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YJS elections to be held today

Chaos at journalists' meeting

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Chaos ruled over the Third Conference of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) on Sunday when hundreds of journalists left the meetings in protest.

They left alleging that technical difficulties were intentionally created in the hall's audio system, resulting in the inability to hear the speeches and names of nominees for the elections.

Upon continuous protests, journalists were advised to leave the hall and the session was postponed to the afternoon. Participants were told to go to the Police Academy Hall where the elections would take place.

Elections are to be held today, when two major nominees will be competing for the position of chairman of the YJS: Hamoud Munassar and former chairman Mahboob Ali.

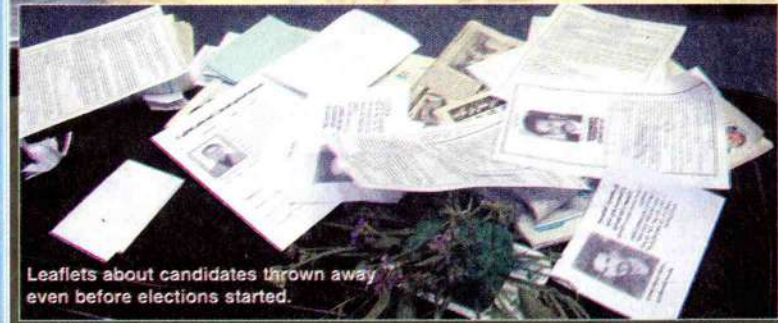
Competition was heated and tense between 106 candidates running for 12 posts representing the union council.

The journalists were supposed to start discussing the general and financial reports represented by the former leadership of the YJS on Saturday afternoon, but that did not take place because there were not enough participants.

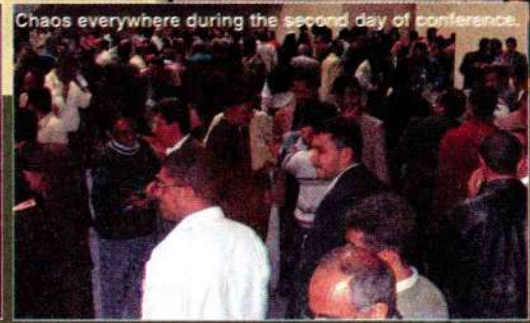
Continued on Page 5



Chaos and disorganization was the main feature of the conference, which is expected to continue today to announce results of elections and present final recommendations. Photos by Yasser Al-Mayyasi. (Yemen Times Photos)



Leaflets about candidates thrown away even before elections started.



Chaos everywhere during the second day of conference.

Present Ethiopian sit-in has been smoldering for years Claims . . . and counterclaims

See related story on P3 "Who is responsible?"

BY JAMIL ABDUL KARIM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As the sit-in by Ethiopian refugees in front of the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) headquarters in Sana'a continues, it's becoming clearer just how much the tension between the two sides has been brewing for years.

The saga started 13 years ago

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when about 940 Ethiopians, comprised of naval officers and their families, defected, leaving what they claim were 14 warships for the Yemeni government after saying goodbye to their war-torn homeland.

The Ethiopians were patrolling in waters near Yemen, at the time, so chose the MidEast country as the country in which to find refuge. That was 1991.

Soon after they arrived in Yemen, the UNHCR, which has a mandate to ensure that basic rights of refugees are met, tried to close the file on the Ethiopians. It began a three-year repatriation program when the fires of Ethiopia's civil war cooled, and human rights improved.

Hundreds of Ethiopians had returned to their home by 1995.

The hope was that those who stayed in Yemen would find steady work, resident visas and work per-

mits, in short a new identity which would give them, in the UNHCR's eyes, the status of legal immigrants.

In an April 4, 1995, memo obtained by The Yemen Times, the UNHCR said that "all material assistance which is not of emergency, life-saving nature, and does not relate to durable solutions (i.e. voluntary repatriation or local integration) will cease by June 30, 1995.

Now it's unclear exactly how many Ethiopians remain in Yemen. But protesters in front of the UNHCR are saying the office has let them down.

They have been left without work permits from Yemen's labour office, and thus have to work illegally, and they also can't travel in the region without proper papers, and they can't practice full freedom of religion, primary Christianity, according to their complaints.

And they get more alarming. In a letter to Yemeni officials, with a copy to the US Embassy, they claim as many as 34 of their friends have disappeared, to their "great concern."

One former naval officer was killed by an axe, and another poisoned, according to the letter, which claims that half of the 71 Ethiopians who have died of the original group of refugees have been buried in Yemen against their will.

Continued on Page 3

Arms smuggling foiled on border

RIYADH, Feb 22 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia foiled an attempt to smuggle in ammunition and explosives from neighbouring Yemen last week, just days after summit talks over a disputed barrier along their porous border, a Saudi newspaper reported on Sunday.

Okaz Daily quoted Saudi security officials as saying the smugglers fled after border guards intercepted them on Friday in a mountainous region of Jizan province. They left 10 "high explosive" bombs and 50 rounds of ammunition, the paper said.

Saudi Arabia, battling a wave of violence blamed on supporters of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, has seized tones of explosives and ammunition in the last year and tightened controls over its desert and mountain borders. But its southern neighbour Yemen complained that a barrier along their joint border violated a treaty establishing a demilitarised zone on both sides of the boundary.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abubakr al-Qirbi said after a two-day summit last week that Saudi Arabia had agreed to dismantle the barrier, which he said stretched for tens of kilometers along the 1,300-km (800-mile) border.

Yemen says the barrier is in parts a raised concrete-filled pipeline and in others a sand barrier.

Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmed bin Abdul-Aziz said after the talks that his country had built "hurdles such as sand dikes" on its side of the border and was discussing construction of similar dikes on the Yemeni side.

Saudi security forces have frequently clashed with smugglers from Yemen — the governor of Jizan said last year that border guards "find an arms haul every hour" — but the dispute over the barrier has put the problem in the spotlight. Saudi officials are likely to point to Friday's night-time arms seizure as proof that its unsealed borders continue to give smugglers the chance to supply militants behind last year's suicide bombing that killed more than 50 people in Riyadh.

A joint statement issued after the Saudi-Yemeni talks said the two sides agreed to patrol jointly the border and set up observation stations to curb smuggling.

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Saleh's visit helps...

Saudi stop wall

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A hot political fuse was doused this week when Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh convinced Saudi Arabian King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz to stop construction of a barrier on the border between their two countries.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, who was part of the Yemeni delegation that went to Riyadh for two days of talks, the Saudi government made the decision to stop building the controversial barrier after both parties agreed to work together to boost border security.

"Saudi Arabia will suspend building barriers," Al-Qirbi told The Yemen Times. "We have also established a committee from both sides which will

be responsible for coordinating the security of the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, making it a joint responsibility from both sides. This will also include the removal of any existing barriers that have already been built."

The combined effort to increase border security will include running joint border patrols, establishing security checkpoints, deciding on where shepherds can pass and putting up observation towers.

The Yemeni government had complained about the construction of the barrier, claiming that it was in violation of the 2000 border agreement. Within the agreement, a demilitarized zone between 5 km to 20 km on both sides of the two countries was established.

According to Al-Qirbi, parts of the barrier that have already been built are

on the Saudi side of the demilitarized zone. He added that the Yemeni government's complaint was not only that the barrier violated the agreement, but Yemen wants to also defend the rights and the way of life of tribes living along the border.

"This area is supposed to be for pasturing," said Al-Qirbi. "That was part of the agreement. The tribesmen have been allowed to cross over from one side to another for pasturing. That is a traditional way of life for tribesmen in that area."

The Minister also said that the barrier has been constructed in different locations along the border, some as concrete-filled pipelines and others as sand barriers.

It is reported that Saudi authorities believe arms involved in suicide bombings last year in Riyadh that killed over

50 people were traced to being smuggled out of Yemen. Arrests and arms seizures are frequent in Saudi Arabia near the border, and the Saudi government has intensified its efforts to clamp down on Islamic militants blamed for terrorist attacks on Saudi soil.

Many believe that Yemen's efforts to hunt down suspected sympathizers of the Al-Qaeda terror network have been successful.

"The Yemeni government has done an excellent job of increasing the security of its country," said one foreign diplomat. "The government has captured some key suspects, it has controlled kidnapping of foreigners and it has shown a deep commitment to continue strengthening security."

Others, however, think that having a major impact on smuggling arms and infiltration along the 1,800 km (1,100-

mile) porous border will be difficult.

"Smuggling is a part of the economic principle of supply and demand," said Al-Qirbi. "No matter what methods you use, like increasing patrols, building barriers, and so forth, it will continue. But it doesn't mean that governments should look the other way. They must confront these challenges and coordinate their activities and try to minimize the flow of arms."

Some have questioned Saudi Arabia's commitment to the agreement since it was not included in an official statement released after the talks. Al-Qirbi said the agreement was finalized and can be found in the minutes of the agreement that include the Ministers of Interior who were responsible for the agreement. It said in the statement that both countries condemn "terror in all its shapes and forms," and both sides have a "determination to confront those who commit terror."

The statement also said, "The two countries affirm their desire to promote their brotherly relations, cooperation and partnership, with the same brotherly spirit reflected in the border pact they signed on June 12, 2000."

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:

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate is holding its elections this week. Do you believe that it will be fair?

- I trust that it will be fair.
- I believe it will be reasonably fair
- I fear it would not be fair.

last edition's question:

Do you believe that the idea to build a fence (or wall) on the Saudi side of the border will indeed help minimize smuggling and infiltrations?

- No, it will definitely fail 63%
- Yes, it definitely will 37%

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Burnt gas lorry blocks highway

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A tank lorry loaded with gas diverted off its path on the highway near bin Ghailan region around 50 km from Sana'a, on route to Mareb last Thursday, and turned over, resulting in a massive explosion and consequent fire, causing the temporary blocking of the highway.

The incident stopped movement between the two governorates for one full day until firemen and facilities could remove the charred vehicle, whose driver was killed.

This is not the first incident of its kind on this highway, as dozens of such lorries move back and forth to transport gas and oil from Safer refineries in Mareb governorate to Sana'a and other cities.

Those lorries are a great threat to the residents of villages and towns on the way, especially when they are not inspected for maintenance, or when their drivers are driving recklessly causing accidents that claim lives, block roads and cause damage.

USA's war on Iraq was for oil - Saleh

DUBAI, Feb 21 (Reuters/YT) - Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Saturday harshly criticized the USA on its war on Iraq and said that it had committed a grave mistake by attacking Iraq with the justification of weapons of mass destruction.

"In my opinion and according to the media, there are no weapons of mass destruction," he said.

As for the real reasons behind the war on Iraq, President Saleh added that the USA "wants to occupy Iraq as its eastern gate to the Arab and Islamic world and to control oil fields in the region and this is the objective of American existence," he asserted to the Al Arabiya satellite television.

President Saleh however defended what he called 'partnership with the USA in the war on terror' saying that the USA's support to Israel and war on Iraq should not be linked to its cooperation with Yemen in combating terror.

Saleh said Yemen would continue to work with Washington in its war on

terrorism, which had hurt his country as well.

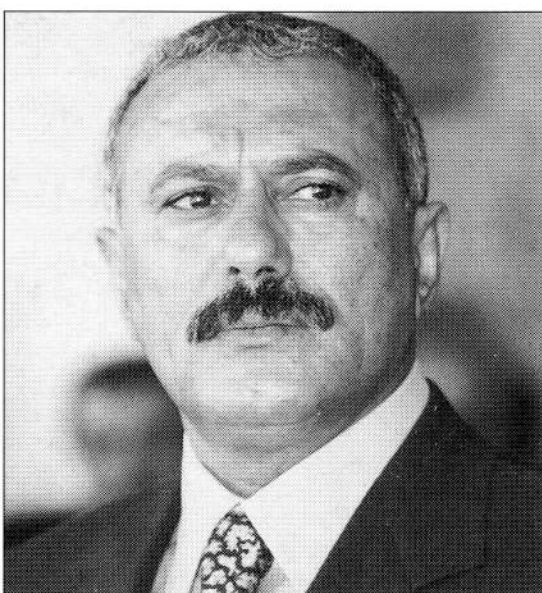
Help from the GCC requested

President Saleh expressed Yemen's interest in joining its oil-rich Gulf Arab neighbors by helping rehabilitate it to join the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"We are sons of this Arabian peninsula. Why not create a fund to prepare Yemen to join the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) so that it too can reach the levels of development that they have reached?" Saleh said.

The six-nation GCC groups Gulf powerhouse Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates - which together command nearly half of the world's oil reserves.

The loose political and economic alliance approved a Yemeni request at a



President Saleh

2002 summit to enter the GCC, but said it must implement economic and security reforms before it can become a

fully fledged member.

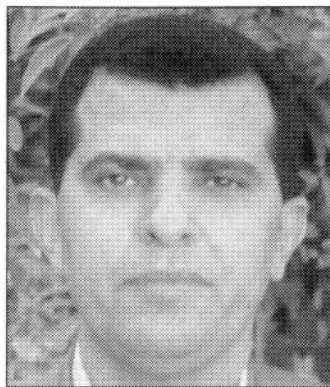
Western diplomats say the UAE and Saudi Arabia are worried about the proliferation of arms in Yemen and its image as a haven for al Qaeda, despite a crackdown on the militant group since the September 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. cities.

He also said he had convinced Saudi Arabia during a recent visit to dismantle a border fence designed to stop arms smuggling because the barrier violated their 2000 treaty.

Saleh said both countries agreed to jointly patrol their border, establish observation stations and create joint security arrangements in areas where infiltration and smuggling could take place.

"All this cements security and prevents smuggling so security becomes joint-security," Saleh said.

Journalist's house broken into



Mr. Sadeq Nasher

An unidentified armed group broke into the house of Yemeni journalist Sadeq Nasher Feb. 19. He was not home at the time.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate issued a statement condemning the attack on the residence of Nasher, who is director of the Emirates Al-Khaleej Newspaper office in Sana'a.

It described it as a terrorist act resembling the law of the jungle, and the group reaffirmed its solidarity and support of Nasher.

Sudanese alliance demands action to release member

The Sudan National Democratic Alliance-Yemen Branch has demanded the release of one of its members, Izzeddin Mahmoud, who is currently held in an immigration authority prison. The organization claimed that Izzeddin cannot be imprisoned as he enjoys the protection of the UNHCR and said that such action is unacceptable and violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"We hold on to our legitimate rights... and demand the human rights activities and countries involved with our case to stop such suspicious phenomena that has been repeated more than once and has once led to the killing of one of our members, Awadh Hassan."

The alliance also called upon the government to carry out the necessary measures to protect the lives of the organization's members and also demanded the resolution of the cases of those Sudanese opposition members whose files are still pending at the UNHCR after their rights were allegedly violated while they were in Sudan.

Yemeni-Saudi tourism company to be established

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Last Friday, a special meeting of Yemeni and Saudi businessmen representing commercial enterprises and banks to discuss the establishment of the Yemeni-Saudi

Company for Tourist Investments. The meeting was also to discuss the preliminary establishment contract and the main system of the company before the official announcement of the establishment of the company.

The official announcement is

expected to take place next month with the presence of Yemeni and Saudi businessmen.

The establishment of the company is viewed as one of the fruits of the joint Yemeni-Saudi tourism investment session held in Jeddah in January last year.

Computer workshop

A special workshop started on Sunday on how to use computers and the Internet for employees of the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

The workshop is being held in cooperation with the Ministry of

Communications and Information Technology.

Sixty participants were in the workshop which will also enable participants to gain knowledge about the use of CDs, and how to set up email accounts.

US helps street kids

The International Program for the Elimination Child Labor (IPEC), with funding from the US Department of Labor, opened a child rehabilitation center for working street children in 2003.

The center is currently training 150 children. Over 1,500 children have participated in the IPEC program.

The center provides back to school services, health programs, and remedial and vocational training for male students.

There is a plan to open such a center for girls in the future.

The center also assists students' siblings by supplying school uniforms, healthcare, and back-to-school supplies.

It employs seven social workers and several teachers and focuses on reducing the number of hours worked by children and returning them to school. There are an estimated 4,000 street kids in Sana'a alone.

Most children in cities work selling products at intersections, and in hotels, restaurants, and vegetable stands.

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Yemen's government... or the UNHCR?

Who is responsible?

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As the public protest of about 200 Ethiopians may hit its third week, questions remain who is ultimately responsible: Yemen's government, or the United Nations?

Sitting in front of the UN High Commission on Refugees building for 12 days, the protesters, living in Yemen for 13 years, are seeking a permanent home.

Their first preference is to be granted citizenship in Yemen and integrated fully into Yemeni society. If this is not a feasible option, they would like to be resettled.

According to refugees involved in the sit-in, it is the responsibility of the UNHCR to speed up the process of being given nationality in Yemen or elsewhere.

"UNHCR is mandated to protect refugees and find a solution for their problems," said refugee, Yassin Mohamed Lejisso. "The responsibility is on the shoulders of UNHCR."

But Saad Al-Attar, Representative of the UNHCR in Yemen, told The Yemen Times that according to the Convention and Protocol established in 1951 by the UN, the UNHCR is a facilitator, offering assistance to host countries and refugees, which means the protesters may be aiming at the wrong target.

"UNHCR's responsibility is clearly defined in the Convention," said Al-Attar. "The responsibility of UNHCR, as the Convention clearly states, is to provide support for the host country and to supervise the host country in carrying out its responsibility. Therefore, the responsibility of providing protection and assistance is with the host country, especially in cases where the host country has signed with the Convention."

He added that since the Yemeni government signed to follow the rules of the Convention in 1980, Yemen is responsible for the refugees camping outside the UNHCR headquarters.

As for gaining citizenship, UNHCR's job is only to encourage the host country to give refugees nationality and full rights, while the decision lies with the host country.

"While we are working with countries that signed the Convention that they should be obliged to give basic rights," said Al-Attar, "we also encourage them to give full rights."

The Ethiopian protesters, who use sleeping bags or bedrolls while sleeping and use a make-shift kitchen for cooking their own food outside the UN building, may find it hard to get citizenship in Yemen or elsewhere, however.

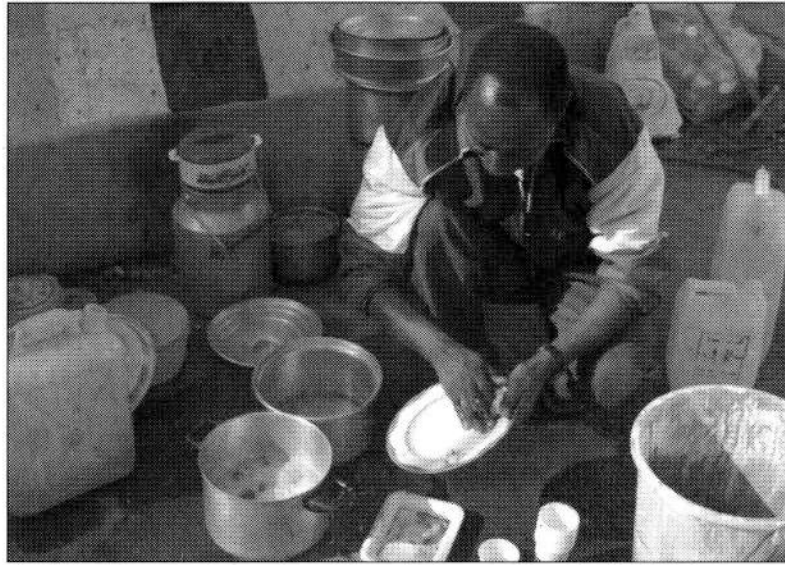
They represent about 550 Ethiopians who were once part of the Ethiopian Navy but defected from their country in 1991 and handed over 14 warships to the Yemeni government when they arrived.

And many countries are cautious giving out citizenship to refugees affiliated with political movements or have an association with the military in their original country.

According to Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, the Yemeni government is doing its best working with the refugees, but it is handling the issue carefully.

"Yemen deals with them as refugees, but given their position, there is some sensitivity between Yemen and Ethiopia," said Al-Qirbi, who heads the ministry that includes the African branch.

He added that Yemen has been regarded as one of the best countries in the Middle East on how it treats refugees, and the Ethiopian refugees have been given attention to make sure



An Ethiopian protester washes dishes at the group's makeshift kitchen. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

they live comfortably and that they have very few restrictions.

"I can only praise Yemen for having accepted the warships and the refugees because there has always been a delicate relationship with Ethiopia," said Al-Attar.

"Many countries would never accept these kind of refugees because it could easily affect the relationship with a neighboring country. And considering the dynamics of security in this region and the dynamics of the relationship between Yemen and Ethiopia, the Yemeni government has not done a bad job dealing with the refugees."

Al-Attar also emphasized that one of the most important goals the UNHCR tries to achieve is for refugees to be granted refugee status and given basic rights and freedom by a host country.

"For refugee status, what the Convention provides is basic rights and freedom, and that is the first obligation of a host country," said Al-Attar. "The basic rights include the right to live, the right to practice one's religion, the right to have a social life and so forth."

He gave credit to the Yemeni government for giving the Ethiopians refugee status and that basic rights and freedom of the refugees have been up to par.

Al-Attar said that if the refugees would like to focus on resettling in another country, UNHCR can offer assistance.

"We will organize meetings for the refugees' representatives and embassies of resettlement countries," said Al-Attar. "If any embassies or countries have an interest in taking them, we will be happy to facilitate and oblige. But UNHCR cannot put pressure on any country to accept any refugees."

Even though it is not clear if a solution

will be found for the plight of the refugees camping outside the UN building, the Ethiopians have planned to continue the sit-in until demands are met.



Some of the protesters, with only sleeping bags for cover. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Continued from page 1

Claims... and counterclaims

"Indeed, we are in a state of apprehension and don't know what will happen to us next," states the letter, which concludes by noting the address of the writers is simply "outside the premise of the UNHCR office."

One specific spark which led to the sit-in was the recent death of an Ethiopian who couldn't get medical help, without its cost of YR 50,000, or \$270. The curable illness led to a seizure which killed him, according to the letter which puts the blame squarely on the shoulders of UNHCR, noting that "the silence of the UNHCR branch office has driven us to despair."

In its defense, the UNHCR wrote to Yemen's Human Rights Minister Amat Al-Aleem Assosah in August 2003 noting that Yemen's government formally recognized the Ethiopian refugees in 1991, which thus limits their role to ensuring the government is providing legal protection according to international standards.

That letter also notes that the UNHCR registered 47,000 Somali refugees from 2002-2003, and "the committee now is discussing the registration of a number of Ethiopian Naval refugees as soon as the final approval of

competent entities in the Yemeni government is issued."

It goes on to say the UNHCR hopes to gain approval of the Yemeni government "to register all refugees registered with the Commission, regardless of their nationalities."

Yet at the same time the UNHCR letter points out that the "refugee" and "re-naturalization" status of some of the Ethiopians is in question, and "this matter makes their recognition or assistance out of the scope of work of this office."

This UNHCR letter to the Human Rights Minister also says that some of the Ethiopians claims and allegations are lies, and when the Ethiopians give false claims in various letters, the letters "are endangering the interest of the country and its international reputation."

That has now caused the Ethiopians to retort in anger, that since a copy of the above UNHCR was sent to Yemen's Political Security Office, lives and safety of the Ethiopians have been all the more in danger.

"The Human Rights Minister understood our suffering, and she contacted the UNHCR. Why did the office then say what it did? That response (copied

to the PSO) has put our lives in danger, because now we're deemed a security threat," former medical cadet Yassin Mohammed told The Times.

Meanwhile, with a make-shift outdoor kitchen, the group of about 200 continue their sit-in in front of the UNHCR office without easy access to necessities like toilets. They also fear that their families - more than 300 Ethiopians who are mainly women and children - are in danger at their homes. It's those families who are bringing food and water to keep the protesters going.

Mohammed says it boils down to racial and religious discrimination. "The Somalis were supported by Arab League to travel, and have residence visas. But our embassy is working against us. We have no residence visas," he said, adding that he knows of Sudanese refugees who have been resettled from Yemen to Australia.

We are not asking to be moved to America or Canada. We're just asking for our rights," added Lt. Adane Belachew, another one of the original naval officers. "It's the responsibility of the UNHCR office to enforce the rules."

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The full Guidelines for Applicants are available for consultation on the following Internet site:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

The deadline for submission of proposals is 6 May 2004 at 16:00 hrs Brussels time.

A presentation meeting will be held at the Taj Sheba Hotel on Saturday February 28th from 10 to 12 am. Representatives of NGOs interested in submitting a proposal are invited. Please confirm your attendance by calling the EC-FSMU-TA (01 239 679).

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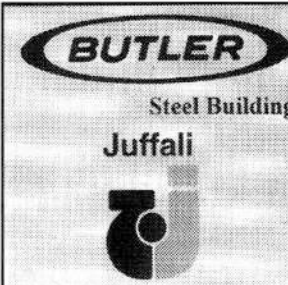
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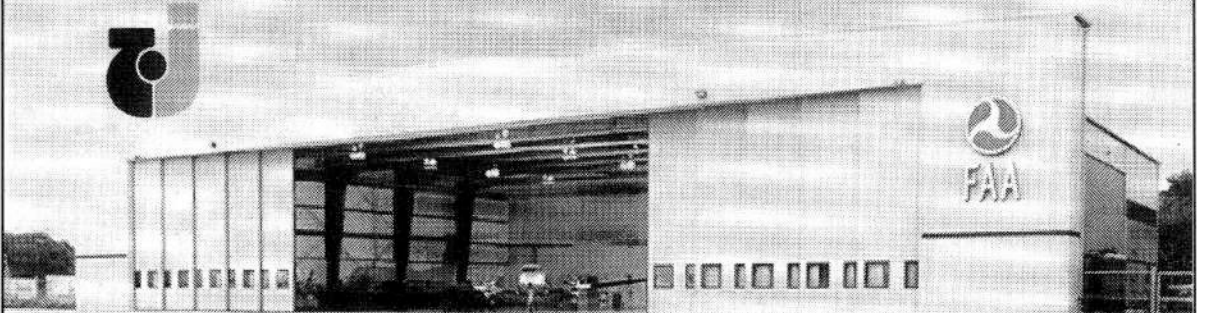
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Two tribesmen were killed and five injured last Wednesday when a tribal conflict broke out between members of Al Shawoon tribe, which is one of the tribes of Obeida of Mareb.

The conflict, which lasted one day was carried out using light and heavy weapons of different types and had women among its injured persons. Mediations are expected to continue to ensure that fighting will not resume between the members, who will probably fall in a cycle of revenge.

Tribal leaders have also expressed their unwillingness to allow security forces to resolve the issue or interfere in any way saying that compensations for casualties will be arranged internally within the tribe.

Some sources in the tribe attribute the cause of the fight to political party-related differences between the fighting sides as they have learned that the two fighting groups belonged to different political parties, mainly the ruling party the GPC and the main opposition party Islah.



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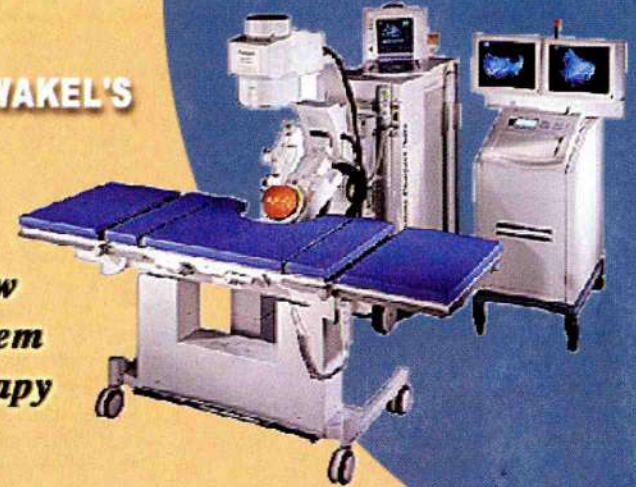


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Sana'a gathering part of it all

Dialogue is key to understanding other cultures

By YASSER AL-MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The issue of cultural dialogue between civilizations and nations has been a major focus recently in many international and regional events including the symposium held in Sanaa last week.

The issue is extremely sensitive and complicated at a time international relations have been damaged tremendously by the implications of 9/11, which triggered in all corners of the earth what has been called the 'War on Terror'.

Intellectuals have tried to come out of this chaos by reminding the world of the need to understand each other and build bridges of respect and appreciation of each other. Calls have increased lately to use the power of logic rather than the logic of power to help identify the problems humanity is facing today and root their causes.

Sana'a symposium

In the symposium on the "Dialogue between Cultures and Civilizations" held by the Yemeni center for studies and research in cooperation with UNESCO, more than 50 foreign, Arab and Yemeni prominent intellectuals discussed issues revolving around 21 working papers focusing on globalization and the means to bring about a better world by dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

The event focused on the need of the West to value and understand Arab culture and its achievements along with the cultures of all nations of the world. One of the themes of the conference was "respecting and understanding others' culture", in the sense that no nation should regard other cultures as less or more important than their own.

Globalization brought openness and this can be positive. However, participants agreed that while opening up to others and trying to learn their cultures is desirable, it is of the utmost importance that one should do this in an environment of mutual respect, tolerance and equality.

James Rawley, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Sana'a, said that dialogue is now one of the priorities of all nations of the world because it opens up the way to understand how different people think of others and helps provides information on how to establish common ground by exchanging visits and ideas. He said that such a symposium is one of many ways that dialogue could be encouraged and extended.

However, Rawley also stressed that the symposium is just one step that should be followed by more efforts to

help understand and exchange cultures of different nations. "Culture is never less important than politics or economics. On the contrary, cultural innovation is in fact a basis of human development and cultural diversity is essential, as is respect for the cultures and traditions of different nations and societies based on tolerance for a world in globalization."

Diversity of cultures is vital

On his part, Abdulaziz Al-Tuwajiri, the General Manager of the Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture emphasized the importance of diversity in cultures amid such difficult global circumstances and supported that with the verse from the Holy Quran, saying that God created people as tribes and nations so that they could know each other.

Al-Tuwajiri reminded us of the fact that Islamic civilization was quite advanced and progressive in a time the rest of the world was in wars and conflicts. "The Islamic world was able to preserve its cultural diversity, which was one of its distinguishing features. There was never any oppression or efforts to impose a culture on another. All cultures were equally respected," he said.

Meanwhile, Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, the Chairman of the Center of Studies and Research, said that the dialogue is between cultures and not between civilizations and noted that question to ask whether there are any civilizations still present today to start dialogue.

He believes the answer to this question is that as the world is struggling under new rules and norms set by a new world order that is based on materialism rather than on values and morals, and such a world does not have a real civilization, and neither does it have its humane values and bases.

"There emerges a difficulty to bring about the notion of 'current civilizations' with the text-book meaning of the word, and hence it is impossible to bring dialogue between in-existent entities," he challenged.

However, he reaffirmed the importance of the dialogue between cultures and said that there are sincere and serious efforts to start a continuous dialogue between cultures to emphasize their importance and prove that they can live each next to the other. "There are efforts to preserve cultures and stop the attempts to control manipulate or distort cultures of the world," Al-Maqaleh said.

"There is nothing more unjust than the popular phrase 'clash of civilizations'" he added, claiming that the meaning of 'clash' cannot be misinterpreted or hidden as it is the clash over narrow self-interests based on the greed to control



Panelists at the Sana'a conference held recently to promote dialogue between cultures.

and dominate the whole planet and hence impose a common culture by destroying and diminishing the individual cultures and ideologies of the world's different nations.

Al-Maqaleh asserted that what is needed today is more cultural dialogue that would express the individuality and diversity of people everywhere and removes hesitance of people of a certain culture and race to interact with the others.

"Dialogue is the way to end conflicts and avoid the accumulation of disagreements between current cultures especially cultures of deep historical roots. Such dialogue should have started a long time back but nevertheless it is still time to build bridges for the sake of humans first and so as not to allow the culture of power and domination to take over using force," he said.

The media's role

Al-Maqaleh went on explaining that such power is resembled in the influence of the corporate media that can brain-wash people's minds and distort the images of other cultures. He implicitly refers to the Western media which painted a dark picture of Arab and Islamic

culture for many decades, bringing the impression that Arabs are merely rich tribesmen living in deserts with a lavish taste in women and food.

"This horrific media machine did not leave anything beautiful without distorting and erasing it and tries to convert normal citizens to a bunch of followers believing all that comes on TV channels or newspapers," he added.

He added that this attempt of the media has contributed negatively to the feelings of Western people towards Arabs, but following 9/11, people have started realizing that they lack the basic knowledge of the 'others' and that the image portrayed in the media is not right.

Michael Hudson of Georgetown University emphasized that attention should not only be given to dialogue with others but also to internal dialogue as Arab governments should allow freedom of expression and thought within their own borders. He also called upon Arab governments to support translators and publishing houses that translate from Arabic to English to help create bridges with the rest of the world.

German initiative on dialogue

Gunter Mulack, Commissioner for

Dialogue with the Islamic World and Intercultural Dialogue at the German Foreign Ministry, also emphasized the important role of dialogue between the Arab world and the West and said that Arab scholars have a major role to play in supporting dialogue with others and that democracy in the Arab world can only come from within.

Mulack indicated that the spirit of democracy exists in the Holy Quran and is supported by Islamic regulations. He also conveyed the German initiative announced by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder that aims at seeking common grounds with the Arab world to achieve steps that would combat political and social challenges facing the world.

Mulack emphasized Germany's intentions to make the Mediterranean area an area of non-conflict and lasting peace.

Sana'a call

The Sana'a symposium focused on various issues that are of grave importance concerning the future of this planet in eliminating reasons of hatred and conflict and establishing a basis of peace and harmony between its societies and people.

The final declaration of the symposium named as "Sana'a Call" indicated the main steps to be taken to achieve greater educational levels among world citizens. It identified the need to spread the principles of tolerance and dialogue in academic curricula based on religious and ethical values through achieving greater levels of exchange of cultural and educational knowledge and translated work between Arab countries and the rest of the world.

Furthermore, the strengthening of cooperation between UNESCO and the Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture will most certainly promote cultural dialogue between cultural, media and educational institutions on both sides.

Among the many recommendations that came out from Sana'a was the need to uproot negative phenomena such as terrorism through dialogue and understanding, which cannot happen unless there is compromise and strong will from all parties involved.

Participants believe that only then will the world be able to get out of its current global crisis.

Palestinian child festival opened

Activities of the 4th Palestinian Child Festival were on 19 Feb. opened at the Cultural Center in Sana'a.

The festival was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in cooperation with the Palestine Women Committee.

The festival included 16 activities reflecting the lives of Palestinian children in their homeland and the trauma that children of war suffer.

Addresses delivered at the

festival expressed the necessity of action to be taken for the support of the Palestinian people and to render

various forms of assistance to them. The festival's opening ceremony was attended by Yemeni Parliament

Speaker Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein al-Ahmar and a number of political parties and organizations.



View of main attendees



Theater play by students

Continued from page 1:

Chaos at journalists' meeting in Sanaa

The syndicate by-law stipulates that the general assembly should meet with a majority of journalists, but only 300 out

of 800 journalists with participation cards attended the afternoon session. The total number of the union members is 986.

That's why the meeting was

delayed to Sunday morning.

Hisham Bashraheel, editor-in-chief of al-Ayyam Daily, announced on Saturday his withdrawal from the election for the chairmanship.

He was presented as the candidate of President Saleh as well as the ruling party.

However, the GPC members in the syndicate refused in a meeting with Secretary-General Dr. Abdulkareem al-Iryani to vote for Bashraheel who, in his letter of withdrawal, harshly criticized the former leadership of the YJS and accused it of corruption and not dealing equally with all journalists and newspapers.

He also said that it has done almost nothing to protect the rights of journalists or improve their professional skills.

Dr. Iryani said that his party should

gain almost seven seats in the syndicate council while four should be given to the opposition, and one to independent candidates.

The contest then focused on the independent candidate Hamoud Munasser, AFP correspondent and the former YJS chairman, Mahboob Ali who has been backed by some figures at the government and the power center.

While Mahbbob presented no written platform, Munasser called himself the "candidate of the profession," focusing on the importance of improving the living standards and professional competence of journalists.

He said he is not representing or backed by any political party, warning against the politicization of NGOs which should work independently and without the influence of any party.

It is the first time journalists were enthusiastic to rebel against the custody of any party. That was very clear in the rush of people to run in the election and their interest to have fair play where everybody was given a chance.

They showed fear that the intervention of the government in directing the syndicate election results would bring about the fall of the union and might bring about divisions.

An hour after supposedly the beginning of the conference's second day, participants started leaving due to poor organizational measures



The PGC decided to have some of his 47 candidates withdraw so that there can be a chance for the others to win.

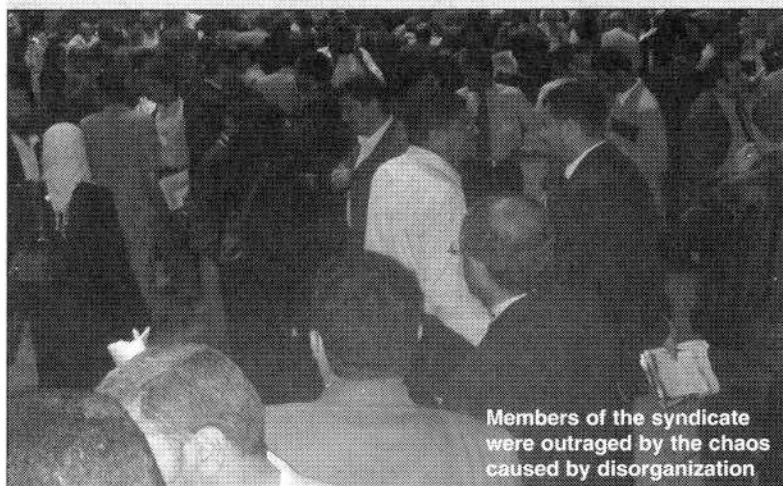
The results of the election are expected to be announced tomorrow, Feb. 24.

The participants were interested that former leaders of the union should be held accountable for any misdeeds or corruption, something made clear through the intensified debate and hard questions put by the general assembly members while discussing the work of the union

throughout the past four years.

Many believed no significant work has been accomplished either in protecting journalists against harassment, or improving their living standards throughout the demand for the issuance of their cadre.

Some candidates reported there has been a drop in press freedom in the last few years, as 38 journalists were interrogated by authorities in 2000-2001. In 2003 there were more than 80 reported cases of violations and harassment against journalists, writers and newspapers.



Members of the syndicate were outraged by the chaos caused by disorganization

Saddam gets Red Cross visit, writes family letter

BAGHDAD, Feb 21 (Reuters) - Red Cross officials visited Saddam Hussein on Saturday for the first time since U.S. forces captured him in December and said they would pass on a letter he wrote for his daughters.

But the International Committee of

the Red Cross (ICRC) declined to give any details on the health or detention conditions of the former Iraqi president in keeping with its usual practice when visiting prisoners.

"He's detained in Iraq," the ICRC's spokesman in neighbouring Jordan,

Muin Kassis, said after the visit by a team that included a doctor and an Arabic speaker.

"(The team) spent enough time with the former Iraqi president where they were able to have a good comprehensive idea about the material conditions of the detention place and also about his health condition," said Kassis.

He said the meeting with Saddam, 66, took place in private and no representative from the U.S.-led administration in Iraq was present.

"We insist on having a meeting in privacy," said Kassis, adding there would be more visits to Saddam but no date had been set for the next one.

SADDAM LETTER

He said Saddam, who has three daughters, wrote to them on a "special form...used everywhere by prisoners of war and detained persons, where the person could write...news to reassure family members of his health condition, of his situation".

"Our delegates will definitely make sure that the family of the former president will receive the Red Cross message as soon as possible," said Kassis.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention covering prisoners of war, which Washington has said applies to Saddam, U.S. forces were obliged to give the ICRC access to the former president.

Saddam has been held by U.S. forces since his widely publicised capture on December 13.

After he was deposed in April in the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Saddam went on the run for eight months before his capture in a pit near his home town of Tikrit.

Despite his capture, U.S.-led forces still face daily and often deadly guerrilla attacks which Washington blames on Saddam supporters and foreign Islamic militants.

Four U.S. soldiers were wounded and their Iraqi translator was killed on Saturday when gunmen ambushed their convoy south of Baghdad, the U.S. army said.

Guerrilla bombings and shootings

have killed 378 U.S. troops since the war that toppled Saddam began in March.

ELECTION DEBATE

Iraq's U.S. governor Paul Bremer suggested in remarks broadcast on Saturday it could take up to 15 months to hold elections, risking a collision course with the country's most powerful religious leader who wants only a brief delay in polls.

A U.S. timetable envisages handing over sovereignty to Iraq by the end of June without full elections being held.

Bremer said in an interview with the Dubai-based Al Arabiya television channel that Iraq needed time to prepare for elections due to technical problems and other issues.

"These technical problems will take time to fix. The U.N. estimates somewhere between a year and 15 months," said Bremer.

"There are real important technical problems...and elections are not possible as (U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan) announced yesterday."

Annan, who sent a fact-finding mission to Iraq this month, has backed the U.S. position that it would not be feasible to hold elections before June 30.

Bush on Saturday reaffirmed U.S. strategic interests in helping Iraq become a sovereign nation.

"The establishment of a free Iraq will be a watershed event in the history of the Middle East, helping to advance the spread of liberty throughout that vital region," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Iraq's top Shi'ite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, widely seen as holding the key to the country's political future, said on Friday any delay in arranging an election "should not last long".

Sistani had demanded direct elections before June 30 but recently agreed that polls required adequate preparations.

Iraq's majority Shi'ites had protested in their tens of thousands in support of Sistani's call for early elections, and they could take to the streets again if he expresses opposition to any of Bremer's decisions.

Iraq-bound Japanese troops arrive in Kuwait



Japanese and international media wait outside of a newly built Japanese military base in Samawa, Feb. 22, as a soldier of the Japanese advanced team stands guard. REUTERS

KUWAIT, Feb 22 (Reuters) - The largest contingent to date of Japanese troops bound for a controversial mission to Iraq arrived in Kuwait on Sunday.

About 140 ground troops arrived at Mubarak air base on their way to Iraq to take part in a humanitarian mission that has been criticised as a violation of Japan's pacifist constitution.

They will join about 100 troops who are constructing a base near Samawa in southern Iraq.

Japan is to send a total of up to 1,000 troops including air force and navy personnel. The dispatch of the troops has divided public opinion and

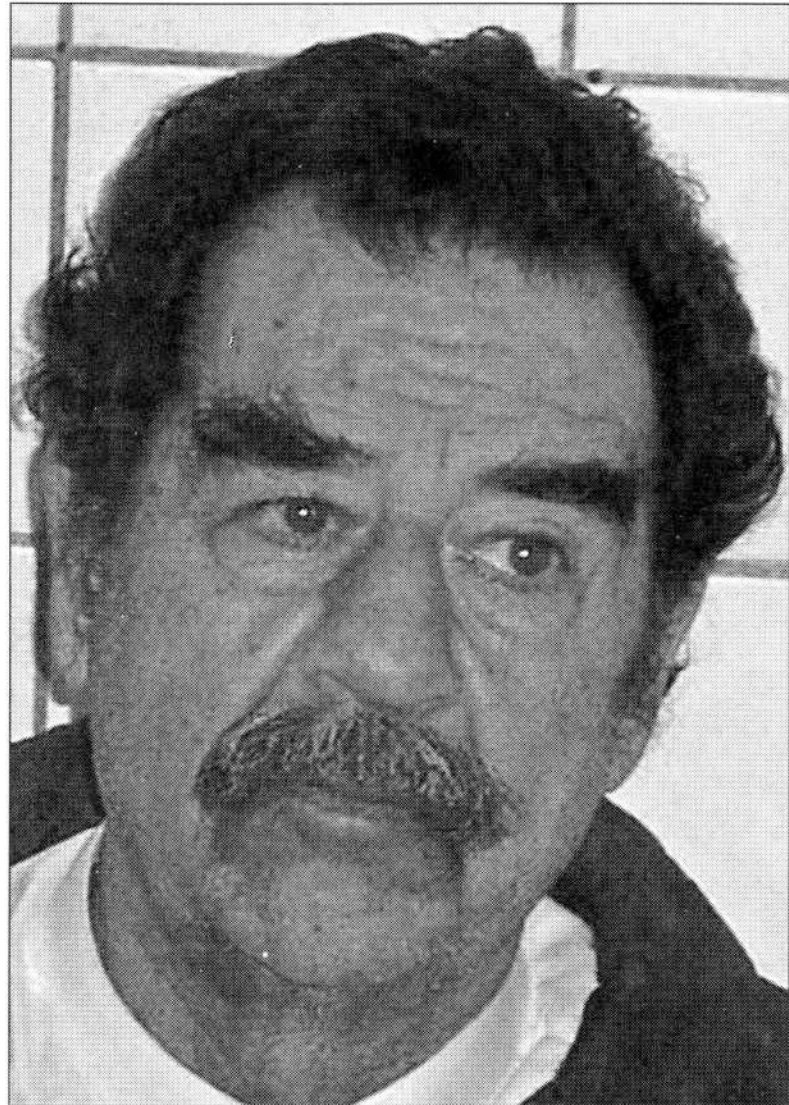
sparked demonstrations.

Under the constitution, its troops have not fired a shot in battle or suffered a casualty abroad since World War Two.

Security was tight in Japan as the troops left the northern island of Hokkaido.

A National Police Agency official said security had been stepped up at key sites around Japan on Friday, including government offices, U.S. bases and nuclear power plants, to guard against a possible terror attack.

Media reports last year said al Qaeda had threatened to "strike at the heart of Tokyo" if Japanese troops entered Iraq.



Undated file picture shows the former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein shortly after he was arrested by the U.S. troops in Iraq. Officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein on Feb. 21, an ICRC spokeswoman said. REUTERS

Jerusalem bus bomb kills at least seven

JERUSALEM, Feb 22 (Reuters) - A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up on a crowded Israeli bus in Jerusalem on Sunday, killing at least seven people on the eve of a World Court hearing on Israel's controversial barrier in the West Bank.

The explosion turned the green Egged number 14 bus into a charred skeleton at a busy intersection near the Inbal Hotel, where leaders of major U.S. Jewish organisations were meeting.

"People were screaming 'mommy, daddy'. There were body parts everywhere including some hands and feet scattered outside the bus," medic Reuven Pohl said.

The World Court starts hearings in The Hague on Monday on the legality of a West Bank barrier that Israel says keeps suicide bombers out, but which Palestinians call a land grab.

The Palestinian militant group al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed responsibility for the bombing in a statement which called the barrier "a Nazi wall which will not stop us attacking".

It named the bomber as Mohammed Zaal, a 23-year-old from a village near the West Bank town of Bethlehem, and said the attack was a reaction to the barrier and to an Israeli army raid that killed 15 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on February 11.

Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy

said the bomber blew up in the middle of the bus during the morning rush hour at the start of the Israeli work week, killing seven people and wounding 60. Police said the bomb was packed with metal shards to make it more deadly.

"If there was a fence around Jerusalem there would not have been an attack today," said Israeli Justice Minister Yosef Lapid.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie condemned the attack but said it showed the barrier would not give Israel security.

A passenger said a security guard from a team meant to prevent bombings got off the stop before the blast.

Palestinian groups have killed hundreds of Israelis in attacks during more than three years of conflict.

A Palestinian suicide bomber last struck in Jerusalem on January 29, killing 11 people on a number 19 bus. Israel has sent the wreckage of that vehicle to The Hague as part of its public relations offensive for the World Court hearings.

BARRIER ON TRIAL

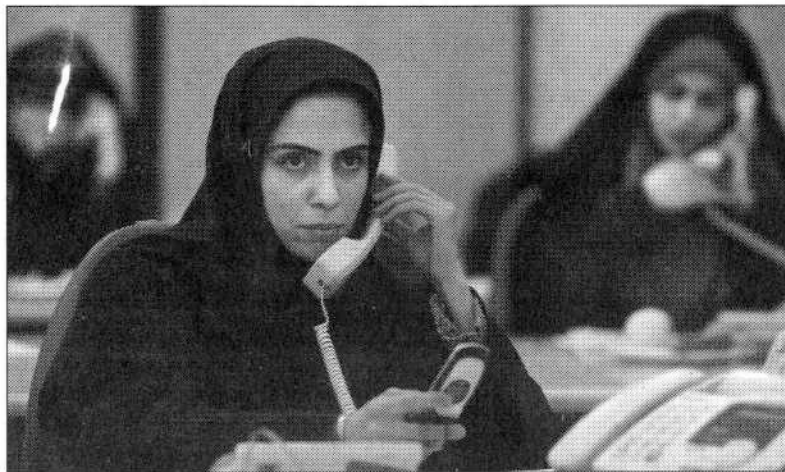
The International Court of Justice in The Hague is due to start three days of hearings on Monday on the legality of the barrier of wire and concrete that Israel is building inside the West Bank.

About 180 km (110 miles) of the planned 728 km (452 miles) has been built. Construction continues near Jerusalem.



Israeli rescue workers carry a body in front of the wreckage of a destroyed bus following an explosion in Jerusalem Feb. 22. REUTERS

Iranian conservatives surge towards election win



Iranian Interior Ministry officials speak on the phone at the election headquarters in Tehran as election results are counted Feb. 21. REUTERS

TEHRAN, Feb 22 (Reuters) - Iranian conservatives surged on Sunday towards victory in an election the nation's Supreme Leader hailed a defeat for the Islamic Republic's arch-foes, the United States and Israel.

Interior Ministry figures showed conservatives, hostile to President Mohammad Khatami's liberal reforms, had won 133 out of the first 192 provincial seats declared, deputy parliament speaker Behzad Nabavi said. A total of 289 seats were at stake.

"The February 20 election, under the bombardment of enemy propaganda, had more importance than voting held under bombardment from Iraq," Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's highest authority, was quoted as saying on television.

"The losers in this election are the United States, Israeli Zionists and the country's enemies," he added.

Reformists won 37 seats, independents 17 and five were reserved for the religious minorities — Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians. In 31 districts where no candidate polled more than

25 percent, there will be a run-off later.

Parliament convenes on Sunday when Iranians will learn whether defeated reformists will go through with their much-vaunted resignations or use their two remaining months in parliament as a platform for speaking out.

No women have been elected so far. There were 13 in the outgoing parliament.

Reformists branded the election rigged and many boycotted it after the unelected hardline Guardian Council banned 2,500 mainly reformist candidates, including 80 sitting deputies, prompting Washington to say the vote was neither free nor fair.

NOT FREE

"Unfortunately, this was not a free election," said Mostafa Tajzadeh, a leader of the main reformist party, the Islamic Iran Participation Front (IIPF), which boycotted the poll.

"Our belief from the outset that the conservatives would win was proved right," he added.

Israel starts dismantling section of W. Bank barrier

BAKA AL-SHARQIYA, West Bank, Feb 22 (Reuters) - Israel began dismantling a small section of its controversial West Bank barrier on Sunday, a day before the World Court opens hearings into the legality of the project.

Civilian work crews using wire cutters cut into an eight-km (five-mile)-long electronic sensor fence separating the Palestinian village of Baka al-Sharqiya from the rest of the West Bank.

Military sources said the work would take less than a week to complete.

Israeli Defence Ministry Director-General Amos Yaron said removing the section of the barrier was unrelated to the court hearings in The Hague

and was planned months in advance.

But Israeli Justice Minister Yosef Lapid acknowledged in a television interview that Israel could reap public opinion benefits from changing the barrier's route, which cuts off Palestinians from their fields, schools and clinics.

The route of the partially constructed barrier, which snakes into the West Bank and is planned to extend for 728 km (452 miles), has come under international criticism, including from the United States — Israel's main ally.

Israel says completed sections of the barrier — a network of razor wire and concrete — are already stopping Palestinian suicide bombers. Palestinians call it a land grab.



Man walking near a concrete wall, part of Israel's security barrier in the city of Baqa el-Gharbiya which separates it from the Israeli city of Baqa el Sharqiya, in the West Bank Feb. 21. Israel will tear down part of its controversial West Bank barrier on the eve of World Court hearings, officials said on Saturday, as Palestinians stepped up protests against the structure of fences and towering walls. REUTERS

Kashmiris use ceasefire to rebuild destruction

ATHMUQAM, Pakistan, Feb 22 (Reuters) - Dozens of boys clamber over the ruined remains of their school, hoping the ceasefire in Kashmir will hold long enough to allow them to rebuild it.

The surrounding houses, a hospital and an administrative centre have been reduced to rubble, the result of intense bouts of shelling by Indian artillery positioned on snow-capped mountains across the valley.

For over a decade the village of Athmuqam has been a target in the low-intensity conflict between India and Pakistan in disputed Kashmir that has flared into two wars and almost ignited a third in 2002.

Local people, accustomed to diving into bunkers and shelters for cover, gave up trying to repair damaged property, so sure were they that it would be flattened again.

That was until a ceasefire was declared in November, raising hopes that tentative peace moves between India and Pakistan might lead to a lasting end to hostilities.

The village hospital is being raised from the rubble, houses have been restored and the religious school where 60 boys study the Koran, eat and sleep is starting to look like a school again.

"The school was destroyed several times, the last time being in 1998," said Mufti Abdul Aziz Kasmi, the bearded 50-year-old principal supervising boys and builders putting it back together.

"It has not been possible to rebuild it until now because of the shelling."

Scenes of destruction are set in idyllic surroundings.

Athmuqam is nestled on the Pakistani side of the Neelum River, which winds between lush green hills

and mountain peaks and is lined by villages of traditional wood and stone houses.

The river forms long stretches of the heavily militarised Line of Control separating Indian and Pakistani forces. At some points, like Chakhoti further south, soldiers stare at the enemy through their sights just 100 metres (yards) away.

Hundreds of civilians have died along the Neelum Valley since 1990. Villagers have been cut off from the outside world for long periods, as the potholed road that runs along Pakistan's side of the river has only recently reopened.

Muslim Kashmiris on either bank of the Neelum's fast-flowing waters often live within a stone's throw of each other, and yet have been unable to meet since partition between India and Pakistan in 1947 and a war for Kashmir that followed soon after.

KASHMIRIS CAUTIOUS
While hopes of peace are high, civilians and soldiers alike are cautious, having seen previous negotiations collapse.

"Our experience of the last 50 years or more gives rise to little hope, but we have to hope," said Sheikh Gheelam Mohammad.

He is one of thousands of Kashmiris who crossed from the Indian side of the Himalayan state to Pakistan-controlled territory in 1948, citing Indian repression and persecution of Muslims as the reason.

He has been back to see relatives he left behind just once in the last 56 years. Speaking in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, the 72-year-old said his sister died two months ago in India's side of the state.

Mohammad Rafiq, a student at the school in Athmuqam, 80 km (50

miles) northeast of Muzaffarabad, lost a 15-year-old brother two years ago when Indian forces shelled a nearby village.

"He was wounded and taken to a military hospital where I last saw him. But he was already unconscious. I never got a chance to talk to him that day," said the eight-year-old, surrounded by grubby-faced classmates wearing white skullcaps.

Two of them showed their scars from flying shrapnel; one boy lost part of his ear and the side of his face was badly scarred, and another had deep gashes in his lower leg.

People in mainly Muslim Kashmir do not expect a settlement of the key issue of sovereignty over the region for years.

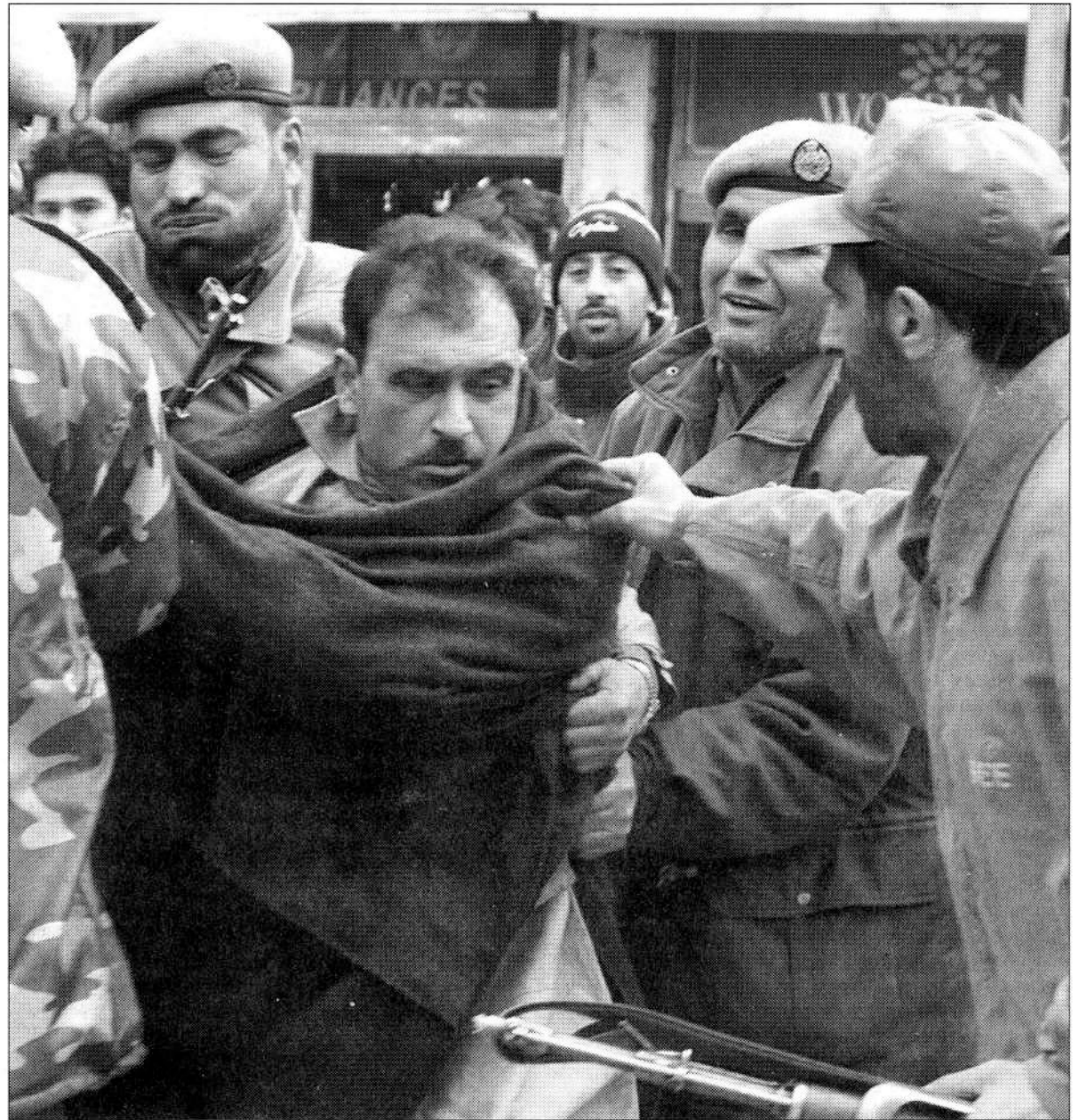
But they want more "confidence-building measures", including a bus service linking the two sides of the divide and the release of prisoners jailed for taking part in an insurgency in Indian Kashmir that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since 1989.

Pakistan is accused of aiding the rebellion, although a crackdown on Islamic militants appears to have slowed the number of rebels crossing the Line of Control to join the uprising.

Over half a century of separation, violence and emotive rhetoric from the two governments have left people on both sides of Kashmir weary, and in many cases bitter.

In Athmuqam, Shakur wants revenge after his father was killed in an artillery attack just a month before the ceasefire as he walked from his home.

"If I had the chance I would take my revenge," said the labourer, who is 22. "Hopefully that chance will come."



Indian policemen detain Mohammed Ahsan Antoo, leader of a Kashmiri human rights group, as he tried to immolate himself during a protest in Srinagar Feb. 21. REUTERS

U.S., Asia gear up for North Korea talks

SEOUL, Feb 22 (Reuters) - The United States and key Northeast Asian security partners geared up on Sunday for crucial six-party talks to try to halt North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions.

U.S. and Japanese delegations were due in South Korea for final policy coordination among the allies before they join counterparts from North Korea, China and Russia in Beijing on February 25 to open a second round of six-country negotiations.

Analysts hold low expectations for the talks because of the near complete absence of trust between the United States and communist North Korea, the chief protagonists in a dispute that has stoked regional tensions since October 2002.

But host China has sounded broadly upbeat, and reports from regional capitals suggest that, despite public denials, North Korea appears prepared to discuss a suspected uranium enrichment programme that its partners say is the crux of the dispute.

Washington, Tokyo and Seoul have made it clear to Pyongyang that talks in the Chinese capital must cover not only North Korea's plutonium-based nuclear arms programme, but a second suspected bomb-making scheme based on highly enriched uranium.

"They are talking about a 'freeze', but what we are interested in is the content," Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi said on a television talk

show in Tokyo on Sunday.

"Is it just plutonium or does it include enriched uranium?," she asked.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon told reporters during a visit to Saudi Arabia that step one in a phased solution of the crisis required the North to freeze and agree to dismantle all nuclear programmes subject to inspections.

North Korea proposed last month to freeze its nuclear activities in exchange for energy aid and diplomatic rewards. But the offer apparently covered only its plutonium-based nuclear programme, centred on a reactor and reprocessing facilities.

BEHIND DENIALS, MOVEMENT?

Pyeongyang has denied having a programme for enriching uranium. On Saturday, it said Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan's admission that he sold nuclear secrets to Pyongyang are part of a "whopping lie" fabricated by U.S. neoconservatives.

"The U.S. smear campaign once again forced the army and the people of (North Korea) to keenly realise what a just measure it took to build a nuclear deterrent force for self-defence by its own efforts," said the North's official KCNA news agency.

The United States says North Korean officials acknowledged the covert uranium programme in October 2002 when confronted with evidence presented by U.S. officials, and only

later denied it in the face of international criticism.

Despite the tough public posture, there are increasing signs that North Korea may be willing to address the uranium issue.

Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted sources in Beijing close to the six-way talks as saying that North Korea's chief negotiator, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye-gwan, had showed understanding of "the need to eliminate suspicions" by covering the topic in Beijing. It said Kim might propose inspections for verification.

"The public denials are no longer plausible, so there has to be some recognition or some movement on (uranium)," said Daniel Pinkston, a North Korea expert at the Monterey Institute's Center for Non-Proliferation Studies in California.

"Without that it will be a non-starter on the U.S. side."

U.S. officials say their basic aim is to have Pyongyang commit by the end of this round to dismantling any nuclear arms programmes. Washington has offered then to lay out in detail how it could guarantee not to attack the state President George W. Bush called part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and pre-war Iraq.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said he wanted to formalise the talks process, with "working groups created that could stay in more regular session with each other".

Zimbabwe opposition leader attacked in car

HARARE, Feb 22 (Reuters)- Zimbabwe's opposition leader was attacked on Saturday while travelling by car to his rural home, a spokesman for his party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), said on Sunday.

"On his way to his rural home in Buhera, Mr Tsvangirai stopped ... and

his convoy was attacked," MDC spokesman Paul Themba Nyathi told Reuters. Buhera is about 220 kms (140 miles) southeast of the capital Harare.

"I don't have any specific details. If they proceeded to the rural home it could mean no one was injured, but it also means that we cannot get hold of them on the phone," Nyathi added.

He said another traveller in Tsvangirai's convoy had reported the attack by mobile phone but the connection was lost and Nyathi had been unable to contact the group again.

Tsvangirai is on trial for treason, charged with trying to assassinate President Robert Mugabe. He denies the charges.

Arabic/English Translator required

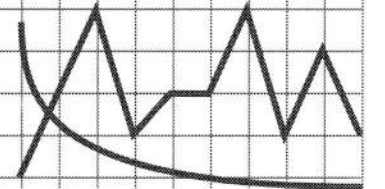
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YT Business



Private sector needs to help

Lack of power hurts rural Yemen

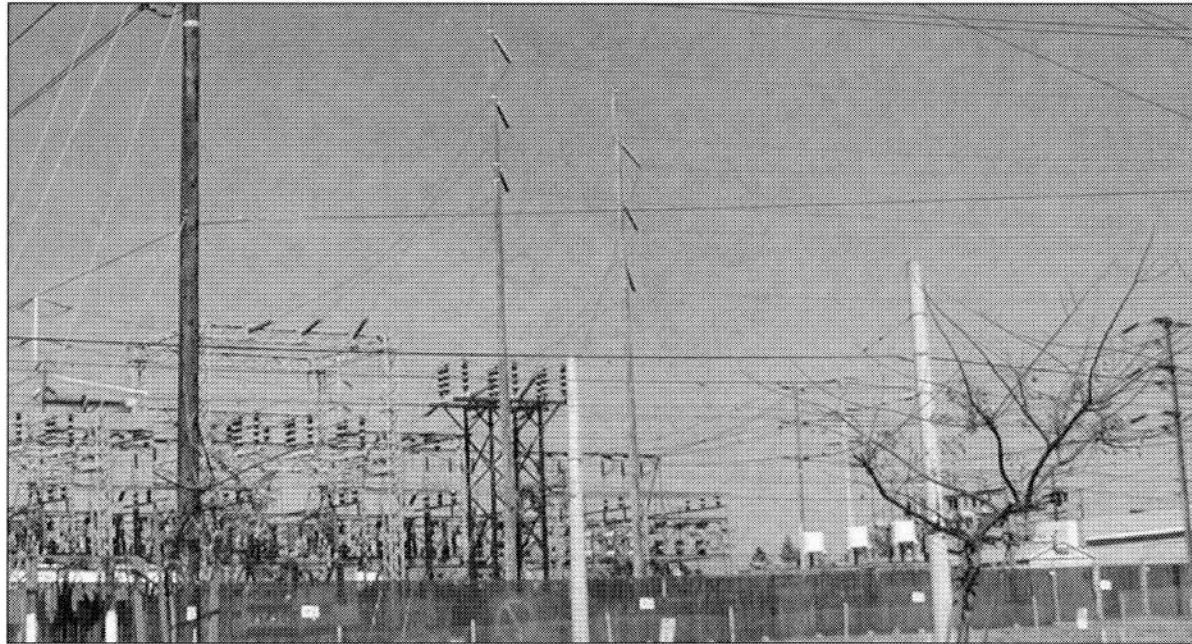


BY MAHYOUB
AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Official sources have estimated the proportion of those deprived of electric power in Yemen at around 62% of the entire people of 18 million and most of this proportion lives in mountainous villages and remote rugged areas distributed over all the governorates.

A report by the ministry of electricity mentions that the number of villages that electricity services have not reached them up to now is estimated at 100,000 and this impedes social and economic development in the Yemeni countryside and redoubles the proportion of people migration from the countryside to the cities.

The ministry confirmed that most part of this problem needs large amounts of funding in case the remote villages were to be connected to the existing electric networks or those under construction. Therefore the ministry of electricity is preparing a national plan for extending power service to the Yemeni countryside within a strategy for providing power to the countryside.



A Yemeni power station.

The state plan for fighting poverty in the Yemeni countryside includes involvement of local and international establishments and organizations in adopting programs and projects including provision of support for sustainable power.

The ministry is encouraging the private sector to invest in alternative projects such as the renewable energy among which the solar energy and

winds and the ministry has embarked on appropriation of annual allocations for beginning with the new and renewable energy in the frame of the general project expected to be financed by the German government and contribution of the UN Development Program.

The Solar company has lately opened in Sana'a a factory for making solar-powered heaters which would help provide solar system heating

appliances and to protect the environment through dispensing with burning organic materials and oils for generating electric power.

Studies have confirmed the avail of depending on technology of the new and renewable power for reducing the pressure on electric power generating stations and for extending electric power services to the remote areas in all Yemeni governorates.

Workers start training

Yemen's second census is coming

Two hundred persons, including 23 supervisors and 188 heads of teams, got training on how to help implement the census scheduled in Yemen during the year 2004.

Participants in the training course, held at the Central Apparatus for Statistics in Sana'a, acquired skills on how to apply the paper punching process, administrative and census divisions, and tables and maps and basics for defining blocks.

This is the first stage of the second census of the Yemeni republic's population, intended to be carried out using modern means. The operation will start with punching information on the main cities and towns and big villages.

The deputy prime minister, the minister of planning and international cooperation Ahmed Soufan presented a list of the needs of the Central Apparatus for Statistics to development partners who promised to study and determine the contribution of each of them for supporting success of the census in Yemen. The census comes amidst indications showing the widening of the gap between the status of women in the workforce compared to that of men.

Studies show that Yemen's population increases at a rate of one million people every 18 months, whereas deaths among infants and children

under the age of five years, and their mothers during birth, reaches the highest proportion of what is known in the world.

The expected age of the individual is 58 years. As for children malnutrition it has reached a rate of 46% for children less than five years.

Studies also indicate the decline in forms of population services in health, education and employment areas, in addition to negative impact resulting from environment, shortage of waters, expansion of desertification area and drop in the effect of development efforts exerted due to the big increase in the rates of population growth.

For these reasons, the studies recommend upgrading the level of Yemeni woman in economic and social fields, and making real changes in rates of economic growth.

Specialists confirm that the goals mentioned about population policy for the period 2001 to 2025 focus on the realization of quantitative targets, without taking into account the quantitative dimension, and did not include setting up mechanisms practical enough to accomplish positive growth levels.

Thus the next census should be more accurate and clearer in order to come out with a new population policy treating the existing situations and realizing sustainable development in the future.

Now financing 40 projects

EU is a steady support in Yemen

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni-European relations continue to move towards cooperation in trade and economic interests. In fact, the countries of the European Union are considered the most important partners of development in Yemen.

The EU is presently financing around 40 projects and programs of development in Yemen including areas of economic, and food security, development projects, support for non-governmental organizations, and help to the government in its national strategy for fighting poverty.

Among the projects financed by the European Union is the EUR 7 million worth project of enhancing priorities of vocational training in Yemen, which is about to be finished.

The EU also is funding an irrigation project, now under construction in Tuhama at a cost of EUR 7.3 million, and another project for qualification of waters infrastructure at a cost of EUR

6.6 million, expected to be finished at the end of next year.

The European High Commission has defined the areas of cooperation and support for Yemen within the frame of bilateral partnership during the years 2002-2004 at an amount ranging between EUR 61 to EUR 70 million, distributed on the sector of health and population, projects of the Social Fund for Development, development of economic institutions and the program of supporting democracy and human rights.

Assistance & grants

In translation and implementation of these special relations between Yemen and the European Union, the total amount of grants and assistance offered by the European Union to Yemen during the period 1998 to 2001 was about EUR 134 million, that included the fields of fish wealth with EUR 17 million, waters and sewage EUR 7 million, food security EUR 45 million, human development EUR 25 million, education EUR 2.5 million, and the local governance EUR 7 million, totaling EUR

133.5 million.

The total value of undertakings offered to Yemen by the European Union and the European Community during the years 1997-2001 amounted to EUR 237.5 million. Moreover, the Yemeni-European relations are witnessing steady development and tangible growth in the area of trade exchange.

Since the year 1990 the European Union has been assisting Yemen government in the preparation of a food security strategy that has included the assistance of productive families, supporting agricultural production, upgrading efficiency of the use of waters and diversifying exports.

The EU has allocated an amount of 11 million euros for the support of food security program during the current year 2004 and the year 2005. The EU had in the period 2001-2002 had offered EUR 23 million and EUR 34 million in the period 1996-1998 for the same purposes.

In the health field

The EU has earmarked EUR 15 million for the three coming years to

finance small health projects, in addition to supporting activities of non-governmental organizations in this field.

In 2001 the European Commission offered to Yemen 7.6 million euros to support a project for reforming the health sector. The project is presently under implementation and expected to be finished in 2005. The project aims at development of health services in the districts, involvement of information system at the central level and the sector of health services at the districts and provinces capitals.

Precepts of partnership

The Yemeni-European cooperation proceeds from strategic bases essentially concentrated from the EU vision of the democratic and social movement at the Yemeni political arena and respect to democracy, human rights, political multiparty system, and involvement of the people in the parliamentary and presidential elections and administration of the local authority.

Since 22 May 1990, then Yemeni-European relations have witnessed steady and progressive growth after

Yemen has inaugurated a new stage of institutional structure, financial and administrative reform, and the economic and political build up. That had created an impression at the European Union that has given it attention to supporting the emerging democratic experiment in Yemen.

The European support was culminated with signing a cooperation agreement between the two parties on 25 October 1997 at the building of the Ministerial Council of the Union in Brussels.

The agreement had laid new foundations for bilateral cooperation in economic, trade and human development areas. The visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the European Union headquarters in 2000 resulted in outcomes enhancing development process of the Yemeni European relations through granting Yemen membership to the Barcelona mechanism for cooperation between Yemen and the European countries in various fields.

Finally it can be ascertained that the Yemeni European relations have entered an effective and developed

stage of partnership allowing the opening of spacious horizons for stabilization bilateral relations and expanding them in a manner helping the laying of pillars of better future joint cooperation.

Exchange Rare for the Yemeni Rail

as of February 21

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.2700	154.5600
Sterling Pound	352.1200	352.6800
Euro	237.5000	237.8700
Saudi Rial	49.1400	49.2100
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.4900	626.4800
UAE Dirhem	50.1700	50.2500
Egyptian Pound	30.0700	30.1100
Bahraini Dinar	488.7800	489.5500
Qatari Rial	50.6100	50.6900
Jordanian Dinar	260.0700	260.4800
Omani Rial	478.6400	479.4000
Swiss Franc	150.8400	151.0800
Swedish Crown	25.8600	25.9000
Japanese Yen	1.7453	1.7481

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



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Mohammed A. Jumaan Corp., Training course on Tohatsu engines in Aden



The training course organised by **Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan Corporation** at its Aden branch on 15-17 February with the participation of the Ministry of Fish Wealth, Fishermen Society and Federation of Fishermen on **Tohatsu** engines was concluded on 17 February 2004. More than fifty trainees from Aden, Hodeidah, Hadramout, Lahj, and Abyan had over three days listened to theoretical and applied lectures on the use and maintenance of Tohatsu Southboards sea engines delivered by Japanese experts came from Japan.

The training course on its first day began with welcoming the Japanese experts and introducing them to the participants in the course. The Japanese experts were:

- 1- **Mr. Masahito Kurai**- Managing Director, Solid Company.
- 2- **Mr. Takaya Kanaoka**- manager marine service Sec. Mates Dept. Tohatsu Corporation
- 3- **Mr. Kenji Shimamura**- Overseas Section Marine Sales Dept. Tohatsu.

The Japanese experts started giving the theoretical lecture by reviewing the quality of the Tohatsu engines, their use and how they operate and there was a detailed explanation on their various sizes, their distinguished power, durability

and long service. The experts had also pointed out in their lectures to the way of installing the engines on boats and their maintenance regularly and professionally. At the end of the lecture discussion was open for the participants during which the experts answered all the questions put forward by the trainees.

The first day of the course lecture focused on the theoretical aspect and then they moved, accompanied by trainees, to the site of practical lectures on the shore to see the process of installation of a 3-cylinder engines as a practical application on the ground.

On the second day the trainees were given several applications on the shores of Amran and Ras Marbat where they applied what they had theoretically lectured on the first day of the course. The practical training included hoe to use tools related to the Tohatsu engines and application of some methods of maintenance as well as answers by the Japanese experts to questions raised by trainees.

On the third day of the course the trainees received practical applications on centrifugal fans, the way of fitting them, their periodical maintenance and diagnosing failure and how to fix it.

The training course was concluded successfully. Trainees participating in the course received certifi-



Mr Amin Jumaan



Mr. Masahito Kurai



Mr. Takaya Kanaoka



Mr. Kenji Shimamura

icates distributed to them by **Mr Amin Jumaan**, general manager of Jumaan Corporation and **Mr Masahito Kurai** at a ceremony held at the Corporation's Aden branch.

In an exclusive statement, the general manager of Jumaan Corporation **Mr Amin Jumaan** expressed his gratitude to all who contributed to making success of the raining course, adding that the goal of holding such training courses was to give knowledge about the Japanese Tohatsu engines. The Japanese experts who were delegated by the factory had given detailed and full explanation about the engines and how to operate and maintain them. Mr Amin indicated

that the participants attending the course came from various institutions having relation to using those engines as well as the participation of a number of persons from the ministry of Fish Wealth and the fishermen society, clarifying that the Tohatsu company is a deep-rooted one in the manufacturing of sea engines and " we at Jumaan Corporation are the sole agents of the company in Yemen. We managed to find a good market for those engines in Yemen because of their specifications of strength and manufacturing quality and the good reputation those engines have among fishermen." Mr Amin also indicated that the holding of such courses



Mr Jumaan with Japanese experts at his office

would continue and to be held in all governorates of the republic with the aim of marketing and spread of these engines, as " we have noticed an increased demand for Tohatsu engines," he said. Fifteen engines and fishing boats, owned to the ministry fish wealth, had been inaugurated during the training course, and this is the second batch of engines imported for the ministry. In 2003 the ministry received 300 Tohatsu engines. Mr Amin Jumaan concluded by saying the courses would qualify engineers and providing fishermen information on how to deal with these engines.

Mr Masahito Kurai expressed on his part his happiness and gratitude for the welcome and hospitality they received from the Corporation, saying we are delegated by the Tohatsu company to attend this training course and present all information on the engines and their maintenance. Mr Kurai said " We are happy to deal with Jumaan

on the engines and their distinguished specifications. " We have given, during the training course organised by our representatives in Yemen, the Jumaan Corporation, theoretical and practical lectures about these engines." he said. He concluded by offering the thanks and gratitude on behalf of he Japanese team for the excellent organisation and preparation for their visit to Jumaan Corporation.

A number of trainees and participants have also talked about the event.

Mr A'ref Salem from Administration of Fish Cooperative, the office of the ministry of Fish Wealth in Aden said the training course was successful. He said " We have sent a number of engineers and fishermen to the training

course on organised by Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan Corporation on sea engines, Tohatsu brand, where there has been an excellent benefit regarding the technical aspects of the engines, the practical lessons and the theoretical explanation presented by the Japanese experts. There was also the operation of those engines at the shores of Amran, Ras Amran and Aden, which was successful and excellent trial.

This has depicted the excellent image among the participants in the course and other attendants who have strongly praised the quality of the engines."



Trainees receiving lectures.



Some of the course attendants.



Japanese experts presenting theory.



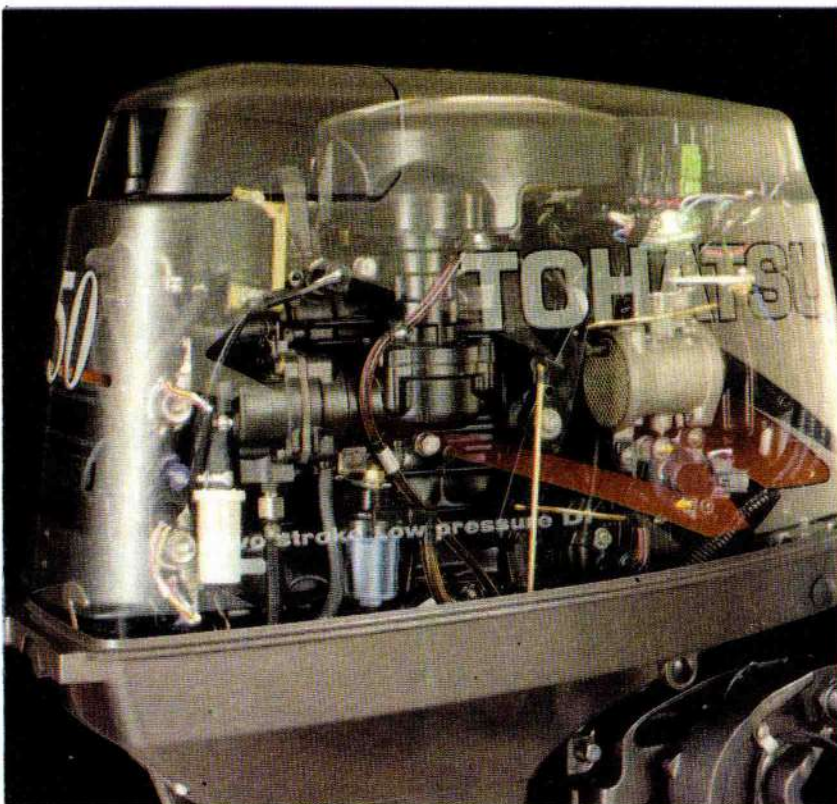
Practical application at the course.



orporation over the past seven years and we have trading relations with them as they are representatives of the company in Yemen." He added " We know there is competition in Yemen by other companies making such engines but the Tohatsu engines could receive satisfaction of our agents in Yemen as they are characterized by strength and quality of manufacturing. " He indicated that their attending here was mainly for offering information

One of the participants in the course, **engineer Mohammed Ahmed Ubaid** said they had focused in the course on training and qualification aspect and that they had benefited much from information on the sea engines, adding they had received detailed explanation on functions of each piece of the engine, the way of its operation and the methods of installation, maintenance and fixing failure to avoid it as well as their gain from the Japanese expertise.

Director of Human Resources at the Jumaan Corporation **Mr Abdulbasit al-Saeedi** said, "The three-day course was intensive and during which there were many questions and queries aroused by the participants. The Japanese delegated by the Tohatsu company for manufacturing the engines had delivered practical and theoretical lectures on the operation of the engines and methods of maintenance and also there was an inauguration of some boats after being fitted with engines and there experimentation in operating them, all of which were successful." Mr al-Saeedi also said that the Jumaan corpora-



tion also provides these engines, their genuine spare parts and special workshops managed by specialized experts.

Mr Abdulbasit added that the Jumaan Corporation was interested in qualification and training

human cadres and holding many training courses in a number of governorates in Yemen and that this course was one of them.

Accountancy director at Aden branch of Jumaan Corporation **Mr Shafer al-Athwari** said "The par-

ticipants and trainees have come out with good image and benefited much. Priorities of Jumaan Corporation are training and qualification of human resources and the lectures and practical experimentation dealt with installation of engines, fixing failures, fitting propellers and the duration of engines work per day in addition to dismantling and composing in scientific methods offered by the Japanese experts."

The participants in the course have expressed their happiness for the advantages and the information they got during the three-day course where there were intensive theoretical and practical lectures on the Japanese Tohatsu engines that are known for their high quality and economy in the use of fuel. The also expressed their gratitude to the Corporation of Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan for organizing the course and the support it had offered to fishermen and operators of those engines.

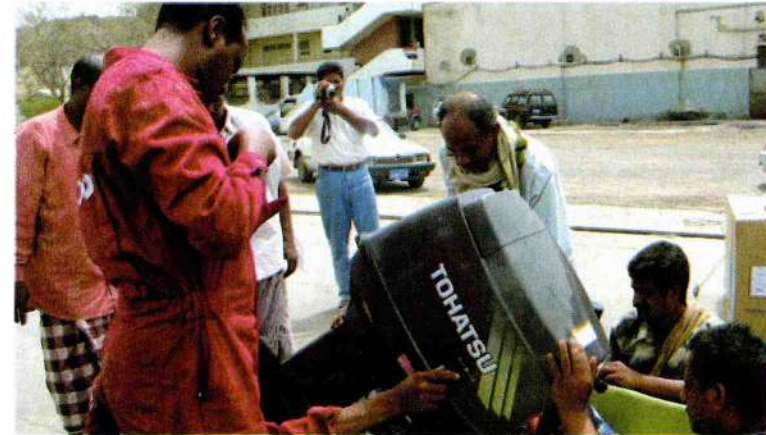
The delegation had also visited the governorate of Hadramout on Wednesday 18 February and visited the Fishermen society in the city of Mukalla.



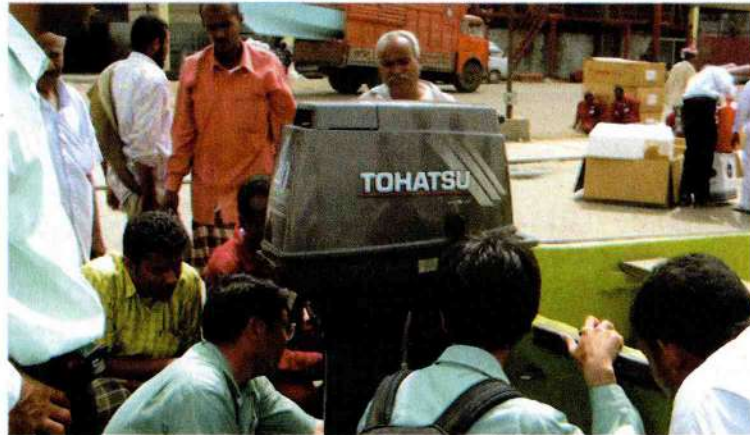
Group photo of trainees.



A luncheon party.



Installation of a Tohatsu sea engine.



Practical training for trainees at the course.



Group photo of the trainees at the corporation headquarters in Aden.



During experimenting one of the engines for the trainees.



Installation of a Tohatsu engine.



A group photo of the trainees on the shore.



Certificates are given to trainees who successfully completed their training.



Landing a boat fitted with an engine at sea



Brief account on the Corporation

The Beginning

The Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan Corporation was established in 1958 by the individual effort of Mr Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan who managed by his totally dedicated and creative work to raise this name to the outstanding commercial and industrial level, which had and still occupying a high economic position in Yemen, along with his partners in all the countries with whom he has distinguished commercial relations such as Japan, China, Britain, Germany, France, Korea, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Russia, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt.

The Corporation has passed at many stages. The

beginning was in Aden in the sixties when it was its successful and prosperous start, then in the nineties the Corporation moved to Sana'a to be as the main headquarters practicing its activities and expanding to the rest of the republic's governorates. It has managed to achieve great successes through its direct contributions to providing the Yemeni market with large proportion of its needs of capitalist and agricultural goods at that time which was then considered important infrastructures in the economic development of the country and that had developed its annual sales.

The Corporation Objectives

The Corporation aims at providing its customers;

individuals, private companies and government institutions, with goods, materials and relevant services for effective contributing to realising Yemen's economic development plans with competitive strategies stemming from social and moral sense of responsibility of its founder.

Corporation's Activities

The Corporation works for achieving its goals through the activities of importation and marketing the following goods:

(agricultural equipment of diesel engines, water-pumps and supplies, electric generators of all capacities, construction equipment, forklift trucks, road

building machines, motorcycles, all types of trucks, naval engines and fishing equipment and medical supplies) In addition, the Corporation offers after-sale services of the goods imported by it such as installation, operation, training and maintenance.

Our Quality policy

The Mohammed Ahmed Jumaan Corporation is committed to achieve satisfaction of our customers and providing with goods, materials and services that met their present and future requirements. Quality is an essence in our work as we firmly believe it is the way to guarantee future and prosperity of the Corporation.



At a big celebration at Samir Amis International Hotel in Cairo – Egypt, attended by many diplomats, economists, journalists, media people, and Arab businessmen, the international golden cavalier prize for 2003, organized by the international public opinion house, was awarded for:

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Jumaan

MAJ chairman / executive manager

In appreciation of his role in establishing economic, investment and educational projects, community services, as a prominent figure for 2003 superiority and leadership.

The annual ceremony is held in recognition of Arab personnel figures working in culture, journalism, arts, science, economics, industry and investment fields and Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Jumaan has been hand-picked from tens of economists.



MAJ's board of directors, its General Manager and all its staff present their congratulations and sincere wishes to their mentor;

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Jumaan,
wishing him to reap more and more honorary awards.

Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator. The children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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

OUR OPINION

A little humble pie?

There is some sort of attribute that I noticed in most, not all, ministers and top officials in Yemen, and that is lack of humbleness. One remembers their politeness, openness, and friendliness when they used to be 'regular citizens,' but when they were given such a prestigious position, they suddenly became awkward to deal with, arrogant, unfriendly, and in some extreme cases, aggressive.

There is a well-known Arab proverb saying that "Whoever is at top will not last there, and so will those at the bottom." It is pitiful to see that power not only corrupts in terms of money and wealth, but also corrupts in term of attitude and morals. I have heard this proverb spoken out by a citizen who apparently didn't have enough money and connections to reach the minister with his application. "I urge God to take my revenge," he shouted while virtually being kicked out by guards.

In my opinion, part of our misery is due to this problem. The arrogant behavior of our officials causes a widening gap between them and the people, which directly influences all our country's efforts towards achieving greater development.

This should not be the case. As a matter of fact, persons who reach to high ranking positions should — different to what is happening now — be more polite, open, and friendly because now they are seen as an example for others to follow.

I remember reading one of the diaries of a president of a state saying, "I know I have been oppressive and mighty. I know I was unjust and cruel. But people around me used to smile and express delight. I know they were lying as they hated me more than anyone else. I wonder how they would have felt if I were good."

Too bad that many leaders think of being good examples to follow in terms of respect, politeness, humble attitude, and other positive individual features that create a good person before a good president. That is why many ministers blame their leaders for the way they are acting.

Our president is our leader, and if he acts in a negative way, he serves as an example to all others. It can even be a justification for acting cruelly if the head of state is doing so.

What I intend to say through this column is that power and wealth come and go, but good deeds, humbleness, politeness and kindness to others will always stay.

I hope our officials listen to this message, as any reform for the sake of the country, should start from within one's self.

Then other things will come naturally

The Editor

Yemeni Americans learn to
Be careful who you know

By Shaker Lashuel
YEMENNET.COM

Nowadays, Yemeni-Americans like other Americans who are Arabs and Muslims are scrutinizing their associations.

People will hesitate to add your number to their personal phone directory if they do not know enough about you.

Everyone wants to continue to live a normal life uninterrupted by FBI investigations and questioning. But, for some, who are now presumed to have had "suspicious" associations, their past will haunt them.

Gas station owner
A Yemeni-American gas station

owner was found guilty Wednesday of lying to the FBI about his connections to Sheik Abdullah Sa'atar.

Numan Maflahi faces up to five years in prison for telling an FBI agent that he only casually knew Sheik Sa'atar.

According to the FBI, Sheik Sa'atar toured New York mosques in 1999 to raise money for radical Muslim groups. Yemeni-Americans in Brooklyn remember the Sheik visits.

Soliciting help

They also remember that the Sheik was soliciting help for social programs that were sponsored by the Yemeni Reform Party, an opposition party in Yemen.

Maflahi's case is the first indictment against a Yemeni-American based on association. He was found guilty of

lying to the FBI about the nature of his association with Sheik Sa'atar but the prosecutors did not prove that he was funneling money to radical Muslim groups as they alleged.

Maflahi faces up to five years because he "interfered with a larger terror investigation," according to federal prosecutor Kelly Moore.

Government informant?

But Maflahi's attorney, Hassen Ibn Abdellah disagreed and told jurors his client was being prosecuted because he refused to become a government informant. Maflahi's sentence is set for May.

For Yemeni-Americans today, they can only hope that their paths in the past did not cross with those the FBI is looking into.

Have we lost our way?
Have mercy for a man whose nation is humbled

Abdulwahab A. Al Sofi
aasofi@hotmail.com
For The Yemen Times

I walked a complete street-length, then raised my hand to a taxi as I felt very exhausted. I got in the tax and relaxed on the seat next to the driver, who was listening to a traditional song to the famous Egyptian singer Om Klothoum.

I gave such a long sigh that the driver could hear it. He smiled and said, did the song take your heart and remind you of old sores?

After I had gathered my breath I said, "absolutely."

I would grant you my next age and you return my past life. I want to live our grand fathers and old generation's life. In my opinion, they lived their life better than we live. My father is now 55 years old.

He never suffers from any dangerous diseases. Although he is a builder, working outside under the sunshine, he never complains from dangerous diseases such as blood pressure, sugar,

optical illness or kidney failure and cancerThese bad diseases which spread everywhere, did not exist and the world was not full of materialism.

There was no pollution and man breathed pure and fresh air. My grandfather died at 95 age. After he had come back from his farm in the mountain.

His job was hard-working. He never suffered from bad diseases or any defectiveness in his body except he lost his hair and his teeth as well. Moreover he had a little bow in his body.

Our forefathers left a cultural traditional history in our mind, but we couldn't preserve it. They are philosophers, doctors, teachers, engineers and even experts without certificates.

Some didn't go to school because they are themselves school, they lived their life and struggled for survival. They made their life themselves whereas our lives were made by others, by our enemy whom planned our life as they want.

They want us to be only consumers importing everything. They want us to be their markets. We aren't able to adapt

our life properly. Education is intruded by our enemy. Our food and other needs are controlled by them. They disillusion us that they free us from tyranny.

Thus, we imitate others who present honey mixed with poison.

Meanwhile, we violate our grand father's advice and we dropped to a ditch. It is a deep dirty ditch in which we lost our pureness, faith and decision. The imported culture of foreigners does not agree with our nation as Moslems.

We actually have invaded intellectually. We only pay the cost and we want our next new generation to be aware.

We have lost a certain old-fashioned charm, a leisurely pace of life, and the ability to enjoy the simple pleasures of this world. We became wise instruments, looking for our daily food.

There is no doubt that our forefathers lived close to nature. They led simple lives and believed wholeheartedly in the Holy Quran which illuminates their path.

We should have followed their advice by hook or by crook.

Letters to the Editor *Letters to the Editor*

Can't get enough YT

We are a proud as Yemenis of this most popular newspaper in Yemen, The Yemen Times. We thank all the staff members of this paper.

However, we hope more attention is paid to your readers in the governorate of Hadramout. We find some difficulty in getting the Thursday edition of the paper in this area. Secondly, we want you to dedicate a page or articles to accounts and business administration for the young readers studying in this field in Hadramout.

Fareed Ahmed Fath

Remembering Nadia Muhsen

I have read about the strife of Nadia Muhsen, who is still there in Yemen.

I hope that her family and the Yemeni government would allow the woman to leave Yemen and reunite with her family in Great Britain.

Why is she subject to so much hatred and insult?

Can't the Yemeni government stand for once and see that this kind of cruelty should be stopped?

Why do you as a country and race make others think bad of your kind of culture?

Why deceive young generations? We must protect

and respect women because without them men would never have come to be.

Why are other countries known as third world countries because of these reasons?

I thank you and hope with love and understanding something can be solved.

Sonia Shabbir
sonsha2677@hotmail.co

Forgotten refugees
I am one of the Ethiopian refugees, formerly of the Ethiopian Navy, and one of the former Navy officers who have resided in Yemen for 13 years now.

As refugees, it seems to me that we are forgotten.

Thanks to Yemen's government, we have lived with some very serious problems up to now.

If somebody wants to know, we are living in just terrible conditions.

Some of us are cleaners, some of us are beggars and some of us working very little long hours with very little payment just to survive.

The office of the UN's High Commission on Refugees knows everything about us, but has not fulfilled its responsibilities of UNHCR to do something for these forgotten refugees.

Thank you
Elias Alzehary
alzehary@hotmail.com

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Iranian elections:
Facing the challenge

If there is anything that is clear about the recent Iranian Elections is that the Iranian people have on the whole expressed their intent on never compromising the basic fundamentals on which their Islamic Revolution rests.

Oh sure, there are political difficulties facing the relatively young democratic regime, especially one that insists on the sound principles of Islam as the basis for all its activities and policies.

This makes it all the more difficult when realizing that the United States goaded by the Zionist Likud Right Wing Establishment and their evangelical right wing establishment, led by the Crusading George W. Bush is simply uncompromising in accepting even an Islamic democracy as a fact of life.

Yes, there was a serious political crisis in the brewing, prior to the Elections and the democracy was "put to the test", as many not so objective critics of the Iranian scene would like to phrase it.

But what was obvious from the significantly large turnout in the last Elections, was that the Iranian people had faith in their rulers' political decisions.

Mind you, this does not mean that the Iranian people are just naive masses that are driven by remote control by the conservative leadership in Iran.

One might be surprised to learn that the Iranian people are well nurtured in political activity and seem to have a clear understanding that their voices (and votes) count.

Thus, they will not be easily convinced that any significant movements towards radically changing the platform, by which the Islamic Republic came into being, would represent an improvement on the overall strides that the Revolution has made.

This is more apparent especially as this improvement did indeed translate into more accountability and transparency in Government, greater liberties and significant economic advances (as the trends of the and human development indicators, published by the World Bank and the United Nations show).

Even President Ayatollah Ali Khatemi, a pronounced reformist himself, clearly understood that reformists cannot be expected to take the helms in Iran, not so much because the reform agenda was not acceptable to the ruling establishment.

It was really because the main backers of the Revolution in Iran — the grass roots citizenry — strongly believe that their ruling establishment should never compromise their basic Islamic Revolutionary tenets, even if the proponents of radical changes take advantage of the democratic process, which Iran enjoys.

When a friend returned from Iran, sometime ago, this observer recalls that another friend asked him, believing what western journalists, who do not hide their general dislike for the Iranian Revolution no matter what achievements it has brought to the Iranian people, are saying:

"Aren't 90% of the people of Iran against the regime in Iran, while the regime can only count on the support of only 10%?"

The person returning from Iran (who incidentally follows a more secular philosophy on life) said:

"Quite the opposite is true!

90% of the Iranian people have full confidence in the Iranian Government with its Islamic Revolutionary Platform, while there may be 10% who may be against the regime or its policies.

Make no mistake about it, the Iranian regime enjoys the unflinching support of the overall population in Iran."

Thus, if the overall seers of the political process in Iran detect any danger lurking about, the Iranian people have faith in the soundness of the action that the ruling establishment might take in countering this eminent danger, even if it appears as part of the political process.

Moreover, the Iranian people have an inkling of how the United States is working diligently to make life as difficult as possible for the Iranian Revolution, especially since Israel works so hard to feed American hatred towards Iran.

This involves seeking ways of aggravating the political difficulties of the Iranian regime, by expensive propaganda campaigns and incitement through "opposition forces", made up of former elements of the unholy and repressive regime of Shah Mohammed Pahlavi (which was one of the products of the CIA).

In the last elections, the "opponents", supposedly fighting for democracy and supported by the defender of democracy, were urged to boycott the elections Anyone who has had an in-depth look at the operations of the Mujahidi Khalq opposition group, will be able to see that even Ahmed Chalabi, by comparison — notwithstanding his criminal record and obvious dubious clandestine role — is tame.

Oh sure, there is talk of how undemocratic the paternal overseers of the Revolution appear to be by refusing the participation of certain "reformist" candidates, but if the Islamic Revolution is to be assured any stable continuity, while safeguarding the rights of the grass roots constituency, then certain valves must be activated to prevent any possible threats posed by disguised "reformists".

These valves are constitutionally instituted and apparently accepted by the Iranian people, as manifested by the significantly large turnout to the polls last week.

In other words, we have an operating institutional framework in Iran that speaks the minds of the people and knows how to rally the real popular support it needs to reflect the real desires of the people of Iran.

After all, it was the grass — roots citizenry that brought the regime to power and is the primary source for its sustainability.

Iran will simply never be any easy game for any of the likes of Ahmed Chalabi or the Rajawi family, for many years to come.

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The forgotten bomb in the basement

BY LINDA S. HEARD
FOR THE PALESTINIAN CHRONICLE

America surely deserves our unending thanks for making our world a safer place. It dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to contain Japan, napalm and Agent Orange in Vietnam in its fight against Communism and ousted Afghanistan's Taleban with the help of daisy cutters, bunker busters and cluster bombs. In Iraq it used cancer-engendering depleted uranium and non-precision cluster bombs leaving a trail of limbless children in their wake... but all in a good cause. Iraq had to be prevented from developing weapons of mass destruction and needed ridding of a dictator. After all, hadn't Saddam — like the British before him in Iraq — used chemical weapons?

How churlish of us not to appreciate the Bush administration's efforts in combating terror when we see Libya willingly discontinuing its WMD programs and fall over itself to finger the Pakistani nuclear scientist who helped it with its nuclear aims.

It goes without saying, we should all be delighted Iran is opening up its nuclear facilities to inspections while Pakistan is being closely monitored by US intelligence agents scurrying around that country, not to mention the US troops on its soil. The Islamic world's sole nuclear power is now cleverly contained.

So now we can all sleep well at nights secure in the knowledge our futures lie in the capable hands of Uncle Sam... or can we? Hang on! Haven't we forgotten something? What about that tiny country, run by that peaceful chap Ariel Sharon who once said: "The Arabs may have the oil, but we have the matches".

How right he was. Israel is now the only country in the region, which has

nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. But as far as the US administration goes, that's OK because Israel is the only democracy in the Mideast and shares American values. Never mind that Sharon was held indirectly responsible by an Israeli commission for the massacres at Sabra and Shatilla; that he is currently penning the Palestinians into an open-air prison and let's ignore the fact he's being investigated for corruption over "the Greek Island" affair. Here is a man who can be trusted not to press the lethal button.

On the other hand, the US and Britain accused Saddam Hussein of being deceitful over his weapons programs and ignoring UN resolutions but never does Israel's duplicity come under the spotlight or the flouting by Israel of international norms and treaties. Israel doesn't officially admit it has WMD and, thus, would never contemplate allowing the IAEA, the nuclear watchdog, through its Dimona doors. Isn't there something wrong with this scenario?

Israel's nuclear ambitions began with a lie in which France was heavily implicated. Indeed, French engineers constructed the Dimona reactor and plutonium-separation plants in the 1950s. Later on France supplied Israel with uranium from its African colonies. In official Israeli parlance the complex was "a manganese plant". When aerial photos indicated otherwise then Israeli Prime Minister Ben-Gurion announced in December 1960 that a 24-megawatt reactor had been built for peaceful purposes. The US accepted this at face value and persuaded Israel to agree to inspections, which took place at various intervals until 1969. The problem was inspectors only got to see the upper floors as lifts going down to the hidden underground plutonium plant were sealed and camouflaged.

After 1967 France was no longer able

or willing to supply Israel with uranium yellowcake, so South Africa stepped in to the breach. A Center for Non-proliferation Studies' report sets out four "clandestine nuclear deals" between Israel and South Africa related to yellowcake and tritium.

But that bastion of democratic principles and human rights, Israel would never actually use nuclear weapons, would it?

According to numerous reports Israel came close to using its nukes in the '73 war. Time magazine reported the then Defense Minister Moshe Dayan as saying: "This is the end of the third temple" with "temple" being code for nuclear weapons. A story put out by the Israelis — probably as a deterrent — talks of nuclear missiles being pointed at Damascus and Cairo. Israel was also on nuclear alert during the 1991 Gulf War.

At some point the Americans chose to turn a blind eye to Israeli WMD, even though it received a wealth of information that Israel and South Africa were jointly carrying out nuclear tests in the ocean.

In 1986, Israel's nuclear capabilities were outed by whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu, a technician who worked at Dimona. A man of conscience, while out of the country, Vanunu maintained the Israelis were producing some 40 kilograms of weapons grade plutonium each year. Israel's response was to kidnap him, take him back to Israel and slap him in jail where he remains mostly incommunicado until now. Although he is due for release in April this year, he is to be prevented from traveling, publishing articles or giving interviews.

According to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Israel today holds the world's fifth largest stockpile of nuclear warheads, while a 1997 Jane's Intelligence Review report suggests it has over 400 thermonuclear and nuclear

SKETCHED OPINION

I smell something foul



BY SAMER A.

weapons. On the chemical and biological weapons front, the Israeli Institute for Biological Research at Nes Ziona — replaced by orange groves on aerial survey photographs and maps — is where these lethal weapons are concocted — the ones the Americans were certain of stumbling across in Iraq. In 1994, Le Nouvelle Observateur reported the Nes Ziona facility deals with the production of 43 non-conventional chemical and biological weapons.

As for delivery systems, Israel has Jericho missiles with ranges up to 1,500 km, while the Shavit satellite launch vehicle is capable of conversion into an intercontinental ballistic missile with a 7,800 km range.

And there we all were worried about Saddam Hussein! While the Arabs are busy giving up any deterrents they may have had or dreamt of having and the US and Britain are patting them on the back for being good little boys, Israel must be laughing up its sleeve. The Arabs should wake up and smell the danger before it's too late.

Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi



The "Red-eyed" ones

Yemen's corrupt busy-bodies

The other day I met a former manager in one of the governmental establishments. I reminded him about those days when he was a manager ordering people about and that thanks to God he has secured himself materially.

But I was rather astonished to notice his reaction as he turned pale all of a sudden. I asked him whether something went wrong but he retorted that he was O.K and that there was no problem.

Due to my insistence and the fact that he is one of my acquaintances he explained to me why he felt uneasy, that in fact having seen me after such a long time brought memories of the old days when he had a high standing in society, and people kept charging him unjustifiably as an embezzler, that he resisted pilfering money back in the 1980s, because he was afraid of getting fired back then and that nowadays people at the age of his children have become filthy rich because of pilferage with impunity.

He alluded to some individuals who, out of nowhere, are now in possession of bank accounts in hard currencies, in different European capitals and that the houses and investments they have in Yemen are but a drop in the ocean.

This accidental meeting made me look at this problem which has been talked about by the local press and some of the foreign media. I remembered also having read during the early 1980s that such corrupt officials were termed by the man of the street in Egypt during Sadat's rule as "Fat Cats".

Unfortunately our fat cats rarely become fat because they Chew Catha Edulis, which causes the lack of appetite for food, but not for pilfering public moneys. I discovered also that a corrupt official has to have certain traits in our country and they are as follows:

They are either chosen due to nepotism or are very intelligent in their wily department. They tend to be very active and hence harvest praise for their activity and gain the reputation of being indispensable. While in fact they just exert their utmost efforts looking for ways to justify pilfering more, for after all they are mostly basically unqualified.

They recurrently repeat hollow slogans about reform, honesty, transparency and the need to fight corruption but are in fact extremely afraid if it comes true because they know their own reality.

With time they become masters in the art of speech and lead people to believe what they want as they want. The clever ones do pay allowances for employees in key official departments so as to provide them with information as well as facilitate the achievement of their ends not to mention the allowances they give to the poor underpaid journalists so as to polish their dirty image and make publicity for their non-existent accomplishments.

They never cease looking for ways and means to justify their pilferage. Some declare that they are rich because they are inheritors of family fortunes and this is merely a way to cover up their daily actions, for I know many of them who used to be destitute and led a dismal life prior to their sudden boom.

They declare allegiance vehemently and in all forms possible to the rulers even if they in fact harbor different feelings of grudge and animosity and I know they really do. They keep repeating the official monotonous slogans whenever they see it befitting their ends.

If faced in their narrow circles they say that they work hard, that they are patriotic and do deserve to be rewarded whereas others audaciously boast being of the red-eyed kind i.e. a Yemeni term used for a dexterous bureaucratic pilferer (in Arabic "Homranalayoun") as if what they do is totally fine, and hence they show off their wealth and always drive accompanied by a bunch of illiterate bodyguards as a sign of wealth and intimidation.

Such actions have created a large section of society who look up to one goal and that is the attainment of the chance to pilfer instead of competition to be the best in any of the different domains, which serve society and develop the country.

Naturally, one would ask why such pilferers are not arraigned, the moneys retrieved and they be punished for what they do. Well because most of the kind are in control, so no threat is pending nor the leadership has the will to approach this catastrophe seriously.

Finally, such pilferers try to obtain foreign nationalities namely Canadian or American whether for them or through their sons who are either born in those countries or made as permanent residents in a way or another, so that they can have a way out if needs be. The silly thing about it, is that when they are asked by the immigration authorities of those countries how come you have such a lot of money, they easily provide doctored evidence as per requirement which is an easy cake to them.

Feel welcome . . . unless you're Muslim

BY CHARLES V. PEÑA
FOR THE DAILY STAR

Thanks to the new US-VISIT (Visa and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology) program, foreign visitors will now be welcomed to the United States by being fingerprinted and photographed. At its unveiling at Hatfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport at the beginning of January, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge proclaimed that US-VISIT was "part of a comprehensive program to ensure that our borders remain open to visitors but closed to terrorists."

"It's not clear, however, that reality matches the director's rhetoric.

To start, US-VISIT exempts visitors from 28 countries. This is a gaping loophole that you can literally fly an airplane through. Britain is one of the exempt countries. But the fact that several British Airways flights to the United States were canceled during the recent end-of-year holidays was an indication that Al-Qaeda operatives could be UK-based. Thus, they could enter the US unchecked.

France is also on the exempt list, though it is a country with some 5 million Muslims. While a majority of French Muslims are law-abiding and peaceful, prudence dictates that we assume Al-Qaeda operatives may try to assimilate with the French Muslim population to evade detection. We must also assume that Al-Qaeda may attempt to recruit sympathizers from among Muslims living in France. Thus, again, US-VISIT opens the door to potential terrorists from France. Finally, Germany is another country exempted by US-VISIT. Yet recall that Hamburg was the home of an Al-Qaeda cell alleged to have been involved in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. So does it make sense to exclude Germans from security scrutiny?

There is also the question of whether the US-VISIT program — even if it is applied across-the-board to all foreigners — will work as advertised. Its purpose is to confirm the identities of foreign visitors to make sure that they're not would-be terrorists. One would assume that means comparing people's names to a database of known and suspected Al-Qaeda operatives, as well as of persons with suspected ties to the organization. Think again. According to Ridge: "While processing more than 20,000 travelers ... US-VISIT has matched 21 hits on the FBI criminal watch list, including potential entrants with previous convictions for statutory rape, dangerous drugs, aggravated felonies and several cases of visa fraud."

What's wrong with this picture? First, simple math shows that US-VISIT casts a wide net to catch a few — about a tenth of a percent of total passengers — but even this number is largely meaningless. That's because the program is linked to a criminal database, not a terrorist database. So the few people snared are exactly those who you would expect to catch: criminals, not terrorists. Indeed, how many terrorists' fingerprints does the FBI have in its criminal watch list? It's probably a good guess that Osama bin Laden and other top Al-Qaeda operatives are not included.

Another potentially troubling aspect of the US-VISIT program is that foreign visitors will be cataloged in a database. Why would people who do not represent a terrorist threat to the United States (presumably, they would not be allowed into the country if they did) need to have their fingerprints and photographs stored in a government database? It makes no sense to maintain a database of people who are presumably innocent.

The issue of the US-VISIT database is important because of the government's plans to push ahead with the CAPPs 2 (Computer Assisted Passenger Pre-Screening) program for

airport security. Legitimate privacy concerns aside, the good news is that CAPPs 2 is supposed to compare passengers' names against databases for suspected terrorists and wanted criminals. Checking for suspected terrorists rather than garden-variety criminals is an improvement over US-VISIT and begs the question of why US-VISIT isn't set up to do the same thing.

But like US-VISIT, CAPPs 2 presents an exploitable loophole: It allows trusted or registered travelers who voluntarily submit to a background check to subsequently be subject to less security screening. Therefore, becoming a trusted traveler would be a way for potential terrorists to reduce — but not eliminate — security screening at airports in an effort to hijack airplanes. Indeed, the Transportation Security Agency had previously rejected such a program due to concerns that terrorists in sleeper cells might establish themselves as trusted travelers.

A potentially bigger concern than the trusted traveler loophole, however, is how the US-VISIT database might be used in conjunction with CAPPs 2. Would the CAPPs 2 system compare travelers' names against the names kept in the US-VISIT database? If so, why? And how would that affect the color code each passenger is assigned — "red" prohibiting a passenger from boarding a plane, "yellow" requiring additional scrutiny at a checkpoint and "green" allowing for a routine security screening.

Ultimately, the larger problem with US-VISIT and CAPPs 2 is the proverbial law of unintended consequences. By definition, Al-Qaeda, comprised of radical Islamic terrorists, is the legitimate focus of American counter-terrorism and homeland security efforts. Ergo, being Muslim is a legitimate criterion likely to be used by US-VISIT and CAPPs 2 to screen for potential terrorists. But it cannot be the only one. The question is whether the operational procedures of the two systems will be interpreted by Muslims in gen-

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (62):
Birthday wishes (IV)

Birthday makes us feel more responsible to ourselves and responsive to our well-wishers. It is not only an occasion of celebration or merriment but a solemn reminder of the milestones crossed. At the same time it instills into us the resolve or the grit to tread the road ahead with the capital of the accumulated wisdom of the years rolled by.

- Today is your Birthday and I'm thinking of you so much for all the love and care you show and gently my heart you always touch. May all the life's best be always yours for today and forever.
- The higher the faith, the higher we rise. This Birthday greeting comes with love and wishes, too, for all the happiness in the world that you deserve, today and all the year through. May your Birthday be special in many ways.
- This belated wish comes your way with hopes that your Birthday turned out to be really wonderful and you had the best time of your life. After all, a special person like you simply deserves the best.
- Your Birthday is a special day which reminds exclusively of you. It isn't everyday that I celebrate you, the person you are, the joy you spread. This comes your way, to tell you my friend, that I cherish the gift of your nearness. Wish you a great Birthday.
- Loving you on your Birthday. If you wish for success, let your dreams overtake your abilities. Hope your Birthday's just delightful and your year is perfect, too.
- It's time to wish you one of the nicest days anyone could have because you are one of the nicest persons any one could know.
- "A Birthday is a time to reflect on cherished memories, a time to treasure the remembrance of the happiest times and special people." Thinking of you with lots of love and lots of warm memories, too of all the special qualities that make up wonderful you.
- Endless love. Wishing you a day filled with sunshine and laughter and love.
- Just happy Birthday from the heart... because that's where you stay, sweet heart!

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. You should avail of the opportunity without fail.
2. Yemen not only represents a cradle of an ancient civilization but is a confluence of cultures.
3. Everyone must perform their duty.
4. He always sits in the center of the class.
5. The murderer was hung till death.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. Please open your books **at** page forty two.
2. The Accountant has **signed** the salary bill.
3. It is hoped that the Dean **will** heed our complaints.
4. **In my opinion** (according to me), Yemen is steadily progressing.
5. I invited Amin, Ahmed **and** others to my birthday party.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. A state of mental wariness caused by lack of interest and having nothing to do.
2. Writing inscribed on a tomb.
3. Fruit-eating animals.
4. Meat-eating animals.
5. The study of man as an animal.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. Account of facts relating to formation and meaning of a word: **etymology** (n)
2. Science of production of healthy offsprings: **eugenics** (n)
3. A personal peculiarity of temperament, an unusual trait: **eccentricity** (n)
4. Behavior of a person who wants to be looked at

and admired: **exhibitionism** (n)

5. The doctrine that shares a deep concern for the individual and shows a distrust of philosophical idealism: **existentialism** (n)

(B) Foreign words and expressions

Give sources of origin and meanings of the following

1. deixis
2. denouement
3. diachronic
4. synchronic
5. dialysis

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **cacophony** (Gk. 'dissonance'): a mixture of unpleasant, loud sounds which are out of tune.
2. **calendar** (Lat. 'calendae'): a system which names, arranges, and numbers each day of each month of the year.
3. **carol** (It. 'carola'): 'a ring or round dance': a religious song of joy and praise, especially sung at Christmas.
4. **causerie** (Fr. 'causer' 'to talk, convers'): an informal talk, essay or article particularly on literary topics.
5. **chorus** (Gk. 'dance'): a group of people who sing together.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. contact, contract
2. air, heir
3. lesson, lessen
4. metal, mettle
5. sore, sour, soar

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **personal** (adj) (private, individual): This is my personal opinion.
2. **personnel** (n) (staff): Security personnel are keeping vigil on the defense establishment.
3. **content** (n) (the condition of being satisfied): I am content with what Allah has given me.
4. **contents** (n) (list of the matter in a book): I quickly ran my eyes on the contents page of the new book.
5. **medium** (n) (that by which something is done): Press is a powerful medium for creating public awareness.
6. **media** (n) (the newspapers, television, and radio; mass media): The news has been flashed both in the print media and the electronic media.
7. **heat** (n) (hotness): Delhi reels under prickly heat during the summer.
8. **temperature** (n) (degree of heat and cold): The nurse took the temperature of all the patients.
9. **rib** (n) (a bone round the chest): He is undergoing treatment for rib fracture.
10. **rip** (vt) (pull, tear): Please rip the cover of the envelope.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Bring out the meaning of the following in sentences

1. to fight shy of
2. to gild the pill
3. to nip in the bud
4. other fish to fry
5. go to roost

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **not worth his salt** (a good-for-nothing fellow): He has to prove himself if he wants to allay criticism that he is not worth his salt.
2. **to play with edged tools** (a man who has to do with a matter which requires delicate handling): By interfering in their personal affairs, you are indeed playing with edged tools.
3. **to put a spoke in one's wheel** (to obstruct progress, to prove a serious barrier or hindrance): He was going ahead with his plans, but bank's refusal to finance his project put a spoke in his wheel.
4. **to set Thames on fire** (to do something extraordinary of brilliant): He is mediocre and cannot be expected to set Thames on fire.
5. **to take people by storm** (captivate, to win success): His scintillating musical performance on stage took the packed audience by storm.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Match up the words in the three columns to show who normally does each of the activities. Then write a sentence using the passive form of the verb, with the words you have matched.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| potatoes | cook | pilots |
| coal | ride | bankers |
| eyes | dig out | authors |
| food | grow | secretaries |
| books | catch | opticians |
| letters | fly | miners |
| horses | test | jockeys |
| portraits | type out | detectives |
| money | paint | chefs |
| planes | lend | artists |
| criminals | write | farmers |

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. I think you're **mistaken**. I'm not Fuad, I'm his brother!
2. Don't blame me for what happened. It wasn't my **fault**.
3. The telephone bill was sent to you **in error**.
4. The number of traffic **offences** committed in the city increases each year.
5. You've made the same **error** six times in this homework.
6. Did you know that it is an **offence** to park your car in the 'No Parking Zone'?
7. He made an **error** of judgement when he decided to leave his present job.
8. He's not perfect, but I love him **in spite of** his faults.

Remember:

fault is something that makes a person, thing, etc. imperfect.
error is something done wrongly, an example of bad behavior.
mistake is wrong opinion, thought, idea or act.
offence is wrong doing.
crime is breaking of a rule.

(B) Composition: Paragraph Writing

Expand the idea contained in the maxim

55. DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR

Last week's topic

54. CHARACTER IS DESTINY

Man is the shaper of his own destiny, maker of his own fate. Through his perseverant efforts he can carve out his golden future. He should be aware of his own potential and invest every moment and all the resources he has to reap a rich harvest. In other words, he proceeds from being to becoming with plenty of self-confidence. On the other hand, there are some people who are victims of indolence and inaction. They believe that whatever happens is an inevitable outcome of a blind fate and put implicit faith in the theory of determinism. Such people tend to procrastinate and while away their time and energy. But a man of action sets a goal and persistently marches towards the goal with single minded zeal, enthusiasm, devotion and dedication. His invincible will power coupled with unfaltering moral strength lead him on the path of glory. Thus he becomes the architect of his own destiny.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Everyone is trying to accomplish something big, not realizing that life is made up of little things."
—Frank A. Clark

A letter to the teachers of English: 44

Enable your learners to infer the meaning from the context while reading



Dr. M.N.K. Bose
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Associate Professor of
English,
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

I have written in my earlier letters about developing reading skills in your learners; I have stressed that reading is an important skill for the Yemeni learners of English, perhaps, the most important skill, in my opinion, especially because the opportunities for them to read English are more in their lives, not only as students but later as professionals and skilled workers. It is, therefore, the responsibility of all the teachers of English, both at the school and the college levels, to help them to develop reading skills in English using appropriate activities, some of which I have pointed out in my letters.

I am taking up another skill, a component of the reading skill, in this letter and discuss how it can be developed in your learners. This skill needs to be developed as early as possible, at the early reading stage. This is 'inferring the meaning from the context', without referring to the dictionary. Most of our learners have this skill in their mother tongue, because this skill is employed to get the meaning of new words a learner faces and helps him/her to develop his/her vocabulary (the stock of words one can use) in his/her mother tongue. Developing this skill in English, therefore, may not be very difficult.

Look at the following three sentences, each of which has a strange word for you to infer the meaning from the context. (Don't try to refer to a dictionary, because you will not find it in any dictionary.)

1. She poured the water into a **trisspo**.
2. Then, lifting the **trisspo**, she drank.

3. Unfortunately, as she was keeping it down, the **trisspo** slipped from her hand and broke.

4. Only the handle remained in one piece.

You can guess the meaning of 'trisspo' now, but think how you are able to infer the meaning with the help of the sentences; when you read each sentence, the meaning of the word becomes clearer gradually. Each sentence adds something to your inferring of the meaning, and the meaning becomes complete only after you have read the fourth sentence. When you teach your learners the skill of inferring, you can choose an exercise like this and ask them to read the first sentence first and guess the meaning of the new word from it; then show the second sentence and ask them to read it; now they will get a little more clear picture of the word; then, the third and the fourth sentence, till they get the complete picture of the word. It is a very useful and interesting activity suggested by Christine Nuttal, who has written a useful book 'Teaching Reading Skills in a Foreign Language'.

If you are innovative, you can think of your own material; the idea is to enable your students to guess the meaning from the context in which the word is used. This skill is important for any reader, young or adult, of any language; when we read a newspaper or a magazine, for example, we don't refer to a dictionary for each word that is new and we use this skill to infer the meaning of it from the context, don't we? This word becomes a part of our vocabulary if we come across the same word often in the same or similar contexts or when we have an opportunity to refer to that word in a dictionary. Try this technique with your students. Good luck.

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

Poetry Corner

A Teacher



BY ARIF AHMED AL-AHDAL
DEMONSTRATOR,
FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY

your health.

These days in the institutions of learning
A teacher is considered an outsider and stranger

Well, my dear students,
Open your eyes to the reality

A teacher is not an outsider
He is not a stranger
He is the inseparable part of you
He sacrifices his being for the sake of your well-being.

Remember:
A teacher is a father
Full of genuine concern for you
A loving mother taking care of

A friendly brother giving proper suggestions
At the proper time, and sometimes rebuking as well

A loving neighbor helping you
In your hours of need.

An affectionate guide
Showing you the right path
He inspires virtue in you
And warns you against evil.

Be not hostile to him
Rather be always respectful
Respect shown to him
Will mean respect to your own well-being.

Do also remember:
A teacher belongs to you
And you belong to him
Thus the two of you are only one!

To be or not to be educated



BY ATHIR KHALIL IBRAHIM
athir20021956@yahoo.co.uk

nous experience.

To avoid boredom in the educational process, certain activities must be practiced. Offering students a number of club activities can help them strengthen their bodies and refresh their minds. Encouraging students to express themselves through acting plays, playing music, writing and doing assignments on their favorite topics, could be a real assistance in making students believe in themselves and love their schools.

Classes must participate collectively in study visits to organizations, companies and locations in order to enhance their learning.

Furthermore, the library and/or resource center is a good way to promote the reading skill, or otherwise provide them with a cultural background. Some students are deprived of the opportunity of having a frank conversation with their parents; therefore annual meetings for parents should be held in order to establish closer ties between the parents and the pedagogues and discuss the progress achievement and problems, if any, of the learners.

In conclusion, we can achieve an ideal educational infrastructure if the three nodal points of education (parents, school, students) are involved in the right way to produce the generation that our societies are in need of.

During the last centuries nations have achieved a tremendous progress in the field of education. One may ask, why have people been encouraging education and science in different eras in history? May be they had realized that education was the only means for people to be developed individually and socially. In the present age education is taking many shapes and forms and one, now, can be educated without the need for joining educational institutes or schools.

Scientists have divided human age into educational stages, and they indicate what kind of education should an individual acquire in each stage. Educationists all over the world are trying to find out solutions for educational problems and develop ways and means through which individuals can easily be educated. One of the most important problems in education is how we can choose the appropriate system to get through without bearing the brunt of a stereotyped drudgery that makes education a gruelling, monotonous experience.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Baby | Coconut | Grease | Napkin | Simple |
| Bake | Cook | Griddle | Nuts | Spice |
| Batter | Crepes | Grill | Orange | Spread |
| Berries | Cruets | Heating | Over | Sticky |
| Black | Crust | Homemade | Pile | Stir |
| Blueberry | Deeper | Hotcake | Plain | Stove |
| Braise | Delicious | Kitchen | Pour | Strain |
| Brand | Double | Lemon | Powder | Strawberry |
| Breakfast | Dredge | Like | Premix | Syrup |
| Brown | Events | Maker | Prune | Thickness |
| Brunch | Filling | Maple | Recipe | Topping |
| Bubbly | Flips | Margarine | Restaurant | Toss |
| Buckwheat | Fluffy | Meal | Rotate | Turned |
| Burnt | Fresh | Melt | Round | Vanilla |
| Butter | Fried | Method | Ruin | Various |
| Camp | Fruit | Milk | Sell | Water |
| Chew | Golden | Molasses | Serve | Whip |

PANCAKES AND WAFFLES

Solution: 8 letters

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

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Battery

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC 16 Feb.2004.

Main headlines

- Development of Sana'a airport
- Extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers discusses Arab initiatives,
- FM Qirbi: Yemen sticks to principle of all countries commitment to development keeping pace with changes
- Investigation committee into violations of Aden endowment office finishes examination of documents
- German assistance program to Yemen in a consultative meeting the end of next month
- Journalists elect their chairman and syndicate council
- Amat al-Aleem presents her ministry's plan to the cabinet: a strategy on human rights, effective mechanism for protection against violations, project for prison reform

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article how important and required the dialogue was in the 20th century for the Arabs and others and how urgent it is for them now. Since dialogue is required to this degree it should begin as an Arab-Arab and then to begin it with the other that the successive events proved that the other is not just one but many, some with us and the other against us. The time when the truth was the possession of one party that governs it and interprets it. Now the truth is a public property, to everyone that serves it and realizes its dimensions. Hence it can be said that the deep problem the human in the Arab homeland have been suffering from does not lie in only backwardness and poverty but also in the absence of dialogue and it is a fact that dialogue and freedom are complementarity of each other. The fear is that the dialogue could be a slogan launched into the space without touching the ground or changes into a daily practice in the house, the school, the newspaper, the party and in different walks of life. Without the dialogue divisions and differences would persist and could take hostile courses.

Al-Balagh weekly, 17 Feb.2004.

Main headlines

- The President gives directives to send detainees in political security prisons to justice
- Interior Minister: electronic tricks on the internet behind rumours of the presence of branch of al-Qaeda in Yemen
- Economic establishment denies allegations of imprisonment of a businessman
- Physicians and pharmacist union holds its conference on 4 March 2004

The newspaper editor in chief says in his article that the whole world has opposed the erection of the wall by the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine. Amidst that conflict with the enemy the world is surprised by what the brothers in the Saudi Arabia are carrying out of building a dividing fence under security pretexts. The painful thing is the timing of erecting it as it looks as if it is a kind of support for the Zionist enemy that is erecting the dividing wall under allegation of preventing the "terrorist" operations.

The security coordination between our country and Saudi Arabia has reached a high level of effective coordination and this is the best way for both countries to fight the so-called terror. As for the barrier it is too weak an action the bothers in Saudi Arabia are behind purposes farther than security reasons. They want to renounce of some articles stipulated in the Jeddah agreement that led to demarcation of borders

between the two countries, some of which articles stipulated the movement between the citizens in the border area and other article connected to economy. This step adopted by the Saudi brothers arouses many question marks especially about the reason why they want to outflank the signed agreement. Maintaining any agreement or treaty could be accomplished through more political and economic partnership and coordination of stands and activation of joint committees and dialogue regarding some points of difference. This is the safest way of keeping any agreement and it is the best way for facing the so-called terror.



Al-Ra'ie Al-A'am weekly,

Main headlines

- Delusory loans exhausted the national economy
- Hadramout journalists threaten to boycott the syndicate elections
- Cabinet reshuffle after the deadly price dose
- At the conclusion of cultures and civilizations dialogue, dialogue the basis of discarding violence and terror

The political editor says in his article while the Sharonite wall in the Palestinian occupied territories represents a comprehensive crisis in the region the crisis of fences chases us even at home as we are a nation created to be imprisoned psychological or practical barriers. The barrier that troubled the brotherly relations between our country and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the sick phenomena in the Arab body threatening any healthy aspect in the relations between the two countries. The timing and the place is not in interest of the two countries. It is undoubtedly there are who benefit from such improper conditions and the sick phenomena. Te bridges of conciliation and cordiality are those supposed to prevail and protected at the Arab level.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP 19 Feb. 2004.

Main headlines

- The Parliament gives immunity to corruption of the health ministry
- Trade Minister confronts the high prices by ridiculing the parliamentarians

Columnist Ali Hassan Wahban says in his article the people are wretched fumbling in various directions looking for the safe road leading to the secure homeland and safe home. The entire people have been for long decades searching for security as they are chasing a mirage in a desert, disillusioned of their being democratic. That democracy if it were not a means for realizing justice, prosperity and social peace then it is of no avail or value. In other words what is the meaning of elections if they are not bridges for the crossing of the best and faithful people? What is the value and benefit of the parliament and the shoura council and the local councils if they could not be the means for the national efficient people to attain the positions of decision-making to be able to form a national government responding to ambitions of the people and accomplishing their wishes? What is the use of the government if it cannot provide for the people the food and health security and the decent residence? In our country the government and various councils did not offer any services to the people and that makes them just names there is no need for their existence. If they had offered any services they are meant for the wealthy and opportunists, but the people have not felt any existence of those services throughout their life.

Main Headlines

- Security authorities in Aden publish names of 20 persons wanted by them
- Waela tribe warn Saudi against continuing in building border barrier
- After banning scarf at schools, France seeks to stop broadcast of Al-Manar and other Arab TV channels
- Security delegation to visit Cairo,
- Egypt requests Yemeni intelligence of information on Al-Jihad organisation to close security dossier
- Jordanian monarch visits Yemen soon
- Yemen and Saudi leaderships discuss enhancement of bilateral cooperation and situations in the region
- Council of ministers approves the agreement on establishment of Sana'a grouping
- 20 Thai trade companies discuss opportunities for investment in Yemen
- Judge al-Hattar reviews in London the experiment of fighting terror by dialogue
- The journalists hold their conference on Saturday
- GPC's jumbling of journalists elections transparency
- Political sources belittle importance of the declared agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia
- Yahya al-Shami meets Hamas representative in Sana'a
- Yemeni journalists refuse politicizing their syndicate
- Following the president's successful visit to Riyadh,
- Consolidation of relations, stop of work on borders by the Saudi side
- The president and Saudi crown prince discuss developments in the region and preparations for the coming Arab summit
- The sides agree on activation of security cooperation according to implementation of Jeddah treaty
- Joint communiqué following the president's visit to Saudi Arabia
- Yemeni-Saudi company for investments to be declared next month
- John Abi Zaid in Sana'a on Saturday,
- American Congress delegation to Sana'a to discuss economic cooperation
- Samawi: merging banks for founding large banking units capable of competition.



Al-Wahda weekly,

Main headlines

- Fisheries Minister: Smuggling fishing boats indebted to the state for more than one million dollars
- Plan for developing the Yemeni Society for the Protection of the Consumer
- Implementation of the first stage of Al-Murawa'a waters project to be finished in a few days
- Free of charge healthcare for the health ministry employees

Columnist Abdulrazeq Muqbil says in an article the change in the life of the individual and the group is a vital need continuous for ages. The difference is about the form, program and goals of the change. We have nothing to do with a canned change prepared inside the vaults of the American and western planning centers. America is itself the party that made most of the calamities of the

and fabrication of enmities. If America ha to practice a pioneering world role, it is more becoming for it to change itself first and change its concepts to probe what it wants to enter before pulling others to understand its cannon and military tanks language.



Al-Ayyam daily, 18 Feb. 2004.

Main headlines

- Criminal investigation authority in Hadramout discovers forged stamp carrying its name
- Security investigates into digging out historical temple and disappearance of some antiquities
- Saudi Arabia: If the border barrier in interest of all, it will be removed
- US congress delegation visits Yemen
- US and British warships cross the Red Sea
- Al-Ayyam editor in chief among seven candidates to run for journalists chairman post
- Modern traffic plan coinciding with choosing Sana'a capital for Arab culture
- Educational cooperation with Oman and Egypt, discussed
- Tourist projects under construction
- Head of the handicapped society in Muhra: The society in dire need of the government and international organisations and businessmen assistance

Dr Ali Abdulkareem says in his article on the national dialogue as a guarantee for better future that the dialogue we demand is certainly not a continuation of the situation we are suffering from and also not for revolving the crisis under any pretexts coming from here or there. We believe in a dialogue directly translating an internal wish seeking the future to leave the horizons of the vicious circles we are in. We want a frank and transparent dialogue not depending on political manoeuvres but rather leading to working out strategies served by clear-cut programs all can participate in drawing up and following up.

The absence of dialogue under aggravation of crises is an expression of the sovereignty of superficial look at matters and domination of kinds of political and intellectual hegemony. It is also an expression of domination of one party over others who

only have the right to listen and obey without having real permission to participate or object.



Al-Sahwa weekly, 19 Feb.2004

Main headlines

- Yemen and Saudi enhance relations
- Water pollution to be discussed in the parliament
- Journalists law postponed
- Detainees against backdrop of selling recordings criticizing the government under interrogation
- Disaster threatening millions; sewage water mingles with Sana'a underground waters
- 7 candidates for chairman, more than sixty the council,
- Intense competition expected in journalists' conference
- Parliament summons Minister of Endowments
- Yemenis in Somalia form a political party
- Women rights in Islam training course, concluded

Columnist Zaid al-Shami has devoted his column to discussing high prices of goods in Yemen saying prices soared and there has been no preservation of promised economic stability, poverty increased and economic sectors have not been motivated as was the promise, and no indicators appeared about raising efficiency of the agricultural sector. And now we longer hear but weak justifications that represent trick of the unable. It has been said the problem lies in the drop of the value of dollar against the euro and here prices of wheat and flour should drop because we import them America and Australia in dollar not in euro. Another justification for the problem of the rise in prices of dairies was attributed to drought that hit Europe, while we are aware that those goods we import from Holland that suffers from increase in water levels. Why then the prices of chicken and eggs were increased? These are produced locally.

Actually we are against an unsound economic policy and a state of arrogance that does not listen to advices of specialists or the opposition. The government is busy in strangling freedoms and confiscating civil society organisations. It is thus very normal to reach at this bas situation and worse of that is not admitting of it.

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YEMEN TIMES

2004

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الفائز الثالث 250,000
الفائز الرابع 150,000
الفائز الخامس 100,000

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كوبون أسئلة (١١)

الإسم : السن : الجنسية : رقم البطاقة لشخصية / الجواز :
التلفون : العنوان : المدينة / المحافظة :

- عند مزاوله الرياضة لأكثر من ساعتين يوصى بشرب مشروب الطاقة باورهوس بمعدل علبتين أم ثلاث علب أم عليه واحد ؟
- إن التورين في مشروب الطاقة باورهوس هو مركب داعم للحياة وحمض أميني ضروري ينتج طبيعياً في /المعامل الصحية أم الجسم البشري
- كم تحويلة هاتفية بانسونك موديل (KX-TD1232DBX) يمكن ربطها للعمل كنظام واحد هل /تحويله واحده أم تحويلتين أم ثلاث تحويلات
- هاتفية ؟
- ما هو المدى الأقصى للخطوط الداخلية في التحويلات الهاتفية باناسونيك هل /
- ١٥ كجم أم ٥ كجم أم ٣ كجم ؟
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كريسيديا ٩٢ الي ٩٥
مجرد حديدية وكالة محلية (٢) فينارا ٧١٧٦٤٧٤
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٢٠٠٠ فما فوق اربع ابواب جديدة سعودي او خليجي (٣) براوي في اوكس
٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
٢٠٠٠ وما فوق حسن بتزلو جديدة
٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: توفيرا كامري ١٩٨٨ بحالة جيدة. السعر قابل للتفاوض
٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: فورد اكسبيشن حالتها جيدة. تلفون مستخدم مدح فية ممتازة. موديل ٢٠٠٠. اللون ابيض. برامج ونغمات وكاميرا فيديو وعادة لعدا ٢٠٠٠ كيلوسيرممتاز وفرصة لا تعوض الرجاء الاتصال مع عبد الله احمد محمد. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: سيارة موسيدس سودا. مستعمل بحالة جيدة. للتواصل صديق عام ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
وسعر معقول جدا. للتواصل منصور. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: سيارة جلابور موديل ٩٩. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: راس قاطرة فولفو FH٧٢. مستخدم موديل ٩٩. وشيول كاتريلر مستخدم ٧٠٠٠ ريال. مكبث نظيف جدا. (٣) هاتف جوال نوكيا ٣٣١٠ مطور. مع الشرح الاوس ومجموعة هايلاكسات خطسيستل نظام فواتير (٣) هاتف نوكيا موديل من ٩٢ - ٩٨ وديتات ديايتسو ٣٥٠٠ ملون جديد مع الشاحن بسعر موديلات من ٩٨ - ٢٠٠١ وسيارات ١٤٠٠ دولار ش. (٤) تلفزيون شارب جديد اخرى التواصل عبدالله احمد محمد ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: سيارة فينارا جديدة. باربعة ابواب. كاملة المواصفات. موديل ٩٥ بدون حرك. اخرى موديل ٩٥. جديدة وجمركه. بياض. ومقصص للتواصل. فهمي العودي ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: سيارة هوندا موديل ٨٦ نوع ٢٥ ك. اف. ب. ٢٨ امبير. ثري فيز. اخراج فولتية ٢٢٠ فولت صنع ١٩٦٧ غير ثلاثامائة الف ريال التواصل مستخدم اطلاقا للتواصل تجيب ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
مطلوب شراء: ادوات منزلية كهربائية. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤

مطلوب شراء: ١) بسعر مناسب الرجاء الاتصال على ٧١٧٦٨٨٢
كريسيديا ٩٢ الي ٩٥
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للبيع: توفيرا كامري ١٩٨٨ بحالة جيدة. السعر قابل للتفاوض
٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: فورد اكسبيشن حالتها جيدة. تلفون مستخدم مدح فية ممتازة. موديل ٢٠٠٠. اللون ابيض. برامج ونغمات وكاميرا فيديو وعادة لعدا ٢٠٠٠ كيلوسيرممتاز وفرصة لا تعوض الرجاء الاتصال مع عبد الله احمد محمد. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
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وسعر معقول جدا. للتواصل منصور. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: سيارة جلابور موديل ٩٩. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
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للبيع: سيارة جلابور موديل ٩٩. ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
للبيع: راس قاطرة فولفو FH٧٢. مستخدم موديل ٩٩. وشيول كاتريلر مستخدم ٧٠٠٠ ريال. مكبث نظيف جدا. (٣) هاتف جوال نوكيا ٣٣١٠ مطور. مع الشرح الاوس ومجموعة هايلاكسات خطسيستل نظام فواتير (٣) هاتف نوكيا موديل من ٩٢ - ٩٨ وديتات ديايتسو ٣٥٠٠ ملون جديد مع الشاحن بسعر موديلات من ٩٨ - ٢٠٠١ وسيارات ١٤٠٠ دولار ش. (٤) تلفزيون شارب جديد اخرى التواصل عبدالله احمد محمد ٧١٧٦٦٤٧٤
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A US winner gets \$230 million and France gets first Euro millionaire

Lottery can be a mania

In a world where 70% of the population is below the poverty line, and in a country like Yemen where the number is even greater, it is teasing to know that a few days ago one person won \$230 million in one lottery draw in the USA.

Another winner was in Europe, even though they won a much lesser amount of Euro 10 million.

Nevertheless, this is more than enough to have poor people around the world dream of being the winner just for the joy of the moment the jackpot number is announced.

USD 230 million in an instant

It is only a small slip of paper - but it is now worth an estimated \$230 million. One Mega Millions ticket matched all six numbers in the Feb. 20 draw to win the estimated \$230 million jackpot. That tick-

et was sold in Stephens City, Virginia, USA. The jackpot win comes after weeks of building excitement in the eleven US Mega Millions states. In addition to the jackpot winner, more than 2.7 million tickets won prizes in the February 20 draw. That includes 56 tickets that each won \$175,000 and 209 tickets that each won \$5,000. Even without the jackpot winner, Mega Millions players won nearly \$23.8 million.

"We are delighted that this huge jackpot was won in Virginia," says Virginia Lottery Executive Director Penelope W. Kyle, who is also President of the Mega Millions Consortium. "This is the largest jackpot ever won in Virginia and the third-largest Mega Millions jackpot ever. It is also the largest Mega Millions jackpot ever won by a single ticket."

The winning numbers in Friday's draw were: 01-13-20-21-30 and the Mega Ball number was 24.

The 56 tickets that each won \$175,000 did so by matching the first five numbers and only missing the Mega Ball number. Those tickets were sold in Georgia (3), Illinois (5), Maryland (4), Michigan (3), New Jersey (8), New York (18), Ohio (7), Texas (6) and Virginia (2).

Mega Millions is played in Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and Washington. Mega Millions draws are held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:00 PM Eastern Time, 10:00 PM Central Time and 8:00 PM Pacific Time.

First European millionaire
 Meanwhile a punter in France has claimed the Euro 10 million jackpot in Europe's first cross-border lottery, Sky television reports.

Britain's biggest winner claimed 112,551 pounds sterling in the draw on Friday, which involves Britain, France and Spain, said British National Lottery operator Camelot.

The winning numbers were 16, 29, 32, 36, and 41, and the winning Lucky Star numbers were 7 and 9.



Tickets for the lottery may cost a few US dollars, but when accumulated, they can produce huge windfalls. People buy more than one ticket to raise their chances, although the vast majority of people never win big prizes.

Seven British ticket-holders won 8,155 pounds when they matched four main numbers and two Lucky Star numbers.

The draw is a joint venture between Camelot, France's La Francaise des Jeux and Spain's Loterias y Apuestas del Estado.

Tickets cost 1.50 pounds in Britain and two euros (1.35 pounds) in France and Spain. Players need to match five main numbers from one to 50 and two "Lucky Star" numbers from one to nine to win the jackpot.

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