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Economy hit hard by terror attacks

Rescue Aden!

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Our view: See page 8

Aden, known as the pride of Yemen and among the world's best-known port cities, is going through fires of crisis caused by Yemen's string of terror attacks in the last several years.

If ever there was a time it needed help, it is now.

It all started when the Abyan fiasco occurred at the end of 1998, killing four Western tourists in Abyan, which is close

to Aden.

Then the attack on USS Cole took place in Oct. 2000, attracting world attention to Aden as a dangerous port for military ships.

The city's economy was then crippled as world media focused on Aden and reminded the world that its neighboring governorate is the hometown of Osama bin

Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda and the most feared organization of the West.

Investors and businessmen refrained from moving on to invest in Aden because of security threats and risks. However, the Yemeni government and the Aden Port Authority tried extensively to clear this negative reputation by giving more facilities and features to investments and going on the gigantic and promising Aden Free Zone project.

Continued on page 5



Aden's picturesque coast shows why the city is known as Yemen's jewel crown. Terror attacks, however, have put its economy in crisis.

Five times more popular than closest competitor

Times is #1

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

According to a recent Yemen Times survey, newsstands, shops, and other stores in Sana'a, the Yemen Times tops sale charts compared to all other English-language newspapers, local and international.

The survey, carried out honestly and transparently, revealed that sales of the Yemen Times, on average, are five times more than its closest competitor, and more than three times the sales of all English-language newspapers and magazines combined.

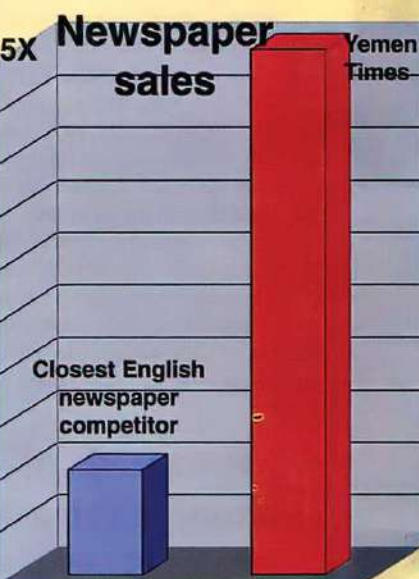
According to the shops surveyed, readers prefer the Times for its:

- Honesty, courage, and independence in news reporting;
- Variety of news items, topics and categories as there is something for everyone;
- Wide international news coverage;
- Classified pages in both languages

- Greater number of stories and in depth analysis
- Greater 'Letters to the Editor' interaction
- Better distribution;
- Better English;
- Regular competitions;
- Leisure, comics, and other features;
- Popularity and reputation first established by the paper's founder, the late Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf;
- Other features.

The gap between the Yemen Times and other competitors gets even wider in other cities such as Taiz and Aden as the popularity of the paper is even greater.

At the same time, Yemen Times Online is five times more popular than all other Yemeni newspapers websites in English or in Arabic.



Continued on page 5

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35 years later, still . . .

Celebrating Independence Day

By Ridwan al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times Aden Bureau

The republic of Yemen has celebrated the 35th anniversary of the British colonization evacuation on 30 November 1967, ending 139 years of occupation.

Seizing this national opportunity, the Yemen Times spoke with the Governor of Aden Taha Ahmed Ghanem.

He confirmed that the national meaning of the 35th anniversary is still renewable by virtue of success and gains that Yemen is experiencing under the leadership the president Ali Abdullallah Saleh.

This day coincides with the anniversary of one of the historic Yemeni days, i.e., signing the unification agreement.

Ghanem also pointed out that the departure of the last foreign soldier from the Yemeni territories was the product of honorable work of the people of Yemen, who waged battle with all political and social forces.

Nowadays Yemen is experiencing political pluralism, freedom and democracy that our political leadership is pursuing, said the governor.

He has also recalled the struggle of Yemeni people, their sacrifices of our martyrs, stressing that the city of Aden is composed with all its national constants, and is heading for a future to achieve success and realize accomplishments.

A great and honorable occasion, refreshing to the memory

Meanwhile, the secretary general of local council of Aden governorate, Mr. Abdulkareem Shaif says that the 35th anniversary of independence on Nov. 30 a great and honorable occasion, refreshing the memory of young Yemeni generations about benefits of unity and its accomplishments. He said many Yemeni died martyrs



Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanem



Mr. Abdulkareem Shaif

in order to pave the way for the homeland and the people to entertain security, stability and development.

Shaif said that we observe it at a time many of achievements, in times of development and construction and support, with successes resulting from democracy and political pluralism embodied during national council elections.

Shaif has also affirmed that local councils experiment, despite the difficulties it has faced, has found a practical role, with democracy exercised as an approach and action.

He called all on political and social organization to interact with the local council experiment in a manner that would enrich and develop Yemen, under the directives of President Ali Abdullallah Saleh.

Hodiedah University hosts conference

Zabeed to be explored

By Yemen Times Staff

TAIZ — Preparations are in full swing to host the first international conference on Zabeed on December 14 to 18 at Hodeidah University.

During the conference, a number of eminent professors, historians and researchers representing a number of foreign and Arab countries will attend.

The Rector of the Hodeidah University, Mohammed Boraih told the Yemen Times that this activity has come within the framework of the extensive efforts made by the university in order to present Zabeed in its originality.

"Our universities have a leading role to make the public know all there is to know about our cultural heritage through publishing and buying old manuscripts and holding periodical cultural competitions among students," he said.

In order to raise awareness of the great significance of the our cultural heritage, the rector said that this could be achieved through publishing the Tihama magazine for reviving the cultural heritage and protecting the city from decay for Yemen in general and Tihama in particular, the rector also said.

In this context, a scientific conference will revolve around the historical importance of the Zabeed's city in the Arab and Islamic world.

Objective of conference

The conference has garnered the attention of Yemen's President Ali Abdullallah Saleh with a view of promoting the academic and research responsibilities of the university.

The main objectives of the conference are:

- Giving a historical background of Zabeed through lectures in order to inform the public of the significance of Zabeed's long history.

- Announcing Zabeed as an international cultural sanctuary, particularly after the decay has been detected of collapses of some archaeological buildings.

- Attracting the attention of the governmental bodies concerned and the Arab and foreign organizations interested in protecting the historical and archaeological sites concerning Zabeed as one of the significant historical cities in the world.

More than 150 different approaches are to be dealt during the conference in the presence of 40 participants on the following six themes: Zabeed through history; arts and architecture; religious and scientific approaches; Mecca-Medina-Zabeed relationship through history; Zabeed in the memory of the world; Zabeed and its relation with other centers in the world.

Tourism projects supported

The reinvestment tourist projects during the coming two years, up to 2003-2004, have been estimated at YR 10 billion.

In the same context, around 12 tourist projects are under implementation by the private sector.

The General Director of the Tourist & Environment Office, Ali Naji Yahya, said that the Aden governorate chaired by its governor and by the HE, the president of the republic, had witnessed an increasing tourist development during the last decade.

This has been achieved in order to meet the requirements of the economical and commercial capital.

The General Manager has denied that availability of hindrances regarding the establishment of developmental tourist projects.

Only the investors are complaining about the high increase of electricity costs to their projects which have reached YR 12 millions.

Tourism in Yemen, however, has taken a blow since 9/11 and terror attacks which have also occurred in Yemen.



Hashish in Yemen

A person from African origin has been caught by security in Shabwa governorate for possessing 2.25 kg of hashish narcotics.

The Yemeni Saba Agency reported the man is appearing before court.

Several similar cases have occurred this year, including where ten individuals were caught red-handed having hashish.

"Through conducting investigation and the confessions made by convicts, it has been made clear that there has been an organized gang residing in Yemen illegally. The controlled hashish has the same property as that was detected before," Judge Habtoor said.

The judge noted further that the gang is attempting to smuggle hashish to other adjacent countries.

Yemeni products back in Saudi

The Ministry of Commerce in Saudi Arabia has decided to raise the temporary ban to import some of Yemeni products including the fungi products, those in the leather industry, watches, jewelry, and the oriental perfumes.

The Saudi-based al-Jazeera newspaper said last week that the Saudi Commerce Ministry received a telegram from the Saudi Foreign Minister, the Prince, Saoud al-Faisal, and a member of the National Board for Fungus Preservation to raise the temporary blockage of the fungi products.

Hundreds of prisoners released

As many as 3,000 Yemeni prisoners have been released during the Holy Month of Ramadhan.

Official resources have indicated that the number of prisoners released range from 2,000 to 3,000. The release decision has been taken by the president.

A judicial and security committee has been entrusted with the Minister of Justice, the Judge, Ahmed Aqabat to pay a field visits to a number of governorate of the republic.

In addition to this, the prisoners who have spent two thirds imprisonment have been released, as have those who have been able to pay back debts after the passing the legal duration behind bars



Workshop discusses maternal issues

Working to save mothers

By Yemen Times Staff

Saving the lives of mothers in Yemen through better obstetrical care was the focus of a two-day public health workshop that concluded Nov. 28 in Sana'a.

The workshop, which had 100 participants from various governorates, aimed at creating a joint policy for obstetrical emergency services as well as finding the means to coordinate this field and specify the roles of the partners and the society.

In the conclusion, Dr. Abdu Nasser al-Manibari, the Minister of the Public Health and Population, noted the importance of applying the president's decision that calls on free obstetric in all hospitals and health centers in Yemen.

This is the major factor in reducing the death rate of mothers who are under

reproduction age, and infants.

He also stressed on the necessity of expanding and improving coordination among the various sectors related to the ministry, such as the Ministry of Public Works to implement and find health institutions that should have suitable measures and standards. Good mechanisms are also needed to run the health institutions and its centers in the districts and remote areas, to unify health concepts that aim to reform the health sector in Yemen.

A number of submitted papers and studies indicated maternal deaths rates among mothers in Yemen. International statistics show across Yemen, a woman has a one-in-nine lifetime risk of dying from a pregnancy-related complication.

The services of obstetric emergency care is weak in Yemen because of many

reasons, such as ignorance of the society, a reduction in health centers, and a lack of equipment and medicine.

In addition, there is a lack of health and medical specialists to render the appropriate service. The studies also concentrated on the safe motherhood objectives in Yemen through the national plan for reproductive health and family planning 2001-2005.

This aims at reducing deaths among mothers by at least 25 per cent through delivery of services, specialists to supervise obstetrics, along with new emergency care in a hospital for 500 women.

The study ensured the priority of the services of the obstetrical emergency to spread public awareness and train midwives, as well as provide ambulances and other services of obstetrical care.

More in 2003

Special surgery for kids

Korean physician Dr. John Park, and American nurse Lorraine Kisch, workers who are with International Community Services (ICS), check a young boy with a cleft lip during a recent medical project at the Kuwait Hospital in Sana'a.

Dr. Park, based in Sana'a, hosted a team of surgeons from Korea for one week to perform operations on 33 patients, mostly children, with cleft lips and cleft palates.

The team will return in March, 2003 to continue on the 200 young Yemeni patients now on a waiting list.

ICS, a humanitarian aid organization based in Sana'a, has offices across Yemen.



New \$2 million telecom system ready

Over the last few weeks, Yemen has imported a new billing telecom system to replace the traditional billing system which has been used for 20 years.

This is to cope with state-of-the-art technologies in the context of the telecommunication and IT services.

The new telecom-billing project, estimated at US \$2 million has and inbound system where a subscriber can

inquire about his bill using the number (115) without fixed subscription value. It also has an outbound system where subscribers are informed of bill value and a voice message is sent to them informing them of things like service disconnection.

The new billing system is related to sales, operation, billing, and telecom centers.

General Director of the General Corp. for Wire and Wireless Telecom, Kamal Hussien al-Jabri, said the Telecom Corp. has initiated its activities since March.

"Strenuous efforts have been made in cooperation with the Nibotic International, a leading company in the consultant services, IT and integrates system," al-Jabri said.

Improving Yemen's communications

A \$40 million project to update Yemen's telecommunication system is getting a boost from Korea.

The Korean government will sponsor the work with a 30-year loan, with

a 10-year allowance.

The new project is about to be inaugurated in mid 2003.

It will cover most of the Yemeni governorates.

journalism institutions represented in the editors. The project will be also discussed by journalists in various governorates of the republic.

Journalist's projects discussed

A meeting was held Nov. 30 for Yemen's Journalists Syndicate, which included editors of official party and private papers, along with media leadership and correspondents from papers and agencies, Arab and foreign special

channels, and lawmen as well.

They launched a campaign to discuss the project of the journalists syndicate, and the charter of journalistic honor as a first phase that preceded the two projects in every

Romanian embassy celebrates national day

The Embassy of Romania in Yemen celebrated Romania's national day in a reception held on the 1st of December at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a. Mr. Gheorghe Epure, the Charge d' Affairs of the Romanian Embassy welcomed his guests and expressed his country's eagerness to strengthen relations and cooperation with the Republic of Yemen.

On this occasion, Mr. Epure told Yemen Times that "December first 1918 signifies the historical act in the life of Romanians in achieving their union."



speech, the president said that the success of Romania to full economic reform and principles of democracy and receiving invitation to join NATO is a result of the fulfillment of the priorities of the policy of the Romanian government.

"For the coming period, the Romanian government will ensure to continue the hard-working procedures in order to

become a full member of NATO in the beginning of 2004 and to implement the economic and social reforms in order to join the European Union," he said.

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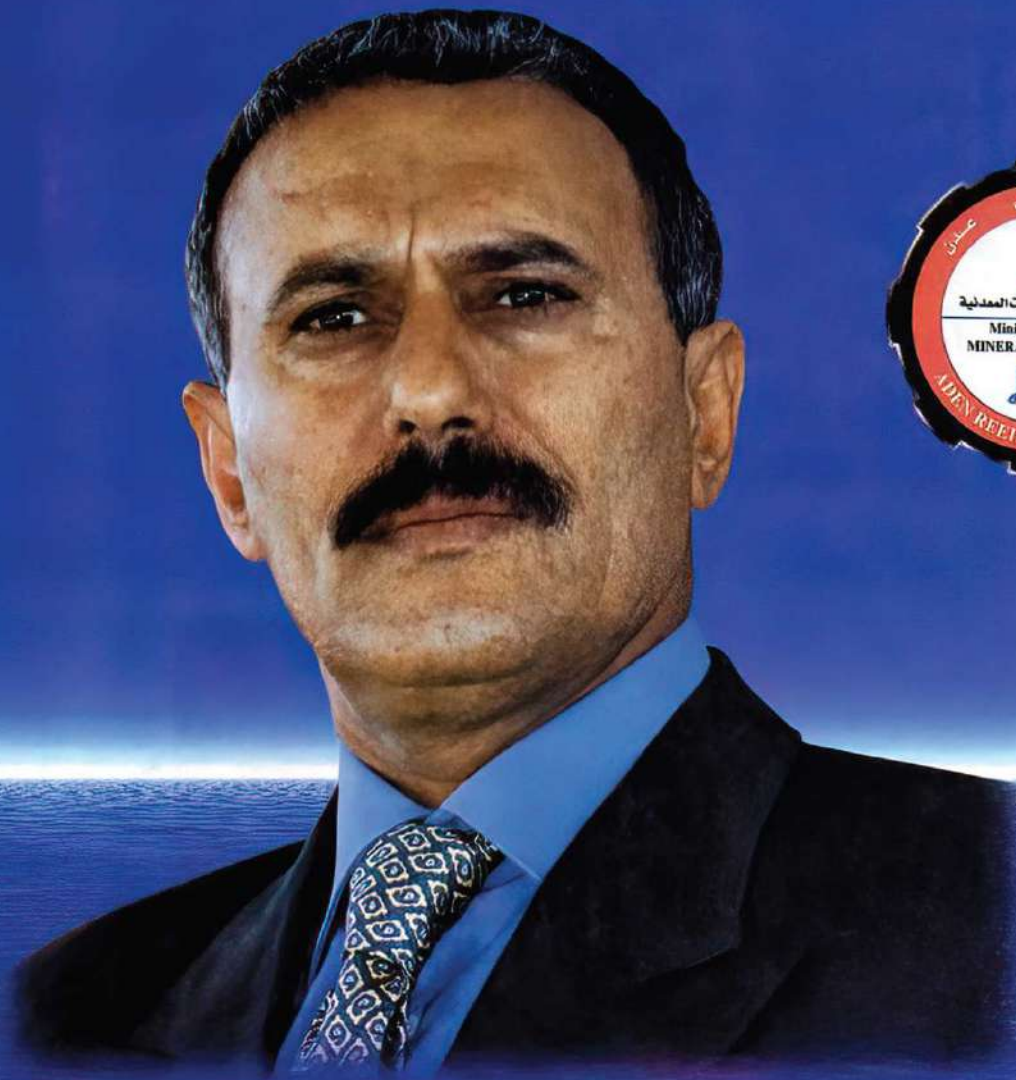
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Peak tourism season

Eid in Aden: A blessing

By RIDWAN AL-SAQQA
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF
YEMEN TIMES

As used to be the case in the last few years, Aden City is receiving an influx of tourists from all over the country to spend the Eid vacation on its beaches.

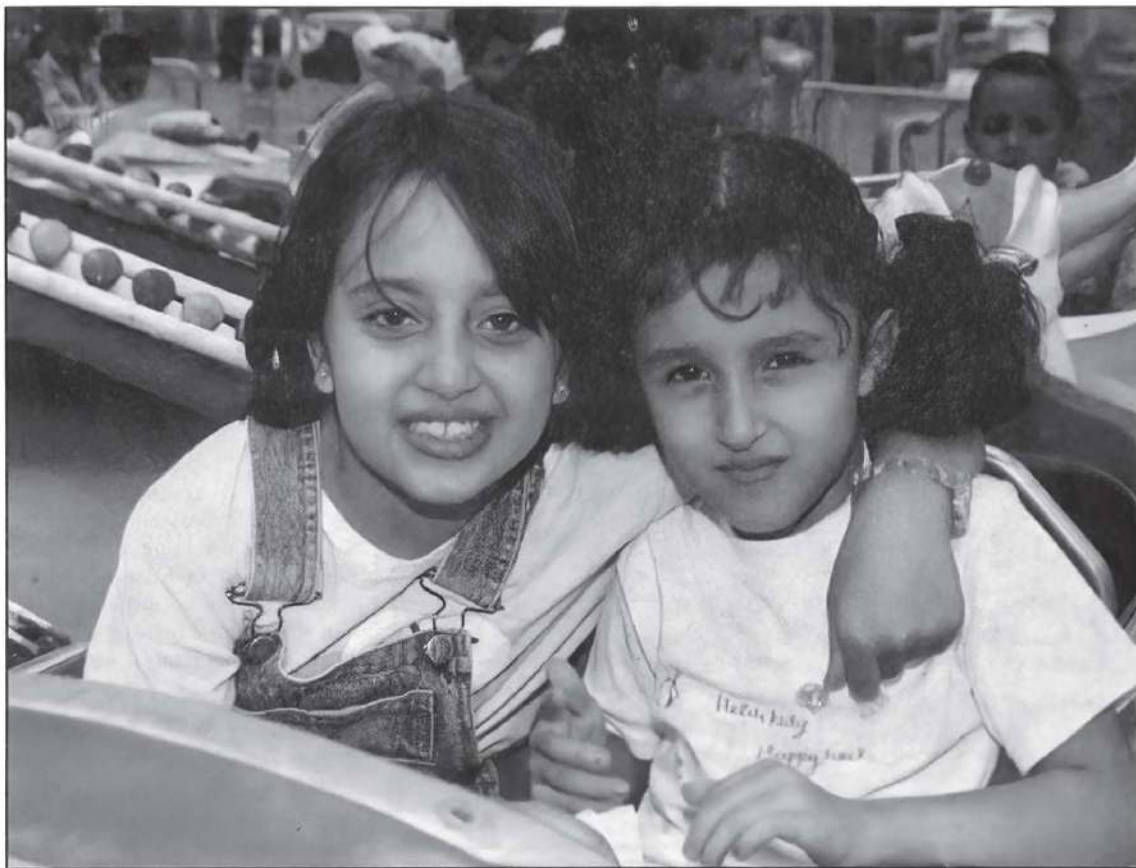
They are escaping the cold weather of Sanaa and other cities heading to the warm golden beaches in the south.

It truly is amazing to see that the number of Yemenis coming to Aden every year is increasing significantly, reaching unimaginable levels.

"The population of Aden simply doubles during the Eid," said one of the restaurant owners in the city.

Last year's Eid Al-Fitr witnessed half a million visitors to Aden, as people seize the opportunity by intensifying their trade and commercial activities.

However, this Eid will be somewhat different because a similar festival, but on a much smaller scale, the annual Dubai Shopping Festival takes place. Nevertheless, it will be an interesting experience for the city.



Children smile during Eid.

The latest visit of H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the city several months ago has also helped boost

the morals of its residents. The leadership encouraged investors to focus more on the natural beauty and

cleanliness of the city and to offer new and modern tourist attractions.

The city currently has 80 hotels, two of them five star hotels and the number is increasing.

Tourism office manager in Aden Mr. Ali Naji told Yemen Times that survey forms will be distributed to the different hotels to know the

number of guests in each, to serve as a database for those who want to reserve rooms or apartments during the peak seasons.

Coastal cities become active during Eids, and while during the rest of the year such cities are abandoned, there is tourism in such places for seasons.

Lately, new services have been offered in the two five-star hotels in

Aden, including boat tours and riding jet skis.

Children enjoy their time in Aden because of water sports, going to public parks, and even having tours on camels.

Certainly, there is a good reason for hundreds of thousands of people to visit Aden, so if you have not yet been to Aden in such a time, you are strongly advised to do so.

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Continued from page 1

Rescue Aden!

Just as things started getting better, the 9/11 events took place and the war against terror started.

Like all cities in the Middle East, Aden was also affected when vessels and trade companies kept clear, especially as it is adjacent to Hadramout, Osama bin Laden's home.

But Aden didn't give up and started to revive its activities once again after the war in Afghanistan ended with the defeat of the Taliban, thinking that al-Qaeda's threat was minimized. Activities at the port started to pick up again, but the unexpected happened, and the French tanker Limburg was attacked on Oct. 6, 2002.

The Limburg attack was the most devastating of all because it targeted the lifeline of the world economy, that is oil. And oil is associated with almost everything imaginable.

This was the point when Aden said, 'Enough is enough!' and realized that unless stability is retained, Aden won't be able to go on as a vital economic and trade hub in the region.

"It just cannot happen," one of the businessmen said.

"Economic life in Aden has come to a halt. We are in a state of stagnancy and losses have become unbearable," he added, but requested not to mention his name.

Indeed, everyone who knows Aden and its potentials realizes that what the city has gone through during the last two years is totally devastating.

The City of Aden has suffered from several problems that stalled the commercial activity at the ports

and led to great losses for the city in particular and for the Yemeni economy in general.

Insurance rates for ships heading to Aden have increased tremendously especially after the Limburg attack near the coastal city of Al-Mukalla, which is closely associated with Aden.

As a consequence, the private sector in Aden is going through an unbearable crisis. Profiting investments in the mid 1990s have turned into losses, and businessmen in Aden are asking for someone to come to the rescue.

Yemen Times met a few of the prominent businessmen in Aden to get their views. They described the situation as catastrophic, expressing their discomfort with the negative affects of the terrorist attacks that took place in the last two years.

"We depend on the port almost wholly for our import and export activities, and you can imagine what would happen if it is not operating properly," Another businessman said.

The business community in Aden is complaining of the doubling in insurance fees three folds following the Limburg attack, which caused a number of international shipping companies to change their routes in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf.

The investors in Aden know that if conditions don't improve, they may end up filing bankruptcies, especially as raw material has to be transported through a number of new means including small ships and boats. This adds more burdens and expenses to the private sector.

The insurance cost for a 20-foot container reached a record US \$298 and US \$500 for a 40-foot container. This resulted in the suspension of a large number of investment projects in a number of companies in Aden, which will probably result in the increase of food prices soon.

Apart from the trade sector, the tourism sector also lost a large portion of its international market, as the number of foreign tourists visiting the city has declined.

However, all is not totally lost, say some businessmen. With insistence and perseverance things can change to the better.

The president's decision to retain the pre-October 6 insurance fee is seen by investors and businessmen as a positive step, which they hope to be implemented as soon as possible.

Steps to revive Aden's port activity have already started as on Dec. 1.

A Yemeni delegation headed by Minister of Transport and Marine Affairs Saeed Al-Yafi'i and accompanying representatives from the port of Aden and Hodeidah, Yeminvest, and the Yemen Marine Chamber, will be attending the 76th meeting of the International Marine Safety Committee.

The Yemeni delegation is expected to present proposals to support ports in developing countries in terms of facility and service enhancement. The delegation will also be meeting with representatives of International insurance companies in London to persuade them to reduce insurance fees.

Times is #1

Hence, the Yemen Times online readership is much greater than that of all other Yemeni newspapers on the Internet.

It was also found that when searching the keyword 'Yemen' in the Internet's largest search engine 'google.com' the first result in the search is always 'Yemen Times.'

Yemen Times has also been quoted in major news networks world-

wide including CNN and NBC, and other media outlets such as the Guardian in the UK and radio programs such as the Voice of America more than any other Yemeni newspaper.

The growth and improvements that have led to this unprecedented position among other English newspapers in Yemen has also convinced local and international advertisers to

advertise often, promote themselves and their products in Yemen Times to attract recognition from a large audience and achieve their marketing objectives.

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Gyrf: A tradition of communal self-help in Soqatra (Part 1 of 2)



SERGE D. ELIE¹
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Gyrif is a Soqotri term for invitation, which is actually a special request for assistance addressed to next of kin, community neighbors or people with whom the requester is well acquainted. In practice it refers to a form of mutual aid undertaken by communities to assist one member when a task necessitates the collective input of all members. Of course, this is a form of activity that is practiced in all cultures around the world, including mainland Yemen, especially in the rural milieu, but under various names and with differentiating features.

In Soqatra all cultural-economic groups practice it: Bedouin pastoralists, fishermen, and agropastoralist communities. The one calling on the community for assistance assumes the responsibilities and costs associated with organizing it, and the participants contribute their labor or expertise. A Gyrf can be called for any activity whose scale requires communal input, and sometimes for the organization of some of the major life events such as weddings. In the context of Soqatra, organizing a Gyrf tends to be based on the major needs generated by the livelihood activities within a particular ecological milieu.

For example, in places where access to water is a problem, a Gyrf might be

organized for the construction of a Karif (a water reservoir). In other places where wood is a major natural resource, as in the forested area of Ayhaft, a Gyrf could be undertaken for the cutting of wood for sale or house construction. However, in instances where the benefits are communal and not just individual the participants share some of the costs in addition to contributing their labor.

In the case of the Gyrf that I observed, a "matriarch" had called for it, and the participants were agropastoralists as well as fishermen from the community of Soqotrans of African descent in Hadiboh and some of its satellite villages. All of the participants were her relatives. The work involved the construction of a living compound called *Arish* in Soqotri and is made up entirely of palm tree (*Timrih*) material: the dead and dried tree trunks (*Gud'*), palm-ribs (*Mijrid*), palm leaflets (*Fir'*) and the rope (*Hatmi*) made from the palm tree fiber.

The compound was to serve as the residence of the "matriarch" and an extended family of thirteen during the *Horf* (summer monsoon) season. Once completed it is called *Mahjir*, which means literally the "place of the guard" in Soqotri, but refers to a temporary dwelling used only during the monsoon season, and where people stay while caring for date palm trees, prior to harvesting time.

The site where the *Mahjir* was to be built was approximately 150 square feet enclosure with a dry well and perhaps a hundred of mostly mature palm



The compound residence of the matriarch and family.

trees. Their productivity seemed depressed as most of the trees had relatively few dates, and many were barren. The harvest promised to be meager and may not last beyond the Ramadan period, as it did not rain this season and there was no hope for more rains at that late stage of the date growing season. It is located in the area of Arhino, which is within less than five kilometers from Hadiboh. The area is dedicated to the cultivation of date palm trees, as it is within the vicinity of wadi Arhino.

This was the kind of place that Hadiboh once resembled prior to its urbanization, and which perhaps led to its original designation as Tamarida, which is the latinized version of the Arabic word for date, *tamr*. The place was not really a village as there seemed

to be no permanent residences there, but a demarcated space for palm trees plantation, which is parceled out among different owners by a network of fences. In fact, the area of Arhino is the place of choice for anyone in Hadiboh wishing to establish a palm tree garden. It seems that all it takes is to find a lot without a protective demarcation and which suits the preference of the potential cultivator.

While a Gyrf usually lasts one day, preparing for it is a time consuming endeavor. This one took two months of preparation. The collection of all the palm tree materials and their assembling into the different parts needed for the house was a major undertaking, as they were not bought from the market but prepared by hand.

Continued next issue

Celebrating Nov. 30 independence

Literature is powerful as artillery shells

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The 30th of November is of great significance to all the Yemeni people. It was on this day that the Yemeni people in South Yemen got their independence from being under the control of Britain.

It was in this day that the Yemenis felt how important their struggle against the colonizer was. The 30th of November is then as remarkable day as the 26th of September and 14th of October, days that mark revolutions that set Yemeni free internally from the rule of imams.

We have to bear in mind that the 30th of November is an embodiment of the Yemenis' hopes and expectations, as our forefathers offered their blood and souls for their independence.

As far as the relationship between the 30th of November and literature is concerned we can say that literature had played a very great and powerful role in the making of this day. It is in this way that literature, especially poetry, had driven the revolutionary people to double their efforts and get independence quickly.

Therefore, this independence was based on story and sharp literature. It did not come from vacuum. During the 128 years of colonization, liter-

ary people had produced rich literature.

Poetry and revolutionary songs also had a strong role in enhancing and strengthening the morale of the people. Poems and revolutionary songs had paved the roads to independence. We have to bear in mind also that a great number of literary people participated in this struggle to achieve independence.

All poets in Yemen, whether in Saadah or Almahra, had the same feelings.

The reason was that they were all fighting for the same purpose. On the light of that a line of poetry was equal to an artillery shell in the battle. For revolutionary people, poems were considered as candles lighting their ways which they went through so as to achieve freedom, democracy and a better life.

Independence meant among other things that the Yemeni people would never be submissive to tyrant rulers. The revolutionary poem could shake the whole country. This shows the unity among the Yemenis whether in Hajjah or Hadramout, in Aden or in Hodeidah, in Taiz or in Shabwa in Mareb or in Lahj.

If it had not been for the Yemeni revolutions and this independence day, the Yemenis would not have reached the democracy they are enjoying at the present time. In other words independence had been achieved as it aimed for good aims of establishing freedom, good life and democracy.

Peak tourism season

Eid in Taiz

BY MAYASA MOHAMMED GAWAD
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ

Eid always comes on time. Like a guest, it comes to bring happiness for few days.

With the beginning of the first day of Eid, early in the morning the breeze of the air changes as the sky foretells the days to come are to bring happiness to the people.

Early in the morning, the voice of the children gives life to Eid days, just because it's children can truly enjoy Eid to the fullest.

Children draw a beautiful pictures of Eid, in which they put on new clothes, and a big smile on their faces when getting money (Eidia) to buy whatever they want, especially games.

The first place children think to visit are the gardens. In Eid, a large number of children play in the gardens with friends. Though there are just two gardens in Taiz, and it lacks many entertainment places, children find it sufficient to enjoy Eid in nonethless.

Generation by generation, in Yemen people keep their traditions to visit



their relatives and friends, congratulating the coming of Eid. The family members traditionally gather to have lunch, and to chew qat in the afternoon. Many families take the Eid days as a chance to celebrate the wedding parties to enjoy two Eids.

People in Yemen are accustomed to spend Eid in the countryside.

It's during the whole year, the coun-

tryside misses its people who are in the city, but in Eid, it takes revenge from the city that it leaves it somehow empty where there are only few families.

In the evening, people spend their nights at homes, leaving the night alone as silence capture it. That's why the first night of Eid is called the orphan night.

Japan helps build Yemen schools

Ibb and Taiz will get 30 new schools for 18,000 students thanks to a development grant from Japan.

The grant, worth US \$4.7 million, will be official upon an agreement signed at the Ministry of Planning and Development between between H.E. Ahmed Sofan, Minister of Planning and Development and Yoshiaki Hata, of the Embassy of Japan in Sana'a.

The agreement is part of the Construction of School Facilities of Basic Education in a number of Governorates in the Republic of Yemen.

Since Japan believes that human resources development is one of the main issues in Yemen, it has decided to extend this grant in order to support the efforts of the Yemeni Government in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and

recent National Basic Education Strategy.

This agreement is the first tangible cooperation of such size between Yemen and Japan in the field of basic education. It will also play an important role in reducing the high illiteracy rate and increasing the percentage of students in basic education schools.



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YT Business

Moving toward WTO membership

Yemen needs to export more goods

By MAHYOUR AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

How does Yemen's external trade look in the light of its trade balance?

It's a question that's important as Yemen is preparing to join the WTO.

Minister of Industry and Trade Abdulrahman Mohammed Othman has said that Yemen has already handed over a memorandum to the WTO in Geneva on the country's external trade systems as a step for joining it with the purpose of benefiting from the organization.

Yemeni trade structure

Yemen's economic structure is based on a free market economy and deals with international trade with a number of elements. The main factor depends on exports of oil.

In 2000, oil revenues amounted to around \$1.2 billion compared to last

year's that amounted to \$1.3 billion.

The second element deals with international investments in various sectors which amount to more than YR 350 billion.

The tourism sector constitutes an important factor in informing the world about tourist sites in world markets.

Another element is increasing agricultural exports.

Yemen considers oil and gas production will change the economic - trade structure in its dealings in the world of international trade.

The Yemeni government also attaches great importance to Yemen's excellent geographic location and its importance for international trade.

Yemen's geographic situation would qualify it to join the WTO due to connection and interaction with regional and international navigation movement in a manner bigger than the present.

The volume of Yemen's external trade shows a trade deficit, thus joining the WTO would help it achieve balance in its international trade.

The total volume of Yemen's external trade in 2001 amounted to YR 194.8 billion, but YR 34.4 billion is the value of Yemen's exports to Arab markets.

Yemen can benefit from unifying regulations and terms of imports from all countries and from the principle of non-discrimination in the world trade. Yemen also hopes to benefit from the WTO in free access to markets for all and also in removal of restraints and monopoly of information and data.

Yemen also wishes that its international trade would urge economic growth and improvement of job opportunities through attraction of investment capitals.

Therefore, Yemen has to, after presenting its memorandum to the WTO Secretariat at the European headquarters and deliberation among members, enter in multi-lateral dialogues in order to obtain membership.

Large negotiation efforts are in order for Yemen to get its WTO membership.

Needs diversification, smaller deficit

Pulling Yemen's economy from its pit

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

For Yemen's economy to grow, the country needs to be less dependant on oil and more on commodities such as agriculture.

It needs to end its deficit and also limit interest on foreign debts. From indicators of annual growth, it seems that economic policies depend on oil revenues without paying attention to productive sectors that can develop a base of strong income and gross national product.

Agricultural sector

Investment plans in the coming years need to be directed to development of the agricultural sector and animal wealth in percentages exceeding what is planned for in the second of the five-year plan, whose percentage is fixed between 2.3% to 4.6% including the gross national product.

There is a need to increase production of cereals, fruits and vegetables for the purpose of moving toward self-sufficiency and a trade surplus.

The present reality of agricultural production causes the national economy to lose millions of dollars, spent on the importation of food, agriculture cans and animal products which weakens the volume of domestic production in agricultural and animal areas.

Thus there is an urgent need for investment in agriculture and in increasing the animal wealth. Steps that must be taken include:

- improving sowing seeds,
- providing plants capable of adapting to the Yemeni agricultural environment,
- increase production of plants such as cotton, coffee and grapes,
- establishing new centers for marketing and exporting,
- providing modern means of transport, as well as building up-to-date factories for animal wealth products and looking for external markets for them,
- finding alternatives to the qat tree and bringing forward suitable solutions giving incomes to those now working in planting the qat tree.

Ports

Investment plans should also be directed to building industrial and productive zones in Yemeni seaports and coasts, especially those proper for investment and establishing a productive base founded on local materials as factories for fish canning and building centres for re-exportation and others for activating tourism on beaches by building tourist hotels, beach cabins and centres for practicing diving.

But tourist investment in beaches and ports requires taking strict measures for securing transport in the regional waters and restoring confidence for vessels and tankers in the security atmospheres in Yemen and its ports and coasts.

Improving the security reputation would facilitate attraction of industrial

activities.

It would help establish modern industrial towns, intensified work opportunities, population migration from cities and densely populated capital towards the new industrial regions, activate internal marketing and link it to external trade and exploitation of fish and mineral wealth available on both sides of Yemeni coasts, and to export them to world markets.

Therefore, there must a drawing up of the requirements of ports and coasts infrastructures, and diversifying the base of the national economy.

According to economic experts concepts this trend would create for residents new areas of work and would urge them to discard qat farming.

The governorates far from the coasts and sea ports could in turn play a prolific part in supplying the new industrial areas with materials necessary for the new activities there. And this would create a kind of economic integration and development of the national economy in addition to utilization of mineral riches.

This economic vision proceeds from an accurate diagnosis of economic indications over the past years. Those indications have disclosed weakness of outputs depending on oil and foreign loans for solving development and social crises.

Yemen has opportunities for attracting investments especially by expatriates.

Economic experts also think that the yearly plans within the second year of the five-year plan from 2001-2005 are not able to attain a real development proportion in the gross national product because they can't be accomplished on the ground. The budget suffers from an incurable deficit and external aid is not allotted for strategic projects, but they rather go to social fields to ease the pressure of negative outcomes from the economic reforms.

The Road Ahead

Creating change

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQA
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"The future is so discontinuous that we can no longer predict it," said Jack Welch, CEO, General Electric. GE's solution was to preempt change, to stop coping with it and start creating it. What a smart way of dealing with change.

Change is inevitable in this new millennium and building a strong foundation for change in today's organizations has become an important managerial task in order to survive. But sometimes, even if the business is flexible and open to change, it has to create change in order to emerge.

Still, creating change is a difficult and enormous challenge. First of all, people are resistant to change; when people first hear about some new idea or change they refuse to believe that it can be done. Then slowly they begin to think about it until they see that it can be done, and then they do it.

In other words people have something known as status quo. It means that as long as they are happy about where they are and what they do, they wouldn't make any changes. As a matter of fact the more important this thing is to them the more they hold on to it and avoid any changes. For example if you are quietly satisfied with your job and its pay, would you consider changing it? Unless there is a good reason or something new up-and-coming, you won't.

Again, as a human being, we need to make changes in our lives, otherwise we might become extinct because it is change that keeps us fresh and innovative. We all know the importance of change but rarely we do it, because we are afraid; afraid that if we make changes we might screw things up for ourselves.

Fear of failure is as common as the desire for success, but when the desire for success overtakes the fear of failure, only then do we take the first step and change, keeping in mind that failure is to be expected and accepted. Life is like a game, except however badly you fail and go back to level one, it's never game over.

The same concept applies for business organizations, managers should keep a close eye on the small changes that occur and know when the business is getting old. In fact, noticing small changes early helps you to adapt to bigger changes that are yet to come and as a result of that, it is possible to assess the potential effect of change and develop a plan to consider alternatives and start moving in a new direction. Such changes keep the business young and powerful.

Remember: Change is essential, and developing a foundation for change is vital for emerging businesses in order to predict it and act fast to discover opportunities.

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Words of Wisdom



A person with character strength does not allow him/herself to be an instrument for wrong actions, decisions and behavior. Many of our senior officials are rather well-educated, but they have mostly ended-up as mere puppets as they are routinely ordered around, many times to do wrong things. Character strength would not allow this phenomenon.

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



OUR OPINION

Getting Aden to where it belongs

Aden is the city that we all have been having great hope in. Ambitions have been high ever since unity, to have it as a competing regional hub and free zone port for business and trade from all over the globe.

When we look at Aden today, we see a gloomy image of a city suffering from lack of investment and a shrinking market. Companies in Aden complain that they are simply losing. There isn't interest in investing in Aden, unlike in the past. What happened? What went wrong?

The most important element that gave Aden a bad name was security. The USS Cole incident of 2000 was more than enough to keep international companies from approaching Aden for trade.

The Western media was quick to associate terrorism with southern governorates in Yemen, including Hadramout. Some media love to remind us that is the original home of the number one wanted person on Earth, Osama bin Laden.

As if that wasn't enough, the oil supertanker Limburg attack near Al-Mukalla brought even more devastation for the Aden's economy. Despite the fact that Al-Mukalla is hundreds of miles away from Aden, yet because they share the same coastline and trade route, Aden was directly affected.

Other threats by al-Qaeda that further attacks will take place to the 'lifeline' of the West - represented by oil - has discouraged whoever thought of Aden as a future investment destination. Investment needed for its free zone, is now extremely weak.

But even if all these attacks and reports wouldn't have happened, there are still domestic issues that need to be resolved. Every investor or company needs purchasing power in order to achieve profits through sales.

But Adenese are fleeing their city for Sana'a, where they find better job opportunities. This applies almost to all smaller towns. Aden has been abandoned for so long and the strict centralization in the country has caused most young people to leave to Sana'a.

Aden could receive greater attention by the central administration if opportunities are provided. In my experience of receiving job applications in Sana'a, I have learned that most of the qualified applicants come from Aden. But because job opportunities are so scarce in Aden, they tend to apply for work in Sana'a.

Aden has become unbearable for them as a city where they could have ends meet. In short, Aden has great potential that could be exploited easily by our government if it only thinks strategically.

Nowadays, Aden is receiving an influx of local tourists coming from the northern parts of the country. Instead of waiting for the international investors to come to the country, why don't we use this time to work on the infrastructure of Aden and provide better water, sanitation, cleanliness, and educational services?

The city can absorb many more entertainment projects and public parks that could drive more tourist from all over the country.

We have the time to take those steps, so why wait? It would be a wise idea to have the city prepared for the time when security and stability are regained in the area. Then, investors will come running to a beautiful, well-organized, and attractive port that could once again rise to the occasion.

The Editor



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Muslims can adapt to the new century

BY JUDITH BROWN

I would like to reply to the article in this week's Yemen Times by an American, Dr. Arthur Bellinzoni, in which he asks the question, "Can Muslims adapt to the 21st Century?" (Issue 43).

He states, inaccurately, that Jewish and Christian fundamentalism are things of the past, and the only fundamentalism we have to worry about is Islam.

Oh, no, Dr. Bellinzoni, you are just looking at things from your own very one-sided view. Jewish fundamentalism is alive and well, as I and many European friends have witnessed when we see the way settlers behave in the Arab territories that Israel occupies, killing, torturing, dispossessing Arabs, all with the excuse that "God gave them this land".

Let's get it straight. Their God told them they could have the land providing they looked after the land and the

people of it, but instead they choose to humiliate Arabs who are prepared to share the land with them. This type of Jew destroys Arab lives and the land they live on. This is not true Judaism which is firmly based on a system of justice.

American Christian fundamentalists on the other hand think that if "The Promised Land" is fully occupied by Jews, then there will be another Messiah who will come down and convert the whole world to Christianity.

They use the far from perfect American democratic system to tie the hands of the political leaders forcing them to support the truly evil regime in Israel, all in the name of their God.

This does not mean that Jews and Christians are inherently wicked. Here in the UK and also in Israel there are many organizations where Jews, Muslims, Christians and others work together respectfully for peace. We are the ones who are not fundamentalists.

I have many Muslim friends in

Yemen, they are like sisters to me. The thoughtful love and consideration which they unfailingly demonstrate to me, a non-Muslim, proves that they are far from fundamentalist, and I can assure you they are the vast majority.

Dr. Bellinzoni, over many years I have worked closely with Muslims and I do not find them less progressive than my British and American friends and relatives. I do not find them less able to adapt to this century.

It is a sign of your own racism and religious prejudice that you think so. All people, of all races and religions, are the same mix of good and bad. Muslims react against the West because our nations vilify them and arrogantly act as if their land and resources are ours, not because of religious fervor.

Until you and those like you realize that, there will be no peace in the world. It is you who have to adapt to reality of the times we live in, not Muslims.

A view of Yemen from an English home

BY JANET WATSON

As a child, I used to watch a television series called Dr. Who. Dr. Who had a tardis - a large box which resembled a police telephone box from the outside, but which from the inside was the size of a spaceship. This machine took him across dimensions of time and space instantly.

Now, as I sit in my English kitchen, looking at my postcards from Yemen, I long for a tardis. To be able to get up and walk into Sug al-Bagar or Bab al-Yaman or Bab Shu'ub. Maybe for a weekend, or maybe just for an afternoon's qat chew, or an evening with my Yemeni women friends watching the Syrian *sahrah*. The cards on the wall make San'a seem so

close, so real. A telephone call so clear, I could be calling my neighbor.

I left Yemen some time ago after spending almost two years in the country. The ease with which I stepped on to the plane to London belied the vast difference between my life in Yemen and my life in England. In England I ride a bicycle; my clothes are different; the weather is colder; I work in an office; I teach Arabic to undergraduate students; I shop in supermarkets; the bread, a symbol of life, is wrapped in plastic.

In Yemen I walk almost everywhere; I climb hundreds of stairs a week to visit friends; I do not have to answer e-mails; I rarely sit on my own; the bread, a symbol of life, is fresh.

Above all, in England, it is the fresh spontaneity of Yemen that I miss. I miss

the daily contact with my women friends. I miss the control I have over my life. People often speak about how difficult and frustrating life can be in the Middle East. I think I know what they mean, but it is not my experience. It is in England where time is master that time is wasted, through the very routine of the country, the strict office hours, the timetables, the meetings, the energy-sapping appointments, the plastic wrappings.

In Yemen, the day stretches miraculously from the fresh, sharp light of early morning to the comforting warmth of late evening. I need no means to count the time in Yemen. Time is not my master here. The bread, reflecting life, is fresh.

Letters to the Editor

Yemen's sovereignty violated

I have great sympathy with the Yemeni citizens who feel that their national sovereignty was undermined when the CIA missile blew up a vehicle killing six suspects in Yemen's eastern desert.

The USA would feel the same if an Arab state shot a missile at US territories and blew up Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. Even though our own US sovereignty would then be violated, in my opinion, we should still be very happy to get rid of such Americans.

Lindh S.
lindh@swnebr.net

Misplaced "national integrity"

You would be better served by focusing on the issue itself, mainly: the necessity of hunting down and eliminating terrorists.

Instead of worrying about your national pride as the US kills six Yemeni citizens. I hope you agree that terrorist citizens of any nation need to be destroyed for the safety of others,

and it might be a decent idea to be honest with people and tell them you are doing this for the right reasons; unless of course, you support these acts of terror.

You're upset that the US forced Yemen to fight terrorists? You apparently share Osama bin Laden's logic that innocent American civilians have somehow brought it upon themselves due to US foreign policy, and that terrorism is a natural and acceptable outcome.

And if you believe it is not an acceptable outcome (which I now believe 99% of worldwide Arabs do) then why are you complaining about your own government doing the right thing? Your concern for "national integrity" sounds sadly misplaced.

Drew Meadors
dm@mobile.com

If we can't, let the US do it

I am a Yemeni-American living in the U.S. and I want to tell you that I have no problem whatsoever with the

U.S. Striking terrorists anywhere at anytime.

You know, as well as I do, that the Yemeni police could not capture a group of people who are roaming the country-side and armed to the teeth. As far as the Yemeni government supporting the U.S. strike, well, it is about time we open our eyes and realize that we have taken many stances in the past that were against America and they turned out to be extremely expensive.

Why do you think our people were thrown out of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, if it were not for our, patriotic, yet politically naive stance during the Gulf War. No thanks to those who demonstrated against the allies. Now we have 35% unemployment.

So my opinion is this; Wake up. Put the slogans aside. Look at where our interests are and act accordingly. And if the Yemeni government supports the U.S., I want to give them my support.

F. Samawi
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COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Lies of the 'Puritans'

The puritanical sects that took on many names and covers, spread throughout the Moslem World, under a loosely tied network, with icons of the movement rapidly catching media attention. The spread and prestige achieved by these various dubious institutions that emerged gradually began to take on the image as being representative of Islamic thought and doctrine.

Furthermore they took on the shape of political movements in the various states that made up the Moslem World, taking full advantage of whatever marginal political freedoms were made available in these states. In many areas, they also took on a paramilitary presence, with established training grounds and with their icons roaming around the country with heavily armed escorts.

Once these puritanical institutions established firm grounds in any country, they began to forcefully put their will upon the Moslems of these countries demanding that only their views on all matters of religion be accepted by all, and anyone who refuses shall be considered as a heathen or a heretic. Thus another factor that worked against the development of the other rational, traditional Psalmists, who painstakingly sought to protect what they could of the tolerance and compassion which Islam truly conveyed. It is noteworthy to mention that the major factors that helped these puritanical sects gain rapid momentum over the last three decades were as follows:

- Widespread illiteracy and ignorance among most of the populations of the Moslem World and the inability of the prevailing regimes in these states to provide widespread educational and other social services to the populations of these states.

- The substantial funding that the propagators and organizers of these institutions had access to, most of which came from the followers of these puritanical sects in some of the rich Gulf States.

- The seemingly innocent and excessive religious character of these movements appealed to innocent followers of Islam, who could not characterize these movements properly. Many Moslems saw in the active excessive adherence portrayed by these groups as more attractive to the spread of vice and corruption that prevailed in many Moslem states, which faithful Moslems saw as rightly being anathema to Islam.

- The ample media sensations created by the propagators of these puritanical, so called orthodox sects.

- Their tight net organizational and clandestine nature of their activities, which lacked any transparency, and thus were not subject to questioning even by the mass constituencies that have fallen under these movements.

- The ability of the followers of these creeds to convey to the United States and other Western allies that they can guarantee victory against Communism. This led to substantial clandestine military as well as tactical support for these movements, in areas like Afghanistan, Bosnia and Central Asia.

- The tendency of some regimes in the Moslem World to ally themselves politically with these movements, with a mutual tacit laissez-faire attitude of the regime and the proponents of these movements, as long as each stayed within agreed lines limiting the attacks against the respective side. The Sudan was one of the first to declare itself free from such clandestine political arrangement.

There are many other reasons why these movements began to take on the position of the leading Psalmists in the Moslem states, but it is clear that these movements have done great harm to the image of Islam and to the future hopes of the Moslem Nation. It is the challenge of trying to offset all this damage that has been caused that true Moslem activists must work to achieve, if Islam is to regain its true face in the world as a creed that insists on peace and human rights for all citizens of the world and values human life and works to spread welfare and prosperity for all human beings.

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UN plan on Cyprus: Solution or delusion?

PROF. CLEMENT DODD

There is a good deal of euphoria at the prospect of a settlement of the Cyprus dispute on the basis of the new UN Plan. It has been welcomed by all major states and by the European Union as a way forward, the last opportunity for a solution. Commentators in the Turkish press have seen it as clearing a way for Turkey's entry into the European Union, firmly believing that the lack of a Cyprus settlement is a, or the, major obstacle. It has even been suggested that adoption of the UN Plan would be a victory for the Turkish Cypriots. The Greek Prime minister, more cautiously, sees the Plan as "a starting point for further intensive negotiations".

The Greek Cypriot Government seems prepared to negotiate on the basis of the Plan, but, like the Turkish Cypriots, does not want to be rushed into decisions. Among the Greek Cypriots, despite support from party leaders, there is resentment that the Plan does not allow all Greek Cypriots displaced in 1974 to return to their homes and live anywhere, and that the jewel in the crown of the TRNC, Kyrenia, and the formerly Greek Cypriot villages of Lapta (Lapitos) and Alsancak (Karavas), are not to be returned. Greek Cypriot determination to win back all they lost in 1974 is not to be discounted.

Is the Plan acceptable to the Turkish Cypriots? It has been argued that as they have their own state within the proposed federation, as do the Greek Cypriots, their self-determination, independence and political equality are all ensured. It will even be possible, it is said, for a Turkish Cypriot to be President of the new State of Cyprus. The Turkish Guarantee is also preserved. But before being carried away on a wave of hope and expectation, it is only sensible to look very carefully at what precisely is on offer. First let us look at the all-important constitutional blueprint, and then at some of the other remaining proposals, namely on territorial changes, the return of property lost in 1974, the freedoms of movement and residence, and the little mentioned but extremely significant, freedom for all Cypriots to invest anywhere in the

island that would be a normal attribute of EU membership.

Constitutional Proposals

We need first remind ourselves of some history. Under the 1960 Constitution the Deputies of each community in the legislature, and the President and Vice-President, had the right to veto legislation and decisions in vitally important policy areas. By using the veto mechanism, unanimity was required in major policies, and unanimity is the essential feature of an equal partnership or confederation. The system collapsed because the Greek Cypriots did not believe that the Turkish Cypriot "minority" (19 percent of the population) should be equal partners. The Turkish Cypriots, having reluctantly agreed to renounce their basic ambition for a division of the island, were in no mood to be dominated by the Greek Cypriots. Neither they, nor Turkey, accepted Archbishop Makarios' proposals to turn the Turkish Cypriots as a result of the violence used against them to make them conform has not been forgotten by the Turkish Cypriots.

In 1984-86, and again in the 1992 Set of Ideas, the UN Secretary-General introduced constitutional proposals that included vetoes for both sides over legislation and executive decisions in major areas of concern. They were accepted by the Turkish Cypriots, but not by the other side. Now, however, in the new Plan we see a great change, a change which was heralded in the UN's November 2000 proposals that led to a breakdown in the proximity negotiations. The UN clearly now accepts the Greek Cypriot position that in the central federal institutions of more important lower house of the proposed new parliament, (the Chamber of Deputies) would reflect the number of registered residents in each "component state", with at least a quarter of the 48 seats being allocated to the representatives of each state. Decisions in the Chamber of Deputies would be by majority vote.

The 48 member upper house, the Senate, would have an equal number of members from each of the two "component" states but with, again decision by majority vote. It would only be necessary for the majority vote would be needed in the Senate, which means that

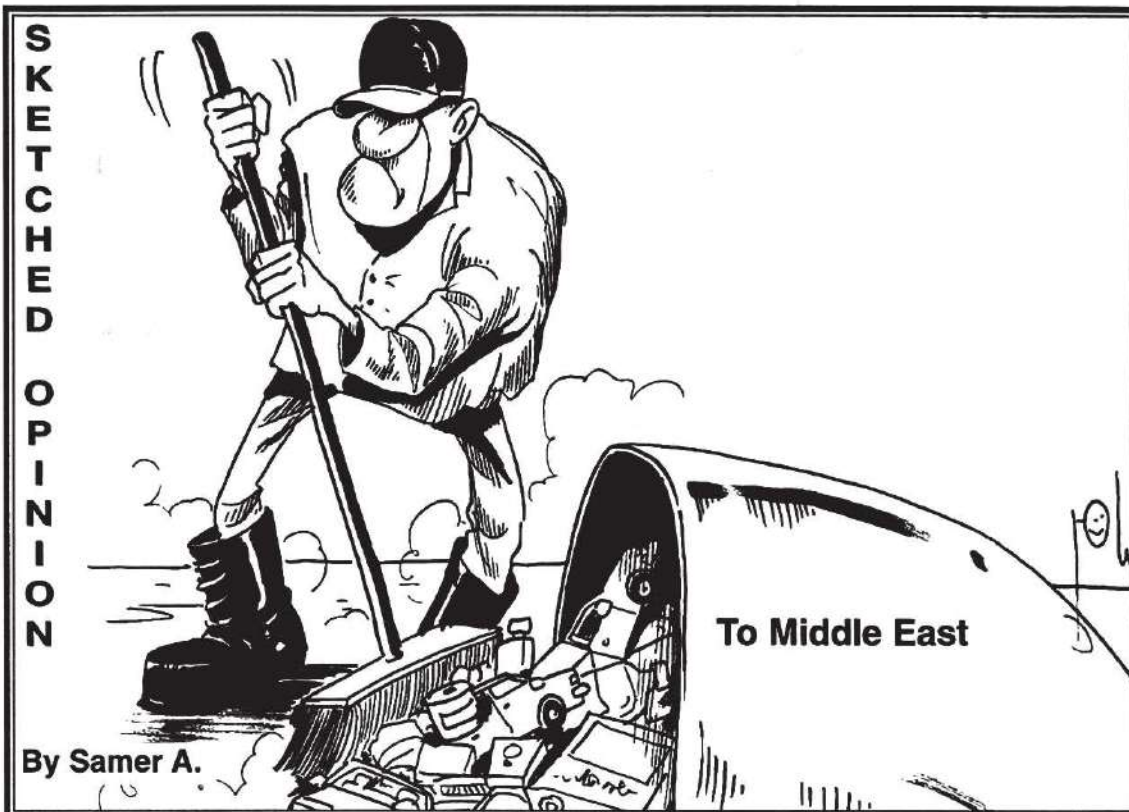
decisions would even then only need then support of two fifths (107) of the 24 Senators from each component state. There is little chance of a veto in the Senate.

The problem of which of the two component states should provide the President is circumvented. The roles of President and Vice-president circulate among members of the executive Presidential Council. The Council's membership is proportional to the population of each component state. This means that the Greek Cypriots would be made by simple majority, with just one member from each component state having to be included in the majority. Moreover, the Presidential Council could be chosen by parliament, which, as we have seen, would be Greek Cypriot dominated. In short the draft constitution in the Plan put the Greek Cypriots in charge, which is what the Greek Cypriots have always wanted. That the selection of all representatives in made by the peoples of the component states, seems democratic, but results in inequality. The Turkish Cypriot appeal for an equal partnership common state has gone unheeded.

Those who urge adoption of the Plan will argue that Greek Cypriot domination of the central federal institutions really does not matter because important legislation would anyway lie with the European Union. But, as is the case with other EU members, the central government still has important functions to perform. There would be the need for delegated legislation to be made. Moreover, the functions given to the federal institutions are important. They include control of external (including EU) relations, the supervisory of Central Bank functions (and membership), communications, and immigration, which could be a very contentious issue.

Territory, Property, Residence, the Economy

The proposals for the return of the return of territory are bound to be very difficult for the Turkish Cypriots. They include surrender of the large fertile area of Guzelyurt (Morphou) abandoned in 1974 by the Greek Cypriots. This would be a great blow to agriculture in the North. The surrender of



Maras (Varosha) on the east coast would be less problematical: Turkish Cypriot territory would be reduced to some 28.5 per cent from the 36 per cent at present held. It is estimated that there would be some 50,000 Turkish Cypriot refugees, for whom new fertile land would be impossible to find. The total Turkish Cypriot population is some 200,000 about a quarter of that of the whole island.

Under proposals regarding property vacated in 1974, the Plan envisages a very large measure of reinstatement of displaced owners. This is an important factor in determining how far the citizens of one component state may live in the other. This is, of course, a particularly acute problem for the Turkish Cypriots. There are complex rules that restrict residence for a period of twenty years, but it seems that a third of each component state's residents could eventually come form the other component state. It is altogether within EU norms, of course, that members of EU there should be no restrictions or investment within, or across EU states. Consequently, it would be difficult to stop Greek Cypriot capital from being used to develop the North, and, in effect, to dominate it economically. There is just a brief suggestion in the Plan that this might be looked at by the EU Commission, but little attention is paid to it.

The whole drift of the Plan is to

induce both Greek and Turkish Cypriots to be Cypriots first and foremost, but to do this by placing "common state" power in the hands of the Greek Cypriots without some worrying ambiguities. It is certainly not the sort of plan to be presented when there is little time for the lengthy study and negotiation it would need. One thing is sure. It is very unlikely that after 27 years of independence, the Turkish Cypriots are going to relinquish their freedom and place themselves in a position inferior to that of the Greek Cypriots. Some Turkish Cypriots will be tempted to do so because of the promise of prosperity the EU has held before community (including the EU) of the crippling embargoes to which they are subject. Without these they would be able to make themselves rich through developing international tourism as have the Greek Cypriots in the south. For this they do not need anything as problematical as EU membership.

If the Turkish Cypriots decide to forgo riches for the same of independence will it matter, will it really be an obstacle to Turkey's EU membership? Most probably not. The decision to admit so large and populous a country as Turkey would be a decision of historic proportions, going far beyond the confines of the Cyprus issue. If the European Union wants Turkey as a member it will be for reasons that have little or nothing to do with Cyprus and a

great deal to do its oil reserves (not least in the Caspian), and to the sources of world terrorism - points to the need to make Turkey a part of the European Union. Clearly the major European states are beginning to see this, even if European public opinion often seems to lag behind.

With these considerations in mind will it really matter so much in the long run if the TRNC remains a small independent state? Will there be a "horror scenario" in the Eastern Mediterranean, as some diplomats seem to fear, or will some modus vivendi not be found to come with an admittedly awkward, but not hugely significant, issue? Moreover, if there should be a settlement along the lines of the new UN Plan, it might well fuel resentment among fiercely nationalist Turkish Cypriots, and a corresponding dissatisfaction on the other side among those who passionately feel they have the right to regard the island as unequivocally their own. A shotgun marriage would spell danger for the future. For all concerned a peaceful island is better than a warring one.

The Turkish Cypriots will want a long, hard look at a Plan that on examination does not give them the political equality it professes to do. It is puzzling, and hardly constructive, that the UN Secretary General should have produced so detailed and problematic a plan for consideration at virtually the last moment.

Making 'nice' with UN inspectors

Iraq shows new attitude

RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

State-run newspapers and government officials here never used to miss an opportunity to heap scorn on UN weapons inspectors, calling them spies, amateurs and opportunists who sought to prolong their work to justify the continued imposition of economic sanctions on Iraq.

But now that inspectors have returned after a four-year absence for a mission that could determine whether the United States launches military action to topple President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader appears to have pressed the mute button on the regular rhetoric. The new message is cooperation.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the first two days of resumed inspections, the UN experts who set off in their white vehicles and their baby-blue hats to search for evidence that Iraq has or is developing weapons of mass destruction were received in a way their predecessors never were. The gates to research complexes and arms factories swung open without delay.

Solicitous officials let the inspectors poke around, take samples and leaf through documents. The director of an engineering center even proudly proclaimed to reporters that he was pleased to receive the inspectors.

Although U.S. and UN officials question whether the warm reception will vanish when inspectors attempt to visit one of Saddam's palaces or other sensitive sites, Iraqi officials and analysts insist the new attitude is not an act. They contend Saddam has concluded the best way to call President

George W. Bush's bluff is by doing what nobody outside Iraq ever expected him to do: make nice with the inspectors.

"We're going to surprise the world," one of the president's advisers said.

"We don't like 1441, but we will cooperate with it," he said, referring to the UN Security Council resolution passed unanimously in November that calls for inspectors to be given access to any person or place in Iraq without having to seek permission or provide advance notice.

The two UN officials leading the field inspections said they were satisfied with the Iraqi response thus far.

"We've received full cooperation," said one of the leaders, Demetrius Perricos of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission. He said he believed "that will remain the case" for visits to the nearly 1,000 sites declared by Iraq over the years as having a connection to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs and missile development.

Perricos said Iraq's compliance with the resolution had gone beyond just opening doors quickly. When inspectors inquired Thursday about a small fermentation tank that was missing from the Al Dawrah veterinary medicine laboratory, plant officials said it had been moved to another facility. Then, he said, the officials took the inspectors there to see it for themselves. The officials instead could have brought the tank to the Al Dawrah plant, a UN official said, but the fact they told the inspectors where it was - allowing them to exercise their power to visit any site they want - suggested to the experts, at least in that regard, the Iraqis were not trying to be

evasive.

"They could have handled it very differently," the official said.

Although the inspectors have not provided the Iraqi government with advance warning of the sites they plan to search, they have chosen to make a fairly nonconfrontational start by visiting places that already were scoured by UN experts in the 1990s. That strategy is expected to continue at least until Dec. 8, when an additional 35 inspectors are scheduled to augment the 17 who already are on the ground. UN officials have said they would need more experts than they have here now to conduct searches of large, previously unexamined sites such as a presidential palace.

Whether Iraq's cooperative posture will change as the searches become more intrusive is a big unknown for the inspectors.

The experts here believe a key test of Iraq's intentions will occur on Dec. 8, when Saddam's government must make a complete declaration of the status of its chemical, biological, nuclear and missile facilities.

Iraq has insisted that it no longer possesses any banned weapons - a contention with which many UN officials do not agree. For the Iraqi government to be regarded as credible, UN officials said Iraq could not issue its usual denials and perfunctory reports.

"In the past, Iraq has consistently failed to tell the truth," a UN official said. "If they really mean to be cooperative, they will have to give us an honest declaration."

U.S. intelligence officials believe Iraq has moved its weapons programs out of facilities that are known to the inspectors and into new types of struc-

tures, including underground bunkers and mobile units.

The inspectors are not expecting to find flagrant signs of banned weapons at the previously searched sites that they plan to visit over the next few weeks, but they regard those trips as critical in developing a picture of what has occurred in Iraq since the last inspections four years ago.

Iraq is hoping its cooperation with the inspections and its expectation that the experts will come up empty will be convincing enough to stymie U.S. calls for international military action to disarm Saddam's government and to persuade the Security Council to lift the economic sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"While we know America wants to attack us no matter what, we hope that our attitude toward the inspections will convince the world that war is the wrong option," said Mohammed Muthafar Adhami, a member of Parliament and chairman of the political science department at Baghdad University. While Iraq's public attitude toward the inspectors may have changed, its posture toward the United States clearly has not. The Al Thawra newspaper, the mouthpiece of Saddam's Ba'ath Party, asserted Friday that the U.S. government would try to undermine the inspections. But the paper avoided attacking the inspectors themselves.

The U.S. government, the paper said, "will continue to make threats and poke its nose into the work of the inspectors and will fabricate any event or issue to confuse their work or obstruct it, especially when the inspectors and the world realize that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction."

Civil war was 10 years ago Mogadishu: Lovely town destroyed

By Talib Ali Yusuf
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For Yemen Times

Mogadishu, capital of Somalia, is one of the biggest and most beautiful towns of west Africa.

Historically, Mogadishu was a center of merchants and traders coming from India and from the Arabian Peninsula.

For many years in Mogadishu, Somali youth, elders, religious men and women fought against colonialism.

After the Somali independence in 1960, Mogadishu became a new crown, and in the next 30 years the beautiful capital of Somalia had new highways, luxury hotels, good buildings, modern hospitals, supermarkets, more than 60 secondary schools, 120 primary schools, training institutes and the Somali national university with 20 faculties.

It became home to five industries, more than seventy factories, and more than 500 mosques built in the last cycle.

That's not to forget the national museum and the historical places.

Also opened were many local travel and tourism agencies including international travel agencies as Somali airlines, Alitalia, Saudi Airlines, Air Yemenia, Lufthansa, Djibouti Airlines, Aeroflot and Kenya Airways.

Also opened were 39 embassies and the U.N organizations offices as UNDP, WHO, WFP, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF including international NGOs.

But what happened in Mogadishu on December 1990? A civil war!

Thousands of rebels armed with Ak and Basukas entered in the capital to fight with the regime of the late presi-

dent Mohammed Siad Barre. Those rebels were ordered by a warlords those which had the intention to obtain the power of the state.

Diplomats and foreigners fled to their own countries.

Siad Barre decided to resolve the political problem and put off all the ministers and he formed a new cabinet. But the decision taken by Siad Barre was nothing.

The war reached everywhere in the capital. The people escaped in the neighboring districts and abandoned their own houses and properties.

Finally Siad Barre said goodbye to his presidency and the rebels took the presidential palace. It was the chance of the bandits to take everything from the abandoned Mogadishu. Many tribal political organizations were formed.

In July 1991, there was, in Djibouti, a Somali reconciliation conference held. The conference which was regarded to resolve the Somali problem were attended by a leaders of factions, religious, leaders and women. It was observed by states interested in the Somali problem, including the United Nations.

Ali Mahdi Mohammed was appointed as interior president of the Somali republic. Ali Mahdi formed his government and he nominated 83 ministers.

But the leaders of the factions didn't accept Ali Mahdi's government, and in April 1992 there was another heavy civil war in Mogadishu between Ali Mahdi and the late general Aydiid.

This war lasted four months. Thousands of innocents were destroyed. It was formed a green line and the capital was divided in south and north Mogadishu. Only the gunman was the commander of the town.

Sorry! The beautiful Mogadishu was transformed in a Bush of wild animals.

A Canadian in Yemen:

Now there's some good cultural cheer

Gotta love the humour here. A recent foray of mine in this space lamented the loss of my neighbourhood qat market, and went on to note why qat will become the new #1 weed worldwide. I suggested it would actually unify the world, kind of like Coke. You know, 'I'd like to teach the world to chew, in perfect harmony.'

That was my tongue in my cheek. Congratulations to all of you who knew that. Only one reader was a bit fuzzy on it, and contacted me to earnestly point out the evils of qat.

Okay now. Humour is spelled with a 'u' if you're from Canada, and some Canucks, that's slang for Canadians, enjoy using it liberally: kind of like how the Brits and Aussies spread that horrendous marmite and vegemite on their bread.

So like a good afternoon qat chew, here comes another little yarn. Ready?

Jean's gone

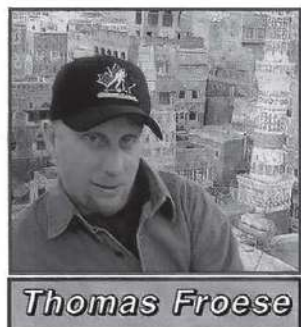
My wife, at the time of this writing, is gone for a few days, and you know, I'm getting hungry. Some friends have had pity on me and invited me for a meal here and there, but I think rather than doing any more battle with my kitchen stove, I'd rather just get kidnapped.

Indeed, Yemen is among the best places on Earth to get snatched. The thing about kidnapping here, though, is that it's a kind of cultural education. No, really. How often can you see a semi-automatic Kalashnikov so close?

I understand kidnappers here are usually tribal folk and often get tourists eager to see Yemen's ancient sites. Some roads in Mareb seem like they're kidnapping alleys.

My research shows that in the last five years, 114 foreign tourists and 43 expatriate workers have been nabbed across Yemen. Italians go missing most often, followed by French and Germans. Kidnapped Americans are down the list at just nine. Canadians are barely on the map.

Of the 114, five died, including one



Thomas Froese

British-Canadian, killed in an unusual 1998 incident. Apparently at least one kidnapper was executed for that. But 109 hostages have walked free, most after just a few days. And in five years, some 350,000 tourists have visited Yemen. So, tell me, what's the risk?

A liberating approach

About 30,000 kidnappings now occur around the world annually. So, I think, the Yemeni do have things under control. And I honestly believe, they also have the most liberating approach. A parliamentarian, a few years ago, put it this way.

"Kidnapping is part of Yemeni tourism. It's an adventure for tourists, because they'll end up learning about customs of the tribes as well as their good hospitality."

I couldn't agree more. And I also can see the thinking of Yemen's tribes. Hey, what would you use to negotiate if you wanted decent roads, water and health-centers, or maybe the release of your brother, innocent as he may be, from jail?

But most of all, I'm in the corner of Italian tourist Giorgio Bonanomi. He couldn't be happier. "Too bad it's not possible to organize holidays like this. It was fantastic," he said, after his kidnappers fed him lamb and exotic fruits.

I've heard that one tourist company owner went so far to even set aside \$11,000 Cdn monthly for customer ransoms. Hey, bring the wife and kids. Tourism here needs it. It's lost about \$1.5 billion since 9/11.

Chinese accountants, French honeymooners and Polish diplomats have all been snagged by Yemen's hospitable

tribesmen. For my money, though, I want to go with a bunch of Germans. Having a German passport with Berlin as my birthplace will help. So will the blonde hair and blue eyes.

Indeed, Germans are big here, and as a German-Canadian I'm happy to hear Ambassador Werner Zimprich recently announce \$55 million Cdn in German aid this year.

More so, I'm happy to see that in addition to expatriate workers, Germans visit for festivals to share poetry, food and, even, uhum, beer, a rather uncommon commodity in this part of the world. I'm not a big drinker myself. In fact, I really frown upon it. Apple juice all-around.

But like the parliamentary speaker said, it's about cultural exchange. I peeked in at recent Octoberfest celebrations at a swanky hotel here. I won't name it, but its name starts with an S, ends with an N, and has H-E-R-A-T-O in between.

Spreading cheer

I saw not only kegs of you-know-what, and an oom-pah-bah band from Bavaria, but Yemeni running around in green felt hats and Alpine leather shorts. I couldn't wait for everyone to yodel. The point is gangs of kidnapped Germans could spread that kind of cheer across Yemen's countryside.

And all just in time for Eid.

I have only one fear. U.S. President Bush. He's already slapped around German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder for not supporting America's plans for Iraq. What if Germans now spread, uh, cheer through Yemen and some eventually reaches Baghdad? Oh, the consequences.

Anyway, wearing a ball cap and runners apparently boosts the odds of getting picked up. I'd better get ready. If you see Jean upon her return, tell her not to worry. The stove is turned off.

Bound voyage.

Thomas Froese
(140765@sympatico.ca) is an editor with the Yemen Times.

Heritage landmark needs support

Queen Arwa Mosque is still a beauty

By IBRAHIM ADDAHAN
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Jibla is one of Yemen's historical cities that have been fascinating tourists and visitors from all over the world. Wherever you visit Jibla you cannot miss visiting Queen Arwa mosque, where you will discover its beauty and unique architecture.

Queen Arwa mosque is located in Jibla in which the Queen Arwa Bent Ahmed Assolaihi ruled the whole Yemen about 79 years from Jibla.

The big mosque at Jibla, built by Queen Arwa, is a marvel of ancient Yemeni architecture. The entire construction is suffused with an austere beauty, and the minaret towering over the mosque for many centuries is pristine in its appearance and function.

The dome still keeps the glory of the kingdom as it was in the days of the elegant queen. The thick compound walls and the cellar-like passages and corridors of the mosque take you straight back to the days of Arwa, and you feel as if you are in the corridors of history itself.

You feel like getting in touch with the very Yemeni soul. The spirited words of the people in charge of the mosque to express their brotherhood to visitors are exhilarating. The bathrooms with running water from the natural hot-spring and the different temperature in different rooms make us feel wonder about the unique construction of the ancient mosque.

When you reach the big mosque at

Jibla, you are sure to be astonished by the attractive design of the mosque. You cannot but remember Queen Arwa Bent Ahmed Assolaihi, who built that mosque in 480 Hegira. The two minarets of the mosque from a wonderful view as they are standing in majesty and grandeur behind that mosque.

The mosque has the capacity for more than 1000 worshippers. It consists of two floors. The first floor is empty and nothing is there except the rats and snakes. The second floor from the mosque in which it contains a library. This library contains many manuscripts of different sciences, but unfortunately most of these manuscripts are lost due to the carelessness.

At the back of the mosque there are a number of classrooms. These classrooms are used to teach the Holy Qur'an. Many scholars and intellectuals have graduated from this mosque. Graduates of the mosque have good knowledge of the Holy Qur'an, its sciences, Hadiths (Prophet Mohammed's traditions) and faith and its fundamentals, jurisprudence and Arabic language and its arts, etc.

Besides, you will be surprised as you look at the beautiful decorations on the walls and the ceiling of the mosque, especially those on the dome, in the middle ceiling.

Inside the mosque near to the left of the corner of the mosque there is a small room called Makam al-Saidh Arwa, a place where Queen Arwa used to pray. There is also a rosary which contains one thousands and one beads. People used it for praying and asking

God for mercy and forgiveness that is when the land is dry there is no rain.

Some parts of the mosque have been destroyed by the authorities. For instance the pool and the bathrooms have a different shape they were in the past. In the past the pool and the bathrooms were distinguished with a unique architecture. Thus, the inhabitants of Jibla and the visitors get angry when they look to the new shape of some parts of the mosque. The mosque became distorted by the modern building. In fact they are burning our ancient heritage and civilization by experts in order to protect the old variegations.

Had these ancient mosques with their beautiful variegations been in any other country, they would have given them the attention they deserve and promote them into a major tourist attraction.

Queen Arwa Mosque and other historical landmarks are in need of urgent attention and renovation because they reflect the excellence of our civilization, traditions of ancient Yemeni people who could engrave beautiful artistry on the walls of mosques. They proved their mettle in the field of ancient architecture and decoration. However, authorities concerned say that their resources being limited, they don't have adequate means to preserve their ancient historical landmarks. What a pity.

Finally, I can say that the one who does not have a past does not have present nor future. To make a prosperous future, we have to preserve our past, our history and our identity.

Professor Vitaly Naumkin meets the Yemen Times

Russia and Yemen linked by scholar of ancient history

Professor Vitaly Naumkin, a specialist in Arabic studies, has occupied several posts such as Chairman of the Russian Center for Political and Strategic Studies and Chairman of the Arabic Studies Center at the Orient Institute. He is also the Editor-in Chief of the East Magazine, (Sharq), and advisor at the National Russian Security Council and a political analyst.

He lived here in Yemen for several years and wrote a number of books and dozens of research papers, essays which deal with the history of modern and ancient Yemen.

The majority of his research and studies have focused on Socotra Island.

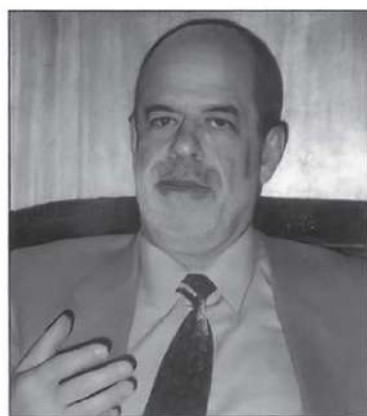
To know more about the Prof. Vitaly Naumkin, and his opinion of the current developments in the Middle East, Mohammed Bin Sallam, political analyst of the Yemen Times, met him.

He asked him first about Yemeni-Russian relations. "The Yemeni-Russian relationship is firmly established since the 1920s and most of the Russians have worked in Yemen."

As opposed to this, thousands of Yemenis have also studied, visited or perhaps gone into businesses," he said.

As a researcher at the Russian Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Vitaly has written a number of essays and articles. He has also participated in Yemen's history-related symposiums along with the current issues in the world in general, and Yemen-Arab-Russian issues in particular.

"As for Yemen's history, I have written a lot of essays and I have still preoc-



Professor Vitaly Naumkin

cupied myself in Yemeni-related issues. I have still been interested in Yemeni ancient history and other studies conducted about Yemen," he said.

New book to be released

"Next year, a new book on the armed struggle against the British colonization in the south of Yemen will be published," he noted.

In addition to this, Vitaly Naumkin has several studies on Socotra Island.

Three books of the Socotra have been written in English and Russian. They revolve around the social and historical aspects of the island.

"A number of studies have been also conducted on Yafa'e. I have gathered a number of documents and found that this area has buried treasure of antiquities," he commented. "I have also several studies on the Islam's philosophy and all these studies are in Russian."

As a superpower and its relations with other countries, Vitaly Naumkin said

that Russia wasn't in need to go back to its former state. "As a matter of fact, Russia is now a superpower. The former era has finished and Russia never thinks of retreating," he said.

"President Putin will see that he is a worldly-wise leader who also thinks to modernize Russia which could economically and culturally compete with other superpowers," he noted.


"Frankly speaking, there are countries like the US that exceed Russia from economical perspectives. Despite of difficulties and the economic hardships encountered by Russia in 1990s, it has begun to tackle its crises. It has become clear that during the Putin's reign, there is tangible evidence of economic boost during the recent years," he added.

Russia and Middle East issues

Concerning the imminent US strike against Iraq "I don't think that Russia is far away from the Arab issues. Russia opposes any US-led strike against Iraq or overthrowing Arafat. There are extensive diplomatic efforts to settle this issue," he declared.


As for the Palestinian issue, "The majority of the Russian sympathize with the Palestinian. They are against their torture, and mass killings and in favor of liberating the occupied territories from the Israeli occupation," he said.

At the same time, Russia has a major responsibility within the framework of the international legitimacy and as one of the peace process sponsor. It has given commitments to be performed and therefore must cooperate with the US, the European countries, the UN and then with Israel.




MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper




Written by
Abdulrahman Mutahhar

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Translated by
Janet Watson

Addiction



Ma - Mus'id, since you're the one who got your sons hooked on gat, it's up to you to feed their habit and get them their gat! It's such a battle to give up a habit!

M - I no longer know who I'm battling with and who's on my side!

Ma - If your pocket's full, it's on your side; and if your pocket's empty you can't even bank on your children taking your side!

M - What a philosopher you've become! By gum, there are no flies on you! And all this time I'd thought you were an innocent!

Ma - I know nothing about philosophy, but I tell you one thing! The only innocent around here is you! You get your sons hooked on gat, and now that they're hooked you go and attack them because they still chew!

M - It's not up to me to supply them with gat so they can chew. I'm only supposed to supply them with food!

Ma - Why didn't you just leave it at that, then? What on earth made you get them addicted to gat?

M - It's your fault. You're the one who got them addicted, Mus'ida!

Ma - Stop trying to shift the blame onto me and run away from the fact of the matter. If you don't, you lay down your gun and I'll lay down mine and we'll sort this out in a proper tribal manner.

M - What good would that do? I've already sold my gun to pay for your sons' gat; and you haven't got a gun, and wouldn't even know how to fire one if you had!

Ma - So now what should we do? You'd better have a look around for things to sell or pawn. You're sons are totally hooked. They don't seem to have any purpose in life other than their relationship with gat. They dropped me in the

sea of passion and left me, though my robe measured no more than a yard.¹ And Mus'id, with no skill whatsoever, manages to get his sons addicted to gat when each of their robes were no more than half a yard long!

M - Mus'ida!

Ma - Now what?

M - I went over to see my uncle and complained about my sons to him. I told him that they weren't studying properly and they wouldn't stay at home. I'd started to worry about them wandering about the streets and in the souk. He told me that the only thing which would keep them at home and help them to study was gat. He said, 'Give them a little gat to stop them wandering around the souk!' I had absolutely no idea, Mus'ida, that they'd become so addicted they'd start looking around for things to sell and pawn!

Ma - Fine! Now you'd better sort this mess out yourself. I want nothing to do with it. I'm telling you, your sons are interested in nothing but gat even if it means them sleeping on the streets!

M - So what should I do? I've tried all possible ways to convince them of the harmful effects of gat, on the money side, the health side, the effect on the family's income, and the pure waste of time.

Ma - What did they say when you told them all that?

M - Oh stop will you! You won't understand!

Ma - Why won't I understand?

M - They said, 'We'll give up chewing the moment you give up. Dad! It's not right for you to continue chewing gat when we can't!'

Ma - Did they really say that to you, or are you making it up?

M - Why on earth should I make it up? They also told me that the taste and effect of gat was fantastic, and that once you've got a taste for it you'll go back for more!

Ma - Some of the fantastic effects of gat show when you look at the toes of your feet sticking out of your shoes. You can't buy another pair because of the gat! Then there's the safe door which is broken, and the windows in my room which are smashed, and the telephone which has been cut off. We only ever buy chicken when we know that someone's coming for lunch so that they don't go around saying we don't eat anything as a result of gat!

M - Mus'ida!

Ma - What is it now?

M - Don't shout and don't go around clucking like a mother hen. At first I was the only gat addict. Then I allowed my sons to try it and now there are five of us. Whatever money we have we use for the bus and take it straight to the gat souk. Do you see, Mus'ida? All the valleys and fields and farmland has been set aside for gat. The amount of gat brought from the countryside to the towns increases at the same rate as the increase in the amount of land put to gat. The main economic and social activity takes place in the gat souk. You'll find everyone at the gat souk - from grandfathers and fathers down to grandsons once they've reached the age of fifteen. And I'll tell you this, Mus'ida, the gat problem won't go away until God brings in a generation which is absolutely convinced of the harmful effects of gat, and then uproots the gat bushes which themselves uprooted the coffee trees and all kinds of fruit bushes.

¹ i.e. when I am still a child.

'Medicine is not a commodity,' says consultant

Diagnosing what ails medicine in Yemen

The issue of medicine has recently come to the forefront in our health policy. This is what has been emphasized in the various activities held under the patronage of the Ministry of Health.

Medicine for politicians and educated people is a service, but for businessmen it is a profitable commodity similarly to other goods. However, medicine for specialists means using any simple or compound substance for the treatment of specific diseases or for protection.

In this respect Ismael al-Ghaberi of the Yemen Times interviewed Dr. Ahmed Mohammed al-Khazan, consultant in obstetrics.

Q: How do you assess medical investment in Yemen?

A: Medical investment is of great importance, unless there are laws and restrictions regulating the profession of medicine. It is therefore related to the scrupulous practitioners and doctors who have experience and are highly qualified in their fields. He or she has to adhere to the rules and scientific regulations. This will pave the way for us to avoid mistakes that may lead to inevitable consequences.

Q: How do you view doctors these days?

A: I feel more sorrow than anger when I see that our doctors and those who are in charge of the preventive health care system in Yemen are viewed as a laughingstock. It is by no

means considered to be a bad phenomenon spread in our country.

Amid the huge health and clinic establishments scattered in our country, we find that doctors don't adhere to the medical dimensions where a patient can be treated by doctors who are well experienced and well informed of their profession.

In the future there should be sections for tackling mistakes committed by intruders without even being monitored. The profession of the medicine has become a magnet for every Tom, Dick and Harry. Even it has become a profession for the magicians and conjurers.

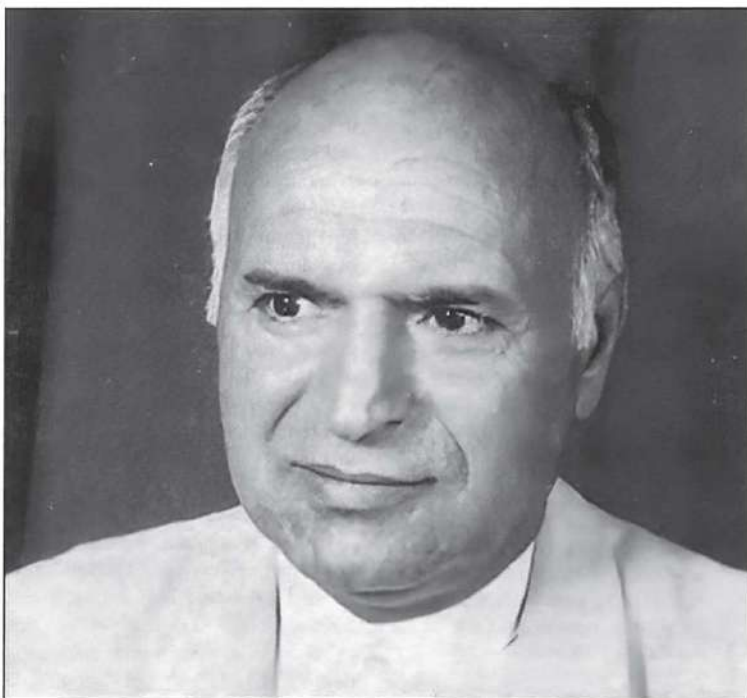
Q: Medical diagnoses are improper and have become common nowadays, which in turn may lead to inevitable consequences on the part of a patient. Can you comment?

A: A distinguished and skillful doctor is one who knows that diagnosis has to be undertaken before taking medicine. Without diagnosis there is never medicine. This is the ultimate goal of medicine and its central core.

There should be a law or regulation that have to be general for all medicine practitioners.

In order to perform his duty successfully, a doctor has to be supervised by well-experienced experts.

There are two bodies in hospitals administration. The first one is called a medical body. Its duty is restricted to diagnosis and treatment. The second one is related to administration where the first one pokes its nose into the sec-



Dr. Ahmed Mohammed al-Khazan, consultant in obstetrics.

ond's affairs and businesses. Then, the profession of medicine turns into chaos.

Q: The profession of medicine has become something related to trade business run by some people who have no familiarity with medicine at all. Can you comment?

A: Preventive medicine is supposed to be more organized and more careful.

If we draw a simple distinction between the medicine and the army, we will find that patients are exposed to

death if they are treated badly as a result of, for example, wrong doses they have taken, or as a result of spreading an epidemic.

Whereas in a battlefield the death cases are limited and become restricted to a group of people.

In this case the profession of medicine has to be adhered to the rules and regulations, which determines the high standards of hospitals as well as doctors.

Medicine is a service not a commodity.

Old cars are killing us

BY YASSER AL MAYASSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Old cars which pollute the air with emissions are causing growing environmental and health problems in Yemen.

Since 1990, Yemen has been focusing more on its environment administration. An official institution has been charged with environmental affairs and protection for which it provides a number of environmental laws and programs nationwide.

As a result, an environmental protection law was issued in 1995, determining the standards of air quantity to insure environmental and public health protection as well as the cultural and urban heritage of historical cities. But it was never activated.

Now the government has started to feel the seriousness of the prob-

lem, so a special committee was formulated from the Shoura Council in order to study the project adding tax to the fuel price to put an end to damage from old cars.

These procedures come after the negative effects of the secondhand cars and the pollutions it cause for environment specially these shifted to Diesel. Such negative affects became a disturbing problem threatening the people directly.

The effects of diesel remains a danger that threatens the respiratory system, cancer, and suffering of people living among pollution.

The last traffic statistics indicate that the cars in Yemeni cities exceed one million. It is expected that the number will be 1.25 million in the coming ten years.

What adds to the pollution problem is that Sana'a is 2,223 meters high and surrounded by mountains which hinder the air stream of city.

عمرة مقبولة «أبا بسام»

عاد بسلامة الله وحفظه من الديار المقدسة /

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على السلامة، وتقبل الله طاعتكم..

المهنتون:

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وزملاء العمل والأصدقاء

A continuing Ramadhan series

How fasting can help our digestive system

By Dr Muhammad Karim Beebani
For The Yemen Times

I feel pity for the stomach. I really feel pity for the stomach, intestines and in fact the whole gastrointestinal system. This is because the whole year we never let this system take a rest.

Apart from the three main daily meals, every few minutes we pour something in the stomach, be it snacks, drinks, fruits or other eatables.

None of us thinks that the food which we had already sent in before is being digested by the stomach and right when it has reached halfway, we dump some more boluses only to disrupt the digestive work up previously completed. This of course makes the food stay longer time in the stomach, which may result in dyspepsia, gastritis, and irritable bowel syndrome.

In contrast, Ramadhan is the only period in which our gastrointestinal system takes good rest as the Muslims observe fasting for the month. Digestion is not just the name of churning movements of the stomach and absorption by the intestines, but it is a huge integrated system involving the nervous system (e.g. vagus nerve) as well as hormone secreting glands.

System rest

So the whole gastrointestinal system gets rest for the first time in the whole year. As digestion begins in the mouth where the salivary glands secrete excessive saliva, which carries hormones to act upon the food, the burden on the salivary glands and the teeth is reduced. The esophagus takes rest during fasting, as there is no food to require its propelling movements, which push the food to the stomach.

Similarly the stomach and the intestines also get good rest, as after completing the digestion and absorption of the food consumed in the morning, they

have nothing to do until Iftar time.

Not only the stomach and intestines take rest, but along with them the glands like pancreas and gall bladder which secrete hormones also reduce their secretions as there is no food to demand their hormones.

Hence, there is substantial reduction in the gastrointestinal hormones like gastric juice, gastrin, CCK-PZ, gastric inhibitory peptide (GIP), motilin, vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP), neurotensin, enteroglucagon, neurotensin, enteroglucagon, neurotensin, and gallium.

Lastly the colon and the liver are also at ease during fasting. In short Ramadhan lifts the heavy burden which we have put on our gastrointestinal system, and gives it what can be said to be a refreshing annual vacation for 30 days.

Diagnosing problems

Now come to the diagnostic possibilities of Ramadhan fasting. A good number of patients, who consult physicians with abdominal pain, suffer from peptic ulcers. The peptic ulcer can be gastric or duodenal in type.

The presentation of abdominal pain in both gastric and duodenal ulcers is different in relation to food intake. Duodenal ulcer pain, though variable, usually occurs when the stomach is empty and the gastric ulcer presents pain after the food intake.

In normal days the differentiation of the two entities is difficult to make as people eat frequently, but in Ramadhan an individual undergoes two stages. One, during the fasting when his stomach is empty and the other after evening breakfast when the stomach is full.

If the patient complains of abdominal pain while fasting, it will point to the possibility of duodenal ulcer and if the pain occurs after Iftar the gastric ulcer will be the suspected diagnosis.

It is worth mentioning that the peptic ulcer pain is variable and it may not

occur in some patients. Similarly in most of the duodenal ulcer cases, as soon as mild pain starts, the patient eats something, at which time the pain disappears and the disease remains undiagnosed.

This undiagnosed ulcer may later on present itself with perforation of the ulcer, haematemesis (vomiting of blood), that has a high rate of mortality.

In the Ramadhan type of severe fasting, the duodenal ulcer is more likely to surface and as there is no provision to relieve the pain with food, the patient may be forced to consult a physician who, with the help of endoscopy, can easily clinch the diagnosis.

While examining the abdomen of a patient who is already fasting, a physician can easily palpate the tenderness as well as feel the edema around the peptic ulcer region. A generalized mild tenderness in the abdomen of a patient who is fasting can be due to irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease or colitis etc.

Healing effect

Ramadhan fasting has a healing effect on peptic ulcers as it curbs smoking and alcohol intake, which are two recognized precipitating factors for the peptic ulcer. It also has beneficial effects on inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dyspepsia, gastritis etc.

Last but not the least, imagine a person who has fasted for 14-15 hours and is now ready to break his fast. His taste buds have taken good rest, so at Iftar the food is going to taste more pleasant than ever before.

This is yet another bounty of Ramadhan.

Allah's apostle (pbuh) says: "There are two pleasures for the fasting person, one at the time of breaking his fast and the other at the time when he will meet his Lord, then he will be pleased because of his fasting."

JOB OPPORTUNITY



Yemen Hunt Oil Company is currently seeking experienced personnel to work on "FSO" SAFER. The successful candidate will be required to perform these tasks at the ship on a rotational schedule (28 days on / 28 days off).

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Minimum Requirements:

- Must have a bachelor degree in Electronic / Electrical Engineer from a recognized and reputable University or an approved instrument apprenticeship program.
- Must have a minimum of 5 years experience as an Instrument and Control Systems Engineer and must be able to follow systematically electrical drawings for troubleshooting.
- Must possess proficiency in English, both spoken and written.
- Must have good computer skills.

Main Responsibilities:

1. Calibrate and maintain the Daniel metering system to international standards.
2. Calibrate and maintain the boiler control system.
3. Calibrate and maintain the fire alarm systems.
4. Calibrate and maintain both fixed and portable gas monitoring systems including LEL, O2, etc.
5. Calibrate and maintain other electronic, pneumatic and hydraulic control systems as required.
6. Other tasks as may be assigned by the Senior Machinery Operating Engineer.

All candidates must be YEMENI NATIONALS.

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If you meet the above requirements, please forward your resume to:

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Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Please do not phone us. We will call you for an interview, if you are a successful candidate

Improve Your English

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Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweel
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Tel: 73889013

I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (32): Asking permission, opinion or advice

We have a frequent need to ask permission of our boss, higher authority or a superior to be allowed to do something. Obviously, it has to be done in a polite tone and using an appropriate idiom. On the other hand, we seek others views, opinion, or advice about someone or some matter of importance or concern for us. The following are some of the expressions commonly used.

Permission

- May I have your kind permission to DO... (formal)
- May I, please, be permitted to DO... (formal)
- Would it be alright if I DO... (informal)
- Would you mind if I DO... (informal)
- How about my DOING... (informal)
- Is it okay if I do... (informal)
- Tell me if I could DO... (informal)
- I hope you won't mind my DOING (informal)
- Can I DO... (formal)
- Shall I be allowed to DO? (formal)
- Will you feel good if I DO...? (informal)
- Do I have your consent to DO...? (informal)

Opinion/advice

- What do you advice/recommend me to do?
- Could you give me some advice about DOING?
- What is your opinion about...?
- What should/can I do?
- I am really confused what I should do. Can I have your opinion, please?
- If you were me, what would you do?
- What, according to you, is the best option?
- Considering both sides of the matter, what would you advice me to do?
- What would you like me to do?
- Please help me with your opinion/suggestion/advice.
- Let me have your judicious opinion.
- Let me have the benefits of our wise counsel.
- I'm in cross roads. Tell me what I should do.
- Is it prudent/wise for me to DO...?
- Would you advice me to DO...?
- Is it desirable/advisable that I DO...?
- What, in your opinion, is the best course open for me?
- Put yourself in my position and say what you'd have done.
- Do I have any choice in the matter?

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. The girl resembles to her father.
2. He doesn't know to swim.
3. One should take care of his health.
4. Have you any money on you? No, I haven't none.
5. In spite of all his faults, I cannot help but like him.

b) Idioms and Phrases

1. **hold the balance** (have the power to decide): The Dean holds the balance in the matter of appointments in the faculty.
2. **strike a balance** (reach an agreement acceptable to all): The United Nations Organization makes efforts to strike a balance between warring nations.
3. **balance of trade** (difference in value between exports and imports): The balance of trade has to be kept at an optimal level if we want our national economy to register a growth.
4. **keep the ball rolling** (keep a conversation going): Don't stop the discussion. Keep the ball rolling till my return.
5. **have the ball at one's feet** (have a good chance of achieving success): You are enterprising. So it's a small wonder that you have the ball at your feet.

Answers to last week's questions

1. List of names in an alphabetical order: **Directory** (n)
2. Song sung at a burial: **Dirge** (n)
3. Great or sudden misfortune: **Disaster** (n)
4. Follower of a leader of religious thought, art or learning: **Disciple** (n)
5. See difference between two things: **Discriminate** (vt)

IV. Grammar and Composition

a) Composition

Write sentences:

1. Asking someone to meet you next Monday.
2. Asking someone for advice about which course of study to choose.
3. Giving your opinion about the future of Yemen.
4. Telling someone that you will not be able to come to the party.

b) Idioms and Phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences of your own

1. have the ball in one's court
2. lay bare
3. back and forth
4. at bay
5. be-all and end-all

c) Words commonly confounded

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. burnish, furnish
2. battery, buttry
3. by, bye
4. cackle, crackle
5. callous, callus

Answers to last week's questions

Grammar and Composition

a) Grammar

1. When he got a job, he had no difficulty in supporting his family.

c) Words commonly confounded

1. **bred** (v) (pt and pp of breed): After his father's death he was bred and brought up by his uncle.
2. **breach** (n) (a kind of food): He earns his bread by teaching.
3. **breach** (n) (breaking or neglect of a rule): He was punished for breach of discipline.
4. **breach** (n) (back part of rifle): He was hurt by the breach of his rifle.
5. **brigade** (n) (an army unit): The commanding officer of this brigade has been rewarded for bravery.
6. **brigand** (n) (member of a band of robbers): A prominent brigand of Abu Hatem's gang has been arrested by the police.
7. **broach** (vt) (begin discussion on a topic): We are planning to broach the Dean Regarding delaying the terminal exam.
8. **brooch** (n) (an ornamental pin): She bought a new brooch for herself.
9. **browse** (vi) (read something for interest): I browsed through the interesting article.
10. **bruise** (n) (an injury): The child is covered with bruises as a result of a fall from his bike.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"From Allah, verily Nothing is hidden On earth or in the heavens" S3: A5

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Sin is essentially departure from God." —Luther

When writers criticize their peers

By Dr. Sadek R. Mohammed
Ibb University

All over the world, throughout the various ages of the history of world literature, writers of prominence were asked to give their views of other fellow writers: a task they unabashedly fulfilled with relish. Alas! Most of the time their views were rude, faulty and lacking in critical sense. Nothing but "venom and abuse that's what comes from the heart", says James Charlton in his *Fighting Words*, a short and poisonous anthology of writers lambasting each other. Are these views reliable sources for scholars and students of literature who seek better understanding of works of literature? The answer is categorically "no". A tiny sample from Western Literature speaks nicely for this fact.

Masters of criticism

No one was practicing such kind of criticism like Tennyson. Of Ben Jonson he said: "Reading him is like wading through glue." Of Carlyle he said: "Carlyle is a poet whom nature has denied the faculty of verse." Of Browning he said, "He has plenty of music in him but can not get it out." Tennyson, however, got similar criticism from Chesterton who said of him "He could not think up to the height of his own towering style." Chesterton, in turn, got it from Ezra Pound who likened him to "vile scum on a pond." Pound, nevertheless, got it from almost everyone. Nabokov, for instance,

called him the "total fake". Exactly in his manner does this sort of criticism go bringing with every pronouncement its harsh judgements. Byron was certainly rude to call Geoffrey Chaucer "obscene and contemptible", but then he himself drank from that same poisonous cup. "He seems to me the most vulgar-minded genius that ever produced a great effect in literature" (George Eliot). "He had not the intellectual equipment of a supreme modern poet, except for his genius he was an ordinary nineteenth-century English gentleman, with little culture and no ideas", (Matthew Arnold).

War from underneath

Of course neither Arnold nor Eliot was immune to such kind of colleagues' criticism. Henry James said of Arnold that he was "not as handsome as his photograph – or his poetry." And of Eliot he sarcastically claimed to have fallen in love with "this great horse-faced bluestocking... Altogether, she has a large circumference than any woman I have ever seen." But then Henry James was also repaid in the same manner. Of him T. S. Eliot said: "Henry James has a mind so fine no idea could violate it."

Some female writers were exposed to such kind of harsh judgements for the simple fact of being females. Nabokov once wrote to Edmund Wilson criticizing Jane Austen saying: "I dislike Jane, and am prejudiced, in fact, against all women writers. They are in another class. Could never see anything in 'Pride and Prejudice'."

The list of course is very long, but to

cite just one last example, Ernest Hemingway fired almost on everyone in range until he came into Gore Vidal's sights who said of him: "What other culture could have produced someone like Hemingway and not have seen the joke?" Vidal went on to say of Solzhenitsyn: "He is a bad novelist and a fool. The combination usually makes for great popularity in the United States." But then he got it from Kingsley Amis who said of him: "[he] seems to me to suffer from American cleverness; the fear of being thought stupid, or dull, or behind the times, I think that's a very bad attitude for the novelist to adopt."

Arab literatures have their share

The story in Arab Literature is even darker. The late Nizar Kabbani, who was always boasting that he had more than 200 million Arab readers avidly devouring his poetry, said once that all the poetry his contemporaries wrote was nothing but "poetic garbage." Before him Badir Shakir As-Sayab made the following sweeping judgement: "I Nazim Hikmat stood, and on his head stood Pablo Neruda, and on Neruda's head stood Aragon, and on Aragon's head Siminov, all of them would not reach the sole of Shakespeare's shoe." Long live objective criticism!

Let us end with an incisive observation made by W. H. Auden: "No poet or novelist wishes he were the only one who ever lived, but most of them wish they were the only one alive, and quite a few fondly believe their wish has been granted."

Uncle Ramadhan

By IBRAHIM AL-SAYADI,
Nadira

As Ramadhan, the fasting month, came, Waleed recalled a memory of an incident that happened to him twenty-five years ago. When he was five years old, he lived with his poor family, suffering from poverty, in an old house. He felt sad whenever he saw other children wearing new clothes or eating biscuits especially in the Eid.

Before Ramadhan, people used to buy different kinds of food or drinks, but Waleed's parents bought nothing because Waleed's father was too sick to work. Children gathered in a small square talking about what their parents had bought.

"Father has bought us much food

and sweets for Ramadhan", Osama said. "So has my father. He bought us dates, nuts and many bottles of juice", Angham commented.

Waleed listened sadly because his father couldn't offer the same. So he came back home with a long face and tears were in his eyes ready to roll down. Realizing that, his mother asked him about the reason.

"Father bought us neither dates nor sweets for Ramadhan", he answered. All right, don't be so sad. When Ramadhan Kareem comes, he will bring us sweets, dates and different kinds of food in bags.

He kept sitting by the door of their house waiting for Ramadhan. One day, he saw a man carrying a bag full of articles from a nearby grocery.

Another man called him loudly; "Uncle Ramadhan, Uncle Ramadhan". Such words echoed in Waleed's little

heart. He jumped and ran to the man happily.

- 'Are you uncle Ramadhan?' He asked the man.

- Yes, I am. What do you want?

- I've been waiting for you for a week – to bring us food and biscuits. Father is ill and we have no money to buy. Mother said 'Ramadhan Kareem' (Ramadhan is generous) will bring us many things in bags. Are these bags for us?

Touched by sympathy, uncle Ramadhan, smiled widely saying "Yes darling, they are for you. Take them home. Say my greetings to your parents. Tell them that these bags are from uncle Ramadhan. Waleed took them, kissed the man and said: 'Welcome back uncle Ramadhan'."

Waleed smiled as he came back home carrying sweets and new clothes to his children saying "damn poverty".

Times Quiz 49

Tick the most appropriate choice

1. The same side of the moon always faces the earth because
 - a) it is a natural phenomenon
 - b) moon cannot change its position
 - c) the period of revolution of the moon is equal to the period of rotations.
 - d) Earth moves with the same speed.
2. The picture tube screens of television sets operate on
 - a) Thermoluminescence
 - b) Cathodoluminescence
 - c) Photoluminescence
 - d) Electroluminescence
3. An elephant's tusk is a
 - a) modified incisor
 - b) enlarged Canine
 - c) inverted horn
 - d) None of these
4. Ampicillin is an antibiotic which interferes with the
 - a) protein synthesis
 - b) cell wall synthesis
 - c) cell membrane deterioration
 - d) Spindle Formation
5. What is the full form of the abbreviation VPN?

Answers to Times Quiz (48)

1. Clouds associated with rain and snow are **Nimbostratus**.
2. In Cactus photosynthesis is performed by **phylloclade**.
3. Tea is botanically known as **Thea sinensis**.
4. While eating, if one talks, he is subjected to coughing because **food enters the trachea**.
5. The full form of EAP is **Extensible Authentication 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			
Arcs	Droplets	Impressive	Photograph
Appearance	Drops	Indigo	Pink
Arch	Earth	Large	Primary
Area	Effect	Lens	Rainfall
Atmosphere	Emergence	Light	Rainy
Axis	Evening	Line	Rave
Band	Fade	Looks	Rays
Bend	Faint	Lunar	Real
Blue	Fantasy	Morning	Reds
Bows	Fleeting	Near	Reflect
Bright	Formed	Observed	Rich
Brilliant	Friends	Open	Round
Cloud	Green	Orange	Savor
Colors	Head	Pale	Shape
Curved	High	Parallel	Shine
Damp	Horizon	Paths	Show
Disappear	Image	Phenomenon	Sight
Double			

RAINBOWS ARE PRETTY

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

Solution: 11 letters

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YOUTH FORUM

Learning English is like learning tennis

A lot of people think that learning a language involves simply acquiring knowledge like learning history or geography. But learning a language is a lot more like learning tennis. It involves learning a skill, whereas learning history or geography simply involves learning a set of facts or a body of knowledge. Facts and knowledge are static, but skills like tennis or English are living and changing and need constant practice. They're spontaneous activities between two or more people. And just as in tennis you never know where the ball will land next, in English you can never predict what another person will say. The question is how the students can learn to face any kind of situation in English. In tennis, what leads to a good game is practice, and this involves not only learning the rules of the game and doing repetitive drills, but also spontaneous practice with real partners. It is the same with English, what leads to mastery of the language is not only learning the 'rule of the game' – grammar and doing repetitive drills, but also regular practice with one's partners or classmates.

Hassan Ahmed Al-Ghail
Faculty of Education, Mahweel

My dear country

My dear country, my blood belongs to you, Wherever and whenever I go, you are in my mind. I offer you my soul and promise you my love Because you are my greatest wealth that I love to cherish.

My treasure, may you live in peace for ever And above all bless us all Let none think to forsake you Because there's no respect, no freedom abroad.

Blissful abode, your freedom in my hearts, desire May justice prevail everywhere Thus none is victim of its violation

Light of my eyes, I will fight for you Will die for you and I'm sure That nothing can ever take your place in my heart

Fathia Djibril
Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

How would it be?

I carry my sadness, with me everywhere; As my name I drink my pains inside by my smile My body is my grave I look myself in others My life is a vale of tears How can the rain be without drops? How could it be? How would the trees be without fruits? How would it be? How would the roses be if they lose their fragrance? How would it be? How would I be without my tragedies? How would I be? I can't leave my sufferings Nor could they leave me They couldn't leave me. I don't know. But I know that I would die Under the shadow of death.

Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Radhi
Level 3

Faculty of Education, Mahweel

Do not tell me 'why' Do not tell me 'why', for my default. I know your feelings and emotions

I admit that you are shy I agree this is the best conduct.

Do not tell me 'why' nor my fault I know that you can't win my heart. Not that it means you are foolish. But I want you to be candid. I want you to be sincere. I want you to be ideal.

Do not tell me 'why' nor your neglect. Be honest with yourself and you will find me. Be diligent in your studies. And you will find my admiration multifold for you Do that, my darling, and you will win me, I assure you.

Do not tell me why you punish yourself. You will find the answer yourself. Mofeed Abdhu Othman
Faculty of Education, Khawlan

Will this Ramadhan be for cultivation of mind? Ramadhan is a dictate from God. It's a clemency month for the Muslims. It is a month devoted for worship and prayer during evening and reading of the Holy Quran, if we want to be nearer to our God. The first and foremost objective of Ramadhan is clemency and craving for Allah's pardon. But unfortunately now Ramadhan is becoming a time for eating and TV viewing only, not for worship. The first fourth of the day is earmarked for sleeping, the second fourth of the day is set for work and the third for eating, the last fourth for watching TV and visiting relatives. Let's take a vow to realize the spirit of Ramadhan.

Zainab Al-Kabsie
Modern British Institute, Sana'a



SOFITEL TAIZ HOTEL



التعريف بسوفيتيل تعز

فندق سوفيتيل تعز أحد مشاريع شركات هائل سعيد أنعم حيث أنه تحت إدارة المجموعة العالمية المعروفة (أكور) والمتخصصة بإدارة الفنادق والمنتجعات السياحية، والجدير بالذكر أن مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم غنية عن التعريف خاصة داخل الجمهورية اليمنية حيث يتمتعون بالسمعة الطيبة والمصادقية العالية والتفاعل مع المجتمع المحلي والاهتمام بالبعد الإنساني.

تحت إدارة مجموعة أكور الفرنسية يوجد أنواع مختلفة من الفنادق بأسماء تحتوي على جميع الدرجات الفندقية المختلفة المستوى. سوفيتيل 5 نجوم و 4 نجوم في أوروبا وميركيور و نوفتيل 4 نجوم و 3 نجوم في أوروبا. وايبيس نجوم و نجوم في أوروبا. فولاميلوايتاب وهي الدرجات الاقتصادية وعلماً أن مجموع الفنادق في مجموعة أكور حول العالم حالي هو 3637

سوفيتيل .

من أهم الأشياء التي تميز فنادق سوفيتيل أنها فنادق ذات خصوصية خمس نجوم فاخرة وراقية أينما وجدت تأخذ بطبيعة الحال العادات والتقاليد والثقافة الخاصة بالمدينة التي يوجد بها سوفيتيل وعلى سبيل المثال في الخليج العربي الآن يوجد عدد لا بأس به من فنادق سوفيتيل في مكة المكرمة والمدينة المنورة وجدة والدوحة ودبي وبطبيعة الحال فندقنا الجديد سوفيتيل تعز . جناح رئاسي . أجنحة فاخرة . غرف عائلية متوفرة في الفندق بالإضافة إلى نادي صحي ومسبح وقاعة حفلات . ومطعم وستة محلات تجارية تقدم مختارات عالية الذوق مثل العطور والذهب والفضة ومحل للهدايا وأيضاً ملابس نسائية شرقية . في فندق سوفيتيل بإمكانكم تناول وجبات الطعام وعمل حفلات الزواج وإقامة المؤتمرات وأيضاً يتوفر خدمة الطلبات الخارجية سواء من الطعام أو الحلوى العربية والعالمية سوفيتيل تعز إنه المكان الذي يمكنكم فيه الاستجمام والراحة مع عائلاتكم وأصدقائكم بالرغم من احترام العادات والتقاليد التي يحترمها فندق سوفيتيل تعز إلا أنه يفخر بعدم بيع المشروبات الكحولية وأيضاً فندق سوفيتيل تعز لا يوجد به نادي ليلي قطعاً . ولكن في سوفيتيل تعز ستجدون الاستقبال الحار الصادق من جميع الموظفين حيث أيضاً الخدمات المتميزة والعالية . الرجاء عدم الشعور بالخجل بزيارتنا أو الاتصال بنا فأنا وإدارتي سعداء دائماً بالترحيب بكم وتقديم أفضل الخدمات التي تنال ذوقكم .

مع تحياتي

ديدير موريل

المدير العام

SOFITEL TAIZ Introductory

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Best regards,

Didier Morel
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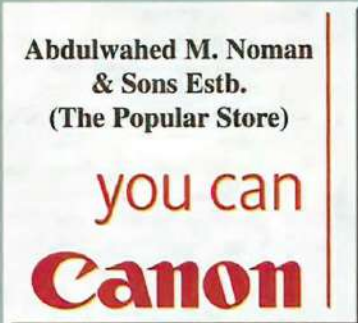
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Questions for Issue 50

Check the right answer

- When does the world celebrate the International Day of Human Rights?
☐ December first
☐ December tenth
☐ December 31st
- The famous Yemeni intellectual who received the Sharjah Arab Culture award last year was:
☐ Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh
☐ Sulaiman Al-Eesa
☐ Ibrahim Al-Hadrani
- Al-Tabbakh cooking oil, which is the preferable oil for the family, is rich with:
☐ Vitamins A and D
☐ Vitamins A and G
☐ All mentioned above
- Choco wafer is a product belonging to the brand:
☐ Teaslop
☐ Aseel
☐ Al-Halawiyat
- A food product with no added preserving material is among the best produced from beans and carries the following brand name:
☐ Al-Aila
☐ Al-Hana
☐ Breeze
- One of those products does not belong to "Al-Basha":
☐ Al-Basha Chocolates
☐ Roxy Chocolates
☐ Al-Nujoom Chocolates
- From where are the main shareholders of the Yemen Gulf Bank?
☐ Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman
☐ Yemen, Oman, Kuwait
☐ Yemen, Kuwait, UAE
- One of those Delonghi products is ranked the first in the world:
☐ Heaters
☐ Boilers
☐ Both
- What is the color of the BP engine?
☐ Red
☐ Brown
☐ Golden
- What are the specifications of Visco Oil 2000 (BP)?
☐ SJ
☐ SH
☐ SG
- Where does the headquarters of Suzuki-Yemen, member of Bamaarof Group, lie?
☐ Hodeidah
☐ Aden
☐ Sanaa

أسئلة المسابقة للعدد ٥٠

اختر الإجابة الصحيحة

- يحتفل العالم باليوم العالمي لحقوق الإنسان في:
☐ الأول من ديسمبر
☐ العاشر من ديسمبر
☐ نهاية ديسمبر
- أديب يمني كبير حاز على جائزة الشارقة للثقافة العربية العام الماضي:
☐ عبدالعزيز المقالح
☐ سليمان العيسى
☐ إبراهيم الحضارني
- زيت الطبخ، الزيت المفضل للعائلة مدعم بفيتامينات:
☐ (أ، د)
☐ (أ، ج)
☐ جميع ما سبق
- شوكو ووفر، منتج بنرج تحت علامة:
☐ تيشوب
☐ أصيل
☐ الحلويات
- منتج غذائي خالي من المواد الحافظة مصنوع من أجود أنواع البقوليات يحل علامة تجارية هي:
☐ العائلة
☐ الهناء
☐ بريز
- أحد المنتجات التالية ليست من منتجات الباشا:
☐ شوكولاتة الباشا
☐ شوكولاتة روكسي
☐ شوكولاتة النجوم
- من هم المساهمون الرئيسيون في بنك اليمن والخليج:
☐ اليمن، السعودية، عمان
☐ اليمن، عمان، الكويت
☐ اليمن، الكويت، الإمارات العربية المتحدة
- أجهزة ديلونجي الإيطالية تحتل منجاتها التالية الترتيب الأول عالمياً:
☐ غلايات
☐ غلايات
☐ جميع ما سبق
- ما هو لون زيت المحرك BP:
☐ أحمر
☐ بني
☐ ذهبي
- ما هي مواصفات زيت فيسكو ٢٠٠٠ (BP):
☐ SJ
☐ SH
☐ SG
- أين يقع مقر سوزوكي اليمن-عضو مجموعة باماروف:
☐ الحديدة
☐ عدن
☐ صنعاء

Name: _____

Age: _____

ID number: _____

City: _____

Tel: _____

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Islam denounces terrorism

God forbids the murder of innocent people



By HARUN YAHYA, AUTHOR

Seize him and bind him, and then expose him to hell-fire, then fasten him with a chain seventy cubits long! For he did not believe in God Almighty, nor did he urge the feeding of the poor. (Qur'an, 69:30-34)

Have you seen him who denies the religion? He is the one who harshly rebuffs the orphan and does not urge the feeding of the poor. (Qur'an, 107:1-3)

...nor do you urge the feeding of the poor (Qur'an, 89:18)

As we have seen in these verses, the Muslim described in the Qur'an possesses a most loving and compassionate nature. Nobody who possesses this morality can of course consent to terrorism or acts of violence directed at innocent people. Terrorists' characters are the exact opposite of Qur'anic morality. A terrorist is a ruthless person who looks

with hatred on the world, and wants to kill, destroy and shed blood.

A Muslim raised in the morality as revealed by the Qur'an, however, approaches everyone with the love expected by Islam, respects ideas of all kinds, always tries to bring harmony where there is discord, lower tensions, embrace all sides and behave with moderation. Societies consisting of people like this will be ruled by a more developed civilisation, and enjoy greater social morality, harmony, justice and plenty than can be seen in even the most modern nations today.

God has Commanded Forgiveness and Tolerance

The concept of forgiveness and tolerance, described in the words, "Make allowances for people" (Qur'an, 7:199) is one of the most fundamental tenets of Islam. When we look at the history of Islam, the way that Muslims have translated this important feature of Qur'anic morality into the life of society can be seen quite clearly. As we shall be considering in later parts of the book, Muslims have always brought with them an

atmosphere of freedom and tolerance wherever they have gone. They have enabled people whose religions, languages and cultures are completely different from one another to live together in peace and harmony under one roof, and provided peace and harmony for its own members. One of the most important reasons for the centuries-long existence of the Ottoman Empire, which spread over an enormous region, was the atmosphere of tolerance and understanding that Islam brought with it. Muslims, who have been known for their tolerant and loving natures for centuries, have always been the most compassionate and just of people. Within this multi-national structure, all ethnic groups have been free to live according to their own religions, and their own rules.

True tolerance can only bring peace and well-being to the world when implemented along the lines set out in the Qur'an. Attention is drawn to this fact in a verse which reads: "A good action and a bad action are not the same. Repel the bad with something better and, if there is enmity between you and someone else, he will be like a bosom friend." (Qur'an, 41:34)

In the verses of the Qur'an, God has always described forgiveness as a superior quality, and in one verse, He has given the good news that such behaviour will be rewarded: "The repayment of a bad action is one equivalent to it. But if someone pardons and puts things right, his reward is with God. Certainly He does not love wrongdoers." (Qur'an, 42:40) In another verse, He has described believers as: "those who give in times of both ease and hardship, those who control their rage and pardon other people - God loves the good-doers" (Qur'an, 3:134) God has revealed in the Qur'an

that it is virtuous behaviour to forgive someone even if he has done wrong. One verse on the subject reads:

... You will never cease to come upon some act of treachery on their part, except for a few of them. Yet pardon them, and overlook. God loves good-doers. (Qur'an, 5:13)

All of this shows that the morality that Islam recommends to mankind brings to the world the virtues of peace, harmony and justice. The barbarism known as terrorism, that is so preoccupying the world at present, is the work of ignorant and fanatical people, completely estranged from Qur'anic morality, and who have

absolutely nothing to do with religion. The solution to these people and groups who try to carry out their savagery under the mask of religion is the teaching of

true Qur'anic morality. In other words, Islam and Qur'anic morality are solutions to the scourge of terrorism, not supporters of it.



In societies where Islamic morality is followed, churches, mosques and synagogues co-exist peacefully. This view of these sanctuaries in an institution for the homeless show the tolerance, justice and striving for peace inculcated by the teaching of Islamic morality.

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