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Monday, 20 September 2004 • Issue No. 774 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Verdict on USS Cole suspects Sept. 29, US wants justice

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Penal Court concerned with crimes of terrorism decided to pass the verdict against the USS Cole suspects on September 29th, while the suspects still deny the accusations against them of involvements in terrorist attacks, claiming they were subjected to torture.

In its last hearing, run last Wednesday, the court listened to closing arguments from both the prosecutors and the defense lawyers. The prosecutor Ali al-Samit demanded the conviction of the suspects and a heavy punishment for their involvement in the terrorist attack against the USS Cole destroyer on October 12th 2000, in the port of Aden. The prosecutor said the six suspects, one in US custody, were "engaged in an armed ring targeting the US destroyer and harming the national interests of the country, putting Yemen as a target in the international war on terror." He also asked for the confiscation of the seized materials.

For his part, the defense lawyer Abdulaziz al-Samawi refuted the accusations of the prosecution against his clients. He said that the prosecution exaggerated many things in the case. He also presented the evidence of a piece of news published in the armed forces paper 26 September Weekly, to prove that the first prime suspect Abdullaheem al-Nasheri is held in US custody, as the prosecution and court said earlier that they have not received official documents to prove that he has been arrested in the US. Al-Samawi expressed surprise at how a man can be simultaneously tried before two courts in two different countries. He even went on to ask for the halt of the tribunal until al-Nasheri, whose extradition has been requested, is brought back to Yemen. "I am afraid that these suspects will be used as scapegoats because the prosecution has been unable to catch the real perpetrators," he said.

Al-Samawi asked the court to acquit the five suspects he is defending, and stated that their dignity should be restored.



From right to left Morad al-Surori, Mamon Amswah and Jamal al-Badwi

The suspects themselves, from behind the bar, denied the accusations of their involvement in the attack on the USS Cole, and claimed they surrendered to the authorities. The second suspect, Jamal al-Badwi, said that they do not recognize the prosecution. "We'd only recognize a legal judge," he said, adding that throughout four years, the prosecution has failed to present any concrete proof against them. "All that has been stated as confessions made by us during the prosecution investigation is com-

pletely false." The other suspects also denied allegations made by the prosecutor. Some of them acknowledged their travel to Afghanistan just for juristic preparation.

Al-Samawi expected that the suspects would be convicted but not in the way the prosecution wants.

The US government followed up the trial hearings from the beginning and a US official told the Yemen Times that his country is concerned that justice should be served in this case.



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Abu Hamza may stand trial in Britain

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A radical Muslim cleric wanted by both the United States and Yemen may be charged for terrorist offenses in Great Britain.

Last week, British security officials handed over a file on Abu Hamza Al-Musri to the Crown Prosecution Service which will decide early next month if he will be charged under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Abu Hamza, who was once a speaker at Finsbury Park mosque in London, has been detained in Britain since last May. The United States has been trying to have the cleric extradited to America.

At the end of last month, anti-terrorist officers from the Metropolitan Police arrested Abu Hamza, suspected of being involved in financing, recruitment and logistics of Al-Qaeda affiliates in Britain.



Abu Hamza Al-Musri

Continued on page 6

Al-Houthi's followers continue guerilla raids,
opposition parties justify their stance on war

Al-Houthi war costs may have exceeded YR 180 billion

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Recent news from Sa'ada, 275 kilometers north of Sana'a, shows that confrontations are going on fiercely between the government forces and Al-Houthi's followers led by sheikh Abdullah Al-Ruzami, and have taken an appalling turn with incidents of suicide bombing.

Sources told the Yemen Times that



Photos circulated by official media depicting the death of rebel leader Al-Houthi. (26 September newspaper)

during last week about 14 young men detonated explosive belts around their wastes amidst troops in a number of



districts in Sa'ada resulting in the death of many soldiers.

Clashes are taking place in the Haidan district between the government forces supported from the air and by tanks, and scores of people led by sheikh Al-Ruzami, the successor to sheikh Al-Houthi.

Continued on page 6

SHARAB LIL ANZUMA
Sole Agent in Yemen Republic

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NODRF urges Saleh to investigate hostages problem

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (NODRF) demanded President Ali Abdullah Saleh order an investigation into the problem of holding citizens as hostages, and order the Political Security Organization (intelligence) to respect law. The NODRF urged Saleh to order the release of Radfan, Jamal, and Aref al-Madari and Fadhil Ali Mansur who are being held in Aden as hostages to pressurize their brother, Yaser Ali Salem al-Maderi, to surrender to the authorities. "Mr. President, you know that the hostage system is one of the wrongdoings of the dead Imamate regime, we are

to observe the occasion of bringing it to an end during the coming few days," the letter said in its address to Saleh. It also confirmed that this behavior is internationally prohibited. It pointed out that the law does not permit the detention of any arrestee for more than 24 hours before he/she is charged. The letter asserted that the intelligence apparatus conducts investigations in ways that are against the law, adding that these security organizations will lose the legitimacy of their work once they break the law themselves and behave like criminals. The NODRF demanded an investigation into these issues as well as the release of those people who were arrested in a way that does not conform to the law and constitution.

Yemeni journalists stage protest demonstration

A number of Yemeni journalists and right activists protested on Saturday in front of the parliament building demanding their colleague Abdulkarim al-Khiwani to be released from prison. The protesters described al-Khiwani, a journalist as a prisoner of conscience.

The protesters vowed their protests would continue throughout Yemen until al-Khiwani, Chief editor of al-Shoura newspaper, is released. The editor was sentenced to a year in prison on charge of violating the press

law, while a higher court refused to hear his appeal. They handed over a petition to the parliament speaker, complaining the court's rejection of hearing al-Khiwani's appeal was aimed at keeping him incarcerated longer for political, rather than judicial, reasons.

Three other weekly newspapers have not published papers this week in solidarity with al-Shoura, which was closed by the government, and with imprisoned chief editor.

"The Stranger's Slanders" at the al-Sa'eed Forum

AHMED AL-BUKHARI
TAIZ BUREAU

A critical reading symposium on the book, *The Stranger's Slanders*, by Majed al-Math'haji was held at the al-Sa'eed Establishment for Sciences and Culture in Taiz on Thursday, Sep. 16th 2004. It was presented by a host of writers, young and old, such as Ahmed al-Sururi, Mohammed Naji Ahmed, Sadiq Ghanim, Waleed Jahzar, Mohammed Abdullah al-Hakimi, and Mutahar al-

Shajabi.

The author, Majed al-Math'haji, who studied Law in Syria, wrote for many newspapers and is interested in criticism. *The Stranger's Slanders*, an anthology of sorts is his most famous work and is considered unique. It seeks to show the difference in emotions between the young and old. But some people assert that the collection offers just one view; it is, however, a distinguished work, and deserves to be supported to strengthen the artistic movement.

Study on revenge in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Modern field studies have warned that the phenomenon of revenge forms a great concern in Yemeni society and has negative influences on security, stability, and social and economic development in the country.

The study, which has been conducted by a group of researchers at the Research and Information Center in Saba News Agency (RICSNA), stated that figures reported by the Ministry of Interior reveal a horrible rise in revenge crimes, adding that revenge fires claim 500 lives

a year.

The study revealed last month a number of factors behind this issue, which include carrying weapons, traditions and tribalism. RICSNA has recommended utilizing the opinions and views of researchers and academics in enriching the study and shedding light on such phenomenon and its reasons, historical roots, social, legal and security domains as well as its negative consequences on development and construction.

Eight chapters are covered in the study and concentrate on the historical and religious domains of revenge, and its status

in social values. Revenge impacts on the individual and family are taken into account, in addition to security and public views and judicial domains in tackling the issue of revenge considering it uncivilized behavior.

This study is also thought of as a significant reference about the revenge phenomenon in Yemen and its afore-mentioned domains. It opens the door for researchers and concerned figures to enrich their understanding of this issue with valuable studies, discussions and a full diagnosis of its reasons in order to terminate it

Workshop on local council function

A workshop took place in the hall of Taiz Governorate headquarters on 14/9/2004, to draw up a plan for the local council. The workshop, the second of its kind, was held over two days

and was attended by 30 participants, among whom were general managers of executive offices in the Governorate, and others whose specialization lies in human resources and

administration. The workshop was inaugurated by the Deputy Assistant of Taiz Governorate, Ali Muhammad al-Muqdash, and Miss Gabril Hirman, the CIM expert for private sector development. It was organized with help from the Dutch NGO, GTZ. The results of the first workshop were discussed, and plans for future development as well. The workshop came out with several recommendations and points of interest to Taiz Governorate.

The workshop was attended by Mr. Ammar al-Mu'Allem, the general manager of the Media and the Public Relations in the Governorate headquarters.

Workshop on voluntary work and social services

TAIZ BUREAU

Twenty male and female trainees participated in a training course for improving the skills and medical awareness of voluntary and social service workers. The course was organized from 12th-14th September by the French Organization (Dia) in its social center in Taiz. Ameen Al-Dub'ee, director of social activities at the organization, explained that the course aims at preparing those belonging to poor categories in the shanty

areas in Taiz, and training them on how to carry out voluntary work and offer social services to the poorest population in Al-Moshiqi zone and Al-Amal housing development.

He also indicated that the program of the course would cover a number of theoretical and practical lectures on the above-mentioned tasks, their social significance, and obstacles. Individuals' motivation towards the voluntary work and their satisfaction will be covered in the lectures as well as strategies for public awareness.

YDF conference

BY YASSER AL-MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Last Tuesday, the Yemeni Development Foundation (YDF) held a conference on "the role of the private sector in social accountability", in which a number of businessmen and financial experts partook. The conference, sponsored by Sabafon, had the motto: "Toward a joint developmental and social responsibility".

Dr. Mohammed Al-Miseibi, director

of the YDF emphasized the responsibility of the private sector, and its role in the combat against poverty and in giving assistance to the poor. He also stressed that the private sector can establish projects contributing to the development process in Yemen, especially in the areas inhabited by poorer people. "This is a national duty of vital importance", he added.

Mrs. A'asha Sabri, Manager of relations and telecommunication at Sabafon confirmed that the company is ready to offer everything for the purpose of contributing to the development process in Yemen, particularly for projects related to poverty alleviation.

Training course at CCI

TAIZ BUREAU

Events of a training course to improve the performance of regional branches of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) got underway on Saturday 18 Sept.

The course, which was organized by the CCI in Taiz, will last for one week. Mr. Adnan Abdullah Saleh, consultant of the CCI explained that the goal of the course is to give the participants information and techniques on improving the trading profession through lectures by academics specialized in the field of accountancy. He also added that the proposed programs would cope with modern accounting and trading processes encountered in many Arab countries.

Preparations for new academic year

ADEN BUREAU

Mahdi Abdusalam, director of the Education Office in Aden, mentioned that preparations for the new academic year 2004-2005 were carried out in good time in light of preparations for the Local Education Council.

"There will be changes to a number of school managements that failed last year," he added.

"The ministry is working on reconstructing old schools according to the plan of the local councils' projects."

He confirmed that, "the new academic year will include several activities and educational events in light of the plans and programs of the school managements in order to make Aden obtain high ranks as happened last year."

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that the cancellation of the scandalous oil deal by the Yemeni government will resolve this crisis for good?

- No, it will have no effect.
- No, it will in fact exacerbate it.
- Yes, it will help resolve it.

last edition's question:

Do you think that the international community will exert enough pressure to liberate journalist Al-Khaiwani from prison?

No, they will do too little 44%
Yes, but it will take some time 29%
Yes, it will be soon 27%

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CORRECTED

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E-Learning launched in Yemen

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen e-learning project, under the auspices of the ministry of Education and funded by the US embassy and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) completed the first phase of its training program Thursday 16 September.

Twenty teachers and six administrators were trained over the past several weeks on using students centered instructional methods in their classrooms and on basic computer and internet skills. These teachers and administrators will train other teachers in their schools.

The US Embassy and USAID have funded the installation of computer laboratories in five schools in Sana'a and five schools in Aden.

Once teachers are fully trained in using computers and the internet to enrich their classroom resources, they will train their students to use computers and the internet to exchange

experience and knowledge vis-a-vis education, teaching and learning.

The closing ceremony for this first phase of the training was attended by several dignitaries including:

His Excellency the minister of education, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi.

Mr. Jamil Al-Khalidi, Deputy Minister

Mr. Louis Coronado, Deputy Director of Mission, USAID, Yemen.

Dr. Tawfik Sufian, Vice-rector of Sana'a University and project Director of the learning project for the Education Development Center, Inc.

Dr. Helen Boyle, Director of the center for International Basic Education for Education Development Center, Inc.

Education Development Center, Inc. is an International non-governmental organization with a regional office in Cairo. EDC designed and delivered the training program in student-centered instruction with Yemen colleagues.

World Links, another international NGO and partner on this project, worked with the Yemen-based New

Horizons to design and deliver the computer and internet training.

The Minister of Education gave encouragement to the teachers and express his pleasure with their progress.

Mr. Coronado expressed his pleasure with quality of the laboratory at the teacher training Institute. Dr. Boyle thanked the teachers for all of their hard work over the past few weeks.



Panel of honoring (r-l): Dr. Tawfik Sufian, Dr. Helen Boyle, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi, and Mr. Jamil Al-Khalidi

This program is designed to foster connection between the US and Yemen, ultimately forging communication and understanding between teachers and students in both countries, as well as among teachers and students in the Arab world.

Mr. Amin Al-Kaderi, The Yemen Office Manager selection of the candidates for the training was decided to be done in three phases two of which have been already achieved, and the third in preparation.

The first phase was done by the use of an application form; all the secondary teachers of all five schools targeted in Sana'a were asked to fill in the application forms.

In the second phase of the selection, based on specific criterion these forms were screened accordingly and the ten the top finalists from each school were taken for the next phase of selection.

The last phase of the selection was done via an interview. In this regard a committee is suggested to include one representative from MoE, one representative from USAID, EDC educational specialist and EDC project director and project administrator. This committee conducted the interview for the selected ten teacher candidates selected in the second phase in accordance to specific criterion and instruments. This last phase of selection resulted in five finalists from each school. These five teachers from each school were trained to be

master trainers.

Wael Hashim New Horizons Marketing Manager;

As New Horizons Computer learning center in Sana'a is the Training center who, trained those teachers, Wael Hashim Marketing Manager has disclosed his pleasure to participate in this event and explain this event as a qualitative transfer to improve education in Yemen in addition to civilization dialogue with the world.

We are at New Horizons intend to strengthening the skills of teachers by giving them additional classes in Ramadan to make revision for what they had and give them additional classes.

World day on first aid

BY YASSER AL-MAYYASI
YEMEN TIMES

Yemen Red Crescent Association (YRCA) marked on Saturday Sept 11th the occasion of the World Day on First Aid (WDA). A press convention was held at the YRCA in the presence of a number of journalists of different media.

Dr. Abbas Zabarah, Secretary General of YRCA, emphasized that the importance of such meetings was so that the efforts made by the Association could be transmitted through the media. He also underlined that the media's function of creating press awareness and comprehension of the Association's goals and its motto, which this year is "The necessity of aids provision in every house".

Zabarah pointed out that the YRCA currently has 12 branches in different provinces, and that WDA's importance lies in the initial response to casualties and in first aid provision. Moreover, he extended the invitation to everyone to join the YRCA, and to receive first aid training.

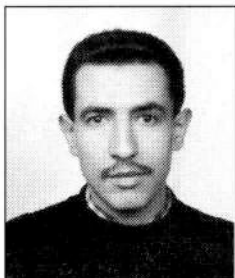
Exhibition in Aden

ADEN BUREAU

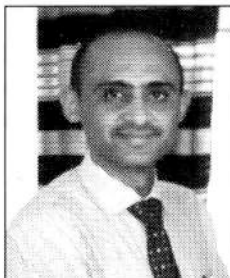
The Yemeni Economic Corporation is going to host the Arabic Syrian Exhibition and the Yemeni Exhibition of Hayl Sa'eed Ana'am Group, at its consumption complex in October. The exhibition will come in accordance with the preparations for providing the Yemeni citizens with consumables for Ramadhan.

Musa Al-Qadhi, the manager of the complex, said, "the Corporation in its turn is going to put its goods on sale. There will be 30% discount on consumer goods and 80% on clothes."

The Corporation will facilitate shopping for staff of the armed forces, security and ministries in Aden. The goods are worth of YR 150 million, a 40% rise compared with last year.



Mr. Amin Al-Kaderi, EDC Yemen Office Manager



Mr. Wael Hashim, New Horizons Yemen Center Marketing Manager



Minister of Education hands over certificates of course completion to the trainees

Correction

The Russian Ambassador's letter to Yemen Times

In connection with fact that the mistake made in the interview published in the issue 773 of Yemen Times has led to a completely wrong phrase concerning the position of Arab countries towards terrorism, I want to reaffirm the following Efforts exerted by Arab countries in fighting international terrorism are highly appreciated in Russia. The Russian people are proud of its traditional friendship and cooperation with Arabs and we shall continue pursuing the policy aimed at their further strengthening. In those hard days for us, particularly, in connection with the tragedy in the town of Beslan we fully felt the support of Yemen's leadership, broad social and political circles and Yemeni citizens.

*The Ambassador of the Russian Federation
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Erratum

A technical unintentional error occurred in the article entitled "Conclusion of Training Course on Administering NGOs" published on page 3 of YT issue No. 769.

"Dutch Friedrich Eibert Stiftung Organization", was written instead of the correct reading "German Friedrich Eibert Stiftung Organization".

Our apology to our readers and to the German Friedrich Eibert Stiftung Organization.

Warning

The Middle East Shipping Co. Ltd, head office in Hodeidah with branches throughout the Republic of Yemen announces that the stamp shown herewith had been lost on Sunday 12th September 2004.

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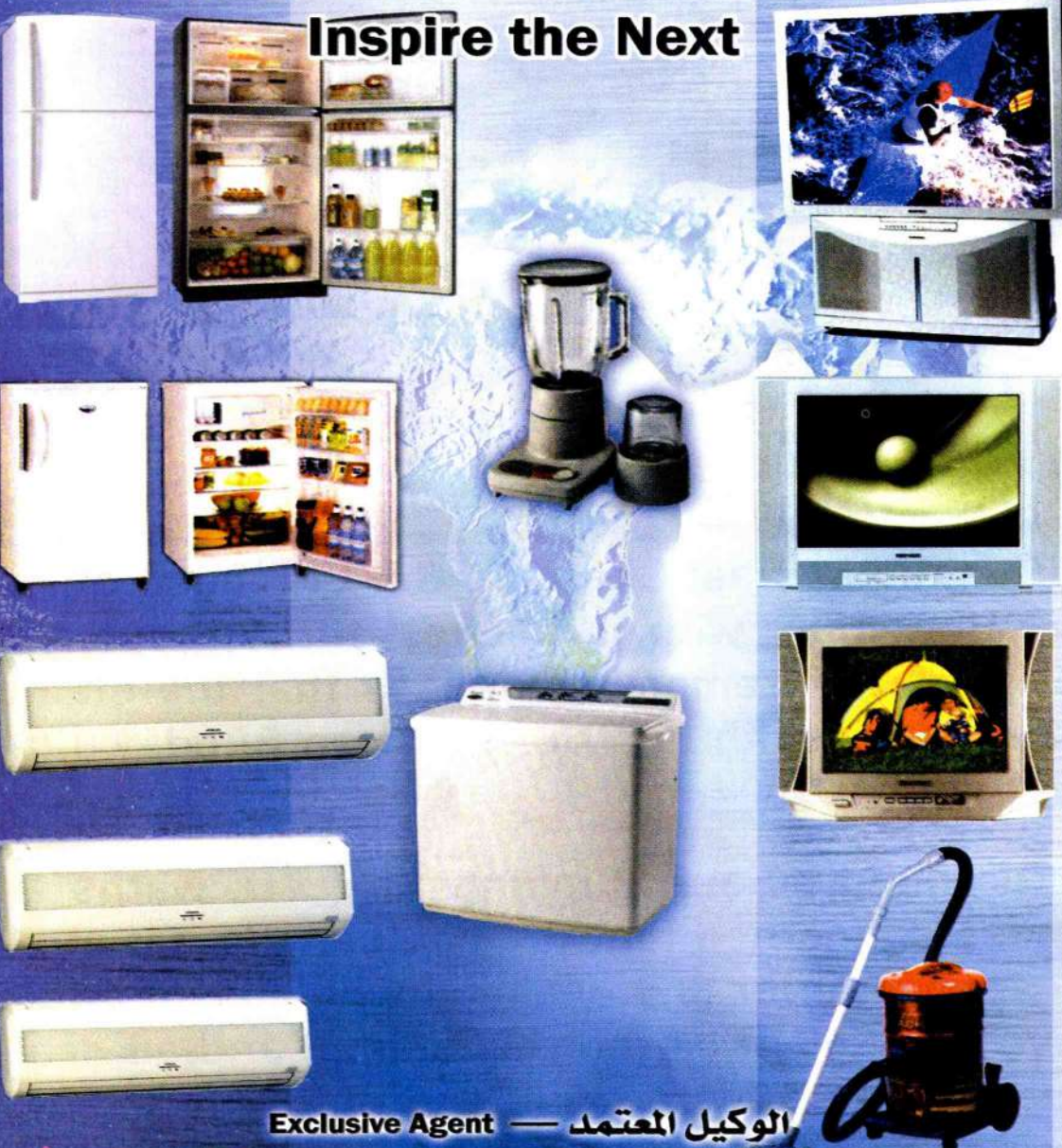
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Militants threaten to kill US, UK hostages in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Sept 18 (Reuters) - Insurgents threatened to kill two Americans and a Briton unless the United States freed Iraqi women prisoners, Al Jazeera said on Saturday, and a suicide car bomb killed 23 people outside Iraqi National Guard offices.

The Arabic broadcaster aired scenes from a videotape of the three men it had obtained from the Tawhid and Jihad Group of suspected al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, which said Washington had 48 hours to release Iraqi women prisoners in Abu Ghraib and Umm Qasr.

"The Tawhid and Jihad Group gave a 48-hour deadline for the release of the women prisoners in return for releasing the two Americans and Briton kidnapped on Thursday, or they would implement the death penalty against them," Al Jazeera said.

In the third major suicide attack this week against Iraq's beleaguered security forces, a car bomber on Saturday killed at least 23 people outside the headquarters of the Iraqi National Guard in the northern city of Kirkuk.

Hospital officials said 53 were wounded. The bomb ripped through a crowd of people waiting to apply for jobs at the headquarters in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad.

More than 200 Iraqis have been killed over the past few days in a surge of violence which has prompted concerns about the feasibility of holding national elections under current security conditions in January.

A car bomb near a police station in Baghdad on Tuesday killed at least 47 people, many of whom were joining up with the Iraqi police.

On Friday a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle alongside several Iraqi police patrol cars at a checkpoint in



Two Iraqi boys ride a bike in front of the house in al-Mansur district, where three foreigners were snatched, Baghdad, September 16. Gunmen snatched two Americans and a Briton from a house in central Baghdad on Thursday, the latest in a wave of abductions of foreigners in Iraq. REUTERS

Baghdad, killing at least eight.

Washington blames the Jordanian-born Zarqawi for masterminding suicide attacks and kidnappings and has offered \$25 million for information leading to his death or capture.

Brief extracts from the tape aired by Al Jazeera on Saturday showed the three men blindfolded as a hooded gunman stood behind them with his weapon pointed at the head of one of the captives.

The hostages appeared to be giving details of who they were, but their voices could not be heard clearly. They wore normal clothes and appeared to be in good health.

Gunmen abducted the three on Thursday from a house in an affluent

neighbourhood of central Baghdad.

Their embassies identified them as Americans Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley and Briton Kenneth Bigley.

MORE THAN 100 FOREIGNERS SEIZED

More than 100 foreigners from dozens of countries have been snatched in the last six months, and at least 30 have been killed. Many hostages have been truck drivers from impoverished countries, but at least seven Westerners are being held.

Two female French journalists and two Italian female aid workers have also been taken hostage in the past few weeks.

A senior Iraqi oil official survived an assassination attempt on Saturday after

gunmen attacked his convoy with automatic gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, police said.

Mohammed al-Zibari, head of oil products for the state-run North Oil Company, was travelling in a vehicle in the northern city of Mosul when assailants ambushed his convoy, killing four of his bodyguards. Zibari escaped unharmed, police said.

Guerrillas frequently attack the country's oil infrastructure as part of a campaign to stall reconstruction.

In a push to retake areas in rebel hands and bring them under government control, U.S.-led forces have launched an offensive in Muslim Sunni enclaves to flush out insurgents.

U.S. air strikes on Thursday and Friday around the rebel-held city of Falluja killed scores, including what the U.S. military said were 60 foreign fighters.

In Ramadi, another centre of the insurgency near Falluja, police said they found the body of the deputy provincial governor, Basem Muhammed, who was abducted earlier this month. He had been shot several times.

Several Iraqi officials linked to the interim U.S.-backed government have been assassinated by guerrillas, causing government control to break down in rebel strongholds.

In leaked British Foreign Office documents, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw raised the issue of postwar chaos in Iraq before the war to oust Saddam Hussein began.

"No one has satisfactorily answered how there can be any certainty that the replacement regime will be any better," Britain's Daily Telegraph on Saturday quoted Straw as saying in a note to Prime Minister Tony Blair marked "Secret and Personal."

Eugene Armstrong and Kenneth John Bigley and said they installed and furnished camps at Taji base.

At least 26 foreign hostages have been killed since kidnappings began in April. Many Arab and Western hostages are currently being held, and the French and Italian governments have faced crises over the kidnapping of their nationals.

France and Italy this month launched diplomatic missions in the region in an attempt to secure the release of two French journalists and two female Italian aid workers being held.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said his government was doing all in its

Iraq: Urgent Inquiry needed into civilian killings by US troops

BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

Amnesty International is calling for an inquiry into recent attacks in which civilians were killed in Iraq in circumstances which may have violated international law.

"There are worrying reports about the mounting casualties amongst civilians who find themselves caught in the battle between American troops and insurgents", said Abdel Salam Sidahmed, Director of the Middle East & North Africa Program in Amnesty International. "It is time to ask questions about whether these casualties could have been avoided and whether needless deaths could be prevented in the future."

According to Press and hospital reports, at least forty four people – including many women and children – were killed when US forces attacked targets allegedly connected to al-Qaeda near the city of Falluja on Friday.

Thirteen civilians, including a young girl and a television camera man working with al-Arabiah TV, were killed in Haifa Street, in Baghdad, on 12/9/2004 when US troops fired from a helicopter at a crowd, allegedly in response to shots fired from the same area. A US army spokesperson justified that attack and described the operation as "successful". The spokesperson said that US army did its best to "eliminate collateral damage". However, press reports contradict the US accounts that shots were fired at the helicopter from the same area.

"Multi-national troops must take necessary precautions to protect civil-

ians, and respect the principles of necessity and proportionality," said Abdel Salam Sidahmed, "Amnesty International is seeking clarification of the measures multi-national forces are taking to ensure that they comply fully with their obligations under International law."

"Amnesty International recognizes that the multi-national troops are facing daily attacks and as such are bound to protect the lives of their soldiers but equally they have a responsibility to protect Iraqi civilians."

A clarification on the legal responsibilities of multi-national troops in Iraq is also needed. These troops have been provided broad powers to act "by preventing and deterring terrorism". However, the International or national standards which they must observe "to take all necessary measures to contribute to the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq" remain unclear.

Iraq's interim government is responsible for making sure that the multi-national troops it has mandated to protect civilians and maintain security, law and order in the country, fulfill their mission while abiding by International humanitarian and Human rights law. In addition, each of the states whose troops are deployed in Iraq is responsible for ensuring that its troops abide by the International humanitarian and Human rights law.

"Amnesty International calls on all parties in Iraq to fully meet their obligations under International law, including by respecting all Human rights which Iraq is bound to uphold under the human rights treaties to which it is a party."

Zarqawi group threatens to kill US, UK hostages

DUBAI, Sept 18 (Reuters) - Iraqi militants threatened in an Internet video on Saturday to kill one British and two American hostages unless U.S. forces released female prisoners from two jails within 48 hours. The footage from the Tawhid and Jihad Group of suspected al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, posted on several Web sites, showed three men kneeling on the ground and blindfolded with what appeared to be tape, as a black-hooded man stood behind them with a weapon pointed at the head of one.

"Tawhid and Jihad sets a 48-hour deadline for the release of all our Muslim sisters in Abu Ghraib and Umm

Qasr prisons or else, by God, these three hostages will have their throats slit to set an example," said the militant.

But the U.S. military said on Saturday no women were being held at Abu Ghraib or at Camp Bucca near Umm Qasr.

Baghdad's Abu Ghraib is the scene of past abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. guards that caused international outrage and has led to criminal proceedings.

The hostages identified themselves on camera.

"My name is Jack Hensley and my job consists of installing and furnishing camps at Taji base," one man said. The other two identified themselves as

Suicide car bomb kills 23 in N. Iraq - doctors

KIRKUK, Iraq, Sept 18 (Reuters) - A suicide car bomb attack on Saturday outside the regional headquarters of the Iraqi National Guard in the northern city of Kirkuk killed 23 men, most of whom were waiting to join the force, doctors said.

The attack wounded another 53, some of whom were in critical condition, the doctors at Kirkuk hospital said. The bomber detonated his car at the rear entrance of the National Guard headquarters in a residential

area of the city.

Iraqi insurgents have targeted the Iraqi security forces as part of a campaign against the U.S.-backed interim government. A car bomb near a police station in Baghdad this week killed 47, many of whom were waiting to sign up for the Iraqi police.

On Friday a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle alongside several Iraqi police patrol cars at a checkpoint in Baghdad, killing at least eight.



Iraqi policemen inspect the scene of a suicide attack in the northern town of Kirkuk, September 18. A suicide car bomb attack on Saturday outside the regional headquarters of the Iraqi National Guard in the northern city of Kirkuk killed 23 men, most of whom were waiting to join the force, doctors said. The attack wounded another 16, many of whom were in critical condition, the doctors at Kirkuk hospital said. REUTERS

US accuses Iran of bomb plans as UN nuke talks stall

VIENNA, Sept 18 (Reuters) - The United States said on Saturday that Iran was "completely isolated" in what Washington says is Tehran's pursuit of an atom bomb, while talks at the U.N. atomic agency stalled over what to demand of Tehran.

France, Britain and Germany formally submitted a toughly-worded draft resolution to the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Friday that calls on Tehran to immediately freeze its uranium enrichment programme.

This is the most controversial part of Iran's programme since enrichment can be used to develop nuclear material for weapons.

"The United States fully endorses the draft resolution. Iran remains completely isolated in its pursuit of nuclear weapons and the draft resolution to be considered this morning makes that clear," U.S. Under Secretary of State John Bolton said.

The statement was read to reporters by the head of the U.S. delegation at this week's meeting of the U.N. agency in Vienna, Jackie Sanders. The resolution was to be debated on Saturday.

Iran denies any plan to develop nuclear arms and insists its programme is intended only to produce electricity. It says its enrichment facilities would be used only to make low-enriched fuel for power plants, not highly-enriched fuel for bombs.



Iran's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief delegate Hussein Mousavian speaks to the media prior to an IAEA board of governors meeting in Vienna, September 18. A senior U.S. official said on Saturday Iran was "completely isolated" in what he called its pursuit of nuclear weapons and that this would be reflected in a draft resolution to be debated by the U.N. nuclear watchdog. REUTERS

This demand for the enrichment freeze has caused a split among the 35 members of the IAEA board of governors, some of which believe that it could set a bad precedent.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

Brazil and South Africa also have enrichment programmes and fear that someday they too could be told to freeze their commercial enrichment activities,

diplomats said. They have the support of the large block of non-aligned states on the board.

Although the draft resolution has the backing of a majority of IAEA board members, the agency prefers to adopt all decisions unanimously by consensus, rather than by a vote. Negotiators from the EU three are currently meeting with non-aligned diplomats to persuade them to accept the draft text.

Although Washington appears satisfied with the draft text, Western diplomats said U.S. negotiators had to retreat somewhat from their demand that Iran be reported to the U.N. Security Council for hiding parts of its parts programme for 18 years.

"We've had very constructive negotiations," Bolton said about the week-long talks, which diplomats close to them described as occasionally heated.

A Western diplomat familiar with U.S. thinking said he was confident the resolution, if approved, would lead to a Security Council referral and possibly economic sanctions in November.

"It looks like Iran's going to the Security Council," he said.

The IAEA has been investigating Iran's nuclear programme for two years. Although it has found many concealed activities that could be used to develop weapons, it has found no "smoking gun" that would prove U.S. allegations of Iranian bomb plans.

Sirens to wail across China to mark 1931 Japan attack

BEIJING, Sept 18 (Reuters) - Sirens will wail across more than 100 Chinese cities and cars will stop and honk their horns on Saturday to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the start of Japan's invasion of China, state media said.

Many Chinese harbour deep resentment of Japan's wartime past and what they see as its failure to own up to atrocities. Beijing estimates up to 35 million Chinese were killed or wounded by invading Japanese troops from 1931 to 1945.

Cities from Hangzhou in the east coast to the Tibetan capital of Lhasa in the Himalayas were due to take part in the commemoration of the "Mukden Incident" on Sept. 18, 1931, when Japanese troops began occupying northeast China, then known as Manchuria.

The anniversary takes on bigger significance this year because Saturday is National Defence Education Day, which falls on the third Saturday of September and on which sirens are traditionally sounded in major cities.

Some sirens went off at 9.18 a.m. (0118 GMT), while others were timed for 9.18 p.m. (1318 GMT), for instance in the northeastern city of Shenyang, formerly Mukden, officials said by telephone. The time represents the 18th day of the ninth month.

The Beijing Youth Daily newspaper said cars would stop in the street at 9.18 p.m. and sound their horns.

It showed a picture of students of Laoshan Primary School, Shandong



Chinese demonstrators attend an anti-Japanese rally in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, September 18. Saturday marks the 73rd anniversary of Japan's invasion of China which resulted in most of the mainland being occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army.

province, holding a banner at "Yangkou landing point of Japanese invading troops".

The banner read: "Keep firm the memory of history and never forget about national humiliation."

A handful of protesters gathered outside the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, waving flags and banners and denouncing Japanese wartime aggression.

Xia Shuqin, 75, a Chinese survivor

of the Nanjing Massacre, has sued two Japanese writers for disputing her story that as an eight-year-old she was stabbed by a Japanese soldier and hid in a room full of dead bodies with her four-year-old sister for 14 days.

The defamation suit, which began on Wednesday, was the first of its kind, the China Daily newspaper said.

China says 300,000 civilians died in the 1937 Nanjing Massacre when Japanese imperial troops overran the

Chinese Nationalist capital.

Diplomatic ties between China and Japan have often been frayed by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's annual visits to a Shinto shrine for Japan's war dead as well as disputes over sovereignty of a cluster of tiny islands in the East China Sea.

But the two Asian giants have moved to strengthen ties in the face of the North Korean nuclear crisis. Trade is booming and China is eager to attract Japanese investment and tourists, while Japan has its eye on the vast mainland market.

China's loss to Japan in the Asian Cup soccer final in August fuelled anti-Japanese sentiment. Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi has since been appointed ambassador to Japan in a bid to mend ties.

On Thursday, China rejected a proposal by a Japanese private advisory panel to Koizumi that the world's most populous nation be described as a military threat, saying it posed no danger to its smaller neighbour.

China is one of the world's nuclear powers and its People's Liberation Army is the world's biggest with 2.5 million men and women.

Watchdog urges Eritrea to free jailed reporters

By Matthew Green

NAIROBI, Sept 18 (Reuters) - Branding Eritrea "Africa's biggest prison for the press," a media watchdog urged the government on Saturday to free more than a dozen journalists jailed in a crackdown on newspapers three years ago.

Human rights groups say the tiny country of about four million people on Africa's Red Sea coast has one of the world's worst records for press freedom, having shut down all its private newspapers on Sept. 18, 2001.

"The situation is unique in the world," Paris-based Reporters Without Borders said in a statement.

"Eritrea has been in an extended news blackout since that night in September 2001 when the government closed the privately owned newspapers and imprisoned the leading journalists."

Activists say the closure of the private press is just one feature of an appalling human rights situation in Eritrea, where Amnesty International said in a May report that thousands of people have been locked up for criticising the government.

Eleven high-profile politicians have also been detained since September 2001 by Eritrean authorities, whom Amnesty also accuses of using torture and persecuting minority churches.

President Isayas Afewerki has always denied there are any political prisoners,

calling the detainees "traitors." Families say they are rarely given information on detainees' whereabouts.

"Thanks to President Afewerki's stubbornness, Eritrea today is still the only country in Africa and one of the few in the world where only the government's press has the right to publish," RSF said.

It said at least 14 journalists had been detained without charge at unknown locations for the past three years, possibly in very harsh conditions, leaving Eritreans to depend on the state press and a few international radio stations for news.

Eritrea expelled a reporter working for the BBC without explanation on September 10, removing the last foreign journalist working for an international news organisation.

Jonah Fisher, who had reported from the capital Asmara for the past 18 months and had also been working as a freelance correspondent for Reuters, said at the time he had been told by information ministry officials to leave the country.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, which puts the number of detained reporters in Eritrea at 17, echoed calls for their release on Saturday, issuing a joint letter signed by nine other rights groups, including various media bodies from across Africa.

Eritrean officials were not immediately contactable.

Burundi parliament adopts new draft constitution

BUJUMBURA, Sept 18 (Reuters) - Burundi's parliament adopted a new draft constitution under a peace process aimed at ending 10 years of civil war, the speaker said, although some deputies opposed to power-sharing arrangements boycotted the vote.

The national assembly passed the constitution at a session that ended late on Friday, crossing their latest hurdle towards holding elections due by the end of October. U.N. officials say the polls may be delayed.

Adopting the constitution forms part of a peace agreement aiming to end the war between rebels from the ethnic Hutu majority and a transitional government in the capital Bujumbura.

Burundi's civil war has claimed an estimated 300,000 lives.

"All 189 MPs and Senators who attended this plenary session have said yes to the draft constitution," Jean

Minani, the Speaker of the National Assembly, said late on Friday. The parliament consists of 218 members of parliament and 54 senators. The number of votes required for adopting the draft constitution was 180.

President Domitien Ndayizeye has called a referendum scheduled for October 20 that the government hopes will provide popular endorsement for the new constitution, which enshrines power-sharing arrangements between Hutus and minority Tutsis.

Despite progress towards peace, sporadic fighting between Hutu rebels of the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) and the army still occurs near the capital.

The FNL has rejected the peace deal, signed by the main Hutu rebel groups in November 2003, saying it will do not go far enough to ending political dominance by the Tutsi minority.

Continued from page 1

Abu Hamza may stand trial in Britain

If Abu Hamza is charged in Britain, it will override the possibility of an extradition to the United States.

"Since the United States and Great Britain have cases against Abu Hamza, it is not very likely that he will be extradited to Yemen," said a Yemeni analyst.

The Yemeni government has had a warrant for the arrest of Abu Hamza since 1999. Over the last three years, Yemen has been asking the British government for his extradition, but the requests have been denied.

Abu Hamza is wanted in Yemen on charges of being involved in terrorist activities while being based in Britain. He is believed to have participated in the kidnapping of 17 foreign tourists in Yemen six years ago. Four of the hostages were killed during a rescue attempt carried out by the Yemeni army.

British Home Secretary David Blunkett has said that Britain would not send Abu Hamza

to Yemen because he could possibly face the death penalty. Britain has a ban on the death penalty and sending suspects to countries that apply capital punishment.

If Abu Hamza is extradited to the United States, he will face an 11-count indictment. Along with being connected to the kidnapping in Yemen, Abu Hamza is accused of trying to put together a terrorist training camp in Oregon in 1999. He is also accused of recruiting at least one man to an Al-Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan and providing material support to Al-Qaeda in 1999 and 2000. It is believed that Abu Hamza, who was born in Egypt as Mustafa Kamel Mustafa and holds a British passport, was the spiritual leader of Richard Reid who tried to detonate a shoe bomb on a flight from Paris to Miami in 2001. It is also believed that Abu Hamza had an association with Zacarias Moussaoui who is being tried in a US federal court on terrorist charges.

Last month, the Yemeni government asked the British government to extradite Abu Issa Al-Hindi, also known as Bilal, for being involved in the kidnapping of foreigners in 1998. Al-Hindi was arrested by British officials as a suspected Al-Qaeda member. Yemen authorities have been searching for Al-Hindi for the last five years.

When Abu Hamza was sent to a high-security prison in London last May, the Yemeni government demanded his extradition. Director General of the Ministry of Interior Mohieddine Al-Dabi said that the government was pushing for Abu Hamza to be sent to Yemen and stand trial for his connection with the kidnapping in 1998.

Last Friday, Abu Hamza attended a court in London through a video link while he remained in prison. According to a US lawyer, if Abu Hamza is not charged in Britain, an extradition hearing will start on October 19th.

Al-Houthi war costs may have exceeded YR 180 billion

Many observers think that clashes will continue for longer than the official media predicts. They add that President Ali Abdullah Saleh should declare an amnesty for the rest of Al-Houthi's followers, and set up rules to regulate religious schools, institutes and universities, and unify their curricula so as to ensure peace in Yemen.

They claim that it is a futile attempt to ask Al-Ruzami to surrender, because Al-Houthi earlier preferred to be killed than to give in to authorities.

They expect that the war bill will increase, reflecting itself the social conditions of the citizens, with elementary figures indicating that the state's budget has lost in three months over YR 180 billion, let alone the human and property losses.

Tribal, religious, and political leaders praised the President's pardon on Al-Houthi's father, aged 85, who has also been given the right to move to and live in any part of the country.

The children and two wives of sheikh Al-Houthi, who was killed last week, have been transferred to Sana'a to live in the house of Yahya Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, member of Parliament and brother to Hussein Al-Houthi.

Ministry of Interior told last week the Sept 26 Newspaper, the organ of the Yemeni Army, that investigations have uncovered documents indicating Al-Houthi's receiving

support from regional players, either through Arab intelligence agencies, religious sects, or charitable societies in the area.

"The information elicited by Yemeni investigators shows that those sides aimed, through supporting Al-Houthi, to spread havoc and instability in Yemen," the newspaper quoted the ministry.

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) denounced in a statement distributed on Thursday Sept 16 the official media campaign which they described as "artificial, defamatory to opposition leaders and misleading as regards the opposition parties' stances on the Sa'ada events."

The statement said: "The JMP never took sides in this crisis. They stuck to reaching a peaceful solution to avoid bloodshed, and realized the consequences of a military solution and its destructive effects."

It added: "The call of the JMP to refer to the Parliament for a solution was to treat the crisis by constitution and law and with the knowledge of the people. The constitution gives the right to express ones opinion, and does not allow anyone to use authority to try other people for their performance. The people through constitutional organizations are the only body who can prefer one opinion to another. Monopolizing fact and distorting others' opinion is a stand against the constitution and democracy."

The JMP's statement went on to say: "The official media apparatuses are unlawfully arousing enmity and unfair hatred against others including the political forces which may result in sparking mischief jeopardizing the social peace and national solidarity."

The statement showed clearly the JMP's stance on issues resolvable peacefully, concluding: "Our people are in need for the political means to solve disagreements, and to accommodate for the language of dialogue and middle-road solutions, and give concessions to serve the national interest and the stability of the country. Yemen is in need more than ever for peace and stability to create the atmosphere suitable for development, the fight against poverty, and investment encouragement. The state should find out solutions to internal difficulties far from hindrances to development and investment."

The opposition parties urged the government not to solve its problems by creating other more costly problems. They also called for discussing how to responsibly contain the aftermath of the crisis, and study the reasons behind it so as to extract lessons and avoid similar treatments in the future. The JMP called on the government to stop antagonizing people against each other, stressing that "political reform is the best way to save Yemen from frequent problems."

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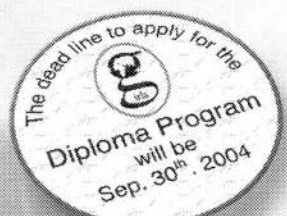
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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR
OPINIONWe want to
break free!

A meeting will take place on September 24th in New York City - which I will hopefully be attending provided my US visa is issued on time - focusing on the question of 'How to achieve reform in the Arab World?' This meeting, which will involve the civil society along with governments from the region, will also be an opportunity to analyze the problems that caused such a level of backwardness and vulnerability in the Arab world of today.

It is no secret that the Arab Human Development Report clearly indicated that Arabs are last according to all development indicators including education, economic prosperity, level of income, health, technology, and many other issues.

Yet, whenever we focus on reform, we ask, "where should we start?"

For me, the question is very easy, and the answer cannot be found in our countries. The question lies elsewhere. It lies in a country, any country, where there is freedom of thought and action.

Arabs in exile in the USA, Europe, Australia, and in other modern countries, have proven to be productive, healthy, educated, and superior in their positions. In fact, they are, in many cases, much better off than the original citizens of the state they live in. Why didn't Arabs in their homeland become as creative and enlightened? Why do our generations keep on striving to make ends meet while their brothers living abroad are progressing and contributing to science, education, and technology, and hence are contributing positively to the countries they stay in?

It all comes down to 'freedom', this magical word, is the one that would solve all our problems and miseries. Freedom which empowers humans with dignity is what we need the most.

Our human rights, which we have been stripped of since early childhood, need to be restored. Our spirits and minds, which have been shackled for decades, need to be liberated. We must regain the title of 'free humans', which we have been deprived of for a very long time.

How can a nation progress and excel if its individuals have their minds caged and thoughts censored? How can a person be inventive if he is warned that anything that crosses his/her mind which violates the regime's laws and ideas is strictly prohibited? How can a person begin changing society if he himself cannot change due to the excessive restrictions he is exposed to every single day?

All questions bring us to one conclusion: enslaved humans can never make strong nations. Enchained minds and souls cannot fly into the world of prosperity and create a life that deserves to be lived.

For an average of 30 years, Arabs have continued to live in a state of imprisonment of mind and soul. They have lived in the darkest ages of their entire history, as they were not free to talk, to write, or even to think. Now, we've seen a report that shows the gloomy picture of where we have arrived and a worse scenario for the future if we continue down the same path.

We miss our freedom very much; the freedom that our God had given to us, and our religion, Islam endorsed. "Have you enslaved people while they were born free?" is a famous question raised by the second Islamic Caliphate Omar bin Al-Khattab. Why did we drift so far from our own religion's teachings?

Today, we are heading towards a crossroads. It is time to decide whether we will continue to live as slaves for our entire lives, or regain our lost freedom and human rights. Will we live as dignified humans who can contribute, think, talk, write, and act freely under a rule of a law that respects our freedom, or will we remain subservient to a law that has been drafted by regimes to ensure we remain slaves to their continued power?

If the world is still not aware of what made us sink into backwardness and vulnerability, then we will have to shout louder and louder: "We want to break free!"

Then what we need to do is to start actual steps with the help of civil society and the free world, to prove that we need liberation and want to live our lives as true humans, with dignity and pride!

The Editor



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Head office:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

Email: yementimes@yementimes.com
Website: http://www.yementimes.com

Branches:
Aden Bureau Chief:
Ridwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-457, 346596;
Fax: +967 (2) 347-456
Email: rytaden@y.net.ye
Taiz Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156
Tel: +967 (4) 217-157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: ryttaiz@y.net.ye
Hodeidah Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (3) 206-886

Regional Distributors

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Saudi Distribution Co.
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Tlx: 605350
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Qatar (Doha):
Dar Al-Sharq Printing,
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P.O. Box: 3488

Dubai:
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Promising Yemen to
attract investment

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

Yemen that was promising in the nineties, at the time of the Reunification, is able to attract the capitals of Arabs abroad estimated at \$ 6 billion. These capitals belong to wealthy people from oil and non-oil producing countries including Yemenis who traveled abroad seeking safety and high income. Most of their capitals are either invested in shares and estates or as current accounts in foreign banks. If there was security, stability and investment opportunities in the region, such capitals will be invested within Arab region.

Nowadays, Arab and foreign countries compete with each other in the areas of law amendments to attract investments and capitals and oil-producing countries, which experienced a massive investments movement in the last twenty years, can now, through their financial assets and investment organizations, attract the capitals possessed by their citizens. In addition to that, ownership and investment restrictions imposed on people in non-oil countries make it difficult if not impossible to see investment opportunities.

Furthermore, the rest of Arab countries except for Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco are either not politically and socially stabilized or experience unpromising opportunities, and it may take a decade to regain capitals that are

outside the region.

Yemen is now in a need for change, starting reformation, amending laws, and selecting highly qualified cadres more than before, after the president confirmed fighting and Aden free zone will be the real alternative for investing capitals.

The President may wonder, "why do not the Arab millionaires withdraw their capitals from the European banks and invest them in Yemen and Arab countries which have the ability to attract investment?"

The answer will be as follows:

1) Foreign countries do not have security especially after Sept 11th event and therefore witness series of economic shocks as:

The Black Monday in October, 1987 when stock market deteriorated and Arabs' losses reached \$ 25 billion. After that came the Red Monday when Arabs lost another \$ 10 billion.

2) The claim of Western governments to respect free investment laws however this does not cover the Arab investors, and the bed of the British government to Kuwait to sell a great part of its shares in British companies after a rise in share prices, is still remembered.

3) Yemen and other Arab countries amended many of their laws and became able to attract investment. Investment attraction to Yemen will be through administrative financial and economic reforms and its ability to present itself in regional and international conferences.

It is an investigatable issue", said the president in his talk with a number of military and civil officials and motivated the qualified cadres to compete in favor of the society. We expect that the president will listen to the comments of businessmen and civil community organizations and then comes the time of amending investment and customs laws and a number of procedures and bylaws in order not to thwart and frustrate investors. We do not expect the procedures in Yemen to be as easy as those in Britain, Spain and Australia and not to take some months.

What frustrates the attraction of Arab and foreign capitals to Yemen is bureaucracy, routine and ignorance. We can not achieve what we want by means of the mindsets of the sixties and the beginning of the seventies and the Aden free zone is still a practical evidence to what happens and is happening to us "Time is money". There fore we have to take practical procedures towards reflecting the authorities' real intentions to make it a real free zone capable of attracting investments.

It is really a chance while the president is visiting Britain, as well as to interpret the president's visit to Britain as reconsideration for the chairmanship of the Aden free zone that the chairman of the General Authority for free zones to be the executive chairman of the Aden free Zone's board of directors has to be given the tools of authority for which we can compensate during 14 years and half.

I am disappointed in you

SEAN BOWMAN
smbowman@yahoo.com

I have read the Yemen Times for over a year now, and for the first time, I am very disappointed in your newspaper.

What is the cause for my disappointment? Publishing a trashy op-ed from some random website by a name named John Kaminski and saying it's the "American Viewpoint." It is obvious the man has not even glanced at the 9/11 Commission Report, which

divulges in complete detail what happened on that tragic day. There is no way hundreds, if not thousands of people could have been in on such a conspiracy, and made up the elaborate story given in that report.

The reason I am disappointed is you are just developing silly myths and conspiracies that run amok in the Middle East. Arabs, in general, need to take account for their actions and not blame others. I have spent extensive time in both Yemen and the Arab world, and fully realize 99% of the people are not like those terrorists that carried out that

awful deed.

Nevertheless, I am frustrated by the lack of anger and condemnation from Arabs. They need to look in the mirror and figure out why such evil men have come from their society. Instead, many come up with scapegoats such as Mossad or even China or Russia. The result of this is more anger from Americans and worse relations between both sides. Unfortunately neither group can afford things to deteriorate further; already innocent people are dying because of these misunderstandings between the Arab world and the West.

Letters to the Editor

Defending Samir's
Cartoons

I am so disappointed by the letter sent by one of the readers criticizing Samir's cartoons, however I believe that every one is entitled to their opinion.

I personally think that Samir's cartoon section is a most liberal section that reflects the origin and the extent of the problems faced not only by the Palestinians but the whole of the Arabs.

Perhaps the writer of that letter doesn't understand that the Palestinian problem is not solely a Palestinian problem, but rather it's a predicament for the whole Arabs and even the whole Islamic nation. The Yemenis are part of this great Islamic body and if a part of this body is diseased than the whole body suffers.

Every one knows (except those who chose to be ignorant) about the crimes committed by Israel. Trying to cover these crimes has become like trying to cover the sun with a thumb. The words have become powerless and ineffective in describing the crimes committed by Israel who is supported by the US and therefore cartoons and photos are a last (and unthreatening) resort. Can you believe that the blood of the Palestinians has become the price of the Americans Presidency? No president would be elected without satisfying the American Israeli lobby and that's why the US is the biggest, if not the only supporter, of the Zionist state.

Israel and America have more than enough media

organizations to promote their policies. They twist words, silencing the cries of victims, disfigure the truth and distort the facts, but to their dismay truth will always prevail. The last thing we need is someone to sink to the level of their deceptions. Rather what we need is a truthful pen that explores the myths and clears the facts.

I personally think that this is the least thing Samir Can do.

To me, Yemen times without Samir's cartoons is a paper without any value.

KEEP UP THE EFFORT SAMIR.

May Allah guide us to be just and to the right path.

Z Alshameeri
mda99zak@shef.ac.uk

Failure of education

It perplexes me how our education systems fails to educate our people. The education system, systematically fails to open minds or to encourage creative and individual thinking. We are informed that to learn parrot fashion will give us success, but to question is to cause trouble, let a lone to think. Simple conformism is good and individualism is not. (I have to qualify this by supplementing that such a gross overstatement is not merely prevalent in the Yemeni education system, but more generally throughout the Arab, and the developing world.)

This then leads us to question the notion of parrot fashion, patriarchal learning, in which the teacher is always right. This reflects an endem-

Letters to the Editor

ic failure within greater society, whether it is from local institutions to the larger question of how we are lead. Reverence, maybe a question of manners, but not at the price of freedom to think which must be implemented holistically, from the individual unit to the ruling system. This lack of freedom reflects incompetence and stagnation and thus an intrinsic lack of progressive development, replaced by a flawed recursive change.

Lack of research, open society, open markets is one way forward. However much I wish for Arab regimes to embrace this, sadly our education system is only reflective of more of the same!

Najla A.
najla10@hotmail.com

Write about education
please!

As you know schools are opening and there are families who can not afford to send their children to school. My ambition is to see all Yemeni people living a better life, and education is the main pathway to better living and the building of a better generation. I can not afford to help many children, and so I tried to get some contributions for some children, and I got help from my friend Tony French from Australia to cover school tuition fees for 4 children as well as uniforms, bags, shoes, books and other materials, and he promised to do more in the future

I kindly request you, to publish an article on this topic. Regardless of how

much was the aid, it serves as a moral example for others. If you are willing to publish I can provide you with all the information and his picture.

Semira Mana
semiramana@hotmail.com

Dear Samira,

We will indeed be publishing articles on the vital sector of education. Please rest assured that this issue is one of our main priorities.

—Editor

YT: A model in the
Middle East

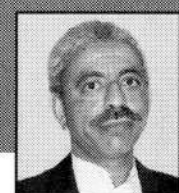
As an avid reader of your publication, I must candidly admit the fact that the popularity of the letters to the editor column in your Daily has been increasing steadily in the past several years, not only in Yemen but in the entire Middle East and Asian countries. The public has responded to the availability of the media by writing several letters on a regular basis.

Your publication is one of the leading and best ones in the Middle East. Needless to say that it attracts readers with independent positions on economic, political and social fields of life.

Maximally operative, detailed and objective information and a wide spectrum of topics are the distinguishing features of your newspaper. Your publication is an example of a happy neighborhood of business, culture and sport themes.

Please, keep publishing your high standard reports.

Ramadas Kandeth,
Jeddah - Saudi Arabia
Rachithar@hotmail.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Keep those letters
coming in, folks!

Writing commentary was never a matter of self satisfaction for any serious writer and writing for an English newspaper was bound to be even more of a challenge. This is because English has, for all practical purposes, taken the position of the International language for people to communicate, and transcend all political, cultural and social boundaries. Moreover, generally speaking, those who speak English will have a tendency to be more opinionated and find greater avenues for self expression, especially if they have been reared in an English heritage culture.

With the world getting smaller and more intertwined day by day, events in one region or one place may easily have their repercussions on people thousands of miles away. With the great progress in communications and information flow, people of diversified interests can easily find whatever it is that will satisfy their intellectual curiosity or whatever they feel will broaden their horizons and serve the causes they have become attached to or wish to propagate.

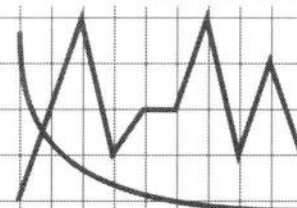
We in the Yemen Times pride ourselves in being a democratic forum for different opinions to be laid out on the current state of affairs of the world and we have welcomed the feedback from our readers from all over the world, without prejudice to their respective views on events or on the material they read in the YT. Common Sense is a commentary that seeks to make the general public opinion of the people of Yemen, in particular and the Arab and Moslem World in general, understood as it is truly felt by the people of Yemen and the Middle East as well as by enlightened Moslems. The observer still strongly believes that most of the people of the Arab and Moslem World are still down to earth believers in the goodness of human nature and the magnificence of their religion as a social redeemer of mankind. In addition, despite the rising aura of so called religious radicalism, most Moslems are not impressed by a lot of the corruptions that have come from a considerable element that have pursued this radicalism. Of course, any deviations that tend to show Islam out of context from the religion's fundamental principles and mores are bound to be viewed with great suspicion by the condescending faithful of Islam and maybe even lobbied as heresy, as far as Islam is concerned.

This observer is not exactly sure what the writer of the last three letters to the Editor under the name of Mike A, who would not even disclose his full name or give a reachable email address, and who obviously expressed a belligerent attitude towards Common Sense, was seeking to convey. Nevertheless, this observer insisted that they be printed, because "Mike A" said we would not dare print his views in his first letter. Of course, this observer has been targeted before by such types of letters, that in the end seem to reflect a systematic clandestine effort by more organized institutional forces that find displeasure in CS for one reason or another. CS is not oblivious to these forces. This belligerent and altogether not so meaningful kind of feedback is very obvious and is not at all sound opinion making from a personal standpoint. Rather, one detects a systematic effort by those who stand behind the pitiful situation in the region to show their obvious displeasure at having commentary that tends to expose their evil intentions not just to readers in Yemen, but to readers within their own constituencies. One only has to look at the three letters of Mike A together (see Issues 772, 773 and 774) to detect the lack of meaningful context or even coherent themes in them and the lack of objective rebuttal to the topics dealt with by the column, which gave rise to such distasteful expression of irrational thought. It is clear that Mike (and those behind him) have not read this column diligently, for they would find rebuttals to all of "Mike's" claims and innuendos. The views of CS on "beheadings" and other forms of terrorism and actions that harm innocent human lives are given clearly and unabashedly in several articles over the last ten years, so there are really no grounds for any effort to associate CS commentary with any applause for such heinous acts. As for CS advocacy of political and human rights and sound government locally, CS is replete with several commentary in this respect and the editor has no reservations about calling in a spade a spade when it comes to exposing or countering corruption in Yemen or elsewhere in the Arab World. So to Mike and friends CS finally expresses their appreciation for the interest shown in CS and welcomes any meaningful views for or against. You still have our respect as readers of the YT and your interest in CS is nevertheless welcomed.

On the feedback via a vis the "American Viewpoint" column, the editors of the YT assure their readers that whatever appears in this column does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the YT or any of its editors or staff. Nor should the column be taken to mean any predominance of views reflected therein. Quite often, Arabs are projected as making up "conspiracy" theories about their sad state of affairs and thus find an easy cop out for their plight. Thus, these conspiracy theories become excuses for Arabs, as these critics would suggest, to remove themselves from responsibility for their own unhealthy wellbeing. However, when there are bona fide Americans (and many others throughout the world) of good standing, and who have dedicated their lives to viewing the world with a greater drive for scrutiny rather than to simply rely on official government or "commission" reports, these advocates or seekers of truth should also have a chance to express their views. Needless to say there is a lot of mystery that is still paramount in the 9/11 and other events that have been allowed to prevail since the beginning of this Millennium and are bound to raise various opinions as to their origin or their intended outcomes. The obvious efforts of the current White House Administration to suggest its absolute right to set the course of public opinion, at home and abroad has given rise to many who feel that this represents a serious breach of American democratic values and a deliberate systematic effort to give legitimacy to the prevalence of a narrower sphere of the American people. They tend to see this sphere as being more dedicated to fulfilling their own agendas (even if under religious colorings) or the agendas of others who have been allowed to influence the trend in American foreign policy too strongly to harmonize with the true values of most Americans. In any event, American Viewpoint is ready to receive the opinions of the left, center and right of the political spectrum in the USA, again as the sole reflections of the opinions of their authors.

YT Business

Qat agriculture employs 25% of labour force



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.8400	185.0500
Sterling Pound	329.8600	330.2300
Euro	224.7200	224.9700
Saudi Rial	49.2900	49.3400
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.9800	627.6900
UAE Dirhem	50.3200	50.3800
Egyptian Pound	29.6500	29.6800
Bahraini Dinar	490.2900	490.8400
Qatari Rial	50.7700	50.8300
Jordanian Dinar	260.7100	261.0000
Omani Rial	480.1200	480.6700
Swiss Franc	145.6300	145.7900
Swedish Crown	24.6200	24.6500
Japanese Yen	1.6841	1.6861

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
mkmaly@yahoo.com

The agriculture and marketing of qat plant in Yemen guarantees the employment of about 25% of the Yemeni labour force. The agriculture of qat which is a non-nutritious plant provides 4% of the gross domestic product and the public consider it as creating intensive job opportunities and that if they don't plant and market it the result would mean and lead to social congestions and would double the rates of poverty greatly.

A new study on qat agriculture in Yemen prepared by the ministry of planning and inter national cooperation has confirmed that the advance of qat agriculture on arable lands is continuous and this would lead to receding of the volume of agricultural production in Yemen.

The study has clarified that the amount of agricultural production has



Qat plantations spread in various areas of Yemen

last year decreased to 3.6 million tons, compared to 3.7 million tons in 2002. At the same time, the rate of growth reached at 3.8%, which is much lower than the targeted one until the end of next year that is planned to be at 6%.

The area of arable land has retreated from 146 thousand hectares while the agricultural area of the land good for the increase of production amounts to 4% of the total area of Yemen.

The study has also disclosed a retreat in production of cereals by 25% and beans by 1.75% whereas the production of fruits increased by 2.2% and vegetables by 1.7%. On the other hand, Yemen's imports last year have recorded an increase by about YR 104.5 billion and the value of exports YR 29 billion. The balance of trade has registered a minus rate in favour of the external origins exporting to Yemen by 75%.

Despite of that the agricultural sector is still accommodating 50% of work-force and the qat plant dominates the bigger proportion as 25% of the work-force in the country work in its agriculture.

Japan eliminates part of Yemen's debt

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and Japan agreed last week that Japan will write off \$17 million of Yemen's debt.

Reducing Yemen's debt to Japan was announced after the agreement was signed by Yemeni Minister of Finance Alawi Saleh Al-Salami and the Japanese Ambassador in Yemen Yuichi Ishii last Wednesday.

"The accord stipulates that Japan waves two billion Japanese yen, which is the equivalent of \$17 million, from Yemen's debts," said a statement from the Japanese Embassy located in Sana'a.

The present reduction of Yemen's debt to Japan is one of several steps planned to be taken to eliminate up to \$60 million by 2012.

"Japan and Yemen are making very good progress in lowering Yemen's debt," Ahmed Ghaleb, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Finance, told Yemen Times.

The Yemeni government has taken steps to lower its overall debt since economic reform started in the mid-nineties. According to Ghaleb, Yemen's debt was around 200% of its GDP in 1994. The country's debt is now down to 53% of GDP.

"Over the years, Yemen has been able to reduce its debt substantially," said Ghaleb. "Fifty-three percent of the GDP is healthy to Yemen's economy, at least for the medium term."

The Yemeni government has also implemented other measures that

have stabilized the economy. Last year, foreign reserves surpassed \$5 billion for the first time, and even though the rial has lost some value over the last few years, local currency has been relatively stable. At the beginning of this year, Capital Intelligence, an international emerging markets rating agency, raised Yemen's long-term foreign currency rating.

But many analysts are concerned about the future of Yemen's economy. Economic growth is not keeping up with the rise in population. The population growth rate is estimated to be as high as 3.6 percent annually, while the economic growth rate fell below 3.6 percent last year and might not exceed 3.3 percent in 2004. Forty-two percent of Yemen's population live in poverty, while 25% live just above the poverty line. It is also estimated that as many as 40 percent of the Yemenis are out of work.

The World Bank, which offers guidance and financial support to Yemen, has urged the government to pick up the pace on economic reform. There have been rumors that The World Bank has threatened to pull out of Yemen if more reform measures are not pushed forward. Robert Hindle, Country Manager of The World Bank based in Yemen, said last week that The World Bank has not made any threats. He said that according to the bank's policies, it is likely that The World Bank would reduce financial support if more economic reform measures are not implemented.

Central Bank of Yemen Continues to train its employees

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Mr. Ahmed Abdulrahman AL-Samwi, the Governor of the Central Bank, on Wednesday 15th September opened a workshop on financial analysis. The workshop was organized by the Central Bank in collaboration with the British Project for Financial Management.

A cadre of thirty employees of the Central Bank participated in the workshop.

In the opening ceremony, the governor highlighted some of the dramatic transformations that the Yemeni banking sector has witnessed recently, such as updates to day-to-day banking technology and the addition of new banking services like cards and automatic paying machines, provided to the market centers and companies throughout Yemen, which enable electronic payment.

Al-Samwi mentioned that there is coordination with the central banks in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and communication with them to connect the Yemeni network to the GCC's.

The budget for the banking sector for the past six months was approximately YR 530 billion. Yemeni banks have used approximately YR 150 billion to provide more grants and finances to various economic activities. The banks also support various allocations particularly unorganized loans in which they cover 85%.

Al-Samwi indicated that these expan-



The governor of the Central Bank of Yemen honored one of Bank Cadre

sions in the banking industry necessitate training for Yemeni banking staff in order to familiarize them with the latest banking developments.

The governor also pointed out the recent decision of the board of directors to raise the minimum capital requirement of banks wishing to enter the Yemeni market to \$30 million, and asked current banks to adapt themselves to the new decision.

The deputies of the Central Banks and the representative of the British Project also attended the opening ceremony.

In the same field of training banking staff, last month the Governor of the Central Bank attended the closing ceremony of two programs; the art of commu-

nication and customer service, and the principles of bank marketing, that took place at Institute of Banking Studies I.B.C.

Mr. Ali Hameed, the manager of public relations, told the Yemen Times "The first of the two programs held by the Institute of Banking Studies was about dealing with the public, it targeted public relations administrators in institutions and banks. The second program was about financial analysis. The programs were the first activities for I.B.C. since moving to its new premises. More than ten trade banks, including the Central Bank, participated in those programs."

He said further "Training and rehabili-

tation, to ensure the efficiency of employees, is one of the main banking priorities. So the bank arranges activities and workshops and utilizes local and international experts to improve the competence of its employees."

A speech was also delivered by Mr. Ameir AL-Qirshi, the head of I.B.C., to welcome the attendees, and another by Mr. Mohammed AL-Hamadni, on behalf of the participants.

At the end, certificates were awarded to the participants from a number of national banks.

It is worth mentioning that the late Mr. Zain AL-Saqaf was a prominent figure in, and one of the founders of, I.B.C.



"Financial analysis" workshop opening ceremony



"Dealing with public" and "The principles of bank marketing" programs held at institute of Banking studies

The Problem of Private school's

BY TAMMAM AL-BARMAKI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Private schools were established after the revolution and have been increasing ever since, but there is a question: "What are the advantages of these schools?" Firstly, although the number of students per class is often fewer and they often possess facilities such as libraries, computer laboratories, and other laboratories, are these useful if there is inadequate education? Why did we not say no to private schools? Nowadays there are many schools in the same city; sometimes there are schools beside one another. Also there are many poorly qualified teachers, some of whom did not have any previous experience in

teaching - unlike public schools. Also some of these teachers teach subjects different to their specialist areas but if a teacher in a Private school is good at a subject like Maths, Chemistry or biology etc. he will be quickly promoted. However, the teacher should deserve this promotion on the basis that no one else more able for the position can be selected.

We note that these days many buildings which have been turned into schools seem like shops; these schools are only built in order to take money and if this is wrong, we still know lots of such schools. The differences between these schools and free schools are bigger than we believe. For degrees in Private schools, almost all the students succeed because they pay money, but is this a

useful thing for them? Of course not, as the proverbs say "As you sow, so will you reap" and "Look before you leap", naturally this will effect them in their future. We must not forget that the family is primarily responsible for their sons. Parents must choose the best school for their sons to safeguard their future.

How pleasing it is to see the results of students studies - based on merit - posted on the board, and how happy we are for them. Because the student has now become a man full of enthusiasm for building better life for us and for himself. We offer our congratulations for the student's new status, and we wish him real progress. He was, and still is, an example of ambitious and enthusiastic youth, and he will lessen the heavy material burden borne by his father.

Antiques and ancient civilizations in Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is known that the most significant line of tourism in general is cultural tourism, the most important landmarks of which are the archaeological sites where one can witness the antiquities as the best guide to the culture and the civilization of the people of any nation.

If we consider any civilization and its offerings to the human race, we would surely need to consider any antique ruins that reflect the civilization in question.

If we examine carefully the antiquities of any country we would come to the conclusion that they were the reflections of the land from whence they came.

But, we have to probe and leave the answer up to our minds, to think and answer what is the advantage of such antiquities, and what is their use? What are their benefits and the losses which are left behind? All such questions will lead to the answer that the remaining ruins are rich sources that do not perish. We may take as an example of such, the Sheba and Hemyarite civilizations as an ideal specimen in Yemen.

Yemen is a large museum that displays traces of the most important civilizations to have existed in the world. Rich archaeological pickings that have accumulated over different eras from different civilizations are to be found.

Civilizations such as those of Sheba, Maean, Qataban, Owsan, Hemyar, and Hadhramout have all left

their own distinct mark

As well, the towns of Mareb and Hadhramout, Jawf, and Sana'a stand out thanks to their archaeological peculiarity that makes them, from a historical point of view, some of the world's most interesting sites.

To benefit from what our ancestors have left us, we need to take care to preserve our heritage. We must protect it from the likes of robbery, destruction and smuggling, and secure funds for its protection and development, and to raise awareness of its importance so as to benefit the community.

Finally it will be necessary to bring in experts in antiquities for the purposes of examination and promotion on a world wide scale, to make know the archeological and cultural interest that lies in Yemen.

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A traditional folkloric Handicraft

The Al Bu-Lienah family, well known in the Gabah area, have long been skilled weavers, who used to visit many places and villages in Shabwa, making beautiful woolen rugs.

The raw materials used in this trade are obtained from animal hair, which is first cut off from goats, sheep, or camels, then cleaned, and spun into large balls of rough, thick, threads - manual wooden-made tools were used to serve the purpose.

Finally, after much labor attractive rugs of thick heavy fabric, woven in rectangular shape are produced in different types known as FLEEG, SHUGGAH, FAREEQAH, and QATIEF.

One of which is made only from the pure wool of goats, sheep or camel, whereas, the other is either consisted of wool of goat, or sheep, but mingled with cotton fine threads, that might be colored to pattern pretty stripes added to the surface.

It takes as long as two days to make



Samples of beautifully designed wool carpets

one woolen rug.

Woolen rugs were typically used for different purposes, people used to sleep on, wrap up in, sit on, and live in them as tents. It is said that sleeping on a woolen rug, especially the shaggy one made of goats wool, is a good way to ease backache.

One may also tie rough woolen threads loosely around one's legs and

arms to help relieve rheumatic conditions. Woolen rugs were sewn to serve as sacks to keep provisions, supplies and crops when carried on donkeys and camels backs.

Traditional, folkloric handicrafts are part of our culture, heritage, and history in which we must take pride, and subsequently, make every effort to preserve.

منا الدواء ومن الله الشفاء

المستشفى التخصصي

لجراحة العظام والتجميل

ORTHOPEDIC & PLASTIC SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

BONES SURGERY:
Under supervision of Prof: Jan, the Cuban.

PLASTIC SURGERY Under
supervision of Prof: Roza, the Cuban.

طابق كوبي يمني متميز
جراحة العظام تحت اشراف البروفيسور الكوبي / جون
الجراحة التجميلية تحت اشراف البروفيسورة / روزا الكوبية

الجمهورية اليمنية - صنعاء - شارع تعز - امام بوابة سوق شميلة

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابُوا مَصِيْبَةً قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَآتِيَنَا بِتَحْتَفٍ كَثِيرٍ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



بنك اليمن والخليج
Yemen Gulf Bank

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى

الأستاذ محمد حسن الزيري

رئيس مجلس إدارة بنك اليمن والخليج

لوفاة المغفور لها يادن الله تعالى

شقيقته

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدها بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنها فسيح جناته ويلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان

«وإننا لله وإننا إليه راجعون»

الأسيفون: جميع أعضاء ومساهمي مجلس الإدارة، وموظفي بنك اليمن والخليج

تخفيضات

بمناسبة أعياد سبتمبر وأكتوبر

ربط مجاني

لخدمة الهاتف الدولي المباشر (الصفحة الدولية)

ربط مجاني

لخدمة الإنترنت

40%

بطائق الإنترنت (إيزي أكسس)



تيلي-يمن
TeleYemen
تطبيقك على اتصال

إبتداء من 18 سبتمبر - 16 أكتوبر 2004

لزيد من المعلومات يرجى الاتصال بالرقم 153
www.teleyemen.com.ye



Support for Administrative Reform (SAR) Project
EuropeAid/113703/SV/YE

Calls for Expressions of Interest Publications and PR Services

The support for Administrative Reform (SAR) project is fully funded by the European Union (EU), being located within the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance in Sana'a.

In alignment with EU visibility guidelines, the project calls for expressions of interest from Sana'a-based printing houses and PR companies to collaborate and potentially provide services to the project in relation to design, printing, and PR.

Please note: this is not a tender or service provision contract.

It is anticipated that the collaboration will include, but not be limited to:

- Design, layout, and proof-printing of project documents and visibility items
- Layout and pre-press proofing of project newsletters
- High quality four-color printing
- Public relations / events organization

**Please note: English and Arabic languages will be utilized
Anticipated workflow in Quark / Adobe InDesign.**

All expressions of interest should be hand-delivered to:

EU Team Leader
SAR Project
CSMP
Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance
Mobile: 71899971

Closing date for EOI – Seven (7) days after this publication.

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

The point we keep bisping

By John Kaminski
skylax@comcast.net

There is a toxic quality to war that affects the inner life of individuals and, as a collective consequence, the society itself. In the degradation and dehumanization of the individual lies the destruction of all mankind.

— Butler Shaffer

Americans have a great and terrible secret they hide within themselves, ever pretending that it doesn't exist. But in the deepest, darkest part of their hearts, if they're honest, they know with certainty that it does. But, oh, do they deny it! Americans couch this denial in all manner of panicky rationalizations — religious, political, psychological, astrological, you name it ... any pretense will do in order to deny what's really going on, in order to avoid the crushing guilt for what is nothing less than inexcusable, semiconscious savagery.

This secret is so big and so dark it can't be confronted all at once. Better to take it one little piece at a time, and then let the idea of its overwhelming magnitude sink in just a little bit at a time, so that by the time you confront all the aspects of this multi-faceted horror, some of you who read this can perhaps begin to publicly admit this terrible secret and perhaps even begin to take positive steps to correct the stupendous damage this secret has caused — and is causing right this very minute.

One little piece at a time. Let's start with Iraq, since that seems to be the one place in the world at present where the needless bleeding is the worst.

Listen to this carefully, Americans. Do you understand that the death toll in Iraq over the past 13 years numbers in the high hundreds of thousands? And do you understand that America is responsible for virtually all of those deaths? Let's say 99 percent of them. I can hear all those denial switches

clicking on out there as I ask this question. Hey we're fighting terror! Those Muslims are savages! Saddam deserved what he got! We're trying to bring democracy to an uncivilized country!

I'll repeat it as a statement. Iraqis murdered since 1991? 800,000 to 1.5 million. American lives lost because of combat initiated by the United States? 1,000 or so in the past two years, 10,000 more in the intervening years since the first Gulf War introduced deadly depleted uranium ammunition onto the world's stage, and fatally poisoned so many of our own troops.

11,000 Americans dead! Around a million Iraqi lives suddenly snuffed out for reasons you can bet most of them really never understood. And worse, future generations of both Iraqis and Americans doomed to complicated lives of cancer and birth defects. And that's just in this one single country, in this one continuous military action.

Americans are responsible for every single one of these murders, every single one of these tragedies. And not a single one of these sad stories — these shocking terminations of unsuspecting, productive and innocent lives — ever represented any threat to the physical security of the United States.

Can you comprehend that? Is anything getting through? Americans, in their selfish, willful blindness, are responsible for thousands of deaths all around the world — EVERY YEAR! And they have been for more than a hundred years. No, you can't get away with saying we're fighting a war, and war is hell. This is not a war in Iraq! Saddam had no airforce, and we made him destroy all his missiles. Then we embraced the lies told about him in order to begin a multi-year campaign of mass murder. Iraq never had a chance. It was never a fair fight.

Let me ask you this. We went to war in Iraq to get rid of Saddam. Saddam is

long gone. Why are we still killing people? Why are we still sacrificing our own soldiers? And why are we planning more wars?

You know the answer. It's in the deepest, darkest part of your heart. We didn't go to war against Iraq to overthrow a tyrant. We invaded Iraq because we wanted to steal a country's precious resources, because we, in the blatant hubris of our soulless blindness, believe we can steal for any reason.

This is how Americans come to support mass murder of innocents for reasons that are lies. This has been going on full bore since at least the late 1890s, when American obliterated a million Filipinos to keep them safe from the Spanish. All this of course is not counting the 60 million Native Americans we exterminated throughout the 19th century, because they were savages, less than human. And this is of course the paradigm that civilization has followed ever since, the British in India, the French in Indochina, the Belgians and the Portuguese in Africa, and all of the above and more throughout the bloody conquest of the Western Hemisphere.

Some literature asserts that even Hitler was impressed with the extermination policies of the white Europeans as they raped and pillaged their way across an undeveloped continent. Of course the more germane comparison these days is the way the Israelis have cut down the hapless Palestinians over the last half century, using their "holy" books to declare anyone in their voracious path to be less than human, and therefore eligible to be murdered without a second thought.

But Americans need to realize — and admit — that Israelis learned this heartless attitude from us. I even heard the esteemed Jewish theologian Michael Lerner — darling of the Zionist gatekeeper liberals — use this argument: how can Americans com-



plain what the Israelis are doing to the indigenous inhabitants of their accursed chunk of Middle Eastern sand when the Americans set the example for the world to follow by exterminating the entire indigenous population of North America, and have behaved the same way throughout the rest of the world ever since? He has a point.

And this is the great and terrible secret all Americans hide within themselves, and palliate their guilt with such lame rationalizations as manifest destiny or "we need that oil." Fact is, none of those Palestinians, nor any of those Iraqis, would have died without the tacit approval of Americans. It wouldn't have happened.

Sure, you can sit back and pontificate that those Islamic "savages" would have killed each other anyway, but you can't prove that, and you can prove that it has been American manipulation, first and foremost, that has allowed that vicious bunch of Israelis to go into that region and become a raging terminal cancer. I supposed it's only poetic justice that now Israel, with its pervasive political control of the U.S. political system, can manipulate events to the point where it can get America to come into the same region and do its dirty work, as is happening now in Iraq. Iraq is not now nor ever has been a threat to the physical security of the

United States. But Americans lie to themselves — we all know about THOSE lies — and arbitrarily declare that Iraq can bomb us with imaginary drones in 45 minutes, so we better bomb them first.

Same with Palestine. Palestinians were never a threat to anyone. But like Iraqis, they had something we wanted. And it is the great and terrible secret of every American that we will permit — and even cheer — the mass murder of innocents simply because we want to rob them of what is rightfully theirs.

Ask your preacher about that. I'm sure he'll produce a suitable Biblical quote that approves of the murder of anybody who has something you want.

But we can't blame this on a worldwide Jewish conspiracy, nor on the Jesuits, the elusive Illuminati, nor even the London-based global banking aristocracy. This is about the American people, and their continuing willingness to look the other way while those who are all too willing to prey on the innocent kill people for profit and pass the price savings on to the blind cowards who sputter half-baked maxims about terror and security while they sit in their easy chairs in their stiflingly boring and braindead American suburbs.

And contemplate the horrid fact that both presidential candidates endorse this indefensible policy of war based

on lies, guaranteeing exactly the kind of future so chillingly outlined in Schwarzenegger's "Terminator" movies.

We no longer need an excuse to kill anyone with impunity. Of course, in our materialistic American coma we have apparently become too dumbed down to realize that what happens "out there" will soon happen "in here," but by the time that the neocon self-immolation of America finally dawns on us, it will be way too late to do anything about it. Perhaps it already is.

As the globalized American war machine spreads its flaming hell around the globe, the heart of the devil (enthusiastically cheered on by many who call themselves preachers) beats loudly in inane American hamlets among those silent morons who simply refuse to acknowledge what is being done in their names, who simply refuse to realize that what is happening to those faceless strangers so far away is one day soon also going to happen to us, right here.

John Kaminski is an Internet columnist based in Florida whose essays are seen on hundreds of websites around the world. They have been collected into two anthologies, "America's Autopsy Report" and the soon-to-be-published "The Perfect Enemy." For more information go to <http://www.johnkaminski.com/>

Japan's Emerging China Strategy

By HIDEAKI KANEDA

Football hooliganism and nationalism create a witch's brew that, until lately, has rarely been sipped in Asia. That changed at the recent Asian Football Cup. Wherever Japan's players went, they were met by hostile crowds, which culminated in the championship match with China before a huge — and hugely hostile — crowd in Beijing. This is especially worrisome because, unlike elsewhere in the world, official manipulation helps fan the flames of nationalism in China.

Young Chinese have been thoroughly indoctrinated with anti-Japanese sentiments. China's former President Jiang Zemin systematically and relentlessly pursued a "Resistance and Victory-over-Japan Campaign" throughout the 1990's — a sinister device used to divert popular grievances and to legitimize continuing Communist rule by making the Party appear to be the defender of Chinese honor.

At the same time, the ancient sense of cultural superiority that runs in Chinese veins makes feelings of inferiority hard to bear. With China's growing sense of itself as a superpower, resentment about the country being poorer and less admired than some other nations has become intolerable.

Now the young people who make up the vanguard of China's economic modernization are also nationalist-minded football hooligans. Instead of providing an early showcase of decent spectator manners for the Beijing Olympics of 2008, the Asian Cup provided a glimpse at the rage that seethes beneath China's economic boom — and exposed the government's inability to control its increasingly restless people.

Of course, the bitterness of Sino-Japanese relations since the end of WWII helps set the stage for such nationalist outbursts, but the roots of China's rage go deeper. Even as China grows richer and more powerful, memories of its past suffering and humiliation at the hands of the West and Japan remain alive — particularly because the Communist Party finds such memories so useful. China's modern view of foreigners and their intentions is

necessarily refracted through the prism of such history.

Perhaps inevitably, the recent anti-Japanese rage during the Asian Cup left most Japanese with a strong sense of China as an irreconcilable and unfriendly nation. As usual, Japan's government reacted meekly, offering superficial complaints about China to assuage domestic displeasure. But these complaints fail a vital diplomatic test — preservation of national dignity, prestige, and the honor of one's citizens.

So how should Japan respond? Should Japan fight fire with fire?

Part of the problem lies in Japan's educational system. Owing to a curriculum controlled by the powerful Japan Teachers Union, since the end of WWII many Japanese youth have viewed the Japan-China relationship with a consciousness of the need for atonement for the Sino-Japanese War. Today, however, calls are growing to promote a more accurate and balanced historical education that focuses on modern history after the Meiji Restoration and WWII, and that reflects the reality of the Sino-Japanese relationship free from an obsession with "atonement."

Obviously, calls for greater balance in historical education raise the specter of reactionary overkill: either complete affirmation of past Japanese conduct or other forms of anti-Chinese bias. But the majority of reform advocates seek something else: fairness and objectivity in history education, including studying the differences between Japan and China in their historical interpretations of the Sino-Japanese War.

Equally important, unlike the subject of WWII, Japanese history education barely addresses the two countries' post-war relations. Japanese textbooks, indeed, hardly touch upon the enormous economic aid that Japan has given to China — which, not surprisingly, is ignored completely in China's history curriculum.

But the issue goes beyond education. Coerced into feeling the need to atone to China, Japan passively tolerated recent episodes of worrying Chinese behavior. This attitude contributed to inattention by Japan's political, administrative, academic, and media elite toward China's unlawful advance toward Japanese territories

and neighboring waters, including Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

China's recent and recurrent actions — such as ocean surveys for economic and military purposes, conducted without notification by navy or survey ships in Japanese territorial or EEZ waters — have, however, finally awakened Japan's elite from its inertia. In response, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party established a Working Team on the Protection of Maritime Interests. Based on the team's recommendations, the government established an inter-ministerial commission on the survey of continental shelves and maritime resources. The Japanese media's attention to the issue has also grown.


More is at stake than maritime interests. With a revision of Japan's National Defense Program expected by year's end, the prime minister's Council on Security and Defense Capabilities has indicated a need to respond to China's military expansion, particularly its buildup of armed forces. "China is now in the stage of surging nationalism, and the trend is expected to continue in the future," the Council warned in its interim report, concluding that, "Japan must take appropriate actions in response to each incident" in which China attempts to "gradually advance its defense line [ocean-ward]."

Japan seems to be departing from its conventional low-profile diplomacy toward China, and readying itself to construct a comprehensive long-term national and regional security strategy. The military core of such a strategy must include appropriate maritime tactics to respond to China's assertiveness. But, ultimately, the effectiveness — and hence the success — of such a strategy will depend on how Japan positions itself in the region, especially in the relationship with China.

The Asian Football Cup highlighted not only China's growing nationalism, but also the parlous state of relations with Japan. A glimpse of the silent rage of China's populace has awakened Japan to the need for a comprehensive regional strategy.

Hideaki Kaneda, Retired Vice Admiral of Japan's Self Defense Forces, is currently Director of the Okazaki Institute.

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By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Iraq's Shameless Butchers "I Macellai Spudorati d'Iraq", Yemeni Public Money Looting Pretexts, "Al-Qabyalah" and Sheikh Abdullah Street

Again the brutes committing crimes in Iraq have proven that they are first and foremost enemies of Iraq, Islam and the Arabs.

In addition to their excellence in beheading innocent truck drivers, harmless journalists they have opted to add to their dishonor an unforgivable disgraceful shame and that is kidnapping the two Italian young women who against the will of their government wanted to offer humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people.

It is rather bewildering to see them kidnap journalists and humanitarian volunteers. Is this in the interest of the so-called resistance? Is it in the interest of Islam? What is even more repugnant is that if money is paid as ransom, they are more than willing to turn them over to the authorities concerned.

These malicious butchers are working hard to bring Islam down through their continued deformation and zigzagged idiotic interpretation of the Quranic verses. They are by and large the worst representatives of Islam. The Americans would do well if they withdraw their forces and replace themselves with UN led Arab Forces.

The US should then provide sufficient arms and finance of such a mission beforehand and so as to guarantee the long-awaited American promise of an Iraqi everlasting democratic transformation.

I have noticed like many Yemenis that the latest fashion in justifying theft of public money is through organization of recurrent futile fruitless surveys...just name it and you shall find that many surveys have been made for it, to no avail and their sole purpose was and is still robbing public money.

The same applies on theatrical seminars, exhibitions, conferences and so forth. Most thieves of public money are occupying General Manager positions up to the ministerial level. Normal employees are in contrast mere followers of orders given to them.

It is pathetic when always you would find a Head of an Authority checking scrupulously the attendance of his meagerly paid employees whilst he is stealing the budget with his deputy, assistant deputy, financial, administrative and personnel manager.

This is the case in all state institutions and our Auditing and Inspection Authority is as people say "Like the deaf in a Wedding Procession". The prevalent mismanagement furthered through profiteering and favoritism-based nominations are still the norm.

I know many such irresponsibles with many castles, cars and foreign bank accounts and who are still unsatisfied yet. The population is on the rise and such men are still playing this dangerous game. Often, they have reached the age of retirement a long time ago but are still clutching to their seats. It is funny enough to notice that younger employees are being pushed to retire because they lost hope and I am one of them.

Not long ago, I was asked by an American learning Arabic about the meaning of "Qabyalah" which he repeatedly hears in dealing with Yemenis. Qabyalah comes from the Arabic word Qabeelah which means "Tribe" and as Arab tribes have traditions which encourage honesty, assistance protection and good ethics, which unfortunately have been tampered with, forgotten or misquoted.

Anyhow a Yemeni would mean by

saying "you and your Qabyalah": I count on your Honesty and Uprightness in order to be fair in your judgement. If negotiations on a price of something do not come to an agreed result, e.g. if a mechanic repairs a car and asks for YR20, 000.00 and you say no that is too much, he might tell you "It is up to you and your Qabyalah" which literally means "Pay tribalistically. Please". Speaking about Tribalism, I once rode the car from Bab Sh'iuub towards Al-Hasabah and was told by the taxi driver that we would go through Sheikh Abdullah Street.

I told him there is no street named as such in Sana'a. He answered when we reach that street you would know what I mean by "Sheikh Abdullah Street". As we arrived near the Textile Factory, which was given to Yemen as a present following the 26th of September 1962 Revolution which ended the theocratic rule of Yemen, I noticed that the wide street had no longitudinal pavement and the cars went from one side to another.

He told me don't you see how chaotic this street is? I answered him, yes I do. I later knew from him that he named the street as such because driving there is tribalistic, not in accordance to the traffic rules. So, tribalistic means also "up and down" or chaotic.

He named the street after Sheikh Abdullah because the latter is the Paramount Chieftain of Hashid tribal federation and is believed to be behind the wisdom "two thirds against one third" in the Yemeni traffic jargon i.e. if your car hits mine and you are wrong, we would calculate how much it would cost to repair the damage and then you would just pay me two thirds of the cost. In fact this is the ultimate ruling in practice.

Team of hope off to Malaysia



Yemen Times says goodbye to the Youth Team before leaving to Malaysia. YT Photo by Ramzi Al-Absi

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the national coach, Amin Al-Sonaini, the youth football team flew on Saturday September 18th to Malaysia to participate in the Asian youth finals, starting from 24th September. 16 teams will take part in the championship.

Our team qualified for the finals at the expense of KSA and Oman, and will play its opening game against Thailand on Sunday 26th September in group four, which also includes South Korea (titleholder), Thailand and Iraq.

The Yemeni public is on tenterhooks to see some of the marvelous displays the team used to perform whilst juniors. Internal and external practice matches were arranged to add to the players' practice and experience.

During its three week tour of the Netherlands, the team staged three practice matches with Dutch teams, winning two and losing one.

After coming back home, the team held an internal training camp in Sana'a for roughly one month and then departed to Malaysia, the host of the championship, who staged a two-week preparatory camp during which it conducted another two practice matches with the Malaysian and Emirates teams - and thrashed them both.

Later on the players returned to Sana'a to prepare for a final short camp and have a well-earned three-day break before flying to Kuala Lumpur. The team is supposed to arrive in Malaysia on Sunday afternoon and stay for a day in the Capital Kuala Lumpur, before traveling to the city of Birac where the group four matches will take place. The team is intending to hold a warm up game with one of the two Arab teams there (Syria or Qatar) before competing in the finals said coach Al-Sonaini in a statement to the Yemen Times. He added that Yemeni Football Federation (YFF) provided the necessary facilities when running external training camps. Yemen's participation in the finals is an achievement for Yemeni football that could qualify for the Asian finals for the second time in its history. This follows the junior team's qualification in 2002.

When asked about the format of the team, the competition of the fourth group and his expectation of the games, Al-Sonaini replied "concerning the first part of the question, most of the players were in the junior team and we have only 4 new faces, namely they are :Mahdi Al-Taweel, Ala'a Al-Dhawi, Jameel Al-Soreihi and Tamer Hanash. We have prepared 26 players to represent Yemen in the finals but later on, we received information from the Asian Football Federation (AFF) that the required

number is 20 players and now we are going to nominate the best players and exclude those who have injuries. There is no suggestion of who will be the main striker and we have four skilful strikers to choose from later on. The captain of the team is still Abdu Al-Edrisi whom we trust.

He is a player of sportsmanship and reason to lead the team in the field. The team is adequately prepared and the players possess high morale and are capable of shouldering the responsibility"

The answer to the second part of the question is "group four is called by sport analysts (the group of iron) and comprises two teams from East Asia, South Korea (titleholder) and Thailand, and other two from West Asia, Yemen and Iraq, there is a difference between the two schools of football. The former depends on strong kicks and fast give-and-take balls, whereas the later depends most of the time on a tactical play and individual skills."




Captain Amin Al-Sonaini Coach of the team

The answer to the third part of the question- about my expectations is that "I can neither expect nor predict for everything is possible in the globe of football. An amazing example is Euro 2004 where modest Greece kicked out all powerful giants like France and Portugal.

Finally, we warmly thank the Yemen Times for being enthusiastic and interested and for standing by the players and the great public as well.

Winning or losing is not everything in the world of football, and what does really matter is a marvelous performance to please the public.

Abdulrahman Sa'eed, Assistant Coach, affirmed that "Hope and confidence in the players is great. Through the practice matches we hardly saw any mistakes, and we hope they continue performing in this way. My last word is to thank the Yemen Times, and its editor-in-chief who is following the team's agenda and giving priority to Yemeni football. I am also grateful to the loyal public that vehemently supports the Youth Team in particular and the Yemeni football at large."



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College of Education,
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ramakantasahu@yahoo.com
Tel: (01) 465396
Mobile: 73889013
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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (70): Marriage Anniversary (III)

Like any other anniversary, marriage anniversary is an occasion of remembrance. It entails the partners going down the memory lane and recounting the unforgettable pearls memory of their happy marital life.

- For my loving wife on our Anniversary, 'Love is all the little things that make a moment special and a life time happy'. On our Anniversary, as I'm thinking of the life I share with you, of the happiness it's brought us and the dreams we've seen come true, as I'm thinking of the many things we've shared, day in and day out, I know our life together is what love's all about. Happy Anniversary.
- Whenever you two come to mind, the thought is warm, special and kind.
- An Anniversary is more than a special day for celebrating another year of marriage... It's also a day to think about every wonderful year that has been, and all the wonderful years yet to be.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- There were no less than three thousand persons in the meeting.
- You should open your book at twenty third page.
- I am leaving for India on next Thursday.
- Each and every student in the class passed the exam.
- Little money that he had is finished already.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- A number of my friends **feel** that they are not properly paid for the work they do.
- He has no **issue**; therefore he has adopted an orphan child.
- How much is half a bottle of honey at this shop?
- It is an admitted fact that Bushra is **more** intelligent than her sister Hanan.
- He has not sung **many** songs after his last album was released.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- To become English in appearance, sound, character, etc.
- Anxiety caused by considering the sad state of world affairs.
- The state of lacking higher or finer feelings.
- The branch of farming concerned with the keeping of animals.
- To add short notes to explain certain parts of a book.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Something that is like or that may be compared with something: **analogue** (n)
- Person who wishes to overthrow all established governments: **anarchist** (n)
- Something that is detested: **anathema** (n)
- Plants that are both male and female: **androgynous plants** (n)
- Machine for measuring the strength of wind: **anemometer** (n)

(B) Some useful terms, their origin and meaning

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following

- synecdoche
- synonym
- syntax
- tableau
- tabloid

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- spoonerism**: So called after the Rev. W. A. Spooner (1844-1930), dean and warden of New College, Oxford. It consists of a transposition between the initial consonant sounds of two words; a practice to which Spooner was addicted. 'The queer old dean' for 'dear old queen' is a famous example of Spoonerism. Rev. Spooner is

said to have addressed these valedictory words to an undergraduate pupil: 'You have tasted your worm, hissed my mystery lectures, and you must catch the first town drain.'

- stanza** (It. 'standing, stopping place'): A group of lines of verse. It is the unit of structure in a poem. A stanza pattern is determined by the number of lines, the number of feet in each line and the metrical and rhyming schemes.
- strophe** (Gk. 'turning'): It is a synonym for stanza, especially in the ode.
- sylogism** (Gk. 'reckoning together'): Deduction, from two propositions containing three terms of which one appears in both, of a conclusion that is true if they are true. A stock example is: 'All men are mortal; Greeks are men; so all Greeks are mortal.'
- symposium** (Gk. 'drinking together'): Collection of essays, etc. by several persons on a problem or subject.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- sceptre, spectre
- facilitate, felicitate
- aural, oral
- edible, audible
- diverse, divers

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- vain** (adj) (unimportant): He wasted his life in vain pleasures.
vane (n) (weather cock): The vane signaled the direction of the wind.
- read** (vt) (interpret mentally): I can read your thoughts.
reed (n) (part in a wind instrument that vibrates to produce sound): She moved her fingers elegantly on the harmonium reeds.
- form** (n) (shape; outward appearance): He has an impressive form.
farm (n) (area of land for growing crops): The farmer is resting in the farm-house.
- temporal** (adj) (existing in time): 'When' and 'while' are temporal conjunctions.
temporary (adj) (lasting for a short time): He managed to get a temporary employment during the summer holidays.
- faction** (n) (discontented group of persons within a party): The party has a number of factions in it.
fiction (n) (something imagined): Some facts are stranger than fiction.

(C) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- keep one's chin up
- off the mark
- head over heels
- drop into (someone's) lap
- the jewel in the crown

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- turn a deaf ear to (something)** (to refuse to listen to): The government has turned a deaf ear to the employees' demand for a pay revision.
- take sides** (to support a particular person or group against another): When both of us argue, our parents refuse to take sides.
- get carried away** (to be so enthusiastic about something as to lose self-control): Don't be carried away by his deceitful words.
- upto the mark** (upto the normal standard): Your performance in the exam is quite upto the mark.
- make a hash of (something)** (to do something badly): I tried to paint the house myself, but I made a hash of it.

() Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Combine the following pairs of sentences into complex sentences.

Remember: You can leave out the relative pronoun only when it refers to the object of the verb in the

clause.

- A woman spent fifteen minutes measuring the kitchen. She talked to the Priors. The woman ...
- The woman drew up some plans. They were for a new kitchen. The plans ...
- The Priors were interested in some units. They would cost \$2,000. The units ...
- A dishwasher was on special offer that month. It was not needed by the Priors. The dishwasher ...
- The Priors signed a piece of paper. It entitled them to a discount of \$200. The piece ...
- The woman asked for a deposit. It was for \$100. The deposit ...
- The woman worked for a man. He would have been furious if she had not obtained the order. The man ...
- Some people are not so strong-minded. They would probably place an order. People ...

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- New York is **more** expensive than I had expected.
- Several years ago, some one succeeded in **flying** across the Channel in a bicycle-powered aeroplane.
- At the end of the meeting, they decided to **have** a conference in two week's time.
- I was driving along the motorway when I saw a restaurant, so I stopped **for eating** something.
- I'm sorry I'm so late for the party, but I couldn't understand the directions you gave me and I **got lost**.
- You have to pay more; if you have **excess** baggage.
- When he came back to England, he **took** up the job he had had before.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim 80: MERCY IS THE NOBLEST FORM OF REVENGE

Last week's topic:

79: LIFE IS ACTION, NOT CONTEMPLATION
Life's success is measured not by the length, but by the quality of deeds, achievements or accomplishments. Man lives not by bread alone, but by his meaningful contributions towards the growth of the civilization or the improvement of the quality of life. This is made possible only through hard work and sincere efforts. Mere contemplation or day-dreaming does not help achieve anything concrete. Of course, it is useful and necessary to have a vision but more importantly there should be a concrete action plan to translate the dream into reality. Life is a journey and the journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step. As Samuel Johnson says "The business of life is to go forward." One Indian saint said, "No words, but acts." All the great achievements in the world have been possible by men of action, not by the lotus eaters or ivory tower dreamers. So let's stop sluggishness, futile brooding or meaningless contemplation and start issuing concrete action to rebuild our lives and shape the destinies of the future generations. The time has arrived and the moment is now.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

"A cheerful temper joined with innocence will make beauty attractive, knowledge delightful, and wit good-natured."

—Addison

A letter to the teachers of English: 60

Asking questions in the classes is an art



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

Dear Fellow teachers,

I am sure all of you know the value of asking questions in the class while teaching. Asking questions in the tests is equally valuable. Questions are essential in the teaching process as they have learning potential (they help the learners much to learn in the classes).

The recent thinking in English language teaching values teacher questions in the classroom so much that several researches are carried out involving them. One of the researchers believes that questions maximize the interaction between the teacher and the learners thereby increasing the learning opportunities for the learners in the English classes and so teachers should ask more questions in the classes.

However, not all questions are of the same value. Experts talk of four kinds of questions that a teacher can use in the class. They are choice questions, product questions, process questions and metaprocess questions. Choice questions demand yes/no response from the learners; product questions demand factual response such as the year of an event or the place of an event etc; process questions ask for the learners' opinions or interpretations; and metaprocess questions demand reasoning for the answers. It is obvious that the first two are easier to answer than the last two, because the learners can pick out the answers from the text for them without much thinking, whereas the last two demand a lot of thinking by the learners. It is also true that the last two create interaction in the class that is essential for learning.

Most often we ask only the first two types of questions in the class as well as

in the examinations; the excuse that we give for this is that our learners may not be cut out for difficult questions, as English is a foreign language for them. This is only a lame excuse and does not merit any serious consideration. The real reason why our learners are not able to answer such questions even at the college level is that we have hardly exposed them to such questions at any level. Another reason is that framing such questions needs a bit more time and effort and most of us are not willing to invest this in our teaching.

Asking good questions in the class is an art and it needs a lot of practice and preparation. Take the format of the questions. Many of us ask questions such as 'When you came to college? Where you put your books?' very frequently, especially in our conversations with our students. Such questions are not uncommon in our classroom teaching. Unless we prepare the questions before the class, we are bound to make mistakes. Experienced teachers may be able to frame their questions on their feet but it is always good to prepare the questions for each lesson beforehand as a part of our lesson plan.

Then the quality of the questions. Each question we ask should make them think and answer and should not let them lift words or sentences from the book. Even a small twist in the question will make it challenging and this challenge is necessary for learning. For example, look at page 7 in Pupil's Book 5. When you ask questions about Salman Nasser, asking 'Why does Salman love his job?' will be challenging and demands thinking by the learners. The first two types of questions do have a role, especially in lower classes, but their number should be reduced as the course proceeds so that the learners may get used to challenging questions. Try them. Good luck.

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

Happy new academic year

By RAMZI AL-ABSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As the universities and schools are opening their doors welcoming learners and announcing the beginning of a new academic year, I seize the opportunity to communicate with all the students throughout this issue of the Yemen Times. This new beginning is crucial in so far as it opens the promises and possibilities embedded in a new academic year; it is the first line to be drawn on a new board. So, everyone should carefully decide upon the agenda of action, strategize how to start and how much ground to cover and why. The outcome of this timely resolution will be far reaching. It would lead to either success or failure. We need not brood over the past failings but reflect upon how to rectify them and how to reinforce the previous successful steps. What matters most for us is to strive for excellence and to achieve more than what has been accomplished. It is a basic human instinct that is rooted in every heart and mind. This goal, of striving to be better, is not achievable if taken casually nor if it is left to chance. On the contrary, to achieve the desirable end, we should take good care of the beginning. What we should do then is to pay our best attention to the following guidelines which are very often offered by academics, teachers, and experts:

- Make your own schedule dividing your time proportionally with your daily duties.
- Believe in the necessity of taking down notes as the lecture is being delivered.

• Keep on attending your classes, don't look down on any subject or piece of information you study.

• Do not overlook assignments and tasks asked by your teacher

• Ask your teachers anything you don't understand for they have the answers.

• You are now in a higher grade than you were last year: there should be a difference then; this difference should go arm in arm with your behavior.

• Discuss any you face with the students of the higher levels, they'll undoubtedly offer a hand of help.

• Revise and study lessons with your classmates to get a better grasp of the points.

• Do believe that the scope of your study is not just limited to a book or a hand-out; in fact, you can find many relevant supporting material in various informational resources.

• Participate in extra-curricula activities, you'll be refreshed.

• Do not ignore someone's serious inquiries. Remember, you learn something while explaining points; help others to be helped.

• Do not feel self-conceited at your achievements.

• Deal with your teachers as well as your classmates in a polite and friendly manner.

• Do remember that "as you sow, you reap" and "who plants thorns doesn't mow grapes".

Eventually, let's make "bringing about a meaningful change" our paramount goal and let's celebrate the auspicious beginning of the new year with Doreen Ellis who says:

*Just once a year at the midnight hour,
As we listen to the bells on the top of the tower
Some reminiscence and are giving much thought
To all of the blessings the old year has brought.
Some there are planning, through faith and prayer,
Just how, with others, they want to share
Some of the good with which they were blest,
Seeking to know and to do what is best.
Now, New Year's Day we all will observe
And make it special - it does deserve
Its rightful time and recognition,
For it has become a great tradition.
But whatever the day or whatever the hour
To begin a new year - we are given the power
To make a fresh start - on a brand new page
Of the "Book of Life" whatever our age.
Make resolutions, be freed from the past,
Plan a bright future with new goals that last.
Let's pay attention and let us remember -
We need not wait till the end of December.*

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

Active	Competition	Loose	River	Stubborn
Adjust	Crabs	Marlin	Rods	Sturgeon
Adventure	Deep	Membership	Rubbers	Summer
Agency	Drift	Nature	Salmon	Surface
Aquatic	Enjoyment	Netting	Salt	Tackle
Bait	Equipment	Ocean	Saved	Temperature
Barge	Family	Parties	Scales	Traps
Bass	Find	Patience	Seasonal	Trip
Bite	Flood	Pole	Shore	Trout
Breeds	Flood	Pole	Shore	Trout
Brooks	Fuel	Pond	Silence	Tuna
Bugs	Harsh	Pride	Sinker	Vests
Canoe	Informal	Radar	Sound	Wait
Catch	Jigs	Recreation	Sport	Weekends
Clams	License	Regulations	Story	Wild
Club	Lines	Resort	Strategy	
Commercial	Lodge	Retrieve	Stream	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Bathing suit

GONE FISHING

Solution: 5 letters

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

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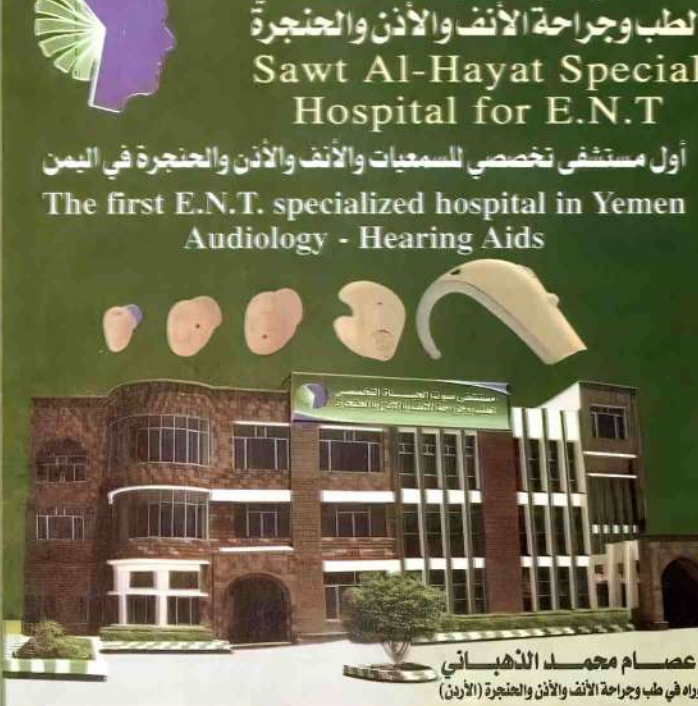
A traditional folkloric Handicraft

Traditional handicrafts are by no means new in Yemen, and Shabwa in particular has known a long history of such activities. Weaving is a particular specialty, – not only Maaweẓ weaving, but wool weaving as well, a long-standing activity which



Handicraftsman working on the looms

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air weaving to the Shabwa, has been passed down through generations. The Shabwa is well known for its traditional weaving of traditional Yemeni folkloric heritage. The Shabwa is a source of inspiration to ancient Yemenis. It is a shame that the tradition of weaving has almost disappeared. The Shabwa, situated in the heart of Shabwa, is a village where hair weaving is still found. The Shabwa women by nature, are proud of themselves to be a source of inspiration to the present day.

جامعة العلوم التطبيقية والإجتماعية




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صنعاء - حدود - ٢٠١٤/٤/٢٣ - فاكس : ٣٣٢٠٨٨
إب - ٢٠١٤/٤/٢٣ - فاكس : ٢٦٣٣٤١٨ - الجديدة - ٢٠١٤/٤/٢٣

COOLPIX 3700

Nikon




The advertisement features a silver Nikon COOLPIX 3700 camera. One view shows the front of the camera with the lens extended, displaying the 'Nikon COOLPIX 3700' branding. The other view shows the back of the camera, highlighting the LCD screen and various control buttons. A single orange rose is placed next to the camera for aesthetic appeal. The background is a soft, light blue gradient.

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A man with short dark hair and safety glasses is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, textured shirt. He is holding a black mobile phone to his ear with his right hand. In the background, there is a large, complex industrial engine or turbine, and a bright orange flame or fire is visible on the right side. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

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Printed by Yemen Times Est. for Press, Printing, & Publication
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