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Saleh: Yemen not a collaborator with the US

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Last week, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said that even though Yemen is cooperating with the United States to fight terrorism, it is not a US collaborator.

"We are not allies of America or collaborators, but we cooperate with the Americans within the framework of the international community in order to combat the world's evil, terrorism,"

said Saleh during an interview with Beirut's daily As-Safir last Thursday.

The President also said that although the United States has given assistance to military training and financial aid for the country's development, Yemen "did not give the Americans any military bases, or airports or ports."

Saleh added, "Even if the Americans gave us no assistance, we would have cooperated with them in combating terrorism."

Saleh criticized the United States for

being biased towards Israel during the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for carrying out double standards with regards to the implementation of international resolutions.

"It doesn't appear that the President has changed Yemen's position in the international political arena," said a Yemeni analyst. "But the President probably delivered a message to make a clear distinction between fighting terrorism and America's foreign policy in the Middle East."

The Yemeni government joined the United States to fight terrorism soon after terrorist attacks in America on September 11th 2001. Since then, Yemen has rounded up hundreds of suspects, including key Al-Qaeda members. Now on trial are six suspects allegedly involved in the bombing of the USS Cole in the port of Aden in 2000 and 15 others believed to have taken part in the attack on the French tanker Limburg in 2002.

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Verdict on Limburg terrorist suspects on Saturday

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Criminal Court of Sana'a decided on Saturday to pass the verdict against the 15 al-Qaeda suspects next Saturday as final hearings were listened to.

The prosecution accused the suspected terrorists, one still at large, in the first hearing held May 29th with forming an armed gang to carry out criminal acts against the interests of the state. The accusations against them include the attack against the French Oil Tanker in Mukalla in October 2002, carrying out several terrorist attacks in Sana'a, killing one soldier

and plotting to blow up five embassies in Sana'a, as well as plotting to kill the former US ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull.

During the 15th and final hearing session held last Saturday, the lawyers of three suspects as well as the prosecuting attorney presented their final hearings. Prosecutor Saeed al-Akil said that six of the suspects confessed their crimes during investigations with them while 8 others refused to comment on the accusations against them. The prosecution said their accusations were based on clear-cut and concrete evidence presented to court throughout the 15 hearing sessions.

Continued on page 10



Lawyer Al-Hajoori (YT photo by Mohammed Al-Qadhi)

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The misery of the Sa'ada War Attack and retreat, hundreds of victims

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite repeated official statements that the bloody clashes between the military (supported by heavy machinery) and the followers of Sheikh Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, which have lasted for over seventy days, are over, the utterly miserable condition in Mran area spells out something else.

Reports from Sa'ada confirm that until the time of writing this article, the war is still continuing fiercely.

Well-informed sources told the Yemen Times on Saturday August 21st that

bloody clashes had killed five hundred people in the previous two days, three hundred of whom were innocent civilians - children, women, and old men - and the rest were two hundred followers of Sheikh Al-Houthi. The source said losses to the government's forces surpass that since they carry out the offensive.

Political observers expressed their astonishment at the official declaration that operations had ceased while the war is still aflame, and military and civilian victims are continuing to fall, let alone the official disregard of the pitiful conditions in which the people of the embattled area are forced to live.

Continued on page 10

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Only 67% of students passed exams

By WALID AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, August 22nd - The Secondary school examination results announced last Saturday by the Supreme Examinations Committee revealed that the overall performance of Yemeni students has continued to decline, with just

over 67% of students registered for examinations achieving a pass. This means that one third of students actually failed and will have to repeat the exams to graduate. This number has caused concern in the Ministry of Education, and has resulted in consensus of opinion in the grave need for reformation to enhance overall educational standards.

Full report on page 3

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Skyrocketing prices

Yemeni traders exchanged accusations last week, with the officials of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce over the price rise of basic articles on the Yemeni market, only two weeks since amending the laws on production and consumption taxation.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce Khaled Rajeh Sheikh met last week a number of businessmen to discuss the rise. "Raising prices of some items by traders is not lawful and is unwarranted," he commented, adding that there is no reason for price rises for items not covered by the new tax.

The minister mentioned that the tax ranges from 5-10% and includes detergents, cosmetics, sweets, biscuits, ice

creams, jelly, and postal and telephone services, "all of which have nothing to do with the people's basic needs"!

Mahfood Shamakh, deputy director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sana'a, denied that traders are behind the rise. "It is due to several factors such as a 35-40% rise in international transportation fares, the halting of governments subsidies for some public-sector products and the huge taxes recently imposed on traders under a variety of guises," explained he.

The Yemeni market currently witnesses a rise in the prices of many basic foodstuffs such as meats, sugar, rice, wheat, milks, dairies, as well as vegetables, fruits and beans with rates ranging between 50-100%.

Capt. al-Qadhi: Journalists Travel tickets fares reduced by 60%

The Chairman of Yemenia, Capt. Abdul Khaleq al-Qadhi confirmed that the percentage reduction in the tickets issued to the Journalists is to 60% of the price of the tickets issued to the public. Capt. al-Qadhi said that Yemenia has expanded its fleet after the financial and technical difficulties encountered since 1998.

He added, "We have the domestic travel market to service and now fly to several continents so are expanding the fleet to more than 20 modern airplanes". Also, he announced that the first newly made Air Bus will arrive on the 15th October. "This first Air Bus in

addition to another airplane represent a qualitative shift in the Yemenia fleet capability and specifications".

There are still a number of journalists who complaining of airfares raising. This was countered the sales officer from Yemenia who said that, "the reduction in the fare was only applicable to journalist and not to the wider public fare. Therefore, in line with increases in the latter the former only carries a reduction of 30% in real terms. The Journalists Syndicate has welcomed this decision but demands for similar steps to be taken by other travel group.

Journalist report

Under the auspices of the Minister of Human Rights, Amat al-Aleem Al-Sooswah, and on the behalf of the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate in partnership with several civil society organizations and the State security services, the Sana'a branch of the Lawyers Syndicate has conducted a discussion seminar. The Seminar was entitled "The Issue of photocopying and duplicating evidence and its significance in

guaranteeing the Right of the Defense council", on Thursday 19th August, 2004, at Plaza Suits Hotel, San'a.

The Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate emphasizes that holding such seminars reflects its care for the progression and development of law in Yemen. They commented that they aimed to do this through enlargement of the application of the law and respecting the rights and freedoms of the defense. President Ali

Prison reform workshop

The Ministry of Interior is organizing a workshop to aid the reform of the prison service. This workshop will take place on Saturday, 29th August, in the Sana'a Police Officers Club. It is expected to last 3 days and be attended by senior officials of the Sana'a Prison service, the Governorate Prison Services, representatives from the Ministries of Human Rights, Education Social Affairs and Vocational Training as well as several civil society groups interested in the

topic. Brigadier Ali Nasser Lakhsha, the Chairman of the Prisons Authority, has clarified the major significance of this workshop in relation to the plans that the Prisons Authority will attempt to implement in the future. Also, the workshop aims at designing and developing training and qualifications programs for the prison inmates, taking into consideration that the time spent in jail should be used constructively rather than simply as a period of punishment.

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Meeting on awareness of the population problem

A special introductory meeting began on 15th August in Hodeidah, which aims at raising awareness amongst specialized media about population, maternal health and issues of gender and youth.

The 4-year meeting was organized by the Ministry of Information in coordination with the General Secretariat of the National Higher Population Council and

the UN's population fund. Some 30 pressmen from Sana'a, Hodeidah, Hajjah, and Ibb are participating in the meeting.

The meeting has the objective of informing participants about the population problem and its negative influence over future development programs. In

addition, it aims to provide them with information on maternal health, its service components, women's issues, the Islamic viewpoint of family planning, and the significance of the role of the media in explaining the issues of population to the public.

UNDP supports the Yemeni election

An agreement on the Second phase of an Election and Referendum Support project was signed last Monday between Yemeni representatives from the Planning & International Cooperation Ministry, the Supreme Committee for Election & Referendum and the UNDP. As per this agreement, financial support worth \$500,000 has been contributed by the UNDP, out of the total budget allocated for the second phase of the program of the Supreme Committee of the Election & Referendum. The total value of this support is estimated at more than \$4.7 million for the period from August 2004 till December 2006.

A meeting on combating violence against women

A meeting, to plan the formation of a partnership for combating violence against women, was held in Sana'a on Saturday, 14th August. At which SAFHR and Amnesty International were joined by a number of civil society organization representatives and officials from the Min. of Human Rights. This meeting which comes within the

framework of Amnesty International's worldwide campaign to combat violence against women. The campaign which began last March, aims at forming a joint work group in Yemen, to which powers may be delegated, so that they can be put in place measures to combat violence against women on a national level.

Journalism award approved

At its' annual general meeting on the 14th of August, the Journalist's Syndicate Council began its' Journalism Award project. A panel formed of a financial supervisor and the head of the Culture and the Media committee was created so as to prepare the award budget. It is expected that it will announce the prize and the winner of the award in the near future.

The council also presented a sample of the membership cards soon to be issued to the all journalists in the syndi-

cate. The Syndicate council debated the complaints submitted by a number of the journalists regarding their works. It further discussed the training & qualification plan for the period from August till the end of the current year, which will be carried out in collaboration with a Danish project for "Media Sector Development in Yemen".

Man kills his father

A hideous crime took place in Al-Hamli district on the Taiz-Hodeidah highway, when 35-year-old Mohammed Dirwish Khadash killed his 70-year-old father with a Jambia. The killer stabbed his victim repeatedly, until he passed away.

Grief overcame the family, relatives and neighbors, who were outraged by the atrocious crime.

Local police in Al-Barah, Taiz, arrested the parricidal perpetrator, and interrogated him to discover the motive behind his crime.

It was clear that the man is suffering from psychological disorders, and has been referred to the judicial authorities.

Among the most prominent oil companies in Yemen:

Al-Qabatili Company signs agreement in Malaysia

Prominent Yemeni businessman Sultan Othman Al-Qabatili, CEO of Al-Qabatili Company for Investment and Petroleum Services is leaving to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to sign an agreement with one of the most prestigious Malaysian companies in Malaysia specialized in oil exploration. The visit, which is among the first of their kind, is expected to result in an agreement to bring the Malaysian company to explore in one of the blocs currently offered by the Yemeni government for investors in the oil field.

The company has positively responded to the government's encouragement to bring to Yemen companies willing to explore oil wells in predefined blocs.

The Al-Qabatili company is a major company in Yemen involved in several Petroleum projects besides a number of other projects including the construction of the first tourist villages on the coast of the Red Sea namely on the area known as the Valley of the King (Wadi Al-Malik), which is one of the most famous Yemeni and Arab beaches on the Red Sea.

Britain grants postgraduate scholarships to Yemeni students

The British government has awarded postgraduate scholarships to eight Yemeni students to study in the United Kingdom. The scholars, who come from a range of government ministries and other Yemeni institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Central Bank, will begin their studies this autumn. The students have gained places on postgraduate courses at uni-

versities in London, Cardiff, Bradford and elsewhere.

The scholarships have been granted under the Foreign & Commonwealth Chevening Scholarship scheme, which is a worldwide, highly competitive program offering full-time postgraduate scholarship of varying length.

The British Ambassador, Michael Gifford, held a lunchtime reception for the students at his residence on 17th of August. He commented during the meal:

"I am delighted that these students have been successful in gaining awards under the prestigious Chevening Scholarship Scheme. There is keen competition for these awards, and I congratulate the students on their success and wish them well for their university studies in the UK. The aim of these scholarships is to provide financial support to Yemeni men and women who will go on to play a key role in promoting Yemen's political, economic & social development. The Chevening scheme is an important part of Britain's cooperation with Yemen in the field of education."

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 that it is students to blame for the poor secondary exam results, or is it the educational system?
 • Yes, I think the educational system is mainly to blame
 • No, I think both students and the educational system are to be blamed

last edition's question:

Do you think that the pullout of 70,000 US troops from Europe and Asia is a genuine move or merely for elections?
 • It is just a move to win more votes in elections 51%
 • No it is a genuine and sincere move 37%
 • I can't tell 12%

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Secondary exam results announced by the Ministry of Education:

Disappointing statistics

BY WALID AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The number of students who applied for examinations was around 188,000 of which around 22,000 were absent. Among the roughly 166,000 students, just over 126,000 passed the exams. Of those who passed, a majority attained low marks of below 80%. Hence, it is expected that most of this year's graduates will not be able to enroll into local universities.

According to Dr. Jalal Faqirah, who is working for the Ministry of Higher Education, with such low grades, only a fraction of this year's graduates would probably be accepted into local universities. "Unfortunately, most of this year's secondary school graduates may find it difficult if not impossible to get a seat in local public universities. Perhaps, they could enroll in private universities which can accept lower rates, but are also much more expensive," he said.

Dr. Faqirah had mentioned that Sana'a University is already overcrowded and cannot accept many more students. "Sana'a University already has around 85,000 students enrolled in 19 faculties throughout the Republic of Yemen. In the last three years, the number of students accepted into the Faculty of Commerce for instance has declined from 2,000 to 1,200. The Higher Council of Universities is the body that decides the number of students to be accepted and the acceptable grades, and I believe that they will probably raise the grade required to enroll in Sana'a University further."

I believe that the best alternative for most of this year's graduates would either enroll in community colleges, which should be encouraged and supported, or in vocational training institutes, such as the Technical School," he added.

Observers concerned with education in Yemen believe that the statistics declared are disappointing and show that the educational standards in the country are falling.

Being one of the countries with the lowest literacy rates in the world, officials at the ministry of education argue that Yemen simply cannot ignore the dangerous signs of such examination outcomes and must work hard to identify the factors that led to such poor results.

In the meantime, other academics



An overcrowded class in the capital Sana'a. Overcrowded classes are the norm in most Yemeni public schools (YT photo)

believe that a declining educational standard will have a directly negative influence on the country's economic and social standing.

"We need to stop this deterioration, which could eventually lead to a generation of semi-literate youth that would contribute negatively to the country's development" said Mohamed bin Sallam, father of Bakeel, who was surprised to find a grade of 61% in his examination results sheet.

"Unqualified teachers, inadequate teaching facilities, overcrowded classrooms, outdated curricula, and improper exam questions were all reasons behind my son's low scores. I have been told that with such a low score, my son may have to find a seat in a public school far away from Sana'a, perhaps in a remote village in Mareb or elsewhere. I believe the future of my son is at stake," he complained.

According to Mr. Sallam, the weak examination results indicate lack of strategic reform in the educational sector.

"With the current low quality in terms of human resources, curricula, and educational facilities in public schools, such results are not surprising. In fact, I thought that the number of students who failed would be even more. But what counts here is the quality of the education of our youth, rather than the number of those who passed the exams. Only then can we be assured that our country can progress with ease," he added.

A crisis in teachers

Sana'a University Associate Professor Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, who is currently among the senior instructors of the Faculty of Education focused on the need to establish a stronger and more qualified cadre for preparatory and secondary classes. "It is essential to train and qualify current teachers teaching in secondary and preparatory classes to achieve better overall performance in our schools," he said.

"The poor quality of teachers has a tremendous impact on students, which will consequently result in negative standard of education and knowledge throughout the country. In other words, that means we will have less people enrolling in universities, and less people training in technical and vocational institutes. This would consequently produce less skillful workers, engineers, doctors, etc. who would find it difficult to be accepted in good jobs, and would eventually result in more unemployed youth."

Dr. Jalal Faqirah of the Ministry of Higher Education, said that teachers need to receive extensive and adequate training to cope with the growing demands of this era. "The Ministry of Education's capabilities are very weak. Much work is needed to expand and enhance the quality of education. Even though the Ministry of Education annually receives up to 20% of the overall national budget, it is still not enough to help bring out the country from its educational stagnancy," he said.

"I remember in our days, we used to complain about having 40 students in one class. Today, you can easily find public schools with 100 plus students in the same room, some without even chairs to sit on."

Unemployment fears on the rise

Economic experts have always directly linked educational standards with human resources. In other words, the better the educational quality of a country, the more probable that it would have a productive and skillful workforce. Hence, based on the statistics described, it is expected that Yemen's already high unemployment rate of 40% would rise further, causing a complete standstill to Yemen's already poorly performing economy.

Another concern for the government is the worrying sign of more successful female students relative to successful male students. Taking into account the socially conservative national outlook of Yemen, it is predicted that many successful females will not work, whilst unsuccessful males would still have to earn a living and be the providers for their families.

ily.

The strong performance of female students can be justified, says Dr. Faqirah. "Female students are less distracted from their studies and tend to stay at home more often than boys. I believe that the main factors behind the weak exam results of male students is their inability to focus on their studies due to the increasing distraction caused by the poor economic conditions that force boys to work after school. In many cases, the inefficient use of the Internet and the wide variety of satellite TV channels are also reasons for such poor performance," he said.

Mr. Faqirah added that the government can and should expand educational establishments to become more diverse in the courses they offer, and update the curricula to include up-to-date information that would enable students to better cope with the demands of life after graduation.

Future at stake

Human development experts believe that Yemen's major concern for the coming 50 years should, first and foremost, be education. In a recent statement of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, he also endorsed this opinion focusing on the need to raise the quality of education rather than the number of students enrolling in universities and institutions.

Donors in Yemen have been quite keen to concentrate on education as well. According to the Accessible Information on Development Activities (AiDA), education is the second sector in terms of the number of donor projects after agriculture. Hundreds of projects in education have been implemented or are being carried out. The current top five donors are Netherlands, Japan, United States, World Bank, and the United Kingdom. Those countries have been focusing on education in the construction of schools, implementing education expansion projects, rehabilitating institutes, and giving training to teachers. However, the demands of the country have increased tremendously in the recent years due to the solid 3.7% annual population growth, which had implications on all aspects of life.

The country will continue to suffer from poor educational standards for many years to come, and this will have a negative impact on a whole generation, which may suffer from illiteracy at a time when students of the rest of the world are targeting computer literacy or literacy in a second language.

Yemen still has a long way to go in terms of development, and there is no doubt that educational stands must be the number one priority for that to happen.

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Choco Nuts Summer Festival, 2004

A senior media official of the Hayel Saeed Ana'am & Co. Group, made an announcement to the Yemen Times of a package of events that in partnership with the Assorted Fabrication and the Promotional Packing Materials Company aim to raise the public image Choco Nuts Cereal. The companies have organized a series of cultural and sporting events during the inauguration

day of the Taiz Summer Festival, based at the Taiz Tourist Club, and organized for the first time by Abdul Jaleel Radman Promotion Group.

Participating in this festival will be a number of local and foreign bands, including Adam Saif and his band, the Kushkoosh band, the dramatic Nas band, the artistic Mass band and al-Nowras band also.

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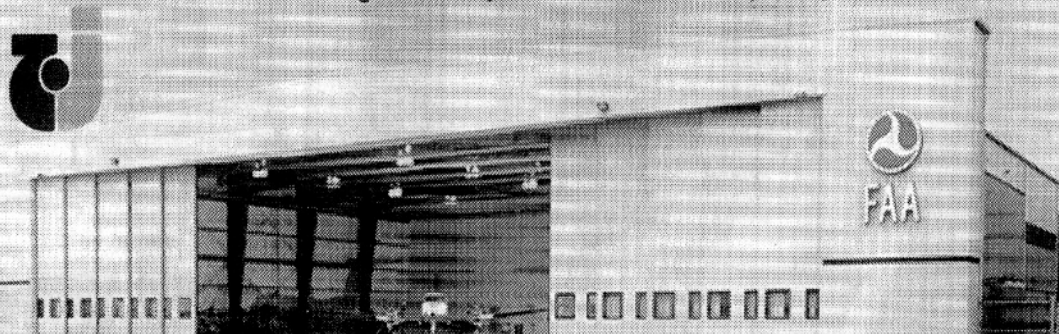
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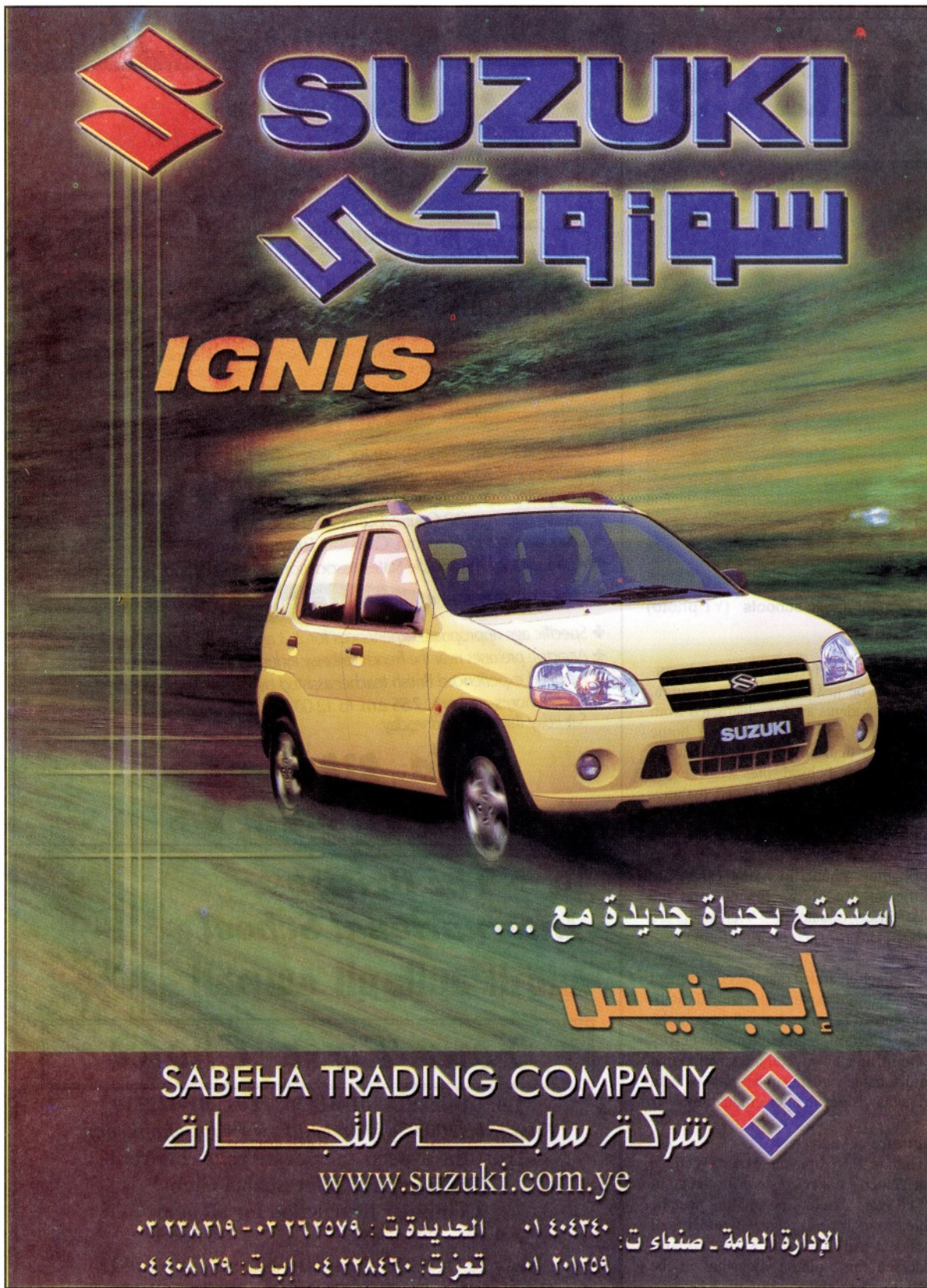
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أنت بيتك ...
من أبوولاد ٢٠٠٤

يتم السحب كل اسبوعين
السحب الأول
الأثنين ١٦/٨/٢٠٠٤ م
السحب الثاني
الأثنين ٣٥/٨/٢٠٠٤ م
السحب الثالث
الأثنين ١٣/٩/٢٠٠٤ م

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واحصل على كوب زجاجي أبوولاد
وكوبون المشاركة في السحب
على أبات بيت متكامل

أنت بيتك ...
من أبوولاد ٢٠٠٤

Sadr's men hold Iraq shrine in defiance of govt

NAJAF, Iraq, Aug 21 (Reuters) - Fighters loyal to rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr were firmly in control of Najaf's Imam Ali mosque on Saturday, defying efforts by Iraq's U.S.-backed government to end a radical Shi'ite rebellion.

Militiamen brandished weapons around the mosque, the centre of a two week confrontation with U.S. forces that has helped drive oil prices to record highs and has presented the interim government with its biggest crisis yet.

"Bring those Americans here to fight hand to hand," said one militant, biting his finger for emphasis. "They are cowards."

They stay thousands of feet away in their airplanes. They are scared, they know we will slaughter them."

Aside from sporadic exchanges of gunfire and a tank firing a few shells, Najaf was relatively calm on Saturday morning.

Holding out hope for a peaceful resolution, one of Sadr's top aides said the rebel leader wanted to hand over Iraq's holiest Shi'ite Muslim shrine to Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the majority Shi'ite country's most influential cleric, and that talks on the mosque's future had begun.

"We would like to hand over the shrine to the religious establishment which has the right to control it," Sheikh Ahmad al-Sheibani told reporters.

"It is only natural that Ayatollah Sistani should accept it."

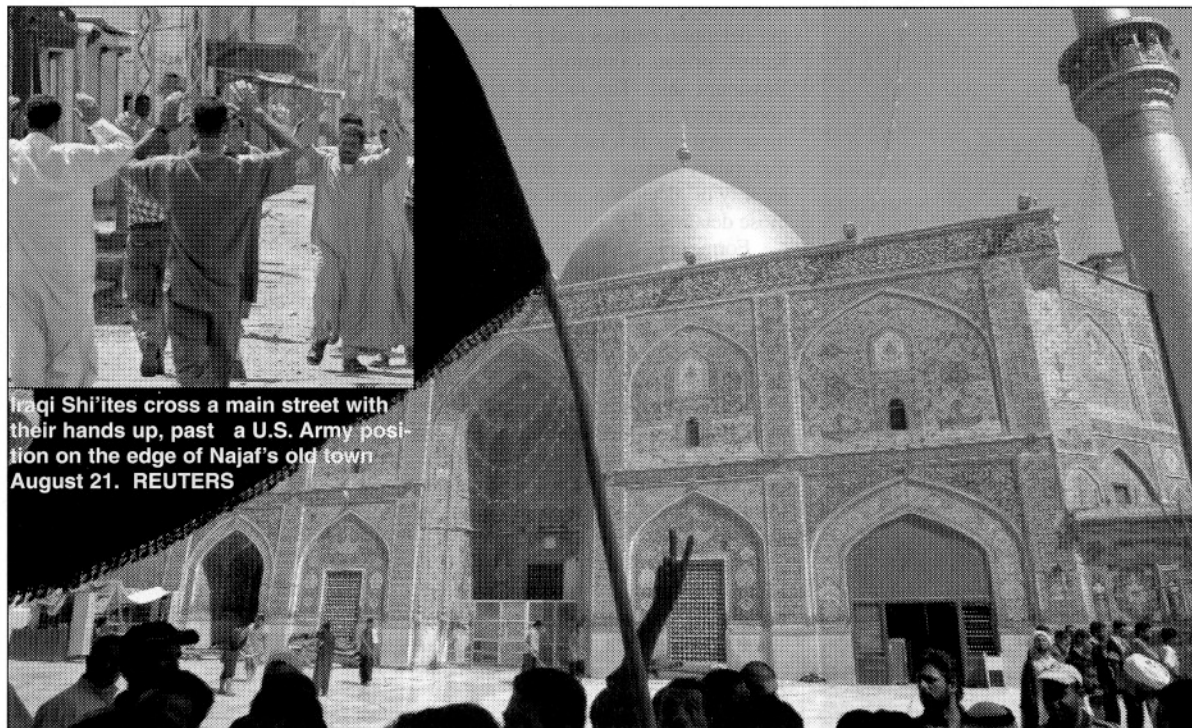
Sistani, a moderate cleric who usually lives in Najaf, is now in Britain recovering from surgery.

But Sadr's aide later added that Sadr's militia would continue to guard the mosque after any handover, precisely the outcome that the two-month-old government has vowed to prevent.

"The Mehdi Army will continue to defend the shrine and Najaf, all of Najaf because it is a holy city," Sheibani said.

"The Americans will not be allowed into Najaf."

Sheibani said no time had been set for a handover of the mosque and called on Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's govern-



Iraqi Shi'ites cross a main street with their hands up, past a U.S. Army position on the edge of Najaf's old town August 21. REUTERS

Supporters of radical Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al Sadr act as human shields at Najaf's Imam Ali shrine August 21. Rebel Shi'ite fighters were firmly in control of the Imam Ali mosque in the Iraqi city of Najaf, but the whereabouts of their leader, the fiery cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, were unknown on Saturday. REUTERS

ment, which had at one point threatened to storm the mosque, to pursue a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"TRAITORS"

A teenager hacked with a pick at a block of ice to help cool Sadr's fighters, who danced and yelled slogans vilifying Allawi, who has called for them to lay down their weapons and leave the golden-domed mosque. "We are winning, we will win over Iyad Allawi and the traitors collaborating with the Americans," they chanted.

Some held banners that said: "Where is the bullet that will grant me martyrdom?" Sheibani said Sadr had agreed to hand over the keys to the shrine to Sistani's aides, but did not say when. Such a handover would be largely symbolic if Sadr's fighters remained in place and around the mosque, where they have been

fighting off efforts by U.S. and Iraqi government forces to dislodge them. Sadr's uprising has fuelled fears of disruption to Iraqi oil production and has helped push world crude prices to new highs.

U.S. light crude hit a new record of \$49.40 a barrel on Friday, before slipping back to close just below \$48. Confusion over control of the mosque swirled on Friday as the revolt, in which hundreds have died, entered its third week.

The Interior Ministry said police had entered the shrine and arrested hundreds of fighters without firing a shot, a claim quickly denied by Sadr's aides.

A bloodless seizure of the mosque would have been a big political victory for Allawi.

Since taking over from U.S. occupiers on June 28 he has struggled to end an insurgency and the Sadr-inspired

Shi'ite rebellion in eight cities.

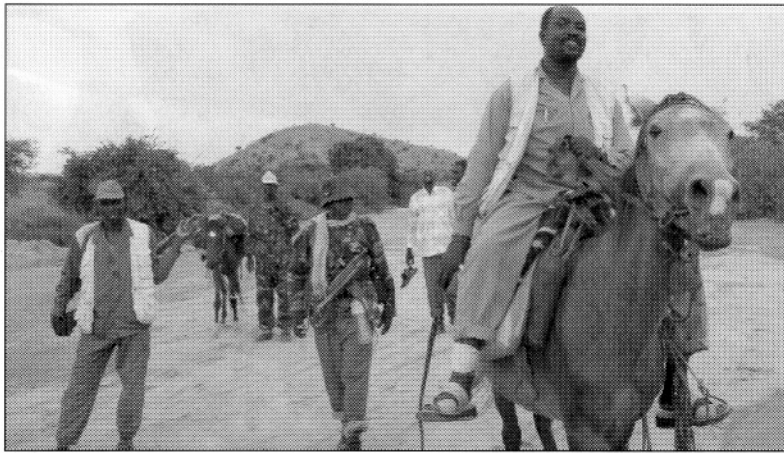
Iraq's Health Ministry said on Saturday at least 21 Iraqis had been killed and five wounded in Najaf over the past 24 hours.

The U.S. military said insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a U.S. military vehicle in southern Baghdad on Saturday, killing one soldier and wounding two others.

The attacks brought to 711 the number of U.S. troops killed in action in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion last year. One Polish soldier was killed and six wounded on Saturday when a booby-trapped car exploded next to their convoy near the town of Hilla, an army spokesman said.

The soldier's death brings the number of Polish fatalities in Iraq to 14 since Poland took charge of the 8,000-strong multinational force in south-central Iraq last September.

Sudan signs Darfur displaced return deal with U.N.



Khamis Abdalah leader of the SPLA rides a horse through the dry river of Wadi in Sudan. Khamis Abdalah, leader of SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) rebels crosses a dry section of the Wadi river on horseback during a patrol in Mestree area in western of Sudan near to Chad border August 18. REUTERS

KHARTOUM, Aug 21 (Reuters) - Sudan on Saturday signed an agreement to ensure the voluntary return of more than one million people displaced by fighting in the Darfur region and said it was giving Darfuris more say in local government.

Sudan, under threat of possible sanctions, has less than two weeks to prove to the U.N. Security Council it is taking action to improve security in remote Darfur, where a rebellion has raged since February last year. Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail said the agreement on internally displaced people (IDPs) with the United Nations should help reassure the international community. Rebels and aid workers say the Sudanese authorities have sometimes tried to force displaced people home against their will.

The Sudanese government denies the allegation.

"Of course this first of all will revoke any queries about whether the return of the IDPs is voluntary or involuntary."

We have an international organisation who will supervise the return," Ismail told reporters.

He added the government had begun

to form a native Darfuri administration to work in coordination with the local government until local elections are held.

He said a peace agreement to end a separate conflict in the south stated that there would be elections in all the states of Sudan to elect government officials.

The Darfur revolt broke out after years of conflict between Arab nomads and African farmers over scarce resources.

Rebels says Khartoum has armed Arab militia known as Janjaweed to loot and burn villages in a campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Khartoum denies the charge and calls the Janjaweed outlaws.

The U.N. says the fighting has sparked the world's worst humanitarian crisis with about 200,000 refugees in neighbouring Chad and more than one million displaced inside Sudan.

OBSTACLES

The U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Sudan, Manuel Aranda da Silva, said he was encouraged by Sudan's actions to improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur, but said the main obstacle to reaching all those in need was capacity and funding.

Soldiers kill Palestinian near Gaza-Israel fence

GAZA, Aug 21 (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian as he approached a security fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, Israeli military sources said on Saturday.

The sources said the Palestinian was shot on Friday night in an area off-limits to Palestinians and his body discovered on Saturday. They said an explosive device was found next to the body.

Palestinians could not immediately identify the dead man but medics confirmed his body was transferred to a Gaza hospital.

Daily violence continues in Gaza as Israel seeks to put down militants before implementing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan to ensure the pullout is not seen as a victory for the gunmen.

Palestinians welcome the with-



A Palestinian paramedic holds a child as he stands in front of an Israeli soldier during a military operation in Nablus. A Palestinian paramedic holds a child as he stands in front of an Israeli soldier during a military operation in Nablus Old City in the West Bank August 21. REUTERS

drawal, which includes the evacuation of some 8,000 Jewish settlers on a large part of the West Bank and from the Gaza Strip, but fear it is a deprive them of a viable state.

إعلان

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Announcement

Sanaa University announces the extension of selling the international tender documents for the construction of the Major Hall until Tuesday 31st Aug. 2004.

The tender envelopes will be publicly opened on Monday 4th October 2004 in the presence of the bidders or their representatives. The tender documents cost is non-refundable US\$3,000.

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Blast at Bangladesh opposition HQ kills 7



A Bangladeshi political activist looks at a woman injured in a bomb blast outside the headquarters of Bangladesh's main opposition Awami League Party in Dhaka August 21. At least four people were killed and dozens injured after one or more bombs exploded as former Bangladeshi prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed and chief of Awami League addressed a public meeting. Party leaders say the woman was unhurt. REUTERS

DHAKA, Aug 21 (Reuters) - Seven people were killed when bombs or grenades exploded as former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed ended her address to a public meeting outside her headquarters on Saturday, police and witnesses said.

Hospital officials said at least 50 were wounded in the blasts. Police officer Mahabur Rahman said at least 10 policemen were injured.

A Reuters reporter at a nearby government hospital where the injured were taken said he had counted seven bodies, including that of a woman.

"We are very busy trying to deal with such a large number of injured people," a doctor at Dhaka Medical College hospital said. Awami League leaders were at the hospital amid chaotic scenes, with relatives crying and wounded people screaming.

"After one blast, I was lying in the

street. Then I heard seven or eight more blasts and something hit me in the head and I fainted," Gaisuddin, an Awami League worker, his head bandaged, said.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said Hasina, president of the league, was "safe, thanks to Allah". "Sheikh Hasina was the target of the blast," he said.

A Reuters cameraman at the scene said many of the injured were women activists. He said he heard several blasts.

Two grenades lay unexploded at the site of the meeting, witnesses said. Wounded women activists were lying on the ground, many in blood-soaked saris.

Hundreds of shoes littered the area. TV footage showed a badly bleeding child being carried to hospital.

Officials of the ruling Bangladesh

Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia, which defeated the Awami League in elections in October 2001, were not immediately available for comment.

"When Sheikh Hasina finished her speech and was attempting to get down from the dais, several bombs exploded," Muzaffar Hussain Maya, a former Awami League minister, told Reuters.

He was slightly injured, his white kurta stained with blood.

There has been a spate of bomb blasts in Bangladesh in recent months including one earlier this month which killed an Awami League leader in the northeastern town of Sylhet.

In May, a bomb exploded at a mosque near the shrine of a Muslim saint in Sylhet, killing three people and wounding 50, including British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury.

At least 20 people have died in bomb blasts and sporadic political violence this year.

UN rights expert berates U.S. on Afghan detentions

KABUL, Aug 21 (Reuters) - A U.N. human rights expert on Saturday slammed U.S. military authorities in Afghanistan for barring him from visiting detention centres and pronounced a Kabul prison "inhuman." Cherif Bassiouni said: "The lack of giving an opportunity for people to go and see these facilities is a lack of transparency that raises serious concerns about the legality of detention...and conditions of those detainees."

Former prisoners say they were tortured and abused while in U.S. custody, raising concerns that scandal over the mistreatment of prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison earlier this year was not an isolated episode.

The U.S. military, which had earlier this month been expected to release an internal report into allegations of prisoner abuse, turned down his request to visit centres where suspected militants are held.

Bassiouni was allowed to visit Kabul's notorious Pul-i-Charkhi jail, run by the Afghan authorities, where some 725 members of the Taliban militia and their Pakistani allies are being held.

Bassiouni pronounced conditions there "inhuman" and said the prisoners should be freed.

"These persons should be released immediately. There is no legal, human or even political justification to keep them," he said. But added that at least he had been allowed in to see the prison.

The rights controversy was stirred by the arrest of three U.S. citizens in Kabul in early July for illegally detaining and torturing Afghans.

The leader of a vigilante group, Jonathan "Jack" Idema said no torture was used during interrogations and his group colluded with U.S. security agencies as well as the Department of Defense. The U.S. authorities have



Afghan militia forces, loyal to local commander Amanullah Khan, drive through the Shindand district 100 kms (63 miles) south of Herat in this picture taken August 19. A renegade Afghan militia commander and a spokesman for the governor of the western province of Herat said on Wednesday their forces were honouring a ceasefire brokered a day earlier by the U.S. envoy to Afghanistan. REUTERS

denied any link with Idema's group, and their trial resumes on Monday.

Plenty wrong

The U.N. rights expert has been in Afghanistan for a week and said the country had made progress in the past two years but went on to list violations ranging from execution, torture, arbitrary arrest, detention, seizure of private property and crimes against humanity.

He said these violations were "committed by state and non-state actors as part of a widespread or systematic policies".

He also called for an immediate end to the practice whereby women charged with alleged crimes before tribal councils are put in the personal custody of tribal chiefs "very close to a condition of modern slavery."

He urged the government to identify the perpetrators of abuses who could otherwise act with impunity.

Bassiouni was appointed by the U.N. General Assembly as an independent expert on human rights in Afghanistan in April and has served in the past as chairman of the world body's commission for probing violations in the former Yugoslavia.

He said he would deliver his report to the U.N. General Assembly in October.

Afghanistan holds its first democratic presidential election on October 9.

U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai, who has headed the transitional government formed after the overthrow of the Taliban in late 2001, is expected to win.

In two remarkable dinner parties held in Sanaa:

Filipinos in Yemen honor Ambassador

Yemen Times Staff

His Excellency Bahnarim A. Guinomla, Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen along with Madame Guinomla and some of the embassy's staff members arrived in Sana'a last Wednesday, August 18th.

Among the staffers who arrived to Yemen were Honorable Mr. Acas Bayabao (Attache and Signing Officer) & his wife Fatima Bayabao, Honorable Mr. Yusuf Usudan (Attache in charge of Trade Promotion), and Honorable Vice Consul Attorney Gernie Usudan.

During their stay in Sanaa, the delegation was warmly welcomed by the Filipino Community in Yemen (TFCY) and Mr. Gerry R. Vitangcol, adviser and former the Samahang Pilipino sa Yemen (the Filipino Association in Yemen).

The delegation, which is expected to leave Yemen today, Monday August 23, has rendered consular services to the Filipinos in Yemen, such as passport renewal, authentication of documents, etc. The embassy staff provided consular services during August 19-22 in Sanaa. The last visit of H.E. Ambassador Guinomla to Yemen was one year ago.

Two welcome dinners were hosted for the ambassador during his stay in Sanaa.

First dinner by Gerry Vitangcol

The first dinner was hosted by Mr. Gerry R. Vitangcol on Wednesday immediately after the ambassador's



H.E. The ambassador with Mr. Gerry and other guests during the dinner held on Wednesday.

arrival to Sanaa on Wednesday August 18th at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Gerry R. Vitangcol. During the event, Mr. Gerry gave a welcome speech in which he expressed his sincere gratitude to the ambassador for coming to Yemen after a full year absence. "We hope that our ambassador would be able to come more often to Yemen and visit the Filipino community living happily in this friendly country," he said.

Later on, H.E. The ambassador expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and sincere hospitality of Mr. Gerry and expressed his willingness to come more often to Yemen to serve the Filipino community and explore mutual cooperation with Yemen.

"Yemen-Philippine relations have great potentials and we need to invest heavily through various means including the media to promote our friendly dialogue and cooperation," he said.

Among the guests attending the event were Mr. Jamil Hindi, Chairman of The

Jordanian Tourist Investment Company and his wife, who had also organized a dinner reception on Sunday 22nd August at Al-Mankal Restaurant in Sanaa.

Dinner party by TFCY

Another welcome dinner was hosted by TFCY last Friday, August 20th at Shahrani Hotel. TFCY President, Mrs. Shirley Al-Ghasm welcomed and thanked the ambassador & Madame Guinomla, their delegates and guests including Mr. Mohamed Radi, Area Manager of Gulf Air; and Rev. Fr. George Pudussery who were available during the dinner event.

Two Filipino cultural dances were presented during the party. Mr. Val Nulada serenaded His Excellency with the modified song of Engelbert Humperdick entitled "After the Lovin".

His Excellency later delivered a message to all the Filipinos and assured them of his full support. "Some of the objectives in visiting Yemen is to strengthen foreign relations between the two countries; to encourage the Filipino Migrant Workers to invest in Negosyong Pangkabuhayan in the Philippines a project of Overseas Workers and Welfare Administration (OWWA); and promote among Yemeni Businessmen the idea of investing in the Philippines," the ambassador said.

His Excellency presented the renewal of the Certificate of Registration of TFCY together with Honorable Vice Consul, Atty. Gernie Usudan to Mrs. Shirley Al-Ghasm. His Excellency also thanked the distinguished guests for the support they are giving to The Filipino Community in Yemen.



H.E. the ambassador with TFCY members and other guests during the dinner held on Friday.

Congo presidential team shuns South Africa talks

KINSHASA, Aug 21 (Reuters) - A Congolese presidential delegation expected to visit South Africa for talks with former rebels on Saturday has cancelled the trip, a senior government official said on Saturday.

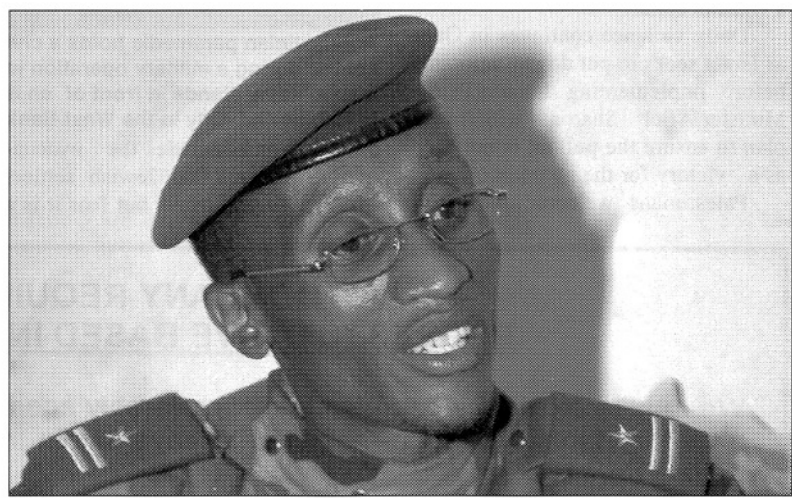
"There are no talks in Pretoria. There is no need. Because President Mbeki will visit our country with a big delegation later this month, any talks on peace developments will take place during that time," M'Poko said.

"We wanted to avoid a situation of too much travelling between Kinshasa and Pretoria," he added. South Africa's presidency said no talks were planned in Pretoria but confirmed Mbeki would visit Kinshasa in late August. "There are no talks taking place or scheduled on the DRC (in Pretoria)," presidential spokesman Bheki Khumalo told Reuters.

Diplomats in Kinshasa said the parties had been invited by Mbeki to rejuvenate a peace process due to end with elections next year.

Massacre

Already faltering after a former rebel commander seized the eastern town of Bukavu in June, the peace process was dealt a major blow by last week's massacre of 160 Congolese Tutsi refugees in Burundi.



Congolese rebel leader General Laurent Nkunda speaks to media late on August 19, at his family home in Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where ethnic tensions have been running high since the massacre last week of some 160 Congolese Tutsis in neighbouring Burundi. REUTERS

The killings have led to RCD-Goma, the main rebel group in Congo's conflict, returning to its traditional stronghold in the eastern border town of Goma and calling for a pause in the transition. RCD-Goma officials said on Friday they were going to Pretoria to relaunch the process, but Congolese President Joseph Kabila's camp made clear there was no question of renegotiating the transition.

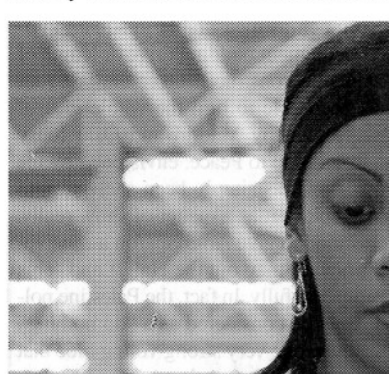
South Africa brokered the months of

talks that officially ended Congo's five-year war in 2003.

With the former rebels back in Goma and repeated threats of war from the renegade RCD-Goma hardliner General Laurent Nkunda, analysts fear Congo's government — which was set up under the peace deal and unites the war's former foes — may collapse. RCD-Goma officials however have said they are committed to peace and do not intend to pull out of the administration.

Chavez urges foes to accept defeat, scoffs at fraud

CARACAS, Venezuela, Aug 20 (Reuters) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Friday urged his opponents to recognize his recall referendum victory and pledged dialogue even with his "most bitter enemies" to heal the country's deep political divisions.



Opponents of the left-wing leader have accused electoral authorities of rigging Sunday's vote so Chavez would win and said fraud in the electronic voting made it pointless for them to compete in next month's regional elections for state governors and local mayors.

International observers, led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, have already endorsed the referendum in which 59 percent of the voters ratified Chavez in his presidency against 41 percent who sought to recall him. Many governments have also publicly backed the results.

"They are embarrassing themselves in front of the whole world ... These are absurd charges of a fraud that has not appeared anywhere and will not appear anywhere," Chavez said in a late-night broadcast. "I invite my countrymen to talk, even to my most bitter enemies I offer my hand."

Former army paratrooper Chavez, who was first elected in 1998 and will now serve out his term until 2006 elections, has accused his foes of being bad losers and warned them against stirring unrest in the world's fifth-largest oil exporter.

The fraud charges have inflamed tensions in the wake of the poll that pitted a nationalist president viewed by supporters as a champion of the poor against opponents who consider him a bullying dictator.

The opposition has called for the electoral authority to be replaced and the automated voting system overhauled.

"This National Electoral Council and voting system ... do not create the right context for participation in any electoral process, that's ruled out," Jesus Torrealba, spokesman for the opposition Democratic Coordinator coalition, told Reuters.

Chavez foes control the governorships of seven of Venezuela's 23 states and many of the 337 mayor's posts, including metropolitan Caracas. An opposition boycott of the regional elections could concede these posts to pro-Chavez candidates.

Seeking to clear up the fraud charges, electoral authorities and observers from the Organization of American States and the U.S.-based Carter Center were reviewing a final sample audit of the vote. The audit result would probably be announced over the weekend, officials said.

A top Carter Center envoy said on Thursday the check was expected to confirm that Chavez had won. Carter said earlier this week that observers had seen no evidence of fraud.

Opposition leaders who initially demanded the audit refused to take part because they said it was not stringent enough.

A Venezuelan electoral council worker checks paper ballots during an audit on the results of Sunday's referendum against President Hugo Chavez, in Caracas, August 19. Chavez won the recall, but international observers are carrying out additional checks on a sample of ballots after opposition leaders rejected the results as a fraud. REUTERS

Hungary's ruling parties seek new PM

BUDAPEST, Aug 21 (Reuters) - Hungary's ruling coalition parties agreed on Saturday to put forward a joint candidate to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy, with senior Socialist party member Peter Kiss the most likely choice.

The decision to maintain the coalition was made at a meeting of leaders of the Socialists, Hungary's main ruling party, and its liberal ally, the SZDSZ.

"We agreed that it is necessary and possible to maintain the coalition and for this the two parties will submit a joint prime minister candidate to parliament," Socialist party president Laszlo Kovacs told reporters.

He said a Socialist party congress would make the final choice next week, probably on Wednesday.

Kiss, 45, is deputy prime minister with a reputation for being a smooth operator behind the scenes, making him fit to lead the unruly Socialists, say analysts.

Speaking on Hungarian television, Kiss said he would aim to fire up the economy and seek EU funds to turn around declining voter support for the Socialists.

"There is an objective base for that: an economy, which is picking up, and funds from the EU (European Union)," he said.

He has the support of the party leadership but Sports Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany is challenging this and some other names have been proposed by Socialist politicians.

The two government parties earlier this week dumped Medgyessy, who had become increasingly unpopular because of his government's policy on spending cuts.

"ONLY CANDIDATE"

Kovacs told the national news agency MTI that Kiss was the only candidate put forward at meeting of party leaders on Saturday, but a wider meet-



A file photo shows Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Peter Kiss in Jerusalem, July 22. Hungary's ruling Socialists have picked Peter Kiss, a former labour minister and a senior party figure, to replace Peter Medgyessy as the next government chief, the MTI news agency said on Thursday. It quoted Socialist politicians close to the party's presidency but gave no details. The Socialists decided to dump Medgyessy earlier on Thursday following his row with their junior coalition partner. REUTERS

ing of Socialist leaders in the evening would make the final proposal to the party congress.

"Peter Kiss... has said yes to the candidacy," Kovacs added.

SZDSZ leader Gabor Kuncze said liberal lawmakers would not try to influence the selection which was the domain of the senior ruling party.

But Kuncze said SZDSZ wanted a more decisive government policy to focus on both stronger economic growth and maintaining competitiveness, keeping a target to join the euro zone in 2010.

"The (euro) convergence programme must be maintained," he said, adding

that the new government must cut taxes and remain committed to continuing privatisation.

The parties plan to replace Medgyessy through a no-confidence motion in parliament on Sept. 6, which would dismiss the incumbent and elect a successor in the same vote. The motion must be supported by at least 194 MPs. The Socialists hold 178 seats and SZDSZ 20 in the 386-member parliament.

Hungary's President Ferenc Madl said in a newspaper interview that he had no legal role in the process and a new prime minister must be elected by a parliamentary majority.

Edwards faults Bush for overtime pay cuts

PITTSBURGH, Aug 21 (Reuters) - Vice presidential candidate John Edwards on Saturday assailed a new Bush administration policy that excludes millions of Americans from overtime pay and promised that the Democratic ticket would ensure that workers are rewarded for their efforts.

He made his comments in the party's weekly radio address two days before the Republican administration's policy takes effect. The new rules change the criteria for how employers determine overtime for their employees.

"Why would anyone want to take overtime pay away from as many as 6 million Americans at a time when they need it the most?" asked Edwards, a senator from North Carolina.

"And why would anyone support this new rule which could mean a pay cut for millions of Americans who have already seen their real wages drop again this year?"

Edwards said that he and Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry "believe we don't need changes that deny workers their overtime pay."

Recalling his own background, which included unloading tractor trailers while in college, Edwards said the Democrats believe that "if you work hard, then you should be rewarded for that effort."

Kerry and Edwards, running neck and neck with President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, have offered an economic platform designed to please middle class voters, many of whom have failed to benefit much from an economic recovery that has yet to generate robust hiring or wage gains.

Kerry was to meet with top Democrats on Saturday.

More than 1.1 million jobs have been lost since Bush took office and the tepid recovery in the labor market has fueled public concern over offshore "outsourcing" to low-wage countries like China and India.

Kerry and Edwards have tried to capitalize on that discontent.

But Republicans say Bush will likely

highlight tax relief and Social Security reform when he retools his economic platform for an intense month of campaigning after the Aug. 30-Sept. 2 Republican Party convention in New York.

The focus will be on small investors and young voters worried about their retirement savings, according to

Republicans close to the administration.

"The message will be that Bush is for wealth creation and (Democrat John) Kerry is for wealth redistribution," said Stephen Moore of the Club for Growth, a group that raises money for conservative political candidates.

The president is expected to roll out the polished themes at the convention.



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry speaks to voters during a "Front Porch Visit" on healthcare in Derry, New Hampshire August 19. Kerry accused U.S. President George W. Bush of using surrogates to "do his dirty work," as the Democratic presidential challenger hit back on Thursday at a Republican assault on his Vietnam War record. REUTERS

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Dhamar Participatory Rural Development Project
Project management Office

Invitation for Expression of Interest for International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) to promote participatory development and provide technical assistance

The Government of Yemen has received a loan from the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) toward the cost of Dhamar participatory Rural Development Project and it is intended that a portion of this loan will be used against eligible payment for recruitment of qualified International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO). The overall goal of the Project is to improve the living condition of maintain area communities, in a sustainable manner, through increasing incomes in ways that contribute to protecting and restoring the environment and through promoting community participation and self-reliance. Development activities under the Programme will include micro-credit, livestock development, crop improvement, irrigation development, marketing, micro-enterprise development, social infrastructure rehabilitation, and environmental improvement activities. The Ministry of agriculture and Irrigation represented by Dhamar participatory Rural Development Project, now invites eligible consultants to express their interests to provide their services. Under this expression of interest, consultants are expected to provide their qualifications, experience in the related field, in addition to the firm's profiles, key personnel and specific information regarding their experience.

The INGO must have proven experience in community development amongst rural communities and experience in participatory methodologies. Its community worker must be experienced in, or be provided with adequate training in, participatory rural appraisal and planning techniques. It must be able to supply suitably qualified and experienced staff to undertake the various backup support services, directly or through contracts with other NGOs/organization. All technical staff must have proven ability to interact effectively with farmers.

The INGO is willing to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Government of Yemen/PMO, committing itself: (i) to pursue the objectives of the Project; (ii) to make changes to its strategy and system if they obstruct the achievement of Project objectives; and (iii) to attend meetings to contribute to feed back system and procedures required by government including regular reporting. The signing of the MOU, outlining clearly its role and function, would be a precondition to entering into a contract with the INGO for the Program.

Interested INGO may obtain further information at address below during office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Expression of interest must be delivered, in sealed envelopes on or before the hour 2:30 p.m. on September 20th 2004.

INGOs submitting EOI will be considered for short-listing, and of formal Request for Proposal (REP) will be provided to the short-listed INGOs.

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Words of Wisdom



I personally feel that female journalists can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the torch-bearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum - not optimal - condition.

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



OUR OPINION

When we don't think

In most of the Arab world, and probably in all dictatorships, regimes tend to build up a society that doesn't ask a lot of questions and sometimes doesn't even think. I have noticed on many occasions that some Yemeni intellectuals or university professors tend not to think but rather have others provide them with ready-made information that they usually don't question at all.

One striking example was the press conference held to announce the results of the secondary stage examinations for this year.

The government newspapers and media organs have been bringing a tone of pride and achievement for what they called 'a high percentage of students passing the exams'. They claimed that the percentage was over 75%, which is in their opinion 'a positive development that shows the country is going in the right direction'. When regular citizens read this, they rarely question such information. Yes, 75% may be high in the opinion of the government, but in international standards, the number is unacceptable. Meanwhile, no one questioned the different grade ranges that were attained and the scores of those who passed the exams. I am sure for instance that most students got grades below 80%. It may not be a surprise for me if more than 90% of students got grades below 80%. But this is never mentioned in the government media. In fact, they wouldn't also mention that the majority of students got grades below 70%.

Putting all of this aside, and casting a blind eye on all of these shortcomings, let us see how the government calculated the percentage of students passing the exams.

As the governmental sources in the ministry of education stated it, the statistics about the score of students were something like this:

- 188 thousand registered to attend the exams
- 166 thousand actually attended all the exams
- 126 thousand passed the exams
- 40 thousand failed in the exams

So the governmental sources mentioned that out of 166 thousand, 126 thousand passed the exam, so for those sources the overall passing rate is around 76%.

On the other hand, common sense suggests that those who didn't attend the exams should have been put in the category of 'failing students'. In other words, what is important is how many students registered for the exam did pass.

For any person with a sense of logic, those who studied secondary school and registered for the exam and didn't attend should simply be counted among failed students. But this didn't happen, and they were not counted in that way.

To put it straight, the percentage of students passing should be calculated as 126 thousand out of 188 thousand students. This makes the percentage 67%. As you can see, there is a significant and crucial 9% difference between the two percentages.

Yet sources at the ministry of education will continue to assert that this is a wrong calculation. They think that they have the right to exactly identify what is the right way to calculate the number of passing students. If we present them with the fact that a third of students attending the exams failed, they would contend and say that those absent should not be counted. I am not sure if a lot would agree with them on this logic.

What I intend to focus on here is not the way in which the government calculated the results, but rather the way the government has been making us believe that things are ok, while they are not! This in itself is a serious problem. It is the psychological disease that we continue to suffer from for so many decades. We want to believe that things are ok and mislead ourselves. This is a dangerous habit that had lasted from the days of tyranny and oppression. We tend to point to the filled part of the glass rather than to the empty part. That is why we feel satisfied and not so much eager to progress and develop. That is why we continue to suffer and stay at the bottom of the list of world nations.

I believe we need to wake up and begin questioning the validity of what we are told.

We need to liberate our minds from the shackles of the past, and begin to think, think, and think again!

The Editor

Country in Education, and more particularly in Humanities (4)

By Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shamsaddin Megalommatis

5. Yemen in a Search for Identity and for New Horizons in Education

What is the best way for Self-Knowledge, Self-Understanding, and correct Cultural and Political Representation of one's Identity?

Well, the question, I think, has been answered 500 years ago with the Renaissance. There are few chances for a country to obtain real development and real power while avoiding to follow the path of Western Europe. Of course, not the 'same' but the 'similar' the 'corresponding' ones!

a. Ancient Yemenite in Schools

A greater part of interest for the Ancient Yemenite world must be expressed at all levels, education, mass media, average culture, art and literature, social life and politics. Arabic translation of Ancient Yemenite epigraphic documentation will certainly popularize the subjects.

A Corpus of Ancient Greek and Roman texts relating to the pre-Islamic Yemen must be established within a National Research Center working close with a university. It will be complemented by an equivalent Corpus of the rich Ancient Yemenite epigraphic evidence translated in Arabic.

Primary and Secondary Education manuals must be re-written with extensive focus not only on the pre-Islamic history of Yemen itself, but also on the interactions and the interconnections of Ancient Yemen with the Horn of Africa, India, Iran, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Greco-Roman world. The importance of the Ancient Yemenite contributions to the World History must be stressed analytically.

Studying Ancient Yemenite in Yemen is not of philological but of national interest. Pending a considerable increase in the number of European tourists, a new generation of Yemenite guides must be formed that will be fluent in and able to read Ancient Yemenite inscriptions in the same way today a Greek guide in Greece and an Italian guide in Italy are able to read epigraphic documentation in Ancient Greek and Latin.

Within a perspective of 5 (five) years, Ancient Yemenite literature must be introduced - in the form of text, translation, and commentary - to the Secondary Education's three last years' courses for all the Yemenites. It must be done in the same way Latin is present within the modern Italian educational system.

b. Language / Literature / Folklore Academies for Suqutri in Qalansiya, and for Mehri in Qishn

Delving into the past means at times better understanding the present. Large projects must be undertaken for the preservation, writing, cultivation, and propagation of the Mehri, Suqutri, and

Hobyot languages, but also of the neighboring Oman's Jibbali, Harsusi and Bathari that are survival forms of Ancient Yemenite languages. A special National Committee must be formed in this regard, and an entire plan must be made in order to save traditions, songs, and all the expressions of folklore within these most valuable linguistic entities of Yemen.

An Academy of Suqutri in Qalansiya, and an Academy of Mehri in Qishn must be the basic tools that will help up to the point of creating university courses in Suqutri and Mehri (in a perspective of 10 to 15 years). This will classify Yemen among the leading countries of the world in preserving Languages under Threat of disappearance, therefore bearing testimony to the multicultural and multilingual commitment of a democratic administration.

c. Cooperation for the establishment of an Italian Red Sea University at Al Mokha

Taking into consideration basic trends in the global world of academic establishments, Yemen must anticipate things expected to happen within the next 10 to 15 years. The reaction of Francophonie to English, which is the prevailing language in the Internet (but also at the level of academic establishments) is going to have consequences. Sooner or later, Spaniards, Germans, Chinese, Brazilians and Russians will imitate. There will be two ways to counterweight the English medium universities, but until now only one has been implemented, namely another foreign linguistic medium university. We have got French universities in several countries where the citizens are not French native speakers, namely Turkey, Egypt, etc. We also have got a German University outside the limits of Mitteleuropa.

Evaluating the traditional interest of Italy in the area of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa, Eastern Somalia, Abyssinia, and more particularly Eritrea, the Italian involvement in the decipherment of Ancient Yemenite, as well as in Egyptology, Meroitic Studies, and Gueze Studies, one can introduce the concept of an Italian Mare Rosso (Red Sea) University at Al Mokha, where Eritreans, Sudanese, Abyssinians, Somalis, Omanis as well as Mozambicans, Malagasies, Tanzanians and Kenyans will be studying along with the Yemenite students in an effort to promote peace, cooperation, and the regional development of human resources that will be needed over the next 50 years. Italy will certainly find the project as an excellent way of propagating Italian language, education, culture, as well as of expanding economic and political interests in an area that was long considered by the Italian establishment as falling within their 'domain'. The project will have an impact of the first steps of regional interconnection (trade, navigation), as well as on Tourism in Yemen.

d. The Future of the Global Academia is in Bilingual Universities

It has not started yet, as a means of opposition to the preponderance of English, but it will soon. The concept has it that one of the two linguistic media of the university is already native language to all the students. A first year of intensive learning of the other language is offered. Then, the main 4-year Bachelor syllabus is offered in both languages, every year some courses in one and some courses in the other language. All papers are issued in two languages, and the academic staff itself is asked to learn the unknown language (if it is so) within the span of three years, and to be able to teach in this language as well within the span of five years.

1. Arabic / Chinese University

Nothing could help China penetrate the Arabic speaking world better than a bilingual Arabic / Chinese University established in Yemen. This would be the high place of Chinese students learning Arabic, since the Chinese attribute great importance to direct talks in negotiations; it would offer them a cheap way to form their Arabic speaking part of establishment. At the same time, it would make of Yemen the converging place for rich and poor Arabic speaking countries' students wishing to find job opportunities in numerous Chinese companies that appear in the Middle East, in the rising incoming Chinese tourism, or in various other fields.

2. Russian/Arabic, and Turkish/Arabic universities

The eventuality of bilingual Russian/Arabic, and Turkish/Arabic universities may also be found worthy of financing among many financial, political and academic circles in Russia, in Turkey, and in several Central Asiatic countries (Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizia and Kazakhstan) where both Russian and Turkish are a kind of international or second native language.

3. Portuguese/Arabic university

Working closely with regional and global partners in this regard, Yemen can envisage a university that would be located half on Yemenite soil, and half on Mozambican soil. Brazil, Portugal (and therefore the European Union), as well as Angola would also be concerned in this regard. It would consist in a cheap way for Portuguese to prepare their own Arabic speaking class of establishment that would help this southern European country in penetrating the North-Western African market. More than anything else such a tool would be useful for Brazil, a rising international pole of power, in setting foot in Africa and in the Arabic speaking area that both consist in ideal market opportunity for the fast expanding Latin American gigantic country.

Concluded



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Ariel Sharon

That Ariel Sharon is a controversial figure in the Middle East political arena is not disputed, even by his admirers in Israel and the international Zionist establishment. Of course, his achievements for the Zionist cause have been far beyond what the Zionist establishment has longed for. But these achievements are not so much as measurable in square kilometers by his aggressive settlement building drive or length of "security buffers" or walls he constructs. Over the last four years, Ariel Sharon has been able to turn the whole idea of Middle East peace as foreseen by Madrid and Oslo topsy turvy. In fact, even the Road Map to Peace, envisioned by the present White Administration, has simply been shelved until something else comes to replace it as a matter of show really. The White House has decided to give Ariel Sharon a relatively free hand in deciding how to map out the Holy Land. This is exactly what he is doing gratefully. In fact, the Palestine policy of the White House may be considered as a "do nothing" policy and hopes to guarantee one very strong voting bloc that is not subject to such matters as taxpayer's money or budget consideration or other areas of assessment. These are some of the strange mechanics of American politics that have yet to be rationalized and made subject to transparent scrutiny. We leave that to the American people to delve into.

On August 15, 2004, the New York Times Magazine, published a long article about Ariel Sharon by James Benne, titled Sharon's War. It began with an attempted portrayal of bravery amidst an attack by Arab forces in the 1948 War of Independence, where Ariel was pinned down after failing to take over a hill where the Latrun Monastery once stood, and open the road leading to Jerusalem. He was reportedly shot and "escaped" by a miracle.

That was all fine and dandy, but then Bennet diverges a bit and went on to present times to show how Sharon's thinking was molded: "When the Palestinian uprising brought his view of reality back into fashion, Sharon was ready." Now that is what I call misleading journalism. Sharon was ready well before the uprising because in fact the Palestinian uprising is a direct result of Sharon's own initiative of taking a walk in the Al-Aqsa Mosque with the assistance of a security accompaniment of 3,000 men before even becoming Prime Minister. Surely if that is not by institutional arrangement it is simply impossible to believe that a man who was out of office could muster such a security arrangement for a simple walk. Needless to say that the walk was intended to provoke action on the part of the Palestinians, for which the right wingers in Israel and the international Zionist establishment were geared for. The Zionist agenda was ready to proceed on full throttle and all those wonderful peace treaty signings were for all practical purposes over with right then and there with Sharon fully ready take on what was coming and to make the best out of it.

Now we look at a little more history: "In the 1950's, Sharon trained and the commandos who established Israel's reputation for ruthless reprisals". Sharon was a bona fide military wing Zionist who knew what the real essence of the Zionist agenda entailed. Force the driving element of that agenda and ruthlessness was its safeguard. "Sharon bears much of the responsibility for bequeathing Israel an image that unsettles and distances Jews and non-Jews overseas. As with so much else, this was a pattern he set early. One raid that Ben Gurion called him in to explain was his attack in 1957 on the village of Qibbia in the West Bank, then ruled by, then ruled by Jordan. "Sharon was retaliating for the killing of an Israeli woman and her two toddlers (Of course we are not told of the circumstances of the latter incident)."

But before explaining Sharon's actions, the excuse comes first: He later said that he and his men believed that the 45 houses they blew up over several hours were empty. But 69 Arabs were killed, half of them women and children. The killings brought Israel its first condemnation from the United Nations Security Council. (In his autobiography, Sharon wrote that Ben Gurion told him that the raid would serve as a warning to other Arabs)". In other words, a pat on the back from one of the Founding Fathers of the Hebrew State. Sharon was later to be reared by Ben Gurion and his place in the Zionist established became assured. Never mind the UN condemnation.

Now let us get some insight into present Zionist thinking, with a Sharon accent: Then and now, Sharon's use of force may have stirred some who longed for Jewish power and reassured many that Israel would remain a shelter in an unpredictable world - the only place as Sharon puts it, where "Jews can defend themselves by themselves". So, that others may die for this 'defense' is not important to Sharon or his likes, because the Zionist creed leaves no room for the rights of others to live in peace or the rights to a free and prosperous life. In the holy land the Zionist movement only sees that rights are only for illegitimate settlers on occupied territory recognized by the international community as belonging to the Palestinians. Bennet makes subtle mention of the massacres of Sharon's engineered massacres in the Sabra and Shatilla Palestinian camps in Lebanon that was even condemned by the Israeli public with a march that brought in 400,000 Israelis against Sharon. In fact the whole Lebanon Civil War was underwritten by Sharon to bring to an end any idea of any form of Palestinian resistance and to bring Lebanon under Israeli vassal status. Luckily, the regional did not fully support such aggrandizement of Israeli power. With Hezbollah ending that dream, Sharon turned to carrying out the mess that we are seeing in the West Bank and Gaza. He aggressively built settlements in the West Bank, notwithstanding his promise to Washington to halt such activity. Even recently, despite his "initiative" in Gaza to withdraw, he has just declared a contract for building 1,000 new settlement units in the West Bank. Surely these are not the actions of a nation that is hoped to be "moral beacon" as Bennet would have liked Israel to be. In Sharon's mentality Zionism does not allow for moral grounds. Bennet did not forget to show how the US fits into all this: "Capitalizing on a White House that has chosen to view the world much as he does, he is trying to gird Israel for a conflict - not merely with the Palestinians - whose end he cannot foresee." Sharon is the cause d'être of the conflict

Letters to the Editor

Illiteracy: reason for Arab backwardness

Today while at work I got bored and started to surf the Internet and while surfing, I for some reason went to Yemen Times news online to read letters to the editor (my favorite section of the Yemen Times newspaper). Unfortunately there were no letters sent to the editor in this issue.

While trying to see what was worthy of reading in this issue, my eye caught a glimpse of an article

by the editor of Yemen Times Mr Walid Saqqaf titled "Misconception about our pride".

I was stunned about the honesty with which the editor has written.

Unfortunately the issue about pride affects many Arabs as well as many Muslims. Pride in what one owns or has is one of the reasons I believe we as Muslims are far behind when it comes to the developing world. People do not make an effort to develop their mind or educate themselves further in order to achieve something in life.

The rich person keeps getting rich for himself and for his children (which is not a bad thing) but not good for his society.

Its sad that In many Arab and Muslim countries that a person is valued for his money whereas little attention is given to his/her knowledge. Education is not invested in. Governments are corrupt. In conclusion I would say that society is backward because of illiteracy.

Karina A.

Where is Yemen heading?

It hurts so bad to see Yemen fading in front of our own eyes while we are abroad. Things have changed dramatically. Honesty and trust are lost; phones are widely used to call to every house for flirting and phone chats. Not long ago we used to complain about satellite dishes and the emergence of new media that could affect the new generations and could potentially brainwash. A lot of people from teenagers to grown up men go to hotels

Letters to the Editor

and rent rooms to view x-rated channels and people come up with the money for it, but not for something useful. Now we have phones ringing in every house with the only objective of flirting. As if that is not enough, more and more young Yemenis are becoming addicted to cell phones and express pride of using them continuously, thinking that they add value to themselves, but all they do is end up with huge bills to pay in a time when there aren't many job opportunities.

Instead of sending their children to school or internship to gain valuable knowledge, parents are now distant from their children, letting them do things that could destroy their lives.

Parents have become so obsessed with making ends meet and just climbing above the poverty line, resulting in neglect of their children and a potential collapse of a generation.

I remember once I was on Saber Mountain in Taiz and saw dozens of poor

children facing an extremely harsh life of poverty. I cannot imagine how they will face life when they become adults.

Such poor children cannot reach out to the government for their right to proper education and a decent living. Even if they do, the government never answers. The government is in most cases relaxed because it knows that most of the poor population thinks that it is a shame to ask the government for their rights and for help or support.

I fear that this mentality of staying silent and just observing the deteriorating conditions of the country, would only lead to a disaster. It should be understood by our people in Yemen that they have the right to ask for what is theirs. They can go on strikes and ask for free medical services, proper education, and an acceptable living standard. They should not be ashamed of doing so because only then could they save their future.

*Abdussalam Hidarh
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- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

YT Business

Taking Yemen to the new age of plastics

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7100	184.8800
Sterling Pound	343.6100	343.9200
Euro	228.5300	228.7400
Saudi Rial	49.2500	49.3000
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.8800	627.4600
UAE Dirhem	50.2900	50.3300
Egyptian Pound	29.8600	29.8900
Bahraini Dinar	489.9300	490.3800
Qatari Rial	50.7400	50.7800
Jordanian Dinar	260.5200	260.7600
Omani Rial	479.7800	480.2300
Swiss Franc	149.2300	149.3700
Swedish Crown	24.7700	24.7900
Japanese Yen	1.6682	1.6697

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The International Bank of Yemen recently brought a new service to the Yemeni market that allows customers to make payments using plastic cards and so reducing their dependence on carrying cash.

In June, the bank introduced a point-of-sale service in which customers are able to use cards to make purchases at retail outlets, such as supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, airlines, gas stations, hospitals and airlines. Companies accommodating point-of-sale transactions already include big names, such as the Yemenia Airline, FedEx, Universal Travel and Tourism, Shumaila Hari, Happy Land Supermarket, Al-Shaibani Restaurant, and Hertz.

"This service is a part of our focus on expanding on retail banking," said Ahmed Al-Absi, General Manager of the International Bank of Yemen. "We believe that it is important to offer the best retail services in the market."

The bank has over 80 locations in Sana'a, but has already started expanding in other cities, such as Aden, Taiz and Hodeidah. According to Al-Absi, the bank will have 1,000 locations in Yemen by the end of the year.

The point-of-sale service can be seen as a revolutionary approach to carrying out transactions in Yemen, which has always had a cash-based economy. The number of Yemenis using banks is estimated at a little over a half-a-million out of a population of 18 million. The International Bank of Yemen's customers can now acquire a card that can be used to make payments at each and every location involved in point-of-sale transactions, as an alternative to carrying and paying in cash.

"This service covers many different types of customer," said Nada Al-Hutam, Manager of Delivery Channels at

International Bank of Yemen. "The points-of-sale will be used by foreigners based in Yemen, and Yemeni customers who will find that it is easy to make such a transaction. It is a new chance for Yemenis to use plastic money instead of paper money, which will be more secure and easier to use. Now is the time to modernize transactions in Yemen."

Customers at the bank have shown interest in the new service. Abdulla Al-Arasi, Marketing Supervisor at International Bank of Yemen, said that between 30 and 50 customers a day go to the bank to acquire a card. The bank is also targeting its corporate clients. Employees working for companies and organizations that use the bank's payroll system, such as Canadian Nexen, Yemen Hunt Oil, Halliburton, UNDP and the US Embassy, receive the card free of charge.

In the last few years, banks operating in Yemen have been focusing on developing retail products. Arab Bank, the largest financial institute in Yemen that is based in Amman, Jordan, was the pioneer in bringing out new products and services to customers in the local market. It was the first to offer phone banking, credit cards under the bank's name and was the first to setup ATMs at its branches and in public locations.

Yemen Gulf Bank, which was established in 2001, came to the market concentrating on retail banking. It was the first Yemeni-owned bank to install an ATM and was the first financial institute in Yemen to offer online banking.

This year, International Bank of Yemen has made an effort to take the lead by expanding its retail products. It jumped aggressively into the ATM market and now has over 25 ATMs, the largest number of ATMs held by a bank in Yemen. Many of its ATMs are located far from the bank's branches, where, the Bank argues, easy access to cash is just as important. Al-Absi says that the bank aims to have 100 ATMs across the country in six months.



IBY new services

In late spring, International Bank of Yemen was the first bank to offer a Short Message Service to its clients. Customers can now check their balances, transactions, bill payments and when to collect new ATM cards, credit cards or checkbooks by using their mobile phones.

The bank has also been moving rapidly into the card market. Last January, the International Bank of Yemen became the Representative of American Express, while two months later it became the Principal representative of Visa. This

month, MasterCard also chose the bank as its Principal representative in Yemen. Not only does the International Bank of Yemen benefit from having close relationships with these credit card companies, but its customers also benefit from the numerous advantages. "People coming from all over the world that have a Visa or a MasterCard can use our ATMs and points-of-sale," said Al-Hutam. "Local customers will not only be able to use ATMs and points-of-sale in Yemen, but they will also be able to use our cards anywhere overseas that accepts Visa,

MasterCard or American Express."

The International Bank of Yemen are spearheading the drive to fully develop retail banking and are already seeing positive results. "During the bank's first 24 years, it opened 13,000 accounts. But in the last six months, around 20,000 new accounts have been opened," said Al-Absi.

The bank predicts that its fee-based income will increase as a proportion of total income from 15% in 2003 to 30% this year and soar to 50% in 2005. Six months ago, the International Bank of

Yemen expected gross profit to jump from \$900 million in 2003 to \$1.6 billion this year. Now, the bank believes that it will surpass its goal: gross profits cleared \$900 million in the first half of 2004.

And with the point-of-sale service replacing cash with cards, it is customers who will benefit, believes the Bank. "Our new service makes life easier and more convenient to customers," said Al-Arasi. "The International Bank of Yemen is very competitive in retail banking, which will always benefit the customer."

In a Sana'a symposium

Many reasons behind low trust between state & private sector

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The relationship between the private sector & the state in Yemen can be likened to that between cat & mouse. Each side is watching the other. At a time the state request help of the private sector and its participation in development, employment of unemployed people and the implementation of charitable projects, private sector officials attach hope in the necessity of reforming legislations and offering more facilities, accusing the government of dereliction with regard to private sector investment.

In a most recent symposium organized by the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies, private sector researchers have demanded the foundation of a

Social Security Net to help the society and offer its members various types of service.

Professor of Economics at Sana'a University Dr. Mohammed Al-Haweri says that private sector's participation in investment in 2000 has declined to 60% at of total investment then in 2002 dropped to 13.5%. He has affirmed that the relationship between the private sector and the state is not founded on an institutional basis leading to the creation of job opportunities for the poor.

He has also clarified at the symposium that the private sector is suffering some problems, most common of which are bribery, corruption, statistical database, weakness of public services and banking infrastructure and spread of the phenomenon of tread cheating and smuggling.

Researchers at the symposium

pointed out that the relation between the private sector and the government is characterized by ambiguity. Although the government attached hope on the privates sector for implementation of 90% of the second five-year plan to terminate at the end of next year, it (government) has not worked out mechanisms assisting the private sector for implementing its share of the plan, and that has contributed to degradation of its role in this regard.

The participants, representing Chambers of Commerce and Industry, have asserted that when investors wanted to build a project costing about YR 100 million, the municipality refused granting them license unless they paid large amounts of money in return for that, which means offering know facilities to help succeed investment projects. Those participants

described the existing investment climate as an environment repulsive of investment and does not help develop investment or use external funds for running big projects in the country.

The symposium has deemed that this situation has created some fears with the privates sectors despite of their good intension in investing their money, providing profits for their employees and upgrading their investments away from the corrupt manipulation. While the participants have emphasis the necessity of the establishment of stock exchange market as a funding source and creation of trust among investors, the symposium called on the private sectors to establish the Social Security Net for offering services to the society.

This means that the relationship between the state and the private sectors must be in an integration form

leading to investment partnership and offering equal services to the society

in return for improving a stable investment environment in Yemen.

Employment Opportunity

Communications Specialist

An immediate employment opportunity is available for a one year posting with the Yemen Water and Sanitation Program (WSP). WSP-Yemen is seeking to appoint an experienced communications specialist. Ideally, the chosen candidate will have a proven knowledge of best practice communication procedures and techniques on both a broad public contact scale as well as on an individual personal exchange level.

The expected range of expertise for this position include: strengthening WSP-Yemen and RWSS sectoral communications, managing the production of printed materials, reports, brochures, RWSS specific advocacy and promotional materials, organizing learning events and activities. This positions requires excellent verbal and written communications skills in both Arabic and English, and attention to detail, the ability to be systematic, prioritize project requirements and address multiple tasks in an effective manner.

The selected candidate will have the following responsibilities:

- Manage the production of communications tools including the publication of print, video and other media channels
- Advocate, market and generally increase the media profile and public awareness of Yemen rural water supply and sanitation issues;
- Support the preparation of a RWSS sector wide communications strategy and implementation plan;
- In both Arabic and English write RWSS sector related articles, including newsletter, media releases and brochures;

For full consideration, applicants should submit, by fax, post or in person a detailed CV and cover letter no later than 31 August 2004. Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

RWSS-TA Team Leader
Yemen RWSS-TA
c/o The World Bank Office
P.O. Box 18152 - Sana'a, Yemen
Fax: 01-413-709

Sixteen square miles,

Permissible fishery areas in Yemen

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni cabinet discussed a project for re-organisation of fishing process based on dividing the Yemeni regional waters to areas where sea fishing is allowed to be practiced by fishermen.

Navigation sources said the ministry of fish wealth had divided the sea regional waters of Yemen into four

fishing areas; the area of each was four square nautical miles. The four areas defined for fishery included the areas of the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the coast of Bab el Mandab to the shores of Shabwa. The division aims at facilitating the process of controlling the random fishing that is going on in the Yemeni regional waters.

Though fishing in the governorate of al-Mahara is facing many challenges, the season of catching (Al-Habbar) has been continues at a high

rate since last June as quantities of production has amounted to 2000 tons, with an increase of 900 tons in comparison with production of the same period of the last year.

There are about 500 fishing units affiliate of Nashtoun Fish Association, at a time some local reports mention that large fishing ships that were managing badly the process of fish wealth have disappeared as a result of measures taken by concerned authorities.

On the other hand Mr Hafidh al-Salimi, head of the Nashtoun Association has appealed to the ministry of fish wealth for building ice-producing factories for preserving their fish catch. The production volume of Maheev Fish association which works on the coasts of al-Mahara is estimated at around 50 tons per day. If there are ice-producing factories available in the area the production capacity could jump to 75 tons a day.

Land disputes... where is the problem?

BY MAHYOUB AL-KMALY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Disputes over land have become an issue of tremendous concern to society at large, and to individuals who are compelled to face such a dispute one way or another.

The disputes over the rightful possession of a piece of land are expensive, time-consuming and dangerous. The legal process to settle land disputes - whether it is over the usurpation of state land or property by the powerful, or it is related to the seizure of land or property of a vulnerable citizen by a more powerful citizen, or related to squabbles over the division of inheritance - is considered to take a long time at specialized courts. The prolonged process is usually associated with high costs and legal fees by involved parties.

Many land disputes would take forever to be settled inside individual families. Many of them would never be decisively settled owing to the involvement of outsiders who claim to have documents proving their right of ownership over the disputed land. Many citizens, who have disputes over the distribution of inheritance, claim that the prevalence of land disputes is attributable to the slow and ineffective judicial process, and the pervasiveness of bribery within it.

Many disputes involve murder incidents, which often arise from the

injustice of a bias or erroneous judicial verdict leaving the loser and rightful owner frustrated to the point that he would resort to shooting his adversary. Some disputes create inter-tribal wars, which can then be further fuelled by individuals with vested interests in having larger disputes between certain tribes.

In many instances, Yemeni expatriates living abroad end up as the losers in land disputes, when their authorized agents (or others) claim to own the property themselves, taking advantage of the rightful owner's absence. Lands are easily confiscated when the rightful owners are outside the country. Expatriates need to be more careful, and should purchase any land or property through the coordination and cooperation of the real estate authority.

Despite the role of the real estate authority, there are many who are able to penetrate the system with and without the use of forged documents. The Ministry of Justice, despite its adoption of judicial reform programs, has a long way to go to fully ensure the implementation of its goals and procedures in judicial reform. Where courts have received instructions to expedite the settlement process for all disputes fairly, (including disputes relating to land), the pace of following the instructions remains slow and requires constant follow up by the related authorities. And in many instances, the illegal practice of bribery is still noticeable.

Continued from page 1

Saleh: Yemen not a collaborator with the US

Yemeni forces are also battling with an armed rebel group in north Yemen. Clashes between Yemeni troops and followers of Hussein Al-Houthi, a leading Shiite Muslim cleric, have lasted for over two months and it is reported that between 600 and 900 people have been killed.

The Yemeni government accuses Al-Houthi of promoting violent anti-US and anti-Israeli protests. He established a group called "Believing Youth" and is believed to have secretly trained his followers to form an armed militia at his stronghold in the Saada

province 240 km (150 miles) north of Sana'a.

The President impressed during the interview that Yemen will not send troops to Iraq while the US-led occupation continues.

"It is an ill and occupied country," said Saleh. "We will not participate in any force helping the occupiers... If occupation ends and if the Iraqi people demand the deployment of Muslim and Arab forces under the umbrella of the United Nations or the Arab League, we will be ready to send troops."

"It makes sense that an Arab coun-

try does not want to send troops to Iraq right now," said the analyst. "It would not look good to the people that they have soldiers working alongside the Americans, and it is probably too dangerous for anybody wanting to send troops now."

Last month, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi asked Muslim countries to send troops to help stabilize the war-torn country. His appeal came soon after Saudi Arabia delivered a proposal to bring Muslim forces together to assist bringing peace to Iraq where violence continues.

Attack and retreat, hundreds of victims

Sa'ada has turned into a battlefield, and the local and legal authority has been entrusted to military commanders and tribal chieftains of tribes supporting the military force, observers said.

Al-Sahwa Net reported on Thursday August 19th that Al-Houthi's supporters have been entrenched in Salman Mountain, between the Al-Hakmi Mountain and Mran. The military forces had intensively bombarded the Al-Hakmi Mountain lest it fell again to Al-Houthi's forces.

Other sources reported that a number of tribes who met with the president and pledged to him their allegiance, have undone their agreement in an exceptional meeting last Friday. The tribes (especially the Na'alah tribes who belong to the Shiite Ismaili sect and live on the Yemeni-Saudi border), have decided to remain neutral, and to withdraw their members from fighting with Al-Houthi.

Verdict on Limburg terrorist suspects on Saturday

It said that witnesses gave their testimony before the court against the ring leader Fawaz al-Rabee and Hizam Mujali, accused of killing soldier Hamed Khasroof, and that suspect Omar Jarallah admitted driving the car carrying the ton of explosives used in the boat that rammed into the French Tanker Limburg, killing one sailor and causing damage to the body of the ship. Al-Akil also said that the prosecution presented other reports and documents that support their claim. He accused the defendants and their lawyers of trying to cripple the procedures of the tribunal, demanding that the suspects should be convicted and punished and that the seized explosives should be confiscated.

However, advocate Basem al-Juma'ee defending the two brothers Hizam and Aref Mujali refuted the testimony of the witnesses against his clients as "they were full of contradictions." He asked the court to acquit his clients for there is not enough evidence to convict them, based on the inaccuracy of the evidences of the prosecution. On his part, defense advocate Faiz al-Hajjori defending Fawaz al-Wajeh asked for acquitting his client and "compensating him for the damage caused to him due to such intimidation and harassment against him." He told the judge that the suspects told him that their friend Ibraheem al-Huwaidi had started a hunger strike in protest against the bad treatment they had receive at the intelligence prison.

The decision of court judge to adjourn the session for next Saturday to pass the ruling was not a shock for the defendants who were indifferent to the court procedures from the beginning, as their response (as usual) was chanting anti-US slogans and hailing Osama Bin Laden. Al-Hajjori remarked "We trust the independence and fairness of the Yemeni judiciary. However, I am surprised at the short time between the

final hearings and the time of the issuance of the verdict." "It is a violation of the law that some of the suspects were left without advocates to defend them. The court should have halted the tribunal until the defendants named advocates, or even appointed them itself," he added.

Advocates appointed by defendants quit the trial twice and even those appointed by the court quit from the tribunal when the court and prosecution refused to give them a copy of the case file.

Some advocates expect a death sentence for defendants Fawaz al-Rabee and Hizam Mujali charged with murdering soldier Hamed Khasroof and a sentence of imprisonment ranging between 5-7 years for the rest of the suspects.

Names of the Suspects on Trial

- 1-Omar Saeed Hasan Jarallah, alias Ibn Halidh, 26
- 2- Fawzi Yahia al-Hababi, alias Abu al-Shaheed, 26, jobless
- 3-Mohammed Saeed Ali al-Amari, alias Abu Gharib al-Taezi, 25, jobless
- 4-Fawzi Gharib alias Abu Musab al-Taezi, 24, student
- 5-Yasser Ali Salem (still at large)
- 6- Fawaz Yahia Hasan al-Rabee
- 7-Abu Bakr Yahia Hasan al-Rabee, 26
- 8-Hizam Saleh Ali, alias Mujali
- 9- Ibraheem Mohammed Abduljabar al-Huwaidi, alias Abu Zaid, 25
- 10-Mohammed Abdullah Ahamd al-Dallami, 26
- 11-Saleem Mohammed Ali al-Dallami, 25, teacher
- 12- Abdulghani Ali Hussein, alias Jaber al-Sanani, jobless
- 13-Kasem Yahia Mahdi, alias Abu Hurairah al-Sanani
- 14- Khaled Ahmad al-Jalob, alias Abu Muslim
- 15- Aref Saleh Ali Mujali

تهانينا الحارة



يتقدم جميع اعضاء جمعية الصداقة اليمنية التركية بالتهانينا القلبية الحارة إلى

الأستاذ/ أشرف صدقي العمراني

وذلك بمناسبة زفافه الميمون متمنين له دوام الصحة والسعادة وألف ألف مبروك

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

For Yemeni People

The Dhamar Participatory Rural Development Project is looking to fill the following posts:

The Government of Yemen - Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation with the International Fund of Agriculture Development (IFAD) will implement seven-year project titled "Dhamar Participatory Rural Development Project". The project will be implemented in all Dhamar Districts.

Applications from suitable candidate are invited for the following posts:

A) Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The M&E Officer would have lead responsibility for planning, designing (with guidance of technical assistance) and operating the management information system (MIS) and the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, for building up and maintaining a data base necessary for the efficient and effective implementation of the Project and for carrying out financial and economic analysis of the Project activities.

Responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the M&E Officer would include:

- establish and maintain the MIS and M&E system for the Project activities;
- prepare the annual work plan and budget for the Project;
- design and supervise the execution of the baseline surveys by a contracted specialized agency;
- design and build a comprehensive socio-economic data base for the Project area;
- design and direct special diagnostic and analytical studies to improve Project performance;
- review feasibility of activities financed by credit under the Project and evaluate the cost effectiveness of technology packages developed under the Project and other Project activities; and
- participate in monitoring of Project activities at field level.

Qualifications and Skills

The M&E Officer should have a degree in economics, financial analysis, statistics agriculture or related social sciences with a minimum of 5 years professional experience in implement M&E systems of agricultural and rural development projects. He/She should have a good knowledge of computer applications and fluency in English and communication skills are required. He/She would be required to undertake extensive travel in the Project districts. He/she should have knowledge of gender and development issues. The selected candidate should also be prepared to work abnormal hours.

B) Procurement Officer / Office Manager

The Procurement Officer/Office Manager will be responsible for all procurement requirements for the Project Management Office and for office management.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Procurement Officer / Office Manager would

include:

- procurement of all vehicles and equipment for the Project Management Office in accordance with procurement procedures laid down by the external funder;
- organization of selection procedures and contracting of implementing partners and service providers;
- management of all personnel issues;
- establishment and maintenance of office management system; and
- handle all the secretarial work of the project

Qualifications and Skills

The Procurement Officer / Office Manager should have a recognized qualification in business/public administration, preferably including procurement procedures preferably including communication skills with a minimum of 5 years experience in administration including procurement. Familiarity with government procurement procedures is essential and experience with procurement with an externally funded project would be an advantage. He/She should have a good knowledge of computer applications and fluency in English.

C) Accountant

The Accountant will be responsible for the overall accounting functions for the Project Management Office

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Accountant would include:

- maintain the Project accounts and prepare financial statements and progress reports;
- make payment to suppliers and service providers; and
- prepare reimbursement claims to access external donor funds.

Qualifications and Skills

The Accountant must have a recognized accountancy qualification with a minimum of 5 years experience in accounts, financial planning and budgeting and familiarity with government financial procedures. Familiarity with the requirements of externally funded projects would be an advantage. He/She should have a good knowledge of computer applications. Basic knowledge of English would be an advance.

D) District Field Managers

The District Field Manager will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Project activities by the contracted service providers. He/She will be responsible to the Project Manager but will be based in the districts and will cover a number of districts for overseeing the Project activities.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the District Filed Manager would include:

- coordination and liaison with the District Director General, district council and local executive office;
- monitoring implementation of the Project activities within his/her designated area;
- resolving implementation problems wherever possible or referring such issues to the PMO;
- ensuring the efficient, timely and effective performance of service providers;
- liaising with Project communities for feedback on Project delivery performance;
- ensuring contracted service providers provide monitoring data in timely fashion; and
- preparing quarterly reports on progress and impact of Project activities in his/her designated area

Qualifications and Experience

The District Filed Manager should have a recognized degree/diploma in agriculture, extension, rural development, economics or community/social development with a minimum of 5 years experience of practical field work with a minimum of two years at managerial level. Proven experience of working with communities in a managerial or advisory as well as practical role would be mandatory. Some exposure to government and private sector and empathy with contracting systems would be an advantage. The Manager must be able and willing to spend a considerable amount of his/her time in travel and temporary residence in the field. Contracts for project staff, both at the PMO level as well as in the field, will be subject to a probation period of six months.

Deadline for submission of CVs will be August 30th 2004. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

Interested applicants, please send your CV along with copies of certificates to the address below.

Note:

1. previous applications will not be considered
2. 50% of the posts will be given to women

Project Manager

P. O. Box: 19175, Sana'a, ROY

Women's Economic Empowerment Association

Hadda street, near Sam Clinic and Hadda Post Office

Email: weea@y.net.ye

Tel: +967(1) 444665/440507

Fax: +967(1) 440511



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

(رَبِّسِرْ (الصَّابِرِينَ (الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمْ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ)

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره يتقدم مدراء وموظفو
الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسيل
بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة إلى الأبناء/

عمار أحمد محمد ناشر الحميري
و هشام أحمد محمد ناشر الحميري
و شقيقتهم

وأسرتهن جميعا في وفاة المغفور لهم بإذن الله تعالى

والدهم الأخ / أحمد محمد ناشر الحميري

مدير العلاقات الحكومية والعامّة في الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسيل

ووالدتهم و شقيقتهم

والذين وافتهن المنية يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 2004/08/17 إثر حادث سير أليم

إننا ونحن نشاطركم الأحزان في مصابكم الجلل فإننا نسأل المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدهم جميعا بواسع رحمته
وغفرانه ويسكنهم فسيح جناته ويلهمكم وأهلكم وذويكم الصبر والسلوان. (إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون)

CONDOLENCES

The Management and Employees of
Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas Company (YLNG)
present their sincere condolences and sympathy to:

Ammar Ahmed Mohamed Nasher Al-Hemyari,
Hisham Ahmed Mohamed Nasher Al-Hemyari,
their Sister, and to the whole family

on the death of their father,

Ahmed Mohamed Nasher al-Hemyari,
Governmental & Public Relations Manager of Yemen LNG Company,

and their mother, and their sister,

who died on Tuesday, 17/08/2004, in a traffic accident

America's Retreat from Asia

By AHN BYUNG-JOON

The United States' planned withdrawal of troops from Asia, which President George W. Bush announced on August 16, need not harm peace and stability in the region and particularly in Korea. But a key condition for a smooth redeployment of US troops is close consultations by America with its allies, something it has not done well up to now.

South Korea and Japan need to have their views taken into serious account if this now inevitable withdrawal is to succeed. By contrast, unilaterally announcing the withdrawal – and then unilaterally implementing it – may harm the very purpose that the remaining US troops in Asia are intended to serve: assuring deterrence, stability, and nonproliferation in Korea and Asia.

The withdrawal plan is causing countless worries. In Japan, there are concerns that it will make the country America's frontline command post in Asia, possibly beyond the scope of its bilateral security treaty with the US. One result is that China feels nervous about the implications of any expansion of the American-Japanese military partnership.

But the impact of America's planned troop withdrawals is felt most keenly in South Korea. In June, the Bush administration revealed its plan to withdraw some 12,500 of the 37,000 US soldiers stationed in South Korea by the end of 2005. These include 3,600 troops from the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, who are already earmarked for redeployment in Iraq.

The US Defense Department justifies this change as part of the so-called "Global Posture Review" that it has been carrying out to provide more flexibility and mobility in deploying troops to more urgently needed places around the world. But the unilateral nature of the

announcement, and the abrupt timing of the plan, has incited alarm in South Korea, and perhaps in Japan, that withdrawal could pose serious risks to the vital role that US forces have performed in deterring another war in Korea.

South Koreans genuinely fear that the plan may weaken deterrence by sending North Korea – which is demanding a US military withdrawal while refusing to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions – the message that intransigence pays. Indeed, it should not be forgotten that North Korea maintains an army of 1.1 million troops.

Moreover, the manner in which the Bush administration unveiled its withdrawal plan has weakened the credibility of the US-Korean alliance. America's unilateral announcement has fuelled rumors to the effect that withdrawal must have something to do with the rising tide of anti-Americanism in South Korea, and especially with the country's reluctance and delay in dispatching an additional 3,600 of its own soldiers to Iraq.

The Bush administration tries to rebut these charges by saying that the plan will not weaken the deterrence capabilities of American forces, for America's far more powerful air and naval presence in the area will be maintained. Moreover, the US plans to strengthen South Korea's own forces by supplying some \$11 billion worth of high-technology equipment over the next five years.

Militarily, this argument does make sense. Politically and psychologically, however, the method, let alone the timing and implementation of the withdrawals, raises many questions about the ongoing viability of the US-Korean security alliance, for the alliance now seems adrift, without a common purpose and with little direction from either side.

Yet the Bush administration insists: "The US views South Korea as a strong and steadfast ally. We are committed to South Korea's security and to our alliance and

partnership with Seoul." If Washington is serious about these words, it should transform this commitment into a long-term and comprehensive alliance that can survive the current estrangement – and continue even after Korean unification – by making a joint declaration with South Korea's government at the highest level.

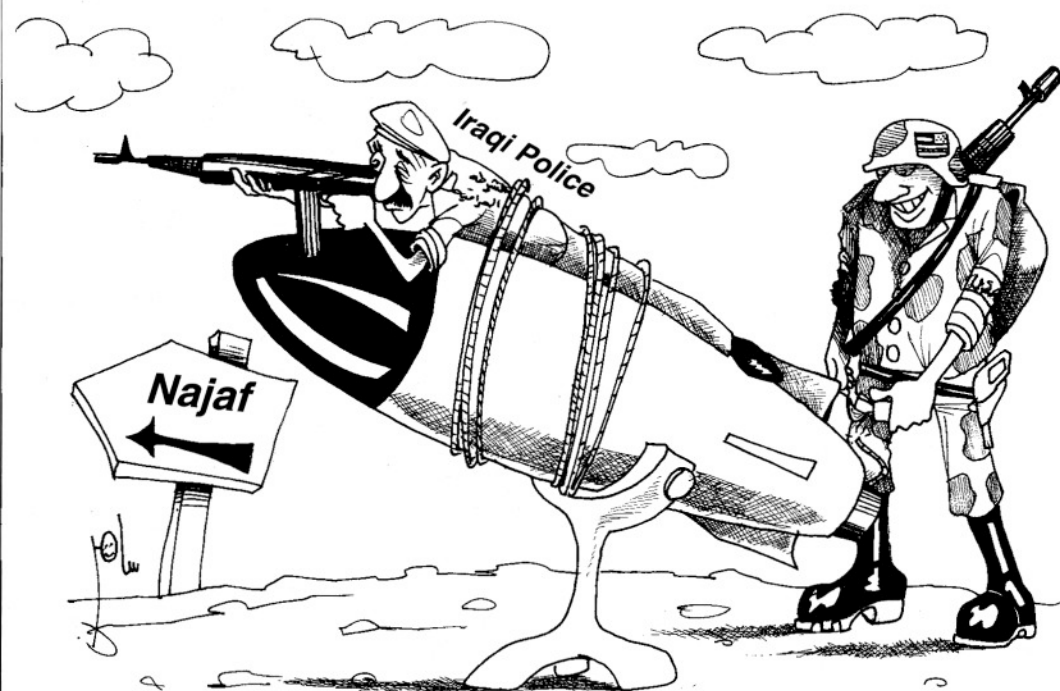
In order to allay misgivings and restore trust in the alliance, it is necessary for the US and South Korea to reaffirm their common interests and values in pursuing deterrence, nonproliferation, stability, and democracy on the Korean peninsula and across Asia. Once they resolve to continue their alliance with these purposes in mind, it should be possible for responsible officials to work out guiding principles for concrete security cooperation. Specific negotiations on withdrawing American troops from Korea or on redeploying them from the DMZ to south of Seoul must be carried out according to these principles.

In so doing, America must treat South Korea as a full partner with its own voice in making decisions that affect its security interests. As an American ally for 51 years, and as East Asia's third-largest economy, South Korea is entitled to be fully consulted on such decisions.

Despite anti-American sentiments among some South Koreans, a majority of the country's people wants American forces to remain as a stabilizing force. Securing a peaceful and nuclear-free Korean peninsula, a place where the interests of China, Japan, Russia, and America directly intersect, is one of the most important security goals anywhere on the planet. For this reason, America and South Korea must restore a strategic vision for the future.

Ahn Byung-joon is Visiting Professor of International Relations at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan, and a Member of Korea's National Academy of Sciences.

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

*Breeding Fanatics, The Jewel Offspring
and the Culture of Baseej*

Sirralkhalta i.e. the "Secret Formula"

Myself, like many Yemenis, denounced the government for its arbitrary arrests of the youth shouting "Death to Israel" and "Death to USA". This is because, we thought that this is merely a reflection of the crimes committed by the Israelis against Palestinians and shamelessly endorsed by the USA. But later discerned that such maniacs are in for a holy war against the state, against reason and against the era we are living in. They want to die so that they can credulously win paradise where they would willow in eternal luxury (who on earth would refuse eternal life with abundant Milk, Honey, Wine and Seventy Gorgeous Lassies for each and every martyr dying in defense of the jewel offspring).

Shiite Islam, is known as a wayward version from mainstream moderate Islam and its secret formula lies in the alleged lineage to the prophet who passed away without leaving any male children. For political reasons and so as to monopoly power or attain a higher status came such a fake lineage.

Indeed in Yemen, this was utilized by the Persians in order to maintain their privileges from which they were threatened to be dispossessed. So this is why they go on against reason. Also, we must not forget that inheritance in religion is deeply ingrained in the human Psyche and that can be easily grasped when looking back at pre-Islamic religions and the religions still practiced nowadays by other humans in the jungles of Africa and South America. In fact, a man like Ibrahim Ben Ali Al-Wazeer - who is living in the USA - has not been affected yet by the extent of human advance in the USA after more than 30 years of residency and still pitifully believes that he is the one and only because he comes from a celestial spiritual jewel as you shall see below.

I have also been intrigued by "Al-Sadr phenomenon in Iraq" because the man came out of nowhere and tended to believe that the Americans were behind him at the start but later found out from listening to the news and reading papers that someone else is standing behind him.

The same applies on Al-Houthi and his fellow minded Yemenis. Anyhow, while I was riding the other day on a

minibus I heard a 14 years old boy opposite me telling another one next to him that he has just gotten his graduation certificate from "Badr center". The other one asked him where was such a center and what privileges did it offer. The boy answered that, studies and board were on the account of a certain man named "Al-Mahatwari".

When he took out the certificate in order to show it to his peer I took a glimpse of a fascicle titled "The Islamic History" in a distinct writing. Under the title I read: "The Prophet peace be upon him, Ali, Al-Hassan and Al-Hussain Peace be upon them all".

Out of curiosity and due to what is taking place in Saada and in Najaf by the Shiite fanatics I asked him to please let me have a look. He gave me the fascicle. I opened it expecting to read an objective subject matter dealing with Islamic history but was startled to read a concocted Hadeeth (i.e. supposititious sayings of Prophet Mohammed) The saying goes on to say that almighty Allah (from IEL i.e. God in Semitic Languages such as Karbiel and Gabriel) created a Jewel from his spirit and broke it into two halves, one half dwelled by the offspring of Abdullah i.e. Prophet's father and the other half for the offspring of Abutalib i.e. uncle of the prophet, the father of Ali.

Then, the almighty ordained that Mohammed becomes his prophet and Messenger and Ali with his offspring become the Custodians after the prophet till doomsday". The student seems to be from outside Sana'a and as I had to descend because I reached my destination I sufficed myself with quick flicking. A serious question is raised here, who is behind such a center and why did the state permit it to be built on a public property. If the state is behind such "Superstition Teaching Centers" for political reasons, it is now reaping its crop in Saada. If religion is important in non-Arab countries, it is everything in the Arab World and playing with religion is playing with fire.

Who is financing such centers and what sin did the young people commit to let them join these dens of evil and later meet the destiny of the misled fanatics who are now dying in Saada for mere nonsense aided by some tribal sheiks who in the day declare allegiance to the state and shift allegiance

in the night just like in the first days of "26th September revolution" keen not to miss worldly interests and are intent to maintain their clandestine religious conviction. Don't we know that the so-called "Al-Houthi" in Saada merely represents a HISTORIC LIE where by Yemeni Persians saved themselves from Alshabani's wrath after foiling the Barmakide Attempt. This Lie is only compared to the ETHIOPIAN LIE in that Ethiopia is the original land of the Kingdom of Sheba, the evidence is available in history, customs, traditions, names, customs etc. and Yemenis are not idiots for they kept fighting this sinister lie and are still adamant.

The poor youngster fanatics in Saada seek redemption and are being redeemed by the ignorant inheritors of the said fib. The president once said:

"...one should not breed a serpent lest he becomes its victim..." and this is what is happening due to the permission for books issued by "Imam Hussain Foundation in Qum, Iran" to invade the market for I saw with another student a book about "Enjoyment Marriage" published by the same foundation and is authored by a man named "Mohammed Takki Alhakeem" and bearing the word "Gift" and the stamped address of the foundation in addition to a Magazine titled Al-Husseiniyah containing a saying: "If you weep or merely sob for Alhussain's death in Karbala, the paradise is guaranteed for you in the hereafter".

So the Shiite fanatics in Saada are fighting under the title "Death to Israel and Death to USA" because they believe that the ignorant rogue Alhouthi comes from the Jewel thing and he is their redeemer. They are wishing to die under his flag because he has given them "Indulgence Deeds" just like Al-Khomeini's Baseej who used to die in swarms during the first gulf war. Shiite Fanaticism is detrimental to Arabs and Muslims and represents less than dust specks with regard to Israel or USA.

Truly such an Islamic school is a malignant carcinoma whose remedy is only successful by elimination because it is even detrimental to the land and the plants and is worse than nuclear waste. Again, the insurgency is Hadaoist and Persian-based not a home-made Zaidi one as wrongly proclaimed.

The End of Want?

By J. BRADFORD DELONG

Quarter after quarter the macroeconomic news from the United States teaches the same lesson: real GDP growth at a sustained rate of 3% per year is not enough to increase America's employment level. Not even real GDP growth at a sustained annual rate of 4% is sufficient to increase the share of American adults who have jobs. The underlying rate of labor productivity growth in the US, which we pegged at 1.2% per year at the start of the Clinton administration and at 2% to 2.5% per year at the end of the 1990's boom, now seems even higher: it is getting harder and harder to keep the estimated labor productivity growth trend below 3% per year.

How long this boom in productivity growth will continue is anyone's guess: optimists point to the fact that waiting behind the information technology revolution, ready for takeoff, is the biotechnology revolution, and behind that is a looming nanotechnology revolution. If such improvements in productivity do last, the vistas this will open are amazing: an America 50 years from now in which the average full-time worker earns not \$40,000 a year, but the equivalent of today's \$160,000 a year.

The US is at one pole of the world economy. China – even with its eco-

nomie miracle since Deng Xiaoping went on his Southern Expedition – is at the other. But China's labor productivity is now growing at roughly 6% per year. If that rate can be sustained – and if the Chinese economy becomes and remains integrated enough for us to be able to speak of it as a single entity – China's labor productivity will be comparable to today's America sometime before 2050. And India? If the growth rates of the past 15 years continue, and if India remains united, its labor productivity in 2050 will be comparable to that of Spain today.

Now the world of 2050 will not be a paradise. There will still be some regions where failed states do not protect property, enforce the law, encourage commerce, educate their citizens, or construct the physical, social, and organizational infrastructure necessary for people to make use of the magical technologies we have developed since the start of the Industrial Revolution.

Similarly, there will still be wars, fought with ever more brutal and destructive weapons. But we have good reason to hope that there will be fewer of them. Next winter, it will be sixty years since an army crossed the Rhine River bringing death and destruction – the longest such period since at least the late second century B.C., when the Cimbric and Teutones challenged the army of the Roman Consul Gaius Marius in the Rhone Valley.

The world of 2050 will not have "solved the economic problem." The economy is the realm of things that have value. Things have value when they are both desirable and scarce.

We humans are very good at figuring out ways to make scarce things desirable. But we do have an opportunity – and hence a duty – shared by no previous human generation: to make a world by 2050 in which nearly everyone has enough food to avoid hunger, enough clothing to keep warm, and enough shelter to remain dry – plus a super-broadband Internet connection. The stakes in this round of humanity's poker game are huge.

The first step toward winning the jackpot is to shape global public opinion in support of creating a world without want – to make progress towards this goal is the touchstone of international relations today. We no longer have large states driven by powerful, aggressive ideologies to remake the world in their own image by any means necessary. The major sources and uses of power in the world today are softer, although not weaker. As long as we can keep it this way, we humans have a good chance of achieving our most important collective task.

J. Bradford DeLong is Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley and was Assistant US Treasury Secretary during the Clinton Presidency.

A Report on the Cultural activities at the Department of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University



By DR. AYID SHARYAN
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A number of cultural activities were organized by the Department of English at Faculty of Education, Sana'a during the second semester of the academic year 2003-2004, on the occasion of Sana'a as the Cultural City of the Arab World. The Cultural programs were directed towards enhancing student's learning and expanding their knowledge beyond the set syllabus. This emerges from a belief that extra-curricular

activities are indispensable for university students, both post-graduates and undergraduates. The program was divided into three axes: specialized talks for postgraduates, general talks for undergraduates, competitions and academic trips for the undergraduates.

I. The first phase of the *Cultural fete* was geared towards the needs of MA students. The organized talks in the series were devoted to research, statistics and digital advancements. The postgraduate students are expected to benefit from the information technology. This cannot take place without some knowledge of computer programmes. This phase began with the course of *Educational Statistics* - taught by Dr Sharyan. In addition to the regular students in this course, a number

of researchers and academic staff participated as presenters and listeners in the program from different fields. The keynote speakers of this phase are Dr Radman (Head of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University), Dr Ahmad Mahub (the Teacher of Computer Sciences), Professor Mahub An'am, the Vice Rector of Science and Technology, and Dr Abdulrahman Al Eriani, the teacher of Statistics and Experimental Design at the Faculty of Agriculture.

On Tuesday 04-03-2004, Dr Radman (Head of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University) gave a talk on *Statistics and Educational Research*. The talk was addressed to researchers in general and

MA students at the Department of English in particular. After focusing on the importance of educational statistics for postgraduate students, Dr Radman divided statistics into descriptive, inferential, and point of relationship. Then he introduces important concepts that are to be taken into account while statistical analysis as randomization, normal distribution, skewness and kurtosis of data in question. He gave some illustrations from the area of educational research carried out at the Faculty of Education. The talk was attended by some of the staff members as well as postgraduate students from the University of Sana'a and the University of Science and Technology.

After Dr Radman's presentation, Abdulhakeq Al Dubiani (a senior MA



student in the Department of English) presented a summary of his MA Thesis. His thesis dealt with ESP (English for Specific Purpose) at the college of engineering. The session was concluded by questions of students and some remarks by Dr Sharyan.

On Tuesday (20-04-2004), Dr Ahmad Mahub conducted a workshop for MA students. He concentrated on the use of computer in analyzing data. The focus was on handling the SPSS (Statistical Package Of Social Sciences). He began by giving information about the software and the power of the software in question in handling statistical operations. He explained the different SPSS menus, e.g. **Data, Analyze, View and Data Variable**. The workshop was novel in terms of the theme and also in the way of presentation. The participants felt they were entering a new horizon in handling postgraduate research.

This was followed by a presentation of a summary of an MA thesis by Fazio (a senior MA student in the Department of English). The study focused on the needs of undergraduate students at the Department of English, Faculty of Education.

On Tuesday (27-04-2004), Professor Mahub An'am, the Vice Rector of Science and Technology, conducted another workshop on Educational Research and the use of SPSS. He focused in his talk on reading and interpreting the results of tables produced by the package. The focus was on inferential statistics with special reference to **T-Test, One-Way and Two-Way ANOVA**. Mr Mohammed Al-Mazah (Ph.D. scholar in statistics) gave illustrations on the use of **Chi-Square and Factorial Analysis** as well as **MANOVA**.

On Tuesday (11-05-2004), Dr Abdulrahman Al Eriani, the teacher of Statistics and Experimental Design at the Faculty of Agriculture, gave a talk on **Correlation, Regression & ANCOVA** (Analysis of Covariance) and their use in research. He spoke about randomization of sampling, determining the dependent and independent variables and the processes of interpreting the results. He illustrated the meaning of linear regression by giving examples where the independent variable or predictor affects the dependent or predicted variable. Then he showed the meaning of ANCOVA through examples from both the natural and social sciences where the variables are tested while one variable is under control.

II. The second phase of the cultural series includes talks by Dr Mahmoudul Hasani, Head of the Department of English, University of Science and Technology, Prof Sahu, Faculty of Education, Mahweet, and the editor of the Education Page in *Yemen Times*, Students Speech Debate at the Department, and a journey to *Yemen Times*.

On Saturday (03-04-2004), Dr Mahmoudul Hasani, Head of the Department of English, University of Science and Technology- Yemen, gave a talk on *English Poetry up to the 18th Century*. Dr Hasani gave an overview to the classical period that includes, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Marlowe, Herbert, Herrick, Dryden, Samuel Johnson, and Pope. He spoke about the recurrent features of the period as wit, elevated style, elegiac tone, satiric nature of the period, appearance, etc. He gave instances from Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Church Yard*, John Dryden's *Mac Flecknoe*, Alexander Pope's *The Rape of the Lock* to illustrate his point on the diverse nature of the classical period. This was followed by questions of students that were answered by Dr Hasani. Prof Abraham and Dr Sharyan participated gave some comments on the issues raised by Dr Hasani.

On Wed. 07-04-2004, Prof Sahu, the editor of the Education Page in *Yemen Times* gave a talk on *19th Century Poetry*. Prof Sahu began his talk by some funny situations that he experienced when he arrived to Yemen. Teaching in the Faculty of Education at Al Mahweet and Khawlan, gave him a unique and first hand experience of the problem of Yemen students in learning English. The idea of the Educational Page in *Yemen Times* came into being through interactions with a section of students who want to master English but faced difficulties. He, then, touched on the concept of romanticism, as a major movement during the 19th century England which emerged as a reaction to neo-classicism. After giving the background of romanticism and early romantic poets, as well as the pioneers of romanticisms as Robert Burns and William Blake, he spoke on romantic features as loneliness, sad tone, simple language, rustics life, focus on common man, etc. This was as a reaction to some socio-economic and sometimes political factors as the French revolution. Though the time was limited but the talk was highly informative and the students were so much engrossed in the topic so much so that they wanted it to be repeated.

On Wednesday (21-04-2004), the students invited two speakers from the Centre of the Call for Islam. Anwar Al-Awlaqi spoke on *The Truth in Islam*. He illustrated how Islam is truth and truth is Islam by giving scientific and historical examples from the Holy Qura'an and the Bible. He threw some light on major issues as the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims. He drew the audience attention to the duty of a bilingual Muslim to give Islam as it is without any change or polish. One has to convey only the truth without any insistence on the recipient of the message. It is left to the receiver. There was a lot of interaction with students in the presence of some of the staff members as Prof Abraham and Dr Sharyan. The talk was followed by a lot of questions about the way to call to Islam, Muslims and the media, the life of Muslims minorities in different parts of the world, the challenges that face Muslims nowadays. When asked about the treatment of the students and the non-Muslims teachers, Anwar said that students owe gratitude and thankfulness to their teachers whether Muslims or non-Muslims.

The Department organized a debate for students at all levels. This was followed by a final debate. It was attended by students of the Department, staff members, Head of the Department Dr Mohammad Al Mekhlafi, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs Professor Ismail Masoud, and judges from other Faculties. Prizes were disturbed for the winners. Such an event was not held at the Department for a long time.

This phase concluded with a journey to *Yemen Times*. This was organized by the first level students who show boundless enthusiasm in learning and cultural activities. More than a hundred and fifty students accompanied by Dr Sharyan came to visit the first English Newspaper in Yemen, *Yemen Times* so as to gain first-hand knowledge about the paper they read two times a week. The students were received by the *Yemen Times* editor Waleed Al Saqaf and the staff in the paper who cordially welcomed the visitors. The students were impressed by the new printing press. The editor spoke to the students about the paper and the ups and downs that pose some threat for the independent press. Then he and the staff showed the students the different stages of processing the news from the beginning to the end. He wished some of the students would be qualified to work in the paper in the future. At the end, in response to a request from students to obtain the paper in the university, the editor offered to arrange to supply them with copies of the paper with some discount for university students if they manage to organize for obtaining the paper at the university.

Finally the cited activities that were held at the Department of English, Faculty of Education- Sana'a University can never be achieved without the support of many people who work silently for the benefit of others. Thanks are due to all of those who participated or supported the *Cultural Series* and rendered it a success during the second semester of the academic year 2003-2004. With the help of students, colleagues, and employees, we look forward to do better in the future.

Improve Your English

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250

I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (69) 'Thank you' wishes (II)

A 'Thank you' wish honors both the thanks giver and the receiver as well. It elevates the spirit of both. Like a catalyst it invigorates the chemistry of human relationship.

- A bouquet of warm thanks just to say that all you did made my day, and your kindness went an extra mile and brought to me a happy smile. You've been great.
- Heartfelt thanks especially for you. In today's busy life, when someone goes all out to lend that extra help, just at the right moment, it becomes the greatest favor done. Thank you so much.
- Thanks for everything that you do and the wonderful ways in which you spread joy. In today's rushed times, there aren't many people who take the initiative to help out others... But then again there are kind and generous people like you. Thanks alot for all the thoughtful things you do, for all your love and caring, too, for all the kind things you do and say, for the warm smile that you wear each moment of the day... And for the way you make everyone around feel comfortable and right at home too, this heartfelt wish comes to say that you're appreciated in every single way.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. Arwa has an urgent work at home today
2. The news that Rehman gave you yesterday were wrong.
3. I could not find it anywhere. Where is my letter's envelope?
4. His father was angry with his leaving the house at night.
5. We think that it is no use to go there at this late hour.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. He is going by the 7:30 bus to Aden. (O'clock should be deleted)
2. The captain **exclaimed** with delight that they had won the match.
3. Politics is a dirty game played by the ruthless people.
4. My brother who stays in India is a Ph. D.
5. Mohammed Agabi who is an army officer is my neighbor.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Repetition of the first sound of letter of a succession of words.
2. Annual calendar of months and days, with information about the sun, moon, tides, etc.
3. The set of letters used in writing any language, arranged in order.
4. Instrument in an aircraft for showing height above the sea-level.
5. Boy or man who was a student of a school, college or university.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. To make fear, anger, doubt, pain, trouble, excitement, etc. less: **alleviate** (vt)
2. A statement that charges someone with doing something bad but without proof: **allegation** (n)
3. Loyalty, faith, and dutiful support to one's country: **allegiance** (n)
4. A story or poem in which the characters and actions represent good or bad qualities: **allegory** (n)
5. A condition of being unusually sensitive to something: **allergy** (n)

(B) Some useful terms and their origin

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following

1. scansion
2. scribe
3. script
4. scripture
5. semiotics/Semiology

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **riddle** (Old Eng. 'opinion, advice'): An ancient and universal form of literature that consists of a puzzle question. For example, 'Brothers and sisters have I none. This man's father is my father's son. Who am I?'
2. **rime** (Gk. 'rhythmos'): Accented verse.
3. **romance** (Med Lat. 'romance' in the Romantic tongue): It is principally a form of entertainment. It consists of elements of love, adventure, fantasy, improbability, and extravagance.
4. **rubaiyat** (Arabic 'rubai': quatrain): A name given to a collection of quatrains. The best known example is the 'Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam'.
5. **satire** (Lat. 'satira', later form of 'satura': 'medley'): Dr. Johnson in his Dictionary defined 'satire' as a poem in which wickedness or folly is censured.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. beech, beach
2. antic, antique
3. ancient, old
4. antipathy, apathy
5. aught, ought

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **tamper** (vi) (meddle or interfere with): Someone has tampered the seal of this letter.
2. **temper** (vi) (soften or modify): Justice should be tempered with mercy.
3. **value** (n) (worth of something): In the present age of consumerism, customers want full value for their money.
4. **price** (n) (sum of money for which something is sold or bought): Prices of essential commodities are spiraling day by day.
5. **humiliation** (n) (feeling of shame): He suffered great humiliation when he was taken to custody.
6. **humility** (n) (humble condition or state of mind): A sense of humility is a mark of greatness.
7. **emigrate** (vi) (go away from one's own country to another country to settle there): Recently many Indians have emigrated to western countries to settle there.
8. **immigrate** (vi) (come as a settler into another country): Many Ethiopians have immigrated into Yemen.
9. **discover** (vt) (to find something existing but not known before): Columbus discovered America in 1492.
10. **invent** (vt) (to make up or produce for the first time): Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

1. have the devil of a job
2. not to have a minute to call one's own
3. from the word go
4. press the panic button
5. cost an arm and a leg

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **lie low** (to stay quiet or hidden, to avoid drawing attention to oneself): These days he is lying low after his guilt was unraveled.
2. **follow suit** (to do what someone else has just done): Go ahead to the party and I will follow suit soon.
3. **learn the hard way** (to learn from one's own experiences): She learned the hard way that she should not believe a stranger so quickly.
4. **the blind leading the blind** (to describe a situation in which one person who does not know what he/she is doing tries to help another person who is in the same state): When a teacher who lacks knowledge and skill is in charge of guiding ignorant students, it is definitely the blind leading the blind.
5. **change one's tune** (to change one's mind, opinions or attitude): He has changed his tune about the ruling party after he was offered a party post.

IV. Grammar and Composition

Choose the best answer

1. There is a marvelous collection — paintings in the National Gallery
A. in B. for C. with D. of
2. I like the red dress and the pink shoes. The trouble is that they don't go — each other very well.
A. in B. above C. on D. with
3. There's something I want to talk to you about. — you come and see me this afternoon?
A. Will B. Should C. May D. Must
4. I usually go to work — foot.
A. in B. with C. on D. by
5. The successful applicant will be expected to take — the new post before the end of October
A. off B. in C. for D. up
6. Her English has reached a — level
A. tall B. big C. high D. strong
7. The new Prime Minister is trying to find a — to country's economic problems.
A. reaction B. reply
C. solution D. response
8. He said he — at eight o'clock, but it is already a quarter to nine.
A. is coming B. will come
C. will be coming D. would come
9. This is a word I have never come — before.
A. across B. on C. through D. to

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **to matter**: to be important
2. **to hire**: to give employment to someone
3. **promotion**: a movement to a more important job, with more responsibility and money
4. **employer**: a person you work for
5. **to require**: to need
6. **career**: the long term plan for your professional life
7. **authority**: the power to give orders
8. **qualities**: characteristics
9. **to rank**: to put in order of importance.
10. **applicant**: a person who applies for a job.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

76: LIFE IS NOT A BED OF ROSES

Last week's topic:

75: LEND YOUR EARS TO ALL, TONGUE TO FEW

A prudent man is sensible and wise. He is not easily taken in. He applies his wise thought before acting. He is not vociferous or outspoken, but is rather cool and reserved. He decides to act only after a careful forethought or planning. Obviously he is a patient listener who carefully weighs the pros and cons of what people are saying and then gives his considered opinion. He knows very well what to say and what not to say in consideration of the socio-cultural context, the participants, his relationship with them, the probable impact of his words and so forth. That is why it is said that a man is known by the acts of his omissions and commissions. One should not forget that a person who has a loose tongue is not believed by others. He is regarded as a bad confidant. Moreover once the damage is done by even a slip of tongue, it becomes very difficult to repair the damage. Hence one should be measured in one's responses.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Whether you do openly
A good deed or conceal it
Or cover evil with pardon,
Surely Allah is ever pardoning
Powerful."
S4:A149

VI. Food for Thought

"If you have no confidence in self, you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence, you have won even before you have started." —Marcus Garvey

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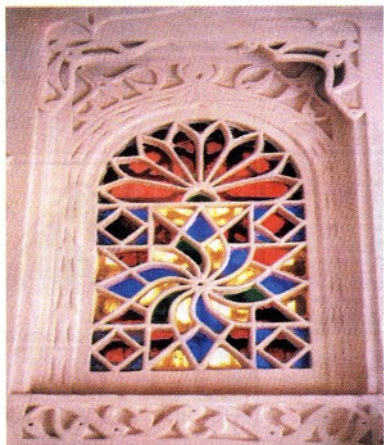
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AI QAMARIAH: A Yemeni Cultural Ornament & Source of Light

By ISMAIL ALI AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

AL QAMARIAH is the name given in Yemeni culture to a curved opening directly above the windows. Al Qamariah, is believed to be a name deriving from its function, i.e. to allow light into rooms, especially moonlight during moonlit evenings when, in the past, alternative means of light were scarcely available. Al Qamariah has passed through several developmental stages, in its form, vol-

ume and its purpose. Today, it has become of significance in terms of beauty whereas, in its earlier stages, Al Qamariah was just an arch with more vertical length than horizontal, and not given as much consideration as nowadays. This Arch used to encircle a piece of man made or a crystal alabaster allowing sun-rays to come into the room. The alabaster piece was usually brought from far away and was extremely restricted in availability to Wadi Dhahr which is close to the capital Sanaa and al-Mahweet Governorate. As the quarries from which the materials were extracted became exhausted and in order to keep up with the pace of demand for AL Qamariah, the



Al-Qamariah arc, old Sana'a

materials were gradually replaced by colored glass imported from abroad, which did not affect the traditional character which distinguishes the Yemeni Al Qamariah.

In the past, this Al Qamariah used to be made of plaster and took the form of drawings and embroidered shapes, which is continued in the glass. Care is given to the location and variety of such Al Qamariah which differ from room to room; the Al Qamariah for the most prominent room, which is called al-Mufraj and which receives the guests, is of a good quality as well being the most suitable in size.

Al Mahweet is well known for making such Al Qamaris in different types and shapes. Al Mahweet has been distinguished by Yemeni culture since ancient times, not only for its heritage of traditional characters which makes it a special scene for Yemeni visitors to see, but also for its Al Qamariah construction which is famed for its colored mosaic engravings, decorative and artistic ornaments of beauty.

Al Qamariah touches upon that ancient reflection whilst linking to modern artistic forms by interconnecting colors - a mixture that distinguishes its Arab-Islamic features. Al Qamariah is an art inherited and passed on from father to son, from generation to generation. This art has passed through different stages of development, the most significant of which is the addition of carvings which offered additional benefits. They

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