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Yemen to US assistant Secretary of State: Don't attack Iraq

**By Radhwan al-Saqqaf
Aden Bureau Chief**
ADEN — A visit by US envoy to the Middle East, Assistant Secretary of State William Burns, has not changed Yemen's stance towards a potential American strike against Iraq.
In a press conference held in Aden on Saturday, Burns reconfirmed US intentions to push for a strong US resolution

that would allow the US to strike Iraq if it doesn't comply with the resolution without going back to the Security Council.
Government officials and members of the US envoy confirmed that the main focus of talks is not Iraq. It is rather on the peace plan by the so-called Quartet - the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia.

That in turn is hoped to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, analysts believe that bringing in the Palestinian crisis at this time will only attract support of the Arab world for a US-presented resolution concerning Iraq.
Expecting full backing from Yemen for the peace plan would be more improbable, especially as it has not been accepted fully by the

Palestinian Authority.
Continued on page 4



William Burns



Yemen officials have told the New York Times that unmanned U.S. spy planes, such as this one show in southern Pakistan earlier this month, are flying over the Empty Quarter, a large region shared by Yemen and Saudi Arabia. (Photo by Reuters)

Conflicting reports on just where... US spy planes seek fugitives

**By News Services
and Yemen Times Staff**
Yemen's foreign minister has told the New York Times that unmanned US spy planes have been flying in the region to track down two al-Qaeda fugitives, but an unnamed official from Saudi Arabia says Saudi airspace is not being used.
Abu Ali and Abu Asem are two fugitives who in particular have been reported to be on the run from the spy planes. The men are suspected of having links with al-Qaeda.
The New York Times paper said the men are still hiding in the Aroba al-Khali desert, or Empty Quarter, an area shared by Yemen and Saudi Arabia, accompanied by a Bedouin guide along with nothing but a

tent for protection.
The New York Times paper said unmanned US military aircraft searching the Empty Quarter, is in the area as part of a global dragnet.
Like the palm of your hand
"They are moving around in a pickup truck with a simple tent on the top and probably a Bedouin who knows the Rub al-Khali (the Saudi name for Empty Quarter) like you know the palm of your hand," said Abdul Karim Iryani, an adviser to the Yemeni president.
"That is how they have been avoiding the government and your US drones," he was quoted as saying.
The drones, it is hoped, will detect al-Qaida operatives moving in sufficient number to be tracked. So far they have had

no success.
The newspaper also quoted Yemen's foreign minister Abubaker al-Qirbi saying, "They are basically looking for movement within the desert, unusual movement, of cars and so forth. They are moving in a highly under populated area of the country. It's mostly desert and mountains."
It's believed the fugitives are wanted for terrorist operations in Yemen, including the October 2000 bombing of the US destroyer Cole, and some perhaps have fled to the region from Afghanistan.
They are believed to be living in Yemen but heading north into Saudi Arabia when they need to collect money from their supporters, the officials said.
Other unnamed sources have

told the Yemen Times that Abu Ali is still hiding in the desert of the Empty Quarter of the eastern cities such as, Mareb, al-Jawf, and Shabwa, and they say Abu Asem, the second convict has fled and no one knows his whereabouts.
Saudi denies report
A Saudi source, also unnamed, denied the report is linked to Saudi Arabia in any way.
The source said that the Saudi security forces "do not permit any one to make a chase inside the Saudi territories." He added that "any sneaking operations taking place through the borders between Yemen and Saudi Arabia which extend until the Empty Quarter, are followed up by Saudi security forces."
Continued on page 4

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Both complain bitterly about registration irregularities

Ruling GPC and Opposition prepare for election war

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's parliamentary elections of April, 2003 are already gearing up to be more competitive - and potentially bloody - between the ruling GPC and its opposition parties.

This fight has already started now with a voter registration process underway for a month, and already full of formal complaints from both sides.

The GPC and opposition parties, of which Islah is the largest, have exchanged media barrages accusing each other of counterfeiting the registration payroll and violating election laws. The GPC has even accused the Islah party of calling for Jihad against democracy.

Heated competition for registering voters has resulted in confrontations to the extent of closing some registration centers. The opposition parties have

threatened that they would boycott elections if the violations continue on the GPC.

It's accused the government of mobilizing the military and school students to register in constituencies which it believes have less publicity. The opposition has also complained to President Saleh that the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) is siding with the ruling party.

The president interfered last week and ordered the SEC to uphold the law and constitution.

In a round-table debate last week, Dr. Hameed al-Awadhi, Head of the Cultural and Information Department of the GPC, stressed that the military is neutral according to the law that bans the involvement of the military in political parties. He denied any influence on the part of the government on the military.

He said mobilizing people for registration does not mean they will all vote for the ruling party candidates, and al-

Awadhi also pointed out that the law allows military personnel to obtain a voting card.

However, the opposition says military members were moved from one place to another using planes, and they were threatened they would not receive their salary unless they get voting cards from centers assigned to them.

Alawadhi said this is an exaggeration and that instead of having a media barrage between political parties, they should go and work on the ground, educating people about the importance of practicing their democratic rights.

He pointed out that the problem is social rather than political, and that it's too early to say the registration payroll is counterfeited as the process of registration is not yet complete.

Mr. Abdu al-Janadi, head of the media department at the SEC, said every experience should have some shortcomings and abuses which are committed by both the ruling party and the opposition. But, he confirmed that the 2003 election is shaping up to be very competitive, and that the gathering of the opposition is a guarantee for fairness of the payroll.

He stressed that the SEC would file a case against the abusers of the registration process and the SEC has already transferred 23 complaints to the prosecution.

Mohammed Jassar, from the Sons of Yemen League Party, said there was internal and international pressure on the ruling party to change the voting payroll which was said to have been counterfeited. He said the GPC is afraid that there might be a big gap in number of voters in the two voting payrolls, and the difference shows that the last payroll was not fair.

According to Jassar, the GPC is working hard to mobilize people to register their names. He said all parties are responsible for these abuses, but he said

the SEC is the main bearer of responsibility, as it defends such violations.

He stressed that 30 per cent of the registered people right now are below the age of 18, and that the SEC should put the lists of names on the web so as to enable everybody to review them.

Mohammed al-Sabri, political analyst, called the GPC to stop the violations of sheikhs, security directors, governors and others, which will affect the voting payroll. He said the opposition has documented these violations of the ruling party.

All this points to a heated, if not bloody, 2003 elections. It may be a matter of life and death for the opposition, which is afraid that the GPC intends to destroy all other parties.

Both the GPC and the opposition have pushed their leading members early campaigning.

Sources say the GPC will nominate Dr. Abdul Kareem al-Iryani and Abdulaziz Abdulghani to run. The sources also say the GPC intends to take over the role of the parliament speaker, now held by Islah chairman Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar. He's been speaker since the 1993 elections.

Abdulghani is probably to take over the speaker position while Iryani might go for the Shura council, according to the sources.

The socialist party has pushed its secretary general Saleh Ubad, Mohammed Ghalib to run for elections in their governorates.

According to the SEC, the number of the registered voters has climbed past five million. Almost two million are

President urges SEC to adhere to rules

SANA'A-An explanatory letter has been dispatched to the president of the republic by the Supreme Election Committee, (SEC) in response to the letter sent by the Joint Meeting Parties, (JMP) concerning the infringements that took place during the registration processes and some other executive bodies.

The SEC has meanwhile affirmed that its duties have been progressing and in the right proper manner in accordance with the constitution and law.

The letter has further stated that the accusations that have been issued by the JMP are groundless and can't be backed

up by facts.

On his part, the president has sent a letter to the SEC urging them to adhere to the rules and regulations of the constitution, and the general election law.

In his letter, he further demanded the SEC and its affiliations to enable other bodies to practice their rights to monitor and supervise the process of the election in all its stages.

This has come after recording some alleged infringements by the JMP against some election centers and the SEC where the former has charged the latter of breaching its duties standing against the members of the JMP.

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Arrest warrant against Yemeni journalist

MUHAJID AL-MUSA'ABI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Attorney Appeal of Ibb governorate, Odain branch, issued a warrant for the arrest of journalist Mohammed Sadiq Al Odaini on Oct. 21.

And editor of the human rights page at Athawri Newspaper, the journalist is to attend the court session of Oct. 23.

The Yemen Times obtained a copy of the warrant document, signed by deputy of Odain Attorney, Jameel Ahmed Dhafer, mentioned no legal reason for the arrest, and that the journalist is working with Athawri, the mouthpiece of the Yemeni socialist party.

Al Odaini was so surprised by this warrant because he has no case to be summoned by the attorney.

According to law, such a warrant arrest by a court or an attorney cannot be applied from the first time. It usually comes at the last stages after requesting presence of the person many times.

"I think it is because of my idea of publishing a long report about authorities' violations of pressman last year," said Al Odaini to the Times.

"The officer who is in charge of arresting me is given the ultimate power to capture me by force and do whatever he sees fit," the journalist who remains in hiding.

He expressed his disappointment

over the ineffective role the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate which he accused as being in league with the authorities against journalists freedoms, and said the chairman does not have time for discussing harassment of journalists.

Al Odaini has occupied many positions, the last being a secretary of the freedoms and rights and executive manager of the Yemeni Journalist Syndicates from which he was fired for his positions.

He says he was also exposed to assassination and arrest attempts, he was imprisoned in Ibb from 1997 to 1999 after a failed assassination attempt.

Kuwait welcomes new Yemeni labor force

Kuwait - Oct 23 - In a statement to Yemen Times

Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Jasim Mohammad al-Kharafi said that Kuwait is looking forward to receiving Yemeni laborers as soon as possible and will definitely work on facilitating all the procedures for their work in Kuwait.

This comes as a positive development in Yemen-Kuwait relations, which were disrupted following Yemen's stance concerning the Iraqi invasion to Kuwait twelve years ago.

"Things have now changed and we are looking for a bright future. We value the unique historical relations between Yemenis and Kuwaitis and know that they can be revived and maintained in all aspects," Kharafi said.

Kharafi said that Kuwait's main concern right now is the more than 600



Mr. Jasim Mohammad al-Kharafi with Mr. Waleed Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf (from left to right).

Kuwaiti prisoners still thought to be held in Iraq. "We expect Yemen to exert pressure to help in relieving us from the only concern that we have, which is the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq."

Concerning Yemen's integration into the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the speaker emphasized the need to have Yemen become one of the GCC members and pledged that he will assist in this respect. "There are a num-

ber of procedures that are required for Yemen to join the GCC, but I can assure you that its presence in this council will consolidate and strengthen it further," he said.

"We need to have more visits from Yemeni parliament members to Kuwait and Kuwaiti assembly members to Yemen to consolidate a bond that should never be weakened between the two countries," he added.

"As the press, you have a very important role to play in conveying our sincere desire to consolidate our relations with Yemen and bridge any misunderstandings. Your role is needed for a greater future for the bilateral relations and the situation in the whole region in general," he concluded.

Journalist harassed

Harassment of journalists in Yemen continues.

A group of security men attacked Hassan Saeed Azzaedi, a journalist for the Yemen Times, while he was taking photographs of student demonstration in Assetteen Street on Oct. 23.

According to a letter to the Yemeni

Journalist Syndicate, he was threatened by a group of security officers who took his camera and pointed their guns at him.

A press release from the syndicate demands that the interior ministry and concerned bodies at human rights organizations interfere, and offer com-

ensation for damages.

Harassing journalists is a flagrant violation of freedom of the press and Yemen's constitution.

Some of Yemen's security officials insist on harassing and gagging journalists, accusing them of being agents against their country.

Iraq releases 150 Yemeni prisoners

Sources say about 150 Yemeni prisoners have been released from the Iraqi prisons as part of the general amnesty issued by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein recently.

The Yemeni prisoners had a variety of sentences issued according to Iraqi judicial verdicts.

Sources say that arrangements are in place to bring them back home soon.

Meanwhile, the political consultant of the president Saleh is visiting Iraq to deliver a message for the Iraqi president concerning the latest developments in the region.

Armed attack on Mareb Governor

The escort of the governor of Mareb brigadier, was exposed to a fire shooting last Saturday through visiting Serwah region in Mareb.

It is believed that the attackers belong to Jahim Tribe which is rejecting the visit to the governorate and his escorts accompanied him. Tribal leaders interfered and settled the matter between the two sides.

Students protest march against police school

Hundreds of students staged a protest march Oct. 23 to the presidential palace in Sana'a.

The demonstration was to bring notice to the fact that they applied to police school, but were not accepted.

The demonstrators indicated that there are large number of students were accepted because they have mediators, while other applicants, who have all the required conditions, were rejected. Athawra newspaper, published earlier that around 600 students

were enrolled in the school, while they have no registration numbers. That confirms most of them did not have the admission test.

These students are to be trained for a one-year course in this school, on how to deal with foreigners on the Yemeni coasts, airports and important establishments.

They are to replace unqualified security forces in the Yemeni gates who have not dealt properly with foreigners and visitors to Yemen.

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Continued from page 1

Don't attack Iraq

The US resolution draft presented to the Security Council concerning Iraq was also at the center of discussions, and it which did not result in Yemen's support for the resolution.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi said during the conference that Yemen cannot and will not accept the idea of changing regimes by force.

"The UN and USA should allow the return of the UN weapon inspectors. What is proposed of changing the Iraqi regime by force is simply illogical because it contradicts international law. Super powerful countries should not change the regime of another country because it harms national sovereignty," he said.

The government of Yemen has reconfirmed its resistance to any possible pressure to accept or vote for

the new resolution proposal presented to the Security Council by the USA.

In a move thought by analysts to decrease tension between the two countries over Iraq, Burns said Yemeni and American views are identical concerning the need to end the Middle East conflict and have a Palestinian sovereign state.

However, no comments were made concerning Yemen's strong opposition to the latest step by the American Congress to approve recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Both sides agreed on Yemen's cooperation and aid to the US in its war against terror, including US assistance for Yemen in terms of enhancing the Yemeni investigation capabilities and coastline patrol forces.

US spy planes seek fugitives

The same source ruled out that the "advisor of the Yemeni President Abdul Karim al-Eryani or any other Yemeni officials had talked about such news that pertains to Saudi Arabia."

The paper quoted al-Eryani as saying that the two fugitives move in a small truck with a simple tent, escorted by a Bedouin who knows the empty quarter by heart.

That way, said al-Eryani, the suspected al-Qaeda members "avoid the government and the American

planes."

Meanwhile, the al-Umah Newspaper stated last Thursday that a US helicopter hovered around the adjacent Yemeni coastlines in Hadhramout after the attack against the French supertanker, Limburg two weeks ago.

Consequently, about 100 detainees have been still detained by Yemeni authorities, suspected of having links with the USS Cole destroyer and September 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

Two men killed in tribal gunfight

Two men were killed and a third was injured during a gunfight last Tuesday on the road from Sana'a to Mareb.

The deaths come as result of tribal disputes that go back 17 years between Al Ali Bin Falah and Nehim tribe. A tribal source told the Yemen Times that tribal conflicts are rising these days, as 2003 parliamentary elections draw

near, and there is dispute between GPC and Islah parties. Tribal efforts have failed to get reconciliation between the two tribes. Some tribes are accusing the authorities of inciting tribal conflict to weaken the power they have. Keeping tribes in conflict is believed to be of the best ways to avoid their attacks against the authorities.

Prime Minister says 'same school' may be involved Are Cole and Limburg linked?

By News Services

SANA'A — The attack on a French oil tanker off Yemen earlier this month was similar to the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole and might have been carried out by the same group, Yemen's prime minister said Thursday.

The United States blames Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida for the suicide attack that killed 17 U.S. sailors on the Cole two years ago while the ship was refueling in the southern port of Aden.

The Limburg was carrying 400,000 barrels of oil off the coast of Yemen when it was holed and charred by a blast.

Yemen and France agree it was likely to have been a "terrorist" attack.

Like the Cole, the tanker Limburg was attacked by a small explosives-laden boat off Yemen's coast on Oct. 6, killing one Bulgarian crew member.

"There is no doubt that the act was terrorism and people or groups involved in terrorism were behind it," Prime Minister Abdul-Kader Bajammal told the 26 September newspaper.

"Those who carried the Cole attack might very well be from the same school as those who attacked the French tanker."

Yemen has not set a date for the trial of at least six people arrested in the Cole investigation, and so far it hasn't

directly linked the attack to al-Qaida.

An intelligence official in Washington has said U.S. experts believed the Limburg attack was carried out by operatives with links to al-Qaida.

Two statements last week attributed to bin Laden and al-Qaida hailed the explosion on the tanker but didn't directly claim responsibility.

Meanwhile, officials close to the Yemeni-French probe said investigators recovered maps from a house rented by the attackers.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the boat used in the attack was bought from outside Yemen and transported by land into the country.

Also according to the 26 September, Yemen authorities continue to suspect a remote control device was used to ram an explosives-laden boat into the Limburg.

"Security sources believe that the attack was carried out...by remote control from another boat in which the perpetrators escaped," said the newspaper.

It said officers found a manual on operating a boat by remote control at a house which they believed was used by those behind the attack.

The officers also found maps of the port of Raysut in Oman, the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf, al-

Mukalla port in Yemen and the Bab al-Mandab Strait that links the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea, the newspaper said.

Yemen has been trying to shed its image as a haven for Islamic militants since the Cole was bombed in 2000.

Yemeni authorities initially said a fire caused the explosion.

French diplomats, the Limburg's crew and its owner, Euronav SA, said from the start that the blast probably occurred when a small boat rammed into the tanker's hull.

Belgian tanker owner rejects Yemen call to pay up

The owner of the supertanker that was damaged by an explosion off the coast of Yemen rejected a call yesterday to put up millions of dollars for environmental damages caused by the oil that spilled out of the tanker's punctured hull.

Belgian shipping group CMB, which owns the French-flagged Limburg supertanker through its French Euronav subsidiary, is refusing to pay Yemen \$18.5 million in exchange for the

release of its vessel.

"It's not our fault," Peter Raes, a CMB managing director, told Reuters. "It (the explosion) is an act of war. We're not going to pay it."

Raes said a 1969 international convention held the owner of a vessel responsible for pollution except in the event of war or an act of terror.

Yemen's Interior Minister Rshad al-Alimi recently labelled the blast a "terrorist act". Officials at Yemen's embassy in Brussels were not available for comment yesterday.

Raes said the amount being demanded by Yemen was the maximum cited by the convention that a ship owner would have to pay for pollution.

Raes estimated the damage to the environment caused by the oil spill at between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

"If Yemen does not live up to the convention, insurance companies will start revising their insurance premiums for that country," he said.

CMB's stock was down 1.18 percent at 42 euros in late Brussels morning trade. It has risen 15 percent since the blast occurred.

Yemeni Egyptian Medical Week

SANA'A—Expo Center has hosted the Yemeni Egyptian medical and scientific week exhibition which held from 26 till 28 of October. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Dr. Abdunasser Al Munibari, Yemeni minister of public health along with the Egyptian vice Health minister, Dr. Ahmed Mura'ai. The exhibition also included many scientific seminars on the medicine and vaccinations. In a statement for the Egyptian officer, he said that there is high level of cooperation between the two countries in order to promote the medical cooperation through such exhibitions. "We brought a medical team in open heart surgery, bones synergy and they made many successful operations at the Athawra hospital in Sana'a" Mar'ai said.

The Egyptian deputy health minister said there are a unique relations between Yemen and Egypt for a long time and Egypt is the first Arab countries in the medicine industry and exports "We offer more facilities for the Yemeni Agents and priority in marketing", said the Egyptian deputy minister. A bout the open heart operations conducted by the Egyptian team, she said that they are more than 35 operation up in average of 4 operations daily done by 14 doctors and there is protocols for training, manufacturing, and supervision of medicines between the two countries.

The inauguration was attended by the Mr. Al Werafi, chairman of Al Werafi company, Tawfeeq Anehmi, GM of Apollo company.





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سبأ

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL
SANA'A-YEMEN

An interview with the culture minister

Putting Yemen's culture on the map

The cultural scene in Yemen is experiencing a revival at local, regional and international levels. This includes a new cultural strategy, a comprehensive vision, as part of future goals of Yemen.

Yemen Times reporter Yasser al-Mayasi interviewed the Minister of Culture Dr. Abdulwahab al-Rowhani to find out more. Following is an edited copy of their discussion.



Dr. Abdulwahab al-Rowhani, Minister of Culture

Q: What's the cultural situation in Yemen?

A: The cultural situation in Yemen has been progressing by leaps. Serious efforts have been exerted to find out a basic cultural infrastructure in Yemen.

The new Yemeni culture strategy has been prepared by eminent experts. This strategy is the first of its kind and is geared to find all there is to know about the culture of Yemen's talented people. It falls into three categories, short-range, medium range and long-range goals.

We at the culture ministry are preparing diverse cultural programs to restore our sense of culture. Implementing the cultural projects depends mainly on this strategy, prepared in collaboration with United Nation Development Fund, (UNDP).

In addition to this, a national cultural conference is to be held soon where a number of experts, media men, and eminent professors will participate at local, regional and international levels.

Preparations are in full gear to renew the Yemen Cultural Center. There is also the popular theatre, the child theatre, training hall, exhibition hall, and international exhibition hall, library, talent shows, and child library.

This is being done in time for 2004, when Sana'a celebrates itself as the Capital of Arab Culture.

Q: How are budding talents perceived by the culture ministry? Why are most Yemeni youth so frustrated?

A: The culture ministry does pay special attention to budding talent, and as a result of this strenuous efforts have been made to pay a full attention for these talented people.

A number of the Yemeni pioneers in the field of poetry, theatre, songs along have been honored. Also, their creative works are to be published.

We call on talented writers to participate in the cultural movement in Yemen with a view of assessing everything new, whether the positive or the negative ones.

We are in need for an objective standpoint to set a cultural track in Yemen.

Q: What is the role of the ministry regarding the smuggling of Yemeni antiquities?

A: We do our best to coordinate with

the concerned bodies in the interior ministry, particularly in the borderlines, with a view of putting an end to smuggling of antiquities.

The security bodies are entrusted with performing this mission for investigating this. We thank God that the security officers are on high alert. A number of smuggling operations have been found.

Protecting Yemeni culture or heritage is the responsibility of the whole community.

Protecting antiquities from damage or smuggling is not restricted to the culture ministry, it also the responsibility of the interior ministry and the judiciary control bodies.

The constitution says that 50 years is the period for any cultural heritage and that it is not allowed to be smuggled or damaged. We have started also to renew, polish, classify and protect manuscripts from decay.

The unauthorized use of the Yemeni heritage is a very serious problem. We adhere to the international laws that protect the intellectual property for individuals and nations.

We have at the culture ministry a special sector for protecting the intellectual property from robbery, and theft.

Q: What are the special preparations for having Sana'a as the Arab Culture Capital in 2004?

A: Undoubtedly, nominating Sana'a as the Arab Culture Capital is a historical event in the long history of Yemeni culture.

Sana'a in its originality and its civilized amalgamation of old and new is deserving to be named as the Arab Culture Capital for 2004. This recognition has deep meaning. We will shoulder the responsibility for reviving the historic culture and make Sana'a a distinguished culture capital.

In order to receive Sana'a as the capital of Arab Culture, compressive plans are in full swing in order to be presented to the Supreme National Council for review and discussion. The matter is no slogan to be raised. Actions speak louder than words.

Since time immemorial Sana'a has been a cultural and historical center. Even the architectural design of its buildings represents unique Arab cul-

ture. We'll make use of other previous Arab culture capitals, such as, Oman in 2002.

This event has gained the support of the political leadership chaired by the president of the republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The mission has been entrusted with the Prime Minister, Dr. Abdulqader Bajammal and some memberships of the concerned ministries to form a committee for further preparation.

Q: What is being done to protect historical Yemeni cities such as, Sana'a, Zabeed, and Hadramout from damage?

A: The historical Yemeni cities represent the cornerstone of the Yemeni civilization. As a result, the cabinet has issued a decree regulating the random use of modern construction in the Old City of Sana'a, which may deface the original architecture of the ancient Yemeni cities. At the same time, a decree has been also issued banning new houses, as the Old City is one of ancient history that has to be preserved.

A special focus has been paid by the concerned bodies in the government such to also preserve the al-Ayn Park. In addition to this, a number of old buildings are being renewed, and a loan fund for the inhabitants in Shebam and Zabeed is being created.

Two new brick factories, one in Zabeed and the other in Seyaoun, has been established to support preservation of ancient Yemeni cities. Recently, a number of ancient Yemeni cities such as, Sana'a, Zabeed, Shebam and Hadramout has been classified as cities in the list of the world heritage. There are several Yemeni cities, which are in need of preservation and rehabilitation.

Q: What do you think about the 19th International Book Fair held in

Sana'a?

A: The 19th International Book Fair has been featured by participation of the huge number of publication houses. The number of publication houses has reached 350 from Arab and foreign countries.

In addition to this, tens of thousands of titles have been displayed to the public.

More than 740,950 visitors attended the 19th International Book Fair. It has been featured by the valuable books and references where 200 different educational institutions including, universities, societies participated to be acquainted with everything new.

On the side of the fair, two symposiums around the cultural situation in Yemen were held. It was attended by eminent professors and experts in the field of Arab history.

In addition, the 4th Meeting for the Scientific Committee was also held.

We can say that the 19th International Book Fair has been different from the previous book fairs. Holding such cultural activities will pave the way for people to be informed about the cultural situation in Yemen and its heritage.

Q: Do you have any plans to establish a well-handled theatre capable of producing something new for the country?

A: Preparations to establish a basic infrastructure of the Yemeni culture are in full swing including mapping out ideas, proposals and suggestions for this mission.

In addition to this, halls at the cultural center are to be renewed. The popular

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theatre along with other training theatre shows are to be implemented this year.

In addition to this, multi-dimensional theatre shows and book halls have been established in Aden. A publication house has been established, and a number of historical references and books have been published. Preparations are also underway to renew the national museum in Sana'a and it is about to be finished.

We have a comprehensive plan to establish the basic infrastructure of the Yemeni culture capable of assimilating the cultural activities. We have to make use of everything positive in this era, the era of globalization. This can be done in accordance with our princi-

ples and notions.

Q: To what extent has cultural exchange reached with Arab and foreign countries?

A: As for the cultural exchange with the Arab countries, we have an annual plan for organizing cultural weeks and activities in the Arab and foreign countries and the last one was revolved on the queen of Sheba held in London and other European countries. The exhibition has comprised more than 380 rare antiquities that have been showed to the public.

This is a clear testimony that Yemen possesses a very rich history, suggesting the originality of its civilizations.

Getting ready for the Holy Month

Ramadhan exhibitions are opened

Cities across Yemen are gearing up for Holy Month through the annual exhibitions organized by the Hael Saeed Ana'am Group (HSAG).

The first of 2002 was opened October 19 by Taiz deputy governor M. Abdulmalik Al Haijem.

The exhibition at the Saeed Exhibition Hall will last to November 7.

The exhibition, which brings together more than a dozen Yemeni companies, includes food products, household equipments, and furniture.

Saving time and money

Mohammed Al Haijem said these exhibitions are serving the citizens by helping them to save money and time. He said high attendance to the exhibitions confirms consumers are confident in national products, and that the government will support national industries.

Shawqi Ahmed Hayel, vice-manager of the industrial administration of the group, said the exhibitions show the good quality of products

stamped "Made in Yemen".

Rashad Mugaless, general supervisor of the exhibition, said the exhibitions are popular in several Yemeni cities.

"The exhibition aims at providing citizens with their needs in the holy month, with reasonable prices which meet the financial abilities of visitors who will find high-quality brands and promotional gifts," he said.

HSAG holds similar exhibitions every year in several Yemeni cities before Ramadhan, and encourages visitors at the following locations:



Mohammed Al Haijem & Shawqi Ahmed Hayel Inaugurate exhibition

Sana'a: Sana'a Expo Center for International Exhibitions, Taiz street-Shumaila Zone.

Taiz: Asaeed hall For Exhibitions. Al Qwat street-Ausifra- beside Anahda School.

Aden: The Consumer Complex Hall of Mua'ala, second floor.

Hodieda: Hodieda International Exhibitions Hall, beside the Arab Bank.

Ibb : The Economic Corporation hanger, next to Jebla road. Mukalla: Dar Bakatheer, Asslam Zone, Mukalla

Visitors impressed

"I always visit such exhibitions every year to buy Ramadhan needs, the prices are reasonable and there are tempting prizes," said Ali Abdullah, a visitor to the exhibition.

"I have found a quality products in the exhibition, and buying from such exhibitions is encouraging to our national industries," said Farooq Ibrahim, a doctor

"The discounts are tempting and I found here everything I

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Yemeni-Jordanian fishing partnership

The Red Sea Company, a Yemeni Jordanian company, has launched its activities after the King of Jordan put two new fishing vessels on the water this week.

The navy, supported by 20 boats and fish refrigerators for storage, is to practice its activities in Yemeni regional waters.

Muntasser Abu Abdullah, fishermen representative in Al Aqaba port, said that the new company is providing 100 jobs and the total storage capacity of each vessel is about 90 tons of fish.

"The company would export half of its production to Japan and will meet the consumers needs for fish in the Jordanian markets," said Abdullah.

An officer at the company indicated that the company gross profit is between 30% to 40% and offers good salaries, US \$500 US as a maximum.

The agreement is the first of its kind between Yemen and Jordan.

The company's capital which amounts to US \$8 million, half owned

by the King Abdullah Fund, and the other half is owned by different Yemeni and Arab investors.

The company has rented the two fishing ships from a Saudi Company for six months. After that its up to the company to decide whether to buy them or to continue renting.

The Jordanian planning minister, the vice chairman of Abdullah Fund said that specialists in fishing and boat operations will train Jordanian fishermen in the coming days as a preliminary step towards the complete operation of the company.

Meanwhile, Al Aqaba Fishermen are suffering in unemployment and a shortage of fish storage space, as well as of security restrictions put on them by Jordanian and Israeli authorities in a narrow gulf like Al Aqaba.

The King Abdullah Fund which was established last year, is enhancing the private sector initiatives and creating companies with it for finding jobs in different Jordanian governorates.

National program for vaccination

The first training course for observing epidemic diseases like measles and tetanus was held Oct. 22 and 23 in Sana'a.

The training course, organized in cooperation with UNICEF and WHO, was attended by 22 participants.

Mr. Mohammed Ali Kulees, general director of the national vaccination program, told participants of the efforts by the Ministry of Public Health and WHO and UNICEF to vaccinate against diseases such as infantile paralysis, measles and tetanus.

Exhibition opens

The Trade and Industrial Exhibition was opened at the Sana'a Trade Centre, October 19. It's to run to Nov. 7.

The show for international exhibitions is sponsored by the trade minister, Abdurahman Mohammed Ali Othman, and the opening was attended by the mayor of the capital and many businessmen.

The exhibition has famous companies like HSAG and Ikhwan Thabit. It comes after national celebrations of the two great Yemeni revolutions in September and October.

Holding such exhibitions is an annual tradition to sell goods at reasonable prices, in preparation for Holy Month.

Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain opened

Under the auspices of Minister of Industry Abdurahman M. A. Othman, the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain was opened October 13.

The opening ceremony which took place in Sana'a, was attended by Trade and Industry Vice Minister Ali Asiagi, many Arab diplomats, bank chairmen, VIPs and Yemeni businessmen.

The bank capital is estimated at 2 billions rials.

The main goals of the new bank are to

introduce new banking services, develop new ways of attracting money and investing it properly, offer money transfer services, practice commercial activities inside and outside the country, and contribute to different developmental projects in fields of agriculture, industry, and tourism.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Mohamed Najeeb, the bank general manager, and Ezdeen Heba, his vice, as well as many contributors to the bank.



Americans give gift of books

A gift of 200 books has been given from the Americans to the Aden Community College.

The American Embassy in Sana'a gave the gift Oct. 16.

The books are on different scientific, cultural and political research in English.

The gift is within the framework of cultural cooperation between Yemen and the USA.

The gift was presented by Robert Lindsey, regional English language

officer in the Department of State. He visits Yemen currently.

A meeting followed the presentation, between Lindsey and the Dean of Aden Community College Dr. Ali Al Muta'a.

The American official was informed about the role of the college in development of the society. He made a visit to the college departments as well as the new ones which were opened this year, areas such as computers, labs, and electronics.

Selling goods for Ramadhan

As people are preparing for Ramadhan, the Apollo Company is holding its annual exhibition for Ramadhan food and house necessities at EXPO hall, Sana'a.

The exhibit started Oct. 21 and runs to Nov. 8.

Eqbal Bahader, deputy minister industry and trade, ceremonially opened the exhibition which he toured to see participating companies with their goods of food, electronic and

electric machines, cleaners, furniture, cosmetics and more.

Omar al-Nehmi, the marketing general for Apollo Co., said that the exhibition is geared to meet all the needs of limited-income customers, and provide alternatives to have Ramadhan needs met with suitable prices.

He added that there are magnificent collections.

Draws with prizes are held during the exhibition.

New bank branch opened in Sana'a

The new branch of the National Bank of Yemen was opened in Qa'a Al Olafi, Sana'a last Wednesday.

Ahmed Aubeed Al Fadhli, vice finance minister, opened it along with the Mr. Abdulrahman Al Kuhali, chairman of the board of directors of

the bank, and a number of officials. The National Bank is one of the oldest banks in Yemen, founded in 1969. It has 29 branches around Yemen.

It offers different developed banking services offered by similar international banks and money transfer services.

Training course on bilharzia disease

A training course for fighting bilharzia, organized by Yemen's national program for fighting bilharzia, concluded Oct. 21 in the health institute of Gea'ar, Ibban.

The four-day course was held in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and gathered 14

doctors from the governorates of Taiz, Dale'a, Hadramout, Lahj, and Abyan.

Participants receive lectures and information on Bilharzia and ways of fighting it. Abdullah Ahmed Luqman, deputy minister of Ibban, confirmed the importance of holding such training courses to fight this dangerous disease.

Conference talks about education strategy

The National Conference for Basic Education launched its activities on Oct. 26 in Sana'a.

The conference, to be concluded Oct. 29, is attended by education ministers from Gulf states, Iran, Yemeni university rectors, and regional and international organizational representatives.

Dr. Fadhli Abu Ganim, Yemeni edu-

cation minister, said that the conference is to discuss educational issues and demands, as well as a new national education strategy.

"Such a strategy would show the shortages and weakness in the educational sector and ways of curing it in order to develop the education process and have a real educated generation," said Ganim.

Health workshop in Mareb finishes

A training course of primary health care concluded in Mareb last Tuesday.

The course, organized by the Ministry of Public Health in the governorate, had participants in lectures on health care, motherhood and

childhood, family planning, and the significance of breast-feeding.

Abdullah Annasi, Governor of Mareb, delivered a concluding speech stressing the importance of such courses to raise public awareness of health issues.

Foundation stone laid for tourist village in Aden

On the occasion of our celebrations of the Yemeni revolution, Alwi Al Attass, state minister for parliament affairs, along with Taha A. Ghanim, Aden governor, laid the foundation stone for Aden's new tourist village.

The officials were received by Ahmed Sheikh, owners representative.

The project is part of the second phase of the golden coast tourist collection, invested by Al Katheri Group, which consists of Sheraton Goldmore, the tourist village and the yachts club.

The tourist village project consists of 30 villas of two floors, a meeting

hall for 600 person, tennis courts, a trade center, green areas and parking.

The estimated cost of the project is US \$17 million, and is to be accomplished in 30 months.

The president has waved taxes on project which exceed \$10 million, an enticement for investors to contribute to the development of the country.

Officials also are thankful for support of the government, represented in the Tourism Ministry and local authorities in Aden governorate, for their contribution to developing the tourist activities in Aden.

Wrote his experiences while in Indian army

Nigel Groom tells about experiences in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

During the late 1940s, British governance of the Western Aden Protectorate was being tentatively extended by a handful of hardy officials, whose reputation for fairness and even-handedness went before them.

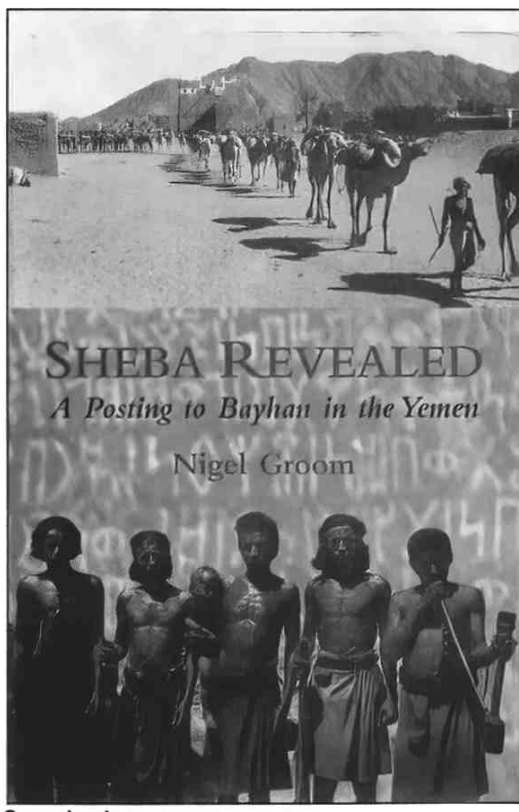
Of these young, Nigel Groom was one. Posted to the almost inaccessible Wadi Bayhan in 1948, he was to spend nearly two years among the people of what in antiquity had been Qataban, once part of Biblical Sheba. Pre-Islamic lineage was evident all around in the imposing remains of cities. Irrigation works and formal inscriptions, exerted a powerful fascination on the young Political Officer which has never since waned.

As representative of a distant government, Groom naturally met with an ambivalent reception from the local people, many of whom lived in the areas that were still uncontrolled and ungoverned. His book recounts a young official's brave efforts to influence obstinate rules and to demonstrate, to clans and tribes who for centuries had settled disputes by violence,

the benefits of the rule of law.

His doubts and moral dilemmas, his personal relationships, and the pitfalls of inexperience and amongst the intricacies of a tribal society, are honestly described and add depth, dramatic tension and occasional hilarity to tale.

Sheba Revealed depicted people, customs and antiquities of this remote part of Arabia with compelling verve and candor. Its close, sympathetic and skillful observation of a single locality places it in an unusual niche among accounts of Arabian travel. And it will engage all those with an interest in pre-Islamic archaeology, colonial history, Arabian society and Yemen's transition to the world of today.



Born in 1924 and educated at Haileybury and Magdalene College, Cambridge, Nigel Groom joined the Indian Army in 1943 and served in Burma. Recruited in 1946 into the Colonial Administrative Services, he was sent to Aden as Political Officer in 1948, where his first posting was to Bayhan and is the subject of this book (he is pictured above during his time there).

There followed service elsewhere in the Aden Secretariat. He married his wife Lorna in Aden in 1952. In 1957 he was transferred to Kenya and was Defense Secretary in the East African High Commission until the East African territories became independent. From 1962 until his retirement in 1984 he worked in the Ministry of Defense in London. He was awarded the OBE in 1974.

During his time in Bayhan — ancient Qataban — Nigel Groom discovered and brought to the notice of Western archaeologists



Nigel Groom

many of its pre-Islamic sites and inscriptions, and encouraged Wendell Phillips to mount the well-published expeditions of the American Foundation for the Study of Man, which studied and excavated them in 1950 and 1951.

In 1981 he published Frankincense and Myrrh: A study of the Arabian Incense Trade, which is now a standard work. He has also published books on perfume and many articles in academic journals on Arabian archaeology.

Hotel celebrates music of youth

To help bolster the tourist season in Aden, the Aden Goldmore Hotel held a celebration to pick the best male and female singers in Aden, Oct. 24.

The competition included 11 youth competitors, and was attended by a large number of social figures in Aden.

The competitors were judged by a committee of musicians and artists in the governorate.

"It is the first time ever such a musical celebration took place, and we held it to encourage young musicians. We already selected three winners and they have been honored," said Idaroos Obeyed, sales manager at the Goldmore Hotel.

He added that such activities will be sponsored by the hotel in the future, as Aden is a first-class tourist city and needs more promotional activities to attract tourists.

U.S. plan calls for end to violence

Israel army reoccupies Jenin as U.S. mission ends

JERUSALEM, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Israel tightened its grip on Jenin on Saturday, scouring the battered West Bank city for Palestinian militants responsible for suicide bombings as a U.S. peace mission wound down indecisively.

The Israeli army said it detained six Palestinians in and near Jenin.

Hundreds of troops backed by heavy armour rolled into Jenin on Friday, commandeering buildings, searching homes and imposing curfews. The army drew fire from gunmen and also on the diplomatic front from the European Union, which urged restraint. Israeli military chiefs said the Jenin operation — dubbed "Vanguard" — would last as long as necessary to flush out militants waging a Palestinian uprising for independence with suicide bombings such as one which killed 14 Israelis on Monday.

Palestinian medics said six people were seriously wounded in clashes with the army — violence which overshadowed the end of a two-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories by U.S. envoy William Burns.

Burns came with a "roadmap" for peace based on a Middle East policy speech last June by President George W. Bush, who has been seeking to lower Israeli-Palestinian tensions as Washington prepares for possible war on Iraq.

The U.S. plan calls for an end to violence and for Palestinian administrative reforms and Israeli army withdrawals from occupied cities, leading to a final settlement and a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by 2005.

Israeli leaders said the plan — drafted by a "quartet" of mediators from the United States, Russia, the European Union and United Nations — lacked security guarantees. The Palestinians said it needed timetables and enforcement mechanisms.

Israelis wary

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Gideon Saar, describing the plan as a draft proposal, told Israel Radio it "deviated in some parts from the outline of the president's speech".

Saar, who did not elaborate on the points of contention, said Israel had made its reservations known to Burns and would send Washington a written response to the proposal.

Israel initially held back retaliation for Monday's bombing, carried out by two Jenin teenagers belonging to the militant group Islamic Jihad who slammed an explosives-packed car into

a bus in northern Israel.

There were no apologies after the army incursion on Friday.

"Jenin has become the capital of terror," Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said. "When I speak of men and women suicide bombers, this is where they come from."

Palestinian censure soon followed. Nabil Abu Rdainah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, said Israel had "sabotaged U.S. efforts regarding the roadmap plan".

The European Union called the Jenin offensive "a step backwards" and urged Israel to pull troops out of the city and

show greater restraint in its countermeasures to militants.

The Jenin assault was one of the biggest operations in the West Bank since Israeli forces reoccupied most of its cities in June after suicide bombings killed 26 people in Israel.

Jenin was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in a crushing Israeli offensive in the West Bank in April after 29 people were killed in a suicide bombing during a Passover holiday meal in an Israeli hotel.

At least 1,629 Palestinians and 618 Israelis have been killed since the uprising began.



Israeli soldiers detain a group of Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron October 25. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers backed by scores of tanks and other military vehicles took control of the Palestinian city of Jenin on Friday. At least 1,628 Palestinians and 618 Israelis have been killed in the uprising that began over two years ago after talks on terms for a Palestinian state stalled. Palestinians won self-rule in cities under interim peace deals in 1994-95. REUTERS

Arab League chief goes to Libya for talks

CAIRO, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa left for Libya on Saturday for talks with its leader Muammar Gaddafi on Libya's decision to withdraw from the 22-member organisation, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

Libya announced on Thursday it would quit the Cairo-based body but gave no reasons for its decision.

An Arab League spokesman said on Thursday that Moussa, who is respected by many Libyans for his sharp criticism of Israel, had made contacts with senior officials in Libya after being informed

of their decision.

In September, Gaddafi had called on Libyans to leave the League to protest against what he called "official Arab cowardice" in the face of Israel and the United States.

Gaddafi has told Libyans that the failure of Arab leaders to confront U.S.-backed Israeli policy of cracking down on Palestinians waging an uprising against Israeli occupation made him feel "ashamed to be an Arab".

In March, Gaddafi retreated from earlier plans to quit the Arab League over his objections to a Saudi-sponsored Middle East plan.

Turkey pleased with end of hostage crisis in Moscow

ANKARA, Oct. 26 (Xinhua) — The Turkish Foreign Ministry on Saturday expressed pleasure with the operation of the Russian security forces which ended the theater siege in Moscow early in the day.

"The theater siege in Moscow which started three days ago, came to an end on Saturday with the intervention of Russian security forces," said the ministry in a written statement.

"Turkey harshly condemns all kinds of terrorism acts whatever their motives are," stressed the statement.

The ministry said it was a pleasing development that the Russian security forces put an end to the siege, adding that "we regret that this terrorist action claimed lives of some innocent people."

A group of Chechen gunmen raided a Moscow theater on Wednesday, and held hostage hundreds of people. The Russian security forces stormed the theater early Saturday morning, freeing most of the hostages.

Russian officials have confirmed that 67 hostages died and a total of 34 Chechen gunmen were killed.

Turkey, a country hosting some 25,000 Chechens in Istanbul and the western part of the country, also suffered Chechen terrorist attacks in the past few years. The latest took place in May when a gunman held 13 people hostage in the five-star Marmara Hotel in Istanbul to protest the situation in Chechnya. Eventually, the hostages were released unharmed and the gunman surrendered. In April 2001, Chechen gunmen held 120 people captives for 12 hours in the super-star Swissotel in Istanbul before surrendering to police and releasing all the hostages unharmed. On March 15, 2001, three Chechen gunmen hijacked a Russian airliner to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi special force on the following day subdued the hijackers and set free more than 180 passengers and crewmen on board.

Iraqi paper says U.N. debate "a grand farce"

BAGHDAD, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Iraq on Saturday described as a "grand farce" deliberations at the U.N. Security Council on a new resolution and warned that the outcome could determine the future of the world body.

Russia and France on Friday challenged a U.S. push for a Security Council vote on Iraq by presenting rival draft resolutions they hoped could avoid a possible U.S.-British military strike against Baghdad.

"What is going on now at the Security Council is really a grand farce," Babel newspaper said in an editorial. "All 15 members have no worries except to respond to the demands of the evil American administration."

Babel, owned President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, took a swipe at other Security Council members and said the discussions were "an object of ridicule".

"It puts the future of the United Nations in the balance because the American administration is now designing even the language in any resolution against us, exploiting the weak will of other members of the Security Council," it said.

France and Russia — both permanent members of the Security Council — fear some of the tough language in the U.S. text could be interpreted as a hidden trigger for military action against Iraq before U.N. arms inspectors had a chance to account for any of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

But U.S. President George W. Bush, at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, on Friday insisted the new resolution had to contain real threats.

"Let me put it bluntly. There must be consequences in order to be effective," Bush said.

In response to the Russian and

French moves, the U.S. envoy formally introduced the U.S. draft resolution to the 15-member Security Council, thereby ensuring it would be voted upon first.

The Al-Qadissiya government daily said Washington wanted a tough resolution that would give it the international cover to invade Iraq.

"They want the role of the Security Council to be restricted to approving their plan of aggression, without real debate," the daily said. "If it gave them the authority, then it is a Security Council and if it didn't then it is irrelevant."

The U.S. text warns Iraq of "serious consequences" if it obstructs inspec-

tions. But it also declares Baghdad in "material breach" of U.N. resolutions.

That concept could nullify the 1991 ceasefire pact with Iraq after the Gulf War, thereby raising fears Washington would interpret "material breach" as authorisation for war.

Negotiations on a new resolution have been conducted in various capitals and by telephone since Bush warned the U.N. Assembly on September 12 to take action to disarm Iraq or the United States would do it alone.

Shortly afterwards, Iraq said it would permit U.N. weapons inspectors to return without conditions. They left in December 1998 on the eve of a U.S.-British bombing raid.



An international peace activist holds a banner surrounded by foreign press in front of the United Nations office in Baghdad, October 26. REUTERS

Announcement

The Local Council of Sana'a City announces its interest to consultant in establishing terms of specification for invitation of specialized firms to implement waste recycling and compost production plant in Sana'a City in the following basis:

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يعلن المجلس المحلي للعاصمة صنعاء عن رغبته في وضع كراسة الشروط لدعوة الشركات المتخصصة لتنفيذ مشروع انشاء مصنع لتدوير القمامة وإنتاج السماد العضوي بالامانة بالاسس التالية:

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Despite boycott call**Bahrain votes**

MANAMA, Oct 25 (Reuters) - Bahrainis ignored an opposition boycott and voted in their first parliament in 30 years in a peaceful election that looks set to consolidate stability in the Gulf Arab kingdom.

Bahrain, a tiny island state ruled by the Sunni Al Khalifa family, revived the 40-seat parliament as part of reforms aimed at giving the Shi'ite majority a bigger say and healing sectarian rifts that sparked unrest in the 1990s.

Many Shi'ite voters appeared to have ignored calls to stay at home. Their choice was limited by the fact that all mainstream Shi'ite parties did boycott the election, but these groups did not appear set on conflict.

Official results published by the state-run Bahrain News Agency on Friday showed that moderate Sunni Islamists and independents had won 16 of the 37 seats up for grabs in Thursday's poll.

A second round of voting on October 31 will decide the fate of the remaining 21 seats. Two of the candidates are women — a landmark for the conservative kingdom's female population. Three candidates won seats unchallenged.

Rifts between some Shi'ite opposition groups, including the influential Wefaq group, had triggered unrest in 1995-1998

in pro-Western Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. The boycott had raised concerns of a revival of this violence.

Shi'ites make up 65 percent of Bahrainis and the government had feared many would heed the boycott call.

Key opposition figure Sheikh Ali Salman, chairman of Wefaq, which refused to stand in the election, criticised the outcome, saying the government had bullied people into voting.

But he pledged these differences with the government would not lead to violence.

The official turnout of 53.2 percent suggested many Bahrainis had set aside the sectarian politics that led to the unrest.

Taqi Zira, an independent analyst, said the boycott was "not the beginning of a war between the government and opposition". Instead, he called the election "the start of Bahrain's transformation into a secular, civil society".

Political novices

The boycott had raised the spectre of sectarian dissent in Bahrain at a time of heightened anti-U.S. sentiment in the Gulf and concerns about regional security after attacks on Western targets in

Kuwait and Yemen.

The four boycotting parties had shunned the poll in protest at amendments that grant the Upper House, a council appointed by the king, powers equal to those of the elected assembly.

Analysts said the onus was now on the government and the opposition to work together to ensure adequate representation for both main sects, despite the lack of mainstream Shi'ite parties in parliament.

"The boycott weakened parliament and was a golden opportunity for inexperienced candidates," said Bahraini analyst Jassim Hussein. "Now we have a house where 47 percent of the people are not represented. This is a negative development."

Bahrain's last parliament was dissolved two years after it was set up in 1973, and most Bahrainis are political novices after years of strict restrictions.

Most candidates' manifestos focused on social and economic issues such as the high unemployment gripping the Gulf's least wealthy oil producer and corruption in the bureaucracy.

The new assembly is expected to hold its maiden session in December after the king appoints the 40-member upper house.



A man holding a photo of Bahrain King Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa (L) leads a procession of vehicles in the capital of Manama early October 25, 2002 after parliamentary elections. REUTERS

Libya stages Day of Mourning

TRIPOLI, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Libya shut down airports and ports on Saturday and cut telephone links with the outside world to mark a mass deportation that followed Italy's seizure of Libya 91 years ago, the state news agency Jana said.

Libyans from the Mediterranean coast to the southern desert wore black to commemorate the deportations, the agency said. Black banners fluttered over homes, government buildings, buses and cars.

Libya has held the day of mourning yearly as part of the government's attempt to win compensation from Italy. Libya was part of the Ottoman empire when Italian invaders captured Tripoli on October 3, 1911.

Italy formally apologised to Libya in 1998 for deporting unknown thousands of Libyans to barren islands in southern Italy, where thousands died because of diseases, famine and bad weather.

Libya may leave, but Arab League chief moves to keep it in

CAIRO, Oct. 26 (Xinhua) — Arab League (AL) chief Amr Moussa left here for Libya on Saturday to persuade the country to reconsider an intention to drop its membership from the 22-member pan-Arab forum, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

Moussa's visit came two days after Libya informed the league of its intention to quit the League.

Libya has previously claimed it would withdraw from the League due to its inefficiency in dealing with Arab issues, especially the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

African countries seek accord on Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Oct 26 (Reuters) - West African ministers and army chiefs were due to agree on Saturday how to send a force to separate Ivory Coast's loyalist troops and rebels ahead of talks to end a war that has split the country in two.

The conflict, which began with a failed coup on September 19, has left hundreds of people dead and driven thousands more to flee their homes.

It has also cemented an ethnic divide between the largely Muslim north, under rebel control, and the Christian and animist south — held by the army loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo.

Fears that turmoil could spread in the region rose a notch as Gbagbo implied the rebels had help from neighbouring Burkina Faso, which has told Ivory Coast to stop killing its immigrants and warned of brewing genocide.

Army chiefs from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were due to reconvene on Saturday after a four-hour meeting on Friday failed to come up with a decision over the deployment of a force to keep loyalists and rebels apart until talks between the two sides can start.

The force, known as Ecomog, is meant to replace troops from former colonial power France currently monitoring a ceasefire agreed by the belligerents last week.

Deciding on troops

The army chiefs will then give their recommendations to regional foreign ministers, who are in turn expected to decide how many troops to send and from which countries.

"They (the ministers) will make the necessary decisions so that troops can be deployed as quickly as possible to monitor the ceasefire and contribute to putting in place a future peace accord," General Cheikh Oumar Diarra, second in command at ECOWAS, told reporters in Abidjan.

The aim is to deploy the force, which should be made up of at least 2,000 men, within two weeks. So far, the week-long truce appears to be holding despite accusations by the Ivorian army of rebel violations.

Mediators want talks quickly

West African mediators were also trying to move the peace process forward by arranging talks between rebels, who want Gbagbo to quit so that new elections can be held, and the government.

ECOWAS top official Mohamed ibn Chambas flew to the rebel stronghold of Bouake on Friday to discuss the rebel team for the talks.

"Talks have to happen as quickly as possible," Chambas told Reuters. "The government side is ready, I believe the rebel side will be ready soon. We expect these talks in a matter of days."

Nip in bud

But despite regional efforts to nip the conflict in the bud key questions remain unanswered, including how or when the rebels should be disarmed, or how to restore government authority to rebel-held zones.

To try to reduce tension in the world's top cocoa grower, France said on Friday opposition leader Alassane Ouattara might leave the country from his refuge at the French embassy, where he is hiding from security forces he says want to kill him.

Ouattara has been at the heart of Ivory Coast's political turmoil in recent years. He was barred from a 2000 presidential election won by Gbagbo after the courts said his roots lay in Burkina Faso. His militants say the ruling was a plot to exclude the north — where most of the rebels have their origins — from power.

"That at least implies passive responsibility," he said.

Compaore hit back on Friday, saying Ivory Coast should stop looking outside its borders for the root cause of the conflict.

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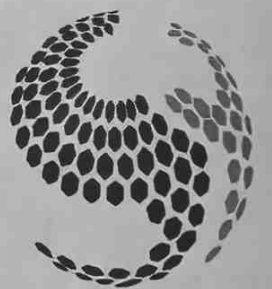
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English printed letters can be addressed before 31 October 2002 to:
Royal Netherlands Embassy Sana'a
head of Operational Management
PO Box 463
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Terrorism in Indonesia

Pressure grows to deal with extremists

SOLO/JAKARTA, Oct 26 (Reuters) - An Indonesian Muslim cleric, alleged chief of a regional terror network, entertained more visitors at his hospital bed on Saturday as pressure grew on Jakarta to fulfill its promise to crack down on extremists.

Police who have detained Abu Bakar Bashir at a hospital in the central Java city of Solo for more than a week, said they were still waiting to question him about allegations he was involved in a plot to kill President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Police have not detained Bashir over devastating bomb blasts on Indonesia's resort island of Bali on October 12, although suspicion for the carnage has fallen on the radical Southeast Asian group he is alleged to lead, the Jemaah Islamiyah network.

There was still no plan to take the preacher to Jakarta for interrogation as police had to wait for him to recover from what doctors said were heart and respiratory problems.

Dr Sathoni, a heart specialist treating Bashir, predicted the preacher would soon make a full recovery.

"Abu Bakar Bashir will be well in two or three days," Sathoni told reporters at the hospital. He gave no more details.

But in the aftermath of the blasts on Bali that killed more than 180 mainly Western holiday makers, Megawati is coming under growing international pressure to take more action.

Stung by the deaths of about 90 Australians in the explosions and in an apparent swipe at Jakarta, Australian Prime Minister John Howard challenged Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation



Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir (L) lies at a hospital bed in Solo, central Java, October 26. REUTERS

(APEC) nations to fight terrorism on their own turf.

"No amount of international exhortations can substitute for the determination of individual governments who know they have a terrorist problem within their borders to do something about it," Howard said in Mexico at the annual APEC gathering.

Howard and Megawati met at the APEC meeting but no details of their discussions were immediately available.

Indonesia, an APEC member, had been accused in the United States and elsewhere of dragging its feet on a promised clampdown on militant Islamic groups.

The bearded 64-year-old Bashir has denied any terrorism links and insists the

al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah does not exist. Bashir is suspected of ties to a series of earlier bombings in Indonesia as well as a plot to assassinate Megawati.

The United Nations added the Jemaah Islamiyah to its list of groups and people whose assets should be frozen due to suspected ties to Osama bin Laden or his al Qaeda network.

YET ANOTHER VISITOR

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim country and the government is counting on support from moderate Islamic leaders to prevent a backlash as it tries to crack down on extremists.

Some saw detaining Bashir and announcing presidential decrees expand-

ing police anti-terrorism powers last week as evidence Jakarta was finally moving, although little has happened since.

The head of a small radical Islamic group was the latest in a stream of visitors, including one moderate Muslim chief, to make his way past 30 of the preacher's supporters and a dozen policemen to Bashir's hospital room.

Suaib Didu later told reporters Bashir urged him not just to defend the cleric, but also the Islamic struggle. Didu said Bashir did not elaborate.

Asked if Megawati had urged security authorities to step up the pace in moving against Bashir, one close aide said the president wanted everything done according to the law, and had not given any deadline for Bashir to be whisked to Jakarta.

"There is no deadline, because an investigation cannot be done recklessly," said Agnita Singedekane Irsal of Megawati's Indonesia Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P).

Bashir was detained after investigators returned from questioning Omar al-Faruq, a self-confessed al Qaeda operative arrested in Indonesia in June and turned over to Washington.

Malaysia bars funds to schools that scorn Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Largely Muslim Malaysia has cut off state funding to religious schools which teach children disrespect for Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad by likening him to an Egyptian pharaoh, officials and news reports said on Saturday.

Mahathir often accuses the opposition Parti Islam se-Malaysia (PAS) of influencing young minds to loathe his government through Koran study sessions in village schools dotting the country.

Officials said Mahathir had ordered that state funding for more than 500 religious schools be frozen after the tone of their teaching was found to be anti-government.

"The government feels that these are not religious schools, but political schools where students are taught to hate leaders," the New Straits Times newspaper quoted Mahathir as saying.

PAS poses the main threat to Mahathir after he lost crucial support among the country's Muslim majority after his unpopular treatment of former deputy Anwar Ibrahim, a popular cleric and politician, whom he sacked in 1998.

The 76-year-old Mahathir, who is labeled Firaun, the local term for a tyrannical pharaoh, on most anti-government Web sites, says children are taught to particularly despise him.

"The children return home from school and ask their fathers to remove pictures of Firaun from their homes," he said.

Thailand safe despite warnings: Thai PM

BANGKOK, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on Saturday his country was safe for tourists and had taken steps to boost security after the Bali bomb attacks.

Australia and Britain have told their nationals travelling in Thailand to exercise extreme caution, citing increased threats from Islamic militants in Southeast Asia after the Bali bomb attacks on October 12 that killed more than 180 people, about half of them from Australia.

Denmark, current president of the European Union, said this week it had received information about possible terror attacks planned in Thailand, naming

the popular tourist resort Phuket as a potential target.

"There are no indications that Thailand will be the target of a terrorist attack," Thaksin said in a weekly radio address to the nation. "Do not panic. The Thai government is well-prepared."

The prime minister's remarks come a day after Thai police said they had tightened security at oil refineries and depots on advice from U.S. intelligence services.

But many Thais remained skeptical. In a university poll released on Saturday, 36 percent said they weren't sure the government could prevent a terror attack, while 13 percent expressed a lack of confidence in the government's efforts.

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The American Embassy announces for a job opening "Teaching Trainer/Curriculum specialist" within its organization. The position is located in the Yemen-America Language Institute, American Embassy, Sana'a, under the direct supervision of the Director of Courses and the Public Affairs Officer. The Teacher Trainer/Curriculum Specialist will be responsible for providing training to teachers on both a regular and as needed basis, including classroom observation and evaluation/feedback of teachers, and to develop/revise/adapt curricula and tests to be used with Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI) students.

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Who and How to apply: Only qualified AMERICAN Citizens. Interested applicants should complete SF-171 (Application Form for Federal Employment) or submit a current C.V. with certificates and recommendation letters attached.

Salary: The annual rate for this position is USD 31,825.

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67 hostages die, 750 saved

Moscow theatre siege ends

MOSCOW, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Sixty-seven hostages were killed when Russian special forces stormed a Moscow theatre at dawn on Saturday to end a three-day siege by Chechen rebels.

Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Vasilyev said 750 hostages held since Wednesday night by the heavily armed guerrillas in the capital had been saved in the operation.

Nearly all the rebels, 34, were killed. "We saved more than 750 people...67 were lost," Vasilyev told reporters outside the theatre. He added that no children were killed in the operation.

Many of the survivors were suffering from gas poisoning, supporting reports security forces had pumped knock-out fumes into the theatre before staging their morning attack.

Officials say that troops forced their way into the theatre after rebels, some with explosives wrapped around them, executed two male hostages to press their demand that Russia pull its troops out of their separatist southern homeland.

A woman hostage had also been shot dead earlier in the siege while trying to escape.

The end of the drama, which brought the distant Chechen war to the heart of Moscow, will be a relief to President Vladimir Putin whose own position was being tested by the crisis.

He called at one of Moscow's top hospitals to visit survivors for about 10 minutes before being whisked away in his motorcade.

Officials gave no more details of the dead hostages but Australian and British diplomats said they had been told none of the esti-

mated 75 foreign captives were among them.

GAS POISONING

A doctor from Moscow's main emergency hospital, Sklifosovsky, said he was treating 42 patients for gas poisoning.

The guerrilla commander, Movsar Barayev, was among those killed in an assault that Russia's deputy interior minister said had prevented a massacre of those seized while watching a popular Russian musical on Wednesday evening.

The theatre-goers, enjoying a new Moscow craze for musicals and guzzling caviar and Russian champagne, had been watching "Nord-Ost" (North-East) — about a Russian Arctic explorer.

By Saturday morning, the plush theatre seats were empty except for a few black-clad bodies of dead Chechen guerrillas.

"We succeeded in preventing mass deaths and the collapse of the building which we had been threatened with," Vasilyev told reporters as ambulances took away survivors of the ordeal.

In freezing rain, the hostages were ferried quickly out of the theatre, many to hospital and away from waiting journalists.

The Muslim rebels, who had rigged up explosives throughout the building, had threatened to start killing their hostages early on Saturday if they did not see evidence their demands that Moscow's troops pull out of Chechnya were being met.

Some relatives of hostages said they had been terrified when they knew troops would storm the theatre to end the siege.

"All the parents were of the same opinion that the storming would be absolutely unacceptable. It's like a mystery, like a miracle for us. We were amazed that this could happen like this, without (many) casualties," said the father of one girl who had been among the hostages, and who survived.

TEST FOR PUTIN

The guerrillas' daring raid had set Putin the toughest test of his two and a half years in the Kremlin.

His startling rise to the presidency was largely based on his sending troops back into Chechnya in 1999 after a three-year absence, a popular move which earned him a reputation as a tough and effective leader.

Humiliated by the audacious rebel attack, Putin went on national television on Friday evening to say he was open to talks with Chechen guerrillas, but under his terms.

"We are open to any kind of contacts," a sombre Putin said in his second set of televised comments since the attack.

He insisted that past conditions stood, notably that separatists lay down their weapons. Moscow also rejects any idea of independence for Chechnya, which Russian troops first invaded to crush a separatist movement in December 1994.

Some analysts have said that the siege would almost certainly tarnish his position, if only for showing that the law-and-order regime he promised was not very effective if a band of heavily armed guerrillas could so

easily take over a crowded building in the capital.

But one bystander, Igor Konstantinov, in his 60s, was in no doubt about what he thought.

"Putin has only one choice. (U.S. President George W.) Bush showed the world what to do with these bastards after September 11. It's Putin's turn to liquidate them in Russia."

Putin links Russia's conflict in Chechnya to the U.S.-led global war on terrorism, which he enthusiastically backed after last year's September 11 attacks on the United States.

QUESTIONS OVER CHECHNYA

The siege and its closeness to the heart of Russia is certain to raise new questions over how the Kremlin should deal with the protracted secessionist war in the tiny North Caucasus region.

Though Putin won over voters with his hardline approach,



Russian President Vladimir Putin reacts after hearing the news on hostages release. REUTERS



Russian special forces remove bodies from a theatre where Chechen guerrillas were holding hundreds captive. REUTERS



A TV grab shows the body of Chechen commander Movsar Barayev inside a Moscow theatre after Russian special forces stormed it, October 26. REUTERS



File TV image from Russian television network NTV shows Chechen gunmen, including leader Movsar Barayev (R), sitting inside a Moscow theatre late October 24. REUTERS

many question whether it is succeeding and point to a series of humiliations of the military by Chechen rebels in recent months.

But one analyst, speaking before the siege was over, feared that what he had seen as glimmers of hope for a change in Kremlin policy to seek a political, rather than military solution, could have now been snuffed out for theatre attack.

Russian Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov was quoted by local news agencies as saying over 30 people "who tried to help the terrorists" had been detained in locations across Moscow.

But he was also quoted as saying he had ordered his ministry to take measures to prevent any upsurge of anti-Chechen feelings in all parts of Russia.

U.S. seeks China backing on Iraq

CRAWFORD, Texas/WASHINGTON, Oct 26 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush sought Chinese President Jiang Zemin's backing for a new U.N. resolution demanding Iraqi disarmament, while France and Russia unveiled rival measures aimed at averting military action against Iraq.

Opponents of a possible U.S. war against Iraq planned to stage mass protests on Saturday in Washington, San Francisco and other cities around the world. Organizers expressed hope that 100,000 people would turn out in the U.S. capital.

Jiang met with Bush on Friday at the president's ranch in Crawford, Texas. A senior Bush administration official said after the meeting that the two leaders discussed "fairly thoroughly" the U.S. quest to force Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to give up biological, chemical and nuclear arms.

"China supports Iraq's strict compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions," Bush said after he and Jiang held formal talks for about an hour, lunched together and took a tour of Bush's

Prairie Chapel ranch in a white pickup truck.

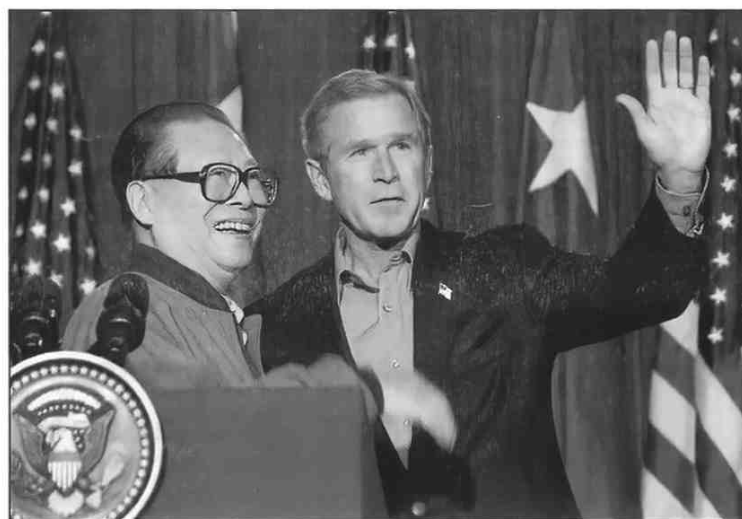
"And today ... I urged President Jiang to support a new Security Council resolution demanding Iraq fully disarm itself of weapons of mass destruction."

But the Chinese president was non-committal, while China's ambassador to the United Nations voiced reservations about some of the wording of the U.S. resolution.

The proposed U.S. resolution before the 15-nation Security Council would give U.N. arms inspectors far-reaching rights and privileges in uncovering weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

It also would declare Iraq in "material breach" of existing U.N. resolutions and would warn Iraq of "serious consequences" if it thwarts U.N. weapons inspections — language Russia and France fear that the United States could interpret as a trigger for military action. Bush has stated that his goal is "regime change" in Iraq — in other words, ousting Saddam.

China, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council along with the



United States President George W. Bush waves as he stands with Peoples Republic of China President Jiang Zemin after the two gave statements to the press following their meeting at Bush's ranch in Crawford, October 25. REUTERS

United States, Russia, France and Britain, possesses the power of veto. China is widely expected to abstain, but the United States wants to secure as much support as possible.

"It is no secret that we are looking for

China to be cooperative in the U.N. Security Council," the senior official told reporters.

Bush said the resolution "must be one which does the job of holding Saddam Hussein to account."

Serbs in focus as Kosovo holds third post-war poll

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Kosovo voted on Saturday in its third election since the 1999 conflict, but many Serbs may boycott the municipal poll in protest at their difficult living conditions.

Western officials hope the vote will help strengthen peace in the U.N.-governed Yugoslav province, whose majority Albanians and minority Serbs remain bitterly divided more than three years after the Kosovo conflict ended.

They have urged Serbs in particular to vote, telling them that the best chance to improve their situation is to engage in political life with other groups, gradually taking over local powers from the post-war U.N.-led administration.

Kosovo's future status has yet to be determined. Its Albanians are united in demanding independence, while Serbs insist the province is and will always remain part of Serbia.

The election of councillors to manage everyday issues like schools and roads in 30 municipalities is seen as a

key step for U.N.-led efforts to foster normal life and reconciliation in the impoverished and landlocked territory.

Among Albanians, it will be a test of strength for rival parties led by veteran pacifist Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova and ex-guerrilla chief Hashim Thaci.

KOSOVO ALBANIANS QUEUE TO VOTE

"I came to vote for a better life, but this is also a step towards independence for Kosovo," said Halil Maloku, 62, as he cast his ballot in a school in the provincial capital Pristina.

Other Kosovo Albanians queuing to vote said they hoped new local authorities would do more to create badly-needed jobs.

In contrast, few people voted in the morning in the predominantly Serb area of the flashpoint town of Mitrovica.

More than 1.3 million people are registered to vote, including 120,000 living outside Kosovo, mainly displaced Serbs.

U.S. protesters hope rally will stop Iraq war

WASHINGTON, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Protesters hope as many as 100,000 people will converge on the U.S. capital on Saturday to demonstrate against a possible U.S. attack on Iraq.

Demonstrators from as far as Chicago and Minnesota will come to Washington, many by bus, to gather by the Vietnam war memorial on the Mall and then march to the White House.

Speakers will include civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

"There is incredible momentum against (President George W.) Bush, that will culminate in a massive outpouring that we hope will be big enough to challenge and stop war plans against Iraq," said Tony Murphy, one of the protest's organizers.

"This has the potential to be as strong

a movement as that against the Vietnam war in the 1960s," Murphy said, adding that the march will include as many as 100,000 students, veterans and union members from across the country.

A tandem demonstration — expected to be equal in size to the gathering in the nation's capital — will take place in San Francisco on Saturday.

In the late 1960s, with the country mired in a costly campaign to fight communism in Vietnam, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators gathered in major cities to demonstrate against the war.

The anti-war movement today is a far cry from what it was in its 1960s heyday. But protests have already taken place across the country.

Protesters will call upon the U.S.

government to abandon war plans against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and spend the \$200 billion the campaign would cost on social programs in the United States.

They will also ask that sanctions imposed on the Middle Eastern nation

after the Gulf War in 1991 be lifted, as these were blamed by protesters and groups such as UNICEF for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians. "(The sanctions) represent the true weapon of mass destruction," Murphy said.

أفراح «آل الحرازي»
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بمناسبة زفافه الميمون، فألف مبروك، وعقبه للذرية الطالقة...
م/نبيل القوسي، احمد على صالح، امين المدحجي، محمد
وهيب، عبد الرقيب على الله، نبيل لقمان، محمد الجنيدي، عبد
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YT Business



The Road Ahead

Customers for life

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
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It costs five times as much to get a new customer as it does to keep an existing one. On this premise, the concept of relationship marketing came into existence. It is all about building a relationship with your prospects and listening to their needs. Once you've built that relationship, shown your care, and earned their trust, you are on the road to making them customers for life.

The basis for establishing any relationship, whether it is personal or purely business, is dialogue. Relationships can't exist without it. Depending on how good your dialogue is, and how well you create opportunities for meaningful contacts, your customers can be loyal, and your friends.

Relationship marketing, however, is more than just making friends. It's about getting life-long business. A good salesman should know how to approach a prospect and make him a customer for life. With a low-pressure, honest and will-always-be-there manner, the business can earn customer loyalty.

Another perk of establishing good relationships with customers is that they will refer their friends and associates to you. Referrals are like personal endorsements about the business and its services. By the time a referral calls you, he's already partially sold to you, which makes the sale easier.

Consider a young man of some 20-years-old who opens his first bank account. As he is in the early stage of his career, he is likely to work for another 35 years, which is a lot of time. The important thing for the marketer to remember is the longer this man continues to use the same bank, the more profitable it is to have him as a customer. You never know what your customer could be tomorrow. Maybe he'll become the manager of a large organization with resources, savings and influence. Who knows?

The important question to ask is, how do you get him to be your customer for years on end and not lose him before his prime earning and saving days? That is done through keeping and maintaining contact with your customers. If a customer is neglected, he might be forced to turn to your competitor who might have been contacting him to get the business. And if that happens you might lose a valuable customer.

A good customer relationship management system can help in retaining customers by looking after their different needs, and facilitating whatever is possible in order to ensure their satisfaction. It also helps to communicate complaints from the customers, and rectify any errors that might take place.

Endnote: Customers are too valuable. Businesses should establish good relationships with them and maintain contact and be always accessible to them, maybe with the help of a customer relationship management system. Otherwise you might lose them to competitors.

Rural girls benefit greatly

Private schools get high marks

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A question that is repeatedly asked in Yemen is, why does the private sector have such a wide-range of opportunity to shape the mentality of future Yemeni generations? People also wonder whether investment in education is successful as a commercial business, both economically and socially.

One would wonder how the idea of using private sector funds for education started.

To answer, some sources at the ministry of education told us that the World Bank has been the one to take the initiative to submit the idea of expanding education as part of a project in conjunction with the ministry.

The project aims at extending education to rural areas where girls are not granted the opportunity of attending even primary school education.

Its other objectives are to carry out of a strategy for developing qualitative education, modernize curricula, qualify teachers, build effective administrations and provide a convenient educational environment.

Need modern ways in planning

At this stage the need has emerged for engaging private sector and local societies to contribute in building and running schools. The ministry's task is to modernize statistical information and to follow modern ways in planning and programming.

Thus, many large-scale investive projects have been made available for the private sector in the field of erecting educational projects in rural areas.

Hundreds of the unemployed have in them many opportunities providing them with financial resources. Investing programs in education has also encouraged girls to enroll and attend primary schools.

Business opportunities

Educational sources have further said this investment project has created yet other opportunities for businessmen to invest in this field, especially in building educational facilities in the governorates of Sana'a, Mahweet, Amran and Dhale.

Investment programs in education also includes building a number of projects by using suitable architectural designs, service utilities, and provision of furniture and school equipment. Studies on economic feasibility indicate that there are many groups of educational projects still in need of investors.

Some criticize

Some would criticize private sector schools and universities. They say they have harmed the reputation of the educational process and do not abide by

regulations that allow the public sector to run schools. They argue that the educational operation has been focusing on the goal of gaining high profits with disregard of requirements of the present stage that needs concentration on science and knowledge made available for a generation destined to direct and lead the society.

Government wants investment

The government does therefore encourage investment in education for implementing construction works of educational projects and controlling

private sector educational output that has led to an increase in number of graduates against a decrease in job opportunities and deterioration of people's living conditions.

Reduce poverty

To deal with this, the ministry of education has drawn up investment plans to support progress of basic education, attract businessmen to implement construction projects as being deemed new opportunities, and help reduce poverty through employment of thousands of unemployed workers.



Yemeni school girls: among the benefactors of private education.

The UNDP is a lifeline

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

For Yemen, the United Nations Development Program is like the gift that keeps on giving.

For example, as the country prepares for 2003 elections, UNDP has given \$2.9 million to Yemen's Elections Supreme Committee to help modernize technical means covering the various stages of the electoral process.

This helps Yemen to implement an electoral process with simple procedures and adds no cost to voters, but rather urges them to participate in the elections.

The UNDP funds a number of development, service and social projects in addition to its care for offering technical consultation and expertise necessary in the field of sustainable human development.

UNDP activities in Yemen take various forms. One priority activity pro-

grams reducing poverty. UNDP has given US \$889,000 for financing a project on sustainable human development implemented by the Yemeni ministry of planning and development. The project concentrates on reducing poverty in Yemen and paying attention to females education proceeding from its humanitarian activities. UNDP does in fact put Yemen among the priorities of its activities in the Arab countries.

Another part of UNDP activities in Yemen is reforming the judiciary. The Program has therefore allocated US \$ 1.8 million over three years to modernize and reform the conditions of courts. The program extends help in reforming judicial situations as part of serving areas of development and reform of judgments on trade issues. Such reforms are very important for deciding issues related to trade and investment disputes that usually take longer time to be settled, and consequently cause delay in finishing investment projects.

The project also raises awareness of Yemeni judicial laws as well as legislation pertaining to the improvement of court performance. The project plans to establish two exemplary courts; one in Sana'a and the other in Aden.

Reforming courts in other governorates would be implemented in the light of results achieved in Sana'a and Aden. It is expected and hoped that the project would yield positive results in solving trade and social problems and help relieve suffering of the citizens due to delays in settling such disputes.

UNDP's project on reforming the judiciary and courts has welcomed in business circles, where there is concern about the slowness in resolving their problems at trade courts.

Many of the Yemeni expatriate delegations have filed complaints with the 2nd Yemeni Expatriates Conference held in Sana'a last September on hindrances in implementation of their projects, owing to differences with land owners, and the courts could not decide those disputes quickly.

Works with Ministry of Planning

The UNDP has also contributed to supporting Yemen's poverty reducing strategy. It has offered its experience in this field through activities organized by the ministry of planning.

Understanding the problems from which Yemen is suffering has made the UNDP at the forefront of the international organizations and bodies, working in this country, carrying out their activities and programs. We are here to confirm that the UNDP shoulders a big part of Yemenis suffering, and it is thus embodies admirable aims, paying much attention to human development in a developing country in need of international assistance.

A consistent friend

Germany offers more aid

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen continues to be the benefactor of generous financial aid from Germany.

As part of the German government's program to reduce poverty in the Third World, this year it will give Yemen DM 75 million, compared to DM 45 million last year.

The German government has also increased its aid to Yemen by adding DM 300 million for future projects to reduce poverty. Projects supported by Germany focus on health, drinking water, sewage systems and development for women and children.

The projects also cover vocational education because of its close relation to the development of the workforce, improvement of the workforce's skills and training of development specialists.

Extending care to vocational education is expected to result in growth of the Yemeni labor market by providing a workforce capable of handling skills of the free market.

It's hoped that vocational education will help cut unemployment, from about 38 per cent, currently, to 22% by 2005.

This could be realized through employment of professionals in industrial fields. Germany's cooperation with Yemen has a direct relationship to the improvement of social services.

A number of German institutions are offering their technical support for the implementation of projects and expertise necessary for fighting poverty to 2015. The most important German establishments working in Yemen are:

- Technical Cooperation Establishment, GTZ,
- German Development Establishment, DED,
- Construction Bank,
- Program on fighting poverty in the world

These institutions hold workshops related to developing worker skills, implementation of social projects, reproductive health and women's health care.

German institutions have taken part in meetings of the International Conference on Poverty recently held in Sana'a, attended by Bolivia, Mozambique, Vietnam and Yemen, as well as some international organizations.

In response to a call by the UN to fight poverty in Yemen, the German institutions sent detailed plans of the German government's program, and how Yemen would benefit.

Germany's support for Yemen is among the most important assistance the donor countries offer in return for trade cooperation, that is still limited despite the availability of opportunities for increasing German exports to Yemeni markets, and exporting more Yemeni products to the German market.

Exchange of visits by officials from the two countries, and agreements have been made to establish more partnerships among Yemeni and German businessmen.

Still, the events of September 11 in the United States have slowed the flow of some German capitals to Yemen through, for example, tourism. Fewer German tourists are visiting Yemen.

This situation should urge the Council for Tourist Promotion to draw up a program inside the German tourist market in a bid to restore confidence in Yemen and its tourist landmarks.

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Words of Wisdom



Most of the people who run Yemen's public affairs today, notably the tribal leaders, have failed to see the value of Western education for their children. Most senior people in today's power structure are busy making money and expanding their influence. In the process, they enlisted their children in their conquests. Thus they failed to prepare their offsprings for a different tomorrow. They are oblivious to the changing world. I was discussing this shortcoming on the part of the ruling folks in training their children with a foreigner who knows the insides of this place. "You know they resemble frogs swimming in a deep well. They don't see what is outside the well," he explained. How accurate!

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



OUR OPINION

Yemen's natural place in the GCC

During my most recent visit to Kuwait last week, I came to a conclusion about how the government and people of Kuwait feel about the status of Yemen the Gulf Coordination Council (GCC). Kuwaitis believe that Yemen's natural place is in the GCC for many reasons, including Yemen's geographical location and population. If Yemen joins the GCC, virtually the whole Arabian Peninsula would be united, sharing common social, economical, and political goals.

There would be mutual benefit for all countries in the region if Yemen joins the GCC. On the other hand, there could be dangerous consequences if it is isolated. If we look carefully at the situation in Yemen, and analyze its historical links to the Gulf, we see a significant portion of the Yemeni population depended for many years on businesses and expatriates in the Gulf. There was hardly a Kuwaiti I met who did not know a Yemeni living in the city.

This harmony continued normally and served all parties well until the Gulf crisis in 1990.

Aid coming from Gulf countries, especially Kuwait, was vital for many of our country's developmental projects. None of the Gulf countries saw this aid as too much. As a matter of fact, some say more could have been given because they knew that Yemen needed this assistance to raise its standard of living.

The Yemeni market continues to be one of the greatest markets for Gulf products, especially those produced in Saudi Arabia. The significant growth in population in Yemen and its geographical location also makes it of tremendous value to Gulf countries. It secures a cheap and efficient labor force.

It's also important to note that Gulf citizens believe Yemenis are among the most honest and hard working laborers they know.

So we can only conclude that Yemen's place is among its neighbors, to share their worries and happy moments, to accompany them through the tough times, and good times, and to build a future together.

This is an era of alliances and unions. Unless we form a union with our own Gulf neighbors, we will not be able to compete regionally or internationally in any arena. This is why I feel that the GCC needs Yemen and Yemen needs the GCC.

During my meeting with the parliamentary speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly, I saw he is quite optimistic that the future holds good potential for excellent cooperation between Yemen and all Gulf members. I am optimistic too. All we need to do now is to join hands and work toward a brighter GCC that includes Yemen as a growing and developing member.

The Editor

The Arab-Mulsim world

We need to change



MOHAMMED HATEM AL-QADHI
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Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the USA there has been much talk about the causes of terrorism. The US has left no stone unturned to find the roots. What are the motives of bin Laden and his fellows to do such horror in the US, and are they ready to do it somewhere else?

I believe that one of the drives of terrorism is the oppression, tyranny and lack of democracy in Arab and Muslim countries. The political regimes in the Arab and Islamic world have been ruling their countries for decades with an iron grip. They have controlled things with cronies, and channeled revenues of their nations into their own pockets.

The latest UN Human Development Report about Arab countries show how we are lagging behind in everything. We are amongst the poorest countries of the world. This sort of oppression on the part of the rulers has frustrated the people, and it has become very

easy for some to turn to terrorism. To drive the public away from their own interests and concern of developing their countries, these political regimes have created enemies for the public, even if they are not real. They have pushed them to believe that we have the Kufar as our enemies and these Kufar are working day and night to destroy Islam and Muslims and that we should work hard to destroy them. These views have made people believe we are in hostility with Europeans and Americans and non-Muslims in general. Our education curricula and mosques, which are very effective, have pushed forward such beliefs.

All these elements have encouraged the creation of terrorists who believe in violence as a sole means for changing the world. In other words, terrorists are a creation of the political regimes. They should be held accountable for this. Even if they did not mean it, their acts have brought about this sort of people.

Therefore, change starts with these systems which should become democratic and transparent. If the US wants to help uproot terrorism from the Arab and Muslim countries, it should push forward the introduction of democracy into such countries. If these countries

enjoy true democracy, they would accordingly have transparent systems that allows the public to hold the government accountable for any misdeeds.

In this way, people will have chance to participate in development, enabling them to monitor the job of the governments. This will lessen the corruption in all these countries. The amount of money that is being pocketed under the lack of accountability will go to a democratic system, and to development projects which can alleviate poverty.

Besides, we should work hard to correct our mistaken concepts about religion and non-Muslims. We should start with a new school curricula that encourages dialogue with other nations. We should learn how to respect different opinions of others.

And this must begin with the rulers themselves, who are not able and have not learned to listen to others and accept their views. We need democratic systems that believe in practical democracy, not take it only as a mere slogan to show off or tell others that "we are democratic".

Therefore, the change of these political regimes has become a must. Either they change themselves, or they should leave their posts of power.

2003 elections may be tight in two heated districts

Mareb and Jawf: Fertile political ground



HASSAN AZAIDI

Observers view some Islamic groups who started their activities in parts of Yemen in the early 1980s as dangerous, particularly in light of political changes Yemen has witnessed after unification, and the conflict between national and socialist trends.

Mareb governorate and Jawf are two territories where these groups are active, at a time when the world witnesses border demarcation with Saudi Arabia, which is the origin of these Islamic groups.

The Islamic groups in Jawf expand-

ed their existence in the region due to the conditions of the remote tribal community, and its capacity to take in religious sermons. Further, some of these Islamic leaders started to integrate their political arrangement with Islah "the brothers trend" considering it as the political group closest to their thinking.

Thus, they started to address communities under the name of missionary and religious work and they benefited most from the political conditions supporting Islah candidates to win the elections in 1997.

In Mareb, Islah got a little support when electoral constituencies were divided equally between it and GPC and Socialist party. However, in the 1997 elections, the competition between the main two parties Islah and GPC resulted in the win of Islah in the

two constituencies (300-301).

It is evident that the Islamic groups in which Mareb and Jawf are its center, are witnessing serious challenges in the upcoming elections of 2003. The GPC has strong candidates and the support of the armed forces.

But through our observations of their political activities and religious work, it is expected that they will exert efforts to confront this political trend. There is pressure on these groups to employ all the tactics from social leaders who receive their support from Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the GPC is insisting to win back these two governorates. The GPC is fully recognizing the seriousness of the Islamic trend in these two governorates, which has a wide base of tribal support. It also recognizes the potential that creates for violence.

Responding to:

'Has U.S. learned a lesson?'

By ALLYN CEE
AllynCee70@msn.com

Point 1: "Why do they hate us". There are only a few people in the US that wonder why the terrorists hate us. Most of us really don't care. We might be curious but certainly not lamenting the fact. We know who and what the fanatics are all about. We have seen them (Hitler, Stalin, Communists), and have read about them in history books - going all the way back to early Christian, Islamic, Mongolian history. The leaders are "power mad" and use the misfits of their population to militantly act as their surrogates. The troops and innocent civilians are sacrificed in order to reach their goal of domination of others.

Fanatics
Currently your Islamic Fundamentalist fanatics are using the Muslim population to achieve their goal of Islamic domination and destruction of the Christian, Hindu, Sinic, and Jewish religions. To accomplish this goal, they singled out Israel and America as the hated enemy.

What is hate? In spite of what the Islamic world thinks, says, and does against America, we don't hate you. We see your poverty and misery. How could we hate? We can pity, we can feel somewhat sorry for the people whose government has led them to these miserable conditions, but it's YOUR problem. We had nothing to

do with it. Actually, we have tried to help "the people" with massive foreign aid over decades, but unfortunately in the Middle East and other parts of the world where we have tried to financially help, your governments have been corrupted by greedy leaders. Our financial support has ended up in Swiss Bank accounts.

Rubbish
Which brings me to point 2: You state that America violates the freedom and quality of life for all people. What rubbish! In 1991 we saved the "behinds" of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and probably a good portion of the Middle East from a man who used gas, and biological weapons on his own people and probably the Iranians. In World War II, we were attacked by the Japanese and the helped Japan attain the second largest economy in the world. Germany was reconstructed with the assistance of America to become the largest economy in Europe. Had not we stopped Russia during the Cold War, Communism would have drastically changed the face of the entire world.

Ignorant
Point 3: Americans are not are not opposing or resisting our government's strategy regarding Iraq. You blame the Republicans. Here you are ignorant of the facts. You read a newspaper article and assume that the country is divided between political parties. Forget about political parties - it is the nature of politics for one party to oppose the other. It is the people of

the country who determine the actions of the nation. We have a democracy - operating as a secular government not a religious government.

Bombs go both ways

Point 4: The USA expresses full support to Israel that increasingly bombs, destroys, and kills innocent civilians in occupied territories. You would have to be completely crazy not to expect Israel to retaliate against the "increasing bombing, destruction, and the killing of innocent civilians" the fanatical Islamic militants have done the same killing against Israel. After sending children to blow themselves up in order to "kill Jews", the cowardly adults run and hide in the camps among civilians in order to escape retaliation. If you did that to me, there would not be a building standing and a person to be seen for miles from the Israeli border.

Be a partner

I think it is time that the Islamic world, and particularly the Middle East, starts behaving in a manner that is recognized by the civilized world as being a partner in this world. Renounce your perceived resentments and concentrate on building a society that can co-exist with other nations and religions. The people will have a greater opportunity for improving their standard of living. You should modernize. It would be wrong for you to Westernize. You retain your culture, yet you establish a respectful communication with your trading partners.

COMMON SENSE



Hassan Al-Haifi

Breaking from the past

"How can we ever hope to progress? Look at the Muslim World today. Most Muslim countries in general, and Arab countries in particular are lagging behind in development and are suffering from all the social ills that the modern age can bring upon societies in leaps and bounds. I am not sure if there is anyway we can claim any pride in being Muslims, if we are unable to solve the most minute of problems, let alone the of complications that Muslims are suffering from these days," said 'Antar to his wife as she sat to watch the news bulletin with her husband, after she finished putting their youngsters to sleep. She wanted to tell her husband the real cause of the calamities that most Muslim states face: Look 'Antar, the West and the international Zionist establishment are systematically causing all the demise we see in the Muslem World! The challenges they are creating for Muslims of the world are insurmountable!"

Wanting solutions
'Antar was not looking for excuses, he wanted to find solutions to the setbacks that Moslems are enduring almost continuously: "I am not going to console myself or justify the pathetic state of the Muslem World by getting bogged down in any conspiracy theories. That is really escaping from the truth. The real cause of our sad predicament lies much closer at home. With the all the wisdom, prudence and down to earth logic and reason that Islam entails, Muslims seem to be the farthest people on Earth from finding sensible solutions to any problem. Furthermore, even if we can assume that our enemies are partly responsible for our sorry state, do you think that if we were acting as *Islam would want us to act and behave*, our "enemies" could do any of all that the conspiracy theorists and "strategic experts" seem to have pleasure in alluding?"

"Then, what do you see as the cause of our predicament?", asked Manal.
"I am not going to get bogged down in history, but the real truth is that Muslims gradually slipped away from comprehending and applying Islam, as the Prophet Mohammed and his early *righteous* followers (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all) conceptually saw Islam and applied it, without having any misunderstandings or conflict, and they had an unbreakable sense of affinity", explained 'Antar.
"So, you want us to go back to the way of life of our predecessors, is that it?" Asked Manal.

The past?
'Antar had the answer, quickly: "Manal, Islam came as a dynamic force that brought change to all forms of stagnant or reactionary intellectual misconceptions. On the contrary, I see most Muslims, misguided by the notion that the only way to be good Muslims is to live immersed in the past. These skeptics do not realize that time is a dimension that demands change, if we were to survive as an effective dynamic element in the progress of human civilization.

I have come to believe very strongly that those Muslims, who continue to cling on to the past are gradually pushing themselves, and dragging most Muslims with them, out of a world that is rapidly changing at an accelerated pace. The past, is just that - the past. It is over and done with. Unless we begin to break away from such incongruent reactionary thought, we will all be no more than an element of the past in due time. You see, our great Muslim forefathers were only able to reach such great feats of glory for the nation, in a relatively short time, because *they broke away from the past*. They insisted that they must take the initiative to bring the world to the height of human development and cultural achievement.

In the meantime most of the rest of the world at that time was clinging to archaic, repressive and stagnant political, cultural, religious and social orders, that were no match for the dynamic, open minded and progressive social order that Islam *very clearly laid out*. Moreover, Muslims at the grassroots level fully understood what Islam meant for them, as human beings. To them, Islam was foremost the guarantor of their human rights, and dignity. They upheld its social dictates, with the understanding of justice, equity and religious pride that Islam truly entails. History is full of evidence that shows Moslems, acting with the highest sense of mercy and tolerance, even when dealing with their enemies, let alone among themselves.

Curiosity
Moreover, there was the respect Muslims had for knowledge and intellectual curiosity. It was this that helped mankind shed off a lot of the archaic superstitious religious and social orders that prevailed in most of the world. When non-Moslems caught on to some of the key fundamentals of progressive Islamic thought, they refined themselves accordingly. The result was that they took away everything from us, including our dignity. In the meantime, we Moslems slowly sunk into the abyss of stagnation of intellectual capacity. Our Muslim leaders and self made religious patriarchal orders ("which they started", as the Quran aptly pointed out) saw the love affair with the past as the gateway to keeping their tight hold on their brethren. By maintaining menacing archaic social orders, they took away all the freedom, liberty and rights that Islam truly upheld for the believers (and `all of mankind) - the number one antithesis of Islam".



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American 'empire' faces new challenges

By PATRICK SEALE
GULF NEWS

For the past dozen years, ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world has been dominated by a single superpower - the United States. Backed by overwhelming military force - and a stupendous military budget of close to \$400 billion a year - the US has sought, and largely secured, global hegemony.

Today, the 'world order' is an American order. Contemplating the international scene, American intellectuals speak of a new 'American imperium', more powerful and extensive than the Roman or British empires of the past.

America wants to reign supreme over a 'unipolar' world. Indeed, a declared aim of President George W Bush's security doctrine, unveiled last month, is to prevent the emergence of any potential rival - whether China, Russia, the European Union, or any other state or combination of states.

National interests

The U.S. wants to be absolutely free to defend its national interests (and those of its Israeli ally) by unilateral action, by preventive or preemptive war if necessary, unrestrained by international law or existing treaties, and with little regard for the sovereignty or interests of lesser states.

In the meantime, the U.S. has declared war on the nebulous worldwide network of Islamic militants which, after September 11, it sees as the most immediate threat to both its security and its supremacy.

But something strange has happened. Over the past six weeks, the almighty United States has failed to get its way. Having declared its intention to overthrow the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein (which it portrayed on scant evidence as a threat to the entire 'civilised world') it prepared to take military action against Baghdad.

It was then persuaded, by its British ally among others, to seek some sort of international legitimacy for its war

by means of a new Security Council Resolution.

This is where the problem has arisen. For the past six weeks, in spite of repeated expressions of impatience, naked bullying, economic blackmail, and threats to go it alone, the U.S. has so far failed to secure the resolution it wanted.

Instead, it has had to endure endless wrangling in the Security Council over the wording of the proposed resolution. Any words which could be interpreted as giving the U.S. an automatic right to attack, in the event of Iraqi obstruction of the arms inspectors, have been removed.

At the same time, U.S. efforts to impose draconian arms-inspection terms (which Iraq would almost certainly have rejected) have been watered down.

As the bargaining at the Security Council drags on, the U.S. has been made to appear more petulant than powerful.

The opposition to U.S. demands has been led by France, with some support from Russia. Whether at the UN or at the recent Francophone summit in Beirut, whether over Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict or the civil war in the Ivory Coast, French diplomacy has captured the headlines, with President Jacques Chirac emerging as a star performer.

American assault

Of course, no one can yet claim that an American assault on Iraq has been averted. War still looks inevitable. In fact, U.S. military preparations are gathering pace: half-a-dozen U.S. carrier battle groups are heading for the region, with some 350 combat aircraft on board; war materiel is pouring in; and some 60,000 U.S. troops are already in place. As a Washington source put it bluntly this week, 'The choices are war with UN cover, or war without UN cover!'

But France has created a pause during which opposition to the war has been able to grow, inside America as well as throughout the world. Chirac can claim with some justice to have somewhat dampened America's war fever.

A dent has been made in America's vision of a 'unipolar' world. Hopes have been raised, although as yet very faint, that a more balanced 'bi-polar' international order might eventually re-emerge.

Certainly, France seems to be proposing an alternative vision, perhaps even an alternative model, to that of the United States.

In contrast to America's message of global hegemony backed by military force, the message from Paris is the need for dialogue, for cultural and political diversity, for respect for human rights, for the peaceful resolution of disputes, for multilateral rather than unilateral action, for international solidarity with the weak and the poor, and above all for the strict application of the law.

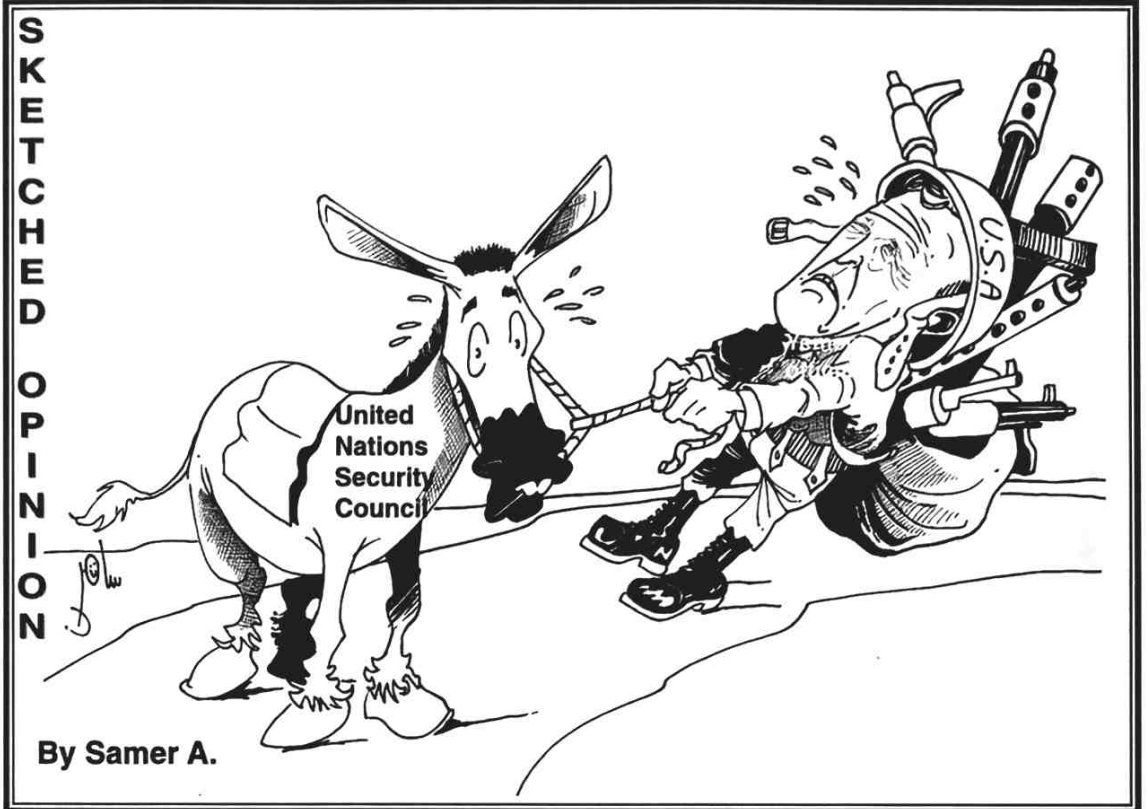
Need for settlement

While Chirac in Beirut stressed the need to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict on a basis of law and justice and paid tribute to the peace plan of Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, George Bush in Washington was promising Ariel Sharon that Israel would get advance warning of an American attack on Iraq and that the U.S. would protect Israel against any Iraqi missile strikes against it!

According to some reports, Bush also pledged to retaliate against Hezbollah, Syria and Iran if any of them dared attack Israel. To cap it all, Israel is said to be seeking \$10 billion in additional U.S. aid to help it surmount its current 'difficulties'. Little wonder that Sharon has been able to claim that U.S.-Israeli relations have never been closer.

Sharon takes American money and American weapons for his colonial war against the Palestinians, but dismisses the peace plans which Washington, tentatively and timidly, puts forward from time to time.

Asked about Bush's 'Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution', Sharon's contemptuous comment (according to William Safire in The New York Times of October 21) was: 'It's six pages in small letters and I haven't read it yet.' This is America's strategic ally in the region!



By Samer A.

Effective counterweight

If the European Union and Russia were to combine their diplomatic efforts, they could create an effective counterweight to the United States, as has been demonstrated by the debates in the Security Council these past few weeks. But, as everyone knows, the EU is far from united. Shamefully, the odd-man-out is the United Kingdom.

Although no British interest would be served by attacking Iraq, Prime Minister Tony Blair, reckless of his own political future as well as the safety of his citizens, and in the teeth of opposition from much of his own Labour party, is calling for war as belligerently as Bush himself.

Meanwhile, his lightweight foreign secretary, Jack Straw, parrots the tired clichés of 'rogue states' and 'failed states' and 'threats to the civilised world' invented by American pro-Israeli lobbyists.

Was it 'civilised', one might ask, for Britain and the United States to fire over 300 tonnes of depleted uranium at Iraq during the Gulf War, in the form of coating for rounds and shells, and then deny Iraq the drugs and other vital medical equipment to deal with the horrific ravages of cancer which followed, mainly in young children?

At a summit in Brussels this week-end, European leaders will seek to reach agreement over the future financing of the EU which next year is due to grow from 15 to 25 members, with a combined population of over 450 million.

The new members will be Poland (population 38.6million), the Czech Republic (10.3million), Hungary (10million), Slovakia (5.4million), Lithuania (3.7million), Latvia (2.4million) Slovenia (2.), Estonia (1.4million), Cyprus (79,000), and Malta (393,000). Two other countries, Romania and Bulgaria, are likely to join in 2007, while Turkey is also knocking at the European door.

To finance the economic development of the new member countries and bring them up to West European levels, painful compromises will have to be reached. Britain will have to give up part of the rebate of its contribution to the EU budget which Margaret Thatcher secured when she was Prime Minister. France will have to accept a cut back in EU subsidies to French farmers.

But the crucial point is that Europe is moving steadily forward towards greater unity, and is making great efforts to forge a common security and foreign policy. Reconciling the

national interests of so many countries, large and small, is not an easy task.

But the reward will be greater power and influence for Europe in world affairs. A bi-polar world is on the horizon, able one day to stand up to America's imperial ambitions.

What is missing in this reorganisation of the affairs of the planet is a clear role for Arabs and Muslims. They too need to become a coherent force in the world, able to flex their political, economic and ideological muscles. But, for the moment, no such coherence is in sight.

Instead, the overwhelming impression is of Arab divisions and contradictions, with several countries, mainly in the Gulf, siding with the United States in its planned aggression against Iraq.

One wonders when Arab and Muslim leaders will defend their interests themselves, rather than waiting for Jacques Chirac or Chancellor Gerhard Schröder (who has categorically ruled out German participation in any American 'adventure' in Iraq), to do it for them.

Patrick Seale is a commentator and author of several books on the Middle East.

Many Shiite opponents of regime are freed

Saddam empties his jails

RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN
THE WASHINGTON POST

President Saddam Hussein announced Sunday an amnesty for most of the country's prisoners, setting free tens of thousands of convicts, including political dissidents, in an effort to bolster domestic and international support in his confrontation with the United States.

Moments after the amnesty decree was read on state television Sunday morning, the authorities threw open the gates of the country's most notorious prison, the high-security Abu Gharib complex on the outskirts of Baghdad, allowing several thousand dazed and scruffy men to walk out of their cramped cells and into a throng of cheering and wailing relatives who had surrounded the vast penitentiary.

Among those released from Abu Gharib were scores of young Shiite Muslim men, several of whom said they had been imprisoned on charges of opposing Saddam's government. "We were political prisoners," whispered a man who gave his name as Walid and said he was a carpenter from the Shiite-dominated southern city of Najaf. "There were many like us in there - people who talked bad about the government."

'Political' charges

More than a dozen other Shiites interviewed outside the presence of government officials on the dusty road leading away from Abu Gharib also said they had been held on what they called "political" charges.

Saddam's government, which is dominated by Sunni Muslims, has long been concerned about dissent among Shiites, who comprise more than 55 percent of

the country's population but enjoy comparatively little political clout. Thousands of Shiites participated in a 1991 revolt against Saddam in southern Iraq, a rebellion which Iraq claims was instigated by neighboring Iran.

Iraqi political observers said Sunday that the government's decision to include Shiite dissidents in the amnesty might reflect confidence in security measures installed over the past decade to prevent another insurrection. They said it also quite likely was an overture to Iran, whose government is dominated by Shiites and has long been critical of Iraq's treatment of its Shiite population.

Iraqi officials have been trying to ensure that Iran, a country with which Baghdad fought an eight-year war in the 1980s, will crack down on Shiite opposition groups that operate along the border and will refuse to provide assistance to the United States in the event of a military attack.

An olive branch

"Saddam seems to be trying to send an olive branch to the Iranians," a diplomat here said.

Iraq also took a step Sunday toward trying to mend relations with Kuwait, a country that Iraq's army invaded in 1990, sparking the Gulf War. Fulfilling a promise it made earlier in the year, Iraq began handing over 2 tons of official documents it had seized from Kuwait's national archives during the invasion. The transfer of the documents took place at a demilitarized border zone and was supervised by the United Nations.

Iraqi officials said the amnesty applied to every person in the country's prisons except those convicted of spying for the United States or Israel. A judge supervising the events at Abu Gharib said the amnesty also applied "without exception" to foreigners being held in

Iraqi prisons.

Officials did not mention whether Kuwaitis allegedly imprisoned in Iraq were among those released. The U.S. and Kuwaiti governments accuse Iraq of failing to account for more than 600 people, most of them Kuwaitis, who disappeared after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq maintains that it has released all its prisoners of war.

"Just handing over documents will not be sufficient," a senior Kuwaiti official said in an interview this month. "For us, the prisoners of war are the most important thing."

Allowed build-up

Although Kuwait has said it opposes any unilateral U.S. military action against Iraq, the Kuwaiti government has allowed the U.S. military to build up its forces in preparation for a possible attack. Privately, Kuwaiti officials said they support Saddam's ouster and would not interfere with a U.S. invasion, which they said they cannot prevent under the terms of their defense treaty with the United States.

Iraqi officials did not reveal the number of prisoners freed under the decree, but the flow of people out of Abu Gharib witnessed by this correspondent and television footage of other releases suggested that the total figure was in the tens of thousands.

Officials said all pardoned prisoners would be released within two days.

Secretary of State Colin Powell dismissed the amnesty as a political ploy. "This is typical of this man's use of human beings for these political purposes of his," Powell said on ABC Television. "This is the kind of manipulation he uses to try and paint himself as something other than what he is: a brutal dictator."

International human-rights groups



In Iraqi prisoner kisses a child after his release from the al-Basrah jail in Basra 550km south of Baghdad October 20. For the first time in the 23-year rule of President Saddam Hussein, Iraqi jails were virtually empty on Monday after the authorities released thousands of political prisoners and criminal inmates. (Reuters)

accuse Iraq of holding tens of thousands of political prisoners. Many are tortured and executed, the groups contend. The British government last week accused Iraq of having "probably the worst human-rights situation anywhere in the world."

The Iraqi government invited journalists to cover the release at Abu Gharib, which usually is off-limits to foreigners. The event initially was cloaked in secrecy, with officials telling journalists to assemble at the Information Ministry building for a news conference. Then

they told the journalists to get in their vehicles and follow a government car, which resulted in a high-speed chase through the streets of Baghdad and on two highways leading out of the city.

The first wave of prisoners to leave Abu Gharib appeared to have been well scrubbed - and well rehearsed. Carrying their belongings in metal trunks and plastic sacks, they shouted: "We sacrifice our souls for Saddam." Others said they were ready to "defend our great leader."

Saddam said the amnesty was a ges-

ture of thanks for the support he received in a referendum last week giving him another seven-year term as president.

In light of the result, he said in a statement read on television by Information Minister Mohammed Saeed Sahaf, "we show mercy rather than punishment."

As news of the release spread, thousands of people descended on the low-slung Abu Gharib complex. Family members, many of them crying, rushed to the front gates, some waving photos of their incarcerated relatives.

A Canadian in Yemen:

Giving birth to change

Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien was recently chastized harshly by some Canadians for his candid suggestion that 9/11 was linked with growing global disparities and Western greed. Is he right?

If you're a Westerner, consider this. Let's say today is Sept. 11 and your mother was aboard one of the planes that went down in America. Let's say your wife was on another, your sister on a third. They've all died horribly. Would it matter?

In truth, in the Developing World, this year, 600,000 pregnant women, enough to fill three jumbo jets every day of the year, will die during childbirth. Quietly.

In Hamilton, Ontario, the Canadian city where my wife Dr. Jean Chamberlain-Froese and I are from, one mom dies during childbirth about every two years. For every maternal death in Hamilton, however, 115 women die in university hospitals here in Sana'a.

Staggering

Across Yemen, a staggering one in nine women won't survive child delivery. It's not commonly known, but the rate of maternal death is actually the largest discrepancy in public health care between the world's rich and poor countries.

Many of the deaths are preventable. Medicine costing as little as a cup of coffee may not be available. There may be no transportation from a rural home to a clinic. A husband or mother-in-law may foolishly deem such a trip unnecessary to begin with. Midwives have poor training.

Is there a link between this and the terror of 9/11? Consider almost 90 per cent of Earth's 6.1 billion human beings live in the Third World. They can get a well-marketed Coke without trouble. But what about more essential things?

Workers needed

To deal with this blight, international relief organizations have given fresh razors and bandages in little safe-motherhood kits in countless villages. Still, global maternal death rates have actually risen in the last 15 years. The real need is for qualified workers on the ground to train, educate and launch effective indigenous programs.

Which is where my wife comes in. Like other humanitarian workers in Yemen, Dr. Jean comes with valuable professional skills. She's a doctor of obstetrics from one of



Thomas Froese

Canada's leading medical universities.

McMaster University is known for its international focus. In fact, after bringing an influential Canadian associate here earlier this year, Jean is now helping to get about \$200,000 worth of medical equipment to Yemen over the next several years.

My wife can help train Yemeni students and professionals. She also has a vision for women in other Third World countries to be cared for better, by creating training centers linking professionals in those countries with experts and resources in rich countries like Canada.

Some of her North American colleagues aren't interested in such work. They're not interested in a place like Yemen. Some can't resist the lure of making big money in the West.

Others fear the Middle East. Consequences of terrorist acts, like the bombing of the USS Cole, or now the Limburg, can linger for years and create all kinds of stereotypes.

False pride

But here's another reason some Westerners stay away: one that people here can do something about. Don't blame others for your problems. And

get rid of your false cultural pride. If by good fortune, Dr. Jean or other international workers offer their services, don't put up roadblocks because you'll lose your little piece of turf.

Many Western aid workers, including my wife, have seen this mentality. Rather than accept help for the broader good of the community, some professionals in this part of the world appear to care more about how they look. Why is that?

It seems they're afraid if outsiders bring change, a light will shine, yes, uncomfortably, on their personal shortcomings or their country's deeper needs. Under the guise of rules, nonsensical as they may be, they intentionally block the help of aid workers. And hurt their own people.

Countries like Canada have been blessed with resources. But they've also prospered because they value efficiency. People who work hard and creatively are rewarded. Also, the West has multiplied what it's been given, because, listen closely, when one values truth, one can look at oneself - and one's culture - with honesty, and then evaluate where one needs to change and grow. That gives a future of hope, not despair.

Good news

So is Canada's Prime Minister right? Maybe. And maybe acknowledging the greed of some will help close the gap of the world's haves and have-nots. It's good to know after years of budget cutbacks, Canada now is increasing its foreign aid.

That's the silver lining in the dark cloud of 9/11. Many North Americans have suddenly been awakened to global issues. In fact as I write, Dr. Jean is in Canada briefly to lead a symposium for hundreds of medical students and professionals wanting to learn more about international aid work.

Despite great distances and differences, the world is becoming more of a neighborhood. People need to work together in it.

In the end, it's the folks who keep their doors locked and curtains drawn who, I'm afraid, are truly menacing. They're the world's rich who ignore the plight of the poor. And they're people from disadvantaged countries, like Yemen, whose petty fears hinder lasting change. Both live in a world that must be its own personal kind of terror.

How sad.

Thomas Froese (140765@sympatico.ca) is an editor with the Yemen Times.



Holding the future: Dr. Jean Chamberlain-Froese, among Yemen's humanitarian aid workers, with a newborn Yemeni.

Why don't we honor our greats?

Yemeni singer finds his home in many hearts

By ABDULAZIZ AL-TUBAE

If a Yemeni abroad hears his song, he immediately feels homesick. His voice just might move this Yemeni to the ticket office, to fly home. Those who can't take the trip, still image the beauty of trees and dew, and the attraction of every part of nature they left behind in their country. He sang mostly, if not all, of his love for his homeland, and he's embodied in the country.

He is Ayoub Tarish Al Absi, whose national, romantic songs overwhelm all of Yemen. He started his artistic career in 1965 and is still a source of production and energy. Over such a long period, he has sung hundreds of immortal songs of many themes.

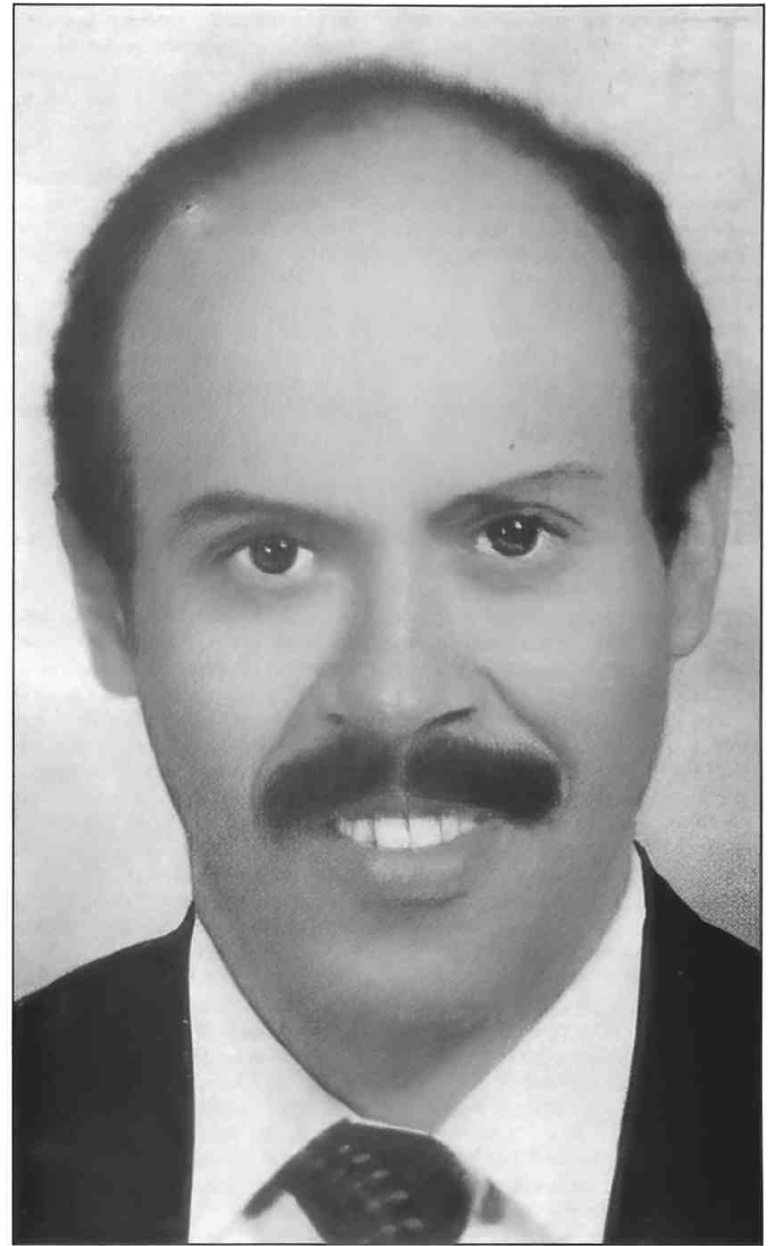
His first song is Nida'a Al baeed 'call for the migrant.' This song addresses the migrants abroad, appealing to them not to forget their home and their loved ones.

His voice has been a constant companion with every person inside or outside the country and on all occasions. His songs are sung everywhere: at weddings, festivals, romantic occasions, on farms and even in battles. He has sung for every part of his beloved country: birds, rains and mountains.

His main composer is the late poet Abdullah Abdul Wahhab Noman, who has composed the words of the national anthem performed by Ayoub. That is one of the reasons his reputation is recognized all over the country.

In addition, he is also known for his ability to break regional borders and to sing in several dialects. Moreover, he could gain a respectable listening population outside Yemen particularly in the Gulf. Many of his songs are so popular there, like Irga'a Li Hawlak 'Back to your field.'

This song is one of his most famous songs. Tayer Am Gharb'Oh, Bird of the West' is sung in Tehami dialect, one of the most complicated dialects in Yemen. It was so wonderfully performed that it amazed everyone. What is extremely amazing is that the poem of this song came to Ayoub by chance and he started performing it without



Ayoub Tarish Al Absi

the composer's knowledge. And before presenting the song to the public, he started looking for the writer to get his permission.

It is true to say the memory of his songs has remained and will remain undimmed in their pristine beauty for generations to come.

When I met him in his modest house in Taiz City just a few hours after making the appointment, he impressed me as a humble, simple,

religious person and a man of principle. When asked "Mr. Ayoub, you are the singer who has given the country everything, and do you expect it to reward you?" He simply said, "I have done nothing." When a similar was questioned, he replied "that's just due to Allah's blessings on me."

What greatness! But the sad thing is that our country doesn't honor our own greats. It only honors those who shout. Isn't that true?

MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

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Written by Abdulrahman Mutaahhar

Translated by Janet Watson

'Beware of courtship before marriage'

Ma - Oh Mus'id, what on earth are we going to do? I don't know where to hide my face from the parents of that girl we asked for for our son!

M - Why? What's happened? We're keeping to our word. I'm just waiting for my brother to come from Mukalla to lend me 50,000 so I can pay for the engagement items, then we'll go and have the engagement.

Ma - Bless you! But don't bother waiting for your brother, because we're not going to have the engagement.

M - Why? Have the family decided against it and come and told us, or what?

Ma - It's just that our son really doesn't look as if he's prepared to get married. I can sense that already.

M - What's he said to you?

Ma - He hasn't told me anything as such. It's just that he looks like he's on an entirely different planet from us!

M - Oh God, give me good news, please!

M - That girl is certainly not unlikable, I'll guarantee that!

Ma - I said to him, 'Pull yourself together! She's been blessed by God with beauty and modesty and good morals, even though she may be from rather a poor working family.'

M - If it comes to that we're all workers. Poverty, Mus'ida, doesn't shame the poor, nor does wealth honor the rich. Has our dear son become a millionaire who wants to marry a the daughter of a millionaire?

Ma - We're not talking about millionaires and their daughters! But to be frank, your son came out with something else. He said that young people in the developed countries only get married once they have got to know each other. And we want to marry him off blind, as if it's a lottery!

M - If he said that it's not his fault, because he's at that age, and has been influenced by the satellite channels which set out to spoil the values and morals of honor in our young people. You know that my cousin Najj went to the west and then get married. Najj got to know a girl and they behaved like everyone else in that country. They went out to restaurants and clubs together. She whispered sweet

force feed stalks to cattle!

Ma - That's right! Then they got married, and after the wedding nothing went right. The 'Love of my life' stuff went out of the window, and they started arguing almost immediately.

M - I'll tell you why, though.

Ma - Go on, then.

M - Najj told me quite frankly what happened. He said, 'Between me and you, Mus'ida, a month after the wedding my view of her changed, and her view of me changed. From that moment, doubt began to nag at me. I said to myself, if the girl was prepared to go out with a strange boy without any sense of shame before getting married, what's to stop her doing the same thing once she is married. This never actually happened, of course, but there was always that bit of doubt inside me. It was only then that I fully appreciated the meaning of the Yemeni proverb, 'It begins with passion and ends in rejection'.¹ Anyway, this is what happened, Mus'ida, so make sure you tell our son the story of my cousin Najj before you go to bed tonight, and remind the girls in our family of the saying of the Yemeni philosopher, 'Beware of courtship before marriage!'²

¹ Zayd, p. 43.

² Agwal, p. 49.

« وبنصر الصابرين الذين اؤوا اصابهم مصيبة قالوا: انا لله وانا اليه راجعون »

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة الولد

أحمد يحي المتوكل

وبهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم بخالص التعازي وعظيم المواساة للواء / يحي المتوكل

وجميع آل المتوكل، وللوالد العلامة محمد منصور، وجميع آل المنصور لجميع محبي وأصدقاء الفقيد سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ويلهم إله وذويه الصبر والسلوان . إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون .
المعزون: الأستاذ وليد عبد العزيز السقايف وطافه . يعن تاييم . الأستاذ الوالد محمد حسن الجبشي . الوالد علي حسن الجبشي . الأستاذ محسن العيني وأولاده . الأستاذ علي العيني وأولاده . حسن محمد الجبشي . المهندس أحمد العيني وأولاده وأخوانه . المهندس محمد علي أبو طالب وجميع آل أبو طالب . الأخ عبد الله الجبشي وأولاده وأخوانه . الأخ أحمد عبد الرحمن والأمير وجميع آل الأمير . الأخ علي محمد الحيلة . العقيد لطف الروضي . العقيد اسماعيل حجر . العقيد علي شريم . الأخ محمد الغرياني . والأستاذ محمد جباري وأولاده

UNDP releases its latest Human Development Report

Taking stock of Yemen's progress



REPORTED BY
ISMAEL AL-GHABERI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United Nations has released another series of human development reports on Yemen, this one dealing with civil society issues as they relate to ongoing development of democracy.

The theme of civil society in Yemen was chosen due to its importance in accommodating the adoption of a free market system, and ongoing developments between the state, civil society and the private sector.

Civil society is becoming a potent element in the political, economic, intellectual, and scholarly life locally and abroad. The last decade has witnessed a wide range of activities for popular and official civil society organizations in Yemen.

Great hopes

The great hopes we attach to these organizations call us to review the accomplishments and the lessons which could be learned from them, as well the difficulties and shortcomings they face, not to mention the role of the state and its policies towards these organizations.

Minister of Planning and Development, Ahmed Mohammed Sofan commented on the report by saying "we would like to emphasize our commitment to the continuation of issuing the National Development Reports and the adherence of the government to



Participants during the Human Development meeting

human development issues. That is the basis for the improvement of the standard of living of humans, who are the ultimate goal of development and its means."

Dr. Yahya Yahya AL-Mutawakel, team leader and editor remarked on the report, "Yemen has adapted a free market economy to obtain development for society."

Civil society integral

Dr. Fares al-Saqqaf, the Future Studies Center Chairman, said "Civil society is an integral part of human development. It is an expression of the dynamism of society based on pragmatic socio-economic evolution that demands individual effort within a civic institutional frame-

work that complements government efforts."

Yemen's National Development Report (NHDR) was first issued in 1998. The report adopted human development concepts and implications that have been promoted since by the Global Human Development series of UNDP.

Overview

The first NHDR gave an analytical overview of human development conditions and attempted to identify options in measuring human development potential in Yemen.

The goal of the National Human Development Report is to shed light on different fields of human development in

Yemen, and to adopt the appropriate policies and procedures to realize human development.

Many reports

The Yemeni government endorses the National Human Development Reports that contribute, as do other national reports and documents, to dealing with development challenges and national goals and aspirations.

The choice of the civil society theme of this last report came as a result of deliberations that took place in the wake of the first report in 1999, wherein the Ministry of Planning and Development, held discussions in coordination and consultation with the UNDP.

IN Brief

Population issues

Conference kicks off

The 3rd National Conference for Population Strategy started Oct. 27 in Sana'a.

The 4-day conference has participants from regional and international levels.

More than 400 participants of specialists and representatives are taking part to discussing national population policy (success, failures, and

experience from 1990-2000), future challenges, and environment support for implementing the population strategy.

The conference also aims to identify sources of success and failures, to enhance awareness for implementing the national population policy and to finding supportive mechanisms like legislations, plans and programs.

Fishing issues reviewed in workshop

A workshop on the future of Yemen's fish inspection program was held Oct. 22 to 25 in Sana'a.

The workshop was held to help set the budget of the next year, analyze the current situation of the fish sector and identify demands of supervision activities.

International expert Tony Bitching,

workshop coordinator and trainer, dealt with the aspects of the program activities.

"It's a four-year program supported by the Europe Union, and aims to provide the institutional framework for supervision and fishery inspection, and to develop capabilities and skills of the fishery staff in Yemen," said Bitching.

In Hadramout

1st Water Symposium

The first symposium on water was held Oct. 28 at Hadramout University for Sciences and Technology.

The symposium, held under the motto "Towards a full proper management for water resources" was organized by the Environmental Searches and Studies Center in Hadramout University in cooperation with the German Foundation of Cultural Exchange DAAD.

The course will discuss 23 search projects by Yemeni researchers in dif-

ferent Yemeni universities in Hadramout, Aden and Sana'a as well as working papers introduced by the German DAAD.

Dr. Saeed Basweed, a member of the preparation committee of the symposium and chairman of searches and human resources development section of Hadramout University, said that the symposium is part of the cultural exchange between Yemeni universities and the German foundation.

CANADIAN nexen

Vacancy
Yemeni Nationals

Roustabout

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen requires a Roustabout to work in its Masila Block Operation Hadramout Govt. Yemen. This job will be based on a rotational schedule (28 days on /28 days off)

Duties and Responsibilities

- Prepares equipment, includes opening steel boxes, measuring components, slinging equipment in preparation for running the hole, cleaning tubing threads, removing and cleaning protectors, etc.
- Operates the spooling unit, including rolling out electrical wire while running the hole or reeling it in.
- Carries out other similar duties such as keeping the location clean and assisting other drilling personnel.

Requirements

- Completion of 5 years education.
- 1 Year experience working on a rig.
- Working Knowledge of English.

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address not later than November 8, 2002.

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen
Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 15137
Sana'a Republic of Yemen
Fax No. 269899

Attention : Human Resources Manager, Sana'a

Note:

- Please provide a direct contact number where you can be reached.
- Please do not call us. We will phone you if you are selected for the test and interview.
- Please mention in your application the job that you are applying for.

Population National Policy in Republic of Yemen 2001-2025

Two steps forward, one step back in health and education
Improvements and challenges continue



While there have been improvements in Yemeni health and education in recent year, challenges remain. Following is an overview of progress, and areas of improvement.

In a five-year period, there has been improvement in education.

The number of students registered at kindergarten schools totaled 97,75 in 1994/95 compared to 11,260 in 1999/2000.

In the same context, the number of students registered in basic education reached 2,766,255 in 1994/95 compared to 3,167,163 in 1999/2000.

The educational processes in Yemen has had its ups and down during the last decade and this can be attributed to the following reasons:

The private sector hasn't participated Truants, dropouts, and absentees totaled 43 percent for both genders. Female truants reached 54 percent and males' reached 39 percent.

The general secondary schools need better training in vocational, social, and psychological guidance services.

Consequently, the National Population Strategy has made strenuous efforts to reduce illiteracy among both male and female students from 50 percent on the part of female students and 30 percent on the part of male students during 2002. But this objective hasn't been achieved due to the high increase of illiteracy among children over 10 years of age.

Educational difficulties

Education in Yemen has faced problems which can be summed up as follows:

- 1- A high increase in the number of students during the education age. It has been estimated that the number in this level will reach in 692,000 in 2005, compared to 535,000 in 1998/1999.
- 2- The shortages of well-built schools for the high capacity of students for each class. More than 70 percent of schools are in need of renewal and repairing.
- 3- Noticeable reduction of female students at both levels basic and secondary. This problem can be observed in the rural areas due the deteriorating economic conditions such as, the low family income. Society also has attitude towards woman making it hard for them to get a good education.
- 4- There is an absence of health facilities and general services for students.
- 5- There is a high increase of truants and school dropouts due to the enfeeblement of the educational outcomes in subjects like, science, mathematics, and languages.
- 6- There is a cheating phenomenon among students, which has resulted in enviable educational consequences.

Health services

The health services in Yemen also need improvement. The

health services have dominated the urban areas while the rural areas are in short supply of such health services.

It has been agreed that the health services are totally focuses on healing purposes and not on preventative aspects.

The following are the indicators of the health services:

- There is a considerable increase of health centers, and units between 1994 and 2000. The number of these health centers gone from 180 to 563 health centers, units and institutions.
- A rapid increase of health workforce with an exception to nurses health assistants and social workers. The health workforce has gone from 135 in 1994 to 17,696 in 2000. They are burdened with rendering health services for the people in the rural areas.
- A slight development in the field of health services. Deadly diseases such as epidemics have been visibly lessened. Life expectancy has reached 57.4 years in 1994 and in 2000 it reached to 60.7 years.

Problems & challenges

- 1- Scarcity of health institution in some governorates and districts accompanied by the limited potentials.
- 2- Unqualified medical cadre and misdistribution of doctors.
- 3- The low wages have negatively affected the health cadres to perform their job in a poor manner.
- 4- Unavailability of operating budgets for health institutions

Improve Your English 157



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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (29):
Making statements on a subject

Very often we are called upon to make statements during the course of discussion on a topic. Such statements express our views or present our opinion either supporting the viewpoint of one of the participants or disagreeing with it. Normally we use the expletive **It + (be) + adjective** structure to introduce our point of view, although other structure are also fairly common. We present below some examples of how we begin a statement on a subject.

- It is but natural that ...
- It is quite obvious that ...
- It is only fair that ...
- It is absolutely necessary that ...
- It is understandable that ...
- It is typical that ...
- It is disturbing to notice that ...
- It is truly heartening to note that ...
- It appears to me that ...
- It seems to me that ...
- It is undeniable that ...
- It looks as if ...
- It appeals to common sense that ...
- It is quite probable that ...
- It is absolutely vital that ...
- It is satisfying to observe that ...
- It is rather surprising (or amazing) that ...
- It sounds quite fascinating that ...
- It seems safe to assume that ...
- It is well nigh impossible that ...
- It is quite incredible that ...
- It is unfortunate that ...
- It is sad that ...
- It is horrifying that ...
- It is absurd that ...
- It is inconceivable that ...
- It is unrealistic to think that ...
- It is quite unclear to me how ...
- It is difficult for me to see the link between ...
- It is illogical that ...
- It is irrational to think that ...
- It is rather strange that ...
- It is crazy that ...
- It is right that ...
- It is only expected that ...
- It is only reasonable that ...
- It is important that ...
- It is essential that ...
- It is good that ...
- It is better that ...

comparing two things or persons.

4. There are no fewer than forty students in this class.
Note: 'less' is used to refer to quantity only, whereas 'fewer' denotes number. The former is used in the case of uncountable things and the latter for countable nouns.
Examples: 'fewer people', 'fewer houses', 'fewer books', but 'less water', 'less sugar', 'less sunshine'.
5. It is a ten-mile walk.
Note: When we use expressions of measurement, amount and quantity, which are adjectives, they are usually singular. The noun occurring after the 'hyphen' is always singular although the preceding word indicates plurality.

III. How to express it in one word

1. Special choice of words in speaking or writing, especially in poetry.
2. Book dealing with the words of a language, arranged in alphabetical order.
3. Formal expression of opinion or wise sayings.
4. Intended to teach.
5. Two letters that represent a single sound.

Answers to last week's questions

1. Paying serious attention to religious duties: **Devout**
2. Tiny drops of moisture condensed on cool surfaces: **Dew**
3. Government by two independent authorities: **Diarchy**
4. Daily record of events, thoughts, etc.: **Diary**
5. Ruler who has absolute power and authority: **Dictator**

IV. Grammar and composition

a) Grammar

Rewrite the following sentences beginning with 'It is ADJECTIVE' that ...

1. Children are allowed so much freedom. That is crazy.
2. No two children learn in the same way. It is strange.
3. Some parents consider school a waste of time. This is sad.
4. Children should share things. It is extremely important.
5. Parents should get involved in the education of their children. It is only proper.

b) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences of your own.

1. act in bad faith
2. call somebody bad names
3. a bad business
4. bad debt
5. to go from bad to worse

c) Words commonly confounded

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words.

1. bonny, bony
2. born, borne
3. barrow, borrow
4. bosh, boss
5. bosom, blossom

Answers to last week's questions

a) Grammar

1. We have to wait until the rain stops.
2. He hopes to join the school as a teacher as soon as he passes the exam.
3. Would you fill in the form while you

are waiting?

4. I will help you when you need money to go abroad.
5. Please inform me immediately after your results are announced.

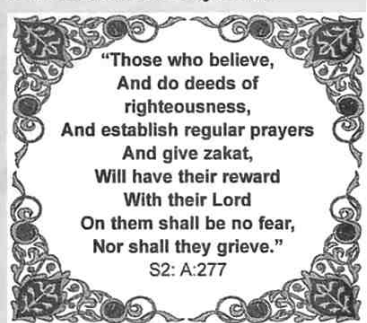
b) Idioms and phrases

1. on the back of (in addition to): He was seriously injured, and on the back of that his car was completely smashed in the accident.
2. be glad to see the back of somebody (be pleased to see him go away): I can't stand the sight of him. I shall indeed be glad to see the back of him.
3. go back upon one's word (fail to keep a promise): I promise that I will not go back upon my word to help you.
4. back out (of) (withdraw from a promise): He backed out of the deal in the last moment.
5. the back bone (chief support): Men of character and integrity are truly the back bone of the country.

c) Words commonly confounded

1. balk (vt) (deliberately create hindrance): Evil minds always try to balk others progress.
2. bulk (n) (large quantity or volume): The publisher would give a discount if we buy the book in bulk.
3. barricade (n) (barrier of objects made across as a defence): Supporters broke the barricades and ran to see their popular leader.
4. barrier (n) (something that prevents progress): Ignorance and illiteracy are the main barriers to progress and development.
5. base (n) (lowest part of anything): The base of the pillar needs urgent repair.
6. basement (n) (lowest part of a building below ground level): The Cardiology department is located in the basement of the hospital complex.
7. bass (n) (of a male singing voice deep or low in sound): He has a fine bass voice.
8. bash (vt) (strike heavily so as to break or injure): He bashed his head against the wall in the dark.
9. bashful (adj) (shy): She replied with a typically bashful smile.
10. body (n) (the physical structure of a human being or animal): We must keep our bodies clean and healthy.
11. bawdy (adj) (obscene talk): He is known for his bawdy jokes.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Help thyself, and God will help thee" —Herbert

Teaching English Techniques, methods and approaches



DR. BUSHRA SADOUN M. AL-NOORI, Associate Professor
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these, but only by the theory in which he believes. If he can find new and better methods, or techniques which fits in with his approach, then he might adopt these.

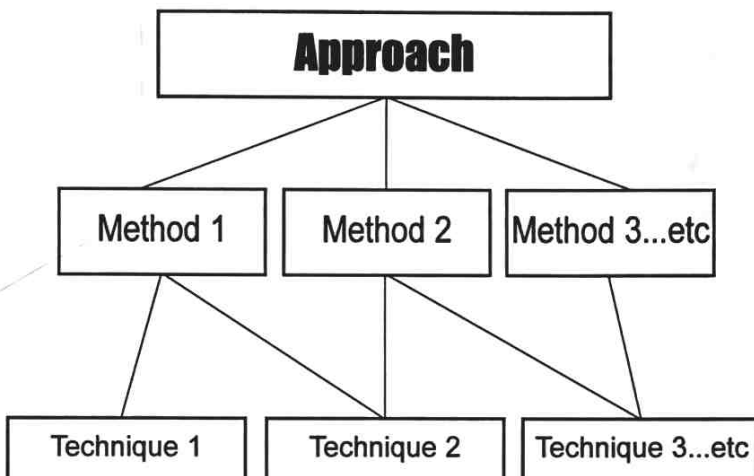
We therefore have a hierarchical system such as the following:

talk about, the behaviorist approach but 'the audio-lingual method'. We can also talk about different drilling 'techniques.'

However, it is useful to remember that approach is often used informally to mean something closer to method.

It is worthwhile discussing briefly the differences between three words which are often used when talking about TEFL: 'approach', 'method' and 'technique'.

When we use the word 'approach' we mean that an idea or theory is being applied. That is to say whatever the teacher does, certain theoretical principles are always borne in mind. When we talk about a technique, we mean a procedure used in the classroom. Finally, a method is a set of procedures or a collection of techniques used in a systematic way which it is hoped will result in efficient learning. A 'technique' then is the narrowest term, meaning one single procedure. A 'method' consists of a number of techniques, probably arranged in a specific order. The word 'approach' is much more general and has the implication that whatever method or techniques the teacher uses, he does not feel bound by



It follows, from this that different approaches may share the same techniques and even the same methods, and different methods may share the same techniques. In the context of behaviorist learning theory, it makes sense to

We might say, for example, that a teacher should 'vary the approach when teaching different types of classes'. This does not mean that the teacher should change his theoretical beliefs for each type of classes.

Self-confidence

DR. RAMAKANTA SAHU

Self-confidence is very important in the life of an individual. It is all the more important for students. It gives a person a faith in himself and the energy to move ahead. Each one of us has some hidden potential. Confidence helps us to maximize our potential and get a rich dividend out of it.

Self-confidence instills into us a will to work and a will to win. Thus it culminates in a sense of achievement. The greater the sense of achievement, the higher is the confidence and vice versa. They are twins, two sides of the same coin. Each complements the other.

Self-confidence is that catalyst that helps a student to navigate the learning route boldly and efficiently. The more you learn, the more you get out of life. It enables you to make correct decisions about yourself.

In order to have plenty of self-confidence, it is important to have self-esteem or self-worth. For this you have to recognize that you have the right to do things. Each of us has the right to set goals for ourselves and relentlessly work hard to reach the

goals. Success in our endeavor would lead to more success. It is rightly said: 'Nothing succeeds like success'. But you must take the first step in the right direction at the right moment. Then only you can be a successful traveler on the highway of success. Remember: 'The journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step.'

Auto-suggestion and a positive attitude are among the primary prerequisites to generate self-confidence. You should continually assure yourself: "Yes I can, and I will." If you want to feel good, stand up before the mirror and suggest to yourself that you deserve success, and nothing on earth can prevent you from achieving it.

If you want to make a mark in life, be assertive. Make eye contacts with people, carry yourself comfortably, and feel positive. Be a man of action, not of words. Those who can they do.

To overcome negative feelings, think of things you have achieved and are proud of. Each of us has achieved something worthwhile. It is necessary to remember those moments of glory which would augment our sense of self-worth and boost our morale to forge ahead with greater zeal, vigor and confidence. Reach new goals and learn to cope with new experiences

and face new challenges.

Building confidence is one of the basic aims of education. Alexander Pope, a great English poet of the 18th century says: "Know then thyself...". Be aware of who you are, what you are and what you can do. Believe in yourself and march ahead on the basis of what your past experience has taught you. Look back into the future.

Schools have a great role to play in building self-confidence in the students.

Family and friends have an extraordinary ability to undermine confidence when they put their great expectations on children. It can exert an unreasonable demand on the children's abilities. We have to remember that each individual is unique and has his own coping strategies. If we have unrealistic expectations, these might stifle the children's confidence in themselves.

Religious faith is a powerful source of instilling confidence. The Holy Quran is a potent nourisher of faith, both in Allah, the most gracious and the most compassionate, as well as in oneself. If we can help children repose implicit faith in Allah's kindness and compassion, it would enable them to discover the springs of inspiration and sparks of confidence in themselves.

TIMES QUIZ (45)

Tick the most appropriate choice

1. Why does one lean forward while climbing a hill?
a) To avoid pain in the knee
b) It is a psychological phenomenon
c) It helps in climbing as the center of gravity shifts forward
d) To get enough supply of oxygen
2. "Equal volumes of all gases under the similar conditions of pressure and temperature contain equal number of molecules." This is
a) Avogadro's Hypothesis
b) Charles' Law

Answers to Times Quiz (44)

1. The first space probe to reach Jupiter was Pioneer-10.
2. The phylogenetic system of classification refers to grouping of plants according to the evolutionary trends.
3. The concept that an atom consists of a dense positively charged nucleus surrounded by electron was given by Rutherford.
4. "When an object is immersed in a fluid, the weight of fluid displaced is equal to the apparent loss in its weight." This is called Archimedes Principle.
5. The full form of the abbreviation NPV is Net Present Value.

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

- | CLUES | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Acrylic | Covers | Hide | Post |
| Aluminum | Custom | Hotel | Price |
| Anchorage | Deck | Iron | Protect |
| Arch | Design | Laces | Rain |
| Bank | Dinner | Lateral | Rely |
| Barbecue | Dome | Lean | Rent |
| Bolted | Entry | Logo | Resin |
| Cafe | Fabric | Metals | Retractable |
| Call | Fads | Mount | Roof |
| Camping | Fair | Moveable | Room |
| Canopy | Fill | Outdoor | Round |
| Canvas | Fixed | Paint | Screen |
| Cars | Food | Panel | Screws |
| Coach | Forum | Party | Seams |
| Coat | Frame | Patio | Sensor |
| Concrete | Graphics | Plans | Shade |
| Convex | Hail | Plastic | Shelter |
| Cost | Hanging | Polyester | Show |
| Cotton | Heat | | |

FEATURING AWNINGS Solution: 10 letters

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

YOUTH FORUM

Anthrax of Technology

share. Written words paralyze the world's cure, Saying, "Read, but pay an attribute for sure"

The globe is barbaric

Investigators, soldiers, statesmen, Lend me your ears. I come to open the envelope of civilization, The Evil lines with heavy fallen tears. Firmly, hold the trembling knee, Anthrax of civilization incinerates the so-called technology, Making wise worse than a corrugated key, Blurring days and lights of swallowed humanity, The heart is uncannily pushing against death, Alas! Lungs are dried of not breathing in, Figures of ink - I think- stifle health The soul, at one letter, gazed and lay dormant within, Officers, cannonballs, nuclear bombs are there, Peculiarly, they give life no more

To the Silent World!!

Wash away all tears from the heart of the creation.

Mohammed Al-Malahi
Faculty of Languages
Sana'a University

My pen will tell you the story Of hearts of hard stone, Of Mercy whom they did bury. Of a wounded Man found alone I try to relieve the pain of the wounded Man To make him regain His strength as much as I can. I depict by words The awful things I hear The deep and many wounds That people silently bear Orphans, Widows and Widowers Make the pain very deep Besides silence or answers That make hearts weep I shout... I vainly cry O people... Mercy I finally hear a reply "There're people but no Mercy".

Wash away all tears from the heart of the creation.

Mohammed Al-Malahi
Faculty of Languages
Sana'a University

My pen will tell you the story Of hearts of hard stone, Of Mercy whom they did bury. Of a wounded Man found alone I try to relieve the pain of the wounded Man To make him regain His strength as much as I can. I depict by words The awful things I hear The deep and many wounds That people silently bear Orphans, Widows and Widowers Make the pain very deep Besides silence or answers That make hearts weep I shout... I vainly cry O people... Mercy I finally hear a reply "There're people but no Mercy".

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of Arab Baath Socialist party 20 Oct.2002.

Main Headlines:

- Details of American-Zionist plan for Iraq strike
- Following French oil tankers Limburg incident, a 25% coming "does"
- Thailand imposes strict measures on Yemenis
- Saddam Hussein warn America from invading Iraq
- One thousand election cards in Jawf disappear
- Bajammal thanks America, criticizes Arabs
- Pakistan denies its connection with N. Korea nuclear program
- Zionist occupation troops incursion into Gaza, arrest Palestinians in Ramalla
- Head of Information sector at Elections Committee calls on parties leaders to take oath

Mr. Anwar Abdu Ali writes on effects of Limburg incident on Yemen. He has divided the negative results to three categories; economic, ecological and political. On the economic effects he says oil tankers Limburg burning has dealt a painful blow to Yemen's national economy and created direct reflects embodied in the pollution of 500 km-long of Yemeni coasts extending the port of the Mukalla in Hadramaut which is among the richest areas of the marine life and fish. The other main damage is abstention of foreign investors to invest in Yemen. Those investors expressed their concern towards security in the regime, in addition to rise in investment costs.

From ecological standpoint, it is to be seen that the shores along 500 km from Mukalla are covered with crude oil and dead fish. Government press statements have indicated that environment impacts of Limburg incident are very dangerous in that of destruction of marine life and fish wealth. The incident has taken place in a vital area considered one of the best fish gathering in Yemen containing a group of unique fish and marine life species.

Politically, the Limburg incident offshore Hadramaut made the area in the eyes of the world as being a base for terrorists. Limburg incident has come to expand foreign interference in Yemen's internal affairs, added to interference following the USS Cole destroys incident in Aden.



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 24 Oct. 2002.

Main Headlines:

- France returns Yemen to countries included by care and support
- Limburg incident: A will & details maps of ports in the region, guiding catalogue on boat remote control
- Elections Supreme Committee reiterates commitment to impartiality, independence and constitution
- Abdul Karim al-Eryani visits Baghdad soon, head of ruling party delegation
- National Conference on Education begins meetings Saturday
- 3rd National Conference on Population discusses challenges of development, globalization
- Arab Conference on fishery convenes in Sana'a
- To follow up results of Sana'a Summit, Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia foreign ministers meet in Addis Ababa on 6 Nov.
- Farouk Taha, Syria's ambassador to Sana'a

The newspaper's editorial says no country has ever suffered from terror as Yemen has. Terrorists have targeted it at earlier times even before 11 September in 2001 or the Afghan war. Terrorists acts have inflicted great damage on Yemen, whether those that targeted Aden Hotel or Cole incident or incidents of kidnapping foreign tourists in Abyan and others. Some of which have been characterized by tribal stamp, but all are enlisted under banner of acts of terror and sabotage that hurt Yemen's reputation, economy, interests and relations with others.

The recent attack on Limburg represents a continuation of the same detrimental terrorist acts. No doubt those who perpetrate terrorist act, by Yemenis or others, have harmed the people of Yemen and caused damage to their interests and reputation and their acts have no religious or national justification. It is illogical that the responsibility of fighting terror be shouldered on certain country and to left alone, for the others would mistakenly think they are away from consequences of terror and are not concerned about fighting it. The duty is that all should support the efforts of fighting terror. It is highly important that the issue of terror and fighting it should be the concern of the society. Confronting terror should not be confined to security bodies alone but the responsibility of every individual and all political and social forces.



Al-Balagh weekly, 22 Oct.2002

Main Headlines:

- Saudi ambassador to Washington announces disclosure of Bin Laden's financial network
- The president calms down the conflict between General People's Congress party & opposition
- Local & imported goods prices rise
- Election card, a basic condition in unionist elections
- One girl killed, another injured in dispute over piece of land
- Editor in chief says American policy refusing the study of reasons behind the explosions of New York would lead to emergence of new organizations following the same ways of al-Qaeda in dealing with the U.S. policy. We have in our analyzes affirmed that the future results of the U.S. policy would lead to founding of new generations hate the American administration and policy and their hatred could also include the American people. We can say that the new blasts and targeting of some targets her and there are not necessarily carried out by al-Qaeda organization. They could be the work of new

organizations, newly established in response to the U.S. policy towards the Arab and Islamic region.

The U.S. politics has proved lately that it does not entertain far-sightedness and its analyzes are incorrect. The Americans may have a strong intelligence apparatus, and may have strong army, but the U.S. vision is not clear. The U.S. future expectation of this relation is not realistic because what is happening nowadays confirms America's failure in ending terror. On the contrary, the U.S. behavior has sown hundreds of terrorist seeds that would grow someday in future and the U.S. would then rear what it has sown today.



Al-Sahwa weekly, 24 Oct.2002.

Main Headlines:

- Sheikh al-Ahmar: The government has put its weight behind deciding election in GPC's favor.
- JMP ends preparation a file on legal violations by the Elections Committee
- Limburg, a persisting catastrophe

Columnist Zaid Bin Ali al-Shami says violations and excesses, the use of power and public properly are continuous practices employed for influencing electoral registration to prepare an electoral register more defective than the former one. On the other hand, the Elections Supreme Committee is still insistent to act as party in the dispute. Its decisions and statements condemned opposition parties and hold it responsible for the dispute, while the committee turn a blind eye to all violations committed by the ruling party or attribute them to unidentified individuals. The committee still confirms the right of armed forces and security personnel to register at any center within a constituency, in violation & the law, while deprives students of registering in their residence places.

The process of registration, violation and mobilization of the state potential in favor of the ruling party continues. Nevertheless, the citizen

does not despair or give in. He would not allow his will and rights to be confiscated. He has only one path ahead of him, and that is to wring out his rights with the elections card.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite People's Unionist Organization, 22 Oct. 2002.

Main headlines:

- American ambitions with military presence on Yemeni coasts
- Large-scale manhunt following Limburg incident, French judges to Sana'a
- Registration stage, a political scandal
- Six killed in Sana'a, 2 in Aden
- American trainer of Yemeni special forces, found dead in his car
- Gunmen storm a morgue in Aden
- Saudi Islam movement: Bin Laden won't keep silent against his country's occupation

Mr Abdula'lem Baggash wrote an article saying there has been certain ambiguity engulfed the most recent tour of the American general Tommy Franks in the region. During his visit to Yemen the general talked about the 6 October attack on the oil tanker Limburg, renewing his country's support for Yemeni coast guard. The American general surprised all expectations when he declared for the first time his country's wish for a complete partnership in the project of the coast guard of Yemen to protect the Yemeni coast line that extends more than 2000 km. General Franks has also praised Yemen's efforts for combating terror, becoming the second American official expressing thanks to Yemen in this regard since the incident of Limburg. It would have been much better if Washington has offered its initiative within the framework of an international partnership, not merely an American because it cannot be forgotten that despite victories of Bush's administration in its war against terror, it is not succeeded in uprooting the danger of Taliban in Afghanistan for good.



RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen League party, 22 Oct. 2002.

Main headlines:

- Process of registration has not begun in eleven election centers
- France investigates in presence of a terrorist cell related to Limburg incident
- Release of a number of Guantanamo detainees, including a Yemeni, expected
- Limburg inflicts grave economic losses on Yemen and the region
- Since Cole incident, the first American vessel anchors at Aden port on Sunday 20 Oct.

The newspaper's editorial says despite the large and varied size of violations with regard to he electoral register, we, proceeding from keenness on surmounting the bottleneck the democratic experiment is intended to be placed into, and the desire for not missing available chances, say we are still in a society governed by many power centers. There are still many issues managed by the law of power rather than the power of the law. Civil society organizations are still too weak to exercise their tasks in full swing realizing their targets and placing them in charge of failures.

We are inclined to the idea that all political forces and the supporting organizations should think with good intentions and say that most violations that have been committed are the product of individual conduct and that the ruling party and the elections committee are not involved in causing them and consequently are not meant to defend those violations. This result necessitates the immediate initiative to refuse such acts and express readiness to joint work with all political parties and organizations to rectify what the violators have done. The whole issue needs a credibility which would be the touchstone that would define the extent of relationship between these acts and both the ruling party and the elections committee.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al Ahram

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher telephoned on Friday Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa on the Libyan decision to withdraw from the pan-Arab forum. They also exchanged views on the Arab situation in general.

Al Akhbar

Maher said on Friday in a statement that Egypt was following with great concern the hostage ordeal in Moscow, while expressing hope that the issue would end as soon as possible to save lives and interests of the friendly Russian people.

Al Gomhuria

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Friday discussed by phone with his Tunisian counterpart Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali the latest situation in the Middle East including the Iraqi crisis.

Egyptian Mail

Hundreds of Israeli soldiers backed by scores of tanks and other armored vehicles took control of the Palestinian city of Jenin in the West Bank on Friday, allegedly to retaliate for a bombing that killed 14 people.

Britain

The Times

Tony Blair launched a ferocious attack on President Jacques Chirac of France Friday for jeopardizing the successful enlargement of the European Union to 25 members by putting the narrow self-interest of French farmers first.

The Daily Telegraph

The public is overwhelmingly opposed to firemen striking in support of their 40 percent pay claim, a YouGov survey for The Daily Telegraph has found.

The Financial Times

Companies will be allowed to challenge regulators' vetoes of mergers without having to scrap their deals under radical proposals being planned by the European Commission.

The Guardian

British firefighters' leaders are expected to hold a third round of pay talks with Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott this weekend, raising speculation that Tuesday's first strike may be suspended.

Kenya

Kenya Times

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi on Friday re-appointed 10 commissioners to the Electoral Commission of Kenya.

Daily Nation

The formal countdown to the general election began on Friday when President Moi dissolved the Kenyan parliament.

India

Hindustan Times

Two people allegedly involved in the carnage in Godhra railway station in Gujarat in February, that led to a wide-spread turmoil killing over 1,000 people, were arrested in south Kashmir on Friday.

The Times of India

From Dec. 5, all the phone numbers under MTNI, a government-run telephone house, in Delhi and other parts of the country will have eight digits to accommodate new private phone companies.

The Indian Express

The ruling National Democratic Alliance led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a rally on Friday to mark the completion of three years of the Vajpayee government with BJP allies going through the motions of a celebration without the enthusiasm normally associated with such occasions.

The Hindu

The minimum floor level wage for workers has been increased by five rupees (48.5 rupees for on US dollars) at the national level to 50 rupees a day from Sept. 1, 2002.

Pakistan

Daily Times

All the three major parliamentary groups on Friday continued talks on the formation of a coalition government, but they could not reach any understanding and have postponed a final decision on the matter until next Monday.

The News

According to reliable official sources, the government has decided to convene the first session of parliament on Nov. 4.

The election for Speaker will be held on Nov. 5 while the election for Prime Minister will be held on Nov. 7.

The Nation

President General Pervez Musharraf on Friday said the decision of India to withdraw its troops has vindicated Pakistan's stance that all the outstanding issues between the two neighboring states, including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir, could be resolved only through meaningful negotiations and parleys.

Japan

Yomiuri, Asahi, Nihon Keizai, Mainichi

Major Japanese banks strongly opposed the harsh bad-loan disposal plan by Japanese Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka.

Asahi

The Japanese government is to ease regulations over refugee recognition.

Yomiuri, Mainichi

Japanese lawmaker Koki Ishii was stabbed to death Friday morning in front of his house.



Arab News - Khalil's cartoon

Philippines

The Philippine Star

Commander-in-chief of US forces in the Pacific Admiral Thomas Fargo offered Friday to field additional American spy satellites' flights over Philippine territory to beef up intelligence-gathering capability against terrorists. He made the offer during a meeting in Honolulu with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who arrived there for a one-day stopover before flying to Los Cabos, Mexico, to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Five suspected Abu Sayyaf members implicated in the recent deadly bomb explosions in the southern city

of Zamboanga were formally charged on Friday before the regional trial court there with illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives. Murder charges against them have not been filed as police investigation is still under way.

Manila Times

Police agents looking for illegal drugs at a bus terminal in Pasay, Metro Manila, on Thursday night found instead 48 detonators and 86 blasting caps in a bag inside a bus. The accidental discovery of the items used in making bombs came almost a week after two people were killed and more than 20 wounded in an explosion in a bus in the Philippine capital area.

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 ■ للبيع: أرضية مساحة ثمان لبن مكونة من ثلاثة منازل، خمس شقق سكنية، دكان، اتصالات، مكتب خدمات، صيدلة، معمل خياطة مع الملحقات، خزان أرضي ٣٠ الف لتر، عبد الله المؤنسي، ت: ٤٠٥٣٨٢
 ■ للبيع: أرضية في صنعاء ١٠ لبن في شارع ٤٥ على الشارع الرئيسي، محمد عبد الوهاب، ت: ٤١٧٤٥٧
 ■ للإيجار: شقة في شارع حدة مكونة من ثلاث غرف وحمامين ومطبخ وحوش مستقل وتلفون ومخزن في الحوش، بمبلغ عشرين الف ريال. للاستفسار: محمد المعافا ت: ٢٤٨٧٩٢

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 ■ للبيع: سيارة كدك موديل ٩٢، بنية اللون، بسعر ٧٠٠٠٠٠ ريال، وسيارة دايو ٩٦ المكينة مغيرة، مع اسبيت كرولا لون احمر، بسعر ٤٠٠٠٠٠ ريال ت:

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 اجمل التهانى والتبريكات مطلة بأريز الفل والياسمين نهديفا للأخوين/
رشيد وعبد الرحمن الرجوي
 بمناسبة زفافها الميمون، فالف مبروك وبالرفاء والبنين..
 احمد المنصور، بسم السقاف، والزلاء في مستوى رابع - صحافة

كوبون للإعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)
 بيع □ شراء □ إيجار □ إستئجار □ طلب وظيفة □ وظائف شاعرة □ غير ذلك
 تفاصيل الاعلان:
 عنوان التواصل:

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نهدبها للاخ/
عادل أحمد السقاف
 بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولوده البكر الذي اسماه (حازم)
 فالف مبروك «أبا حازم» ونسال الله ان يبتئه نباتاً حسناً وبياركة له فيه..
 عبد الحكيم فتحي، مرسال، بسم، زهير، رشيد وجميع الزملاء

وظائف شاعرة
 ■ مطلوب مترجمين (عربي إنجليزي، إنجليزي عربي) ذو خبرة للإستفسار الإتصال برقم ٧٣٧٩٠٤٤٨
 ■ يعلن المعهد الأمريكي الاكاديمي عن وجود وظائف شاعرة: مدرسين/ مدرسات كمبيوتر وإدارة أعمال باللغة الإنجليزية يشترط في المتقدمين ان يكونوا ذوي كفاءة عالية وخبرة طويلة ويفضل ان يكونوا اجانب، كما يعلن عن حاجته الى سكرتيرة تجيد اللغة الانجليزية والكمبيوتر وذات شخصية قوية. هاتف: ٧٣٨١٠٤٤٢/٢٤٩٢٩٤
 ■ باحثون عن وظيفة
 ■ ... مواطن يمني خريج امريكا شهادة في علوم القرار والادارة والاستراتيجية، انظمة المعلومات، دراسات عليا في التسويق والاعلانات، طلاقة في التحدث انجليزي/عربي، مع شهادتين في التوفل - امتياز، خبرات عمل سابقة فيما يتعلق بالارضاع الادارة في تقنيه المعلومات، الاعمال الخاصة والعلاقات الدبلوماسية السياسية في امريكا واليمن، فضلاً اتصلوا بالاخ/ نجم الدين الانسي ٧٣٨٢٨٩٥
 ■ طارق الحيدري: بكالوريوس

Special dispensation to the sport

F1-Belgian Grand Prix set to be axed

By ALAN BALDWIN

LONDON (Reuters) - Next year's Belgian Grand Prix is set to be scrubbed off the Formula One calendar in a row over restrictions on tobacco advertising, team sources have said.

The sources told Reuters that team bosses had decided at a meeting on Thursday not to go to Spa Francorchamps next year after the Belgian government said tobacco sponsorship would be banned in August 2003 before the grand prix.

The team chiefs were holding further discussions with International Automobile Federation (FIA) officials before a meeting of the Formula One Commission on Monday.

The decision on Spa, which would reduce the championship from 17 to 16 races, must be approved formally at Monday's meeting in the presence of FIA president Max Mosley and the sport's supremo Bernie Ecclestone.

An FIA spokesman could not con-

firm any decision on Spa and said it would be up to the Formula One Commission to decide, while an official at the circuit told Reuters: "There's been no official decision, therefore we can't comment."

Spa was included provisionally on the 2003 calendar dependent on a unanimous agreement by the teams to take part in the race without tobacco sponsorship.

Five F1 teams — world champions Ferrari, McLaren, Renault, Jordan and British American Racing — have tobacco sponsorship.

Phase out

Formula One have agreed to phase out all sponsorship by tobacco companies in 2006 in line with a global embargo planned by the World Health Organisation.

Several European countries, including Britain which passed legislation on a ban on tobacco advertising on Monday, have agreed to give a special

dispensation to the sport until 2006.

The lack of a similar exemption from the Belgian government, despite the grand prix generating an estimated 25 million euros (\$24.41 million) a year for the local economy, has annoyed Ecclestone and Mosley.

Spa is one of Formula One's great tracks, having hosted 36 Belgian Grands Prix and ranking as world champion Michael Schumacher's favourite circuit.

But it has been suggested that organisers have not done enough to keep pace with modern technology and Williams driver Ralf Schumacher said last week he would not miss the track if it was to disappear from the calendar.

With no substitute venues, it may be that the championship will revert back from 17 grands prix to the 16-race season that existed before 2000.

Two new races, China and Bahrain, will be added to the calendar in 2004 so if the Belgian Grand Prix is struck off for next year, it is unlikely to return.



The Belgian Grand Prix, shown here as world champion Michael Schumacher drove to his sixth victory at the famous Spa track in 2002, is set to be scrapped next year because of a Belgian government ban on tobacco advertising. REUTERS/Pascal Rossignol

Arsenal decide not to appeal Vieira ban

By STEPHEN WOOD

LONDON (Reuters) - Arsenal have decided not to appeal against captain Patrick Vieira's two-match ban and fine for insulting a referee, meaning his suspension will come into effect immediately.

Vieira will miss Saturday's premier league game against Blackburn Rovers and the match at Fulham on November 3 but will be eligible to play against local rivals Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United.

"It's disappointing...he has been harshly done by. But if he is going to miss two games he may as well miss them quickly," manager Arsene Wenger told reporters at the club's training ground on Friday.

Vieira received a two-match ban and a 25,000-pound (\$38,830) fine on Thursday after a Football Association disciplinary committee decided he insulted referee Andy D'Urso after being sent off in a match against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on September 1.

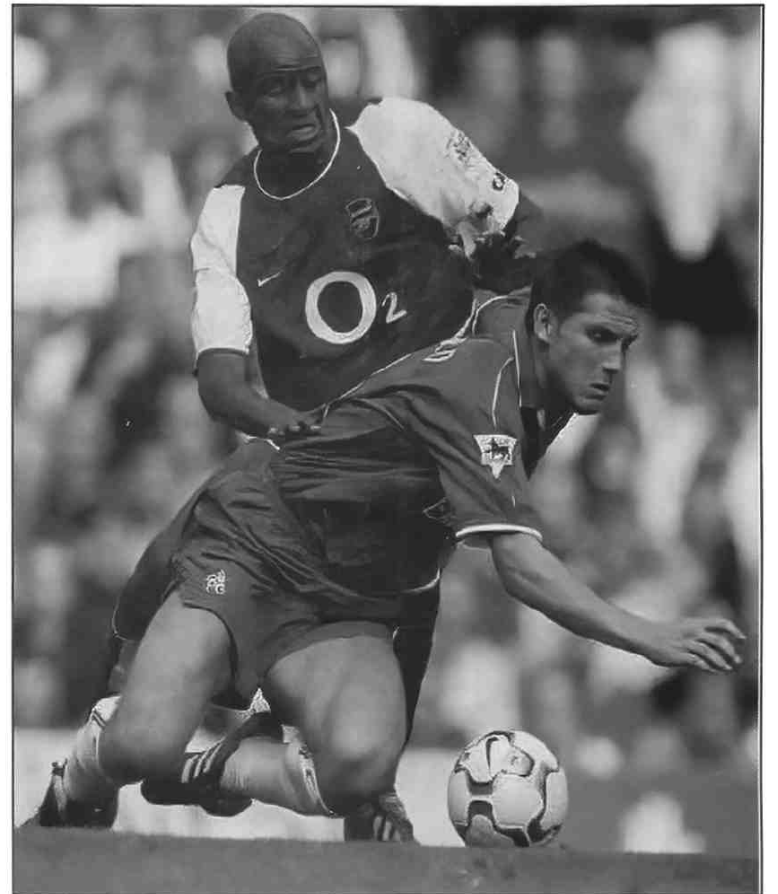
But the disciplinary commission ruled that the 26-year-old was not guilty of using abusive language towards the official.

If the club had launched an appeal, the ban — if upheld — would have been delayed until after the appeal hearing and could have been in effect for the match against Manchester United on December 7.

Equally, if Arsenal had taken the 14 days allowed to decide whether to appeal and then decided not to, Vieira would have missed the game against Tottenham at Highbury on November 16.

No personality

Wenger explained: "Patrick will be suspended tomorrow because we decided not to appeal and to take the suspension straight away, so he will miss Blackburn and Fulham.



Arsenal will not appeal the two-match ban imposed on captain Patrick Vieira (L), shown here playing against Chelsea's Frank Lampard (R), for swearing at referee Andy D'Urso during this match. REUTERS/Ian Waldie

"I was told firstly he would miss (two games later in November), but having checked it, it appears the (FA) gave us time to appeal — and because we are not appealing he will be suspended straight away.

"We won't be appealing because we defended the case very well, we pushed as hard as we could and still got punished.

"Psychologically for Patrick it will be helpful for him to get it out of the way. If he is going to miss two games he may as well miss them quickly."

Wenger, who was present at

Thursday's hearing, added: "I have heard a lot worse (than what Vieira said to D'Urso) said on the pitch every Saturday.

"Patrick did not give abusive language, but for insulting language he got two games. Those are the guidelines.

"Patrick said he (D'Urso) has no personality...Patrick admitted that he had said that.

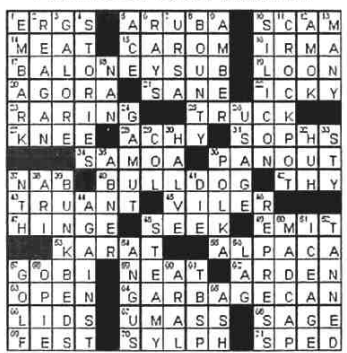
"But there was no abusive language. When you say in French that someone has no personality, it is not a compliment but it is also not an insult."

The Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

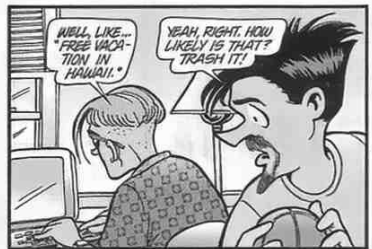
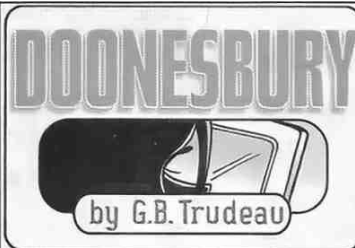
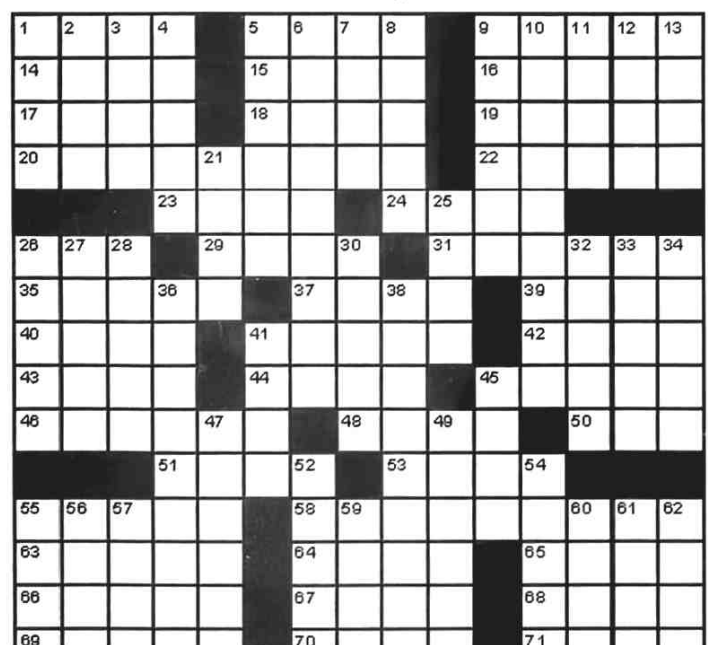
- ACROSS 1 Greek hero 5 Overcharging concern? 9 Muslim teachers 14 Large amount 15 Consumer 16 Old movie theater name 17 Bachelor's "Holden" 18 College sports gp. 19 Mindlessly silly 20 Of lesser importance 22 Fred of Limp Bizkit 23 Christmas carol 24 Leave it, editorially 26 Prohibit 29 Authentic 31 Breakfast order 35 Nebraska city 37 Old Soviet news agency 39 1760 yards 40 Puerto 41 Jerk's creations? 42 Opera solo 43 Stocking shade 44 Choice, for short 45 Flying pests 46 Bogart film "High" 48 "Nautilus" captain 50 "Dick and Jane" verb 51 Actress Lollobrigida 53 Swarm 55 Chew out 58 Castles in the air 63 Like some Vatican bulls 64 Japanese people 65 "Dagnabbit" 66 Be the life of the party 67 March fifteenth, to Caesar 68 Crowning point 69 In disarray 70 Pro (proportionate) 71 Moistened clay DOWN 1 Simians 2 Coincidence 3 Baldwin of "Beetlejuice" 4 Colorless, gaseous element 5 "Crocodile" 6 Moving staircase 7 One of a storied threesome 8 Cafeteria items 9 Word in footnotes 10 Revolutionary War figure 11 Slightly cracked 12 Certain weekdays (abbr.) 13 Edible fat 21 Mrs. Nick Charles 25 Play horseshoes 26 Drills a hole 27 Latin friends 28 Mother-of-pearl 30 Heavily burdened 32 Turkish money units 33 Social crème de la crème 34 Add body to hair 36 Primitive time-piece 38 Trapeze artist's security 41 Bridge 45 Word with movie or party 47 "Black Hawk Down" director Scott 49 Snake-haired woman of myth 52 Noted fighter of oil fires 54 Olympic quest 55 Junk mail online 56 "And it ___ to pass..." 57 Major musical composition 59 Verdi opera 60 With the bow, in music 61 "I Remember ___" 62 Cherry part

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"KEEPING TIME" by Vivian O. Collins



Horoscope by Boadachia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Now it is time to open your desire to become more. It's time to become everything that you are capable of becoming. Start listening to your inner voices. Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) You really need to see the colors in everything again. Walk away from that which is solid, firm and always makes so much damn sense because, right now, it just ain't making much sense. Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20) You have many strengths, but there are some people, places, jobs, etc. that are not bringing out your best side. Instead, you are choosing to attract yourself to situations that harp on you. Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) When you get yourself into a space that offers you room to grow, freely, and without judgement, that chaos will calm, and you will feel serene, as you are supposed to feel. Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22) There really are opportunities growing for you, to see that the world recognizes your talents, love, skills, and abundance. Expecting the universe to embrace you. Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Your morale seems to be high this week. You are a wonderful companion to be around. You have a spirit of a cat: playful, relaxing and alert. Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) To truly reap the rewards that await you, you need to start figuring out how your soul and your personality can work together. Otherwise, great frustration will continue to ensue. Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) It really can be quite easy and fun to go after the pleasures of life, while avoiding the ugly stuff. People do it all the time, and you are, by far, no exception. Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Get real sure about the place in which you currently exist, and if it all feels in line with what you know is in your heart's passion, then you are so due for an explosion of bliss. Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) When you do find new ways of being who you were meant to be, you will also find the process of relating to others to be more empowering and freeing as well. Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) You are far too advanced to succumb to that kind of feeling of being gloomy and timid, anticipating hurts and pains. Get rid of all that bad feeling right now! Pisces (February 19 - March 20) Be careful of accepting fakes, the cheap models, and the things that claim to be quick fixes.

Samsung introduces DVM, energy-saving Air Conditioning systems, to the Middle East

Digital Variable Multi



Samsung has always been in the forefront of pioneering technology and is today recognised as a global giant across electronics, appliances and telecommunications. Within a short span of time, Samsung's brand value has jumped to a staggering 8.3 billion US dollars and has recorded the largest incremental growth among all brands in the year 2002. After tremendous success in international markets, Samsung now introduces DVM, the revolutionary, next generation, modular air-conditioning technology, to the Middle East. Guaranteed to create waves in the region.

DVM - the very best of technology innovation
DVM stands for Digital Variable Multi - a system operated by a variable capacity compressor which can accommodate multiple indoor units (evaporators). Just one outdoor unit can control all indoor units resulting in tremendous savings on energy consumption, space and of course, costs.

The system uses group and centralised controllers while retaining the flexibility of using individual unit controllers. And unlike conventional air conditioners that have a fixed capacity, the Samsung DVM system uses variable capacity for increased cooling choices.

Greater Energy Efficiency

Technical laboratory tests have shown Samsung DVM to be miles ahead of the nearest competitor and conventional unitary systems. Providing up to 25 percent higher efficiency, the DVM is certain to increase any company or institution's profitability. With the world's first PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) compressor controlling the cooling capacity automatically and gauging the load, the efficiency of this

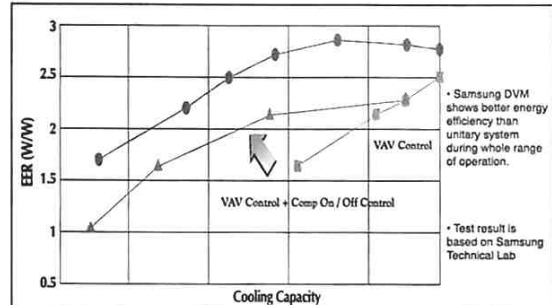
system is proven to be optimal.

US \$ 2.3 billion on R&D

The DVM system is one more feather in the cap of the 20,000 strong Samsung R&D team, who have made it a mission to develop cutting edge products that beats the competition and provides consumers with better value.

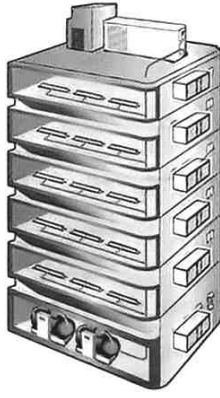
One system, many applications

The Samsung DVM system has multiple applications and can be



Space Saving and Zone Control

Conventional System



DVM System



used in high rise apartments, office complexes, hotels, hospitals or airports - simply put, any project which requires efficient management of cooling power!

Longest Single Piping

Piping can be extended up to 100 meters from the outdoor unit to multiple indoor units and each indoor unit is connected by means of refrigerant piping.

indoor unit and many rooms can be air conditioned with only one unit.

Caring for Environment

Samsung's concern for the environment is reflected in its manufacturing practices. As the sole manufacturer to undertake the full line of operations from development to production of air conditioners, Samsung were pioneers in environmental protection and the first to successfully develop applications for R410A and R407C refrigerants, which do not damage the ozone layer. As part of its mission to reduce energy consumption, Samsung has developed the BLDC compressor and advanced inverter type air



conditioners, as well as recyclable components and resins. Samsung air conditioners also incorporate the new R410A and R407C refrigerant gases to ensure environmental stability and no harmful effects on the earth's ozone layer.



Be it for its energy saving, cost saving or environment friendly benefits, the Samsung DVM system is set to change the way people look at air conditioning in the Middle East. Just like it has in the rest of the world.

The system also allows for very simple installation and planning during the early stages of building construction.

Space Saving

As one outdoor unit is directly connected with several indoor units, there is no need of cooling the working fluid with an additional refrigerator and therefore it requires less space than the conventional type.

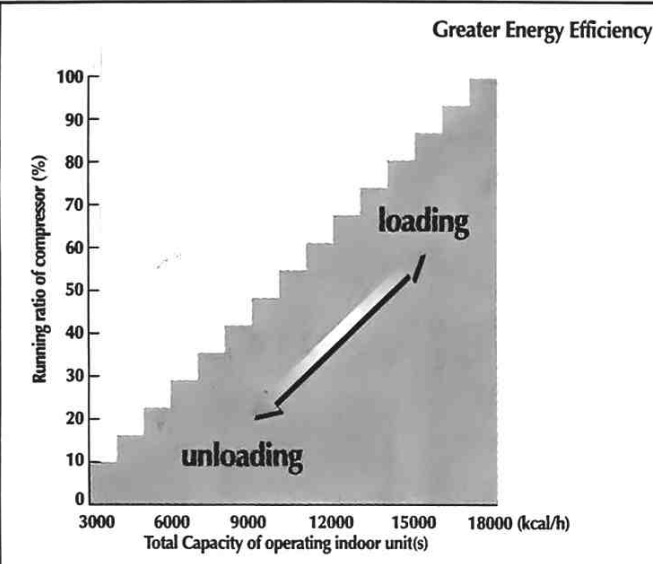
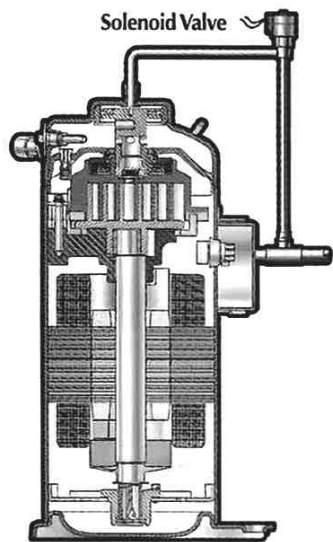
Low on Consumption, High on Saving

Use of a single outdoor unit in the Samsung DVM System, results in substantially lower energy consumption and this translates into significant cost savings for any user.

Compatible with any Air Conditioner type

The Samsung DVM system can be used in tandem with all kinds of air conditioning products in use today viz.

- the one way cassette type - where cool air is sent from the ceiling in one direction
- 4 way cassette type - where there is a high ceiling and open space, resulting in uniform and wide range cooling
- ceiling type - which can be installed into a corner of the ceiling even if the ceiling is very narrow or if the centre already has a lighting fixture
- duct type (Built in, HSP and Small) - where several diffusers branch off from one



SAMSUNG

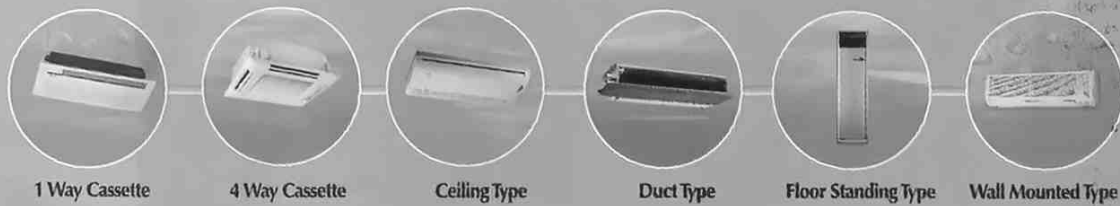
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- **Installer** - Simple wiring & maintenance and self diagnosis. **Labour Saving.**
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LG Icebeam Door Cooling Ref's Cooling speed to reach 7°C	2.5 times	1.9 times	2.7 times
LG Icebeam Door Cooling Ref's Even cooling performance	2.2 times	1.5 times	1.6 times

* Other brands A, B and C are all currently ranked as global top 10 refrigerator manufacturers, with B and C being American brands.



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Sirwah a historic treasure, but needs services

By **HASSAN AZZAEDI**
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sirwah City, 50 km to the west of Mareb, is one of the most ancient Yemeni cities, dating back to the Sabaeen's regime. The glory of Sabaeen Kingdom is still seen in many of the ancient sites here.

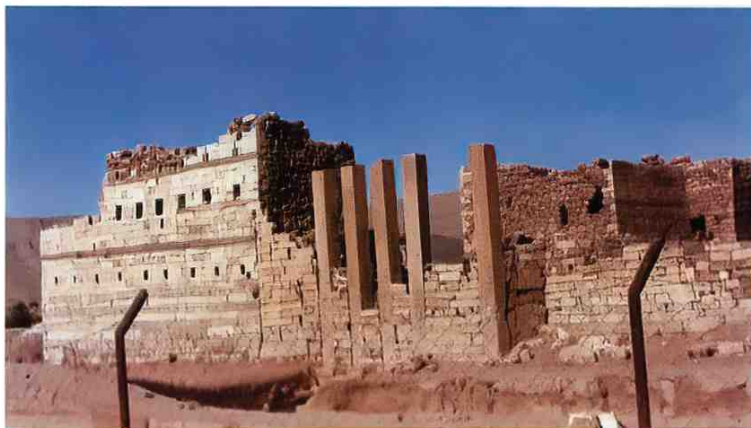
Despite the treasures that Sirwah possesses, many are still unearched. A German expedition, which stopped working two months ago, tried to abolish all new buildings that have crept on the historic city.

Regrettably, this district is notorious for kidnappings, along with tribal clashes that erupt from time to time. From 1993 to 2001, there were about 12 kidnappings in this district.

This spot has witnessed ups and downs and has become the main barack for military units scattered in the region.



Relics signify ancient civilization still existed in Sirwah



Remains of Sabaeen's state in Sirwah, Mareb

The habitants there get accustomed to go to bed to sounds of projectiles and Katusha guided missiles fired during kidnapping incidents, or the tribal clashes that erupt from time to time.

We paid a short visit to the Sirwah area and met up with the General Director of the district and the Chairman of the local council, Najeb Hussein Assalahi and said: "I have found the inhabitants of the Sirwah area very kind, generous and above all they're inclined towards peace."

They have the desire to show cooperation with the state.

"I want to say here that the kidnapping incidents that occur from time to time begin to disappear. Those who cause troubles are few and have political self-interests," he said.

What is needed is to render services and developmental projects for the area and nothing else. Stability and safety

can be achieved unless there is a comprehensive development in all aspects of life.

"The local councils don't perform their role properly due to the unavailability of local resources for the district. We in this case demand the government and the presidents to spare no efforts for supporting and rendering

services for the Sirwah district," said Assalahi.

Sirwah district is in short supply of educational facilities, healthcare centers and agriculture resources.

Women in this area are in dire need of a better life. "I have noticed women have played a vital role in the previous local elections and that's what is needed to push the women's status for the better," Assalahi added.

The Sirwah area is in need of developmental projects also.

"It is true that the government has paid a due attention to supply the water projects. But, unfortunately, those who are responsible for these projects are preoccupied with their self-interests and they turned into monopolizers. The common man in this respect fall a prey for a permanent deprivation and therefore he has to pay the price.

Since time immemorial, the Sirwah area is famous for its historical engravings and temples.

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