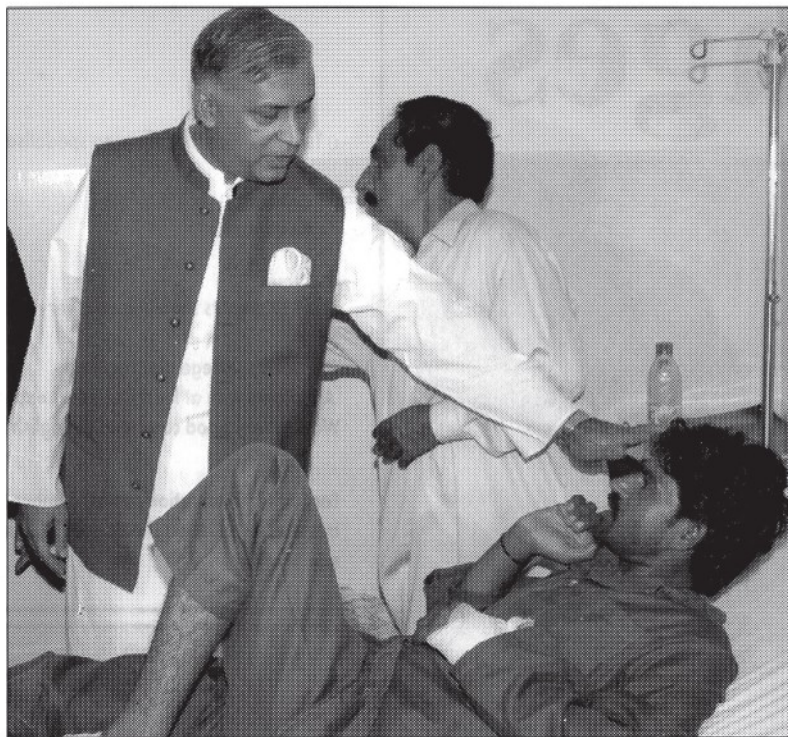
"We have found an unexploded hand grenade at the site," Iqbal said. "Apparently the suicide bomber was carrying it with other explosives. The bomb disposal squad has defused it."

The attack on Aziz, which came the day after Pakistan announced the arrest of a top al Qaeda suspect, underlines the grave challenge posed by shadowy Islamic groups furious over their government's support for the U.S.-led "war on terrorism".

Al Qaeda threat

President Pervez Musharraf, who is leading the drive against extremists, has himself survived at least three assassination attempts, most recently a suicide car bombing on December 25.

The previously unknown Islambouli Brigades of Al Qaeda said in a statement posted on an Islamist website on Saturday the attack was a message to the "treacherous" Musharraf.



Pakistan's prime minister-designate Shaukat Aziz chats with a man who was injured during Friday's deadly suicide bombing attack in a hospital in Islamabad July 31. Pakistani investigators were still seeking on Saturday to identify a dead assassin from his bloodied head after a failed suicide bomb attack on prime minister-designate Shaukat Aziz. Six people including the suicide bomber were killed and at least 45 others wounded in the failed assassination attack on Friday. REUTERS

"Yesterday's attack will be followed by more painful blows if you do not stop blindly obeying the orders of that lowlife (U.S. President George W.) Bush. If you don't stop, the mujahideen will ... wage a bloody war in Pakistan," it said.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

Security forces went into overdrive to catch the masterminds of the attack on Aziz, Musharraf's choice for prime minister.

"We will explore all the possible angles," said Abdul Raouf Chaudhry, an interior ministry spokesman. "It is too early to say who is responsible. The investigations have just started."

The attack took place immediately after a political meeting on open ground

near a village close to a railway track.

Aziz visited a hospital to inquire about those wounded in the attack and met members of his ruling party and its allies.

"There is no sign of fear on his face," said one leader of coalition partner the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Aziz gave up a 30-year career with Citibank in New York to become finance minister after Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999.

Musharraf backed Aziz's nomination as prime minister in waiting after Zafarullah Khan Jamali resigned in late June.

A caretaker prime minister will step down once Aziz wins a seat in parliament in one of two by-elections he is set to contest on August 18.

Burundi poll timetable on track, says South Africa

LANGKAWI, Malaysia, July 31 (Reuters) - South Africa's deputy president said on Saturday he was confident the peace process in Burundi, ravaged by a decade of civil war, could deliver presidential elections as scheduled by November.

Jacob Zuma, speaking to Reuters during an international conference on a Malaysian resort island, said reports of a recent disagreement over the peace process between some of the central African nation's ethnic factions had been exaggerated.

Asked if he was confident the election timetable could be met, Zuma said, "I am," though he quickly added: "But it's not a question of me being confident — that's the agreement, it does not depend on me."

Burundi's war broadly pits the politically dominant Tutsi minority against rebels from the Hutu majority. About

300,000 people have been killed in the fighting since 1993.

South Africa, which has mediated the peace talks, hosted a meeting last week for leaders in the interim government and political parties in Pretoria over how to share power after the polls, but not all the parties agreed to the deal.

Tutsis join the process

Six Tutsi political parties boycotted a meeting with Zuma on Monday but some of them, including the influential Uprona party, later indicated they wanted to press ahead with negotiations.

He said Uprona had made two new proposals on power-sharing at the Pretoria talks. One proposed a single vice-president rather than two. The other would require all presidential decisions to be counter-signed by the vice-president. But the other parties in the talks rejected the proposals.

"It does not stop the process, the process moves forward. It can't derail the peace process. It shouldn't," Zuma said, adding that the parties just needed more time to discuss them.

"They (Uprona) cannot impose on other parties," he added.

"I don't see why the parties will not (honour the peace accord)... They are willing to implement. They have worked on it for over two years and they are in their last lap."

However, political agreement on power-sharing is only one of the hurdles to be cleared before elections can be held.

Hutu President Domitien Ndayizeye, appointed under the peace process, has said polls due by October 31 as stipulated under a 2000 accord would be impossible while the Hutu Forces for National Liberation (FNL) continue their armed campaign.

Nigeria resumes polio campaign after boycott

TAKAI, Nigeria, July 31 (Reuters) - Nigeria's mainly Muslim state of Kano resumed polio immunisations on Saturday after a 10-month ban which health workers said was caused by authorities pandering to Islamic radicals.

Kano state governor Ibrahim Shekarau kicked off the restart on Saturday by vaccinating his infants in public in the village of Takai, 80 km (50 miles) east of the state capital city of Kano. Muslim leaders had pushed for the boycott saying the vaccines were part of a Western plot to spread HIV and infertility.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international organisations said the ban had helped spread the crippling virus across Nigeria and into 10 other countries that had eradicated polio.

"The government should have stopped these radicals in their pulpits," said Yahaya

Abdulkadir, director of Almu Memorial private hospital in Kano city, which offered vaccines throughout the state government's boycott.

Politicians bowed to pressure from Islamic radicals because of their growing popularity in Nigeria's second largest city, he said, which is also the centre of Islamic activism in the country, divided equally between Christians and Muslims.

Polio, which afflicts mainly children under five years, is caused by a virus that invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis or death.

The re-emergence of the virus in countries that had been polio-free has been a major setback to the WHO, which aims to eradicate the disease - endemic in only six countries in 2003 - by 2005.

Nigeria's infection rate has tripled to 346 cases so far in 2004, and the West

African nation now accounts for three-quarters of all polio cases worldwide.

Propaganda War

Leaders in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, and Egypt recently issued fatwa religious edicts backing the vaccine's use.

But Kano, one of the states which has adopted Islamic sharia law and the scene of bloody fighting between Christians and Muslims, kept up the boycott.

The WHO's specialist polio unit said the vaccines being used are the same as those initially rejected. What had changed was Kano state's panel of experts, said the WHO's polio chief in Geneva, David Heymann.

But local community leaders say the damage has been done. The conspiracy theory was fuelled by scare stories broadcast on private and state radio stations.

Invitation for Bids Republic of Yemen Child Development Project

Textbook Warehouses Equipment

Credit No. 3326-YEM
Bid No. PCU/ICB/02/2004

1-This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in UN Development Business No.555 of 31 March 2001.

2-The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Child Development Project (CDP),and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the supply of Textbook Warehouses equipment .

3-The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Delivery:

- 50 Hand Held Cellophane Wrapping Device
- 50 Cellophane for wrapping Pallets
- 50 Rolls Plastic Strap
- 5 Battery Operated Walkie Pallet
- 5 Pallet Racking System
- 7 Mini Pallet Lifter
- 5 Normal Length Pallet Lifter
- 30 Porta Cabins to be used for Books storage
- 5 Hand Held Strapping Machine

Bids must be submitted with 100% of the items.

4-Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding Procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996 and September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

5-Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of Child Development Project at the address below from 08:00 to 15.00 hours.

6-A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD\$ 50. The method of payment will be cash or bank transfer to the Central Bank of Yemen in Sana'a, account No.1076-0010235. The document will be sent by mail or Urgent post/Air carrier. In the latter case, the bidder will be charged for the additional cost.

7-Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 am on Wednesday, 15 September 2004. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum 2.5 % of bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 11:00 am on Wednesday, 15 September 2004.

Child Development Project
Project Coordination Unit
Attn: Dr. Nafisa Al Jaifi, Project Director
Hadda District , behind of the Crown Hotel
Sana'a , Yemen
Tel: 967-1-426470 - Fax: 967-1-426457

Invitation for Bids Republic of Yemen Child Development Project

Medical Drugs

Credit No. 3326-YEM
Bid No. PCU/ICB/01/2004

1-This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in UN Development Business No.555 of 31 March 2001.

2-The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Child Development Project (CDP),and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the supply of Medical Drugs.

3-The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Delivery:

- 165,000 Bottle of Amoxycilline
- 30,000 Bottle of Cotrimoxazole
- 30,000 Bottle of Pencillin V.
- 60,000 Bottle of Paracetamole
- 30,000 Bottle of Erythromycin
- 30,000 Tab of Mebendazole
- 30,000 Bottle of Iron syrup
- 45,000 Bottle of Chloroquine Syrup

Bids must be submitted with 100% of the items.

4-Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding Procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996 and September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

5-Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of Child Development Project at the address below from 08:00 to 15.00 hours.

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7-Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 am on Wednesday, 15 September 2004. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum 2.5 % of bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 11:00 am on Wednesday, 15 September 2004.

Child Development Project
Project Coordination Unit
Attn: Dr. Nafisa Al Jaifi, Project Director
Hadda District , behind of the Crown Hotel

Continued from from page

Suspects acknowledge link to Bin Laden & al-Houthi

The prosecutor said these explosives were to be used in blasting foreign embassies. It also presented to the court judge Ahmad al-Jermozi the hand-launched rocket Sam 2 fired at the Hunt Oil Company plane as well as 18 kg of C3 explosives which were found planted near the house of Mohammed al-Surmi, former intelligence deputy chief. Other materials displayed included remnants of the boat used in the suicide attack against the French Tanker Limburg. Chief prosecutor Said al-Akil said these evidences comply with the confessions made by the defendants while interrogated.

The 11 advocates authorized by the Advocates Syndicates insisted that the court refuse to continue probing into these materials presented as evidence against the defendants before they have a chance to copy the investigation reports. The prosecutor refused their demand and said the court already decided that no copies are to be given to the defense; the court judge continued listening to the prosecution as showing the evidence which made the advocates burst out in anger and leave the courtroom.

Advocate Jamal al-Jubee said they quitted the tribunal due to the insistence of the prosecution and court that they would not be given copies of the case file as well as the harassment and inspection they face while entering the court. "We were asked by our syndicate to attend the trial and defend the suspects after their advocates quitted for the same reasons. I expected that the syndicate would take a firm stand and stop lawyers from the defense before this court until it and the prosecution abide by law," he said.

The defendants at this moment made a big fuss, hailing for Osama Bin Laden and shouting anti-US slogans. They accused the judge of turning the tribunal into a farce. "They Jermozi bring out the verdict paper from your pocket; the sentences are already decided. I do feel for you," defendant Kasem al-Raimi told the judge in reckless manner. The alleged ring leader Fawaz al-Rabee shouted loudly anti-US slogans and said "we do acknowledge Bin Laden our leader; we pledge to obey his orders in fighting the Americans." "I shall never go back to infidelity," he shouted while the prosecution was showing the

judge its evidence. His friends were indifferent to the conversation between the court and prosecution and shouting Islamic songs in an indifferent way. They even expressed support to Hussein al-Houthi and said he is their leader.

While the prosecution asked the court to uphold the case for final hearings next Saturday, the court judge decided to contact the advocates syndicate concerning what he called the departure of the advocates without his permission. He also decided that the suspects would be faced with the material evidences presented by the prosecution.

On the other hand, the same court probing into the case of the 6 alleged al-Qaeda militants charged with blowing up the USS Cole decided last Wednesday that advocates should not be given copies of the case file, and expelling one of the lawyers.

The court judge Najeeb Kaderi listened to the testimony of the witnesses. The first witness Saleh Hussein Mohammed admitted renting his house to the alleged mastermind of the USS Cole terrorist operation who is in US custody now while the

second witness Hamid Abdullah Omar admitted he took the boat into the sea. He said he was arrested for over a month.

When advocate al-Anisi attended the court a bit late, he was informed of the court decision not to give a copy of the case file; he told the judge that he would like to appeal his verdict against his clients. The judge burst in anger and ordered that al-Anisi should be sacked for insulting the court, showing mistrust in it.

However, al-Samawi accepted to have a look at the investigation report only and presented his defense which refuted the charges against the clients. He said how come the defendants are accused of setting an armed gang which, he said, is impossible to attack something like the USS Cole. He also said "how come these people whom the prosecution said were trained in Afghanistan in 1998 knew that Cole would anchor at Aden port at that time."

The prosecution said it will refute his defense next hearing to be run this Wednesday. It also presented a letter from the Legal Department head at the US embassy supporting the lawsuit against

Talks with al-Houthi, hopeful prospects

Early last month, the Yemeni government offered to dispatch troops to help stabilize the country, but under certain conditions: Yemeni forces could be sent after the US-led coalition forces have left the country. Up to now, the Yemeni government has not released a response to Allawi's latest appeal for Muslim countries to send security forces.

A Yemeni analyst says that the Yemeni government may reconsider sending a peacekeeping force, depending on what other Muslim countries decide.

"The government might consider sending soldiers, but only if other countries show a willingness to participate in a multi-Muslim force," said the analyst. "Yemen may not want to be accused of not wanting to help another Middle East country."

Others believe that Muslim countries sending troops to Iraq would be a very difficult task.

"The situation in Iraq is very dangerous," said Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University. "It is already dangerous with a huge US force in the country. And if you send troops, you will also become a target."

Violence in Iraq still rules. The day before Allawi asked for help, an attack killed 68 Iraqis and wounded 56, about 35 miles outside of Baghdad, the capital. It was the worst attack since Allawi took office when the United States handed over sovereignty to the newly formed Iraqi government. Since the war began, over 900 US servicemen and women have been killed.

Soon after Allawi's appeal, a militant group displayed a message on the Internet that threatened to attack any Arab or Muslim state that contributes soldiers to assist Iraq.

"Our swords will be drawn in the face of anyone who cooperates with the Jews and the

Christians. We will strike with an iron fist, all the traitors from the Arab governments who cooperate with the Zionists secretly or openly," the group said in its statement.

Last week, a militant group announced that it had killed two Pakistani hostages in protest at the possibility that Pakistan would send troops to Iraq.

"The Muslim countries might be able to help stabilize the country, but the initiative will be difficult to materialize. It is complex and has many factors involved," said Khaled Al-Akwaa, Professor of Public Policy at Sana'a University.

Up to now, it is not clear whether Muslim countries are willing to commit to dispatching troops to Iraq. There are still no decisions on the size of the force and what the role will be for the multi-Muslim taskforce.

Arab governments also have to consider the public reaction to sending troops. Many may interpret sending troops as an act of supporting the US-led occupation of Iraq.

"I want to go to Iraq and fight the Americans," said a Yemeni student. "Why would anyone want to fight with them while they are occupying Iraq?"

Al-Akwaa also said that Yemen may have to deal with the conflict in north Yemen before considering sending troops abroad. Fighting between government forces and followers of Muslim cleric Hussein Al-Houthi has now lasted for over a month and a half. The official death toll has reached 300 and thousands of civilians have left their homes in the area of the clashes.

A 30-strong delegation, made up of politicians and religious scholars, are negotiating with Al-Houthi to persuade him to surrender. President Ali Abdullah Saleh sent two delegations to negotiate with Al-Houthi in June, but the cleric refused to surrender.

To Let

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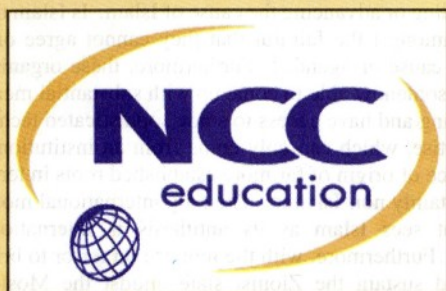
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NCC revolutionizes IT education in Yemen

The world is living the third global revolution-information technology-and the radical changes it has made in the life of humanity, their contact with each other, and social and human development.

It is a revolution based on mind and science and not on manual or conventional methods. It is characterized by a rapid improvement and unlimited proliferation and makes use of accumulated masses of knowledge.

It is a continuous limitless free creative process. It does not depend on the fertility or area of land or quantity of water available, nor it depend on industrial raw materials such as iron, oil or gas. It relies on a creative



Mr. Abdul-Hafiz Rashid Olaih, director of NCC, Yemen

human brain, and small-sized but powerful technical industries.

Nowadays, a nation's power and economic might depend heavily on

the ability to invest and exploit the products of this revolution. Peoples are esteemed according to whether they can well employ the information technology.

Yemen is among the countries that try to catch up with recent developments in the realm of information technology. So, it has devoted much resources, capacities, and programs to achieve this goal. At the top of the list come the President's Computer Dissemination Project by 2010, and the focus on widening the network of IT education institutions. One of these establishments that try to train Yemeni youths computer science is the National Computer Center (NCC), Sana'a.

"Happiness filled my heart when I



NCC receives award from WB representative Mr. Robert Hundal

received a letter from the NCC's head office in Manchester, Britain, praising the level Yemen branch's students, especially that a Yemeni Fadwa Hassan Suhbi was the highest of all first year students in the Middle East area. This success encouraged us to go further in providing more majors to our curriculum. Starting from this month, we will start offering business administration curricula to the public. This business track is divided into three years. In the first year students take eight different modules in accounting, management, economics, and marketing. In the sec-

ond year, the students will be given the chance to major in three areas, finance, management, and marketing to build up what they have gained from the first year. In the last year, students will take other subjects in electronic business (eBusiness) such as eBusiness Technology, Interactive Marketing for eCommerce, Corporate Strategy and eBusiness and Internet Law. Regardless the major, what I like most about NCC is that their 37 years of experience enabled them to organize mixed curriculums that include practical and theoretical subjects.

Adding to that, the gradual complexity that makes students involve in a challenge to compete and proceed ahead," said Mr. Abdul-Hafiz Rashid Olaih, director of NCC, Yemen. "Marketing and Public Relations Manager of the NCC said what Fadwa achieved is an honor for all Yemenis, because it proves that the Yemeni mentality is no less than that in the developed world as long as needs are met. "I cease this opportunity to thank governmental bodies and former diplomat Francis Guy, and World Bank representative Mr. Robert Hundal.

The outstanding achiever speaks out

Name: Fadwa Hassan Suhbi
Achievement: First position in the Middle East area in IDCS diploma from NCC.

Impression: I was overwhelmed with happiness. My joy is indescribable. I thought I would be a pioneer locally, but the first in the Middle East, it is a pleasant shock.

How? I studied with concentration, and study has the top priority in my



life. Methods of teaching played significant role, and curriculum

was flexible enough to enable students to absorb the information. It depended on practical, and theoretical, scientific knowledge. NCC is distinguished with improved syllabuses that answer the needs of the recent developments. They are really flexible and interesting. NCC discusses the students problems promptly with teachers or with the administration. I did not procrastinate studying my lessons. I advise students to join NCC.

Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

The new revolution

In an international conference on peace was held last week in Seoul, S. Korea, and a conclusion was reached about the needed to involve NGOs more than at any other time to participate in making peace. This reminded me of a speech given by prominent academic John Tirman, the Director of the NY-based Social Science Research Council, who once said, "a quiet revolution is rumbling beneath the surface of global politics, a slow-motion upheaval reaching into every society." That is the NGO revolution.

Indeed, it has become clear that the role of NGOs' in forming policies and implementing developmental and social reforms will strengthen and increase in time. One of the direct and undeniable proofs of this fact is the incredible influence NGOs have had in the developed world for many decades. Their turn to continue the revolution in the developing world is now coming.

More and more donors and international organizations have revealed that they trust NGOs, especially those that have been active for many years, more than the governments of developing countries. This has led to a significant shift of funds from the governments to NGOs who are in direct connection with the grassroots community and are more efficiently managed and transparently operated.

On the other hand, governments of developing countries are unable or possibly unwilling to understand that the NGO revolution has started. Many governments are continuously putting hurdles and obstacles in front of NGOs work. They are in some cases closing them down or confiscating from them with unjustifiable excuses such as their not getting permission to hold activities or publish articles, etc.

What governments need to understand for the time being is that NGOs are in fact a savior and an assistant that could help countries advance and recover from social or economic troubles. What governments should do is work with NGOs, with unity, to facilitate their work and enable them to achieve more in helping countries develop and progress.

Governments should realize this sooner rather than later because there is simply no other way to continue ignoring the world's demand for a stronger NGO basis to implement the increasing number of projects in all fields imaginable. Governments will be unable to do the work on their own, so they will absolutely need NGOs to assist in this respect.

The revolution is continuing to intensify and become more influential in the years to come, and I deeply believe that the regimes should embrace this revolution and make use of it, before they lose more than they can afford in a globalizing and changing world.

The Editor



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, Founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Who dares reforms and democracy (7)

By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Altarb
For the Yemen Times

Reforms and democracy in Yemen and the Middle Eastern countries require guts and strong and firm conviction. And before that, they require political will and genuine determination that would decisively set the line between reality and doubts and that would really pave the way to establishing a true democratic society and good governance.

The change and reform into an open-mindedly democratic society require a great revolution in the region to eliminate the characteristics that have diminished the capabilities of countries, whose combined gross national product does not equal that for Spain. The sought change does not only mean changing governments or specific individuals, but it should extend to the inclusion of changing the Arab culture that criticizes freedoms that begin at home, school, university, mosque and the workplace. The elimination of negligence, corruption, plundering public funds and the worshiping of autocrats and everything they represent from fighting ingenuity and creativity, isolating skilled individuals, specialists, geniuses and experts who constitute a threat to the autocrat and his puppets.

Of course, the changing negative traditions that Arabs have gained over decades requires tremendous and legendary efforts and extraordinary aggressiveness that may be impossible now regardless of the outcome of the Tunisia summit and external initiatives being offered, since the decision that would launch the siren for the commencement of reform, change and democracy would also mean the beginning of the era of transparency, accountability and liability, a matter that make reduce leaders and officials to within reach of law and questioning and punishment for what they have committed against their peoples.

Certainly, any government could not make the required change until after adopting the political decision in order to be applied to itself then opening the door for civic society organizations and corporations to participate effectively in such missions. Civic society organizations can strongly contribute and participate in reform and change operations only when they are permitted to, and not constrained and restricted by laws, obstacles, official statements and closely monitored as if they were terror organizations. Civic society organizations are not certain individuals, but

they are qualified and authorized organizations formed with the objectivity to assist and to contribute towards the increase of social awareness in all aspects of life.

Despite decades of backwardness in Yemen and the region, the majority of social segments in Arab countries are completely aware of their frustration, political, social, economic and educational deficiencies and backwardness, therefore, it would be prudent and more practical to organize them and to gradually involve them in any suitable forms of governance in order to absorb their discontent. Their gradual inclusion would prevent their explosion instantly when the repressive hand is loosened or their desperation has reached an unbearable degree.

The current argument around the Middle East following the Tunisia Summit, the G-8 Summit and the meetings in Helsinki and Turkey regarding the greater Middle East Initiative and other seem to be departing from the core of the problem and holding on only to its tail. The issue has transformed to expressions that have no connection to reform and the principles and culture of democracy.

We in Yemen and since the Yemen Times' initiative - Together towards the modern State of Yemen and how to assist President Saleh in achieving his dream of prosperous and modern Yemen and a more developed and stable country - we decided to write and discuss the issue that focuses on change and reform from within, and connecting to resolving long-term disputes and conflicts headed by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The reforms and change have become urgent demands. Everyone knows that implementing reforms and democracy are easy tasks, but they require prerequisites, which are determination and political will. Of course, the implementation has no relation to the question of internal or external condition, but it has relation in terms of providing and having priorities, a clearly national agenda and the desire to achieve our objectives. Muslim communities should not contradict with the concept of democracy since in Islam, as we know, stipulates the adoption of the principle of "shoura" (democracy) in the governance practice and the fact that God creates people liberal and free.

We could accept a connection between reforms and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the departure of the foreign troops from Iraq, if we were told that that this connection was a pressuring tool on America for example to

resolve the conflict, but we can not accept the notion that our society is unable and refuses to react towards change and democracy as long as the Israeli occupation remains. This is illogical and unacceptable.

The current state of weakness in Yemen and in the Arab countries was the result of decades of intentionally skillful scheming and planning. It does not permit our societies to convey their voice to the rulers in a civilized way.

There are other less-civilized societies then ours which are miraculously able to conduct peaceful marches, demonstrations and work strikes in order express their desire for change, but we, because of our current ethics, behaviors and traditions, do not know how to demonstrate without destroying public and personal properties that originally belong to us.

If in recent years, there has been a breakthrough in the margins of freedom, the level of freedom remains very small and differs from one Arab country to another. The Arab regimes have granted their peoples with varied margins of democracy and freedom not based on democracy and freedoms which are basic rights of the people, but rather the Arab regimes expect from peoples to express their appreciations and thanks.

The solution remains in the hand of each Arab government to assist the people to come out from the crisis they are gradually engraining a new culture, the culture of working, participation, equality, accountability, all kinds of freedoms and civil liberties, the principle of the peaceful transition of power, political pluralism and true partisanship.

This is the culture of reform and democracy that we wish our leaders to dare to embark on instead of waiting for them to be imposed on us, particularly if the elections in Iraq would be held on scheduled time and they would prove to be successful.

Finally, people look at what has been done in Yemen. And we must continue until the reform and change operations begin before practicing our democratic rights in the coming 2006 elections.

The most important question remains to be, would the President launch the reform and change operation during the Yemeni celebrations on the occasions of September, October and November of this year, so that the year 2005 would be considered the year for major change and reform programs in all aspects of life? Or would the President wait until the two-year Ba Jamal government expires and that would mean to wait until April of next year.

Letters to the Editor

'Same-sex' marriage not justified

I wish to respond to a recent letter in the Yemen Times. I have enclosed the following letter for publication.

Regarding the letter "Same-sex marriage: It's about tolerance and equality" by Christoph Lombardo, (Thursday July 15th - Issue 754, Volume 13, from July 12th - July 14th, 2004)

Christoph Lombardo is incorrect in claiming that "gay people do not chose to be gay". Despite several scientific studies the cause of sexual attraction between members of the same sex is unknown. The American Psychiatric Association has, in fact, held varying positions on the subject.

Nonetheless, were it to be proven that some individuals have a genetic determination to homosexuality, in itself this evidence would not serve to invalidate the long tradition of belief that homosexuality, according to the "natural law", is an unnatural or disordered condition.

"Natural" does not, as some think, refer here simply to what is in accord with the biological processes of man. Nor does it refer to what is innate, nor even to what is "normal". Rather, the word "natural" has a metaphysical meaning. That is said to be

"natural" which accords with what is good for human beings. Homosexual acts are contrary to the natural law because they close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

Hence, homosexuals should not be entitled to any legal rights as homosexuals under civil law. Just because "we are all creatures of God", this does not mean that we all have the right to do as we feel or please as Mr. Lombardo believes. This would lead to anarchy.

Christoph Lombardo's letter essentially represents a systematic effort on the part of many today to banish religious principles from public debate; to discount and marginalize persons with religious faith. Typical of gay rights advocates is that they incoherently and prejudicially label those who oppose homosexuality as "homophobic". They fail to understand the logic that it is possible to "love the sinner but hate the sin".

In rejecting erroneous opinions that support homosexuality one does not limit but rather defends personal freedom and dignity realistically and authentically

Letters to the Editor

understood.

Paul Kokoski
paulkokoski@mountaincable.net

Dr. Shams on Abyssinia not confident

I truly appreciate the opinions of Yemeni, Eritrean or Ethiopian commentators.

Zeru has put forward good comments to put Dr Mohammad at a mildtruck. However, he does not seem to be confident to articulate his points.

He has a promising beginning in his opening paragraphs, though I would contest his concluding paragraph. I am afraid that he is more influenced by charlatan historians and propagandists in his last paragraph, whose vocabulary has already faded out after claiming a tragic loses on all fronts of life. I am afraid, that his objective is to stress differences rather than similarities in the Horn of Africa. It would probably be better to sense diversity, which can occur even within a small entity. We have had enough of conflict caused by primordial sentiment, while we were all shelved by the developed nations under the same box, poor Africans.

I feel more ashamed when unsure charlatan historians like Zeru tend to be new architects of differences

among the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea agitating new bloodshed!

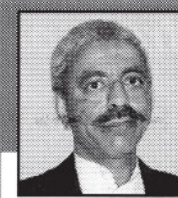
My brother, think rationally about whether these peoples have benefited in their half a century era of protracted conflicts!

Learn from the experiences of UK, Canadian and US history, among others, if diversities were not managed. I am not at all objecting to straightly seeking political solutions to political problems. It needs to be carried out further for sake of stability. Nevertheless, I don't see the logic to undermine the binding cultural and economic threads that are mutually useful for a sustainable future! Hardening the past is out context in the New Millennium.

I urge every concerned Ethiopian and Eritrean not to meddle in trivial differences. Let's draw essential lessons from our past so as to meet a better future. Our pressing problems are not one proliferation of conflicts but reducing tensions!

Stressing prejudices and artificial differences did not liberate us from relief aid!, despite our pretences. Let us envision better! Calling upon differences is not the solution for our pressing needs!

Tsega Hillina
tseghab@yahoo.com



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Is terrorism being seen in its true perspective?

In seeking to confront terrorism, the United States maybe approaching the problem in an altogether obsolete fashion. It is now understood that terrorism, unlike the venue of conflicts between states or alliances between states, simply has no specific ground rules to guide one as to the appropriate way of countering this shadowy new phenomenon that has caught the attention of just about everyone on earth. After all, terrorism's menacing striking power is unpredictable and indiscriminate when it comes to targeting its victims. Moreover, with a philosophy based on the ends justify the means, terrorist organizations have literally given themselves a vast open field in which to unleash their horrific sadistic cravings. On the other hand, without a clear ideology behind most terrorist activities, it goes without saying that it is difficult to determine where the grass roots base of terrorist organizations lie, and thus where information about their nature or agenda may be accessed.

Needless to say, terrorism is not really a new phenomenon and quite often terrorism was a mechanism by which certain causes were able to impose their will on certain countries and regions. In fact, states often used terror to impose their will on their subjects and on other states as is the case of Nazi Germany, and Israel. If anyone does not believe that the latter was a strong reliant on terrorism to expedite and maintain its existence, then for sure they have not read their history correctly. The truth of the matter is that Israel has refined the art of terror to a science that is probably unmatched in the level of development by any other country.

This brings us to the present ugliness that has popped up here and there in the form of fly by night "Islamic Jihadists", who claim to be advocating for the interests and causes of the Moslem constituencies throughout the world. The obvious dubious nature of these mysterious new villains of the world has quite a lot of similarity to the kind of terror on which Israel relies on to maintain its "survival" and promote its further domination of the region. The first obvious observation of all genuine Moslems throughout the world is why would any Moslem seek to defy religious doctrine to advance Islamic causes, when it is absolutely forbidden for Moslems to engage in the kind of terror unleashed by these so called "Jihadists"? On the other hand, why does not anyone of these organizations come out and define themselves properly, showing clear objectives and organizational structure of some kind that can be recognized as a genuine serious movement with a real cause? Almost every terror attack is being launched by a different group having a different name and all alluding to be defending or advancing the cause of Islam. Is Islam that divided amongst the faithful that they cannot agree on a common cause or agenda? Furthermore, these organizations are somehow able to come up with substantial means and funding and have access to some sophisticated technical expertise, which can only come from an institutionalized source of origin of far more established roots in terror - and certainly non-Islamic. The only international movement that sees Islam as its antithesis is international Zionism. Furthermore, with the reliance on terror to bring about and sustain the Zionist state amidst the Moslem World, it goes without saying that the Zionist movement is keen on reflecting itself as an angelic state amidst a sea of Moslem demons. This serves two purposes for the Zionist cause. It rekindles an international war of cultures, in which it places itself with the West, while Moslems represent the threat to all western values and civilization. Nothing is further than the truth. Western civilization and western modern values have their roots in Islamic civilization, long before Theodore Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, was ever born. Yet, the west, especially the United States remains oblivious to trying to tie these new demonic movements falsely portraying themselves as "Jihadists" with the Zionist Movement. The other is that countering Islam becomes a new basis for support to Israel after the "Communist Threat" ended with the end of the Cold War. To most sensible Moslems, these fly by night "Jihadists" are closer to the Irgun and Stern terrorist gangs that wreaked havoc throughout Palestine, during the early days of Israel's "struggle for independence", than to any genuine Islamic liberation movement. Even the initial sponsors of the Zionist "homeland", the British, had many of the leaders of these terror gangs on wanted posters, before they were to become national leaders of Israel, like Ishak Chamir and Ben Gurion and many others. Just look in the British Archives and you will find these "terrorists" there being pursued by British agents in Palestine and elsewhere. On the other hand, true Jihadists really know that it is senseless to advocate for the liberation of, say Iraq, while their members carry out senseless bomb attacks against literally hundreds of Iraqis, while not even bringing injury to any elements of the occupying forces. Whose side are they really on? Yet, they carry on freely, with the occupying force in Iraq not finding any clue whatsoever as to who these "insurgents" are. So as not to make the allusion that these groups might have ties to the international Zionist Movement and its right wing friends, especially in the US, seem ridiculous, one might want to look at this web site www.wsws.org, which has an opener, that is not surprising to the more well informed about what terror is really all about in our world today: "A documentary broadcast August 25 (1998) by German public television (ZDF) presents compelling evidence that some of the main suspects in the 1986 Berlin disco bombing, the event that provided the pretext for a US air assault on Libya, worked for American and Israeli intelligence".

YT Business

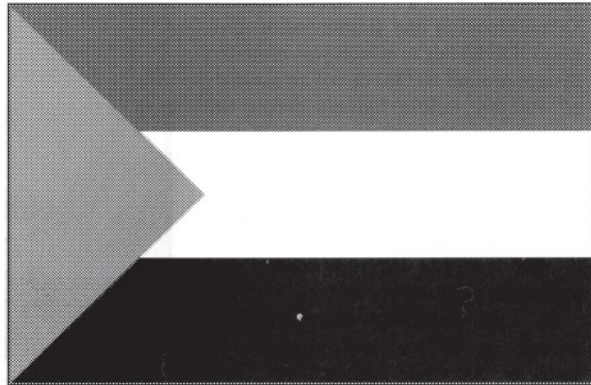
Yemen and Sudan: new steps towards large-sale partnership

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Meetings of the 10th session of the Yemeni-Sudanese Joint Commission would begin in the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Tuesday. The meeting would be co-chaired by the two countries' foreign ministers. The meetings would discuss means and ways of enhancing areas of economic and investment cooperation and the realisation of integrated partnership between the two countries' businessmen. The commission is to discuss activation of agreements already concluded between Yemen and Sudan, on the one hand, and between it and Ethiopia within the frame of the Sana'a Tripartite Grouping, on the other hand.

Yemen Times has learnt that the joint commission would discuss means of developing exports between the two countries and offering necessary facilities for transportation of Sudan's exports to the Gulf region and at the same time transportation of Yemen's exports to African countries. In addition, the commission would urge the Yemeni and Sudanese private sector to take the initiative in activating the exchange of trade via building a joint maritime transport route.

Though the volume of trade exchange between the two countries is still small, the joint commission



would study in its meeting the question of consolidating areas of cooperation pertaining lines of sea shipment and transport and the establishment of a joint holding company, building industrial zones, holding trade exhibitions, setting up an information network for the private sector and trade. The commission meeting would also work for cooperation in financial services, activation of bilateral agreements to avoid double taxation, in addition to strengthening exchange in area of youth and sports.

Volume of trade exchange between Yemen and Sudan during last year amounted to YR 994 million and 236 thousand, YR 523 million and 969 thousand was the value of Yemen's imports from Sudan and YR 470 million and 267 thousand for the Yemeni exports to Sudanese markets.

Those indicators reveal that the balance of trade tilts towards the Sudanese exports to Yemen with a variance of more than YR 53 million.

The commission had held its 9th session in Sana'a in January 2002 when it had confirmed the importance of expansion in area of investment, encouragement of businessmen to cement bilateral relations and working out a scientific perception for the process of exports exchange and their development.

Yemen stands by Sudan in its endeavor for achieving stability and preservation of the unity of its national territories, in addition to the two countries association with stable and strong relations within the Sana'a Grouping which had been declared officially in December 2003. The countries of Sana'a Grouping work for expanding joint investment projects, exchange of benefits, expanding trade exchange, fighting terror and serving security, stability and peace in the region.

The Grouping also aims at achievement of economic integration enhancing areas of development, facilitation of the movement of capitals influx

among its member states as well as realisation of positive results in political relations and support and coordinate their stands towards regional issues of common interest.

The Yemeni-Sudanese joint commission would discuss what has been accomplished by the committees set up as part of the Sana'a Grouping, especially those entrusted with following up and assessment products of the three countries such as dairies, leather and vegetable oils industries, beans, vegetables and fruits in order to define ways of trade exchange between Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia.

The three countries have joint plans and schemes working through their joint committees for fighting trafficking and illegitimate trading and therefore meetings of the joint commission in Khartoum acquire economic and trade significance and would help activate agreements concluded between the two countries for the expansion of future cooperation.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.6700	184.8900
Sterling Pound	339.8500	340.2500
Euro	224.4900	224.7600
Saudi Rial	49.2400	49.3000
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.5700	627.3200
UAE Dirhem	50.2800	50.3400
Egyptian Pound	29.6400	29.6800
Bahraini Dinar	489.8500	490.4300
Qatari Rial	50.7300	50.8000
Jordanian Dinar	260.4700	260.7800
Omani Rial	479.6900	480.2600
Swiss Franc	146.5200	146.6900
Swedish Crown	24.3900	24.4200
Japanese Yen	1.6809	1.6829

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Joint council for Yemeni-Lebanese businessmen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An agreement for the establishment of a joint council for Yemeni and Lebanese businessmen was signed recently in Sana'a and also a protocol for cooperation between two industrial associations in the two countries. Those have aimed at enabling the private sector to play its role in developing economic and trade and investment relations between Yemen and Lebanon.

During the recent visit by the Lebanese prime minister to Yemen Rafiq al-Hariri, the two governments have signed 9 agreements, memoranda of understanding and protocols for strengthening areas of cooperation between the two countries. Those have included financial, taxation, customs, marine freight and sea affairs and goods and individuals. They also covered cooperation in areas of health, tourism and development of exports and agriculture and irrigation.

Talks of the two parties have also stressed the importance of backing up orientations of the private sector for the expansion of the scope of joint cooperation, activation of bilateral agreements, establishment of a joint bank in a manner leading to the increase in the volume of trade

exchange between the two countries.

The businessmen council has been authorized to carry out studying available potentials with both sides for the achievement of the two countries interests for the growth and development of the relations of economic partnership at all levels. The volume of trade exchange between Yemen and Lebanon had in the last year amounted to around YR 803 million and 107 thousand. Yemeni imports from Lebanon in that period were worth round YR 577 million and 428 thousand, while the value of Yemeni exports to Lebanese markets for the same period recorded YR 225 million and 679 thousand. As a comparison, Yemen's exports to Lebanon in 2002 amounted to YR66 million and 352 thousand and value of imports from Lebanon amounted YR 659 million and 379 thousand. This shows there is a growth in value of Yemeni exports to Lebanon market though the balance of trade is still in favour of Lebanon.

For this reason, Yemen seeks for improvement of its balance of trade with Lebanon and upgrading mechanisms of bilateral cooperation, especially in areas of investments and tourism. Here the council for businessmen would undertake the responsibility for invigorating activity in those two sectors.

International expertise for

The project of improving economic management

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of civil service is seeking help from international technical expertise for improving the economic administration after its potency has proved its capability of surmounting management difficulties. The project aims at increasing production and fighting corruption within a framework of administrative reforms program meant for building self capabilities of government institutions, ministries and establishments.

The minister of civil service Hamoud Khalid al-Soufi has recently discussed with advisor of the project for improvement of economic administration performance in Yemen and the international expert in investment of funding offered by social security funds the support presented to the

project in areas of international expertise and consultancies.

The project aims at investing money of social security funds and pension in guaranteed investment projects and safe help achieve high investment return and contribute to the process of economic and social development, including international expertise and support of the state establishment for social securities and the state organization for securities and pensions.

Implementation of the project of improvement of economic administration is coinciding with the execution by the ministry of civil service of the first phase of reconstruction and restructuring the state apparatuses and utilities aimed at development and realization of a qualitative transfer in the process of reform of the state administration machinery.

Prime Minister Abdulqader

Bajamal has affirmed, at a workshop held in Sana'a for evaluation of conditions of employees' affairs, which the stage of reforms during the next period would focus on following modes of rational administration guaranteeing the attainment of justice and equality between all rights and duties.

The ministry of civil service has decided scientific means for administration modernization and removing mistaken concepts that adhered to tasks of employees affairs in order to invest human resources and liberate the administration from restraints chaining them.

The ministry is presently working at completing the national strategy for wages and salaries by adding more discussions to it by all parties before approving its final version and referring it to parliament to be endorsed. It is expected that the strategy would be put into force late of this year.

French support for agriculture & animal wealth

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On conclusion of recent Yemeni negotiations in Paris with partners of development, an agreement was signed on supporting a \$ 120 worth program for developing basic education in Yemen. \$ sixty-five million of it is a loan from the International Agency for Development and \$48 million, a grant from the governments of Holland and Britain, while the

Yemeni government contributes to the program with seven million dollars.

The program aims at supporting a strategy on basic education via increasing rates of joining basic education, especially by females and improvement of the quality of education and building institutional capacities of the ministry of education and its offices in governorates and districts.

The agreement was signed by Yemeni minister of education Dr

Abdulsallam al-Jawfi, head of the Yemeni delegation and for the donors side by head of the team Othman Deejana. On the other hand, an agreement on the general framework for a mechanism on the use of the French assistance for Yemen was signed in Sana'a last week. The French aid focuses on the areas of agricultural and animal wealth production and building water dams. It was also agreed on allocating YR 35 million of the French assistance for the fighting of coffee piercing insect.

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Afghanistan: on the brink of disaster

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Members of Parliament in Great Britain last week released a disturbing report on the conditions in Afghanistan and its uncertain future.

The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee said that there will be a real danger if "resources are not provided soon, that Afghanistan - a fragile state in one of the most sensitive and volatile regions of the world - could implode, with terrible consequences."

Violence in Afghanistan has risen dramatically in the last year-and-a-half. Over 800 people have been killed in the last 12 months. Many of humanitarian aid organizations, assisting to rebuild the war-torn country, have also been targeted. Since the beginning of 2003, over 30 aid workers have been killed.

The remnants of the Taliban regime, which have continued to fight US forces in the south, are held responsible for many of the attacks, including assaults in provinces in the north that had been calm since the Taliban were overthrown in late 2001. But warlords leading

armed militias and new drug-lords are also seen as backing attacks to keep the country unstable.

Doctors Without Borders, a prominent aid agency that has been operating in Afghanistan to provide health care for 24 years, decided last week to pack up and leave the country. On June 2nd, five of its aid workers were ambushed and killed in the Badghis province.

The British Foreign Affairs Committee criticized NATO countries for not offering enough forces to secure Afghanistan. Up until now, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has been made up of only 6,500 troops, stationed mostly in Kabul, the capital. Twenty thousand US soldiers are preoccupied fighting the Taliban in the south and hunting down Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of Al-Qaeda, near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

At the NATO conference in Istanbul last June, leaders from member countries promised to increase troop deployments to help bring stability to Afghanistan. But NATO has not only delayed the sending of troops but has failed to find enough countries to commit to fulfill the promise of sending up to 3,500 additional soldiers. NATO offi-

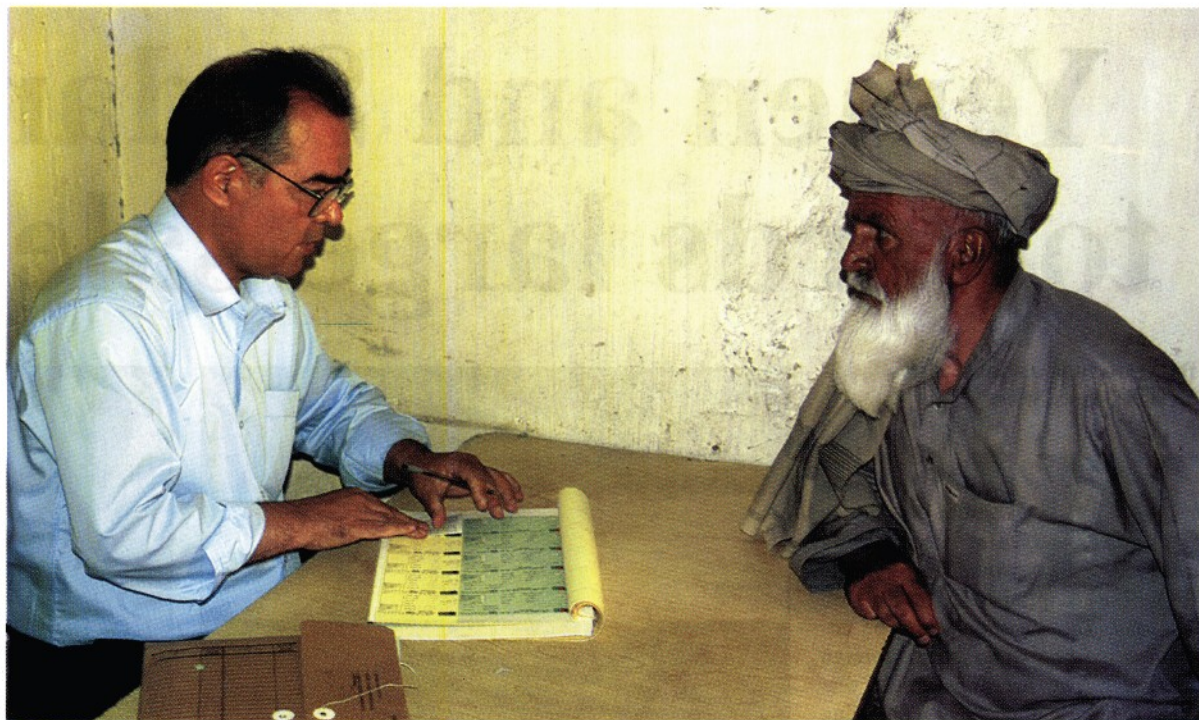
cials, including the Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, are now scrambling to find countries that are willing to dispatch forces in September.

"We conclude that, welcome though the Istanbul declaration of limited further support for Afghanistan is, fine communiqués and ringing declarations are no substitute for delivery of the forces and equipment which Afghanistan needs on the ground," said the British committee.

Last October the United Nations-sponsored a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program (DDR) began which was aimed to disarm around 60,000 out of an estimated 100,000 militia fighters before the presidential elections are to be held next October. Until now, the program has been stalling: Roughly 10,000 militia fighters have been disarmed, mostly due to the lack of cooperation from Afghan warlords who now control vast territories across the country.

In July, President Hamid Karzai signed a decree to try and persuade warlords to cooperate and get the DDR moving forward.

"Those who are not cooperating, those who are actively working against DDR, they will be brought to justice,"



An Afghan registering to vote for the upcoming elections in Kabul, the capital.

(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

said the President's Spokesman Jawed Ludin.

But analysts believe that it will be difficult for the interim government to enforce its new decree. The Afghan National Army is made up of only 8,300 soldiers. And according to Alexandre Schmidt, Crime Prevention Expert of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Afghanistan is just beginning to develop its judicial system.

"The central government outside the capital is very weak, and there is no judicial system yet," said Schmidt. "The judicial system and law enforcement need to be strengthened, and they also need to be developed outside the capital."

Karzai also tried a couple of weeks ago to strengthen the government's control of the country by removing three militia leaders from their jobs as army commanders and giving them security and local government positions. One was appointed as governor while two others became police chiefs, each one within their own provinces.

Analysts, however, have said that the shift will have little effect on the warlords: They have received new titles while still being close to their armed militia fighters.

Some think that the first democratic elections since the Taliban regime fell could help bring stability to the country. The Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) - a joint effort between Afghanistan's interim government and the United Nations - has been successful in preparing Afghans to participate in the elections. The JEMB has registered around eight million out of 10 million eligible voters, 40% being women, and has been able to work in unstable areas so that registration has been tak-



A soldier in the Afghan National Army trying to bring stability to the country.

(Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

ing place in all of the 34 provinces.

But warlords have been using their power to intimidate voters. In a recent United Nations report on the development of Afghanistan's political rights, Ismail Khan, one of the most powerful warlords ruling the Herat province in the west, was cited as having crushed political opposition and controlling the press and television in his area.

Fighting between Taliban fighters and US troops in the south and attacks on civilians have restricted registration in some areas. In the Zabol province, only 12% of the people have been able to register to vote.

There are also fears that violence will increase as the country gets closer to elections, which could endanger the voting process for the presidential elections next fall and parliamentary elections in April 2005.

"The JEMB has time and again expressed its concern about the security during the voter registration process and also during the election period itself," said Said Mohammad Azam, JEMB's Media Relations Officer. "We have always called for provisions of better security where voters, candidates, voter registration and electoral officials feel safe and secure."

The Foreign Affairs Committee also warned that little, if any, assistance has been given to Afghanistan to reduce opium production. The drug industry has prospered since the Taliban regime was ousted. In 2003, over 80,000 hectares were used for poppy cultiva-

tion and the country produced 3,600 tons of opium - up from 185 tons in 2001 - taking up 75% of the world market. According to the committee's report, the production of opium is expected to rise again this year.

The Taliban is using drug trafficking to finance its insurgency, while over a dozen warlords exploit the drug trade to support building their power base. To fight against the drug trade, the government initiated an eradication program that destroyed 25,000 hectares of poppy fields in over a half-dozen provinces. But according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the government has not provided poppy farmers with an alternative crop, and it is expected that farmers will grow poppies again later this year.

The Foreign Affairs Committee stressed that if more assistance is not sent soon, Afghanistan could deteriorate much further.

"In security terms, Afghanistan is absolutely on a knife edge," said Sir John Stanley, a member of the Committee. "Countries like Britain, the United States, NATO and round the world either give President Karzai the support he desperately needs now...or if we fail to do so I believe there is a very serious risk that the country and security concerns are going to go back very, very seriously and could end up in a situation where everything we have tried to achieve since the removal of the Taliban regime could be set back almost to square one."

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Al-Amjoud scattered villages praying to God for mercy

BY ALI NASR AL-MAJEDI
FOR THE YEMEN TIME

Traveling to the mountainous Al-Amjoud area seems like traveling to ancient history, not because it is filled with fascinating tourist sites and historical locations, but because it still remains an area reminiscent of the middle ages due to its lack of basic services and development projects.

Al-Amjoud area is situated on the northern side of Al-Sallam Sharab province, about 35-40 kilometers from Taiz city.

It would take, on average, two and a half hours of driving via on a four wheel drive vehicle to get to Al-Amjoud area. The road is rugged and it is shaped like a spine. The mostly narrow road is spread through high moun-



Farmer at work

tains and overlooks sharp sloping valleys.

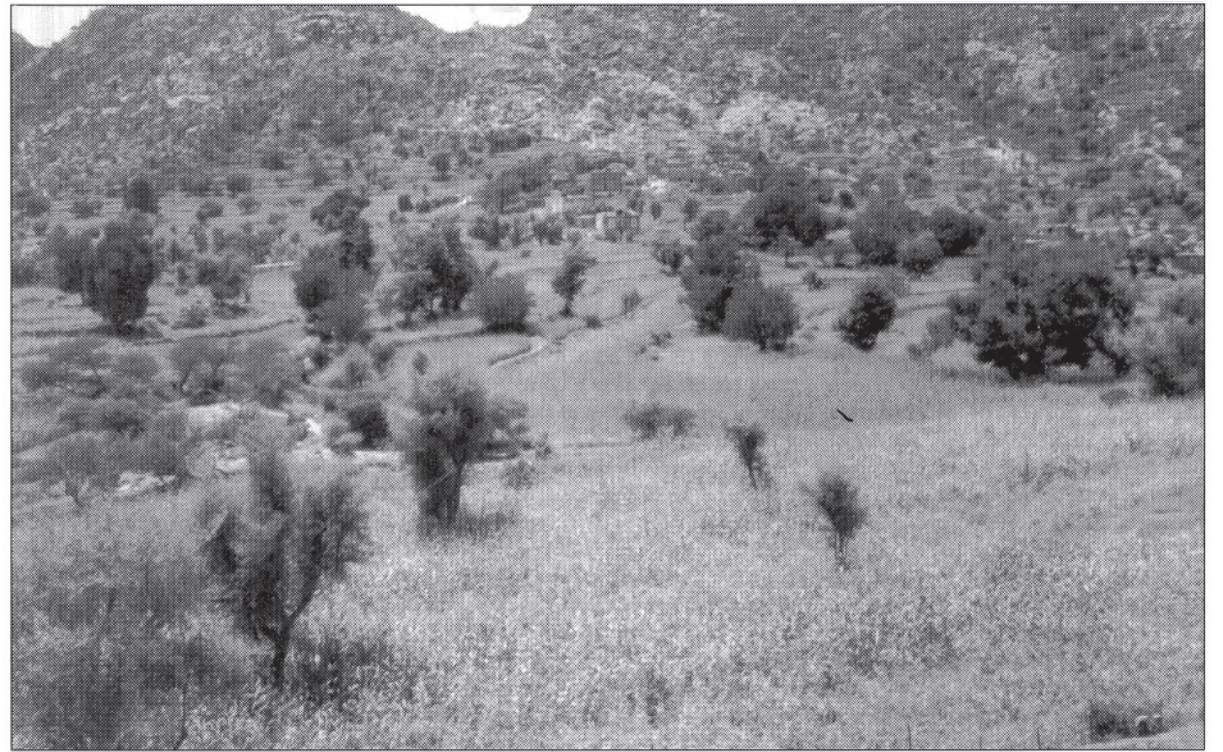
After one and a half hours of driving up and down the road, I first entered the famous "Nakhlah" valley, which is located between villages on the northern side and Al-Sallam Sharab province on the south side. The valley used to be rich in water most of the year due to constant rains. It was at one time a resting destination area for migrating birds due to the lavish green appearance and water lakes it once accommodated. The valley was very famous for the growing of fruits such as bananas, oranges and lemon in addition to other agricultural crops. This valley used to be the meeting point of lovers and those seeking tranquility and peace. Now the valley is becoming more and more like a ghost town due to drought and the scarcity of rain.

We drove through several villages

before we reached, "Bank Saba" villages, famous for banana plantations at "Bani Seri" village, which enjoys a water fall in the area "Al-Mahder". The water used to pour in from a high mountain until the water had carved its trace like a scar. Now, the waterfall is complaining the scarcity of water.

Fifteen minutes later, we reached an area very close to our destination. It is the "Al-Wadheha Al-Sofla" village. The road is so rocky that our vehicle kept swinging left and right constantly as if we were cruising on a ship in the ocean amid a choppy high-tied. We passed through "Al-Melha Valley" that is similar to going through deep forest. The giant trees that we were saw were a compensation for the exhausting journey on such a rocky road. On the right side, there was 'Al-Mahdi' mountain. It is very difficult to see its peak.

Finally, we entered the forgotten Al-Amjoud area, specifically "Al-Wadheha" village. The first point we passed through was "Al-Kareef" market. In the past, it used to be a huge water lake, with passing of time, it dried out. It developed into a market for the locals and nearby areas considering the area has a school and a dispensary that provides absolutely nothing valuable to the area. On the southern side, a lonely school was constructed on the top of a hill. It is named September 26th school, and used to be a model school, but now its name serves only as a reminder of the September 26th revolution. Due to vortex of partisanship and personal con-



Scarcity of rainfall causes aridity of land of some villages

flicts, the school witnessed fifteen years of bickering and squabbling over who would control it. The extent of conflict might give rise to the notion that controlling the school would give the keys to controlling the world. Many parents abandoned the area in order to provide their children the opportunity to go school since their school was literally shut down. A whole generation was deprived of the opportunity to go

to school.

Al-Wadheha village is one of the villages of Al-Amjoud area. It actually breaks into mini villages. This area enjoys beautiful and astonishing sceneries. A number of agricultural crops are growing in the area to meet some of the local needs and the demand of the inhabitants. But due to the scarcity of water and lack of rainfall, many residents have to walk sev-

eral kilometers to bring clean drinking water. The price of a tank of water is around 1500-2000 Riyals.

Al-Wadheha village was once a meeting destination point for lovers, poets and visitors. It was the ultimate resort for seekers of peace and tranquility. Now, the residents are praying to God for mercy and rain and for the state to provide some simple services and development projects.

Discover the newest EU member state

Malta: The land of water and light



IRENA KNEHTL
IRENA_KNEHTL@MAKTOOB.COM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Maltese Islands are found in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea, 60 miles south of Sicily and are made up of Malta, the largest island, Gozo and Comino. Like a kaleidoscope of different civilizations, Malta has preserved all the traces of its extraordinary past. From time immemorial, its beauty, honey-colored stone and natural harbors had a reputation and influence. Like a stone vessel at the gates of Africa, Malta is a celebration of sea and sun. From its first inhabitants, who built the colossal megalithic temples, to its terraced fields inherited from the Arabs, baroque churches, the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Normans, Knights of St. John, whose Order created the first visionary state, the French and the British all left a historical legacy there.

For the accident of geography has placed Malta on the crossroad between East and West, between Europe to the north and Africa to the south. The island stands like a statue at the entrance of the East Mediterranean Sea, where for 5000 years it has participated in the rise and fall of empires, in the birth and growth of religions and holocaust of bloody wars. Soon the Mediterranean basin begun to be dominated by more war like nations. Over the period of a thousand years the Greeks, Etruscans, Persians, and Carthaginians attempted the domination of Mediterranean and its lucrative trade routes. In midst of it all, coming to terms with each single power, like a pool in a vast multinational game of chess, was the small island of Malta.

As the sun sets over the blue Mediterranean, 5000 years of history leaves an unforgettable image, here stones have a soul. Some 5000 years ago, the island of Malta witnessed the first traces of man. Dozens of mysterious megalithic temples were built all over the islands. The huge stone complexes, which make the temples of



Marsaxlokk, a scenic fishing village

Ggantija, Hagar Qim, Mnajdra, Tarxien and Hypogeum at Hal Saflieni, thrill the imagination. Originally situated as a land bridge linking Europe and Africa, the first settlers may have come from Sicily with their traditional farming methods and their stone crafts. Malta must have been a paradise island. To celebrate this, the islanders dedicated them to the mother-Goddess of fertility. The mysterious disappearance of these highly artistic people in the second millennium was followed by waves of new settlers. Malta was open to a number of new civilizations, particular from the East of the Mediterranean. During the Punic wars, the Maltese islands were invaded by the Romans. Later on, the Phoenicians, the Greek, the Carthaginians all left their traces on the Islands before yielding them to the Arabs and then the Normans. But it was the Knights of St. John who made them a player in the cultural area of 17th and 18th Century Europe.

By the year 800 the Arab Empire had expanded to encompass Persia,

Syria, North Africa and most of Spain including Sicily and Malta. For the Maltese, the 200 years of Arab rule were a time of peace and stability. Agricultural methods were revolutionized with new techniques of irrigation and the introduction of many new crops, among them cotton, lemon, olives and figs. The Arab presence was beneficial for Malta and Europe. They brought new mathematics, art, sciences, assimilated from all countries of the Arab empire. Europe had barely recovered from the dark ages from Gots and Vandals. The Arabs brought light in a world of shadow.

Valletta: a city of beauty is a site of world heritage

The capital of Malta bears the name of the French Grandmaster Jean de la Vallette who successfully defended the islands against Ottoman attack. It was the first city built according to detailed plans and its superb fortifications made it an impregnable citadel. It is simultaneously a masterpiece of military architecture, a cultural center, and

a site of world heritage.

The old capital of Malta - the city of Mdina - is a typical medieval town, situated in the center of the island. Named "the silent city" it is a place of doors and walls, not of people. It commands a magnificent view of the island.

The islands main treasure is its stone, a type of limestone, which traps the light in its corners, its panels and its curves. This golden stone, which earned Malta the name of Melita, "the island of honey", has inspired its architecture. Malta loves to celebrate and sparkle, religious feasts, carnivals, commemorative events, everything is a good excuse for rejoicing. The Maltese have a flair for decoration. The people of these small islands can reflect on a rich and eventful history. From this experience has grown a unique culture, and a people who despite of their past - or perhaps because of it - remain cheerful and friendly to all.

The "sirocco" kneads your breath

and clays it. It is a strange wind the sirocco - one is neither here nor there. You are neither of the earth nor the sky. It gives you that feeling. Lights of ships shimmer on the water of Malta's Grand Harbor. The harbor seems no bigger than a toy, the flat seawater like silver, and clouds rise like leaves. A place of light, of luminous valleys under thunderous clouds. There is the smell of wet earth. The smell of forgiveness drifting from each house with the smell of varnish and a peace that drifted out to the empty beach.

Yemen and Malta

The Yemeni sea port of Aden to the west links with Malta, Europe's fifth busiest port and the Mediterranean's foremost distribution transshipment and logistical center, and an important offshore financial and banking center

Malta in Brief

Country name: Republic of Malta
Government type: parliamentary democracy
Capital: Valletta
Head of state: President Eddie Fenech Adami
Head of government: Prime Minister Lawrence Gonze
Language: Maltese (official), English (official)
Archipelago with only three largest islands inhabited Malta, Ghawdex or Gozo and Kemmuna or Comino.
Population: 391,670. Maltese are descendants of ancient Carthaginians, and Phoenicians
Area: 316 sq km, coastline 140 km
Climate: Mediterranean with mild, rainy winters, and hot, dry summers
Natural resources: limestone, salt, arable land (38 percent)
Environment, current issues: limited natural fresh water resources, increased desalination.
Economy: Major resources are limestone, a favorable geographic location, labor force. Malta produces about 20% of its food needs. The economy is largely dependent on foreign trade, ship building and repair, construction, manufacturing electronic and textiles, and tourism and services sectors.
Over a million tourists visit the island annually.
Per capita GNP USD 13,800.
Export partners: France, Germany, UK, Italy, import partners: Italy, France, UK, Germany.

Useful sites

Malta Tourism Authority:
www.visitmalta.com
News, features, culture, forums:
www.di-ve.com
News, culture, forums:
www.searchmalta.com
Air Malta: www.airmalta.com

**The author, who is a regular contributor to Yemen Times, lived and worked prolonged period of time in Malta on developing Mediterranean economic cooperation. She also served as Honorary Consul of Malta to Slovenia.*

The Diachronic Supremacy of Yemen

(Part 2/2)

BY PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD SHAMSADDIN MEGALOMMATIS FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Archipel not Gulf of Aden!

It is quite interesting that the author employs the term 'archipel' for what we call today the 'Gulf of Aden'. Certainly the modern term is rather inaccurate, since gulf implies one "large area of a sea or ocean partially enclosed by land, especially a long landlocked portion of sea opening through a strait". Well, we all know that the Gulf of Aden does not represent 'a landlocked portion of sea' precisely because of the existence of the straits of Bab al Mandeb. If the Yemenite coast reached Djibouti and the African coast, leaving no exit of the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden, then we could correctly call it 'gulf'. However, even the term 'Archipel' is not quite correct! In modern times, the term is rather employed for the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece, or for the Archipel of Moluccas in Indonesia, and to use it correctly you have got to deal with a large sea open to some extent – but also close up to a certain degree – and certainly resplendent with islands of all sizes. Well,

whereas this is the case for the Aegean and the Moluccas archipels, the Gulf of Aden is devoid of any island!

4. Aden

The cited excerpt makes clear that Kharibael's kingdom extended to 'Arabia Felix', as he names Aden. The name does not imply any presence of Arabs, it simply means that the area around Aden had the most fertile land and the most fruitful agricultural production in the entire peninsula. Since the Greeks heard of Yemenites and Arabs first through the Assyrians and the Phoenicians, it is only normal that the recapitulative use of the ethnic name of Arabs for all the various and different peoples of the peninsula, as practiced by Assyrian and Phoenician scribes, was passed onto the Greeks.

5. The War between Yemen and the Roman Empire

Even more important are the author's comments about the Roman attack and the destruction of Arabia Felix – Aden, a very important commercial city – key in East – West trade. By saying so, he leads us to a useful conclusion. Mouza and Okelis should not have been important at the time of the Roman maritime attack against Yemen (26 BCE), whereas at the times of the Periplus (70 CE) Mouza was already more important than Aden. The reason for this assumption is that, if Mouza had been more important at the time of the attack, the Roman fleet would have destroyed it first, and then the author would have mentioned it, and perhaps if this had happened, the Roman fleet would not have advanced down to Arabia Felix – Aden!

6. The Supremacy of Yemen at the Area of Bab al Mandeb

The entire atmosphere that emanates from the text underlines the supremacy of Yemen in the straits of Bab al Mandeb. Of course, the days of the absolute Qatabani control of the navigation in the Red Sea (300 – 150 BCE) had gone. When the mounting Himyar – Sheba alliance vanquishes the Qatabani state in an effort to ensure the Yemenite control over the East – West trade more efficiently (around 115 BCE), not much time is left for the two Yemenite states to keep things going well. The rise of Rome in the Mediterranean East is overwhelming. About 90 years separate the Sheba – Himyar victory over Qataban, and the Roman destruction of Arabia Felix.

Today, in the light of our historical knowledge, we can afford to ask whether the Sheba – Himyar victory was truly for the overall benefit of Yemen (as the intentions probably were) or not. Through Strabo we know that against the attacking Romans the Yemenites did not engage any naval battle. Perhaps this was a mistake; it may even be the proof that Himyar and

Sheba could not match the excellent navigational skills of the Qatabanis! We can assume that if the Qatabani kingdom had still been there, the venture of an attack would have been seriously considered. The geographical and meteorological knowledge would certainly have been a Qatabani advantage, and the Roman exhaustion would have also been taken into consideration. If one adds to this the surprise effect, one gets a correct evaluation of what was then at stake. And an eventual naval victory of the Yemenites over the Roman fleet would have made a tremendous difference.

Despite the moderated profit Kharibael was getting out of the trade, it is clear that his state was the only significant state entity to the Southeastern border of the Roman Empire. Meroe (Aithiopia) was limited in the Nile valley and the desert at the area of the present day Sudan, having no influence in the Red Sea area. Controlled by Parthians, Iran was exercising an influence extended in the Persian Gulf and Oman area. Petra /Rekem was a very small state in the area of today's Jordan, whereas the Arabs between Petra and Yemen were in a barbaric and stateless situation. King Zoscales of the Axumite kingdom of Abyssinia had acquired some riches because of the profitable trade at Adulis, but did not exercise significant naval activities, and he therefore could not be considered even as a regional power.

Kharibael was the only and the correct partner of the Roman Empire in the area of the Horn of Africa, especially if we take into account the Yemenite colonies in Azania, i.e. the Eastern African coast from today's Cape Guardafui down to Daressalam, of which we spoke in a previous article.

Furthermore, the author gives a clear-cut understanding of the fact that Perim (Diodorus') island belonged to Kharibael's Yemenite kingdom. Although there is no explicit reference to this, it is essential that he mentions the island along with Okelis, when he describes the navigation to the south of the Red Sea alongside its eastern coast; this is key to understand the author's perception of the subject. When earlier in the text he was narrating about the western coast of the Red Sea and about the present day Eritrean coast (referring to Adulis and Avalites), he fell short of mentioning the Diodorus' island of Perim, and this is due to the fact that the island was unrelated to the African coast.

D. Past History – Future Potentialities

In our global world, Romans will no longer send a maritime expedition against Arabia Felix! There are no meteorological limitations in the navigation in the Red Sea, and there are not so many riches in the present day village Al Mokha that stands in the area of Periplus' Mouza. What to do?

The correct evaluation of development projects and of groundbreaking initiatives involves a combined understanding of historical trends and of current and potential needs. How could today's Yemen reflect again the glories of the Sheba, Himyar and Qataban states?

Today, as in the great past, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean link faraway countries and peoples, and constitute a great natural shelf for further interconnection and cooperation. We are living at the times of combined transportations. Some goods are transported by train, only to be later shipped by cargos! Other merchandises are first loaded onto ships, before they are laden on lorries and trains!

The rise of China in Manufacturing, and of India in Information Technology, along with the already in-fashion attitude of Outsourcing overseas have created a new environment. What are the trends within this new, burgeoning world?

It is certain that Communications and Transportations will play a determinant role in the 10 – 20 years ahead. Merchandises will be more abundant, transportation will need more infra-

structure. Already discussions are underway about how to link Southern China to Europe (through Central Asia and Russia) by train. Long railway connections seem to be unavoidable.

While we are watching China and India doing their best to conquer the world's markets, having a certain focus on Europe, America,

Japan and Southeast Asia, we testify to an awakening that takes place in Europe, Japan and America in regard to potential dangers coming from the extensive practice of outsourcing that ultimately leads to de-industrialization. On the other hand, China reached a level of over-heated economy, because of such an unprecedented rhythm of double digital development that lasted for so many successive years. China will soon be in need of further markets, and - in parallel - of Outsourcing wherever this would be possible and/or necessary.

What market is left for China to conquer? Certainly, Africa!

Where is the cheapest work force, even compared with China and India? Certainly, Africa.

All this signifies a need for roads and railways, a new channel of transportations and communications between Asia and Africa. This means that all the roads pass by Yemen, the convergence point between Africa and Asia, the most African among the Asiatic countries, or to put it better Asia's part in Africa.

Acting with its natural partners at the Horn of Africa, Yemen – thanks to its privileged location between Asia and Africa – must envisage how the way will become shorter between Nigeria and China,

between Iran and South Africa, as well as between India and Northeastern Africa.

E. Tunnel under the Straits Bab al Mandeb

Getting international credibility from efforts to mount up a community of 250 million people, the Horn of Africa Countries (namely Yemen, Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania,

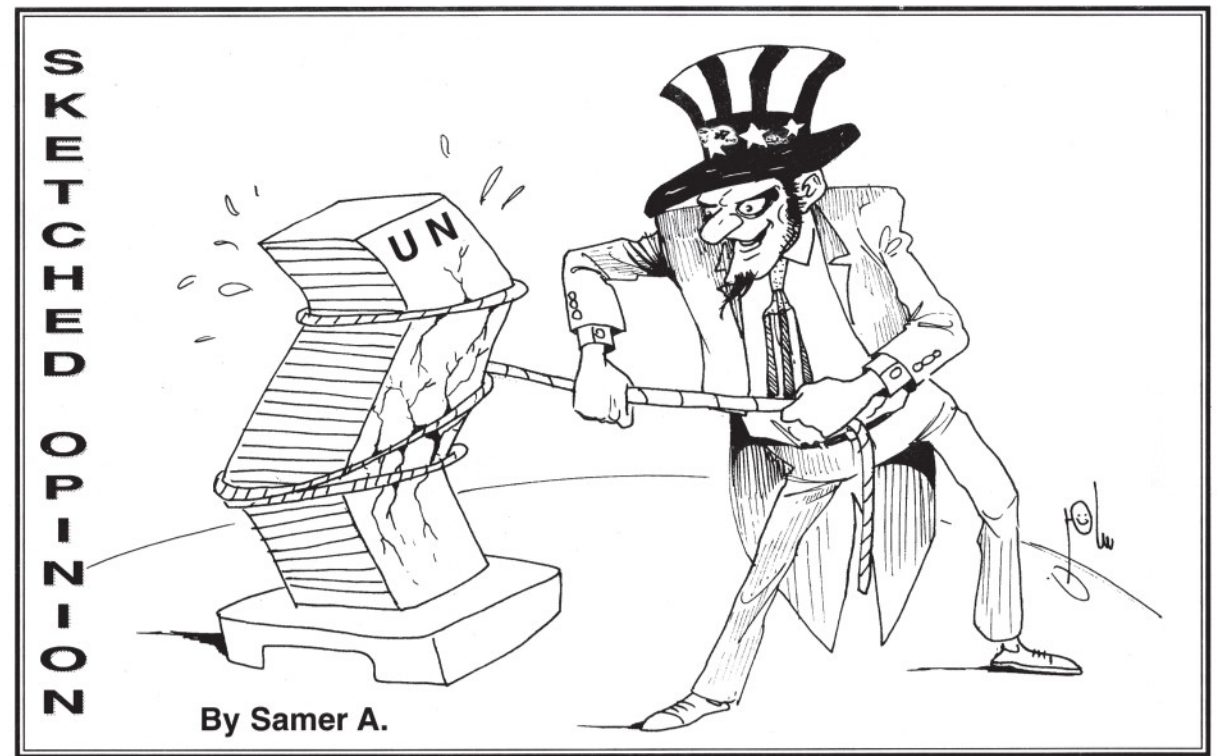
Mozambique, Madagascar) live in peace and progress. But knowing the importance of a country envisioning the future, Yemen must introduce the Concept of a Tunnel under the Straits Bab al Mandeb (linking Yemen to Djibouti first, and then an extended net of countries with each other) that will offer the central trunk of a wide road, rail and Oil network. Through Bab al Mandeb Tunnel, which is by 1 – 2 km shorter than the Channel Tunnel between France and England, Asia and Africa will unite 'again' as they were before some millions of years.

F. Tunnel under the Straits Hormuz

Extending the project to connect South - Africa, Zair, Nigeria, and Tunisia with the Horn of Africa area, Yemen should keep a close eye on the other direction and work closely with Oman, UAE, Iran, as well as Pakistan, Kazakhstan, India and China – since they will mostly benefit from the project –, to extend the road, rail and Oil network through Oman, and introduce the Concept of the Tunnel under the Straits Hormuz (linking first Oman with Iran, and then Africa with Central Asia, Pakistan, India and China). Through Hormuz Tunnel (34 miles), so precisely the double of the Bab al Mandeb Tunnel) the globalization of the world will become an ultimate reality with trains connecting Shanghai to Lagos, Delhi to Tunis, and Alma Ata to Cape Town – all through Yemen.

G. The Afro-Asiatic Concept of the Two Tunnels - Two Continents Project

I understand that the daring Afro-Asiatic Two Tunnels - Two Continents Project may be met with the doubt of conservative and skeptical minds. It may also encounter opposition of all sorts, a) from countries that will be left faraway from the Afro-Asiatic Renaissance and Re-Unification, b) from countries that will have their



interests damaged, c) from countries that will be deprived from their disastrous means of engulfing Asia and Africa in underdevelopment, and/or d) from regionally useless and absolutely dysfunctional countries that will be stripped of their patronizing attitude towards poorer countries.

I know that the terribly high cost of such project may not be affordable for the poorest among the participants, even up to the limited portion of their contribution. The truth is that a daring project can be appreciated only by people, who reject the misery of their time, see far, and think big. People like this exist everywhere at all times. When they meet each other, when they create a union, when they come up with many other parallel projects depending on the central, the most daring one, they are able to convince and find the way

to get it done.

When working on a basis of international cooperation under the auspices of the Horn of Africa Countries, the visionaries of the area must come up with a) parallel projects about educational advancements, and about the foundation of Chinese, Russian, Turkish and Indian, German and American universities in the region, b) bilingual programs for vocational schools, c) common action in Tourism and in Shipping, d) attractive plans for outsourcing Chinese companies in Eastern Africa, e) a political agreement for ending up policies of local oppression, f) a treaty for military cooperation and mutual reducing of the military expenses by 33%, as well as g) a Solemn Petition for the formation of a Fund out of 1% annual reduction of the military expenses of the 10 most

spending countries (to be concretized as loan for the Afro-Asiatic Two Tunnels - Two Continents Project), then – and only then – the rich and the strong of this world will pay some sort of attention to them.

The famous British magazine 'The Economist' published earlier this year an article about the northern neighbour of Yemen under title 'Adapt or Die'; Yemen and the other countries of the Horn of Africa do not face the issue of survival because of involvement in global terrorism. The issue for them is the best way for speedy progress.

But for a real development that is the real need of Yemen and its Eastern African partners the target must be re-evaluated and the barrier must be put even more highly. The motto for a mobilization of masses should be 'Excel or Die'.



By Yahya Al-Ojfi
alofji@hotmail.com

Reflections

The Sudanese debacle, Kuwait's role model Prospects and the Yemenite Bahramide chronic disease

The world is surprised at the sudden and quick compassionate reaction of the U.S., U.K and other countries regarding the miserable conditions underwent by poor Darfurians due to the insurgency led by "Sudan Liberation Movement" and The Sudanese Movement For Justice and equality. These two movements have been involved in attacks against the Sudanese government due to what they claim of the central government's Monopoly of political power and public money by the government and its allies. Despite being surprised at the humane reaction of USA and the UK towards this issue everybody must hail their relief efforts and at the same time ask them why they are not being humane on other issues such as the Palestinian Suffering for example, at the hands of racist Israelis. Anyhow, the urgent problem of normal Darfurians represented in food and shelter must be accommodated first and as regards the political claims of the two fronts they should be resolved within the context of a general Sudanese Reform Package. The government cannot employ Darfurians on account of others or allocate moneys to entertain their aspirations for more involvement in their daily affairs and cultural life. Sudan is a vast country with approximately 19 States or Wilayat and a huge ethnic diversity let alone more than 40 local languages. So it is unwise to solve a problem of one region on account of the others. I believe that the Indian Model is fit for Sudan in that Arabic is the official Language of the whole country, followed by English just as Hindi is the Official Language of the vastly diversified India and English is its second language and likewise in the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. Pressurizing the Sudanese regime in order to help resolve the humanitarian situation is something whilst the political resolution of this debacle is another.

Flicking through one of the Arab

Magazines I was amused to read that a prominent Kuwaiti singer has just gotten her Kuwaiti citizenship. I recall that at a very early age the first countries I heard of were Kuwait because my father was an expatriate there, the U.K where I had some relatives and the USA as well. So I have always known about Kuwait since a very early age for many reasons one of them its educational support to Yemen and the fact that Kuwaiti Press was overwhelmingly in control of the Arab Street till the day before Saddam's Ominous invasion of Kuwait. Believe me I am not lying when I tell you that after many attempts my mousetrap at last caught a very big rat at the early morning of 02. August 1990. I only knew about the invasion at 9.00 O'clock downtown Sana'a by one of my colleagues. The Kuwaiti ordeal at the time showed that Kuwaitis preferred their current rulers and they are still respecting them. But, as Kuwaitis themselves were conscious in that Saddam was lunatic in his behavior towards his own people let alone towards the Kuwaitis. The honorable Royal Family of Kuwait must try to return Kuwait again at the forefront and that is very easy if so wished. The Royal family in Kuwait must consider humanely the circumstances of those living in Kuwait and are stigmatized as "Bidoon" or people without nationality. These people came for living purposes in Kuwait and were stranded there for more than half a century now. It does not matter where they are from because now they are Kuwaitis. I had the chance of meeting one of them whose grandfather traveled to Kuwait with an Aden British Colony Passport. The man belongs to Kuwait more than to Yemen and had to leave due to the invasion and the fact that he had no Kuwaiti citizenship papers. This section of the Kuwaiti community needs quick solution of its problems. The unresolved problem gives a bad image for Kuwait and has become known worldwide. It is to be acknowledged

that most Kuwaitis are having a very good standard of living. That Kuwait was the first after Lebanon in press freedom in the region thought to a certain limit. It is also true that Kuwait has got a lively parliament but that is not enough. It is high time for Kuwait to become a role model for the Arab Dynasties. Kuwait is qualified and can do it. The love of the Kuwaiti people for the Royal family must be equally reflected by magnanimity on the part of the Royal family by turning Kuwait into a Constitutional Monarchy just like the U.K. Kuwait must be a member of the Common Wealth. This can be done if support is forthcoming from the U.S and the U.K, if both are really serious about their countering terrorism gibberish and have not forgotten yet the Kuwaiti Al Qaeda Speaker "Abolghaith" albeit he was dispossessed from his Kuwaiti citizenship as was Bin Laden dispossessed from his Saudi one. To cut it short, Democracy in Kuwait and consequently in the other Arab States shall be fatal to current and future terrorists.

Now, let us turn to Yemen where due to an Old lie a Bahramide descendant considers himself the last in a long line of a prophetic stock.

This chronic Yemeni disease shall always occur and re-occur as long as we are still hypocritical in our approach of Yemeni History we must tell the children why the Imams imprisoned Abulhasan Al-Hamdani in Raida till he died. Why two volumes of his Al-Ekleel series were destroyed by the Imams because he disclosed their Persian ancestry as well as that of their likes. We must teach our children how Persians in Yemen changed their lineage to Hashemites because of Maan Bin Zayidah whom they still hate fervently. In brief as long as the president and Sheikh Abdullah do not discern the reality behind all this nonsense, the chronic disease shall be moved for the future generations to decide on it with the risks involving such a move.

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للأجهزة الإلكترونية والكهربائية

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شركات عملاقة في مجال الإلكترونيات والكهربائيات والأجهزة المنزلية

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يقيم السحب كل اسبوعين

السحب الأول الأثنين ١٦/٨/٢٠٠٤م

السحب الثاني الأثنين ٣٥/٨/٢٠٠٤م

السحب الثالث الأثنين ١٣/٩/٢٠٠٤م

إجمع عشرة أغلفة علوية واحصل على كوب زجاجي أبوولد وكوبون المشاركة في السحب على أنت بيت متكامل

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247

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (68)
Friendship Day (VIII)

A Friend is a precious gem that illuminates our lives and adds color to it. As we conclude the catalogue of expressions glorifying a friend, we call upon our readers to introspect whether we deserve to be honest friends ourselves before desiring to have the privilege of a genuine friend.

- For ever best wishes for you. I hope you know how very much you mean to me though I haven't always seemed appreciative.
- You'll always be a friend worthy of much success and happiness and very special love.
- There's only one happiness in life - to love and be loved.
- Nothing could please me more than to watch that our happiness once again grows as you let your kindness show.
- Gems may be precious, but friends are priceless. Friends are priceless in the way they stick together, come what may. And I'm so glad that you are mine. You brighten my day. You are a great friend.
- When things are not going quite as well as you would like them to, when the skies are less than blue, remember I believe in you and I know that you have inside everything it takes to walk, the walk of life. Remember that I'll stand by you, whatever life may send, to care, to help, to listen any time you need a friend.
- My dear friend! When you are sad, I'll dry your tears; when you are scared, I'll comfort your fears; when you are worried, I'll give you hope; when you are confused, I'll help you cope; and when you are lost and can't see the light, I shall be your beacon shining ever so bright. This is my oath I pledge till the end. Why you may ask... because you are my friend. Friendship is eternal.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Athletics are very popular in our college.
- The peasantry is not content with the government's decision.
- He has been teaching poetries in the school.
- He takes rest daily for two hours lest he will be ill once again.
- The servant's dues have been paid by his master's assistant.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Only ticket-holders can get seats for this concert.
- Neither they nor I was ready to agree.
- I went to the meeting with Bashar and Adel, but none of us was impressed.
- Majid's uncle asked Majid and me to help him.
- The spectators were shouting at the referee and arguing with one another.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- A word made up from the first letters of the name of something.
- A person who is highly skilled in something.
- Something that is added to something else but is not a necessary part of it.
- A man employed in advertising.
- A person who believes that one can only have knowledge of material things.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- To give a person forgiveness for wrong doing: **absolve** (vt)
- something which is not a necessary part of something larger but which makes it more beautiful, useful and effective: **accessory** (n)
- To cause oneself to become accustomed to new conditions: **acclimatize** (vt)
- Highest point of development or perception: **acme** (n)
- Person who can do clever things with his body: **acrobat** (n)

(B) Literary terms of foreign origin

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following

1. plagiarism
2. poem
3. press
4. prologue
5. protagonist

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- peripeteia** (Gk 'sudden change'): Peripety is a reversal of fortune; a fall. In drama, usually the sudden change of fortune from prosperity to ruin.
- periphrasis** (Gk 'roundabout speech'): A roundabout way of speaking or writing; known also as circumlocution; thus using many or very long words where a few or simple words will do. For example: her olfactory system was suffering from a temporary inconvenience (i.e. her nose was blocked).
- phenomenology** (Gk 'phenomena', things appearing + logos, 'knowledge'): A method of philosophical inquiry which lays stress on the perceiver's vital and central role in determining meaning.
- philology** (Gk 'love of speech, or learning'): The study of literature and scholarship. More particularly, now the science of language and linguistics.
- phoneme** (Gk 'speech sound'): A minimal, meaningful unit that takes part in the sound system of a language.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. actuate, activate
2. remarked, re-marked
3. coarse, course
4. willfully, willingly
5. considerate, considerable

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- efface** (vt) (rub or wipe so as to make indistinct): The miscreants effaced the inscription.
- deface** (vt) (spoil the appearance of something by damaging its surface): The post office defaces the stamps on letters before dispatch.
- forgiveness** (n) (the act of saying or feeling that one is no longer angry about and wishing to give punishment): He asked my forgiveness for his wrong actions.
- pardon** (n) (an action of a court forgiving a person for an unlawful act): The judge granted pardon and the accused was released.
- innocent** (adj) (not guilty of any wrong doing): The innocent should not be punished.
- innocuous** (adj) (causing no harm): Don't get upset over his innocuous remarks.
- memorial** (n) (an object such as a stone monument in a public place, in memory of a person, or an event): A war memorial has been erected for the martyrs.
- memorable** (adj) (something which is worth remembering): The Unification Day is a memorable occasion for all Yemenis.
- imperial** (adj) (majestic; magnificent): The President's palace gives an imperial look.
- imperious** (adj) (commanding): The actress's imperious looks impressed the audience.

(C) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

1. have a weakness for
2. the villain of the piece
3. mend fences
4. movers and shakers
5. mind one's p's and q's

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- play second fiddle to (someone)** (to have a lower or less important position than someone): His domineering nature made me feel that I was playing second fiddle to him.
- pull a long face** (to look sad or disapproving): When his application for leave was rejected, he pulled a long face.

3. **call a spade a spade** (to say exactly and plainly what one means): Outspoken as he is, he calls a spade a spade.
4. **catch (someone) red-handed** (to find someone who is doing something wrong): He was caught red-handed while taking bribe.
5. **a bed of roses** (a very easy and pleasant situation): Life is not a bed of roses.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Rewrite these sentences without changing the meaning, using the verb given in brackets.

Remember: Some verbs have a direct object and an infinitive with 'to'. Some verbs have a direct object and infinitive without 'to'.

1. When I was in hospital, they let us have visitors every day (allow).
2. The police-officers forced him to sign the confession (make).
3. She said she thought I ought to complain to the manufacturers (advise).
4. 'Don't swim in the sea - it's dangerous', the fisherman told us (warn).
5. I know my brother would be happy if I went on holiday with him (want).
6. I learned to read English at school (teach).
7. Khalid's parents didn't mind if he smoked at home (let).
8. When I was in the army, I had to go for runs every morning (force).
9. I shall never forget the night we went to the concert where Eshrag sang (hear).
10. My friend told me I should telephone Wahid as I wanted to him again (encourage).

Answers to last week's questions

1. I don't need any help in the kitchen, but do you think you could **lay** the table?
2. Do you remember reading that fairy story about a goose that **laid** golden eggs?
3. Do you know if the men **have laid** the carpet yet?
4. She wasn't feeling very well so she's gone upstairs to **lie** down.
5. I can just by looking into your eyes that you are **lying**.
6. He didn't move, but just **lay** where he fell.
7. I don't have to work tomorrow - I can have a nice **lie-in**.
8. Have you ever **lied** to any one about your past?
9. When he came home he found the letters **lying** on the floor.
10. I don't know how long I must have **lain** awake last night worrying.

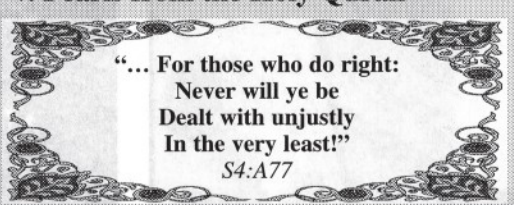
(B) Composition

Fill the blanks in the letter below with one of the following words

- honeymoon groom bride wedding reception bridesmaids

Janet got married to Pedro last Saturday, and we went to the —, which was wonderful. The — wore a beautiful white dress; it had a long train made of silk, and it was carried by the two —, who were her eight-year-old cousins. At the start of the ceremony, her husband-to-be the — was waiting for her at the front of the church. After the ceremony, photographs were taken, and then everyone was invited to the — in a hotel, where we all had a meal. Afterwards they set off on their —, which they were going to spend in Bali.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

"The human heart, at whatever age, opens only to the heart that opens in return." —Maria Edgeworth

A letter to the teachers of English: 54 Some useful activities for the vacation (2)



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

Dear Fellow teachers,

Did you read my last letter, in which I have suggested preparing a glossary for the Pupil's Book you are teaching? I hope you saw the reason behind my suggestion and start the planning of the work during the vacation. You are welcome to contact me if you want any more help in this regard.

The other activity for the vacation, which is equally useful to you and your learners, is the preparation of a phonetic dictionary for your Pupil's Book. This is a bit more difficult than the first one I have suggested in my last letter and needs a bit more care and effort. The benefit you are going to get is, no doubt, more and the work will be interesting too.

Why a phonetic dictionary? In order to make your classroom English more sophisticated and to enable your learners to improve their pronunciation skills. Of course, any good dictionary has phonetic transcription of each word entered in it, but a phonetic dictionary for your Pupil's Book is an exclusive list of words selected from it and their phonetic transcription, which will make it easier for you to pronounce the words you deal with in your classes.

How to prepare a phonetic dictionary? Write down the important words from each unit in your Pupil's Book in

a notebook and with a help of a good dictionary, copy down the phonetic transcription of each word next to it. In each unit, you will need to write about 10 to 15 words, and on the whole, about 100 words for a book. The effort spent on this work will be worthy considering the advantages it has; your pronunciation will improve marvelously, because you are going to pronounce each of the key words accurately with the help of your phonetic dictionary. If you have this with you, you needn't carry a dictionary with you to the class. Moreover, you can help your colleagues, if you want, with copies of this dictionary.

Some of you who prepare your lesson plans carefully may be writing the transcription of the key words in each lesson in your lesson plans. If you put them together, your dictionary is ready. The additional benefit for you is that you will improve your spoken English when you have the habit of referring to a dictionary for the transcription.

If two or three of you teach the different sections of the same class, you can prepare the dictionary jointly, each one taking one or two units and putting them together at the end. The word lists given at the end of the Workbooks will be of great help in this regard, as you can select the words from these lists.

Think of the advantages you are going to get out of this activity and start planning the work right now. You are welcome to contact me, if you want any more help in this regard. Good luck.

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

Exams... the last scene in the drama called 'education'

BY ANWAR AL-SHAZELI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Shakespeare once said "Give me a theatre, I give you educated people". By extrapolation we can say "Give me education, I give you an illiterate generation and a backward nation!"

The educational system in Yemen has reached a dead-end and senile stage, and, therefore, it is necessary to reconsider reviving and rejuvenating the educational system in order to benefit from it. The educational system in Yemen has deteriorated to an alarming level so as to necessitate a complete overhaul despite the large chunk from the general fiscal budget of the state every year, that is spent on education. All countries of the world depend on the education to achieve sustainable development. But ironically the educational system in Yemen can at best be characterized as a bad play. Its scenes are loose and are marked by negligence throughout the year. The play ends with exams which witness rampant malpractices that reaches the level of total chaos.

What is most ridiculous about the exam phase is the exaggerated statements issued by our leaders who brag about how the final exams were conducted smoothly and without any cheating, as if they were living in another world. But the fact remains that final exams are conducted amid widespread cheating in connivance with the parents of the students, the education officials and the invigilators, observers and heads of exams commissions. The victim is the edifice of education and students who are supposed to be the architects of tomorrow.

So, how long shall we keep our heads covered in the sand while attempting to deny the facts that usually takes place during the final exams and about the educational scenario as a whole? Those who claim otherwise, don't they know that we have children who go to exams and report to us what they usually witness during final

exams. Do the education officials realize that the questions of the final exams are usually distributed outside exams centers after only few minutes from the beginning exams, and are dispatched back to students with answers?

I want our education officials who argue that final exams are properly conducted to clarify why a large number of high school students end up passing final exams whilst they do not know even the names of the subjects in the curriculum. Most of them go to take their final exams, during examination days, not knowing the subject that they are going to take the examination, and yet they are miraculously able to score higher grades than students who had spent the whole school year studying very hard.

Believe me when I say that we would not be able to catch up with other countries that have implemented solid educational systems to ensure the graduation of deserving meritorious students. Thus, what is the wisdom of spending huge financial resources on an educational system especially in preparation of the final exams, that ultimately produces incapable and ignorant graduates? Some may argue that the degree of success varies from one student to another and that excellent and hard working students usually score higher scores and grade point averages although such students are a minority. What is the benefit of graduating large numbers of students who would continue to follow the same tactics to obtain university degrees as doctors or engineers, but who would not be able to improve or contribute to the society? On the contrary, they would constitute a menace to society and would reduce the chances and opportunities for the hard working students to contribute productively and effectively to society. We actually have to be aware of the serious consequences of our consistently passive reaction to improving the education system. All I can say is that our country deserves better and more careful attention to education in order to sustain and to develop our identity.

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

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

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Airport | Events | Loan | Radio | Stops |
| Bakery | Exhibit | Local | Region | Store |
| Bank | Fairs | Men's | Rent | Street |
| Bars | Families | Metro | Restaurant | Suit |
| Bench | Fast | Monument | Road | Supermarket |
| Bicycle | Festival | Move | Ruin | Taxi |
| Bridge | Friends | Movie | Rush | Terrace |
| Buses | Gang | Noise | Salon | Time |
| Busy | Garage | Pace | School | Tourists |
| Cabs | Gyms | Parks | Services | Tours |
| Café | Hospitals | Party | Ship | Tower |
| Cars | Hotel | Pave | Shops | Traffic |
| Civilian | Jobs | People | Show | Trains |
| Club | Kids | Place | Signs | Trees |
| Condos | Lady | Police | Society | Trucks |
| Corner | Late | Porch | Sold | Vans |
| Crowd | Lawyer | Postmen | Square | Workers |
| Dense | Life | Public | Stadium | Zone |
| Doctor | Lights | Pubs | Station | |

BIG CITIES

Solution: 13 letters

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

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Emotion

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VACANCIES

The Employment-oriented Private Sector Promotion Programme (EPSP) is a key component of the ongoing Yemeni-German Development cooperation programme. It aims at enhancing the performance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) so as to create more job opportunities and contribute to poverty reduction. The project regions are the governorates of Aden and Taiz.

The EPSP programme is planning to recruit
Regional coordinators in Taiz and Aden for each of the 3 components of the programme.

- Component 1** Improving Business Development Services (BDS) for MSME
- Component 2** Promotion of Non-Formal Training and Co-operation between the TEVT System and the Private sector
- Component 3** Improved Access to Financial Services for MSMEs

The Regional Coordinators will be members of the teams to be built at the Regional Offices of the EPSP, reporting to their component Coordinators at the national level.

Requirements:

- In spite of the different fields of competence and work all applicants must have/be
 - a university degree in any discipline relevant to the respective component
 - two years of professional experience, preferably in development cooperation
 - fluent English and Arabic, with good writing skills in both languages
 - computer-literate (Microsoft Office, Internet, etc)
 - hardworking, with a team-player mentality
 - good presentation, communication and negotiation skills, with an ability to cooperate and coordinate closely with partner organisations, including governmental and non-governmental bodies in the respective governorates.

Duties & Responsibilities:
 In addition to the requirements of their individual positions, the Regional Coordinators will have the following general responsibilities:

- Strengthen cooperative relationships with the relevant stakeholders, identifying joint activities that serve the objectives of EPSP.
- Develop concepts for strengthening individual MSMEs and the capacity of trade associations, NGOs and other service providers to provide services to the MSME sector.
- Close coordination with other EPSP staff in the governorate, ensuring an integrated approach by all 3 components to planning and implementing EPSP activities.
- Promote dialogue between Local Councils and other governmental institutions, and private sector and civil society organisations on economic, particularly MSME, development issues.
- Identify legal and regulatory obstacles to the development of the MSME sector, and propose solutions for discussion at local and national levels

Responses, in English, should be submitted together with a detailed C.V. to EPSP
 c/o GTZ Office P.O. Box 692 Sana'a
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House of Folklore to kick off soon

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Located at Bab al-Balaka zone in Sana'a, the House of Folklore (HF), the first of its kind in Yemen, would be kicked off during the coming few days, announced Arwa Abdo Othman, HF director.



Arwa Abdo Othman

The HF, which comes as an outcome of the personal interest and zeal of Mrs. Othman in the Yemeni material and spiritual folk heritage, is meant to preserve this folkloric heritage against extinction and collapse, making it available for interested researchers.

"The idea of setting up a non-profit making cultural NGO started creeping into my mind since 1997 when I started writing on folk heritage. I have had this interest in collecting folk songs since the 1980s. I have started since then writing down and recording folk songs and proverbs," Othman told Yemen Times. "When I was a small kid, my father used to give some money. I used to save it for buying silver. You see it was a personal interest in the beginning but now preserving this heritage has become a real concern. I more associated with old people than young ones for this purpose," she added.

Othman is a researcher at the Yemeni Studies and Research Center and a well-known writer whose interest is focused on the folklore of Yemeni society. One can observe from her writings her use of the folkloric language.

She said that documenting the folklore is not an easy job but needs a lot of effort and finance to have a complete studio and well-trained team to work for the HF. She added that she visited several areas in Yemen in a visit that lasted for around 6 months to film the oral folklore like folk dance, tales, weddings traditions...etc

ity embodied in folklore since it is the stock and memory of the nation, its achievements and wisdom, protecting this heritage against misuse or distortion due to contemporary changes and developments. The new NGO aims to form a kind of scientific and categorical database of the components of folklore. It will also study folklore and its issues with the purpose of discovering its social importance and functional features, raising awareness towards the importance of preserving this heritage. Among its various goals, the HF aims to prepare a competent staff that is able to deal with folklore issues and problems through training courses and workshops. It will also conduct studies and researches concerned with folklore as well as releasing a magazine named "Memory of the Coming". The HF is ambitious and plans to establish contacts with similar centers in the Arab and foreign countries, to exchange views and experience for the HF aims to establish a library of writings, studies, recordings and audio and lingual materials to do with folklore.

The HF activities underway include:

- 1- Analytical vision of the Yemeni Popular tale.
- 2- Women in popular proverbs
- 3- Seesaw traditions—seesaw songs
- 4- Ramdhan traditions with children in Yemen
- 5- Political voice in Yemeni popular proverbs.
- 6- Mother-in-law in folklore.
- 7- Women voice in popular songs.
- 8- Popular viewings.
- 9- Collecting and



part of a comprehensive project that targets all Yemen but I stopped due to lack of finance," she pointed out.

Preserving National Identity

The HF is meant to preserve the national identity



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