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Developments include capture of top al-Qaeda All eyes on Yemen

BY NEWS SERVICES AND YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The eyes of the world fell on Yemen this week as it became a new hub on the war on terror.

Key events included the capture of a key al-Qaeda operative, a renewed focus on the hunt for Osama bin Laden, and security

alerts ringing from a number of Western countries.

Also, intelligence sources told ABCNEWS a large amphibious ship, the USS Belleau Wood, has been detached from other duties and is standing by off the coast of Yemen to act as a floating launch platform, what the military calls a "lily pad."

It would allow an American force to assemble and launch without being observed, and if prisoners were taken, to immediately remove them from Yemen.

The key al-Qaeda operative caught is Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, described as al-Qaeda's chief in the Gulf and a suspected planner of the bombing of the

American warship USS Cole, is in U.S. custody, officials said on Thursday.

"He's a top al-Qaeda operational planner for the Arabian Peninsula, he was captured in recent weeks and is currently in U.S. custody at an undisclosed location," one official said.

Continued on page 5



The USS Belleau Wood is standing by off the coast of Yemen to act as a floating launch platform, what the military calls a "lily pad." It would allow an American force to assemble and launch without being observed, and hold Yemeni prisoners if necessary.

Hunting al-Qaeda Is bin Laden hiding in Yemen?

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

For much of the past year, particularly since Tora Bora caves were crushed by U.S B-52 bombers last November, it was assumed by many that Osama bin Laden was dead.

However recent audio tapes reported to be from the al-Qaeda leader, appear authentic according to experts. And this week American officials suggested strongly they believe the al-Qaeda ringleader could be in Yemen.

U.S. officials have also suggested the noose might be tightening around bin Laden, now believed to be in southeast Yemen where his father was born.

It translates into an increased American presence here. Six other al-Qaeda members were killed in a rocket attack in Yemen by a U.S. Predator drone two weeks ago.

It's no co-incidence the US has assembled an unusual collection of elite soldiers and capabilities in the area should President Bush decide to act.

Continued on page 5

Saleh says he... 'Forbids' attacks on Westerners

BY REUTERS AND NEWS SERVICES

Militant attacks against Western targets in Yemen hurt Yemen and provide a pretext for foreign intervention in the Arab state's affairs, said Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh this week.

His remarks were carried by the official Saba news agency, came one day after Sanaa acknowledged that a U.S. missile strike that killed six suspected members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda group earlier

this month was carried out with Yemen's consent.

"Bombing ships in Hadramout and bombing the Cole destroyer in Aden...and other destructive acts which harm the country are forbidden," Saba quoted Saleh as saying.

"What is going on does not only affect the United States but also our nation and our stability and it drives foreign powers to intervene in our internal affairs," he told tribal and Islamic leaders in Sanaa.

Continued on page 5

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Romania - NATO

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Interview with Mr. Gheorghe Epure
Charge d'Affaires a.i.
Embassy of Romania to Sana'a -
Republic of Yemen

BY ABDU ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF



Q: What does NATO's decision to invite Romania to start negotiations for being admitted by NATO mean?

A: The Prague Summit, on the 21st of the November 2002, is very important event for the Romanian people because the North Atlantic Council and the Heads of State invited Romania along with six other candidates to start the negotiations to being admitted to NATO.

For Romania this invitation for accession talks with the Alliance represents the beginning of a new historical phase.

NATO membership represents the aspiration of the vast majority of the Romanian society. Romanian people now celebrate the invitation to join NATO family to which spiritually and culturally the Romanian Nation has always belonged.

Integration into NATO has been one of the priority of the Romanian Government Foreign Policy. Romania intends to demonstrate to the international community that Romania's accession to NATO is a crucial step needed for the full development of the Romania as a stable, democratic and prosperous state.

Q: What is the significance of Romania's accession to NATO?

forces, trained and maintained accordingly, inter-operable and self-sustaining.

Romania will demonstrate the credibility of its political and military potential.

Q: What is the position of Romania concerning terrorism?

A: Romania, through its expertise in regional security cooperation and through its participation with elite troops in Afghanistan, remains fully engaged in the fight against terrorism. Romania understands that terrorism represents an extremely dangerous threat to International security and which requires solid measures and actions from all countries.

Q: Other comments concerning Romania's accession to NATO?

A: The Romanian Government expresses gratitude for this historic decision to all the members of the Alliance, our strategic partner, the United States and the vision of the US President, George W. Bush, of a robust enlargement of the North Atlantic Alliance from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, our European partners, with whom we are related through a common destiny, as future members of the United Europe.

In this occasion, the Embassy of Romania to Sana'a held a dinner reception on the honor of Chiefs of the Diplomatic Missions and Military Attaches of member countries in NATO, accredited to the Republic of Yemen.

Following the Nov. 17 peddlers march:

Peddlers still cry for help

BY ABDU M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A Peddlers are the growing brigades of enterprising young people out to earn livelihood with new methods. They stand at gates of marketplaces like troops manning a welcoming reception. You see them at bus stops, street corners, and lanes displaying their wares and trying hard to catch the attention of bus driver, his sidekick and passengers.

Occasionally, they'd scramble vehicles, make quick sales before jumping off again. This is the reality of the Yemeni peddlers. "We have been chased for five days without gaining a penny to break our fast," a peddler shouts.

They have been sunk into despair after their small businesses failed and came to an end.

Ahmed Hubaish, a peddler said: "It is time to leave the 10-year peddling business, what shall I do with my goods, no customers, no people to buy!! "Nothing to maintain for my family," he desperately complained.

Ahmed Ali Qaed, another peddler, shaking his head despairingly, "Why only this month? Is it time for us to peddle our goods. Why do they shift us here," he said desperately.

The new but temporary market called, Rainwater Course, or (Sa'ala) has been shifted from all streets and corners to the rainwater course near Bab al-Yemen for peddling



Fahmi al-Azzani Fatema al-Huraibi

their goods. "They are shifted to this marketplace because they have negatively affected the process of supply and demand of shop owners," an official at the local council of Attahreer District commented.

It is true that the market is spacious enough for peddlers to sell their goods, but the question is why only during the second half of the Holy Month.

Several questions have been raised when I made a short but heartbreaking tour of the new temporary market allocated near Bab al-Yemen.

"This area is allocated for street vendors, we are trying to bring them all to this area to be as a marketplace for them. So they don't sell on the streets or the areas which the law for cleaning doesn't allow." Fatema al-Huraibi, the Director General and the Secretary General of the Local Council of Attahreer District told the Yemen Times.

"This is a temporary marketplace till the end of Ramadhan. They complain because they don't have any customers, which is

true. People don't know about this new marketplace," al-Huraibi further noted.

The new market for the peddlers was officially inaugurated by the Mayor of the Capital Secretariat for informing the public of the new market.

On the other hand, Sheikh, Fahmi al-Azzani, a prominent local council member of the PGC has initiated his talk by thanking the Yemen Times staff for dealing with such vital issues.

"First let me seize this opportunity to thank the Yemen Times for exerting strenuous efforts in dealing with such issues and I'd like to present my heartfelt congratulations to the president of the republic of the Holy month of Ramadhan and the advent of the Eid al-Fitr," he highlighted.

"Personally speaking, as far as they toil away day and night for the sake of their families as well as for their livelihood, what is needed is to allow the peddlers to sell their goods during the latter 15 days of Ramadhan and the beginning of Eid al-Fitr" he commented.

"We have previously presented a well-studied plan to the bodies concerned to find the suitable solutions for thousands of peddlers during the Holy Month of Ramadhan for they are prevented during the whole year around," the Seikh further commented.

For a satisfactory and suitable solutions for the city Sana'a peddlers he proposed: "The alternative marketplace for peddlers should be allocated for each district respectively and then the profession of peddling has to be started after the Holy Month of Ramadhan."

The allocation of the marketplace was preceded by an angry march staged by city peddlers in Sana'a on November 17 for they peddle on streets and corners which according to the officials have defamed the Capitals' streets because they are "public places".

"Rapacious ways used by the municipality employees against peddlers have created a sense of resentment among the peddlers as well as the public," a passerby commented.

Journalists also were denied of photographing the march. It is worthwhile mentioning that these afflicted individuals are the hapless victims of destiny. They could do nothing but to take up this activity, especially in such deplorable economic conditions they have no control over.

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Continued from page 1

All eyes are on Yemen

Sources disclosed last week that a top al Qaeda leader had been captured recently, but his identity was not revealed until Thursday.

Al-Nashiri, who was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, was among the top dozen al Qaeda leaders sought by U.S. authorities. He has spent time in Yemen, Afghanistan and Pakistan, officials said, declining to reveal where he was captured.

He played a key role in organizing the October 2000 Cole bombing, U.S. officials said.

"His capture really is a serious blow to al Qaeda because in terms of the Persian Gulf, operationally he was the one calling the shots," another U.S. official said.

Al-Nashiri's ties to al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden date from the 1980s in Afghanistan, when they were fighting the Soviet invasion. "He has very long and close ties to Osama bin Laden dating back to the Afghanistan Mujahideen days," the official said.

Also this week, in Kuwait, security sources said authorities there had headed off a plot to bomb a hotel housing American citizens in Yemen after arresting a senior al-Qaeda member who had been helping plan the attack.

Meanwhile, while their original base in Afghanistan has been more or less

destroyed, some officials worry that the al-Qaeda organization is spread so far and wide, it's going to require an enormous amount of effort, particularly intelligence resources and policing resources, to break it up.

The grim new assessment of al-Qaeda's ability to carry out terrorist attacks around the world follows publication last week of a list of 22 potential targets in Canada, including the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Toronto's CN Tower, and the B.C. Ferries system.

Ottawa last week issued a travel advisory warning Canadians that they may be targeted by terrorists and to exercise "extreme" care when travelling abroad.

British police on the weekend said they had used anti-terrorism laws to arrest three men believed to come from North Africa amid reports they were planning a cyanide gas attack on London's underground rail system, the "Tube."

Various officials, including the head of the German BND intelligence service and the head of the international police organization Interpol, have warned recently that al-Qaeda has regrouped and remains a potent force despite a year-long U.S. military campaign against its original base in Afghanistan.

In the Arab Gulf state of Qatar, a journalist for the Arabic television channel al-Jazeera said he had received a document from al-Qaeda starkly spelling out its strategy, including attacks on civilians of any country involved in the war on terrorism.

"We have the right to attack our attackers, to destroy villages and cities of whoever destroyed our villages and cities, to destroy the economy of those who have robbed our wealth and to kill civilians of the country which has killed ours," London's Sunday Times quoted the document as saying. Al-Jazeera last week broadcast an audiotape, acknowledged as authentic, in which bin Laden praised recent terrorist attacks in Bali, Moscow and Kuwait, and promised more to come.

In Paris, Michele Alliot-Marie, the Defence Minister, warned yesterday the threat of terror attacks in France was high. "France is one of the first targets," she said.

The search for bin Laden, meanwhile, has shifted to Yemen, where British Special Air Service troops are hunting the al-Qaeda leader after new intelligence surfaced revealing he fled Afghanistan last year and is being protected by tribesmen in his ancestral homeland.

Is bin Laden hiding in Yemen?

Sources say the CIA is running the operation and has its own small paramilitary force in the area.

Safe haven?

Since the United States drove so many al Qaeda fighters out of Afghanistan, American officials have been increasingly concerned that Yemen would become a safe haven and "underground railroad" for terrorists on the run.

Yemen said this week its security forces were looking for a suspected al Qaeda member who narrowly escaped the missile attack by an unmanned CIA plane that killed six of his comrades on Nov. 3.

In the first apparent admission of Yemeni consent over the strike, Yemen's Interior Minister Rshad al-Alimi said: "This operation was carried out...as part of security coordination and cooperation between Yemen and the United States."

Alimi also said in a statement carried by the state news agency Saba that the seventh al Qaeda member had left the car moments before it was hit by a missile in the eastern Marib province. He did not name the fugitive.

Yemeni opposition groups have strongly criticized the missile attack

and the government's earlier silence over it.

The main target of the November 3 attack, Qaed Senyan al-Harhi, was a key suspect in the bombing of the U.S. warship Cole in a Yemeni port in 2000, which killed 17 American sailors.

The statement identified four of the six men as Munir Ahmed Abdullah also known as Abu Ubaidah, Saleh Hussein Ali al-Zenu alias Abu Hammam, Owsan Ahmed al-Turaihi alis Abu al-Jarrah and Adel Nasser al Sowda, also known as Abu Osama.

US citizen

The sixth man was earlier identified as Kamal Derwish, also known as Ahmed Hijazi, a U.S. citizen. U.S. media reports said he headed an al Qaeda-linked group in Lackawanna, New York.

In another incident, witnesses in the capital Sanaa said a blast apparently caused by a grenade tore through the house of a Yemeni security official on Tuesday, causing damage but no casualties.

Military sources say more than 800 special operations troops — including some from the secret Delta group that specializes in "snatches" of accused criminals on foreign soil — have been

gathered in the nearby nation of Djibouti.

The U.S. force is being kept secure, sources say, within a French military base there — the largest such French facility outside of France.

Yemen officials have dismissed the notion that U.S. special forces would be used to hunt down suspected al Qaeda fugitives there, and asserted that only its own troops would be used.

"Yemen's position is clear: Yemeni forces are the ones responsible for conducting any operations — be they searches or attacks," a government official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Just training

He said U.S. involvement would be limited to training Yemeni security forces and sharing intelligence on Muslim militants.

Parts of Yemen remain beyond control of the central government, especially the vast eastern third of the country known as the Hadramawt. U.S. sources say Yemeni leaders are secretly negotiating over allowing an American operation within their borders. A further complication, officials say, is the constant movement of potential terrorist targets in Yemen.

Saleh 'forbids' attacks on Westerners

Saleh was apparently reacting to recent criticism by Yemeni opposition parties of the November 3 missile attack as a violation of Yemen's sovereignty. Yemen on Tuesday said the attack was part of its "security coordination and cooperation" with the United States.

Meanwhile, Britain and Kuwait say they have foiled attacks by Arab assailants as more warnings were issued this week that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network is back in business and planning terror attacks around the world.

And the British Foreign Office has recommended all British nationals leave Yemen for fear of reprisal attacks and warned against travel there. They also warned intelligence services were picking up increased "chatter" from the region similar to that picked up in the run-up to Sept. 11.

At the same time, a senior Kuwaiti

security official said the Gulf emirate has custody of an al-Qaeda member who confessed to planning the attack against a French supertanker off the coast of Yemen last month and a car bomb attack that was to have been carried out against a hotel in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

The official identified the senior al-Qaeda member as Mohsen al-Fadhli, 21, a Kuwaiti citizen arrested with two other alleged Kuwaiti members of al-Qaeda on Nov. 4. The official said Mr. Fadhli began talking on Monday, detailing the planning of the tanker attack.

The disclosure that the Yemeni attack originated in Kuwait comes as a blow to the emirate, which only reluctantly conceded the presence of active al-Qaeda cells among its citizens after an attack by two Kuwaitis against U.S. troops last month left one Marine dead. Kuwait State Security has concluded that the two were linked to

Muhammad Mansur Jabarah, 20, a Canadian citizen born in Kuwait who was arrested in Oman earlier this year.

Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister, said Western nations have underestimated the international terrorist threat.

"They have a network which has turned out in my view to be a much bigger network than was understood immediately after Sept. 11. I think there are likely to be a lot more people involved in these terrorist organizations than was originally suspected," Mr. Downer told Australian television yesterday.

Mr. Downer said the plot to release poisonous gas in the London subway highlighted the continuing terror threat posed by al-Qaeda and allied organizations such as Jemaah Islamiyah. The Islamist movement is suspected of planning the Bali blast on Oct. 12 that killed more than 190 people.

Charitable societies in Yemen

By EMAD AL-SAQAF
YEMEN TIMES BUREAU CHIEF

TAIZ- Charitable societies play a vital role in the process of development and poverty reduction through establishing charitable projects for the sake of the poor and the needy.

In the Holy month of Ramadhan, activities performed by these charitable societies increase considerably.

In Taiz governorate, there are a number of such societies of which the Islah and Hayel Saeed Charities are among the most active.

Around 230,000 people benefit from those charities during the month of Ramadhan as more than 78,000 families are targeted by the charities. Providing poor families in Taiz with food to break their fast during this holy month is among the most essential services offered by the charities.

Preparations are in full swing to start distributing new clothes for more than 4,000 children to put a smile on their faces to celebrate the upcoming Eid al-Fitr. It has to be mentioned that diverse charitable projects have been conducted by the charities including projects to take care of orphans and blind Yemenis taken care of by the society until last October has exceeded 2,800. Periodical financial allocations are distributed in this cause estimated at around YR 78,906,000. These projects are distributed in accordance with the essential needs of the poor in health, social and educational services.

The chairman of the Hayel Saeed Charity, Abduljabbar Hayel Saeed told the Yemen Times that the charity focuses on helping the needy, the poor, widows, and orphans. "The Hayel Saeed Ana'am Charity is among the leading societies that assist thousands of poor families" he said.

Great attention is paid by Hayel Saeed Ana'am Charity to the study of the Holy Qura'an as a large number of graduates in this field are specialized in the Qura'an sciences through funds offered

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one of the iftar charitable projects during Ramadhan

Helping poor families break their fast by offering them food during the Holy month of Ramadhan is done by distributing food to tens of mosques throughout the Taiz governorate.

Abduljabbar Hayel

The Hayel Saeed Ana'am Charity was established in 1970. In addition to the various services it offers, many schools, mosques and centers to teach Qura'an have been established by the charity in many towns and villages throughout the republic. The charity has also carried out many charitable works such as building schools and establishing general training institutes and holy Qura'an teaching centers.



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Aden	YR 23.000	YR 30.500	Aden Hotel	3days/2 nights	
Aden	YR 24.800	YR 38.000	Sheraton Aden	3days/2 nights	
Aden	YR 31.200	YR 45.000	Sheraton Aden	4days/3 nights	
Seiyun	YR 15.500	YR 31.900	Samah Hotel	3days/2 nights	

End vices, take on virtues**Ramadhan: a month of training**BY ABDUH M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The blessed month of Ramadhan is a training period whereby Muslims are encouraged to do good deeds, and restrain from habitual and reprehensible deeds. Allah the Almighty has thus ordained special rewards for any good action or thought done during this month, encouraging us to excel in good actions and thoughts.

The virtues of fasting and other recommended actions by the Holy Prophet, Muhammad teaches Muslims how to put an end to vices, bad habits and faults in character, appreciate those virtues and get nearer to Allah. Hence during Ramadhan the following actions are carried out.

Five daily salaats are observed to remind and train the mindless Muslims that salaah is an all-time duty for them;

Zakat-Ul Fitr is paid on or before the 'Id-Ul Fitr, the festival that commemorates the end of Ramadhan. Zakat-Ul Fitr is to teach Muslims to do sadaqah (charity), help less fortunate ones and to remind them that after Zakat-Ul Fitr, they should not forget to pay on time their annual divine obligatory Zakaat, which is the fourth pillar of Islam;

Tarawih and Tahajjud prayers are observed in the nights of Ramadhan;

Doubtful habits, such as smoking, are stopped. This is to train Muslims to be frugal as Allah hates extravagancy, and to save themselves from illnesses known to be associated with smoking

and premature death; Indecent videos/pictures are avoided. This is to free Muslims' hearts and eyes from corruption and from Satan's whisperings to do evil deeds;

Excessive intake of food is avoided. This keeps the stomach from being pot-bellied and distinguishes Muslims from kaafir whom Qur'an describes as those who eat for the sake of eating, 'like cattle' (Surrah 47:12)

All these good things which Ramadhan fast teaches Muslims are the means to attain piety. This is why the verse on Ramadhan fast says:

"O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you... so that you will (learn how to attain) piety" (2:183)

Muslims are also to benefit from the voluntary congregational night prayers (Taraweeh)

The Blessed Month of Ramadhan is also marked with congregational optional daily prayers (Salaat-ul Taraweeh) after the Night Prayer (Salaat-ul I'sha). The practice of performing Taraweeh was strongly encouraged but not ordered, as demonstrated by the hadith below, during Ramadhan by the Holy Prophet Muhammad.

Abu Hurayrah (r.a) relates that the Holy Prophet said: 'Anybody who gets up to offer voluntary prayer during the month of Ramadhan with deep sense of belief and self-scrutiny will have his previous sins remitted.' (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

The virtues and importance of extra voluntary prayers (Taraweeh) during the month of Ramadhan, are established from the sayings and actions of

the Holy Prophet. But during his lifetime, its observance as Taraweeh was not enforced so that the same may not become an obligatory duty.

After the passing away of the Holy Prophet, when there was no danger of its becoming a Fardh (compulsory act), Umar Farooq (r.a) with the agreement of pious companions introduced it as a voluntary prayer in congregation.

Muslims are also to reap the full reward of the Night of Power (Lailat-ul Qadr)

The last book of Allah to His creatures, Al-Qur'an, was revealed in the night of Ramadhan. What this means is that the first divine revelation to Prophet Muhammad took place in the Night of Ramadhan. Allah chose the night because of the special blessings in it. It is called the Night of Power (Lailat-ul Qadr) or the Night of Blessing (Lailat-ul Mubarak). The deed in this night is better than the rewards of deeds of 1,000 months (about 83.3 years).

It is this night that all Muslims are invited by Allah to look for in the month of Ramadhan. Specifically, the night is in the last ten days of Ramadhan and usually in one of the odd days. A Muslim is expected to perform naafilah, recite the Qur'an, do zikr and so on. Since no one knows precisely which of the odd days is the night, Muslims are expected to be in seclusion (itikaaf) during the last 10 days of Ramadhan and the best place to do so is in the mosque.

'A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, reported: Allah's Messenger said: Look for Lailat-ul-Qadr in the last ten



The Great Mosque in the Old City of Sana'a.

nights of Ramadhan. (Al-Bukhari)

'A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, reported: When the last ten nights began Allah's Messenger kept awake at night (for Prayer and devotion), wakened his family, and prepared himself to observe Prayer (with more vigor). (Al-Bukhari)

It should be mentioned that the Angels descend in succession during the night of Power and they go round with special greeting of "peace" till daybreak when they will move back to their position.

The number of these angels is uncountable and they descend with

special command of Allah. The following chapter of the Qur'an details the event of the Night of Power:

"Indeed We have revealed it (Qur'an) in the Night of Power. And what will explain to you what the Night of Power is? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. Therein descends the Angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand: (they say) Peace" till the rise of Morning!" (97:1-5)

Who will like to miss the Night after reading this description? It is this very reason that every Muslim wants to witness and reap its full blessing by fast-

ing during the days of the month of Ramadhan. As Ramadhan fast is inextricably tied to the Night of Power (see 2:183) it follows that any Muslim who wishes to benefit from the Night of Power must fast during the month of Ramadhan. Qur'an says:

"Ramadhan is the (month) in which Qur'an was sent down, as a guide to mankind, and a clear guidance and judgement (so that mankind will distinguish right from wrong). Whoever among you witnesses the month of Ramadhan should fast through it..." (2:183)

Plenty of variety when . . .**Gathering around the Ramadhan table**BY MAYASA MOHAMMED JAWAD
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ

Every year Ramadhan comes to change the taste of life in the Muslim world. It's as if stopping at a station to change our direction in life. In the holy month of Ramadhan, everything changes, even the taste of the meals which we are accustomed to during the other months. Ramadhan really regathers the family members and close relatives around the Ramadhan table.

Family habits

It is a habit for many Yemeni families to buy things they need during Ramadhan one week or even more before it begins. They buy what are their needs from the markets, which become filled with food products more than in the other months.

Foods, kitchen tools, and spices are the first things on the list. Ramadhan becomes a seasons of selling for the markets of spices in Yemen, which are available to suit the dishes offered in



Dates are a popular Ramadhan food item.

Ramadhan.

For the desserts made in Ramadhan, women buy raisins, almonds, pistachios and more. In addition, some women prefer to buy new kitchen items, such as plates, glasses and dishes to add the different shapes to the Ramadhan table.

Yemeni women prepare the traditional dishes of Ramadhan foods.

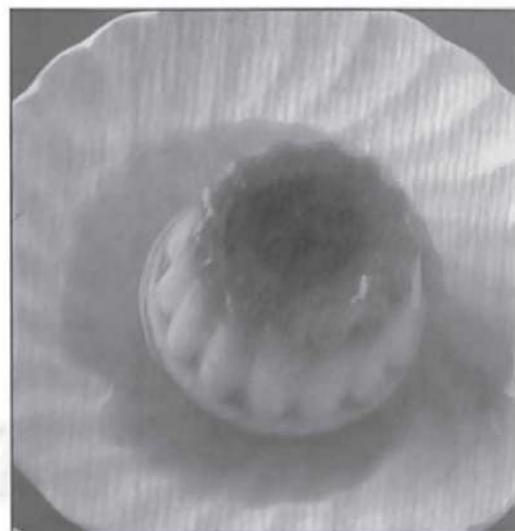
day meals

Alfataor table is richer with different foods, drinks and desserts than

the night meals.

Yemeni people are accustomed to have some distinguished Ramadhan foods and drinks including:

- Dates, which is the first thing man eats after fasting
- Shafout, a distinguished Yemeni dish, made of flour and milk, and mixed with salad and spices.
- Fried food, such as Sanbosa, bagia, zalabia, and loqmat alkadi
- Hot drinks of tea or coffee after having dates, while the most famous cold drink is sheeted apricot juice.
- Desserts, among which are caramel, jelly, mohalabia, basbosa, rawani, and cake
- soup of chicken, and a meal of wheat with either sugar or salt. Soup is the best to have in Ramadhan for many Yemeni families.



Custard pudding is a seasonal favorite.

Get rid of the guns and qatBY FAHMI AHMED NAJI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Undoubtedly, every nation in the world has traditions and customs. Similarly, Yemen does also. But our traditions and customs hurt our economy and progress.

For example, look at qat and weapons, especially in the major cities. As far as chewing qat is concerned, it maligns the image of Yemen in the front of the whole world. It also affects Yemen's economy and agricultural system.

What if the spacious lands we have were used, instead of for qat, for useful crops and vegetables or grains? That would boost the personal income of Yemen's citizens. From the medical point of view, qat tree owner use poisonous chemicals to make their trees grow fast, and these chemicals cause the deaths of many innocent people.

Economically speaking, the chewers of qat spent many valuable hours



Even young children have started learning the habit of qat chewing.



chattering to each in idle gossip, without doing anything useful. If such hours were used for useful things, it would be a great benefit for Yemen.

The custom of carrying weapons is as dangerous and harmful as chewing qat. Tourism and investment, two important sources of revenue, are hindered by such a custom. Tourists and investors or even visitors of Yemen dare not to come here, because Yemenis are armed people, especially in the Northern governorates, namely, the tribesmen of Sana'a, Sadah, Haja, Mareb, and al-Jawf.

In our day-to-day life, many examples can be seen of the harm of guns. One is of the accident involving the German engineer, who was kid-

napped by a number of armed tribesmen of Marib governorate under the pretext they wanted the government to fulfill a number of promises for projects for their governorate. It is this custom of carrying weapons and kidnapping which slows the progress of Yemen. Furthermore, from social and international sides, it gives a bad image about Yemenis: that they are uncivilized, aggressive and tough people.

Another consequence of carrying guns is that victims, especially, during wedding parties, are killed accidentally by people showing off.

The need to control these two traditions must not be ignored by our government.

U.N. inspection equipment arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Nov 23 (Reuters) - A team of 18 weapons inspectors will arrive in Baghdad on Monday and begin inspections on Wednesday, searching for any weapons of mass destruction and armed with a tough U.N. resolution that demands Baghdad disarm or face a possible U.S. strike. Iraq denies it has any such weapons.

The plane landed at Baghdad's Saddam International Airport after a flight from Larnaca, Cyprus. The spokesman for the UNMOVIC inspections team in Iraq Yashuhiro Ueki has said the shipment will consist of computers, communications equipment, furniture, refrigerators and some medicines.



Iraqi workers download equipment from an U.N. plane at Saddam airport in Baghdad Nov. 23. The equipment was brought in for the U.N. weapons inspectors who plan to begin formal inspections next week for the first time in four years. REUTERS

Turkish soldiers, Kurd rebels clash in northern Iraq

TUNCELI, Turkey, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Turkish soldiers have pursued Kurdish separatists across the border into northern Iraq, but the death toll from three days of clashes was not yet clear, a military official said on Saturday.

Members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) told the Mezopotamya News Agency they had killed seven Turkish soldiers and four intelligence agents, but the official denied the army had suffered any losses. He said "a great number of PKK were killed" after the army used ground forces and helicopters to track PKK fighters in a rugged mountain area bordering Turkey's Sirnak province.

The Turkish army regularly enters northern Iraq, where it keeps a military base, to fight PKK guerrillas who have waged an armed struggle for an ethnic homeland in southeast Turkey since 1984. More than 30,000 people, mainly Kurds, have been killed.

Fighting has dropped off sharply since the 1999 capture and sentencing of PKK commander Abdullah Ocalan, who ordered his followers to withdraw from Turkey into northern Iraq.

Europe-based Mezopotamya, closely linked to the PKK, carried a statement from the separatists saying Turkish soldiers began attacking rebel camps across the border on Wednesday and that fighting continued.

Palestinian suicide bombers attack Israeli naval boat

GAZA, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Two Palestinian suicide bombers blew up an explosives-laden fishing boat close to an Israeli patrol craft on Saturday, wounding four sailors, in the first such attack since the start of the Palestinian uprising.

The militant Islamic Jihad group said the two suicide bombers, aged 19 and 21, were killed in the overnight attack on the 20-metre Israeli patrol craft in waters near the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army said four sailors were wounded, three moderately, when the fishing boat blew up as the patrol boat, armed with 20 mm cannon and 12.7 machine guns, approached to warn it to turn back.

The army imposed a complete ban on Palestinian fishing boats plying waters off the Gaza Strip coastline after the incident.

The attack was reminiscent of the USS Cole bombing, which was blamed on Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. A boat loaded with explosives rammed the U.S. destroyer off the coastline of Yemen in October 2000, killing 17 crew.

The bombing was the latest in a surge of violence that has challenged U.S. efforts to seek regional calm ahead of a possible war on Iraq.

Israeli radio stations, citing unnamed sources, said an initial military inquiry into the killing of a senior U.N. relief official in the West Bank city of Jenin on Friday found an Israeli soldier had fired the fatal shot.

Iain Hook, manager of the Jenin camp rehabilitation project run by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), was hit by bullets that tore into UNRWA's compound while Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen exchanged fire nearby.

The radio stations said preliminary findings showed that an Israeli soldier fired on Hook in the midst of the gun battle with Palestinians when he mistook a cellular telephone held by the U.N. official to be a hand grenade. The army said the investigation was still under way and a spokeswoman denied any preliminary findings had been reached.

Israel and the United Nations have said it was unclear who fired the shots that killed Hook, 54, during an Israeli raid to detain a wanted militant from the Islamic Jihad group accused of being behind a suicide bombing in October



A photo handed out by the Israeli Defence Forces Nov. 23 shows an Israeli naval ship which was damaged in an attack by Palestinian militants. Palestinian suicide bombers from the Islamic Jihad group tried to blow up an Israeli naval ship patrolling the coastline separating the Gaza Strip from Israel, by detonating an explosive-laden fishing boat, injuring four sailors. REUTERS

that killed 14 people.

But the United Nations has accused Israeli forces of delaying an ambulance summoned to evacuate Hook. The army said a military ambulance was sent to the Briton's aid but that when it arrived he was already dead.

Militants houses demolished in Bethlehem

In Bethlehem, Israeli forces continued a sweep for suspected militants following Thursday's Palestinian suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus packed with commuters and school children that killed 11 people.

Military commanders said the soldiers were searching for around 30 militants from the Bethlehem area involved in carrying out the bombing and planning

more attacks against Israelis.

Troops demolished the homes of three militants belonging to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, in Bethlehem on Saturday, Palestinian residents said.

The Bethlehem-area house of the bomber behind Thursday's bus bombing was destroyed by Israeli forces on Friday along with the house of a wanted Islamic Jihad militant in the city.

Washington used to oppose Israeli incursions into West Bank towns but signalled again on Friday that its attitude has gradually shifted over the months toward qualified acceptance.

"We are...urging the Israelis, in the course of their operations, to keep in mind the consequences of their actions,

to complete these operations as quickly as possible and to take steps to avoid further civilian casualties," U.S. State Department spokesman Philip Reeker told a daily briefing.

Reeker said progress on "realising Palestinian aspirations", diplomatic code for setting up a Palestinian state, was impossible as long as Palestinians carried out attacks like Thursday's suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus.

Arafat issued a new call on Friday for an "immediate and complete cessation" of attacks on Israeli civilians.

At least 1,677 Palestinians and 662 Israelis have been killed since the Palestinian uprising against occupation began in September 2000 after a deadlock in negotiations for a final peace treaty.

Tunisian police release two rights lawyers

TUNIS, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Two lawyers arrested by Tunisian police for their work to defend prisoners' rights said on Saturday they had been released.

Mohamed Nouri, president of the newly created International Association in Support of Political Prisoners (IASPP), and Nourredine Bhiri, a rights lawyer and human rights activist, were arrested early on Friday in central Tunis.

"Three plainclothes policemen arrested me as I was entering my office building and shoved me into a car and took me away to the Interior Ministry where they put me in a cell," Bhiri told Reuters by telephone.

"After about four hours in custody, the police questioned me about the IASPP and my links with some lawyers and rights activists who visited me," he added.

Nouri said he had been interrogated separately at the ministry. They said they were released without charge after about six hours. "The police seem to be seeking to frighten and terrorise us after the creation of the association for prisoners," said Bhiri when asked about the possible reason for their arrests.

Government officials were not immediately available for comment. The government maintains it has no political prisoners and says that all detainees are held on

criminal charges. Human rights organisations say Tunisian prisons hold more than 1,000 political activists, most of them Islamists.

Rights activists said the creation of the IASPP early this month angered the government, which has yet to reply to Nouri's written demand nine days ago to register the association.

Nouri and Bhiri are also the founders of the unauthorised Tunisian Center for Judiciary Independence, chaired by dissident judge Mokhtar Yahyaoui who was fired last December after complaining in an open letter about the tight control over court judges by the executive authorities.

Israeli radios say soldier killed UNRWA official

JERUSALEM, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Israeli radio stations said on Saturday that an initial military inquiry found that an Israeli soldier shot and killed a U.N. relief worker after mistaking a cellular telephone he was holding for a grenade.

A spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said Iain Hook, manager of a UNRWA project to rehabilitate the Jenin refugee camp, was shot while moving outside the trailer-van offices in the UNRWA compound during an Israeli raid on the Jenin refugee

camp.

Israel Radio and Army Radio said preliminary findings showed that an Israeli soldier fired at Hook in the midst of the gun battle with Palestinian gunmen when he mistook the 54-year-old U.N. official's cellular telephone to be a hand grenade.

The army said the investigation was still under way and a spokeswoman denied any preliminary findings had been reached.

The radio stations, citing unnamed sources, said Hook was shot as he walked down an alley that had been used by Palestinian gunmen earlier in

the battle. They gave no further details.

The UNRWA spokesman, Paul McCann, said UNRWA had no information on any initial findings and was launching its own probe into the incident. An investigator from U.N. headquarters in New York was due to arrive on Sunday, he said.

"He had been making requests with the Israelis to call a ceasefire to allow our staff and some vulnerable civilians living nearby to be evacuated from the area," McCann said.

Israel and the United Nations said on Friday it was unclear who fired

the shots that killed Hook during an Israeli raid to search for an Islamic Jihad militant accused of masterminding a suicide bombing in October that killed 14 people.

But the United Nations has officially accused Israeli forces of delaying an ambulance summoned to evacuate Hook. The army said a military ambulance was sent to the Briton's aid but that when it arrived he was already dead.

Hook was overseeing the reconstruction of houses in the camp which had been bulldozed during a previous Israeli raid on the camp.

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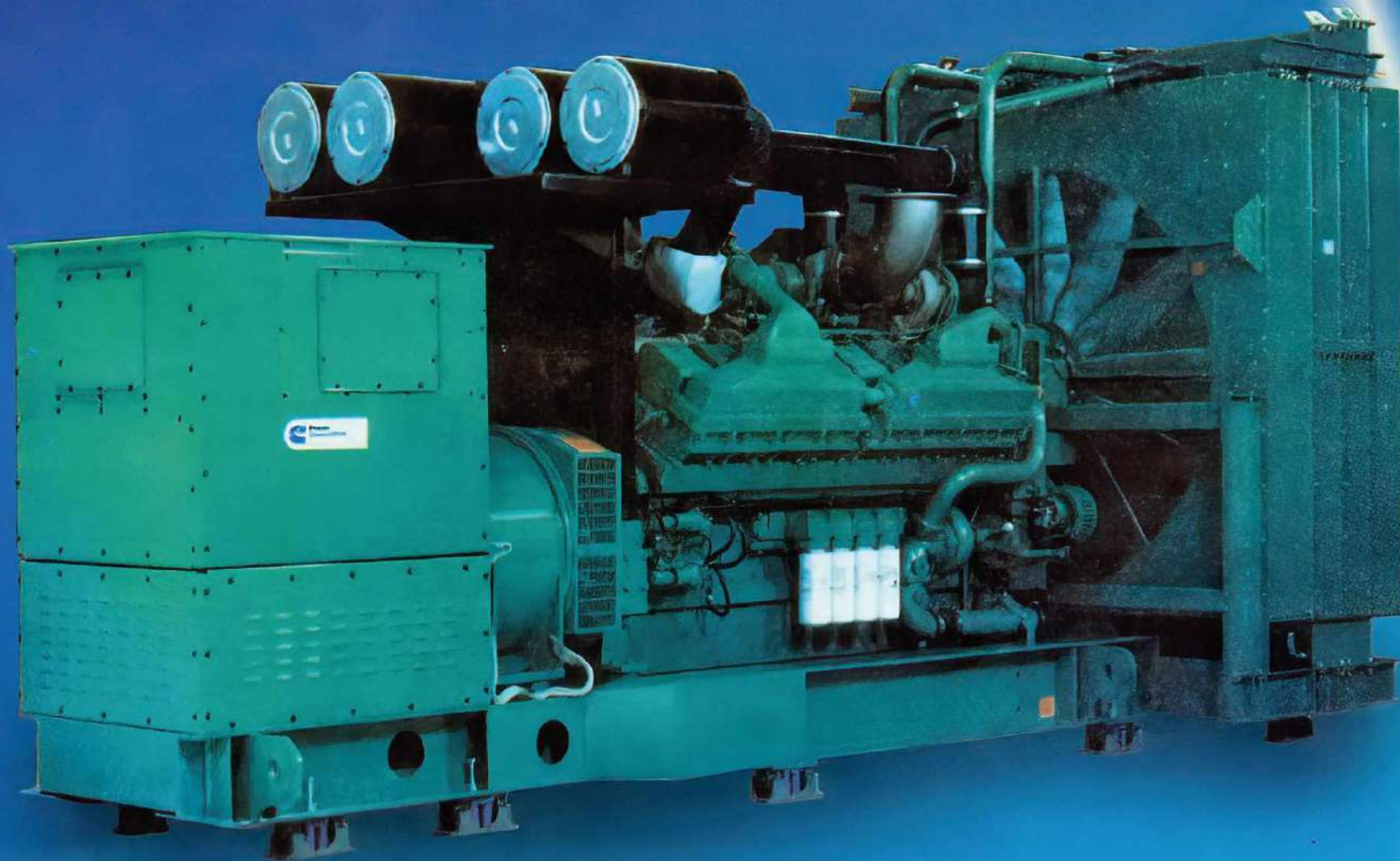
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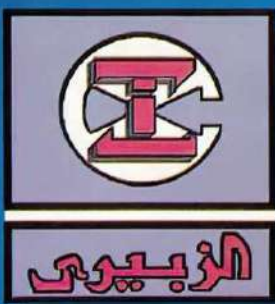


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Pakistan PM sworn in President urges continuity

ISLAMABAD, Nov 23 (Reuters) - Pakistan's newly elected prime minister was sworn in on Saturday, formally returning the country to civilian rule after three years of military dictatorship.

Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali of the pro-military Pakistan Muslim League (PML) repeated the oath after President Pervez Musharraf, who with the power to dismiss parliament and five more years in office, is expected to dominate the political scene.

Jamali has vowed to continue Musharraf's key policies, including supporting the United States in its hunt for al Qaeda and Taliban operatives in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

But he could have a rough ride in parliament, with the PML short of a majority and two formidable forces in opposition — the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by exiled ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the fiercely anti-U.S. religious right.

"Pakistan comes first," the 58-year-old Jamali said, after a formal ceremony at the presidential palace in Islamabad during which 14 cabinet ministers and seven ministers of state were also formally accepted into government.

Musharraf immediately called for continuity of his policies, which have won him powerful friends in Washington and among investors impressed with economic reforms.

"Whatever projects have been started should be seen through to their logical ends in these next five years so that Pakistan can progress and prosper," the general told reporters.

In an early sign of continuity, Shaikat Aziz, the respected outgoing finance minister, was named economic adviser to Jamali.

Musharraf has been criticised for rigging the October 10 election by banning key opponents and formalising the military's role in government through the National Security Council. He was also widely credited with ensuring that the PML won the most seats in parliament. Jamali was described in one broadsheet on Saturday as Musharraf's "puppet premier".

How long will it last?

The prospect of a parliament divided between pro- and anti-military parties has led commentators to speculate about the government's speedy collapse even before it is fully formed.

Jamali, described by friends as a moderate Muslim, won 172 votes of 328 cast in Thursday's prime ministerial ballot with the help of smaller parties and defections from his larger rivals.

At the swearing in ceremony, attended by religious and political leaders, diplomats and top military officers, 14 cabinet ministers also took the oath, including three "dissident" PPP members who backed Jamali's candidacy.

"I think this team is pretty good, very competent. I have no doubts about how they will perform so I think they will live up to expectations," Musharraf said of the new government.

The PPP defectors were all awarded with key ministries in the new cabinet. A statement said Rao Sikandar Iqbal was the new defence minister, Faisal Saleh Hayat the new interior minister and Nauroz Shakoor petroleum and natural resources minister.

No finance minister was named, raising expectations that Aziz would keep his portfolio if he ran in the upcoming election to the Senate upper parliamentary chamber. There were no posts for the Islamic coalition.

Looking on at the ceremony was Fazal-ur-Rehman, the firebrand pro-Taliban religious leader who won 86 votes on Thursday ahead of the PPP's candidate Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who won 70 votes.

Jamali's victory was a relief for Washington and international investors who had fretted over stunning gains by the hardline Islamic coalition and the possibility at one stage that Rehman could become prime minister.

The religious right won 60 seats in the October 10 poll, compared with just two at the previous election, handing it the balance of power between the pro-military PML and the anti-Musharraf PPP which came second in the vote.



Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali (R) is sworn in as Pakistan's new prime minister as he repeats the oath after Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf (L) in Islamabad Nov. 23. REUTERS

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Landmine blast, clashes kill 22 in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 23 (Reuters)

- A landmine blast and clashes left 22 dead in Indian Kashmir on Saturday, the bloodiest day since a new state government took office earlier this month calling for an end to the violence.

A landmine planted by suspected separatist militants blew up a bus, killing 12 people, including six soldiers, and wounding 23, authorities said.

Police said 10 people died in other clashes across the region, at the heart of a dispute between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan.

A local news agency said two pro-Pakistan militant groups, Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen and Harkat-e-Jehad Islami had claimed responsibility for the landmine blast, which sent the bus hurtling down a 300-foot (90-metre) gorge.

An army spokesman said the civilian bus was hired by the army to transport soldiers and their families from Srinagar to the Himalayan state's winter capital of Jammu. It hit the mine near Qazigund town, 70 km (45 miles) south of Srinagar.

"The total number of injured are 23 of which at least 12 are in serious condition," the spokesman said.

The dead included three women and two children, all relatives of the soldiers. The death toll could rise, as most of the wounded were in critical condition, Indian officials said.

The attack came a day after two guerrillas stormed a security camp in the heart of Srinagar and killed six soldiers before being gunned down.



Indian army soldiers investigate the wreckage of a bus after a landmine explosion at Lower Manda, 90 kms (56 miles) south of Srinagar Nov. 23. REUTERS

Violence rages

An assortment of guerrilla groups have been fighting for Kashmir's independence or merger with Pakistan since late 1989. More than 35,000 people have died. Separatists put the toll at over 80,000.

Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Syed, who was sworn in on November 2, says he favours peace talks and has moved to free political prisoners. But the violence has raged unabated in Kashmir,

mainly Hindu India's only Muslim majority state.

In Saturday's other clashes, two policemen died when suspected rebels attacked police patrols in two busy markets in Srinagar, police said. Elsewhere, three security forces personnel, two civilians and a militant died in shootouts.

Security forces shot dead two militants in a fierce gunbattle in the Poonch district near a ceasefire line dividing the Indian and Pakistani armies in the region.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting the revolt and says its neighbour has not done enough to stop guerrillas crossing the border.

Islamabad denies military involvement, but says it gives moral support to what it calls Kashmiris' "legitimate struggle for self-determination".

An attack on an Indian army camp in Kashmir in May, in which more than two dozen people were killed, brought the neighbours to the brink of a third war over the region.

Failed Afghan assassin linked to Pakistan: Official

KABUL, (Reuters) - The would-be assassin of Afghan Defence Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim has links with extremist Islamic groups in Pakistan and members of the Taliban movement, an intelligence official said on Saturday.

Intelligence services said on Friday they had foiled an attempt by Iraqi national Bohtan Akram Tawfiq Horami to kill Fahim near his residence when they found Horami with 10 kg (22 pounds) of explosive material tied to his body. "Mr Bohtan... has very clear links with Taliban leaders and some Pakistani extremist groups," Amrullah Salih, an intelligence chief, told a news briefing in Kabul.

Salih did not specify which Pakistani groups but said that Horami had entered Afghanistan from neighbouring Pakistan.

He said the original target of the attack was President Hamid Karzai, who narrowly survived an assassination attempt in early September when a gun-



A picture of Bohtan Akram Tawfiq Horami is displayed to the media in Kabul Afghan security on Nov. 23. REUTERS

man opened fire on his car in the southern city of Kandahar.

Karzai's absence until recently in the United States had scuppered that plan.

"He failed to reach Kabul before the arrival of the president. It clearly demonstrates that the enemies of peace and security and the enemies of Afghanistan have time, resources, expertise and the networks for such operations.

"The alternative plan was to assassinate Fahim Khan."

Afghan authorities have been quick to blame recent bomb blasts and high-level assassination bids on people with links to the ousted Taliban militia and the al Qaeda network it sheltered. Often there is little or no hard evidence to back up the claims.

Afghan defence ministry officials said on Friday that two Arabs were arrested in connection with the foiled attempt to kill Fahim, whose faction of the Northern Alliance forms the backbone of Karzai's U.S.-backed government.

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Bush compares Ceausescu to Saddam

BUCHAREST, Nov 23 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush told tens of thousands of Romanians on Saturday their misery under communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu showed that aggressive dictators like Iraq's Saddam Hussein must be stopped.

"You know the difference between good and evil because you have seen evil's face. The people of Romania understand that aggressive dictators cannot be appeased or ignored, they must always be opposed," Bush said.

Bush spoke in Bucharest from a podium that faced the balcony where Ceausescu made his fateful last appearance in December 1989. To the authoritarian ruler's surprise, the crowd shouted him down, starting a bloody revolt that led to his execution.

A huge Romanian crowd cheered as Bush linked the courage of the people in formerly communist countries who rose up against oppressive rulers or Soviet domination with the obligation he himself feels to tackle the Iraqi president.

"The dictator of Iraq threatens the security of every free nation, including the free nations of Europe," Bush said.

"Every nation must confront danger. Every free nation has a responsibility to play its full and responsible role," said the president, who urged support for his policies on Iraq in the public grand finale of a five-day trip to eastern Europe.

Bush has won guarded backing from NATO allies and Russia for disarming Iraq. But Moscow and many west European nations doubt the

value of doing so by force and so far have endorsed only a United Nations-led drive to seek out banned weapon programmes.

Romania is one of seven former communist countries invited at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Prague summit this week to join the alliance, in a move Bush said would invigorate NATO and give it new purpose.

"Your country also brings moral clarity to our NATO alliance.

You value freedom because you have lived without it," Bush said.

Buildings still pockmarked

Bush spoke behind a bulletproof shield to one of the largest crowds of his presidency, with estimates ranging past 200,000 people, amid buildings still pockmarked by the explosions and gunfire of bitter clashes between anti-communists and security forces in the 1989 revolution.

The audience endured unremitting rain and filled surrounding streets far into the distance, cheering Bush for securing them the NATO invitation they see as sealing their membership in the club of safe, democratic nations.

Romania is still burdened by the legacy of Ceausescu's 25 years of authoritarian rule and economic mismanagement, which left it among the poorest countries in Europe.

It has been invited into NATO, along with Bulgaria, to give the alliance a Balkan land bridge to member countries Turkey and Greece, to spread stability along the Black Sea and to help stabilise the nearby Yugoslav region after 10 years of war. Bush also said Romania would serve in NATO as a bridge to Russia, which has reluctantly accepted NATO's expansion.

"For centuries, Romania's geography was a source of danger," Bush said. "Now you can help our alliance to extend the hand of cooperation across the Black Sea...A Russia that is fully part of Europe needs no buffer zone separating it from Europe."



U.S. President George W. Bush addresses supporters in Revolution Square in central Bucharest Nov. 23. REUTERS

Chechen warlord warns of attacks on Russia

MOSCOW, Nov 23 (Reuters) - The Chechen warlord who says he was behind last month's mass hostage-taking in Moscow warned on Saturday his group would launch new strikes in Russia if it did not pull its troops out of Chechnya.

Chechen rebel commander Shamil Basayev, Russia's public enemy number one, told NATO leaders in an open letter that they should put pressure on Moscow to pull out of the Muslim North Caucasus territory and start peace negotiations.

"Chechen Mujahideen have a full right and possibilities to carry out strikes on the territory of the aggressor country, adequate to what the Russian military clique has been conducting and is still continuing to conduct on the territory of Chechnya," the English text of the letter said.

"We are also warning that all military, industrial and strategic facilities on the territory of Russia are legitimate military targets for us, wherever they may belong to," the statement, issued by the rebel Kavkaz Center, said.

"We also warn that the new generation is coming to take our place, the generation of orphans, whose fathers and mothers were killed on the orders by the Kremlin regime," it said.

The statement was signed by the Command of the Reconnaissance and Sabotage Battalion "Riyadus Salihin", the group that Basayev heads and whose units launched the attack on a theatre in the south-east of Moscow late in October.

TRAUMATIC SIEGE

A total of 128 hostages and all 41 rebels were killed when Russian special forces stormed the theatre after three days, ending a siege that traumatised Russia and shook President Vladimir Putin who came to power vowing to crush the rebels.

Almost all the dead hostages were killed by a strong narcotic gas used by the security forces to knock out the rebels. The bearded Basayev, a terror figure in Russia since his group took several hundred people hostage in a Budyonnovsk hospital in southern Russia in 1995, claimed responsibility for the theatre operation within days of

it ending. The Kremlin says Basayev's claim was partly intended to divert blame for the attack from fugitive rebel president Aslan Maskhadov with whom it refuses to hold peace talks.

Russian forces have been battling Chechen separatist rebels in the rebellious southern province on and off since 1994.

Putin has been only partially successful in winning western support for his contention that Russia's fight against Chechen separatism is on a par with the U.S.-led war against the Al Qaeda network behind the September 11, 2001, airliner attacks in the United States.

The guerrilla statement was heavy with reproach for NATO leaders and the West whom it accused of hypocritically defending the "barbaric aggression" of Russian forces in Chechnya.

It called on the leaders of NATO and other international bodies to exert pressure on Putin to cease military operations, pull Moscow's forces back to beyond 100 km (62 miles) of the Chechnya border and start peace negotiations with Maskhadov.

US gives protection

Baltics praised for defeating 'tyranny'

VILNIUS, (Reuters) U.S. President George W. Bush praised Baltic nations on Saturday for defeating tyranny and told the NATO invitees they had the full protection of American military might in confronting any future aggression.

Bush won a loud cheer when he emphasised that NATO's security guarantee was backed by the U.S. armed forces.

"Our alliance has made a solemn pledge of protection. Anyone who would choose Lithuania as an enemy has also made an enemy of the United States of America," he told an enthusiastic crowd of several thousand at Rotuse Square in the 16th century centre of the Lithuanian capital.

"NATO and Bush — that's two security guarantees and now Russia will never attack us again," said Julija Kairiene, a middle-aged housewife waving a Stars and Stripes flag.

Bush said Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia's fight to rid themselves of Soviet occupation was a lesson on the need to stand up to tyranny, an argument he has invoked frequently to back his drive to disarm Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We must be willing to stand in the face of evil and to have the courage to always face danger," he said.

The three Baltic states endured half a century of occupation by the Soviet Union until they won their freedom in 1991. They remain suspicious of Moscow and regard NATO as a guarantee they will never again be dominated by Russia.

Bush later flew to Bucharest, his last stop, to celebrate NATO's expansion in the turbulent Balkans and thank Romania and Bulgaria for backing Washington's drive to disarm Iraq.

Thousands were gathering in central Bucharest's Revolution Square, scene of fierce fights between anti-communists and security forces in 1989, to hear Bush congratulate Romania on winning an invitation this week to join the 19-member alliance.

By inviting Romania and Bulgaria to join, NATO gets a land bridge through the Balkans to Greece and Turkey and helps to stabilise the states of ex-Yugoslavia after a decade of war.

Warm ties with Putin

In Vilnius, Bush carefully avoided mention of who tyrannised the Baltics, mindful of lingering Russian unhappiness at the Prague NATO summit decision to expand into Moscow's backyard and keen to keep warm ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Bush met Putin in St. Petersburg on Friday, winning grudging acceptance of NATO expansion and qualified backing for his drive to rid Iraq of suspected weapons of mass destruction.

Putin said finding and destroying prohibited weaponry was the job of the United Nations, whose arms inspectors returned to Baghdad this week for the first time in four years.

In Prague, Bush won a pledge from NATO allies of "effective action" to back the U.N. disarming of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a formulation that papered over unhappiness in many European states at Washington's

willingness to go to war.

East European states are less critical of U.S. policy than their West European counterparts and Bush has looked to them as a counterweight to traditional NATO pillars France and Germany, who see little merit in taking weapons from Saddam by force.

Bush sees the moral necessity of rewarding the "love of liberty" in eastern Europe in the same light as the obligation which he says he feels to fight "tyrants" like Saddam.

He is likely to repeat this argument in a keynote speech in Bucharest from a podium that faces the balcony where Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu made his fateful last appearance in December 1989 before his bloody downfall and execution.

NATO's new members can reinvigorate the alliance's sense of purpose, he said, and help reshape the former Cold War defence machine into a broad alliance that can fight global terrorism.

"Our alliance of freedom is being tested again by a new and terrible danger," he said in Vilnius. "Like Nazis and communists before them the terrorists seek to end lives and control all life...the terrorists will be defeated."

Warm welcome

Bush feels comfortable and welcome in eastern Europe and in his five-day trip across the Atlantic, he has only visited ex-communist countries.

In tiny Lithuania, home to only 3.5 million people, Bush's visit was a celebration of escaping the hated Soviet fold.

VACANCIES

The American Embassy announces for job openings within its organization.

"Community Liaison Officer Coordinator"

The position is located in the Administrative Section, American Embassy, Sana'a. The position will be responsible for all coordination duties related to improvement and maintenance of morale and quality of life for American Mission Employees and their families.

Required Qualifications:

Education: BA degree is preferred.

Prior Work Experience: Prior experience as a Community Liaison Officer with the Department of State is preferred. Cross-cultural experience; publications and editing experience on newsletters for USG organizations and small to medium sized companies; training and experience in the use of Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher and/or similar desktop publishing systems; work history which demonstrate strong interpersonal skills in working with a diverse Mission Community is required.

Knowledge/Ability: Ability to produce high quality work under pressure in order to meet specific deadlines. Discretion is essential. The ability to speak, read and understand Arabic is desirable.

Salary: The annual rate for this position is USD 28,450.

"Development Program Coordinator"

The position is located in the Economic Section, American Embassy, Sana'a. An employee in this position is considered expert, serving as the principal advisor to the Ambassador or a head of a development assistance program. The employee provides substantive advice and support in the formulation and administration of development programs in the host country.

Required Qualifications:

Education: Possession of a bachelor's degree in the field of business administration, economics, or law is required.

Experience: From six to eight years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience is required.

Language: Level IV (fluent) English proficiency is required.

Knowledge: A thorough knowledge of the concepts and principles in the field of professional is required.

Abilities and Skills: Ability to establish and maintain an extensive range of contacts with ministerial level officials.

Salary: The annual rate for this position is USD31,825.

Who and How to apply: Only qualified AMERICAN Citizens capable of receiving security clearance. Interested applicants should complete SF-171 (Application Form for Federal Employment) or submit a current CV with certificates and recommendation letters attached. Applicants could submit the application or CV in person to the Embassy's gate or send it to the following address no later than December 01, 2002: **Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhar Himyar St., P. O. Box 22347, Sana'a, Yemen**

ETA killer found shot dead: Spanish police

MADRID, Nov 23 (Reuters) - A member of armed Basque separatist group ETA who had been convicted of six murders was found shot dead on Saturday, police said, weeks after he was released on parole.

He had been shot in the chest. A shotgun was found by his body in a wood.

Ramon Gil Ostoa was freed by Judge Ruth Alonso in October after serving 12 years of a 298-year sentence, officials said.

Local press reported that she and her family received death threats after her controversial decision.

Spanish Interior Minister Angel Acebes said he did not rule out suicide.

"The autopsy is being carried out and the initial signs, the shotgun, point to suicide," Acebes told reporters.

"Whether it is suicide or not...I think the terrorist organisation ETA bears the ultimate responsibility for whatever might have happened, whether it was caused by someone else, in which case murder, or whether it was suicide," he added.

Sources involved in the investigation said the shotgun belonged to Gil Ostoa's brother.

After Alonso released the ETA mem-

ber, the central government criticised her decision and judicial authorities launched an investigation into the case, which was later shelved.

Also on Saturday, Mexico handed over to Spain alleged ETA member Jose Antonio Borde Gaztelumendi, suspected of 16 murders between 1978 and 1983, the interior ministry said, adding that he was one of the most wanted ETA activists.

ETA has killed more than 800 people since 1968 to press its demands for an independent state in Basque areas of northern Spain and southwestern France.

YT Business



The Road Ahead

The Frontliners

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
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Nobody is perfect, that's for sure. But there are times when you have to be perfect in eliciting superior performance from your employees, especially those on the front line: hotel room-cleaners, inquiry officers, cargo and delivery boys, security officers and anybody who has a direct effect on customers.

Every person you work with is a link in a chain of people. In the case of the frontliners the chain of people includes your very own valuable customers. And their interaction with customers may make a huge impact on the customer's experience and hence the company's profits.

In spite of their importance, frontliners are usually the least experienced with very little scope of advancements in their jobs, and more than that, they are often the least paid. Their work is monotonous and they rarely emotionally connect with their employers. How then are they expected to make a superior effort? It is the job of managers to elicit the performance level required through motivation and create an extraordinary energy and commitment in them.

Yet building commitment is possible and there is one thing that can help in the process. It's building pride. Look at the army for example. Soldiers are often mistreated and face some hard times during their training, but as soon they learn about values, honor, courage and commitment, they cope with any difficulty and have high emotional energy no matter how hard the tasks are. This is why I personally have a lot of respect for military training; it teaches much more than what you see in life. There are principles, values, team effort and more than that pride. One must have pride in what he or she does.

The same concept can be translated into business management. Instead of the brief training a front-line employee receives as he joins and experiences no emotions during the process but anxiety or boredom, he should be trained in such a manner that elucidates the mission, establishes values and builds up pride in the job. It should energize frontline employees with emotional energy and recognition. There is a difference between one who works for the money and one who shares the same values and finds pride in working with the organization.

Emotional energy is created with the mutual trust held between the frontliners and the employers, along with collective pride and self-discipline. Frontline employees commit themselves to the organization because they are proud of its aspirations, accomplishments and legacy. They share its values and in turn they are committed to it and to superior performance.

Remember: Energizing frontliners creates more than superior performance; it creates commitment and pride as well. And these are critical for any business.

Hadramout Governor to Yemen Times:

Plenty of projects being launched in Hadramout

The governor of Hadramout, Abdul Kader Ali Helal, a person well-respected in the governorate, was appointed in April 2001. It's his desire to achieve many projects for the governorate.

In fact, he will be remembered in the history of Hadramout if his dream projects for tourism in Khour Maksar could be achieved. The project consists of a canal to be dug in the al-Aiqa Valley to be connected with the sea. Yemen Times met with the governor to learn more of the infrastructure projects under implementation and other issues.

Q: What are current projects and opportunities available?

A: We're now concentrating on infrastructure projects like electricity, roads, water and vocational education and qualifying the middle cadre. We also have put the fishery sector among our priorities for developing and marketing their production, hoping the Europeans will continue their support for fishery projects in Suqatra, and another fourth project.

We also give the investment sector a special interest because of its role in national economic development after a long time of having a lack of clear future strategy. Air photography in the coastal areas helped us overcome this problem and reclassify investment areas and provide it with essential services.

We are currently working on creating an investment atmosphere to update airports, establish a new prom port, providing good sewage for cities and villages and react to regional variables to cope with the economic development, something the Gulf countries are witnessing especially as Yemen is now part of some of the GCC institutions.

Q: It is noticeable that investment projects are focused on the construction level while ignoring the industrial sector. Why? Do you expect an investment revival in the near future? In which field?

A: The investment atmosphere in

Hadramout is good for different investment aspects in different sectors for its good geographical nature. This is very encouraging to attract Arab and foreign capitals. Besides, Hadramout is very rich in its natural resources like gold, zinc, garnet, marble and a variety of agricultural products, like dates (there are 66 kind of dates), vegetables, corms, tobacco, henna, and citrus.

There is plenty of pure water and high quality of fish and sealife like shrimp and lobster and the best honey is in Hadramout. It has high quality honey like Dawa'ani. Hadramout also famous of its beautiful beaches and clean sands, historical cities and sanctuaries (Suqatra is the biggest Yemeni island) which has valuable tourist attraction as one of the 10th rare islands of the world. It has wide variety of rare plantation, 600 kinds, and 105 rare birds.

Some of the political leadership is concentrated on developing the governorate through implementing different enterprises which will contribute to developing commercial waves and investment. Some of these projects are Tareem-Thamoud-Shahen road, which will connect the Yemen to the Gulf roads net through Oman, adding more than 50,000 phone lines to complete connections of the governorate provinces with the national net, completion of Suqatra airport so it can receive larger planes around the clock, and preparing the designs of the prom strategic port to a 16 m depth, and number of platforms of 300-350 m with the capacity for all types of ships and goods.

Another project is updating the Arrayan International Airport, to be used for exporting fresh fish according to the international standards that meets the world markets.

As we finish the technical aspects and studies of these two projects, the political leadership is intending to present them to the private sector Arab and foreign investors.

In fact, the governorate is witnessing a construction revival and investment development in various aspects. In the oil sector, there are 13 international firms of which includes



Abdulqader Hilal, governor of Hadramout.

Canadian Nexen, the biggest oil productive company with a production capacity of 200,000 barrels daily, the Australian Oil Search company was launched in sector (15) to conduct a marine seismic surveys in 1,000km length and another three-dimensional survey on 400 km square.

The good attendance of the foreign oil firms in Yemen is due to the facilities and privileges offered as the companies use all its components searching the oil. Then it can cover all the damages of the exploration stage and get its profits.

Regarding industrial sector, I can tell you that it is also witnessing a good revival, especially in transformational industries like fish canning and date-picking, besides the oil industries as a new refinery in Mukalla will be established with a

productive capacity of 100,000 barrels daily which will cost US \$900 million and make room for 1,500 workers. It is a project shared between national capital and gulf capital.

In the tourism sector, there is more than 70 tourist establishments. In addition, there is eight investment firms working in the fishing sector and the local councils have put the tourist sector in their top priority through establishing an investment committee headed by me to design a clear strategy for the investment operation and benefiting from the president's instructions for tax-free sections of land where investment costs exceed US \$10 million, and provide more facilities to the industrial areas. Further, we are preparing for a large investment conference in

the governorate entitled "International meeting for investment," for more investment promotions and presenting the unique privileges which distinguish Hadramout in the different fields.

Q: What are the projects now being implemented? What about the Khour Maksar project? What are the advantages of this project?

A: The government has witnessed a number of developmental projects. The main projects under implementation are the Mayfa'a-Hagar-al goal road which costs YR 1.3 billion, the rural area developmental project, al Mashad-Dawa'an road which is 97 km long and costs YR 1.1 billion, the road project of Ras Huaira-Aqabat khaliat Baqshan, 57 km in length and US \$6 million on the expenses of Shaikh Abdullah Ahmed Baqshan, and Adwass-Ghail bin Yamin-Sah, 85 km in length and costing US \$6 billion with a contribution of Canadian Nexen and Total as well as other working firms in the region. The Sayoun Stadium, a technical marine institute and the project of Al Amodi fills up with land inside the sea.

Other tourist project, which is being established by the local council, is a canal, 3 km in length, 70-150 m in width, to connect the sea with Al Eiqa, and constructing four hanging bridges between al Mukalla's old zones, as well as establishing many other tourist establishments and parks.

Q: Do you think that the local councils experience are supporting governors and how do you assess the local council in Hadramout?

A: Although the experience of the local council is still in its early stage, there are some positive indications through the last two years of which is decentralization. People in Hadramout are very peaceful regardless of the different parties they belong to, so the harmony and peace is very dominant, and the council is very competitive to offer the best model of the local councils experiences nationwide.

2003 budget is hammered out

Moving Yemen's economy into growth

BY MOHAMMED AL-MASANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The success of Yemen's policies towards economic reform for the majority of the people depends entirely upon its capabilities for reviewing a comprehensive plan and strategy.

Helping Yemen continue its reforms, including reducing unemployment, is among the goals discussed by the World Bank and other donors at a recent meeting in Paris.

It is reported that the estimated volume of revenues in the Yemen's general budget project for the year 2003 is amounting YR 604.4 billion compared to revenues of 2002.

Speaking about reforms and the 2003 budget, Ahmed Obied al-Fadhli, Yemen's deputy finance minister told the Yemen Times that the 2003 local authority budgets have been prepared.

"In order to make a success of the 2003 budgets, the finance ministry along with the Ministry of the Local Administration, and the Ministry of Planning have to cooperate through forming committees in all governorates," he said.

Despite of the difficulties faced by the finance ministry, efforts have been exerted to review statistics of the 2003 budget.

The gross net revenues have reached YR 604.4 billion. The deputy minister made clear

that the financial and economic reform program has an advantage over reducing the general budget deficit ranging from 16 percent out of the overall domestic production in 1994 to 2.5 percent in 2001.

In addition to this, the inflation rate has been reduced from 70 percent in 1994 to 11.9 percent in 2002.

The domestic liquidity rates have been reduced along with the banking finance volume for the general budget through putting an end to the inflationary spiral of the deficit and depending on actual resources in finance.

"The economic reform program has achieved positive rate growths in the national economic levels along with achieving a proportional stabil-

ity of the official exchange rate. Besides, the structure of the general expenses has been reconsidered and reviewed in order to achieve a new monitoring mechanism on exchanges," Ahmed Obied noted further.

As for improving the non-oil revenues along with reconsidering some of the tax and financial bylaws, the deputy minister pointed out that this would help to increase state's general revenues, simplifying the collection procedures of the tax revenues. The tax procedures will regulate the tax avoidance and will also lessen the burdens of the state's general budget represented by the goods assistance.

The deputy minister has called for

further support in accordance with what has been stated in the poverty reduction strategy where the donor countries highly hailed the Yemen's adoption for the poverty reduction strategy.

Concerning the financial conditions within the context of the local authority he said: "The time still early to assess the financial process within the framework of the local authority. This is because of that the 2002 is the first year to apply the local authority budget in all governorates," he added.

The first indications point out that there is a tangible success to apply the financial decentralization and the finance ministry has done so before issuing the local council law.

Words of Wisdom



It is my belief that grass-roots level organizations such as unions and syndicates are vital contributors to the system because of their broad-based interaction. They give tangible meaning to popular participation within a democratic context. Therefore, any effort to broaden the participation base of decision-making in this country should, in part, involve the unions and syndicates. This means letting these organizations do their job.

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

OUR OPINION

No longer a secret

Today, I have been reading a news report entitled "Ready for Yemen Mission" saying that the US is ready to mount a massive operation to capture Al-Qaeda fighters in Yemen.

Hence, the recent confession by the Yemeni government about its cooperation only supports the fact that Yemen has become a major player in the US-lead war against 'terror'.

Yemenis were not surprised when the Ministry of Interior said that the assassination operation of al-Harethi and five others in Mareb on November third was coordinated between Yemen and the USA.

Yemenis already know that it was a US operation with the permission of Yemen, or as the minister said 'cooperation of Yemeni authorities'. The statement came extremely late, but it changed nothing.

Yemenis know that regardless of whether their government says the operation happened with their cooperation or not, it still resembles a severe humiliation for all Yemenis alike.

No one can deny that the US is able to pressure and enforce many things on other nations, including Yemen. There is simply no other option.

However, the Yemeni government seems to have not learned the lesson once again when it continues to insist that no operation involving non-Yemenis will be conducted in the future. The US is already planning something huge. This is being reported to the press in the US and worldwide. Just as there could be no smoke without fire, those news reports can not be totally baseless.

The US has expressed its desire to add more countries to its alliance fighting terror worldwide, and it seems that Yemen has gained the satisfaction of the US in its cooperation.

But is this enough? Will the US be satisfied with the current level of cooperation of the Yemeni government in allowing it to assassinate Yemenis on Yemeni soil, or will it go beyond that by requesting the government to let US forces to handle jobs for themselves?

The public is slowly getting more frustrated with Yemen's cooperation with the US in this regard and has expressed its outrage at Yemen's approval of the US missile strike three weeks ago.

What if US troops came into the country to launch operations on the ground? How will the government justify its stance then?

I just feel sympathetic towards the government as it has put itself in an extremely tough situation. I am sure the future is even tougher.

The Editor

American Muslims: Under siege



BY SHAKER AL-ASHWAL

I was asleep when I was awakened by the sounding of the "fasten your seat belt" bell. The sound of the bell was followed by an announcement made by the captain. I was still half asleep but I understood that we were twenty minutes away from landing. Twenty minutes later the plane touched down and I was relieved for my safety and arrival in my hometown.

American pride

"Home, sweet home!", I said to myself. It was then that I realized how much New York meant to me. I love New York, I love the U.S.A. and I am very proud of being a citizen of this great country. I am proud to be an American! My pride does not stem from the U.S. being the only super power in the world today. My pride is not fueled by the arrogance of the U.S. administration officials. On the contrary, I am overwhelmed with shame when I realize that the spokespersons of this administration have been granted the power to represent the ideals of America. I am proud of being an American because of what America has symbolized for me and the millions of people who sought refuge and renewal in this great land. That sense of pride will always be with me. No bigot and no Ashcroft and certainly no Bush will be able to take that away from me.

Psychological siege

On December 11, 1942 the United States government initiated a series of steps that resulted in the removal and isolations of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans in camps. The Japanese American community today is the most understanding of the suffering of the Muslim American community, having experienced the torment of racism, bigotry and blind draconian governmental policies. Americans looking back today and examining that chapter of history reflect on it with great shame. Yet today, another shameful chapter is unfolding in front of their eyes. This shameful chapter is written in fine print, many Americans find it too small to read and too vague; however, the fine print is legible and clear for the American Muslim community. The fine print says your liberties are now suspended. The fine print goes on to say that your moves are now recorded, and monitored, your faces are photographed, and your voices are digitally recorded because you are all now "terrorist suspects" until you prove otherwise. The FBI is documenting and filling databases of information collected from the thousands of interviews conducted and the hundreds of places raided and searched only to reveal an immigrant community striving for the American dream. Admittedly, it is hard to notice the plight of the American Muslim Community today. It is difficult to see it under siege because Muslims are not herded into camps in large groups. American Muslims are not physically isolated from the rest of the American society but we are definitely under a psychological isolation.

Under scrutiny

Today the American Muslim community and especially those of Arab decent are under FBI microscopes. Every one of

their actions is scrutinized. People have become so worried about their and behaviors. They have become horrified of the FBI mistaking some of their actions as suspicious: that five hundred dollars sent to Yemen for a family for a terrorist sponsorship or money laundering.

It is ironic that the Arab Americans sought freedom in America from political security agencies that monitored them, recorded their conversations and censored them only to relive those conditions under the American flag. For the time being, many Americans have been deafened by the noise emanating from their TVs and radios warning them of yet another attack. They are not interested in hearing about civil rights abuses and feel that as long as Muslims are targeted, such infractions are justified under the Ashcroft Justice System. Muslims are targeted and singled out in Airports and public places. Muslims have even been singled out and ejected out of buses traveling between the states. In their jobs, it does not take much for a colleague to call the terrorism hotline on a Muslim coworker. Detectives quickly follow up with visits to the job and to the residence to study their subject and compile their dossier.

Living in fear

If you ask a Muslim today whether they think that law enforcement authorities are targeting them, you are going to get different answers. While some who live away in suburban America, and those who are in professional settings will discount the notion that they're being targeted, and will go out of their way to convince you of the contrary. Others will tell you of personal stories that reflect an increasingly antagonistic society towards Muslims. The feelings of hate and prejudice have now been justified by the 9/11 events and lately by the words of the religious leaders that some Americans look up to for guidance. Law enforcement agencies have not hid the fact that they are worried about young Muslims in America, and that they are scrutinizing the actions and lives of tens of thousands of American Muslims.

Regardless of what they will tell you, initially, many Muslims in America today are living in fear. The FBI may not have questioned him or her but he or she knows that they are being watched. The liberties enjoyed by everyone in this society are for all except Muslims. Everyone in America can freely contribute to any charity of their own choice but Muslims must refrain from doing so because the U.S. department of Justice may accuse that charity of sponsoring terrorists when it is providing help for Palestinian children. American Muslims are refraining from visiting mosques and praying because they know that those mosques are under surveillance and people are profiled in every mosque. When they do go, they hope that the FBI person who took the picture caught their better profile, and attached it to the picture of the right license plate. Muslims are not afraid of what they do, but of being misunderstood.

Telephonic fears

Except for members of the Mafia, no American suspects that their telephone conversations are monitored unless they are directly involved in a criminal act. Muslims, however, know that every time they pick up the phone to talk to some-

one there is the likelihood of having a third person listening on the line. American Muslims have been censoring themselves and their words knowing that "BIG BROTHER" is watching. A young Yemeni immigrant calling his family asked, "How is my brother?" His mom replied with a question, "Which one?" He did not want to say the name. "The one who's just finished taking the exams." The innocent mother yelled, "OSAMA! Osama is fine." His heart changed its rhythm and he interruptingly sent his greetings and said, "The phone card is finished. Say hi to everyone." What if his conversation was monitored? And what would the person monitoring the conversation have thought? After all, OSAMA now refers to Osama Bin Laden. People have come up with descriptive terms to refer to their children or relatives if their names happen to be Osama or Saddam. For those who will tell you that they feel safe in America and things are back to normal, ask them if they are worried about what they say on the phone, if they are in fear of being misinterpreted or misunderstood.

Guilty by association

American Muslims are now weary about their friends or associates regardless of how long they have known them. They are afraid of being included in phonebooks, in pictures that may land in FBI's hands and entangle them in a "conspiracy" that they have nothing to do with. American Muslims are wanting to bury their pasts. Their transit stops in Pakistan, Sudan, or Yemen could land them in big trouble. American Muslims are living in fear, hiding it and pretending it's not there, but it's in everyone of their conversations. Yet you won't even realize that they are talking about it because they are talking about it in ambiguous terms out of fear of being heard. Past affiliations and associations may return to haunt you if you are a Muslim in America these days. If you fought in Afghanistan in 1980s, you are a prime target even though the U.S. paid for your recruitment, flight and training in Afghanistan.

Liberty and justice for all

My father always reminds us of the privileges of being Americans. I have always sensed his love for this great nation, and I sense his appreciation for what it has given him. He has traveled the world for the last 40 years as a proud American. Today I sense his disappointment in the transformation and deprivation of freedom suffered by American Muslims in particular. As I shared with him the honor of being an American I share with him the disappointment at the hijacking of civil rights and the rise of a Police State over the American Muslim community. It is in these times that we should be thankful that this great nation did not have people like Bush and Ashcroft writing the Constitution of the United States of America. As a Muslim living in America today, I am very troubled by what is happening to my community, and by the rise of a police state my community tried to leave behind. Despite what is occurring today, I still have faith in this great nation. I know that this nation will win the war against terrorism and racism and bigotry with justice. I still have faith in its ability to evolve as a nation with liberty and justice for all, including American Muslims. God bless America, the land of freedom, and Justice!

57 years after birth

UN has hands full

BY YASER AL-MAYASI

Last week the 57th anniversary of the United Nations was celebrated. Founded on Oct. 24, 1945, after the Second World War, 51 states joined. Now there are 191.

The principles for which the UN was founded are peace and security, developing friendly relations between countries on the basis of equal rights, self-determination, human rights and freedoms, regardless sex, religion, language and color.

Such principles, along with solving international crises, make the UN a home for all.

It is evident that the UN is always dedicated to implementing these goals. For instance, since in Sept. 2000, UN numbers including 147 presidents, met in New

York to identify priorities of the new century.

That resulted in the Millennium Announcement, which focused on human development around the world. The developmental aims focus on fighting poverty, hunger, enhancing equality between the two sexes, reducing death rates of children, improving health services and fighting AIDS, Malaria, tuberculosis and other epidemic disease.

They come in a time when the gap between the poor and rich people is getting wider. About one-sixth of populations in developing countries live well, while one-sixth of the population are struggling to survive, stricken by illness, poverty, hunger, and ecological disasters.

Between these two classes, the majority of the world population lives, deprived of security, and other essential needs which

are enjoyed by the people of the developed countries.

The UN indicators show that about \$10 billion is needed by 2005 to deal with such, while there is now \$3 billions allocated for fighting AIDS.

Such shocking numbers indicate more than 23 % of the developing world population are of a very low income, less than \$1 a day.

However, these frightening figures require serious initiatives from the whole world. In fact, the UN has a lot of serious challenges with deteriorating incomes of the developing countries, diseases, education and wars.

These problems cannot be solved unless practical action takes place. Otherwise, current economic conditions, and regional and international problems will be worse in the future.

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

God have mercy on us

For over than a year now a pious man has been searching endlessly for his son of some 20 years of age. He was a money-changer trying to earn an honest living in a world that has come to be a world of deception and corruption and moral values have been shelved for another generation. This happened in Yemen - a country, where it was thought that evil could never find a niche on its turf. He never cheated anyone and he never forgot that having a good conscience was the only way to ever come closer to God, Al-Mighty. He also took everyone at face value and never thought that anyone would seek to bring harm to him. But in this world of ugly desires and poor moral suasions, it will always be the good people, who will have to bear with all the consequences from all the evil that lurks around them.

Answering the call of what he thought was a fellow moneychanger needing support, he sent out his son to respond to a request for US \$ 15,000 from another fellow moneychanger. Our moneychanger has dealt with this kind of request before, without any significant problem to recall. So, there was nothing beyond a normal routine moneychanger back-to-back deal.

The son did not return home. The man went to call the moneychanger, who categorically denied having to request anything from him or his son. The moneychanger, after searching everywhere, where he thought his son might go, found no trace of his son. He went to the police. For a year, the man kept hanging on to the faintest hope that his son could still be alive after exhausting all his energy. He chased after every clue and every assurance that his son would still be found. But alas, the man could not find his son.

Eventually, thanks to a slip of the tongue of one of the culprits, the boy was indeed found. He was found dead. He apparently was killed on the day he delivered the loot.

Who did this heinous crime to a man who has never harmed a fly? A man who raised his sons to be good pious children, who never took part in any of the mischievous deeds that are associated with young kids today. He taught his sons that faith in God entails being deprived of the evil lurking of a commercial world that thrives on mischief. His son was killed on the day the delivery of the loot was made. After one year, he found that the loot, as well as his son, have both been gobbled up by the worst output of a society that has now come to regard money as the only driving impetus to life.

Yes, money must be obtained by any means, if one is to be able to enjoy the amenities of life, even if it means killing the son of a pious man, whose love for God, Al-Mighty is unbending and undisturbed by all the façade of materialistic life, which our society has come to regard as the only way to live. In such an environment, it is easy to see why men would butcher fellow men for a measly sum of money that is hardly enough for survival in a materialistic jungle that demands so much money out of you for every small thing required of life.

But honestly, is US 15,000 worth killing a man in the prime of his youth? The young son of the moneychanger was only starting to set his roots in life and was trying to follow in his father's footsteps to pursue an honest life, knowing that the thereafter leads to accountability for all one's sins. How ugly have we become that a bunch of hooligans can easily kill such a potentially productive citizen, for the meager sum of US \$15,000, which will be worth nothing as it has to be split among all those involved in the caper? It is said that there were some 6 men involved in the conspiracy, including young men, who could care the least about earning an honest living, let alone that they will also be accountable to God for their heinous crime. They killed such an innocent well-bred son of a proud faithful moneychanger, who never harmed a fly!

It is this sad tale that leads one to wonder if we are really heading in the right direction, as we allow our cities to grow in leaps and bounds without insuring that those, who do enter the cities can find the work they need to sustain themselves and are not a menace to society. Who should be blamed for such uncontrollable streaks of human evil that have corrupted our once innocent and peaceful society, where one used to be assured that it pays to bring up children in, so that they will carry on their God-fearing values and traits towards building a safe and peaceful world. No. It just does not enter the imagination that it is no longer a remote possibility that one's own flesh and blood can be found after one year buried somewhere least expected, because the evil have been allowed to trod on this earth without finding a deterrent to stall them.

Evil after all has permeated the very elements of those who are supposed to insure that such horrors do not arise. As if this was the fate planned for the poor and unfortunate Yemeni people, who are victims of an evil force that is engrained in the very fabric of those who hold the helms of authority in the land. Condolences go out to Sheikh Mophammed Abdul Salam and his proud family, who have patiently waited a year only to find themselves the victims of the evil that has overtaken us.

May God have mercy on us.

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How the West fuels global terrorism

BY SEUMAS MILNE
ARAB NEWS

This time last year, supporters of George Bush's war on terror were in euphoric mood. As one Taleban stronghold after another fell to the US-backed Northern Alliance, they hailed the advance as a decisive blow to the authors of the Sept. 11 atrocities. The critics and doom-mongers had been confounded, cheerleaders crowded. Kites were flying again, music was playing and women were throwing off their burkas with joyful abandon.

Dead or alive
As the US president demanded Osama Bin Laden "dead or alive", government officials on both sides of the Atlantic whispered that they were less than 48 hours from laying hands on the Al-Qaeda leader. By destroying the terrorist network's Afghan bases and its Taleban sponsors, supporters of the war argued, the Americans and their friends had ripped the heart out of the beast. Washington would now begin to address Muslim and Arab grievances by fast-tracking the establishment of a Palestinian state. London even published a rollcall of shame of journalists they claimed had been proved wrong by a hundred days of triumph. And in the UK Parliament, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw ridiculed members of Parliament (MPs) from his own Labour Party for suggesting that the US and Britain might still be fighting in Afghanistan 12 months down the line.

Reality sets in
One year on, the crowing has long since faded away; reality has sunk in. After six months of multiplying attacks on US, Australian and European targets, civilian and military — in Tunisia, Pakistan, Kuwait, Russia, Jordan, Yemen, the US and Indonesia — Western politicians are having to face the fact that they are losing their war on terror. In Britain, the prime minister has taken to warning of the "painful price" that the country will have to pay to defeat those who are "inimical to all we stand for", while leaks about the risk of chemical or biological attacks have become ever more lurid. After a year of US military operations in Afghanistan and around the world, the CIA Director George Tenet had to concede that the threat from Al-Qaeda and associated jihadist groups was as serious as before Sept. 11. "They've reconstituted, they are coming after us," he said.
In other words, the global US onslaught had been a complete failure — at least as far as dealing with non-state terrorism was concerned. Tom Daschle, the Democrats' leader in the Senate, was even more brutal.

Summing up a litany of unmet objectives in the US confrontation with militant Islamism, he asked: "By what measure can we say this has been successful?" But most galling of all has been the authentication of the latest taped message from Bin Laden himself, promising bloody revenge for the deaths of the innocent in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan. This was the man whose capture or killing was, after all, the first objective of Bush's war. And yet, along with the Taleban leader and one-eyed motorbiker Mulla Omar, the mastermind of America's humiliation remains free.

Dismal record
Meanwhile, in Afghanistan itself, the record is just as dismal. By using the heroin-financed gangsters of the Northern Alliance to overthrow the Taleban regime and pursue Al-Qaeda remnants ever since, the US has handed over most of the country to the same war criminals who devastated Afghanistan in the early 1990s. In Kabul, the US puppet President Hamid Karzai can rely on foreign troops to prop up his fragile authority. There, and in a few other urban centers, some girls' schools have reopened and the worst manifestations of the Taleban's grotesque oppression of women have gone.

But in much of what is once again the opium capital of the world, the return of the warlords has meant harsh political repression, lawlessness, mass rape and widespread torture, the bombing or closure of schools, as well as Taleban-style policing of women's dress and behavior. The systematic use by Ismail Khan, who runs much of Western Afghanistan with US support, of electric shock torture, arbitrary arrests and whippings to crush dissent is set out in a new Human Rights Watch report. Khan was nevertheless described by the US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld recently as a "thoughtful" and "appealing" person. His counterpart in the north, Gen. Dostam, has in turn just been accused by the UN of torturing witnesses to his troops' murder of thousands of Taleban prisoners late last year, when he was working closely with US special forces.

"Liberation"
The death toll exacted for this "liberation" can only be estimated. But a consensus is growing that around 3,500 Afghan civilians were killed by US bombing (which included the large-scale use of depleted uranium weapons), with up to 10,000 combatants killed and many more deaths from cold and hunger as a result of the military action. Now, long after the war was supposed to be over, the US 82nd airborne division is reported to be alienating the population in the south and east with relentless but

largely fruitless raids and detentions, while mortar and rocket attacks on US bases are now taking place at least three times a week. As Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, puts it, the US military campaign in Afghanistan has "lost momentum".

Choices made
All this has been the inevitable product of the central choice made last autumn, which was to opt for a mainly military solution to the challenge of terrorism. That was a recipe for failure. By their nature, terrorist or guerrilla campaigns which have deep social roots and draw on a widespread sense of injustice — as militant Islamist groups do, regardless of the obscurantism of their ideology — cannot be defeated militarily. And as the war on terror has increasingly become a war to enforce US global power, it has only intensified the appeal of "asymmetric warfare" to the powerless. The grievances Al-Qaeda is able to feed on throughout the Muslim world were once again spelled out in Bin Laden's latest edict. But there is little sign of any weakening of the wilful Western refusal to address seriously the causes of terrorism. Thus, during the past year, the US has armed and bolstered Pakistan and the Central Asian dictatorships, supported Putin's ongoing devastation of Chechnya, continued to bomb and blockade Iraq at huge human cost, established new US bases across the Muslim world and, most recklessly of all, provided every necessary cover for Ariel Sharon's bloody rampages through the occupied Palestinian territories. In most of this, despite Tony Blair's muted appeals for a new Middle East peace conference, Britain has played the role of faithful lieutenant.

Phase 2
Now, even as "phase one" of its war on terror has been seen to have failed, the US shows every sign of preparing to launch phase two: its long-planned invasion and occupation of Iraq. Perhaps some of the intensity of the current warnings about terrorist threats is intended to help soften up public opinion for an unpopular war. But what is certain about such an act of aggression is that it will fuel Islamist terrorism throughout the world and make attacks on those countries which support it much more likely. If such outrages take place in Britain, there can no longer be any surprise or mystery about why we have been attacked, no point in asking why they hate us. Of course, it wouldn't be the innocents who were killed or injured who would be to blame. But by throwing Britain's weight behind a flagrantly unjust war, our political leaders would certainly be held responsible for endangering their own people.



As war looms over Iraq Will Blix see a fig leaf or a gun?

BY AMIR TAHERI
GULF NEWS

Hans Blix, the 74-year-old Swedish diplomat who heads the United Nations' team of weapons inspectors, is the central act in a three-ring circus that will decide whether there will be another war in Iraq soon. But it's beginning to look like Blix believes that his mission is not to discover Saddam Hussain's hidden arsenal but to produce a diplomatic fig leaf that could render war impossible.

Power struggle
The first ring in Cirque du Blix consists of the power struggle within the Bush administration. On the one hand, there are those committed to nothing less than regime change. On the other are advocates of a new version of "containment" under which Saddam will be kept in his cage until fate decrees something better for the Iraqi people.
The second ring plays out in the UN Security Council in New York, where French, Russian and Chinese veto holders are fighting to keep the Iraqi president in power as long as possible. Blix's show in Baghdad will determine the outcome of the struggles in Washington and New York.
The Swedish diplomat has tried to minimize his role, insisting that any decision on war remains with the Security Council. Although technically true, this does not tell the whole story.

No weapons of mass destruction
A Blix report that says Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction would make it diplomatically difficult for the Americans to take military action against Saddam. On the other hand, no amount of French and Russian chicanery could save Saddam if Blix reported that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and was hiding them. There already are indications that we may witness the shaping of the mother of all diplomatic fudges.
Let's start with the Security Council's decision to accept the Iraqi response to Resolution 1441 - the UN measure that provides for "tough and aggressive" weapons inspections in Iraq - without closer scrutiny.
Iraq's response does not contain an explicit and unconditional acceptance, as had been demanded by the Security Council, but simply says that Iraq shall "deal

with Resolution 1441." The Arabic text is even more ambiguous and could be interpreted to say that the Iraqis shall "confront" the resolution. The phrase "accepting unconditionally" came orally from Iraq's envoy to the United Nations, Mohammed Douri, whose weight within the Iraqi system is no more than that of a messenger boy.
President Bush had dismissed the Iraqi parliament's rejection of 1441 as unimportant, saying he would wait for Saddam to take a position. Yet Saddam has not taken a position; his propaganda is telling the Iraqi people that he has just won another great diplomatic victory by trapping "the American and Zionist enemy" into a diplomatic process beyond their control.
Of even greater concern are some of Blix's more recent pronouncements. In an avalanche of interviews and confidences, Blix has said three things that are significant: He does not start his mission from the premise that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, but rather with "an open mind." As any reader of detective stories would know, this is a most curious police method. If you do not have a hypothesis upon which to work, you are unlikely to find anything.
His team will operate "in accordance with the established procedures," meaning the 1998 accords signed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tarik Aziz. The accords created what are known in diplomatic circles as "black tie" or "white gloves" inspections. The reference to "established procedures" weakens 1441, which was presented as a document superseding all previous resolutions and memorandums.
Any evidence that the United States or another UN member presents that Saddam is dissembling cannot even be

considered unless it is verified by Blix's team. Blix already has said he will not interview Iraqi weapons scientists abroad.
"I think it is wiser," he said, "to interview the Iraqis inside Iraq and in the presence of a representative of the Iraqi government." Even more interesting is Blix's attempt at fudging the concept of "material breach." He said it was not up to him but to the Security Council to decide what was a material breach of the resolution. In other words, the whole thing becomes a matter of opinion, not of fact.

Arduous task
Blix said his team would focus on 700 sites throughout Iraq. These are sites that were inspected between 1992 and 1998. Could he not imagine that the Iraqis might have developed other sites? Wouldn't it be more prudent to assume that the whole of Iraq could be a weapons site? In 1995, Hussein Kamel Majid, Saddam's son-in-law, defected and told the world of sites that the UN inspectors did not know existed.
Blix's intent can be understood from his assertion that if only one tyre of his automobile is punctured, he will presume that to be an accident, but if all four tyres are flat, he will suspect a deliberate act of ill will on the part of the Iraqis.
What he has not considered is the way Saddam works. Saddam will give him one flat tyre at a time; enough to keep him busy changing tyres but not enough to induce him to tell the Security Council that he was deliberately sidetracked.
Will Saddam outfox the gullible "crusaders" once again? He thinks that he can. It's up to Blix to prove him wrong.

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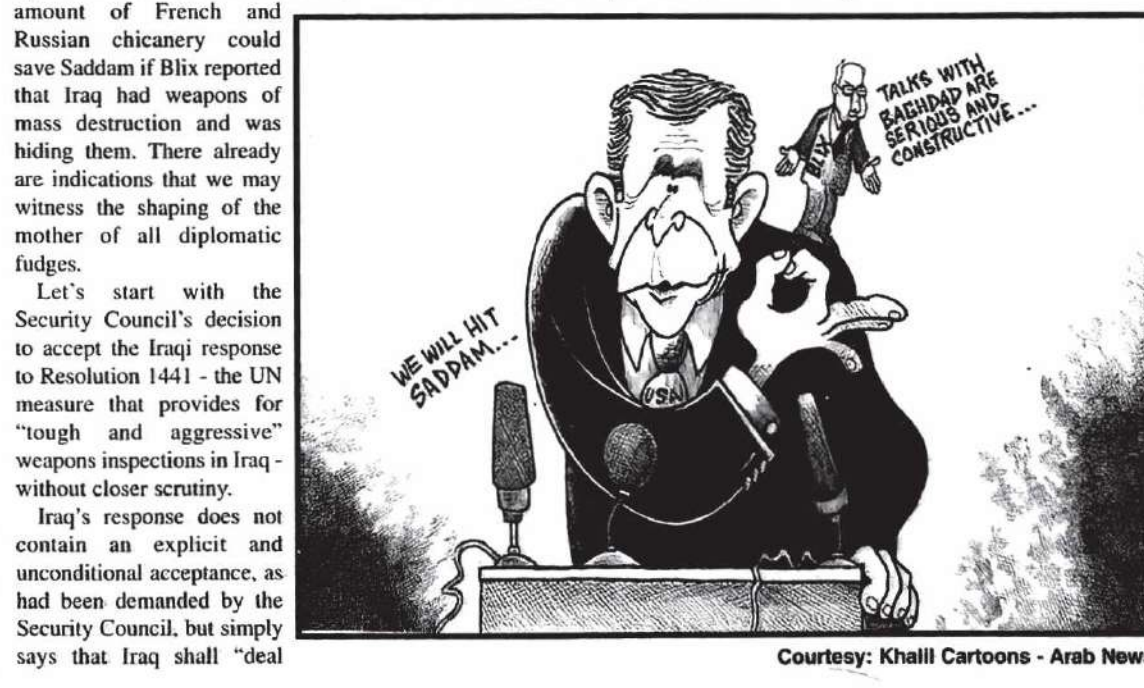
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A Canadian in Yemen:

We all need to move on

Hundreds killed in Bali. Hostages dead in Moscow. US Marine killed in Kuwait.

Bombings in the Philippines. Limburg burns off Yemen's coast.

The last little while has been rough. Apparently, these all show hallmarks of al-Qaeda. If not the senior organization, local copycats. And despite reports of his demise, such as those in this issue of the Yemen Times show Osama bin Laden may be alive.

Indeed, unmanned American spy planes have made their presence known in Yemen lately while searching for him and top al-Qaeda operatives.

I personally think the Big O may have escaped through snowy mountains at Afghanistan's southern border, into one of Pakistan's megacities after Tora Bora was bombed last November.

If he is here in Yemen, he won't be easy to find. With no phone book or directory assistance, I can't even find folks here in Sana'a. Jean and I live on a street with no name. For all we know, Osama has a command center around the corner on another street with no name.

But what if the world's #1 fugitive is nearby? Should anyone care? No.

Why? Because to all intents and purposes, he is dead. And quite simply, the rest of us are not. The sooner we all realize this, the better.

Why do I say so? Consider these things.

Easy money to al-Qaeda is gone.



Thomas Froese

The Taliban has no stable base. The West no longer shelters extremists in the name of tolerance. America is no longer perceived as weak on terrorism. And the West no longer feels immune from attack.

This is a new world that bin Laden can't live in. His vision of things committed suicide on Sept. 11, 2001.

Now consider something else. To their credit, more Arabs are desiring legitimate thought these days, not the half-baked anti-Western fascism that distilled bin Ladenism in the first place.

A worthwhile report

Recently, for the first time, Arab scholars even wrote their own Human Development Report. Such introspection is an important step to gain political freedom, knowledge and gender rights for more of the Middle East's 280 million Arabs.

That doesn't mean the fight against so-called terror is over. But I laughed over an American news report on the recent Limburg blast. The excited gal informed viewers that bin Laden "haunts" this region. Really? Do we now battle ghosts?

Some Westerners, I fear, want to

make bin Laden like a hidden imam of our time. Why? Because if he's kept larger than life, it might be easier to bomb Iraq, something which, by the way, most Canadians do not support.

If we're pre-occupied with terror's evil, we can also forget what may be missing in our own lives.

No, Osama bin Laden. You are dead. The rest of us now need to move on, whether we live in the West, the Middle East or any other part of the world. We'll move on in our homes, our schools, our jobs. Building our communities. Reconnecting with our souls.

We realize more that life is a precious gift that can be taken anytime, Sept. 11 or Nov. 11 or any other day of any year.

We'll remember Edward Fine. He's the New Jersey businessman whose photo symbolizes surviving 9/11. Suit covered in debris, dusty briefcase in hand, dampened cloth held to his mouth to breathe, leaving a burning tower.

He should have been in an elevator when one airliner struck his building. But its door closed. And instead of perishing with others in that elevator, he escaped down 78 flights of stairs. Now there's a symbol.

"Life is a game of inches and seconds," is his take on things.

Inches and seconds.

That's a good remembrance. For every country. For every today.

Thomas Froese
(140765@sympatico.ca)

is an editor with the Yemen Times.

Tourism board at British fair

Promoting Yemen in England

BY ABDU LUTF
MARKETING MANAGER

The participation of our country in London's World Travel Market, being held now in November, is among the hopeful signs that Yemen tourism will once again get the attention of Europe's tourist community.

Other tourist exhibitions are to be held in 2003 in Europe and the Middle East, including in Italy, Berlin, Germany, and in Dubai, at the Marketing Festival.

According to H.E. Abdul al-Eryani,

Minister of Tourism & Environment and the head of the Tourism Promotion Board, Yemeni tourism is expected to recover and flourish as it was in the 1990s.

Yemeni tourism flourished in the last two decades, at the end of 1980s and at the earlier of 1990s, where the number of the international arrivals to Yemen reached its highest levels. That led Yemeni tour operators to distribute arrivals to other cities such as, Taiz and Al-Hudaidah to avoid direct arrivals to Sana'a, because the capacity of Sana'a hotels then was not enough.

Now to recover from this stagnancy of international arrivals, a result to the

attacks of September 11, the Board has decided to celebrate World Tourism day in a way that can lead to some operation of the tourist facilities. It behooves the board to concentrate on its activation, and thus Yemen's participation in the London fair is to take shape as follows:

- Yemen Tourism Promotion Board members shall clarify the distorted images propagated about Yemen.

- This participation shall put Yemen again amongst the main International Tourism destinations via meetings to be held with tour operators and writers.

- It should be possible to organize a visit to the country by some of the tour operators and some media professionals, to reflect the rich cultural heritage of Yemen.

- As London Fair is an international one, this shall help to disseminate knowledge about the attractions of Yemen to a broad community.

- Local Tour operators can utilize the occasion to conclude contracts for Yemen. Now, six are confirmed participants.

Also, Early preparations have been underway to set up a typical Yemeni Decoration reflected in the stand façade.

Participation in the Fair Meridian Club is aimed to give information to the core of tourist professionals attending the fair.

And a web site has been established for interested visitors to get information they might need. A link to the site is at www.reedtravel exhibitions.com and one easy click on the link appearing at the exhibition list can take you to www.yemenu tourism.com



MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

34

Written by
Abdulrahman Mutahhar

Translated by
Janet Watson

Friends in teenage years

M – Now tell me, Mus'ida, did you go to the market to buy the chicken and vegetables for lunch, or did you go to check the state of the street and watch other people as they went about their business?

Ma – I just went to buy the shopping. I haven't any interest in other people, and they haven't any interest in me. Don't you go looking for things to complain about!

M – But what I heard is unbelievable!

Ma – Let us seek refuge in God from all the devils! What on earth did you hear?

M – How can you let yourself talk about someone else's son?

Ma – And just who is this someone else's son I've been talking about?

M – Your son's friend.

Ma – Why should I want to talk about someone who's still got the mind of a child? What would make me want to talk about him? But I'll tell you what. When I came back from the market I found him waiting by the door in a Toyota land cruiser, and he said he was waiting for my son.

M – But Mus'ida, how on earth did our son get to know someone with a Toyota land cruiser, when all his other friends have nothing but second-hand bicycles and torn boots?

Ma – I must admit, I was rather surprised, too, when he opened the car door and came out wearing a pistol on his right hip, a pager on his left, and a mobile phone strung around his neck! The only thing missing was a lollipop stuck in his mouth then he

would have had all the gadgets and appliances anyone could ask for!

M – Look, that's nothing to do with us. We're not responsible for how other people behave or their stupidity, just get that into your head!

Ma – However, I am responsible for my son. When I saw the pistol on the lad's hip and a car that was bigger than him and more than he could manage, I was concerned about my son. Don't you know how dangerous guns and cars are in the hands of adolescents, Mus'id?

M – Of course I do! The one thing which worries people most is weapons, cars and satellite television in the hands of adolescent boys.

Ma – Exactly! When I saw that boy with all those gadgets I reckoned I had the measure of him. I told him my son wasn't at home, he'd gone to the village to buy things for his father. He asked me the name of our village, so I told him Bayt Alal. He then asked where Bayt Alal was, and I told him next to Bayt al-Rabu'i. He asked how long ago it was since he'd left. I told him about half an hour. Then he asked what he'd gone to fetch, and I told him he'd gone to fetch stalks and hay for the calf we were fattening for Eid Arafaah. Then he asked me what hay was, and I said it was like popcorn. He said, "When your son comes back, ask him to leave me some hay to try." I said I'd leave him some hay, and he could go and share it with the calf!

M – Oh Mus'ida! Why did you make fun of the poor boy like that! You're normally so considerate! It's not

right, and you know how you should behave!

Ma – Oh yes! Now tell me who exactly is making fun of the lad, will you! Me who answers his questions, or his parents who obviously don't care less – giving him a pistol and a car, both dangerous weapons and either of which could kill! Also, I'm concerned about my son. The Yemeni proverb goes, 'He who gets near to the furnace will either get burnt or be covered in soot.'¹

M – Weapons and cars in the hands of adolescents are a danger to society as a whole. As the proverb goes, 'Calamities come at the end of the night.'²

Ma – It isn't calamities at the end of the night that bother me. May God protect us from all evils! I'm talking to you about calamities which happen slap bang in the middle of the day! Sensible people, my dearest, make sure they provide their children with as much learning and culture as possible, to open their minds and raise their sense of awareness, and to embed in them a sense of higher principles and values. We, on the other hand, provide our children with the means to kill and be killed. And we let them to be ignorant, snobbish, conceited and reckless, and tell them they can have whatever they want. The Yemeni proverb goes, 'Stupid people are contented, and a wayward child will cause you distress.'³

¹ Al-Akwa', p. 1259.

² Al-Akwa', p. 31.

³ Al-Akwa', p. 40.

A Short Story

The Errand

SHAFIQA A. FAKIR
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CRATER-ADEN

It was a hot summer afternoon. An old man stood on the pavement waiting to cross the road. There was an empty basket in his dark brown hand and a look of weariness on his pale face. His weak eyes strained as he fixed them upon the scene before him.

The street was filthy and crowded. A lonely trashcan stood empty on the far end corner and trash was accumulating next to it. Frustration was written on the pedestrians' faces as they made their way through the crowd. Destitute beggars, in tattered dirty clothes, hung about the place with their hands stretched out and eyes imploring. Few passersby dared to look at them and realize what dreadful a destiny was begging in such sultry weather. As the traffic light turned red, vehicles came to a halt. The drivers got impatient. Some honked unnecessarily, while others shot anxious glances at their watches.

When the old man realized that it was safe to cross the road, he stepped forward. He moved at a very slow rate. Just when he was in the middle of the street, the light turned green. Horns were hooted and insults were shouted at the old man — he had jammed the road. He stood confused. And confusion made thinking difficult. At last a beggar helped him out.

Half way to the market he felt

extremely exhausted. He saw a bench and walked up to it. Seated, he began to relax. Before him some children were playing football but his mind was too preoccupied with problems of his own to take any interest in the game. "I wonder if the salary would suffice," he said to himself.

Then his thoughts wandered away — there were bills to pay...a son's college expenses to meet...medicines to buy...the grocer's debts to settle... "But, no!" he muttered to himself. "The grocer is a nice man, he would wait till next month." Then a gleam of hope came, opening new vistas, "If only that daughter of mine gets a job..."

Bump!! The ball struck his face throwing him out of his thoughts: "You filthy brats!" He shouted and quietened at once. The boys had already fled away.

By the time he reached the market his feet were weary. A foul smell wafted through the air. Flies buzzed over decaying bits and pieces of food. There was a mad rush all over the place — sellers were demanding attention and buyers were haggling over prices.

The old man approached a fisherman and in a croaked voice asked the price. Huh! It was too high. But he had just enough to buy his need. He put his hand in his shirt pocket. It was empty. For a moment, he felt dizzy. Everything revolved around him. He dropped his empty basket and delved his hands into his trousers pockets but they were empty, too. Everything now

was blurred. A trail of questions followed. Had he dropped the money? Had he been robbed? That beggar... Just then a smile flashed over his face. And a sigh of relief escaped his lips. In his haste he had forgotten the money on the dining table at home.

He forgot all his tiredness, and with his empty basket hurried homewards.

SWAN SONG

BY RASHAD ABDULGHANI
AL-QADASI
AN ENGLISH TEACHER IN HAJJAH

Migratory birds prepare to fly
To fly away? yes far away
Each finds the way
To float above, up and high
It's been so nice together to stay
And spend sweet many a day
O now let's lie.

And song the swan song which may,

Declare the end of our play
O let's leave not. Yet rather die.

Swan song overflows the day,
The day that lasts over the bay,
The bay to which we've said good bye
Good bye nice days, tears fill the eye,
The eye that weeps along the day.

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Ramadhan fasting for diabetics

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

There have been diverse findings regarding the physiological impact of Ramadhan on diabetics. However, researchers have not found that fasting leads to any clinical complications in things like body weight, blood glucose, HBAIC, c-peptide, insulin, fructose amine, cholesterol and triglycerides.

With drug regimen adjustment, diet control and daily activity, most non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) patients and occasional IDDM patients who insist on fasting can carefully observe Ramadhan.

However, physicians working in Muslim countries and communities commonly face the difficult task of advising diabetic patients whether it is safe to fast, as well as recommending the dietary and drug regimens diabetics should follow if they decide to fast.

Lack of literature

The lack of adequate literature on this subject makes it difficult to answer these questions. To judge correctly whether to grant medical permission to fast to a diabetic patient, it is essential that physicians have an appreciation of the effect of Ramadhan fasting on the pathophysiology of diabetes mellitus.

The effect of experimental short-term fasting on carbohydrate metabolism has been extensively studied. It has been uniformly found that a slight decrease mmol (60mg/dl to 70 mg/dl) occurs in normal adults a few hours after fasting has begun. However, the reduction in serum glucose ceases due to increased gluconeogenesis in the

liver. That occurs because of a decrease in insulin concentration and a rise in glucagon and sympathetic activity.

In children aged one to nine years, fasting for a 24-hour period causes a decrease in the blood glucose to half of the baseline figure for normal children of that age group. In 22 percent of these children, blood glucose has fallen below 40 mg/dl.

Few studies have shown the effect of Ramadhan fasting on serum glucose. One study has shown a slight decrease in serum glucose in the first days of Ramadhan, followed by normalization by the 20th day and a slight rise by the 29th day of Ramadhan. The lowest serum glucose level in this study was 63 mg/dl. Others have shown a mild increase or variation in serum glucose concentration, but all of them fell within physiological limits.

From the foregoing studies, one may assume that the stores of glycogen, along with some degree of gluconeogenesis, maintain normal limits of serum glucose when a fast follows a large pre-dawn meal. However, slight changes in serum glucose may occur in individuals depending upon food habits and individual differences in metabolism and energy regulation.

In normal subjects

Weight losses of 1.7 kg, 1.8 kg, 2.2 kg and 3.8 kg have been reported in normal weight individuals after they have fasted for the month of Ramadhan. In one study that was over-represented by females, no change in body weight was seen. It has also been reported that overweight persons lose more weight

than normal or underweight subjects do.

In diabetics:

A review of literature shows controversy about weight changes in diabetics during Ramadhan. In one group of studies, patients had an increase in their weight. In another group, there were no change or a decrease in body weight. Furthermore, most diabetics reduce their daily activities during this period in fear of hypoglycemia. These factors may result in not only in weight loss, but also a weight gain in such patients.

Blood glucose variations

Most patients show no significant change in their glucose control. In some patients, serum glucose concentration may fall or rise. This variation may be due to the amount or type of food consumption, regularity of taking medications, engorging after the fast is broken, or decreased physical activities. In most cases, no episode of acute complications (hypoglycemic or hyperglycemic types) occurs in patients under medial management. Only a few cases of biochemical hypoglycemia without clinical hazards have been reported.

Fasting guidelines to diabetics

During the last two decades, a better understanding of pathophysiological changes during Ramadhan fasting in diabetic patients have provided a few guidelines on how to advise diabetics who want to fast. Physicians working with Muslim diabetics should employ certain criteria to advise their patients regarding the safety of Ramadhan fasting. The following criteria should be

helpful in making such a decision:

Fasting at times forbidden

All brittle type I diabetic patients; poorly controlled type I or type II diabetic patients; diabetic patients known to be in compliant in terms of following advice on diet drug regimens and daily activity; diabetic patients with serious complications such as unstable angina or uncontrolled hypertension; patients with a history of diabetic ketoacidosis; pregnant diabetic patients; diabetic patients with inter-current infections; elderly patients with any degree of alertness problems; two or more episodes of hypoglycemia and/or hyperglycemia during Ramadhan.

Allow fasting in:

Patients who do not have the aforementioned criteria; patient who accept medical advisement.

Encourage fasting in:

All overweight NIDDM patients (except for pregnant or nursing mothers) whose diabetes is stable with weight levels 20 percent above the ideal weight or body mass index (body weight, kg/height, meters squared) greater than 28.

NIDDM patients and IDDM patients who insist on fasting should be given a few recommendations about fasting. They should be forbidden from skipping meals, taking medication irregularly or gorging after the fast is broken.

Acupuncture may help ward off migraines

Women who opt for acupuncture instead of a drug to prevent migraines report feeling fewer initial symptoms, attacks, and side effects from the treatment, new study findings report.

Dr. Gianni Allais of the Woman's Headache Center in Torino, Italy, and colleagues found that women who received acupuncture reported fewer migraine attacks during the first 4 months of treatment, and less need for pain medication during the initial treatment period, than did those who took flunarizine to prevent migraines.

However, by 6 months, there were no differences between the two groups in terms of the number of headaches.

The people included in this study suffered from migraines without auras, which are visual disturbances and other symptoms that signal an impending migraine attack. Flunarizine belongs to a class of drugs known as calcium channel blockers, and is often used to help people prevent migraines.

Migraines are marked by intense, throbbing pain, sensitivity to light and sometimes nausea and vomiting. The process underlying migraine headaches is not fully understood, but researchers generally believe that it involves some changes in the brain's blood vessels.

An ancient therapy that arose in China more than 2,000 years ago, acupuncture involves placing fine needles at specific points on the body's surface. Traditional theory holds that these points connect with energy pathways, or meridians, that run through the body, and acupuncture helps keep this natural energy flow

running smoothly. Previous studies have suggested that acupuncture may help relieve people from new migraine episodes, but these studies have typically included design flaws.

During the current study, reported in the recent issue of Headache, Allais and colleagues asked 80 women to undergo acupuncture once each week for 2 months, then once monthly for an additional 4 months. Needles were placed in the same points during each treatment, and left in the patient's body for 20 minutes.

Another group of 80 women took the drug flunarizine, 10 milligrams each day for 2 months, then 20 times per month during the next 4 months.

Both treatments worked, and the women experienced fewer headaches overall. However, women who used acupuncture had fewer migraines than did those taking flunarizine during the first 4 months of the study (an average of 2.3 in the acupuncture group versus 2.9 in the flunarizine group). What's more, acupuncture appeared to reduce the strength of migraine pain and lower the need for patients to take medicine to relieve their pain. Six months after the therapy started, the groups were similar in terms of number of headaches.

Overall, women taking flunarizine were more likely than those receiving acupuncture to drop out of the study, for reasons that included depression, weight gain and sleepiness.

However, the authors note that a greater "placebo effect" could have occurred in patients getting acupuncture, as they received "much more attention and hands-on treatment" than those taking medication. (Reuters)

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MIDNIGHT SECRET before going to bed. In the morning, you'll find that signs of fatigue seem to have been chased away, as if by magic. If your eyes are puffy, dab EYE MYTHIC onto the skin around the eyes. It reduces puffiness in just a few minutes.

I feel quite stressed at the moment and my skin reacts to everything. It seems much more sensitive than usual.

Soothe your skin with LILY ESSENTIAL MIST. It contains specific active ingredients that calm sensitive skin and can be used at any time of the day. Before applying any of your other skincare products, remember to use SOS SERUM, ideal for preventing and calming allergic reactions.



I recently came back from vacation and even though my skin is suntanned, it seems to be thicker, dry and dull.

This often happens when you've spent a few days in the sun. The skin needs to get back to its natural rhythm. Exfoliate your skin twice a week with SMOOTHING EXFOLIATOR, to eliminate dead skin

cells and bring out the radiance of your skin.

You should also use the replenishing SUPER AQUASERUM

treatment, until your skin has regained all its vitality and suppleness.

I've rather neglected my body recently. Do you think it's too late?

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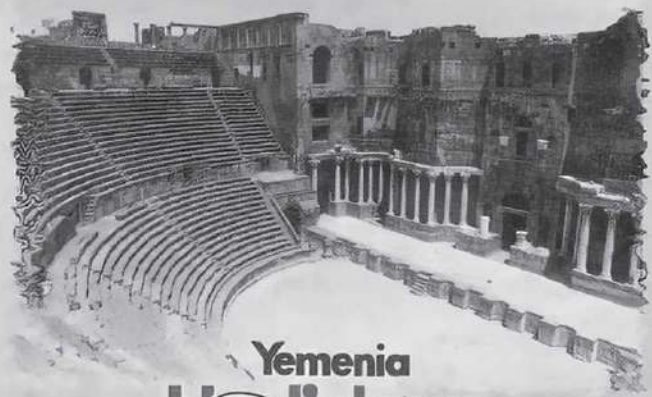
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اليمنية اليمنيا Yemenia

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wahdawi
weekly, organ of
the Nasserite
Unionist
Organization, 19
Nov. 2002.

Main headlines:

- Killing Al-Harithi and his companions aborted blasting of American residential complex
- U.S. reconnaissance planes survey Yemeni-Saudi borders
- Government connived with the Americans, squandering Bab el-Mandab, political scandal
- Osama bin Laden, not in Yemen
- MP jails citizens in his private prison
- 4 members from Aden-Abyan army, among victims of the American attack on Mareb

Mr. Yassin al-Tammimi says in his article that the precautions measures the British government has recently taken about protection of its nationals and interests in Yemen against possible dangers, have aroused many questions on objective of this step. Most analyses interested in the British recent actions report that they may be done in contexts of new arrangements aimed at sharing interests regarding the region which is witnessing serious movements nowadays, mainly the preparations for dealing on imminent blow to Iraq.

According to their analyses, Washington has perhaps become convinced in the benefit of giving its ally London a free hand in Yemen, especially the southern areas that had been regions of British influence till 1967. The relations between Sana'a and London have in the recent period been given strong pushes by high level

political and economic communication.

The positive atmosphere prevailing the relations between Sana'a and London has led to the return of the former colonialist power to its zones of influence through cordial doors. But the negative aspects of the growth of the British role come through the British military role against the alleged terror in the southern areas, especially Hadramaut.



Al-Sahwa weekly,
21 Nov. 2002.

Main headlines:

- America: Yemen, a silent partner in the killing
- Lawyers prepare to sue the government
- Politicians: What happened a scandal and piracy with official conniving
- Authority staves off scandal by assailing the opposition
- The president gives directives on closing down suspicious places

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says official press assailed a statement by the Joint Meeting Parties on the attack and killing of six Yemenis by an American aircraft in Hadramaut, suspected to have links with al-Qaeda organizations.

Competent authorities remained stopped at claiming that the attacked car exploded by itself and then kept utter silence while the U.S. has announced about the incident. World countries and international organizations reactions considered the event a serious and dangerous precedence and

violation of a sovereign country member of the UN. They mentioned that it was an execution of death sentence without trial and violation of human rights. Instead of admitting the fact, the official press launched an iniquitous campaign against parties of the Joint Meeting, accusing them of conspiracy and ignoring the country's interest. The looming question remains on whether what happened in Mareb was known and accepted by the government. If what happened was not a breach of sovereignty, what is the meaning of sovereignty then?

The political forces demand of transparency in such issues should have been used by the authority to strengthen its stands, as all other countries do and which make the public opinion a means of pressure. But it seems that the public opinion is the last thing our authority would think of?



RAY weekly,
organ of Sons of
Yemen
League
party 19
Nov.2002.

Main headlines:

- Britain hunts down bin Laden in Hadramaut
- While releasing 14 of them, al-Qaeda suspects refuse to sign a statement of repentance
- British foreign office call on its nationals to leave Yemen
- Unidentified person penetrates check-points in Kuwait and enters in Iraq
- White House: bin Laden alive

Columnist Khalid al-Harajji says the fierce conflict between the government and some opposition parties

going on for some weeks, completely contradicts rules of the democratic game for it exceeds the allowable boundaries and leads to harm the homeland. It makes the homeland exposed to dangers bigger than the present ones. The two parties of the conflict are protecting themselves behind the homeland's sovereignty barricade. They exchange very dangerous accusations. The opposition accuses the authority of squandering the country's sovereignty and independence and non-capability of protecting it. The authority, on its part, accuses the opposition of producing terror and harboring terrorist elements used to serve its interests. The homeland is nowadays experiencing a difficult stage. The international war on terror considers the country as a target, whereas it is its victim. Protecting the homeland from this aggressive wave is a collective responsibility.

Clearing the Yemeni territories from terrorist elements is an inevitable matters demanding the joint efforts of all forces. The love of the country and responsibility for protecting it is not the task of authority alone. This dictates on it to deal with transparency with all national issues.



26 September
weekly, organ of
Yemen
Armed
Forces, 20
Nov.2002.

Main headlines:

- The president calls on all to unite ranks to encounter challenges
- Three of al-Qaeda dangerous elements, captured
- Foreign Ministry: Security situations in Yemen are normal
- Returnees from Afghanistan

announce their repentance

- Investigations about some sides that were behind al-Harithi's refusal to surrender himself

The newspaper's editorial confirms that patriotism requisites dictate on all to commit to discard differences and to work for unity. This is specially very important when dangers emerge or challenges threaten the homeland and damage its interests. Yemen has suffered much from disaster of terrorism, among which the attack on the American destroyer USS Cole in Aden, the attack on French oil tanker Limburg and shooting at the American helicopter of Hunt campaign in Sana'a.

Those sabotage acts and others perpetrated by terrorist elements, did not harm the political system, but caused harm to the country's security, stability, national economy and the present social reality. Since the Limburg incident, Yemen's economy has sustained big losses and prices of some goods and commodities rose sharply when insurance companies raised insurance duties imposed on ships going to Yemen ports. All should understand that terror is an evil and danger threatens all without exceptions. Therefore all should stand abreast to encounter and end it.



Al-Balagh weekly,
19 Nov.2002.

Main headlines:

- Differences between the Pentagon and the CIA on Mareb operation
- Nine injured in clashes between Saudi police and bin Laden supporters

Continued from back page

The responsibility of believers

God commands the following in Sura Ma'ida, verse 42: "... if you do judge, judge between them justly." In Sura Nisa, God commands believers to act justly even if it is against themselves:

In the Qur'an, God gives a detailed description of justice **O You who believe! Be upholders of justice, bearing witness for God alone, even against yourselves or your parents and relatives. Whether they are rich or poor, God is well able to look after them. Do not follow your own desires and deviate from the truth. If you twist or turn away, God is aware of what you do.** (Qur'an, 4:135) and informs believers of the attitude they have to adopt in the face of incidents they encounter and of the ways to exercise justice. Such guidance is a great comfort to believers and a mercy from God. For this reason, those who believe are responsible for exercising justice in an undivided manner both to earn God's approval and to lead their lives in peace and security.

The justice God commands in the Qur'an is the justice that is exercised equally among all people, with no consideration of language, race, or ethnicity. The justice in the Qur'anic sense does not vary according to place, time and people. In our day, too, there are people being subjected to cruel and unjust treatment because of the color of their skin or their race in all corners of the world.

However, God informs us in the Qur'an that the purpose in the creation of different tribes and peoples is "that they should come to know each other". Different nations or peoples, all of whom are the servants of God, should get to know one another, that is, learn about their different cultures, languages, traditions and abilities. In brief, the purpose of the creation of different races and nations is not conflict and war but cultural richness. Such variation is a bounty of God's creation.

The fact that someone is taller than someone else or that his skin is yellow or white neither makes him superior to others nor is it something to feel ashamed of. Every trait a person has is a result of God's purposeful creation, but in the sight of God, these variations have no ultimate importance. A believer knows that someone attains superiority only by fear of God and in the strength of his faith in God. This fact is related in the following verse:

O Mankind! We created you from a male and female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you might come to know each other. The noblest among you in God's sight is that one of you who best performs his duty. God is All-Knowing, All-Aware. (Qur'an, 49:13)

As God informs us in the verse, the understanding of justice recommended by Him calls for equal, tolerant and peaceable treatment of everyone, with no discrimination between them.

Hatred Felt Towards a Community Does Not Prevent Believers From Exercising Justice

Hatred and anger are the major sources of evil, and are likely to prevent people from making just decisions, thinking soundly and conducting themselves rationally. People can readily inflict all kinds of injustice on people for whom they feel enmity. They may accuse these people of acts they have never committed, or bear false witness against them although their innocence is known to them. On account of such enmity, people may be subjected to unbearable oppression. Some people avoid bearing witness in favor of people they disagree with, although they know they are innocent, and they keep evidence which would reveal their innocence hidden. Furthermore, they take pleasure in the misery these people face, their encounters with injustice or great suffering. Their greatest worry, on the other hand, is that justice should be done and these

peoples' innocence proved.

For these reasons, it is very hard for people in corrupt societies to trust one another. People worry that they can fall victim to someone else at any time. Having lost mutual trust, they also lose their human feelings such as tolerance, compassion, brotherhood and co-operation, and start hating one another.

However, the feelings someone holds in his heart towards a person or community should never influence a believer's decisions. No matter how immoral or hostile the person he is considering may be, the believer sets all these feelings aside and acts and makes his decisions justly and recommends that which is just. His feelings towards that person cast no shadow over his wisdom and conscience. His conscience always inspires him to comply with God's commands and advice, and never to abandon good manners, because this is a command God gives in the Qur'an. In Sura Ma'ida, it is related as follows:

O You who believe! Show integrity for the sake of God, bearing witness with justice. Do not let hatred for a people incite you into not being just. Be just. That is closer to faith. Heed God (alone). God is aware of what you do. (Qur'an, 5:8)

If your Lord had willed, all the people on the earth would have believed. Do you think you can force people to believe? (Qur'an, 10:99)

As is related in the verse, displaying a just attitude is what most complies with having fear of God. A person of faith knows that he will attain the pleasure of God only when he acts justly. Every person who witnesses his or her good manners will trust this person, feel comfortable in their presence and trust them with any responsibility or task. Such people are treated with respect even by their enemies. Their attitude may even lead some people to have faith in God.

Islam Defends Freedom of Thought

Islam is a religion, which provides and guarantees freedom of ideas, thought and life. It has issued commands to prevent and forbid tension, disputes, slander and even negative thinking among people. In the same way that it is determinedly opposed to terrorism and all acts of violence, it has also forbidden even the slightest ideological pressure to be put on them:

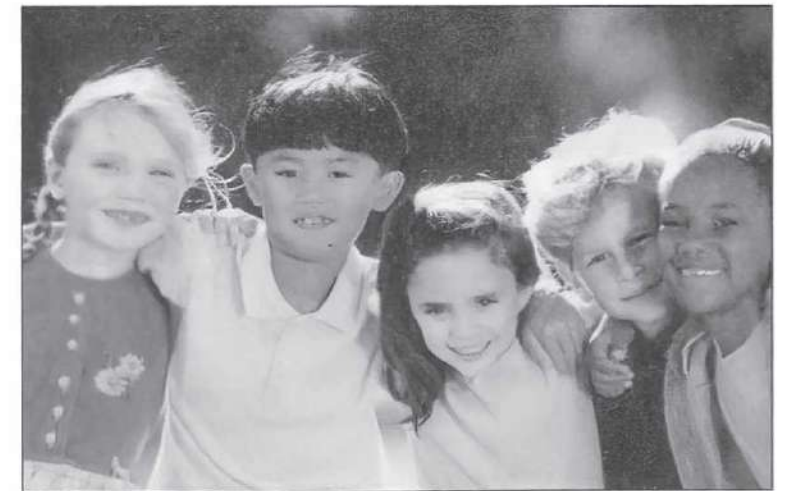
There is no compulsion in religion. True guidance has become clearly distinct from error. (Qur'an, 2:256)

So remind them! You are only a reminder. You are not in control of them. (Qur'an, 88:21-22)

Forcing people to believe in a religion or to adopt its forms of belief is completely contrary to the essence and spirit of Islam. According to Islam, true faith is only possible with free will and freedom of conscience. Of course, Muslims can advise and encourage each other about the features of Qur'anic morality. All believers are charged with explaining Qur'anic morality to people in the nicest manner possible. They will explain the beauties of religion in the light of the verse, "Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair admonition..." (Qur'an, 16:125), however, they must also bear in mind the verse, "You are not responsible for their guidance, but God guides whoever He wills." (Qur'an, 2:272)

They will never resort to compulsion, nor any kind of physical or psychological pressure. Neither will they use any worldly privilege to turn someone towards religion. When they receive a negative response to what they say, Muslims will reply along the lines of: "To you your religion, and to me, mine" (Qur'an, 109:6)

The world we live in contains societies with all kinds of beliefs: Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, deist and even pagan. Muslims living in such



a world must be tolerant of all beliefs they come up against, no matter what they may be, and behave forgivingly, justly and humanely. This responsibility placed on believers is to invite people to the beauty of the religion of God by means of peace and tolerance. The decision whether or not to implement these truths, whether or not to believe, lies with the other party. Forcing that person to believe, or trying to impose anything on him, is a violation of Qur'anic morality. In fact, God issues a reminder to believers in the Qur'an:

If your Lord had willed, all the people on the earth would have believed. Do you think you can force people to be believers? (Qur'an, 10:99)

We know best what they say and you [O Muhammad] are not a compeller over them. But warn by the Qur'an whoever fears My warning. (Qur'an, 50:45)

A model of society in which people are forced to worship is completely contradictory to Islam. **Belief and worship are only of any value when they are directed to God by the free will of the individual.** If a system imposes belief and worship on people, then they will become religious out of fear of that system. From the religious point of view, what really counts is that religion

- U.S. ambassador to Yemen pays bribes to Sheikhs to spot al-Harithi whereabouts
- Blasting Sheraton Hotel and the U.S. embassy, part of an unimplemented plot
- World Bank threatens of halting the funding of all projects and impose fires on the government

Editor in chief writes in an article that the opposition parties are used to issue statements following any event occurs in the country. The latest of such statements was pertaining to the American operation of killing al-Harithi and his companions in Mareb. The opposition parties have used the incident to visualize the government as squandering the country's sovereignty and opening the gates wide before American troops to carry out whatever operations they like. The government has experienced a critical situation in dealing with the incident of attacking al-Harithi car when it announced that the incident took place due to explosion of the car while the American authorities have announced that it was the responsibility of their own intelligence. And despite the difficulty of the situation the political leadership is facing in dealing with the terrorism file, it necessitates a kind of transparency on its part in dealing with the security cooperation in order not to find itself in contradiction with reality and truthfulness.

A look towards the future obliges us to affirm the importance of all political parties, tendency to intensify their presence in the parliament. This would have an importance to be reflected on Yemen's future especially if the coming parliament would be able to deal with its constitutional tasks seriously.

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■ هاجر عبد الله علي سالم - يمنية، بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة عدن، دورات كمبيوتر، لديها خبرات عمل في مجال المحاسبة في معرض راديو شاك، مركز أيف للتجميل شركة المترب، ت. ٧٢٨٩٦٣٥

■ نشوان علي محمد سعيد، خريج ثانوية عامة، دبلوم تقني (صيانة محركات تبريد/تبريد)، دورات في الكمبيوتر والانجليزي، خبرة في بيع قطع غيار السيارات، عدن ت. ٢٢٣٥١٣٥٧

وظائف شاعرة

يعلن معهد توب سنتر - صنعاء، عن حاجته الى مدرسي لغة وكمبيوتر وسكرتيرة تنفيذية بخبرات سابقة ومؤهل جامعي كل في مجاله، وخبرة لا تقل عن سنتين في اللغة الانجليزية في المحادثة، المدير العام/م. احمد نعمان، رئيس مجلس الادارة الشيخ/عبد شمسان، فاكس: ٧٢٨١١٥٤٩

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■ للبيع: شاشات كمبيوتر مستعملة، وبجالة جيدة وبسعر منافس، فؤاد ٧١٩٢٠٤٧٢

■ للبيع: طابع بريدية ترجع للعقد الثلاثين لدول عربية كاليمن، سوريا، لبنان، الكويت، وجمهورية روسيا، وهو عبارة عن اليوم كامل يحتوي طابع مختلفة وطابع متشابهة، السعر يتفاوض عليه، ادبي الخميس، صنعاء، ٢٨٥٦١

■ للبيع: مفكرة المسلم الرقمية، تحتوي على القرآن الكريم ويحتوي فيه وترجمة معانيه باللغة الانجليزية، وصحاح البخاري، الفهرس والبحث في المعجم، قاموس عربي/ انجليزي، انجليزي/عربي، منظم شخصي: اسماء، دليل الهاتف + منه + مذكرات + توقيت محلي وعالمي + توقيت + منه وقت الصلاة + حاسبة + تحويل عملة + تحويل وحدات (طول، مساحة، حجم، سعة وزن...) + إعداد النظام.. بحالة ممتازة، وبسعر مغري جداً (١٤٠٠٠ ريال) نصري السقاف: ٧١٧٠٨٠١٤

■ للبيع: بيجرين موتورولا

باحثون عن وظيفة

■ طالب علي، مترجم، موظف استقبال، منسق علاقات، بكالوريوس في اللغة، يجيد اللغة العربية والانجليزية والفرنسية والاسبانية والاطالية والصومالية كتابة ونطقاً، ١٥ سنة خبرة في المحادثة، المدير العام/م. احمد نعمان، رئيس مجلس الادارة الشيخ/عبد شمسان، فاكس: ٧٢٨١١٥٤٩

■ تعلن شركة سكيورتي للأمن والحراسة عن حاجتها الى موظفي حراسة لاثنين بديناً وصحياً بخبرة سابقة في هذا المجال ومؤهل وثانوية عامة على الأقل، شريطة ان لا تقل الخبرة عن ثلاث سنوات ويفضل بالانجليزية. ٧٢٨١١٥٤٩

■ مطلوب مترجمين (عربي/إنجليزي، إنجليزي/عربي) ذو خبرة للإستفسار الإتصال برقم ٧٢٧٠٤٤٨

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عقارات

٢٠٢٥١٣٥٨، ٥٠٥٧٢٩، هاتف: ٢٠٢٥١٣٥٨

■ سمير احمد سيف: ثانوية عامة، دبلوم عالي في صيانة المركبات الخفيفة (سيارات)، دورات كمبيوتر، يجيد الانجليزية - خفيفة وثقيلة، يجيد اللغة العسكرية، عدن سيار: ٧١٧١٢٦٤، او هاتف منزل العم/ نيل مهيوب ٢٨١٢٨٨

■ خير في تقييم مخاطر الائتمان بطرق فنية وقانونية معروفة والتوصيات الخاصة بها، وترجمة عالية الجودة باللغات العربية والانجليزية والاربية كتابياً وفورياً. للاتصال: حبيب، هاتف: ٤٦٤٠٢٩

سيارات

■ للبيع: صالون 2000 GXR، اللون فضي، فتحة سقف، قطع حوالي مسافة ٢٧.٠٠٠ كم، يكامل وثائقها، السعر ٢٠٠٠

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International Students Day Celebrations, 2002

Address by H. E. Mr. M. S. Suman, Ambassador of India
(Read out by Mr. O. P. Bajaj, HOC)

Excellencies, His Excellency Ambassador of India, Dr. D. Thakur, President of CICA, ladies and dear friends,
It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here on the occasion of International Students Day. International Students Day has been specifically earmarked by the Government of India for a get-together of alumni from various Indian Universities, Colleges and other educational institutions. It is a happy occasion for the reunion of foreign students, who have studied in India in different educational institutions at different times. Equally important, it is also an occasion of renewal of our friendship

with the alumni and Yemeni academics. International Students Day is celebrated on the eleventh of November every year, which happens to be the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, an Educationist, who was India's First Education Minister and under whose chairmanship, various programs of cultural and educational cooperation with other countries were formulated. The



H. E. Mr. M. S. Suman

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was formally set up in 1950 with the primary objective of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Administration of scholarships offered by the Government of India is one of the most important activities of the ICCR. ICCR administers over 1900 scholarship schemes for pursuing Graduate, Post-

Graduate and Doctoral studies in India. India, from time immemorial, has been a center of learning. Thousands of years ago, great scholars used to teach subjects like philosophy, medicine, literature, drama, arts, astrology, mathematics, sociology etc. Masterpieces on these subjects have been written. The ancient University of Nalanda, which flourished from 5th to 13th Century BC, had many resident students and teachers on its roll, which included Chinese, Sri Lankans, Koreans and scholars of other nationalities. After the British came, western education got slowly introduced in India. At present, with about 273 Universities (including 52 deemed Universities) and thousands of colleges affiliated to them, apart from about 600 engineering colleges and technological institutes, about 800 medical institutions, scores of agricultural institutes and many other specialized centers of learning and research in every subject and discipline, India is one of the leading countries providing high quality education to its people as well as to students and scholars from countries all over the world.

Yemen and India are bound by historical ties. Both Yemen and India are members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation and have common views and perspectives on major world issues. Both are partners in development, believing in the need for South-South cooperation. India, with its present status in the field of higher education, is keen to help the Republic of Yemen. The Government of India presently grants 30 ICCR scholarships to Yemeni students each year under the Cultural Exchange Program and the General Culture Scholarship Scheme, which are almost fully utilized. According to our statistics, more than 500 scholars have gone to India for higher education on scholarships. Besides, many more Yemeni students join various Indian Universities and Colleges as self-financing students to pursue higher education. During the last four years, around 1000 students have gone to India under this scheme. We attach great value to the mutual friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries.

I have great pleasure to inform you all that during the year 2001, according to Statistics released by CSO, Sana'a, India was the largest importer of Yemeni products and was the third largest exporter of goods to Yemen, after UAE and Saudi Arabia. Further, the 4th Session of the Indo-Yemen Joint Committee meeting was held in New Delhi on October 30-31, 2002, in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The following agreements were signed: (i) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection agreement and (ii) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. Alongside of this Meeting, the second round of Indo-Yemen Joint Business Council Meeting was also held in New Delhi. These meetings would pave the way for increased cooperation between India and Yemen in various fields.
Thank you.

Indians in Sana'a celebrate International Students Day

The Indian Embassy in Sana'a celebrated International Students Day at the residence of the Indian Ambassador to Yemen, H.E. Mr. M. S. Suman. International Students Day is held in memory of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India's first education minister. Mr. Muthar



Prof. Damodar Thakur

Murtaza, Vice-Minister for Higher Education, a number of senior Yemeni Government officials, Indian teachers working in Yemeni universities and Indian managers of corporate sectors in Yemen, and a large number of Yemenis who have completed their higher education in different universities in India attended the function. The function started with a welcome speech by the Indian Ambassador, in which he highlighted the long-standing co-operation between India and Yemen in the field of higher education. M. O.P. Bajaj, Consul in the Indian Embassy, reviewed statistics that revealed the full extent of the close cultural ties between the two countries not only in education, but also in business and industry. In his response the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education asserted that Yemen valued India's contribution to the higher education of Yemenis, and that Indo-Yemeni co-operation has proved mutually beneficial. He expressed the hope that the quantum of scholarships offered by the India Government would be increased in the future. Professor D. Thakur, Chairman, Department of English and President of the Confederation of Indian Clubs and

Associations in Yemen (CICA), focused in his address on Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's view of a composite Indian culture. India is not just a geographical territory, not just the millions of people living in it. India, he said, is a conviction, a philosophy, the philosophy of a unity underlying apparent pluralities. He talked of the uniqueness of India's pluralistic society and its global contribution in the field of education and thought, and the diverse opportunities in business and trade as well. Professor Thakur reiterated that India with its rich cultural heritage has a great sustaining power for the whole world. The present history of India is the biggest experiment in history so far of how people of different religions, languages and traditions could not only live together in peace and harmony, but also be a source of strength to each other. If India fails in its experiment, humanity itself will fail and all the beautiful dreams that the wise people of our societies have had for ages of a glorious future would be frustrated forever. India's success in its experiment will be the victory of the philosophy that plurality is a blessing, not a menace. Professor Thakur expressed his confidence that India will not fail, that India has the courage and the determination to rise above all its problems. Even though India has had occasional problems of inner cohesiveness and outer coherence, India will prove more than equal to the challenges that it has to face.

Improve Your English

160



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet
Email: ramakantasahu@yahoo.com
Tel: 73889013

I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (30): Giving Advice (II)

As we observed earlier, one should, very carefully study the practicalities of the communicative context, such as the kind of personality he is dealing with, the speaker's relationship with the hearer, the precise nature of the interaction, whether the advice is sought for or is voluntarily given by the speaker and so forth, before giving any advice.

Now let's look at some more expressions used for giving advice.

- Discretion should be the better part of your valor.
- You'll do well to remember that 'a man is known by the acts of his omissions and commissions'.
- You cannot afford to forget that a man is known by the company he keeps.
- Be well advised to DO...
- My advice to you is to DO...
- I put myself in your position and advice you to DO...
- Keeping your constraints in mind, I think you should DO...
- Rather than procrastinating, you should DO...
- 'No words, but acts'.
- 'What you want to do tomorrow, do it today. What you want to do today, do it now'.
- It doesn't stand to reason why you should DO...
- What on earth prompts you to DO...?
- I fail to understand how you should DO...
- What prevents you from DOING...?
- Should you face any problem, DO...
- I see no harm in your DOING...
- In view of your fragile health, you should DO...
- Why can't you DO...?
- Deserve before desiring.
- It seems to me that you should DO...
- In the best of your interests you should DO...
- You may DO...
- Try your best to DO...
- Be a leader, not a led.
- Set an example.
- Your best lies in DOING...
- Dance your way to peace and unity.
- Discover the rhythm of life.

II. How to Say It Correctly Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Eshraq excels to speak.
- We gave our friend goodbye at the airport.
- We should eat the poor during the holy Ramadan.
- The Dean gave order to begin the exam next week.
- The chief guest made a good lecture.

- Solutions to last week's questions
- We, you and they must work together.
 - The roads of Sana'a are wider than those of Taiz.
 - Neither the officer nor the clerks could get their salary.

- Note: When two nouns joined by 'neither-nor' differ in number, the pronoun must agree with the plural noun which comes after 'nor'.
- Those three girls love one another. Note: 'each-other' is used in speaking of two persons or things, while 'one another' is used for more than two.
 - Each boy and each girl was in her best dress.

III. How to express it in one word

- Small hollow in the chin or cheek which appears when the person smiles.
- Union of two vowel sounds.
- Excessive craving for alcoholic drinks.
- Irresistible tendency to steal.
- Form of madness that gives a person the idea that his importance is very great.

Answers to last week's questions

- One who studies the fine arts, but not with real understanding: Dilettante (n)
- Steady effort to achieve something: Diligence (n)
- Waste time by not making up one's mind: Dilly-dally (vi)
- Make a liquid thinner by adding water: Dilute (vt)
- Not bright enough to be seen clearly: Dim (adj)

VI. Grammar and Composition

a) Grammar Change each of the following sentences so that they start with the phrases given.

- 'Give up smoking'. - If I were you ...
- 'How can I stop chewing qat?' - Can you give me ...
- 'Don't waste time'. - In my opinion ...
- 'Stop smoking so many cigarettes'. - I am deeply worried ...

b) Idioms and phrases Use the following phrases in sentences of your own:

- hang in the balance
- keep one's balance
- lose one's balance
- throw somebody off his balance
- balance of power

c) Words that are commonly confounded:

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- breakable, breakage
- breaker, broker
- bream, brim
- breath, breathe
- borrow, barrow

Answers to last week's questions

Grammar and Composition

- a) Composition
- 'Would it be possible (or convenient) for you to come and see me on Friday morning?'
 - 'I'm afraid I'm not free on Friday, but I would love to come on some other day.'
 - 'Can you come on Saturday? I'd like you to meet my friend who has recently come from India.'
 - 'That sounds a good idea. Would you be interested in coming with me sometime next week?'

- I'd be delighted. I want to meet your friend who I have heard such a lot about.

b) Idioms and phrases

- bag and baggage (with all one's belongings): He left the country with all his bag and baggage.
- let the cat out of the bag (tell a secret): In the course of conversation he inadvertently let the cat out of the bag.
- a bag of bones (a lean person): The poor and starving beggar is a mere bag of bones.
- bags of (plenty of): He earns bags of money from his business overseas.
- put in bail (to pay money to secure someone's release from jail): His friend put in bail for him and got him released.

c) Words commonly confounded

- bough (n) (large branch of a tree): The boughs of the Banyan tree give travelers shade.
- bow (vt) (bend the head or the body): We bow our heads to express gratitude to Allah, the most merciful and the most compassionate.
- bought (vt) (past tense of 'buy'): They bought a new house recently, but (conj): I advised him not to be lazy, but he didn't pay any heed to my advice.
- butt (n) (person who is a target for ridicule or jokes): His foolish manners make him butt of ridicule.
- abuse (vt) (to use something badly): It is easy to abuse one's power.
- misuse (vt) (to use something for a wrong purpose): Don't misuse the car if you want it to give you trouble-free service.
- boy (n) (a male child): Boys have a lot more freedom than girls in any society.
- buoy (n) (something that helps to keep a person afloat in water): After their boat capsized, he saved his life with a buoy.
- brake (n) (part of a vehicle that is pressed against a wheel to reduce its speed): He put on the brake to avoid an accident.
- break (vt) (cause something separate into parts): He broke the plate due to carelessness.

IV. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Our Lord!
Condemn us not
if we forget or fall
into error, our Lord!
Lay not on us
A burden greater than we
Have strength to bear.
Blot out our sins.
And grant us forgiveness.
Have mercy on us.
Thou art our protector;
Grant us victory
Over the unbelievers."
S2: A286

V. Words of Wisdom

"Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity."
—Aristotle

YOUTH FORUM

What our readers think

Dear Dr. Sahu
With much respect I write this letter to you. In fact, you have exerted a lot of hard work to enrich us with valuable teachings and enlightenment. We can't help expressing thankfulness to you for this. We will never forget you even if you left Yemen. Your name and memory will remain stuck in our minds. Respect and love for you will ever stay in our hearts. Your book 'improve your English' will last with all our students and all the Yemen Times readers for all the time. It is a treasure for all English learners. By the way we would not forget your colleagues, Indian professors in Yemen's universities who have also been making much efforts to participate with you in the page of Education, enriching it with valuable articles and various important teachings. This proves that you and your Indian colleagues in Yemen are very generous to Yemeni people and are helping us achieve more progress and prosperity in life. We should be very thankful to you all. We hope our mutual love would prevail forever.
Dear Dr. My suggestions are as follows:
'Improve your English' could be a single volume, but divided into four parts, each part meant for three months study. The book could make a one-year curriculum leading to a degree or diploma in the English language.
Thank you
Yours faithfully,
Abdulmajid Ahmed bin Ali Jabir
P. O. Box: 8268 - Mukalla
Fua Village

Times Quiz 47

Tick the most appropriate choice

- Antibiotics are obtained mostly from
a) bacteria b) algae
c) fungi d) viruses
- Sphygmomanometer measures
a) blood pressure
b) pulse rate
c) heartbeat rate
d) cardiac output
- The weight of a body is
a) the force with which it is attracted by the earth
b) the mass of the body
c) the pressure of the atmosphere
d) None of these
- Eugenics deals with the use of
a) environment to control human race
b) strictest laws to prevent deterioration of human race
c) measures to preserve best human race by applying methods of genetics
d) None of these
- What is the full form of the abbreviation NIC?
Answers to Times Quiz (46)

- The bright tail of a comet is produced by radiation from the sun.
- 'Windows 95' a user friendly program, has been developed by Microsoft.
- Mutations in plants are induced by UV-rays.
- Minamata disease is due to mercury poisoning.
- WAP stands for Wireless Access Protocol

WONDERWORD by DAVID OUELLET

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

CLUES									
Area	Event	Live	Ride	Swim					
Army	Excursion	Lunches	Runs	Teen					
Ball	Expedition	Maps	Safety	Tent					
Beach	Family	Mountain	Sailing	Time					
Bike	Fish	Music	Scouts	Towels					
Bottles	Flies	Nature	Season	Trail					
Bring	Food	Outdoor	Settle	Transport					
Calm	Forest	Pack	Sing	Travels					
Camera	Free	Parks	Site	Trek					
Canoe	Friends	Peers	Sleep	Trip					
Children	Games	Picnic	Snack	Utensils					
Class	Gear	Pillow	Songs	Vacation					
Clearing	Group	Plant	Sports	Vans					
Clothes	Hike	Play	Stay	Vehicle					
Compact	Holiday	Pleasant	Story	Walk					
Couple	Kids	Rain	Stove	Water					
Crafts	Kite	Region	Study	Weather					
Dancing	Lake	Relax	Summer	Weekend					
Enjoy	Lead	Rent	Surf	Wilderness					
Equipment									

CAMPING													Solution: 10 letters																												
S	U	M	M	E	R	E	L	C	I	H	E	V	R	F	B	N	H	C	S	S	U	M	M	E	R	E	L	C	I	H	E	V	R	F	B	N	H	C	S		
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President of the Republic of Yemen,

and The Yemen government, Parliament and al-Shura councils
and all Yemeni People

On the Holy Days of Ramadhan

& The 35th anniversary of November 30th

& The 13th anniversary of the Yemeni Unification

Many Happy Returns



الرواد في صناعة الحديد والأنياب المجففة

المنظمة

الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية

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وجميع موظفيها وعمالها

تتقدم بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات الى القيادة السياسية ممثلة بقائد مسيرتها وياني نهضتها فخامة الأخ/

علي عبد الله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

والى الحكومة الرشيدة ومجلسي النواب والشورى

والى جميع ابناء الشعب اليمني والأمتين العربية والاسلامية..

بمناسبة الذكرى الخامسة والثلاثون لعيد الجلاء والذكرى الثالثة عشرة لتوقيع اتفاقية الوحدة..

وبمناسبة خواتم شهر رمضان المبارك..

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& The 13th anniversary of the Yemeni Unification

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Answer all the questions and fill the necessary information.
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YEMEN TIMES

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FSA

Questions for Issue 48

- Check the right answer
- In what year the Yemen-Gulf Bank was officially inaugurated?
 1999
 2000
 2001
 - The best brand of condensed milk (for tea) people are proud to consume is:
 Al-Mumtaz
 Al-Tilal
 Al-Hana
 - The first company established by Hayel Saeed Ana'am Group is:
 Yemen Company for Ghee & Soap Industry
 Yemen Company for Industry & Commerce Ltd
 GenPack
 - "A new appearance with the same delicious flavour" is a motto of the product:
 Al-Aseel wheat
 Tabehinat al-Fanar
 Al-Maida macaroni
 - Oil preferred by the family is:
 Al-Tabakh
 Al-Qamariah
 Al-Bint
 - The Yemen stores for fruit & meat (SYC) imports Supreme chickens from:
 France
 Saudia Arabia
 Brazil
 - Among its big contributions, one of the private sector companies specialised in household appliances and electronics, offers many prizes in the reputed TV Show "Stages of the Field (Al-Midhmar)" is:
 Videocon
 Samsung
 - Yemeni Airways has now a special offer for trips to one of the following Arab countries at a price of \$485:
 Jordan
 Egypt
 Syria
 - Al-Haydari Group of Companies offers:
 More than 100 prizes + gold sets
 More than 50 prizes
 More than 200 prizes

أسئلة المسابقة للعدد ٤٨

- اختر الاجابة الصحيحة
- في أي عام تم افتتاح بنك اليمن والخليج في الجمهورية اليمنية رسمياً?
 ١٩٩٩
 ٢٠٠٠
 ٢٠٠١
 - حليب للشاي يفخر كل الناس باستخدامه هو:
 المنحاز
 التلال
 الهناء
 - أول شركة لمجموعة مائل سعيد انعم هي:
 الشركة اليمنية للسمن والصابون
 الشركة اليمنية للصناعة والتجارة
 شركة الصناعات المتنوعة ومواد التعبئة
 - (شكل جديد وينفس الطعم اللذيذ) شعار خاص بمنتج:
 قمح الأصيل
 مطحينة الفانار
 مكرونة المائدة
 - تقدم مجموعة شركات الحيدري جوائز هي:
 أكثر من مائة جائزة + بدلات ذهب
 أكثر من خمسين جائزة
 أكثر من مائتين جائزة
 - تستورد شركة المغازن اليمنية للفواكه واللحوم والتجارة (ش.م.ي) (أحدى شركات مجموعة إخوان ثابت) دجاج سوبريم من:
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 السعودية
 البرازيل
 - ضمن مساهماتها الكبيرة تقدم إحدى الشركات الخاصة بالأجهزة المنزلية والإلكترونية بتقديم العديد من الجوائز في البرنامج التلفزيوني الشهير، مراحل المضمار، هي:
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 سامسونج
 - لدى الخطوط الجوية اليمنية حالياً عرض خاص لرحلات بسعر \$٤٨٥ إلى إحدى الدول العربية الأتية:
 الأردن
 مصر
 سوريا
 - تقدم مجموعة شركات الحيدري جوائز هي:
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 أكثر من خمسين جائزة
 أكثر من مائتين جائزة

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The responsibility of believers



By HARUN YAHYA, AUTHOR

On the occasion of Ramadhan, The Yemen Times is publishing a series of informative articles on some aspects of Islam's concepts and stands towards various issues. The newspaper staff has chosen to quote from the book "Islam Denounces Terrorism" written by Mr. Harun Yahya who is a well-versed author in this field.

Those who have no concern for events unless they directly affect them are bereft of the insight that espouses unselfishness, brotherhood, friendship, honesty and the service that religion bestows upon people. Throughout their lives, such people try to satisfy their own egos by merely wasting their means, totally unaware of the threats humanity faces. In the Qur'an however, God praises the morals of those who strive to bring good to their surroundings; those who are concerned about the events that take place around them and who call people to the right way. In a verse from the Qur'an, a metaphor is given for those who offer no good to others and those who always act on the path of goodness:

God makes another metaphor: two men, one of them deaf and dumb, unable to do anything, a burden on his master, no matter where he directs him he brings no good, is he the same as someone who commands justice and is on a straight path? (Qur'an, 16:76)

As the verse points out, it is obvious that those who are "on a straight path", are those who are devoted to their religion; fear and heed God, hold spiritual values in high regard, and are filled with eagerness to serve people. In-

eral, such people are there to serve humanity and bring with them great benefits to mankind. For this reason, it is very important for people to learn about the true religion and live by the morals explained by the Qur'an - the final Revelation from God. In the Qur'an, God defines those people who live by such high morals:

Those who, if We establish them firmly on the earth, will keep up prayer and pay the welfare due, and command what is right and forbid what is wrong. The end result of all affairs is with God. (Qur'an, 22:41)

God Commands Us to Do Good Deeds

A Muslim is someone who abides by the commands of God, tries scrupulously to live by Qur'anic morality, peace and harmony, which make the world a more beautiful place and lead it to progress. His aim is to lead people to beauty, goodness and well-being. The Qur'an says:

... And do good as God has been good to you. And do not seek to cause corruption in the earth. God does not love corrupters. (Qur'an, 28:77)

Someone who adopts the Islamic faith wishes to earn God's pleasure and compassion and to enter heaven. He has to make strenuous efforts to do this, and to adopt a morality acceptable to God while he is in this world. The clearest manifestations of this morality are compassion, pity, justice, honesty, forgiveness, humility, sacrifice and patience. The believer will behave well towards people, try to perform good deeds and spread goodness. In His verses, God commands:

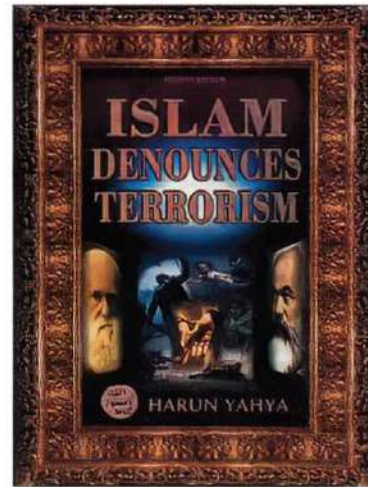
We did not create the heavens and earth and everything between them, except with truth. The Hour is certainly coming, so forgive [men's failings] with fair forbearance. (Qur'an, 15:85)

... Be good to your parents and relatives and to orphans and the very poor, and to neighbors who are related to you

and neighbors who are not related to you, and to companions and travelers and your slaves. God does not love anyone vain or boastful. (Qur'an, 4:36)

... Help one another in benevolence and piety. Do not help each other to wrongdoing and enmity. And fear God. God is severe in retribution. (Qur'an, 5:2)

As the verses have made clear, God wishes those who believe in Him to behave well towards people, to cooper-



ate with each other when it comes to goodness, and to avoid wickedness.

In Sura Anam, verse 160, God promises that "anyone who comes with a fine deed will have ten more like it. But those who produce a bad action will only be repaid with its equivalent and they will not be wronged."

In His book, God describes Himself as He who knows "the secrets of men's hearts", and warns people to "avoid all kinds of evil." A Muslim therefore, which means "one who surrenders himself to God" must evidently be someone who does his best to fight terrorism.

A Muslim does not remain indifferent to what goes on around him, and never adopts the mentality that nothing matters as long as it does not harm him. That is because he has surrendered himself to God. He is His representative, and an ambassador of good. He cannot, therefore, remain indifferent in the face of cruelty and terrorism. In fact, the Muslim is the greatest enemy of terrorism, which kills people who have done no wrong. Islam is against all forms of terrorism, and tries to prevent it right from the beginning, in other words on the level of ideas. It demands peace between people and for justice to prevail, and commands people to avoid discord, conflict and wickedness.

God Commands Us to Be Just

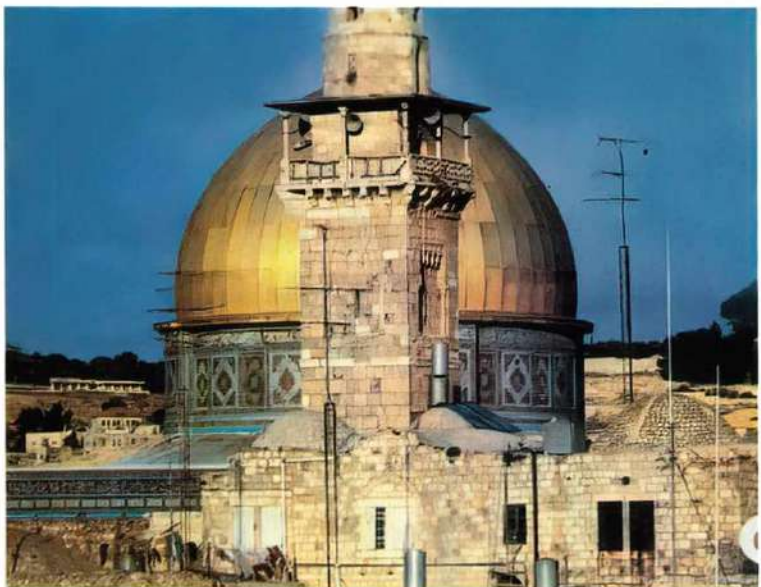
The true justice described in the Qur'an commands man to behave justly, making no discrimination between people, to protect peoples' rights, not to permit violence no matter what the circumstances, to side with the oppressed against the oppressor and to help the needy. This justice calls for the rights of both parties to be protected when reaching a decision in a dispute, assessing all aspects of an incident, setting aside all prejudices, being objective, honest, tolerant, merciful and compassionate. For instance, someone who cannot assess events in a moderate way, and who is swayed by his emotions and feelings, will fail to arrive at sound decisions and will remain under the influence of those feelings. However, someone who rules with justice needs to set all his personal feelings and views aside. He needs to treat all parties with justice when they ask for help, to side with what is right under all circumstances, and not to

diverge from the path of honesty and truthfulness. A person should incorporate the values of the Qur'an into his soul in such a way that he may be able to consider other parties' interests before his own and maintain justice, even if this harms his own interests.

Continued on Page 16.

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