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Somali refugees demand justice



Several Somali refugees have threatened to go on hunger strike to make themselves heard.

YT photo by Yasser Al-Mayasi

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIME STAFF

SANA'A - Nov. 20 - Hundreds of Somali refugees have been protesting for almost a week in front of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) premises with their families and children, they staged a sit-in and expressed their demands for improving their current legal, economic and social living condition as well as their forsaken human rights.

Yemen Times has met a number of them who expressed anger over the bad treatment they face from the Commission: Osman Ali, a refugee who came to Yemen in 1991 claimed that the

commission had obtained a refugee card from the UNHCR, yet he did not receive any assistance from the commission since 1991, leaving him to face severe financial conditions, he said that the UNHCR did not live up to its charter or commitment in furnishing them.

Another refugee, Hassan Ainain Osman was among a committee representing refugees and have met the Commission's officials who in turn said that they can do nothing to help them because of large number of refugees reaching around 40,000. However, more recently he said that the officials of the UNHCR refuse to meet them to listen to their problems. He said that all they want is to be taken to other parts of the world

where they may live a decent life: "We are homeless and lost everything, while living conditions in Yemen are worsening", he went on saying. Several refugees said that they come with their women and children to make their voice heard. Some said that they used to come to the commission for consecutive months without being able even to see the face of an official except when they go in and out of their cars. They come early in the morning and they are told to wait until the afternoon when they discover that all the officials left by the back doors, leaving the long cues under the sun and rains.

Several refugees have called the United Nations to listen to their humanitarian call and find a solution for them; they said that

they will go into hunger strike to make themselves heard. They demanded equal consideration similar to other refugees such as the Ethiopians, whom they claim to have a better treatment. Yemen hosts a number of refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Iraq and Palestine, along with other small numbers of refugees from other countries.

Most of Somali refugees escaped their country because of the civil war, and faced a number of problems in the so called the trips to the unknown. These trips often end in tragedies especially those who use wooden boats in their escape. They are often being pushed over board by their smugglers, for fear of the coast guard patrols. When they reach land they got detained because they enter countries illegally.

In Yemen they do simple jobs that could hardly sustain a living; especially they have not got an educational standard that enables them to have better jobs. Yemen has recently received boats and sea equipments to support in the war against terrorism. These boats enabled the Yemenis to tighten their grip on their coasts, but the Somali refugees who suffered as a result of this; they are often being marooned along distance from shore for fear of these new Yemeni forces.

The large number of the Somali influx made many of them eye the efforts of the Commission with skepticism. They accuse the UNHCR of willful negligence, and a double standard treatment. The Commission's efforts in furnishing for the refugees can not be denied. These were either through the commission individual efforts or those joint ones with the government, by making refugee camps and encouraging voluntary return. Now there are several Somali refugee camps that are made for them in the south west governorates, which are near the coasts where the refugees infiltrate.

3 journalists fined, banned from writing

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Nov. 19- The Capital City's Southwestern Court issued on Saturday a verdict on the case filed by the Taiz Finance Office against al-Thawri Paper, mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Under the verdict, the three journalists Khaled Salman, Fikri Qasim and Salahaddin al-Dakak were fined a sum of 950 thousand Yemeni Riyals and banned from writing for 6 months, but the execution was halted.

The three journalists were accused of scolding and criticizing the General Manager of Taiz Finance Office, following the publication of scandals and

violations allegedly committed by the General Manager of Taiz Finance Office.

Al-Thawri weekly is also facing as many as 13 cases, 4 of which are concerned with insulting the President of the Republic and fomenting ethnic and racial conflicts, as well as insulting the military forces.

There are also a number of journalists and writers subjected to investigations and trials for their writings published in some opposition newspapers. Journalism community always complains of tightening the grip around the freedoms of journalists and the practice of illegal harassments against them.



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Republic of Yemen - Sana'a

New candidate for Yemen's presidency

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Nov. 16- Former Yemeni Deputy President Dr. Abdurrahman al-

Baidhani announced that he is running for presidency at the next elections in September.

Al-Beidani said in a statement to Ray News website of opposition al-Rabita Party that he decided to run for elections after President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced he does not seek a new mandate.

Al-Baidani called on the Yemeni people to back him "in order to work together to alleviate the sufferings of the people and start real economic development and renaissance."

Al-Baidani's candidacy raised to three the number of considerable candidates vying for the top post, including Abdullah al-Numan and Abdullah al-Hakimi.

The three are running as independents at a time the Yemeni opposition coalition of eight parties called the "Joint Opposition Meeting Parties" has not named any candidate.

In his address, al-Baidani lashed out at the government, which he accused of corruption and failure to achieve any of the economic and political reforms it had promised.

"The reason behind the failure of the successive governments is lack of experience in achieving renaissance and mismanagement," he said.

He cautioned that the country had become a "time bomb" that can explode at any moment due to rampant poverty, unless "drastic and immediate reforms are introduced."

In another development, a Yemeni member of parliament asked for questioning Interior Minister Rashad al-Alimi over what he called systematic harassment of journalists and violation of public liberties.

MP Zakaria Zakari charged that there is a deliberate campaign targeting journalists aimed at undermining freedoms. Several journalists in Yemen have been recently arrested, kidnapped and attacked over writings that criticized rampant corruption in the government.

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Leftover mines and explosives pollute Saada

By HASSSAN ALZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SAADA – Yemen – Thurs. Nov.17- The latest victim of the armed conflict among government forces and Alhouthi followers is toddler Dhiyafalla Al-balawi, who died last week, after his sister found a grenade in their whereabouts of her goats near their home, left by the governmental forces which were in the

area, the grenade fell from the sister's hand onto the ground, injuring her and killing her toddler brother.

Haidan district in Saada witnessed sever fighting with Alhouthi insurgents and the government forces, resulting in polluting the area with mines, explosive and other hazardous materials. Social personalities in the area which witnessed the conflict demanded a formation of a specialized committee to

collect the mine and other explosives left over by the army. These are left scattered in mountains and valleys, endangering the lives of many people and children in the area. They have also invited international organizations and the press to have first hand experiences on the suffering of the elderly, women, children, and livestock as a resulting of their districting almost becoming a minefield.

European Union supports Human Rights in Yemen

SANA'A- Nov. 16- The European Union agreed to support the ministry of Human Rights with 2 million euros in order to assist the plans of protecting and promoting, human rights and democratization.

Although Yemen is classified as one of the 49 least developed countries with over 50% of the population under the poverty line with a pattern of gender differences, Yemen has set a goal for its own transformation in accor-

dance with the Sana'a declaration and the vision of year 2025, which the European Union plays a considerable role in its realization, the EU is providing the 2 million Euros for the National Indicative Program (NIP) agreed with Yemen which's priority is to strengthen Democracy and political pluralism.

The funding is to cover three areas, strengthening the capacity of Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights; developing

effective consultation mechanism between human rights and NGO's and government institutions, and providing technical and financial assistance to NGO's.

EU Has always placed great importance in the protection of political pluralism and democracy in Yemen, and advanced this matter as one of its priorities. The EU believes that by working together, Yemen can achieve its goals.

UAE Red Crescent team conducts eye surgeries

SANA'A- 17 Nov. 19 - The UAE Red Crescent Society medical team arrived recently in Yemen to conduct eye operations for the population of Socotra Island and take part in the national anti-malaria campaign.

The RCS delegation included a team of eight ophthalmologists who have arrived at the Yemeni Island of Socotra and started, as of Saturday, the examination of 2500 patients. The team also plans to undertake 300 surgeries for patients suffering from most critical eye diseases.

Omar Al Muheiri, Charge d' Affaires at UAE Embassy in Yemen, praised the UAE leadership for dispatching the RCS team to treat people here and combat malaria which kills thousands of people every year in Yemen.

"The UAE has always been in the forefront to extend a helping hand to brothers across the globe," he said, adding that the eye care campaign would

bring back sight to many almost-blind people while the anti-malaria drive would save thousands of lives from the killer disease.

Dr. Tawfiq Al Khateb, Secretary General of Yemeni Ophthalmologists' Society and Coordinator of Socotra campaign, said a Yemeni team of 7 eye surgeons would join the UAE team to carry out the ten-day campaign.

He also indicated that blindness cases in Yemen constitute up to two per cent of the 20 million populations, "The campaign will continue in cooperation with the Arab Ophthalmology Organization and 5000 operations are expected to be conducted next year," he added.

Dr. Jamal Ghailan, Coordinator of the national campaign against malaria, said the drive was launched three days ago and is expected to help combat the fatal disease, which around two million of the population suffers from: "Infection

jumped to 48 per cent at present from 11 per cent in 1998," he noted.

The campaign is a part the RCS's program to reduce the number of casualties and death resulting from malaria and to control the spread of blindness in the country while raising health levels there", said Khalifa Nasir Al Suwaidi, Chairman of the RCS.

"The RCS has adopted humanitarian initiatives, which have established the position of the UAE worldwide. It has through the support President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and follow-up of Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the RCS, provided help to great segments of beneficiaries in the UAE and abroad", he said.

CPJ urgents President Saleh to condemn attacks against journalists

The Committee to Protect Journalist (CPJ) expressed grave concern on Monday about the

recent assault on Yemeni journalists. In a letter to His Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the CPJ condemned the assault of a number of journalists in Yemen including the recent assault on Subaie which is only the most recent example in a frightening spate of violence against the press. On November 12 Subaie, who contributes to the opposition newspapers Al-Thawri, Al-Shoura, Al-Nida'a and Al-Tajammu, was attacked by two masked gunmen who stubbed

him in his right arm and upper back.

Videographer Mujeeb suwailih, cameraman for Al-Arabiya news channel, and Journalist Najib al-Sharabi, correspondent for Al-Ekhabariya channel, were attacked on November 4 by security officers while they were covering a strike by employees of a public textile factory in Sana'a. Both journalists were detained for several hours at a nearby police station where they were threatened by the same officers who attacked them earlier. The Yemeni Ministry of Interior said it would launch an investigation into the attack, but no police officer has

been held responsible as yet.

On August 23, four men seized Jamal Amer, editor of Al-Wasat newspaper, and bundled him into a waiting car. Amer said the men punched him, accused him of getting funding from the U.S. and Kuwaiti embassies and warned him about defaming unspecified "officials." Amer said he believes a car used in the abduction belonged to the Yemeni Republican Guard. Amer's newspaper has criticized corruption, nepotism, published the names of relatives of the government officials who receive educational scholarships abroad, scholarships which otherwise should go to merited students who achieve excellence in their studies.

In July, Hajji al-Jehafi, editor of the weekly newspaper Al-Nahar, was wounded when a letter bomb addressed to him exploded.

CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper urged President Saleh to publicly condemn such brutal attacks against the media and to personally ensure that appropriate enforcement authorities conduct thorough, transparent, and expeditious investigations so that the assailants are held accountable to the full extent of the law.

German Photo Exhibition "Herman Burchardt in Yemen" to be inaugurated

The German Photo Exhibition "Herman Burchardt in Yemen" is to be inaugurated in Aden at the German Consulate on November 20th 2005. Prospectively, H.E. the German Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Frank Markus Mann, will launch the exhibition.

There will be exhibited several amazing photos taken by the German traveler Herman Burchardt between the years 1900-1909, demonstrating many aspects of the Yemeni life at the beginning of the last century. They are the oldest existing photographs on Yemen and will be displayed from November 20th to 28th (afternoon).

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Yemen mediates between Syria, U.S.

SANA'A-Nov. 17 –Official news reports claimed that Yemen tried to bridge the gap between Syria, Washington and Paris to contain tensions threatening regional stability and security.

September 26, a pro-government daily, quoted official sources as saying Thursday that Yemeni efforts centered on narrowing differences in order to secure a continuation of Syrian-U.S.-French dialogue "to serve stability and security in the region."

Washington and Paris are leading the efforts at the U.N. Security Council to discover the truth behind the Feb. 14 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

A U.N.-commissioned inquiry led by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis named six Syrian security officials as suspects and a new Security Council resolution urged Damascus to cooperate with the international investigators or face "further action."

The paper said Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh received a letter from his Syrian counterpart, Bashar

Assad, explaining Syria's stance on the inquiry.

News reports suggested Saleh carried a letter from Assad to U.S. President Bush during his visit to Washington Nov. 10, but U.S. officials denied receiving any messages from Damascus.

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:

Al-Baidani is about to run in the coming presidential election. He promises reform and stability. If he hypothetically won, do you think he will be up to his words?
Yes
No, he's not quite into internal affair of the country
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Political asylum increased among Yemeni key politicians who seek shelter in the west to demand more political reform. Do you favor this phenomenon?
No 50%
Yes 50%

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UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has the following vacant posts :

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- Receptionist

Applications should be addressed to UNHCR Office, not later than Saturday 30/11/2005.

For more information, please contact UNHCR Office on the following address:

- Algeria St, No. 38 – Building No. 2
- Tel.: 4697772 – 4697773
- Fax: 4697770
- P.O Box: 12093 – Sana'a, RY



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- 2.) Master's Degree Study
- 3.) Ph D Study
- 4.) Refresher Courses (for former fellows)
- 5.) Tailor-made Programmes for special needs

The major conditions for applying for an NFP fellowship are as follows:

1. Candidates for short courses, Master or PhD-programmes must be mid-career professionals.
2. Applicants first must apply for a course of their choice to a Dutch university from among the programmes listed in the NFP 2006 brochure. Before an application is submitted to the Netherlands Embassy, a letter of acceptance must be obtained from the Dutch institution. If an applicant is deemed qualified for the selected programme, the Dutch university (or other training provider) will provide applicants with a (provisional) letter of admission. This acceptance letter is a requirement for applying for the scholarship. Applications without a letter of admission will not be considered.
3. Demonstrated proficiency in the English language (written and spoken).

The Royal Netherlands Embassy encourages women to apply. The NFP allocates 50% of all fellowships to women.

The Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) administers the NFP on behalf of the Royal Netherlands. Detailed information is available on the NUFFIC website at www.NUFFIC.NL/NFP. For brochures, application forms or any further information on the Netherlands Fellowship Programme, please visit the Netherlands Embassy (tel: 01 421800) during fellowship office hours, every Sunday between 14.00 and 15.00 hours or the Sana'a NUFFIC educational library (tel: 01- 468467 or 01-209843) located at the Higher Education Development Project complex off Algiers Street.

The Embassy calls upon ex-alumni of the Netherlands Fellowships Programme

The embassy hereby would like to invite interested ex-alumni to contact the Netherlands Embassy

The Embassy is attempting to revive a Netherlands Alumni Association in Yemen. By subscribing to the membership of this Association, the Embassy will be able to keep you informed on relevant developments as regards academic co-operation between Yemen and The Netherlands and on events which may be of interest to Yemenis who spent some time in our country. The Embassy, or the Association itself, may organize social events where Yemeni alumni can meet and exchange experiences, with each other or with Dutchmen. The Embassy encourages past recipients of a Netherlands fellowship to apply for refresher training through the Netherlands Fellowship Programme. Please contact the Royal Netherlands Embassy or the NFP Coordinator at the Higher Education Development Project for information.

Yemenia concludes its sales conference 2005



YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A – Nov. 20 – The Yemenia Airways concluded Saturday a three-day conference on Sales 2005. All domestic and international Yemenia managers participated in this conference.

The participants discussed over three days the marketing and sales policy issues, in all the companies' branches.

They also discussed the marketing strategy in the grim conditions that aviation industry is now facing.

They adopted a number of measures that will promote their company's ability to compete with, enhance its operational competence and develop their services. They aimed at achieving distinctive sales outcome and increase passengers' number, by furnishing grand services.

Important Notice

This is to correct part the Ad published on 17/11/2005 (YT's issue 895, page 6)



Jotun Paints

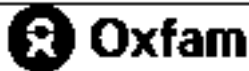
Responsibilities for Sales Representatives:

To read:

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وظيفة شاخرة

تعمل منظمة أوكسفام مع الآخرين للتغلب على مشاكل الفقر والمعاناة. ونطلب عملية التوسع لبرنامج المنظمة في اليمن مناطق جديدة للعمل بتخصصات جديدة. نحن نبحث عن أشخاص مميزين ونشيطين للعمل كجزء من فريق منظمة أوكسفام في صنعاء. وسيتنمى التعيين للموظف في المكتب الفرعي للمنظمة في مدينة سيئون بمحافظة حضرموت.

الوظيفة: منسقة مجتمعية : (إمرأة)

الكفاءات الرئيسية ومتطلبات الوظيفة

- أن تكون لديها خبرة عمل في مشروع اجتماعي لائق عن سنتين، ويفضل أن يكون في محافظة حضرموت.
- أن تكون لديها خبرة ومهارات مياصرة في توجيه المجتمع وتعزيز مشاركة النساء في أنشطة التنمية الصحية.
- أن تكون لديها القدرة والمهارات في استخدام الطرق التشاركية.
- أن تكون لديها القدرة على تفهم قضايا الفقر والقضايا الأخرى المتعلقة بعدم المساواة ووضع المرأة في محافظة حضرموت.
- أن تكون لديها القدرة على التنسيق والإرتباط على نحو واسع بمجموعات المجتمع المدني المحلية والجهات الحكومية المحلية والتي ترتبط أنشطتها بقضايا الفقر والمرأة.
- أن تكون لديها القدرة على الإلتزام بتكافؤ الفرص وتعزيز المساواة في النوع الاجتماعي في كل وجوه العمل للمنظمة أوكسفام.
- أن تكون لديها القدرة على الإلتزام، والتخليم الشخصي، والإكتفاء الذاتي والمبادرة بدرجة عالية.
- أن تكون لديها القدرة الجيدة على التواصل والتحدث باللغة العربية ومهارات في الكتابة.
- أن تكون لديها القدرة على العمل ضمن فريق والبدء في ربط العلاقات وعقد التحالفات على المستويات المحلية.
- أن تكون لديها الرغبة والقدرة على السفر إلى المناطق الريفية في محافظة حضرموت.

يرجى إرسال نسخة من السيرة الذاتية على العنوان المذكور أثناء وفي موعد أقصاه يوم 26 نوفمبر 2005، مع كتابة اسم الوظيفة المتقدم بطلب الحصول عليها وبشكل واضح في رسالة الطلب. ولن يتم النظر في أي رسالة لطلب العمل لا يتم ذكر اسم الوظيفة المطلوبة فيها.

مدير برنامج منظمة أوكسفام في اليمن
الجمهورية اليمنية، حضرموت، سيئون

البريد الإلكتروني: fkassim@oxfam.org.uk

إن منظمة أوكسفام "Oxfam GB" هي منظمة تنمية، إغاثة، وإدارة الحملات، مكرسة لإيجاد حلول دائمة للفقر والمعاناة حول العالم. نمتد بأن لدى كل إيمان الحق في الحصول على الفرص وعيش حياة كريمة؛ ونحن نعمل مع مجتمعات فقيرة، مزارعين محليين، منطوعون، وداعمون للمساعدة في تحويل هذا الهدف إلى حقيقة.

COSCO sails into Aden port



A study in concentration: Mr. Zhao Wei, MD COSCON West Asia (left) and Mr. MMJ Subramaniam inking the agreement to bring in Cosco vessels to Aden

By RADHDWAN AL SAQQAF
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF
YEMEN TIMES

Aden- Overseas Port Management (OPM) Aden signed on Monday 9 Nov. 2005 a one- year Service Agreement with Cosco Container Lines Company Ltd (COSCON) at COSCON Dubai office.

Mr. Zhao Wei, Managing Director, COSCON West Asia and Mr. MMJ Subramaniam, CEO OPM Aden penned the landmark agreement.

This ceremony heralds the arrival of Cosco vessels at Aden Container Terminal (ACT) beginning from December 2005. Moreover, the Cosco containers will be the forerunners crossing the wharves of ACT from 23 November 2005 when vessels of its Far East-Red Sea (FRS) consortium partners, Evergreen and Hapag Lloyd, come in.

COSCON, winning the Shipping Line of the Year title on 3 November

2005 in the Asian Logistics Awards 2005, boasts of a 120-container vessels fleet with 300,000 TEU capacity including five 7500- TEU post panamax vessels. They are deployed on the group's 60 international shipping routes linking 100 principal ports in more than 30 countries in Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia. Eight 10,000- TEU vessels, scheduled for delivery after 2007, will further strengthen the Cosco fleet with some of the largest container vessels in the world.

Aden has now becomes an integral node in Cosco's FRS service in the network routing of Nansha-Hong Kong-Shekou-Tanjung Pelepas-Aden-Jeddah-Aqaba-Sokhna-Singapore-Nansha, a turnaround of 42 days. This new FRS weekly service is a result of the merger of two existing Red Sea services: the Far East-Red Sea service and the Straits-Red Sea Express service.

In line with its focus on market orientation and customer satisfaction, Cosco will add 11,000 -TEU to the container traffic of Aden each year.

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Although Yemen is classified as one of the 49 least developed countries with over 50% of the population under the poverty line with a pattern of gender differences, Yemen has set a goal for its own transformation in accordance with the Sana'a declaration and the vision of year 2025, which the European Union plays a considerable role in its realization, the EU is providing the 2 million Euros for the National Indicative Program (NIP) agreed with Yemen which's priority is to strengthen Democracy and political pluralism.

The funding is to cover three areas, strengthening the capacity of Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights; developing effective consultation mechanism between human rights and NGO's and government institutions, and providing technical and financial assistance to NGO's.

EU Has always placed great importance in the protection of political pluralism and democracy in Yemen, and advanced this matter as one of its priorities. The EU believes that by working together, Yemen can achieve its goals.

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To all women engaged and concerned with Human Rights or Democracy issues

In collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy, girls World Communication Center (GWCC) announces the opening of accepting applications for admission to the Skills Development Program (SDP). The program is a one-year program, starting October 2005 till September 2006. The SDP comprises these following courses:

Human Rights Project which contains the following:	Democracy Project which contains the following:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> English Language Courses. Computer and Internet Courses. Workshops on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International and the Islamic concept of Human Rights. The International Declarations and Conventions and the Mechanism of the United Nations. Violations Monitoring. The Roles of the Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs). Internet Research Courses. Networking and Communication Skills Courses. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Courses. Workshops on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Political Development. The Concepts of Democracy. The Political Pluralism. The Elections. The Local Councils. The Islamic Model in Democracy. Courses on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing Proposals. Proposals Management. Internet Research. Communication Skills.

What are the Requirements for Applying?

- The female applicant must be engaged or interested in human rights or democracy issues (e.g. women working in human rights organizations, women engaged in social research, female sociologist, journalists...etc., whose work is associated with human rights).
- The female applicant should have intentions to contribute to the development of Yemen and to the enhancement of women's participation in development.
- Receipt, fully completing and submitting the application form for the Human rights project at the final deadline of November 29th, 2005, with commencement of registration procedures on October 8th, 2005. While the dead line for the Democracy project will be on December 5th, 2005.
- Full commitment to the program is essential and signature of a commitment agreement to be prepared by the GWCC.

Competition is open and free for all, and the Selection Committee will primarily base its decisions on the merits of the applicants.

For more information, or for obtaining an application, please contact the program coordinator, GWCC at the Western Dairi, behind Kentki restruranrt / Tel: 207944-471677. Fax: 471688. Email: ialtawqi@girlsworldyemen.org / hhu-bishi@girlsworldyemen.org

Job Vacancies

Girls World Communication Center announces the need for highly qualified English & computer teachers. For further information please contact with the administration of the center. Tel. 471677/207944. Fax. 471688 Website: www.girlsworldyemen.org

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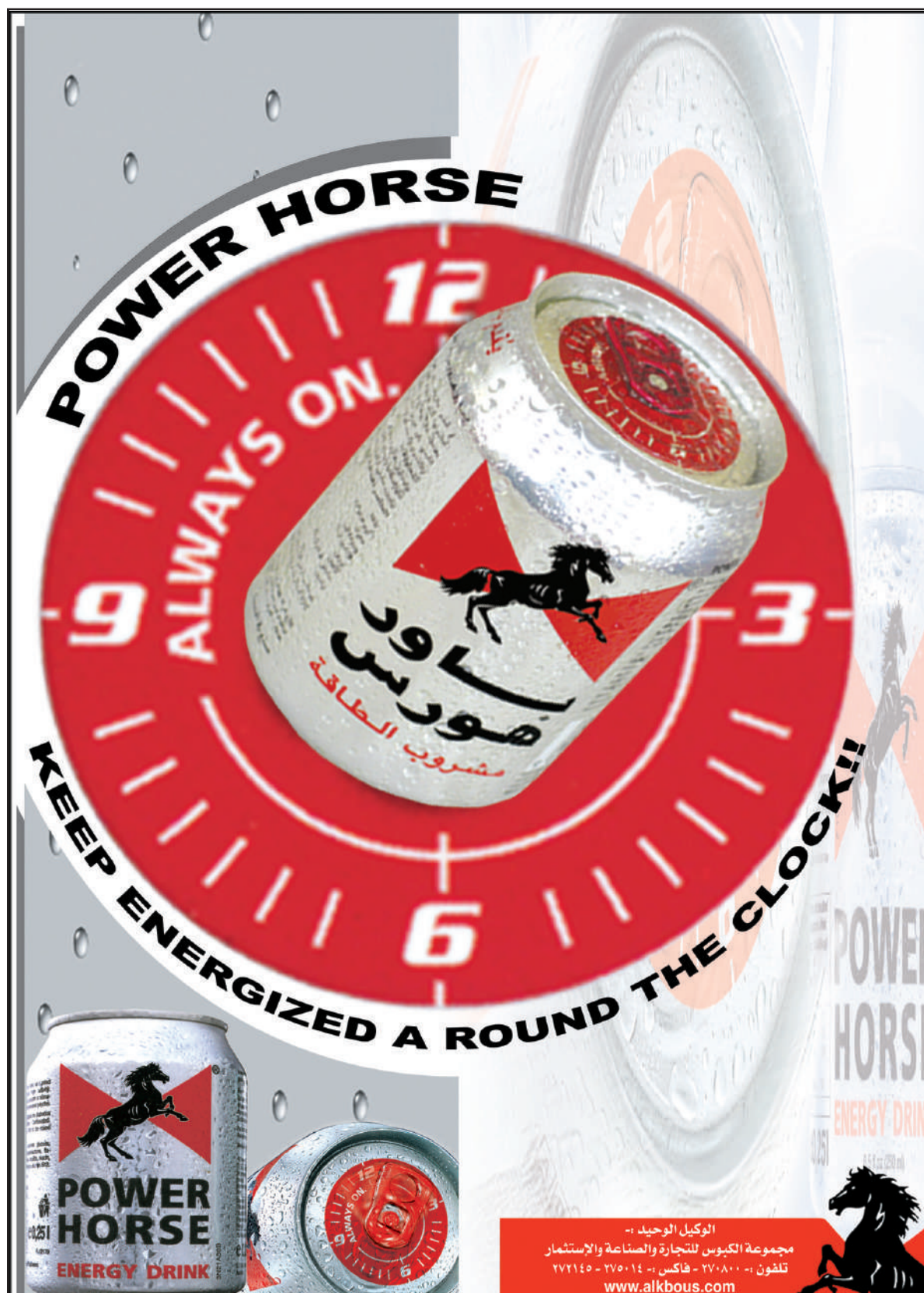
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Zarqawi says Amman bombs not aimed against Muslims

DUBAI (Reuters) - The leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, said on Friday the group had not meant to blow up Muslims in deadly bomb attacks that have provoked an angry backlash in Jordan.

In an Internet audiotape, he warned Jordanians of more attacks and threatened a possible attempt on the life of King Abdullah, ruler of the key U.S. ally which is one of only two Arab countries to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Suicide bombings killed 54 people in Amman hotels last week, provoking outrage in Jordan despite the high level of support in the country for the activities of Jordanian-born Zarqawi in Iraq. Most victims were Muslim Jordanians at wedding parties.

In the tape, posted on an Islamist Web site often used by insurgent groups in Iraq, Zarqawi defended the blasts saying al Qaeda had inside information that they were used by U.S., Israeli and Jordanian intelligence agencies.

"We ask God to have mercy on the Muslims, who we did not intend to target, even if they were in hotels which are centers of immorality," the voice on the tape said.

"The idea that they blew up inside wedding ceremonies is a lie by the Jordanian regime...the target was a meeting of intelligence agencies, but a roof collapsed on a wedding party from the blast," he said.

The voice sounded like Zarqawi's but it was not possible to verify the authenticity of the tape immediately.

"The CIA is aware of the tape and we are looking into it," a U.S. official said in Washington, adding that Zarqawi was worried about the angry Arab reaction to the latest attacks.

A poll published in Jordan this week showed two-thirds of Jordanians had changed their views of al Qaeda for the worse.

"What we're seeing is him (Zarqawi) going to great lengths to try to justify



Jordanians hold an Arabic banner that reads "Death for Zarqawi" (the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab Zarqawi) during an anti-terrorism rally in downtown Amman November 18. REUTERS

the selection of targets, in part because of the criticisms in the Muslim world," a U.S. counter-terrorism official told Reuters.

Tribal warrior

Zarqawi warned Jordan's King Abdullah he could meet the same fate as a tribal warrior who fought the Prophet Mohammad.

"Here is another message to the little tyrant of Jordan. I address you after you threatened a nasty fate for those behind the blasts. Listen to these words," he said, before relating the tale of Abu Jahl, who Muslim lore says lost his head in battle.

"If you do not listen, you could end up with the same fate...your star is already descending," he added.

Indicating there might be further

attacks, Zarqawi warned ordinary Jordanians to avoid large hotels, military installations and embassies of countries involved in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Al Qaeda in Iraq had already claimed responsibility for the Jordan blasts and named the attackers as four Iraqis, one of them a woman. She failed to blow herself up, confessing on Jordanian television last week that she had tried.

"We chose these hotels after over two months of thorough checks with trusted sources inside the hotels and elsewhere showed that they were centers for the Jewish, U.S. and Jordanian security apparatus," Zarqawi said.

Al Qaeda in Iraq is one of the main groups leading an insurgency against U.S. forces and the U.S.-backed government.

Car bomb kills at least 11 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - A car bomb killed at least 11 people at a market in southeast Baghdad on Saturday, a day after more than 80 people were killed in a series of suicide attacks in the capital and a northeastern town.

The blast in the Diyala Bridge section of Baghdad also wounded 15 people, police said. They said the toll could rise.

The attack came as more than 50 Iraqi politicians from across the country's sectarian divide gathered for reconciliation talks in Cairo aimed at easing bloodshed that has plagued Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

In a second blast on Saturday, a suicide bomber in a car attacked a police convoy in central Baghdad, wounding two police and eight civilians, police said.

On Friday, 77 people were killed and more than 80 wounded in twin suicide bomb attacks on mosques in the town of Khanaqin, near the border with Iran in northeastern Iraq.

Twin suicide car bombs also detonated outside a popular hotel in Baghdad, destroying an apartment building and killing six people. More than 40 were wounded.

Insurgents are waging a campaign of suicide bombings, shootings and assassinations in a bid to topple the U.S.-backed Iraqi government.



A group of Iraqi civilians view the scene of a suicide car bombing in Baghdad November 19. REUTERS

Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian in West Bank

HEBRON, West Bank (Reuters) - Israeli troops on Friday shot dead a Palestinian in the West Bank who the army said had a bomb and intended to blow up the soldiers' vehicle.

An army spokesman said the soldiers heard a blast as they were driving near the town of Hebron while on patrol in search of militants. They searched the area and saw a Palestinian man lying on the ground, holding a suspicious-looking object.

Suspecting it contained explosives,

the soldiers shot the man, the army said. Palestinian medics received his body in a Hebron hospital.

The army later said the man was carrying a pipe bomb but that it was not clear what had caused the blast. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion.

Israel has stepped up its operations in the West Bank to try to find Palestinian militants since a suicide bomber from Islamic Jihad killed six Israelis earlier this month.

On Thursday, Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinian militants from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah group, near the West Bank city of Jenin.

Sporadic violence has dimmed hopes that Israel's Gaza pullout in September could lead to renewed peacemaking. Israel demands Abbas disarm gunmen to advance peace talks. The Palestinian leader says this would lead to civil war.



The Embassy of The United States of America announces for an immediate job openings within its organization.

"Public Affairs Specialist"

The position is located in the Public Diplomacy Section under the direct supervision of the Public Affairs Officer. The incumbent assists in developing the country program plan by recommending specific projects which can contribute to the achievement of U.S. policy objectives in host country, establishes guidelines for directing activities in support of these plans, and monitors program implementation; assists in developing a list of key host country leaders and maintains personal contacts at the mid to high level; plans, supervises and monitors work of subordinates; coordinates program.

Required Qualifications:

Education: University degree in political science, social science, international affairs, American studies, or liberal arts is required. A master's degree in any of these fields of study is also required.

Prior Work Experience: Four to six years of progressively responsible experience in cultural or informational media activities, public relations, relevant university teaching or related fields. If job-related experience is substituted for the education requirements, six to eight years of progressively responsible experience is required. At least three of the eight years must have work experience in the Embassy PAO.

Language Proficiency: Level IV English (fluent) in both spoken and written English and Arabic.

Knowledge: Thorough knowledge of host country's political, media, economic, social and educational structure, institutions, political parties, and key figures in influential institutions; of public diplomacy programs; public relation techniques; and US public relations concerns as expressed in the Mission Program Plan goals and objectives.

Skills and Abilities: Ability to develop and maintain contacts at various levels in cultural, government, media and educational circles; excellent writing skills; proven communication and interpersonal skills; as incumbent is expected to use an extensive range of contacts with high level influential leaders in skillfully addressing public diplomacy issues; excellent management skills to prioritize and organize a complex work schedule to stay on top of ongoing programs while planning upcoming programs; developed training and supervisory skills; and ability in report drafting.

Grade/Salary: * Ordinarily Resident: FSN-10 (Full Performance Level)

* Not Ordinarily Resident: FP-05/06 (Full Performance Level) (NOR salary to be confirmed by Washington)

Deadline: November 27, 2005

"Information Specialist"

The position is located in the Public Diplomacy Office, American Embassy, under the general supervision of the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and Assistant Public Affairs Officer (A/PAO). Incumbent will serve as the senior FSN advisor and specialist to the Public Affairs Officer and the A/PAO in planning and implementing Embassy Sana'a information media and journalist programs and is the Mission's primary source for information on Yemeni media trends.

Required Qualifications:

Education: University degree in the liberal arts, political science, economics, journalism, international relations, or equivalent work experience demonstrating depth of knowledge in related fields is required. Specialized training in press and publication, analytical writing, management, or computers is required.

Prior Work Experience: From two to four years experience in communications media-related work as journalist, researcher, or writer required. Experience with Embassy information programs may be substituted for this work. One to two years reporting/writing/editing/producing for local newspapers or TV and some translation work is required.

Language Proficiency: Level IV (fluent) in written and spoken English. Very high degree of Arabic fluency is required.

Knowledge: Thorough knowledge of Department of State information procedures, programs and services. Thorough understanding of the principles and policy considerations behind Mission Program Plan (MPP) themes. Thorough knowledge of local media institutions and laws on media. Good knowledge of the principles behind the laws, policies, and economics governing U.S. media.

Grade/Salary: *Ordinarily Resident:

(1) FSN-9 (Trainee Level), (2) FSN-10 (Full Performance Level)

*Not Ordinarily Resident:

(1) FP-05/01 (Trainee Level), (2) FP-05/05 (Full Performance Level) (NOR Salary to be confirmed by Washington)

Deadline: December 03, 2005

"Visa Assistant"

The position is located in the Consular Section under the direct supervision of the Immigrant Visa Supervisor. The Incumbent performs moderately difficult and responsible work pertaining to immigrant visa services.

Required Qualifications:

Education: Bachelor's degree in any related fields such

administration, business law, social sciences or liberal arts.

Prior Work Experience: From two and one-half years of experience in office clerical work, preferably involving contact with the public is required.

Language Proficiency: Level IV (good working knowledge) of English and is required.

Knowledge: A good working knowledge of interanal operating procedures and basic requirements for other than the more complex type of visa work is required

Abilities: Level I (good skills in typing) is required. Basic computer skills; experience with databases and Microsoft Office is required.

Grade/Salary: *Ordinarily Resident:

(1) FSN-06 (Training Level), (2) FSN-07 (Full Performance Level)

*Not Ordinarily Resident:

(1) FP-08 (Training Level), (2) FP-07 (Full Performance Level) (NOR Salary to be confirmed by Washington)

Deadline: December 03, 2005

"Mason/ Painter"

The position is located in the Facility Maintenance Section under the direct supervision of the Facility Engineer. The incumbent performs masonry and construction work installation of stone and block structures and does the entire plastering works in the Embassy compound. The incumbent will be responsible for fixing broken walkways and driveways, installation of stone tiles and other masonry repairs. The incumbent will be responsible for all painting work using emulsion, enamel and other modern technology paint using air compressors, rollers and other necessary tools to use to improve painting quality in the entire embassy complex. In addition, the employee will be responsible for all varnishing works on wooden cabinets and shelves made by our carpenters for different offices and houses.

Required Qualifications:

Education: Secondary School and must have master level skills in this work.

Prior Work Experience: Five years of progressively responsible masonry and painting work.

Language Proficiency: Level I (rudimentary) English and fluent Arabic is required.

Knowledge: Knowledge in blocks, stones and tile installations. Cement concrete foundation repairs. Mixing paint and surface preparations.

Abilities: Ability to use powered and non powered hand tools such as air compressors, rollers, black and stone

hand tools, heavy duty drills etc.

Grade/Salary: Ordinarily Resident: FSN-04.

Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-AA (to be confirmed by Washington).

Deadline: December 03, 2005

"Dispatcher"

The position is located in the Motorpool Section under the direct supervision of the Motorpool Supervisor. The incumbent dispatches vehicles and drivers to meet Embassy requests for transportation services; maintain all vehicle and maintenance records according to FAM and Post Motor Pool Policy.

Required Qualifications:

Education: Two years of college or vocational school is required.

Prior Work Experience: One year of dispatcher-related work, clerical work, and/or professional driving experience is required.

Language Proficiency: Level IV in English and Arabic is required.

Knowledge: Must have a good knowledge of automotive vehicle operation and safety and general knowledge of automotive maintenance. Must have a local driver's license.

Abilities: Must have knowledge about computer database management; must be able to use the internet effectively to locate information; must be able to develop systems for tracking vehicle and maintenance records; must be able to read and implement the FAM and post motor vehicle policy; must be able to deal calmly and effectively with all levels of people, often in controversial situations.

Grade/Salary: Ordinarily Resident: FSN-05.

Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-09 (to be confirmed by Washington).

Deadline: December 03, 2005

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, Fax: 303-182 no later than the above deadlines.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

The New Mercedes-Benz, S-Class: Superlative in Design & Technology M-Class: Sporty, Powerful, Impressive United Engineering and Automobile Company Ltd. launches new models



Mr. P.V. Ranganathan:
The new models are a generation change at the pinnacle of automotive engineering.



Mr. Radhwan Al-Anisi,
Passenger Cars Sales Manager:
The best has become much better.
Discover the rest for yourself.

United Engineering and Automobile Co. Ltd, Distributors of Daimler Chrysler AG. in Yemen launched on Monday, October 24, the arrival of the new S-Class and M-Class models. During the ceremony held at the company premises, dignitaries and businessmen were at hand for H.E The German Ambassador, and Mr. Hayel Abdul-Hak, UEACO. Managing Director officially unveiled the vehicle in the company's showroom.

In a ceremony to launch the new vehicles, Mr. P.V. Ranganathan, General Manager of United Engineering & Automobile Co. Ltd., delivered a welcome speech in which he said "On behalf of Mr. Shaher Abdul Hak, Company Chairman, and Managing Director Mr. Hayel Abdul-Hak, I would like to invite you to share with us the arrival of the new Mercedes-Benz S-Class and M-Class which represent a technological leap in safety and comfort.



Mr. Radhwan Al-Anisi the Passenger Car Sales Manager, said the arrival of the new models to the Yemeni market shows the continuous commitment of the company to its customers. "We are today celebrating the launch of two Mercedes models: the ML Class and the S-

Class, to see for ourselves the tremendous development of Mercedes-Benz, representing a qualitative leap in the world car industry."

"Words and sentences may fail to describe this unmatched creativity that is reflected in the delicacy and accuracy of its car-making. However, I trust



that there is a spiritual relationship so to speak that connects drivers to their Mercedes-Benz vehicles, and an eternal, mutual loyalty between the two that could only be felt by those car owners."

"It may not do the car justice if I merely say," he concluded, "that the best has become much better, and the most powerful even more powerful. Instead I'd rather say that Mercedes-Benz still remains Mercedes-Benz. I leave it to you to discover the rest for yourselves."

The ceremony was attended by Their Excellencies, The Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of India and a number of businessmen and customers.

Mr. Ranganathan spoke about the evolution of the Mercedes benz cars, saying that the vehicles are superior breeds unmatched by any other manufacturer.

The New S-Class: Superlative in Design & Technology

The new Mercedes-Benz S-Class, superlative in design and technology, is a Generation Change at the pinnacle of automotive engineering. As in the preceding series, the new S-Class has introduced technical innovations which make the flagship Mercedes model and an example for others to follow. Pioneering safety features and exemplary comfort continue to be the outstanding attributes of the S-Class. The new S-Class also sets standards in driving dynamics with its agile handling, while offering even more driving pleasure with new, more powerful engines. The new S-Class is replacing a model series which is the world No.1 in the luxury class, and of which around 485,000 have been produced since 1998.



For more than five decades, the S-Class has signified a special aura, intelligent technology and the highest quality. The new S-Class not only continues this tradition, but lends a new meaning to it. The previous S-Class which had been repeatedly voted the best car in the world since its presentation in 1998, the progress Mercedes-Benz has made with the new Saloon is based on this. A dozen technical innovations have been introduced on the new S-Class such as:

- * ADAPTIVE BRAKE with additional functions.
- * Adaptive brake light.
- * Brake Assist PLUS with radar sensors.
- * COMMAND with and COMMAND controller.
- * Crash-responsive high-comfort head restraints.
- * DISTRONIC PLUS
- * Electric parking brake
- * Dynamic multi-contour seat with new massage function.
- * Night view assist based on infra-red technology.
- * Panoramic sliding roof (for long-wheelbase version).
- * Second-generation PRE-SAFE.
- * Reversing camera



The new S-Class has pioneered High Safety features which include systems like PRE-SAFE which recognizes potential accident situations and based on the braking deceleration, the system tensions the seat belts and inflates air cushions in the seats to support the driver, front passenger and rear seat occupants. Apart from the previous DISTRONIC PLUS feature, the new S-Class has innovative night view assist system which helps the driver to have vision to more than 150 meters on low beam. The image is reflected on the instrument cluster through an infra-red camera.

The new S-Class is also more comfortable and larger than the previous one including increase in the boot capacity by 60 liters. The control functions such as radio, TV receiver, CD/DVD changer, telephone, navigation system could be effectively used by the driver with the improved command system. In order to improve the personal comfort, the new S Class has a 16-way electrically adjustable seat in the front with massage function. The air-matic air suspension also system gives excellent ride comfort.

The different new engines available, generates up to 26% more horse power and up to 15% more torque. The car also comes with 7G-TRONIC a 7 speed automatic transmission as standard in 6 and 8 cylinders vehicles.

The new S-Class is replacing a successful series which has captured the top end of this market segment in every region of the world. Even in its last year of production the flagship saloon by Mercedes-Benz is the worldwide market leader among the world Luxury Saloons with around 17000 units sold.

The M-Class: Sporty, Powerful, Impressive

"New from the ground up and yet still very much the original". This apparent paradox sums up the thinking behind the development of the new M-Class: it assures a sense of continuity with the previous model while offering all the changes associated with a new generation vehicle. In the new M-Class the proven virtues of structural strength, power and spacious accommodation have been taken further. As a result, the new M-Class remains true to the values embodied by its predecessor yet also makes it clear that it draws on its own, distinctive strengths such as dynamic performance, comfort and styling to defend the market-leading position which it has inherited. Consistency and progress thus complement each other to perfection.

The exterior design of the second-generation M-Class is characterized by a sense of purpose and forward motion. In combination with the new proportions, it conveys not only dynamism, strength and athleticism, but also high aesthetic values and elegance. The car is also long,



roomier and with increased fuel tank capacity of 95 liters.

The interior comes with increased head room, space at knee height interior in the rear and elbow room. The vehicle comes with new design seats with sportiveness (on vehicles with sports package), new display control concepts with multi steering wheel and multi function display. The steering column gear selector and steering-wheel gear shift buttons (DIRECT SELECT) are new additions in this vehicle.

Many features have been incorporated in the vehicle such as 7-GTRONIC automatic transmission with direct select gear shift, permanent all wheel drive, 4ESP/4ETS electronic automatic handling control system, extended to include hill-start system to prevent the vehicle from rolling backwards/forwards immediately when moving off on an incline and downhill speed regulation (DSR).



The safety concept has been enhanced thereby raising the level of safety even further. The safety enhancements include 4ESP/4ETS and ABS/BAS electronic dynamic handling control system with extended functionality, tyre pressure loss warning system, Bi-Xenon projection beam head

lamps with Active Light System, new NECK-PRO head restraints for front seats, PRE-SAFE, improved crash behavior, thanks to new body concept.

The car exceeds in overall performance characteristics set by its predecessor. It places particular emphasis on the core values of the Mercedes-Benz brand: quality perceived value. Also very much in evidence are the characteristics of M-Class values: robustness required for challenging off-road driving and the flexibility expected of a vehicle destined to be used in the most diverse task. The design communicates all these characteristics and lends the vehicle a cohesive, impressive presence



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
OPINIONOutlawing
Journalism

Apparently the reason why Yemeni journalists are being prosecuted by the national security is that they have broken the law; the press law of that is. President Ali Abdullah Saleh during his meeting with President Bush commented on this by saying that he is aware of the persecutions taking place as they are direct implementation of the law. Only now he is considering change in the press code so as to change the penalties against journalists from imprisonment to financial fines. Instead of journalists and daring media personnel being directly imprisoned, they would be fined and since the living standard of such profession is lowest of the low they would be eventually imprisoned for their inability to pay the enormous fines. So what's new in the so-called enhanced press law is that it has acknowledged the violations and made them legal. Yet no matter how fines or imprisonment could be made legal there is no justification of the brutality these journalists are facing either in prison or outside it.

The latest incident was the stabbing and battering of opposition journalist Nabil Subie earlier this week. Apparently there were a group of masked criminals, but whom are we kidding? Nabil has been facing endless threats during his career as a daring journalist. And here he is following the long list of assaults against media people. According to the Media Rights Center in Sana'a there have been 72 violations in the first half of this year only. Critical writing against the authorities and corrupt officials has taken its toll on such influential people that their anger seems to be mounting by the day. Today there is even stabbing and life-threatening crimes while just one week ago these were limited to battering and persecution. At this rate journalists would certainly start disappearing and working in free media in Yemen would be a quest for a speedy death and an express pass to heaven.

In many developing countries where freedom of media is as limited as it is in Yemen the authorities seem to be a little more discreet while performing their acts against freedoms and human rights. For us, we seem to take pride in the on going trend to the extent that we admit internationally that we know it is going on, in fact as a government, the government of Yemen is taking measures to make it legal in order to silence journalists and potentially outlaw their practice.. I wouldn't be surprised if army personnel and national security would be given badges to wear on their decorated uniforms indicating a "license to kill Journalists". Mr. Nabil has no case and neither would any violated journalist have against a government which legislates murder for no crime. So I guess journalists would have to seriously consider death as a reward for their lashing pens, it could be just around the corner. Even in the remote possibility that the state has nothing to do with these violations, it is enough a crime that these murders take place under the noses of the police. If the government cannot protect its people then why have a national security to start with? One last thing to say, if you thought that democracy in Yemen is progressing, you couldn't have been more mistaken.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief



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Truth
assassinated

The report compiled by the UN team's chief German investigator Detlev Mehlis presented to the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri was not a judicial one. It was rather a political report lacking evidence and the indicia. They were substituted with unverified statements and based the report on suspicious incredible testimonies. According to that report, matters have remained ambiguous and mysterious, as Mr. Mehlis built accusations on statements of witnesses whose names were not even mentioned. This would consequently lead to skepticism in pursuit of the report. It has appeared that the purpose behind the report is to mangle the strong and distinguished relationship between Syria and Lebanon, remove the two countries from equation of common understanding and to separate them. The aim is to besiege Syria individually and impose permanent international guardianship on Lebanon.

It can strongly be concluded that purpose of the report is the toppling of the regime in Syria after tightening the grip



By Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

on it. The report has proved to be biased to favor circles antagonist to Syria that accused it before of all types of disgraceful acts, a matter that supported the existence of premeditated intention to harm Damascus.

Moreover, the report did not present accurate picture of what had happened on the ground. It had depended merely on statements taken from Lebanese opposition elements, and this is a stance indicative of a hostile stand against Syria. In addition, the report is based on construability and consequently could not consider what it contained as abrupt legal document. For the report is distant from truth, it was supposed to bring us as closer to it. All that it reflects is intentional misleading against the interests of Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians as well as against stability in the region as a whole.

Moreover, the report did not include any irrefutable evidence pointing out those involved in the crime. In its many paragraphs the report contained rather testimonies that need to be verified and referred to an international court to ultimately decide who the innocent is and who is the condemned. I do not suppose

that anyone would object the formation of such a court that would be the judge in pinpointing condemnation or acquittal. Therefore, now there could not be an affirmative conclusion that Syria was behind the assassination of al-Hariri. What is true is that it is an American scheme to increase pressure on Syria and to besiege it with more sanctions. Examples of such indications were the statements of the U.S. secretary of state Rice on the eve of submission of Mehlis' report, when she stated that the report might lead to isolate Syria at the international level. That was a statement coming ahead of events and casting light on American frantic intention to make Syria involved in that crime of assassination.

Thus, the form the report strips it of professionalism and objectivity. Mehlis has distanced himself from the legal framework and was dragged to the political stance, acting indifferently to what his report could result of dangerous ramifications on the entire region. Mehlis was not upright or truthful in what he had written but aggravated the situation. Consequently, the report could not be recognized. It is rejected according to legal, political and ethical standpoints. All that Mehlis had done was that he demonstrated to the world an example on how a judge could assassinate the fact.

The re-birth
of Utopia

By RAPHAËL HADAS-LEBEL

Franz Müntefering's resignation as chairman of Germany's Social Democrats in the face of a challenge from his party's leftwing has, like the divisive French referendum on the European Constitution this past May, exposed deep ideological cleavages – divisions not only about Europe, but about the very foundations of society and the economy. Behind the critiques directed at the EU and national governments as “not being social enough,” lurks an image of the Union as a trap that is forcing its members to bend to the fateful disciplines of the market, thus depriving national leaders of their ability to realize important social goals. This cleavage now seems set to shape not only Germany's future coalition government, but the future of politics across Europe.

In France, this division is evident not only on the extremes of right and left, and in traditionally nationalist Gaullist circles, but also among most socialist voters, who decided to spurn the party leadership's pro-European stance.

This fundamental debate is not about to abate. On the contrary, as the German election shows and with a presidential election looming in France, the debate has intensified.

In France, this intensity is particularly visible within Socialist ranks. With preparations for the party's November congress in full swing, a conflict that goes back to the party's founding is reappearing. On one side is a social-democratic vision, which basically favors the market economy but seeks to alleviate its harsher effects; on the other side stands a radical vision that extols a revolutionary “break with capitalism.”

With the disappearance of the communist world and the failure of its collectivist policies, one would think that this debate had been resolved in favor of the reformist vision. But the surprise of the last few months is that an important part of the Socialist electorate and party leaders back radical change.

Moreover, a substantial portion of the broader anti-liberal left, composed of communists, ecologists, union activists, and adherents of the movement Attac accuse the reformists of

subordinating themselves to liberal globalization and advocate, instead, a radical transformation of society and the economy.

The media success of Olivier Besancenot, a 31-year-old representative of the most intransigent section of the Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist League, reflects the power of this dream. Having received over 4% of the vote during the first round of the presidential election of 2002, Besancenot is now, according to opinion polls, the 38th most popular person in France.

Interestingly, an echo of the ideas mooted by radical anti-globalists can be found in some initiatives coming from the right. President Jacques Chirac of France, but also Brazil's leftist president, Lula da Silva support a tax on airline tickets designed to finance poor countries' development. Similarly, the centrist leader François Bayrou, has proposed imposing a “Tobin tax” (named after its creator, the Nobel laureate economist James Tobin) on financial transactions, with the proceeds to be used to support socially worthy causes.

How do we explain this resurgent radicalism, which seems to ignore European and international political realities?

One might suspect the influence of French political traditions which, on the right as much as on the left, always prefer purity of principle to messy compromise. Add to this the congenital French mistrust of liberalism – indeed, French is one of the rare languages in which the word “liberalism” has a pejorative connotation – joined to an equally deep-rooted perception of the state (again, on both the right and the left) as the defender of the general interest *par excellence*. While pragmatism has come to dominate northern Europe's socialist parties since the 1930's – and, after the 1957 Congress of Bad Godesberg, the Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) as well – a preference for revolutionary ideology has always prevailed, at least on the rhetorical level, among French socialists.

But this cannot be the whole explanation, because a similar radicalization is occurring within German's left, where the alliance of the post-commu-

nist PDS – still powerful in the *Länder* of what was East Germany – and SPD dissidents led by Oskar Lafontaine promotes equally radical proposals. With the evident failure of both leftist and rightist governments to stem the rising wave of unemployment, a growing part of the French and German electorates no longer seems to believe in traditional solutions.

The welfare state, largely associated with the reformist social-democratic movement, is now reaching its limits in the form of uncontrolled public deficits and unsupportable levels of taxation. Similarly, the social mobility once fostered by the welfare state has suffered serious reverses. Globalized markets are viewed as bringing more inequalities, austerity, and insecurity than the promised benefits of economic growth.

In this disenchanted environment, dreams of utopia thrive. But it is a fundamental characteristic of utopias that they cannot be implemented.

What is now needed is a more modest debate about how to reconcile the deficiencies of the market with the demands of solidarity. Should the state confine itself to creating an economic environment favorable to private enterprise? How extensively should it contribute to security, education, research, innovation, and protection of the poor?

But such debates can be fruitful only if they recognize the economic and political constraints under which modern states operate. Indeed, the role of the state is made more complicated by the fact that market regulation is becoming less national and more transnational.

Instead of throwing up our hands in despair, we should adhere to a distinction dear to the great German sociologist Max Weber, for now is a time when the ethics of responsibility must prevail over the ethics of conviction.

Raphaël Hadas-Lebel, author of 101 Words about French Democracy, is President of the Social Chamber of the Conseil d'Etat and Associate Professor at the Institut d'études politiques in Paris. The views expressed here are his own and do not represent any official position.

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

It was bound
to happen

The observer is certainly not surprised by the increasing heated debate about the Bush Administration's misadventure in Iraq in the United States. Surely the American political establishment is bound to see that the people of the United States need to have their feelings expressed more vocally. Yes, the American people have now expressed their discomfort about the war and most recent polls have reflected some of the dissatisfaction (in different levels) that many grassroots Americans are having about the war. The politicians have somehow seen this as a mandate that they also must no longer hide their true disposition. The War in Iraq is on the way to becoming a rejuvenation of vocal popular dissent against US Government policy, especially overseas, that has proven again that when the people say it is wrong, even politicians have to listen. Although much of the debate for or against George W. Bush's apparent misjudgment of even his own people's refusal to be misled and taken advantage of is still along partisan inclinations, there is no question that the American people are beginning to realize that the right is no longer “always right”. Politicians, who were known for their hawkish persuasion are also voicing grave concerns for the poor showing in the war effort and coming out with their turnaround view that the US effort in Iraq needs to be critically assessed and for all that matter ended.

One should take further note of this, as one notices that the terrorist attacks have surprisingly and somewhat coincidentally escalated, almost reflecting a certain synchronization of trends: when the Bush Administration seems to be getting the heat from public opinion or the political opposition, the terrorists attacks increase in frequency and goriness. Surely there is something to ponder about, especially when realizing that the attacks are not directed at the occupying forces or at the “enemies of Islam”, but rather large assemblies of civilian Moslems in Iraq and elsewhere – even by mosques. Surely such attacks as the recent one in eastern Iraq (100 dead) and I Amman would find little favor among the Iraqis or the rest of the Moslem World. So, how could insurgents or anti-occupation resistance fighters expect to advance their cause when the victims are supposedly the expected beneficiaries of their struggle? There is no doubt of something that needs further explanation beyond mere religious extremism and a little less than outright madness going on in Iraq and the rest of the world. Conspiracy theories set aside, we need to consider many possible explanations, including those that disassociate from logical cause and effect.

Is the Bush Administration feeling the heat? For now the response has been the usual efforts to project all opposition as tantamount to treason or failure to see the earnest efforts to proceed with the War on Terror. Needless to say that the WOT actually has given terrorism more juice than it ever had before and not shown any meaningful successes to speak of, whether in finding and apprehending or eliminating the big icons that the pro right media always flash out to the world public opinion. A war that has cost so many thousands of lives (maybe in the hundreds of thousands now), including at least over 2,000 Americans and well over US \$ 200 Billion against an “enemy”, who is growing in ferocity and momentum and enjoying all the freedom of operations, the technology of the modern age and the attention of the whole world, without so much as giving a hint of any pain from this almost farcical match-up of the world superpower and reckless bands of blood-thirsty killers.

But the Americans at the grass roots level are now saying that there are apparently too many theatrics in this WOT and too much that does not make sense to them. With an unending stream of continuous lies that they are being exposed to, many Americans are now saying, enough is enough and it is time to bring the boys home and get America on a more sounder track.

Yet, the Bush Administration seeks to find newer grounds to unleash its itch for war as the only destiny that it can relate to, even though there are no gauges that can be found to measure any successes or victories. In fact, victory does not have a place in the wars that Mr. Bush has waged so far and one is somewhat confounded by the earnest attempt to convince the American constituency that perhaps taking the war to a different location will produce the light at the end of the tunnel. The Washington Post reports of large movement of war material to some of the neighboring states with Syria should not be viewed lightly. If Iraq was a lesson to be learned from, the Bush Administration might indeed rush into a new battleground before the opposition at home becomes too entrenched and become more organized leading to a repeat of the American scene during the Vietnam War, when out finally became the only logical path to take.

One hopes that the American administration will finally come to some realization that war is not always a viable cover for failure, especially if failure has become obvious in war itself as Afghanistan and Iraq have for all intents and purposes become no more than apparent failures in the only thing that Mr. Bush and his neo-con pals savor so much.

If Mr. Bush thinks that he can overcome the mounting opposition to the war and enjoy the comfort of not having to take his case to the people again for another election, one might expect that the recent vocal opposition voiced by the members of Congress will indicate that Americans can look for more effective measures to bring some sanity to American foreign policy.

Yemen Press Review

Review By Mohammed Khidhr



Ash-Shoura
weekly, organ of
Union of People's
Forcers of Yemen,
16 Nov. 2005.

Main headlines

- Number of presidential candidates reaches six
- Citizens' increasing fears from birdflu
- 670 members of Yemen Journalists Syndicate approve non-legitimacy of the Syndicate Council
- Parliamentarians insist on subpoenaing
- A Yemenia Airways hostess disappears in London
- 176 Iraqi prisoners subjected to mistreatment

The newspaper political editor says in his article it is true the foreign policy of any country has its requirements and requisites but those requirements do not necessarily mean to attract all attention of the country's leadership. The attention paid to foreign policy should not be at the expense of urgent local issues and concerns.

We mention this while following up the political and media momentum focusing on the latest political tour of the president of the republic. Regardless of what the tour has achieved of successes and positive results, its coincidence with many of national very sensitive issues makes the ordinary people think that they are issues neglected. It is especially so under the big media campaign about the foreign political tour. The corruption lobby has found it an appropriate opportunity through the preoccupation of the media to pass on many of deals and mistakes. One of these examples is the attempt to pass on a draft on the final account of the state budget for the year 2004 inside the parliament. The leading figures of corruption in the government of the so-called financial and administrative reform try through this draft and the pressures they practice to pass it on inside the parliament.



Ash-Shumou
weekly, 12 Nov.
2005.

Main headlines

- Academics warn against birdflu infiltration and hold ministers of health and agriculture responsible
- Politicians: The president's sticking to Zindani case, a setback for new liberals
- The road to Greater Middle East from Manama, establishment of Future Fund with \$100 million
- Al-Assad speech arouses Lebanese dispute, American condemnation and French threat

The newspaper's political editor he would like to convey a clear message to the General people's Congress, hoping that those in charge of its policy to realize

its meaning and also in the hope it could restore its balance in dealing with the national issues with a sense of responsibility guided by the steps of president Ali Abdullah Saleh, leader of the GPC. The article says the president is taking upon himself rectification of failures course that some inside the GPC who are in charge of the national issue commit. The writer says the failures are a result of the ideological deviation of the GPC and abandonment of some of its leaderships of constants that must not be squandered in any case. He says we are submitting the subject in transparency out of the reality of what we see and understand because of this GPC policy that contradicts the political leadership's pursuit, represented by president Saleh. A proof of that is the big paradox between the president's stand towards the case of al-Mouayad and Zaid on the one hand and that of Sheikh al-Zindani on the other hand. The GPC launches accusations of terror against al-Zindani and Islah party in what constitutes a contradiction with the president's stance. While in all his meetings with American officials the president confirms his request of handing over of al-Mouayad and Zaid to the Yemeni government and omitting al-Zindani's name from the blacklist of those accused of terror, the GPC, in its media, stands to emphasize terror in our country through an accusing and condemning language against the Islah and sheikh al-Zindani. This is an astonishing matter and brings a big question mark about this GPC's orientation.



22 May weekly,
issued by the GPC
10 Nov. 2005.

Main headlines

- YSP reject the court's decision, Qahtan supports trial of Islah leaderships and al-Shami: no place for bidding
- Ship retained at Hudeidah port under suspicion of birdflu
- Safer operates oil sector 18 with Yemeni cadres, succeeding HUNT
- Yemeni-American summit discussing security cooperation, fighting terror and Yemenis in Guantanamo
- Yemen condemns the terrorist act targeting number of hotels in Jordanian capital Amman
- After the presidential pardon decision, Sana'a Cell before the criminal court
- With a capacity of 70 tons a year, the iron and steel factory in Aden's industrial zone begins operation

Abdulkarim al-Khamisi writes an article in which he mentions if we want America to be satisfied with us, put us on the list of democratic and civilized countries, helps us to join the WTO, opens for us doors of the World Bank, considers us among its best friends, encourages the international community to support our economy and market out

products and meets our military needs, we have to abandon our national constants and principles. We have to cancel Ramadan from the Hegira calendar and to take the initiative to recognize the Zionist entity and normalize our relations with it without conditions. If we have done so then we have the right to fill our prisons with opponents, declare a state of emergency, abolish the local administration system, close down the constitutional councils and send civil society organizations to pension and to consider democracy a demonic act. There and then only, America would be satisfied with us and grant prize of peace.

The question is how can we appease America without squandering our constants? How can we preserve our status in the international community without losing our original values and independent decision? I personally believe that the solution is to unite and enhance our national unity and social peace. We have to straighten our relationship with to political pluralism as a means for competition for serving the nation and rectify our understanding of freedom as a means for construction and ethical responsibility. We have to correct our understanding of majority as a authorization to rule with justice and decency and safeguarding the tyrannized. We have to broaden popular participation in decision making straightening the course and then hold compatibility between friendship with America and the masses support.



26 September
weekly, organ of
Yemen Armed
Forces, 10 Nov.
2005.

Main headlines

- Yemeni- American summit in Washington
- FM al-Qirbi: Yemen's successes in enhancement of democratic pursuit, human rights and the woman participation gave Yemen appreciation of the international community
- American deputy ambassador: President Saleh's visit to Washington would strengthen relations between the two countries
- The president stresses continuation of political and economic reforms
- Important economic results of the president's visit to Japan, Japan pledges to offer full support to a number of strategic projects in Yemen
- Terror hits Jordan

Ahmed Nasser al-Sharif says in his article that many of Arab rulers and peoples think that Syria's willingness to full cooperation with the UN Security Council's resolutions concerning the issue of al-Hariri assassination would protect it against the American administration and its allies clandestine plots aimed at putting the region in a new whirlwind.

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Inside a terrorist's brain

Plotting
A terrorist
operation

By Samer A.

They are forgetting that Iraq had previously expressed complete cooperation with the international resolutions and allowed international inspectors to enter even bedrooms president Saddam Hussein. Nevertheless, not all that prevented Iraq invasion, occupation, and the tragic situation the people of Iraq are experiencing.

All that is because the decision of dominating the people of Iraq and toppling of its regime had been taken before Saddam's regime's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 and the Arabs themselves had participated in taking the decision for reasons we don't know but they did not calculate what that would entail.

Nevertheless, the Arabs have not learnt a lesson from the bitter experience. Nowadays the Arab rulers are without full awareness and are repeating the same mistakes they had fallen in during preparation for invasion of Iraq with regard to Syria. No one of them has told the American administration no don't do that. All of them are following its orbit without exception unaware that this administration wants to involve them in a new dilemma and make them busy with things other than issues of their peoples to keep them servants of its destructive policy.

The American administration is making use of the issue of Hariri assassination as a pretext similar to that of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq in prelude to deal a blow to Syria with an Arab participation.



Annas weekly,
14 Nov. 2005.

Main headlines

- Amnesty International requests Yemen to release its citizens in detention
- Heated beginning at the parliament, Al-Awadhi urges MPs against the president
- As government media describes the visit as successful, A president's

delegation member seeks asylum with America

- YSP demands reinvestigation in the issue of Jarallah assassination

Wadie Atta wrote on the front page a report saying the political researcher Balqis Abu Isbaa has justified the retreat of the Egyptian opposition performance in parliamentary elections in comparison with its performance in the presidential elections. She mentioned that the national party coming out strong from those elections, its strength because of its control over most of media and financial power, are elements affected performance of the opposition. He added that Ms Abu Isbaa had also attributed strength of the Egyptian opposition during the presidential elections to a popular strength

supported by external pressures. She said the power of opposition was enhanced by an international situation heading towards genuine democracy as it is the first experiment witnessed in Egypt. Therefore there was rush for taking part in them and that trend had had beyond the political parties to the Egyptian street. Ms Abu Isbaa added that the Muslim Brotherhood organization, from among opposition forces, is considered the only power capable of competing due to its broad base in the Egyptian street.

On the other hand, unofficial reports, confirmed by the opposition, mentioned the existence of doctoring cases and pressures by using the authority's influence of the ruling party in the parliamentary elections in Egypt.



SILVER LINING

By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

Saleh visit and State media camouflage

The latest visit of president Ali Abdullah Saleh to Japan, US and France has shown the real problem of the people in charge of the media policy in the country. It also showed the totalitarian mentality that still controls these people who do not respect the public and their right to know or be informed.

The crew of the Yemeni Satellite TV covered the visit and meetings of Saleh in the three countries in a very disgusting manner, focusing only on protocol meetings without any real informing substance that can be of interest to the viewers. The TV just broadcasted pictures and nonsense reports on the way Saleh was received, lunch meetings, and other general phrases like (bilateral relationship, counterterrorism, the situation in Iraq, Palestine, Somalia...etc) which all Yemeni memorize by heart. Even when Presidents Bush and Saleh were briefing the journalists after their meetings, the Yemeni TV did broadcast the pictures and the voice of the reporter who was describing how the media showed interest in the visit of Saleh to the US which is, in fact, untrue.

The visit of Saleh and his meetings he had in these countries, especially the US are important to us as Yemeni citizens. The Yemeni public that was told the visit meant to voice its concerns to the leaders of these countries has the right to know what issues were discussed and the results.

The state-run media described the visit as "successful" but without telling us how. The right to know is a constitutional right which the regime should respect and maintain. The regime should not camouflage and deceive its people about the real issues that have been discussed as this is a totalitarian practice, demonstrating the lack of transparency on the part of the regime.

I think you all remember the attack against the al-Qaeda leader Abu Ali al-Harithi by a US plane in the desert of Marib in 2003. After the operation, the Yemeni authorities said it was a car explosion, but later the US announced the CIA was behind the attack. Last week, the former US ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull said in al-Jazeera TV that he was monitoring the operation in the field in coordination with the Yemeni authorities. This shows how these officials respect their people and their right to know. Even the Jordanian regime behaved in a very professional

way during the latest terrorist attacks in Amman. Just some minutes after the incident, a government official went to brief the media and the other day we saw the second suicide bomber talking on camera. This never takes place with our regime which does everything underground. It lies to and deceives its people without being held accountable. But, I think this behavior makes it lose the respect and trust of the international community too.

The meeting Saleh had with the cabinet members and leaders of the ruling party last Thursday showed that the man came back with a lot of concerns about the situation which, of course, must have been voiced by the officials in the three countries. These are the questions of arms smuggling, security, al-Qaeda prisoners and their fight in Iraq, al-Zindani, corruption and freedom degradation, journalists repression...etc. Some of these issues the US embassy charge'd affair Nabeel Khory said before Saleh's arrival to the White House were the main issues to be discussed with Saleh.

By and large, I believe it is very important for the media policy makers take the public anger to the media coverage to the latest visit of the president an opportunity to review their policy and know that camouflage or cover-up is no more useful and that the information they hide here comes from Washington or anywhere else in the world. They should live up to the digital moment and realize that transparency is a healthy sign of good governance and democratic regime, will they?

Press Hassling

The continued attacks on journalists show that the people in charge have completely lost temper and are ready to invent new tricks to harass journalists and silence them. Now, they have an answer to such attacks which is that pickpockets are the attackers. They have been arrested but no results for the investigations. The last one was that of Nabeel Suba'e. The most recent example in a frightening spate of violence against the press was the attack against Subaie in which pickpockets were held accountable. The regime believes that fostering such a climate of fear and intimidation for media professionals makes it difficult for journalists to work freely. Such attacks condemned by the international community will not, of course, be good for Yemen.

Japan's Kamikaze Isolation

By Christoph Bertram

It almost seems as if Japan is bent on self-isolation in Asia. After a few months during which Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi ostensibly sought to improve his country's relations with China, his fifth visit to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine has again raised tempers. China and South Korea both cancelled meetings of their foreign ministers with their Japanese counterpart. Once again, Japan has missed a chance to rebuild trust in a part of the world where, in the absence of cooperative international institutions, trust is all there is.

Why does Japan still not understand that the way it treats its history echoes across every part of Asia that Japan's military occupied in the first part of the 20th century? Japanese reactions reveal an extraordinary degree of stubborn self-righteousness.

As Japan's government never ceases to point out, the Yasukuni shrine, built in 1869, venerates the 2.5 million Japanese who have died for their country, not just the 14 judged as war criminals after WWII. But, while many Japanese feel (with some justification) that South Korea and, in particular, China, exploit the Yasukuni issue to reduce Japan's influence in the region and to pander to their publics' strong nationalism, they are missing the point.

Indeed, domestic politicking seems to be at least as important to Japan's leaders as to South Korea's or China's.

Koizumi's visit to the shrine, officially presented as that of a private citizen, was intended to impress the Japanese public, regardless of its effects abroad.

But the country now is isolated, which affects the whole fabric of stability in the region. Japan's diplomatic isolation strengthens those in the Chinese leadership who have long sought to marginalize what is economically and militarily still Asia's most powerful nation, while sucking other states in the region deeper into China's shadow. Japan's isolation also increases its dependency on its only ally, the United States, and undermines the fragile chance of developing a framework in Asia to address future regional crises in a spirit of cooperation rather than confrontation and rivalry.

Because Japan's isolation is a matter not only for the Japanese, it must be a matter for Western policy. The record, however, is not impressive. The US administration, fashionably worried over China's growing regional influence, seems quite happy with a closely-tied Japan that could help balance China. But this is obviously a shortsighted approach, for a Japan that is tied exclusively to America will lose, not gain, against China in the region, thus making the balancing act even harder.

The Europeans have no Japan policy at all, not even a shortsighted one. Fixated on the promise of an ever growing Chinese market, they give little thought to the stability of the region. They seem to think of the powers in the region as

unconnected islands, and of their own behavior towards one as devoid of political consequence for the others.

When the European Union last year considered lifting its symbolic arms embargo against China, none of the governments driving the proposal bothered to consider that this, too, would be symbolic, sending a message all over Asia that Europe was putting its political weight behind Chinese regional policies. Japanese demands to reconsider fell on deaf ears, and the initiative was put on ice only when US congressmen threatened economic repercussions and China increased pressure on Taiwan.

Instead of exploiting Japan as a regional aircraft carrier, as the US tries to do, or neglecting her politically, as Europeans do, both need to work out a new, strategic approach – if possible, jointly. The aim must be to prevent a clash of nationalisms and encourage a cooperative framework in which the region's major countries interact and develop respect for each other's interests. Such a framework can emerge in Asia only with Japan's active involvement, not on the basis of her isolation.

Of course, Japan must lead the way. Japan's leaders must recognize that the mindlessness with which they still treat the sensitivities of societies that suffered from Japanese imperialism in the twentieth century is as morally deaf as it is strategically damaging. But this process of realization is more likely to succeed if Japan does not feel it stands with its back against a wall.

Friends from abroad, therefore, can assist this process by ensuring that Japan does not feel alone. Far from endorsing Japanese lack of sensitivity, active Western political engagement – for its own credibility in Asia – must convey that Japan's future depends on gaining the trust of the region.

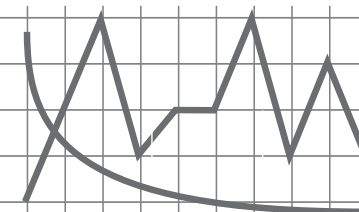
That is not too much to ask. After all, Japan was a political ally throughout the half-century of the Cold War. In a part of the world where democracy is gradually advancing, Japan can point to firm democratic traditions and institutions. Its economic clout remains formidable, and its commercial and cultural ties to the West are broad and varied. Japan may have shied away for decades from sharing the task of maintaining international order, but a new awareness of international responsibility is steadily emerging.

For those who want a stable Asia, the interest in establishing close links with Japan should be obvious. This should not come at the expense of similar links with others, such as China and India, but these ties must not be acquired at the price of isolating Japan.

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YT Business



Yemen celebrates World Food Day

By ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen observed the World Food Day in a celebration held in the capital Sana'a on Monday 14 November. The celebration, which was organized by the ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), was held under the theme "Agriculture and Intercultural Dialogue".

A number of speeches were delivered on the occasion pointing out the importance of that international event and the importance of intercultural dialogue, which is a basic condition to combat hunger and to stop environment deterioration. Harvest movement and animal species throughout history brought about a revolution on the food system to eradicate poverty. On his part, the minister of agriculture and irrigation Hassan Omar Swaid called for a national food strategy in Yemen, urging investors and private sector to play a major role in this regard, praising highly the efforts of FAO and its technical and training assistance to Yemen. The minister added that Yemen had to bring the necessary plans and agricultural programs into existence. The resident representative of FAO in Yemen



Hashim Al Shami said, "Agriculture and intercultural dialogue", the theme of this year's World Food Day, recalls the contribution of the different cultures of world agriculture and argues that sincere intercultural dialogue is a precondition for progress against hunger and environmental degradation."

"All of this happened centuries ago. How about agriculture today? FAO statistics show that at the start of the new millennium 2.57 billion people

depended on agriculture, hunting, fishing or forestry for their livelihoods, including those actively engaged in those activities and their non-working dependants. They represent 42 percent of all human beings.

Agriculture strengthens economies of most developing countries. In industrialized countries, agricultural exports alone were worth about US\$290 billion in 2001. Historically, very few countries have experienced rapid economic growth and poverty

reduction that has not been either preceded or accompanied by agricultural growth.

Most cultures, especially those in which the principal activity is agriculture, have profound religious beliefs, values and rituals concerning food and respect for the environment. Lessons are there to be learned by other cultures that are striving to feed growing populations, while sustaining the resource based on which future generations will depend for sustenance.



Many international initiatives and civil society networks, such as the international Alliance Against Hunger, are promoting intercultural dialogue to help achieve these goals. World Food Day provides an opportunity at the local, national and international levels to further dialogue and enhance solidarity."

He added that "Human and cultural ingenuity, the right vision, partnership and support including that FAO and the international community – can surely

lead to progress in achieving food security for all".

Therefore, this annual event is to remind the world leaders that there are still millions of people worldwide suffering hunger and poverty and there is a real need to expand agricultural areas. At the world food summits in 1996 and 2002 the world leaders vowed to reduce the number of people suffering hunger, 850 millions, by half by the year 2015 while ensuring environmental sustainability.

Insurance and globalization

By HUSSEIN MOHAMED IOB
GENERAL MANAGER OF TRUST
YEMEN
INSURANCE AND RE-INSURANCE
COMPANY

Insurance is one of the bases of any country's economy, it is equally important as trading facilitates, transportation, banking and information services, especially as we enter into the era of globalization.

Globalization gives priority only to open markets in achieving economic growth, governments have minimal interference in global trade

and insurance even if the country is suffering from an economic recession such that of Japan in the end of the 20th century.

However, in the new global economy developing countries have expressed concern over the negative implications of globalization of trade and the non-restriction of services, therefore most developing countries began taking precautions in order to deal with these concerns, for example free of trade and services without any basis of fair competition may lead to the collapse of several industries in developing economies.

Therefore, international free trade and services without regulations will

bring about social and economic challenges in these countries adding to their already existing ones.

One could wonder what has insurance to do with globalization and international trade relations, and what is the importance of these relations between various international companies? This has a direct relationship with strategies adopted by countries and companies in order to protect their industries, for example some companies have signed cooperation agreements and followed merger plans to face global competition, while others adopted strategic future plans to integrate their trade and services in the new global economy.

The Gulf countries as an example are combining their efforts to coordinate their insurance markets in order to create a unified gulf insurance system is by introducing unified insurance documents in addition to future plans of insurance.

This is a time of regional integration; it is not wise to enter the globalization era without a regional consolidation between countries and countries in the same regions and insurance companies are no exception and have no other alternatives. It is obvious that they should consolidate their cooperation in the one and same country, or else they will find themselves unable to face the global competition.

Emirates Red Crescent undertakes development projects in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Totalling in over US\$ 13 million, the Emirates Red Crescent has carried out development projects including health centers, digging drinking water wells, building and renovating schools and mosques.

A delegation from the Emirates Red Crescent Organization has visited Sana'a recently for six days during which the vice president of the republic of Yemen Abd Rabeh Mansour Hadi was presented the Crescent shield for their role in aiding the development in Yemen and for supporting humani-

tarian issues; he also inaugurated the offices of the Emirates Red Crescent in Yemen.

Office of the Emirates Red Crescent would also supervise the projects and assistance offered by most Emirates charities and societies in line an agreement concluded between Yemen and the Red Crescent in Abu Dhabi a few months before. According to the agreement the Emirates Red Crescent would be the supervisor on implementation of projects and assistance represented in building and refurbishing mosques and carrying out health, humanitarian and educational programs funded by most Emirates-based charities.

After investment regulations in uninhabited islands,

Speeding up the establishment of free zones

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A governmental discussion of the draft law regarding foreign ownership of real estates has defined the cases which allow the foreign possession of real estate, terms of possession and the geographical regions available. The discussions emphasized the necessity of attracting foreign investments in Yemen in comparison with the existing competition in neighboring countries in the region. The discussion has also defined investment regulations in the uninhabited Yemeni islands with special consideration to the experiences of countries which have exploited their islands through foreign investments.

The discussion also affirmed that treatment of foreigners intending to possess lands in Yemen will become identical to that of Yemeni citizens in terms of duties and other civil commitments as a part of the state's interest and attention to the investment process.

Governmental agencies are also working on the modernization and development of relevant investment

legislations, the extent of the importance of acceleration in the completion of strategic plans intended for building free zones at border crossings, seaports and islands in order to create feasible investment opportunities in several industries that usually attract local and foreign capital for the purpose of investment.

It must be noted that the success of investment process in any country depends on governmental attention to the creation of free zones because of the scientific and economic foundations free zones facilitate for projects and investment opportunities at land and sea inlets and islands in accordance with their importance and the availability of investment constituents. Such free zones would provide the secure and stable climate for capital and endow their owners with elements of trust as well as opportunities for utilizing their capital.

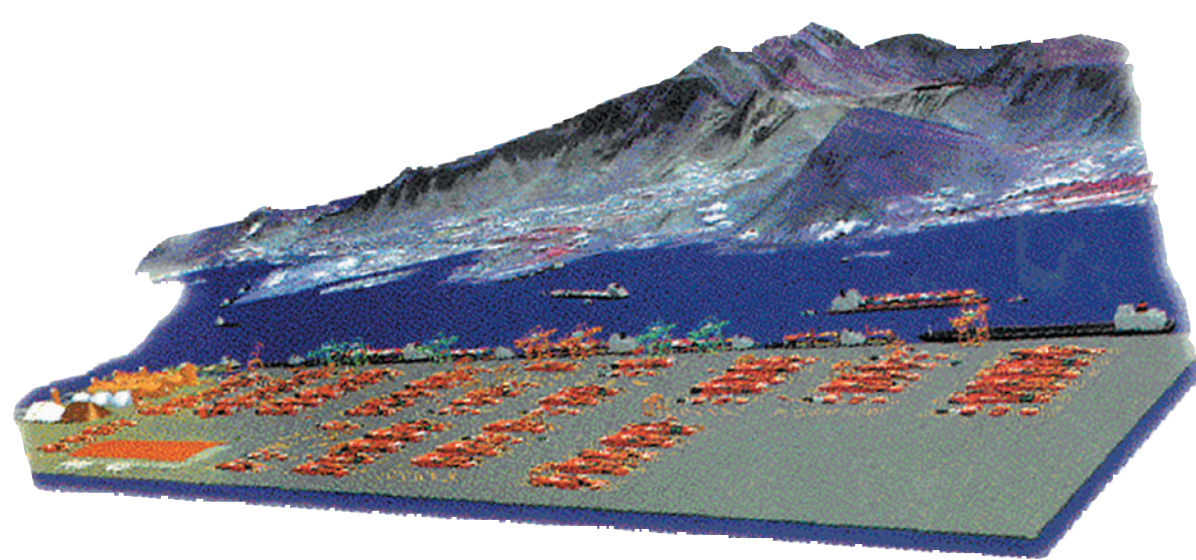
The government has approved a modernization plan of its perception regarding the establishment of the free zones so that the country would be able to expand possible fields of investment and polarization of capitals for implementation of the new projects that are surely to contribute to creating a

wide range of job opportunities and activate various industries.

Many countries have successfully attracted foreign investments through free zones specialized in implementation of gigantic industrial projects, tourist and services projects that resulted in big renaissance in areas of work and production and contributed to the reduction of unemployment rate in addition to creating considerable financial revenues to national income.

Therefore, the State Authority for Free Zones should shoulder the responsibility for activating its tasks in development and expansion the areas of investment in the Free Zone in Aden and the free zones decided to be built in the new regions. Failure in realization of those goals and the implementation of responsibilities towards the free zones would mean lagging behind in the prospected growth of investments and influx of capitals which seek well-studied projects to be run and obtaining profits from them.

The legal facilities approved by law for attracting investors may achieve the mutual interests only when coupled with the establishment of free zones in the Yemeni seaports, land inlets and islands. Businessmen who obtain



investment licenses also need feasibility studies and necessary infrastructure and services necessary for success of their projects.

Successful investment is interrelated with practical procedures allowing investors to manage their work in a secure and safe climate and establish their projects in an area possessing integrated and qualitative constituents so that outputs of the process would be

quick in realization of the common interests of both investors and the state. Such a successful operation would yield its fruits in improving productivity and economic performance and improve the economic situation in the long term.

Yemen possesses huge constituents in its outlets, ports and islands for investment purposes through the creation of needed free zones that would attract local and foreign capitals and

also strengthen commercial ties with neighboring countries and trade partners. However, if the investment process remained hostage to lip service on the importance of building the free zones without actual implementation, then any efforts for the activation of the present economic stagnation in investment would be impossible considering the current reality of investment in Yemen.

Gernau festival uncovers gold

By MAHIOOB ALKAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An Archeological discovery of a field with antiquities dating back to 200 years BC was announced alongside the tourist festivals of Gernau in al-Jawf province. The newly discovered field contains gold and other minerals.

The festival, which was held before one month aimed at reviving the cultural heritage and enhancing desert tourism.

Al-Jawf province is famous for its handicrafts like wool weaving. These can be found in the desert and semi-desert areas. It is also famous for the weaving of large baskets from palm leaves in the plain areas and valleys.

The Maenian civilization flourished on the edges of al-Jawf Valley. The remains of the cities reveal the great civilization of the area. The architecture of the granite-ornamented pillars on the Maenian temples place it in the same level as the Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations.

Maen people used to be great farmers, traders and manufacturers. They controlled the incense route and they

built trade stations all along it. Their influence covered the area up to northern Arabia. This is illustrated by the sculptures that were discovered in Hijaz and Egypt. A Maenian grave, which goes back to Third Century BC, was discovered in Egypt. The engravings on the sculptures indicate that it belonged to a trader who provided the Egyptian temples with sacred items.

Recently discovered documents reveal that Maenians used to have commercial ties with other Yemeni states that controlled the coasts of the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. Maenian sites attracted foreign and oriental visitors during the 19-20 Centuries.

At its apex the fame of the Maen was spread as far as Greece. Classical Greek and Roman writers wrote about this civilization. The famous Greek historian Strabo accompanied the Roman leader Ilious Jalos to al-Jawf's lands in 24 BC.

French and Italian excavations in al-Jawf discovered that Maen state was a contemporary to the Sabaa state. It alternated from independence and domination from and under the Sabaian state. The ruins of al-Jawf hide many of the secrets of the Maen

civilization that will only be known when the excavations are completed.

Pre-Islamic gold mines

Festival organizers say that the discovered site lies in the Sod Mountains in the Al-Robe Al-Khali (Empty Quarter) desert 200 km north east of Sana'a. It is rich in gold, bronze and marble. The site, which is now a ruin, used to be a mine at the era of king Asaad Alkamil who ruled during the pre-Islamic era. Mining is thought to have stopped at this time, according to the information from the locals.

Hassan Hadhban, one of Gernau festival organizers, told Sabaa news agency that samples were taken to the laboratories of the Ministry of Oil and Minerals. They proved to be rich in a number of minerals.

Many of the samples are shiny granite hollow stones that were thought to be crushers of rocks, as the area was famous for its primitive old mines and laboratories.

Sheikh Arfaj bin Hadhban called on local and Arab investors to make tourist projects in the area, because of its huge capacity for attracting tourists.

Revival of public cultural heritage

The public and official organizers of Gernau festival aim at reviving the rich historical and archeological heritage of the area. Their aim is to enhance desert tourism.

Festival activities included many functions reflecting the ancient cultural activities of the region. There were camel and horse races, hunting with dogs and falcons and desert tours on camel back. A desert car rally was also organized.

Exhibition of traditional artifacts

More than 1200 people, 42 camels, 15 horses and 20 cars participated in the festival. Artifacts of the Bedouins who live in this area, including woven wool, and hand mills were displayed in the festival.

Activities of the people of the area were also displayed. Of these there were; camel milking, herding, feeding and watering from wells. The recitation of poetry during the enjoyment of Arabian coffee was held inside wool tents.

Public Zamil poems sessions were presented during the mornings and evening sessions of the festival. There was even sunset watching, an old Bedouin pass time.

Stolen Yemeni stele returns home

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen has regained a fertility deity after 11 years of absence. The antiquity, stolen during the 1994 civil war, has arrived in the country recently.

September.net quoted well-informed sources as saying that the stele is one of significant Yemeni collection of antiquities.

The carved slab of alabaster that has survived centuries of wear, a civil war, and looting from Aden museum has been returned to home after surfacing at an auction in the USA last December.

A repatriation ceremony took place at that time at the headquarters of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the Department of Homeland Security in Chelsea. The artifact was officially signed over to the Yemeni ambassador last December.

The piece, known as the South Arabian Alabaster Stele, depicts fertility goddess Dat-Hamim in bas-relief on a foot-high tablet. It is estimated to date from 300-400 A.D. The stele was stolen in July 1994 from the Aden Museum during the cessation war.

The recovery of the artifact followed a lengthy investigation. In May 2003, British Immigration and Customs



An ancient Yemeni stele with a man standing beside it

Enforcement agents learned that the owners of Phoenix Ancient Art, antiquities dealers with galleries in Geneva and on the Upper East Side, had consigned the piece to Sotheby's for auction with an estimated sale price of \$20,000 to \$30,000. Phoenix's owners, brothers Ali and Hicham Aboutaam, had told

the auction house that the piece came from a private English collection. In their research to prepare for the auction, Sotheby's staff discovered that the stele was photographed and documented as a part of the Aden Museum's collection. Immigration and Customs agents confirmed that the stele was stolen and issued a seizure warrant in September, 2003.

While the stele was valued at tens of thousands of dollars, it is considered to be a priceless artifice. "It's much more than that," an American expert said at the repatriation ceremony. "It's a building block of history, a building block of a culture." Such breaches demonstrate border vulnerabilities that must be repaired.

Many attempts to smuggle Yemeni antiquities have been thwarted recently some of them involved large quantities of ancient relics which form a living witness to the craftsmanship and magnificence of old Yemeni civilizations.

Aden: The Arab Sea pearl

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

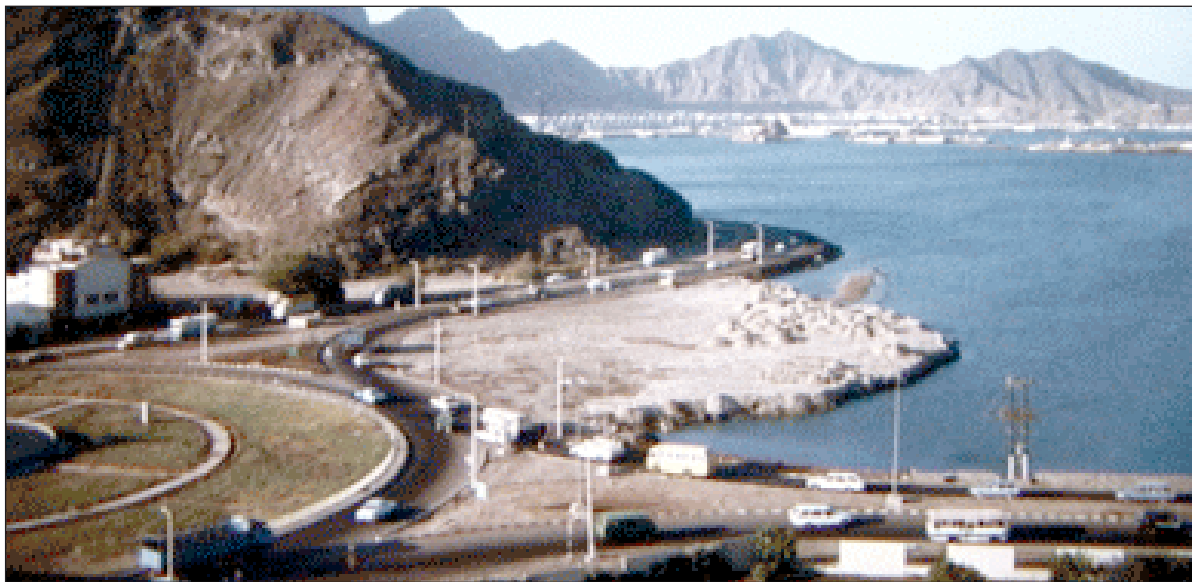
Aden has many names. Among these are The Eye of Yemen, Beauty of the East and Gem of the seas. All the names represent praise and love to this unique city.

Name and history

'Aden' is an Arabic verb, which means 'reside', or a place where travelers stay and rest. Aden is a junction of routes for old eastern and western ships. It used to be well known in the ancient world, and its name was mentioned in the Old Testament.

The ancient Greeks also knew Aden. They gave it its name, which for centuries was the name for the whole Arabia: 'Arabia Felix'. Aden's name was also found in an old Greek inscription, which goes back to the second century CE. The famous Arab explorer, Ibn Batuta, described Aden in some of his books, and called it, 'the greatest port of Yemen that receives great boats, and embraces the merchants of Egypt and India'. The ancient historian and sailor Claudius Ptolemy described it as 'the gem of Arabia'.

History books attribute Aden to Adnan, one of Noah's sons. Others connect it with the word 'Adon', which



The city of Aden, Yemen's commercial and economic hub

means staying in Arabic. They say that one of the old Yemeni kings, Tababia'a, used to imprison criminals and outlaws in this area.

Yemeni historian, Mohamed Mohairiz discussed the meaning of the word Aden in Arabic dictionaries. One of these meanings is to aden the land, which means to live in it. Another meaning of to aden the land is to manure it and prepare it for cultivation. A third meaning is to get minerals out of the land. He also tackled the word

'adan', which means a group of men staying in one place. All the meanings give the sense of residing and preparing the land for cultivation and mining.

An old legend

Historian Altaib Ba-Makhrama wrote in his book that 'Aden was an old oasis to which Gabil ran to it from India when he killed his brother Habil'. He lived with his family in Sira Mountain. Gabil felt lonely so the devil used musical instruments to relieve

him. The historian assumes that it was the first time that music was used for recreation.

Aden and the mount of Socatra Island used to be one piece of land. A man called Tho-Alqarnain came and dug a bay between them. The sea surrounded Aden and only the tops of its hills used to be seen.

Other stories say that Aden used to be inhabited by fishermen. They lived on the coast and the rest of the lands were empty.

Literary Corner

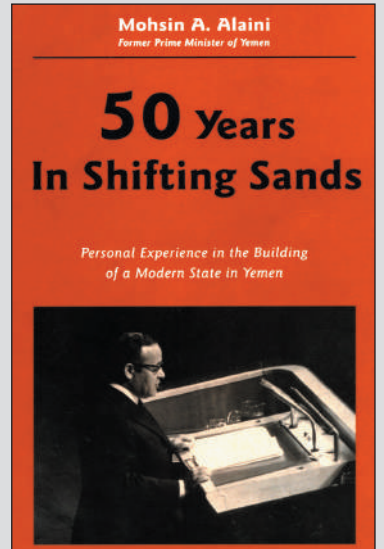
By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

Fifty Years in Shifting Sands (5/5)

As the Egyptians troops Yemen, many thought the end of the Republic was inevitable. Even many in the Republican side protested the leaving of the Egyptians for fear that the Royalists were going to take over Sana'a. But the Egyptians were adamant. They also affirmed their desire to close the "Yemen file" and released all the politicians, officers and social dignitaries that were locked up in the "War Prison" in Cairo. It was then that the late "Professor" Ahmed Mohammed Nu'uman uttered his famous quote when he said: "We came to Cairo to seek the right to speak, only to find ourselves now deprived of the right to take a leak!"

With the Egyptians gone, the old heroes of the Yemeni Patriotic Movement found themselves again in the forefront of political life in the country. It was clear to many that the status quo of the Republic as it was kept under the Egyptians could not ensure the survival of the Republic. The "patriots" put together a proposal for reform that was to put the Republic on a sound constitutional footing. Although President Sallal had signed his agreement to the proposal, he and many of the political and military elements that relied on Egyptian backing decided to leave the country. A provisional government was set up during the bloodless coup d'état of November 5, 1967, until elections for the Consultative Assembly were held. As the military situation became critical with the Royalists surrounding Sana'a, General Hassan Al-Amri took over as Prime Minister and the Republican forces (including tribal forces of Hashid, led by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, the late Mujahid Abu Shawarib broke the Seventy-Day Siege. With the Republic somewhat saved, Al-Aini took over as Prime Minister in early 1969 and Yemen began a new era, enjoying the most dynamic period of Republican rule. A civilian government held sway and a vocal elected Consultative Assembly was able to end the Royalist onslaught. Actually, the Saudis had pretty much agreed with the Egyptians that both should wash their hands of Yemen in the wake of the 1967 War. Although the Saudis still continued some nominal support to the Royalists, they were also not interested in seeing the Hamid Al-Dins return to power in Sana'a.

Thus, the gestures for a peaceful settlement with the Saudis, by the Al-Aini Government were greeted positively. Negotiations led to recognition of the Republic by Saudi Arabia in the Summer of 1970 and a new era of National Reconciliation followed. Many of the Royalists were allowed to return and were peacefully molded back into the mainstream of society (with many re-entering the civil service). All things seemed to be going well for the Al-Aini Government. However, the move to control the use of Qat and the proposed Unity Agreement with the Southern Yemenis, which was consummated after a brief period of border skirmishes made the Al-Aini Government unable to function much. December 30, 1972 saw the takeover of the Government by more conservative forces and Al-Aini went back to his diplomatic activities as Ambassador to London. The Al-Hajri Government held on for a while until the military reestablished its full control of the Government with the coup d'état of Colonel Ibrahim Al-Hamdi in June 1973. Mohsin Al-Aini returned as



Author: Mohsin Al-Aini, Former Prime Minister of Yemen
Language: Arabic & English
Publisher: Dar Al-Nahar, Beirut
Year Published: August 2004
Number of Pages: 384 pages

Prime Minister for a couple of years, until disputes among the military brass and Al-Hamdi put Al-Aini in a critical situation since Al-Hamdi moved against some of the Abu Luhoum officers (in-laws of Al-Aini). To avoid exasperating the matter, Al-Aini resigned and went back to diplomacy again until the Mid-Nineties.

Of course, there is much more to the book than merely an accounting of the life of one of the most dynamic political personalities that Yemen could produce in this long volatile half century of the transformation of Yemen from a medieval kingdom on one part and a formerly weakly held last bastion of British Imperialism in the South later turned into the most radically oriented Arab bastion of Soviet socialism. Amidst all this dichotomy, a number of other paradoxes and much regional and international maneuvering, Mr. Al-Aini tried to bring to the reader the many challenges that beset many serious minded and sincerely hopeful politicians and social dignitaries to bring Yemen to its deserved place among nations working for the betterment not only of their own situations in the homeland, but for regional cohesion and harmony and international peace. The challenges, as Mr. Al-Aini showed on a number of occasions in this dramatic exposé of the metamorphosis of a small strategically located country from an obscure closed state to a country of promise, beset by so many obstacles, can truly be monumental and indeed warrant more in-depth study. In this book, we have a living portrayal of not only the complex politics, so few have been able to reveal in their chronicle of these very same times, but also of the underlying aspirations, hopes and human frustration of bad circumstance, conflicting interests and other forces, for which such hopes and aspirations have no bearing. Yemen is still a promising country and much can be achieved to make its place in the regional scene and the international community more weighty. Many of the themes discussed by Al-Aini can still play a pivotal role in reorienting the country onto a proper course of modern statecraft: national reconciliation, a greater and freer role for civil society, and more genuine participation of the people in the political, social and economic development. That is what I believe Mr. Al-Aini sought to project in his candid autobiography, which should be a source of further academic and historical study and analysis. Third World politics can arouse interest indeed, if only third world intellectuals could come out and speak their minds.

“Bird flu in Yemen” Government denies .. Parliament confesses

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

“There could be two or three cases of bird flu in the country”, Dr.

Najeeb Saeed from the General Health and Population Committee told the parliament. This confession came in the fierce debate between the parliamentarians and the representatives of the health and agriculture ministries last Monday. Although Najeeb Saeed did not provide any evidence of the actual number of bird flu cases, he criticized limited resources to diagnose a possible infected bird.

Deputy minister of Public Health and Population, Mr. Bin Majed Al-Juneid, admitted that there are no specialized labs and hospitals to test the samples that have been collected from different rural areas. He said that the samples have been sent to World Health Organization (WHO) to be checked. However, there have been no confirmed cases of bird flu in Yemen so far. “The cabinet has allocated 100 million YR for the purchase of vaccinations and to prepare specialized labs and hospitals for vain flu. The foreign aid for such preparations has amounted to US\$ 160,000 “ he told the press. Dr. Mohamed Thabet Al-Asali, also from the General Health and Population Committee of the parliament, expressed his distrust of the government in dealing with the disease, and claimed that any funds allocated for



“combating bird flu” would open up the opportunity for “embezzlement and corruption”. He asked how the government could deal with a possible outbreak, when it could not deal with treatable diseases such as malaria, that still exists across the country, in the past.

Al-Asali said there is a possibility of already having “a bird flu epidemic in the country in birds, if not in human, especially as Yemen has a long coastline and is a destination for migrant birds.”

Health expert and politician, Dr. Abdulkareem Shaiban, who left the parliament in protest after he was not allowed to speak, supported Al-Asali’s view. He stated that the government would “declare a state of emergency if a minister or a prominent official falls ill to this fatal disease”, but would do little in the present situation.

“Yet there are no laboratories or

chemical solutions to diagnose the disease, nor surplus medicines to deal with a potential outbreak. We continue to import chicken and eggs.”

He said that the government’s strategy of “concealing facts about the spread of epidemic diseases” only contributed to increasing the disease’s effect.

He said: “A clear example of consequences of this strategy is the outbreak of the Rift Valley Disease, which has killed more than 80 people in the last two weeks in Taiz province alone.”

Shaiban said the parliament have already dealt with cases of suspected bird flu, referring to a recent debate concerning poultry imports suspected of infection from China. According to him, the government has ordered the shipments return to their original place, since there was no ability to test those goods. That caused a huge loss to the traders.

Lifestyle blamed for many cancers

BBC - Simple lifestyle and environmental changes could significantly help to cut the number of cancer deaths around the world each year, research suggests.

Experts linked more than a third of the seven million cancer deaths worldwide in 2001 to nine potentially modifiable risk factors. These include poor diet, smoking, alcohol, obesity, lack of exercise and air pollution.

The researchers calculated that of the seven million deaths from cancer in 2001, 2.43 million were linked to the nine risk factors, that are obesity, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of exercise, smoking, alcohol unsafe sex, urban air pollution, indoor smoke from household use of coal and contaminated injections

The findings were based on a comprehensive review of scientific studies and other sources such as government reports.

The Harvard team and their collaborators also re-analysed some of the original data from the studies.

They concluded that in low and middle-income countries the most important risk factors were smoking, alcohol use, and low consumption of fruit and vegetables.

In high-income countries, smoking, alcohol use, and obesity played the leading role.

Deaths could be cut

Lead researcher Dr Majid Ezzati said that smoking was by far the most important risk factor for cancer - alone responsible for 21% of cancer deaths worldwide.

He said public health campaigns targeting smoking in the UK had led to a drop in deaths from lung cancer in the past few decades, and showed just how effective such campaigns could be.

He said: "Primary prevention through lifestyle and environmental interventions remains the main route for reducing the global cancer burden.

"If implemented, reduction of exposure to well-known behavioral and environmental risk factors would prevent a substantial proportion of deaths from cancer."

Dr Kat Arney, of the charity Cancer Research UK, said: "This report is an impressive demonstration that many cancers, and many deaths from the disease worldwide, are preventable.

"Cancer Research UK estimates that around half of all cancers in the UK could be prevented by changes to lifestyle."

The charity has launched a Reduce the Risk campaign, encouraging people to quit smoking, stay in shape, eat and drink healthily, avoid excessive sun exposure, be body aware and go for screening when invited

Genes can be ‘changed’ by foods

BBC - What we eat may influence our health by changing specific genes, researchers believe. Several studies in rodents have shown that nutrients and supplements can change the genetics of animals by switching on or off certain genes. It is not clear whether foods do the same in humans, but an article in New Scientist says there is good reason to believe they do. In the future, diseases might be reversed by diet in this way, it says.

Modifying DNA

While many disorders in humans are caused by mutations to DNA, a few, including some cancers, occur when genes are switched on or off.

There are thousands of genes in the body, but not all of them are active.

Scientists have been looking at what factors might control gene activity and have found some evidence to suggest that diet is important.

In a recent animal experiment, adult rats were made to behave differently by injecting them with a specific amino acid called L-methionine.

After the injections, the animals were less confident when exploring new environments and produced higher levels of stress hormones.

The change to their behavior occurred because the amino acid altered the way the rat’s genes were expressed.

L-methionine altered a gene for glucocorticoid that helps control the animal’s response to stress. Moshe Szyf and his team from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, told a meeting on environmental epigenomics in



November in Durham, North Carolina.

It added chemical tags, known as methyl groups, to the gene by a process called methylation.

The researchers are now looking to see if they can cause a positive rather than a negative behavioral change in animals using a naturally-occurring chemical called trichostatin A (TSA).

TSA causes the opposite effect to L-methionine on genes, stripping them of methyl groups.

Dr Szyf said his work showed how important subtle nutrients and supplements can be.

Animal research has also shown that a mother’s diet can affect the level of DNA methylation and hence gene expression in offspring.

Professor Ian Johnson at the Institute of Food Research is investigating whether colon cancer in humans might be triggered by diet through DNA methylation. His team is studying healthy people before this cancer

starts.

He said: “It’s quite a strong possibility that nutrients might cause DNA changes. We think diet may have a role to play as a regulator in genes.

“Ultimately one would want to chose diets that would give you the most beneficial pattern of DNA methylation in the gut. But it is too early to say that we know the dietary strategy to do that.

“We need much more research.

“Genes regulate all the processes in the body and things that change gene expression, therefore, may be linked to a number of health issues other than cancer too.”

He said one nutrient that scientists believe might influence methylation is folate or folic acid.

A deficiency in folate levels has been linked to an increased risk of developing some adult cancers, including breast and colon.

No evidence Tamiflu caused deaths: FDA

BY LISA RICHWINE

Maryland (Reuters) - U.S. regulators do not have enough evidence to say Roche AG’s anti-flu drug Tamiflu caused deaths or psychiatric problems in children in Japan, Food and Drug Administration officials said on Friday.

The FDA has been studying reports of 12 deaths and 32 cases of psychiatric problems in children who had taken Roche’s drug, which is in high demand as a defense against a possible avian flu pandemic in people.

All but one of the psychiatric events, which included hallucinations and abnormal behavior, also were reported in Japan.

FDA officials are seeking input about the reports from a panel of outside experts meeting Friday.

Linda Lewis, an FDA medical officer, said in prepared remarks there was “insufficient evidence to establish that deaths and neuropsychiatric events represent a safety signal associated with Tamiflu.”

The agency will ask the committee if it agrees the FDA should continue monitoring Tamiflu’s safety in children and report back to the panel within two years.

The FDA has no current plan to add warnings about the deaths or psychiatric problems to the Tamiflu label, Lewis said. But officials will ask the panel if new information should be added about serious skin reactions, which are already mentioned as a possible side effect.

Interest in Tamiflu has risen as experts around the world warned of a



possible H5N1 bird flu pandemic in people. Several countries are stockpiling Tamiflu, which may lessen symptoms.

Tamiflu is used widely in Japan to treat the annual influenza. From 2001 to 2005, there were 24.5 million Tamiflu prescriptions in Japan, and 6.5 million in the United States.

There is some evidence Japan was more vigilant about reporting problems in Tamiflu patients, FDA officials said.

Roche said information from databases of Tamiflu use and other research showed there was no

increase in deaths and psychiatric problems in Tamiflu patients compared with influenza patients in general.

“The benefit/risk ratio for Tamiflu is unchanged and remains positive,” said Dr. Joseph Hoffman, Roche vice president for pharmaceutical development.

Roche shares gained 2 percent in Swiss trading.

Shares of Gilead Sciences Inc., which invented Tamiflu and receives royalties on its sales, were up 9 cents to \$54.84 in late morning trading on Nasdaq.

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Gionta brace helps Devils overcome Canadiens

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Brian Gionta scored twice, including the game-winning goal in the third period, to lead the New Jersey Devils to a 5-3 victory over the Montreal Canadiens in East Rutherford on Friday.

Scott Gomez added a goal and two assists for the Devils, who moved over the .500 mark at 9-8-2 while handing the Canadiens (13-4-3) just their fourth loss of the season.

Montreal also lost for the first time in regulation time on the road this season, dropping to 6-1-2 away from the Bell Center.

Gionta knocked in a rebound off a Brian Rafalski shot at 7:25 of the third period, the Devils third power play goal of the night, to put New Jersey ahead to stay. Gionta also had an assist and Rafalski added a pair of assists for the Devils.

John Madden added an empty net goal to complete the scoring for New Jersey, while Viktor Kozlov scored the other goal for the Devils, who led 2-0 after one period but allowed the Canadiens to get back into the game with three straight second period goals.

Tomas Plekanec, Richard Zednik and Saku Koivu scored the goals for the Habs, who were out-shot 17-8 in the opening period before eventually out-shooting the Devils 31-28.

Plekanec and Koivu both also had an assist for Montreal, while Jose Theodore made 26 saves in goal.

Martin Brodeur, who entered the



New Jersey Devils winger Brian Gionta (14) pokes a pass under center Scott Gomez under the legs of Montreal Canadiens goalie Jose Theodore (L) for a power-play goal in the first period of their NHL game in East Rutherford November 18. Canadiens defenseman Mathieu Dandenault (R) watches.

REUTERS

game with a sub-par goals against average of .345 and just a 5-6-0 record, made 25 saves to pick up the win.

In Philadelphia, Greg de Vries scored the game winning goal at 3:05 in overtime as the Atlanta Thrashers beat the Flyers 6-5.

Illya Kovalchuk scored twice, and Bobby Holik, Peter Bondra and Patrik Stefan scored the other goals for the Thrashers. Michael Garnett made 31 saves.

Branko Radivojevic scored twice, while Simon Gagne, Derian Hatcher and Michal Handzus also scored for the Flyers. Robert Esche made 30 saves.

In Dallas, Bill Guerin scored a goal and had an assist as the Stars beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 6-3.

Brenden Morrow, Jussi Jokinen, Stu Barnes, Stephane Robidas and Jere Lehtinen scored the other goals for the Stars.

Bryan Berard scored twice and Duane Westcott scored the other goals for the Blue Jackets.

In Calgary, Mark Bell and Mark Cullen both scored two goals as the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Flames 5-2.

Matthew Barnaby scored the other goal for the Blackhawks and Nikolai Khabibulin made 30 saves.

Roman Hamrlik and Chuck Kobasew scored for the Flames.

In Anaheim, Marek Svatos scored the game-winning goal late in the third period, giving the Colorado Avalanche a 3-2 win over the Mighty Ducks.

Milan Hejduk and Steve Konowalchuk scored the other goals for the Avalanche (11-6-2), who handed the Ducks their seventh straight loss.

Jonathan Hedstrom and Teemu Selanne scored for the Mighty Ducks.

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I. What to Say Situations and expressions: (82) 'Love you' wishes (III)

Blessed are the lovers who sit under the green wood tree and experience the alchemy of love. They taste the eternal charm of dynamic togetherness and thus become acknowledged ambassadors of this elemental spirit.

- Sweet Love! When I'm holding your hands, it feels like as if the time, the happiness and all the good things in life are in my grasp. Let's hold our hands forever!
- My Love! I'd give you the world and everything in it, but there's not one breathtaking view, no mountain or waterfall, season or sea that compares to the wonder of you. I'd give you the breeze to kiss your sweet cheeks, but that's something I'd much rather do. So I'll simply give you my heart, my love and a lifetime to share with you. I'd give you the blush of sunrise or the horizon in crimson design, but that cannot capture the light of your radiant smile.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Ahmad invited me for having dinner with him.
- I asked Ahmad that when will your plane arrive?
- I told Basham don't pull the cat's tail.
- Abdullah said, Are you tired?
- The book which I bought it at the book store was very expensive.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- If the strike goes on much longer, there **may/might/ could** be strict action by the government.
- Could** it rain (or is it likely to rain) this afternoon?
- Her parents **may/might/ could** have influenced her decision to resign.
- I was in my office all day. You **could/might** have come to see me at any time.
- The new bridge was opened six months **ago**.

III) Increase your word power

A) How to express it in one word

- A person who takes great interest in the pleasures of food and drink.
- A short, clever, amusing poem or saying.
- The last part of a speech made by one of the actors at the end of a play.
- A short description of a dead person, written on a stone above his grave.
- An adjective or descriptive phrase.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- To persuade someone to do something by offering something pleasant: **entice** (vt.)
- All the people who surround and follow an important person: **entourage** (n.)
- A person who makes plans for a business: **entrepreneur** (n.)
- Having a very short life: **ephemeral** (adj.)
- The place on the earth's surface where an earthquake begins: **epicenter** (n.)

B) Words commonly confused

Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

- convert, transform
- fancy, fantasy.
- oversee, over look.
- entry, entrance.
- insistent, persistent.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- enviable** (adj.) (causing envy): He has an enviable academic record.
envious (adj.) (showing or expressing envy): Many are envious of your professional success.
- entomology** (n.) (the study of insects): Entomology is an emerging branch in Agriculture .
etymology (n.) (science of the origin and history of words): It is useful to know the etymology of words.

- each other** (used as object of a verb or prep.) (when the reference is to two persons): The two friends teased each other.
one another (used when the reference is to more than two): The members of the team congratulated one another for their spectacular success.
- due to** (adj.) ('due to' means caused by): The accident happened due to reckless driving.
owing to (because of) Owing to extreme heat we stayed indoors.
- gamble** (vi) (play games of chance for money): He lost all his money gambling at cards.
gambol (n.) (usually plural) (quick, playful, jumping, or skipping movements of children): Feats of gambols practiced by children are very interesting to observe.

C) Synonyms and Antonyms :

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one given at the top

A) Synonyms

- somber**
a. dull. b. quiet c. serious d. sleepy
- thaw**
a. melt b. freeze c. peace d. straw
- volatile**
a. hot b. bright
c. unstable d. undependable
- obliterate**
a. forget b. destroy c. remove d. change
- orgy**
a. organic b. religious
c. misery d. wild party

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ballad | a simple narrative poem |
| 2. impervious | not easily influenced |
| 3. occult | supernatural |
| 4. gravy | sauce |
| 5. grapevine | rumour |

B) Antonyms:

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given at the top

- onerous**
a. multiple b. weightless
c. effortless d. selfless
- alienate**
a. familiarize b. fascinate
c. naturalize d. prescribe
- latent**
a. early b. manifest
c. punctual d. antique
- benevolent**
a- spiteful b. ugly
c. obstinate d. unpleasant
- fabrication**
a- repair b. invention
c. imagination d. truth

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|----------------|----------|
| 1. divest | clothe |
| 2. adamant | yielding |
| 3. beget | abort |
| 4. considerate | insolent |
| 5. obscure | expound |

D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word.

- a. efflorescence b. efflorescence
c. efflorescence d. efflorescence
- a. parcusson b. percussion.
c. percusion d. percussion.
- a. tebleau b. tableau
c. tablo d. teblo
- a. harrassment b. harasment
c. harassment d. harrasment
- a. tantemount. b. tantamount
c. tentamount. d. tentemount.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions:

- preemptive 2. masquerade
3. mercurial 4. silhouette

- decongestant

E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- variety is the spice of life
- go up in smoke
- have a change of heart
- make no odds.
- lull someone into a false sense of security.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions:

- bite off more than one can chew** (to try to cope with more than one is capable of): Rania bit off more than she could chew when she tried to revise the whole course in a single day.
- like gold dust** (extremely rare) :The book is selling like hot cake and to procure a copy is like gold dust.
- have one's heart in one's mouth** (to be very anxious and nervous): The official had his heart in his mouth when he was caught red handed taking bribe from a client
- point (someone) in the right direction** (to show someone what to do):I want to learn driving and I want someone to point me in the right direction.
- patch up differences** (to end a quarrel or conflict): I shall try my best to patch up differences between the two friends.

5) Grammar and Composition

A) Grammar

Use one of the following words in its correct form to complete the sentences below

range	tasks	expert	unusual
repair	slightly	sophisticated	equivalent
recognize	respond		

- My cassette recorder is broken. I'll have it
- One of the manya computer can perform is keeping your accounts.
- Some of the expensive machines are much more.....and capable of remembering more data .
- We have a wideof models in stock.
- What isto US\$ 2 in Yemeni Riyals ?
- I'm afraid you'll have to speak up . He'sdeaf.
- According to, the earth's temperature will rise considerably in the future.
- I didn'thim at first, as he had grown a beard.
- Her illness must be very serious . She is notto the treatment at all.
- What waswas that she had one brown eye and one green eye.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions:

- | Word | Word of a similar meaning |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. range | assortment |
| 2. tasks | jobs |
| 3. expert | specialists |
| 4. unusual | extraordinary |
| 5. repair | mend |
| 6. slightly | a little |
| 7. sophisticated | highly developed |
| 8. equivalent | corresponding |
| 9. recognize | identify |
| 10. respond | answer |

B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the maxim:

99: SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD

6) Pearls from the Holy Quran

"He knoweth the Unseen as well as that which is open. For He is the wise, well acquainted (with all things).
S.6A.73

7) Food for thought

"Ability is what you're capable of doing . Motivation determiners what you do . Attitude determines how well you do it."

— Lou Holtz

A letter to the teachers of English: 98 Computeracy for teachers and learners (2)

Dear Fellow teachers,

Knowledge of computer and how to use it profitably has become a necessity for everyone in this world, for any job computeracy is a necessary qualification. Teachers and learners need to know how to use computers for their purposes not because of the recent popularity of e-learning but for basic day-to-day classroom activities. Teachers find it easy to get their



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teaching notes prepared and printed out with their computer; they can carry them in the floppies or CDs and use them in the classroom if they have laptops with them; it is not utopian these days, as I see laptops with many teachers teaching in schools. Learners can store information, retrieve what is necessary for the class, print them out for the day. If laptops are available, not utopian any more, they can carry them to the classes. If not in schools, it happens in some college classes in Yemen (Don't get excited!).

Long ago, I wrote in an Indian newspaper about the myths that surround the computer and why to dispel them. It is irrelevant today as most of the myths have got dispelled in the course of time; but one of the myths is still lurking in the minds of some of my fellow teachers, especially the old ones. It is this: computers may replace teachers. If any of us believe this myth, we will become a laughing stock in the midst of today's learners. Not now, even after many years of computer use and so many technological advancements, teachers can never be replaced and divorced from the learners; as long there are learners, there will be teachers. So don't worry, computers can never be a threat to our jobs!

Apart from the personal use of computers, they can be used for teaching / learning purposes. The market is full of CDs for learning all kinds of things, for learning cooking, drawing, child rearing,

driving, automobile repairing, sewing, and so on. There are CDs for learning languages, almost all languages in the world. (Don't ask me where then the need for teachers is; my quick answer is 'Who wrote the materials for these CDs?') I am told that there are CDs that can put a child

to sleep in the absence of the mother!

What I am interested in are the English language teaching materials for use in our situations. There are plenty to choose from – for teaching grammar, spoken English reading, writing, note-taking, dictionary use etc. Good materials have been published by the Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and the BBC, to quote a few. Though I was using some of these materials in the 90's, when I taught a course called Computer-assisted English language learning at the CIEFL in India, I am aware that most of them are available now in their advanced versions. Some of them are to be used as they are (like our books) and some others are manipulatable according to our needs. In a grammar material, for example, the blanks can be moved as we need or the words can be deleted as we want. In a reading material, for example, the passage for reading can be written down by the teacher to suit the level of the learners. Similarly, in the writing material, we can change the exercises according to our needs. In addition, materials are available for self-learning, which can be used by the learners on their own, if they can afford, at home for further practice. In the next letter, I'll share with you the other advanced uses of computers in ELT these days.

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

Unemployment affects school students

ABDULKREEM AL-AAWAGE
AN ENGLISH TEACHER
AL-SADDA, IBB

It is an admitted fact that a person is a part of the environment he lives in. He interacts with his surrounding and affects and influences his environment.

It is no wonder, therefore, that students in high schools, who are considered the hopes and builders of future, are influenced by the prevailing socio-economic factors. It is evident by the deterioration in the interest and motivation of the students specially from 11th class onwards.

It is the unemployment which affects many students in high schools. We all observe this everyday and every year in the form of high rates of drop outs, as well as dwindling enrollment of the students from year to year and from class to class.

A potent cause of this is their awareness of the economic situation. They think that their efforts will come to nothing.

There are no jobs and no chances for work; so why should they expend labour in their studies which seems to be an exercise in futility for them.

It is a big problem actually which must be tackled with great wisdom. It is a fact that the economic position of the country is not encouraging, but the wheel of life must go on. And everyone must share in solving this problem. The teacher must be aware of this serious problem and convince students not to be discouraged by the apparently daunting situation.

It is not the responsibility of teachers alone. There is the family, it must look after the mental and psychological health of its members. It must advise them to continue their studies in right earnest and get good ranks among their classmates. Then they may get the best jobs inshallah.

Writers and the intellectuals in the society have a role to play in this regard. They must not reflect in their writings the dismal scenario. They must be fair and throw a ray of hope to the next generation for best dividends.



An Orphan's memories

Imagine that one day you suddenly become an orphan. What are your feelings going to be then? This poor child lost his parents when he was still a little baby. Everyday he looked for a person to express his feeling and secrets. Sometimes he looked at a child with his mother holding him. Then he said to himself: Why I don't have a mother like him? Why? I want to have a mother who takes care of me, who holds my hands on my first day at school. Who advises me when I make mistakes, who tells me stories and says 'good night' before I go to bed and who feeds me with love. I also want a father like other children have, a father who works day and night to bring me every thing I want, to encourage me in my studies and who wishes me luck in my exam. I

wish to have parents who celebrate my birthday and give me presents. Why am I lonely in this awful world? Why I don't have someone with me to show me the way to success. Oh God! Why I'm not like other children? Why? Who is really going to answer my questions? Who?

Nura Mohammed Al-Sorrory

Allah is Great

I am a muslim, so I am proud
I am a muslim, so I fear none
except God
Mentioning Allah is my mission
And loving Him my only vocation.
I falter, but He forgives
I disobey and He makes me repent

Allah is Great, Allah is Great
Buthaina Jamil, Level 4
Department of English
University of Science and
Technology, Sana'a

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

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Accumulate | Cookies | Grow | Pencils | Space |
| Black | Cotton tips | Hats | Pens | Sports |
| Books | Crate | Pies | Pies | Stock |
| Bottle | Diskettes | Home | Pile | Store |
| Brand | Doll | Huge | Pills | Supplies |
| Bread | Eggs | Inside | Plastic | Talc |
| Buttons | Empty | Jewel | Plot | Taped |
| Cake | File | Lamp | Products | Tins |
| Camera | Fill | Letter | Push | Tissues |
| Candles | Flaps | Matches | Rare | Tool |
| Cans | Flowers | Model | Ring | Tops |
| Cardboard | Food | Mover | Rush | Toys |
| Care | Full | Music | Sachet | Used |
| Carton | Games | Necklace | Salt | Utensils |
| Casket | Garage | Number | Send | Valuables |
| Cassette | Gear | Pack | Sewing | Video |
| Cigars | Gift | Paint | Sheet | Watch |
| Clips | Give | Pandora | Shoes | Wood |
| Closed | Gloves | Papers | Show | Wrapped |
| Clue | Grab | Pass | Soap | |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: São Francisco

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Al-JAWF: Land of mosques and temples



COMPILED BY:
YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Wadi Al-Jawf (valley) includes ruins of several towns and sites of historical and archeological attraction. Those were ancient Yemeni regions once settled by people who lived under the rule of Ma'een dynasty in Yemen. The provincial center is called Hazm Al-Jawf, 140 km to the northeast of Sana'a and situated within the geographical sphere historically known as the East of Yemen apart from Jabal Allaudah and a few other mountains on the western side.

Most of Al-Jawf land is a desert. The remaining areas are either semi-arid or fertile plains irrigated with the Wadi waters. One of the main wadis in the region of Al-Jawf is Al-Kharid Wadi, approximately 60km long and 30km wide embracing vast fruit farms along its banks, and it is historically known as Jawf Valley.

However, there is an historical site of the "Ushaiter" temple, situated some 700 meters east of Al-Sowda'a, which is known today as among the most reputed ancient temples and very accurately decorated construction ever been built by ancient Yemeni architects and artists. A French archaeological expedition discovered it in 1980 in cooperation with Public Corporation of Archeology *Barat and Souq Al-Anan*.

This area is accessible from Al-Harf area via a 65km-long dirt road. It is mountainous and hilly place with a valley adjacent to and connected with the plain areas.

The lifestyle of the population is predominantly nomadic. Some of the villages boast of wonderful architectural style. Outstanding are the villages of Al-Marashi, Rajouza and Souq Al-Anan. The houses of Souq Al-Anan are colorfully decorated on the outside, with ornamental decorations around the windows as well as white gypsum motifs.

Al-Beida'a & Al-Sowda'a Cities

These two cities are located in AL-Masloop province in AL-Jawf. The two cities are twenty kilometers far

from each other and their names are attributed to the color of their stones. AL-Sowda'a, means the black, but its former name was Qarnaw, while AL-Beida'a, means the white named after the color of its snow-white stones.

Both towns are rich with their landmarks, antiquities, archeological pieces and engravings. They are also famous for their unique architecture engrafted with various geometric figures.

Yatheel Town

Yatheel; the archeological town is considered as the first place and phenomenon of the Ma'een density. It was the religious capital of Ma'een dynasty.

It is located about 10 kilometers to the west of Al-Hazm city and it is still keeping its religious features as a religious capital for Ma'een dynasty. A wall, approximately 8 meters high, surrounds Yatheel and it is still in good condition despite the elapse of very many years, including 57 towers and two gates, one on the eastern side and the other on the western side.

Barakesh

It is to the south of AL-Khalak province, about 5 kilometers to the west of the main paved road that links AL-Jawf governorate to Sana'a, the capital, and governorate of Mareb.

The archaeological city of Barakesh

is a majestic fort built on a high hill and surrounded with well-fortified walls that were renewed by the Sabaens in 450 B.C.

A visitor to the city of Barakesh can obviously see the many ancient temples existent there. The most important of which is the Ushaiter temple. However, Barakesh Mosque is also one of the most ancient landmarks in this city and was built by Imam Abdullah Bin Hammzah in 480 A.H.

The main mountains in "Al-Jawf"
Allaudah Mountain:

Allaudh Mountain is situated to the east of Al-Jawf, where there are ancient archaeological sites, and a temple lies at its foot, while the pathway leading to its summit is still existent.

Barat Mountain

It is a high mountain permeated with fertile valleys where various types of fruit are grown, especially figs as well as vineyards. It overlooks the area of Najran to the north and the areas of Khab and the Empty Quarter to the east.

Al-Rayyan Mountain

It is a big mountain on the northeast of Al-Jawf.

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