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Yemeni- Saudi relations leave apprehension behind

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had late last week released 1200 Yemeni detainees accused with various charges, mainly illegitimate entry into the kingdom by infiltrating through its international borders. Incidents of illegal infiltrations into the Saudi territories by Yemeni nationals reached the peak during the few past years in consequence to deteriorating economic situation in Yemen.

The Saudi decision has received warm popular and official welcome in Yemen especially that it had under a direct order by King Abdullah Abdulaziz in less than one month since his ascension of the throne in the kingdom. King Abdullah is famous for his high regard to the Yemeni people.

Officially, the Yemeni welcome came as president Ali Abdullah Saleh made telephone discussion last Friday with the king, expressing the Yemeni people's gratitude for the release of the 1200 Yemeni prisoners.

Observers believe that the King's decision is an important step towards

deepening and improvement of the Saudi- Yemeni relations towards better normalization. These relations used to suffer from apprehension since the second Gulf war. A million Yemenis, who left the kingdom and lost their jobs, were the victims of this apprehension. They contributed to increase rate of unemployment in Yemen. They did not find any jobs in their home country because of recession in investment projects. Their only way out as they see it, was to go back to the kingdom, in the hope of finding better chances to improve their living conditions.

The Saudi terms for going into the kingdom were very strict not only for the Yemenis in particular, but for all those who enter the kingdom.

The terms were beyond the means of the Yemeni people because they stipulate a sponsor, and a sum of money for the visa. The Saudi measures have their justification after the September 11 events and measures for the war on terror.

By infiltration into the Saudi territories, the Yemeni workers who had lost everything thought Saudi Arabia might give them back some of what they had



President Saleh



King Abdullah

had ended with the conclusion of borders demarcation treaty by the two countries.

Many changes had taken place following the 9/11 events and the policy of war on terror has enforced a new agenda in the state relations, especially the Arab relations. Thus, cooperation and coordi-

lost. They think infiltration through borders would cost them nothing. Instead of paying money amounting sometimes to three thousand dollars for buying visa, they just go through the borders and they get jobs by the help of inhabitants living in border towns, who respect and like them. They are always afraid of being captured especially after the intensive patrols that followed the growing number of infiltration cases, and the Saudi concerns when the terrorists who hit the kingdom fled into Yemen.

Things have changed today, with the removal of the Yemeni fear of Saudi intervention into Yemeni affairs. That

nation in fighting terror has the most important article of relations between states. The Yemeni-Saudi cooperation in the area of fighting terror is successful, by which the two countries managed to achieve many successes.

Yemen believes that the realization of real development is the means for fighting terror. This goal cannot be attained but through cooperation with its neighbors, particularly with the Saudi Arabia. Yemen is still hopeful that the Gulf States, including Saudi Arabia, would have a more positive stand regarding Yemen's full membership of the Gulf Cooperation Council, instead of partial one.

Rains uncover capital's random planning

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA- Heavy rains falling on the country this week caused damage and destruction to different areas of Yemen, mainly the capital city of Sana'a where strong torrents disclosed the random kind planning of its infrastructures.

The Yemeni capital topped the list of cities where people have become subjected to drowning in heavy rainfalls on the city on Friday and Saturday. Those rains uncovered the fragility of projects related to the construction of Sana'a sewages that cost billions of riyals.

Sewage projects raise concern among ordinary citizens and businessmen who closed their shops due to an endless construction of sewages. Rains converted streets of the capital into swamps filled with stagnant water causing proliferation of mosquitoes that are responsible for the spread of



Recent downpour revealed the poorly planned sewage systems which subsided in many areas of the capital city. YEMEN TIMES PHOTO BY WESAM MOHAMMED

deadliest diseases.

Construction companies did not implement Sana'a sewage projects in the required way despite the fact they took large sums of money for the construction.

The project of Sana'a watercourse is one of the biggest projects that cost large amounts of money, most of them are loans on Yemen that have not been exploited in a better way.

Strong torrents sweeping streets of the capital usually flow down from mountains surrounding the city. Due to the lack of successful plans to exploit water flowing into the capital, recent studies confirmed there would be inevitable shortage and crisis in the

city's underground water that is expected to deplete in 2025.

The situation requires closer attention and making available alternative water resources, mainly as the city of Sana'a depends on the renewable rainwater. The concerned authorities should take successful steps for the construction of water barriers in the city, other than simple dams in order to store large quantities of rainwater to alleviate suffering of the locals.

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Investigations into Oil Ministry corruption

BY HASSAN ALZAIDY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Observers think that the government of PM Ba-Jamal is suffering an unprecedented economic and administrative corruption.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered in his latest speech that key executives who are responsible for corruption and those who trade in public funds should be held accountable whoever they were.

The investigations also cover cheating in mazut quality in Barah cement plant, where an entrepreneur is involved. The cheating incident led to large flaws in the plant and consequently it stopped production. The investigations are expected to disclose major corruption elements that are behind this case.

Reliable sources have told Yemen Times that the government has lately agreed to pay \$17 million as damages to the Japanese company that operates Amran cement plant, after some bribes were paid. The company remonstrated against the stoppage of Amran plant last July, and demanded government for compensations.

Halt of production by national cement plants has led to price hikes that drove the 50kg cement sack's price to YR.1400. Cement merchants were the major beneficiaries in that process.

In spite of all these calls, the Central organization for Control and Auditing emphasizes that abuse of power is still going on, misusing loans and aid without the least reaction from anybody. No public legal procedures had been taken against any corrupt element ever since the president came to power, in spite of the vast wealth they have collected during their office terms.

Observers' opinion is that the president is unable to combat corruption and name the officials responsible for it although the state's wealth is being plundered. Such corrupt officials are now found in the state's civil, military and security institutions.

The large financial deficit has forced the government to increase oil products prices, but the public does no longer believe in what the government or its officials say.

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Study: Poultry food responsible for cancer

SANA'A- According to a recent study submitted a few days by a Yemeni MA scholar, there is a connection between poultry food and cancer among consumers.

A variety of tumors in Yemen putting consumers at risk are linked to contamination of fast foods with mycotoxins. The study, a thesis by Hameed al-Jabr, a postgraduate from Sana'a University, from which he had also obtained his masters degree, the Faculty of Agriculture, surveyed samples of wheat, beans and corn from

Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb and Thamar. The study warned of the fungal toxins affecting cereals, which are consumed as key sources of calories. The study focused on 29 different poultry foods as part of the human nutrition. In the context of toxicity degrees of fungal metabolites, al-Jabr classified the fungi-produced toxins to aflatoxins, vomitoxins, and aveumozens. They result in allergic reactions, reproductive failure, unthriftiness, loss of appetite, suppression of the immune system and decreased nutritious efficiency.

Customs hinder fish companies

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Export is stopped by many of the fishing and exporting companies for over a month because of the illegal customs that were imposed by the government on both the fishermen and exporters.

Companies said that the premier, the minister of finance Alawi Alsalmi imposed a tax of 3% on fish and 6% on mollusks, which they described as illegal.

There was a large resentment among exporters and fishermen.

Sources disclosed that the PM has ordered in a message to his deputy and the Minister of Fisheries on 19.7.2005, to cancel those new taxes, but nothing is done so far. The export stopped, leading to a large loss of revenues as fish production is an important economic source.

This important economic sector contributed to the national income with (146.800 tons) as it was improved in the period of 2000 up to the first quarter of 2005. Its total income was YR.56.83.000 million.

Safer methods for crops storage

Thamar - A training course on safer methods for crops storage was concluded on Thursday August 18 in the city of Thamar. As many as 22 farmland owners and marketers of horticultural crops have learned the use of safer methods for storing crops that quickly spoil after harvest, such as fruits and vegetables.

The course involved participants from Sana'a, Thamar, Mahweet, Lahj, Aden, and Saada who completed their six-day training on Thursday.

The course was organized by the National Center for Agricultural Training and the Social Fund for Development.

Alnour Center for the Blind

Summer camp for the blind

SANA'A - Al-Nour Center concluded last week the 2nd summer Camp in which around 40 of blind people participated. The participants had received different trainings and learnt various skills that were clearly seen in their conclusion party that took place at Al-Nour Center. The students performed wonderful plays and sang different and beautiful songs that had been received with admiration of the attendance.

Mr. Hassan Hassan, Arabic language teacher at Al-Nour center briefly spoke about the camp "It is the second camp and it targets three groups; students who are not in the center, still on the waiting list to enroll in, the second group composed of the students who study and live in the center and third one consists of students living with

their families but study in public schools. We try to take care of and incorporate them with their partners at those schools. One of the aims of the second camp for the blind is to raise the blinds' educational, social, cultural, and health level as well as the blind people have a chance to know each other. The camp contains a lot of activities and various training courses such as English language courses, computer, using Brail for printing, and Quran. On the other hand, there are other activities related to theater and sport and delivering different lectures on various issues, attempting to raise awareness among the blind. In addition, we have organized a number of field visits and trips to the republic's governorates."

On obstacles the center faces, Mr. Hassan Hassan, said "There are some of impairments, most of which are the lack of awareness among the parents and the society about importance of the role of blind people as well as getting the capabilities and means that the blind need. There is no response and cooperation by the concerned bodies in taking care of this segment of the society."

The center has a number of future plans such as to increase the capacity to have more numbers of blind people and to save as many of this segment's members. Additionally, we look forward to improving the level of education, and developing the social and health level for the ones who belong to the center.", he concluded.

Yemen to launch first space youth channel

SANA'A- Sana'a University is currently making the necessary arrangements for launching the first independent space channel for youth in Yemen's history. The space youth channel will start broadcasting in next September, said Prof. Ahmad al-Kebsi, Vice Rector of Sana'a

University for Academic Affairs. Al-Kebsi pointed out the university had completed setting up studios for the new channel and provided it with professional cadres and necessary equipment. The channel, he added, will start broadcasting next month to coincide with Yemen's celebrating the

43rd anniversary of the 26 September revolution.

The channel will have youth-oriented programs to mature their awareness and operate in compliance with the media policy in the country, Sana'a University Vice Rector signaled out.

Yemen announces names of 46 Guantanamo detainees

SANA'A- A Yemeni security team paid a short visit a few days ago to Guantanamo Bay during which it interviewed a number of Yemenis detainees.

During the 10-day visit, the team interviewed 46 detainees out of 110 people whose names were given to Yemen by the US authorities. Well-informed sources signaled out

that another Yemeni delegation had visited Guantanamo Bay before this visit and interviewed 40 other detainees on the US list of terrorists, three of whom were not found Yemeni nationals.

National dress exhibition staged

SANA'A- The First National Dress Exhibition was staged on Saturday August 20 with the aim to demonstrate the traditional identity of Yemen from 1948 to 2004.

The exhibition of traditional costumes of Yemen's rulers since 1948, official emblems, national anthems, postage stamps, and coins, is organized by the Cultural Programs Foundation and will last for ten days.

The event involves concerts and contests, as well as a display of the Earth's Tears, a brief film by Austrian



filmmaker Seenic.

Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eriani said the inauguration of the exhibition demonstrates the depth of Yemen's ancient culture and civilized heritage, which is thought of as a unique and distinctive phenomenon, rarely found in other Arab countries.

Dr. Abdulaziz al-Maqalih indicated that contents of the exhibition reflect the diversity of popular and formal dresses throughout different stages in Yemen's history. He confirmed that differences of scarves imply differences of costumes.

On his part, Colonel Yahya Mohammad Abdullah Saleh ascertained the collection of various types of heritage is a national duty, and the concerned parties should play an integral

role in this area. He pointed out the concerned parties should draw attention to the military uniforms that gained popularity and fame during the 40s and the 50s of the 20th century.

Dr. Rawfah Hassan emphasized that the exhibition will be transferred to Germany after being staged in the Yemeni cities of Mukalla and Aden. She mentioned the 4-wing exhibition will mark different stages of Yemen's history, mainly between 1984-2004, pointing out there are some difficulties that hinder collection of uniforms belonging to political leaders.

Dr. Rawfah concluded by saying: "such costumes are not the possession of these political leaders, rather they signify the cultural heritage of the nation."

HRW: UK forces Iraqi refugee seekers to return home

SANA'A- Human Rights Watch (HRW) based in Yemen said the United Kingdom have to cancel its plans with respect to returning the unaccepted refugees to Iraq this time due to unsafe circumstances and security concerns in the war-ravaged country.

The British Ministry of Interior arrested tens of Iraqis and is still detaining them at the deportation centers with accelerating procedures for their deportation, the HRW added.

On August 15, the British Ministry of Interior held the unaccepted refugee seekers to send them back to Iraq but it refrained from mentioning their number.

According to the Refugees Council, a non-governmental organization based in London, the British authorities have captured around 43 Iraqis since August 13, meanwhile press reports indicate the number may reach 100.

On the 14th of August, a Spokesman for the Ministry of Interior mentioned that not all the areas in Iraq are affected by offensives, and that only Iraqi nationals who are not subjected to oppression and need not human protection will be deported.

Official reports state that a plane belonging to the British Ministry of Defense will transport the first batch of

Iraqis on August 28 to Irbil, an area to the north of Iraq with Kurds majority.

The Deputy Manager of the Middle East and North Africa Department at HRW noted: "it is impossible to bring all Iraqis worldwide together and force them come back home against their will. Meanwhile the British Foreign Ministry advised the British nationals against traveling to Iraq and warns them of

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

Do you think that the officials responsible for corruptions will stand for trails?

Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think that the rallies that are held in support of Almoayad, will succeed in changing the verdict against him?

No 68%
Yes 28%
I don't know 4%

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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening within its organization:

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The position is located in the United States Agency for International Development USAID, American Embassy. The Senior Education Advisor serves as the Senior FSN Advisor and the key Responsible Officer for USAID Yemen's Strategic Objective 279-006: "Improved Basic Education, Especially for Women and Girls." The Senior Education Advisor performs a leading role in the review and refinement of the USAID Yemen Education Strategy and designs new activities and programs. S/he provides major leadership, strategic, and technical direction for the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the US-funded education portfolio in Yemen. S/he also conducts related discussions and negotiations with senior level officials from the Yemen Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donors. The ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate complex development projects is absolutely required. The FSN Education Advisor will be willing and able to travel within Yemen and to travel within the region and to the United States. S/he must also be able to pass a background investigation and obtain a visa for travel to the United States.

Required Qualifications:

- Education:** A Masters level degree in Education, Education Planning and Management or related field is required. Preference will be given to individuals with a PhD degree in a relevant field and teaching experience.
- Prior Work Experience:** At least six years experience in education and/or education policy and development, with demonstrated increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, coordinating, and guiding education activities is required. Up to two years graduate work in a related field beyond the Bachelor level may be substituted for work experience. Demonstrated ability to develop and manage complex education projects/activities is required. Preference will be given to candidates with significant experience with USAID or another major international development/donor organizations in the education sector. Experience in basic education in the Arab world is desirable.
- Language Proficiency:** English: Minimum FSI level four in reading, writing and speaking is required. Preference will be given to candidates with fluency (4+) in reading, writing, speaking Arabic. Yemeni Arabic is desirable.
- Knowledge:** A thorough knowledge and understanding of current Yemen education system, and the government and non-government entities working in the Education field, plus knowledge of 1) the economic, political, and cultural characteristics and 2) the social problems, resources, and development prospects/ priorities relating to Education is desirable. Knowledge of USG legislation relating to public education; USAID programming policies, regulations, procedures and documentation; and of the objectives, methodology, and status of the program and projects is desirable.
- Skills and Abilities:** Demonstrated ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate complex development projects is required. Demonstrated managerial skills to effectively manage assigned activities is required. Excellent skills to deal effectively with officials at senior levels of the Yemen government, US Embassy and USAID Mission, as well as donors and non-governmental organizations is required. Ability to obtain, analyze, and evaluate a variety of data and to organize and present it in a clear manner to senior USAID and US Embassy personnel is required. Excellent communication and writing skills to conduct clear and effective discussions and to draft clear and accurate documents is required. Good analytical and presentation skills to assemble, analyze, evaluate and present education sector data is required. Objectivity to provide unbiased and sound information and advice in assigned areas is required. Demonstrated strong computer skills in Microsoft Office Word and Excel programs required.

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sanaa, Yemen, Tel: 755-2000.

9. Selection Criteria:

CATEGORY	SCORING PERCENTAGE
Education*	25%
Experience*	25%
Language Proficiency*	20%
Knowledge*	10%
Skills and Abilities*	20%
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HRITC wraps up debate on Civil

Societies' role in democratic Changes

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Part of the "Debates to Aid Democracy" program known as DAD, Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) organized in Sana'a a symposium on role of civil society in the current democratic changes on 15-16 August. Several representatives for civil society organizations from a number of Arab and other countries participated in those discussions. They came from Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Turkey, Sudan, Algiers and Morocco.

The first session was held under the title, "Dialogue for partnership equal between civil society organizations and government in the area of political and democratic reform and human rights"

The forum reviewed official and civil declarations and initiatives, which established the cornerstone for



debate and participation.

Miss Jamila Ali Raja'a and Al-Ashraf Milad presented a design for the program of "Support of the democratic dialogue to encourage

fair and fruitful participation between governments, civil societies and local councils."

Participants have also discussed recommendations of workshops that

were held in Turkey and Venice.

The participants discussed the common mechanism of debates between the Arab civil societies, and that of their negotiations with their governments

The participants have coined the first draft of the Arab forum for democratic dialogue.

This forum comes because of the initiative of political reform that is adopted by Yemeni, Turkish and Italian governments. This was one of the decisions of the G-8 summit, and "the future forum" that was held in Rabat. The G-8 and the governments of the region attended it.

The (HRITC) is considered the representative of the Yemeni government and civil societies in this program. Italy chose the organization of (No peace without justice) as its representative whereas the Turkish establishment for social and economic studies represented the Turkish government.

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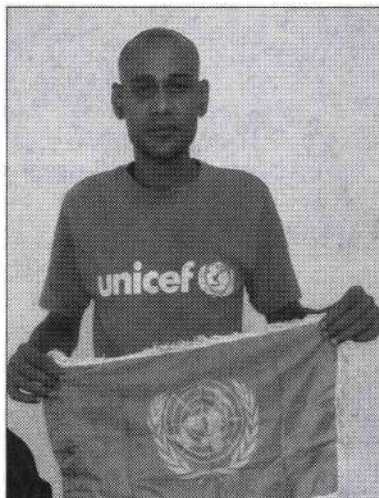
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Indian globetrotter arrives in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Mr. Debasis De, an Indian citizen, arrived on Friday August 19, 2005, in Sana'a coming from neighboring country of Djibouti. He has been traveling around the world since 1991 spreading the message of world peace and international solidarity among the people of the world. Sponsored mainly by the UNDP, UNICEF, Mr. Debasis has been able to carry out his mission visiting 116 in different continents including Europe, Asia and Africa.

In a statement to the Yemen



Times, he described his expedition as exciting and self-satisfactory. He recalls the motive of his journey as being the desire to have a peaceful world. "I like to adventure with a noble cause," he said.

"I used to be a civil servant, a teacher of mathematics. I thought the world could be better if I travel spreading the culture of solidarity, love, peace and non-violence," he added. "I am now 43 and I have to visit more 87 countries before I land in Japan, namely in Hiroshima, to underscore the importance of a world sans violence, a world with peace." He expects his journey to

end in 2014.

According to him, he has met with the Indian ambassador to Yemen and the UNDP representative and intends to meet students and young people and talk to them. During his long trip, he has covered some 145 thousand kms and visited thousands of schools in Vietnam, China, Korea, Thailand, Russia, Chechnya, Finland, Norway, Italy, Tunisia, Tanzania, Comoros, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Latin America. Mr. Debasis traveled mostly on foot but used different means of transportation such as helicopters in Africa's conflict zones.

22 customs committees continue car taxation

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Taxing committees are still taxing cars at all customs posts throughout the country according to the new Tariff law that will expire on 31 October.

Customs authorities revealed that the committees have witnessed a rush that lifted its income to 2.5 milliards up to the 6th of August. This is an outcome of 4000 cars, due to the deductions by the new customs law number 41/2005.

The authorities confirmed that the tariff would be 5% on the cars that are actually inside the country, whose manufacture date is seven years plus the manufacture year. 10% is imposed on cars whose manufacture exceeds seven years, plus the manufacture year. 100% is imposed on the untaxed

cars that are caught during the raids that are going to be carried out after the expiry of the three-month period.

The source told Yemen Times that the untaxed cars that would be discovered after the expiry of the three months, and their owners fail to pay the 100 % tax, would be sold in a public auction.

The customs authority asked untaxed cars' owners, that have temporary plates (cars that have private, military or police plates) to take advantage of the remaining period to pay the taxes for their cars, before they are compelled to pay the 100% at the end of the period.

The deductions determined by the tariff law and the general sales tax that was issued last July, stipulating that taxes would be lowered from 25-5%.

Developing Yemen's tourism requires closer attention

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Paying attention to tourism never appears within an official system adopted by states and governorates until the second half of the 20th century, specifically since the end of the World War II. The need for entertaining people involved in the war emerged with the increase of income in Europe consequent to success of Marshal's project.

Based on this information, the human desire for tourism was manifested, and expanded with the aim

to reach different places and countries having vital historical and geographical components and nice climates that attract people from around the world.

With the increase of international tourism movement and spending on tourism, governments showed more attention to tourism, considering it vital source of revenue. Different states started to concentrate on ancient sites and ruins of ancient civilizations that attract tourists, or what is in the form of social heritage including customs, traditions and religious rituals the population of a particular country depended on in their daily life and different occasions.

The increased volume of

international tourism and its economic role, made governments worldwide more interested in tourist resources and tend to provide the essential services including accommodation, restaurants and means of transportation, in addition to means for guiding tourists and protecting them. Different governments are showing greater interest in industries and services associated with tourist activities, and then countries tend to compete with each other through merchandizing their sites of attraction and facilities offered to tourists and visitors.

Owing to rapid growth of tourist activity, numerous states started to move toward achieving similar

developments in promoting and marketing their tourist products, services and facilities. Race for attracting tourists was manifested, particularly by the countries that receive tourists that started to set a tourist activity in the frame of its plans and programs. The main objective of this is to insert tourism-related activities in the system of goals and policies to contribute to causing a qualitative leap in the sector and raise its contribution to gross domestic product and economic and social development that influences and is influenced by tourism.

The importance of integrating the tourist sector in the national plan emerges in each country interested in tourism, considering it one of the vital revenues for their national economy.

Tourism is one of the new sectors, but demand for it is on the rise, and tourist resources are in need of immense effort and provision of tourism-related services. Upgrading the sector of tourism can be achieved through plans and programs of specific goals, policies and strategies controlled by the concerned governmental parties that exert extensive efforts in their general goals and policies, with the intention to provide a real development in different activities including tourism.

Since tourism is of great importance, this led to put emphasis on the significance of well planning of its development to cope with developments in the world. This will help increase tourism-related revenues in economic and social development to insure an increase in the tourist contribution to achieving national goals and stability.

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بمناسبة حصوله على اجازة من المركز الكندي للتنمية البشرية كمدرّب مختص في تخطيط زراعية وارشاف المدرّب والمختص العالمي د/ ابراهيم الفقي ومزيّداً من النجاح المهني.

المهنتون
شركة رمضان للتجارة المحدودة، مركز أيكنت للتدريب والتكنولوجيا مركز مهارات للتدريب والتنمية محمد القاضي

One month after the increase of prices

By HAKIM ALMASMARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

After last months destructive riots, situations had really calmed dramatically. However hearts are still boiling and minds pondering and wondering of what worse could happen. "Why not throw ourselves in a sea and stop pondering about the outcome of our disastrous future" Saleh Al-Mahweeti, a local farmer said.

Uncertainty about the future runs deep in Yemen. Questions go unresolved. People are tired and want to see hope and a better future, not remember past glories.

Many can't believe the forced situation they are going through after the rise of prices, caused by the lifting of subsidies on fuels over a month ago. The recent increase was caused by piling pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to

cut subsidies on fuels and introduce sales tax on products.

The Yemeni government continuously mentions that the recent economic reforms were for the benefit of the people and the country, while it's fruits are to be visible very soon. However, local people are used to hearing such promises by officials, which only by time will prove to just be part of a political agenda to ease down the anger of the people. For this reason, last months protests and riots arose in almost every nuke and corner of the nation, causing casualties which spread threw Hudaidah, Aden, Tamar, Saa'da, Marib, Dalih, not to mention the capital Sana'a.

Some sources put the death toll in the first two days as high as 36, while scores injured and imprisoned. Tanks were deployed on main crossroads for over a month making the capital feel more like Baghdad. Tanks were finally seen evacuating the capital on the first week of August.

For many Yemeni families life is being too difficult to bear. Some prices

are virtually double of what they were a year ago. Everything in the country witnessed a dramatic rise in prices from basic fundamentals like flour, rice, and sugar, to transportation and household needs.

For those millions living under the poverty line, life has lost its meaning. Local activists fear that in such critical situations, citizens would definitely flock to unlawful solutions while some will engage in prostitution, which in return would damage our long seen conservative society, furthermore, spreading diseases to an unpredictable level.

From the younger generations aspect, many children will be forced to flood local streets and beg to cover the numerous household expenses. Driving threw most cross lanes in the capital and other major cities, noticing children selling anything that comes easy from cassettes and newspapers, to cameras and swords would be part of everyday life. Many innocent children will be deprived from having the joy and hap-

piness, which children at their age cherish, as they get older. Furthermore feeling depressed and losing hope for a bright future before starting to build one.

No jobs, no financial support, and for some people no roof to sleep under. The outcome in the long run could be a total destruction. No help yet, has been given to people living in such a critical situation.

Of Yemen's estimated 21.5 million, 11 million live below or near the poverty line. The per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of the Yemeni people is \$510, compared to \$40,100 that of the United States.

Sources show that there were already 40,000 beggars spread throughout the capital Sana'a, at the start of the New Year. This number is expected to rise dramatically. Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world and by far, the poorest in the Arab rich Middle East. For the government to implement such economic reform in an unbearable situation is a full pledge catastrophe.

Prime Minister Abdul Qadar Bajammal was quoted saying last month, immediately after the damages caused by the protesters, "if people had only waited for one or two weeks, they would have seen the positive side of the decision. Well Mr. Prime Minister, it

has been over a month and the positive side is not to be seen yet. There seems to be a contradiction between what was said and meant on the one hand, and what is seen in reality, in the other.

An over looker over our situation will notice homeless old citizens sleeping on curbs of side streets, young children begging to survive, women selling themselves in a secrecy and in a reckless manner while proceeding in unethical conduct, only hoping to live and support their poor families.

If no helping hand is given to such people, expect corruption to rise to an unseen level, therefore, destroying the country from within.

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Martin Amacher the Head of International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Yemen to the Yemen Times:

“We go on because we know people need us and rely on us”

INTERVIEWED BY AMEL AL-ARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC is a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization. It has been active in Yemen since autumn 1962. From that time onwards, the ICRC has been offering its services to Yemeni society: providing substantial aid to the Yemeni Red Crescent YRC, promoting international humanitarian law, giving assistance, and during certain periods, visiting detained persons. To highlight the role of ICRC internationally and nationally, Amel al-Ariqi of the Yemen Times has met Martin Amacher, head of the delegation of the international committee of the ICRC in Yemen and carried out this interview. Mr. Amacher is working as an ICRC delegate for 11 years, among others in Sri Lanka, the Palestinian territories, as a deputy head of Regional Delegation in Kuwait, which covers the Gulf Countries, in Afghanistan and Georgia. He has become the head of delegation of the ICRC in Yemen in May 2003



Martin Amacher, head of the delegation of the ICRC

In your years of work in Yemen how do you assess the ICRC's intervention in humanitarian issues in Yemen throughout its years of operation?

The ICRC has progressed in all domains such as cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society YRCS, detainees' protection and assistance as well as re-establishing family links, promotion of the International Humanitarian Law IHL, and assistance particularly in the field of orthopedic treatment to land mine victims and other patients.

The ICRC's operations in Yemen progressed rapidly since 2003. It carried a pilot project with the Yemeni Ministry of Education for an educational program that aims at enhancing awareness in sec-

households in Marran and provided construction material for the repair of 84 ponds that were destroyed by this conflict.

Concerning the second part of the question, we didn't enter Saadah during the conflict because of security reasons. As I am a Head of Delegation of ICRC in Yemen I have my responsibility to ensure that no body is hurt or injured. We are an impartial and independent organization that has no link with any party of any conflict. We have to take safety procedures in consideration to insure the safety of our staff. So we tried to talk to the conflicting parties persuading them that we are a humanitarian organization that assists victims of conflict regardless of their affiliation.

Dose the domination of the tribal system pose as an obstacle to your work in Yemen?

We don't consider the tribal system as an obstacle. The tribal system is a fact in Yemen is a part of Yemeni society. For example in Marran we talked to local sheikhs of tribes in order to facilitate our mission there.

How about your emblem, do many people think that it has certain symbolization?

Yes you are right. Many people think that the cross in the emblem is a Christian symbol but that is not right

at all. ICRC is based in Switzerland, a country that is known for its neutrality, so the founders of the ICRC were inverting the colors of the Swiss flag, which is a white cross on red ground, so it become a red cross in white ground. We face this misunderstanding not just in Yemen but also in others countries so we keep on explaining that the emblem of ICRC is non-religious and signifies neutrality.

Who are your main partners in Yemen? In which capacity?

ICRC works closely with the Yemeni Red Crescent YRCS enhancing their capacities to enable them to perform their tasks and provide their services to citizens in the best possible quality. In 2004 and 2005, training sessions were held to increase the YRCS' capacity to make the principles of the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) known, and re-establish links between refugees and their families abroad. The two institutions held in April 2005 a seminar on the protection of war victims in Islamic law and international humanitarian law in Aden and as I mentioned before YRCS and ICRC worked together in assessing the humanitarian situation in Saadah following the armed confrontations in summer 2004.

There are other partners of ICRC in Yemen, among them the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law and Educational Research and Development Center, as well as NGO's such as Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation CDF and Woman's Center Against Violence.

Why are you interested in promoting the IHL and who are your target groups?

We totally believe the dignity and the physical and moral integrity of human beings must be safeguarded in wartime. Therefore ICRC endeavors to promote IHL, which includes fundamental rules and humanitarian values that call for providing the protection and the assistance to victims of war and internal violence.

ICRC tries to promote IHL by providing advice, training and legal counseling to the government and the legislator bodies on issues of ratifying IHL instruments, and adapting the national legislation to the ratified treaties. Also by giving advice and support about introducing humanitarian principles and the basics of IHL into the curricula of schools, universities and training and educational institutes of the army and security forces.

What have you done in Yemen regarding land mines- anti-personnel mines?

The ICRC started a teaching and training program to upgrade the skills of technicians of two state-run orthopedic centers in Sana'a and Mukalla, using ICRC technology and experts to produce artificial limbs. Two ICRC ortho- prosthetists arrived in Yemen in February 2003 to implement the program in conjunction with the Ministry of Health at the new Mukalla center, as well as to follow up on progress at the Sana'a workshop, which has originally been founded by the ICRC in the 1960s. During January-June 2005, the Mukalla workshop delivered 35 prostheses and provided 273 orthoses to patients while in the workshop in Sana'a produced 54 prostheses and 82 orthoses and medical shoes.

Could you tell us about the Red Cross letters and maintaining family links project?

ICRC tracing services help refugees in Yemen locate and restore contact with family members in their home countries. The Red Cross Message RCM service also enables Yemeni families to restore ties with relatives held in US detention in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay. Since April 2002 until June 2005, 2080 RCM were exchanged between Yemeni detainees there and their families at home. 2,775 messages were exchanged between refugees in Yemen and their families. 317 among persons in relation to the conflict and crisis in Iraq and 11 others among persons in relation to the conflict in Afghanistan.

From your regular visits to Guantanamo Detention camp, how do you assess the situation there?

The ICRC has been visiting detainees held at Guantanamo since January 2002. There are currently about 540 detainees from roughly 40 countries. By February 2005, the ICRC had facilitated the exchange of more than 15,000 Red Cross messages between the detainees and their families.

For many detainees at Guantanamo Bay more than two and a half years have passed since their arrest. The ICRC has always mentioned that those detainees remaining in Guantanamo Bay should either be charged and tried, released or be placed within a legal framework that governs their continued detention. On 28th June 2004, the United States Supreme Court ruled that 14 Guantanamo Bay detainees could file for rights of habeas corpus- that is, challenges to the legality of their detention in US federal courts. This decision has opened the door for other detainees at Guantanamo Bay to challenge the legality of their detention in US courts. The ICRC closely follows developments in the wake of the Supreme Court decision. The ICRC believes that the uncertainty about their fate has been a contributing factor to the mental and emotional health problems among the detainees at Guantanamo Bay observed by its delegates and reported by other sources.

As an international organization your mandate instates neutrality, how do you manage to



Assistance for Sa'adah regions (water filters and construction materials): Assistance trucks arriving to Marran

maintain that in complicated situations, such as Guantanamo and other conflicts?

Neutrality is a fundamental critical principle. ICRC maintains a dialogue with all warring parties and act as an intermediary between them, at the same time remaining detached from all political issues related to conflict. Therefore, we think that the parties of any conflict we are working in have to accept our neutrality and let the ICRC reach the victims and help them. Nowadays it is difficult for us because there are parties who do not wholly accept this basic idea of neutrality.

Regarding Guantanamo, the role of the ICRC as an independent and neutral humanitarian organization with a mandate conferred on it by states, is to regularly assess the conditions of detentions, the treatment of detainees and respect of their fundamental judicial guarantees. The ICRC offers observations and makes recommendations for improvements- where appropriate - in the course of its ongoing dialogue with the US authorities. While the ICRC monitors the situation at Bagram, Kandahar and Guantanamo Bay, the responsibility for ensuring that persons held there are indeed treated in accordance with IHL and other applicable bodies of law lies with the US authorities. The ICRC regularly discusses its findings concerning Guantanamo Bay with the military authorities in the camp as well as with the appropriate US representatives in Washington. While the ICRC has felt compelled to make some of its concerns public, notably regarding the legal status of the detainees, the primary channel for addressing issues related to detention remains its direct and confidential dialogue with the US authorities. The question of the legal status of the persons detained by the US at Bagram, Guantanamo Bay or at so-called undisclosed locations, as well as the legal framework applicable to them remains unsolved.

But there is an accusation that you know about the offences and torture that have been practiced against the detainees for example in Abu Ghreib prison?

As I told you our role is to assess the conditions of detentions, the treatment of detainees and respect of their fundamental judicial guarantees. We are working in a confidential way. But confidentiality

But as this had occurred without us playing a role, it showed that ICRC had in fact complied a report on what had happened there, on the basis of what the detainees told us, and sent this report to the US authorities with recommendation to stop such behaviors. Later this report became one main reference document of the American senator who inquired into the Abu Ghreib scandal. The public opinion has to understand that we have a particular way to say our things that don't reach the public for good reasons.

Nowadays ICRC's workers who are supposed to protect victims are themselves subjected to risks. How do you work under such circumstances?

ICRC has a very good reputation as an impartial, impartial humanitarian organization that aims to help people. These principles attract people to work with us. However nowadays providing security to our workers becomes a challenge. But still in many countries where we work people trust us and that is very important. For example Palestinian grandma trusts that the Red Cross, she can take a bus of the ICRC to go visiting her grandson in an Israeli jail. Despite the risks that we face in our work, we go on because we know people needs us and rely on us.



YRCS, Sana'a branch. First aid training for YRCS volunteers.

ondary schools about the humanitarian law and basic humanitarian values. This program is now being implemented in 32 Yemeni schools all over the country. Since June 2004, the ICRC has pursued talks with the Ministry of Interior and the Political Security to gain access to all detention places under their jurisdiction. In December 2004 the Yemeni parliament has, following recommendations of (among others) the ICRC, adopted an executive law for the 1997 Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personal land mines. ICRC and YRCS in accordance with their mandate have assessed humanitarian needs and assisted people affected by armed confrontations that took place in 2004 in Saadah governorate.

Talking about the Saada conflict, can you tell me about ICRC's role in offering assistance there, and is it right that you weren't allowed to enter Saadah during the conflict ?

In mid-September, immediately after the end of the conflict, the YRCS with the support of the ICRC has undertaken a first distribution of non-food relief items to 200 needy families in Marran area. In late November 2004, the Yemeni authorities gave their green light to YRCS and ICRC to assess the humanitarian needs. From 19 to 24 December 2004, a joint team of YRCS volunteers and two ICRC field officers accompanied by five volunteers of the Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation CDF visited the affected villages and interviewed families. The team also visited other areas of Saadah province where displaced persons from Marran have found shelter. In May 2005, a team consisting of three ICRC staff members and 20 YRCS volunteers have distributed 2000 water filters to

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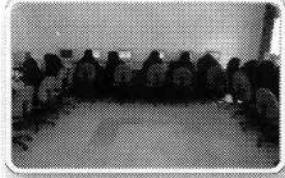
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٢- ستتم إجراءات المناقصة واختيار الشركة الاستشارية للمشروع طبقاً للإجراءات المنظمة لذلك والمحددة في قانون المناقصات اليمني .

٣- يجب تسليم الخطابات باللغة الإنجليزية بتقديم خطى إلى العنوان المحدد أدناه وتسليمها لإدارة المشروع خلال اسبوعين من تاريخ هذا الإعلان .

٤- للحصول على معلومات إضافية عن المناقصة يرجى الإتصال على العنوان التالي خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي .

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عناية : مدير عام المشروع

رئاسة مصلحة الجمارك

الصافية الجنوبية - شارع الشوكاني - صنعاء

ص.ب: ٢٤٦٦

تلفون: ٩٧٧ ٥٠٠ ١ ٩٦٧ ، فاكس: ٣٨٣ ٢٦٠ ١ ٩٦٧+

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Republic of Yemen

Ministry of Finance

Yemen Customs Authority

X-ray Vehicle/Containers Inspection Systems Project

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PER-INSPECTION, DELIVERY,
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION SUPERVISION

Request for Expressions of Interest

1- The Yemen Customs Authority (YCA) has signed a contract to purchase 8 (eight) X-Ray Vehicles/Containers Inspection Systems; 2 (two) mobile (THSCAN MT1213LT) and 6 (six) relocatable (THSCAN MB1215HS).

YCA therefore invites all international specialized companies in the field, who are able and interested in providing consultancy services to provide a letter of interest to YCA on the hereaftermentioned address; and those companies are also requested to provide all supporting documents, that shall prove their ability and qualifications to perform consultancy services.

2- The consultancy company will be selected according to Yemeni law of tendering.

3- The letter of interest should be presented in writing to the mentioned address below not after 2 weeks from now.

4- For further details and queries about the tender, consultants are invited to contact the following address during working hours.

X-Ray System Project

Attn.: Acting Project Director

Yemen Customs Authority Headquarters

Alshawkani Street; Assafia Aljanubia

Sana'a

P.O. Box: 2466

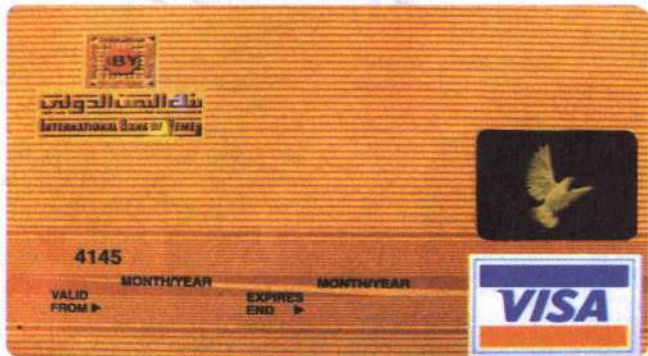
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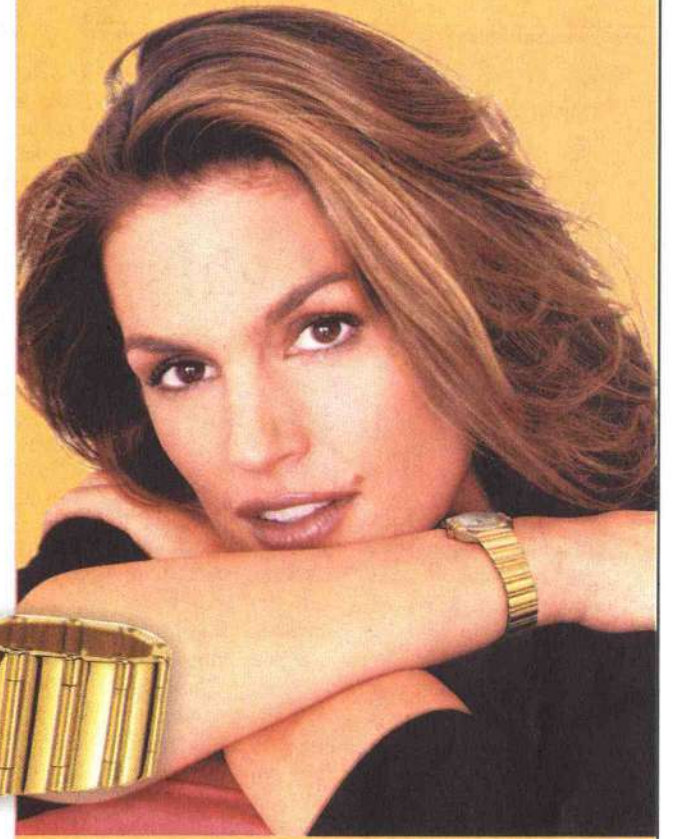
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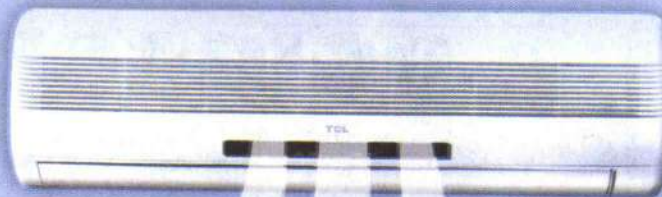
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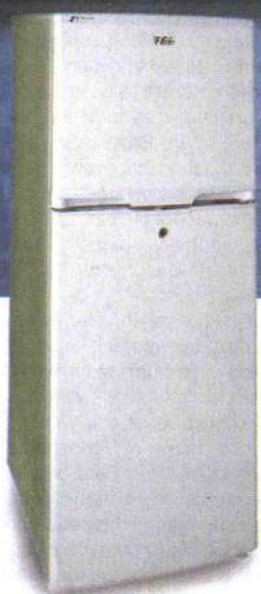


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Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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

OUR
OPINIONHuman Rights
between state
and civil society

Right now, debates on the National Human Rights Report for 2004, issued by the Ministry of Human Rights are ongoing among several institutions, mainly civil society and non-governmental organisations. Many questions have been raised regarding what should have been added in the report, the deficiencies and shortcomings...etc, in a way that the whole purpose of such seminars and debates seems to be to demean any initiative by the government through a gathering of cynics and critics.

The concept of civil society and non-governmental organizations in Yemen is yet very misunderstood. The role of the civil society is not to await opportunities to pick on the government and criticize its work. It is rather a complementing role through being a measurement or gauge of the reform and development process in a country. Not only that, but before bringing this report by the Ministry of Human Rights which at the end is a government body to discussion, shouldn't we have asked ourselves to begin with is the Ministry credible enough to be delegated the task of monitoring itself? The mandate and duties of the Ministry are well understood but shouldn't the job of issuing such a report be given to one of the state's independent bodies? Nevertheless, the Ministry fulfills its required tasks as a policy maker ensuring the application laws and implementation of international conventions signed and endorsed by our country. And in any case, this initiative from the ministry should be appreciated and encouraged.

What is expected from the civil society, on the other hand, is to take a leading role in following up and monitoring the violations of human rights, advocating for freedoms, and raising awareness on related issues, especially on democracy which backbone of any nations development and progress. Moreover, civil society should regularly report on the status of human right in an objective manner that aims at enforcing respect of these rights at all formal and informal levels.

More so, respect for human rights not just a theory or cliché discussed in round tables and reports, it is rather a culture and practice in real life starting from the house among the family members, passing by all social institutions such as schools and markets to the society at large. It is a matter of learning how to accept and respect others even though they may differ with you. And this; is the real issue people in Yemen - government and civil society - yet need to learn.

The Editorial Board



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First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
By Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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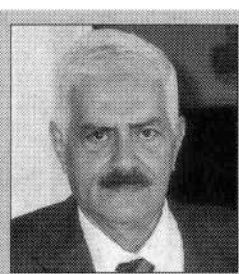
President Saleh to
snatch first Arab
patent in democracy

W as it coincidence or timing that made President Saleh announce a surprise decision - declaring on the anniversary of his inauguration not to run for a new presidential term. Having been a president for 27 years, is he going to retain the chair or take it over after another president?

Analysts have now different opinions regarding President Saleh's new and brave decision. Some think it is a maneuver meant to make his allies pressurize him to stay. Others say it is a move to absorb dissatisfaction at his long stay in power. Such dissatisfaction is notable in many Arab countries and it is of such sentiment that President Saleh fears. Another opinion claims that the announcement is a move to manage the current situation which is colored with increased opposition and economic deterioration. An unlikely opinion says that President Saleh wanted to stand out in the community of Arab leaders, embarrass his fellow leaders and open a long closed door.

Anyhow, it is a courageous and clever tactic conveying a sense of sacrifice and intimacy with the common people. It shows that President Saleh has the desire to reshape the Yemeni reality in such a way as to fall in line with international obligations. As wisdom is originally from Yemen, President Saleh's move proves it and realizes the proverbial historical saying, "From Sana'a does come the new."

The Arab history know nobody who abandoned power while he was powerful and strong except for Siwar al-Thahab. Will the Yemeni President break the rule and add his name to Siwar al-Thahab, Sudanese, who



By Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

divorced power as soon as he captured it making a history that could not have been achieved by a century in power.

I don't know the direct and indirect reasons that led to such a brave decision. I don't know whether it is a political tactic either. My acquaintances in Yemen's presidential community and prestigious statesmen and observers were more surprised than I was. An examination of the President's address which included the resignation announcement cannot draw a clear-cut final conclusion.

How do other Arab states look at us? Which states will be affected by the decision? How does the US think of it? Will the US incorporate the decision in its efforts for accomplishing the democratic project, holding it as a living example to refute any Arab special-case claims.

Once outside the office, will President Saleh concentrate on reorganizing his party? Or will he be satisfied with leading the party and influencing the election of the coming President? Will he retreat into his home sitting to write his own diaries?

Will President Saleh revoke his decision? We know that in the wake of 1967 defeat, Abdunasser resigned and crowds streamed into streets forcing him back to power. Will the Ruling Party, at the right moment, force demos for the same purpose?

Arabs have been waiting for such a move from any regime. We in Yemen have too. We paid much in the absence of democracy, transfer of power, development and human rights. We have become the laughing stock of the world. A country like Senegal with

more difficult conditions, was able to bring in democracy and establish a transfer of power convention. This Senegalese ability, as some might maintain, may be by virtue of their being non-Arabs.

I would like to ask whether it is some sort of fate that Arabs have no transfer of power and have their presidents rule permanently to death. Is this in any way related to our culture, traditions, heritage, values, concepts, etc.? If so, changing our culture, I believe, would be much easier than confining our societies to such a harsh painful situation of no democracy and no transfer of power. Some may disagree and brand me as an extremist. However, we should ask why other peoples, thought not to have respectable culture, have excelled Arabs in terms of democracy, participation, and transfer of power?

This Middle East was the beacon of the World and the citadel of civilization. Who turned it into a desert unable to grow the sapling of democracy? And if it grows it doesn't yield fruits and if it yields such fruits are very bitter. Shouldn't we ponder on what is happening in Iraq?

We are perplexed. Nobody can hang the bell in the Arab World. Now, it is very much surprising that a leader wants to hang the bell. The mice are stunned for they have been deliberating thought a century how to hang the bell. Now they cannot understand why the cat willingly hangs the bell. Is the cat fed up with the mice's patience and helplessness?

The unanswered question may end up with a first patent in the field of democracy in the Arab World registered under the name of President Saleh. We yearn for his establishing the tradition of peaceful power transfer during our life, as he and his comrades reunified Yemen. Will that be possible in our life span?

Fighting terrorism
democratically

BY ALVARO DE VASCONCELOS

B ombings in London and Turkey have brought to the fore the old ideas that authoritarian regimes are better equipped than democracies to combat terrorism, and that such attacks are the price we pay for liberty. For some, that is a price worth paying; for others, the costs seem too high.

But a look at the record shows that democracies possess more effective weapons to fight terror than do authoritarian regimes. Indeed, it is when democracies abandon their ethics and fail to resist the authoritarian temptation that they become weaker.

Of course, the logic behind calls to restrict our freedoms has a simplistic appeal: extremists use our freedoms to commit their crimes, so preventing the abuse of freedom requires curtailing freedom's scope. The mistake, however, is to assume that open societies are more permissive and vulnerable to terrorism than those who live under authoritarian regimes. One need only look at today's Russia, or recall Algeria in the 1990's.

True, democracy and the rule of law provide no foolproof security guarantee. But such a guarantee is a mirage anyway, whereas respect for basic freedoms and due process when repressing terrorism is a powerful instrument to isolate extremists and diminish their legitimacy in the eyes of those that might identify with their cause. It is because Britain is a democracy that respects the rule of law that it has been able to mobilize vast sectors of its Muslim community.

By contrast, authoritarian regimes' repression of civilians, and their non-differentiation between civilians and killers, provides extremists with fertile recruiting conditions by discrediting the government in the eyes of a significant part of its population. An undifferentiated approach towards political Islamism that fails to distinguish between those who reject violence and those who resort to terror only facilitates the

extremists' work, for they emerge as champions of causes that do not reflect their true goals.

Russia provides conclusive evidence of the impotence of authoritarian violence and disregard for the rule of law. President Vladimir Putin undertook a scorched-earth policy in Chechnya, driving many Chechen nationalists straight into the extremists' arms. Terrorist attacks on Russia did not cease or decline. Indeed, recall the terrorism in Beslan in September 2004, in which a single attack on a school killed over 330 people.

Iraq also is demonstrating the limits of illegitimate violence when combating terrorism. The Bush administration now seems to realize this. It would be a mistake to believe that the deaths of thousands of civilians, along with arbitrary imprisonment and torture, do not contribute to the spread of terror in Iraq. After all, torture victims are the best possible advertisement for terrorist recruitment.

When it comes to fighting terrorism, moreover, democracies are more effective both politically and operationally, particularly in terms of their intelligence services. Intelligence forces in authoritarian states are either highly centralized or tend to become autonomous power centers. In either case, they are subject to no public scrutiny and accountability. As a result, they lose their ability over time to evaluate critically their own actions and errors.

Intelligence services in democratic contexts usually have oversight mechanisms that serve to limit abuses of power, and to guarantee effective action by punishing top officials that fail to do their jobs properly. In the United States, a powerful bi-partisan Senate committee directly monitors the intelligence services. Its report on the inability of the intelligence services, notably the CIA and the FBI, to prevent the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks also contained a series of recommendations for restructuring these services to render them more effective.

Europe's response to terror requires,

first and foremost, strengthening its intelligence services so that they can detect and dismantle terrorist cells while respecting basic rights and due process. It also requires greater coordination among all the European Union's member states and their allies and partners.

At the same time, the rule-of-law approach to fighting terrorism must be a pillar of European cooperation with third countries, namely with those of the Mediterranean, or with Pakistan, thereby contributing to a security culture that is conducive to democratization. Deepening democracy in turn means allowing full civic participation, including non-violent Islamic groups. The right to public speech and peaceful assembly must be defended for those who feel marginalized and indignant at what they - and most Europeans - view as injustices committed against the Palestinians, the Chechens, and the Iraqis.

Last, but not least, combating identity-based extremism calls for a greater capacity to integrate all those who live within the EU. The response to terrorism should be to reaffirm the value of the rule of law over arbitrary repression, and of the diversity that is the hallmark of Europe's cities, particularly London and Paris, but increasingly many others across the Union.

We cannot - indeed, must not - cede to terror by building walls around and within our societies. The best response to intolerant extremism is to cultivate an open and pluralistic society that treats all those who live within its borders as full citizens. Europe turned diversity into one of its constitutional traits, and this is why it has had such an impact on the world. Protecting that essence is the best way to honor the memory of the victims of terror, be they from London, Sharm el-Sheik, Madrid, Casablanca, or New York.

Álvaro de Vasconcelos av@ieei.pt is Director of the Portuguese Institute for Strategic and International Studies.

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

In praise of Ms
Jennifer Lowenstein

For all those dogmatic chauvinistic Zionist freaks of the world, who wish to insist that anti-Zionism is to be equated with anti-Semitism (itself a historical misnomer of profound implications, the observer cannot but come to a point of elation at screaming out praise and applause to the many thousands of Jews and even Israelis, who say hay there is something wrong here. In fact, one is bound to say that people like Jennifer Lowenstein, who recently wrote a masterpiece of journalistic appraisal of the Charade that took place in Gaza are the real heroes encountering this ugly mess that a few ideologues have made of the Holy Land. Led by Ariel Sharon and backed by the all powerful neo-con establishment, which at present holds sway in the United States, it is unthinkable that any Jew or even gentile would dare stand up to a monstrous media machine that has turned right into wrong, good into evil and pain and bloodshed into an inalienable right meted to the ugly forces of the world to serve the narrow interests of cold blooded murderers who have lost all sense of humanity.

For this reason one is bound to claim that indeed there is a spiteful of good here and there in the world that stands as a shining beacon to those who think that all hope is lost because the evil have got all the factors going for them: the military muscle, the media, the money and the timidity and weakness of the victims, who helplessly stand in their way. In *Counterpunch*, Ms Lowenstein lent us her journalistic talent to portray the fallacy of a media controlled by the ugly forces that are working night and day to overwhelm the international public with a façade of humanity, sadness and sorrow in a staged systematic effort to depict the Israeli evacuation of Gaza as a "great moment of history". In an article, "*The Shame of it All*" (<http://www.counterpunch.org/lowenstein08172005.html>), Ms Lowenstein brings out the true tragedy in the Holy Land with contempt not only for the real aggressor in the Holy land, but for the media as well. She notes with passionate disbelief how this media can turn fact into fiction, the victims into the aggressors and the aggressor into a suffering hero, who deserves all the sympathy of the world.

This observer would like to share some of the thoughts that went through the mind of Ms Lowenstein and several enlightened Jews, Gentiles and Moslems as they saw this staged drama of historic proportions. This is in terms of the immense melodrama inlaid into the charade and the outrageous exaggerated coverage accorded to the masterpiece of deception intended for the unknowing to take in as fact.

"A great charade is taking place in front of the world media in the Gaza Strip. It is the staged evacuation of 8000 Jewish settlers from their illegal settlement homes, and it has been carefully designed to create imagery to support Israel's US-backed takeover of the West Bank and cantonization of the Palestinians.

There was never the slightest reason for Israel to send in the army to remove these settlers. The entire operation could have been managed, without the melodrama necessary for a media frenzy, by providing them with a fixed date on which the IDF would withdraw from inside the Gaza Strip. A week before, all the settlers will quietly have left with no TV cameras, no weeping girls, no anguished soldiers, no commentators asking cloying questions of how Jews could remove other Jews from their homes, and no more trauma about their terrible suffering, the world's victims, who therefore have to be helped to kick the Palestinians out of the West Bank."

On the other side, Ms Lowenstein records the obvious absence of the media in covering objectively the sad plight of the Palestinians over the last five years in Gaza and the West Bank as the Zionist hate machine unleashes its thirst for hatred and blood against a helpless population that has been forcefully systematically evacuated from their homes for the greater part of a century to make way for these settler "heroes", who now must contend with their own "brothers and sisters" kicking them out from their illegal settlements:

"The settlers will relocate to other parts of Israel and in some cases to other illegal settlements in the West Bank handsomely compensated for their inconvenience. Indeed, each Jewish family leaving the Gaza Strip will receive between \$140,000 and \$400,000 just for the cost of the home they leave behind. But these details are rarely mentioned in the tempest of reporting on the 'great confrontation' and 'historical moment' brought to us by Sharon and the thieving, murderous settler-culture he helped create."

The hypocrisy of the media is further revealed by Ms. Lowenstein:

"On Tuesday, 16 August, the Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported that more than 900 journalists from Israel and around the world are covering the events in Gaza, and that hundreds of others are in cities and towns in Israel to cover local reactions. **Were there ever that many journalists in one place during the past 5 years to cover the Palestinian Intifada?**

"Where were the 900 international journalists in April 2002 after the Jenin refugee camp was laid to waste in the matter of a week in a show of pure Israeli hubris and sadism? Where were the 900 international journalists last fall when the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza lay under an Israeli siege and more than 100 civilians were killed? Where were they for five years while the entire physical infrastructure of the Gaza Strip was being destroyed? Which one of them reported that every crime of the Israeli occupation from home demolitions, targeted assassinations and total closures to the murder of civilians and the wanton destruction of commercial and public property - increased significantly in Gaza after Sharon's "Disengagement" Plan - that great step toward peace - was announced?"

Where are the hundreds of journalists who should be covering the many non-violent protests by Palestinians and Israelis against the Apartheid Wall? Non-violent protesters met with violence and humiliation by Israeli armed forces? Where are the hundreds of journalists who should be reporting on the economic and geographic encirclement of Palestinian East Jerusalem and of the bisection of the West Bank and the subdivision of each region into dozens of isolated mini-prisons? Why aren't we being barraged by outraged reports about the Jewish-only bypass roads? About the hundreds of pointless internal checkpoints? About the countless untried executions and maimings? About the torture and abuse of Palestinians in Israeli prisons?"

Thank you, Ms. Lowenstein! Your courage and understanding really deserve all the honors one can bestow on a great journalist.

Yemen Press Review

Review By Mohammed Khidhr

Ad-Dustour monthly newspaper, 15 August 2005.

Main headlines

- The president gives directives for establishment of one authority for dealing with investors
- Adhwa al-Shumou magazine withdrawn from newsstands because of an article on Saudi Arabia
- The FIFA freezes Yemen's general federation of football
- The Pentagon prohibits publication of new pictures about Abu Ghraib prison scandal

Mohammed Saeed Salem says the president Ali Abdullah Saleh meeting with a large number of military, security leaderships suspended from work since the end of the 1994 summer, or those who have returned home following long years of expatriation, opens the door to the president's orientations towards closing files of political conflicts and crises.

Those military persons and others from the civilian have received political pardon in such political conflicts. The president has also directed to establish special committees to settle conditions of the military leaderships and I think this could be finished within the context of a comprehensive national vision for the future of civilian and military leaderships work at the various state institutions.

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 18 August 2005.

Main headlines

- The president: We have given directives to give reparations to victims of riots
- Yemeni security delegation meets 46 Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo
- Bahrain's interior minister to visit Sana'a in September
- Contacts with the American side

regarding the release of Sheik al-Moayad

The newspaper's editorial says the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip should be a step forward for the comprehensive pullout from the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967 and a prelude to the establishment of the Palestinian independent state with Al-Quds as its capital.

At that point it could be deemed as a serious beginning to terminate the Arab-Israeli conflict by realization of comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This is the perspective through which Yemen looks at the situation.

As for the Palestinian people, the withdrawal from Gaza means return of a part of the Palestinian land and would enhance their hope in the acceleration of the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the establishment of their independent viable state.

The greater meaning behind the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip is that it comes in circumstances that seemed inconvenient neither at the Arab nor the international situation. The Arab situation has reached to its worst state and the international situation is rather imbalanced and governed by criteria of double standard in dealing with the Palestinian just cause.

Al-Wahda weekly, 17 August 2005.

Main headlines

- Observers request the JMP to end suspension of dialogue with the GPC
- The parliament preparing to account the government on the increase that violates the sales tax law
- Endowments undersecretary calls on the Islah to stop using mosques for partisan calls
- The government endorses selling and buying contracts to supply Korea and America with gas
- Opposition parties finalize their

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By Samer A.

الوسط Al-Wasat weekly, 17 August 2005.

Main headlines:

- Al-Houthi waves of carrying out suicidal operations Abdulmalik al-Houthi: We would use all available means for self-defense
- Humanitarian disaster claims lives of 14 people in Rahidah, health ministry plays down danger of the epidemic
- Assistant head of revenues at finance ministry discloses financial revenues disorders
- 36 suspects of al-Houthi followers, among them a woman, stand trial
- Unlike its pledge to parliament, the government endorses an agreement on selling gas
- European higher commissioner: Security, the problem of Yemen

The newspaper's editorial discusses the necessities of change, mentioning that the president of the republic has described the present government as has got old and the most corrupt of previous governments.

This description of the government and its officials by the president comes as an evidence of what those government institutions are suffering from and in a state of full paralysis, waving the possibility of reshuffling the government.

The editorial mentions that people are waiting what those government changes could be and claims they are an attempt to preoccupy the people with leaks to the new government formation. It adds that the government is not making any effort to issue a statement clarifying if there would be a reshuffle or not.

The newspaper's editorial mentions further by saying we wan from the president to actually surpass the accusation of his officials and shift accountability. We want him to lead the change based on clear-cut strategy and he would find all the people with him.

The sleeping volcano of global finance

By Michel Rocard

The rejection of the European Union's Constitutional Treaty by French and Dutch voters was, according to all evidence, more a rejection of unregulated globalization than it was a rejection of Europe. The general instability of social relations – most importantly, but not only, of employment – is slowly becoming intolerable for a growing part of the population in many developed countries, not just in Europe. And there cannot be a stable economic order – at least not in democratic countries – if electorates reject its underpinnings.

Capitalism could be reconstructed after World War II because it was buttressed by three necessary types of regulation: social security, which served as a principal stabilizer, at least in the developed countries; Keynesian tools to fight domestic cyclical downturns; and a universal high-wage policy aimed at stimulating general consumption, without which the genius of capitalism – mass production – does not work.

But the realignment of the rich, devel-

oped countries around the monetarist policies promoted by economists like Milton Friedman, which began around 1970, broke with all that. Not long after, the dollar was detached from the gold standard. Ever since, the international financial system has endured almost constant instability. Crises have multiplied, with each seemingly worse than the one that came before.

Throughout the rich world, poverty has come roaring back. Internal and international inequalities have been increasing at breakneck speed. Employment is increasingly precariousness. And where unemployment is preferred to universal job insecurity, it has become impossible to suppress.

It is to this state of affairs that the French and Dutch said "no" two months ago.

Paradoxically, however, a united Europe is likely to be needed even more in the near future than it was in the past. After all, beyond the social misery produced by the re-institutionalized cruelty of the current global economic system, the greatest danger facing the world nowadays is that very system's inherent

instability. I don't see any institution other than the EU that has enough size and heft to protect Europeans from a possible implosion.

Consider the simple fact that the American economy is now more than \$600 billion in debt. The United States cannot function without being able to borrow \$1.9 billion dollars each and every day of the year, mainly from the emerging economies of Asia, and China above all.

But this support could weaken or even cease if the dollar falls too low, if the price of oil rises too high, or if the American economy backfires. In fact, the US economy has become increasingly detached from reality. Its manufacturing sector now accounts for a mere 11% of America's GDP. Ford and General Motors are in dire financial straits.

Meanwhile, two speculative bubbles – in the real estate market and in mortgages – have become grafted upon each other and now dominate economic activity in the US. A crash, or at least a sharp spasm, is quite likely in the near future, and the consequences – for America and the world – may be catastrophic.

This instability also makes it difficult to address other grave problems affecting the global financial system. Sovereign debt, needed by all countries, but particularly by the poorest, suffers profoundly from erratic interest-rate and exchange-rate movements. The absence of a lender of last resort in today's world only magnifies the threat involved in each crisis.

To make matters worse, national failures can no longer be addressed without aggravating the situation. Of course – indeed, above all – in such circumstances the immense investments needed to overcome underdevelopment and the disabilities that it entails are increasingly forgotten by the world of international finance.

With rich countries threatened by instability and poor countries largely left to their own devices, the reconstruction of the world financial system should be at the top of the international agenda. A new Bretton Woods could not be more urgent!

Michel Rocard, a former Prime Minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.
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SILVER LINING
By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
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Change lacks political will

During the last months, we have been reading scary reports from different international agencies on the situation in Yemen. The World Bank has warned against the collapse of the reform package program; the European Commission also depicted unpromising picture of the situation.

Some US study centers categorized Yemen as one of the failed states that is likely to fall into the trap of Afghanistan. Again, the UNDP has been talking about a fragile and weak judiciary system and an administration that encourages and promotes corruption.

However, the political regime and the government of Yemen have never stopped cheating the public, presenting a rosy picture of the so-called "great achievements" they have done for the helpless people.

The situation is intolerable for the majority of the people who live below the poverty line and their living standards fall down dramatically. Even some of the good people at the cabinet have told me they are fed up and not satisfied with how things are running due to the interference of some people at the power center in their job.

Such international reports are scary enough to make even the dead wake up and do something to stop any potential collapse of system in the country.

However, our people in charge are heedless to such reports and even make fun of such reports, describing them as an attempt of conspiracy by some forces that do like Yemen to stir up the "stable" situation.

They even insult anybody who criticizes their policy, labling them as Sometimes, the big people go nuts to the extent of claiming that we are envied by others for the big democratic achievements we are making.

Hey, people, wake up, stop the collapse before it is too late, and do not any longer try to fool even the world by

such allegations that have always proved incorrect.

Democracy does not end at elections which are most of the time full of mistakes and not fully fair. Democracy means accountability, respect of human rights, justice, transparency and above all the rule of law.

If such global values do not exist in any society, there is no meaning in claiming it is democratic.

I am sure that the diplomats who have been impressed by Yemen's emerging democratic experience have wakened up and realized the reality of the situation.

They no longer send reports to their countries, describing Yemen as "bacon of democracy". There will not and should not be any longer reports of such kind. All indicators show that we are backsliding in everything-politically, economically, socially and even culturally as some of the precious heritage and historical places are prone to vanish.

I think one of our problems is that there is more control of authorities at the hand of very few people. Most of the big officials, including ministers, do not enjoy full power granted by law to run their own ministries. The presidential office people are even more powerful than ministers are.

Appointment in key positions is not done according to competence but nepotism, favoritism and most of the time, sectarian factors. The big people put their nose in everything even the formation of the football team that they believe should include players from different regions.

By and large, this is not, of course, the sole reason behind our problems but as I said earlier, lack of transparency, independent judiciary, decentralization, corruption, and rule of law all matter. To start fighting against such ailments is a difficult but not an impossible task. Reform and change need a political will and force which Yemen lacks at the moment.

What next after the Gaza withdrawal?

By Daoud Kuttab

The withdrawal of Israeli troops and the evacuation of Jewish settlers from Gaza, after 38 years of occupation, is the most recent proof of the limits of military power, even when that power is overwhelming. Now is the time to take stock of the lessons learned from the years of occupation and resistance in order to understand what Israelis and Palestinians should do next.

To begin with, it is imperative to understand how much credit Palestinians can credibly claim for the Israeli withdrawal. True, Palestinian resistance and sacrifices were a contributing factor in Ariel Sharon's decision to reverse a policy he had espoused for decades. But it would be a mistake to attribute the Israeli withdrawal exclusively to Palestinian militancy. After all, this bittersweet Israeli action was neither a clear result of military defeat nor a consequence of political negotiations.

But unilateralism is not a rational long-term and effective policy, for it will not lead to a genuine and lasting peace in the Middle East. Just as President Bush has discovered in Iraq, Sharon will also be forced to acknowledge the limits of his strategy.

Unilateralism seems very expedient to shortsighted politicians, for it obviates the need for what they perceive as the mess of actual negotiations – that is, meeting their counterparts face to face and discovering the human results of their policies. Going it alone also seems politically advantageous domestically, because leaders can decide how much and how far they want to carry out a particular policy.

To be fair, unilateralism is convenient not only for a reluctant Israeli prime minister who does not wish to make substantial compromises during negotiations; it is also attractive to hard-line Palestinians who regard multilateralism as a means of pressing them to make unpopular concessions.

In any case, the day after the completion of the Gaza withdrawal, Israelis and Palestinians will be confronted with important unresolved questions. There is no doubt that the evacuation of Jewish settlers in areas that Israelis consider part of their God-given territory represents a huge ideological reversal. But after years of preaching and practicing one of Zionism's main tenets, will the removal of settlements continue in the West Bank, or will this be a one-time exception?

Palestinians, for their part, will be expected to answer questions – in deeds, not just in words – about their ability to build a modern pluralistic state. How will the Palestinian body politic deal with the growing power of the Islamic movements that undoubtedly will expect a significant share of power in post-withdrawal Gaza?

The international community also will have to answer some key questions. According to the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development (PECDAR), annual per capita income in Gaza continues to aver-

age roughly \$700, while Israelis enjoy incomes averaging a \$16,000 per capita. In the absence of relatively well-paying jobs, what will happen to the lines of unemployed Gazans? The potential flight of employment seekers – a formidable force worldwide – is only one problem. More immediately, if Gazan families are not well fed, the recurrence of cross-border violence, if not the eruption of a third intifada, will only be a matter of time.

While the economic situation in Gaza is a critical issue, the future of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will be determined mainly by the next steps in the peace process. Permanent-status issues concerning borders, the West Bank, Jerusalem, and refugees must be dealt with bilaterally. Any serious observer of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will no doubt acknowledge that there can be no unilateral solution to these issues.

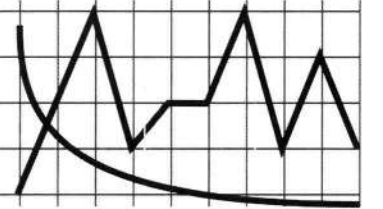
As for the peace process's multilateral guarantors, the United States and its quartet partners – the European Union, the United Nations, and Russia – have failed

to provide even the most basic facts regarding Israel's withdrawal or how it relates to the "road map" agreed in 2003. They cannot continue to sit on the sidelines. Washington's quixotic decision to call Israel's unilateral move part of the road map has failed to convince many Palestinians. The prevailing opinion among Palestinians is that the road map will be put into deep freeze once the Israelis complete their Gaza withdrawal.

But the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, their leaders, and the international community must all respond to the challenges that will follow. Most importantly, the future of the conflict and the chances for genuine peace in the region will depend on understanding the limits of offensive military power, defensive resistance, and unilateralism.

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YT Business



New oil discoveries in Shabwa

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Oil sources have recently announced about new oil discoveries in of oil exploratory sectors in the governorate of Shabwa. Engineer Nabil Saleh al-Qawsi, president of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, has said in a press statement that during the coming short period there would be a commercial announcement on the above findings.

Eng. Al-Qawsi also has mentioned that the operation of production and exportation from Malik 9 sector in the governorate of Hadramout, which is being operated by a Canadian company and its commercial announcement on discoveries in it has been recently made, and would begin during the first quarter of the year 2006.

He also mentioned that in the light of oil discovery inside rocks in Mareb and Masila basins, the authority was working to consolidate those discoveries and develop through the implementation of a number of technical and geological studies and exchange of expertise with some countries producing oil from such rocks, adding that this would be made a major target for future operations of oil digging and discoveries.

Mr al-Qawsi also revealed that his Authority had already started for the third MAJOR international bid round for oil and gas in the light of approval of the minister of oil and minerals Dr. Rashid Barabbaa, indicating that advertisement on it has been pub-

lished already.

The tender announcement is published in the media and the Authority's internet website. The bid includes 14 blocks open for oil discoveries, namely, 11, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, in the governorate of Hadramout. Sectors 12, 30, and 29 are in the governorate of Maharah. Sector 17 is in the governorates of Aden and Abyan, 19 in the governorate of al-Jawf, 23 in Hudaidah, and 28, 57 in the governorate of Shabwa.

Mr al-Qawsi added that the mentioned blocks were among promising ones pursuant to accurate study of operations of discovery, analysis and assessment, among them are parts of currently producing sectors that have been abandoned by operating companies when the work reached the stage of production.

The ministry of oil and minerals and the authority of petroleum exploration and production had announced about the final results put to the second international bid concerning the seven open oil sectors. The tender resulted in the winning by the Australian company Oil Search, The Emirates Al-Thani Company for Investments, the Korean KNOC company and the American company Occidental.

Oil sectors in Yemen amount to 87 covering most of land and rocky areas. Of these are 11 producing sectors operated by 9 companies and producing around 400 thousand barrels per day, in addition to 21 exploratory sectors where 13 companies are working, four sectors still under endorsement, 9 sector under negotiation

regarding an agreement on sharing in production, and 42 open sectors, 14 of which to be announced about in the

third international bid.

The environment in the country is full of obstacles and so far it has been

unable to acquire trust of investors who in turn began to move outside in quest of better opportunities and more

suitable environment not fraught with contradictions between words and actions.

الإختيار الذكي في عالم الراحة

الطراز المعلق على الجدار

تصميم متناسق عمودياً وأفقياً
يتناسب مع الزخرفة الداخلية

البيئة تنظيف الهواء بواسطة البلازما
يمكن تنظيف الهواء بفعالية وكفاءة لأن المنطق الذي يمر عبره الهواء في نظام البلازما الذي يشحن ويجذب الملوثات كبريتات، مغنيزيوم، أكاسيد الحديد التي لها منفذ هواء صغير لإزالة الملوثات المحبوبة الحميم والتي يمكن نقل الهواء فيها ضعيفاً.

لوحة تصفية الغبار
تلتصق بقطرات مائية وتحتوي على
شحنات الموجة الموجبة التي تجذب
غبار التلوث وتحتوي على
شحنات الموجة السالبة التي
تجذب وتزيل الأيونات
الضارة.

شحنات الموجة الموجبة
تجذب وتزيل الأيونات
الضارة.

شحنات الموجة السالبة
تجذب وتزيل الأيونات
الضارة.

ممكن ملئ
بمغناطيس موجبة (+) على
الملفات والبرشامات لتسحب
الملوثات.

ملف موجبة (+) على
الملفات والبرشامات لتسحب
الملوثات.

ملف موجبة (+) على
الملفات والبرشامات لتسحب
الملوثات.

الوكلاء الوحيديون: الحاج / محمد علي سويد واولاده
صنعاء - تلفون: 281115 - عدن: 210951 - الجديدة: 201394 - المكلا: 217010

مهرجان الطاحون



تواصلت لفعاليات مهرجان الطاحون التي بدأت في العديد من المناطق والأسواق الشعبية مثل سوق (طور الباحة، الضالع، الراهدة...).

وبرعاية الشركة اليمنية للمطاحن وصوامع الغلال أقيم مهرجان الطاحون في كلاً من منطقة العدين (بمحافظة إب) بتاريخ ٦/٨/٢٠٠٥م.

وفي منطقة الشبشة (بمحافظة تعز) بتاريخ ٧/٨/٢٠٠٥م والذي تهدف الشركة من خلاله الإتصال المباشر بالمستهلك، بغرض تعريفه بالخصائص والمميزات التي يتصف بها منتج الطاحون، ليجعل هذا المنتج على رأس قائمة المواد الإستهلاكية له، وذلك لأن منتج الطاحون عبارة عن بر مطحون جاهز للإستهلاك، وهذا بدوره سيخدم المستهلك مستقبلاً، ويوفر له الكثير من الجهد والوقت والتكاليف التي قد يخسرها عند شرائه (بر حب... غير مطحون).

الجدير بالذكر أن الشركة تعتزم إقامة عدة مهرجانات لمنتج الطاحون في أهم الأسواق الشعبية الموجودة وأكثرها حركة ضمن محافظات ومدريات الجمهورية المستهدفة. مع العلم أن فعاليات المهرجان تتمثل بالبيع المباشر للمستهلك يرافقه هدايا عينية + كسرت سحب على (تقاوير غاز) يتم السحب عليها في نهاية كل مهرجان. ونحن بدورنا نهني كل الفائزين بجوائز مهرجان الطاحون، وندعو جمهور المستهلكين لتتربح مفاجآت المهرجانات القادمة لمنتج الطاحون التي سوف تكون في إحدى الأسواق الشعبية بإحافظاتهم أو مدرياتهم.

تمنئين الحظ الأوفر للجميع ..

الغذاء المضمون... في الطاحون

فني
بالألياف
والمعادن

ناعم

نقي

الطاحون

بر مطحون

حائزة على شهادة الجودة العالمية أيزو ٩٠٠١-٢٠٠٠

Currency of Zeidi State

The Zeidi sect appeared in Yemen at the end of the third century (Muslim Calendar) when Imam Yahya bin Al-Hussein Al-Rassi moved from Al-Madina Al-Munawara (in now Saudi Arabia) to the city of Sa'adah (north Yemen) where he settled down. He laid the foundation of the Zeidi State that would rule Yemen for over one thousand years.

In the 20th Century (Christian Calendar), the last version of the Zeidi State prevailed in north and west Yemen. The dynasty of Hamid Al-Din ruled Yemen from 1918 until the eruption of Yemen's September 26 Revolution in 1962 when they were overthrown.

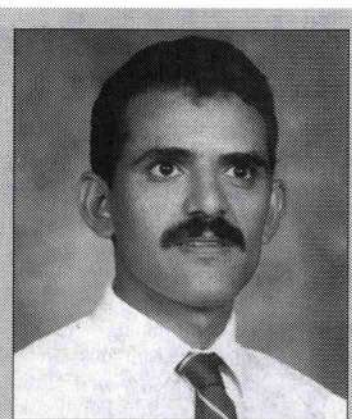
The nadir of their star may be said to have been a political decline. We may not be exact to say that the Zeidi state ended because actually many people brace the Zeidi ideology and the Zeidi sect has numerous followers. In fact, the State itself, when it emerged, was based on religious thought and it was out of faith that its followers gave it the impetus to dominate in Yemen. The State remained backed by a scholastic camp which gave it a hallow in theological glamour. As soon as the Houthist movement resonated in Sa'adah, the talk renewed about the Zeidi State and the deeply rooted Zeidi sect.

Zeidi Rassi ruled from 298-644 Hegira:

This Zeidi State is named "Rassi" after the area of Rassi in Hejaz (in Saudi Arabia). The house of Rassis used to live there before their moving to the city of Sa'adah. Their rule reached as far as Sana'a. Within about one century, Yemen was the fountain of the Zeidi teachings that overflowed to other areas.

Upon their seizure of Sana'a in mid five century of Hejra, the Ayyoubids overthrew the Zeidis. However, Zeidi scholars have made history and they are still remembered until the present day.

The famous strong man of the Zeidi State was Imam Al-Hadi Ila Al-Haq (Guide to Rightness) Yahya bin Al-Hassan Al-Qasim Al-Rassi (220-298 Hegira). He was born in Al-Madina Al-Munawara. He was brought up as a cleric and scholar, with courage and championship. Abu Al-Atahyah Al-Hamadani of Sa'adah sent letter to him and invited him to Sa'adah. Upon his arrival in 283 Hegira, he was given the



BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

pledge as Imam by Khawlan bin Amir Tribes. He was addressed as Amer Al-Mo'mineen (Commander of the Believers), and nicknamed as Imam Al-Hadi. He conquered Najran (now in Saudi Arabia) and seized Sana'a in 288 Hegira, in the time of the Abbasid Caliphate of Al-Mu'tadhid Billah.

His State ruled as far as Mecca to the north and the coins were minted in his name. He could defeat Qurmuti leader Ali bin Al-Fadhl. His victory was in 298, the year of his death.

The second imam of the Zeidi Rassi

State was imam Abdullah bin Hamza bin Sulaiman, who is one of the greatest Zeidi scholars and poets. He was given the pledge in 593. He regained Sana'a from king Mas'ood Al-Ayyoubi. Battles continued between the two sides from 612 until the death of Abdullah bin Hamza in 614 in the town of Kawkaban.

Rassi State's dinars and dirhams:

The first Rassi era continued from 246 to 569 and the second era from 593 to 697. The Rassis minted gold and silver currencies. However, silver dirhams were very common.

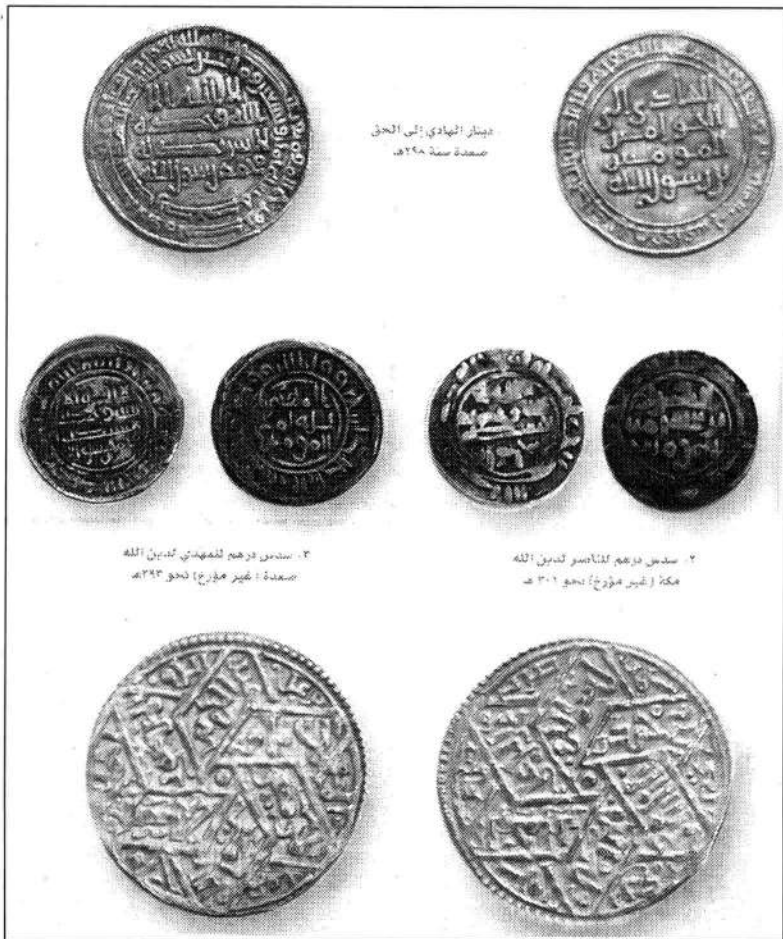
Rassi dirhams had different shapes especially the dirham of the second era. They featured slogans and statements different from those of the Abbasid and Ayyoubid states in Iraq and Egypt. Their currency was cast in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, in cities such as Sa'adah - the Capital of their state-Sana'a, Mecca, Radda', Barash, Tawilah, Kuhlan, Jahili, and Taiz.

Types of Rassi dinars and dirhams:

The dinar of Al-Hadi Ila Al-Haq, which is one of the most rare dinars. It was minted in Sana'a in 288 Hegira. There are dirham sixths that were minted in Mecca. Few of them are

available. Some of the currencies can be explained as follows:

- 1- Dinar of Al-Hadi Ila Al-Haq, Sa'adah, 298 Hegira: the first face of it reads: "Truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Surely! Falsehood is bound to vanish," and "We send down from the Quraan that which is a healing and mercy," two verses from Al-Isra Chapter, Nobel Quraan. The center reads: "Al-Hadi Ila Al-Haq, Commander of Believers, Son of Allah's Messenger." The second face reads: "Allah has the matter before and after. On that day, believers will rejoice at Allah's victory." A script surrounds it reading: "This dinar was minted in Sa'adah in 298 Hegira." In the center, "No god save Allah, the One with no partner, and Mohammed is His Messenger" is written.
- 2- Sixth dirham of Al-Nasir Li Dinillah, Mecca, dateless, approximately 301 Hegira: The first face reads, "Truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Surely! Falsehood is bound to vanish." The center reads: "Al-Nasir Li Diniallah, Commander of Believers." The second face reads, "In the name of Allah. This dirham was minted in Mecca." The center reads, "No god save Allah, the One with no partner, and Mohammed is His Messenger."
- 3- Sixth dirham of Al-Mahdi Li Dinillah, Sa'adah, dateless, approximately 393 Hegira: The first face reads, "Truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Surely! Falsehood is bound to vanish." The center reads "Al-Mahdi Li Dinillah, Commander of Believers." The second face says that "This dirham was minted in Sa'adah," and the center reads, "No god save Allah, the One with no partner, and Mohammed is His Messenger."
- 4- Dirham of Al-Mutawakil Shams Al-Din Ahmed bin Abdillah bin Hamzah, Talmus, and 644 Hegira: The first face edge reads "Al-Mutawakil Ala Allah Ahmed, Crown Prince of Imam Al-Mansour Abdullah bin Hamzah bin Salim, Commander of Believers." The edge of the second face reads, "minted in Talmus in 644 Hegira. Inside the pentagonal star the following is written: "No god save Allah, Mohammed is Allah's Messenger, Ali is Allah's Follower."



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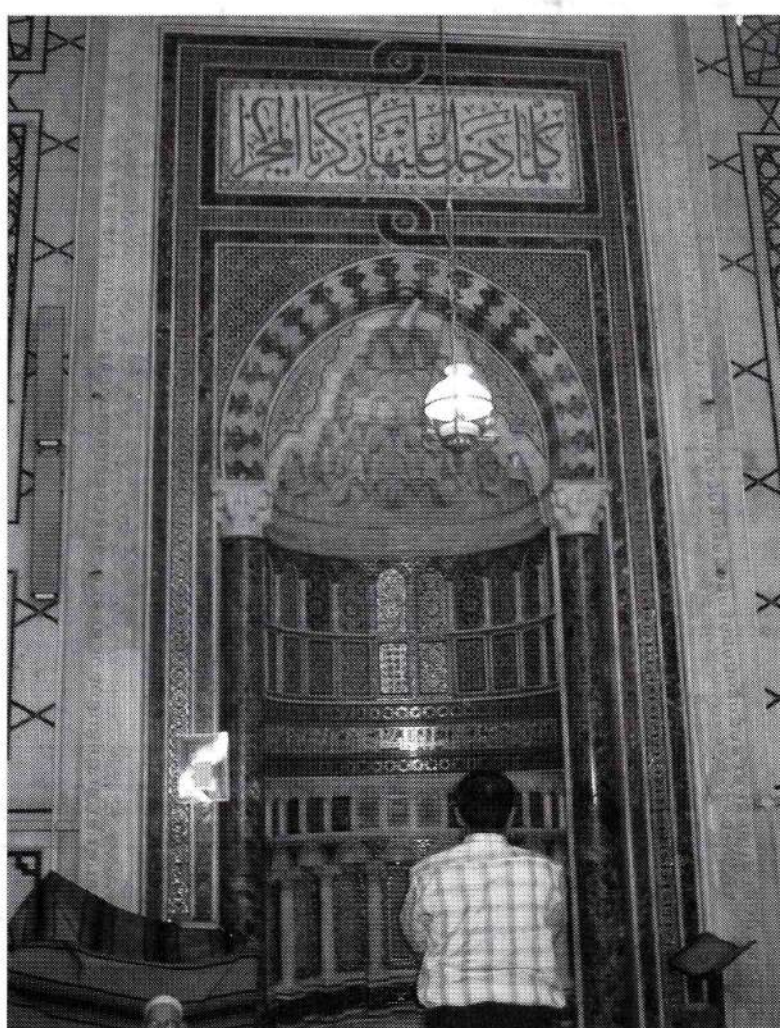
An inspiration of a sense of tranquility & reverence

Inside the spacious prayer hall there is the tomb of Prophet Yahya and baptizing fountain and the altar of prophet Zakariah. It is really a place one has not to miss the chance of visiting.

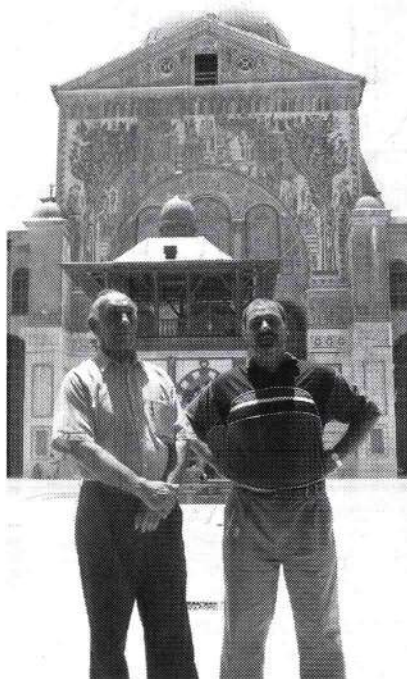
The Great Mosque stands at the heart of the old city of Damascus at the end of souq al-Hamidiyah. It was built by the Umayyad Caliph al-Walid Bin

Abdulmalik in 705 A.D. when Damascus was the capital of the Arab Islamic Empire. Historically, when al-Walid decided to erect an impressive mosque suited to the grandeur of the Arab state "whose like was never built, not will ever be built after" as he is reported to have said, he negotiated with the Christian community of Damascus and undertook to construct a new church for them (St. John's) and allot several pieces of land for other churches, if they relinquished their right to their part of the mosque. They agreed. It took ten years and eleven million gold dinars, as well as a huge number of masons, builders, carpenters, marble-layers and painters to complete. It became an architectural model for hundreds of mosques throughout the Islamic world.

Prominent features of it are the three minarets built in different styles, the upper parts of which were renovated during the Ayoubite, Mamluk and Ottoman eras. The mosque has a large prayer hall and an enormous courtyard. The interior walls are covered with mosaic panels made of colored and gilded glass portraying scenes from nature. The dome is grayish-blue celebrated for its magnificence. The prayer hall contains domed shrine venerated by both Christians and Moslems, the tomb of St. John the Baptist.



One of the altars inside the prayer hall



Dome of the Mosque prayer hall with gilded façade tree branches drawings

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

From one mess to another

As this world gets smaller day by day and the natural resources become scarcer, while the demand for them grows, one would expect that the nations of the world would take serious note of this. In doing so, the most important consideration that should be on the minds of world leaders is that all efforts should be made to avoid hostility and belligerency, that would especially lead to armed conflict between nations.

Prior to the entry of the Third Millennium, the international community saw many significant developments that reflected a genuine effort to enhance international cohesion. Many international summits in the 1990s were held to seek to set out the priorities of the international community collectively and on a domestic basis for the individual states.

There were hopes that indeed the international community was seriously seeking to create the common grounds that would be needed to overcome the many problems that have accumulated over the decades that spanned the Cold War Era. Many of the social problems that could become explosive and a threat to world peace were at least brought out in these summits and conferences, some of which set goals with deadlines for addressing them.

We have gone now five years into the Millennium, and regrettably the momentum created by the Nineties seemed to have been halted and the dim hopes of billions of people throughout the world were taken out of the limelight. The entry of the Third Millennium brought with it a sharp reversal of many of the trends that had ignited those hopes.

A stark aura of evil had somehow managed to push those dim hopes aside, as new priorities were forced upon the international community like a tornado. The War on Terror took the international stage as the only concern that the international community needs to focus on.

All the other concerns were almost shelved or were left to the individual state to deal with. They were left without any effective monitoring and follow-up and of course with little access to the resources that are needed to achieve success in overcoming the awesome problems that had at least been given due recognition a decade ago.

Yes, terrorism is a serious issue and there is no justification that innocent human beings anywhere in this planet should become vulnerable to deadly attacks by sadistic mobs, whose members were nurtured in an ugly culture of death and blood and a total disregard for the sanctity of life.

However should the world be diverted from the other serious determinants of world peace and stability and solely direct all its attention on what is perhaps probably a rudiment of the other awesome and more widespread social shortcomings that exist in the world? This will neither win the War on Terror, nor give an assurance that the international community is truly serious about the welfare of all the people of the world that are the losers in all the other battles that need to be fought.

Furthermore, to deal with the problem of terror from purely a military and security perspective and have international relations become governed by such an outlook, as has been proven so far over the past four years, is not an effective comprehensive approach.

There are serious problems in the world, while not as dramatic and

sensational, but some of these problems have their own casualties, which go into the thousands and even millions per year. On the other hand, the world is threatened by a serious catastrophe emanating from the degeneration of the environment by man-made pollutants.

There are many cities of the world that are subject to serious "pollution storms", when winds send polluted air in large volumes to certain population centers and render it almost impossible for humans to function properly, while some may suffer illness and possibly death.

Serious climatic disorientations are also being realized as the protective layer of ozone in the atmosphere is being gradually eaten away by toxic gases and burned out fuel derivatives. The devastating effects of a fragile ozone layer should never be ignored, because they will not recognize national boundaries, military or economic power, nor does the War on Terror have any bearing on where those effects will likely hit the hardest.

So what shall it be for the world, a misguided international agenda dictated by military and economic might and overseen by proponents of narrow interests that have so far shown no display of care for the welfare of mankind as a whole, as they churn their output for a war machine that has lost the course it was intended for.

The result is that more seeds were planted and more fertile grounds were availed for terrorism to unleash its unquenchable thirst for blood. The ugly daily scenes in Iraq are a clear testimony of this reverse direction of the War on Terror, while the London attacks raise important questions as to the origins of terrorism and who really stands to gain from its stay as a sustainable organized enterprise? With this obvious failure to show the real worthiness of this yearning for constant confrontation, comes the insistence that belligerency shall remain the aura that humanity must contend with for some time to come.

The right wing neo-con establishment in the United States and their partners in the international Zionist establishment are of the belief that the power they wield entitles them to pursue their preconceived agenda of achieving full control of the world energy sources of fossil fuels.

These are not conspiracy theories out of the blues, but are discernible perceptions of the present as fostered by the documents and papers of seminars, conferences and meetings held by elements of the partners in this alliance, jointly or separately over the last three decades. For five years, the United States has increased its military presence in the region where the most abundance of these sources of energy in the world exist. This is not necessarily a coincidental requirement for the War on Terror.

If the belligerency leading to the invasion of Iraq has now proven to be an irresponsible deliberate attempt to mislead the world on a course of undefined objectives, the Alliance continues to insist that the world must concur as well with its bibulous desire to have Iran turned into another messy Iraq, notwithstanding the fact that Iran has been on the whole recognized as member in good standing of the international community.

But with Iran, the accommodating forces that were at play in Iraq are not there and the gamble brings with it unpredictable but nevertheless horrific consequences for the bellicose belligerents, the Iranians and the international community. Isn't the world in enough of a mess already?

Is "gene doping" wrong?

BY ANDY MIAH

In recent years, the International Olympic Committee and other sports organizations have worried about the possible misuse of gene-transfer technology. But the sports world seems intent on exploiting this technology in pursuit of gold medals and championships, and genetic testing may be the wave of the future.

Two Australian Football League teams have hinted that they are looking into tests that would indicate an athlete's likely height, stamina, speed, and strength. Indeed, for some, "gene doping" now represents the Holy Grail of performance enhancement, while for others it means the end of sports as we know it.

The prospect of a future of genetically modified athletes incites alarm throughout the sports world, accompanied by portrayals of such athletes as inhuman or some form of mutant. This is a misrepresentation of how gene transfer would alter humans, both therapeutically and non-

therapeutically, should it ever be legalized. But the fear that rogue scientists will take advantage of athletes – or that athletes will seek to enroll in gene-transfer experiments in an attempt to receive some undetectable performance benefit – is very real.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) prohibited gene doping in 2003, but some scientists predict that its misuse in sport is likely to appear at the Beijing 2008 Olympics. It is in this context that the debate about gene doping erupted during the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Unfortunately, because the discussion has so far been dominated by moral panic over the state of sports, many ethical considerations and important questions have been excluded.

Policies concerning gene doping should not rely solely on the interests and infrastructures of sports organizations. In particular, the monitoring committees on genetic technology that nations develop must be taken on board by the world of sport. A simple model based on prohibition and testing for gene modification will not be enough,

assuming that detection is possible at all. Moreover, ethics committees must be made aware of the special circumstances of sports, which limit the effectiveness of broader social policies on genetic modification. Again, regulation ought not to rely on one single global authority. As has been made clear from the ethical debates on stem-cell research, a global policy cannot easily be adopted or enforced, nor should it be.

Above all, it is not acceptable for the world of sport to impose a moral view about the role of enhancement technology on nations that wish to participate in the Olympics, without implementing an extensive and ongoing consultative process to accompany its policy decision. This cannot involve the creation of working groups that merely pay lip service to ethical debate, but must enable non-sports organizations to develop their own policy framework for the regulation of "gene doping" and, more broadly, the use of genetic information.

Policies governing gene transfer in sports must, therefore, be recognized as subservient to broader bio-ethical and

bio-legal interests that recognize the changing role of genetics in society. The rhetoric surrounding "gene doping" relies heavily on its moral status as a form of cheating. Yet, this status relies on existing anti-doping rules. If we don't ban gene transfer in the first place, then on one level, it is not cheating.

In any case, to describe genetically modified athletes as mutants or inhuman is morally suspect, for it invokes the same kind of prejudice that we deplore in relation to other biological characteristics, particularly race, gender, and disability. After all, many, if not most, top athletes are "naturally" genetically gifted. To refer to these people as mutants would surely invite widespread criticism.

Those who fear that gene doping heralds the "end of sports" should instead recognize this moment as an opportunity to ask critical and difficult questions about the effectiveness and validity of anti-doping tests. Does society really care about performance enhancement in sport?

That may sound like a radical question. But advancement in ethical inquiry relies on the conflict of beliefs and values. For many years, commentators have expressed concerns about the culture of doping in elite sport. Yet, the culture of anti-doping is equally alarming, because it embodies a dogmatic commitment that limits the capacity for critical debate over what really matters in sport.

If anti-doping authorities truly care about sports, then they have a responsibility to re-examine the basic values that underpin their work. They should begin by imagining what would happen if the child of a genetically modified human wanted to become an elite athlete. At the very least, they might then be less prone to imposing the narrow moral position of the sports world on the parent.

Andy Miah, the author of *Genetically Modified Athletes: Biomedical Ethics, Gene Doping and Sport*, is Lecturer in Media, Bioethics, and Cyberculture at the University of Paisley and Tutor in Ethics of Science and Medicine at the University of Glasgow.

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By Dr. Saleh Al-Habshi
Msc. in Public Health

Public Health Affairs

The challenge still stands

BY DR. SALEH AL-HABSHI

The promising results announced on July 27 by the Ministry of Public Health & Population (MPH&P) about the high coverage achieved by the recently conducted Polio campaigns, seem to disperse the black cloud, which covered the efforts done by The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) on the way to Polio Eradication during last years.

The EPI is considered one of the most active programmes in the MPH&P. The 369 Polio cases reported since the onset of the outbreak on February 2005 indicated that there were occult damages in the body of the programme. Those damages led to a sudden deterioration in the EPI activities, the programme had never known before. But an urgent intervention and resuscitation process pulled up the overall coverage rate to exceed 90%. Timeliness of decision-making response with full support of the EPI partners - the United Nations Organizations (WHO & UNICEF) recovered the situation and the epidemic curve declined.

The recent Polio outbreak was due to many causes, mainly low coverage with routine immunization activities especially in the more affected provinces. Al-Hudeidah province reported 204 cases, while Hajjah and Amran provinces reported 28 and 23 cases consequently. The rest 114 cases were reported variably from 18 provinces.

Lahaj should be taken as an example in attaining their objectives towards the targeted group of children under five

years. The MPH&P reported that out of 22 provinces of Yemen only Lahaj did not report confirmed cases.

Polio is a potentially fatal disease, which killed and disabled millions of world population before immunization era. The disease is still endemic in some areas in developing countries due to socio-economic circumstances and political instabilities.

"There is no cure for the disease; vaccination of infants is the only thing could be done to prevent it." Stated an American Scientist from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, United States of America.

The overall coverage with Trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV3) by routine immunization in Yemen on 1997 was 57%, while many reports indicated that it reached 66% on 2003. Apparently, the immunization activities on 2004 seemed to be well done, when the danger was hidden under the results of that year, which prepared the ground for the resurgence of Polio outbreak.

Whatever the efforts are, they will never succeed until a real combination of government and community roles take place.

Illiteracy rate in Yemen is 27% and 67% among males and females consequently. These figures should be considered by the government. Individuals especially parents must have a certain level of education to understand the information about the importance of immunization conducted to them.

Hope will be there, that overall coverage rate with Polio immunization shall keep on over 90%. However, the challenge still stands, if the government does not tackle many socio-economic indicators.

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Republic of Yemen Ministry of Oil & Minerals Petroleum Exploration & Production Authority International Bid Round

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Block No	Block Name	Area, km ²
Block 11	AL Khadrah	10438
Block 12	N/Sanau	7867
Block 17	Aden/Abyab	19385
Block 19	AL Jawf	8424
Block 23	Antifash	8361
Block 28	N/Belhaf	4465
Block 29	S/Sanau	9237
Block 30	Habroot	8276
Block 57	AL Rauan	10963
Block 79	N/AL Khadrah	7990
Block 80	W/Sarr	1961
Block 82	Wadi Amed	1853
Block 83	Wadi Arat	364
Block 84	Ghayl Bin Yamin	731

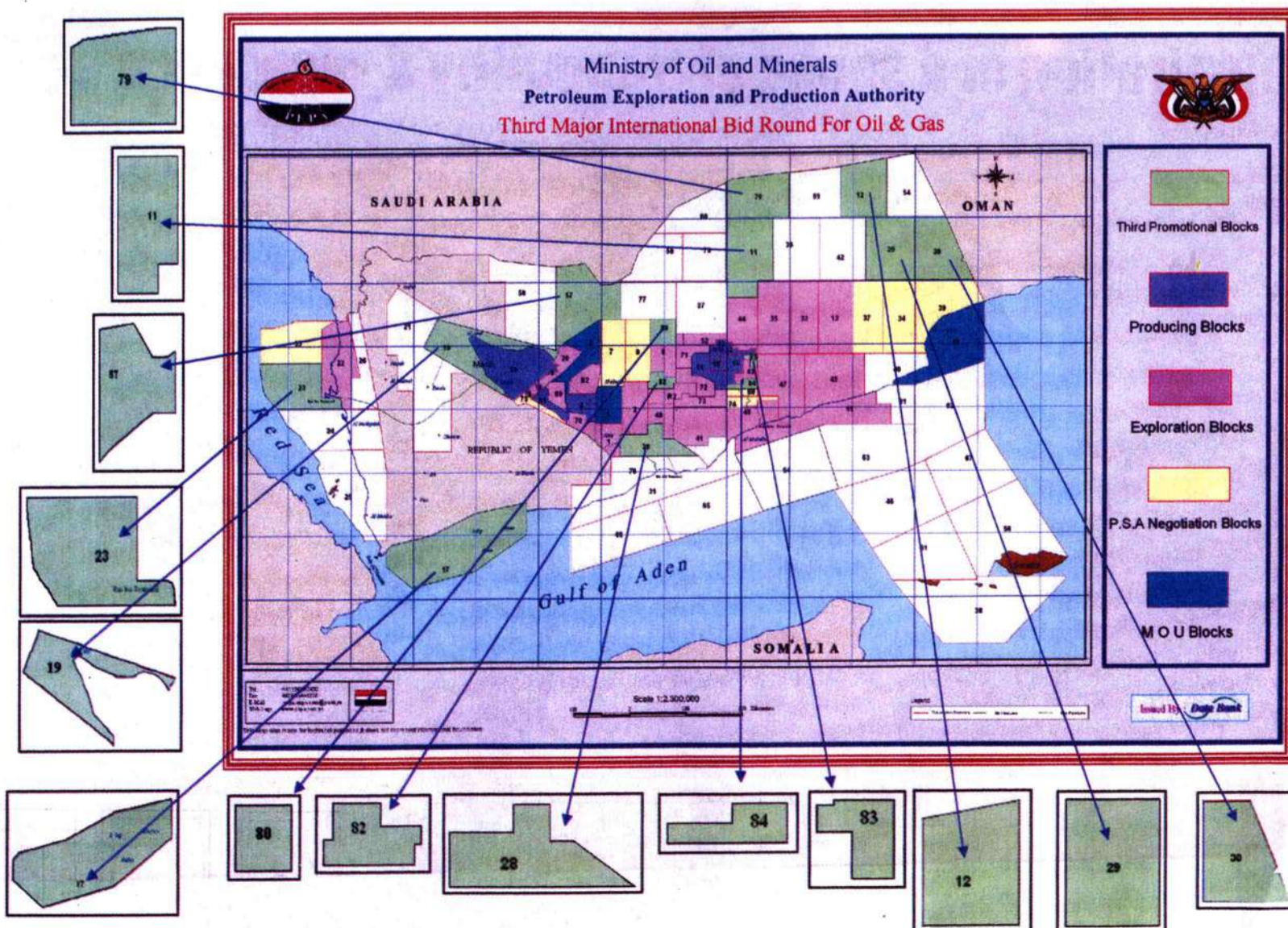
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2- Technical and financial reports for the last two (2) years.
3- Latest audit report.

A database and other information will be available for qualified companies after the application deadline.

Please send applications to the attention of:

HE Dr. Rasheed Baraba'a
Minister of Oil & Minerals
E-mail: pepa-expo.com@y.net.ye
Phone: +967-442630/444741/444743
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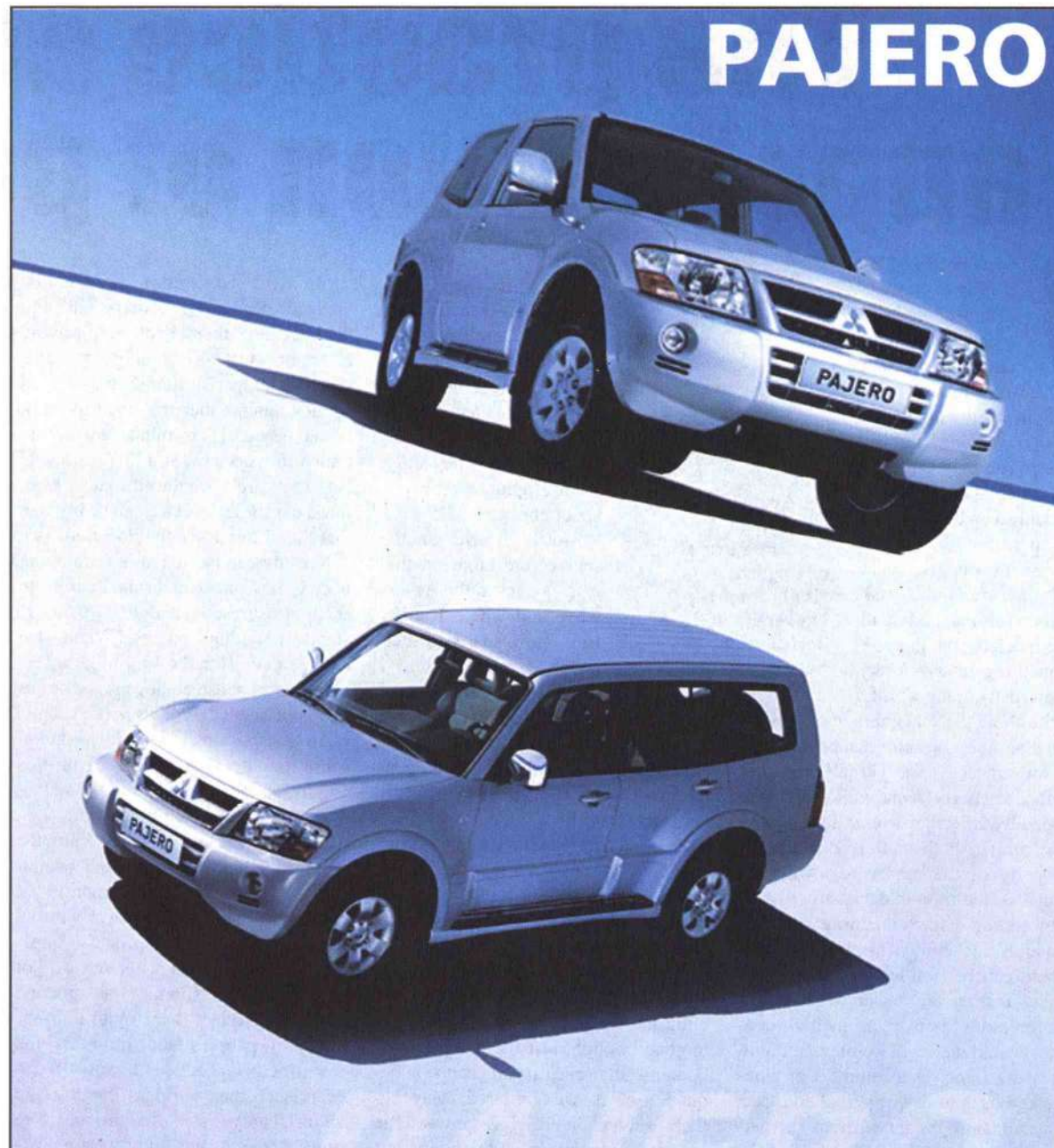
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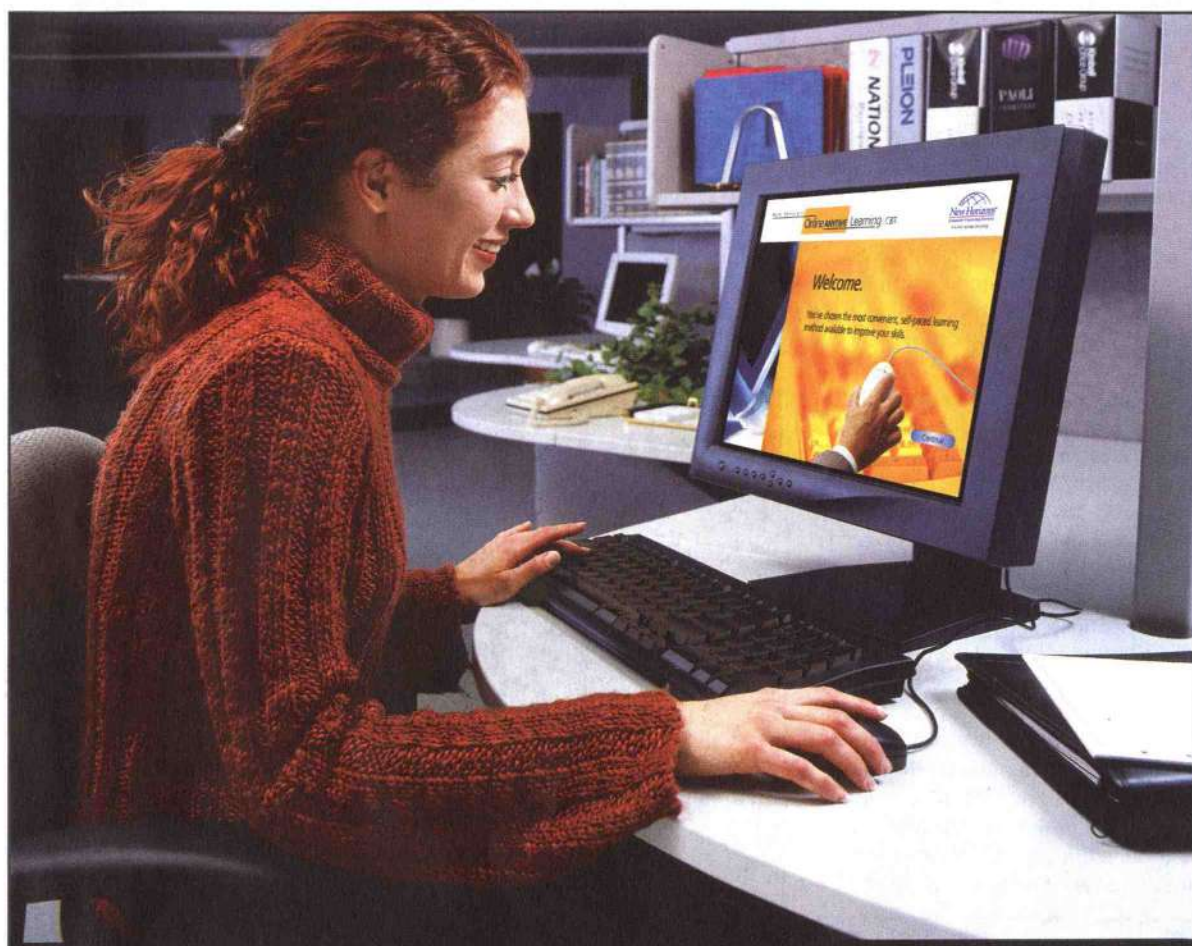
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The practice and appreciation of poetry

I write because I am itching to communicate something. I have a message and that message craves to be disseminated in spite of it running the risk of being dubbed crazy. You may call me a neurotic, sick, maladjusted and so on but I will not be perturbed for every divine messenger, social reformer runs this risk. Either I am at odds with the society or there is something utterly kinky, skewed about the world. I



Dr. Arunachalam Angappan,
Associate Professor of English,
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Seyun, Yemen

product. He presents the decay which stares the reader in his face, discomfiting and embarrassing; he runs to at least put on a mask to cover that ugliness, if he cannot drop that ugliness entirely. To that extent, the ugly, seamy, ignoble aspect is under check.

Mostly I write on the spur of the moment, that is to say, instantly. As and when and where I suffer from an intensity of feeling. It depends on how I am affected, how much I am affected, how deeply I am affected. Most often words simply fly about like angels in the vast universe, alight gently on the white sheet, fold their wings delicately, and Lo! There comes alive the icon, the verbal icon. As the sculptor gently chisels open the eyes of the figure he has sculpted, the whole is there in an instant. The images, symbols, metaphors—all are there obeying some intrinsic command. The long and laborious process of the sculptor chiseling the sculpture remains seemingly ungone through; just the last phase of opening the eye, it all happens so quick, so, so well ordered. May be, there is a mental chiseling between the instant of conception and delivery, but that remains seemingly ungone, unsusfered..

An artifact is a verbal construct embedded in the social milieu and produced by the writer who is a product of that milieu; it thereafter becomes the property of the reader bestowing on him a sacred right to deconstruct while negotiating for meaning, which depends on his own mental construct. There can be limitless meanings—as many as there are readers who will go on creating their own mental constructs, and who will go on creating as many meanings as the number of times they go back to it. The verbal construct may remain constant whereas the perceived construct (understanding of the meaning by the reader) becomes mutative depending on the times and cultures to which he belongs. An artifact is never a product; it is always a process. Once the poet completes his process, there begins the endless process of meaning making by endless visitors to that artifact and endless visits by the same reader. Thus go endlessly the process of creation and the process of re-creation.

I write about what I intensely feel about only. I cannot sit up, write down a few lines just like that and expect the world to accept it as a piece of literature. I have to put my heart, mind and soul into those few lines. For that some event, some phenomenon, say a political, social or economic injustice must affect me, wound me, hurt me, must impact heavily on my mind and soul. Some emotion, some feeling, some sentiment, which I must deeply suffer from. Unless and otherwise, it is literally next to impossible. I do not write much of love verses because I do not have the capacity for it. I cannot romanticize, because I am agitated over the stark realities of life to which I want to draw the attention of the people for the purpose of correction; I am not an ostrich; I do not merely create an aura of wonder, wrapping up the sordid facts of life around.

I am very much a part of the process of life in my time. I do not travel much back into the glorious, distant past. If I do that, that is for mutatis mutandis only. I live here and now. I perceive things, I get affected, I write. The social milieu of his times is inescapable to any writer. Society creates, shapes the writer, and conversely the writer also can create the society—that is, if his writing is a genuinely felt

am affected, how deeply I am affected. Most often words simply fly about like angels in the vast universe, alight gently on the white sheet, fold their wings delicately, and Lo! There comes alive the icon, the verbal icon. As the sculptor gently chisels open the eyes of the figure he has sculpted, the whole is there in an instant. The images, symbols, metaphors—all are there obeying some intrinsic command. The long and laborious process of the sculptor chiseling the sculpture remains seemingly ungone through; just the last phase of opening the eye, it all happens so quick, so, so well ordered. May be, there is a mental chiseling between the instant of conception and delivery, but that remains seemingly ungone, unsusfered..

Some other times, I postpone writing it down. I brood over it like Wordsworth's hen until my eggs become warmer enough for the chicks to break out of the shells; I let it, I mean the intense feeling/emotion/sentiment, to sink deeper and deeper, penetrate my person layer by layer until it sort of explodes my whole personality and drives me in search of a piece of paper and pen. I feel quite only if I accomplished the writing. Still there are occasions, a third kind, when something agitates, possesses, tortures my soul but will not flow out, something like an air-block in a conduit preventing liquid flow. The much-longed sense of satisfaction of expression eludes; I feel like sitting and weeping.

I do not look for architectonic excellence. I look for aesthetics in the shocking treatment of an everyday, commonly perceived but generally neglected subject matter. I do not prefer metrical compositions though I can. These are days of free verse. One or two sonnets I wrote in the initial days were not encouraged. People, not necessarily expert critics, spurn rhyme. But there must definitely be an internal rhythm without which no composition can qualify for being poetry.

Appreciation of Poetry
I shall begin with a quotation from Walt Whitman (1819-1892):
Have you practis'd so long to learn to read?
Have you felt so proud to get at the meaning of poems? ("Song of Myself" ll. 31-32).
One can understand the difficulty as well as the aura of greatness attached to the reading and meaning making of

poetry.
As K.L. Knickerbocker and H. Willard Reninger remark in the "Preface" to their book *Interpreting Literature* (1978), "...most students regard imaginative literature as a conspiracy against their mental and emotional peace. Their minds are accustomed to work best at a literal...level" (v). They are "convinced that in most instances these shackles can be broken, that literal minds can be liberated" (v).

Nobody can be talked into enjoying poetry, but one can bring oneself to such pleasures by learning to understand individual poems. When one reads a poem for the first time, a certain kind of sense comes through to us almost immediately. This is the poem's plain sense, sometimes called literal sense or literal meaning. With this begins, but not ends, the understanding of a poem. The literal meaning, i.e., paraphrasing helps to move onto the other level, higher level, of understanding the imagery. "The function of imagery in poetry is identical with its function in everyday speech: it presents to the reader his concrete world of things, and recalls to him the sight and sound and feel of them. With imagery the poet peoples and furnishes the world of his poem, and causes us to experience that world as directly and unmistakably as we experience life itself" (219). At this point we are moving from the plain sense to the figurative sense. Why the poet should use figures of speech? Can't he say it plainly? Such a question is asked as if only poets resorted to figures of speech. But our everyday life is peppered with figures of speech. Eg. We "lead a dog's life," "smell a rat," "got it for a song." Then there is the question of symbol. Symbols are identified and their meanings made clear by the full context of the poem. It can be stated, "the whole poem helps to determine the meaning of its parts, and, in turn, each part helps to determine the meaning of the whole poem" (220).

There are other elements. It is difficult for readers to believe that such matters as rhythm and rhyme are used to convey meaning. Poetry is speech, and the voice, or tone, of the poet communicates his attitude toward the facts of the poem. A very old definition of poetry regards it as a fusion of sound and sense. Note that word fusion: not a mechanical combination, a melting together of sound and sense. The pulsations or the beats in each line is called rhythm; it is measured in foot; each foot may contain one or more syllables: some syllables are stressed and some other unstressed. Each line may have one or more metres. The most commonly used metre is penta (five) metre. Some have tetra (four). Still some have just one (mono). Rhythm is not a mere decoration, but a basic element in the poem's structure and meaning. One of the purposes of rhyme is to tie the sense together with sound.

In short, a poem is a living organism which contains the necessary elements of its own life. If the poem is a good one, every element in it contributes to its meaning.

A poem has two levels of meaning: the literal and the figurative-symbolic level. A poem suggests much more than it says literally: like lovers' conversation, a poem gives out hints of extensive meanings along the way. Poets do not play a hide-and-seek game—the hidden meaning is not secretly and deliberately placed there by the poet. The figurative meaning is mistaken for the hidden meaning. A poem has a concentration and intensity which helps to make it memorable. The right word in the right place, the intimate fusion of sound and sense, and the economy of rich suggestion are virtues of the structure of most poetry. The misreading of poetry comes from the reader's failure to realize that there are many languages within the English language, such as the languages of science, history, journalism, and, of course, the language of poetry itself. When we read a poem we sense the language of poetry because of the devices of rhythm (iambic [one stressed followed by an unstressed syllable] pentameter, the most commonly used form), rhyme (queer/near in Frost's "Stopping by Woods..."), figurative language (a horse that thinks), and symbol (a horse that stands for practical sense as against the impractical sense of its driver).

It requires various kinds of scholarly information—biographical, historical, and textual, all together or separately, for an academic appreciation. An academic critic, according to David Daiches (1956) "is often tempted to combine information, explanation, elucidation, and praise in his remarks on a given work or a given writer" (281). This eclectic method is not necessarily muddle headed. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century academic criticism, the "bio-critical" approach flourished vigorously. It succeeded "in conveying to the reader a sense of a writer's achievement set against the background of his life and time" (282). This approach was much useful in assessing the writers of a period as a whole and the writings of a period in their entirety than in assessing the individual writers and individual works. This was more in the nature of a critical chat than a strictly literary criticism.

A fully professional criticism depends on precision and subtlety. His activity may be ontological (the philosophical question concerning the nature of imaginative literature), functional (what literature does, that is to define it in terms of its function), normative (distinguishing the good from the bad), descriptive (the realm of description includes a value judgement also), psychological (the question of how the literary mind operates in the act of creation), or appreciative (asking no questions at all, but simply seeking to increase the appreciation on the part of the reader). But, as David Daiches says, there is a great danger in relegating critical discussion solely to the highly specialized technical expert—the professional critic. A civilization, and an artifact as an embodiment of that civilization, can best be judged by

A letter to the teachers of English: 94 Why students drop out of schools: A study (3)

Dear Fellow teachers,

We were discussing the problem of homework in the last letter. The private schools give the parents a wrong idea that their children learn more if they do more homework. But what they didn't realize was that most of the homework was done by the educated parents at home instead of their children.



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

This concept of 'more homework, the more learning' is not true any more. More learning is possible only if the students participate in classroom activities willingly and so there is a strong need for increasing the amount of challenging and interesting classroom activities for the students to participate in them. I have made many suggestions in my earlier letters as to how to engage the students in challenging activities in the classrooms. An imaginative and thoughtful teacher can innovate a large number of activities for his/her students. Moreover, I have argued in one of my earlier letters that students in Yemen, most of them, both at the school and college levels, are expected to work in their free time and add to the income of the families so that they can continue their studies (some of them work for the qat expenses of their parents too!), and they hardly have time to do their homework; it is unsympathetic to load them with homework. We can spend a few minutes in each class to make them do with our help what they are expected to do at home; I have found this working in my classes very successfully.

Motivating activities act as an incentive to any child; I have seen students fighting with their parents to allow them to go to school on the day when they participate in a school play or concert or sports activities in the school. In one of my very early letters I made a suggestion as to how to make

use of the 'tha-boor' sessions in schools to improve students' English. Cultural activities, sports and games, picnics are some of the motivating activities which can keep the students tied to the schools and reduce the drop out rate to a large

extent.
Fear of failure is a strong deterrent to our students, especially the girls. My experience in Yemen consists of several examples to prove this. Yemeni students are over crazy about marks; I can understand one's fear of failure but not the craziness about marks, sometimes they overestimate themselves and suffer when their estimation is wrong. I have discussed enough in my letters "Punished by rewards" in this regard. It is necessary that the teachers should provide the objective feedback of the students' performance in the classes, not to give them a false hope about their abilities; giving them false hopes leads them to greater consequences.

Parent-teacher cooperation is an essential ingredient for the development of the students, especially in schools. Many schools have 'parents-teachers associations' for this purpose, but most of them are unfortunately 'parent-(head)teacher association' doing nothing for the development of the students. Teachers can have personal contact with the parents of their students, especially those who problems, and discuss their children's performance and behaviour and suggest what the parents should do in order to help their children; it is more important in the case of illiterate parents.

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

its amateurs not by the professional experts who tend to develop a technical jargon of their own to place themselves in an indispensable position between the creator and the ordinary reader.

For an amateurish appreciation, an ear for words to go rapturous over the rhythmic beats, a capacity for wondering at the difference in the way the artist has perceived the subject that he

himself has failed to do, and an ability to identify the various elements of which a work is composed are enough.

[An address delivered in absentia at the World Poetry Festival 2005 organized jointly by Kaohsiung Government and Literary Taiwan Foundation during 24-27 March 2005]

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**
- | | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Appearance | Field | Leather | Receiver | Store |
| Baseball | Fine | Left | Resistant | Stove |
| Bicycle | Fingers | Lend | Rubber | Styles |
| Boxing | Fits | Long | Safety | Suede |
| Bridal | Flannel | Lost | Sale | Thermal |
| Burn | Furs | Massage | Satin | Thorns |
| Buys | Garden | Material | Seam | Tiny |
| Catcher | Garment | Mold | Sell | Tool |
| Chic | Gift | Move | Shop | Uses |
| Class | Glover | Nylon | Sign | Warm |
| Coated | Goalkeeper | Oven | Silk | Washable |
| Colors | Golf | Pack | Size | Wear |
| Corn | Grip | Pair | Skier | Wedding |
| Cotton | Hands | Palm | Slip | Winter |
| Deerskin | Hold | Pick | Small | Woman |
| Delicate | Kids | Player | Snow | Wool |
| Fabric | Knit | Police | Soft | Worker |
| Factory | Ladies | Prints | Soil | |
| Farmer | Lamb | Prom | Sports | |
| Fiber | Latex | Proof | Spot | |

ONLY GLOVES Solution: 8 letters

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

ANSWER NEXT WEEK Last Week's Answer: Purchase

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ
وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَظَنُّوا بِهِمْ لَبِئْسَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ
وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَظَنُّوا بِهِمْ لَبِئْسَ مَا يَحْكُمُونَ

بِقَلْبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بَقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ
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Inside the Umayyad Grand Mosque,

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MOHAMMED KHIDHR
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While last time I was in Damascus on my way to Baghdad, I thought I should not miss the opportunity of visiting one of the greatest and spectacular Islamic monuments still alive up till now, i.e. the Umayyad Grand



Spectacular erection inside the courtyard

Mosque in the heart of the Syrian capital Damascus.

The moment I stepped inside the marble-tiled courtyard of the mosque I felt awesomeness of the place and the grandeur of the historical mosque buildings surrounding the courtyard. Once you are inside the courtyard of the mosque you feel you are isolated from the out surroundings as if the place is sound-proofed. There is no noise you can hear despite of the many visitors frequenting the place. I was there a short time ahead of the midday prayer which was a god opportunity to perform prayers at this sacred Islamic landmark.

Once you are inside the mosque you can see the grandeur of the Islamic architecture of the mosque as it was built in 705 A.D. when Damascus was the capital of the Arab Islamic Empire. Inside the



Minaret at the entrance of the mosque

mosque one only hears humming of worshipper reading from the Holy Koran before the Azan calling for the prayer. I spent more than one hour praying and touring inside and out side the prayer hall of the mosque entertaining the gorgeous sensation of being between the hands of the Almighty God and feeling the ease and satisfaction you would sense

inside such sacred Holy Places.

Continued on page 11



Ablution place topped with a dome amidst the mosque courtyard

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Interior scene of the prayer hall with beautiful chandeliers portraying magnificence of the building

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