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As fight escalates in Sa'ada, dozens killed daily in fight with rebels

Opposition demands fact-finding committee

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 9 Apr.-While fierce fighting between government troops and loyalists to the slain anti-US cleric Hussein al-Houthi is still flaring up, the Yemeni government welcomed Friday an initiative offered by the opposition parties to delegate a fact-finding committee to the governorate of Sa'ada in an attempt to reach a cease-fire. "We welcome the initiative to field a committee set up of parliament, consultative council and political parties members to Sa'ada to investigate into the ongoing events there," an official source told state-run Saba news agency.

He said that out of concern to stop bloodshed, the proposed committee could try again to persuade Badreddin al-Houthi to give himself in to the authorities along with his outlaws and stop attacking government institutions and security and military personnel.

Continued on page 3



Government troops in Sa'ada.

YT photo b

Yemen plays down US & UK warnings of possible attacks

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni officials on Saturday played down U.S. and British warnings of possible attacks by militants against their citizens or interests in Yemen.

A senior Yemeni Foreign Ministry official told Reuters there was no specific threat associated with the warnings issued by the U.S. State Department and British Foreign Office.

"The American warning is more than a week old and the

British warning is three days old," the official said, adding "there was no specific threat" linked to either.

The British and the U.S. embassies in Sana'a have been temporarily shut down following information of possible terrorist attacks.

The US State Department ramped up its travel advisory for Yemen on Friday as it warned it was concerned about possible attacks by extremists against U.S. citizens or interests in the Middle Eastern state.

The UK Foreign Office also cited risks in Yemen on Friday.

It suspended work at its embassy there "in the light of a current, credible threat to Western interests."

"We are closing down following the U.S. concerns over possible terrorist attacks," a diplomat at the UK embassy told Yemen Times on condition of anonymity.

Continued on page 3

World Bank: Yemen has got to do a lot about reform

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen, like other countries in the Middle East, faces challenging economic obstacles, said Dr. Mustafa Nabli, Chief Economist and Sector Director, World Bank at a roundtable organized Saturday April 9 by the World Bank and Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The roundtable was aimed to formulate a clear vision regarding economic changes.

"The countries of the region have to create some 90 million new jobs by the year 2020. Through the next two decades, workforce will increase by 74 million new laborers," said Dr. Nabli. "This rise is equal to the accumulated rise from 1950-2000. Unemployment rate is estimated at 15% resulting in great negative impacts."

He said that Middle East countries including Yemen should interact with the world making real reforms that can create integrated solutions. Reforms should be one integrated system. The countries in the area should proceed in reform by implementing political change to lay down the ground for reforms and bestow credibility on governments."

He added, "Governments need to



Dr. Mustafa Nabli

revive national dialogue concerning restructuring and distribution of development programs to which governments and peoples should contribute.

He pointed out challenges before Yemen which is part of the region's countries.

"With rapid increase in workforce at 4% annually which is among the highest rates worldwide, Yemen will be needing to provide 4 million jobs during the next 20 years."

Continued on page 3

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conference for lawyers syndicate in Aden

NAZEEH ABDULLAH
ADEN BUREAU

The second conference for lawyers syndicate, Aden Branch, was concluded last Tuesday in the city of Aden.

The conference was entitled for the sake of effective contribution to establish the status of the law, justice and defending public freedoms and human rights.

Dr. Yahya al-Shu'abi governor of Aden delivered a speech in the inaugural session that was attended by as many as 418 participants of the lawyer's syndicates, prosecutions and courts of appeal.

In his speech, Dr. al-Shu'abi asserted

ed the importance of holding the conference as the role played by lawyers in abiding by the status of the law and the principles of justice in society.

He pointed out the necessity of effective participation of judicial apparatus and other helping apparatuses and called members at the conference to come out with positive results.

He further insisted on the choice of efficient elements to represent others. Particularly a great success was achieved due to such a policy.

Additionally a number of speeches were delivered in the conference by some prominent figures and leading lawyers.

Trafficking Yemeni antiquities on the rise

By Mohammad Binsalim
Yemen Times Staff

Security apparatuses in Hajjah Governorate, 169 km North West of Sana'a captured three of the persons involved in the trade of antiquities and trafficking them from the Yemeni lands into other countries. One of them is a Yemeni national while the other two hold the Syrian citizenship, who altogether work for one of the international land transportation companies.

The three were caught after security authorities were informed by a telecommunication center owner in the town of Haradh last week. He told the security authorities that a person came into his center, put some 15 archeological

found in sacks and then loaded them on a car.

Afterwards, the security apparatuses chased the wanted car and caught the driver along with a Syrian national who was sitting by him. Both made confessions while being investigated that there is still a Syrian national working for a transportation company involved with them, and he was in charge of trafficking the Yemeni antiquities into the Saudi lands.

The security apparatuses mentioned that it arrested earlier last week two persons, one of them a Saudi national and the other Syrian, while they were carrying six ancient swords with silver sheaths, in addition to other three decorative founds.

Second conference for lawyers syndicate in Aden

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grant to judiciary system reform

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr. Adnan al-Jefri Minister of Justice confirmed the judicial reforms would be given higher priority and special attention during the coming months.

He pointed out that the focus would be on commercial issues and public properties within the framework of the judicial system reform strategy.

The strategy aims to enhancing the judiciary system so as to enable it to cope with the modern changes in technology, especially with regards to electronic trade, international crimes and fighting corruption.

The minister asserted in a press release that the US grant is worth \$5 million and is to be dedicated to improving the judiciary mechanisms while allocating \$3 million of the grant to commercial related judiciary tools.

Establishing an information system, libraries with Internet facilities and databases and creating electronic networks among the commercial courts are objectives of this project.

The project would also include Internet and training 75 judges and 150 judge assistants.

The remaining \$2 million will be allotted to the Public Property Courts and the provision of network connection.

Fishermen objects to taxes, go on strike

By Yemen Times Staff

Hodeidah fishermen went on a general strike which started one week ago. They stopped work because committees from the Ministry of Finance continued to impose taxes on buyers who themselves stopped to buy fish.

"Daily Taxation Committees are present at the Fishing Corporation and imposes 30% taxes on fish and 60% on prawns which forced purchasers to refrain from buying fish. That resulted in the decay of huge quantities of fish estimated at tens of millions which have been dumped into the sea," said Ali Muhaidir, a Hodeidah Fishing Union officer.

Many buyers were surprised that the law is only implemented in Hodeidah and not in other areas of the country.

"We pay some 10% taxes on sales to the Ministry of Finance until the issue was to be settled with the officials in Sana'a. We was stunned to find that the committees are levying taxes with unstamped vouchers from buyers," they said.

They added, "We went on a one-week strike last month and fish rotted causing the loss of millions of riyals. It is a disaster. We threw the decayed fish into the sea."

Concerning the role of the Fishing Corporation, they pointed out that it doesn't protect them from the government.

"Fishermen are plundered by the neighboring countries and are plundered at the local market. They are prohibited to take the fish out of the port until the buyers pay the tax."

On the other hand, Ibrahim Hassan Mawqidi, Manager of Hodeidah Fishing Corporation told the media that the 50-riyal vouchers are remitted to the Ministry of Finance's account at the Central Bank of Yemen. They are fees and not a tax and levied according to the Prime Minister's Decree No. 233 of the year 2004, he said.

"We have not heard that it is implemented in other provinces. They say it is going to be implemented in Aden. However, we are required to implement the State's orders," he added.

"The strike is continuing and what we can do is to mitigate things. As a result of these fees, the boats will move to other fishing centers especially if this Decree is not going to be implemented in other provinces," he concluded.

Child murders grandmother

A grandmother was killed by her 17-year-old grandchild, who also directed the gun at his mother threatening to kill her.

The grandmother laid a victim as she attempted to prevent the murderer from killing his mother over a dispute between them

Old Sana'a residents: save our homes

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tens of the residents of the old city of Sana'a, are continuing their protests against the government's indifference to their homes which are about to collapse due to heavy rains and torrents.

Citizens last week, headed to the Human Rights Ministry and handed a petition letter to the Minister. They asked for immediate action to save their homes in

the Grand Mosque neighborhood, old city of Sana'a.

The home-owners said that the Secretariat of the Capital City and the Conservation of Historic Cities Authority did not respond to their claims for two years.

The pleas of the Old Sana'a City were published in newspapers and it was in the focus for three years. Yet, they fell on deaf ears both in the local and central governments.

Russian doctor murder investigation adjourned

The Court of North Hodeida adjourned a few days ago statement hearing on the murder case of the Russian doctor, San Kita Elinia, 37, until the coming sitting scheduled for Wednesday April 20.

The court listened during the last session to the concluding pleadings of the general prosecution by Ali Sa'eed al-Samit chief prosecution, who

also reviewed the evidences and the circumstances of the case, and urged the court to rule for capital punishment for the first suspect and imprisonment of the second.

Deputy Russian Consul urged the court, on behalf of murdered heirs, to practice the Yemeni laws and demanded, on behalf of victim's husband, the execution of the murderer.

Mine explosion claims lives of several

A mine exploded in Lahj one week ago leading to the deaths and injuries of many people.

Three of the injured explained to the police that they found the mine planted underground and when they fired at it, it blew up wounding them all.

Plantation of sunflower boosted

The ministry of agriculture and irrigation insisted on the plantation of sunflower in many different areas all over the republic as well as offering the necessary support for farmers to expand the plantation of sunflower.

Well-informed sources indicated that the main goal behind expanding the plantation of sunflower stems from its economical benefits either in oil industries or in poultry feeding.

In brief

• The two-day workshop organized by the ministry of local administration on local authority was concluded last week at the headquarters of Taiz Governorate. Sixty male and female trainees from different administrative units and local authorities participated in the workshop, which aimed to provide participants with information management skills.

• The regional customs bureau for the exchange of information in the Middle East concluded its ninth member countries meeting last Wednesday in Sana'a.

• The Yemeni governorate celebrated the World Health Day on Friday in Sana'a, with resolutions to dedicate more efforts to reducing maternal and infant mortality in Yemen.

• A regional workshop on piracy and ship looting was conducted by the International Marine Organization (IMO) and the General Authority for Marine Affairs on Saturday ninth of this month in Sana'a.

• Technical Administration of the Yemeni Airlines eved a distinctive success, the first of its kind, in the field of maintaining planes of long flights depending on self-efforts and Yemeni cadres.

• Sana'a is to host functions of the first educational week of the member countries at the Arab Education Office for the Gulf countries from April 30 to May 4. The event, which would coincide with the 15th anniversary of the Yemeni Reunification, will include discussions on future visions for enhancing the educational system in Yemen.

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		Friday April 15	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	
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* Public's voting will be the first step to win the competition given a percentage of 60%. The winning photo will be selected (from among the photos of the public poll) in the second and last step by an arbitration committee (40%)

* Every visitor has only one vote and does not have the right to vote more than one time.

* Only plus-sixteen individuals are allowed to vote provided that they have their IDs.

Names of the winners and the time for presenting the prize will be announced in Issue No. 838 which is to come out on May 2nd, 2005.

For more information please contact:
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No smoking. No arms

Continued from page 1

Opposition demands fact-finding committee

In a statement, the Joint Meeting Opposition parties called on the parliament to take up its constitutional responsibilities towards the ongoing fighting in Sa'ada. It demanded that a committee capable of conducting impartial and fair investigations into the events should be set up; including members from all political forces and jurists who can tell the public the truth about what is going on, trying to sort these problems out, putting solutions for their devastating consequences.

These parties also condemned the use of force away from the law and all sorts of extremism-ethnic-dogmatic, sectarian, family, calling upon all people to abide by constitution and law. "Braking the constitution and law will lead to further breakdowns in the society, harming its national unity and integration and opening up doors for foreign interferences," the statement said.

The statement stressed that the unity, stability, sovereignty and independence of the country is the responsibility of everybody, warning the government against lack of transparency in dealing with security issues. "The escalations of the unfortunate and grave development of the events in Sa'ada which erupted in no less than a year since the Muran fight and which comes as its follow-up, makes it clear fruitlessness of the measures adopted by the government in tackling this issue."

An official source announced Friday evening that another round of negotiation with al-Houthi supporters had started. This has come just after few hours of government announcement that negotiations have failed.

The state-run Saba news agency quoted a local official in Sa'ada province as mentioning the latest army onslaught came after a mediation committee set up on request of President Ali Abdullah Saleh failed to persuade the rebels to surrender.

The panel, made up of Muslim scholars, tribal chieftains and other prominent figures, "failed to convince Badreddin al-Houthi and his rebel supporters to turn themselves in and cease carrying out subversive acts and attacks against government and public facilities, as well as security and military targets," the official said.

He said the committee was unable

to broker a solution despite promising the rebels safety because of the "obstinacy" of Houthi and his men, and their "refusal to respond to efforts to stop bloodshed and end the strife they started in the area." However, other tribal sources held the two sides responsible for thwarting any efforts to stop the fighting.

Official source admitted that members of the Faithful Youth infiltrated into the city of Sa'ada Friday morning and started attacking security and military men and positions. It said that the fight claimed the lives of seven soldiers and 19 rebels while seven soldiers were wounded and five fighters arrested. However, tribal sources told Yemen Times that the tens of al-Houthi supporters sneaked into the city around 3 o'clock after midnight on Friday, taking over some buildings, including a hospital, and started attacking security men. He said that the government troops were forced to use heavy weapons to counterattack the rebels' strongholds. The guerilla fight which continued until 2 o'clock afternoon claimed, according to tribal sources, lives of over 70 people from both sides. Eyewitnesses told Yemen Times that dead bodies were dragged in streets of the city. Official source said that the troops could capture big amounts of various sorts of weapons with the rebels.

For three continuous days, since Wednesday, Sa'ada underwent fierce fights between the two sides. Apart from the undetermined number of government forces which fell in the clashes of the last two days, over 150 people have been reported killed in the two days of fierce clashes. Dozens more have been injured on both sides.

The death toll has mounted to over 300 as the two sides have been locked in combat since March 28.

"Dozens of troops were killed or wounded, particularly when counter-terrorism units parachuted onto mountain tops overlooking the rebels' strongholds in Razamat and Wadi Nushur (Nushur Valley) on Thursday," tribal source said.

Yemeni troops have been pounding Houthi loyalists with artillery and tank fire since Wednesday night trying to force them to surrender, witnesses in the area said.

The sources said government forces

stormed rebel positions with artillery and tank fire in Razamat, Wadi Nushur and Al-Shafia, wresting out control of the outposts.

Government forces are also trying to track down ground commanders of the rebels from the Faithful Youth movement, chiefly Abdullah al-Razami, Yussef al-Madani and the preacher's brother Abdul Malak.

Besides, the state-run al-Thawara Daily attacked in its editorial Saturday the al-Haq and Popular Forces Union party, accusing them of breaking the law and working on dogmatic bases. It demanded that the two parties should be held accountable for breaking the law in their activities.

The fierce battles are raising concerns about the humanitarian situation. A number of families have fled their homes because of the raids on their areas where the rebels are hiding. Local hospitals are not able to accommodate the causality rate mounting everyday. This situation has forced people to quit the area in the look out for safer places.

International organizations operating in Yemen are closely watching the situation, waiting for a signal from the government to take an action and help alleviate the suffering of the people, falling victims for stupid decisions. UN office in Sana'a is consulting with Yemeni authorities to see what role the UN agencies in Yemen can offer. "We are consulting with the Yemeni authorities to help relieve the situation there in Sa'ada. We are waiting to have a sense of the situation and to get an action sooner," UN Resident Coordinator, Flavia Pansieri told Yemen Times. She has expected that all UN agencies operating in Yemen will hand over their help to the people in Sa'ada. Those agencies include the WFP, WHO, UNICEF which did offer their help to the people in there following fight stop in September 2004.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is at this stage observing the situation. "We are at the ICRC at this stage following closely and trying to get a clear idea about the situation. We offered our services to the Yemeni authorities," Ronald Oferinger, Communications Delegate at the ICRC office in Sana'a told Yemen Times.

The local and international humani-

tarian organizations are concerned that the eruption of the fight will hamper the efforts and assessment evaluation reports they have been carrying out on the needs caused by the first fight.

"We have helped after the stop of the first fight by sending WHO emergency kits which cost \$26,000. We sent drugs, emergency equipment and other things. After that nutrition assessment study of the WHO has been carried out. Unfortunately, it was not finalized before the eruption of the fight now," Hashim al-Zain, Resident Representative of the World Health Organization office in Sana'a told Yemen Times.

The Yemeni authorities accused the slain Hussien al-Houthi, who was a former member of parliament in 1993 representing al-Haq Islamic party, of fomenting sectarian strife in the country throughout his militant organization, campaigning around the country as well as instigating the dogmatic and sectarian turbulence in a society wherein both the Shiites and a majority.

Sunni sects lived in harmony for hundreds of years, getting a foreign support to reach this goal. But, he then denied such allegations and said that the conflict with the authority was a result of his anti-US stand. During the main weekly prayers each Friday, Houthi followers used to chant slogans against Israel and the United States and call for a boycott of American goods. However, the authorities, who even accused some foreign parties of supporting al-Houthi, arrested hundreds of his followers and said that it was difficult to convince them give up their fanatic views.

The minister of interior Rashad al-Alimi told the parliament last July that the "activities of al-Houthi started in 1997 through setting up some unlicensed religious centers in Sa'ada which then spread in other governorates." He added that the man established an armed secret organization which split from al-Haq party given the name of "al-Shabab al-Mum'en". He said that some militants of the organization receive monthly salaries ranging between \$50 to \$200 which shows that there are some foreign forces behind it, which the minister did not define.

Yemen plays down US & UK warnings of possible attacks

He said that they had general information passed on by the US embassy on possible terrorist attacks targeting Western interests, including the U.S. and UK citizens. U.S. officials contacted their British counterparts in Sana'a and a decision was taken to suspend operations.

He pointed out that there was no specific timing for the closure, adding that operations in the embassy were suspended until further notice.

"We have had a credible security threat which we are obviously taking very seriously so we are suspending all operations in the British embassy," a Foreign Office spokesman said Friday.

"There is a high threat from terrorism and evidence that terrorists may be targeting Western, including British, interests in Yemen."

"In light of a current, credible threat to Western interests the Embassy will temporarily suspend services."

On the other hand, the British Embassy had on Sunday resumed its services after a one day halt on Saturday. This situation will be kept under review. British nationals visiting or resident in Yemen should consider whether their personal security arrangements are adequate."

"The only thing I can say is that there has been a current and credible threat and we have taken the precautionary measure of suspending all operations from Saturday the 9th of April," he added.

Sometime later, the U.S. notice came out warning Americans to delay traveling to Yemen and authorized the voluntary departure of family mem-

bers and no emergency personnel working at the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a.

"The Department of State warns U.S. citizens to defer non-essential travel to Yemen," it said in the latest travel warning.

"The Department is concerned about possible attacks by extremist individuals or groups against U.S. citizens, facilities, businesses and perceived interests and therefore has authorized the voluntary departure from Yemen of non-emergency personnel and eligible family members," it warned.

The current advisory is a bit tougher and stronger than the previous warning issued last November.

The earlier warning did not ask Americans to delay nonessential trav-

el, nor did it authorize a voluntary departure from the embassy in Sana'a.

The department issued a warning in November that the risks to all U.S. citizens in Yemen remained high due to terrorist activities, but wording in its newest warning was stronger.

The UK embassy in Sana'a closed down last January due to security concerns.

The embassy had suspended services on Wednesday following waning of potential terrorist attacks against Western targets in the country.

"There is a high threat from terrorism."

As at January 6, there is specific information that terrorists are in the final stages of planning attacks against British targets and other Western interests in Yemen," said an advisory issued on January 7.

The British and the U.S. embassies were both attacked by hand grenades.

Political observers think the decision might have something to do with the ongoing fight between the government troops and the rebels led by cleric Badruddin al-Houthi, mainly the attacks carried out by members of the Faithful Youth movement against some military officers.

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World Bank: Yemen has got to do a lot about reform

"The private sector is required to participate in alleviating unemployment. Yemen is in need for diversify economy. It is not enough to rely on oil revenues as was the case in the last decade. Non-oil exports are very low compared to the average of the Middle East and North Africa (7% of domestic production)."

Dr. Nabli confirmed that Yemen has gone long in certain fields such as economic stability, education, infrastructure, and freeing trade but this success should be deeply rooted through a wider coverage in woman education and health as well as a larger contribution to economic activity, better education, and improvement of workforce skills so as to meet market's needs.

He stated that Yemen needs to systematically adapt itself to cope with the coming challenges especially the economic ones. It should change the general development policy and apply reforms to all areas in order to effect a positive change in people's life.

Dr. Nabli described reforms as an integrated system which should be carefully implemented.

"Reforms do not mean finding

new monetary resources as it means application of laws and regulations to combat corruption, a hurdle needed in a country like Yemen."

He indicated that Yemen is a country which has a high corruption rate similar to any other Arab country, and that corruption goes against investment and development as well as the interests of the people.

"We can't find one single solution to corruption. However, through many ways, we can fight corruption."

"In Yemen, there must be certain atmospheres for women to join the labor market including reconsideration of laws to facilitate women entering the labor market. We should cancel legislatures posing discrimination against women."

The Roundtable on growth, labor and social development was concluded yesterday after reviewing Middle East and North Africa regional reports on trade, investment, good governance, gender and labor. The reports were discussed with Yemeni experts to diagnose the challenges faced by Yemen. The Roundtable's discussions are expected to provide inputs into the preparation process of the next 5-year development plan and reform agenda

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Exchange of fire leaves one killed

TAIZ BUREAU

Exchange of fire occurred on Monday April 4 in al-Rawada Zone, Taiz, between Naji Ali al-Zaidi and his guards on one hand and Mohammad al-Qairi and his guards

on the other.

The fighting in which the two sides used heavy machine guns led to the killing of Jaraallah Ali al-Z iadi.

The incident took place near the house of Sheikh Hamoud Sa'eed al-Mekhlafi, one of the prominent

figures in Taiz Governorate, causing damages to the house.

The information obtained revealed that the exchange of fire targeted Sheikh al-Mekhlafi who in turn ordered his bodyguards to capture those involved in the fighting.

Dr. Nadhem to Yemen Times: Strike victimizes students

By SHAKER AL-MOLSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

“We have the right to strike,” thus did Dr. Nadhem Sa’eed set it forth from behind his desk in his debut interview with the Yemen Times as head of the English Department, Faculty of Education Sana’a University.

He spoke about a variety of different subjects relating to the conditions of education in the Department, most important of which is the recent strike that has dimmed the picture resulting in further discontent and raising fears about the reality of Yemen’s education.

It is the yet-unresolved headache which university teachers resorted to after the government had refused to answer their demands.

His above statement was in response to a question about the legitimacy of strike.

He further said, “Strike is not an egotistical gesture. What is egotistical is for the government to turn down our requests. It is part of the rights of the teaching staff to go on strike.”

“We have been struggling for our rights for some four years. And the government is ignoring us and is not responding to us at all. They are trying to play tricks.”

Dr. Nadhem admits that it is a process of victimization.

“We victimize students and we have been victimized ourselves. So, the government is responsible.”

However he defends the strike on the ground that “it is part of our constitutional rights that we are practicing. It is actually the government that should do something not only for us but for the whole people in all places.”

“Teachers have no other kind of income apart from their teaching while others have. We don’t want to live like king but, in order to do our work properly, we want to lead a decent life, which means good income. This will make our time really for writing papers, research, and reading extensively to inform our students much more.”

The salaries of Yemeni university teaching staff is relatively better than other public sector’s employees.

But Dr. Nadhem suggests raising the salaries of all wage categories.

“The government should improve the situation of all Yemenis. We believe that if they use the budget efficiently, they can increase the salary, according to the World Bank’s report at least, minimally speaking, three hundred dollars.”

Starting before one month, the strike is believed to have impacted student’s acquisition of this semester’s subjects and stirred concern over the reality of education.

“Of course it affected them a lot,” he said. “For example if you have one group twice a week, it means the loss of something like ten meetings a month.



Dr. Nadhem Sa’eed

And imagine how many meetings have been missed by all groups.”

With no glimmer of hope that the strike will come to an end, it is uncertain that the objectives of the semester will be achieved.

New challenge

Being newly appointed as head of the Department, Dr. Nadhem is set to prove himself as an administrator as he did as a full-time teacher.

“I have proved my ability as a teacher in the classroom and I am going to prove myself as an administrator.” He thinks that it will not affect his performance in the class.

“No doubt, it will reduce my load as a teacher but that reduction is not much, just like three hours. It is going to enhance my performance as I will be available all the time for students to ask questions.”

“I have taught for a number of years, and it is time to go for another aspect to prove myself as an administrator. The Department needs somebody who can take it up. If I don’t go to do it, who else is going to do it. Any professor will inevitably lose some of the load.”

He is still taking the same classes that he used to take. And he is always present for the students’ inquiries whether in class or outside class.

“Of course the administrative work will take some time, making one thinks of small problems. It is kind of annoying and hectic.” Nevertheless, he is determined to “give it a try.”

More plans and activities

Dr. Nadhem has walked into office with his mind full of plans. Asked about what he has in store for the students of the Department, he replied, “I have a lot. I want all the students to rally around me to improve the performance

teaching.”

He has also made provisions to change the Department’s library into a bigger one and to make the computer lab into a multimedia center, well stocked with English learning programs. These are some of his ambitions, morally and financially.”

He has started improvement by inviting one volunteer American teacher, Mrs. Rachael, who is teaching writing and students are happy with that. He promises, “I will try my best to get another native speaker.”

The Department has begun conducting and organizing various activities including a number of seminars on frequent basis.

They are also picnicking in Sana’a suburbs to enhance the fraternal spirit among the Department’s students and also break the conventional type of teacher-student

formal relationship.

Students from the Department will be visiting the Yemen Times premises to see the whole process of producing the newspaper and learn about the system of the Yemen Times Establishment.

Good English necessitates student commitment

Commenting on the English teaching in the university, Dr. Nadhem mentioned that English in Yemen is a foreign language, and is not a second language and this makes it hard to learn.

“English is not spoken in the streets, government’s departments, and ministries. And it is not taught from the beginning of the primary school but from the preparatory school. It is a good idea to start teaching English from the first class of primary school. When students join our Department, they completely sidetracks and it takes them some time like a cultural shock to catch up. They need some kind of intensive course in order to join our the Department and to know what is going on. But usually those who work hard, they catch up and become very good English learners and teachers.”

Unbalanced rates

In the past, especially at the Faculty

of Education, number of girls was small. However, nowadays, it is the opposite, rendering a remarkable phenomenon although it is a sign of progress.

The new head of the Department denies that they adopt an admission policy that favors girls over boys.

“Admission is based on performance in High School and entrance exam. Girls tend to outperform boys. This may be attributed to their diligence, remedial courses, or may be their very nature. Moreover, there is the high gender rate. Women all over the world are more in number than men. Usually, from the fact that we know now, most of the applicants are girls.”

In conclusion, Dr. Nadhem did not forget to give a piece of advice for the English language learners who are avid for knowledge and determined to push their way through this realm.

“Stick to hard work and be ambitious; improve your knowledge and acquisition and try to learn English in every place through media, TV, radios, dictionaries, making friends with native speakers, and communicating with graduates from previous batches.”

He puts it quite straightforwardly, “The person who has a will has also the way to the ‘how’ of doing it properly.”

of the Department. I have many things in mind. I want to work on the syllabus, the curriculum and on quality of

fraternal spirit among the Department’s students and also break the conventional type of teacher-student

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نقلاً عن

Nabil Saleh Al-Gawsi, Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority

“We Are Very Optimistic About the Signing of New Exploration Contracts in Yemen in 2005”

INTERVIEW

Nabil Saleh Al-Gawsi, Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, tells AOG

- Closing date of second international exploration bid round put back to 15 April.
- If the second international exploration bid round is successful, it could become a regular process.
- We hope to maintain our oil production at its current level of 420,000 b/d in 2005.
- Total is interested in stepping up its exploration effort on the East Shabwa tract.

◆◆◆

(Following is the text of an interview with Mr. Nabil Saleh Al-Gawsi, Chairman of Yemen's Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA) and Chairman of the Negotiation Committee.

PEPA is an arm of the Yemeni Ministry of Oil and Minerals. The interview took place by telephone on 6 and 13 March.)

◆◆◆

AOG: The Ministry of Oil recently launched an international exploration-production bid round for seven blocks (AOG, 1 March, 2005). The closing date for companies' applications was set at 15 March. Didn't that leave applicants too little time?

Nabil Al-Gawsi: In effect. As it happens, we have received requests for more time and we have decided to put back the closing date by a month. It is now fixed at 15 April.

AOG: Have you had any feedback as regards the oil industry's interest in the blocks offered?

N. Al-Gawsi: International oil companies have shown a certain interest in the tracts.

AOG: This is Yemen's second international licensing round, since the first was launched a year ago. Do you intend the tendering process to become your regular modus operandi in the future?

N. Al-Gawsi: We will see the results. If this second bid round were to be successful, it could become a regular process, possibly with one or two bid rounds each year. On the other hand, if it is not a success, we would be forced to revise this procedure.

AOG: Apart from the licensing round, Yemen is continuing to hold bilateral negotiations with interested oil companies. Do you think new exploration contracts could be concluded in 2005?

N. Al-Gawsi: Definitely. We are very optimistic about the signing of new exploration contracts in 2005.

AOG: Have you any particular targets in your strategy for encouraging newcomers to invest in exploration in Yemen? Are you, for example, focusing more particularly on American independents, Chinese companies, or other firms?

N. Al-Gawsi: The nationality of the company is not the important point. Our promotional efforts are focused on medium-sized to large companies from whatever country of origin. What is important is their experience in exploration-production and their technical and financial capacities.

WHO'S WHO

NABIL SALEH AL - GAWSI

Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA)

Chairman of the Negotiation Committee

Date of birth:

1966 in Al-Hada'a Province, Dhamar Governorate.

Educational Background

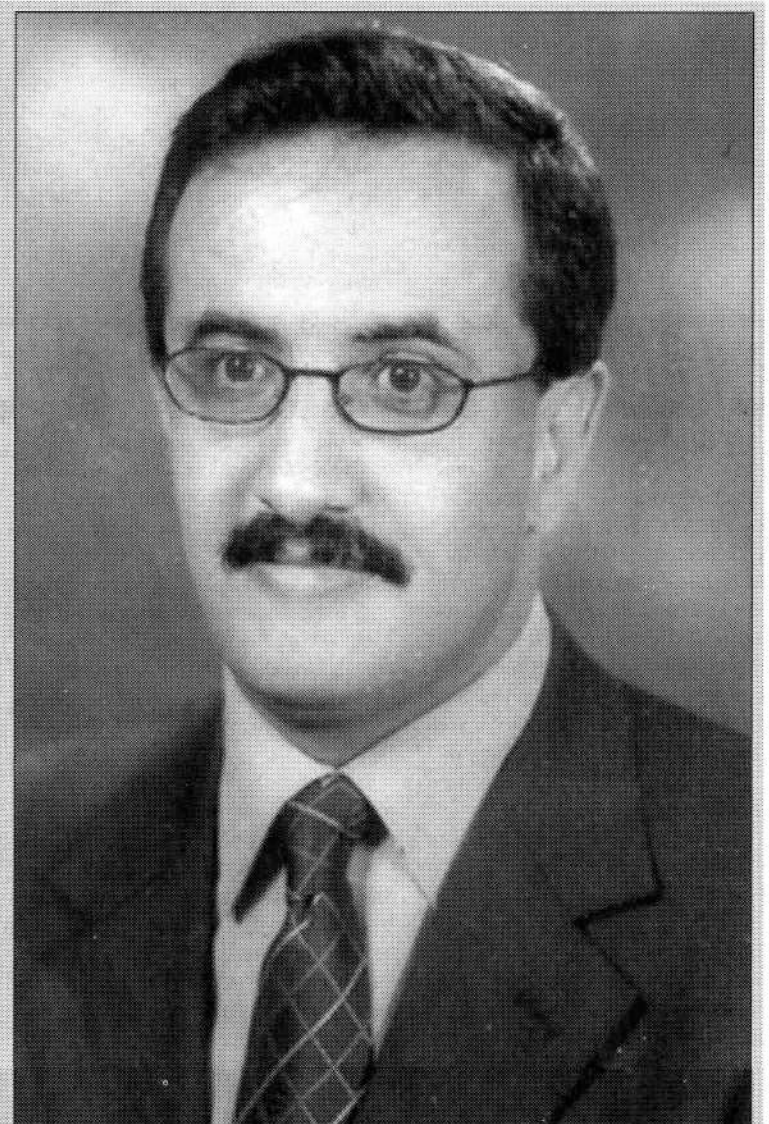
- B.S. Degree in Petroleum Engineering from University of Petroleum & Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, 1989.
- Practical training in drilling, production and reservoir engineering for seven months at Aramco, Saudi Arabia.

Work Skills & Experience

- 1989-1990** Petroleum engineer in the General Department of Production, Ministry of Oil.
- 1990-1991** Under-training petroleum engineer in all technical departments of Yemen Hunt Oil Company.
- 1991-1993** Supervisor engineer, responsible of the operating of the remote fields in block 18, Marib Al-Jawf Basin, Yemen Hunt Oil Company.
- 1994-30/4/1996** Senior reservoir engineer, responsible for the reservoirs of several fields (Raydan, Samadan, Al-Shura, S.B.T.Yazan, Wadi Bana, Shahara, and Al-Wihdah) with Yemen Hunt Oil Company.
- 1993-1994** Operating engineer in Central Production Unit "CPU", Safer, Yemen Hunt Oil Company.
- 1996-1999** Vice Chairman of PEPA for Exploration Affairs.
- 1999-Present** Chairman of PEPA.

Other Administrative Experience

- 1996-Present** Member of the Consultant Committee for Investment in Oil & Gas Projects.
- 1997-Present** Member of the Negotiation Committee for achieving production-sharing agreements in the open blocks with the international oil companies.



Nabil Saleh Al-Gawsi, Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority

Political Activities:

- 1995-Present** Member of Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress Party (PGCP).

Other Activities

- 1997-Present** Chairman of the Yemeni Geological Society.
- 1997-Present** Fund Raising Chairman of the International Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Yemen Branch.
- 1997-Present** Member of Yemeni Engineering Union.

AOG: What is the current level of Yemeni oil production?

N. Al-Gawsi: Oil production is currently running at 420,000 b/d.

AOG: What is the outlook for the development of production in 2005?

N. Al-Gawsi: Our production is on the decline because of the natural decline of the fields on Block 14 (Masila) and Block 18 (Marib Jawf), which are operated by Nexen and Hunt Oil respectively. We hope to maintain output at the current level, or minimize the decline if it is not possible to prevent it.

AOG: By what means?

N. Al-Gawsi: By promoting exploration and development programs.

AOG: As regards field development, are you thinking in particular of companies such as Calvalley Petroleum (of Canada) and DNO (of Norway), which have made several discoveries on the tracts they operate?

N. Al-Gawsi: Yes. We are working with them in order to determine the commerciality of these finds.

AOG: Among the largest international oil companies, Total is heavily involved in Yemen, with interests in exploration-production and as leader of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project (AOG, 1 March, 2005). Do you think Total intends to develop its exploration activities in your country?

N. Al-Gawsi: Definitely. I don't know if they are going to participate in the bid round, but they are interested in stepping up their exploration effort at their existing assets, such as East Shabwa.

Palestinians vow "uprising" if Jews visit revered site

GAZA, April 9 (Reuters) - More than 10,000 Palestinians demonstrated on Saturday and warned of a "third uprising" if rightist Jews hoping to derail plans for a Gaza withdrawal try to enter a sensitive Jerusalem site on Sunday.

Israeli police have increased their presence in Jerusalem and have said they would bar Jewish activists from carrying out plans to enter the site revered by Muslims as al-Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) and by Jews as the Temple Mount.

Israel's Internal Security Minister Gideon Ezra told Israel Radio he feared Jewish activists would seek to provoke tensions at the site "to stop the disengagement", Israel's plan to remove Jewish settlers from Gaza in July.

More than 10,000 Palestinian demonstrators, some hoisting a large diorama of the shrine, held three separate protests in the West Bank town of Ramallah, and the Gaza Strip.

"If the Zionists defile al-Aqsa mosque, they will be planting the seeds of the third uprising," a senior Hamas militant leader, Nizar Rayyan, said in Gaza.

Militants had threatened on Friday to abandon a de-facto three-month-old truce in a 4-1/2 year uprising against Israel if the Jewish activists tried to enter the shrine, the site of the al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site.



Palestinian women shout anti-Israel slogans during a rally supporting al-Aqsa mosque "al-Haram al-Sharif" at the Islamic University in Gaza April 9. REUTERS

Violence in the region has declined drastically since moderate Mohammed Abbas succeeded Yasser Arafat as Palestinian president in January and both he and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called a ceasefire at a Feb. 8 summit in Egypt.

But a provocation at the shrine could inflame Muslims worldwide and jeopardise U.S.-backed efforts to revive Middle East peace talks. Sunday's Jewish rally is planned for the eve of Sharon's meeting in Texas with President George W. Bush.

Palestinians launched their uprising in 2000 after Sharon, then Israel's opposition leader, toured the Jerusalem shrine compound.

Police have barred visits by non-Muslims and specifically by the far-right Jewish group "Revava" to the shrine and took up positions on Saturday to enforce it.

"Revava" summoned thousands of followers to visit the site where Jews say two ancient temples stood.

"They will not enter the Temple Mount," Ezra said.

Iran's Khatami denies handshake with Israeli leader

TEHRAN, April 9 (Reuters) - Iran's President Mohammad Khatami strongly denied that he shook hands with his Israeli counterpart Moshe Katsav at Pope John Paul's funeral, the official IRNA news agency said on Saturday.

Katsav said he shook hands with both Khatami and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad at the funeral on Friday, when hundreds of international dignitaries gathered in the Vatican to pay homage to the late Pope.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said the handshakes did not have political significance but nevertheless gave Israel a "glimmer of hope that something can change in the Middle East".

It was believed to be the first time an Israeli president had shaken hands with Syrian and Iranian leaders.

But Khatami told IRNA after his return from Italy: "I strongly deny shaking hands, meeting and talking to the Israeli president."

"This claim is like other baseless claims made by the Zionist media in the past," he said.

Syria's official news agency on Friday confirmed Assad shook hands with Katsav but said it was just a formality, adding that the two leaders did not exchange any words.

Syria is formally at war with Israel. The Pope has been praised by many as a force for peace and the Church invites people at its masses to offer each other a sign of peace such as a handshake.

Catholics also often exchange the words "Peace be with you" while shaking hands.

ing hands.

The Israeli and Syrian delegations were seated next to each other at the funeral service.

"I told him 'Good morning' and he shook my hand," Katsav, whose post is largely ceremonial, told Israel's Channel 2 television of his encounter with Assad.

Israeli and Syrian negotiators last held peace talks in 2000 that foundered over the future of the Golan Heights occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

Iranian-born Katsav said he spoke in his native Farsi to Khatami about their common city of birth.

"The president of Iran extended his hand to me, I shook it and told him in

Farsi, 'May peace be upon you'," Katsav said.

Israel's largest-circulation daily Yedioth Ahronoth headlined its Web site report "Historic encounter in Rome", but Katsav said the exchanges lacked any political significance.

"We are cultural people and say hello nicely and shake hands. It still doesn't mean the differences are gone."

Shalom told Israel Radio the handshakes were symbolic: "The fact that there was a handshake must in my view be taken perhaps as a symbol of possibly a desire on the part of the extremist leaders of Syria and Iran to make some kind of change."



Iranian President Mohammad Khatami (centre row R), Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (rear 3rd L) and Israeli President Moshe Katsav (centre row L) stand among other dignitaries during the funeral of Pope John Paul II in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican April 8. REUTERS

Thousands of Shi'ites protest U.S. forces in Iraq

BAGHDAD, April 9 (Reuters) - Thousands of supporters of rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr marched in Baghdad on Saturday to denounce the U.S. presence in Iraq and call for a speedy trial of Saddam Hussein on the second anniversary of his overthrow. Chanting "No, no to the occupiers", thousands of young and old men gathered in the poor Shi'ite district of Sadr City to begin a planned peaceful march to Firdos Square, the central Baghdad spot where Saddam's statue was torn down two years ago.

Crowds of Sadr's supporters from across the country were already gathered at the square by mid-morning, waving Iraqi flags and calling out: "No America! No Saddam! Yes to Islam!"

Sunni Muslims, many of whom also strongly oppose U.S. forces, were expected to join the demonstration, the Muslim Clerics' Association, an influential Sunni body, said.

"Many of our brothers, including Sunnis, have welcomed the call and will take part," said Sheikh Abdul-Hadi al-Daraji, a spokesman for Sadr, as crowds behind him shouted "No, no, no America!"

"We hope it's going to be one million people strong."

Followers of Sadr from the southern Shi'ite cities of Basra, Amara and Nassiriya travelled hundreds of miles to join the protest, showing the appeal

the young cleric can command.

The demonstration was expected to be the largest since the Jan. 30 election and the first since the new government began to take shape.

Sadr, a low-ranking cleric in his mid-30s, oversees a militia force called the Mehdi Army that is thought to be several thousand strong.

He led two violent uprisings against U.S. forces last year, sparking weeks of fighting.

Iraqi security forces shut down central Baghdad ahead of the demonstration, but were not expecting problems. "We're quite relaxed about it," said Sabah Kadhim, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, which is overseeing security arrangements.

"The demonstration is supporting what the Iraqi people and the Iraqi government have said they want — a trial for Saddam and the departure of U.S. forces," he said.

"We don't think this is going to be a huge number — it's not going to be a million-man-march — but we are taking precautions as we have done over recent months." U.S. forces were not in evidence on the streets, but Kadhim said they could be called in to support if needed.

ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENT Firdos Square has become a central rallying place for Iraqis since Saddam's overthrow two years ago. U.S. forces last

year shut down the square, sealing it off with razor wire, to prevent people massing on the first anniversary. Saturday's protest taps into the growing frustration among large swathes of the Iraqi population against the U.S. presence in the country. Even many Iraqis who would not take up arms against the Americans still want troops to leave soon.

Scandals such as the abuse of Iraqi detainees by U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison and the deaths of Iraqi detainees in U.S. custody have exacerbated the situation. More than 10,000 Iraqis are being held by U.S. forces, most without trial.

There is also disbelief that more than two years since the war, Saddam and his senior lieutenants have still not been tried.

Trials are expected to begin later this year, although Saddam is unlikely to be one of the first to appear in court.

The protest comes as efforts are still being made to complete the formation of a government nearly 10 weeks since the election.

Earlier this week a president and two vice presidents were named, along with a prime minister.

But the prime minister, Islamist Shi'ite leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari, is still working on his cabinet and has said it could take him up to two weeks before it is named.



Thousands of Iraqi Shi'ites loyal to cleric Moqtada al-Sadr hold a demonstration in Baghdad's Firdos Square April 9. REUTERS

Iraqi officials have cautioned that the longer it takes to form a government the more it will play into the hands of insurgents, who will view authorities as weak and indecisive.

While there is evidence of a tapering off in insurgent activity since the election — attacks against U.S.

forces have fallen more than 20 percent in the past two months —, there continue to be more than 40 attacks a day.

On Friday, a U.S. soldier was killed in a roadside bomb blast north of Baghdad, raising to at least 1,540 the number of U.S. troops who have lost

their lives in Iraq.

On Saturday, the bodies of 15 Iraqi soldiers were found in the lawless area just south of Baghdad, Iraqi police said. Police said the soldiers were in a truck that was stopped by insurgents on Friday.

All the men had been shot.

Israeli troops kill two Palestinians despite truce

GAZA, April 9 (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians in Gaza near the border border, medics said on Saturday, in the first deadly incident since Israeli and Palestinian leaders declared a truce in February.

Three Palestinian youths had been playing near the Israeli border and an army base in Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza when soldiers shot and killed two of them, Palestinian witnesses said, adding that they were unarmed.

A military source said troops spotted the Palestinians trying to approach the border and fired at them after they failed to heed calls and warning shots to stop.

"I saw a group of youths playing soccer in a playground about 50 meters from the fence," said Wael

Barhoum, 26.

"Suddenly there was gunfire toward the youths from the Israeli side.

I ran towards the playground and we saw two of the youths were dead and a third was wounded."

The army said it had launched an investigation into the incident, the first deadly attack since Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared on Feb. 8 a ceasefire to halt more than four years of violence.

Palestinian militants agreed on March 17 to abide by the truce until the end of 2005.

Gunmen disrupted the lull in violence on Thursday when they fired a rocket into Israel on Thursday, causing no casualties.

Gunmen kill 15 Iraqi soldiers south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, April 9 (Reuters) - Militants shot and killed 15 Iraqi soldiers south of Baghdad, Iraqi police said on Saturday.

The attack occurred near the town of Latifiya, about 50 km (30 miles) southwest of Baghdad on Friday, police in the nearby town of Mahmudiya said.

The police said the soldiers were being transported in a truck which was pulled off the road by the gunmen.

Insurgents have increasingly targeted Iraqi security forces in recent months, as Iraqi police and soldiers have taken over more responsibility for national security from U.S.-led forces.

Last month, more than 250 Iraqi police and soldiers were killed by militants, while attacks against U.S.-led forces have fallen by more than 20 percent over the past two months, according to the U.S. military.

The area around Latifiya and Mahmudiya has been dubbed the "Triangle of Death" because of the frequency of insurgent attacks.



Local residents walk past the scene of a suicide car bombing in the northern city of Mosul April 9. REUTERS

UK's Charles: at least one long wait is over

LONDON, April 9 - Britain's Prince Charles has spent a lifetime waiting for two things: the throne and his one true love.

With his marriage to Camilla Parker Bowles on Saturday, one of those aims has finally been achieved.

But he still has yet to win over the popular affection that has eluded him ever since his fairy-tale wedding to his late wife Diana.

In the eyes of the public, the prince has always looked wooden. He talks to his houseplants.

He has fuddy-duddy ideas about art and architecture.

He will never have Diana's movie-star glamour or inspire the devotion she so enjoyed.

But in middle age he has won admiration as a serious, public-spirited prince, with his subjects' respect if not their love.

Groomed from birth to take the throne, Charles found himself for years eclipsed by Diana and ridiculed as old-fashioned.

But he gradually won back sympathy from his subjects after Diana's death in a Paris car crash in 1997.

His long-time lover Parker Bowles advanced gradually into the public spotlight to win greater acceptance and

Charles has emerged as a thoughtful and caring single parent for the way he brought up his sons — Princes William and Harry.

When his beloved grandmother, the Queen Mother, died in 2002 at the age of 101, the grief-stricken Charles again won admirers with his eloquent farewell to her.

And his charitable work, primarily focused on creating job opportunities for young people in poor areas, has quietly earned him respect.

Distant kingship

The 21st Prince of Wales, Queen Elizabeth's firstborn son, has entered middle age with kingship a distant prospect.

His 1996 divorce from Diana left him looking an unlikely sovereign, and royal-watchers openly questioned whether he would ever be crowned.

He complained of the monarchy's slide into soap opera and spoke of the social and spiritual ills of the world, gaining a reputation as a crank who would rather be an organic farmer than a prince.

He was criticised for his forthright views on architecture after he called a planned modernist extension to London's National Gallery a "carbun-

cle". But behind the media ridicule lies a serious-minded man with a genuine concern for the good of his people, supporters say.

As a young prince, he achieved numerous royal "firsts" including getting a university degree.

But he has wrestled with the question of what he should do before becoming king.

"My great problem is that I really don't know what my role in life is," he was once quoted as saying.

A liberal by nature, the "philosopher prince" has given off the air of a man desperate to do some good in the world.

"I'm driven by the feeling I've had for a long time through travelling around this country ... that I personally mind about the conditions in which people live," he said in a radio interview in 1987.

"I feel that in my particular position I can't just sit here and not do something about it."

In the eyes of many, his crowning achievement was to find such a popular wife as Diana.

When they married in 1981, Diana seemed the perfect choice as a royal wife: she was pretty, well-bred and

apparently deferential to her husband.

But after the marriage broke down in 1992, reports emerged that the union had been a disaster from the start and that Charles was a reluctant bridegroom who carried on bedding a mistress up to and after the wedding ceremony.

The strength of their attachment was exposed in the 1993 Camillagate furore, in which tapes were purported to record a lusty phone conversation between Charles and Camilla in which he said he hoped to be reincarnated as her tampion.

However, although the tabloids heaped ridicule upon the prince, opinion polls suggested his future subjects were less outraged by the alleged indiscretion.

A slim majority of those questioned by pollsters said they still wanted him to be king.

Charles was born on November 14, 1948, in the 12th year of the reign of his grandfather, King George VI.

When the king died in 1952, Queen Elizabeth acceded to the throne and Charles took over as heir apparent. He was just three years old.



Two girls wait for the arrival of Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles at Guildhall in Windsor, southern England, for their civil wedding ceremony, April 9. REUTERS

Anti-Japan protesters march in Beijing

BEIJING, April 9 (Reuters) - Chinese protesters chanted slogans and burned Japanese flags on Saturday as thousands turned out in the capital to demand a boycott of Japanese goods over Tokyo's refusal to admit to World War Two atrocities.

The demonstration in the Beijing neighbourhood of Zhongguancun, known for its electronics shops and home to a large student population, comes less than a week after anti-Japanese protests in other Chinese cities turned violent.

"Japan doesn't face up to its history," said protester Cheng Lei, a 27-year-old IT professional.

"We want to express our feelings so the Japanese government knows what we think."

I haven't bought any Japanese goods since I was at university."

Police in Zhongguancun declined to say how many protesters were out, but the official Xinhua news agency said there were more than 1,000.

The streets were also thronged with pedestrians cheering on the demonstration and snapping photos as a heavy police presence looked on.

Protests in China, where the Communist leadership is concerned about maintaining stability at a time of wrenching social change and a widening gap between rich and poor, are rare.

Past demonstrations outside the Japanese embassy have typically been



Chinese protesters shout anti-Japanese slogans during a demonstration in China's capital Beijing April 9. REUTERS

heavily policed, choreographed events involving about 50 people, with short speeches, some singing and petitions or letters being presented to the mission.

Many Chinese harbour deep resentment of Japan's wartime aggression and its failure to own up to atrocities.

Such feelings have been exacerbated by Tokyo's approval on Tuesday of a school history textbook critics say whitewashes Japanese war crimes.

"Across the country, the mood to refuse Japanese goods is high, but nothing has been done about this."

Therefore, patriotic students have

organised themselves," said a notice circulated by e-mail on Friday.

On Saturday, the mostly student protesters carried signboards with lists of Japanese brand names crossed out and chanted slogans outside an electronics plaza urging the boycott.

Some wore red signs pasted to their chests bearing a traditional Chinese dragon and reading "Reject Japanese goods".

Others began kicking a Toyota car caught in the middle of the crowd before it managed to drive away.

Police guarded the entrance to the electronics plaza to stop demonstrators

from pushing inside, and at least 20 police vans stood by to prevent the protest from escalating as the group chanted "Rise up, rise up, rise up".

At one intersection, pedestrians applauded as the protesters marched past and traffic was snarled throughout the district.

Across the city, police set up a roadblock in front of the Japanese ambassador's residence in northeastern Beijing.

The Japanese embassy was sealed off with yellow police tape as dozens of police cars and vans and a bus-load of armed police stood by.

Last weekend, protesters smashed windows at a Japanese supermarket in the southwestern city of Chengdu after a demonstration there against Japan's bid for a permanent U.N.

Security Council seat turned violent.

Demonstrators also took to the streets in Guangzhou, Chongqing and the southern city of Shenzhen, where two Japanese department stores were vandalised.

Domestic media said millions of Chinese had also signed an online petition opposing the bid for a seat.

"I came because we want Japan to face up to its history, to recognise its mistakes," said a 21-year-old university student surnamed Yang.

"I try not to buy Japanese goods, but there are so many it's sometimes hard to tell."

The police source said Barschak had been arrested at the Sun's east London office, known as "Fortress Wapping" for its high security, after arriving with what was feared to be a bomb.

The package will be examined but is thought to just be a hoax.

"Rather the Sun than Windsor," the police source said.

Earlier in the week bookmakers offered 50-1 that Barschak would try to crash the royal wedding and cause another scare.

UK royal gatecrasher held over bomb hoax

LONDON, April 9 (Reuters) - A British comedian who gatecrashed a royal birthday party at Windsor Castle was arrested over a bomb hoax on the eve of Prince Charles's wedding at the venue, a police source said on Saturday.

Self-styled "comedy terrorist" Aaron Barschak was held by police outside the offices of the Sun newspaper in London on Friday when staff raised the alarm after he arrived there with a suspicious package, the source told Reuters.

The incident came two days after a

Sun journalist smuggled a fake "bomb" past police into Windsor Castle where Queen Elizabeth will host a reception for Prince Charles after his marriage to his lover Camilla Parker Bowles on Saturday.

Barschak caused a huge security scare in June 2003 when he bypassed security at the imposing castle wearing a pink dress and an Osama bin Laden-styled beard to crash the 21st birthday party of Charles's son Prince William and give him a kiss.

The Israeli and Syrian delegations had been seated next to each other.

Iranian-born Katsav said he spoke in his native Farsi to Khatami about their common city of birth. Iran officially seeks Israel's destruction.

"The president of Iran extended his hand to me, I shook it and told him in Farsi, 'May peace be upon you'," said Katsav.

No immediate comment was available from Iran.

Katsav said he later shook Assad's hand a second time during the funeral. "The second time ... was his initiative — he extended his hand to me," Katsav said.

But Katsav said: "I don't think there is any political significance to this. We are cultural people and say hello nicely and shake hands."

Israeli and Syrian negotiators last held peace talks in 2000 that foundered over the future of the Golan Heights occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel has accused Iran of supporting anti-Israeli militants and has been a fierce critic of its nuclear programme.

U.S. sends team to probe Afghan chopper crash

KABUL, April 9 (Reuters) - A U.S. army team is expected to arrive from America on Saturday to investigate the cause of the deadliest crash of a U.S. military chopper in Afghanistan, a statement said.

The team is due to take over an investigation already under way by the U.S. military at the site of Wednesday's crash that killed 18 people, including 16 American servicemen, in the desert terrain of Ghazni province, some 120 kms (80 miles) to the southwest of the capital.

Local officials and the U.S. military said at the time that the CH-47 Chinook chopper, one of two on a mission in the restive south region, crashed in a sandstorm.

The other helicopter arrived back safely in Bagram airfield, the hub of U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan, just north of Kabul.

Several U.S. military helicopters have been shot down or crashed in Afghanistan since U.S.-led troops toppled the Taliban in 2001, but Wednesday's was the deadliest.

Lt. Cindy Moore, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, said she was not aware whether teams from the United States had been dispatched to investigate previous crashes.

She said there was no indication that Taliban fighters were responsible for downing the chopper, as claimed by a Taliban spokesman, or of a powerful blast that some witnesses said they heard before the crash.

The statement said the remains of the 18 people have been removed from the wreckage and will be flown overseas for positive identification.

The United States has lost more than 100 military personnel since deploying troops to Afghanistan following the Taliban's fall, but most of the deaths have been in accidents.

Wednesday's crash came amid renewed violence in Afghanistan and after four U.S. soldiers were killed on March 26 when their vehicle struck a landmine in the southeast of the country.

About 17,000 U.S.-led soldiers are in Afghanistan fighting a Taliban-led insurgency.

One dead, 50 missing in Bangladesh ferry collision

DHAKA, April 9 (Reuters) - One woman died and nearly 50 people were missing on Saturday after a passenger boat sank after colliding with a ferry on a Bangladesh river, police said.

The wooden boat carrying some 90 passengers went down after it collided with with M.V.

Tarika-2 on the Arial Kha river, near Madaripur town, 230 km (143 miles) south of Dhaka.

"It was an accident, and so far the body of an old woman has been recovered," a police officer at

Madaripur said by telephone. About 40 people had either been rescued or swam to safety, he said, quoting witnesses.

A search for the missing and efforts to salvage the sunken boat are continuing, the officer said.

River accidents occur frequently in Bangladesh during the summer monsoon, killing hundreds every year.

Most of the accidents are blamed on overcrowding and the faulty structure of the vessels as well as a lack of safety awareness.

World unites in handshakes at Pope's funeral

LONDON, April 8 (Reuters) - World leaders — some at political loggerheads or even officially at war — paid their final respects to Pope John Paul on Friday, uniting by joining in the Roman Catholic Church's handshakes of peace.

Israeli President Moshe Katsav said he shook hands with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Iranian President Mohammad Khatami at the Pope's Vatican funeral, but Syria later called it a formality that did not mark any change in policy.

"I think it gave us a glimmer of hope that something can change in the Middle East," Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told CNN.

Syria's state news agency quoted an official source as saying: "The protocol required that participants shook hands as a formality ... it had no political significance."

U.S. President George W. Bush exchanged greetings with French President Jacques Chirac, a fierce critic of the Iraq war, as some of the gestures were captured by television pictures beamed live across the world.

Britain's Prince Charles shook hands

with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, so shunned by the European Union it has banned him from the bloc, and former Polish President Lech Walesa made peace with his successor after a 10-year feud.

The Pope has been hailed by many as a force for peace and the Church invites people at its masses to offer each other a sign of peace such as a handshake.

Catholics also often exchange words like "Peace be with you".

"Miracle"

"How can anyone say the Holy Father does not work miracles?" Walesa said after ending a decade of animosity with Aleksander Kwasniewski, a communist turned social democrat who beat the former Solidarity leader in his 1995 re-election bid.

"Yesterday (the handshake) would have been unthinkable," said Walesa, a long-time friend of Polish-born John Paul.

He has credited the Pope with being an inspiration behind Solidarity's drive to end communism in Poland in the 1980s.

For Prince Charles the handshake with Mugabe triggered embarrassment in EU heavyweight Britain, prompting the royal household to issue a statement.

"The Prince of Wales was caught by surprise and wasn't in a position to avoid shaking Mr Mugabe's hand," said a spokeswoman for the prince. Mugabe is a Roman Catholic.

Bush and Chirac, publicly committed in the past few months to improving relations since their fallout over the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, exchanged "friendly words", Chirac's office said.

Katsav's handshakes with Assad, whose country is formally at war with Israel, and Khatami were splashed as a "Historic encounter in Rome" by the Jewish state's largest-circulation daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth.

It was believed to be the first time an Israeli president had shaken hands with Syrian and Iranian leaders.

It was unknown whether the handshakes were caught on film.

"I told him 'Good morning' and he shook my hand," Katsav, whose post is largely ceremonial, told Israel's Channel 2 television of his encounter with Assad.



Monarchs, heads of state and other dignitaries attend the funeral of Pope John Paul II in the Vatican's St. Peter's square April 8. REUTERS

Words of Wisdom



These days, people routinely, talk about the relationship between sovereignty and human rights. That is because there is a rising level of world intervention against regimes oppressing their people. Basically, what is happening is that the concepts of territorial integrity and political sovereignty are now given second place to human rights considerations.

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

Reforming the Arab League

BY PROF. DR. ABDULAZIZ AL-TARB
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

People concerned with the Arab's advancement vie each other in proposals targeting reform of the Arab League. Some of them rightly discern the fault, others don't know that the Arab League does no longer need certain propositions; some believe that the voting system is the major shortcoming and that the establishment of the Arab Tribunal is a vital necessity, etc.

All options are welcome. They are old-new. Some of them were included in respectable studies conducted two decades ago. However, it is fearful to find no response to the calls for reform and development. A Middle-eastern system may be imposed suddenly upon us.

The new broad system propagated in the wake of the occupation of Iraq must be conforming to promoters' values and goals. It will inevitably displace the current nationalist Arab system unless we reform regimes, people and ourselves and courageously cope with the Pre-Islamic calls aiming not only to disintegrate the Arab Homeland but also to return us to divide the nationalist body into tribal entities. One of the Arab TV channels devotes a weekly program for this end. Fortunately, its viewers are only those who share it the same aim.

In my opinion, many efforts have been exerted to reform the Arab League, in addition to a number of propositions, studies, and researches from Egypt, Yemen, Libya, etc.

I modestly believe that the Arab League should be given the freedom of movement and change. It should be provided with all means of support to crystallize opinions and visions.

The staff of the Arab League should be organized. They consider it their organization of and are extremely careful to make it succeed in accomplishing its tasks because it is they who operate it and are in the first place responsible for failure. They are the subject of daily censure of Arab media for the failure of the Arab nationalist system. He who does not organize himself is never able to organize others. They can excuse themselves from position but not from responsibility. Why don't we deal plainly with ourselves and adopt the following as an approach to reform? Why don't all of us give priority to the Arab interest over the country-centered one and work together as though we are the citizens of one country assigned to achieve Arab-

...serving goals.

This entails that we put aside the rate system of the League and give offices to the qualified people irrespective of their nationalities. The member states sought to elect the one fitting the position.

High-level positions are given to certain people to please specific countries and not to rejuvenate the League. Scarcely do we find that an official has made impressions at the end of his service. Moreover, such officials come into service either after they retire in their countries or shortly before retirement.

For the sake of the League's General Secretariat and to increase its efficiency, assistants of the Secretary General should be permanent General Secretariat's officers. This entails that the "ambassador" grade be given to the qualified persons and the Secretary General himself taking into account their efficiency and fair geographical distribution of the elected officers select the Secretary General's assistants.

These are the ones who will aid the Secretary General and it is recommended from a practical point of view that he knows them well and their areas of mastery.

Placing the right to selection in the hand of the Secretary General will make him the main responsible for the League's failure or success.

The conditions of the success of any multi-purpose mother organization include careful screening of its officers through equal honest competition who are to be trained and fairly evaluated annually, subject to reward and punishment. This will make people look up to positions in the League and will not disparage them.

Relevantly, it would be so useful to adopt the UNESCO's new system, which offers renewable two-year contracts for all employees, both senior and junior including the Secretary General's assistants. Such a system will prompt employees to do their work sincerely and improve themselves and their abilities, which should be the only criterion for holding office.

Efficiency in terms of training and unbiased evaluation should be enhanced by examining employees' files to maintain the qualified and gradually dismiss those who can't keep abreast with changes provided that they are fairly compensated and their services recognized.

It goes without saying that any organization will suffer malfunctions if it doesn't actively monitor recruitment,

usage of human and financial resources, and place the proper person in the proper place and spend the allotted resources on their purposes. This is how to do justice to the employment's oath. Add to that, an officer should not hold one office for more than 4 years in order to prevent creation of centers of influence and self-inflation. Moving from one post to another should be after announcement and selection of the best.

Among the requirement of reform is member countries' non-interference in employment and promotion by either telephone or meetings to exert pressure on the General Secretariat. Undoubtedly, the member states will stop interfering when they see that everything is systematized and that all countries are treated equally both at the Arab League or any of its missions. In such a case, ministers of foreign affairs would forget that they have influence that they have to use when any of their compatriots is disfavored. Activating the League's Administrative Tribunal will create some sort of contentment and will save member states efforts which they from time to time, make to reform things.

Equally important is Arab League's equal treatment of diplomatic missions. Member countries should provide as much resources for their diplomatic missions as they provide their embassies to ensure comforting surroundings for the missions.

The current tough retirement system is related to development which does not enable a serviceman with a 30-year-service term to buy a flat in his home country or treat himself if he gets a serious disease.

The conditions that strengthen the League are not only the independence of its employees but also their feeling that the League protects them from pressures and whims, their having an independent active syndicate serving the interests of both of the individual and the institution.

With recent calls in the League in particular to empower Arab NGOs, the League should start with itself and let its employees establish a new association with powerful functions. It should bid farewell to the present association.

I think these observations are important especially after the conclusion of the Algeria Summit. A work team should be set up to study all propositions and suggestions and come out with an applicable vision to be submitted to the League's Council (foreign ministers) to decide on immediate action which is to be assessed at Khartoum Summit. Can this be done?!

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Lest we forget

Contrary to what a recent e-mailer wrote, this observer is not addicted to writing about Bush and Sharon and the last three or four articles have focused solely on issues confronting Yemen. However, it should be borne in mind that even Yemen has now become somewhat receptive to American influence in its internal as well as regional and international affairs. Time and again Common Sense has touched upon many of the major issues confronting Yemen and surely there are no efforts being spared to reflect the observations of this columnist on the local events that matter and have a bearing on the situation in Yemen. To some of the writers who have suggested that CS looks at local issues, CS has no qualms about that and has always dealt with most of the substantive issues facing the country.

There is difficulty in believing that Yemenis can remain closed eyed to the problems confronting other Arab states, for the people in Palestine, Iraq, the Sudan, etc. are also our brothers and they have a right to hear about how we feel about the overwhelming challenges they are confronted with. Furthermore, many of the inhabitants of these Arab states ancestrally have roots in Yemen and accordingly deserve our sympathy and support when they are confronted by serious challenges, especially if those challenges are instigated from abroad. It might be also surmised that if every Arab felt that they should only worry about the problems faced in their own country, then it would be easy to see how the Arab World has become easy prey for interference and sometimes humiliation by foreign powers, with the humiliation actually coming from misguided reactions of the other Arab states. Lebanon is a case in point, where it is obvious that what is going on there is not merely the work of internal political forces seeking to affirm their independence. On the contrary, the recent events in Lebanon are the obvious workings of the Bush clique in the Pentagon and the State Department, who are acquiescing to Israeli designs and desires.

It is not sure how much influence American prodding has effected the state of affairs in Yemen, but it is no secret that our Government is going out of its way to make sure that Washington is placated to the highest extent possible, sometimes by incorrect displays of our fervent desire to engage in the "War on Terror", under a wholly different perspective. Thus it is imperative for Yemenis to highlight the misconceptions that may be utilized to reflect adherence to the international trends, while as Yemenis, we must remind our Government and the outsiders, who have a slight interest in our affairs, that a spade should be called a spade if it is a spade. Otherwise, Yemen would be serving its interests better if the country was at peace and carrying on with Government based on sound meaningful application of good governance. To put it more specifically, if we say we are a democracy, than we should act and interact as such, and not have the word democracy mean two different meanings for the underlying concepts of democratic government, one for the outside world and one for the Yemeni citizens.

The situation in Yemen is not to be viewed as being sound, if we also discuss the plight of our brethren, but rather to point out how the people of Yemen also feel about what their brethren are undergoing. We should not be able to live in peace with ourselves if our brethren are living under the horror of an unjust occupation and blood is spelt daily in their lands, while we neglect to air our views about the tragic consequences of foreign interference in our region. There is no telling when these foreign powers of Israel and the United States will find it convenient to undermine our stability and keep every Arab country busy with its own infighting, while they harvest the fruits of their military occupations and economic exploitation. So, there is no point in not reminding our leaders that there is a dangerous enemy waiting for the right opportunity to meddle in our affairs, unless they shape up and realize that carrying on with all the problems that they have accumulated in their respective countries: corruption, political repression, mismanagement of resources, mismanagement of the economy, etc. is an actual invitation for Bush (and Sharon in the background) to come in and set things straight. Thus there is indeed a strong interrelationship with what goes on in the other Arab States with our own state of being. As such, the right way to indicate our fervent desire to be free from foreign interference is to set our house in order, as we see fit, not as others dictate to us. This does not mean, by any means maintaining the status quo. In looking at our situation in Yemen, there is no such thing as a status quo, because we are being forced to project an image of combating terror, by choosing to engage in internal strife that is not in any way related to the War on Terror. Isn't the foreign influence obvious in such a situation? Of course, we must keep abreast of what Mr. Bush or Mr. Sharon are up to, lest our leaders continue to use the New World Order as an excuse to keep their constituents under lock and key, for no justifiable reason than saying we have had enough of all the political wrangling and infighting, while those with strong attachment to the regime are enjoying the time of their life plundering whatever they could without facing any accountability to speak of. We know that if we had a sound government functioning, the economic potential of Yemen would be far more different than the dismal and retractive economy we are forced to live under.

On another note, we should emphasize to those with designs here and there in the region that, they are theoretically forcing us to be skeptical of their designs vis a vis our own countries. In other words, it is not far fetched to assume that fairly soon, we could be the next victim of the designs of the Bush clique and their Zionist mentors (sometimes through the misguided acquiescence of our leaders to what they wrongly perceive as the wishes of Washington). It is an interconnected and intertwining world we live in and we have a moral duty to attach our well being to that of our brothers, without prejudice to seeking improvement in our own turf.

OUR OPINION

According to the White House

Last Saturday, the USA and UK embassies closed their doors to the public for security reasons. On Friday, the State Department said the security threat to US citizens "remains high due to terrorist activities" and authorized the voluntary departure of non-emergency personnel and eligible family members. It also advised US citizens to avoid unnecessary travel to Yemen." No comment as to what the threat maybe or where from. Guesses is that it might have to do with the Sa'ada conflicts, a city 200 kilometers (125 miles) to northwest of the capital, or some information obtained from confidential sources claiming that Yemen is not very safe and that Westerners should try to avoid coming to this unstable environment.

Therefore, this is the information that people around the world are getting, and frankly speaking, we as Yemenis realize that Yemen is not the most stable country in the world but the truth is what is being portrayed in and through the media are exaggeration against facts on the ground. Many foreigners who visited Yemen and stayed for at least a week have totally fallen in love with this beautiful country. "I feel safe walking in the streets and the people are very friendly," a friend from Europe told me last week. Yemen is not a dangerous country to live in; rather it is fun and interesting. Investment-wise, there are so many potentials and the consumer market is growing everyday. The government is taking slow action in providing a suitable environment for investors but at least there is a political will.

Yemen as a country is full of surprises and wonders. It embraces its people with warm scent that lingers in their memories for years after they leave. The fact that the country is suffering from economic instability and poverty rates are high, and it is the only least developed country in the region that does not put off tourists and visitors, because there is more in favor of this country than its flaws. In fact, with the spread of light arms in this country it should be amazing that there is no civil war everyday. In spite of the fact that most men in Yemen, and especially the tribal areas carry rifles and guns it should be worth noting that these are carried as a tradition and not in acts of aggression. According to the White House Yemen is not safe. According to Yemenis and friendly foreigners who actually visited Yemen, it is.

Editor

An open letter to Muslims

By S.A.Rehman
sar526@hotmail.com

Being Muslims, many of our brothers and sisters are not working for peace. They are misguided, mistaken and spreading the virus of hatred and revenge through misinformation and false accusations, which is resulting in death and miseries for number of innocent people living around the world at the hands of merciless killer Muslims and also bringing bad name to Mohammed (PBUH) who never killed anyone in his life.

Instead of teaching about good and evil, certain Radical Muslim Clerics are only "trading in religion". They teach us about accusing, abusing and killing the non-Muslims. They try to hypnotize us to hate and kill the non-Muslims and brethren of other sects or be killed and without using any common sense, we readily believe in whatever is being said by these hate mongers. Actually, they are "agents of Satan" who is paying them heavily and in return

they are cutting at the very roots of the Ummah. Instead of mourning, most of the Muslims are rejoicing at the brutal killings of the non-combatant innocent civilians and the murderers have become our great heroes.

Before it is too late and the curse of God falls upon us, we should use common sense, find out the truth and wakeup to save Muslims from becoming the most hated, isolated, discredited and suspicious people in the world. We must start working for promoting sectarian harmony and religious tolerance in society and should prove to the world through our deeds that Islam is not a religion of intolerance and Mohammed (PBUH) teaches love and peace and not gangsterism, terrorism, extremism, sectarianism, cruelty, inhumanity and hatred and killing of innocent civilians.

Islam is a religion of peace. Islam teaches respect and love for all, even the animals. But many narrow-minded Muslims have so far failed to learn anything good from the teachings of Mohammed (PBUH) who preaches love

for the peoples of all religions. We are far away from the basic principle of Islam i.e. "enjoining the people to do good and forbidding them from doing evil" and thus, possess no quality of the civilized society. Unfortunately, many of us show no tolerance towards others and believe that to be a good Muslim one must hate non-Muslims.

The killing of others in the name of religion is a sin. Can a father ever teach his children to be the permanent Enemies of each other?

My prayer for peace:
Merciful God, please give to peoples of the world, the required wisdom and determination, to Forgive and Forget the bitterness of the past and learn to live in peace like brothers and sisters, by ending the divisions and hatreds created in us by our past and present elders. (Amen)

The time has come for us to stop readily believing in whatever is being said, read and written by the Hate Mongers. We should use our own common sense and only believe which is logical, convincing and in the best interest of the humanity.

Letters to the Editor

Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II, a man of deep faith, will one day be proclaimed a saint by the Catholic Church! The Holy Father was an inspiration and a model witness to the life of Christ; a Shepherd of Truth immersed in profound humility and immense love for both God and man.

His many writings and tireless, world-wide pilgrimages of faith have been a source of strength, encouragement, confidence, optimism and enlightenment not only to Catholics but to all men of good will.

A champion of the poor and ardent exponent of Christian unity, the Polish

Pontiff was in many and such capacities as teaching, governing and sanctifying, both a beacon of light and salt of the earth.

Alongside his historic role in the fall of Communism, John Paul II was the world's most influential and uncompromising defender of the dignity of human life. His tenacious pleas for the development of a "culture of life" and parallel denunciations of the "culture of death" have been instrumental in rallying opposition to war, terrorism, abortion, euthanasia, contraception, and embryonic-tissue research.

I pray for his well-

deserved heavenly reward that is promised by the Giver of every gift to his good and faithful servants.

Paul Kokoski
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Yemen loses to the World Bank

Reading about the Yemeni 'Fisheries Project' financed by the World Bank, the European Union and the Yemen Government, one wonders at what cost to the country will such a project be implemented. The World Bank is notorious for the damage it has caused and continues to do to the Third World. Would

not it be better to offer the investment in such lucrative enterprise to the Private Sector, both locally and internationally? In this scenario, Yemen would not bear the brunt of the burden of interest with which the so-called 'World Bank' shackles poor nations. Development programs in most, if not all, Third world countries have been hampered and virtually came to a halt due to the heavy burden on interest due to the World Bank.

Who is the beneficiary in the relationship with World Bank? One wonders.

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Hamas in Palestinian politics Inclusion at what price?

By GHASSAN KHATIB
www.dailystar.com.lb

Many Palestinian politicians and analysts are optimistic that the Hamas organization, the military wing of the traditional Muslim Brotherhood, is ready to be integrated into the political system. Views vary, however, on the price that might be exacted for this, and what political weight Hamas will come to carry within the system.

The inclusion of Islamic political parties in political systems in the Arab world has been controversial since the Algerian elections were cancelled at the last minute when it was clear to almost everybody that the Islamic movement there would win. While this was clearly undemocratic, there is always a question mark over

whether Islamists who take power by democratic means are committed to maintaining parliamentary democracy, or to changing the system to an Islamic regime, which is a different proposition.

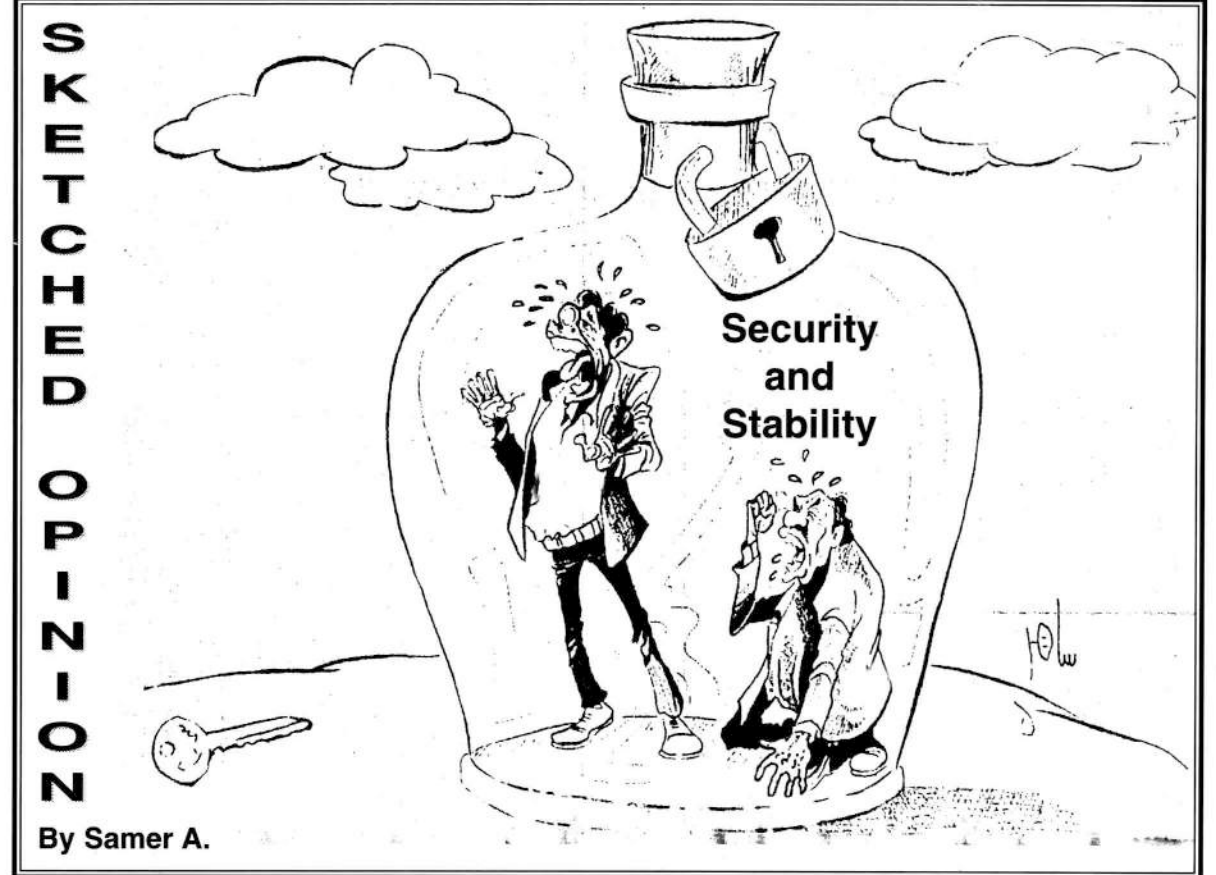
That debate has been particularly fierce in recent years and has included many of the prominent thinkers from within the Islamic movements. The conclusion reached was that if Islamic movements are to play the democratic game, they have to play it properly. In other words, they have to accept that democracy can circulate power between them and others.

In the Palestinian context, public opinion polls indicate that Hamas are set to seize a sizeable minority in parliamentary elections. This is tempting many Palestinians, including those in power, to make overtures toward Hamas and other fundamentalist groups to become part of the system with a share of the decision-

making responsibility, because, as long as they are a minority, it will force them to respect the will of the majority.

It is possible that Hamas, which so far maintains a fundamentalist ideological and extreme political position, will become a pragmatic movement if it has the chance to be part of official politics, locally, regionally and internationally. The rhetoric of Hamas now reminds many of Fateh's rhetoric when it was treated by the "legitimate powers" as an "illegal terrorist group." Fateh successfully worked out a trade-off. It was recognized and included in the system in return for playing politics within the parameters of international legality.

It is likely that Hamas is willing to take the same path. The question, however, is whether the trade-off this time will also allow Hamas to become the determining factor in official politics. In other words,



By Samer A.

would the price Hamas insists on be merely an inclusion in the political system, or will it demand a leading role within that system, as Fateh obtained at the time.

It's also important to remember that there is a significant difference between

Hamas now and Fateh then, i.e., the former's fundamentalist ideological attitude and political extremism. Many sectors of Palestinian society are troubled by the idea of Hamas domination because of issues that go beyond politics and touch on the social and ideological. These sectors insist that the real question is not whether to encourage Hamas to become a part of the system, but at what price such inclusion comes.

Overall, there seems little doubt that if Hamas accepts to become part of a pluralistic political system and to abide by the rules of democracy that include adherence

to the Constitution and thus ensure regular elections and the circulation of power, it would be a useful outcome for everybody in Palestine and beyond. But an outcome that replaces one dominant political tendency with another, is not going to improve the internal Palestinian situation or move forward the democratization and reform process.

Ghassan Khatib is co-editor of the bitterlemons family of Internet publications. He is the Palestinian Authority minister of planning and has been a political analyst and media contact for many years.

The U.S. is straight-jacketed in attacking Iran

By N. JANARDHAN
WWW.DAILYSTAR.COM.LB

One wonders about U.S. President George W. Bush's sudden support for European efforts to negotiate a deal under which Iran would abandon uranium enrichment in return for trade benefits and security guarantees. Is it a formula derived from a position of weakness or is it a ploy to expose the futility of negotiating with Tehran and to build a case for aggression and regime change?

There are several reasons to explain why Bush recently changed tack and announced that "Iran is not Iraq," putting to rest speculation about any immediate buildup to another military adventure.

First, the U.S. shift appears to be conditioned more by political rather than military considerations. It is hard to imagine that Washington cannot mobilize the required troops to fight another war on another front. What it doesn't have for sure is the domestic and international political sanction for military action. While the support of "allies" was always doubtful after the Iraq war, a New York Times-CBS News poll in late February revealed that 58 percent of respondents felt that the White House did not share the foreign affairs priorities of most Americans.

Given that trans-Atlantic relations are on the mend and the Europeans are engaged in proactive "critical dialogue," the U.S. must exhaust every other option before pushing for military aggression. Britain, America's "most important ally," has gone so far as to prepare a 200-page dossier listing the dangers of invading Iran and referring to the importance of "safeguarding Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology."

The rising American casualty toll in Iraq and huge budget deficits have tied the administration's hands at home. As the death count in early March crossed the 1,500-mark, the White House forecast a deficit of \$427 billion for the current fiscal year, a third straight record shortfall. With the cost of the Iraq war in 2004 estimated at over \$125 billion, and expected to cost another \$100 billion in 2005, the emotions and economics of another war will surely not elicit a favorable response.

Second, domestic public opinion in Iran is a cause for concern. While the U.S. had the tacit support of a majority of Iraq's 65 percent Shiites and 15 percent Kurds for an invasion, Iran is a different story. Though the country does have a sizable reformist movement, a crisis with Washington is sure to provoke large-scale anti-U.S. sentiment. No figures are available to show the level of Iranian public support for the nuclear program. But it is probable that an overwhelming number of people are in favor of it because it implies "power" - one that adds immensely to nationalistic fervor, and more so when the "enemy" is the U.S. While "weaponization" of the program may not garner as much support, there will be no second thoughts on the right to have access to nuclear technology.

Third, if Iran - with about 131 billion barrels of proven oil reserves (the world's second largest after Saudi Arabia) and OPEC's second-largest exporter of crude - halts its export of some 3 million barrels per day, oil prices could exceed \$70 per barrel, which would be unwelcome not just in the U.S., but also in most parts of the world, especially at a time of already unprecedented high oil prices.

Fourth, while the U.S. nurtured dissidents and exile groups in Iraq, most prominently Ahmed Chalabi's Iraqi

National Congress, there are no serious alternatives in Iran.

Fifth, the crucial ingredient of the role of Iran's neighboring countries is uncertain. Iraq, now administered by a Shiite regime, will want to cement its efforts at rapprochement with the Islamic Republic, not reopen historical wounds. Moreover, for Iraq to stabilize, Iran needs to remain stable. Any American misadventure in Iran would open the door to more trouble in Iraq, threatening the gains made there during the last two years.

At another level, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries would be forced into another Catch-22 situation. While the GCC states have always been apprehensive about Iran, they will not want to be forced to take sides yet again. Since there isn't much doubt about which side they would join in case of a conflict, that of the U.S., there is also no doubt that they would be left in a more vulnerable security situation than they currently are in. In any case, the last thing the region needs is another war.

Sixth, for those who believe that precision bombing either by the U.S. or Israel or both is an option, lack of verifiable information on Iran's nuclear program is still a factor. The U.S. would find it hard to forget the fiasco concerning the supposedly "conclusive" evidence it had acquired about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Adding to the ambiguity are statements from Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rowhani, who alluded to the existence of tunnels meant to serve nuclear activities. In an interview with France's Le Monde on the possibility of their existence, he said: "From the moment the Americans threaten to attack our nuclear sites, what are we to do? We have to put them somewhere."

Washington's exercising caution is

important at a time when it is suggesting that European diplomatic efforts to rein in Iran's nuclear program are only just beginning and that comparisons with Iraq are wrong. And yet there are disturbing signs that there may be exceptions to this rule. On Feb. 16, former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter said that Bush had "signed off" on plans to bomb Iran in June 2005, which would set in motion a chain of events, eventually leading to regime change. Similarly, journalist Seymour Hersh of The New Yorker wrote that the U.S. "has been conducting secret reconnaissance missions inside Iran at least since last summer," and that "Defense Department civilians ... have been working with Israeli planners and consultants to develop and refine potential nuclear and chemical weapons, and missile targets inside Iran."

As the issue oscillates between crisis and a window of opportunity, Tehran may be falling into a trap by becoming more aggressive with the U.S. and less conciliatory with the European trioka, which may result in its following down the path of Iraq. Remember that more than two years ago, Bush answered every question regarding his intention to attack Iraq by saying there were no such plans on his desk. By March 2003, those plans had taken the form of the "shock and awe" strategy.

The lesson then is that a U.S. attack is never publicized in advance, certainly not if it cannot be legitimized. Though an attack is unlikely, if the U.S. does decide to go after Iran, it will probably be a surprise as well.

N. Janardhan is editor of gulfintimedia.com at the Gulf Research Center in Dubai. He wrote this commentary for THE DAILY STAR.



Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

A fist-full of objections

Since after the revolution to now, Yemen's responsible men keep repeating that Yemen is poor. I think it's a line that is just lame excuse. Yemen is far richer than many countries that have achieved success because of their hard work, and because they have the will to succeed. One of Yemen's past prime ministers once declared: "We cannot remain like the idle entourage of the Sultan, chew Qat, whisper nonsense, dream on, rely on others, act idly and extend our hands to solicit from them to build us schools and hospitals, provide us rations, build factories, do land reclamation, and give us scholarships as if we were the era's delight of the eye."

In my humble opinion, stopping the ongoing theft of public money and retrieving the bank accounts smuggled abroad as well as having good management, justice and judging people on what they can do, not where they hail from, shall put Yemen on the right track.

International hypocrisy

Although one cannot belittle what happened to European Jews during World War II, I was literally shocked to hear that Kofi Annan participated in the new Yad Vashim manipulation and refused to visit the apartheid wall dividing Jews from Palestinians.

How dare we shed tears at Yad Vashim, on what happened in the past, while at the same time forgetting, ignoring and overlooking the crimes perpetrated next door against innocent Palestinians who are since more than half a century now paying the price for the European crimes against humanity.

All who attended, including Joschke Fischer are a bunch of international hypocrites and lack the courage to set the record straight. And after that, we naively dare to question Zionist hegemony? Or else I dare say any country to establish a memorial for the Palestinian victims of the ongoing Israeli barbarism.

British Embassy

Yemenis have long ago nurtured

this good impression about the British in that they are well organized and practical. Unfortunately, this is not what is taking place nowadays at the embassy in Sana'a, namely the essential consular services.

Yemenis and foreigners living in Yemen have to deliver their requests through a courier service, which the embassy resorted to fearing terrorist threats and this is very understandable.

The problem here is that they are not doing like the American Embassy, which has managed this process brilliantly. At the British Embassy the Courier Service employees have virtually replaced the embassy's consular officers, and that is not the case with the Americans. A small advice for the British: please imitate the Americans and stop acting a la Yemenite as is the case now.

Al-Kafeel (the guarantor)

The KSA and other Gulf countries prevent foreigners from entering their respective states except through a national guarantor who confiscates the passport of the foreigner as soon as he arrives.

Many Saudi citizens are abusing the rule by pretending to be guaranteeing many foreigners under the guise of employment in their own businesses, while in fact they let them work anywhere provided that they receive their remunerations first hand, e.g. if the foreign laborer earns SR6,000, the guarantor would take SR5,000 and then gives the rest to the foreigner. This is a form of new slavery which ought to be condemned and forthrightly stopped.

Sana'a University

The Achilles' heel of Sana'a University is the graduation certificate. Graduates do suffer a lot in order to get their respective certificates. The university would do well if it copies out the method followed by the Yemeni Education Ministry with regard to leaving Secondary School, and cardboard certificates, instead of the current primitive and impractical method. Can Basura do it?

The inevitable course of events

MUSA KEILANI
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The stage is set for the next scene in the US/Israeli drive against Syria that was given a great boost by the Feb. 14 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The report compiled by the UN fact-finding mission implicates Syria in the assassination, although not in so many words, blames Lebanese security and calls for an international investigation into the killing.

Notwithstanding the allegations and evidence against Syria, few in the Arab world, and indeed beyond, tend to think that Damascus is naive to have thought that it could get away with killing Hariri at a time when it was clear that Washington was gunning for it and would grab every opportunity to mount pressure on Syria.

The US objective is to isolate Syria by branding it an international pariah and severing its links with Lebanon, and then set upon Damascus for "regime change". That is the overall agenda.

The UN mission has done its job in an

objective manner. It might not be very accurate to agree with Lebanon's pro-Syrian leaders who have rejected the UN findings as biased. A careful reading of the report indicates that the UN team tried to remain as neutral and objective as possible. Whatever reference there is to Syria in the report was inevitable and natural. The Syrian influence in Lebanese affairs and domination of the country was so absolute that the Syrians could not escape from being cited in the report.

The reservations over the UN report expressed by the Lebanese authorities and Beirut's insistence that it should be part of the proposed investigation are also natural.

It is known that the UN fact-finding mission did not have the authority needed to carry out aggressive questioning and carry out searches. It is also known that any investigation would be difficult while Lebanon's security chiefs are in place. However, the reason for that negative element need not be the alleged involvement of Lebanese security but the ambiguity over who did what and who was capable of doing what and who had what kind of connections and with

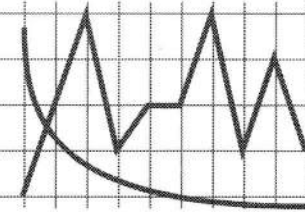
whom.

The reality is that there is confusion all over the place. Lebanese security officers are not sure whether some of them had acted in collusion with Syria or someone else - Israel for instance - to engineer the Hariri killing. Simply, they do not have a clue to what had happened and everyone is scared and suspicious of each other.

An example is a report that suggested that a former bodyguard with pro-Syrian connections had played a role in removing evidence from the scene of the blast before investigators arrived there and planted "additional" evidence - the wreckage of a vehicle which had nothing to do with the explosion - to confuse investigations. If we take the report at face value, then the immediate next question is: Why should the person be an exclusively Syrian agent? Why couldn't he be a double agent with Israeli connections? Or connections with parties other than Syria and Israel?

Our experience shows that Israeli agents are the last to be exposed in the Arab world, and when it happens, it is inevitable that the person concerned occupies a senior position.

YT Business



2004 census results:

Taiz: largest, fastest growing city

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Central Organization for Statistics (COS) in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, announced the primary results of the General Census of Population, Housing, and Establishments in a great celebration attended by the President on March 13.

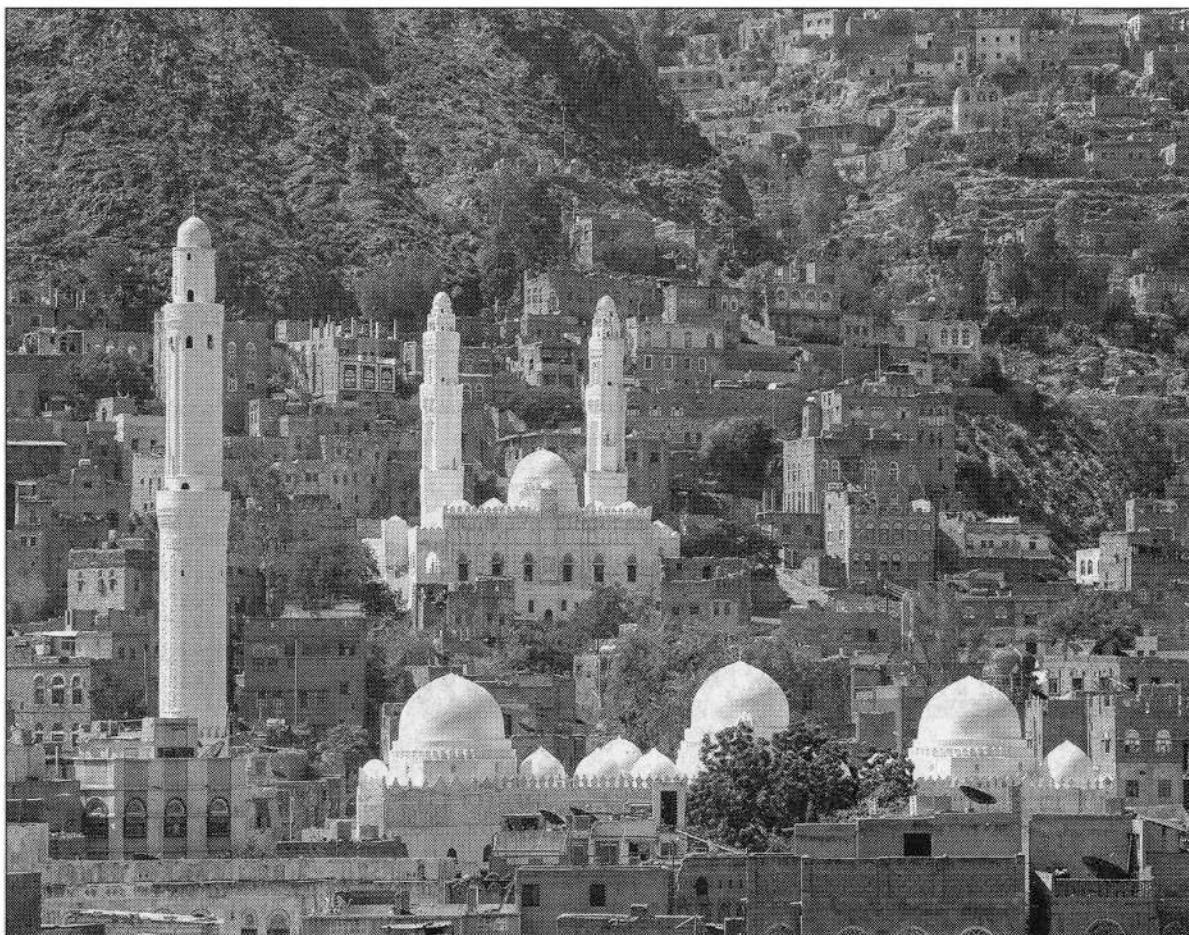
The president revealed that the cost of this process exceeded YR4.5 billion. In his speech, the president pointed out the importance of family planning to developmental progress, and the importance of accurate information and statistics so that projects can be executed fairly and efficiently.

The number of Yemen's population revealed by P.M. Bajamal surprised the audience. He announced that the number of the resident population at the initiation night, Dec. 16-17 2004, was 19,721,643 of which 10,016,137 are male and 9,705,506 are female.

Despite audience expectations, the growth rate had decreased when to 3.2 % at the end of 2004. The 1994 census that indicated the population was 14,587,807, which means that the population increased by 5,123,836 over the last decade.

The population in the southern provinces in 1973 was 1,590,275 and was 6,492,530 in the northern provinces in 1975.

The results show that there are 2,882,759 families, and 2,761,281 houses. The average family size average is 6.84 persons.



The census results showed that Taiz is still first in terms of the number of population

The results showed that Taiz is still first in terms of the number of population, with 2,402,965 residents (1,155,132 males and 1,247,437 females). The growth rate in Taiz is 2.29 percent. That means that there 92.6

males for every 100 females - the lowest rate in the republic.

Hodeida's population is the second largest with 2,161,379 people (11 percent) and 3.27 percent growth rate. The population of Ibb is 2,137,546 with 2.5

percent growth rate, and indicates that 95.5 males per 100 females. Sana'a, is the next largest city, followed by Haja, Dhamar, and Hadramout. Shabwa has the lowest population, with only 89,093 residents, although it stands second in terms of the growth rate in Yemen, exceeding 4.57 percent.

Concerning gender, there are 103.2 males for every 100 females, but the

number of females is higher than males in Taiz, Aden, Haja, and Shabwa.

The average family size in Amran and Shabwa occupied the top of the list, reaching 8.74 persons. They were followed with Marib with 8.47, Saada with 8.36, and Baydha. All of these regions have strong tribal social structures.

Al-Jawf was highest in terms of the number of families living in the same house exceeding 1.16. Hadramout came next with 1.15, followed by Lahj and Aden with 1.09. The lowest rate was in Raymah, with 0.93 families in each house.

Those were the primary indicators of populations in all provinces of Yemen whose land size is 555,000 square kilometer except for the Ruba Al-Khali (the desert). There are 20 governorates, and 333 districts, each of which is subdivided into sub-districts including a number of villages.

Although the results of the census have not been yet published, there is also another step that depends on work that will be carried out until July 2006. The primary results indicate that people are gathering more in cities and the average of immigration from rural to urban areas is increasing, which has caused the unfair distribution of some development projects.

Unlike the previous periods that witnessed some casual, disorganized counterfeit data, this census is considered the most reliable ever conducted in Yemen. Most people doubted the results of the 1994 census, doubt that has been vindicated by the results showing an increase in the population by five million people. However, the present data is not without any inaccurate data due to difficulties associated with gathering accurate information in small isolated villages.

Workshop on "Business Arbitration" at the Chamber of Commerce Taiz

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Taiz (CCI) is conducting a three days workshop (9 to 11 April 2005) on business arbitration (funded by GTZ). Participants are business arbitrators from 12 Yemeni CCI from different provinces of the country (Aden, Al Dalee, Al Baydha, AlJawf, Dhamar, Mahweet, Mareb, Mukalla, Sada, Sana'a, Shebwa, Taiz). The workshop was opened by Mufid A. Saif, General Manager, Adnan Abdullah Saleh and Gabriele Herrmann Advisor, CCI Taiz.



Training courses for these business arbitrators have been on-going since 2002. The present workshop and the series of training courses which will be held in 2005 will focus on the establishment of an organization on business arbitration (e.g. business arbitration center or an association of business arbitrators) at the CCI Taiz. Legal and organizational aspects will be worked on.

The arbitration organization due to be established has to fulfill the demands for traditional arbitration and conciliation and the demands for legally based arbitration. If such an organization tried to concentrate on traditional arbitration, this organization will not match the requirements set by the WTO - of which Yemen is in the process of becoming a member - or the development in modern business. On the other hand, if an organization only tried to concentrate on modern legally based arbitration, this organization would deprive itself from many potential clients or would not even be accepted by traditionally oriented regions or branches of business.

Business arbitration and alternative conflict resolution is in many countries an integrated part at the Chambers of Commerce. Settling disputes by arbitration has tradition at Chambers. Therefore the project is building on existent structures. Arbitration has many advantages, because it is less time consuming and cheaper than calling in the court. In addition disputes among business partners are tried to being solve rather than judging simply who is right and who is wrong. Arbitration clauses are part of large numbers of national and international contracts abroad. In many countries arbitration decisions are final and cannot be brought to the court afterwards. In Yemen such awards are widely accepted but not final. As far as international arbitration is concerned, Yemen has not signed yet the "New York UN Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration Awards".

The steps are taken now to unify the different Governorates and to make progress in bringing Yemen forward.

Agreement on efforts unification to fight trade mafia

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Participants in a training program on quality administration and ISO 2000-9000 have agreed on working for fighting trade mafia that does not believe in specifications and standardization and distance itself from improving production and only seeks profits.

The participants in the meeting have confirmed the necessity that tradesmen should observe the law and commitment to the element of protectionism in order to prolong period of production and coexistence with external trade.

Director-general of the State Authority of specifications and Standardization Abdusallam al-Qamash said the Authority had realized the importance of application of

systems of quality administration under the government's orientations towards sustainable development.

Sources of participants in the meeting from the ISO organisation affirmed to Yemen Times that Yemen was facing many big challenges in the industrial area. They added its competition would be weak in external free markets unless there would be development and improvement of its industries quality. On the sidelines of the training program that ended its meetings last week, they also pointed out that Yemen had to develop its industrial capacities to enter external markets with competitive force. The same sources concluded by emphasizing that Yemen was in need of qualify its products, increase its production of good commodities and services that could compete with others and offer the best to the consumer.

Yemen joining WTO-assessment

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The negotiating team of the WTO assigned with the file of Yemen's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has assessed the Yemeni republic's capabilities for joining the organisation through taking into consideration the stages and measures it has taken during the past period in order to approach gaining membership of the organisation.

The WTO team that has visited Sana'a last week has affirmed the importance of involving all sectors concerned with the accession process, including the private sector and the

legislative establishment in order to facilitate the process.

The negotiating team, during its meeting with Yemeni officials, has also admitted importance of holding consultative meeting to discuss developments regarding Yemen's joining of the organisation with the aim of benefiting from advantages the WTO provides for countries gaining the membership.

Though there are some fears expressed by the Yemeni private sector regarding Yemen's joining of the organisation, the government desires taking advantage from the organisation tendency to establishment of a free market with multi parties or bilaterally in a manner helping it attract external funds for investment in Yemen.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

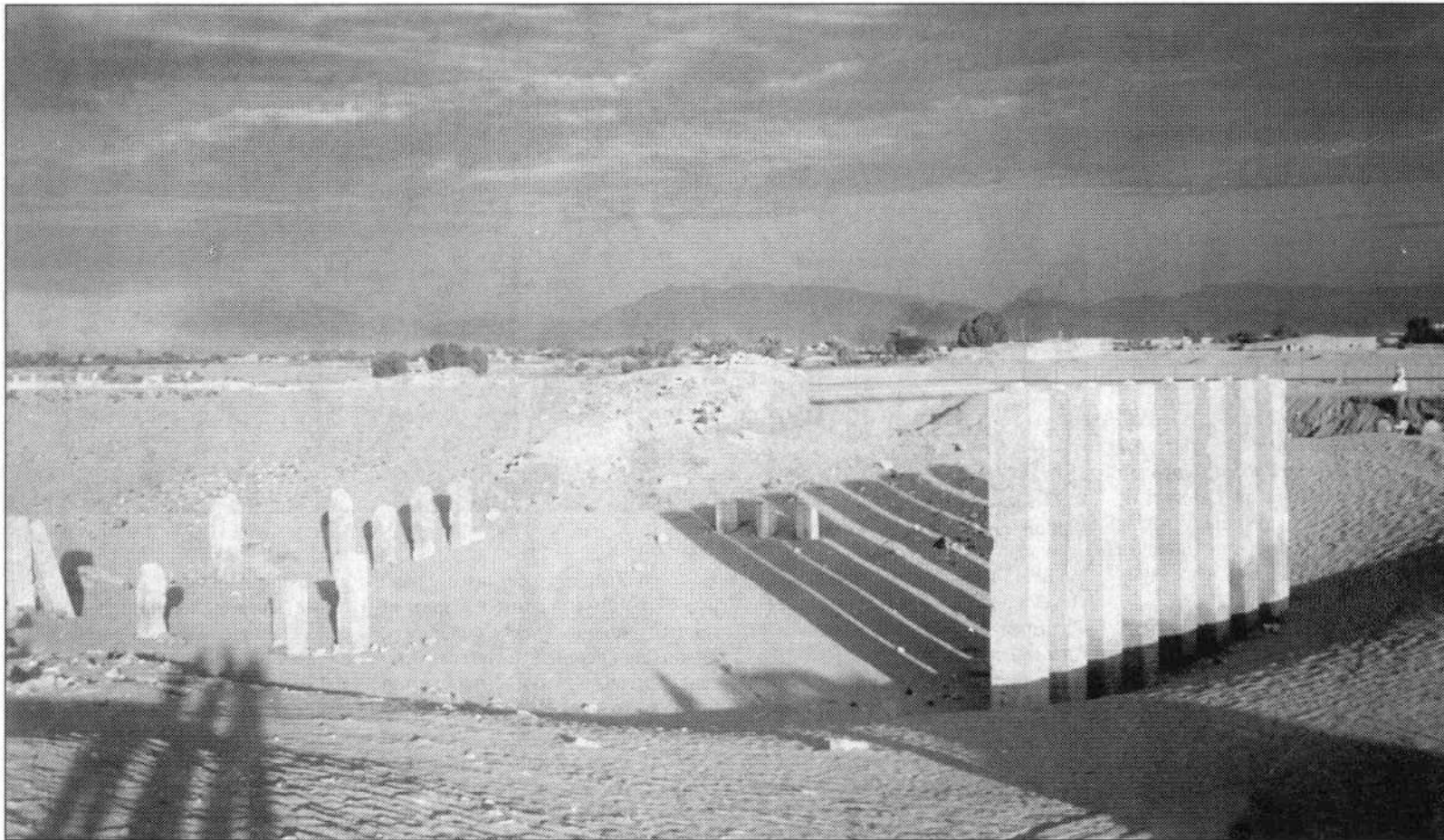
Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	188.9100	189.1800
Sterling Pound	355.9300	356.4300
Euro	244.1300	244.4800
Saudi Rial	50.3700	50.4500
Kuwaiti Dinar	646.9500	647.8800
UAE Dirhem	51.4300	51.5100
Egyptian Pound	32.5700	32.6200
Bahraini Dinar	501.0800	501.8000
Qatari Rial	51.9200	51.9900
Jordanian Dinar	266.6300	267.0100
Omani Rial	490.6800	491.3800
Swiss Franc	157.4800	157.7100
Swedish Crown	26.6800	26.7200
Japanese Yen	1.7466	1.7491

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

In brief

- The visit of the delegation of Gulf countries' Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs to Yemen was concluded last Wednesday with signing a cooperation protocol in the field of labor and social affairs between Yemen and both of Bahrain and UAE. The protocol included technical cooperation and in the field of human resources development between Yemen and Bahrain. The protocol included cooperation with UAE in the field of labor, social affairs and exchange of expertise.
- Dr. Hamoud Ali Al-Najar, Yemen's permanent economic representative in Geneva, in charge of the file on Yemen's joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), declared that the second meeting WTO will be held on Sep 15, 2005 to discuss procedures of Yemen's joining WTO.
- Mrs. Jennifer Brandt, Trade Policy Consultant at Oxfam in Yemen, called for the application of WTO laws fairly and it will be in the favor of the less developed countries, pointing out in a press release the significance of respecting moral aspect in the implementation of these rules. She asked WTO members to give opportunity for the less developed countries to integrate and develop their capabilities to compete in the world market.
- The workshop on structuring Social Care Fund (SCF) organized by SCF in collaboration with the European project on April 5-7 recommended that the structure should be applied in a clear and accurate manner. On his part, Mr. Tebert, International Expert of Organizational System, said that this step is just for discussing the legislative aspects and we should have a complete suggestion to be offered to the board of directors to be approved primarily.
- Yemenia Airways last week inaugurated the first flight to Burj Al-Arab Airport in Alexandria, Egypt. This came in the light of a decision taken by Yemenia leadership on operation of two weekly flights starting from June from Sana'a to the airports of Al-Nuzhah and Burj Al-Arab in Alexandria.
- Official statistics reported that the rate of foreign investment in Yemen reached 41% in 2004 as investment projects in various sectors costing about US\$ 800 million. The investment projects registered from 1992 to 2004 are 5064 projects worth of more than YR 962 billion. There are three cement factories at the cost of US\$500 million are under construction, all of which are Arab investment projects.
- Preparations for participating in the desert tourism exhibition that will be held in Dubai, UAE, between April 16-22 are underway at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Tourist Development Authorities. The participation is aimed at demonstrating Yemen's tourist sites in the deserts. The participation in this exhibition is also to portray natural and tourist landscapes in Yemen.

Mareb Antiquities museum to flourish tourism & economy



The Sun Temple is one of the marvellous remains of the ancient Kingdom of Sheba

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen's State Authority for Antiquities and Manuscripts is working for the establishment of the "Sabaean Museum Project" in the governorate of Mareb. The American government has in this regard recently offered three million dollars for the implementation of the project. The project is aimed at boosting tourism and economy in the region. It is expected that Mareb would be the first of tourist areas in the Middle East because of what it is in possession of historical sites relating the story of the Queen Bilqis following a mystery dating to thousands of years before Islam. Many antiquities there have remained buried under sands of the desert of the ancient city of Mareb and none of them have been known but the pillars of the Sun Temple and remains of the Mareb Dam till the year of 2001 those remains of the dam helped disclosing secrets of the Sabaean kingdom which were buried and attracting won-

der and admiration of the Yemenis and visitors from over the world.

The museum is designed to be built beside the throne of Bilqis, the most important historical site among Yemen's antiquities. The throne is known for its five pillars and the sixth one is broken. Those pillars were used to be shooting high amidst sand dunes surrounding the throne area.

According to historical sources, the Bilqis Tempe is situated to the southwest of the old city of Mareb. It is about four km far from it and one km to the northwest of Bilqis Mahram. It is one of the most important temples of the Sabaean kingdom built in the governorate of Mareb. The importance of it lies in that it is the only temple where full-programmed archaeological excavations have been done and according to scientific procedures.

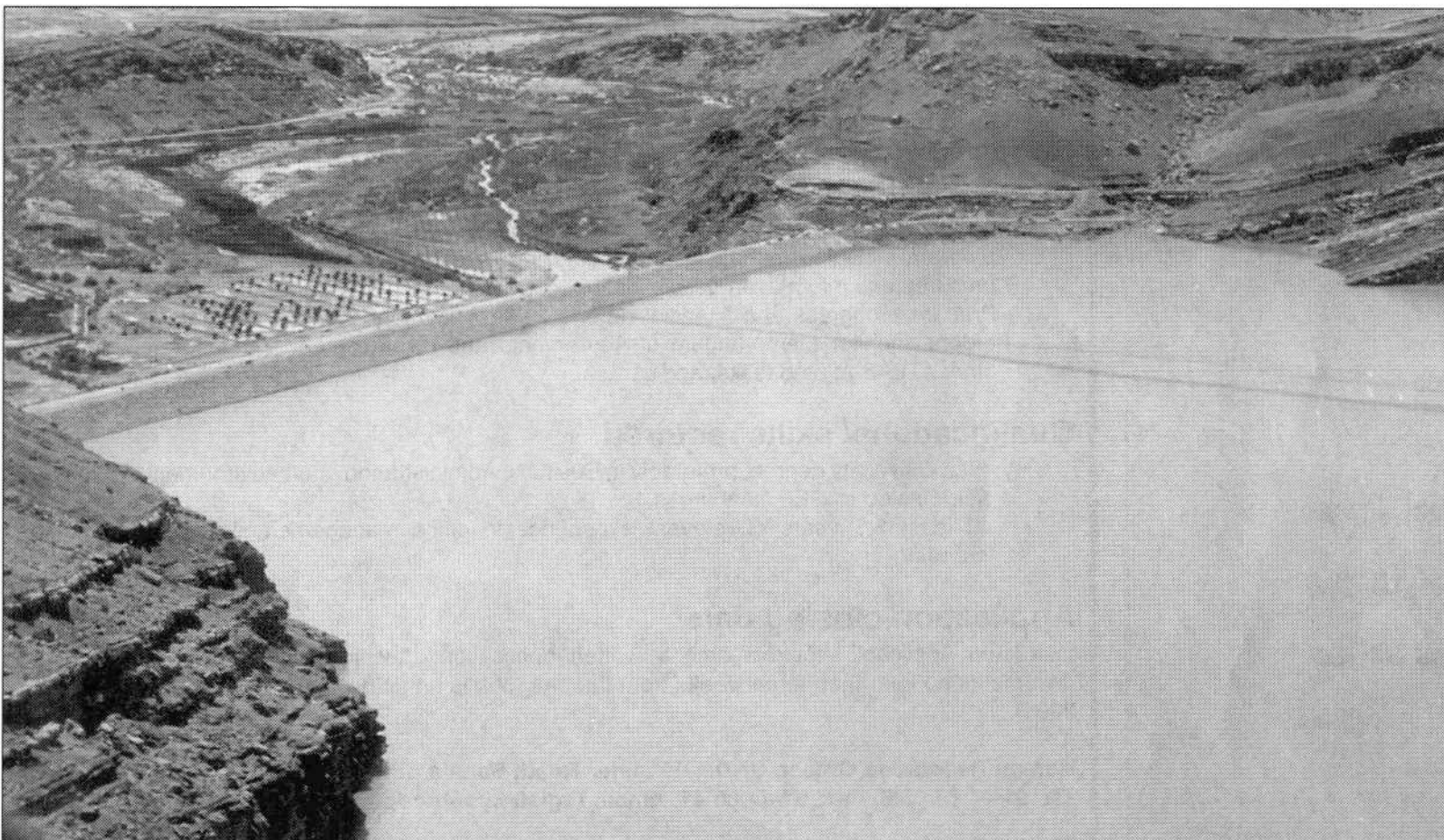
The history of most ancient architectural stages of the temple date back to the Makrabean age and beginning of the sixth century BC. In the old Yemeni inscriptions the temple was mention as "Braan" and that name was discovered inscribed on one of the pillars of the temple during the planning of the tem-

ple that is founded on the basis of the idea of open courtyard surrounded by corridors on three sides, and the altar situated at the front part of the courtyard. That example was the one planning of Sabaean temples was based.

The team affiliate to the American establishment for human study believes that Balqis Mahram is an astonishing discovery man has not seen for thousands of years and would be the eight wonder as the date of its building dates back to 12th century BC. Meanwhile the search and excavation of Bilqis treasures are the center of researchers attention. Sources specialized in studying inscriptions relate that the history of the temple building is at least dated to the era of the Sabaean Makrab "Yadda' Il Tharh Bin Sima Ali", who had ruled in the eight century BC when it was mentioned in one of its inscriptions that he had fenced the temple with stone wall.

The American foundation on human study had carried out partial excavations at the yard of the temple building and nearby the wall as well as the temple's cemetery. During excavations, the team found many antiquities besides

large archives of inscriptions written on stones. Among the discovered antiquities, for example, two unfinished statures made of bronze, one of them representing a lion and a bull's head of bronze, a gravestone of marble, twelve bulls of marble, a statue of an animal half of it of an eagle and the other half representing a lion, two small mud statures, a statue of a camel, 15 earthen bowls. Also among discovered antiquities were parts of a basin made of bronze, inscribed dagger, part of a stone box, two amulets, two pearls, and remains of 12 bronze nails. As for inscriptions, many of the temple's inscriptions discovered by the team are considered complete archives for many historical events since the 8th century BC until the 3rd AD century. Therefore, the museum occupies a special significance to spotlight those tourist and historical features that would double the influx of number of tourists and activate investment projects in the agricultural area nearby new Mareb Dam which gives the region opportunities of building productive agricultural projects securing food for Yemen.



Mareb Dam

Literary Corner

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Red Wolves of Yemen, the struggle for independence

Author: Vitaly V. Naumkin
Publisher: Oleander Press,
Cambridge, UK
Year Published: 2004
No. of Pages: 393

This writer by chance was one of the first to have a chance to delve into this monumental historical narrative on the War for Independence of the Southern and Eastern Governorates of the Republic of Yemen. Few are the books that give a vivid picture of this important

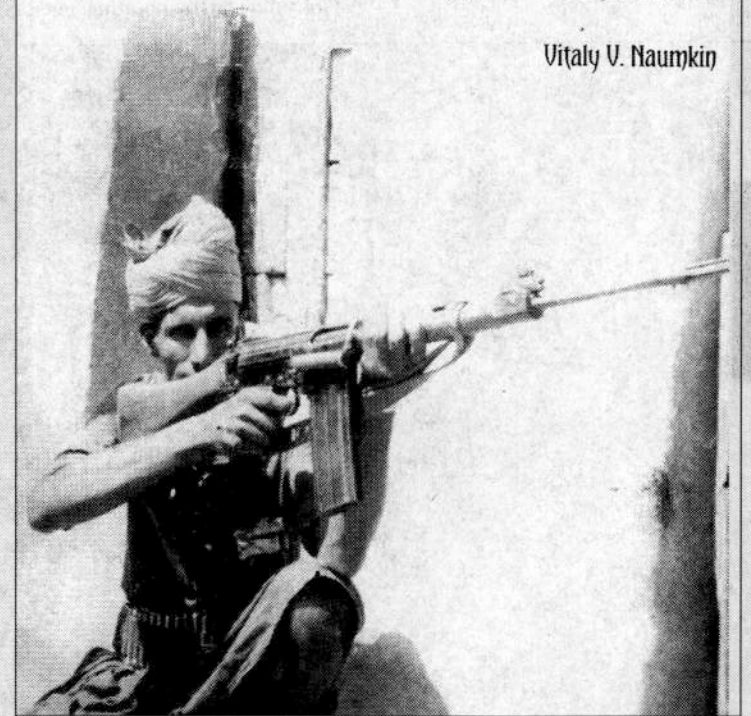
chance meetings with this official or that. Mr. Vitaly apparently did have a direct official diplomatic and maybe covert connection to the development of events and the different groups that were carrying the banner of liberation.

Having said all that, it is still a commendable masterpiece of historical narrative that Dr. Naumkin produced and aside from his direct involvement in one way or another with the events and people he describes so masterly, he has substantive references and documentary evi-

RED WOLVES OF YEMEN

the struggle for independence

Vitaly V. Naumkin



phase of the Yemeni patriotic movement, by which the area of Yemen that was under British rule from 1839 to November 1967 was liberated. Even those accounts that are written by the role players from the inside and outside of the arena, where the struggle for liberation from British rule took place for four years, will always be found to be lacking in objective portrayal of, what we Yemenis consider to be the second half of the Yemeni Revolution.

I met Dr Vitaly Naumkin in Malaysia last Summer, as we were both guests of the hospitable Malaysian Government for a period of 12 days. His strong interest in Yemen was reflected by his rush to get acquainted with this writer soon as we finished our first meeting with our other guest colleagues and our kind hosts. I was frankly amazed to listen to Vitaly talking about Yemen and the Middle East Region as though it was just behind his backyard. He knew people, places and dates and could talk for hours on particular issues or personalities that shaped the developments in the North and South of the country, especially in the pre Revolutionary era, and a greater role might have also been given to the Egyptians (and Northern Yemenis) for speeding up the effort.

The various transformations witnessed in the Yemeni liberation movement in the South is given in fine detail, without any ambiguity and it is clear that Mr. Naumkin understood the political and sociological ramifications of each of these transformations. Undoubtedly, the author was inclined to look with favor towards the leftist orientation of the Movement, while noting that the Nationalist orientation provided the roots that catapulted the Movement into prominence. However his description of the metamorphosis leading to the rouge status of South Yemen as an independent entity was informative and showed a clear understanding of the socio-political environment under which this metamorphosis took place.

Anyone interested in the modern history of Yemen is bound to be enlightened by reading the "Red Wolves of Yemen", written by an outsider with more insight than most of the literature that was produced by insiders on the subject.

dence backing all his vivid account of this very important period of Yemeni history.

In addition, the book gives a well researched accounting of the background of events in South Yemen from the time of the British naval attack on the Port of Aden, in 1839, then controlled by the Sultan of Lahj, up to the radical leftist takeover of the Government in Aden in 1969, two years after independence, after which the southern part of the country used to house the most radical socialist oriented regime in the Arab World. The well researched account of the South under British rule is a fascinating part of the book, although admittedly more could have been discussed about the interconnection between the developments in the North and South of the country, especially in the pre Revolutionary era, and a greater role might have also been given to the Egyptians (and Northern Yemenis) for speeding up the effort.

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Anyone interested in the modern history of Yemen is bound to be enlightened by reading the "Red Wolves of Yemen", written by an outsider with more insight than most of the literature that was produced by insiders on the subject.

At the Tumors Center

Kids present gifts to cancer patients

BY SHAKER AL-MOLSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A group of young students visited on Wednesday April 5 the Tumors Center of al-Jumhuri Hospital loaded with gifts and presents for inmates. The visit was organized by the Women Sector of the Charity Establishment for the Support of Cancer Patient Centers in collaboration with the Sana'a-based British School.

During the visit, the kids and their teachers went through the center's wards distributing gifts trying to alleviate the pains of the patients who were so pleased.

"I want to see them well soon," said 11-year-old Mohammed. "I wish I had the power to heal them." Ghamdan, his classmate, explained the purpose of his participation in the visit as, "I have come with presents to make them happy."

Mrs. Sameera, teacher and deputy headmistress, indicated that it is the

first time to organize such a visit. "We would like to repeat it for it enables kids to share patients' their pains and know that this malignant illness is preordained."

Teacher Amani mentioned that they, at the school, encourage pupils to contribute to charitable initiatives and infuse in them the love for goodness.

An important visit:

Mrs. Maryam Ibrahim Mohammed, Women Sector Manager at the Establishment, considered the visit of the "cancer patients' friends" as "significant" as it will raise patients' morale and reduce their suffering.

"I hope this wouldn't be the last time for visits and cooperation will continue. The students are enthusiastic about giving presents and helping patients. Despite their young age, they do really feel for others.

"It is enough for them to understand one of the Establishment's objectives, that is, patients are in distress and need their morale to be boosted so as to back up medicines."

Mrs. Maryam went on saying, "The Establishment is supporting not only

one but all cancer centers. This center is the first step in Yemen and the second is going to be inaugurated next month in the city of Ibb. We intend to cover all provinces for the convenience of patients. This will save them travel.

"Concerning therapy, it is quite expensive, but, within the limits of our capacity, we attempt at taking as much burden as we can off patients' shoulders, providing them with 50% discounts and sometimes free-of-charge treatment for the poor."

Being in the Women Sector, Mrs. Maryam is gathering around her people who can be of some help of whom are the visiting youngsters.

"These children would do me a great service because kids are going to depict to their parents patients' conditions honestly and spontaneously."

Charity Establishment for the Support of Cancer Patient Centers:

It was established on October 19, 2003. The General Assembly of the Establishment comprised men of charity, businessmen, and managers of



visitors and the Center's staff.

(YT photo)



A young girl hands presents to a patient.

(YT photo)

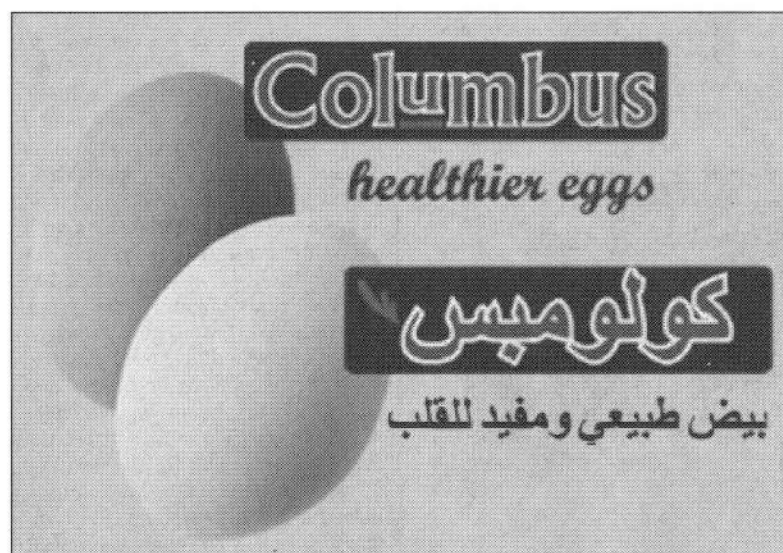
Columbus Eggs reduce cholesterol

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

A new type of eggs has been introduced into the Yemeni market. Researchers over many years have showed that it is healthy and useful for heart and blood veins. Medical studies have indicated that omega 3, which the eggs contain, reduces triglyceride and enhances good cholesterol.

Moreover, Columbus Eggs is useful for the brain and eyes. It is rich in vitamin E and is made up of 100% natural materials.

Marib Poultry Company produces this new brand of eggs under the supervision of a Belgian company.



أجمل التهناني
واطيب التبريكات
للشباب الخلق
م/محمد الثميري
بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف
قاله الهم ميرورثك
المهنون:
رشيده السقايف بصري السقايف
بسام السقايف

أجمل التهناني واطيب التبريكات للأخوة
مطيع علي احمد
هشام عبدالواسع
حسام احمد مقبل
بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف
المهنون:
الهندس/فصيل عبادي فني/وجدي شرفه/مقاو/حسان علي
وكافة مهندسي وعمال كلية الهندسة جامعة ذمار

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the following position within its project "Global Environmental Facility (GEF)."



Terms of Reference

Post Title: Programme Assistant
Post Level: GS-5

Background

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is a global entity concerned with the protection of global environment. It funds the Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), executed by United Nation Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with technical assistant from a GEF/UNDP Central Program Management Team (CPMT) and currently operational in nearly 80 countries around the world. The SGP believes that local solutions to global environmental problems can be solved at local level.

Objective

The Program seeks to recruit a full-time Assistant to undertake technical, administrative and financial tasks. He/ She will report directly to the Program National Coordinator.

Scope of work

Administrative Tasks

1. Assist in all administrative, financial, operational and logistical aspects of running the program including managing and organizing everyday office work, travel arrangement, procurement, information dissemination, correspondence and translation.
2. Prepare progress and financial reports, review payment requests, prepare requisition orders, monitor Memorandum of Agreements and disbursement schedules, etc..., and other ATLAS-related tasks, and

Qualifications/ skills required

- First University degree, preferably in Business Administration or an environmental science field related to GEF focal areas.
- At least 3-5 years of relevant experience in office management, including financial reporting

Application closing date

Interested Applicant should submit a written application attaching his/her CV and support documents no later than three weeks from the date of this announcement. (closing date 27 April 2005).

Human Resources Officer, UNDP, 60 meter Road, Sana'a,
Tel. 01-44 86 05/6, Fax: 01-44 88 41, Email: registry.ye@undp.org

Owen to start against Barcelona

MADRID (Reuters) - England striker Michael Owen will start Real Madrid's crunch league game against arch-rivals Barcelona on Sunday, coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo has said.

Luxemburgo said he had decided to play Owen alongside Ronaldo and Raul in attack and drop former Barca winger Luis Figo to the bench for the game at the Bernabeu.

"I don't like the fact that people have found out the team I was trying out in training, but I'm not going to lie about the line-up," Luxemburgo told a news conference on Saturday.

"Owen, Raul and Ronaldo will start. Second-placed Real trail leaders Barcelona by nine points in the league with eight matches left and must beat their rivals if they are to have any chance of depriving them of the title.

The Brazilian played down the significance of leaving Figo on the bench but said he expected the Portuguese midfielder, who has been one of Real's most effective players this season, to be upset at the decision.

"It would be understandable if Figo is angry because he has a great track record and has been an international," said Luxemburgo.

"But putting Figo to one side, my



England striker Michael Owen, shown in a file photo, will start Real Madrid's crunch league game against arch-rivals Barcelona on Sunday, coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo has said. REUTERS

concern was that Owen has to play and to do that I had to sacrifice either Raul, (Zinedine) Zidane or Figo.

"Owen has been training well, I saw him play two good games for England and he was in good form against Albacete last week.

That means he has played three good

games in a row and that's why I thought it was time to give him a chance.

Owen has scored 10 league goals this season from 12 starts, including last week's winner against Albacete, while his rivals for a place in the team have been in poor form.

Bookies brace the mselves for Ginger's bottom

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Bookmakers are bracing themselves for a sight of Ginger McCain's backside and a massive pay-out if Carrie Ford becomes the first woman to win today's Grand National.

Defeat for Ford, who rides 10-1 shot Forest Gunner, would save bookmakers over 100 million pounds — and also spare veteran trainer McCain from having to bare his backside.

Jovial McCain, 74, who won the National three times with Red Rum and then with Amberleigh House in 2004, had some uncomplimentary things to say about the chances of a woman winning the great race and light-heartedly described 33-year-old mother-of-one Ford as a "broodmare."

Last week he promised to bare his backside if Forest Gunner won "so

they can all kick it."

Ford, a friend and neighbour has taken it all in good heart and is firmly on course in her attempt to become the first woman to win the National in its 166-year history.

Simon Clare, spokesman for Coral bookmakers, said on Friday: "Ginger will forever be linked with the Grand National but having upset half the population with his comments we expect many of our female customers to back Forest Gunner on Saturday."

He added: "McCain has promised to bare his bottom if Forest Gunner wins on Saturday but I don't know what will be worse — paying out to millions of fans or seeing Ginger's naked backside."

William Hill are predicting possibly the worst ever result for bookmakers if

Ford and Forest Gunner deliver the goods.

Spokesman David Hood said: "She is the phenomenon this year and will cost bookies well over 100 million pounds if she wins."

Punters are also latching on to Strong Resolve, another 10-1 shot, trained by Scottish-based Lucinda Russell who seeks to emulate Jenny Pitman, successful in the National in 1983 and 1995.

Skybet offer 40-1 against an all-women 1-2 with Forest Gunner and Strong Resolve finishing first and second in either order.

Support is also expected for Clan Royal (10-1) and Royal Auclair (33-1) who will be racing soon after the wedding of Prince Charles to Camilla Parker Bowles.

حاليا

في المكتبات والأكشاك

عدد جديد ومميز

مجلة الأسرة والتنمية

وجهاً لوجه مع قيادية الطب العربي - اصالة نصري

أنا مقهورة

من أبناء بلدي!

كافة قضايا الأسرة والتنمية .. برؤية معاصرة

هل تتمرد المرأة؟! **النقاب .. بين الموروث الاجتماعي وغياب النص الشرعي**

احجز نسختك الآن

- البحث عن رفاقة - نانسى عجم - وجسد - البرتقالة
- أم تجبر بناتها على السفاء!
- وأسواق تباع الرذيلة والإيدز!

الاستاذ البروفيسور في اليمن د. الأسرة والتنمية

تنمية المرأة اليمنية .. مشاريعنا القادمة

بالإضافة الى ابواب وزوايا ثابتة لتتحدث تناسب ذواق الجميع

متعة القراءة .. في كل بيت

تقرأون في هذا العدد **14**

مكتبات المجلة:

الجمهورية اليمنية - تعز

تلفون: 04/217156

فاكس: 04/217157

صنعاء:

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269

I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (76):
Job advertisement (Vi)

The message of the advertisement is a product of negotiation between the text and the decoder. The decoder is the negotiator. The negotiation takes place as the reader brings aspects of his cultural experience to bear upon the text. Each of the communicative variables such as encoder, channel, message is treated as persuasive factor since each of them in the perception of the negotiator contributes its part in the total construction of the discourse.

- Want to be a part of Revolution in the field of infrastructure constructions in a progressive, growth oriented, and professionally managed enterprise?
- To your high flying ambitions, we add confidence, identity and status. (Air Hostess Academy)
- 'I'm ignited by complexity. I envision the next generation. I architect excellence.' At —, experience the challenge of creating innovative products.
- Give wings to your career.
- Before you join, please be warned that the job is back-breaking. After all, the pats come every 15 minutes.
- File, smile and go. (Income Tax Returns)
- Life is our life's work. (A pharmaceutical company)
- Life — it is the underlying purpose of everything we do at —. Our core values: customer focus, performance, team work, integrity, leadership, respect for people, innovation, community, quality. We are a company that's powered by intellect, driven by values. We lead by example and by our thinking. In a knowledge economy, it is insight and imagination that combine with skill and speed with which we apply them, which sets us apart.
- With us you have only one way to go.. UP
- Courage, truth, growth... A few reasons to join us.
- Most wanted: the sharpest and deadliest minds in the industry. Get ready for the BIG LEAP!

II. Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. Queen Victoria was the famous Emperor of the British empire during the nineteenth century.
2. The Earl and the Earless were present at the coronation ceremony.
3. We are about beginning the function.
4. We have a house over the lake in the forest.
5. We want every child to develop in his or her own way.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. He has been living here **since** the death of his mother.
2. My father brought **many** presents for us from Dubai.
3. The students are **taking** their examination from next week.
4. Many passers-by stopped at the restaurant for refreshments.
5. You should have good relationship with your brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. The quality of being full of happiness and excitement.
2. Not following any one system or set of ideas, but using parts of many different ones.
3. The pattern of relations of plants, animals, and people to each other and to their surroundings.
4. Feeling of great joy and spiritual uplift.
5. Improvement of character or the mind.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Inability to read: **dyslexia** (n)
2. Looking keenly at something: **eagle-eyed** (adj)
3. Taking life easily: **easy-going** (adj)
4. To listen secretly to other people's conversation: **eavesdrop** (vi)
5. The flow of the sea away from the shore: **ebb** (n)

(B) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. upbeat, offbeat
2. guts, grit
3. minister, minstrel
4. dyspepsia, dyslexia
5. verbal, oral

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **ail** (vt) (trouble): What ails him? (vi) (be ill): He is always ailing.
ale (n) (light colored beer): The European are lovers of ale.
2. **literal** (adj) (exact, word for word): Can you give me a literal account of the conversation?
literary (adj) (concerning literature): He has a rich literary sensibility.
3. **everything** (pron) (all things). It is used in the inclusive sense. It is always singular: Everything is so expensive here.
every thing (each thing). It is used in a distributive sense: Every thing I gave him is disliked by him.
4. **hear** (vt) (perceive sound without any special effort): I heard someone coughing.
listen (vi) (make special effort to hear something): I tried to listen but couldn't hear anything.
5. **last** (adj) (coming after all others in time or order. It implies the end): Last week I paid a visit to Al-Naser school in Mahweet.
latest (adj) (coming at the end. It covers the sense that this is not the end of a particular activity): Have you heard the latest news?

(C) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

1. lead a charmed life
2. shift one's ground
3. put (someone's) back up
4. set one's sight on (something)
5. go to sleep

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **sweat like a pig** (to sweat a great deal): The boy sweated like a pig after running to school.
2. **be up in arms** (to be very angry and to make a protest about something): The players were up in arms against the decision of the referee.
3. **be on the up and up** (to be doing very well, especially financially): Things have been on the up and up for my friend ever since he went abroad.
4. **an angel of mercy** (a person who appears and brings help when they were particularly needed): At a critical moment, when I was financially broke, he appeared like an angel of mercy with his firm assurance of help.
5. **walk on air** (to feel very happy): Ayesha has been walking on air since she won the prestigious award.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Report the following short dialogues using *ask if, ask to or tell to*

1. 'Would it be all right for me to come to work a

- little late tomorrow?' she asked her boss.
2. 'Is it Ok if I borrow your motor bike?' Bassim asked Abdullah.
3. 'Do you think you could turn the music down a little?' Ramzy said to his son.
4. 'Would it be Ok for me to use the phone to call my parents?' he said to Mr. Parkinson.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions Sentences with same meaning:

1. I haven't had a letter from my wife for three weeks. It's for **three weeks I haven't had a letter from my wife.**
2. The builders haven't done any work on the house for over a week. **The last time the builders did any work on the house was more than a week ago.**
3. It's more than six months since I went to the dentist. **I haven't gone to the dentist for more than six months.**
4. The last time I saw her was in January. **I haven't seen her since January last.**
5. It's ages since we went out for a meal together. **We haven't gone for a meal together for ages.**
6. She hasn't phoned me for over a week now. **It's for over a week now she hasn't phoned me**
7. I saw her such a long time ago. I can hardly remember what she looks like. **It's such a long time since I saw her last tha. I can hardly remember what she looks like.**
8. I haven't been to England since 1990. **The last time I went to England was in 1990.**

Remember: We use *for* with a length of time, we use *since* with a specific point in time except *it's (been) a long time since + Past Simple*

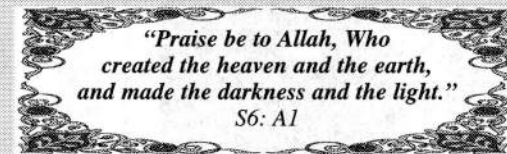
(B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the maxim THE CROWN AND GLORY OF LIFE IS CHARACTER

The previous week's topic

93. IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND
'To err is human'. Every one, regardless of maturity of age or mellowness of vision, is prone to make some error at some point in the highway of life. However, realization of the omissions and commissions and unleashing of sincere efforts to rectify the wrongs committed advertently or inadvertently may make partial or total amends to the loss sustained. As the maxim aptly suggests, there should be no time limit to institute remedial measures for any error committed in the past. Of course, the sooner the mistake is identified and damage control efforts initiated, the better it is. What is of crucial importance is the sincerity of purpose to undo the wrong done. However, there are some people who take the convenient plea of branding the past mistake as a stale issue that doesn't merit attention at present. But a healthier attitude is not to dismiss the issue, but to set it right sooner or later. Time is certainly not a constraint in the matter of remedying a past error. It is better late than never.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

Life is a gamble at terrible odds—if it was a bet, you wouldn't take it.
—Tom Stoppard

A letter to the teachers of English: 81 Some interesting questions of the readers answered



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

Dear Fellow teachers,

I am glad that you have been reading my letters with great attention and a critical mind; this is what some of the letters I have received through my email from the readers show. I am not going to mention the names of these readers for two reasons: one, I don't know their names but only their email addresses and two, I am not interested in their names but their views and observations. I hope my readers will bear with me for I am using one of my letters for answering them; I am sure you will find them interesting and useful too.

One of the readers found my observations about teaching poems in secondary classes true but he/she suggests that poems can be introduced in the preparatory level, at least the basic aspects of poetry such as rhyme and rhythm. The argument in favour of this suggestion is that learners will have longer period of exposure to poetry and this will be more beneficial to them. The reader also argues that learners are exposed to poems in their mother tongue at an early stage and so poems in English should not create any problem.

It is an interesting suggestion indeed; I can go along with him/her in that learners can be familiarized with the poetic aspects such as rhyme at the preparatory level. This is the purpose of including a lot of nursery rhymes at this level; nursery rhymes, as the name suggests, are only for familiarizing them with rhymes (definitely not for the meaning of the rhymes; some of them have funny meaning!). That's all. Poems as such are difficult for the young learners and this might

increase their dislike for English. It is generally believed that young learners should be exposed to English in a playful way so that they may not feel the pinch of it; nursery rhymes/songs, stories, comics, cartoons will help in this regard.

Another reader sent a long email in response to one of my letters on writing; it was a very responsible reaction to my letter in that he/she has written his/her reaction to each of the points I have discussed in the letter. I really appreciate his/her interest and efforts. I replied to him/her saying that he/she sends the letter to Yemen Times for publication but he/she didn't do it, I think. Though the reader agreed with most of what I have said in my letter, the main doubt raised in the letter was if one's style of writing can be changed at the later stage when one is at the college level; the reason for this doubt was that one's writing in one's mother tongue gets set at an early stage and this doesn't change easily later.

I realize that the doubt is genuine and well meant. But I have my doubts if one cannot change one's handwriting in one's mother tongue at a later stage; I have evidences for and against my own doubt. Someone's handwriting becomes the stamp for identifying him/her throughout his/her life; on the other hand, I have seen people improving their handwriting, if it is not good, with constant practice at a very late stage. If you remember, I have said in my letter that I learnt the Italic handwriting in English when I was about 27 and I have also trained many teachers of English in this type of writing successfully. So, I believe that one's handwriting can be changed at any stage, as handwriting is a skill like driving. Don't you learn driving at a later age?

I hope I have answered both the readers to their satisfaction and without boring you, I suppose. Do send your responses to my letters without any hesitation.

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

How to learn English

By GHADA NOAMAN
YEMENIA AIRWAYS
SANA'A AIRPORT

Read advertisements, signs and labels.
Try **EnglishClub.com** for Young Learners.

Tips for beginners

You are like anew baby
Babies learn their language slowly. First they learn to listen. Then they learn to talk. Finally, they can read and write.

Write down new words
Start a vocabulary (new word) notebook. Write words in alphabetical order (A..B..C..). Make example sentences. Always use an English-English dictionary first.

Listen to English every day

Listen to English radio. Watch English TV. Go to English movies. Use online lessons.

Keep an English diary
Start with one sentence. How do you feel? How is the weather? What did you do today? Write another sentence tomorrow.

Make an English/ESL friend

Make up conversations. Practice dialogues. Use beginner textbooks.

Visit and English speaking country
Learn English more quickly. Stay with an English family. Hear native speakers talk. Have a fun experience.

Read English stories

Start with children's storybooks. Try ESL readers.

(Compiled)

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

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Account | Date | Hearing | Proof | Strategy |
| Agenda | Deals | Hint | Proposal | Structure |
| Agent | Dedicated | Hope | Pros | Study |
| Agree | Deeds | Lesson | Quick | Support |
| Alarm | Deepen | Loans | Raise | Talent |
| Argue | Delay | Maintain | Render | Talk |
| Arrange | Direction | Memo | Request | Team |
| Assess | Doctor | Motivate | Risk | Technology |
| Attitude | Effort | Name | Schedule | Timed |
| Attorney | Element | Objectives | Scout | Title |
| Bankroll | Facts | Opinion | Sell | Trust |
| Call | Feel | Paid | Skilled | Wait |
| Carry | Finance | Party | Speech | Watch |
| Charge | Forceful | Pick | Staffer | Wife |
| Chief | Goals | Planner | Stake | Wise |
| Compile | Greatness | Plead | Statements | Work |
| Consultant | Guidance | Point | Status | |
| Data | Guide | Policies | Steer | |

TALK TO YOUR ADVISER

Solution: 5 letters

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

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Mileage

YOUTH FORUM

Before Saying, "Goodbye"

The time of traveling arrives. A harbor full of lustrous crafts. The answer came as a pat. Yet my heart will break in parts.

People leaving their habitation. People going in every direction. Every thing given a local habitation. Aims brought to a happy fruition.

Congratulations, congratulations, Burning candles of our generation; You are the greatest assemblage; But what a great treasure we will lose!

You had a staunch determination, That led you attain the culmination. And now you richly deserve the distinction. To be glowing success incarnation.

What a burden of sorrow have I, Before saying, "GOOD BYE". So plunged in sadness am I. The tears well up and can't dry. Alas! There is no reversion, Never can you forgo your recollections; And that is out of the question.

But you... Never! We will remember you ever and ever.

Near, far... wherever you are You are in our mind as twinkling star. We will live with the wealth of memories here. So, there's nothing I fear... I'm telling the truth... my dear!

Congratulations, congratulations, You are the pearls of these celebrations. With a burning emotion, With a great estimation, Thank you for all your affection, Thank you for all your interaction, Thank you for all your cooperation.

That's God's inviolable volition, And with our humble and solemn petition; Our fervent prayers for your lives sans complication.

Congratulations, congratulations A warm send-off on this momentous occasion... And HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

By **Ahiam Alawakabi, Level 3,**
Department of English,
Faculty of Education,
Sana'a University

For whatever you will do, For wherever you will go, We'll never never forget you, We may forget something we loved before,

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Tourism in Yemen

By ABEER YAHIA ALERYANI
 FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

It is all about marketing these days. Persuading people into buying the same electronic device they already have, but with some extra decorative features, you must engage marketing into the operation. To encourage people to read your book you have to convince them that you are selling them knowledge. To attract them into visiting your country, marketing is the tool you need to get you there.

Marketing doesn't mean cheating. Some people may associate the two words. However, marketing is about making your "product" known to others by advertisements and promotions. Otherwise, you will be just like the guy who kept winking at the girl in the dark! No matter how good your product is, no one will know about it without marketing. This era may be called the marketing era, as consumers have grown aware and selective with so many options open to them.

Tourism is an industry that needs to be marketed. The tourism sector in our country has to catch up with this concept. Tourism can be an important source of income for our country and for the businesses within it. Tourism has become a major industry in many countries.

According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), revenues from tourism accounted for more than 8 percent of world merchandise exports, and one third of the world trade in services in 1995. The percentage of tourism for developing countries has increased con-



stantly over the past two decades. In 1995, "third world countries" received about 170 million international tourist arrivals, which is 30% of the world's total. The revenue generated from tourism to the third world in 1995 was 113 million USD. Tourism to the third world overwhelmingly originates from developed countries. This has been termed as "North-South-tourism" and is

the second largest source of income for developing countries. A case in point is the statistic that in 1991 more than 20% of the population of Germany had travel experience to a third world country.

Almost all Yemenis are aware of the tourism potential of our country. Most of us often discuss this issue and wonder why this sector isn't improved. It is generally agreed that if tourism in Yemen is used to its full potential, it can make miracles to the economy.

In my opinion it is about marketing, or the lack of it. Commercials air on satellite channels persuading people into visiting countries in the Far East. Along with the new tourist attractions, some Arab countries have been known as famous tourism sites for decades. All these countries, and their official tourism bodies, have acknowledged the power of mass media and other marketing means in attracting tourism to their countries.

With a single advertisement campaign on TV you invade the world. You enter to hundreds of thousands of homes all over the world. Think of the possibilities of having people attracted to our diverse geographical sites and weather, our Islamic and pre-Islamic monument and heritage. How many of them will decide to give it a try, attracted by the beautiful scenes they may see on TV through a well prepared advertisement campaign?!

Yemen doesn't look as destroyed and undeveloped as the western media portrays it. On the contrary, it is a beautiful country offering a diverse climate and culture. It is tempting to many as there are a variety of attractions to suit various types of tourists. For those interested in history, it is the land of the Queen of Sheba with a rich history of many kingdoms and eras. For those interested in sea activities, we have an environmentally healthy coast line 2000 km in length. For those interested in seclusion, Yemen has many islands that are in themselves very attractive.

It is important to enhance the image of Yemen to attract tourists, whatever their interest. Although our image has been tarnished by western media, we must show Yemen as it is. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism and to the Ministry of Media and Mass Communication should prepare a well planned advertisement campaign showing Yemen in its true colors. This advertisement campaign should target possible tourists from Arab and International states. An advertisement campaign on Arab TV and/or International channels will open the world's eyes to what we can offer them.

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