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Yemen Times congratulates you on the occasion of 42nd Anniversary of September Revolution

Al-Khiwani still imprisoned

Protests mount

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Press Training and Freedoms Protection Center is continuing its campaign to collect signatures calling for respect of citizenship rights and journalistic freedoms. It aims to collect 100,000 signatures of intellectuals, human rights and legal activists, attached to a condemnatory statement.

The center requested Yemeni authorities, headed by President Saleh, to immediately intervene to release Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, editor-in-chief of Al-Shura Newspaper. They also asked for the abolition of the imprisonment penalty for on journalists, the removal of law statements that hinder and control journalistic activity, and the cessation of censorship by the Ministry of Information.

The center urged the President to give complete judicial authority to the Judiciary system so that it becomes independent, and has ultimate power over other authorities. It also demanded that

the Political Security and special security bodies operate within the framework of the law, and people involved in attacking or harassing journalists be tried.

The Center, chaired by journalist Mohammed Al-Udaini, asked the government to fulfill its commitments towards the international human rights conventions it has ratified, and redress the mistreatment of journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, in order to achieve justice, protect human dignity, and safeguard democracy and press freedom.

Yemeni Journalists staged a sit-in before the Parliament Hall in protest against the imprisonment of Al-Khaiwani, and the ban on Al-Shura Newspaper. They prompted MPs to support truth, law, and constitutional legitimacy.

"What has befallen Al-Khaiwani and Al-Shura does not relate to law, but rather harms the freedom of expression," said the Yemeni Journalistic Syndicate's letter which was sent to Parliament.



Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani

The journalists added that the stance of the Parliament would not concern only Al-Khaiwani and Al-Shura, but also the whole country, which seeks stability and

security. They had also shown their concern over violations that are unjust and damaging to citizens' rights.

The letter continued: "A country lacking freedom of expression, and construction, a country in which violations are practiced against citizens, and laws are flouted, would be a lost country."

Yemeni journalists have been staging their sit-in at the headquarters of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) since September 6th, protesting the imprisonment of Al-Khaiwani. The solidarity committee, however, sees that acts of protest should be accelerated further.

The staff of Al-Shura said the prosecution's and the court's deliberate delay of trial procedures aims at keeping Al-Khaiwani imprisoned for as much time as possible. The staff added that the detention may jeopardize Al-Khaiwani's life since he suffers from heart trouble. They called on all honest people and human right activists to exert pressure on the government to release him, and give him access to his constitutional rights.



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As Parliament and Consultative Council reject oil price rise Bajamal sandwiched between reform commitments & public uproar

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The joint meeting of Parliament and the Consultative Council, rejected on Saturday - with the majority - the price increase of oil derivatives, proposed by the cabinet as a vital step in the overall economic reform package.

The meeting was called for by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, to discuss the interim report of the second Five-Year Plan of the government. Prime Minister Abdqader Bajamal said in his report on Wednesday that it is necessary for his government to lift the subsidies on diesel and gas, alleging that this costs the treasury YR 150 billion per year.

Bajamal pointed out that the government imports almost 70% of the market's need from abroad at a cost of YR60 per liter which is being sold to the people at YR 17 only. The government claimed that this low price encourages businessmen to smuggle the diesel to the neighboring countries.

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Yemen LNG is optimistic about the future

By PETER WILLEMS
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Now that Yemen LNG has this month put in a bid to supply natural gas to South Korea, Jean-Francois Daganand, Yemen LNG's General Manager, has expressed confidence that Yemen will capture a market soon.

"The international gas market has become the most favorable since we first started out the project in 1995,"



Yemen LNG's General Manager Jean-Francois Daganand believes that the international gas market has improved in recent years.

said Daganand. Korea Gas, which sent invitations to nine countries to bid for gas projects, is expected to finalize its selection and sign agreements with multiple suppliers next December.

"It is competition, and you have to race well, be trained well, and be fully prepared," said Daganand. "We are well prepared to market in South Korea."

Daganand believes the Yemen LNG has advantages over the competitors battling it out to sign up with South Korea.

"One of the advantages our competitors don't have is our unique Korean content," said Daganand.

Continued on page 14

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Government destroys mines

ADEN BUREAU

The government last Monday destroyed 30,068 mines, missiles and grenades near the city of Abyan after collecting them from many provinces. Mine experts carried out the detonation process in the presence of members of the Cabine, head of the Mine Removal Committee Qasim Al-A'ajam, Governor of Aden Dr. Yahya Al-Shu'aibi, Governor of Lahj, Mansoor

Abduljaleel, and director of the Mine Treatment Center, Mansoor Al-Ezzi, along with a number of police officials.

After that, certificates were presented to officers specializing in this field for the completion of different courses. Al-A'ajam stated that the government will continue destroying bombs and explosives that threaten citizens' lives and obstruct plans for development.

It is worth-mentioning that 2000 mines were destroyed last July.

Vaccination campaign wrapped up

A vaccination campaign was concluded on Friday September 16th in 149 districts of 18 governorates. It was the third round carried out by the Ministry of Health and Population for vaccinating infants against fatal infantile diseases. The round aimed at vaccinating against tetanus, polio and measles. 90%

of targeted governorates were successfully visited. This protects 284,000 infants, other than those born this year, against whooping cough and diphtheria. This comes at a time when different efforts are being exerted to reduce the rates of infant diseases, as well as to discover potential new epidemics.

Science and Technology University celebrates graduations

TAIZ BUREAU

The University of Science and Technology, Taiz branch, celebrated on Saturday September 18th at Hail Sa'eed An'am Hall in the Islamic University, the graduation of 110 male and female students.

The graduates have different specialties including engineering, science, computer programming, pharmaceuticals, accounting, administration, marketing, arts, and law.

The ceremony included various artistic sections that were concluded by presenting awards to top students, professors and officers.

The university's rector announced the inauguration of a hospital for the

university in Sana'a, and the affiliation of the university to the Paris-based International University Union.

He also announced the inauguration of computer and administration faculties teaching in English, and also gave an account of new departments in different fields - some of them being introduced to Yemen for the first time.

The University of Science and Technology was founded in 1993, and has been developing since then.

The ceremony was attended by Mohammed Al-Hayajem, Secretary of Taiz Gov., Sheikh Abdul-Jabar Hail Sa'eed, head of the university's branch board of trustees, Dr. Dawoud Al-Hidabi, rector of the University, and a number of officers.

A USAID Grant for MoLA and UNDP's Decentralization and local Development Support Programme

(Monday, 20 September 2004) An agreement was signed Monday at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), whereby USAID is contributing around US \$ 1.6 million to the Decentralization and local Development Support Programme (DLDSP) executed jointly by MoLA, UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

A UNDP press release on 21 September mentioned the agreement was signed by Dr. Douglas Heisler, Representative of USAID in Yemen, Ms. Flavia Pansieri, UNDP Resident Representative, and their Excellencies Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Mr. Sadek Amin Abu Ras, Minister of Local Administration, and Mr. Thomas C. Krajieski, the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen. The signing ceremony was also attended by a number

of senior officials from USAID, UNDP and the Government of Yemen.

"The support by UNDP and USAID to improve decentralization and local development is highly appreciated", according to a statement on the occasion by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan. "It is hoped that more support can be channeled to this important area in order to achieve greater democracy". On his part, H.E. Mr. Sadek Amin Abu Ras expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the government of Yemen, to the support his Ministry is receiving to enhance its efforts to achieve participatory local administration that is in line with the principles set forth in the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen.

H.E. Thomas C. Krajieski, the US Ambassador to Yemen, expressed his happiness to provide, on behalf of the American people, this grant for the important area of decentralization. He also affirmed that his team will work closely with MoLA, UNDP and other donors to make this effort a success.

Finally, Ms Flavia Pansieri, the UNDP Resident Representation, commended the support of USAID to this pivotal area of Yemen's development efforts,

and considered it a cornerstone for increasing public participation and achieving democracy, not only in the major urban centers, but also in rural areas. She also expressed her satisfaction that this programme is expanding to serve new parts of the country.

It is noteworthy that the DLDSP aims to support the decentralization reform process, build the capacity of local Authorities, improve local-level governance, and alleviate poverty through local development. The project is currently being implemented in a number of districts in the governorates of Taiz and Hadramout. With the USAID grant, MoLA and UNDP will expand to 8 other districts in the Governorates of Al-Jawf and Abyan. The programme builds on the law 4/2000 and subsequent regulations, legal frameworks, and institutional and policy capacity.

The programme works at both the policy and the local levels. It aims to increase the capacity of MoLA and other local Authorities, enhancing public participation in public expenditures and decision-making, and developing the legal framework that institutionalizes transparent local tendering.

Events of Kuwaiti Cultural Week

The events of the Kuwaiti cultural week started in Sana'a on Saturday, September 18 in the frame of Sana'a being the 2004 Cultural Arab capital. A group of writers and intellectuals took part in the activities. A book fair, fine arts and photographic exhibition of Kuwaiti history will be opened this week. In addition, the youth band will perform the sketch of Kawkab al-Bahr (the planet of the sea) and a number of lectures and poems will be delivered by Kuwaiti intellectuals.

Yemeni Medical & Pharmaceutical Syndicate

The second general conference of the Yemeni Medical & Pharmaceutical Syndicate will be conducted under the auspices of Shiekh Abdullah bin Hussain al-Ahmer, Speaker of Parliament. number of participants reaches 500 representing different medical professions- doctors, pharmacists, and dentists- from all over the country.

The conference which will discuss the internal rules amendments will elect the Head and members of the syndicate board. A delegation from both the Arab Doctors & Pharmacists

Unions will take part in the conference.

According to a responsible source in the Preparatory Committee, the delegation of the Arab Union will monitor the election. Other professional syndicates and local and foreign organizations will participate as well.

The conference will be held under the motto: "Towards effective professional union work, securing rights and participating in developing medical work". The conference will also listen to both the general and financial reports and discussions.

Technical & Medical Professions Syndicate issues a Statement

The Technical & Medical Professions Syndicate in Taiz issued a statement dated 18th September, pointing out that there is a person purposefully delaying the payments entitled to staff working in the technical-medical line. The same statement, requested the issue be submitted to

the General Manager of the Health and Population bureau, directly, in hope that payments may be approved by him. The statement also urged the Union not to permit any financial reductions to staff entitlements, under any justification or illegal means, in particular, by staff who reduce

amounts from their colleagues. As well, the statement asked for the approval and payment of the increment of 40% as per the President's resolution, and the payment of Infection allowances, incentive stipends and other entitlements, which have not yet been paid.

Al-Takamul Development Society holds workshop

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Takamul Development Society, a charitable non-profitable organisation, had on 15-16 September held a workshop on defining the executive regulations of the private sector societies and establishments law. The workshop was funded by the Social Fund for Development.

It was opened by Mr Hamoud al-Naqeeb, head of the Social Committee at the Capital Secretariat, who delivered an opening speech praising the workshop and its goals calling the participants to study and understand the law in order to ensure their having the rights stipulated in the law and also commit themselves to doing their duties as defined by law. He had also praised the support offered by the Social Fund for Development for the purpose of developing and achieving the humanitarian goals of the societies.



The workshop was attended by representatives of 12 various societies and there had been a discussion that tackled five themes, mainly those concerning rights and duties of civil community organizations and regulations concerning the establishment and dissolving

them in case they do not abide by the conditions forwarded by the law. participants in the workshop had shown great interest in the meetings and discussions of the workshop, particularly those representatives who had attended such workshops for the first time.

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:

Would the Gulf Arab States write off their debts owed by Iraq?

- Yes, they would
- No, they would not

last edition's question:

Would Abdullah Aidha Al-Razzami respond to mediators and lay down his arms or continue to face the same fate of Al-Houthi?

- I think he would accept mediations 54%
- He would continue the rebellion 46%

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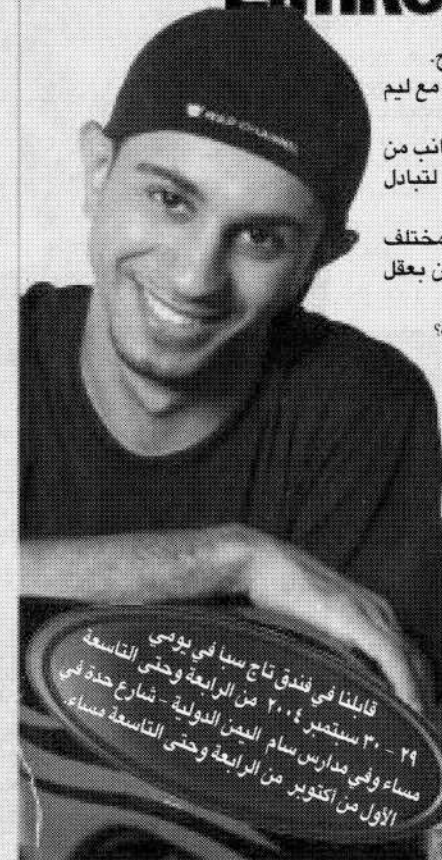
Course on educational concepts

ADEN BUREAU

A training course on comprehensive educational concepts was recently concluded in Aden. 27 Education Office Directors and school principals, took part in the course, which was organized by the Education Sector at the Ministry of Education and financed by the Social Fund for Development.

The two-day course discussed education-related notions in the light of the Salamanca statement in Spain, which focuses on the principles and policies of educating those who are physically handicapped.

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President Saleh launched Yemen Mobile

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Saleh launched last Wednesday Yemen Mobile service on the new system of the General Corporation of Wired and Wireless Telecommunication. On the occasion, the President delivered

speech, saying "What is important is not the modernity of devices, but the modernity of minds and the way of dealing with these devices." He wished Yemen Mobile success in providing advanced services.

Then, the President listened to an explanation on the project components and the capacity of the station (450 microwaves

and 675 thousand lines in its first phase). Yemen Mobile is a highly technologically equipped and qualified firm that can move to the third generation, a system, as it is said, providing access to the internet with an amazing speed (153 kb per second) as well as numerous benefits in the areas of education and health.

Yemen Female Media Forum

Partnership with international organizations

The Yemen Female Media Forum organized last week a workshop, held at the premises of the Yemen Times, to discuss how to expand and strengthen the relationships between international organizations and local ones.

Ms. Rahma Hujjara, the head of Yemen Female Media Forum, told the Yemen Times, "This workshop was devoted to the Yemen Female Media Forum, but we attempted to expand the percentage of beneficiaries. So we invited the leaderships of different societies and institutions to discuss how to expand the partnership

between the local and international NGO's in order to strengthen local organizations and engage them in the development process."

She added, "We took advantage of the presence of Mr. Abdualwahab AL-Kebsi, the manager of middle east programs for National Endowment for Democracy (NED) who has enriched this workshop with his experience as the manager of NED, which is considered one of the main supports for non-government organizations. In fact we also invited a number of prominent figures, writers, analysts and

activists in the field of civic societies like Dr. Abdullallah AL-Zalab, Dr. Mohammed AL-Sabri, Ms. Houria Mashour, National Woman Committee, Dr. Raoufa Hassan, UNICEF, and a number of other international organizations.

She concluded, "We agreed that we have to build strong relationships with international organizations regardless of their backgrounds. We cannot remain isolated and vulnerable to capture, accusation and suspicion. We have to deal with all international organizations and ask them for support and to strengthen local organizations"

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Opposition parties attacked

BY HASAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The media campaign against opposition joint-meeting parties is still raging, considering them as being involved in supporting the Sa'ada rebellion led by cleric Hussian Al-Hothi, who was killed 10 days ago. The campaign excludes the opposition Islah party that stood by the government.

Statements were released last Thursday by an official source in the Ministry of Interior, who declared that the preliminary investigations, and documents discovered by the security forces reveal the extent of the support received by the rebel, which is considered as violation of the constitution and the law.

The same source also declared that

the documents and testimonies, which confirm the involvement of local and regional parties in supporting the rebellion, and a list of their names will be submitted to the judicial system to start proceedings against them.

This attack against opposition parties is considered the most violent since 1994 war.

This fierce campaign against opposition parties was launched by President Saleh, in his words to Al-Shura members last week, saying "there were many joint meeting parties supporting Al-Hothi's rebellion except for Islah which stood by the state in the war, as it did in 1994". The President also warned the involved parties of bad consequences if they do not stop doing such acts.

The state-run Al-Thawrah daily entitled its editorial on Thursday's issue as 'parties of shame' and classified some

parties such as Al-Haq and Public Forces Union as having Zaidi views and accused them of ethnic thoughts, viewing the caliphate as being for a certain group of people, and showing hatred towards the republican regime.

The newspaper views the stance of the socialist party towards Al-Hothi as being an extension of that of 1994, when it rebelled against unification. Whereas the Nasserite United Organization is viewed as a party of constant impartiality, and practicing a form of political trade. The newspaper also says that the afore-mentioned parties have to close their rumor shops, or they will be shut down by the constitution, since they do not represent the values of the revolution, unification and democracy.

This comes in the shadow of previous preparations to shut down the centers of these parties and their journals,

considering their existence as a violation of the law. These acts resulted in the issuance of a verdict against the Public Forces Union (PFU), the shut down of Al-Shura journal, and the imprisonment of its editor-in-chief, Al-Khaiwani for two years. This comes at a time when Al-Thaqafia journal, belonging to the official Al-Jomhuria press establishment, advocates in a prominent title on its front page "with Al-Khaiwani as a journalist and against PFU - prosecute the devil".

The state is trying to isolate the opposition joint meeting parties from the strong Islamist Islah party, because leaving them do whatever they want forms a threat to the government. From another point of view, some party leaderships have shown concern over the procedures carried out by the authorities that are thought of as against democracy and freedom.

PGC sponsored Summer courses concluded



BY NASRI AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of Dr. Abobakr Al-Qirbi, Chief of the Sana'a University Branch of the People's General Congress (PGC), the Summer courses sponsored by the PGC were concluded last Monday, at the Students' Sector of the University. Courses in the English and French Languages, Computers, and first aid, as well as study of the Holy Qur'an were covered in the Summer period.

Prof. Saleh Basurrah, Rector of Sana'a University, delivered a speech in the concluding ceremony during

which he congratulated the students on successfully completing the summer courses, and emphasized their positive results. He also promised that attention will be paid to those who are talented in various fields.

Many students took part in the activities of the ceremony through which they expressed their gratitude to Dr. Khaled Tumaim, Deputy-Chief of PGC, University Branch, for his great care of youths at the university.

A comedy entitled "Bajjash and his prefect" was performed by Al-Majd Band in the ceremony, which was much appreciated by the audience.

Finally, Prof. Basurrah and Dr. Tumaim honored the committees who prepared the above-mentioned courses, as well as the top students.



Dr. Basurrah and Dr. Tamimi awarding the top students

Social Fund for Development Small and micro enterprise fair

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) last month organized a fair for small and micro enterprises (SME's). The fair was held between 21st-25th August, and took place in Asbaen Park, Sana'a.

A number of entrepreneur's from SME's were hosted to display their products and sell directly to the public. The market aimed at giving a live picture of the importance and talents of SME's.

Many organisations were present at the fair, including many SME financing institutions. The goal was to acquaint the public with these institutions and organizations, and advertise their services, consequently, they provided information to visitors about their activities, and where possible, displayed samples of their products.

Five seminars were held to discuss microfinance, and the service it provides to owners of SME's. The seminars aimed at attracting those interested in knowing about microfinance programs, the services they provide, and the basis on which they work.

A number of people and personalities were rewarded, especially some of the distinguished borrowers from microfinance programs, who had successfully invested the loans offered to them, personalities that have supported SME's and

the best microfinance institutions were also awarded.

Small and micro enterprises are considered as a vital economic sector in many countries around the world, including developing countries. Small and micro enterprises are characterized by their capacity to generate a large numbers of job opportunities, their creativity, and their ability to rapidly adjust to market demands. SME's provide their services directly to the public, or to large enterprises, and many giant companies depend very much on them. For example, it is estimated that SME's produce 80% of the parts used by Mercedes Benz in manufacturing its cars.

In our country SME's play a very important role in the national economy, where 500,000 workers are estimated to work in this sector. SME's offer employment opportunities for increasing numbers of the unemployed, and those people of low-income.

In its development plans, targeting poverty reduction, the government of Yemen has placed SME's at the forefront of its job creation artillery. As such, the government has committed itself to supporting this important sector, overseeing its development, and it is working, through various institutions, to accomplish this mission. The Social Fund for Development is one such supporting mechanism for SME's, which through the Small and Micro Enterprise Development program (which is one of the three main programs that form the Social Fund for Development) aims to developing the small and micro enterprise sector, thereby raising income and creating job opportunities. SFD's strategy is centered on raising local capacity to provide financial and non-financial services to SME's.

Studies carried out by SFD have shown that SME's suffer from a large number of impediments that limit their ability to develop and contribute in large measures to the national economy. SME's in Yemen are, in general, characterized by a lack of innovation and are limited to certain sectors. This is caused by a number of reasons such as the weak infrastructure of basic services like electricity and roads, in addition to obstacles such as licensing and taxation. SME's also suffer from a lack of business development service providers such as consultants and trainers, as well as limited funding.

Despite the difficulties, SME's still represent a main employer for the workforce in Yemen, and estimates indicate that they contribute more than other sector in creating new job opportunities.



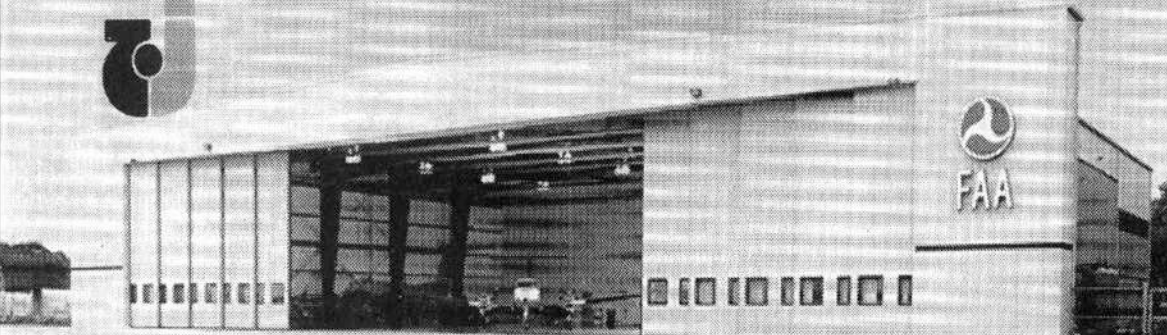
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U.S. air strikes target militants in Falluja

FALLUJA, Iraq, Sept 25 (Reuters) - U.S. aircraft launched new air strikes in the rebel-held city of Falluja on Saturday aimed at killing supporters of a Jordanian militant who has led a campaign of suicide bombings and kidnappings in Iraq.

In one attack, the U.S. military said it targeted supporters of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and that no innocent civilians were in the area. In a second operation, U.S. forces responded with a "precision air strike" against a house after American troops came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

Doctors at Falluja's main hospital said at least seven civilians were killed and 13 wounded, including women and children.

Reuters television pictures showed a crowd of Iraqis digging through the ruins of a destroyed building, and pulling out survivors including two women and two children.

"Intelligence sources reported that Zarqawi terrorists were using the site to plan additional attacks against Iraqi citizens and multinational forces," U.S. forces said in a statement.

"There were no innocent civilians reported in the immediate area at the time of the strike," it said. "Multinational forces took multiple measures to minimise collateral damage and civilian casualties."

Zarqawi's group said this week it had killed American hostages Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley, and posted video footage on the Internet showing them being beheaded.

The Tawhid and Jihad group says it will also kill Briton Kenneth Bigley, 62, unless Iraqi women are released from U.S. run jails. Bigley was snatched along with the two Americans at their house in Baghdad last week.

Prominent British Muslims were expected to arrive in Baghdad this weekend via Kuwait to plead for Bigley's life.

There have been three audacious raids to seize foreigners in Baghdad this month. Two female Italian aid



Iraqi men inspect a destroyed house, following a U.S. army bombardment in the town of Falluja, September 25. U.S. aircraft launched air strikes early on Saturday on targets in the rebel-held Iraqi city of Falluja, and local doctors said at least seven people were killed and 13 wounded, including women and children. The U.S. military said it had carried out a "precision strike" on a building where supporters of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi were believed to be meeting. REUTERS

workers were kidnapped more than two weeks ago, and on Thursday evening two Egyptian workers were snatched from their office in the capital.

Two guerrilla groups have said they killed the Italian women but gave no proof, and Rome said the claims were unreliable. An Islamist website that earlier had reported the Italians had been killed said on Saturday Bigley had been slain. The British Foreign Office said the claim lacked credibility.

U.S. OFFICIALS AT ODDS ON POLLS

U.S. forces have mounted repeated air strikes on Falluja targeting supporters of Zarqawi, who has a \$25 million price on his head. The city, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, is seen as a haven for insurgents and foreign fighters.

After heavy fighting in the city in April killed hundreds of Iraqis and sparked widespread anger, U.S. marines pulled out, handing responsibility for security to an Iraqi force. That force has collapsed and the city is controlled by insurgents.

The U.S. military has conceded it is not in control of rebel strongholds like Falluja and nearby Ramadi, but says it will launch a campaign to retake them ahead of elections in January. Four U.S. marines were killed on Friday in three attacks in the Iraqi province that includes Falluja and Ramadi.

On Saturday, a U.S. soldier was killed in Baghdad after his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, the U.S. military said.

Since the start of the war in Iraq, at least 796 U.S. military and Pentagon personnel have been killed in action.

The question of whether some areas

may have to be excluded from the polls has put U.S. officials at odds.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld conceded on Thursday that elections might not be possible in areas in rebels hands. That contrasted with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage who said elections had to be "open to all citizens".

Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi called on world leaders to put aside disagreements over the war in Iraq to help his nation. Violence, he said, would not stop polls going ahead in January.

In the latest guerrilla attack on Iraq's fledgling security forces, gunmen opened fire on men travelling to a Baghdad recruitment centre in a van, killing seven, the U.S. military said. Insurgents also fired mortars at the Oil Ministry building in Baghdad, but there were no casualties.

UK Muslims head for Baghdad to plea for hostage

KUWAIT, Sept 25 (Reuters) - Prominent British Muslims arrived in Kuwait on Saturday en route to Baghdad to plead for the release of 62-year-old engineer Kenneth Bigley, seized by Islamist militants nine days ago.

"I believe and always maintain hope in the mercy of Allah," Daud Abdullah, a member of the delegation from the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), told Reuters Television at Kuwait International Airport.

"And we are hopeful that Mr Bigley is alive and that we will be able to exert some influence with those who hold him hostage," he said.

The kidnappers are threatening to kill Bigley unless women prisoners held in Iraq are freed, but have set no deadline. They have already beheaded two Americans seized with him.

An Islamist Web site, which has posted unsubstantiated claims about hostages in the past, said on Saturday Bigley had been killed. The British Foreign Office said it believed the Web site lacked credibility and could not confirm such a claim.

A British embassy official told Reuters in Kuwait City the MCB delegation members would fly shortly to Iraq by military aircraft from Mubarak Air Base near the civilian airport. The air base is used by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf Arab state.

HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

Abdullah said the delegation hoped to meet religious leaders and scholars, including the leadership of the High

Association of Muslim Scholars.

"This is part of Islamic duty for us," said Iqbal Sacranie, secretary-general of the MCB, the largest lobby group for Britain's 1.8 million Muslims. "If we can save a life then let's do that."

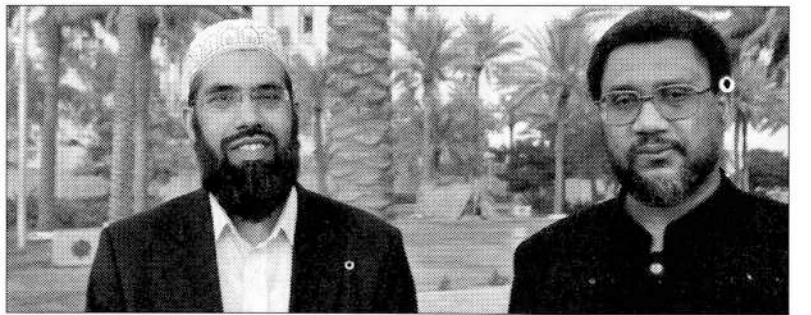
"We saw the news stories, particularly after the beheading of the Americans, and thought 'how do we save a life?'" Sacranie told Reuters in London. "We've issued appeals but what is required goes beyond that."

British Foreign Minister Jack Straw spoke by telephone to Bigley's Thai wife, who is in Thailand. Terry Waite, the former Church of England envoy who was held hostage in Lebanon for five years, visited the Bigley family home in Liverpool.

The Muslim Association of Britain, an affiliate of the MCB, said it appeared on Arabic television station Al Jazeera to make a direct appeal to the kidnappers for Bigley's safe release.

The pleas came after the British government said it had distributed 50,000 leaflets in Baghdad, at the request of Bigley's family who want to exhaust all means possible to save him from a group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

An Iraqi company went round Baghdad on Thursday handing out the leaflet, which had numbers for the British Embassy and local police, officials at the Foreign Office in London said. Prime Minister Tony Blair, to whom Bigley appealed in a videotape, has kept quiet for fear of inflaming the crisis.



Dr. Daud Abdullah (R), assistant secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, and Musharraf Hussain talk to journalists at the Convention Center in Baghdad, September 25. REUTERS

Egypt's mufti approves synchronised call to prayer

CAIRO, Sept 25 (Reuters) - Egypt's highest authority on Islamic law endorsed on Saturday a controversial government plan to synchronise the call to prayer in Cairo's mosques and put an end to the present haphazard system based on the timekeeping of each individual establishment.

Under the current arrangements, the muezzin in one mosque might finish his call to prayer before the one in the nearest mosque has even started his version.

Since most of the muezzins use loudspeakers and are audible for hundreds of metres (yards), the result is a random fugue stretched out over 10 to 15 minutes five times a day.

Religious Endowments Minister Mahmoud Hamdi Zakzouk has proposed transmitting a standard call to prayer from all of Cairo's minarets at

exactly the same time.

But some religious scholars are worried the proposal could eventually lead to standardisation of the Friday sermon and the abolition of the pre-dawn call to prayer, which the less religious can find disturbing, especially if the muezzin's loud-speaker is outside their bedroom window.

The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Ali Gomaa, said in a separate statement on Saturday that the four schools of Islamic law all agreed that the call of prayer could be standardised throughout a community. The mufti is the chief interpreter of Islamic law.

Zakzouk, quoted by the state news agency MENA, said there was no threat to the jobs of some 45,000 muezzins as they can be retrained as the imams of mosques, of which there is a shortage.

Saudi says no change on \$30 billion Iraq debt

RIYADH, Sept 25 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia said on Saturday it was ready to discuss a major reduction of the \$30 billion it says it is owed by neighbouring Iraq, but appeared to dismiss a U.S. suggestion that the debt could be entirely written off.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said on Friday that a total of \$45 billion offered to Iraq by Gulf Arab countries during Baghdad's 1980-88 war with Iran was provided as grant and need not be repaid.

Saudi Arabia says the money was loaned to Baghdad. "This is still our position. We have not changed," a Saudi official told Reuters. "We are not

working on an isolated effort, we are working through the Paris Club and Madrid."

The oil-rich kingdom said in January it was ready to discuss a "substantial reduction" of the money it claims from Iraq, but declined to specify how much it was ready to forgive.

It also told a meeting of donors in Madrid last year that any debt reduction must be based on a principle of "burden sharing" with other creditors.

Saudi Arabia is by far the largest of Baghdad's regional creditors, having staked a claim for \$24 billion in cash and an additional \$6 billion in oil support.

Israeli army flattens rows of houses in Gaza raid

GAZA, Sept 25 (Reuters) - Israeli forces stormed into a Palestinian refugee camp on Saturday, killing one man and flattening rows of houses in a growing cycle of violence that threatens to complicate Israel's plan to withdraw from Gaza.

The raid in the southern Gaza Strip followed a mortar attack on a Jewish settlement that killed a 24-year-old woman on Friday, and the ambush killings of three Israeli soldiers guarding another settlement the day before.

A 60-year-old man was killed in an air strike at the start of the incursion into the Khan Younis camp, where U.N. relief workers said Israeli armoured bulldozers then destroyed up to 35 homes. It was not immediately known how many were inhabited.

Residents shaken from their beds only had time to grab a few belongings and flee before the start of demolition, a policy that international rights groups condemn as collective punishment but Israel calls self-defence.

Witnesses said up to 100 people were left homeless by the raid, which sparked gun battles between troops and militants.

"We ran away carrying our crying children ... My oldest son was hit by a bullet in the stomach," said Mazen Qanan, 43, as he returned with other residents to pick through the rubble of their leveled neighbourhood.

An army spokesman said troops destroyed far fewer homes than U.N. officials and witnesses reported and insisted that all were abandoned structures used by militants to provide cover for firing mortar bombs and makeshift rockets at settlements.

The raid came on the fasting day of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, with Israel shut down and its borders sealed.



A Palestinian woman cries as she stands over her demolished house after Israeli troops and tanks advanced a short distance inside Khan Younis refugee camp South of Gaza Strip September 25. Residents of Khan Younis said a missile crashed near a mosque and medics said it killed a man of around 60 and wounded three other civilians. The Israeli army said it had taken out a group of militants preparing to fire a rocket into the adjacent settlement of Neve Dekalim, where a mortar bomb launched from the same spot on the camp's edge killed a woman settler on Friday. REUTERS

"We condemn this Israeli escalation," Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat told Reuters. "This military escalation will only...enlarge the cycle of violence and counter-violence."

WORSENING BLOODSHED

Bloodshed has worsened in the Gaza Strip ahead of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's planned withdrawal of settlers and soldiers by the end of 2005.

Militants want to portray any Israeli pullout from occupied territory as fleeing under fire. But Israel's army appears determined to smash armed groups before leaving.

Sharon cannot afford escalating militant violence if he is to overcome opposition in his rightist coalition to evacuating Gaza and win a showdown with settlers who refuse to budge.

Polls show most Israelis favour Sharon's plan to uproot all 21 settlements in Gaza and four of 120 enclaves in the West Bank, but hardliners see it as a "reward for terror".

The Khan Younis raid began under cover of darkness. Residents said a missile crashed near a mosque and medics said it killed a man of around 60 and wounded three other civilians.

The army said it fired at militants trying to launch a rocket into the adjacent Neve Dekalim settlement, where

a mortar had killed a woman settler hours before the start of Yom Kippur.

Accusing Sharon of "incitement to murder", settler spokesman Eran Sternberg said the government's offer to pay cash advances to settlers willing to leave their homes only encouraged Palestinian attacks on Jewish enclaves in the coastal strip.

Militants fire mortars at Gaza settlements almost daily, but it has been two years since the last death in such an attack.

Some 8,000 Israelis live in heavily fortified enclaves amid 1.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, which Israel captured along with the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war.

Nine Afghan troops killed, US warns of more violence

KABUL, Sept 25 (Reuters) - Suspected Taliban militants launched a string of attacks on security posts in southern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing nine soldiers, an official said.

The attacks came the same day as the head of U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan warned that the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies were stepping up plans to disrupt a landmark presidential election on Oct. 9.

Haji Mohammad Wali, spokesman for the governor of Helmand province, said an unspecified number of gunmen launched raids on three security posts along a road between Girishk in the southern Helmand province and Delawar in the western province of Farah.

Three soldiers were killed in the first attack, six in the second and there were no casualties in the third.

Wali blamed the "enemies of Afghanistan", a phrase often used to describe remnants of the ousted Taliban militia, which opposes the election and has been accused of launching a wave of violence that has claimed more than 1,000 lives since August last year.

A Taliban spokesman said militia guerrillas had carried out the attacks and that 15 government soldiers had been killed and two captured.

In Kabul, the U.S. military's commander in Afghanistan said coalition forces had intelligence reports saying Taliban and al Qaeda fighters were stepping up plans to disrupt the election.

"For all terrorists in the region ... disrupting the election is part of their agenda," Lieutenant-General David Barno told a news conference in Kabul.

More than 17,000 U.S. and allied



Afghan presidential candidate Mohammad Younus Qanoni (R) greets supporters during a campaign in the city of Char-i-kaar about 70 km north of Kabul September 25. Qanoni is one of the major rivals to President Hamid Karzai in the race to the October's presidential election. REUTERS

troops are fighting an insurgency waged by the Taliban, overthrown in 2001 for supporting Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda network, architects of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Taliban fighters were also linked to a rocket attack on the helicopter of President Hamid Karzai — favourite to beat 17 opponents at the polls — as he made a rare visit outside Kabul earlier this month.

Barno said the insurgency was being waged by a "tiny minority", and that the rest of the world owed it to Afghanistan to stand by them.

"Our challenge ... is to rise up to the level of resolve shown daily

here by our hosts, the people of Afghanistan," he said. "We must remain resolute, we must stay the course."

Barno said the fact that over 10 million Afghans had registered to vote — more than 40 percent of them women — showed the country had a real desire for peace and democracy.

"Terrorist attacks will continue and more than likely increase as the election nears," he said.

"We can and must remain firm, very much reflecting the unwavering courage of the Afghan people as they choose their own future at the ballot box, not with the gun."

Musharraf, Singh lift peace hopes for India-Pakistan

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI, Sept 25 (Reuters) - The leaders of India and Pakistan have revitalised a flagging peace process, analysts said on Saturday a day after the two met in New York for their first face-to-face talks.

South Asia's nuclear rivals have held a series of talks at foreign minister and senior official level this year aimed at building confidence after the long-time enemies came to the brink of war in 2002.

But sluggish progress, particularly on the core issue of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, led to fears the talks would achieve little, particularly after the prime mover in the peace process, Atal Behari Vajpayee lost power in a shock Indian election result in May.

But Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf vowed in New York on Friday to continue a dialogue aimed at restoring normalcy and cooperation between the two countries.

"This statement energises the ongoing India-Pakistan dialogue process," said Dr. Riffat Hussain, head of defence and strategic studies at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad.

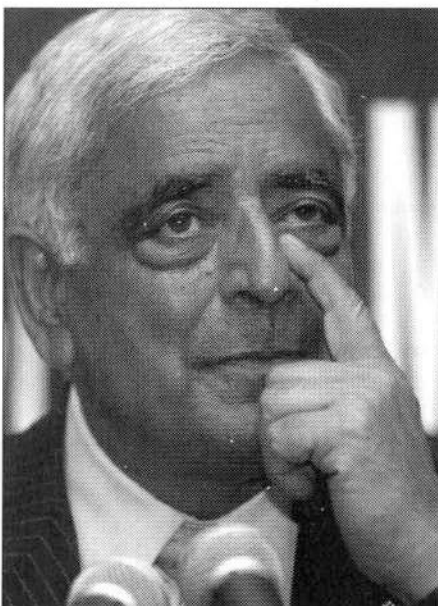
Indian analysts took a similar view of the outcome.

"A peace process which was deemed somewhat sluggish...has clearly culminated in a broad understanding on how to take the process forward," said C. Raja Mohan, professor of international relations at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.

In recent weeks, Islamabad and New Delhi showed signs of reverting to a familiar pattern of recriminations over Kashmir.

India accused Pakistan of not doing

enough to stop incursions by Muslim



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Syed gestures while answering a question from a journalist at a news conference in Calcutta September 25. Syed said he welcomed the joint statement by India and Pakistan after the summit meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pervez Musharraf in New York on Friday as positive and encouraging. REUTERS

rebels into Indian-ruled Kashmir, while Pakistan accused India of human right abuses.

But Kashmir's Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Syed shared the overall optimism generated by the Musharraf-Singh meeting.

"The chief minister said that the meeting has generated optimism and hope of a lasting peace in the subcontinent (and is) bound to have positive impact on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," said a statement issued on Syed's behalf.

"DISTINCT PROGRESS"

In a news conference after the meeting, Singh said Pakistan should clamp down on cross-border militancy.

"Therefore, there should be no doubt that this is a pre-condition for moving forward," Press Trust of India news agency quoted Singh as saying.

But analysts seized on the two leader's agreement to explore options for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute as reason for hope.

"This is very distinct progress...and now one could expect that future discussions on Kashmir would be more realistic and more substantial," said former Pakistani foreign secretary Tanvir Ahmed Khan.

"The difference between this meeting and other meetings in the past is that India has given a clear indication that it is willing to discuss Kashmir and Pakistan is willing to resolve differences and normalise relations," professor Mohan said.

"And that is the change from the past, which is why it has been called a historic step forward," he added.

Kashmir was the cause of two of India and Pakistan's three wars since gaining independence from British rule in 1947. India controls about 45 percent of Kashmir, Pakistan about a third and China the rest.

The two leaders also agreed to implement measures to build trust and to discuss a natural gas pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan, a project New Delhi has previously stalled citing security concerns.

But analysts saw little chance of a major breakthrough in the near future, despite the common determination shown in New York.

"It would be a slow and protracted process," Khan said.

Thousands of Taiwan people protest U.S. arms deal

TAIPEI, Sept 25 (Reuters) - Thousands of protesters marched through Taiwan's capital on Saturday, urging the government to scrap a big U.S. weapons package they said would trigger an arms race with China and squeeze social welfare.

Defending the T\$610.8 billion (US\$18.2 billion) deal, Premier Yu Shyi-kun said maintaining strong defence and a military balance with the island's arch-foe were critical to security.

"If you attack me with 100 missiles, I will at least attack you with 50. If you attack Taipei and Kaohsiung, I will attack Shanghai," Yu said in a speech before the protest.

"If we have such counter-strike capability today, Taiwan is safe," he said in comments broadcast on cable news networks.

The weapons package is made up of \$4.3 billion for Patriot Advanced-Capability 3 missile defences, \$12.3 billion for eight diesel-electric submarines and \$1.6 billion for 12 P-3C Orion submarine-hunting aircraft.

China has viewed self-governing Taiwan as a breakaway province since a bloody civil war in 1949 and has threatened to attack if the island declares formal independence.

Many security analysts see the Taiwan Strait as the most dangerous flashpoint in Asia.

Protesters disagreed with Yu's comments.

"President Chen Shui-bian only likes to please the United States to



A protester on a bike carries a banner that reads "Money enters U.S.A., debt stays in Taiwan" to the presidential palace September 25. Thousands of protesters marched through Taiwan's capital on Saturday, urging the government to scrap a big U.S. weapons package they said would trigger an arms race with China and squeeze social welfare. REUTERS

protect his presidency. He wants to die, but we will not follow him," said a retired soldier, surnamed Chang.

A 40-year-old housewife surnamed Lin, said: "We don't want any war, especially since both sides are Chinese."

Holding banners reading "Our

money. Your war", "Want peace, No war", the protesters ranging from veterans to unemployed workers and children, joined the march to the presidential palace.

Some protesters brought with them bubble tea that became a symbol of anti-arms purchases after the defence ministry issued pamphlets saying Taiwan could afford the weapons if its 23 million people each drank one less bubble tea a week.

The milky drink containing small balls of glutinous sago is a Taiwan speciality.

The arms package has come under growing criticism, with opponents charging that the weapons are too costly or take too long to deploy to be an effective defence.

Opposition parties, which hold a slim majority in parliament, said the island could not afford the weapons and the money should be spent on social welfare or education.

If approved by parliament, the weapons deal — first offered by U.S. President George W. Bush three years ago — would be the biggest in a decade.

The military says the package will help Taiwan maintain a balance of military power with China for another 30 years, but if it falls through, China will have the capability to attack the island in the next 2 to 3 years.

President Chen said earlier this week China has 610 missiles pointed at Taiwan and was increasing its arsenal by 50 to 70 missiles every year. Last December, Chen said China had 496 missiles facing Taiwan.



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Closing date: November 1st, 2004

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- Design and conduct workshops to train Bank staff and borrower agencies

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- Good knowledge of all concepts and principles and approaches to international procurement, and of public procurement systems
- Demonstrated analytical, problem-solving, negotiating and Task/Project managing skills
- Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues, both orally and in writing; good listening skills
- English and Arabic are essential, French is highly desirable
- Ability to deal sensitively with multi-cultural environments and build efficient business relationships with clients and colleagues
- High integrity, competence with humility and commitment to development objectives of Clients
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The World Bank offers a locally competitive package. Interested candidates should send their application and curriculum vitae with "Application for Procurement Specialist position" clearly marked on the envelope, addressed to: Office Administrator, The World Bank Office, P.O. Box 18152, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen; or transmit by fax: 967-1-413-709.

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أنت بيتك...
من أبوولد ٢٠٠٤

تسليم الجوائز للفائزين في السحب الثالث



سالم أحمد تقور (صائق)



محمد عبد الجليل الجبشي (صنعاء)



طراح توفيق محمد (القرضين - تعز)



محمد عبد ربه (الجراحي - الحديدة)



نهر محمد اليمني (الشح - المكلا)



أكرم علي حزام (شارع تعز - إب)

حظاً موفقاً في السحوبات القادمة

Words of Wisdom

There are newspapers that are owned and operated by the army, government, independent companies, political parties, special interest groups, etc. In other words, the written media offers a variety of views and positions. But the state enjoys full monopoly over radio and television stations.

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

OUR OPINION
**NYC's 9/11:
A time to remember**

I had the chance last week to stand near ground zero in New York City, and imagine the grief, the horror, and feelings of Americans screaming and running from the terror after the horrible attacks of 9/11 three years ago. I insisted on coming to see how the place is, how it was, and interviewing a number of people who remember the attack as if it were yesterday.

Looking at the scene on TV, and looking at it in person, provides two very different views. In the first case, from the comfort of your home, lying on a bed or a sofa, you see live pictures of the bodies of dead people, victims throwing themselves from the upper floors of the towers, smoke covering every living and unliving thing in the area, but that is all. But when you are there, you truly feel the devastating impact of the explosion, you live the memories, you see the roses on the floor, thrown in memory of loved ones lost in the attack, and you thank God for not being there to witness the horror - not knowing if you'd make it safe home again.

I felt my body shaking as I approached, and I recalled the old snapshots that I had seen on TV. This was the exact location that underwent the attack of that day, and here I was, walking near the place that on September 11th 2001 was called 'Hell on Earth'. I had tears in my eyes when I saw pictures of the horrific attack, and the devastation it caused to more than two thousand innocent people. I wanted to scream saying, "this is not Islam and these are not Muslims" but I am sure it was said over and over again.

It was the first time that I could sympathize with writers of letters to the editor expressing bad words and harshly denouncing Muslims and Arabs. They had their time of emotional intensity, anger, frustration, and most important of all, wonder. They asked "Why?", what were the reasons behind this attack?

It is amazing to see that even after three years since the attack, not many people have been able to figure out a clear answer to that question. Some say that those people wanted to destroy the free world, others claimed they were brainwashed or hypnotized. But very few investigated thoroughly into the real reasons behind such a possible attack.

I myself (being a Muslim from Yemen, the so-called ancestral home of Osama bin Laden), would have failed to find a fulfilling answer if any of those watching the site of ground-zero had asked me. I would have given some analysis, but I am sure that it would not have been sufficient.

I know there are thousands upon thousands researching the motives and reasons, and analyzing why it happened. Some have even gone so far as to learn the whole 'Arabic' language to know more about the way attackers think. But I believe they will remain clueless until they can put themselves into the shoes of an attacker, and can visualize the sort of hatred that person must have against the USA, to commit such an act and sacrifice his life. That task won't be easy, neither for me, nor for anyone else. Being a Muslim Arab won't make it any easier. In fact, knowing very well that Islam is a religion of peace and harmony that forbids the killing of innocents even during the combat of major war, makes it even more difficult to comprehend and believe that it was based on religious motives.

It remains a question to be asked over and over again, but time may be the only way we could now find an answer.

Until the final answer comes, we will see NYC's 9/11 as a time to remember for decades to come.

The Editor

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

We are all closer to one another than we think

By: CLARKE A. GREEN
KENNETT SQUARE, PA
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Dear Mr Haifi
This morning I am doing, no doubt, what most of your readers are doing: getting ready for a day's work. I have my cup of coffee and I am sitting here reading the news (I subscribe to several newspapers online including the Yemen Times). I am moderately politically active and aware, but not an activist nor a politician.

I read your column today and was motivated to write in response. My goal in writing is not to espouse a particular political or religious ideology, but merely to observe and reflect.

Like most of my fellow Americans I know little of the Arab world, little of Yemen in particular. We hear and see only those stories that are extreme enough to demand attention so I would have to say that amongst my colleagues and fellow citizens the Arab and Moslem world is usually depicted as threatening and strange. I dare say that the same could be said of many Yemenis when they hear or see news about America. I don't hear about the man in Yemen getting up and going to work every day, and he doesn't hear

about me. We do hear is what those in our respective governments say and we see the results of the actions they take. And it is sometimes a sad state of affairs. I have a minor role in our small local municipality and have found (at least in our system) that the job of government is tantamount to attempting to fix a watch while wearing boxing gloves. The actions of governments are rarely nuanced or subtle and our distance from the decision making processes seem almost impossible to span. I assume that this is a common frustration no matter where one lives.

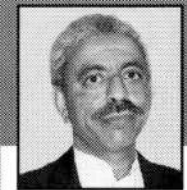
When we read or hear things about each other as Nations or Religions it is necessarily simplified and cannot reflect all points of view of the individuals that make up these larger systems. The result is that most people I know have a simplistic reaction to the world beyond our borders. We tend to characterize an entire people nation, religion or region as good or bad. I cannot help but think that this happens in every corner of the world. We can also see specific examples that support our larger assumptions and inflame our passion to react. This way of

thinking denies something elementally human, some greater understanding, and cuts us off from the higher aspects of our common interest as people separating us into warring camps.

Yet we get up in the morning and prepare for work: we hope to have health, freedom from want, safety for our families and some measure of happiness. I am confident that a Yemeni, and Arab, a Human being wishes nothing less and works as hard as I do to achieve these aspirations. We are all subject to misunderstanding, to greed and selfishness when just a step or two away is cooperation and mutual support. Let's all do our part to remind ourselves, our friends, and our governments of these things daily.

Good morning Yemen, we are all a lot closer to one another than we think.

Editor's Note: This was a letter sent to our Common Sense columnist. It contains some of the hopes that most people throughout the world aspire for and suggests that indeed the world can still look forward to greater understanding among people everywhere. This is an American Viewpoint worth sharing with our readers.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

In tribute to all those patriots

None in Yemen doubts the sincere genuine intents of all those Yemeni patriots who gave their lives freely to ensure that the Yemeni Revolution of September 26, 1962 lives on to liberate the Yemeni people from so many centuries of deprivation and backwardness. The Yemeni fervent desire for change and freedom is as old as time. Quite often, over the centuries, many Yemenis turned to emigration overseas in order to escape the hard times that their own country is subjected to over the course of its long history. There were other times when Yemenis sought for a different life for totally different reasons such as the large influx of Yemenis that joined the Moslem Armies that fanned out East and West in the early period of Islam, most of whom settled wherever their expeditions took them to. Yemen, nevertheless, by virtue of its geographical and terrestrial features eventually sank into relative isolation and intermittent civil warfare over the Middle Ages, with various kingdoms prevailing in different regions of the country, some of which reached epochs of prosperity and cultural splendor, such as the Suleih State and even some of the Zeidi Imamic periods in the 16th and 17th Century. With Ottoman rule prevailing in most of the country after that and with many of the remote areas of the country resisting any form of centralized political control, the country was left for the most part immune to keeping pace with many of the scientific, political and social developments that mankind as a whole was witnessing for some three centuries. Even the unflinching hunger of imperialism and western colonialism could not find worthwhile attractions that would satisfy the wretched hunger of any of the leading contestants for world power and economic domination vying for the world during this period. When many prominent Yemenis began to realize that Yemen was indeed seeming out of place in a rapidly developing world, they called for change and set up the Free Yemenis Movement. This movement encompassed Yemenis from all walks of life, political, social and commercial and eventually led to the attempted overthrow of the monarchy that evolved after full independence (1918) was gained from the Ottomans. The 1948 Revolution however could not succeed, because the regional scene was still mainly made of traditional monarchical regimes and the general affinity of the powerful Yemeni tribes remained with the strong character of the self proclaimed successor to the old Imam Yahya. Several attempts to remove Imam Ahmed were thwarted, with each time the Patriotic Movement regrouping and seeking to find ways to remove the stubborn and wily Ahmed from the throne, who ruthlessly suppressed any attempts to unseat him. In 1962, thanks to the emergence of the Pan Arab Nationalist Movement of Gamal (pronounced Jamal) Abdul Nasser and the eminent death of Imam Ahmed, the Free Yemenis Officers, under the prodding of the former took the initiative and decided to overthrow the monarchy once and for all. Imam Ahmed's son and successor was allowed to rule for a week before the six tanks that launched the Revolution tore down the walls of his palace, and he was forced to flee to the mountains.

Because of the prevailing divisions of the Arab World at the time, Yemen became the battleground for the traditional and progressive forces in the Arab World that were vying for control of the destiny of the Arab World. Both the progressives, led by Egypt (then the United Arab Republic) and the traditionalists, led by Saudi Arabia took sides in the ensuing battle between the Republicans and Royalists until the 1967 Arab Israeli War brought an end to inter Arab conflict for awhile and Yemenis were able to decide their own fate. The Republic prevailed and reconciliation of the two Yemeni parties was easily accomplished peacefully. Yemen enjoyed a relatively peaceful period of seven years under a generally democratic order, albeit with brief periods of outbreak of violence among some of the competing political forces that were emerging and trying to prevail in the political arena. The moderates in all instances prevailed and most Yemenis were generally pleased with the success of the Revolution. Yemen continued to become the victim of some of the regional and international political ramifications that accompanied the Cold War, sometimes with civil disturbances instigated by supporters of radical change propagated by the radical regime that was set up in the south of the country after gaining independence from British rule. The highlight of victory that crowned the efforts of the national patriotic movement was crowned by the achievement of unity and the institution of democratic constitutional government in May 1990. Nevertheless, Yemen continued to witness internal political wrangling, sometimes with external prodding, that eventually culminated in a decisive victory for one of the parties that peacefully brought about unification. While this victory was worthy of praise for instilling the unification of the country, it did however lead to the removal of a delicate balance of power among the prevailing political factions, which helped to maintain a semblance of democratic government during the transition post unification period (1990 - 1994). The commitment to democratic rule is still fervently adhered to by the President of the Republic and the government. However, there are some problems in translating this commitment to practice, as some elements in the socio-political arena, find their own avenues for imposing some of their own narrow minded will and enhancing their own interests.

In appreciation of all the martyrs who have given their lives for the ultimate success of the Yemeni Revolution and the genuine patriotic intentions those martyrs gave their lives for, it is most imperative that Yemen continue to abide by the democratic rule that we have come to visualize, even if at marginal levels. The best way to do this is to ensure that basic fundamentals of democratic rule, such as free speech and a free press are allowed without any hindrance or threat of suppression. It would be most reassuring to the Yemeni people and an excellent way to give tribute to all those martyrs if President Ali Abdullah Sale would order the release of all those people imprisoned for the expression of their views vis a vis the last tragic events that occurred in Sa'ada. Most of these people are, after all, dignified members of the society (moderate religious leaders and journalists). Moreover this will confirm Yemen's determination that democracy is here to stay to both its people and to the world at large as well. Isn't it time that we actually mean what we say!

*Robert Bekhazi
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Why Syria interferes in Lebanon?

Manuela Paraipan
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This is an article in response to the interview article by Walid Al-Saqqaf: 'Yemen had stood by Lebanon in its critical times, and rejects interference in its local affairs.'

President Lahoud's term was prolonged for three more years. The decision did not come from the Lebanese people, as it would have been normal, but from Syria. If Reagan's administration abandoned Lebanon in the 1980's, Bush administration has a different agenda. President Bush seems to be aware of the fact that Lebanon, instead of Iraq, can be a starting point to spread peace and democracy in the region.

September 11th may very well be the result of wrong US policies in Lebanon. Terrorists weighed the consistency of the US policy against terrorism and found its weak link. All they have to do is to send some US troops home in body bags, and the United States will change its policy and will beat a retreat. The fundamentalist or liberation movements, as they are called in the region - followed this strategy in Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

The United States had given a strong hint months ago that it would ban Syria from selecting Lebanon's president and would oppose a constitutional amendment that would allow General Lahoud from seeking a new term in office. This time the US decided not to turn a blind eye to Syria's military occupation and hegemony over Lebanon, and signed

into law the Syrian Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act (SALSRA). More recently the United States together with France and Germany, called on the UN 1559 resolution to be applied.

Moreover, in Lebanon, there is definitely a strong popular support for independence, democracy and an end to the Syrian influence. Because of the strong Syrian secret service apparatus and army presence within the borders of Lebanon, many people are afraid to take a clear stand against Syria. However, this may change if the secret service apparatus are not backed up by the physical presence of the Syrian army troops.

Implementation of sanctions comes after months of diplomatic efforts to convince the Syrian government to change its behavior. So far, the Syrian government has failed to take significant, concrete steps, towards addressing these concerns. Syria chose to ignore all the warning messages. Why would Syria choose to ignore the warning signals the United States send it through the last few months?

We have here two different scenarios. First, the Syrian regime is aware of the fact that the days of its totalitarian regime are at an end, and the trend of having satellite states is history. If this is the case then, they might have challenged the world openly to show that they are still in control while setting the stage for an inevitable retreat that would appear as if it was their own decision. Or, Syria may believe that the US has neither the means to extend the war beyond Iraq, nor does it want to have to deal with a leaderless post-Baathist Syria, or an

out of control Hezbollah in Lebanon once the Syrian regime is destroyed. Even if that's the case, the 'survival instinct' of the Syrian leader will bring the country back to the negotiating table once they acknowledge the imminent danger.

Until this point, the world waved 'carrots' in front of Damascus wishfully hoping that the Syrian regime will take the right decision. Seeing Syria's reluctance, the US has the opportunity to use the 'stick' instead, and impose on Syrian to back up the deployment of the Lebanese army on all the Lebanese territory during a transitional period, in which Hezbollah will be given the choice to surrender their weapons and continue to exist as a political organization, or else.

The fact remains that there will be no lasting peace in the Middle East as long as Lebanon remains an occupied country and its people are oppressed. A Lebanon free from foreign troops, sovereign, independent and democratic is the key to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to the defeat of worldwide terrorism and fanaticism.

The Middle East region needs more of a 'hands-on approach' - more stronger external pressures (e.g., potential military strikes, threats of regime change). Such an approach might be able to convince existing regimes, such as the Syrian one to get into an accelerated demilitarization and reform process without having to change the regime itself.

This is not a guaranteed approach and there is no easy solution to a change in the governance model in many of the countries of the Middle East, but it is worth trying it.

Letters to the Editor

A Christian fanatic ruling the world
September 7th 2004,
Marks the official 1000th death of U.S. soldiers in Iraq. And there were about 7000, wounded U.S. soldiers in the Iraq war. But, the number of total casualties so far is not sufficient to disturb U.S. citizens enough to change leadership in November. The brutal fact is that unless thousands more U.S. soldiers are killed and wounded before November 1st, George Bush will easily defeat John Kerry.

This means that until 2009, Bush will have a mandate from the U.S. public to attack and destroy Syria and Iran just as he did Iraq. Bush's objective is, in

his own words "a crusade" to change the entire Moslem world to Christian. Bush is a Christian extremist and, as such, it is his duty to act as a Christian soldier. The best estimates indicate that as a Christian soldier, Bush has killed over 20,000 Moslem women and children in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With the destruction of Syria and Iran in the next 4 years, the Christian Bush's total kill of Moslem women and children may reach 50,000. As long as the ratio of U.S. soldiers dead to Moslem women and children remain at about 1 to 20, the U.S. public will support the wars. Since it is easier to kill women and children than soldiers, those

Letters to the Editor

of you who live in the Middle East will be treated to perhaps 20 years of war from the U.S. There is simply nothing to stop the U.S. except possibly Iranian nuclear weapons and it is doubtful that the Iranians will have them in time. They only have about 10 months.

*Robert Lindh
lindh@swnebr.net*

A Lebanese supporting UN resolution

I and very many Lebanese like myself, welcome with great relief the UN Resolution 1559. It is the requirement of members of the UN, of which Lebanon was a founding member, to work to guarantee the sovereignty of fellow nations.

The Arabs are certainly proving that they are blind or indifferent to Syria's occupation of Lebanon.

Our nation has suffered under the iron grip of the mafia-like occupation of Syria's Baath Party. It threatens to destroy the very fabric of Lebanon, not to mention the flow of huge numbers of Lebanese who have had enough, out to any nation that will take them.

I declare to the editor of an Arab newspaper indifferent to the plight of Lebanon, please invite all of Syria's occupying troops and secret service agents and a million workers to occupy your country, then you can see what it's like.



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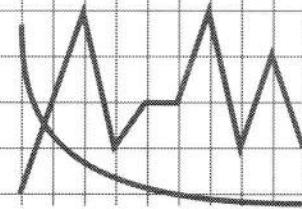
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YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.8700	185.0700
Sterling Pound	332.6600	333.0100
Euro	227.3300	227.5800
Saudi Rial	49.3000	49.3500
Kuwaiti Dinar	627.3200	627.9900
UAE Dirhem	50.3300	50.3900
Egyptian Pound	29.7700	29.8000
Bahraini Dinar	490.3600	490.8900
Qatari Rial	50.7900	50.8400
Jordanian Dinar	260.7500	261.0300
Omani Rial	480.2000	480.7200
Swiss Franc	147.0100	147.1700
Swedish Crown	25.0900	25.1200
Japanese Yen	1.6690	1.6708

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

How the law views banks functions

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
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The law on Yemeni banks issued in 1996 regulates banking work and defines ways of establishing a bank according to criteria and functions of banks, including Islamic and commercial banks working in Yemen.

The law defines the bank as the juristic person who practices his activity as his principal characteristic in banking works, whether those banks were commercial, Islamic or specialized.

The law also defines the meaning of the national currency as banknotes or coins. As for credit it is the group of facilities, loans and monetary credits of various forms the banks and financial establishments offer. The law defines the banking work as accepting monetary deposits payable on demand or according to other arrangements or could be withdrawn on check of money order of payment order as well as granting loans and credit facilities.

Of the banking matters the law of banks mentions are selling and discount of bills, money orders,



Yemen Commercial Bank, one of the Yemeni active banks in Sana'a

coupons and bonds for commercial purposes, procedures of banking and ordinary deals with correspondents and obtaining banking facilities.

The law adds that among the banking works are also buying and selling foreign currencies and gold and silver money and bullions and bonds and shares, issuing and discount of bills and credit letters, opening credits and collecting bonds of shipment as well as doing works

of agent in banking and financial establishments and selling and buying state bonds and money orders. It also points to other banking works such as financial lease including the hiring of equipment or tools of production, transport vehicles or estates for definite purposes in return for certain fee with a promise of selling at the termination of the period according to terms agreed upon.

According to the law, the compa-

ny is as any firm registered according to the law of commercial companies implemented in Yemen. The company also includes the establishment outside Yemen. As for obligations on demand, they are the deposits at any bank and must be paid on demand and there are obligations for a certain period the law defines them as all payable on demand deposits at any bank including the saving accounts.



Yemen Islamic Bank, Sana'a

\$ 120 million needed for, The third stage of public works projects

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The project for public works in Yemen constitutes the cornerstone of the social safety umbrella aimed at absorption of the largest amount of unemployed workforce and alleviation of poverty. The project has inaugurated a workshop on activities of the third phase intended to be executed during the period 2006-2009.

Reports of legal accountants and the Central Apparatus for Statistics confirmed transparency of the project's performance and the effectiveness of its interference and its freedom from corruption during the

implementation of the both the first and second phases of the project. Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal has estimated the project's need for the implementation of third phase at no less than \$ 120 million though it is receiving support from the World Bank and partners of development in Yemen.

Deputy prime minister, the minister of planning and international cooperation Ahmed Soufan said the project had implemented in its two stages several projects from which 3.3 million people from various governorates benefited. Beneficiaries from the project include about 253 thousands in the field of health and more than 513 thousands in the areas of

education. There are about 339 thousands beneficiaries in the field of waters and more than 669 thousands in the field of roads, more than 147 thousands in sewage projects, more than 104 thousands in agriculture field and more than 395 thousand in the field of public installations.

Those projects have contributed to the rise in proportion of students enrollment in schools at a rate of 141% and the medium of female joining of school by 181.5%, the number of health teams increased by 217.2% in comparison with the previous situation before the implementation of the projects and improvement of the level of children immunization

Ridding of ozone depleting materials

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen has got a sum of around \$ one million worth support in the form of industrial supplies and equipment to help it get rid of materials that deplete the ozone layer and to depends on alternative material causing no negative impact on the ozone layer.

Minister of Waters Irrigation Dr Mohammed Lutf al-Eryani has, in a press conference lately held in Sana'a on the occasion of the world day for protection of the Ozone layer, made it clear that Yemen is committed to international agreements on ridding of technology that depends on materials depleting ozone.

On the other hand the chairman of the State Authority for Environment Protection Mohammed Shadaiwa

said the authority would in the following period implement awareness campaigns for the protection of environment including school students and some segments of the society. The campaigns aim at dissemination of ecological awareness on materials causing the depletion of the ozone layer and it would cooperate with media institutions, some governmental organizations and those of civil society.

تخفيضات

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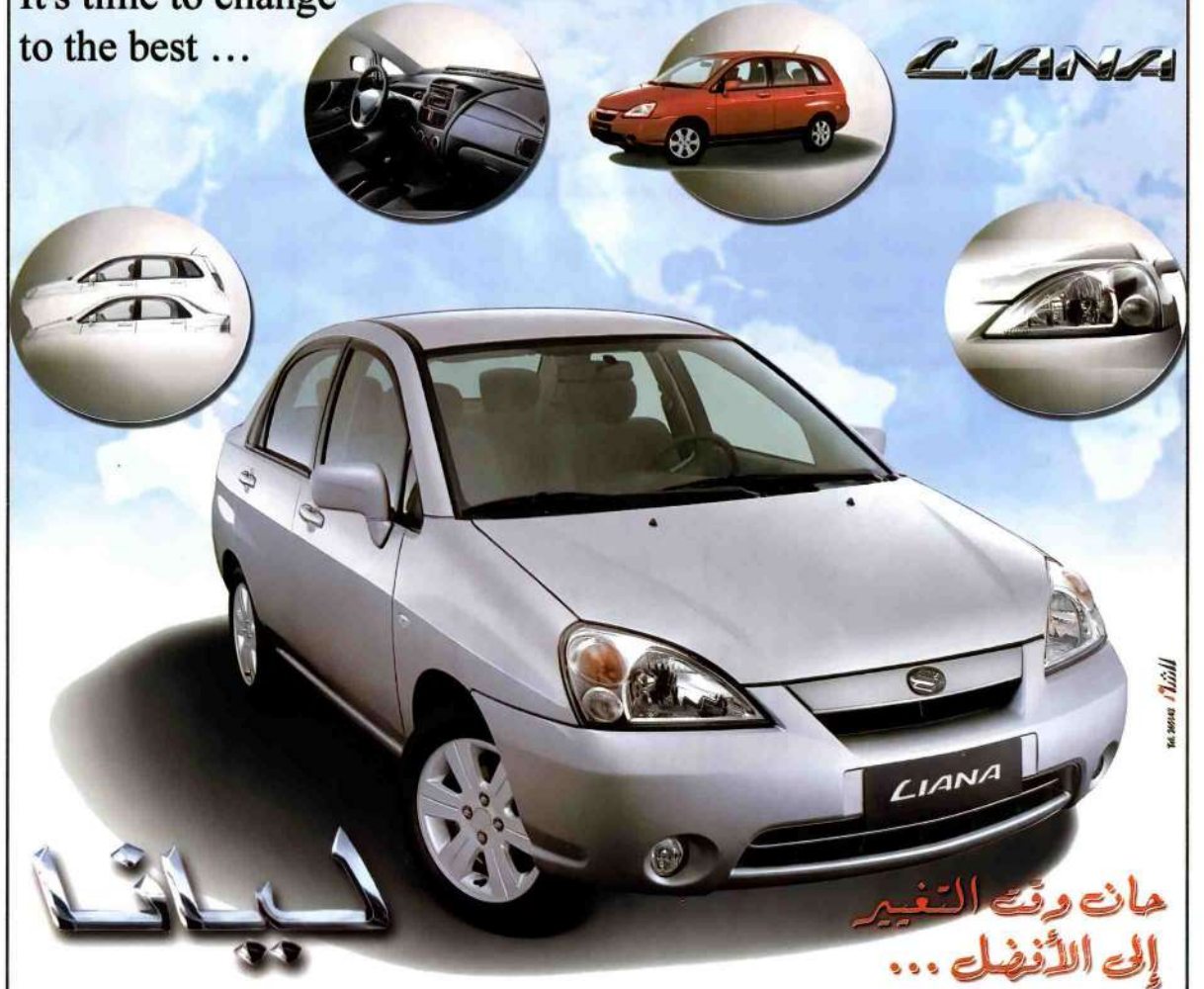


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Ali A. al-Fadeel to YT:

“Protected areas project, effective role in Maintaining biodiversity and promoting the environmental tourism.”



BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is distinguished from other countries in the peninsula by its terrain and various climates that create a fantastic blend of beauty with the climatic and natural environments. This nature founds a variety of environmental regions making the fungus, animal, and plant lives diversify into a great number of rare beings that can't be seen but in Yemen.

The environmental diversities of Yemen are considered a natural wealth at the national, regional and international levels of significance. But, the human hand with the increasing activities does threaten diversity and subject this wealth to loss. That is the result of the wrong casual use of all these sources by the increasing number of population in all directions.

Therefore the government started to take care of this environmental diversity of some areas and regions and to protect them from any danger may threaten them.

The government has announced two natural protected areas: Otomah and Socotra. Not only that but a national project that is concerned with forming an administration to keep these areas was approved.

The project is called Land and Coast Protected Areas Project and it belongs

to the Environment Protection Authority. The project is working on the preparation for officially announcing four protected areas by the end of this year. The Yemen Times represented by Ismail al-Ghabri has met with the engineer Ali Abdulkareem al-Fadeel, general manager of the Protected Areas Project and asked him some questions regarding the aims of the project and the works having been implemented during the last period and about the future plans for the Protected Areas Management.

National project

Q: At the outset, could you please give the reader a brief picture about the project of the land and coast protected areas administration?

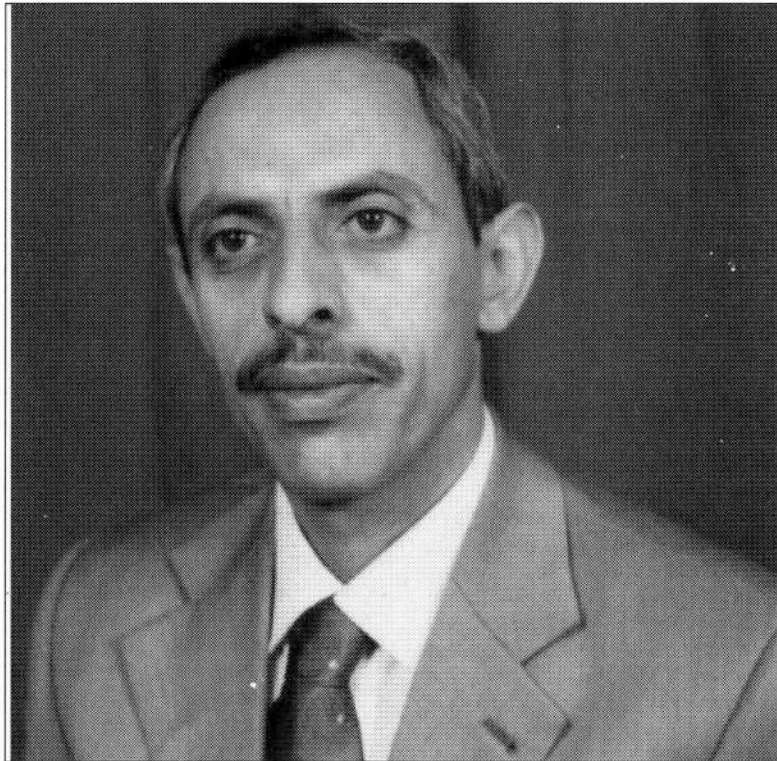
In fact, it is a national project that belongs to the Environment Protection Authority.

It was established by the government in collaboration with the International Environment Association that finances the project and with the International World Bank in supervising the activities conducted by the project. The project has started executing its tasks since the beginning of 2001.

Four years were specified for the project to execute its tasks within and that will be extended to the middle of upcoming year.

Preparations for 4 protected areas

Q: What about the assigned tasks of the project and the aims it's established to achieve?



Engineer Ali Abdulkareem al-Fadeel

The project is working on to announce 4 natural protected areas: the two land ones, Bura'a in Hobeida and Hawf in Al-Mahrah governorate near Yemen-Oman borders. The other two protected areas are coast ones: the first one is considered a marine area extended between Belhaf and Beer Ali in Shabwa and Broom in Hadramout and it's 75 km. long. The second coast protected area is in Sharmat Gadhmoon

and the surroundings in Hadramout and it is 50 km. long.

Regarding the aims of the project, Land and Coast Protected Areas Project aims in reality to keep the biological diversity in the protected areas and to plan for managing these areas permanently by involving the communities.

The project signed contracts with some international and local companies

for the sake of achieving the goals. It is supposed to announce the four protectorates officially by the end of this year.

Final stage

Q: Could you tell us about what have been fulfilled within the past period?

There are some consultative tasks have been completed while some other are currently in progress. The tasks in most of them are being finalized, such as the survey of the biodiversity, preparing the plans and the strategies of the environmental tourism, drafts for legal legislations that are required for reinforcing the protection of these areas, and preparing a great part of the management plans for these areas.

Because of working on preparing the local society to be involved in managing the protectorates and planning related drafts, many workshops were held for discussing such matters and reached to an absolute approval by all the participants.

In addition, different procedures were carried out for reinforcing the protection process of the diversity in these areas. So, many civil guards were employed in the threatened places such as Bura'a forest and in Sharmat Gadhmoon from those who have the marine organism.

Long-term economic income

Q: What about the anticipated economic profitability of these projects?

It is difficult to talk about the environment protection and keeping the

environmental diversity don't show how profitable they are in a day and night, but the outcome appeared in public in a long time. When we protect the biological diversity, we keep a natural wealth that we can gain benefit from in the future. Accordingly, the significance the Land and Coast Protected Areas Project lies in the necessity of keeping these areas and protecting them from extinction.

Project's success

Q: Yemen has announced 2 protected areas, Otomah and Socotra. Have the project of protecting them made the desirable success that encourages announcing the other areas?

Concerning Socotra protected area, it has finished most of the tasks and made great success in protecting the biological diversity and in preparing plans for administrating it permanently. That's considered an achievement when this bio-diversity can be kept.

On the other hand, Otomah protected area was announced as a natural protected area without having done any previous preparations or plans for administrating the geographical borders of the area and the financial resources needed by the administration.

Q: Do you have any comment to be said at last?

I thank the Yemen Times for offering me this opportunity and for its following up and highlighting the tasks executed by the Land and Coast Protected Areas Project in Yemen.

The Schizophrenia Syndrome

BY CHRIS FRITH
PROJECT SYNDICATE

Schizophrenia affects about 1% of people all over the world. The first symptoms typically appear in a person's mid-twenties, and many people never fully recover. Worse still, we know almost nothing about schizophrenia's causes.

On the one hand, there is strong evidence that schizophrenia has a biological basis, because it runs in families, which indicates a genetic component. There are also subtle abnormalities in brain structure. Treatment with drugs, particularly those that target the neurotransmitter dopamine, can reduce the symptoms, but the mechanism of this effect is unknown and unfortunate side effects can and do occur.

On the other hand, the characteristic symptoms of schizophrenia are firmly in the domain of the mind. Patients report hallucinations (false perceptions) and delusions (false beliefs). A patient may hear his own thoughts spoken aloud or hear voices discussing him. A patient may believe that alien forces are controlling his or her actions or inserting thoughts into his or her mind. The challenge for the neuropsychologist is to show how a disorder in the brain can lead to these bizarre experiences.

My own starting point for understanding schizophrenia is the observation that, in some cases, the "voice" that patients hear are clearly their own. This observation puts the problem in a slightly different light: the question is not why patients hear voices, but why they mistake their own voice for that of someone else. This question applies to other symptoms as well. For example, patients with delusions of control report that their movements are alien; they feel as if they were being made by someone else.

This is not as startling as it may at first appear. After all, every action we perform causes changes in our

sensations. When we speak, we hear the sound of our own voice. When we move our arm, there are changes in kinesthetic and tactile sensations. But there is nothing in the nature of these sensations that distinguishes them from signals caused by external events – the sound of someone else's voice, someone else lifting our arm.

Normally, we have no trouble recognizing whether sensations are caused by our own actions, because those that can be predicted. Based on the motor commands that we send to our muscles, we can predict precisely the sensations that the action will cause. This is why we can't tickle ourselves. If we stroke our left palm with our right hand the sensation is minimal. But the feeling is very intense if another person or a robot applies the stimulation.

The same phenomenon can be observed in the brain using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Stroking the palm causes activity in the part of the brain – the parietal lobe – that processes tactile stimulation. But there is far less brain activity when the person being scanned strokes her own palm.

This mechanism, called corollary discharge or reafference, reduces our experience of the sensations that we cause by our own actions. This enables us to identify the more important changes in sensation that are caused by external events and to distinguish them from sensations caused by our own actions.

If this mechanism didn't work properly, we might falsely attribute sensations caused by our own actions to something happening in the outside world over which we have no control. This hypothesis can be tested experimentally. In terms of experience, patients who report that their movements feel alien should be more aware of the sensations caused by their own actions. They should, for example, be able to tickle themselves.

In fact, we have found precisely that: patients with delusions of control report that the sensations that occur when they stroke their own

palm are just as intense as the sensations caused when someone else strokes their palm. In terms of physiology, these patients show abnormally high activity in the parietal lobe when making movements that feel alien. Their physiological responses to self-generated sensations are not being reduced. Similar observations have been made for the auditory system. Activity in the part of the brain concerned with sound – the temporal lobe – is reduced when we hear the sound of our own voice while we are speaking. Patients who experience auditory hallucinations do not show this reduction in activity to the sound of their own voice.

As yet, we know very little about the mechanisms that allow us to predict the sensations caused by our own actions. The part of the brain that generates actions – the frontal cortex – must be sending signals to regions of the brain where sensations are processed, but we know very little about the nature of these signals or the precise pathways involved.

But we can measure the strength of the connections between brain regions, and the strength of these connections seems to be reduced in patients with schizophrenia. So perhaps the key to understanding the symptoms of schizophrenia at a physiological level will come from studying connections between different brain regions.

There is still much work to be done, both to comprehend schizophrenia and develop more effective treatments. But at least we now have a promising framework for understanding how bizarre experiences in the mind can be linked to abnormal processes in the brain.

Christopher Frith is Professor in Neuropsychology at University College London and co-author of Schizophrenia: a very short introduction. He has a PhD in psychology and is fellow of the Royal Society.

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26 September

Authoritarians at the gate



BY BAMBANG HARYMURTI

Last Thursday, judges at Indonesia's Central Jakarta Court sentenced me to one year in prison. As the editor-in-chief of *Tempo Weekly Newsmagazine*, I am guilty, according to the court, of defaming a business tycoon named Tomy Winata by implying his possible involvement in a fire at Jakarta's South-East Asia textile market, and of fomenting riots by disseminating lies. Does my case, and others like it, portend the end of yet another short-lived experiment with democracy in Indonesia?

The "riot" that I allegedly fomented occurred in March last year, when almost two hundred thugs claiming to be Winata's followers attacked *Tempo's* office, threatened to burn down the building, harassed staff, and injured one reporter. Trying to help resolve the situation peacefully, I was persuaded to negotiate at the Central Jakarta Police Station, but found to my horror that the mob leaders controlled the station. I was punched and kicked as the police looked the other way.

Fortunately, many journalists came to our rescue with tape recorders and cameras rolling. Their broadcasts

caused a public outcry, which forced our parliament to organize a public hearing. The National and Jakarta police chiefs were called and, under massive public pressure, the leaders of the mob were criminally charged. But Winata himself eluded police investigation, merely by claiming publicly that his followers acted without his prior knowledge and consent.

He then filed criminal charges of his own, against Ahmad Taufik, who wrote the article, Teuku Iskandar Ali, who edited it, and me. The yearlong court proceedings were marked by a series of suspicious developments, all favoring Winata.

First, the case built by the police and state prosecutor contained documents that were so blatantly falsified that the police indicted two officers. But the court rejected our request that proceedings be delayed until the legality of the state's case could be clarified. The case against the officers involved appears to be going nowhere. On the contrary, one of them has been promoted to command the newly formed (and US-funded) Jakarta Anti-Terror Unit. The other has reportedly been sent to the police staff school for advanced training.

Then, in the sixth month of the case, the Head Judge in the three-judge panel was suddenly promoted to become the head of a city court an hour from Jakarta. One of my lawyers noted that in his 35 years experience at the court, he had never seen a Head Judge replaced in an ongoing case. In

fact, despite her promotion, the judge continued to preside over another case in the same building. A judge who had previously ruled against *Tempo* in Winata's civil suit filled her vacancy.

Finally, when Winata testified, he perjured himself by denying that *Tempo* had interviewed him. A recording of the telephone interview was played in court; sworn testimony was heard from the reporter who conducted the interview and from two editors who witnessed it; the official record from the telephone company was submitted as evidence of the call; and an expert witness concluded that the voice on the recording belonged to Tomy Winata.

But the judges denied *Tempo's* request that Winata be arrested and tried for perjury, telling us to report it to the police, which we did. The judges then denied our request for a postponement of the court decision until Mr. Winata's perjury case was resolved.

Given such flawed proceedings, my conviction and prison sentence come as no surprise. But I remain hopeful that we will prevail in the end, when higher courts hear *Tempo's* appeal. Indonesia's courts are cleaner at the top, and the Head of the Supreme Court is a staunch advocate of democracy and press freedom. *Tempo's* case could become a landmark victory for our democracy, like the US Supreme Court's famous decision in *The New York Times*

SKETCHED IN PRISON



By Samer A.

v. *Sullivan*. By raising the bar for defamation charges, that decision ensures that American journalists can hold public officials accountable.

No country knows better than Indonesia that free speech and a free press are proven indicators of democratic development, and that criminalizing journalists is an early symptom of authoritarianism. Indonesia was a liberal democracy in the 1950's, before President Sukarno, supported by the military, began a crackdown on the press in 1956. With critical voices silenced, consolidating unchecked power became easier and, in July 1959, Sukarno decreed the beginning of "Guided Democracy."

For the first few years after Sukarno's fall in 1966, all the benefits of genuine democracy, including freedom of the press, were restored (except for the communists). But

President Suharto's regime began another press crackdown in the early 1970's, ultimately banning various media and jailing many journalists. With the press under control, other political rights were quickly curtailed and Indonesian democracy failed again.

Since Suharto's fall in 1998, Indonesia has become the third largest democratic country in the world and the largest democratic Muslim community in history. Two parliamentary elections and two direct presidential elections – including the latest presidential run-off – have been free, fair, and peaceful, proving that Islam and democracy can coexist.

Democracy's enemies, however, never rest. Radical Islamic groups have engaged in indiscriminate bombings, while groups with strong

authoritarian tendencies have made inroads into President Megawati's inner circle.

But Mrs Megawati has just been defeated in her bid for reelection. Will newly elected President Susilo continue to prosecute journalists? Will my conviction, and the trials and convictions of other journalists, mark the beginning of the end of Indonesia's hard-won third democracy? The answer lies in the support that Indonesian pro-democracy activists can generate domestically and internationally. To lose Indonesia – a potential beacon of hope to all pro-democracy activists in the world Muslim community – would be a terrible defeat.

Bambang Harymurti is the editor-in-chief of *Tempo Weekly*.

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Saving the stability pact from itself



BY TITO BOERI AND GUIDO TABELLINI

At their meeting in Scheveningen, the Netherlands, the EU's economic ministers (Ecofin) once again confronted the need to reform the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP). The issues surrounding reform remain controversial and unsettled, but this time, the ministers laid their cards on the table.

The SGP's fundamental problem is that it must strike a balance between two contradictory goals: it must retain bite against excessive debt accumulation, yet it must also give governments more maneuvering room to enact structural reforms and restore Europe's competitiveness. As it stands, the SGP is an obstacle to such reforms. European leaders waste political energy and capital to meet demanding budget targets, while nothing is done to address the really vital challenges: aging populations, high tax burdens, declining competitiveness.

The reason is that structural reforms tend to pay off in the long term, but cost money in the short term. The SGP originally aimed to protect European citizens from myopic governments, but it has ended up forcing even more myopic behavior.

Take pension reform, which aims to reduce the scope of state-run, pay-as-you-go systems and expand private, fully funded schemes. This requires cutting compulsory contributions to the public system, while maintaining benefit levels for current retirees. The result is a temporary increase in budget deficits; the fiscal benefits appear only when private schemes start taking over pension liabilities from the state-run systems. But the SGP's current rules discourage this kind of reform by prohibiting temporary increases in the budget deficit – even if they promise long-term fiscal consolidation.

European policymakers are becoming aware of the problem. Some EU countries – particularly new members in Central and Eastern Europe – have committed themselves to use privatization receipts to finance pension reform. But even this may not be enough to

cover the cost.

To overcome the SGP's bias against structural reforms, the European Commission asked at this last Ecofin meeting for more discretion and to put more emphasis on (explicit) debt: countries with a lower debt-to-GDP ratio would have greater freedom in fiscal policy. Economic ministers suggested that pension reform and long-term fiscal sustainability should also guide country evaluations under the SGP, while some countries insisted that it should be linked to the Lisbon agenda. This would give more flexibility on budget deficits to countries that are making progress towards meeting the agenda's reform targets.

Some of these innovations would be useful. But they risk giving too much discretion to the Commission or to future European Council decisions. The rules-based approach of the SGP is fundamentally sound, but it requires operational criteria that can be defined with some precision. Otherwise, the rules become unenforceable.

Consider the proposal to link the SGP to the Lisbon agenda, which contains more than 100 indicators. What happens if a country makes progress in one dimension, but regresses in another dimension? Inevitably, the Commission would have to decide the relevance of the different indicators – thus intervening in the national policymaking process with no political legitimacy. At the same time, if so much unchecked discretion was left to the Council, rather than to the Commission, "peer pressure" to restore budget balance might easily turn into "peer protection."

So, can the SGP be made to work in favor, rather than against, structural reforms, without abandoning the rules-based approach of the SGP? We think so. The key is to select some comprehensive but operationally precise indicators of structural reforms, and then apply the same idea suggested by the Commission for public debt: countries that are making more progress on these indicators can get more leeway on their budget deficit.

An obvious indicator that would meet this purpose is the implicit debt of public pension systems – i.e., the present discounted value of all future pension expenditures under existing legislation. Future deficits could, in theory, be reduced through higher contributions, but social security contributions

are already far too high in Europe, inhibiting job creation and economic growth. The only way to restore growth without compromising the future is through pension reform that reduces future outlays from the state-run system.

Of course, any estimate of the implicit pension debt requires caveats and arbitrary assumptions. But so does the SGP's current implementation – for example, in the conventions that define how budget deficit are measured and what qualifies as government revenue. Moreover, the Commission has already worked to harmonize the assumptions needed to forecast public pension outlays and achieve cross-country comparability. Finally, to strengthen cross-country comparability further, the benchmark should be variations in the stock of pension debt under given economic and demographic assumptions, rather than the debt level itself.

There is also a more fundamental reason to focus on future variations in the stock of pension debt associated with pension reforms: the EU has no business interfering with pension liabilities of individual member states. Why should the rest of Europe care if, say, Spain preserves a generous pension system?

The extra focus on implicit pension debts would also help to inform citizens. Surveys reveal that most European citizens are not fully aware of the extent of intergenerational redistribution. Many even believe that their contributions accrue to an individual, capitalized, account, rather than financing the benefits paid to current pensioners.

The good news is that these surveys (www.frdp.org) suggest that better-informed citizens are more supportive of reforms and official estimates of the implicit pension debt would increase the transparency of the intergenerational redistribution implicit in pay-as-you-go systems. Thus, governments stand to gain stronger political support for reforms that cannot be postponed any longer.

Tito Boeri is Professor of Economics, Bocconi University, Milan and Director of Fondazione Debenedetti. Guido Tabellini is Professor of Economics at Bocconi University.

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By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

The Urgent Need For:

Public money control mechanism, stopping smuggling of children and the prevention of jeopardous items

On the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of 26th September revolution, the detractors of this turning point in Yemen's Modern History, who unfortunately are themselves and their kin holding various high ranking ministerial positions and below let alone their being participants in the governmental successes and failures do overtly declare their allegiance to the president and the revolution and are more royal than the king as it appears from their speeches, seminar participations, statements and articles here and there, while in private they do criticize the ongoing corruption and different injustices in which ironically enough they are intentionally often the occasioners.

Such sick people are working hard to down the roof of the temple onto the heads of everybody and are naively thinking that they shall be safe once it falls. Here, arises the need for a specific Public Money Control Mechanism of which I think appropriateness, efficiency, competitiveness and conformity with the revolution's six principles should be taken into account. I know money simple-minded guys who have become all of a sudden Deputy Ministers or Heads of Authorities based on their family and kin cliques.

As of Late, the local press has been reporting incidents of children being smuggled into Saudi Arabia. In my opinion, poverty pushes the children to take such risky adventures, thinking sometimes with

their families that an opening in the wall of their poverty could be opened and are oblivious of the dangers ahead on their way and in case they succeeded in arrival, where most are being either sexually exploited or at least made to work as beggars or pickpockets. I was particularly touched by an article written about this by Mr. Izzaldin Saeed Ahmed in althaqafiah newspaper edition 255 in which he refers to the number of smuggled kids amounting to 9000 last year alone.

The government must have this as a priority in its agenda for what is the use of its claimed achievements whilst such a disgraceful reality is going on. The writer ends his article by saying that the main causes for this affront are poverty and corruption.

That there is no solution except by having a country free from corruption and free from poverty. The writer wonders how could our responsibilities return home and dare to play with their kids, lecture them about glorious history and the achievements whilst knowing that 9000 of their age group are being smuggled, killed, humiliated and raped.

Besides, the machineguns, bombs and mines held by many Yemeni citizens due to the open trading in arms which range from pistols, silencer pistols up to heavy artillery and shoulder rockets seemingly unimportant items are being sold freely in the market. Albeit many incidents have been reported about losing the eyesight, becoming maimed and in many cases death was

the end result.

Toy-rockets, which can be ignited, have caused many sad incidents of eyesight loss let alone the annoyance caused to the neighborhoods. Different fireworks are being utilized to produce other toys which explode and often kill when vacant cartridges are stuffed with the explosive substances and then pressed hard by means of a quickly thrown stone which lead to a big explosion.

A foreigner was once living in Alboonia in Sana'a told me that one day in the night whilst he was cooking himself an omelet a toy rocket passed by his face which caused him to throw the saucepan on the floor.

Other sad incidents come from heater-bars. These heater-bars are imported from china and are used mostly during cold weather months to heat water by connecting them directly from the sockets into containers. Such dangerous bars are often the cause behind many deaths because if touched by mistake they cause you an electric shock and that is if you are lucky because your shoes are dry and did not make a complete electric circuit but in case your shoes were wet or you are barefooted then you would be finished if no immediate first aid was not close.

Unfortunately, often the worse happens.

For that reason, the prevention of tainted glass for cars should include the prevention of import of fireworks and the extremely hazardous electric heater bars, this is if we have officials who really do care!

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (71):
Good Luck messages (I)

Good luck messages are carriers of the sender's volumes of good will. These go a long way to energize and enthuse the entrepreneur to go ahead in his enterprise with verve, energy and vitality.

- Penning down my good luck wishes for you for success that's bright and happy and well-deserved, too.
- All the best. We know you can easily do it.
- Your life belongs to you and it can be all that you want it to be. Make every moment matter, cherish them in your heart, enjoy today... enjoy everyday.
- Keep up your efforts. Little drops of water, little grains of sand make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land, so the little minutes, humble though they be, make the mighty ages of eternity.
- Best of luck for successfully facing new challenges of life.
- All the best. Yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well-lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Many a worker have not finished his job in time.
- Water of many Indian rivers is considered to be sacred.
- Wisdom of the Prophet (PBUH) is famous all over the world.
- I saw an one eyed beggar in the street last week.
- Red Sea should be declared a zone of peace.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- There were **no fewer than** three thousand persons in the meeting.
- You should open your book at **page twenty three**.
- I am leaving for India on **Thursday next**.
- Each** (or every) student in the class passed the exam.

- The little money that he had is finished already.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- A person who reads news or introduces people, acts, etc. on radio or television.
- A fixed sum of money paid each year to a person for a stated number of years or until death.
- To put oil on a person's head or body in a religious ceremony.
- A medicine that prevents an acid condition in the stomach.
- To cause to become an enemy.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- To become English in appearance, sound, character, etc.: **anglicize** (vt)
- Anxiety caused by considering the sad state of world affairs: **angst** (n)
- The state of lacking higher or finer feelings: **animalism** (n)
- The branch of farming concerned with the keeping of animals: **animal husbandry** (n)
- To add short notes to explain certain parts of a book: **annotate** (vt)

(B) Some useful terms, their origin and meaning

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following

- tantra
- tautology
- terza rima
- testament
- tetrameter

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- synecdoche** (Gk. 'taking up together'): A figure of speech in which the part stands for the whole. For example: 'bread' stands for the meals.
- synonym** (Gk. 'together name'): A word similar in meaning to another. It is rare to find an exact synonymous meaning. It is usually a matter of 'shades' of meaning, as in: insane, mad, psychotic, and so on.
- syntax** (Gk. 'together arrangement'): Sentence construction.
- tableau** (Fr. 'little table', picture): Representation by living persons of a picture

or scene, without words or action, on a stage or platform.

- tabloid** (a conflation of *table/et* and *-oid*): a newspaper with many pictures, cartoons, etc., and with its news presented in concentrated and often sensational form.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- cataclysmic, catalytic
- border, brink, edge
- stimulus, stimulant
- deprecate, depreciate
- bang, bank, bunk

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- sceptre** (n) (rod or staff carried by a ruler as a sign of power or authority): Sceptre used to be the symbol of sovereignty in the hand of the king.
- spectre** (n) (ghost): Hamlet saw the spectre of his dead father.
- facilitate** (vt) (make easy; lessen the difficulty of): Advances in the Information Technology has facilitated the world to become a global village.
- felicitate** (vt) (congratulate somebody on something): He was felicitated on winning a scholarship to study abroad.
- aural** (adj) (of the organs of hearing): He is an aural surgeon.
- oral** (adj) (using the spoken, not the written, word): I have to take the oral test of a group of students tomorrow.
- edible** (adj) (fit to be eaten): I use cholesterol-free edible oil.
- audible** (adj) (loud enough to be heard): The speaker was scarcely audible.
- diverse** (adj) (quite unlike in quality or character): Both the brothers have diverse views on life.
- divers** (adj) (several, more than one): There are divers traditions in this country.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- face the music
- at daggers drawn

- lose one's grip
- rally round
- steer clear of

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- keep one's chin up** (not to get discouraged or lose hope in a difficult situation): Keep your chin up; the bad days, God willing, will soon be over.
- off the mark** (not accurate; wrong): I planned to complete the assignment in time but my estimate was way off the mark.
- head over heels** (completely, totally): He has fallen head over heels in love with his cousin.
- drop into (someone's) lap** (to be obtained without effort): You can't expect a good job to just drop into your lap - you have to work hard for it.
- the jewel in the crown** (the most valuable or important part of something): Sana'a is rightly regarded as the jewel in the crown of the Arab world.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Choose a suitable word from the list below to complete the sentences

- illusion imagination thriller horror
fantastic deceiving nightmare
terrified reality shock

- They don't tell you what happens at the end of the film. You have to use your _____.
- Buying a house in Aden sounded like a wonderful idea, but in _____ there were a lot of serious problems.
- You know she doesn't love you. Everyone can see that. So stop _____ yourself and start trying to find someone new.
- The woman, whom we thought was slightly mad, came up with a _____ story about herself.
- In the picture the two lines look different lengths, but actually they are the same. The picture is an optical _____.
- She woke up screaming because she had just had a terrible _____.
- There's a good _____ film on tonight about two dead people who come back to life and start murdering everyone they knew.
- A _____ is an exciting kind of film or book often about spies or criminals.
- The poor girl was kidnapped and held hostage for three days. She must have been absolutely _____.
- Unfortunately he didn't realize the light was on, so when he touched the wire he got a terrible electric _____.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The woman **who** spent fifteen minutes measuring the kitchen talked to the Priors.
- The plans the woman drew up were for a new kitchen.

- The units the Priors were interested in would cost \$2,000.
- A dish washer **which** was on special offer that month was not needed by the Priors.
- The piece of paper the Priors signed entitled them to a discount of \$200.
- The deposit the woman asked for was for \$100.
- The man the woman worked for would have been furious if she had not obtained the order.
- People **who** are not so strong minded would probably place an order.

(B) Composition

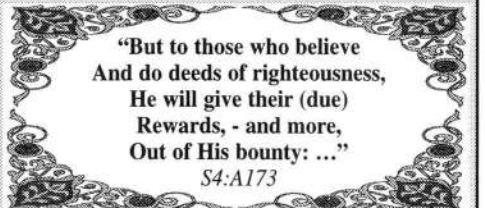
Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
81: MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE

Last week's topic:

80: MERCY IS THE NOBLEST FORM OF REVENGE

As Bacon says, "Revenge is a kind of wild justice." Human beings are prone to be carried away by the impulse of anger, hatred and vengeance and on the spur of the moment plunge into a bloody desire to avenge themselves. At that moment of frenzy or temporary madness their reason is clouded and their inflamed hearts cry blood for blood, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. This is a beastly instinct. The crying need of that crucial moment is to calm down, judge the situation with kindness and feel pity for the wrong doer. Without letting the poison tree of hatred and vengeance to grow, it is wiser to temper the burning passions with the divine virtue of mercy. Only then can one take the true revenge by bringing about a change in the wrong doer's heart because as Thomas Aquinas says, "Mercy is the fulfillment of justice, not its abolition." Mercy ennobles both the giver and the receiver. Mercy is not to be misconstrued as a sign of weakness. In fact, a strong and powerful person can only be a dispenser of mercy and forgiveness and is capable of taking a sweet revenge. The legendary Emperor Ashoka of India and Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence, are the ineffable examples of this.

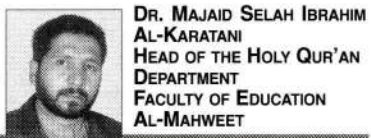
V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

"Life is short and time is swift; Roses fade and shadows shift."
—Ebenezer Elliott

Islamic veil (Hijab): between tradition and modernity



DR. MAJAI SELAH IBRAHIM AL-KARANTANI
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Praise be to Allah and peace and blessings of Allah be upon His messenger, followers, and those who follow him.

Nowadays, a lot of controversies are surfacing relating to the pros and cons of wearing the Islamic veil. Those who uphold the practice of wearing veil are inspired by the traditional Islamic values whereas those who are opposed to the practice are guided by instinct and the sham glow of modernity.

This is what has prompted me to write this essay and shed light on the history of veil through the centuries. The veil has acquired its significance because it is inherited from our great ancestors. All the Holy Scriptures have instructed people to make veil-wearing indispensable because it harmonizes with good instinct in tune with the Islamic principles.

My dear reader,
The following points bear testimony to what I have mentioned above:

1- Veil with Arabs before Islam:

Before the advent of Islam, Arabs were used to long, decorous dresses that covered the face, head, and the whole body of a woman. This might be traced to *AL-HANAFAYH* that goes back to Ibrahim (peace be upon him) or they might have been in obedience to the guidelines of religions prior to the advent of Islam.

Wall sculptures that date back to the *AL-ASHOORI* era (612 BC) had shown women wearing long and thick dresses or veils that covered their necks, heads, and chests that made them look decent and dignified. Furthermore, ancient sculptures and statues confirm that the veil was known in urban kingdoms like *AL-MOSAL* in Iraq. For instance, prince *SHIFFRI* statue's and her daughter *SAMMI* and the statue of Madam *ABU BINT DAIMOON* that date back to the second century AC.

One of the evidences that confirms about the veil having been known before the prophet's mission is what *SAKHER*, the brother of *AL-KHANSAA*, said to his wife: "

I swear to Allah I won't give her (his sister) the insignificant things because she doesn't put me in a disgraceful position. And if I am destroyed, she will cut her veil.

This was known till the mission of Mohammad (peace be upon him) came.

The veil covering the head and face followed different styles with Arabs before the advent of Islam which are as follows;

a- *AL-BURGAH*: It is a small square or rectangular piece of cloth that covers the head and the face. If the *BURGAH* is small, it is called *WASWAS* and it has two strings that a woman can tie to the back of her head. Another kind of *AL-BURGAH* is *AL-BAKHNAQ* which consists of, piece of a cloth a woman can tie to her jaw and sew another on her forehead.

b- *AL-NIGAAB*: It differs from *AL-BURGAH* because it is light or punched so that you can see the face. It is a small piece of cloth that is square or rectangular in shape that a woman can put on her face away from her eyes. However, if it is put on the mouth it is called *AL-LITHAM*.

c- *AL-QINAAH*: It is a dress that a woman can cover her head with.

As we have already mentioned Veil (*HIJAB*) has been a part of the female outfit since the old ages.

2- Veil (HIJAB) in the Pentateuch (Torah) and Bible

A lot of texts that refer to the veil are found in the Pentateuch and the Bible. Some of these are mentioned here:

a- In *SIFFER AL-TAKWEAR*: In the Pentateuch it is mentioned, " *Rifga* rose her eyes and saw Isaac then she came down from the camel and said to the slave " who is this man walking towards us?" The slave said, " This is my sir and she took *AL-BURQA* and covered herself." This is evidence that good women knew *KHIMAR* of the face.

b- In *SIFFER AL-ASHIAH*: The Pentateuch mentions "The Lord says because the daughters of Jewish are walking proudly with their necks up, and winking the Lord will undress them and the Sir at that day will put off their ornament like anklet, pigtail, bracelets, *BURGAH* and *HAS-SAIB*(veil)"(3)

We can notice in this text a threat against the Jewish women who display themselves.

And this is evident that displaying veil was considered illegal for them.

c- In *SIFFER AL-INSHAD*: As the Pentateuch indicates " Oh my beloved, you

are beautiful and your eyes are two pigeons under the veil". And also " Your lips are crimson, your mouth is sweet and your cheek like a half of pomegranate under your veil" (4)

In these two texts there is evidence that the veil was obligatory.

d- In the message of *BULLIS*, the first messenger to *KORNTHOS* nation, the following is mentioned, " Every woman who prays and whose hair is not covered, her hair should be insulated because she is like the bald. If the woman doesn't cover her hair, it should be cut ... so the woman should cover her hair for angels.

Also In this text there is evidence to the legality of the veil and if any woman leaves it, she should be punished by having her haircut.

From the previous proofs there is evidence to the illegality of leaving the hair uncovered in Jewish religion and Christianity. Besides, it leads to the Originality of veil. However, the followers of these religions are leaving their law codes that they belong to.

3- Veil in Islam

The texts of the Holy Qur'an and *AL-SUNNAH* is the unmistakable proof of the legality of the veil. Besides, leaving it is one of the forbidden things that Islam can punish. Some of these texts are mentioned below:

Allah Says " Tell the believing women to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts) and not to show off their adornment except only that which is apparent (like both eyes for necessity to see the way, or outer palms of hands or one eye or dress like veil, gloves, head cover, apron, etc.), and to draw their veil all over *Juyubihinna* (i.e. their bodies, faces, necks and bosoms) and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, or their fathers, or their husband's fathers, or their sons, or their husband's sons, or their brothers or their brother's sons, or their sister's sons, or other (Muslim) women (i.e. their sisters in Islam), or the (female) slaves whom their right hands possess, or old male servants who lack vigor, or small children who have no sense of feminine sex. " (2) An-Nur Surah: 30-31

Allah Says " O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over

their bodies (i.e. screen themselves completely except the eyes or one eye to see the way). That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. " *Al-Ahzab* Surah : 59

Narrated Aishah " When the passengers were passing by us and we were with the messenger (peace be upon him), we covered our faces and if they are away from us we unveil " (4)

This narration proves the legality of Hijab (Veil). Secondly, this event is similar to the narration of the Pentateuch, as we have mentioned. This proves the unity of the source and the revealed Books.

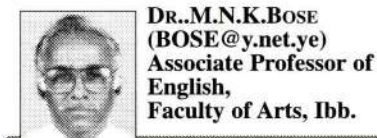
4- The veil in the human conscience:

The messenger (peace be upon him) has ordered us to take care of the woman ... He says " Be gentle with the bottles" (1) He compared a woman to a bottle because anyone who touches it, will discolor its appearance. This is like the woman whose reputation and chastity may be affected merely by unveiling her charming parts to people. Also the woman is like a canned sweetsop that can be contaminated or spoiled. However, if you open it on the proper time, it will be clean and good. The same thing with the woman who protects her beauty and dignity from the curiosity of people's sights. This is what the Holy Qur'an tells us, Allah Says " And stay in your houses" (2) *Surah Al-Ahzab*: 33 It means that the solemnity of the woman is to be in her house because it is a symbol of sedateness. Psychologically, human being want to see the concealed things and look at what is beyond it. Then they get satisfied after looking at it. Besides, it won't stop people's curiosity. This of course doesn't mean a woman can't go outside for education, livelihood, or for any necessary thing. However, it must be in a dignified manner.

After this brief review we come to the conclusion that, all the communities respect high human value systems and follow it and that veil is one of these values. However, if it is invaded by ignorance and is misled, it will result in the erosion of the beautiful time-tested values. Veil is one of these values. Therefore, perceptive men are trying their best to persuade communities to go back to the basics. So be patient those who wear the veil and preserve virtues till the perverted people are led back to the honorable practice. May Allah give us the strength to stick to the righteous path.

Rendered into English by Rizq Al-Sanani

A letter to the teachers of English: 61 Maximize learning opportunities in English classes



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Dear Fellow teachers,

It's long since the focus of attention in English classes has moved from the teacher to the learners. There was a time when the teacher was the most important factor in English classes and he was solely responsible for the classroom activities in English classes. The materials were decided only by him or her and the methodology used in the classes was his or her own decision. Recent thinking in ELT does not favour this view of teacher dominance in English classes. In fact, several experts are not happy with the acronym 'ELT', as it stresses only the teaching aspect, and prefer to use the acronym 'ELL' (English Language Learning) or 'ELTL' (English Language Teaching/Learning). In other words, the limelight in the English classrooms is now on the learners, though teachers are not out of focus.

Recent ELT books suggest that the main duty of a teacher is to create learning opportunities in the class; the term 'teaching' is taken to mean 'creating opportunities for the learners to learn'. This thinking is supported by an old saying that 'you can take a horse to water but you cannot make it drink'. So, no teacher can confidently say that what he/she taught in the class has been learnt by his/her learners. There are several factors that affect the learning of the learners, the most important of which is the learner differences, which I wrote about in one of my early letters (please see my letter no.15).

Why is creating learning opportunities important? Learning, according to psychologists, is an activity that is hardly helped by mere repetitive practice but by willing attention and involvement in what

someone is learning. Involving the learner and gaining his/her willing attention is easily possible, if we create learning opportunities in the classes. As pointed out earlier, it is like taking the horse to water, and it is up to the horse to drink the water or not. Similarly, we create learning opportunities in the class and it is up to the learner to learn English making use of the opportunities or not; motivated and interested learners learn and others don't.

What are learning opportunities? Any situation which will help the learners to learn English is a learning opportunity; it can be a story you tell the learners or a game you play in the class with your learners or a puzzle you give your learners to tease their brain or problem you pose to them to solve. Any activity which uses English and challenges them to use their brain. The most important aspects of the activity are that it is interesting; that it provides a challenge to them and that it has something to do with their life.

How do we create learning opportunities in the classes? Two classroom activities that will have a huge impact on the generation of learning opportunities are meaningful learner involvement and teacher questioning. One way to make sure of learner involvement in class is to listen when a learner speaks and build on what he/she says, whenever possible. Some of us are not careful in this regard; we hardly listen to the learners, and even if we do so, we often fail to make use of what they say. It is possible that our learners come up with useful pieces of information while answering questions and we should build our classroom interaction on them, instead of brushing them aside or missing them. Another source of creating learning opportunities is to ask the right type of questions in the classes that will trigger meaningful interaction. I have written about asking questions in the last letter. Try creating learning opportunities for your learners. Good luck.

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

Yemen first, Jordan second in Half-marathon

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni runner Essam Ju'aim finished first, followed by Methqal Abodhrais from Jordan who came second in the Sana'a international Half-marathon. Runners from nine Arab countries, and France and Russia, participated in the event. The Sudanese Hamzah Hamid and Monasser Al-Haj, Sulaiman Al-Fardan from Jordan, Yememis Sufyan Abdurraqeab, Abdulaziz Ali Ahmad and Fahd Thabet, Yousif Al-Hadrami from Oman, and Morad Nasser from Yemen, ranked from third to tenth place respectively.

The event took place in the presence of Vice-president Abdorabu Mansoor Hadi, Deputy Prime Minister-Minister of Finance, Alawi Al-Salami, Minister of Youth & Sports, Abdurrahman Al-Akwa, Minister of Information, Hussein Al-Awadhi, and Fu'ad Al-Kumaim, Chief of the General Track and field Federation (GTF).

The championship was organized at Al-Sab'een Square, starting with the national anthem and then, recitation of verses from the holy Quran. After that, Al-Kumaim, Chief of the GTF and the Organizing Committee, delivered a speech in which he welcomed all the attendants and those who contributed to the success of the championship.

Then he announced the start of the race.

During the race, military 'Moral Guidance' troupes played Yemeni music and the Air Forces parachuted while carrying the slogan of the championship and flags of the participating countries. After the race was over, the afore-mentioned dignitaries honored the ten top runners.

In a statement to the satellite broadcasting, the vice-president said, "I congratulate all Yemeni people on the occasion of the national commemorations, which we celebrate not merely for the sake of their own, but for the achievements of the Revolution." We are pleased by the accomplishments of the youths and hope every year to celebrate new achievements", said Hadi pointing out that the coming year is to witness a number of sport-related projects covered in the five-year strategy.

After winning the title, the champion, Essam Ju'aim, expressed his happiness at his successful achievement which he attributed to the efforts and the support offered by the Youth and Sports Ministry and the GTF, and his own tactical preparation.

For his part, Methqal Abodhrais the second winner expressed gratitude to the Yemeni government for being hospitable as to host the competition, and organizing it well.

Tae kwon do championship wrapped up

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of the Minister of Youth and Sports Abdurrahman Al-Akwa, the Tae kwon do championship was concluded on Thursday September 14th. The three-day championship was arranged at the 22 May Hall with the participation of 11 senior categories from the following clubs: Al-Yarmook, Al-Mina, Al-Sab'een, Sha'ab Ibb, Sha'ab Hadramaut, Shabab Amran, Najm Saba Dhamar, Al-Tadhamon, Al-Shararah, Al-Hilal and Nasr Hajjah. The contests involved the following weights: 50, 54, 58, 62, 72, 78kg and over.

Additionally, 9 junior teams (Al-Sab'een, Al-Rasheed, Najm Saba, Wahdat Sana'a, Al-Hilal, Shabab Amran, Shabab Hamdan, Sha'ab Hadramaut and Al-shu'lah) also participated in the championship in the following weights: 22, 24, 26, 29, 32, 35, 39, 43, 47, and 50 kg.

A number of sports officials including Mohammed Monasser, Undersecretary of Youth and Sports Ministry, Mohammed Al-Ahjiri, Secretary General of the Yemeni Olympic Committee, and Khaled Saleh, General Director of Sports Activities, attended the concluding ceremony and presented rewards to the participants.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to champions and those who

contributed towards the success of the championship. After that, Mwafaq Monassar, Chief of the Yemeni Tae kwon do Federation (YTF) delivered a speech expressing his gratitude to those who had cooperated with the YTF in achieving wonderful results and serving sports in Yemen.

During his speech, Undersecretary of Youth and Sports Ministry pointed out the role played by the YTF towards improving the sport. He also expressed his pleasure over such efforts that may lead to hosting the Arab championships which in turn would be to the advantage of sport in Yemen.

The final results revealed that in the senior teams, Al-Yarmook club stood first, Al-Mina second and Al-Hilal third, while in the younger teams, Al-Sab'een came first, Najm Saba second and Wahdat Sana'a third.

After the games were over, a number of talented youths performed admirable parades and chanted wonderful phrases.

The national team's participation in the games had some negative consequences in terms of injuries. This will affect the team which is preparing for the Arab championship in Algeria in a few days.

The Youth Minister excused himself from attending the indoor Hall events as he was on a scrutiny visit to 22 May Stadium in Aden, during which he viewed the projects being implemented.

Continued from page 1

Bajamal sandwiched between reform commitments & public uproar

However, Bajamal's justifications were not able to convince the members of the Parliament or the consultative council to accept his proposal to raise the price of these two materials. They strongly rejected the plan in a letter signed by over 250 and presented to the chairmanship of the joint meeting, considering the proposed price hikes as "fatal". They claim that "the government was not sincere and serious in its implementation of the reform package and in fighting corruption," adding that "such a price increase would have a serious negative economic and social impact on the masses." The MPs even accused the government of being "corrupt, ineligible, and incompetent to run any reform program."

MPs were shouting and carrying banners, rejecting the price hikes. Some of them were seen carrying loaves of bread as a signal of the potential impact of the price hikes on peoples standard of living, as figures presented by opposition MPs indicated that the unemployment rate had soared to 30% and poverty to 50%.

Despite the decision of the meeting chairmanship to adjourn the session without considering the vote on the proposed price hikes, MPs from both the ruling party (mainly the sons of influential tribal figures like Hussein al-Ahmar and Mohammed Abdallah al-kadhi) and the opposition, pledged to continue mobilizing resistance to the plan to lift the subsidies on oil derivatives. They even decid-

ed that the cabinet report should be discussed and debated by specialized committees in both the parliament and the consultative council.

Bajamal could hardly escape the premises of the parliament last Wednesday due to crowds of MPs escorts gathered at the gate of the parliament who started shouting in protest at the proposed price hikes. The escorts, who were holding cudgels and arms, were even joined by some MPs in chanting slogans condemning the cabinet's policies. "Down with Bajamal and Mohammed Abdallah al-kadhi" and the opposition, pledged to continue mobilizing resistance to the plan to lift the subsidies on oil derivatives. They even decid-

The government was very much

angered by this move, which it considered as "an irresponsible act". The state-run al-Thawra Daily, on Saturday, criticized the practice of arms carrying by the escorts of some officials and MPs, calling for an end to this phenomenon which should be stopped, even by legislation.

The government of Bajamal finds itself sandwiched between its commitments to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which demand further reform, and the MPs and public uproar against them.

There have been price hikes on some foodstuff like wheat, flour and eggs earlier in the year. The cabinet claimed, mid January, that external factors stood behind these price hikes like the world-

wide cost of transportation. However, in its budget platform, the government said it would go on implementing the reform program sponsored by the WB and IMF. The rise in prices of these materials, which was received with harsh criticism by the media of the opposition and mosque preachers, is widely believed to have been done to test the public impulse.

The government was expected to implement this step last February but it was postponed by President Saleh, who seemed anxious about the potential of public unrest and uproar, like the violent demonstrations that took place in 1998. Saleh, even earlier, ordered a wage rise of 20% for military and civil service work-

ers. The next step of the price reform will cause an increase in oil derivatives including benzene, petrol and diesel. It is said that the economic reform program which will continue this year, which started with price hikes in basic commodities like wheat sugar, by lifting all subsidies, will be followed by steps targeting oil derivatives which will include a 50% increase in the price of benzene and diesel price. This, of course, will necessarily lead to knock-on price increases of all commodities. The next step was to include the implementation of 10% extra sales tax levied on all businesses in the country last July, but the plan was also delayed.

Yemen LNG is optimistic about the future

Two South Korean companies, SK Corp. - which is the largest oil refiner in South Korea - and Hyundai, have a 16% stake in Yemen LNG. The Yemen gas company believes that South Korean partners in the company should give it an edge on doing business in the new market.

SK Corp. has already been successful working in Yemen. "SK Corp. is a partner producing oil in Marib, which has been producing oil since 1986," said Daganau. "So a South Korean company has been successful in Yemen."

Another Yemen LNG strategy that might bring positive results in the South Korean bid is that it offers the buyer the opportunity to invest, and own equity, in

the company.

But Daganau is optimistic beyond the South Korean market. The United States has been dependent on its own supply and natural gas imports from Canada. Exploration for natural gas has not been successful enough to meet future consumption demands in America, and it will soon be in need of getting gas from elsewhere.

Daganau believes that since many suppliers of natural gas between Yemen and the United States are already committed to projects, Yemen LNG has a good chance of winning the US market.

"Our delivery time, which can be as early as 2008 or 2009, is a big advantage in going after the US market," said

Daganau. "There are no delivery locations closer than Yemen. Other suppliers, like Egypt and countries in North Africa, are fully booked, so we may be the best supplier of gas to the United States."

Talks between Yemen and the United States are under way, and the possibility of an agreement may come out as early as December.

Yemen LNG is also taking advantage of Yemen's location by looking into India as a potential buyer.

Since Yemen LNG started up in the mid-nineties, it has had a difficult time finding a buyer. Although the company was ready to pursue a market in the Far East, the Asian economic meltdown in 1997 destroyed any chance of finding a

customer.

But in the last couple of years, Asian markets have picked up.

"Asian countries have recovered from the crisis, and gas consumption is increasing again," said Daganau. "There is now higher energy demand in China which affects the whole Far East. With each country's demand on the way up, there will be a strain on supply with competition in the Asian energy market."

Many believe that Yemen LNG securing a market could not come at a better time. Yemen produces roughly 450,000 barrels of oil, and the flow of oil takes up more than 30% of the country's GDP. Over 70% of the government's revenue and around 70% of the country's export

revenue comes from oil.

But according to The World Bank based in Yemen, oil production has leveled-off and is heading towards a steady decline in the next decade as reserves have started drying up. The best alternative is natural gas. Yemen has 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas below its surface, and it can produce and export 6.2 metric tons annually for the next 25 years.

If an agreement or agreements are signed, Yemen LNG is ready to begin the gas project. Partners in Yemen LNG, including France's Total, state-owned Yemen Gas, Texas-based Hunt Oil, SK Corp. and Hyundai, will invest \$2 billion to build a pipeline from Marib to Bal Haf near Mukalla and a liquefaction plant.

The project can be completed in 43 months.

Yemen Hunt Oil Co. extracts three billion cubic feet of gas daily in the Marib region, strips out 22,000 barrels of liquids to add to crude oil then re-injects gas back into the ground.

Daganau said that if Yemen captures a market in the East and the United States, Yemen LNG will be able to provide gas for both.

And now that the climate of the international natural gas market has changed for the better, Yemen's long wait to find a buyer will finally pay off.

"This change in the gas market has given new opportunities to Yemen LNG," said Daganau

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Berlin Garden inaugurated



A view of Berlin Garden: a spacious recreational spot (photo by Fuad Harazi)

German Ambassador, Frank Markus Mann, the director of the Hammer Forum, Emanuel Oidies, the Secretary General of Sana'a Local Council, Jamal Al-Khawlani, and the representative of Hammer Forum in Yemen, Ali Al-Zakhmi.
 The ceremony hosted a big audience including children treated in Germany via Hammer Forum.
 A number of speeches were delivered expressing the deep and strong Yemeni-German relationships.
 Professor Oidies gave a summary on the foundation and its activities.
 "It is an NGO that helps children in the needy parts of the world. Its efforts are not based on racial, or religious factors, but rather it tries to help human beings in general," he said.
 He added: "The Hammer Forum has treated some 380 Yemeni children under 15 years old, in Germany whose medical conditions were not curable in Yemen. Another 1000 operations were conducted here in Yemen in different governorates."
 Active in 13 countries, the Hammer Forum has established psychotherapy

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and intensive care sections in Taiz, and is preparing to inaugurate a hospital for newly born babies.
 The German ambassador said he felt happy to see the name of Berlin labeling the garden and the street that runs by it, which "reflects cooperation between Yemen and Germany." He also read a letter on behalf of the Mayor of Berlin who had sent his greetings to the inhabitants of Sana'a on this occasion.
 The Mayor of Sana'a pointed out that the idea of ameliorating the ground of the garden was Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi's, thanking both the German Embassy and the Hammer Forum.
 Mr. Al-Kuhlani urged the locals to conserve the garden and teach their children to do so for it is theirs.
 "I also promise that more work will be done to develop this garden and make it as beautiful as any other garden in the city of Berlin," pledged the Mayor.
 It is noteworthy that Berlin Garden is located where a pond of wastewater that was causing harm to people and rendering an unpleasant scene used to lie.

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*Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors
General Manager*

تتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الأخ/ علي عبدالله صالح

بمناسبة حلول الذكرى الثانية والأربعون للثورة اليمنية المجيدة في السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر.

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

علي محمد سعيد أنعم

رئيس مجلس الإدارة

أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة - المدير العام

26 SEPTEMBER

Mr. Richard Jensen
President and General Manager,
Mr. Ali Sohaiki
Executive Director,
The Management Team and all staff of
Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen
and its Masila Block (14) Partners
Presents their congratulations and
sincere wishes to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen

On the occasion of 26 September
Many Happy Returns

الرئيس والمدير العام
المدير التنفيذي

ريتشارد جنسن
علي السحيقي

السيد /
الأستاذ /

والإدارة العليا لشركة

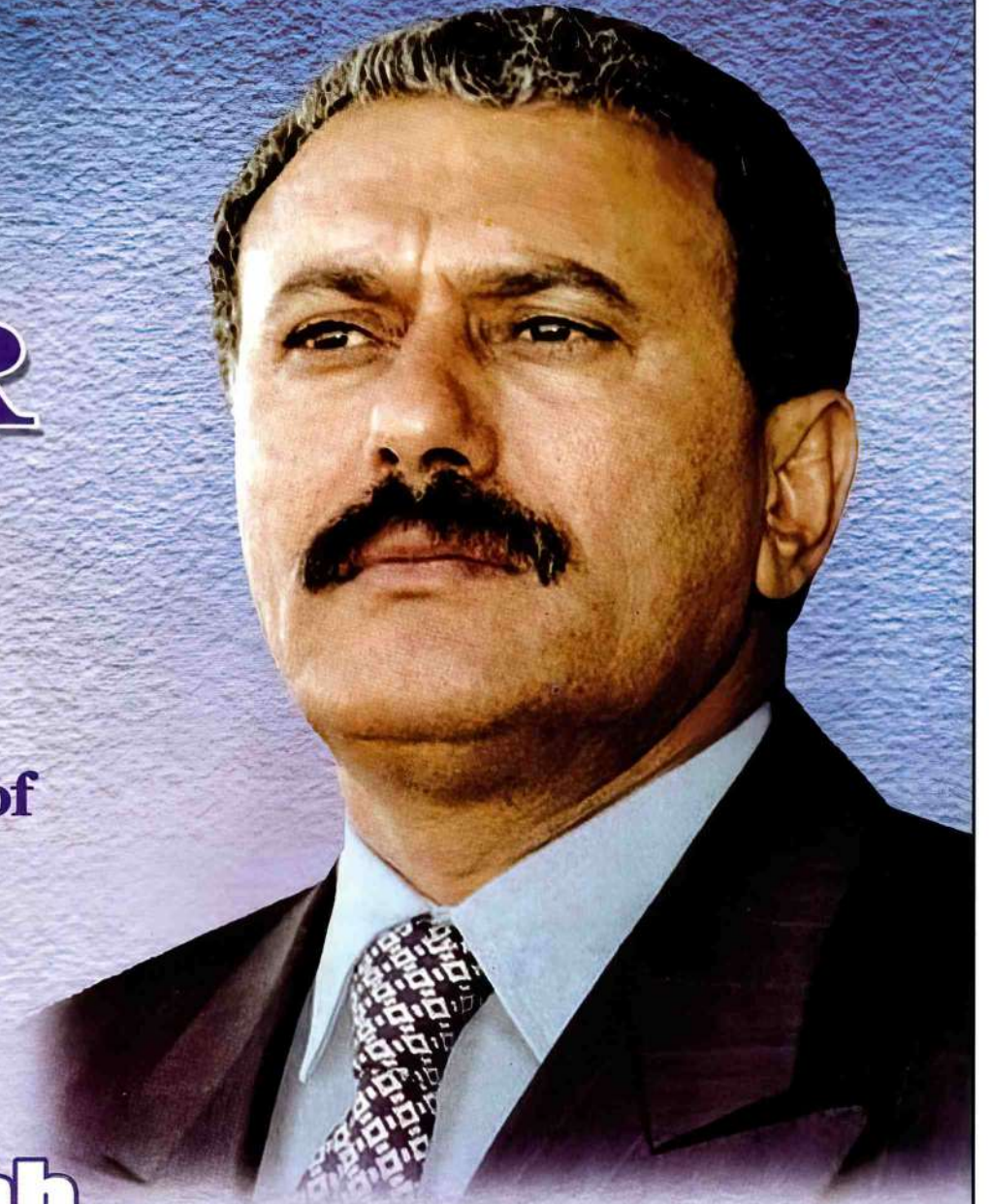
كنيديان نكسن بتروليم يمن

وكافة موظفيها و شركاؤها في قطاع المسيلة (14) يتقدمون بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات
القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية
حفظه الله

بمناسبة حلول الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لقيام ثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
وكل عام وأنتم بخير

CANADIAN
nexen





مؤسسة معصار سلاب وإخوانه
للتجارة والمقاولات والنقل والخدمات النفطية
وجميع العاملين فيها
يتقدمون بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات إلى
المشير

علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور / عبد القادر باجمال
وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ / عبدالله الأحمر
وإلى المجلس الإستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ /
عبد العزيز عبد الغني
وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة الذكرى
الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
وكل عام والجميع بخير

Measar Salab & Brothers Est
fro Trading Contracting Transport & Petroleum services
Presents its warmest congratulations to

H.E. President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

Members of Cabinet, headed by Dr. Abdulqader Bajammal,
the Parliament, headed by sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer,
the Consultative Council headed by
Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani
and to the Yemeni people

On the occasion of the 26 September
anniversary,
Happy Many Return

عنهم :

المدير العام	معصار صالح سلاب
نائب المدير العام	حسين صالح سلاب
مدير قطاع الخدمات النفطية	خالد صالح سلاب
مدير المشاريع	حميد صالح سلاب

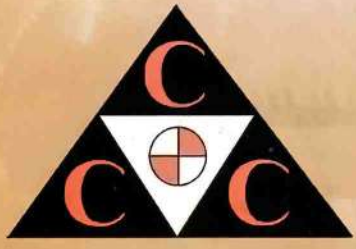
الأنشطة الرئيسية لشركة معصار سلاب وإخوانه:

شق وتعبيد الطرق وإنشاء المباني والجسور والكباري. - بناء خزانات وتركيب هناجر.
أعمال اللحام وتمديد الأنابيب. - نقل ثقيل وخفيف. . خدمات حقول النفط.
أعمال خاصة بخدمات وتشبيد المنشآت البحرية. - (تمديد - حواجز مائية .. الخ)



ME





شركة اتحاد المقاولين العالمية

CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL
COMPANY - SAL

تقدم بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار في
ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة، وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.

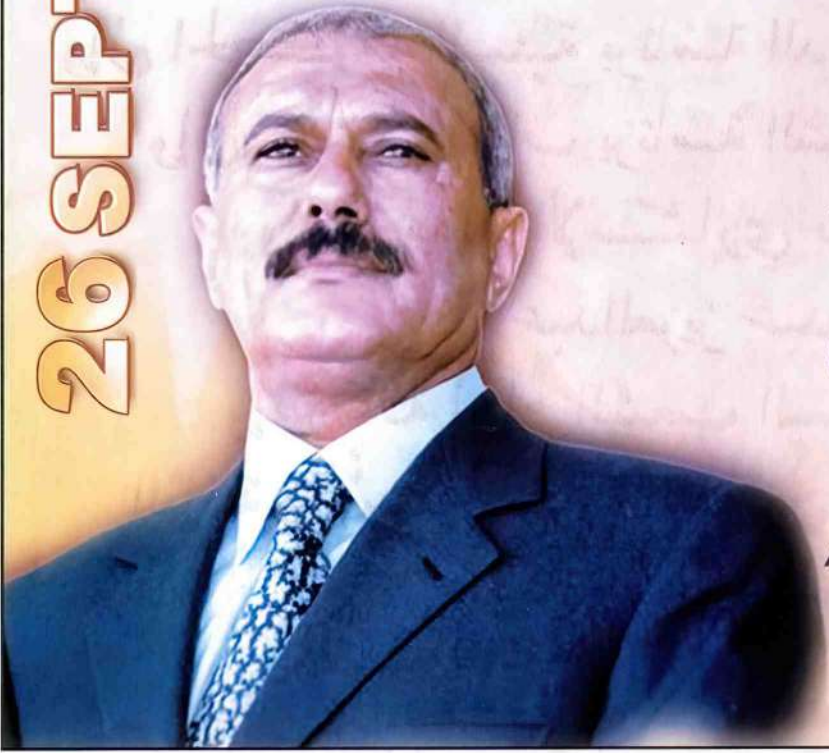
CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL
COMPANY - SAL

*Presents their heartiest
congratulations to the President*

Ali Abdullah Saleh

*We wish to Yemen the best of success and
progress towards building a strong country
headed by its wise leadership for years
to come.*

26 SEPTEMBER



تقدم شركة إيديو سيستمز - اليمن - بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار لليمن في
ظل قيادتها الحكيمة، وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.

المدير العام / لورن اسقود

المدير الإقليمي / طارق عبدالله بركات

EDUSYSTEMS

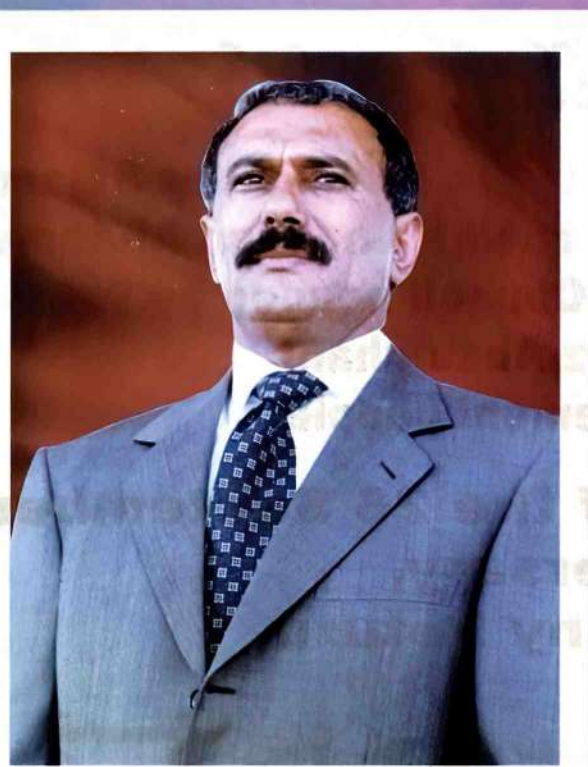
Presents their heartiest congratulations to the President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

**We wish to Yemen the best of success and progress towards
building a strong country headed by its wise leadership for years
to come.**

GENERAL MANAGER : LOREN OSGOOD

COUNTRY MANAGER : TAREK A. BARAKAT



EDUSYSTEMS