

## Fighting terrorism tops Saleh's UK agenda

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Ali Abdullah Saleh is expected to meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London today. The UK ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Michael Gifford told the Yemen Times that the "The visit will cover a number of areas like the cooperation in the fight against terrorism, which will be a key issue for discussion"



Ambassador Michael Gifford  
(YT photo by M. Al-Qadhi)

"I do think Yemen has taken firm action in the fight against terrorism, we recognize that can it go further, and I think the Yemeni government would like to take it further," Gifford said.

He stressed that terrorism has become a global epidemic that requires good cooperation between all countries, adding that the UK is concerned to cooperate with Yemen in this respect, as Yemen itself has suffered from terrorism in recent years, with the attack on the USS Cole in 2000 and the French Tanker in 2002.

Full interview on page 3

# Guantanamo trial of 2 Yemenis unfair

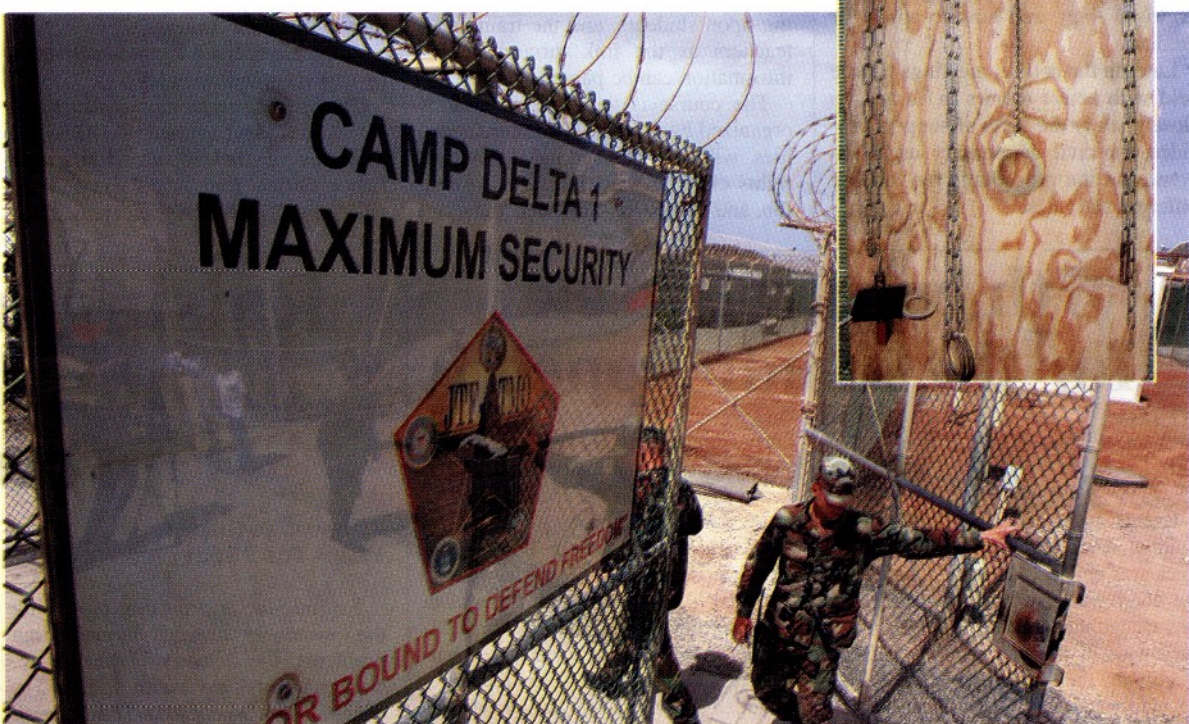
By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Human rights activists in Yemen condemned the USA's military trial in Guantanamo Bay of two Yemenis. The trial of four prisoners, also including a Sudanese, and an Australian started on Tuesday and is

being widely criticized throughout Yemen for not meeting the minimum standards of a fair trial.

"How can we expect the trial of Guantanamo prisoners to be legal if evidence is not shown, and defendants are not given the opportunity to hire lawyers?" asked Khalid Al-Anisi of

the National Organization for Defending Rights & Freedoms (HOOD) in Sanaa.



A U.S. Army guard opens the gate at Camp Delta at Guantanamo Naval Base August 23, 2004 in Guantanamo, Cuba. On Tuesday preliminary hearings will begin for four suspected Al Qaeda associates charged by the U.S. with war crimes as they appear before a commission of five military officers. Four suspected Al Qaeda fighters will be formally charged with war crimes this week as the U.S. military opens the first legal hearings for foreign prisoners captured during the war in Afghanistan and held at a remote U.S. Navy base in Cuba. Beginning on Tuesday. The prisoners from Australia, Sudan and Yemen will appear separately before a panel of five U.S. officers who will read the charges against them at the arraignments, officials at the Guantanamo base said on Sunday.

Inset: Leg irons and hand cuffs hang on a board at Camp Delta at Guantanamo Naval Base August 23, 2004 in Guantanamo, Cuba.

"We have been working closely with international human rights organizations throughout the world to come up with a solid statement denouncing such actions done in the name of justice. What justice is this?"

This comes as the USA paradoxically insists that the tribunals are fair, and are the appropriate way of dealing with the prisoners that President George Bush describes as "killers" and his Attorney General, John Ashcroft calls, "uniquely dangerous".

The condemnation of Yemen's

human rights organizations has been part of a global protest by many human rights groups and legal campaigners, who have condemned the hearings and called them "unprecedented and unfair". They also all agree that the tribunals contravene not just of the Geneva Conventions but several other international laws.

It is expected that pro-human rights organizations in Yemen will continue their protests, especially in coordination with other organizations in the region and the world.

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## Al-Houthi followers adopt guerrilla war

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The crisis between the government and Sheikh Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi has been accelerating and increasing in terms of the scale of human and property losses. The War, however, has taken on a new appear-

ance, as Al-Houthi's followers have begun to conduct guerrilla raids and have adopted war of attrition techniques. Such tactics were apparently not anticipated by military commanders, who declared the end of military operations three weeks ago, and said Al-Houthi's insurgency was dying.

Sources reported that during the past two days the clashes between the military forces, (consisting of regiments from different army divisions), and Al-Houthi's followers, resulted in the deaths of 30 people, 11 of whom were troops and including a colonel who was killed in an ambush.

Continued on page 4

## Population crisis looming

By PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A report was released earlier this month that predicts a surprising change in population growth around the world in the next half century.

Population Reference Bureau (PRB), a private organization based in the United States, reported that the population in developed countries will rise by only 4% to reach 1.2 billion between 2004 and 2050, while the population in developing

countries will jump 55% to more than eight billion.

"Nearly 99% of all population increase takes place in poor countries, while population size is static or declining in the developed world," said the report.

The report gave a startling forecast on the future of Yemen. The country's popu-

lation will increase by 255% in 2050, which will be one of the highest growth rates in the world. This year, the country's population is estimated at around 20 million, but according to PRB, Yemen will hold over 71 million people fifty years from now.

Continued on page 4

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## Transfer of authority of Community colleges: rejected

Aden Community College's graduates are disappointed at the recent Cabinet decree that puts community colleges under the authority of the ministry of technical education and vocational training, instead of the ministry of higher education.

The graduates described the decree as oppressive and unjust, harming their future welfare and prospects. "We were hoping to continue our higher studies after fulfilling the 3-year diploma at the community college. But, the decree has frustrated us, as our future has begun to vanish under the threat of the presently wrong educational policies," they said.

They claimed that the certificates granted to them by the college, will not

be recognized by any governmental or private establishment. "They will close the door on us since the certificate does not carry the name of a ministry."

Most of the Arab countries including Saudi Arabia have their community colleges under the ministry of higher education. Their decree covers all the students, the graduates and the undergraduates, and this has annoyed many people. Their future appears gloomy to them as there is no clear-cut educational policy for post-secondary school institutes. The community colleges used to be run by the ministry of education, then ministry of higher education, and now by the ministry of technical education and vocational training.

## Overtaken gas tanker threatens Mareb's population

Mareb Governorate's population faced hours of fear and worry after a trailer full of gas turned up side down, at the entrance to the town, with the gas leaking from one of the turns.

Sources advised that had the trailer exploded, it would have destroyed the entire town.

Many residents have expressed their worry at the increasing risk of environmental damage caused by accidents and the pollution of the Petroleum carrier wagon and the Refinery in Mareb, which does not take measures towards environmental protection in the Governorate.



## Shopkeeper tries to commit suicide

The owner of a kitchen tool shop from Wadi Al-Madam, Taiz, attempted to commit suicide on Tuesday, August 17th. 40-year-old Mohammed Al-Humaikani tried to kill himself by stabbing his belly with a sharp knife. People and security men came to his aid and transferred him to the Al-Jumhuri Hospital in the city of Taiz, and he has

now been hospitalized.

"I decided to commit suicide due to my low sales rate. Hardly anybody buys my goods," the man told YT reporter. "I was in a dilemma as I could not pay the electricity bill and the rent. Also I could no longer sustain my family, which caused me to become depressed and I decided to commit suicide", he added.

## Japan extends support in water services

Under the Japanese scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects", the Government of Japan has decided to extend a new grant amounting up to USD50,000 to improve water supply systems in five rural villages in Sana'a Governorate.

The project aims at constructing new reservoirs in some of the villages and expanding and repairing existing water tanks in the rest. Inhabitants of those villages will have better water systems that will be able to meet their requirements.

The agreement for this project was

signed on Monday, 23rd Aug., in Sana'a between Mr. Abdulwahed Al-Bukhaiti, Governor of Sana'a Governorate and Mr. Hisatsugu Shimizu, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japanese.

During the current Japanese fiscal year, (April 2004-March 2005), five projects have been so far financed in Yemen, amounting up to USD 388,600 in total, as part of the above-mentioned scheme. The scheme aims to support small-scale community-based projects in Basic Human Needs fields, such as primary health care, basic education and public welfare in developing countries, including Yemen.

## Friedrich Ebert explains its activities and support

A training course on managing and attaining funds for private organizations has been organized from August 15th-30th by the National Culture Center for Youths. The course is being financed by the German Friedrich Ebert establishment.

The course is being hosted by Ahmed Al-Yamani, director of the Friedrich Ebert's Yemen Office, who spoke about the establishment and support it provides for women's political participation, research, and grants. During his speech, he pointed out the nature of project plans presented to his establishment, and participants were shown the special funding form of Friedrich Ebert, and how to apply for funding.

Later in the course, meetings will be held with active donors in Yemen, to closely study the sorts of support provided for civil community organizations, and the procedures for funding different activities.

## Teacher-targeting human rights course wrapped up

A training course organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) from August 21st-22nd was wrapped up at the hall of Taj Shamsan Hotel in the city of Taiz.

Some thirty teachers from elementary schools took part in the course.

"The aim of the course is to give participants theoretical background on the principles of human rights, and their scientific integration into school curricula," said Izaddin Al-Asbahi, director of the HRITC. "It is supposed to have informed teachers of human rights values, teaching ethics, as well as international conventions ratified by Yemen, which have become binding," he added. He explained that "dissemination of human rights concepts and principles can be carried out by focusing upon students, and the training of teachers as the link through which information can be passed."

The course is the fifth in a series organized by the HRITC. Future activities will include setting up human rights clubs at schools in Taiz, Aden, Ibb, and Sana'a as a first step, to be run



by students and supervised by trained teachers, who will also train their colleagues.

The representative of the Education Office in the course, Abdullah Sultan, said the enforcement and spread of human rights concepts and principles amongst teachers will help them to prevail amongst the community, since the teacher is a "joining link."

He appreciated the role of the HRITC in adopting a number of activities in different contexts.

Trainees received lectures delivered by experts and academics.

The opening ceremony was attended by Abdu Mohammed Al-Hakimi, Manager of the Social Affairs and Labor Office, and Abdulaziz Sultan, chief of the Teacher Syndicate in Taiz.

## 7th cultural week for the handicapped

BY YEMEN TIMES  
TAIZ

Events of the 7th Handicapped Cultural Week were set up in Taiz. The week was entitled "Give me Confidence but don't grant me Mercy". The event was inaugurated on Sat., 21st Aug, with the support of the Fund for Observing and Qualifying the Handicapped, which set up numerous side stalls and discussion groups. There were literary and artistic sections such as reciting poetry, a short

story competition, drawing, caricature, and intellectual discussions. The Week was concluded with the opening issue of "al-Azeemah" magazine, published by the Handicapped Union in Taiz. It is a periodical socio-cultural media release which is written by the team of Abdullah al-Jaafari as editor-in-chief, Tewfik al-Za'roory as manager, Secretary; Ali al-Jabaly, technical officer-in-charge; Abdullah Saleh, and the general supervisor Salah Ayyoub Tareh Absi as well as Nabeel al-Amri. The production of the magazine is stipulated in the sixth clause of the Handicapped Union which maintains that a periodical should be produced to heighten the profile of the organization.

## Preserving underground water & soil

The Ministry of Agriculture organized an introductory workshop on the Preservation of Underground Water & Soil for the period from 23rd-24th August. The workshop was held in the Capital Secretariat, where a number of studies relevant to water and soil preservation projects were presented.

It is worth mentioning that Yemen, especially, Sana'a is threatened by drought in the Year 2025 A.D. There are many studies submitted by various authorities in collaboration with the World Bank on the reasons for and solutions to the coming disaster.

## Concern over price hikes

BY YASSER AL-MAYYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a statement issued last week, the Yemen Consumer Protection Society demanded, for the authorities responsible to take action to stop the nuisance of the prices rising and to move to put a limit on unjustifiable increases which recently took place on the prices of certain commodities. It recommended that these actions should be taken so that consumers do not find themselves or herself being the victim of the rising prices whilst suffering from lower quality commodities. The Society emphasized that the merchants are taking the law of supply and demand to be justification for price rises.

## Raising awareness on humanitarian problems

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An introductory meeting on raising the awareness towards humanitarian problems, the delivery of healthcare, women rights and youth issues was concluded on Wednesday, 18th August, in the al-Hudaidah Governorate. The meeting was organized as part of the general program for development and education in the Media and among the Population, at the Ministry of Information. Over the course of four

days, contributions were made by thirty male and female participants' from the Capital Secretariat, al-Hudaidah, Hajjah, and Ibb governorates. The aim of the meeting was to raise the media awareness of the problems associated with population increase and urban growth and the effects this has on development and health programs. It also covered methods of family planning and held a discussion on the relationship between family planning programs and the position of Islam on this topic.

## Announcement

The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood Child Development Project Project Coordination Unit (PCU) advertise the following post:

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- Ensure that existing buildings are adequately upgraded to receive new equipment.
- Prepare and monitor work plans to ensure timely completion of the buildings.
- Monitor budgets/ expenditure for construction (including disbursement projections and reviewing payment requests from consultants/contractors).

### Qualifications (selection Criteria) :

- A Bachelor of Science in Architecture or civil Engineering.
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### This edition's question:

**Could the Shiite Iraqis maintain their influence in the country even after the current confrontation with the interim government?**  
- Yes, they will be marginalized  
- No, they will maintain their influence  
- Let's wait and see

### last edition's question:

**Do you think that it is students to blame for the poor secondary exam results, or is it the educational system?**

- No, I think both students and the educational system are to be blamed 52%
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# Islamic groups in Yemen under pressure

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As the Shiite sects consider themselves as the possible alternative to Wahabis by virtue of toleration, moderation and denunciation of bombings, Sa'ada events, ignited by Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, have cast a shadow over their ongoing condition. The inclination of the government and the political leadership is now to tighten their grip over the Shiites. Actually the state has started reconsidering and recalculating ways of dealing with all these variously oriented sects.

In the past, since the start of tourist kidnap and murder tactics by Abu Hassan Al-Mihdhar's group, Yemeni authorities have been conducting wide-scale arrest operations of Wahabi-oriented Islamists from different Salafi religious centers. Since then, about 35,000 Islamists with different orientations, have left Yemen, according to statement by former minister of interior Hussein Mohammed Arab.

All Salafi centers and mosques, numbering roughly 70, are now under heavier surveillance than before, in order to identify the so-called extrem-

ist elements, as the statement said.

During this period, the Shiite current has been working hard to flourish and get support from the government to occupy the place of other sects. Yet, it did not reach its aim.

The Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwan Muslimin) are unfortunate too. The Scientific Institutes they used to manage had a budget of YR 6 billion allotted by the Ministry of Education. However, the Sep 11th events have also reflected themselves in the situation here in Yemen. These institutes consequently have been converted into public schools, and the Muslim Brothers were presumed unable to educate extremist generations. They still possess Al-Eyman University and some other religious centers, but they are under continuous supervision.

Sa'ada events have brought about other effects, that is, the targeting and supervision of the Shiite sect which has started to increase in Yemen especially the Twelve-Imam Shiite. Also the state has begun to reconsider the Zaidi sect which is prevalent in northern areas of the country, and politically represented by two parties, Al-Haq and Yemeni Public Forces. Some call for dissolving these two parties since they are based on a sectarian principle,

though they are in the Higher Opposition Coordination Council.

It is perceived that whenever the government and a religious sect are not on good terms, other sects attempt to seize the opportunity, trying to come closer to the authority and present themselves as the best alternative to the government-opposing sect, and deserving of consideration and support.

Mysticism is now trying to sell itself as an alternative to the extremist Shiite for preaching at mosques and elsewhere. Ismailis, on the other hand, who are residing in Haraz, Sana'a and Jiblah are trying to look different from Al-Houthi and Twelve-Imam Shiite. They have denounced Al-Houthi's actions in Sa'ada.

There remains Al-Hijra wa Al-Takfir group whose elements are being pursued for allegedly killing former Secretary of Sana'a Governorate Sheikh Al-Azzani.

Yemen has become teeming with contradictory religious sects and Islamic movements. This forebodes of danger, if sectarian strife flares. The authorities should therefore put rigorous restrictions to eliminate extremism, and sectarian fanaticism, whatever is their orientation.

## Lectures at Al-Saeed Forum, Taiz

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ

A cultural symposium was held Thursday July 29 at the al-Sa'eed Cultural Hall in Taiz. Among the participants were Dr. Jean Campert, director of the French Center for Archeology and Social Studies and author of the book "Tib al-Nufoos fi al-Ghina'a al-Sana'ani" [Medicine of Souls on Sana'ani Songs], and Yemeni researcher Mohammed Abdul-Rahman Jazim.

The symposium was organized by the al-Sa'eed Cultural Establishment and presented by Mr. Faisal Sa'eed Fare', director of the establishment. He opened the symposium with a speech, welcoming the audience and introducing the creative works of the participants.

He said that the symposium comes

as part of the al-Saeed establishment's cultural activities program. "It is exceptional, and is dedicated to celebrate the event of the year- Sana'a as the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital," said he.

Researcher Jazim reviewed his editing of a reference book titled "Nour al-Ma'arif fi Nudhum wa Quanin wa A'araf al-Yemen fi al-Ahd al-Mudhafari al-Warif, Dawlat Bani Rasoul wa al-Dawr allathi Saham fi Ildihar al-Yemen." [The Lights of Knowledge on the Systems, Laws and Conventions of Yemen in the Prosperous Mudhafari Reign, the Rasouli State and the Role that Contributed in Yemen's Prosperity].

The book was published by the French Center for Archeological and Cultural studies, which carries out and sponsors studies on Yemen and other states in the region, whilst supporting several Yemeni organizations' cultural

activities.

Then, Dr. Jean gave a summary on his book, reviewing the situation of Yemeni poetry since the 17th century, its move from having Kawkaban as its center and the arrival of Sana'ni song in Aden. A type of song performed with the accompaniment of a musical instrument known in Sana'a as "Torbi" and in Saioon as the "qunboos".

Adding that the French Center for Archeological and Cultural studies has granted makers of oud and qunboos financial support to encourage them to preserve this handicraft.

During the symposium, there were several wider discussions as well as the answering of many questions posed from the audience.

In addition to the aforementioned the symposium was attended by Dr. Abdullah al-Thifani with a number of intellectuals and writers, as well as members of the woman's art sector.

## UK's new ambassador to Yemen Times:

# The Yemeni government has to resolve al-Houthi issue

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Being an expert in the fight on terrorism, the appointment of Mr. Michael Gifford as the United Kingdom's new ambassador to Yemen has invited speculation about his job in the country.

In his first interview with a Yemeni newspaper, Mr. Gifford did not hesitate in openly admitting that Yemen-UK cooperation in the fight on terrorism is one of the major issues that he will deal with while in Yemen.

Having worked in Cairo during 2001-2004 as the deputy head of mission, Gifford had accumulated some experience in dealing with Middle Eastern countries. Noting that he was also worked in the Counter Terrorism Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he also is somewhat experienced in the field of fighting terrorism.

Yemen Times met with Mr. Gifford at the embassy in Sana'a and filed the following interview.

### Security and counter terrorism: Top priority

Although he was reluctant to talk in detail about security cooperation, Mr. Gifford pointed out that the British are involved in the training of Yemeni security personnel, and that their assistance to Yemen includes "assistance to the Coast Guard and contracts with various Yemeni government organizations to try to improve their capacity to cooperate with us, and with the international community on the terrorism fight." He said that his country is interested in developing the security cooperation it has with Yemen in the future, and encouraging other European countries to join with them. He admitted that there is military training going on, but he preferred not to talk about it in a public interview. "The training which goes on, does not include a large number of British personnel. It is quite limited in scope but it could, in the future, also include, for example, sending back Yemeni officials to the UK for specialist training. It is something we want to develop and it is something which Yemen is keen to take forward with us," he said.

### Development and Commercial Relationship

However, the ambassador said that development assistance would also be a key issue in the talks between Saleh and British officials. "We want to cover the broad issue of modernization and reform in Yemen. We want to speak about the commercial relations between the two countries and see what we can do to enhance these. In addition to these, we will be discussing regional issues: Iraq, Palestine, Sudan and other issues" he pointed out.

The development aid of Britain to Yemen, according to Mr. Gifford, is growing very rapidly. "In 2002 we had a bilateral program at some £2 million. This year it is growing to £6 million. So there is rapid growth in the bilateral assistance to Yemen and that is focused on health care, education, the



Ambassador Michael Gifford

(YT photo by Mohammed Al-Qadhi)

position of women and poverty reduction. That assistance will continue and represents a commitment from Britain towards Yemen. And we have a good relationship with government and non-governmental organizations. So development work will continue and I think there will be some discussions on that during the president's visit," the ambassador said.

"On the commercial side, I think that trade between Yemen and Britain is perhaps lower than both countries would like. We recognize that the Government can not force people to do business overseas, it is not the way that governments operate. I think the job of governments, both in Yemen and UK, is to try to create the conditions where trade and investment can flourish. That means tackling some very difficult issues, like that of security, corruption, and the legal framework. I also think we need to look for measures to protect investments in both directions, because at the end of the day, trade is better than aid, if we can develop business confidence between the two countries," he added.

### Concern over Sa'ada Fight

The ambassador said he can not comment on the statement of his predecessor Frances Guy, who said that Hussien al-Houthi's rebellion in Sa'ada is not a terrorist act. However, he expressed concern over the loss of lives in the fight. "As far as al-Houthi goes, we regard this as a serious issue but it is essentially for the Yemeni government to resolve. I should say that we are very concerned to hear about the losses of lives on the government's side and indeed on the rebel side and, of course, the position of the inhabitants of Sada'a is a concern to us as well," he said. But, he said that the question of whether or not al-Houthi represents terrorism is one for debate.

Mr. Gifford said, "It is not my job to come here and criticize the Yemeni government publicly for that. A lot of discussions will take place in private, and we will explore where the gaps are. One of the issues that concern us is, for example, the easy availability of weapons in Yemen and how they can spread easily to other countries. I think this links to the global nature of terrorism these days, ten years ago, we would have said that what happens

within one nation's borders, is not the concern of other countries. Now, just as Yemen is concerned with what is happening in Britain, we are also concerned with what happens in Yemen, as that would have an effect on Yemen itself and on the regional and international community."

He said that his agenda in Yemen is that he wants to "encourage cooperation on development issues of modernization and reform, the position of women, and education." He also highlighted the importance of the media, and is keen to support the development of the media in Yemen, hopes it can make use of the British experience.

"I have been struck by the professionalism of your media including Yemen Times which I have been a regular reader of," he added.

The British ambassador said that he hopes the President's visit to London would be an opportunity to further develop the historical Yemeni-British relationship, and to clear up misunderstandings which have existed since before the kidnappings of some Western tourists in Abyan in 1998.

### Abu al-Hamza

With regards to extremist cleric Abu al-Hamza al-Masri, (whose extradition for trial on charges of terrorist acts has been repeatedly asked for by Yemen), Mr. Gifford said that the UK has agreed to an extradition request to the US. Currently, he is in UK custody while his judicial process continues. The hearing will probably take place in October. "It is a judicial process, not a political one which has to follow through," he said. He stressed that the UK government could not fulfill the Yemeni request, due to the lack of an extradition treaty between the two countries.

The British government has also started parallel action to remove Abu al-Hamza's British citizenship. "We take the Yemeni government's concerns about this seriously. I do not know if this issue will come up when the President is in the UK," he said.

He pointed out that he was not aware of any other requests from the Yemeni government concerning the extradition of other extremists living in London, or whether his colleagues at the Home Office had received this or not.

## For a happy childhood

The Dar-el-Salam Organization inaugurated the event of the distribution of school uniforms and bags to youngsters at the Juvenile's Bureau in Sana'a on Sat. 22nd August 2004. The event served to communicate the humanitarian role which is carried out by the organization in numerous lines of humanity, the most significant of which is promoting a culture of peace and forgiveness, and fighting violence, revenge and arms, as well as raising awareness of the precautionary standards necessary for mini arms. In a declaration to the Yemen Times, Sheikh Abdul Rehman al-Marwani, the President of Dar-el-Salam Organization, said that approximately 350 people a year die



Panel chairing Dar el-Salam Organization activity on enlightenment of juveniles against reckless use of weapons

through the misuse of mini arms. And that around 170 to 185 children and women die because weapons are left in reach of children. Also, a large number of juveniles have committed crimes through unintentional mistakes, either within the family or beyond but mainly due to accidents resulting from ignorance.

The Organization, with the collaboration of scholars, intellectuals and those of good intentions, will pay a special and continuous attention to this area by changing the connotations and helping teenagers to expand their mental faculties, develop their talents, and help them to qualify so as to become youth beneficial to society.

Meanwhile, the campaign will include several other governorates.



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Continued from page 1

## Population crisis looming

"The population growth rate in Yemen is a big problem," said Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University. "This is a problem that the government, society and individuals have to deal with. Otherwise, population growth will get out of hand."

One problem Yemen has to face is that its economy is not keeping up with the rise in population. The growth in population hovers at around 4% per year. According to The World Bank, Yemen's GDP increased 3.9% in 2003 and is expected to grow by 3.5% this year. Forty-two percent of Yemenis live below the poverty line, while a further 25% are only just above it. Although there are different estimates, many believe that as many as 40% of the Yemenis are out of work.

The young generation could be hit the hardest. Over 50% of Yemeni people are under the age of 15. With employment opportunities looking bleak in the future, they will face a difficult time finding jobs to get by.

"My dream is to move to Europe or North America to get a good job and build a family," said a Yemeni student. "There are very few good jobs here so why should I stay?"

Yemen will also have to figure out how to provide water for its fast growing population. Naji Abu Hatim, Senior Rural Development Specialist at The World Bank based in Yemen, said that Yemen is extracting around three billion cubic meters of water annually, but water resources are replenished by only two billion cubic meters each year.

Water availability in the Sana'a area is nearing crisis point. "It is estimated that the Sana'a water basin will be completely dry in three or four

decades," said Abu Hatim.

The World Bank believes that one of the best ways to slow down population growth is to get more Yemeni girls in school.

"The World Bank has done research around the world. It has been proven over and over again that with more girls getting a full education, the population growth rate goes down," said Robert Hindle, Country Manager at The World Bank in Yemen. "The highest return is that the financial worth of having a girl educated, in terms of reducing childbearing and increasing family income over time is the best thing you can do. This is true around the world. If you could do only one thing in a poor developing country it would be to get every girl through secondary school and in a reasonable quality high school."

According to a recent report from the US State Department, 67.5% of women in Yemen were illiterate in 2002. The World Bank has calculated that only 39% of school-age girls are enrolled in primary school to get a basic education.

The World Bank, Ministry of Education and aid organizations have been working on increasing the enrollment of girls in Yemen in the last few years. Early this summer, the Minister of Education Abdusalam Al-Joufi said that over six hundred new schools for basic education had been opened across the country in the first five months of 2004, focusing heavily on providing classrooms for girls.

Some believe that along with encouraging girls to get a full education, social awareness programs need to be included in the curriculum.

"A wider social awareness on measures for controlling population is a must," said Al-Faqih. "People need to learn about the consequences of so many

children entering this world as they will have to face enormous problems in the future."

Some have another worry about the population explosion coupled with economic problems in Yemen. "Poverty breeds terrorism," warned Hindle. "It's important for the Yemeni government to tackle the poverty issue."

Since the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, Yemeni security forces have rounded up hundreds of suspects, including key Al-Qaeda members. Currently on trial are six suspects allegedly involved in the bombing of the USS Cole at the port of Aden in 2000 and 15 others believed to have taken part in the attack on the French tanker Limburg in 2002.

But for over two months, Yemeni forces have been fighting a rebel group that armed itself in the north of Yemen. Many believe that if there isn't a comprehensive effort to slow down population growth, strengthen the economy, create more jobs and reduce poverty, it will become easier for rebel groups to recruit followers.

A Yemeni analyst said that if the country does not act soon to deal with the population explosion and its economy, "Yemen will undergo periods of instability, conflict and lawlessness. It will be a breeding ground for extremism and terrorism."

## Al-Houthi followers adopt guerrilla war

The circle of military clashes has widened, reaching the Al-Buqa area close to the Yemeni-Saudi border. 10 kilometers off Maran, fighting is still intensive in the areas of Al-Ruzamat, Al-Hamazat, Nashoor, Shaf'ah, and Hamdan bin Zaid.

Al-Tajamou Weekly mentioned in its August 23rd issue that some 47 corpses and 39 wounded troops had arrived on August 22nd in Sana'a.

Al-Wahdawi Weekly, for its part, said in its August 24th issue that 120 corpses were found in the mountains and the fortifications restored by the army, after the attack carried out on Monday August 23rd.

"Al-Houthi's Second-in-Command was killed in the attack along with three other leaders in the latest clashes," Al-Wahdawi added.

Yet the same newspaper also reported that Al-Houthi's followers had announced regaining the areas earlier declared to be controlled by the army.

"Media means do not have access to information about human and material losses. Yet, hospital corpses reveal the fact, and so does thousands of wounded scrambling into hospitals in Sa'ada, Hajjah and Sana'a," said the newspaper.

Al-Wahdawi quoted Yahya Badr Al-Din, Member of Parliament and brother to Hussein Al-Houthi as saying: "My brother was never the political leader of an organization that violates law."

"What will the government gain from killing my brother?" he exclaimed.

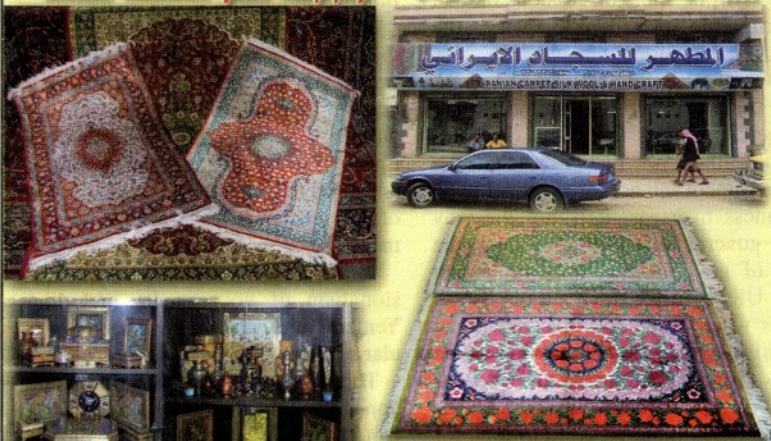
He added: "Why doesn't our government reflect the example of the Iraqi one? The wise men assembled and offered Moqtada Al-Sadr the chance to participate in the political arena."

Concerning the news that the President was supporting his brother, he commented: "This is utter untruth."

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# Iraq forces advance on Najaf shrine, battle rages

NAJAF, Iraq, Aug 24 (Reuters) - Iraqi security forces moved to within 400 metres (yards) of a holy shrine in Najaf on Tuesday, just hours after the government warned Shi'ite rebels inside they would be killed if they did not surrender.

"God willing, we'll be moving in tonight," a commander of one unit told Reuters, adding that around 500 Iraqi troops had been deployed to the area around the Imam Ali mosque, the first time government forces have entered the battle zone.

The advance was carried out by 50 servicemen and came after U.S. helicopters fired missiles and strafed militia positions in a cemetery that adjoins the mosque, where most of the Mehdi Army loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr have holed up during a bloody three-week rebellion in the southern city.

A U.S. soldier guided the men in. They were shot at by Mehdi militiamen and returned fire.

"We are in the last hours.

This evening, Iraqi forces will reach the doors of the shrine and control it and appeal to the Mehdi Army to throw down their weapons," Defence Minister Hazim al-Shalaan said at a U.S. army base outside Najaf.

"If they do not, we will wipe them out."

With fighting raging, U.S. tanks reinforced positions along the southern flank of the mosque.

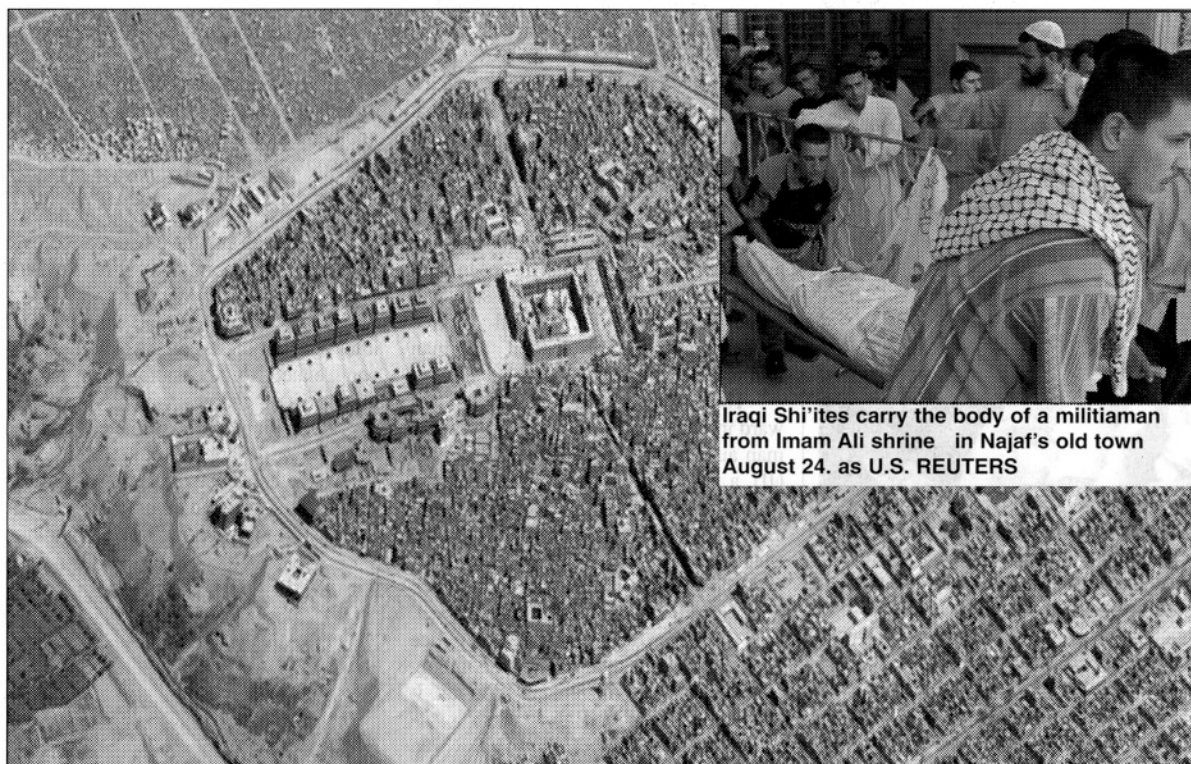
Black smoke rose from the area and automatic gunfire crackled after an overnight bombardment from U.S. warplanes and artillery.

The ultimatum from the U.S.-backed interim government is the latest in a series of threats that Iraqi forces will storm the shrine to disarm the militia.

## Ministers targeted

In Baghdad, insurgents tried to assassinate Iraq's environment and education ministers in separate bombings that killed five of their bodyguards and wounded more than a dozen people, officials said.

Environment Minister Mishkat Mounin said she survived a suicide car



The old City of Najaf with the Imam Ali Mosque in the centre in seen in this 29 August. REUTERS

bomb attack on her convoy in Baghdad.

Education Minister Sami al-Mudhaffar was unhurt after a roadside bomb hit his convoy in the city, officials said.

A group linked to al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for the attempt on Mounin and said it would not miss next time, according to an Internet statement.

The attacks were the latest attempts to kill officials in the government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who took power from U.S.-led occupiers barely two months ago and faces crises on many fronts, especially in Najaf.

"Serving the Iraqi people is not a crime that deserves this," an outraged Mounin told Reuters after the blast.

Mounin said four of her bodyguards were killed in the suicide bombing. Up to 15 people were wounded. One of Mudhaffar's bodyguards died in the attack on his convoy.

"I opened the door to leave for work and the blast knocked me over," said Ali al-Tai, a local resident standing in front of his home only metres (yards) from the blast site where Mounin was targeted, blood from victims splattered on his shirt. In July, Iraq's justice minister survived a suicide car bomb attack on his convoy in Baghdad.

The then head of the Iraqi Governing Council, Izzedin Salim, was killed in May in a similar strike. Both of those attacks were claimed by Zarqawi.

## Iraqi forces close in

U.S. marines have done most of the fighting in Najaf, which has killed hundreds, driven oil prices to record highs and touched off clashes in seven other southern and central cities.

But any raid by U.S. troops on Iraq's holiest Shi'ite shrine could trigger a firestorm of protest from the country's

majority Shi'ite community.

A rocket fired by militants clipped the wall of the gold-domed mosque on Tuesday and may have damaged the building, the U.S. military said. Both sides have accused each other of attacks near the shrine and of failing to respect holy ground. Insurgents also attacked a truck and an ambulance taking aid to Najaf, killing two people and setting the vehicles on fire, a Reuters witness said.

Cameraman Alaa Saad said from the scene the vehicles were attacked south of Baghdad.

But news that Iraq's crude exports were back to normal on Monday helped calm jittery oil markets. Prices reached nearly \$50 a barrel last week after sabotage and threats cut exports.

# Israeli troops round up 300 Palestinians in W.Bank

NABLUS, West Bank, Aug 24 (Reuters) - The Israeli army rounded up more than 300 Palestinians between ages 16 and 50 and formally arrested at least one in a sweep into a West Bank refugee camp on Tuesday.

Military sources said Israeli forces were cracking down on Palestinian militants in the city of Nablus, a militant bastion.

"Anyone proving to have no connection with terrorism will be freed," one source said.

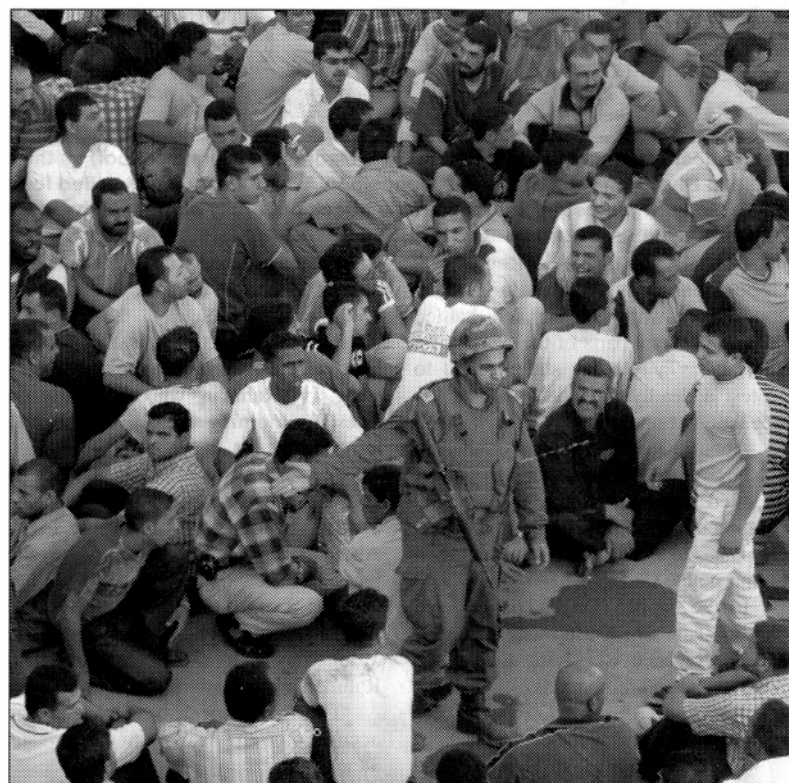
Witnesses said Israeli tanks and troops surrounded Askar refugee camp, ordering males to go to a school for questioning. Three were formally

arrested, they said. The army confirmed the arrest of one wanted gunman. The army has regularly targeted Nablus in anti-militant sweeps during almost four years of fighting with the Palestinians.

In the southern West Bank city of Bethlehem near Jerusalem, troops captured two wanted men in a raid on the French-run maternity hospital, witnesses said.

Hospital officials said they were unaware of their presence.

Military sources confirmed the raid on Holy Family Hospital, saying they arrested two leading fugitives from the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed



An Israeli soldier guards arrested Palestinians in a school in Askar refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus August 24. The Israeli army rounded up more than 300 Palestinians between the ages of 16 and 50 and formally arrested at least one in a sweep into a West Bank refugee camp on Tuesday. REUTERS

# Sudan making progress on Darfur, more to do-Straw



ICRC trucks wait in front of a Antonov 124 airplane on the tarmac at Cointrin airport in Geneva, August 24. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) start its largest airborne operation since the 2003 war in Iraq to deliver aid supplies to Sudan's strife-torn western region of Darfur. REUTERS

ABU SHOUK CAMP, Sudan, Aug 24 (Reuters) - The Sudanese government is trying to meet U.N. demands to end the conflict in Darfur that has killed up to 50,000 people but needs to do more, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Tuesday.

Straw, visiting the Abu Shouk refugee camp in northern Darfur, said the camps appeared to be safer but voiced concern about surrounding areas and villages, which one of his officials described as "bandit country".

The United Nations says the Darfur conflict has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis with over a million people driven from their homes.

The U.N. Security Council has given Sudan an Aug. 30 deadline to show progress in protecting civilians and disarming militia or face sanctions.

Straw said he would report to U.N.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

## Sufficient progress

"I will also be talking to African leaders as well as other Security Council members so we are all in a position by the end of next week to ... make judgments about whether there is sufficient progress. There is not enough progress — but (the question) is whether there is sufficient progress."

The Darfur revolt broke out after years of low-level conflict between Arab nomads and African farmers over scarce resources in the arid western region the size of France.

The rebels are demanding a greater role for ethnic minorities of the Darfur region in government.

Britain hopes its historic ties — which stretch back more than a century to when the region was under British

control — and its status as the world's second-largest donor to Sudan will give it greater influence over the Khartoum government.

## Peace talks

Straw said Khartoum had pledged on Monday to use accords signed in May with rebel groups in the south of the country as a template for peace talks over the western Darfur region.

The talks are taking place in Abuja, Nigeria.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the African Union chairman, said negotiators for the Sudanese government and Darfur rebels adopted an agenda for the talks on Tuesday, and agreed to begin with access for humanitarian aid to refugees.

"We have taken the first step in the right direction," Obasanjo told reporters.

He said security issues would be next on the agenda, including enforcement of the April ceasefire, disarmament of the Janjaweed and a role for AU troops.

The sides would then discuss governance in Darfur and socio-economic issues such as development.

But the government insisted its troops were responsible for disarming all fighters on its territory, a move rejected by the rebels.

Peace talks failed in July when the rebels set disarmament of the Janjaweed as a precondition.

A British official travelling with Straw described the area around the Abu Shouk camp as "bandit country" and said the Janjaweed were "doing what they want, where they want, when they want to non-Arabs."

He said Britain welcomed Sudanese government plans to deploy extra police around the camps but warned there was continuing low-level abuse of refugees and it remained to be seen whether the new police policies would be sufficient.



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## Nearly 50 hurt in Bangladesh strike violence



Bangladeshi Islamic students rest at their Madrasa (Islamic school) as their teacher reads a book during a general strike in Dhaka on August 24. The Opposition Awami League has called for a two-day nationwide strike which starts on Tuesday in protest against a grenade attack on a rally addressed by party president and former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday. REUTERS

DHAKA, Aug 24 (Reuters) - Opposition activists in Bangladesh attacked railway stations and battled police in several parts of the country on Tuesday as a two-day strike called to protest a deadly grenade attack at the weekend got underway.

About 30 people were wounded in clashes with police after protesters attacked railway stations, damaged equipment and removed tracks at different places to stop trains plying, witnesses and police said.

In the capital, Dhaka, police used bamboo canes to chase away hundreds of left-wing activists trying to halt the few rickshaws on the roads.

About a dozen activists were injured, police and witnesses said.

The dawn-to-dusk strike was called by the main opposition Awami League to protest Saturday's deadly grenade attack on a crowd listening to its president and former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina escaped with minor cuts, but at least 19 people were killed and about 150 injured.

The latest victim was the popular head of the Awami League's women's wing, Ivy Rahman, who died early on Tuesday morning from wounds sustained in the blast.

"Ivy Rahman's death intensified the countrywide protest.

Her death is an irreparable loss," Abdul Jalil, general secretary of the party, told Reuters.

The League later said the strike would end early — at noon on Wednesday — to allow people to attend Rahman's funeral and burial.

The government has rejected the accusations. It has blamed previous attacks on groups that "want to destabilise Bangladesh" but has yet to prosecute anyone.

Dhaka's normally teeming streets were largely deserted on Tuesday and schools, shops, offices and colleges were

shut as armed police patrols roamed the streets of the capital, the port city of Chittagong, the southern industrial town of Khulna, the coastal resort of Cox's Bazar and other main towns.

Cargo handling was completely stopped at Chittagong.

More than 100 people have been injured in clashes between opposition activists and police since Saturday's attack. Bangladesh has a history of political violence, military uprisings and bombings in which two of the country's presidents — Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Khaleda's husband Ziaur Rahman — were killed in 1975 and 1981 respectively.

Khaleda has strongly condemned Saturday's attack and on Monday asked for a meeting with Hasina to express her sympathies. But Hasina turned her down.

Had the fierce rivals met, it would have been the first time they had come face-to-face in 14 years.

## Indonesia clears way for charges against Bashir

JAKARTA, Aug 24 (Reuters) - Militant Muslim preacher Abu Bakar Bashir is set to face charges of involvement in terror crimes, including last year's bombing of the J.W. Marriott Hotel in the Indonesian capital, police said on Tuesday.

They said prosecutors had approved a dossier police filed against Bashir, which included evidence on the hotel blast, clearing the way to proceed with a formal indictment of Bashir and a request for a court date.

"The prosecutors today said the file against Abu Bakar Bashir has been considered complete. So, the next step will come up soon," national police spokesman Inspector-General Paiman told reporters.

The charges would be a key step forward in police efforts to bring to trial the man authorities say led Jemaah Islamiah (JI), a militant Islamic network believed to have carried out the 2002 Bali night club blasts that killed 202 and the Marriott bombing.

The contents of the dossier, in which police make their case against a suspect, have not been made public, but police have said it refers to the Marriott bombing and Bashir's role in Jemaah Islamiah. It does not mention the Bali attacks.

A suicide bomber blew up a van packed with explosives outside the Marriott a year ago, killing 12 people.

On Tuesday, another militant, Idris, was sentenced to 10 years in jail for his involvement in that bombing.

"He has been proven guilty of carrying out evil conspiracy in relation to a terror act by transporting the explosive devices," Chief Judge Asnawati told the South Jakarta court, referring to Idris.

But the court acquitted him of a second charge of a terror act relating to Bali blasts. It cited a July constitutional court ruling annulling a law that allowed tough anti-terror legislation to be used retroactively in the Bali case.

"(The Bali charge) was not put into consideration because the law has been revoked by the constitutional court and therefore the charge could no longer be accepted," Judge Asnawati said.

"Nothing seems fair"

"I will think it over first," Idris, looking calm and relaxed, told reporters after hearing the verdict. "This is my fate for today... Nothing in the world seems fair anyway."

In a separate Marriott case on Tuesday, prosecutors asked a court to jail another militant, Ismail, for 12 years for involvement in the bombing. Ismail has confessed helping the main perpetrators of the blasts.

Several people have been jailed over the Marriott bombing, but some key suspects remain at large.

Police first arrested Bashir in 2002 after the Bali blasts on suspicion of treason related to accusations he led JI, among other charges.

Indonesian courts ultimately rejected the treason charges but Bashir, who denies the existence of JI and allegations of his involvement in militant attacks, served 18 months in jail for immigration

saying they had new evidence suggesting he had violated anti-terror laws. They compiled the dossier submitted to prosecutors on the basis of those laws.

Under the Indonesian legal system, police put together a dossier making their case against a suspect and then submit it to prosecutors who decide on formal charges, if any.

Police submitted the dossier this month after removing references to the Bali blasts following the constitutional court decision the anti-terror law could not be applied retroactively.

Police are likely soon to transfer custody of Bashir and all evidence to prosecutors, who can choose to leave him in a police jail or move him to another detention centre while they work out a formal indictment.

Under the anti-terror law, authorities can hold a suspect for up to six months before an official charge is laid.

As Bashir has already been held for four months, that means the prosecutors



Indonesian militant Idris (L), also known as Jhoni Hendrawan, is escorted to a courtroom in the South Jakarta court on August 24. Idris was jailed for 10 years for playing a minor role in last year's suicide bombing of the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta. REUTERS

offences.

After finishing that sentence Bashir was re-arrested on April 30, with police

must come up with a clear charge within another two months, or the cleric could be released.

## Afghanistan's Karzai rejects call to quit



Pakistan's Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain (L), greets Afghan President Hamid Karzai (R), upon his arrival at the prime minister's house in Islamabad August 24, 2004. Karzai abruptly cancelled a speech to a state-run think tank in Pakistan on Tuesday, giving official security was the reason. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday dismissed a call that he resign as unconstitutional, but said it was the right of a group of challengers who made the demand to withdraw from the Oct.

9 presidential election. Karzai told the private Pakistani-based AVT Khyber television station that he would not form a coalition government if he wins the election because such administrations were to blame for past instability.

Twelve rivals to Karzai in Afghanistan's first presidential vote said on Monday they would consider a boycott unless he resigned by Wednesday, arguing that as the incumbent he held an unfair advantage. The group included former education minister Yunus Qanuni, regarded as strongest of the 17 candidates challenging Karzai.

"This is against the constitution," Karzai said of the demand in the interview while on a visit to neighbouring Pakistan.

"Even if only a single candidate remains, the elections will take place."

Karzai laughed off suggestions that

state resources were being misused for his campaign as unthinkable.

"If it happened, then it would be a source of great weakness for Afghanistan and I will not allow this."

The group of challengers have called for an interim council to be set up until an elected government could be formed, saying Karzai had an unfair advantage both as the incumbent and because he is favoured by the international community due to his U.S. backing.

### Constitution

Karzai's position was endorsed in 2002 by a traditional grand council of tribal chieftains, and his term had been due to expire in June when elections were originally planned. However, a new constitution approved early this year allowed him to remain in office until an elected president takes over.

One of Karzai's rivals, Abdul Hafiz Mansoor, argued that Karzai was ineligible because he had already served two terms.

If the 12 candidates withdrew, they would urge supporters in 20 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces to boycott

the vote, he said.

A spokesman for the election commission, Sayed Azam, rejected the group's suggestion that it was favouring Karzai.

"If anyone has any objection, doubt or criticism, he can come and discuss it with us," he said.

Pakistan joined the U.S.-led war on terror in 2001 and Washington and Kabul have praised its efforts to track down al Qaeda suspects.

However, they say Taliban militants have continued to find sanctuary in Pakistan and to launch attacks into Afghanistan from across the border. Karzai was due to return to Kabul on Tuesday afternoon.

Earlier, he abruptly cancelled a speech to a state-run think tank in Islamabad, citing "other engagements".

Pakistani officials denied security concerns were to blame.

Security for Karzai's trip has been extremely tight.

Both he and Musharraf are prime targets for Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network and its militant allies and have both narrowly escaped assassination attempts in the past two years.

## Kenya police fire teargas at Masai land protesters

NAIROBI, Aug 24 (Reuters) - Kenyan police fired teargas to disperse dozens of Masai tribesmen marching to Britain's embassy to demand the return of land they say is due to them after a colonial-era treaty expired this month.

Undercover and uniformed police intercepted about 100 Masai in traditional dress as they headed toward the British High Commission after gathering in a Nairobi park.

The Masai had planned to present a petition to the top British envoy in Kenya, High Commissioner Edward Clay.

It was their second unsuccessful attempt to meet him at the embassy, the first having been on Aug. 13.

Since the Aug.

15 expiry of a 1904 colonial treaty that gave ancestral Masai land to British settlers they have held increasing protests around Kenya to demand the land's return.

The government has rejected the appeals and sent paramilitary police to keep Masai and their livestock off private ranches on some of the areas in question.

Police arrested at least 50 Masai for illegally entering and damaging private property in the area at the weekend.

In Nairobi on Tuesday, police arrested 10 protesters carrying knives.

"This meeting was illegal and we could not accept it going ahead," Nairobi police chief Julius Ndegwa told reporters.

In the park, the Masai read a state-

ment demanding the government return the land handed to British settlers under the Anglo-Masai Land treaty, signed by the colonial authority and the top Masai leader at the time.

"The Masai should now be allowed to resettle on their lands currently occupied by private ranchers and further, be provided with reparations for the hardships suffered over the century," the statement said.

The Masai said their lawyers would take their fight to the Kenyan High Court and the International Court of Justice.

Land is an explosive topic in Kenya, with successive administrations being blamed for land distribution seen by many Kenyans as inequitable.



**Royal Concord Hotel**  
فندق رويال كونكورد

يتقدم عمال فندق رويال كونكورد بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى

**الاستاذ / محمد مهدي الصلاحي**

بمناسبة تعيينه مديراً عاماً للفندق.

وقد عرف الاستاذ / محمد مهدي الصلاحي بنشاطه وحسن ادارته من خلال عمله في أشهر الفنادق العالمية في كل من إيطاليا وفرنسا والأردن، متمنين له التوفيق والنجاح في مهامه وألف مبروك.

انضم إلى طاقم فندق رويال كونكورد كبير الطهاة

**السيد / صبحي موسى**

وعرف صبحي بمهاراته في طهي أشهى المأكولات الشرقية والغربية، وعمل في أشهر الفنادق العالمية في السعودية وليبيا ومصر وعدد من الدول العربية.

ويهذه المناسبة يتقدم كافة موظفي وعمال فندق رويال كونكورد بأحر التهاني، متمنين له التوفيق والنجاح وطيب الإقامة في اليمن.



# Pentagon leaders faulted in prisoner abuse-officials

WASHINGTON, Aug 24 (Reuters) - A high-level panel investigating U.S. military detention operations has concluded that top Pentagon officials and the military command in Iraq contributed to an environment in which detainees were abused at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, a defense official said on Tuesday.

The independent Pentagon panel headed by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger found that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs of Staff failed to exercise proper oversight over confusing detention policies at U.S. prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and Cuba, the official said.

But the official, who asked not to be identified, stressed that the four-member group, scheduled to release its report on Tuesday, did not conclude that Rumsfeld or military leaders directly ordered abuse such as stripping prisoners naked and sexually humiliating them in a scandal that has drawn international condemnation.

The official confirmed a report in the New York Times on the Schlesinger panel's findings that also said it concluded that the military's Joint Staff at the Pentagon - which is responsible for allocating forces - did not recognize that Abu Ghraib guards were overwhelmed by an influx of detainees during violence in Iraq.

The Times said the report also criticizes the top general in Iraq at the time, Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, for not paying close enough attention to the problems at Abu Ghraib.

NBC News also reported on Monday night that the Schlesinger report criticized the shortage of guards to handle the growing prison population at Abu Ghraib last year, and held top commanders responsible for disorganization in the command structure at the prison that led to wrongdoing.



U.S. Military police stand guard during the second day of an Abu Ghraib pre-trial hearing at the U.S. Army Taylor barracks in Mannheim August 24, 2004. The judge will consider whether to drop the cases or move their trials from Baghdad. Specialist Charles Graner and three others are accused of sexually humiliating and, in some cases, beating Iraqi detainees at Iraq's notorious Abu Ghraib prison. REUTERS

## Seven troops already charged

Reed Brody, a spokesman for Human Rights Watch, said the report did not go far enough. "They are talking about management failures when they should be talking about who in the Pentagon and the military command ordered, approved or tolerated the torture of detainees."

"The report does not seem to examine the relationship between Secretary Rumsfeld's approval of interrogation techniques designed to inflict pain and humiliation and the widespread abuse of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo," Brody said.

Seven U.S. Army reservists from the 372nd Military Police Company have already been accused of humiliating and in some cases beating and photographing Iraqi detainees at the infamous prison near Baghdad, once used as a torture chamber by former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Another Army investigation report to be released on Wednesday will recommend that 20 or more military intelligence troops and others at Abu Ghraib face administrative or perhaps criminal punishment in the scandal that has infuriated the Arab world.

The Schlesinger panel, named by Rumsfeld to look into the abuse and how effectively the Pentagon is addressing the problem with a number of investigations, also includes former Defense Secretary Harold Brown, former Florida Republican Rep. Tillie Fowler and retired Air Force Gen. Charles Horner, who led the allied air campaign in the 1991 Gulf War.

The Times reported that the panel interviewed Rumsfeld, Deputy U.S. Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Pentagon's military Joint Chiefs of Staff, during its investigation.

The newspaper said that the Schlesinger panel criticized the leadership of Army Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade at Abu Ghraib. She was also criticized in an earlier abuse investigation headed by Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba.

Karpinski has received a letter of reprimand and been suspended from her post. She is protesting that suspension.

Rumsfeld and other top defense officials have promised to leave no stone unturned in several investigations into the U.S. abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gen. John Abizaid, head of the U.S. Central Command, and Sanchez told Congress in earlier testimony that they did not find out about the Abu Ghraib abuse until early this year when a military policeman revealed the problem at the prison.

# Group abducts Italian, wants Italy to quit Iraq:TV

DUBAI, Aug 24 (Reuters) - An Islamist group said it has seized an Italian journalist in Iraq and gave Italy 48 hours to announce it was pulling out its troops from the country or risk the life of the hostage, Al Jazeera television said on Tuesday.

The Italian appeared alone on a video tape and identified himself as Enzo Baldoni, a freelance writer who had not been heard from since last Thursday, when he was in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf. The video tape also showed his passport.

"I am Enzo Baldoni from Italy, I am 56 years old, I am a journalist and I do social work by volunteering with the Red Cross," the man said calmly. He was wearing a short-sleeve shirt and appeared to be in good health.

"I came to Iraq to write about the resistance for my new book," he said, speaking in English and apparently reading from a statement. His comments were translated into Arabic on the tape.

Baldoni's driver-interpreter was found dead on Saturday and Italian newspapers have said the two were caught in an ambush between Baghdad and Najaf, scene of a Shi'ite Muslim rebellion.

A statement from Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's office said it would do everything possible to free Baldoni but that its troops would stay in Iraq despite the demand from the group calling itself The Islamic Army in Iraq.

The group said earlier this month it kidnapped an Iranian diplomat in Iraq

and showed the man on a video tape. The group was also reported to have killed two Pakistani hostages in July.

"The group said it could not guarantee the hostage's safety or his life if Italy does not respond within 48 hours with a decision to withdraw its forces from Iraq," Al Jazeera quoted an Arabic-language statement it had received as saying.

"The group warned Italy against not stating its position clearly because that would be considered a rejection of the group's demand," the statement said, blasting Berlusconi for his "anti-Muslim stance and insistence on joining the war on Iraq".

Baldoni works for Milan-based weekly "Diario". He also works for a Milan advertising agency and in the past has gone to other risky areas, including East Timor and Mexico's Chiapas region.

His brother, Raffaele Baldoni, told Monday's edition of La Stampa newspaper: "He is not an adventurer looking for thrills. He is a 56-year-old man with his head firmly on his shoulders. It isn't the first time he leaves us worried."

Militants in Iraq launched a campaign of kidnapping aimed at driving out individuals and firms supporting U.S. forces and the Iraqi interim government. Some hostages have been freed but others have been killed.

U.S. journalist Micah Garen was freed on Sunday by an Iraqi group who had held him hostage in the southern city of Nassiriya. Two French journalists were reported missing in Iraq.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابُوا مَصِيْبَةً قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَإِلَهُ جَمْعٍ  
وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْكُرْهُ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ  
الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْبَغْضَاءُ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَلِيمٌ  
الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَهُمُ الْبَغْضَاءُ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَلِيمٌ

Prominent Intellect and poet laid to rest after a massive funeral in Sanaa:

## Zain Al-Saqqaf passes away

After serving his country as an intellect, a scholar, a poet, and a politician, Zain Al-Saqqaf, 66, passed away in Azal Hospital in Sanaa last Saturday after suffering from sudden health problems. A massive funeral was arranged for him near the Jarallah cemetery where he was laid to rest. Several officials and prominent personalities including the Minister of Culture and Tourism Khalid Al-Ruwaishan attended the funeral and burial sessions to bid the final farewell to the beloved intellect.

Zain Al-Saqqaf had served in several posts related to culture. He was a founding member of the executive council of the third conference of the Intellectuals and Writers' Union. He was elected to be the general secretary of the union in the early nineties and became foreign relations secretary and then cultural secretary of the cultural body.

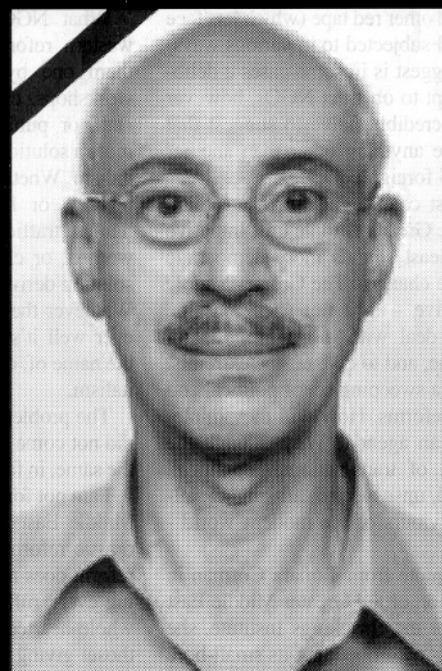
Among his prestigious positions were deputy minister of information and culture during the 1970s and general manager of the Banking Institute.

Humble and respected  
Zain Al-Saqqaf was known for being a

humble person who would had vast connections and relations with various people in different classes of the community. He served his country and particularly village Al-Hadharim of Hugarriya - Taiz Province, with dedication and commitment. He enjoyed strong relations with Al-Saqqaf family members including the founder of Yemen Times, Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who died in 1999.

Zain Al-Saqqaf had several contributions in poetry and writing. He composed several famous poems and wrote a number of publications.

In his honor, a number of activities have taken place, and other activities are also expected to take place in the coming days. Among the activities carried out was a special ceremony organized by the Intellectuals and Writers' Union in which several poems and sermons were read out explaining the features and characteristics of the deceased. Among the prominent intellectuals contributing to the event was Poet Dr. Sultan Al-Suraimi, critic Abdullah Alwan, along with several union members and friends of the late prominent and beloved figure.



ببالغ الأسى تلقينا خبر وفاة المغفور له  
الأستاذ المناضل والأديب الكبير/

زين محمد  
قادري السقاف

رحمه الله

وبهذا المصاب الجلل، نتقدم بتعازينا القلبية  
والمخلصة إلى  
ولده/ غسان زين السقاف وأسرته الكريمة  
وأشقاء الفقيد حامد وفاروق وأنور

داعين الله عز وجل أن يدخله فسيح جناته  
ويتغمده بواسع رحمته وغفرانه ويلهم أهله  
وذويه الصبر والسلوان  
إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

المعزون/

وليد عبد العزيز السقاف  
ريدان عبد العزيز السقاف  
منتسبي صحيفة يمن تايمز  
وجميع آل السقاف



## Words of Wisdom



I am dead worried about how well we qualify our children to interact positively with the rest of the world. It is crucial that we raise children who will feel comfortable in interacting with the world, and who will have a good chance in doing well in the future. That is not happening, given the kind of culture and education we give our kids.

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



## OUR OPINION

## Breaking 'evil traditions' is possible

In Yemen, just as in many other Arab and developing countries, we have a huge number of traditions. Those traditions have existed for many years, and emerged due to many reasons.

Among the traditions that we have in Yemen is chewing qat. This tradition has been a source of pride and wealth for many 'qat businessmen', as some call them. Even though it is widely perceived as something compulsory among vast numbers of the Yemeni community, in reality, almost all Yemenis agree that it is a hazard.

Yet, we continue to allow this tradition to continue.

Among other traditions that are widely applied throughout the country is the habit of blocking streets during wedding ceremonies. Some believe that such actions are in accordance with dignified and proper conduct.

Then there is the tradition of holding religious 'singing ceremonies' during condolence sessions, with free qat for all those coming to mourn the death of a loved one. It is a fact of Yemeni life, that you have to jump over thousands of branches of qat, littering the floor, to arrive at the person to offer condolences. You see everyone gathering around and sitting for hours, doing nothing but chewing and listening to the religious rhymes.

The list goes on and on, and one can see no end to it.

For years, common opinion was that it is inappropriate to say 'no' to such traditions. For so long, people here described such traditions as heritage from the past that MUST be preserved. However, things are slowly but steadily changing.

Nowadays, more people are seriously considering abandoning traditions that result in such unnecessary economic burden and wasted time. Some are courageous enough to openly reject some of the strong traditions, despite the uproar and criticism of many.

A friend had recently held a condolence session and refused to allow qat chewing in the hall. He didn't even bring a religious singer, but rather used his stereo player to play verses from the Quran. He was attacked and criticized by people, who insisted that this would drive away condolers. But in fact, it wasn't the case. Indeed, many people came to pay their condolences and found the place so clean and neat, that qat chewers after sitting for a time with their qat bags hidden behind their backs, left to find another place to practice their daily 'habit'.

When asked why he did what he did, the friend simply referred to the day when the Yemen Times bade farewell to its founder, Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (who was a vicious fighter against qat), in a qat-free condolence session, which set an example for many throughout the country. At the beginning it also received some protests, but later when people thought about it, many realized that when paying tribute to dead people, it is better to not chew qat at all.

What I intended to say is that some traditions can be broken, and should be broken. The evil traditions of the past had implications and continue to have them until today. There is small consensus that those traditions must be 'abandoned', but there is a growing belief that breaking such traditions is not impossible. More young Yemenis are realizing the dangers of chewing qat and are quitting it. Others are realizing the bad habit of blocking streets for marriage ceremonies. There is something going on in the background. However, seeing that change is coming is not enough, we also need to act and encourage change to happen more rapidly.

I am doing it through this column.

I am sure that many Yemenis can formulate other ways to encourage change and sponsor the belief that breaking such evil traditions is possible. And moreover, if Yemen is to progress, getting rid of such traditions is as necessary as it is inevitable.

The Editor



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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## Reading between the lines

By ALAWI ABDULLA ABU BAKIR TAHA  
FOR YEMEN TIMES  
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Sometimes, trying to convey what I'm reflecting on is difficult because of the world we live in, and the world we live in isn't what it seems to be. Wherever I go, whatever job I am in, whatever initiative I step into, whatever vision I try to support, I find much of it is based on illusions, lies and hidden agendas. And the man or woman who is sincere and truthful, is seen as the aggressor or rebel. No matter where I go, no matter what I see and even touch, it seems nothing is real in this world. No matter who I have associated with in England and talked to, it seems it is hard for them to be truthful. The closer I got to what I was searching for, the further away I got in wanting what people wanted. But I also see that people who have attached their hearts to this world have a lot to lose. This world is all they've got!

They talk about succession, leaving a legacy behind but when I say: "What about you building for the next life?"

It is alarming for them to comprehend and I am even talking about some Muslims in the mainstream world. They cover their guilt, their 'knowledge', by coming out with some philosophy or Sufi saying, or some quote from a book about 'one should do it for love'. Yet, love for God is about being true to what you love, and if it is Allah then Allah the All Mighty wants you to do what He has ordained you to do and to bow to no man or woman's whims, system or agenda even if it isolates you.

I remember, when Muhammad (SAW) was trying his best to please the Quriash to work with them, build a solid relationship with them for the interest only of Islam and while he was doing this, a blind man by the name of Ibn Umm Maktoom came to him for help in understanding Islam, the Qur'an. He frowned at him. He was not pleased at the blind man's interruption. Then Allah the All Mighty revealed to Muhammad Surah 80, called Frowning.

"He frowned and turned his back when the blind man came to him. How could you tell? He might have sought to purify himself. He might have been forewarned and the reminder might have profited him. But to the one who considered himself self-sufficient you were all attention. Yet the fault would not be yours if he remained uncleansed. As to him who comes to you with zeal and with a feeling of fear in his heart, him you ignore and

busy yourself with tribes. No indeed! This is an admonition; let him who will, bear it in mind. It is written on honored pages, exalted, purified, by the hands of noble and devout scribes. Perish man! How ungrateful he is! Of what did Allah create him? Of a little germ. He created him and proportioned him. He makes his path smooth for him. He then causes him to die and puts him in his grave. He will surely bring him back to life when He pleases. But by no means has man fulfilled His bidding. Let man reflect on the food he eats: how We pour down the rain in torrents, and cleave the earth in fissures; how We bring forth the corn, the grapes, and the fresh vegetation, the olive and the palm, the dense tree'd gardens, the fruit-trees and the green pastures, for you and your cattle to delight in. But when the stunning blast is sounded, on that day each man will forsake his brother, his mother and his father, his wife and his children: for each one of them will on that day have enough preoccupation's of his own. Some faces on that day shall be beaming, smiling and joyful. Some other faces on that day shall be covered with dust, veiled with darkness. These shall be the faces of the disbelievers, the hardened in sin." Qura'n Suran 80.

I remembered these very words of our Lord and you know, I felt, that people are pleasing someone else, or doing things to get to some place so they can then apply some law but do it first with silence and insincerity, forgetting that the power belongs to Allah the All Mighty. The means do not justify the ends, and if you compromise once they shall make you compromise a second time and again. If in your heart, you are not bowing to the whims of man, of directors, of funders, of anyone, to be scared to speak out, and stay silent because you are waiting for the time, because people will isolate you and believe me, they try to like a pack of wolves, then man is a fool. For death can be upon us any second, hour or day.

As I evaluated my life, I have to be honest. I smelt the stench of this world. I felt the stench of how community organisations, business centers, councilors and even how the system of the government plays its cards, enslaving the minds of people, shaping people who deceive each other so much so, that you can't even tell if the man or woman is speaking the truth or talking to you in some code. They throw money to our communities, like throwing a bone in the middle of pack of dogs. What happens? The aim, the objective is lost, the struggle, the disease which they're trying to eradicate is forgotten and replaced with something else. A distraction.

I couldn't sleep today, and the more I thought about everything in life, how the system in all things work within organisations, community, preparing for strategy building, I realised something so important, something that I knew already but never have I understood what we have until now. We speak of it but do we really know? We know of it, we admire it, we want it back when we lose it, or see someone else we know lose it, and we look in the mirror of our own souls. Those with any decency, honor, nobility would cry or at least feel something in their hearts.

Whatever I see in this world, it isn't real. Wallahi! It's not real, it is a mirage, an illusion brothers and sisters. It is a distraction for the heart of a man, woman and children. The only thing that is real is when we put our foreheads on that floor because this is what we shall take with us. The only thing that is real is when we help our fellow man, our communities, with nobility, truth and zeal to stand against all odds and be true to the very words you speak. The only thing that is real, is when we can unite our own families together as one while others can't even together, have no time to even meet once a week, because they have been distracted from the real purpose of this life. Don't tell me about the world and what we must do and how we shall gain our world, our country, our wealth, our economy back if we cannot even come together as a family, as a community and not argue, or fight each other! The truth will set us free and its the truth that will leave us a legacy in the greatest company ever.

Today is the day that I feel much sorrow for many of my fellow men and my heart weighs heavy today more than it has ever been. I would give a mountain of gold, my whole wealth, whatever small thing I have, the belongings of my home, to be in the company of men who still live in this world but their hearts are not in this world, and they never compromise on the integrity Allah the All Mighty gave them.

Years ago, the crusades came with their missionaries to the Arab world, the next was with major weapons but I tell you now, it won't be tanks, bullets, planes or war strategy that they will be concentrating on. It will be 'ideology'. Getting into the minds of our future generation, keeping them busy and wrapped up in the system, chasing that gold nugget of a feeling of power, that they can change a thing. The most powerful tool ever will be 'distraction' and my heart weighs heavy because I can read and see between the lines. I see what it's doing to my people, our ummah.

Salat has never tasted sweeter than today.

## NGOs: Another wing of US foreign policy

By ABDULHAQQ ABDULLAH  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES  
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I would like to respond to your editorial column in issue 760, on the subject of NGOs. Firstly, I think it quite natural for many governments, or should I say dictators, in the Middle East to show suspicion towards NGOs. This does not mean that I condone the bureaucracy of licensing procedures and other red tape (which lets face it we are all subjected to in various ways) that you suggest is in some cases a deliberate attempt to obstruct NGOs, however we'd be incredibly naive to suggest that NGOs were anything other than another wing of US foreign policy.

The latest catch phrase in US foreign policy is the Greater Middle East Initiative (which at least sounds more democratic than regime change). The Greater Middle East Initiative - in a nut shell - is the attempt to deal with the entire Muslim world as one, and to counter the extremist threat with a sweeping set of political and economic reforms. How will they implement such an agenda? Why through the phenomena of trans-national, apolitical, non-aligned, unsuspected, all-singing, all-dancing, saviours of the modern world - NGOs.

Let me quote from Tamara Cofman in her evaluation of the Greater Middle East Initiative for the Brookings Institute, she argues that: "by embedding its small-bore programs in a network of new institutions with their own funding and capacity. Such institutions, once created, might begin to take on a life and logic of their own, and with luck can insulate the project of democracy promotion in the Middle East from the swings of political fortune that have often doomed similar efforts in the past. While some G-8 partners may balk at the creation of so many new multilateral institutions, such components are what ensure that the Greater Middle East Initiative is built in a way that is sustainable over the long term."

What does that mean in simple

English? It means that NGOs are a good because 1) they are self financing so cost the US tax payer nothing, 2) they are self perpetuating and don't need Government control leading to 3) they are not linked to any government so are seen as being impartial and 'credible', 4) you can have an NGO for every reform issue under the sun - in fact it seems the more the merrier, and 5) most importantly, what they promote is exactly the same as what the US wants promoted in the Middle East.

What NGOs bring are items of the western reform agenda, and they bring them one by one. Whether they hold workshops, or lectures, or training seminars, or publish publications, they promote a solution deriving from secular capitalism. Whether the subject is poverty, or literacy, or human rights, press rights, human trafficking, or empowerment of women, or child labour, they promote a solution deriving from secular capitalism. Whatever the development project, however well it's administered, it is done in the name of, or for, an idea of secular capitalism.

The problem is that Secular Capitalism did not come from Islam. The two are not the same, in fact they almost always differ.

I am not for one second arguing that the Middle East is not in desperate need of drastic reform - it is. However, needing reform does not predispose us to embracing every ruff and ready suggestion with whole-hearted applause. Especially when those giving advice are the ones who caused most of the problems in the first place, and who still clearly have vested interests. In fact in issue 758 of the Yemen Times there was a fantastic article by Gwynne Dyer entitled 'What's wrong with the Arab World?', which argued very plainly the case that it was western Governments who imposed the current ruling structures on the Middle East, precisely to further their own interests. Why would their 'reform suggestions' be any more sincere?

Lets face it, this is what the reform agenda means:

Political reform means the imposition

of democracy, which means subjecting the rules of Islam to the popular vote, in other words we are liberated by being given the legal right to pick and choose the bits of our religion we want to abide by.

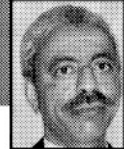
Economic reform means 'encouraging free trade' (which means opening up local markets to foreign goods, by reducing 'protectionism' such as government subsidies and import taxes), 'reducing foreign debt' (which means paying back loans and the accumulated interest which means short term money making initiatives such as increasing taxes and selling off natural resources), and 'public sector reform' which means privatisation, which means selling off national resources to foreign investors. All of which are devastating for the local economy, though quite good for the global one.

Social reform means changing the role and perception of women, which means making women work, encouraging promiscuity, tolerance of the immoral, and encouraging the traditionally taboo.

NGOs are the front end and the friendly face of all of this. Whilst the individuals involved in the work are undoubtedly sincere, they are promoting a culture and a way of life mutually exclusive to Islam. They don't attack Islam by name, of course not, they merely argue the rational of ideas which contradict it. If you ask them they'll tell you that Islam is a good religion, but it is secular capitalism that they look to for answers.

Building infrastructure, providing drinking water, sanitation, public transport, electricity, judiciary, education and healthcare are the exclusive responsibility of Government, not NGOs. Why else do we have governments - if not to administer projects that are in the collective interest and from which everyone benefits? The more we accept NGOs to do the work of government the more we tolerate governmental incompetence, and the longer we're stuck with it. The sad truth is that the kind of reform needed is a little more drastic than patchwork plasters of 'development aid' or the lipstick of 'democracy'.

## COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

## Yemen's sectarian record of tolerance

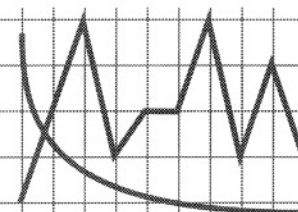
Yemen has a long history of relative peace among the religious sects of the population and both the Sunni (Shafe'i) and Shiite (Zeidi) constituencies that make up the majority of the people of Yemen have no historical record of armed conflict between them. Thus, one is not expecting that the present conflict in Sa'ada should reflect any real conflict emanating from religious persuasion. The Government should make great efforts to contain the conflict as much as possible and seek all serious efforts to reach a hopefully peaceful finale to this sad tragedy that apparently got out of proportion unnecessarily, with the sad outcome of many lives needlessly lost, many of whom were civilians, who had nothing to do with the conflict. The Government has wisely chosen to encourage dialogue as the right course to settle all religious sectarian disagreement and to confront any extremist ideas from distorting the mostly moderate religious inclinations of most Yemenis, Shafe'i and Zeidi. If the guns could stop doing the talking in Sa'ada, perhaps this dialogue can extend to this conflict and hopefully continue to ensure that Yemen remains free from any sectarian strife. Furthermore, the religious scholars of both sectarian persuasions have always managed to ensure that adherents of both sects respect each other and exercise the highest levels of tolerance and acceptance of each other as bona fide members of the fold of the faithful.

Religious differences amongst the various sects in Islam are really secondary in nature and almost all have their roots in political conflict, almost starting soon after the Prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah be upon him) passed away without setting out the mechanism for choosing the leadership of the state. We can assume this, despite the existence of some claims to the contrary. But, one is convinced that had the Prophet set forth the appropriate system or defined a clear succession, no one in his right mind would have dared to challenge such guidelines. Most likely, in view of the democratic nature of Islam and its advocacy for participation of the faithful in the determination of their political future, the Al-Mighty and the Prophet left it for the faithful to decide on their political future, based on the political maturity of the faithful. Thus, as political differences became encouraged by those who sought different political angles to the succession of the leadership of the Moslem Nation (Ummah), sectarian inclinations evolved. These sectarian inclinations seldom touched on the major pillars of faith, which luckily for Islam pretty much kept the religion in keeping with the Prophet's teachings on the basic theological dogma and worship rites. In fact most "founders" of the different religious sects never claimed to be seeking to come up with a religious sect or claimed that their views surpassed those of their predecessors. The sects came only after the passing of these "founders", who only sought to suggest that their knowledge of religious doctrine led them to believe in certain interpretations of the Quran or the traditions of the Prophet, on which Moslems must look to for proper adherence to the faith. Ironically, almost all these original religious scholars, were more outspoken on the regression that the political regimes of their times have imposed on the faithful and sought to end all forms of persecution and tyranny they found to be anathema to Islamic teachings. Many of them were themselves victims of political repression for their outspoken views and gave their lives accordingly. There are nine leading teachers, to which most of the sects of Islam originate from, many of whom had their "sects" develop long after their passing. The first of these leading religious teachers was Zeid Ibn Ali (on whom Zeidis rely for their interpretation of Islamic dogma). His pursuit centered on challenging the oppressive rule of the Omayyad Caliphate, which has set up a regime that far deviated from the original democracy and pious adherence to Islamic social and political principles generally manifested by the early Islamic State under the first four Caliphs (Orthodox Caliphate). Zeid was called upon to lead a popular rebellion against the repressive regime and to return Islamic governance to the principles of human rights and social equity taught and practiced by the Prophet Mohammed and his early successors. Zeid was unquestionably a scholar in religious dictates and many of the "founders" of the other sects refer to him considerably in fomenting their own teachings. The "founders" of the Hanafi, Ja'afari and other sects all refer to Zeid's theological and dogmatic renditions of the teachings of Islam. Of course none ever denounced each other for their respective interpretation of religious doctrine. Thus, it is imperative for Moslems to start studying the teachings of all the famous religious interpreters over the ages and they will surely find that, in essence, most of these religious scholars pursued the same ends, mainly on the political front: Islam must insist on political freedom and social equality for all the faithful and an end to all forms of oppression exercised by the state, not to mention the misuse of public funds and property for self enrichment by the ruling establishment. Later, the followers of these different teachers may have introduced dictates for "their followers" to perhaps to give some form of distinction that will bring these followers together, but in reality did not dare to introduce tremendous differences among the faithful that over all deviated from the basic pillars of Islam. Sometimes successive political regimes in the history of Islam sought to encourage sectarian differences by having some scholars introduce various tenets amongst followers of different sects, for the sake of "divide and rule" or to keep people busy on trivial religious issues and steer away from political thought or outright protest against political oppression. Notwithstanding this, however, very seldom has religious conflict among the different Moslem sects led to bloody confrontations amongst adherents of the different sects in Islam, such as those Europe witnessed, especially after the Reformation of Martin Luther. In Yemen, this peaceful coexistence among the constituencies of the major religious sects has been exemplary and it is hoped that it shall continue to be so.

**Apology:** Common Sense apologizes for inadvertently not presenting the edited proof-read edition last issue, thus the obvious mistakes appearing in the article.



## YT Business



# The Necessity of information (1-2)

BY: TAUFIK A. AL-DOBHANI  
THE G.D. FOR AGRICULTURAL  
MARKETING  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The importance of data and information, as a basis for success, is obvious. The development of various economic activities and the increased specialization in economic processes, as well as the interactions, interrelationships and integrations of different economies and economic sectors, over the last century, has led to the accumulation of large amounts of data and information. Consequently, many specialized organizations and institutions have been created with the aim of dealing with all different aspects of data analysis and management. Moreover, the information sector of many economies is considered to be the cornerstone for all other sectors, so specialized scientific disciplines have developed to support

and facilitate the collection, the use, the provision of and the transmission of all kinds of data and information, for all purposes, e.g. various applied information technologies. These efforts have been and will continue to be made with the overall objective of facilitating and ensuring the collection, provision, and the proper application of data and information, for all required purposes, at all possible levels, and in all desirable forms.

In the context of the decision making process at any given level, the application of adequate and appropriate data-information, in the required form, is considered to be the basis for sustainable success and development. i.e. forming a precondition and a basis to ensure the following main results:

- appropriate planning and effective performance
- smooth monitoring process and accurate assessments

- efficient use of resources
- effective management control
- application of efficient and appropriate policies and measures
- minimal risks

Based on these rather brief and general outlines, it may be beneficial here to go into a more detailed discussion on the applicability of the above aspects for Yemen.

For more than 2 decades, Yemen has acknowledged the necessity of focusing on data and information. Yemen has applied many measures to promote and encourage data related activities, through a series of policies, decisions and induced regulations. For example, by establishing specialized Departments for planning and statistics at all line Ministries and their underlying regional and provincial offices, the creation of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) as a central reference for collecting, organizing and providing all kinds of data and information, and more recently the creation

of the National Information Centre (NIC).

All these and other public and private organizations are operating in different ways, to serve the purpose under consideration. Some publish periodical publications, some are subject to the provision of rather general data on all or many economic sectors. However, by focusing on a specific and particular sector and/or on sub-sector information requirements, a relatively clear vision can be explored.

Let us limit our discussion from here on to the agricultural sector as it forms the most important non-oil sector in the Yemeni economy. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) is collecting data and information related to agriculture through its underlying specialized departments (in particular the department for agricultural statistics and the department for planning and monitoring) and through targeted surveys and studies.

It publishes related data and information

through the agricultural statistics year book, and all other collected information is collected and kept mainly in its underlying library and offices. Nevertheless, a major part of the available information is not well organized and considered to be not for immediate use for specific sub-sector purposes, nor are they regularly updated.

This is due to the inapplicability of well defined information flows within the ministry and between it and other related organizations, including its own underlying branches and institutes.

These and other related problems have prevailed for over one decade resulting in minimizing the effective utilization of available information. The recognition of these constraints, and other internal agricultural marketing and trade related pressures, have resulted, in the year 2000, in the establishment of the Marketing Information System (MIS), (through an independent project supported by the EU under the G.D. for agricultural marketing of

## 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

the MAI).

Such projects are required and can be justified for any given sub-sector to facilitate the acquisition and provision of more intensive data, based on a well defined and sustainable system of information flow, to ensure data reviews, assessments and required analysis, as well as to allow for their country wide coverage, so as to improve their reliability and utility for different users.

In this regard, this particular project has established in its first phase, 7 regional offices in the most important governorates, which are operated, by local based technical personnel to collect, all assigned information on a daily basis.

The data is mainly related to agricultural supply and demand elements, as given at respective wholesale markets. Every day all the relevant data is collected from all 7 governorates and transmitted through an online E-mail network to the project HQ in Sana'a.

## Central Bank proposes two options for reform

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Central Bank of Yemen is pondering on assessing conditions of Yemeni banks for reforming them in a manner commensurate to the speedy development in the world of finance and economic globalization. In addition, to be able to compete, the Central Bank seeks to reconsider paid capitals of those banks.

The Mayor of the Central bank Ahmed al-Samawi had affirmed, at the conclusion of an activity related to the programs of communication and the art of dealing with clients and the rules of banking marketing, that the Yemeni banks had two options to select from for reforming their conditions. They were the raising of their capitals or merging them in order to be capable to compete at this age of globalization.

The Central bank that the minimum limit of the paid capital should be equal to \$ 30 million, i.e. YR 6 billion for any new bank or foreign branch wishes to work in Yemen. Mr al-Samawi also said that the banking activity in Yemen had seen great

developments especially activity of commercial banks that possess 170 branches in various governorates of the country. Mayor of the central bank had made it clear that commercial banks were endeavouring use hundreds of machine cashiers in town due to the trust their services receive from the public.

The volume of deposits accumulated at the commercial banks has amounted to around YR 520 billion and their assets amounted to more than a billion dollars. The central bank mayor also confirms that the activity and development of commercial banks is ascribed basically to improvement in performance of the Yemeni economy and that has pushed international establishments of evaluation to raise their credit evaluation of Yemen to from c- to b+. Mr Samawi also sees that the Yemeni market has. During the past years, witnessed stability in the exchange prices and reserves had been built estimated at over \$ 5 billion. The external balances have achieved large surpluses and Yemen has met all of its dues to the world.

On the other hand, the mayor of the central bank has disclosed the existence of a noticeable drop in the bank-



Central Bank Of Yemen building in Sana'a

ing awareness in the society and that it affects the banking activity. He says there are 600 thousand bank accounts in the Yemeni banking sector and no more than 500 thousand to 600 thousand cheques are annually circulated. Hence, according to the mayor of the central bank, there should be an effort exerted for upgrading the banking situation among members of the society.

He has also called on commercial banks to follow all possible ways and means for attracting citizens to deposit their money in the banks in order to enhance and develop the banking work in the economic activity and the process of construction and development.

However, the low level of liquidity volume among the population and drop in levels of income, affect the volume of deposits of citizens more than low banking awareness among members of the community.

What is the more important in all this is whether plans of the central bank would succeed for the reform of the Yemeni banks' conditions under the problems they are facing, particularly those banks that suffer from floundering in regaining their loans from borrowers.

## Small enterprises, tiny but vital

BY ABDULAZIZ MOHAMMED  
ABDULLAH  
ADEN

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, in a ministerial decree in 1991, defined small enterprises as follows:

- 1- Any productive unit involving ten workers and YR 1-2 million worth of equipment.
- 2- A productive unit with equipment surpassing a value of YR 2 million, but which does not use more than 10 workers.
- 3- Any operational productive unit.
- 4- The Employer(s) is/are not

among the workers.

On the other hand, the Industrial Survey conducted in 1996, gave a different definition of small, medium, and large enterprises:

- 1- Small enterprises employ less than 5 employees.
- 2- Medium enterprises employ 5-9 workers.
- 3- Big enterprises involve ten or more workers.

The results of that survey indicate that all industrial establishments amounted to 30,042. According to the above mentioned definition, large enterprises totaled 251 (less than 1% of the total number), medium ones totaled 1051 (3.5%), while the remain-

ing 95.7% were small enterprises.

The contribution of the industrial sector to domestic production can be increased if a better investment atmosphere is fostered and maintained. Small industrial establishments have the potential to contribute greatly. The economic policy should be geared towards encouraging small industries, facilitating the establishment of new small enterprises and improving the present ones. However, current policies basically aim at encouraging and protecting big industries. For example, the latest investment law, Investment Law No. 22 for 2002, gives advantages to big projects of all different types (industrial, housing, health, tourism etc), statement No. 23 of the law says that for an enterprise to enjoy

tax exemptions, assets (excluding land and buildings) should exceed YR 50 million or equivalent, and employees should number at least 10. As for construction and tourism projects, the former should have no less than 50 housing units, and the latter be no less than three stars.

Thus, it is necessity to consider the condition small enterprises globally, not only in the industrial sector, but also in other fields, since they have a great impact on the macroeconomics of the developing, as well as the developed, countries.

In Japan, for example, small enterprises provide some 72% of the requirements of the mineral industry, 76% of the engineering industry, and 79% of the electrical and

electronic industry. Not only that, but small and medium sized enterprises contribute 30% of the country's of the total industrial exports.

It is no wonder that this type of small industry plays a key role in social and economic development, with key advantages including:

- The development of urban communities in districts and provinces because they are so numerous and spread over a large area.
- The provision of products for various social classes, especially those with limited incomes, because they fit and adapt to local markets.
- Creating job opportunities which contributes to reducing unemployment.

- Enhancing the integration of differently sized industries and organisations by supplying basic components such as spare parts, and electronic equipment etc.

It is vital to recognise the importance of small enterprises in all sectors (industrial, services, etc). The government should nurture and take care of small enterprises through the establishment of a legal and institutional framework for them. A law for small and micro enterprises should be issued, with standardized definitions that differentiates between small, medium, and large enterprises not only in terms of the number of employees, but also in terms of the invested capital, and technology.



# Women Education: alarming statistics

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**T**he third set of secondary school results, announced recently by the Ministry of Education for the year 2003-2004, show that the problem of girl's education still persists.

Education is less accessible to women despite the fact that they account for the greatest portion of society (50.5% of the Yemeni population are female). According to the statistics of the population census, figures indicate that only 32.8% of elementary school students are girls, which opens up an almost insurmountable gap between the two sexes.

Further statistics inform us of the gravity of the problems faced by Yemeni women in the realm of educational. Yemen forms a community rampant with social, cultural and humanitarian obstacles to women's education.

Referring to the results of a survey conducted in 1999 to assess the rate of students joining schools against the number of youngsters eligible to go to school, only 58.58% of school-age youngsters go to school, in comparison to 43% in 1981. That is to say nearly 20 years has not done much to raise the rate of school-attending children.

Figures reveal that rate of illiteracy among females reached 74% in 2001 in comparison to 44% for males.

Through examining the figures, we find many reasons behind women's educational deprivation.

Dr. Fathiah Mohammed, Secretary General of the Higher Motherhood and Childhood Council, says that early marriage is one of the main factors that causes the removal of girls from education. "due to its biological and psychological responsibilities, as well as



Girl students registering at university

the social pressures, early marriage makes girls opt out of school" said she.

Among other factors are old-fashioned social conventions such as the family's unwillingness to allow daughters to continue education. There is also lack of single sex girls schools, high costs of education, and a lack of provincial universities.

These factors, and many others, restrict the opportunities that girls have to get an education.

## Women and university education

Researcher Ahmed Salem said indications show that, examining the educational stages, women's chances decrease gradually as we go upward. Women form just 23.6% of university students, while higher studies host

about 148 females compared with 500 males.

This low number of females is proportionate to the limited number of training opportunities for female teachers at the elementary education stage. There are only 3066 female teachers in comparison with 117,841 males.

In universities, there are only 167 female teachers, that is, 6.2 percent of the total number of the staff, which amounts to 2689 teachers.

Figures show clearly the deprivation of women. Some 34% of school-age children do not join schools due to their family's unwillingness (87% of which are girls); 24% do not join schools due to their family's inability to pay educational costs (66% of which are girls); 13.5% do not study

because of the lack of a nearby school (of which 50% are girls); 10.3% do not join school because of difficulty involved in reaching the school (61% of which are girls); 2.2% because they help their families (73% of which are girls); 1.3% because of illness or disability (66.6% of which are girls); and 1.3% because of a disinterest in education (50% of which are girls).

The statistics show clearly why children do not join schools, and the appalling ratio that 71% of them are girls. The figures reflect the problem and its complications. The current condition will give birth to a generation of uneducated and illiterate women, in a society that aspires to deal with cutting edge technology. So, what is our fate, and what is the solution?

# Why do we learn English?

By TEACHER MOH'D .O. AL-HOMAIDI  
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**S**ometimes, we ask ourselves: "why do we learn English?" then the answer is, simply, to succeed in the exams. Everybody knows that English is a good medium of communication, within the world, so we must learn it.

Everybody knows that English is the most widely used international language of today. It is spoken by more than half of the people of the world. Some speak English as their own language, and some speak it as a second language. By learning English we can enlarge our mental horizons and increase our knowledge because we shall have a better chance of reading a wide variety of books, newspapers, and magazines.

English is also useful in other different fields of life such as business and commerce. Indeed, many businessmen build their success upon their good knowledge of English.

Students sometimes study their subjects in English. Businessmen use English at their meetings; scientists and doctors write articles in English; tourists speak English when they go abroad, it helps them enjoy their trips

and communicate with other people to develop better understanding and establish new friendships.

Moreover, English helps us follow television programs and enjoy interesting films, and read the literature of other people.

English is particularly important in the fields of science and technology. There are many scientific books that we shall not be able to enjoy without a good knowledge of English. Besides, technology of the modern world is, as a matter of fact, available in English. We would be completely ignorant of many scientific facts without knowledge of English.

From what we have said, one can say that English is learnt for both benefit and enjoyment. It is, in a word, a way to success not only in examinations but also in life, for this reason, students learn English - not only to pass their examinations but also to enjoy the pleasures of life.

We can summarize the reason for wanting to learn English in that nothing can be done, without it. Especially with regards to dealing with computers and modern technology, such as the internet. Without English, one is closed to those linguistic items which render us capable of entering the modern technological world.



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# Environmental sustainability needs sound public policy



BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

To maintain environmental sustainability - the seventh UN millennium goal - requires achieving development whilst sustaining the productive capacity of ecosystems for the sake of coming generations.

These two goals are, in turn, based on a pack of public policies which reflect the consequences of damage to the environment, and aim to improve the quality of ecosystem management.

There are two dimensions for the challenge. The first being to preserve the scarce natural resources harvested by the livelihoods of the poor. The second

being to protect the environment from the damages caused by the extravagances of the rich.

Ensuring the sustainability of the environment and its resources, includes developing poor communities, and changing harmful production and consumption patterns. Energy plants, for example, should emit a lesser proportion of gases contributing to global warming, and fishing areas ought to be dealt with as possessing a limited resource and not to be unconditionally open.

In the meantime, there are environmental problems erupting due to poverty and demographic problems, which worsen the living standard of people especially in rural areas, putting pressure on them and the environment.

For instance, there is a correlation between the high child mortality and high fertility; between overpopulation

and high childbirth rate.

Farmers add insult to injury by cutting woods for kindling and creating new arable lands.

The situation gets worse. Natural resources decrease and ecosystems deteriorate resulting in a stark impact on the poor.

Environment is sometimes corrupted by the poor, and this is because the rich elite deprive them of their rights to natural resources. They are driven usually onto undesirable land, more susceptible to degradation.

The poor are likely to be vulnerable to environmental stressors such as floods, long draught periods, and climatic changes. This is because they get posed between the hammer of poverty and the harshness of the environment.

They are generally deprived of rights and means to invest in sustainable environment resources by treating

wastewater, for example. With these reasons are taken into account, policies can decrease demographic pressures on fragile ecosystems, because poverty alleviation has a pivotal role in environmental conservation.

Ignoring environmental sustainability may harm people and in the long run, demolish poverty alleviation efforts, even if it brings about economic returns in the short-term.

The inextricable relationship between poverty and a degraded environment prompts us to focus on the requirements of people who get their livelihoods from natural resources and environmental services.

In terms of public policies and actual procedures, prudence can create new job opportunities by supporting property and utility rights, as well as enforcing people's participation in decision-making.

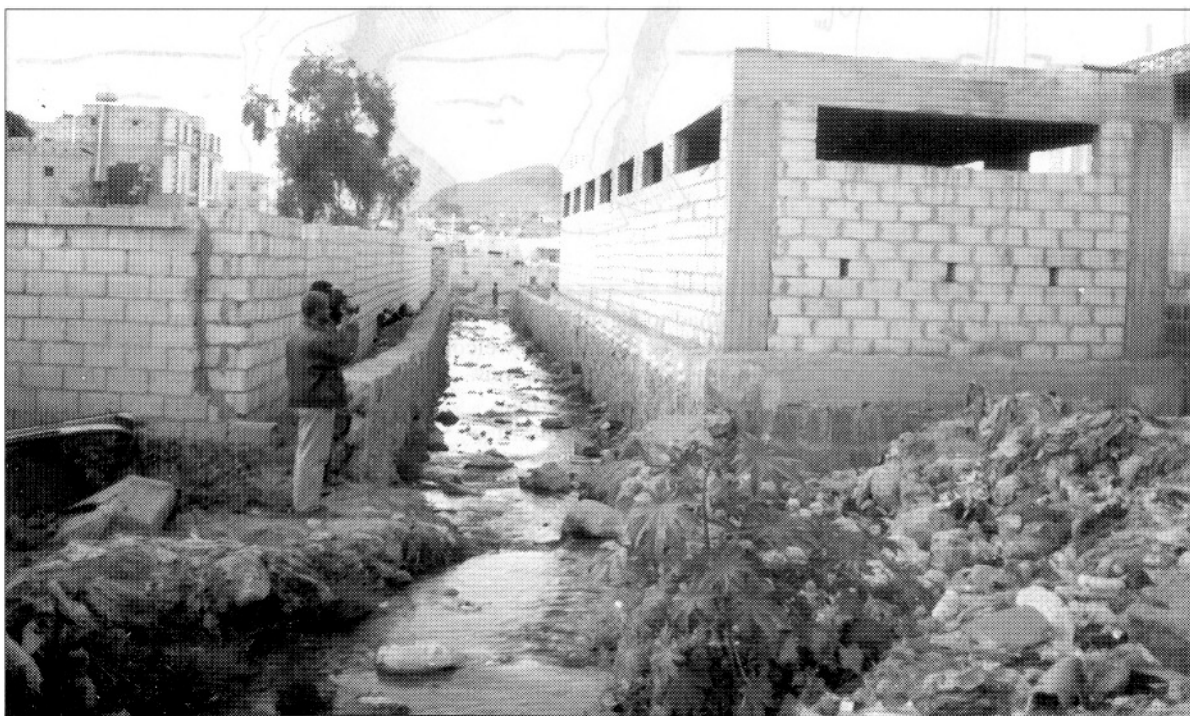
# Environment Health Reactivation

The environment Health Department in al-Qahirah district, Taiz town, under the chairmanship of Tareq Al Ashwal reactivated the following up and inspection of the cafeterias, the restaurants and the groceries which do not adopt the cleanliness and the health standards in offering meals and in which diseases and especially diarrhea have affected their customers.

The following up and inspection operation has lead to confiscating a large quantity of spoiled food stuffs besides vegetables and grapes used as juices.

Furthermore, several useless vessels carrying bacteria and corrosion were confiscated. Mr. Al Ashwal, the officer-in-charge, has directed the owners of those cafeterias and restaurants that their workers should put on the government stipulated uniforms, which are green in color, to obtain for themselves a clearance certificate of being free from infectious diseases.

As well, the metal kneaders that carry corrosion were confiscated and ordered to be replaced by kneaders made up of white marble so as to avoid corrosion and what results out of it.



Garbage littering residential areas, effecting public health

## SAUDI COMPANY REQUIRES REPRESENTATIVE BASED IN SANAA

We require a dynamic representative, preferably aged 35-45 years old. Although based in Sanaa, he will be required to travel within the Yemen to introduce and market our services:

Prerequisites (Yemen Nationals only)

- University Degree, with advantage in an Engineering field
- Proficiency in Arabic & English, computerate
- Minimum 5 years experience in logistics, transportation or port services

- Please send full resume with educational resume and work experience.

- Short-listed Candidates will be advised about interview dates,

- When applying, please send detailed resume with educational certificates and work experience attached to:

Fax # : 00-966-2-6525330

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Yemen  
Higher Education Development Project  
CONSULTING SERVICES  
Credit No: 3674-YEM.

### Expressions of interest

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in *UN Development Business*

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds to make payments under the contract for Higher Education Development Project.

The services include assisting the local management of the library systems at place at Sana'a University and the University of Aden in introducing ICT based information services, for the central library and three branches at each University.

The Higher Education Development Project now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition). January 1997 and revised in September 1997, and January 1999, and May 2002 and May 2004

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours: 08 to 15 hours .

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by September 20, 2004

Higher Education Development Project  
Attn: Dr. Mohamed Al-Mekhlafy Project Technical Coordinator  
St. No. 6 off Algazaer st. Building No 42. Sana'a Republic of Yemen , Higher Education Development Project,  
P. O. Box ; (15643 ) Tel : 00967-1-409844 Fax :00967-1-209843  
E-Mail : hep@yemen.net.ye

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The services include assisting to identify and adapt an appropriate management information system(MIS) to serve the needs of the MHESR and higher educations. The MIS would encompass inter alia student admissions and records, student performance, faculty evaluations and career data, unit costs and financial data, to provide timely information for academic planning, budget preparation, financial control and quality assurance.

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## Yemeni Press.

## A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

## Main headlines

- American press reports: Houthi rebellion, link in American scenario
- 20 sportsmen injured in a bus turnover incident
- 20 boats a gift from the UAE to Yemeni coast guard
- Pakistan: Bin Laden moves between our borders and Afghanistan
- Academic appointments violating the law,
- Sana'a University insists on its stand, the union resorts to judiciary
- President Saleh met Wednesday tribes' chieftains and figures of Sa'ada
- The new Palestinian ambassador to Yemen: continued attempts for destroying the Aqsa Mosque
- Government forces continue operations against al-Sulaiman Mountain
- Political figures warn against expansion of the war zone and the use of citizens against each others
- Drugs in the free zone, smuggled medicines at the port in Aden
- Defence group skeptical about evidence presented against those accused of Cole explosion
- Tribes entrusted with chasing al-Houthi and his followers
- Its quantity estimated at 89 thousand ampoules,
- Seizing the second largest quantity of drugs in the free zone in Aden
- The president calls for an enlightening religious address capable of dealing with issues of the age
- Security and economic agreements during president Saleh's coming visit to Britain
- FM al-Qirbi: Yemen to receive soon a number of its citizens detained in Guantanamo
- Tightening the grip on Houthi's insurgents, a number of them arrested and others surrendered
- Infantry battalion headed for Sa'ada
- Investigation into smuggled expired vaccination
- A new highway linking Sana'a to Mahweet and Hodeidah, inaugurated
- In his interview to the Lebanese newspaper Al Safer, president Saleh says Yemen among countries forming an example of democratic and political reform
- President Saleh to visit Britain
- Covering all Yemen in four months,
- Yemen Mobile to be launched in the first week of September
- Twenty boats for Yemen from the United Arab Emirates
- A person tried to smuggle more than 88 thousand ampoules into Yemen captured

السبأ  
Al Mithaq weekly,  
organ of the  
General People's  
Congress 16 August  
2004.

الشموع  
Al-Shumou weekly,  
21 August 2004.

## Main headlines

- Qardawi appeals to president Saleh to exercise political and diplomatic pressure for the prevention of the Zionist criminal plot against the Aqsa Mosque
- Official source for the Abyan governorate: Aden-Abyan army was finished seven years ago
- Two years from now, heads of local authority would be elected
- Journalists Syndicate approves the Press Award project
- Al Jawfi: New curricula for the secondary school stage the next academic year

The newspaper's editorial says the backward projects that raise slogans of going back to the past are doomed to failure even if their advocates covered themselves with religion. The reason why they fail is that they impact with the age and our national constants and the values and legislations governing us in the democratic society.

The latest example is the failure of al-Houthi sedition because it has been founded on bases, slogans, and goals the Yemeni people reject. This is an evidence of the extent and degree of awareness and great change in our society. The Yemeni people are living a new life, always renewable and the idea of going back to the past is in the minds of those linking themselves and their destiny to the ecclesiasticism.

Another forward step in the field of the transfer of power totally to the citizens in their districts has become imminent after the success of our experiment of the local authority.

- Senor government officials sacked I the wake of information on properties worth billions in banks
- 400 of al-Mahdi militia arrested, Al Sadr disappeared, conflicting reports on Iraqi police control of Imam Ali shrine
- Zionist enemy prevents Palestinians from performing prayers in the Aqsa mosque

The newspaper's editorial says the state of rebellion led by al-Houthi in the governorate of Sa'ada has created a crack in all spectra of the Yemeni political arena. What has happened of examples of resentment in bases of the political spectra because of ambiguity perching on minds of most bases of political parties because of Sa'ada events consequences are in fact representing a setback hit most of those political parties with heavy effect.

الوحدة  
Al-Wahda weekly,  
18 August 2004.

## Main headlines

- Political and economic reforms would affect senior people
- Yemen expresses its regret for deterioration of situations in Iraq
- The government puts controls for regulating sea fishing
- Britain abolishes its warnings for visiting Yemen
- Last July, forgery and embezzlement of YR 24 million in Amran
- Yemeni-Saudi agreement project for managing dangerous wastes

- Final hearing of the accused of Limburg blast

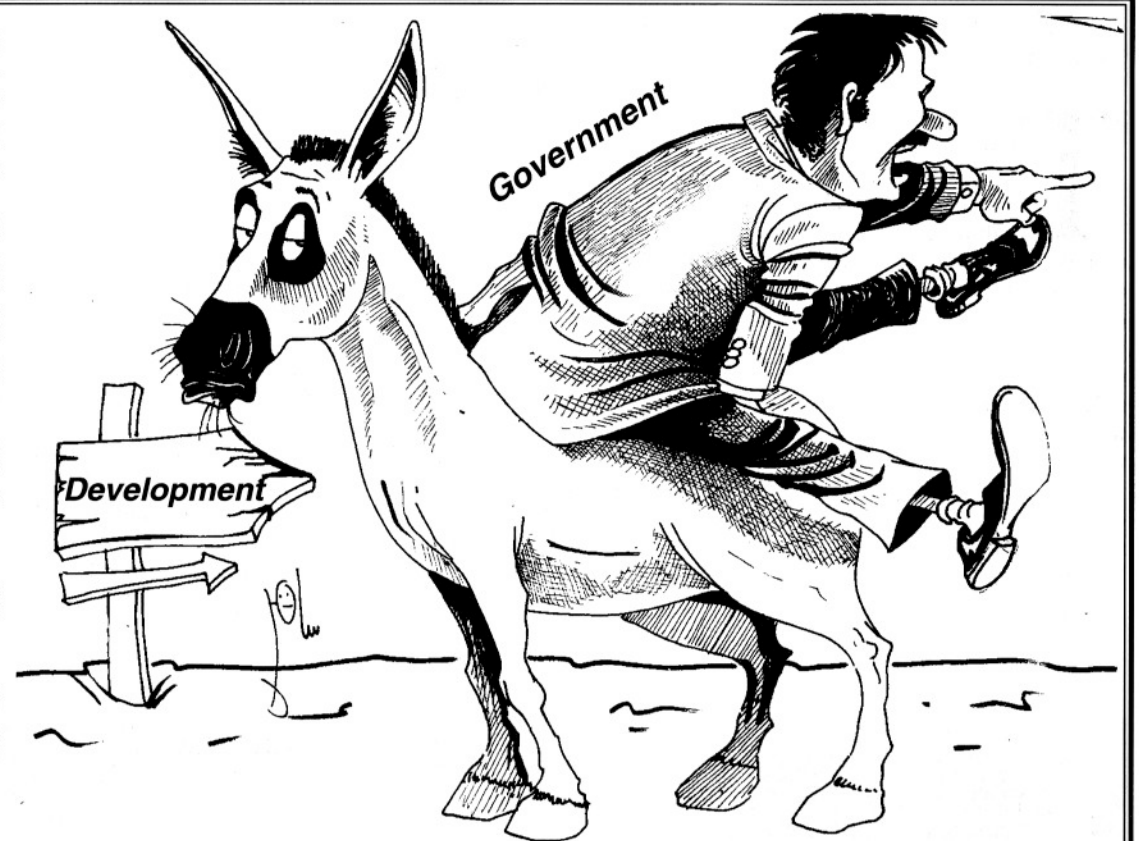
Columnist Salem Sheikh Bawazeer says in his article the hot spirit of intellectual, political and media resistance to the tendency of American hegemony in the Middle East region and the project of the Greater Middle East and that of changing the region's map disclosed the clandestine intentions of that project under the cover of democracy, liberation, and internal reform. The real goals are the enforcement of the military presence in the region by stationing militarily in Iraq and the economic control of Arab oil fields. The United States has utilized the events of September 11 a springboard for the military interference in the Middle East. Thus was the war on Afghanistan, followed by the war on Iraq under pretext of fighting terror and search for the alleged weapons of mass destruction.

More than that, the United States of America tries to find for itself an ideological vision identical to its expansionist ambitions and its economic and oil interests as well as its will for hegemony for imposing its domination and control of the world through the use of the most powerful military force in the temporary world. Its haughtiness has also driven it to an attempt for reformulating the history of humanity and the change in the Arab ideology and educational curricula.

الأناس  
Annas weekly, 23  
August 2004.

## Main headlines

- Violent engagement between Islah and the GPC at President Saleh Mosque

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By Samer A.

- Girls capture top grades in results of secondary school stage examinations
- Mediation efforts fail with Razimi, violent confrontations expected at outskirts of Sa'ada
- Al-Houthi protects himself in Sulaimaniya
- Classified reports disclose government involvement in selling the country's oil
- Youth Center in Taiz organizes a training course on administration and how to attract funding
- Al-Aman Society for the Blind Women Care holds two training courses for teachers of the blind

On the election of governors and heads of districts administrations, writer Shaker Ahmed says in an article the elections of those governors was and is still popular demand before it has been a demand by jurists and politicians who considered it a kind of paradox to grant the citizen the right to elect the president of the republic while depriving him of electing the governor of a governorate or head of the district administration. Last week the president of the republic had promised the achievement of that demand. Despite of the many remarks submitted by some on the local authority experiment after three years of its application, others find benefiting from the president's speech as something possible especially in pressing towards it through the various media tools.

Deputy head of the Thought, Culture and Information Office at the General People's Congress Abdul Hafeedh al-Nahari confirms that as long as the experiment of the local authority has been a response to requirements of development and administration and a means for running affairs of the citizens, the political leadership has been at the forefront of those aware of its importance and dealing with it. Mr al-Nahari considers the president's speech on the experiment as an embodiment of credibility of the orientation and a care for the experiment and placing it at top of the political agenda.

الشموع  
Al-Shoura weekly,  
organ of the Union  
of People's Forces  
of Yemen, 14  
August 2004.

## Main headlines

- Hajee trade union criticizes languor of oil officials and absence of trade unions federation's role
- Intensive shelling and imminent attack, Hamadan Ibn Zaid region appeals to live consciences
- Yemen hands over leaders from

- Al-Jihad to Egypt
- Journalists Syndicate welcomes granting journalists a 60% discount on Yemenia airlines
- Investigating committee on appointments at Sana'a University
- Iraqi teachers in Yemen wait payment of their salaries suspended for a year

Columnist Mohammed Farie al-Shaibani says it is customary that a human does not reach the degree of readiness for death but until all roads have been closed against him and sees that the only way of deliverance from the life of misery is by death. It was a rule in the past and it is at present and would be so in future. This is what is happening now in Sa'ada, Najaf, and Darfur. Among the tragedies the Arab rulers caused to their peoples are the areas of abasing poverty inside the countries they are ruling. They are the remote areas that are neglected and backward where there are the poor residential areas of the big cities. In their plundering of their countries' riches, the Arab rulers forget about those areas and they exert their efforts in renovating and beautifying the capitals where they live and receive their visitors from abroad, especially those termed as the donor countries. The rulers get surprised by the revolts taking place in those regions and instead of searching for the cause that called those people to revolt in order to rectify, they behave against them as ingrates of the bliss the rulers have given them and accuse them as being urged and supported by hostile external powers. The social peace is the product of justice, equality and freedom.

النهار  
An Nahar weekly,  
19 August 2004.

## Main headlines

- Zionist medicines are marketed in Yemen
- The new American ambassador presents his credentials
- Journalists Syndicate branches begin their elections next month
- Yemen Forum for New Press holds discussion symposium on press and Sa'ada war

Writer Shawqi Shahir says in an article with the 35th anniversary of burning the Aqsa Mosque at the hands of Zionists, leaders of the Zionist entity confirm that the Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock may be exposed to a suicidal attack, using an airplane. This is not the

first or the last step in the Zionists endeavour to destroy the features of the holy city for the three heavenly religions and were preceded by many attempts since after the 1967 war that resulted in the occupation of the eastern part of Al-Quds and the West bank.

The stages of demolishing the Aqsa and their plots have been disclosed in an academic report published by Contemporary Studies Centre in Um al-Fahm in Palestine. The report disclosed that the occupation authorities have finished ten phases on the way of demolishing the Aqsa and building the Temple.

The report says the Israeli diggings under courtyards of the Aqsa mosque and Islamic endowments in the old city of Jerusalem are the most dangerous ways that have been adopted for undermining the pillars of the mosque, demolishing and effacing its features.

الاسبوع  
Al-Isbou weekly, 19  
August 2004.

## Main headlines

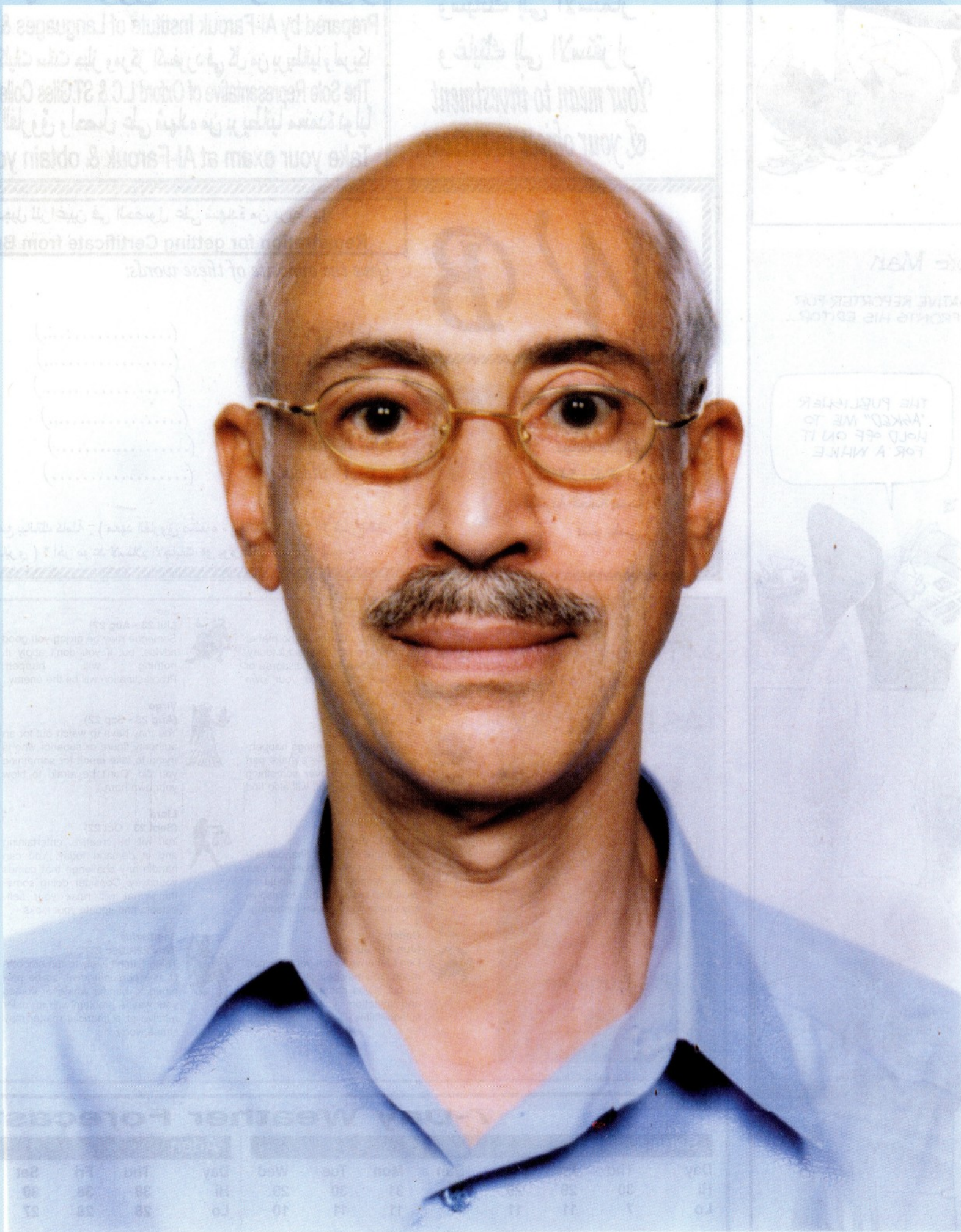
- Bickering between the court and Limburg defendants
- Sectarian conflict at boiling phase

Qassem Abdulrab says in his article the Arab media have broadcast news on victories made by government forces in Sa'ada, those forces that continue fighting up till now and the authority has not yet announced the end of the war it has started more than two months.

The national mediation committee returned from Sa'ada lately carrying negative results and with its formation, no positive developments have been realized towards ending the war and solving the existing problem politically. Some of those who were with the committee commented that its formation was essentially meant for passing plans of the authority and achieving military victories justifying for the authority its launching of the war or its decision for going to war.

The committee did not offer much and did not agree on issuing a statement on its errand that it seems as it has come to an end. In the war of the summer of 1994 there were military victories by the government but the main and bigger burden was the share of the Yemeni citizen who is still paying the bill of the war until today. At any event, whether the authority has been victorious or lost the war, the citizen remains the defeated because he is the one to pay and no one else.





Prominent intellect and poet

**Zain Mohammed Al-Saqqaf**

1940 - 2004

الشاعر والأديب الكبير

**زين محمد السقاف**

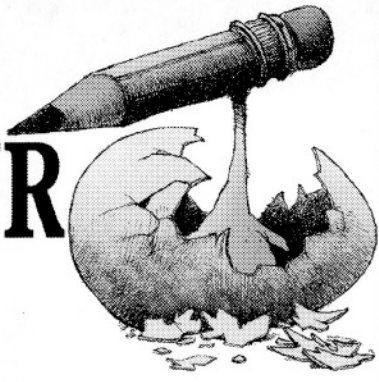
١٩٤٠م - ٢٠٠٤م

**YEMEN TIMES**



# Non Sequitur

by Wiley



File...in the time before Man

Phil Brahmastein, investigative reporter for the Bullemic Times, confronts his editor...

EXCUSE ME, MR. LEUKWORM, BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY EXPOSE ON THIS TRUMPED-UP ENERGY CRISIS?

THE PUBLISHER "ASKED" ME TO HOLD OFF ON IT FOR A WHILE

BUT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STORY! HOW LONG IS "A WHILE"?

hmmmm, LET'S SEE...

...THAT WOULD BE WHEN THE NEWS DIVISION IS NO LONGER CONTROLLED BY THE BEAN COUNTERS WHO ANSWER TO THE CORPORATE BOARD THAT IS OWNED BY THE CONGLOMERATE WHO HAS A VESTED INTEREST IN THE ADMINISTRATION YOU'RE INVESTIGATING

WHAT HAPPENED TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?!!

THAT BELONGS TO THE ONE WHO OWNS THE PRESS, PHIL

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وغايتك إلى الاستقرار  
*Your mean to investment  
& your object to success*

مسابقة رقم (23) Contest No. (23)  
إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز أكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا

The Sole Representative of Oxford L.C & ST.Giles Colleges UK&USA

إختبر في معهد الفاروق واحصل على شهادة من بريطانيا معتمدة دولياً

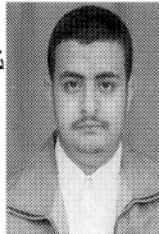
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# WB

### Congratulation ESAM

تهانينا للطالب / عصام المعلمي  
نجاحه بالمسابقة  
رقم ٢٢ وتفوقه في نتيجة  
الثانوية العامة بنسبة ٩٥%  
قسم علمي



يسرنا فتح باب التسجيل للراغبين في الحصول على شهادة من بريطانيا

Registration for getting Certificate from Britain starting soon

Give the opposite of these words:

- 1- W wide (.....)
- 2- A antonyms (.....)
- 3- T temporary (.....)
- 4- A awful (.....)
- 5- N nice (.....)
- 6- I illegal (.....)

الاسم: .....  
المدينة: .....  
رقم التليفون: .....

اقطع كويون المسابقة وارسله عبر الفاكس مع بياناتك كاملة . ( معهد الفاروق صنعاء - تلفاكس ٢١٣٧١١ شارع هائل المدخل الفرعي مقابل مجوهرات الجابري ) \* آخر موعد لاستلام الاجابات هو يوم الثلاثاء من كل اسبوع

## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia



**Aries**  
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
You will get into trouble no matter how hard you try to avoid it today. This is not the time to disagree or to take matters into your own hands.



**Taurus**  
(Apr 20 - May 20)  
There are positive things happening all around you — so take part and you will discover something you enjoy doing. You will also find new friends.



**Gemini**  
(May 21 - Jun 20)  
Remember your past financial failures so you can prepare for your future. Money matters should be dealt with today in order to resolve any stress you've been harboring.



**Cancer**  
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
Don't let anyone put you in a bad mood. You may be a little emotional, but if you channel it into love and affection, you will have a splendid time.



**Leo**  
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
Someone may be giving you good advice, but if you don't apply it, nothing will happen. Procrastination will be the enemy.



**Virgo**  
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
You may have to watch out for an authority figure or superior who is trying to take credit for something you did. Don't be afraid to blow your own horn.



**Libra**  
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
You will be creative, entertaining and in demand today. You can handle any challenge that comes your way. Consider doing something that will raise your self-esteem and update your looks.



**Sagittarius**  
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
Things aren't likely to run smoothly at a personal level, so be prepared to handle whatever comes your way. A problem with an older relative or a financial matter may cause worry.



**Scorpio**  
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
You can count on your friends and family to help you out if you need it. Take on any challenge and feel secure that you will do a fabulous job. Whatever you learn today will come in handy.



**Capricorn**  
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
You may find yourself in a bit of a quandary if you haven't been completely honest with yourself or someone else about your feelings. This is a good day to discuss what you really want out of life.



**Aquarius**  
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
Problems with institutions will develop. Stay low-key and observe what the best process is in order to get what you want completed.



**Pisces**  
(Feb 19-Mar 20)  
You will be lucky in love and very much in demand today. Let your true colors shine through and you will realize how much you have to offer and how appreciative others are of your talents.

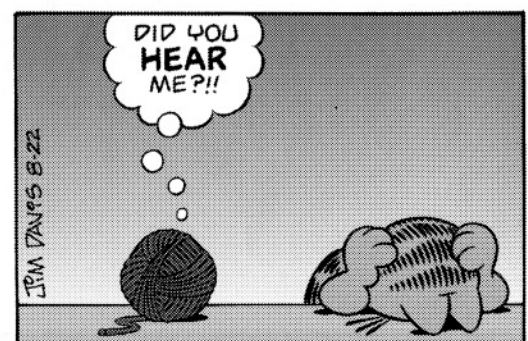
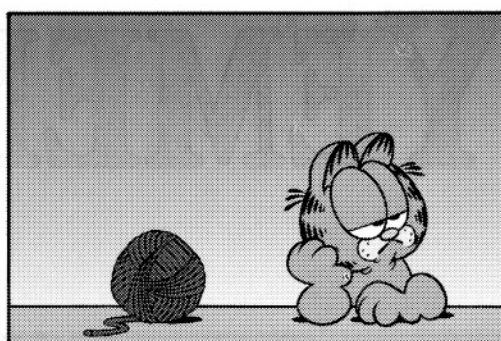
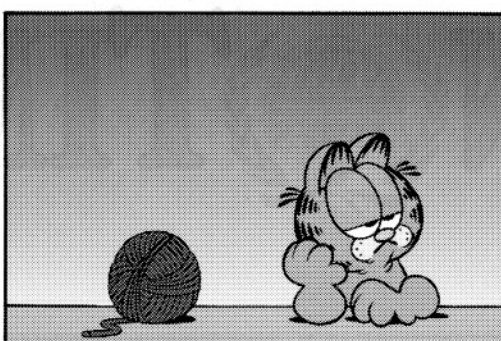
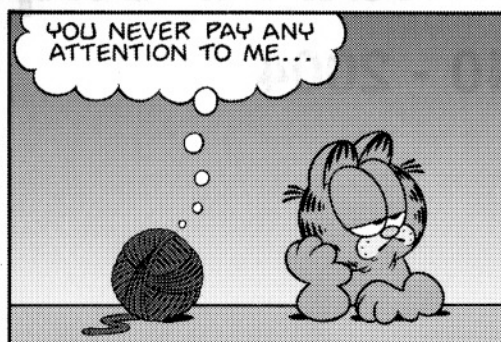
## 7-Day Weather Forecast

### Sana'a

Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	30	29	29	29	31	30	29
Lo	7	11	11	11	11	11	10

### Aden

Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	38	38	30	39	39	39	39
Lo	28	28	27	27	27	27	26









## For the first time: Yemen Photographic Exhibition in Singapore



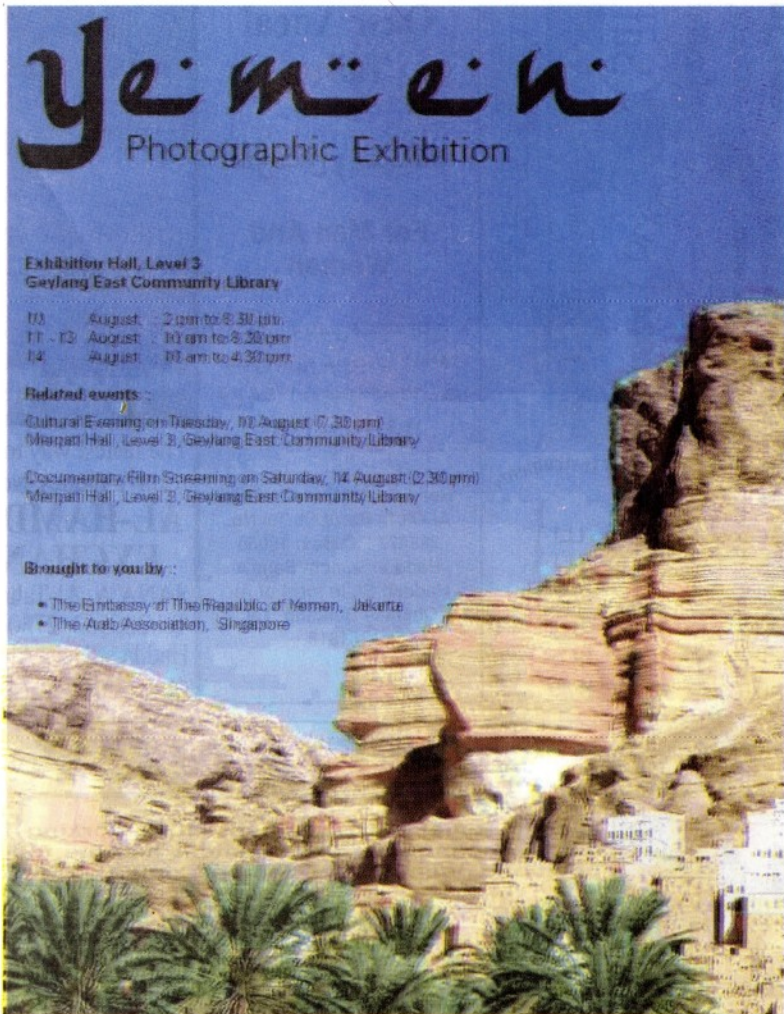
Irena Knehtl  
IRENA\_KNEHTL@MAKTOOB.COM  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**S**ingapore - From the 10th-14th August 2004, Singapore held the First Yemen Photographic Exhibition. The exhibition which was the first of its kind in South-East Asia and was jointly organized by the Arab Association in Singapore and the Yemeni Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, and was shown at the Geylang East Community Library. The Yemeni Ambassador to Indonesia Dr. Ahmed Salem Al-Washishi flew in for the occasion and also officially opened the Exhibition. In his speech he stressed the historical relations between Yemen and Singapore. The Yemeni Ambassador said that this exhibition is an example resulting from fruitful bilateral cooperation between Yemen and Singapore, which has its roots in the history when our grandfathers came to Singapore.

The Yemeni Ambassador further pointed to the broad possibilities of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, in all fields including tourism. The exhibition in Singapore is also within the framework of Sana'a the Arab Culture capital festivities. From the Singaporean side the guests of honor included Mr. Yatiman Jusuf, Senior Parliament Secretary at the Ministry of Information, Communication and Art.

The photographic exhibition highlights places of interest in Yemen. "We want to create an awareness about Yemen in Singapore", says Zahra Aljunid, the Manager of Geylang East Community Library in Singapore. Zahra, whose ancestry goes back to Hadramawt in Yemen, had, on an earlier visit to Yemen, personally selected the places of interest and also prepared and supervised all very beautiful and tasteful presentations.

Explore the Geylang East Community Library web site: [www.nlb.gov.sg](http://www.nlb.gov.sg)



A scene representing a Yemeni historical site

### ABOUT SINGAPORE

Singapore is an independent republic in Southeast Asia comprising of one main island and about 50 small adjacent islands off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. The main island, Singapore Island, is separated from Malaysia on the north by the narrow Johore Strait and is

linked by road and rail to the Malaysian city of Johor Baharu. On the south, Singapore Island is separated from Indonesia Riau Archipelago by the Singapore Strait, and an important shipping channel linking the Indian Ocean to the west with the South China Sea on the east. The main island is densely populated, especially in the south central port

tion, where the central business district and main port are located. About three-quarters of the people of Singapore, known as Singaporeans, are Chinese, but there are significant Malay, Indian and Arab minorities. Since becoming an independent republic in 1965, multiethnic Singapore has maintained political stability and high economic growth. Singapore is Southeast Asia's most important seaport, financial center, and manufacturing hub, and its citizens enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. In 2002 the GDP was estimated at USD 87 billion, or 20,890 per capita, among the highest per capita GDP in the world. The economy is centered around services, notably financial and business services. Much of the country's trade involves the transshipment of goods produced in the region. Singapore's port is the busiest in the world in terms of shipping tonnage. Major exports are electronics products, machinery and transportation equipment, and refined petroleum products.

The total area of Singapore, including the main island and all the islets is 685.4 sq km. More than 85% of Singapore island is built up for residential, commercial, and industrial use. One of the islands larger remaining tracts of undisturbed rain forest is protected in the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. About half its water must be imported from Malaysia through an aqueduct that runs under the causeway linking Singapore and Johor Baharu. Singapore has a population of 4,767,974, a labor force of 2 million. Women make up 39% of all workers, 74% of the total labor force is employed in the service sector in industries such as banking, finance, retail and tourism.

Singapore's cultural life reflects its past colonial administration and the country's diverse population. Chinese, Malay, Indian, Arab and British influences are apparent in Singapore's art, architecture, and fine arts. The Islamic architecture is represented in the ornate Shuang Lin Temple, the Sri Mariamman Temple, and the Sultan Mosque.

Singapore's National Museum complex consists of one museum devoted to the contemporary art of Southeast Asian cultures, and another to the history of Singapore.

Singapore is Southeast Asia's third most important tourist destination after Malaysia and Thailand, during 2002 some 7 million tourists visited Singapore.

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