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Killer's house burnt following last week's mosque massacre, and families still not satisfied: Capital punishment sought

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mukalla, 3 August - Family members of the children killed in last Wednesday's mosque massacre have demanded the authorities to quickly prosecute and issue the death sentence against the murderer of 9 people, mostly children aged between seven and 16, in "Ti Qura" village the province of Lahj, 300 kilometers south of Sana'a.

Families outraged

Families of the victims had already burnt down the house of the murderer, Muhsin Yahya Munassar, 42, after it was emptied from its residents and furniture. "Families were furious and frustrated. Never before had such a horrific incident taken place in the area and even in the whole country" one of the villagers told Yemen Times.

Muhsin's wife and children - two teenage daughters and a week-old infant - have become homeless and sought refuge at a relative's home following this act, which indicates the massive anger of the victims' families.

Motives unknown

According to preliminary investigations, the killer's motives are still unknown, but the man did suffer from psychological problems since he was stripped of his position as an army colonel after Yemen's 1994 civil war.

He also underwent a recent heart surgery, which seemed to have resulted in further deterioration in his health, and left him nervous and in bad mood, according to villagers. Muhsin retired from his work as at the Political Security Office six months ago for health reasons. Medical sources said that the murderer suffered from a heart attack one day before he committed his massacre.

Security sources denied that there are partisan motives or conflict behind the crime as the killer is a member of the ruling party and an officer in the intelligence.

People in the area are in a state of shock and bewilderment as the crime was beyond their assimilation. They demand a heavy penalty against the killer who caused panic and mourning all over the village. People expect a quick trial of the murderer.

The Ministry of Religious and Endowments is not happy with such summer

camps meant for religious teachings. It says that such courses run by charitable societies should be monitored by the ministry. The government is afraid that these camps might be used for fanatic purposes.

Online warfare

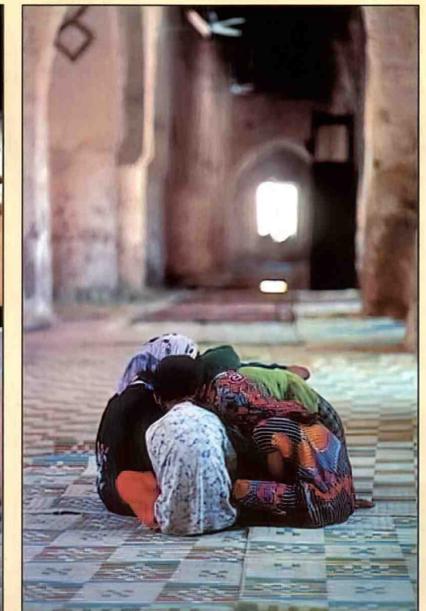
The murder turned into a debate and media barrage between the media internet websites of the ruling party The General People's Congress (GPC) and Islah. The GPC website (www.almotamar.net) said the killer was a mosque sermon preacher and is a member of the socialist party, while al-Sahwa website (www.alsahwa-yemen.net) refuted such allegations and said he is an officer in the intelligence and is a member of the ruling party. However, investigation authorities said they do not care about the political affiliation of the killer rather they are interested in the motives behind the crime.

Relative and neighbors said that even though the man was not a fundamentalist or a religious person, yet he used to pray on many occasions in the same mosque, where he committed his evil act.

Continued on Page 2



The incident of last week reminded many of 2001's attack on a mosque in Amran (shown) which led to the killing of 4 and injury of 18 (YT archives photo)



Students studying Qura'n in a Sana'a mosque. Lahj families are expected to hesitate in sending their children to unofficial Qura'n classes.

Yemeni initiative to overhaul Arab League

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government disclosed Thursday the content of its initiative to overhaul the Arab League and enhance Arab solidarity. The initiative states that Arab Union should be established in place of the Arab

League with a council to include in its membership presidents and kings of all Arab countries. It also says that ministerial councils for foreign and social affairs, defense, security, economy, development as well as parliament and Shura council should be set with an equal representation of all Arab states.

The initiative suggests also the establishment of an Arab economic council including Arab fiscal fund and Arab justice court. People running such institutions should be appointed on the basis of their qualification. Foreign Minister, Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, said this initiative comes out of an in-depth

understanding and perusal of other experiences like that of the European and African unions. He pointed out that the Yemeni initiative will be presented to all Arab countries for further commenting and study once it is fully ready and complete.

It comes at a very critical time where Arab countries are facing hard times at all levels. The war on terrorism is the major challenge to these countries and their relationships with the USA that occupies Iraq and threatens others like Syria and Saudi Arabia. But, can such an initiative be enough to cure the Arab situation?



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Initiatives to upgrade civil service taken

By Yasser al-Mayasi
Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A_ Preliminary estimates and statistics on the program of modernizing civil service presented at the ministry consultative meeting on 27 July revealed that the number of employees who do not perform jobs and employed by political organizations and parties are amounting to 35,643, i.e. about 9 percent of the total number of government employees.

The program indicated that those employees occupied more than one job at governmental bodies or the private sector and this phenomenon would be dealt with.

The upgrading program of the civil service has made it clear that rectification of these dysfunction is considered a major part of the financial and administrative reform program.

The program of upgrading civil service includes bureaucratic surplus, moonlighting and employees who do not perform their jobs at the present.

Ahwar Agricultural Association sends distress call

Ahwar Agricultural, multi-purpose association, (AAMA) head, Mohsen Fadhl in Tawil, 91 has recently sent a distress call which he described as SOS, appealing to world governments and world bank.

The AAMA appeal is especially directed to the Arab League and president Ali Abdullah Saleh in addition to Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The appeal has mentioned several points mainly that the district of Ahwar in Abyan governorate had in 1994 been affected by flood catastrophes that swept and destroyed all agricultural irrigation installations and facilities which are estimated at 1500 acres of area, along the Wadi from the Fuwad Dam in the North downward to sea and at a depth of 4 meters.

It added that the flood swept irrigation installations and canals and dam of Hanadh in addition to modern installations and facilities.

The flood of 1994 has got an appalling memory like the flood of Noah.

The appeal complained that despite the elapse of about ten years since the

catastrophic flood, nothing has been done and the situation has exacerbated.

The minister of agriculture had on December 21, 1994 directed the manager of Tihama Development Project, Eng. Ibrahim Abduljabbar Al-Dowmi and his team to go on a field inspection to the afflicted area for verification and assessment of the damage caused by the floods to Wadi Ahwar.

Following the arrival of the team to Ahwar and checking the damage, the team summed up its report which was redacted on January, 5, 1995.

The letter of appeal has in conclusion given summary of the report raised by the inspection team to the president and prime minister.

The requirements included:

- Construction of a major dam in order to deter the floods at the north of Fuwad Dam at a distance of 40km from it.
- Reparation of swept soil of an area of 1500 km.
- Cutting and eliminating of Musket trees and Saysaban.
- reparation and restoring of Fuwad Dam.
- Reparation of water distribution canals to all the land plots.

Amnesty International activities in Taiz

Amnesty International organization held on Monday 28 July a human rights symposium on "Violations of Human Rights in Russia" The symposium was held at headquarters of Yemeni Women Union.

Three working papers were presented at the meeting. A working paper by Mr. Hussein al-Adeemi, member of coordination council at the Amnesty International and expert in the international and human law, tackled the role of international and local organizations in enhancing and protecting human rights.

Mr. Mansour Haza's paper dealt with the reality of human rights under the international changes. While another paper presented an analytical

view on the reality of human rights in Russia, presented by Mr. Mutaher al-Sharjabi.

Mr. Sameer al-Maqtari had given a speech mentioning that "the humanity victory requires continuous confrontation with and rejection of confiscating public and private rights as well as individual rights, adding noble human goals urged the Amnesty International to hold the symposium to cast light on various forms of violence and violation of human rights in Russia.

A gallery of photographs was opened as part of the symposium activities attended by representatives of civil society organisations, number of legal men and human rights activists.

Fatal disease kills poultry

TAIZ_ Poultry farms located in Mawia road and Demnah Khadeer have been recently exposed to a dangerously fatal disease that has begun to spread very quickly in Taiz governorate, specialists at the environment health confirmed.

Dr. Hazza al-Mulaiki and Dr. Saeed Hazza, health specialists said that the disease had seriously affected those poultry farms.

"What is urgently needed from the concerned health bodies is to take an interest in regular preventive measures applied at various poultry farms in the governorates districts in order to limit the spread of diseases and to protect people against their dangers." they said.

Cooperation agreement between Yemen and Djibouti

An agreement for educational cooperation signed Monday between Yemen and Djibouti. The agreement focused on educational curricula, benefiting from both sides' experiences as well as enhancing collaboration between educational institutions in the two countries.

According to the agreement, Yemen will provide the Djibouti education ministry with secondary school textbooks, delegating Yemeni experts to Djibouti to train teachers in the Djibouti schools and setting up joint examinations programs compatible with the unified curricula and programs of the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Abdulsalam al-Jawafi, Yemen's education minister and Mr. Ibrahim Abdi Abeba, Djibouti minister of national and higher education.

Continued from page 1

Capital punishment sought

Massacre described

A few children, including seven-year-old Nabeel, survived the machine-gun attack a medical source said.

Nabeel described the incident to authorities by saying that the killer came to the mosque and called his son out, and then he returned to the mosque and started shooting at the Quran instructor "Faruq", who was killed instantly and followed that by shooting at students randomly. He continued shooting until he ran out of ammunition, and then shouted "Is anyone still alright?" and was then arrested by the villagers who quickly gathered around the mosque to realize the death of seven students and their teacher, while an eighth student died at the hospital a day later. The man was heard shouting "Now I am truly relieved! Don't grill, just get me killed!" when he was dragged to the police.

It's weapons again

This is the second reported crime of its kind where people are attacked in a Yemeni mosque. A similar attack in January 2001 resulted in the death of four men and injury of 18 when an armed man attacked men praying in a mosque in Amran, 50 km north of Sana'a.

Violence in Yemen is quite common due to the high number of firearms held by civilians, which is officially estimated at more than 60 million pieces, i.e., an average of more than three weapons per person. A disarmament law is yet to be approved by the Yemeni parliament to limit the number of weapons in the hands of citizens.

Hodeidah Summer Shopping Festival Opens

Hodeidah - Yemen Economic Corporation has opened Hodeidah summer festival last Thursday. The festival which covers the period 31 July-10 August, was held at the big exhibition hall of the city.

The governor of Hodeidah Mohammed Saleh Shamlan has opened the festival.

Readers' Voice

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is the widespread of light arms in Yemen the main reason behind attacks such the one that occurred in Lahj last week?

- Yes, it is the main reason.
- Yes, but it is one of many.
- No, it helps, but is not that significant.
- No, it has nothing to do with it.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

How close do you think American forces are to actually capturing Saddam?

- Very close, he would be captured within a month. 36%
- They will eventually capture him, but not any time soon. 26%
- He will never be captured. 19%
- I don't care. 19%

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27 members of Huttat terrorist group escaped

A reliable source at the ministry of interior told Yemen Times that 27 members of Huttat terrorist group escaped jail while security forces managed to arrest a few others from the same group.

The same source indicated that authorities are negotiating the release of some arrested members on condition that the group stops its threats to Yemen's security.

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Sunni Scholars in Yemen call on Muslims for reacting to Iraqi crises

Call for action

Sunni scholars and sheikhs of Yemen issued a statement last week signed by 93 scholars calling on Muslims to react to the crises taking place in Iraq.

The call was addressed to both peoples and leaders and condemned American occupation of Iraq where they said: "It is our responsibility to support our brothers in Iraq and Palestine and to help them according to Islamic Share'a as much as we can"

describing the war against Iraq as a cruciferous Zionist war against all Islamic states.

The declaration beckons Arabs to unity and defense of Islam and Islamic sanctities and not be engaged in useless political parties and useless disputes. And it also warns against ignorant support for Islam in a fanatic way and in an emotional illogical way. At the same time it condemned the terrorist acts of

assassinations and other extremist acts terming them as "non-Islamic".

The declaration which was published by the Salafi sect contained indications and hints to the threats and assaults they receive from within the sect due to the division and disputes since the death of founder sheikh Muqbil al-Wadie, and requested unity in stances against external threats and dangers targeting Islam.

KAP bids farewell to Mr. Rabah

SANA'A_ A bidding farewell banquet ceremony in honor of the Palestinian Ambassador Yahya Rabah was hosted by the Kana'an Association for Palestine, KAP on July 31.

The banquet ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, members of the Parliament and Shura Council, ambassadors, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Mr. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, the KAP Chairman delivered a speech centering on the political and cultural contributions of Mr. Rabah during his mission as an ambassador for Palestine to Yemen.

During the closing ceremony, the coats of arm was presented to HE, the Palestinian Ambassador by the KAP Chairman in appreciation of his role in enhancing brotherhood between Yemen and Palestine.

Mr. Rabah was born, on July, 6 1943. He got his secondary education in Gaza Strip and his university education in Cairo.

He is a member of the National Palestinian Council.

Mr. Rabah was appointed as an Ambassador to Yemen on May, 22, 1990, the day of declaring the Yemen's unification.

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With the participation of domestic as well as foreign companies

Summer Festival 2003 officially inaugurated

SANA'A_ Organized by the Apolo Company for International Exhibition, the Summer Festival 2003 was officially inaugurated by the Minister of Trade & Industry, Mr. Khaled Rajeh last Saturday at the Expo Center in Sana'a.

The official inaugural ceremony started on August 2 and will continue till 13 of the same month.

The exhibition includes all the household goods such as, furniture, carpets, electrical machines, electronics and other diverse products produced by famous domestic as well foreign industrial companies.

Other Arab as well as foreign companies also take part in the exhibition, such as Egypt, Syria, Gulf State and China.



Other distinguished domestic booths also were present at the exhibition.

During the opening ceremony, the Trade & Industry Minister has expressed his deep appreciation of exhibition's organizers and efforts exerted for making a great success of this exhibition in order to display different domestic as well as international products suitable for local consumers with reasonable prices.

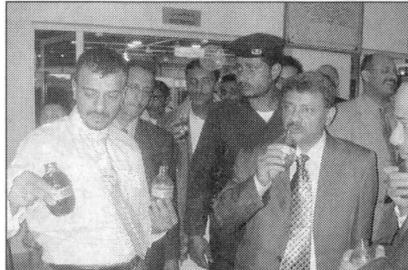
On the other hand, the General Manager of the

exhibition, Mohammed Annehmi said that the company that organized the exhibition had taken a keen interest to receive a host of domestic and foreign trading companies producing and trading with furniture, household appliances, and other electrical products.

"Competition among those companies have been made with view of enabling local consumers to the most state-of-the-art products with lower prices," Mr. Annehmi said

He further noted that the company was due to host the International Book Fair next September.

Other exhibitions and conferences are also to be organized for manufacturing and metal industry in Yemen.



Mr. Ibrahim Ali Ishaq (L), the General Manager of BOMBA company during his tour with the Commerce & Industry Minister (R)

Moroccan National Day marked

A reception party was hosted in Sana'a on July 30 by the Moroccan Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. al-Hassan Zowli on the occasion of the National Moroccan Day.

The reception party was attended by Yemeni, Arab as well as foreign diplomats.

New political and economic achievements have been realized under HM's King Mohammed VI. leadership.

The governmental institutions have been developed and that the opposition parties have been included in running the country.



إعادة الإعلان

دعوة للمشاركة في تنفيذ مشروع فخامة الاخ رئيس الجمهورية لتعميم الحاسوب تدعو وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات ممثلة بالمؤسسة العامة للاتصالات السلكية واللاسلكية والشركات والإخوة الراغبين للمشاركة في مشروع فخامة الاخ/ رئيس الجمهورية لتعميم الحاسوب بإنشاء خط إنتاج وتجميع الحاسوب بمدينة تكنولوجيا الاتصالات والمعلومات بوزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات .
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- ٥- صورة من البطاقة التأمينية سارية المفعول للشركات المحلية .
- ٦- يجب أن تكون العروض صالحة لمدة لا تقل عن (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح العطاء .
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Those interested in the project should submit their applications to the Procurement & stores head Office at the P.T.C, Al-Jiraff, Airport Road to obtain the Pre-Qualification documents priced at (10,0000) ten thousand Yemeni Rials (on a non-refundable basis).

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4. A copy of valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
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Dawoodi Bohras: A glimpse at the truth

By SALMAN RASHID
REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS HOLINESS
DR. SYEDNA MUHAMMAD
BURHANUDDIN, IN YEMEN.

A short while ago on Thursday the tenth of July 2003a certain reporter of The Yemen Times wrote an article titled 'Dawoodi Bohras, an Isma'iyah sect', which had many fundamental mistakes about their beliefs.

Dawoodi Bohras are not descendants of Abi Al Khattab Mohammed bin Abi Zainab Miqlas Al Ajdae neither are they related to him in any way, as the reporter has mentioned wrongly.

The article indicates that the Imams that the Bohras believe in are prophets and in one instance also claims that they are Allah. This allegation has no base and any person calling himself a Muslim would not have any such belief. Bohras do not believe this at all. Their beliefs have been stated quite clearly below.

The reporter states that Dawoodi Bohras believe that Mohammed (SAW) was not the actual man in which Allah made the revelation to and infact it was Ali bin Abi Talib (SA) as the actual 'Holy man'. Such an accusation can not be tolerated. The article further comments that the Bohras believe in two prophets which is absurd and in no way true. The positions of both Muhammad (SAW) and Ali (SA) have been clarified below.

I would also like to add here that the name Dawoodi Bohra is not due to the name of one of the Dais, Dawood bin Ajab Shah, as the article suggests, but his successor Dawood bin Qutub Shah. The reason being that the Sulaimaniya Bohras also believe in Dawood bin Ajab Shah as al Dai al-Mutlaq and separate from the Dawoodi Bohras after the demise of him. The Sulaimanis believing in Sulaiman bin Hassan and the Dawoodi Bohras believing in Dawood bin Qutub Shah.



Salman Rashid, representative of His Holiness, Dr. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin, in Yemen

Since the publication of the wrong article on 10/07/2003, both the reporter and the chief editor of Yemen Times have apologised for the incident. I would like to commend Mr. Waleed, the chief editor, for the professional way in which the case was handled and as the representative of His Holiness Dr. Syedna Muhammad Burhanuddin here in Yemen, I greatly appreciate his co-operation and courageousness in the publication of this article, regarding the true beliefs of the Dawoodi Bohra community. I wish both him and The Yemen Times all the success they deserve.

Faith of the Dawoodi Bohras.

Allah, the originator of the universe, created the angels in the heavens to worship Him and Adam (SA) to represent Him as His Khalifah (vicegerent) on Earth. From the *irat* (progeny) of Adam (SA), He chose, in each age, *Anbiya'* (Prophets) to whom He

entrusted His revelation and laid the oath upon them to convey His revelation as and when required. Allah never allowed and shall never allow, the earth to remain without a *Hadi* (Guide) designated by Him and without a *Kitaab* (book) sent down by Him so that mankind may be shown *al-Sirat al-Musataqim* (the Straight Path). In this way, the ages passed until Allah designated Muhammad (SAW) as his *Nabi* (Prophet). Allah sent Muhammad as His last and final *Rasul* (Messenger) to mankind with the *Din* (religion) of Islam prevailing it over all religions. To Muhammad (SAW) He revealed His final *Risalat* (Message), laid down in the Qur'an in manifest Arabic language to confirm, explain, complete and supersede all revelations made to the *Anbiya'* before Him.

La ilaha illa Allah (there is no God but Allah). Allah may He be praised and may His transcendence be affirmed, the Merciful the Compassionate, the Alive and the Everlasting, is the creator. He is unique, and has no associates. To Him only is the Call of the Dawat made and to him is *ta'at* (obedience) due.

Muhammad (SAW) is *Rasul Allah* (the Messenger of Allah). He is *Sayyid al-Mursalin* (Lord of the Messengers) and *Khatam al-Nabiyyin* (Seal of the Prophets). To him was revealed the Qur'an, a perfect guide and a clear discriminator between right and wrong. It was he who brought the final *Risalat* of Allah to mankind and through him Allah established the religion of Islam.

Ali (SA) is *Wali Allah* (the Chosen of Allah). He is *Sayyid al-Wasiyyin* (Lord of the Legatees) and *Amir al-*

Mu'minin (commander of the Faithful) appointed by Muhammad (SAW) to be his *Wasi* (Legatee) and successor after him.

Ali (SA) was succeeded by a line of Imams of which the first was Imam Hasan (SA). He was succeeded by his brother Imam Husayn (SA), *Sayyid al-Shuhada*, (Lord of the Martyrs) through whose *salb* (loins) the *tasalsul* to the *Imamat* has continued and will continue, until the Day of Judgement. Each imam is appointed by *nass* (investiture) from father to son. The 21st Imam, Tayeb, went into seclusion and his descendants, one after the other, continued to function in that manner. During the *Satr* (seclusion) of the Imam, the Imam, by his command and sanction, is represented by al-Dai al-Mutlaq. The Dawat, a noble trust of the Imam, is headed and governed on behalf of the Imam by Dai al-Mutlaq, who acts and holds office as the Imam's representative and na'ib (vicegerent) and exercises his rights and authorities. Al Dai al-Mutlaq selects and appoints his successor to the office by *nass* (investiture). The *tasalsul* (chain of succession) of *al-Du'at al-Mutlaqin* will uninterruptedly continue until the *Zuhur* of the Imam or until the Day of Judgement.

Today Syedna Muhammad Burhanuddin is the 52nd incumbent to the office of *al-Dai al-Mutlaq*. He succeeded to this position of al-Dai al-Mutlaq in 1385H/1965AD through the appointment by his illustrious father and predecessor, His Holiness Dr. Syedna Taher Saifuddin (AQ), the 51st al-Dai al-Mutlaq.

Syedna Muhammad Burhanuddin, al-Dai al-Fatimi.

Dr. Syedna Muhammad Burhanuddin has always guided his followers to act upon *sharia'at Muhammadiya* in all aspects of life, be it regarding matters of *din* or matters concerning daily life. Examples of this are ample and can be observed clearly in his order that, as the Qur'an has clearly stated that *khamr* (alcoholic beverage), any form of intoxication and *riba'* (interest) are *haraam* (banned) and all his followers should stay away from them. Through his guidance, followers of His Holiness have been able to live their everyday lives, be it in any country in the world, refraining from the above mentioned.

His Holiness has always said that al-Qur'an is our book and everyday life revolves around the Qur'an. Its memorisation and recitation is obligatory on all his followers and for this reason he has made numerous schools and educational centres, including Al Jamea-tus-Saifiyah, two Arabic Academies, to ensure that both his followers and other Muslims get that opportunity. Amongst all these centres, the *Mahad al-Zahra* is a special institution for the *hifz* (memorisation) and teachings of Qur'an and is unique to itself.

As mentioned in the Qur'an regarding Qarzan Hassana, Syedna Muhammad Burhanuddin has established Qarzan Hassana projects, which are loans sanctioned without interest, for the social and economic upliftment of his followers, in many different countries throughout the world.

Along with the above mentioned, Qat is a hazardous epidemic in Yemen,

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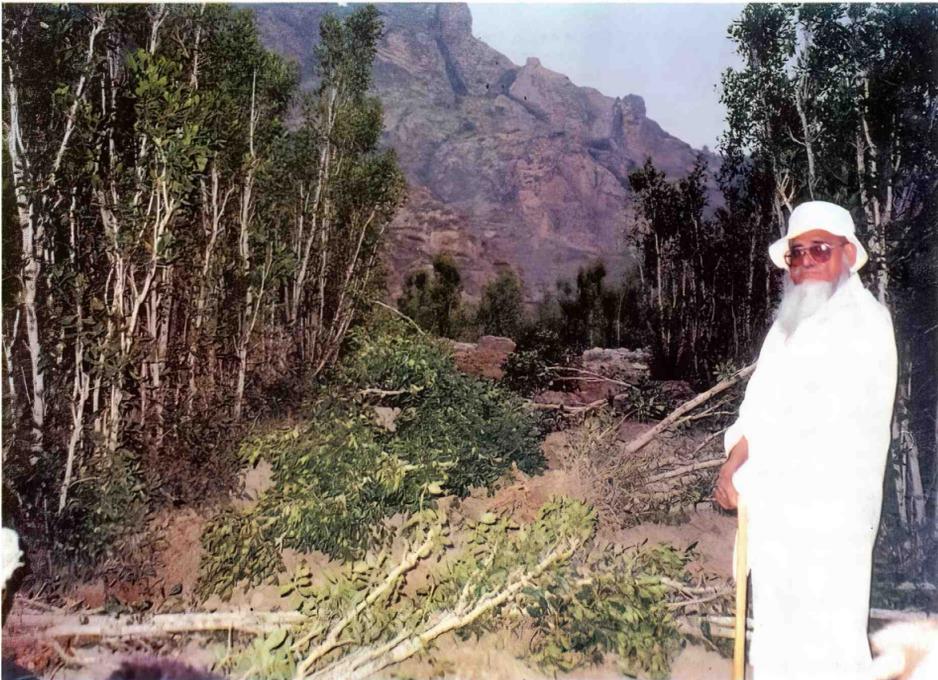
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ruining the lives of all those who are associated with it. Not only should it be not chewed and uprooted, but should not be dealt with in any sort of way. In all of his ten visits to Yemen, he has always emphasised these issues, stressing how important it is to refrain from chewing Qat at all times. After a long and hard struggle, the followers of Syedna, under his guidance, have managed to uproot more than two hundred thousand trees in the province of Haraaz. But the fight against this problem has not stopped there. Under directions of Syedna, three alternatives for the welfare of the farmers are provided for those who uproot the Qat tree.

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The uprooting of qat in the Haraaz province

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U.S. troops hunt Saddam as tribesmen bury his sons

TIKRIT, Iraq, Aug 2 (Reuters) - Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay were buried on Saturday in a rushed funeral at a dusty cemetery, as U.S. soldiers scoured the surrounding countryside and villages for the fugitive dictator himself.

Two graves were dug in the sun-baked earth in Awja, the village where Saddam was born on the outskirts of Tikrit. As gusts of wind whipped up clouds of dust, tribal elders covered the bodies with Iraqi flags and heaped stones on the graves.

A cleric in a white robe intoned prayers as around 40 tribesmen stood by the graveside. One man knelt down to kiss one of the graves. Mahmoud al-Nada, an elder of the Beijat tribal group that includes Saddam's family, led the mourners.

Uday and Qusay were killed on July 22 when U.S. troops attacked their hideout in the northern city of Mosul with grenades, heavy machineguns, rockets and anti-tank missiles. Qusay's son Mustafa and Uday's bodyguard were also killed.

U.S. officers said they hoped the killing of the brothers would demoralise guerrillas mounting daily ambushes on U.S. troops. But there has been no let-up in attacks.

A U.S. army spokesman said one soldier was killed and three wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on a 4th Infantry Division convoy in northern Iraq late on Friday. The ambush brought to 53 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in hostile action since Washington declared major combat over on May 1.

The army also said a 101st Airborne Division soldier was wounded in a grenade attack near Tall Afar, west of Mosul.

A U.S. officer confirmed that Uday and Qusay's bodies had been handed over to the Iraqi Red Crescent and later buried.

Muslim custom stipulates that bodies must be buried as soon as possible after death. But U.S. officials, anxious to



Members of the family clan pray over the graves of toppled leader Saddam Hussein's two sons Uday and Qusay, covered in Iraqi flags, in the northern Iraq town of Ouja, near the deposed dictator's hometown of Tikrit, August 2. Uday and Qusay were killed nearly two weeks ago in a U.S. raid on their hideout in a villa in the northern city of Mosul. REUTERS

avoid the graves becoming a shrine, delayed the burial while they consulted prominent Iraqis on what to do with the corpses.

Some locals in Tikrit, a stronghold of support for Saddam, said they regarded the dead brothers as martyrs.

"They are the heroes of Iraq," one said.

Hunting Saddam

U.S. troops have mounted several raids in Tikrit over the past week, searching for Saddam and his top lieutenants. Officers say the net is closing on the deposed president.

In the latest raid on Friday night, soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Brigade, swooped on a house in Tikrit and seized a man suspected of organising guerrilla attacks.

"The individual that we were target-

ing tonight we believe is involved in organising attacks on U.S. forces, in moving arms for these attacks, and also providing security for members of the regime," Lieutenant Colonel Steve Russell of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, told reporters at the scene.

The raid involved several U.S. units, including two helicopters and soldiers equipped with night vision gear. The suspect was led away in plastic handcuffs, blindfolded, and driven off in the back of a truck for interrogation.

On Friday afternoon, two other Saddam loyalists were detained near Tikrit, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, officers said. They were the latest of "scores" of such figures, some quite senior, detained in raids this week.

Colonel James Hickey, commander of the 1st Brigade, said it was "absolutely

possible" that Saddam was hiding around Tikrit.

"We're acting on the assumption he could very well be here," he told reporters during a night patrol that he said was part of an offensive campaign against anti-U.S. resistance.

"If he is here, we will get him," he said. "I am prepared to kill or capture any high-ranking member of the regime."

But despite a \$25 million price on his head, Saddam has yet to be found. Taped messages said to have been recorded by the deposed president have been aired on Arab television networks, exhorting Iraqis to fight a holy war to expel occupying troops.

CIA officials say the most recent tapes, broadcast on Tuesday and Friday, are probably genuine.

Saddam's eldest daughters Raghd, 36, and Rana, 34, said in interviews in Jordan they did not know where their father was. The two arrived in Amman on Thursday and were given asylum.

Asked whether she expected to hear from Saddam, Raghd told CNN: "I know him very well. He's not going to tell anyone where he is now. Even my mother or any other person in the family."

Car bomb kills Hizbollah member in Beirut

BEIRUT, Aug 2 (Reuters) - A powerful car bomb killed a member of Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla group on Saturday in Beirut's southern suburbs, a stronghold of the Iranian and Syrian-backed organisation.

Hizbollah called the man — whom security sources identified as a Lebanese driver for the Iranian embassy — a martyr and one of its "holy warriors", in accounts of the bombing on the group's television station.

"Hizbollah laments one of its mujahideen," a presenter on the al-Manar station said, before reading a statement saying: "Hizbollah mourns Ali Hussein Saleh, who perished in an explosion in his car this morning."

Witnesses said the blast gouged a gaping hole in the ground, propelled the car about 10 metres (yards) and blew its driver to pieces. A passerby, whom witnesses and security officials initially thought had been in the car, was seriously injured, security sources said.

Security forces cordoned off the area and used bags to collect the dead man's body parts, which the force of the blast had thrown up to the second and third-floor levels of the surrounding buildings.

A senior security official said a bomb in the car ripped it apart as the dead man drove away from his residence.

"He started the engine, got going and went about 100 metres (yards),

then it blew him up. It appears to be a well-planned operation," the source said.

Documents retrieved from the car identified the shredded corpse as that of Saleh, a 42-year-old from the town of Brital in Lebanon's Bekaa valley, a traditional Hizbollah power base.

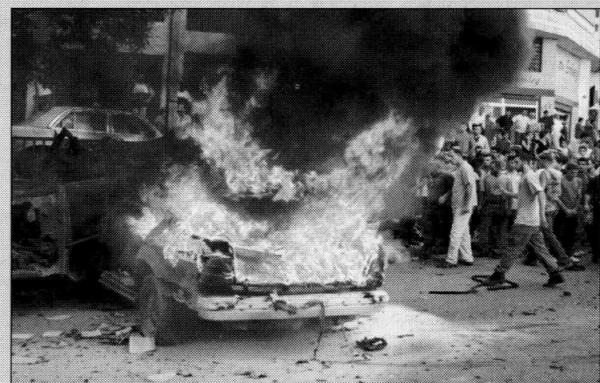
Security forces strained to keep back crowds milling about the mangled, blood-spattered wreckage as it was examined by a forensic team.

Beirut's mainly Shi'ite Muslim southern suburbs form the stronghold of the Iranian and Syrian-backed Hizbollah group, which conducted a guerrilla campaign that helped drive Israeli forces from south Lebanon in 2000 after a 22-year occupation.

Hizbollah officials contacted in Beirut declined to comment immediately on the incident, or to speculate about whether the group had been targeted in the bombing. The Iranian embassy refused to discuss the incident or its ties to the dead man.

At least two prominent political figures have been assassinated by car bombs in Lebanon in recent years. One was Christian militia leader Elie Hobeika, who commanded a force that carried out massacres in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps in 1982.

Senior Hizbollah figures have also been the targets of assassination attempts, including the group's former leader Abbas al-Musawi who was killed by Israel in 1992.



Bystanders watch car burn after being rocked by a bomb in the southern suburbs of Beirut on August 2, killing a Lebanese employee of the Iranian embassy. Witnesses and security sources said the blast, which rocked a street in the southern suburbs of the capital which are a stronghold of Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas, scattered blood and body parts metres around the car. REUTERS

US said to ease demand for Abbas to curb militants

NEW YORK, Aug 2 (Reuters) - The Bush administration has backed away from demands that the Palestinian Authority dismantle militant groups immediately because it is concerned that the authority's security forces are too weak, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

The paper quoted administration officials as saying they had come to accept the cease-fire that Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas negotiated with Hamas and other Palestinian groups.

The Times said that when the cease-fire was negotiated in June, it was belittled by Israeli and American officials as a poor substitute for tough actions against militants. But as attacks on Israelis had declined and support for Abbas among Palestinians seemed to have grown, Americans had changed their tone.

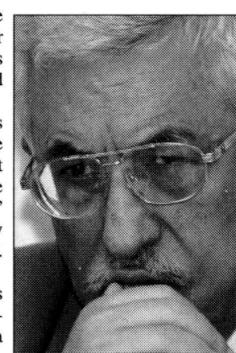
"Both sides now think the cease-fire is a good idea and the early Israeli skepti-

cism has changed," the paper quoted a senior administration official as saying of Israeli and Palestinian positions.

The United States is pushing Israel and the Palestinians to carry out reciprocal steps under the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan launched by President George W. Bush on June 4.

The peace plan calls for a freeze on Israeli settlement activity and a Palestinian crackdown on violence as steps leading to the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

The senior administration official said one advantage of the cease-fire was to give Abbas time to build up and consolidate his security forces for a campaign



Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas

against militant groups.

The Times quoted the U.S. officials as saying the administration's thinking on the cease-fire was discussed this week when Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met Bush at the White House, and last week during a visit by Abbas.

"We've emphatically stated in public and private what needs to be done," a senior American official told the paper.

"It is clear that it cannot be done instantly. It requires planning, strengthening of security forces and a unification of those forces under Abbas and (Palestinian security director Mohammed) Dahlan."

Ugandan dictator Amin in critical condition-source

JEDDAH, Aug 2 (Reuters) - Former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, blamed for the murders of tens of thousands of Ugandans in the 1970s, is in "near-death condition" at a hospital in Saudi Arabia, a medical source said on Saturday.

"He is alive but remains in a near-death condition in a coma," the source at King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Jeddah told Reuters, adding that Amin was on a ventilator.

Doctors have given Amin, in his late 70s, the status of "do not resuscitate", the source said. "This means that should he encounter further life threatening problems, resuscitation will not be

attempted."

Amin has been in exile, chiefly in Saudi Arabia, since being ousted from his East African homeland in 1979. Under his despotic 1971-79 rule, tens of thousands of people were killed. Some estimates put the figure at more than 100,000.

A large and imposing figure who enjoyed publicity, Amin came to power in a 1971 coup. His rule was characterised by eccentric behaviour and violent purges.

Driven from Uganda by Tanzanian forces and Ugandan exiles, Amin, a Muslim, was given sanctuary by Saudi

Arabia in the name of Islamic charity.

His health deteriorating for some time, Amin came out of a coma last week and was said then to be in serious condition.

The medical source said the former leader suffered from kidney failure, followed by liver and respiratory failure. "The last and probably fatal system failure would be cardiac arrest, after which there is effectively no hope," the source said.

A former boxing champion who once expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler, Amin has lived quietly in Jeddah on a government stipend with his four wives.

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Philippines' Arroyo says security under control



Members of the Philippine Presidential Security Group (PSG) stand guard at the main gate of the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila August 2. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, in a nationwide radio broadcast on Saturday, said "residual threats" from last weekend's mutiny remained but the security situation in the country was under control. **REUTERS**

MANILA, Aug 2 (Reuters) - A state of rebellion declared after a failed uprising by renegade soldiers will remain in force until the threat to the Philippine government is over, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said on Saturday.

Arroyo, in a nationwide radio broadcast, said "residual threats" from last weekend's mutiny remained but the security situation in the country was under control.

"The state of rebellion will continue until we wrap up the residual threats. It is true that this problem is not yet over but we have this under control and we will resolve this in the soonest possible time," she said, without elaborating.

The Department of Justice on Friday filed coup charges against the 321 troops involved in last Sunday's day-long siege in Makati, the main business district of Manila.

Earlier in the week army commanders said the situation remained volatile and some troops were unaccounted for, and on Friday rumours swept Manila that truckloads of rogue troops had been sighted just south of the city.

But an army official said the

rumours were a hoax and the city remained calm.

"There's a lot of disinformation going on right now and that seems to be part of it," Armed Forces public information chief Lieutenant Colonel Danilo Servando told Reuters by telephone.

The government has appealed to the public to refrain from passing on coup d'etat rumours by mobile phone.

"Our appeal through media to texters (text message senders) is to be responsible in passing or forwarding text messages, especially those that are unconfirmed," presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said on local radio.

Text messaging by mobile phone is wildly popular in the Philippines and is partly credited with drawing large numbers of people to a religious shrine in Manila in January 2001 for a massive public protest that culminated in the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

Plot

Arroyo in her radio address gave assurances that next week's ASEAN finance ministers meeting in Manila would not be derailed by the recent trouble. "The meeting of the ASEAN

finance chiefs will push through this (coming) week," she said.

Arroyo, who came to power through the army-backed popular revolt that ousted Estrada, said her government would continue to do "everything administratively, operationally and politically in order to stop whatever insidious plans there are in connection with this problem."

Arroyo has insisted the failed uprising was a plot to supplant her government and that all conspirators, either military or civilian would be brought to justice.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina told the Senate Defence Committee on Friday there was a "civilian component to this coup d'etat" and that investigators were preparing charges against Gregorio Honasan, an opposition senator and former army colonel involved in coup plots in the 1980s.

A former member of Estrada's cabinet, Ramon Cardenas, has been charged with rebellion after police said they found weapons and red armbands used by the mutineers at a house he owns.

Estrada, currently jailed on plunder charges, has denied any involvement in the uprising.

Troubled Afghan alliance meets to discuss new party

KABUL, Aug 2 (Reuters) - Senior members of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance faction have met to patch up differences and discuss forming a new party, a move seen as an attempt to prevent their possible marginalisation in the U.S.-backed government.

The meeting held on Friday in Kabul was the largest gathering of alliance members since it captured Kabul from the former Taliban regime in late 2001, an alliance official said.

Mohammad Fahim Qasim, defence minister and military leader of the

alliance, Vice President Abdul Karim Khalili, Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah, Education Minister Yunis Qanuni and former Mujahideen leader Abdul Rabb Al-Rasoul Sayyaf all took part.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, a former president and symbolic ex-political leader of the alliance, was not present, the official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said the meeting discussed plans to establish a new party ahead of elections due to be held in the middle of next year and to confront any move to restrict the influence of the alliance in favour of Western-educated Afghans.

The move coincides with efforts by President Hamid Karzai to introduce reforms expected to shake up the powerful Defence Ministry, an alliance bastion dominated by Fahim's supporters.

Another alliance member said he believed the United States was pushing the reforms to reduce the power of the alliance and change public opinion in America about the weakness of Karzai's government.

The Northern Alliance, a patchwork of former Mujahideen (holy warrior) factions, still forms the backbone of Karzai's government, but it has been weakened by disputes over power-sharing since the fall of the Taliban.

Last week, Fahim, Qanuni, Sayyaf and Rabbani were all implicated in rights abuses in a Human Rights Watch report.

"The meeting was held to unite and react to recent developments," a third alliance official said.

"The rights report is seen as the start of a campaign to get rid of some personalities later and there are efforts at home and abroad to exclude the mujahideen one after another."



JOB VACANCIES

Oxfam GB in Yemen is looking for dynamic people to support the programme on "Promoting Pro-poor and Gendered Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Implementation and Monitoring in Yemen". Staff appointed will be based at the office located in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and the Women National Committee, Sana'a.

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- Proven track record in project management.
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- Knowledge and skills in computer usage.
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time.
- Willingness and eagerness to learn about organizational and financial procedures.

Job Title: Project Coordinator: (Civil Society Organizations) - PRSP Program

Key Competencies

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Key Competencies

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Rescuers comb ruins after Russian blast kills 39

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia, Aug 2 (Reuters) - Rescuers pulled corpses from under the rubble of a Russian military hospital on Saturday after a Chechen suicide bomber drove a truck bomb into it, killing at least 39 people, officials said.

Only part of one wall of the four-storey hospital was left standing and surrounding buildings were gutted. Television footage showed workers passing rubble along human chains and the exact death toll was uncertain as many were believed buried.

Witnesses said an explosives-packed truck driven by a single man smashed through the hospital gates in the Caucasus town of Mozdok late on Friday, before exploding and bringing most of the building down on top of itself.

It was the bloodiest Chechen attack since May and the deadliest outside rebel Chechnya itself since October, when rebels took a Moscow theatre hostage and 129 people died when security forces stormed the building.

"Rescue workers have just found another two male corpses, so the number of killed now comes to 39," said Viktor Beltsov, Emergencies Ministry spokesman, adding that most of the dead were soldiers or medical personnel.

Mozdok in North Ossetia, which borders Chechnya, is the site of one of Russia's top Caucasus military bases. President Vladimir Putin demanded to know how rebels managed to enter it and ordered Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov to the site.

"The first priority is to find the people connected to the suicide bomber," Ivanov told Interfax news agency.



Emergency workers search the site of a bomb blast at a military hospital in the town of Mozdok in Russia's Caucasus, August 2. Rescuers with dogs combed the rubble of a military hospital in Russia's Caucasus after a suspected Chechen drove a truck filled with explosives into it, killing at least 35 people, officials said on Saturday. REUTERS

Weak points

Deputy General Prosecutor Sergei Fridinsky said the hospital had treated many of the soldiers injured in a decade of fighting against separatist rebels in Chechnya, which may have caused rebels to target it.

"This was a well-prepared and well-planned terrorist act," he told NTV television. "Criminals are continuing to exploit weak points in the defences of military bases."

Salambek Maigov, representative in Moscow of separatist Chechen president Aslan Maskhadov, told Reuters Maskhadov had nothing to do with the blast. But he said he could not speak for

other groups from the fragmented Chechen guerrilla forces.

"It is hard to say who is behind this act... but it is not a commander from the official armed forces of Ichkeria (separatist Chechnya). We...do not carry out such acts," he said.

Maskhadov was elected in 1997 during a period of de facto independence for Chechnya, but chased from power when Russia launched a new crackdown against separatists in 1999.

Russian media said a cargo plane carrying medics and supplies had been dispatched to Mozdok within hours and authorities were appealing for blood donors to come forward.

The International Committee of the Red Cross sent medicine and bedding to the site.

Doctors were treating dozens of wounded at remaining hospitals in the area. "We've got 76 (injured) people from the hospital, mainly from the military and the hospital staff," head doctor Vladimir Selivanov, from Mozdok's civilian hospital, told Russian television. Other injured had been flown further afield.

Chechnya is gearing up for an October 5 election to choose a president — a key event in the Kremlin's plans to restore peace — but rebels reject the plan and vow to fight on.

ETA bomb explodes in Spanish town, no casualties

MADRID, Aug 2 (Reuters) - A bomb exploded early on Saturday in the small town of Leioa in Spain's northern Basque region after a warning call from the Basque separatist movement ETA.

There were no casualties from the blast opposite a car dealership, authorities said.

A spokesman for the Basque region's autonomous Ertzaintza police force said the bomb had gone off shortly after midnight, some 20 minutes after an ETA caller warned traffic authorities that it had been planted. Police had time to seal off the area.

ETA, branded a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union, has killed more than 840 people in a campaign spanning more than three decades for an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France.

This summer it has appeared to step up the frequency of its attacks, despite numerous arrests of alleged ETA members by Spanish and French police.

An ETA bomb ripped through the front of Santander airport last weekend only days after two bombs had blown up in the coastal resorts of Benidorm and Alicante, wounding 13 people.

Portugal seeks EU help to fight forest fires

LISBON, Aug 2 (Reuters) - Portugal requested airborne assistance from the European Union on Saturday for more than 2,000 firefighters and soldiers struggling in a heat wave against dozens of forest fires fanned by strong winds.

Interior Minister Antonio Figueiredo Lopes told Portuguese news agency Lusa he had asked for help under the terms of an EU agreement because neighbouring Spain was also battling forest fires and unable to spare support.

"This is one of the worst catastrophe situations in the last 20 years," Figueiredo Lopes said.

Two people died earlier this week in central Portugal as fires swept through their homes while temperatures exceeded 40 degrees Celsius.

About a third of Portugal is covered with forest and the latest official figures show some 25,000 hectares of woodland have been burned so far this year.



The sun sets over a forest fire in Pamplhosa da Serra central Portugal August 1. REUTERS

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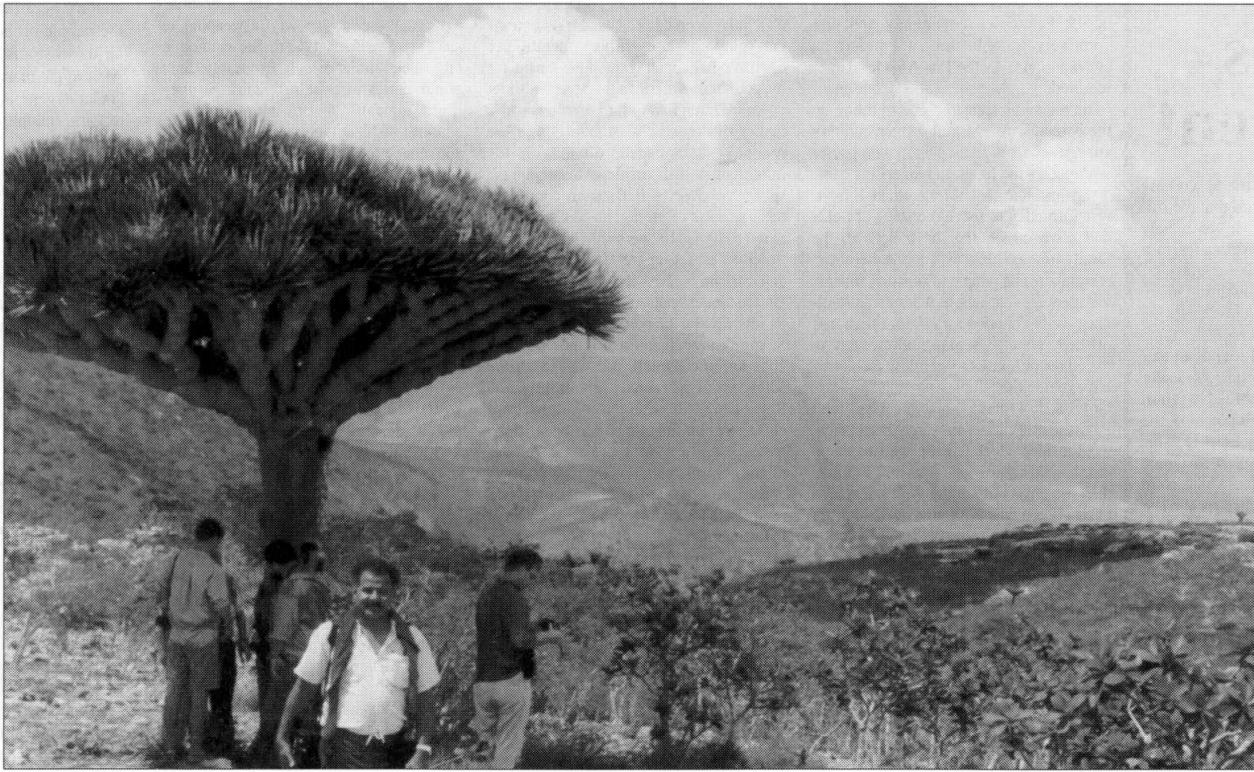
Murky tourism in cool summer

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is to be observed that there is a great retreat in the proportion of tourists flow to Yemen from the European and American tourist market associated with increasing warnings of launching attacks on western interests in Yemen, as a later from the American embassy in Sana'a has said lately. It is therefore that sources at the ministry of culture and tourism expected that the tourist movement would see a negative development during the present summer and the remaining months of the year 2003 for fear of the reflections by behaviour of the American policy regarding al-Qaeda organisation led by Osama bin Laden whose roots belong to Yemen and the American-British war on Iraq. No Yemeni denies or differs in his opinion from another Yemeni that the United States of America has occupied Iraq and there must be jihad against it as a colonialist country of an Arab country and has no interests in Yemen.

The ministry of culture and tourism thinks for compensating Yemen's losses in the tourist sector should be in dealing with new markets. Figures indicate that the companies have lost between 40 to 60 percent of their profits.

The official circles describe the summer of this year as a cold season as there is no flow of foreign tourists and all what is there is the rise in the local tourism between the Yemeni governorates, especially between the



Tourists visiting Socotra

city and the countryside. Sources at the tourism ministry say the present season would witness a growth in the number of foreign tourists and the volume of their expenditure may amount to \$ 80 million, without counting fees of air and sea transport. This ushers an

increase against the year 2000 that amounted to \$76 million while the volume of spending in 1998 amounted to around \$85 million.

By the approval of the Higher Council of Tourism of new policies for dealing with the tourist situation

resulting from Iraq's crisis and post-11 September, the number of tourists who are going to visit the Yemeni tourist resorts this year is expected to reach about 90 thousand tourists compared to 82270 foreign tourists in 1998 and about 80451 tourists in 1997 who were

mostly Italians, Germans and French. The new policies concentrate on the markets of South-East Asia and encouragement of inter-tourism especially from the GCC countries and the looking for markets exporting tourists from African countries.

The Road Ahead

Intelligence

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
r_saqqaf@hotmail.com

Why do people think? Why when it's time to make a decision most people need sometime to think? And what does thinking have to do with information, the information taught, tested and required all the time.

We think because we need information; information can substitute thinking especially in routine matters because we know whatever we used to do previously will work also this time, yet thinking may not be a substitute for information, this is why we use thinking in the hunt for information that might help us in making better decisions.

Nevertheless, our new age of computers and advanced information systems provides us with overwhelming information, and for that we also use thinking to avoid the confusion and to classify that information as per our needs for it, and how we can utilize it.

So thinking is important, and even more important when you do not have full information about a subject, like the future, for example, while dealing with the future we need thinking because we never have perfect information about it.

On the other hand, even if you have perfect information about a certain matter that is not enough if what you are looking for is creativity, design, enterprise, and doing something new, so you need thinking in order to make even better use of information that is also available to your competitors.

So, the point is that information is very important, but not enough, you need to think and think good to come up with new innovations and enhance creativity in whatsoever it is you are doing.

But intelligence is something different; you need to think to come up with intelligent solutions to the problem or the situation that made you think in the first place, let me illustrate with an example of an advertisement.

ABC Ltd. has a marketing problem; they know they need intelligent promotion to succeed, so they provide all the relevant information to an advertising agency in order to obtain the solution to their problem. Now the advertising agency can do what they always do; book some media space and announce an offer or as such. Or think and come up with a new advertising; make direct mailers and send them to potential customers or advertise in some new media. Or can come up with an intelligent solution, with the help of information, think creatively and dig deep for an intelligent solution, for advertising that would really work.

Endnote: All Information is valuable, and thinking can add to it an increasing value because we use thinking to process information and come up with intelligent solutions to our problems.

Development of innovators skills for economic leadership

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government intends to follow a new scientific policy for developing skills of innovators and supporting the youth's mental aptitudes and to work for the protection of their intellectual rights. The government also plans to affect a kind of competition spirit among them in order to promote the situations of the society and keep pace with developments taking place in technological, communications fields and the trade of information and services.

Despite that the Yemeni environment and the living conditions of the population do not help encourage creative works the government of Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal seems to be determined to render care for the gifted persons and offer necessary support to them. The system of the new scientific policy includes offering support to centers of scientific research, development of educational curricula, adopt and take care of innovators and support them in their innovations, media awareness for the youth for giving attention to the time factor and investing it at the technical and vocational training institutes and other relevant facilities.

One of the centres the government has built for this purpose is a centre for qualifying the creative. The centre

adopts the talented youth's projects in the field of communication and information technology. The first batch of graduates in this field has been lately celebrated by the centre. The Yemeni government wants the young innovators contribute to meeting the needs of official scientific institutions and bodies and private sector companies for computer scientific programs in service of development trends and development of partnership of the state and the society at all levels.

The first batch of those graduated from the Centre for Innovators Development have been specialized in distance education, and control of electronic and electrical apparatuses through computers and the internet.

Among the accomplished creative works, the student Khalid Sulaiman al-Na'mi has scored a success in building a project on distance education that would provide opportunity for educational sides to utilize the internet as an educational tool and means for communicating knowledge to the largest number of people and in Arabic language. This system of distance education operates the educational process by offering educational materials, conducting examinations and following up and assessing the level of recipient students' comprehension of educational lessons across the internet.

Student Tahir Hussein Yahya called his creative project "Remote Control

System" related operating electric system networks, especially those built at far and separated places or in places difficult to reach. The systems enables security bodies to control a large number of security gates and to sense any inroad or electric failure of power carrying wires.

Student Sami Abda al-Shawafi has worked out another project he called "Unified Network System for Communications", the essential idea of which is based on checking communication network of beneficiary firms, be they official institutions or private companies and to be certain of

its quality and normal work. According to its creator the system uses the technology of internet protocol in a speedy manner and less cost. As for the student Mohammed al-Maqrami he has worked out a control system used for all kinds of equipment, operation and topping, using the simplest means of electronic control in offices, houses, trading shops, services and industrial installations at a lower cost compared to similar foreign systems.

Against all these innovations the government no other alternative but to adopt works of the innovators and

recognise their knowledge asset for attaining an information society, utilizing the youth creative energies for development productive performance and improvement of economic situations and upgrade the level of services sector.

Therefore the government has launched its great project for expanding the use of internet and put among its priorities program the youth sector for leading and steering the change in the society as well as taking part in building the economy based on knowledge and ending all elements of backwardness.

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Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non-government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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

OUR
OPINIONYemeni immigrants and
expatriates abroad:Key for
Yemen's
development

The other day I was talking to a friend working in the Sultanate of Oman. He said that the sultanate has developed rapidly in extremely high pace during the last three decades to a level incomparable with any other country.

"You just cannot imagine the pace of growth in Oman. It is incredible," he said.

"Cannot this happen to Yemen as well?"
Well, looking at Oman's recent history, I found out that one of the key decisions taken by the country's leader Sultan Qaboos issued a call to all Omanis abroad to return to their homeland and take part in the development of the Sultanate. Upon receiving the call, virtually most Omanis abroad, especially those in Zanzibar, returned to Oman bringing with them their learning and skills, which were instrumental in the development of the country for the last three decades.

Why then can't this happen to Yemen?
Why not give expatriates a chance to participate in building a modern country?

With their skills, education, and eagerness to bring prosperity to their country, Yemenis in exile can play an important role in development.

I recall hundreds if not thousands of letters coming from Yemenis abroad, each one anxious to see his country develop and progress.

"We feel quite sad when seeing the level our country has reached. We want to join hand and help our country flourish again," one of the letters said.

Our leadership, represented in H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, most probably realizes the potential of Yemeni immigrants in building modern Yemen, especially as they have the skills and education needed in this regard.

The second generation of Yemeni immigrants should also be active in assisting Yemen's development.

Many Yemeni students and professionals have shown great talents in Western countries in their respected fields, whether business or science-based. Those must feel bonded to their country and want it to raise its development pace to cope with the rest of the region and the world.

However, they also need encouragement, support, and motivation by the decision makers in the country.

Let there be a strategy to implement drastic measures to encourage expatriates to return to their country with the knowledge and skills, and also assets they have to help build the country in the pace required. Those measures should include all the necessary reforms to guarantee a trouble-free stay and work for them, with no routine obstacles or bureaucracy that would again result in discouraging them from returning.

Finally, I also believe that this viewpoint is a starting point for many of our Yemeni readers, who wish to help in their country's development – and I am sure they are many – so as to begin thinking of possible means and ways to participate in building modern Yemen of tomorrow.

The Editor



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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This is what Bush should have said:

Mr. Sharon, tear
down that wall!

BY JUSTIN RAIMONDO

The "fence," as the Israelis and their amen corner in the U.S. call it, is actually a wall, about 25 feet high: higher than the Berlin Wall. Like every atrocity carried out by the Israeli government, it is being sold as a "defensive" measure, but is in reality an act of aggression, cutting off large swathes of Palestinian property from the main body of the Palestinian community and preemptively establishing a border on annexed land. As the Los Angeles Times reported:

"The red signs appeared one morning on the barbed wire. 'Mortal danger; military zone,' they read. 'Any person who passes or damages the fence endangers his life.' 'And just like that, Mohammed Habbas was forbidden to reach the acres of fields and olive groves that have been in the family for as long as anyone here can remember. The people of this tiny hillside village were left behind when Israeli military walls chopped away more than half of their property, snaking all the way to the edges of houses to swallow the land – but exclude the people.'"

Only a few days ago, meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen, the President declared the wall to be "a problem." But now that Sharon's in town, the problem – but not the Wall – seems to have gone away. Although Bush did not explicitly refer to the Wall in his public comments, Sharon didn't deign to be tactful. He brushed aside Bush's concerns, declaring his intention to continue building his monument to Israeli arrogance, but not without first patting the President on the back for achieving Israel's strategic objectives in the region. The Americans, he enthused, had not only invaded Iraq, and taken out a longstanding thorn in Israel's side, but also have recently resumed their threats against Iran and Syria. The Israeli Prime Minister then expressed his gratitude by telling Bush, in front of the whole world, that the "fence" (as the Israelis insist on calling it) is the President's problem:

"We had a useful talk today, where we examined ways to advance the peace process between us and our Palestinian neighbors. In this context, a number of issues came up: the security fence which we are forced to construct in order to defend our citizens against terror activities ..."

"The security fence will continue to be built with every effort to minimize their infringement on the daily life of the Palestinian population. Unauthorized outposts will be removed as required in a law-abiding country. We'll continue to discuss all these issues, both directly and to our bureaus, which maintain close contact."

In other words: You carried out your part of the bargain, Mr. President – and now I'm reneging.

It is typical of the Israelis to characterize the Wall of Separation as a defensive measure, when it is really a land grab of huge proportions, one that will ensure the failure of the American diplomatic initiative. These are, after all, the original authors of the doctrine of preemption, now adopted by the U.S.

The injustice of this electrified, electrified construction of brick, mortar, rein-

forced steel and barbed wire, its forbidding guard-towers festooned with weaponry, is clearly visible. It is meant to memorialize the conquest of the land, a visible insult to a conquered people, an architectural provocation.

Perhaps the President made a moral appeal to Sharon, but it was bound to fall on deaf ears: we are talking about the Prime Minister of a country where extrajudicial executions, routinely carried out by the Israeli "Defense" Force (IDF), are officially deemed "focused prevention" or "pinpoint preventive operations." Sharon's helicopter gun-ships – paid for by you, dear American taxpayers – shoot down children barely into their teens as a matter of course. Palestinian homes are regularly demolished, often with the inhabitants still inside. "Settlements" spring up close to Palestinian communities, outposts of an organized terror campaign designed to "persuade" non-Israelis to leave. Israeli aggression is relentless, and Sharon, unlike the President of the United States, puts his own country and its interests (as he perceives them) first. Sharon knows that Bush is not about to abandon the Israeli cause: the Prime Minister of Israel can be very useful to the Republicans in what promises to be a close election, just as he has been in the past.

Sharon, for his part, has his own political considerations on the home front. In return for conceding the existence of a Palestinian state – albeit one with no army, no foreign policy, and no guarantee that it will not be re-annexed tomorrow – Sharon must appease the most radical elements among his supporters, who openly call for a "wall of separation" to be created via the expulsion of all Arabs (including those who hold Israeli citizenship). They will now be handed a conveniently snappy slogan: Put them on the other side of the Wall!

The details of the Wall's construction, and its progress so far, reflect the lunge-and-grab policy of the Israelis, which is focused on building the vision of a "Greater Israel" at the core of the ruling Likud party's ideology. The Times reports:

"... [T]he wall's path has shifted east to consume swaths of the West Bank as one Jewish settlement after another demanded to be included on the side of the fence that is closer to Israel. Palestinians, Israelis and international peace mediators all fear the fence will harden into a border. The wall's final route is a mystery, even to the Israeli lawmakers who were pressured last week by Sharon to set aside an extra \$170.5 million for it."

The final route of the Wall is open-ended, just like the military ambitions of its builders. They will push, and push, and push until they get what they want, without giving an inch except under extreme duress – the sort of pressure that our President seems incapable of applying. He's Bush the Conqueror, the Hegemon, the Great Preemptor to the rest of the world, but in the presence of Ariel Sharon, the leader of a tiny Middle Eastern nation that is entirely dependent on American largesse, suddenly he's George the Meek, George the Mild, deferential to a fault.

What's up with that?

Faced with a similar architectural mon-

strosity, Ronald Reagan – for all his faults – did not hesitate to say what needed to be said:

"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall!" I can hear the amen corner now: the Wall of Separation is meant to keep terrorists out, not to keep people in. There is no similarity. But isn't there? The Wall is meant to cut off all contact between ordinary people on both sides, which is precisely what the East German commissars sought to accomplish. The Commies knew that the most powerful weapons in the Western arsenal were the economic and social links which invariably bind communities in close proximity. So they sought to isolate their subjects from such subversive influences, thus ensuring their Marxist purity.

It didn't work, and neither will the Israeli version. Markets conquer all: they leap over walls, over oceans, to create the most complex, interconnected, international division of labor possible, given the limitations of present technology. In a larger sense, the issue of the Wall illustrates the central conundrum of Israel's predicament. The Jewish state cannot continue to exist as an isolated Sparta, bristling with weaponry and little else. Israel is so completely dependent on the United States that it must continually conduct a major overseas effort to sway international opinion – and especially American public opinion – to ensure its survival from year to year. Hobbled by socialism – crippled by it – the Israeli economy is in a shambles, and there are other, more intractable problems.

No wall, no matter how many American tax dollars are lavished on it, is going to keep out determined terrorists, who have a developing base of support among Israeli Arabs. The argument could be made, from a security standpoint, that the Wall will function as a lightning rod for terrorists, a provocation in stone and steel. That, I fear, is the intent of its architects.

If the Arab birth rate continues to outpace that of the Israelis, the Jewish state will be no more. That is the real reason for the Wall. The Likud government is replicating the Jewish ghettos of Eastern Europe, only this time they will be given the best land, not the worst, and they will conduct the pogroms, thank you, if that is what is deemed necessary to ensure Israel's survival.

In empowering the Israeli state to carry out this program, by subsidizing and supporting what amounts to a policy of state terrorism, the President of the United States is pursuing the interests of a foreign nation over and above his own. The U.S., engaged in a deadly war with the terrorists of Al Qaeda, has nothing to gain from such an arrangement, and everything to lose. Why, then, does our unconditional support to Israel continue? Why does the President of the most powerful nation on earth allow himself to be insulted, in public, by this horrendous toad of a man?

As long as we continue to kowtow before the builders of this viciously vindictive Wall, and become complicit in Sharon's crimes, we won't need a "terrorism futures market" to tell us what's in store. In that case, the prospects for peace – in the U.S., as well as in the Middle East – are near to nil.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Unholy
matrimony

"You know, just to get my four unmarried sons engaged, I need a million Riyals!", said Ali to his friends at the qat session.

Mahmoud, the owner of the house they were chewing qat in said, "I understand exactly how you feel, Ali. It is unbelievable how the process of wedlock in our country became so complicated and taxing on most of the people of the country. The difficulties imposed by all the customs and burdens imposed upon those who wish to get married are creating dangerous grounds for social degeneration and decay."

Farid another qat chewer cut in, "It is the few who are rich that are forcing these customs and burdens on the majority of the people of the country, most of whom are struggling to eke out the ability to meet sustenance costs let alone getting their kids married. Can you imagine that I saw the invitations for one of the rich weddings that was held last week? The invitation was shaped in the form of a book or a box and when you open it, you had peacock feathers stuck across the middle of the opening page, and gold ink print on the text of the invitation. Each invitation must have cost ten thousand Riyals. I don't understand why this needless extravagance. They must have used an eighteen wheel tractor trailer just to get them delivered because each invitation was a third of a meter long and 10 cm in thickness. These are the kind of precedence that work to raise the cost of marriage in the country."

Another regular in the daily qat session, Mahmood said, "I dread the day when my son tells me he wants to get married. I hope to find one of those group marriages that are being arranged, so I can get him included. They help a lot in reducing some of the costs."

Ali was still on the engagement part: "Nowadays just to get engaged you have dish out funds that are more than the actual dowry that used to be given just twenty years ago, and I mean in real terms. Just think you have to give the prospective bride a jewelry set made up of a gold engagement ring, a gold bracelet and necklace and earring set, some dresses and toiletries. On the other hand to formalize the engagement, you have to approach the groom's family with a qat session where you have to buy qat for all the relatives of the bride that are expected to attend. You better be sure to have enough qat for all the attendees, otherwise they will throw you out of the house! Such extravagance was unheard of when I got married twenty years ago"

Farid again cut in, throwing of a stem of qat to Ali: "Don't forget that you have to also give her mother a dress or two and some candy, to keep her mouth busy she does not start demanding other extras. I must say this goes against the religious dictates regarding marriage and surely raises an unnecessary burden on an essential social function"

Ali continued: "Then comes the wedding ceremony, which not long ago used to be held in the prospective groom's and bride's house, with each side minimizing all the rites to a manageable cost: no large halls, invitations extended to close relatives and friends, no exhaustive banquets". This is after you have already dished out the funds for the dowry, which could come to five times the cost of the engagement."

Farid then said: "There is actually a government law that no one has formally rescinded which regulates the marriage process, which used to make the matrimonial process manageable and an equitable process for all concerned, without the ugly display of extravagance and waste. You will be surprised nowadays by all the complaints one hears about the way weddings are conducted these days. Moreover, the wedding ceremonies, as they are nowadays have taken out all the merriment and fun which should be enjoyed on such occasions. Most people just go to wedding celebrations for half an hour to an hour and rush off to attend another wedding or two, depending on how many friends have weddings on that day. In the past, weddings were long awaited festivities that people attended for two or three days, with everyone chipping in to lighten the burden on the marriage couple's families. Everyone was laughing and singing and dancing during the entire celebration."

Ali then said: "I think we should get the law reapplied and tell those rich show-offs to take their weddings overseas if they want to be extravagant. They can take their coiffures, cake bakers and all the other added nonsense that have penetrated the marriage ceremony with them and let the rest of the people go back to the simple and equitable way that one of the most important social functions used to be conducted in."

Farid said: "You may not believe it, but some of the rich are actually already doing just that, chartering planes to take their guests overseas just to attend weddings in London or Cairo, where the extravagance is even more excessive"

"Maybe, it won't be long before you have brides kidnapped by prospective grooms and taken to an uncharted island, where the couple can get away from all the tiresome rituals they have to be put through before they can even see each other eye to eye". You really can't blame them, because matrimony has taken an unholy turn, as it becomes inundated with so many unnecessary and exhausting requirements".

—The Editor

Letters to the Editor

Arab's poor PR
Most Americans have no concept of Islam and lump all Sunnis, Shiites, Wahabis into one group. They think that Al-Qaeda and Hezbollah are different branches of the same organization. The Arab world has done an extremely poor job of educating the Americans about the real differences in these organizations.

Byron Allen
ballen@novolink.netPreaching hatred
in Arab world

As an American, the problem with Arab countries is that in their textbooks and mosques they preach hatred of Jews and the West and call them "infidels". To my knowledge, no

other countries in Europe or South America, Australia, or China have these hatreds taught to their children generation after generation. It would have been better if we could only learn to preach love and tolerance and think how to make this world a better place. I think the free world sees this today and will slowly see that these teachings are keeping us from having the kind of world we all anticipate. Am I wrong?

Sol Sachs

Imprisoned Yemeni's
family should know

I own a small law firm in St. Paul Minnesota. A client of mine, Ali Aladimi, is from Yemen and has been in jail in Ohio for quite a long time.

Letters to the Editor

He has been accused of buying cigarettes from the black market as well as other products which are taxed and licensed. I think Ali is a great person and just got in over his head with risky business deals. I am wondering if anyone in Yemen knows the Aladimi family although I do not know what town they are from. They could perhaps help him out or get in touch with him.

William G. Cottrell
cottrellaw@msn.comAmerican caring about
Yemen's development

I just read your article published as your 'editorial' in issue 653 entitled 'Does anyone care?'. Well, I care!

I really hope your country can rise above the 148th rank

in human development. You folks deserve so much more. Surly, the people know that throwing garbage in the streets is nasty. Not to mention how bad it is for one's health, the little ones in particular.

Is there anything I can do to help? I do care.

Lila Taylor, USA
Lshaneandme@aol.com

Dear Lila,

Thank you for your kind and caring letter, which touched me personally and should wake up the conscience of many officials reading it. If an American living thousands of miles away cares about their country, those decision-makers ought to care too.

—The Editor

Iraq could become US' greatest blunder

By Ramzy Baroud
Jordan Times

The United States' government has missed an opportunity to redeem some disastrous blunders in Iraq. Instead, it preferred to walk the same path chosen by past US governments, in Asia, South America and elsewhere.

The US government defied international law when it invaded Iraq, in a war that claimed the lives of over 6,000 civilians and wounded many more. That's twice as many as those who perished in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. Needless to say, the Iraq invasion was and remains an act of terrorism.

While the drafting of international law is often a collective decision where many countries take part, enforcing the law is only a privilege used and misused by countries with powerful armies, who often give themselves the right to interpret laws in ways that serve their own interests.

Consequently, while the United Nations made it clear that the US-British invasion of Iraq was illegitimate and lacked the backing of a legal mandate, US war generals argued that the decision to invade a sovereign country was sanctioned by UN resolutions, or perhaps their personal interpretation of these resolutions.

To convince the American public that discounting the United Nations in launching a war was a necessity, the Bush administration resorted to half-truths and unsupported claims about an imaginary danger that Saddam Hussein's government posed to their national security.

The Americans were even more modest in comparison to the British government. Tony Blair's government claimed that the Iraqis were in fact capable of launching an attack using weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes.

Someone who visited Iraq in 1999 —

where the situation, despite the suffocating sanctions was still better off than today — I testify that the Iraqi government could not even provide basic services of electricity or water for days on end, needless to say attack powerful countries — based thousands of miles away, with WMDs.

But since we are told to get a reality check and accept that the invasion is now history, and the subsequent occupation is now a fact, we are urged to merely hope that America has learned from its past blunders. However, such hope is deteriorating everyday.

Some of those who were unclear about the US motives in Iraq got a reality check themselves, when they followed announcements made by top war generals, updating the public on how many oil fields in Iraq were being "liberated." The last number of liberated oil fields was 600 before the fall of Baghdad.

While US forces moved very slowly to stop the looting and to quell the chaos caused by their invasion, fully geared US troops were already in charge of the building hosting the oil ministry.

US army administrators in Iraq have offered endless promises to improve the lives of ordinary Iraqis, justifying the slow progress by the enormity of the mission. However, the mission seemed less complicated when the task facing the US administration is to assign dozens of multinational corporations to take charge of Iraq's natural resources. The bidding began before the war was even over, and the seemingly immense task of dividing the Iraqi cake was the only "cakewalk" that this war has witnessed.

When I visited Iraq a few years ago, along with a large delegation of American doctors and journalists, a population that suffered tremendously under the harsh sanctions imposed by the United States using the UN, welcomed us very warmly.

Two weeks ago, one of our delegation members just came back from Iraq concluding his third visit, this time after Iraq and its oil fields were "liberated."

This was his most distressful visit yet, since the Iraq people, known for their untold generosity, were no longer welcoming, but angry and feeling betrayed.

Why shouldn't they? As if the invasion and occupation were not enough, the human rights abuses and the killing of civilians on a daily basis in Iraq, were reminders that the US was in fact little interested in fostering trust with the Iraqi people.

The Iraqis are experiencing a level of humiliation that they have not experienced even under Saddam Hussein's rule.

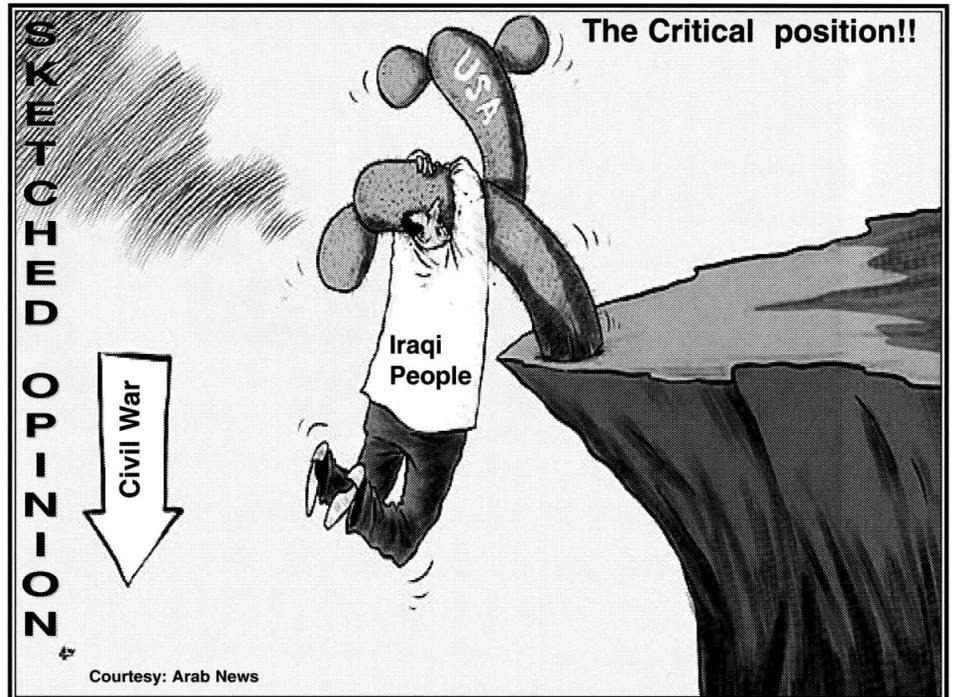
It was rather funny to see US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld referring to the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners in times of war, after Al Jazeera aired images of American soldiers being questioned in a forceful manner.

Yet, since then, few failed to see the mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners of war at the hands of the American and British forces. News of torture and rape are more than rumours, but legitimate reports prepared by respected human rights groups and publications. Maybe the Geneva Convention was not meant to include Arabs, or maybe Rumsfeld alone thinks so.

Now, women in Iraq are afraid to leave their homes after dark due to the lack of security, chaos and anarchy, only enforced by the fact that the US occupation administration is consumed by achieving its own goals. The security and welfare of ordinary Iraqis is certainly not on the agenda, as the United States has clearly demonstrated.

It took no one by a surprise to see a well-organised Iraqi resistance emerging out of the ruins and facing up to the 116,000 US troops occupying their country.

To justify this mess, the United States



Courtesy: Arab News

is providing easy answers to complicated questions. But neither the publishing of the gruesome images of Saddam's sons, nor the killing or capture of the former Iraqi president himself shall quell the Iraqi resistance. If the issue was the elimination of one individual or the entire "deck of cards," or even the deployments of yet more troops, why did the US experience a bitter defeat in Vietnam?

The Iraqi occupation is a colossal disaster that is turning into one of the US' greatest historic blunders. If Bush's cabal possess an average level of wisdom, it would transfer authority in Iraq to true representatives of the Iraqi people, using the help of the United Nations and other Arab countries, to stabilise the volatile situation in the country, as soon as humanly possible.

Any solution other than that would mean the continuation of the bloodbath. The US occupation of Iraq will end sooner or later. Why not end it now before the death toll from the two sides breaks new and devastating records?

U.S. military abroad: More bases won't curb terrorism

WILLIAM PFAFF IHT
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

A vastly extended deployment of American forces is proposed by Donald Rumsfeld's Defense Department. But there is no assurance that new military bases would actually improve the security of the United States, and they might constitute eventual political provocations, targets and potential hostages.

Troops would be moved from West European NATO bases to bases in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania (the current assumption), and to "lily-pad" bases along what Washington calls the "arc of instability."

These militarized lily-pads would have minimal permanent facilities and limited permanent detachments, and would serve mobile forces dispatched from the United States as required.

Earlier this year, the United States identified four possible new bases in Iraq, others in Afghanistan and Pakistan, plus bases in former Soviet Central Asia already acquired, and suggested the possibility of others elsewhere.

But for every foreign intrusion into a country, particularly one so dramatic as establishing a military base, a nationalist reaction can be expected. There are exceptions, but that is a reasonable general rule, particularly when vast and conspicuous cultural differences are involved. Actions provoke reactions.

One reputed "inside" explanation for what the Iraq invasion really was about says that it was necessary to allow the United States to gracefully pull its forces out of Saudi Arabia. Ever since the Gulf War, those forces have been a potent political irritant and an affront to pious Muslims. Their expulsion was the stated motive for the attacks of Sept. 11. Immediately after the fall of Baghdad, the United States announced their withdrawal. The Saudi Arabian government had never wanted them. The United States had insisted on them.

The administration's worldwide military deployments have already encouraged U.S. intervention in conflicts that have only fanciful relationships to any terrorists dangerous to the United States, such as the ancient autonomy struggle of the "Moros" in the southern

Philippines.

A professional characteristic both of any bureaucracy, including the military, is to ferociously defend every acquired expansion of its influence or numbers. There is also a neoconservative enthusiasm for more U.S. bases, since America's alleged manifest destiny is benevolent global hegemony. All find agreement in the idea that America should straddle the world - just in case.

But bases make trouble. U.S. bases on Okinawa have been a political liability for years. Increasingly, South Koreans want American bases out of their country. Any American base maintained in Iraq after the occupation will also be a political liability, there and elsewhere in the Arab world.

Are bases in Central Asia and East Africa really necessary to pounce on terrorist bands? Surely the CIA, working when possible with local police, can provide a low-key, equally efficient solution in many or most cases.

Expanding the base system encourages Washington's tendency to apply irrelevant military remedies to terrorism, as well as to political problems.

The main terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 were organized in Britain and Germany, by Westernized and educated young Muslim men, radicalized by preachers in immigrant mosques. They developed their plans and established their cells in Europe and in the United States, with money mainly from Saudi Arabians.

The most successful operations against these terrorists, and against Al Qaeda networks generally, have been by German, French and British police and intelligence agencies, working with Washington.

No attempt of which I know has been made either by the administration or the Pentagon to demonstrate to the American public why expanding an already huge base system has anything serious to do with terrorist attacks of the kind that have been made against the United States, and that might be made again.

These attacks are carried out by small bands of self-motivated, and often self-supporting, sophisticated, politicized and radicalized young men, living and operating mainly in urban settings. They are not vulnerable to military attack from bases in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Djibouti or even Iraq.

Spiking the terrorism futures market and the future

BY DAVID IGNATIUS

Members of Congress were queuing up this week to express their indignation at the proposal by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to create a futures market where investors could bet on the likelihood of future terrorist attacks.

"There is something very sick about it," said Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat from California. She demanded that Congress "end the careers of whoever it was who thought that up."

Democrat Ron Wyden of Oregon, who made headlines when he and another senator disclosed the program Monday, called it "a runaway horse that needs to be reined in."

Even one of the Pentagon's pals, Republican Senator John Warner of Virginia, was running for cover, agreeing that the plan was "a very significant mistake."

By Tuesday, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz had officially disowned the idea and told Congress: "I share your shock at this kind of program ... we'll find out about it, but it is being terminated."

And then Thursday, the official who oversaw the program, former Reagan-era

National Security Adviser John Poindexter, a man who seems to have one of those indelible "official bad person" signs attached to him because of his role in the Iran-Contra Affair, indicated he would resign. And with that, Washington's gods of conformity will be appeased. Purged of this unconventional, off-the-wall idea, the capital can return to its normal, play-it-safe rules.

These events, alas, embody a fundamental problem with Washington - though not the one Congress was so indignant about. The nation's capital operates as a zero-defect culture, one where failure is impermissible. In that respect, it is the opposite of what's creative and dynamic about America. The second-guessers and headline-hunters who populate Congress lack the essential American national willingness to take risks, to propose outlandish ideas, and on occasion, to fail.

I'm not necessarily arguing for the futures market in terrorism. It would have the same problem as any unregulated market: A trader with inside information could skew outcomes - he could place a bet on an assassination, and then help others do it. And it does sound callous to let people bet directly on the possibility that a regime could be overthrown or a leader killed even though markets are implicitly doing that all the time.

The point is that for all its defects, the political futures market was an interesting, unconventional idea for capturing information that's "on the street" - the subtle tips and clues that ordinary people know, but are often lost to our intelligence agencies. My response to critics would be: OK, if this approach is wrong, what's a better idea? But I doubt any brave soul will be funding a similar project soon.

As it happens, on the day the futures-market flap broke, I was attending a conference sponsored by DARPA, the very agency that launched this insidious assault on conventional thinking. The topic of the conference was Life Sciences, Complexity and National Security, or in blunter terms, the intersection of biology and warfare.

The point of the meeting was to think, provoke and discuss in the hopes of making the nation safer. To get some outside ferment, DARPA invited a dozen or so top scientists, some business consultants, two journalists and a novelist. We all came away astonished by the boldness and creativity of some of the research DARPA is funding with America's tax dollars.

Here are some of the outrageously creative projects DARPA is sponsoring: teaching a rat how to get water just by thinking about it; creating an electronic

substitute for the part of the brain known as the hippocampus, so that we might eventually be able to download memories and complex instructions or communicate brain to brain; building artificial organs and prostheses that could vastly increase human performance, and making pills that could alter soldiers' metabolisms so they could go days without food, sleep or water.

And there's more in DARPA's magic box: bio-inspired robots, modeled partly on cockroaches that have supple, flexible legs and can scramble over rocky terrain and up stairs; teaching honeybees to detect explosives; systems for remotely monitoring mental states through MRIs and other screening technology so that authorities might someday detect the intent to hijack an airliner the way a metal detector can now find a gun.

Are some of those ideas off-the-wall? You bet. Will they all work out? Of course not. Do some of them pose ethical or legal dilemmas? Probably. But is the country better off because DARPA is willing to take risks and fund unconventional research? Absolutely.

It's impossible in the early stages of research to know which are the good ideas and which are the clinkers. But the notion that people who propose unconventional ideas should be punished is downright un-American.

Israel and the fall of racially-based societies

BY JAMES SABA
jasaba@norden1.com

It appears to me; the problem which many people, particularly the Arab have with the Jewish State of Israel, is that it is an exclusive society based on self-perceived superiority.

This Jewish belief in their being inherently superior to others can readily be seen in their religious conviction that they alone are "God's Chosen People". Furthermore, Israel's immigration policy is based on Jewish genetic background, and not on character and capability.

This belief in being better than others

is quite convenient since, in their minds, it justifies their historical and current dehumanization and sacrifice of others. Almost certainly this is the basis for much hate that plagues the Jews and their supporters.

Little do they (or other self-righteous religion-based societies, including Christian and Moslem nations) recognize that their beliefs are not perfect nor beyond question, and that the Truth upon which their society evolved around is not exclusively theirs. Throughout the world (and indeed Universe) this Truth has and is the basis for selection of righteous people.

Regardless of as to what particular

truths may be uncovered by this or that group, it should never give them the right to judge their neighbor as inferior.

John the Baptist tried to correct the Jews in their vain belief of genetic superiority with his statement: "And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham our father: for I say unto you, that God (via evolution) is able of these stones to raise children unto Abraham."

Subsequently Christ also tried to enlighten them by stating "Many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven."

Nazi Germany was also a racially-based society, and you would have

thought the United States of America, after sacrificing so much in World War II to abolish such regimes from the face of the earth, would not within a year or two after, commit themselves to establishing and defending another such repugnant and unsustainable social order.

Fear of the consequences of recognizing this error by Israel and its supporters may be too much for them to bear. Perhaps by publishing this error and expressing willingness to forgive, the truth need not be forced upon them.

Please forward these thoughts to everyone you can think of, who like us, wish to find a true and lasting peace in the world.

تحذير هام

تحذر إدارة تحرير صحيفة "يمن تايمز" جميع الشركات والمؤسسات والأفراد في الجمهورية من أن بعض مكاتب الدعاية والإعلان وغيرها من المكاتب الصغيرة المشابهة قد تستخدم اسم صحيفة "يمن تايمز" بشكل غير قانوني في تسويقها لمنتجاتها بزعمها أنها ستقوم بتوزيع الأعمال المراد الإعلان فيها مع نسخ الصحيفة أو بقولها أن الصحيفة راع أو مشارك رسمي في أعمالها القادمة.

نود التنويه أن الصحيفة ليست لها أية علاقة بأي عمل من هذا النوع لأي من هذه المكاتب دون أن يكون لدى الجهة المنفذة وثيقة رسمية مؤرخة وموقعة من رئيس التحرير ومختومة بختم الصحيفة تفيد بذلك مع ذكر نوع وإسم العمل وتفاصيله الأخرى.

وتؤكد الصحيفة أنها لا تتحمل مسؤولية الموافقة على المشاركة في مثل هذه الأعمال وتحذر من التعامل مع المكاتب التي يتم اكتشاف تلاعبها بإسم الصحيفة لأغراضها التجارية الخاصة.

كما تود الصحيفة التنويه بأن الوكيل الإعلاني الوحيد لها هو سمارت للخدمات الإعلانية **SMART** حيث ان هذا المكتب هو الوحيد المرخص له بإستخدام إسم أو التسويق لصحيفة يمن تايمز دون وثيقة رسمية.

في حالة الاشتباه وللتأكد من علاقة الصحيفة بأي من هذه الأعمال، الرجاء الإسراع بالاتصال بإدارة الصحيفة على هاتف (٠١ ٢٦٨٦٦١) في أوقات الدوام الرسمي.

Important Warning

Yemen Times warns all companies and establishments that some advertisement agencies and other similar small offices may be illegally using the name of "Yemen Times" to market their products.

Yemen Times would like to inform all companies and establishments in Yemen and abroad that any agency, which claims to have relations with Yemen Times, should have an official signed letter from the newspaper saying so, with its seal and the editor's signature on it. Otherwise, this agency is probably using the newspaper's name illegally. Yemen Times authorization letters should include all the details of the project that the newspaper is sponsoring or involved in.

The official advertisement agency of Yemen Times is "Smart Advertising and Promotional Solutions", **SMART** which is specialized in marketing for the newspaper.

Yemen Times will not be held accountable for the consequences of any participation in the work produced by agencies that illegally use the logo or name of Yemen Times for its own personal interest.

Yemen Times advises companies to be cautious before dealing with agencies and offices that use "Yemen Times" name illegally and reserves the right to file lawsuits to protect its rights.

We also urge companies to be sure whether Yemen Times is involved in any of the presented projects by calling the paper's management on (01 268661) during working hours.

Yemeni Female Journalists

To be or not to be!



BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Until recent years there were fields that Yemeni woman could not enter and work in because they are solely confined to men.

Nursing and media for example, are among fields that just few women dared to practice armed with courage and struggled to prove themselves, as the Yemeni society found those professions requiring more contact and boldness and perceived it as hardly to accept and to see women practice them.



Ahlam Nasser Mohammed Anam

Nowadays, in spite of the good number of females who join information college, just a few of them can be seen as working in the field.

It is remarkable to observe that female students are few in journalism and TV and radio departments for most of them prefer studying in the public relations department at the college of information.

I went to the college of information to meet the level-4 students who were preparing for their final-year-exams. Most of them tried to avoid me and not to frankly open their hearts and answer my questions.

With much curiosity and more insistence, few agreed to answer my questions with some reservation.

Sama'a Ali Abdulkareem al-Sabahi, level 4, journalism Dept. "Among my priorities I would like to pursue my higher studies. I know it is difficult in the beginning so I will first work. I would like to work in a magazine in which I will find broad field and have time to collect stories and choose the materials I want. I don't want to work under stress of weekly or daily papers"

She said that Yemeni woman have remarkably started joining journalism field not as before.

When I asked her about whether she would give up her job to get married she answered "Marriage is not an important matter nowadays as it used to be. However, if the man whom I am going to engage to deserves the sacrifice, I will give up my work"

She commented on the level of Yemeni journalists performance "Both men and women in journalism need rehabilitation. We hope that concerned bodies will organize training courses for old and fresh journalists. Remarkably we tend to repeat ourselves. So we find the same story repeated in different papers. I think we are still far from creativity"

have made my mind to have MA. I look forward to being correspondent for a prominent paper. I believe as long as you are ambitious and you exert efforts and pursue your goal, sooner or later you will get it. But if we are lazy and depend on the ready piece of news, we are going to do nothing"

About the Yemeni woman journalist she said "Currently the number of females is very few and they are considered distinguished as they successfully have joined journalism. However, I have not found any one of them to be my example."

Regarding her family and society opinion about her work as a journalist "My family has encouraged and supported me. It is true that there are some obstacles that society puts them in front of us but we have to



Awatef Abdulwahab al-Shargabi

struggle to make them inevitably change their look and get convinced. The society also likes every new and attractive thing and it is impossible to prevent gossips. However, it is noteworthy that society will admire you and your job especially if you are a girl"

She said strongly "I can never give up my work to get married and when I am going to engage I will choose an appropriate person who supports me in my work not the contrary. I would not accept him to let me down and degrade my work"

About the insufficient topics in Yemeni press, she disagreeably said "The Yemeni environment is full with topics and ideas, even in an hour more than an idea and a story could come to your mind. I hate that a woman journalist should only focus on feminine issues and the man should focus on masculine concerns. All the topics tackle both concerns, for example; when we write about divorce we have to write this subject as related to both men and women."

Ahlam Nasser Mohammed Anam, level 4, journalism Dept. optimistically said, "After graduation I would like to study MA and come back to the college to teach. I like to work in a magazine rather than in a paper particularly in editing. I hate the papers and I like the colors and creativity. I believe that if you are creative and studious, you will not only have a job but the people will look for you"

Regarding the Yemeni female journalist she smilingly said "Nowadays there are no prominent female figures in journalism. We heard some names but there is no one

About the marrying issue she seriously said "I cannot give up my job to get married. Basically why I have studied? I have not studied all these years to stay at home. No of course, I will let him work with me."

She advised all her follows "You have to run after the story and invent and produce it. Stories are spread everywhere"

Mona Abdullah al-Tashi, level 4 TV and Radio "One of my priorities is to work first and then to pursue the higher studies. I would like to work in TV where I feel that I can be creative. About finding a job, it depends on how my desire

to get the job and how much I am enthusiast to have a job. So if you have a will, there is a way." She said quietly.

About the family and society opinion about her job "My family of course agrees on my work and they have given me a personal freedom from the beginning to choose my career. I have not worked in the field yet to know the difficulties that female journalists face"

About if she is going to give her job to get married she shyly and concisely said, "It depends on the circumstances then"

She continued commenting on the Yemeni press "The level of both sexes has not reached the

stage we all expect. However, I think that Yemeni female journalists have started drawing their own image in the journalism field that will honor the Yemeni woman."

She concluded, "The Yemeni journalism is still under man control and any impediments females face are made by a man."

In fact, I enjoyed talking to those ambitious girls that considered a bright example to the next youth generation.

I left them and the smile drawn on their innocent faces. They optimistically look for bright future. But do they know what kind of future will be?



"I have not practiced journalism yet but I am afraid that practice may be different from the theoretical study"

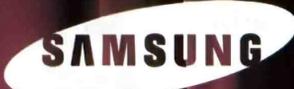
About her family and society outlook to female journalists, she said, "If my family refuses my work I will not be here studying in Information College. Yemen has achieved developmental changes and I think people have changed their traditional look for the female work in media"

Awatef Abdulwahab al-Shargabi, level 4, journalism Dept, when I asked her about her priorities she directly and confidently said, "There are no priorities as I am already a journalist working for more than a paper, and in public affairs as well as trainee in TV. I cherish to work in those three fields."

With bright-eyes look she added, "Of course I

at the standard we look for. Just wait for us and we are going to be the names"

About what her family and society think about her job "First my family has been encouraging me. So as long as my family is convinced about my work I don't care about the society. It is true there is bad treatment and disgusting-like look at us as female journalists on the streets. I remember that once I was taking photographs all people on the streets stood with blink-eyes as if I was doing something wrong and or came from another planet. Meanwhile it is different when we go to some places where educated and understanding people, we feel that they respect us and appreciate our job" she continuously smiling.




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Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Balagh weekly, 29 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- 44 Directors-General for financial affairs appointed at a number of state institutions
- America warns its nationals in Yemen of terrorist attacks
- Development, modernization of Social Care Fund

Columnist Ahmed Abdraba Alawi says in his article that the United Nations is still as it was since its establishment in 1945, nothing has changed in it and the only accomplishment it could achieve was the establishment of internationally-recognised state of Israel. That has been an accomplishment resulting from weakness of the Arab countries. Though there have been many important events and circumstances in the world necessitating the effect of change in the structure of the UN but all attempts for change were doomed to failure because of insistence of the big powers to keep the situation as it is and because of the double standard policy of the UN security council and its loss of credibility before the whole world.

We have to realize that the United Nations has now become the United States itself with the name as the only difference but in practice there is no difference. What the United States want the UN would obediently do. That has really happened with the case of Iraq occupation of Kuwait or the aggression on Iraq and before it the aggression on Afghanistan. Let's all admit that credibility of Mr Kofi Anan has been lost for good especially the UN back down from doing anything versus the American crimes in certain countries of the world such as in Iraq, Afghanistan and others, let alone the crimes Israel is committing against the Palestinian people everyday. The UN has lost all criteria of international justice and its resolutions are only implemented on the states that the big powers are not satisfied with. The UN Security Council has changed into a world government working for the United States.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 29 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- Selling of Hajeeef oil installations, confirmed
- Hassan Nasrulla threatens of arresting more occupation troops
- Hamas & Jihad demand the release of all prisoners from Israeli prisons
- Iraqi resistance kills 12 American occupation soldiers, wounds tens

Columnist Adnan Abdulaziz writes on the problem of the civil servants in Yemen when they get retired and mainly the problem of their pension salary that would not exceed ten per cent of their salary when they are in service. He says even the minister, if he is pensioned would receive a very small salary if he is not appointed in the Shoura council any embassy, the Writer maintains that the proportion of poverty in Yemen has amounted to more than 40 per cent, according to the bulletin issued by Poverty Strategy and the percentage is on rise.

Article 25 of the World Declaration of Human Rights that every person has the right to a level of living enough to preserve his health and prosperity for him and his family. This includes food, clothes, residence, medical care and necessary social services. He also has the right to provide for his living in cases of unemployment, illness, old age and disability.

Surely there are serious mistakes in the laws and regulations in our country and there is suffering the poor sustain. All these make it imperative on the government to embark seriously to solve and many laws and regulations should be reconsidered and activated to encourage the private sector to contribute to development and return of the huge amounts of money from abroad.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC party 28 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- President Saleh: Local Councils, mini-governments and their work should be effective
- FM al-Qirbi: al-Mouyad issue would not affect our relations with Germany, to be reflected on our security cooperation with America
- Human Rights minister: The ministry still works without budget
- Civil service minister: Wages strategy referred to Cabinet, 9 institutions to be restructured
- Aden Refineries Company denies connection to leasing Hajeeef installation
- Endowments minister denies intention to interfere in mosques preaches
- Parliament Affairs state minister confirms efforts to enhance Children Parliament experiment
- Attackers of Chinese fishing ship were veiled, could be pirates

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article that after the second Gulf war in 1991, reports mentioned an exciting comment by the Koreans on the American threats to invade their country. The comment came in the

Main headlines

- **Islah political office head: Islah would support nomination of Haider al-Attas to presidency elections**
- **On charges of corruption: Senior officials face judiciary**
- **Under slogan of fighting terror, all active organisations closed down**
- **America establishes new Islamic sect**
- **Government re-tries negotiation with extremists**
- **In a tribal clash in Bani Husheish, two women killed, four persons injured**
- **By closing down al-Shawkani institute, Five thousand students deprived of education**
- **Attempt to smuggle 280kg hashish to Saudi Arabia foiled**
- **Saudi police attack hardliners hideout, kill six**
- **Security halts chasing member of Abyan-Aden army**
- **Eritrea assails the Yemeni-Ethiopian-Sudanese axis**
- **Secret dialogues to merge YSP with GPC**
- **Washington refuses a Yemeni request to back down from its demand for al-Mouyad**

form of a cynical question of "Are we Arabs?"

This cynical comment on the Arabs and the Americans is still repeated by people other than the Koreans. On the Arabs because they've become dummies in the hands of Americans, and on the Americans because they are too unable to approach from the Northern Korean territories even for one inch. The Koreans declare they would not hesitate in using all they have of weapons, from knives to the nuclear bomb. In this reference to the exchanged American-Korean threats as much as the ridiculing way in talking about the Arabs after their land has become a permanent theater of foreign interference and grinding wars. The

American administration has shown an unprecedented cowardly and cautious stand versus Korea and the fiercer the blows were the more flexibility is shown and the more acceptance of the political solution to the crisis is expressed by the American administration. Political and military experts explain this American spineless stand by ascribing it to observance of feelings of the South Koreans who refuse attacking their brothers in the north despite the political dispute between them. This is something the Arabs are lacking in and their troubled and confused stands are void of it especially the official circles and the decision makers.

Can we presume that the bitter expe-

riences the nation has gone through and the lessons derived from Iraq's tragedy are enough to make the nation follow suit of the two parts of Korea and urge her to work for removing the bitterness of this black cynicism?

Annahar weekly, 31 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- Extremist attacks a mosque in Yafie, kills eight worshippers and injures 2
- Millions of dollars spent by senior officials for recreation
- Second conference for the Journalists Syndicate postponed
- The White House rejects a Saudi request for disclosing secrets in the report on the attacks on Washington and New York
- Number of officials sent to investigation on charges of corruption

Fathi Abu al-Nasr says in an article that the corruption has become a complicated phenomenon and an impediment to any progress. It has gnawed at most areas of development and curbed their proceeding and has become almost a daily social culture.

It has become imperative for the government to fight corruption in a form not less than fighting terror. Both corruption and terror share the same danger as both of them generate violence. The symbolical violence is the incubator of the material violence before its outbreak. It could be emphasized that the corruption is a bigger terror therefore it is an urgent demand the government has to give it more attention in the quest for a better future. The government should work for holding a national conference for fighting corruption coming out with realistic vision for an ideal strategy to avoid its development into a plague in Yemen.

Al-Wahda weekly, 30 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- GPC adopts election of local councils in the districts
- Presidential directives for solving issues of those who returned home
- Intensified Yemeni efforts to prevent handing over al-Mouyad
- Yemeni-Saudi borders demarcation to be finished this year
- Container ships arriving at Aden port, imminent
- Civil service minister: We adopt associating the job with requirements of development

On human rights and development columnist Ahmed Rajih says since human is the axis of actual development and he is the means and the end,

there could not be creation of development without unchaining human capabilities and energies and the utmost benefiting from them to attain development goals. Talking about development starts from many constituents the most significant of which are the human and his rights. This human would not have any role in actual development if he is marginalized and suppressed and chances are not open for him to unleash his capabilities and not qualified enough with knowledge and skill serving that goal. Human capabilities could not be benefited from if he is provided with his citizenship rights going in line with its duties. This would stabilize his feeling of affiliation and loyalty and keenness on the public interest.

Among the rights the human has to obtain are his intellectual, political and social right and other forms of freedom. There must be the minimum degree of social justice which is the most important starting points towards development.

RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen League party, 29 July 2003.

Main headlines:

- RAY official source: The League does not receive any financial support from the estate
- Tunisian president Bin Ali announces his running the coming presidential elections
- "Yemenia" flights back to Kuwait after 13 years boycott

Columnist Faisal Sultan al-Soufi says in an article that a decision was taken last year stipulating that the year 2003 must be a national year for illiteracy eradication. And according to an agreement between the government and the Islamic Bank for Development he school year 2002-2003 is the year specified for eradicating 20 per cent of illiteracy among the population of the capital and the governorate of Shabwa. The agreement says the bank funds two campaigns for illiteracy eradication and adult teaching in the capital and Sahabwa and the government has to invest the funding for the realization of the goal. The government has failed to make the year 2003 a date for illiteracy eradication and to implement what it should for investing the Islamic bank funds for the project of illiteracy but the government can do bigger than that as it can instead make the illiterate and semi-illiterate as wise men charged with illiteracy eradication. To sum it up, illiteracy is the required thing for this society so that the government can do whatever it wants and the illiterate are the ones who must be at the forefront in order that the government could continue in power.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers *Provided by Xinhua*

Egypt

Al-Ahram

Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Obeid will hold a series of meetings this week to activate economic performance in preparation for putting into force Egyptian-European partnership agreement.

Akhbar Al-Yom

The month of August will witness intensive contacts at the highest level among Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Oman on the latest developments in the region, such as postwar Iraq and the implementation of the roadmap peace plan in the Middle East.

Al Gomhuria

A report released recently by the Egyptian cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center said the hard currencies reserve at the Central Bank of Egypt hits 13.1 billion US dollars, and the price consumer index scored a 3.7 percent rise.

Britain

Financial Times

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon will give evidence at the inquiry into the death of weapon's expert David Kelly. It was reported Saturday that Kelly had heart disease.

The Daily Telegraph

Manchester United, the Football Association and JJB Sports, Britain's biggest retailer of replica shirts, were among 10 businesses fined a total of 18.6 million pounds on Friday for price

Germany

Sueddeutsche Zeitung

For the first time in six months, German diplomats have succeeded in establishing contacts with Islamic kidnappers of 14 tourists from Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Die Welt

Except health reform, the opposition Union parties will have no further cooperation with the government led by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

France

Le Figaro

French actress Marie Trintignant died Friday of a cerebral edema, or swelling of the brain, nearly a week after a hotel-room fight with her lover, Bertrand Cantat, lead singer for the French rock group Noir Desir. The 41-year-old woman has been mysterious and passionate through her life.

L'Humanite

The draught and heat are not the only responsible for the disastrous forest fires in France's Mediterranean region. Human acts, by thoughtlessness or by criminal intention, are to be investigated and punished.

Le Monde

The United Nations Security Council on Thursday adopted the resolution 1497 authorizing the deployment of an international peace force into Liberia to monitor the cease-fire reached there on July 17.

Japan

Asahi

The Japanese government will extend the pharmaceutical education at colleges from four years to six years. The move aims at meeting the increasing need for development of anti-cancer drugs and for pharmacists who can handle emergencies on the scene, as well as reducing accidents related with medicines.

Mainichi

A heavy truck loaded explosives exploded Friday near a military hospital in southern Russian republic of North Ossetia, killing at least 20.

Nihon Keizai

The Financial Services Agency has ordered five of major Japanese banking groups and 10 regional banks to improve their earnings, and present by Aug. 29 fresh business improvement plans.

Philippines

Manila Bulletin

The Department of Justice of the Philippines Friday filed with the Makati regional trial court coup d'etat charges against 321 junior military officers and enlisted men in connection with the fail coup in the Makati commercial district of Metro Manila last Sunday.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Presidential Security Group commander Colonel Delfin Bangit said Friday that the July 27 mutiny may have included a plot to assassinate President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, citing a report that the rebels had weapons that could be used for such a purpose. But Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina stressed that the report had yet to be validated.

Improve Your English



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195

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (55):
Emotional Reactions (IV)

The human spirit is very delicate and sensitive. Shakespeare marvels at the profundity, depth and variety of the vistas of human spirit, his emotions and passions in Hamlet's soliloquy: "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties..." One wonders at the diversity of human emotions and the nuances of passionate responses he gives in a wide variety of situations. Let look at some more of these reactions.

- He has a **spite** (grudge, feeling of ill will) against me.
- His attitude is marked by **malice** (ill will, desire to harm others) to one and all.
- After the exam is over, students have a **spree** (lively, merry time).
- He takes everything in his **stride** (to accept and deal with easily).
- Everyone likes him for his **sprightliness** (gaiety and liveliness).
- The children were **gay** (cheerful, merry, happy) at the thought of the coming holiday.
- His **railery** (friendly joking at some one's weakness, teasing) provoked a **full-throated/hilarious/uproarious laughter**.
- Everybody has a feeling of **repulsion** (feeling of dislike) for his uncouth personality and obnoxious manners.
- The onlookers could **hardly control their tears** to witness the **heart-rending** sight of the mass burial of the crash victims.
- The vigilance officers were **stupefied** (surprised very much) at the sight of so much gold.
- She **recoiled** (drew back suddenly in fear or dislike) at the sight of the snake.
- People are **aghast** (suddenly filled with surprise, fear, wonder, shock) at the thought of another war.
- Everyone dreads him as he his **aggressive** (ready to quarrel; threatening) and is ready to fight.
- Don't be **agitated** (anxious, worried) over such trifles.
- I decided to be a teacher and have no **regrets** (feel sorry about).
- People greeted the leader with **frenzied shouts of joy** (full of uncontrolled excitement).
- He was **bewitched** (has a magic effect) by her **amorous** (expressing love) looks.
- The relatives **bewailed** (expressed deep sorrow for) his premature death.
- Please don't **provoke** (make a person angry or bad tempered) me into saying something rash.
- She gave me a **shy** (nervous) smile.
- He **shunned** (avoided) seeing other people.
- The uninteresting work has a **stultifying** (stupid or dull in mind) effect on him.
- My **heart is full** to see my children well-established in life.
- He was **between two horns of dilemma** (undecided) whether to choose medicine or engineering as a career.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

1. She has a few money
2. I go to the school to study
3. My friend works in Ministry of Education
4. Who built Taj Mahal?
5. It is a good sheet of paper to write on it

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. He gave me a piece of advice.
Note: 'advice' is an uncount noun.
2. Give me water to drink.
3. I spent four weeks in hospital.

4. He laughed at me.
5. I have to make them read correctly.

III. Increase your word power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Something that may be very dangerous to life.
2. A written official order to kill someone.
3. A conscious or unconscious desire for the death of oneself.
4. To lower in quality or in the opinion of others.
5. A meeting where an argument or a question is talked about by at least two people, each expressing a different opinion.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. Useless people or things: **dead wood** (n.)
2. An action or event that destroys someone or something: **death blow** (n.)
3. A list of the names of dead people whose deaths have something in common, such as time, place, or manner: **death roll** (n.)
4. A human skull representing death: **death's head** (n.)
5. The number of people who died in a particular way: **death-toll** (n.)

B) Foreign phrases

Give the English equivalents of the following phrases

1. festschrift 2. genre 3. ghazel 4. grotesque 5. hamartia

Answers to last week's questions

1. **epitome** (Gk. 'cutting short'): An abridgement or summary. A long scientific treatise or historical work compressed into a single book.
2. **manifesto** (Lat. 'manifestus' meaning 'struck by hand'): A public declaration, usually of political, religious, philosophical or literary principles and beliefs.
3. **manuscript** (Lat. 'codex manu scriptus' meaning 'a book written by hand').
4. **maxim** (Lat. Propositio maxima meaning 'a greatest theme'): A proposition consists of a pithy, succinct statement which contains a precept or a general truth about human nature.
5. **hybrid** (Lat. half breed): A word formed from a stem or word in one language plus a suffix or prefix from another.
e.g. 'television' (Gk+Lat) 'gullible' (Eng. +Lat.).

C) Word commonly confused

Bring out the meaning differences in the following pairs of words

1. national, notional 2. data, date 3. respectable, respectful 4. sensual, sensuous 5. trail, trial

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **bauble** (n.) (pretty, bright and pleasing ornament of little value): Wealth and social status are only baubles.
bubble (n.) (hollow ball of liquid containing air or gas): Bubbles are formed on a boiling liquid
2. **bawdy** (adj) (talk obscene): He has plenty of bawdy jokes.
body (n) (the whole physical structure of a man or animal): Man's body may be imprisoned, but his spirit is free.
3. **bane** (n) (a cause of bad things): Liquor is the bane of his life.
boon (n) (something favorable): Travel abroad proved to be a boon for his health.
4. **behave** (vi & refl) (to act): Behave yourself!
behave (vt) (proper): It behoves you to apologize to him.
5. **bid** (vt & i) (command, tell): My teacher bade me to come in.
bide (vi) (wait for the right moment): He is biding his time.

D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences

1. apparent to
2. apart from
3. if anywhere
4. like anything
5. if anything

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **ask for** (to behave so as to cause something bad): He is in deep trouble, but he asked for it.
2. **as against** (used to introduce a comparison with something rather different): The net profit of the industry amounted to \$50,000 as against \$20,000 last year.
3. **article of faith** (great conviction): Non-violence was the article of faith of Gandhiji.
4. **arrive at** (reach a place at the end of a journey): They arrived at the destination safe and sound.
5. **in arrangement with** (something agreed upon): The Inter college elocution contest was organized by the College of Education in arrangement with the University.

IV. Grammar and Composition

D) Grammar (vocabulary)

What names do we give to the following professionals?

1. A person who makes bread.
2. An expert in chemistry.
3. Plays the violin
4. Teaches
5. Advises people on legal matters.
6. Plays a musical instrument.
7. Goes up in a spacecraft.
8. Prepares meals for a living.
9. Designs buildings
10. Flies an airplane.
11. Looks after the sick.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. A car isn't really necessary in Sana'a; you can easily **do without** one.
2. He kept **putting off** going to the dentist until the end one of his teeth fell out.
3. Your behavior is terrible. I'm not going to **put up** with it for a minute longer.
4. The weather doesn't look too good, so you'd better **put on** a rain coat.

V) Composition: Paragraph writing

Expand the idea contained in the maxim:

28: IT IS BETTER TO LIGHT ONE CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS

Last week's topic

27: A BIRD IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH

The statement implies a contrast between the immediate practical gain and the distant probable profit. It is wiser and more practical to avail oneself of whatever comes one's way at the present moment than run after a mirage. One can never be certain about what one may achieve in the unseen future since future is highly uncertain and, as it is said, 'there's many a slip between the cup and the lip'. It is rather more pragmatic to make the best of what ever is available now, and then relentlessly strive for the future achievement. Hence the saying contains a pristine truth.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Put thy trust in Allah
For Allah loves those
Who put their trust (in Him)
S3:A159

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Great is the power of habit."
—Cicero

A LETTER TO THE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH: 20

Start teaching silent reading in the preparatory classes



DR. M.N.K. BOSE
(BOSE@y.net.ve)
Associate Professor of
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Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

You know well that silent reading is a useful skill for any reader, more useful than oral reading, especially in real life. Silent reading habit has to be developed with a lot of attention from the beginning classes. Some of us wonder if silent reading can be practiced by young learners, that too in English. Those of us who have tried to develop silent reading in our classes have met with failure and so we are hesitant to practise silent reading in early classes. But it is important to start teaching silent reading from the preparatory classes. Let us see how we can do it.

One of the reasons why our learners find it difficult to read silently is that they have not developed this habit in the mother tongue. Let us be honest, how many of us have this habit; how many of us can read silently for a long time, unless under pressure? It is unfortunate that we have neglected the development of our reading habit, which is a very useful tool for acquiring knowledge. I have hardly seen any of my students reading silently when they have free time between classes. Moreover, some of us believe that oral reading is more important and spend most of the class time for it. Yes, it is important in the beginning classes when the language elements are being fixed in the learner's mind, especially for the development of the spoken form of the language, but it does not develop the reading skills, which are going to be useful to them in their life. It is silent reading, which is the matured way of reading; we read a newspaper or a magazine silently. You will be surprised to know that there are literate adults who can read a newspaper only aloud, even when they are

reading it in a teashop. It is also true that some of our students can understand what they read only if they read it aloud. This is because they have not developed the habit of reading silently. This is unfortunate and they have to suffer throughout their life. So start teaching silent reading from the beginning systematically without any hesitation.

In the preparatory first year, you can ask your learners to read a few sentences silently and you can slowly increase the number of sentences to be read silently. In every class, spend a few minutes for silent reading. I know it will be difficult to begin with, but if you choose interesting pieces to read, they will develop a taste for reading. You can even use short passages in Arabic occasionally for silent reading. Remember that every silent reading session should be followed by a question-answer session. It is important that you should check the understanding of what is read immediately after they have read; the purpose of silent reading is to understand. The checking can be done through simple questions on what they have read. Or you can ask for the meaning of a few words in what they have read. Asking your students to summarize in Arabic what they have read in English can also be one way of checking their understanding. Silent reading, which is not followed by the checking of understanding, is just a waste of time. Some careless teachers use silent reading sessions as a time for having a rest in the class, which will send a wrong signal to the students about silent reading.

While reading silently, see that your learners do not move their lips or heads, nor do they pass their fingers along the sentences. Teach them how to read with the help of the eyes; only the eyes should move while they read. This enables them to develop reading speed too. If you develop the silent reading habit in your learners, you are giving them a very big help for succeeding in life. Good luck.

Yours fraternally

Computer Programming Languages (part 2)



BY AKRAM YAHIA BAKER
APTECH, SANA'A CENTER

Though FORTRAN was good at handling numbers, it was not so good at handling input and output, which mattered most to business computing. Business computing started to take off in 1959, and because of this, COBOL was developed. It was designed from the ground up as the language for businessmen. Its only data types were numbers and strings of text. It also allowed for these to be grouped into arrays and records, so that data could be tracked and organized better. It is interesting to note that a COBOL program is built in a way similar to an essay, with four or five major sections built into an elegant whole. COBOL statements also have a very English-like grammar, making it quite easy to learn. All of these features were designed to make it easier for the average business to learn and adopt it.

In 1958, John McCarthy of MIT created the List Processing (or LISP) language. It was designed for Artificial Intelligence (AI) research. Because it was designed for such a highly specialized field, its syntax had rarely been seen before or since. The most obvious difference between this language and other languages is that the basic and the only type of data is the list, denoted by a sequence of items enclosed by parentheses. LISP programs themselves are written as a set of lists, so that LISP has the unique ability to modify itself, and

hence grow on its own. The LISP syntax was known as "Cambridge Polish", as it was very different from standard Boolean logic (Wexelblat, 177):

x V y - Cambridge Polish, used to describe the LISP program
OR (x, y) - Parenthesized prefix notation, used in the LISP program
x OR y - standard Boolean logic
LISP remains in use today because it is highly specialized and is of an abstract nature.

The Algol language was created by a committee for scientific investigations and was used in 1958. Its major contribution was that it constituted the root of the tree that led to such languages as Pascal, C, C++, and Java. It was also the first language with a formal grammar, known as Backus-Naar Form or BNF (McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, 454). Though Algol implemented some novel concepts, such as recursive calling of functions, the next version of the language, Algol 68, became bloated and difficult to use (www.byte.com). This led to the adoption of smaller and more compact languages, such as Pascal.

Pascal was begun in 1968 by Niklaus Wirth. Its development was mainly out of necessity for a good teaching tool. In the beginning, the language designers had no hopes for it to enjoy widespread adoption. Instead, they concentrated on developing good tools for teaching such as a debugger and editing system and support for common early micro-processor machines which were in use in teaching institutions.

To be continued next week

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

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| Absorb | Engine | Pains | Science | Twine |
| Aerial | Frequencies | Particles | Sense | Tying |
| Approaching | Giggle | Piercing | Shake | Unusual |
| Auto | Ground | Pressure | Signals | Useful |
| Balls | Guitar | Pulses | Sound | Vase |
| Band | Hanging | Quiet | Speaker | Venue |
| Bang | Head | Radial | Stadium | Violin |
| Bass | Hearing | Radio | Storms | Visible |
| Board | Hover | Rail | Strain | Wall |
| Brass | Increase | Raise | Street | Wave |
| Break | Instrument | Rapid | String | Weak |
| Button | Level | Reduce | Strong | Wires |
| Coils | Listen | Reenact | Telephone | Worry |
| Detect | Mast | Resonate | Television | Yoyo |
| Doors | Mirror | Reverberate | Tide | |
| Drill | Motion | Roof | Treble | |
| Drum | Movement | Rope | Tremble | |
| Echo | Oscillate | Rumble | Turbulence | |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Weave

VIBRATIONS ARE MANY

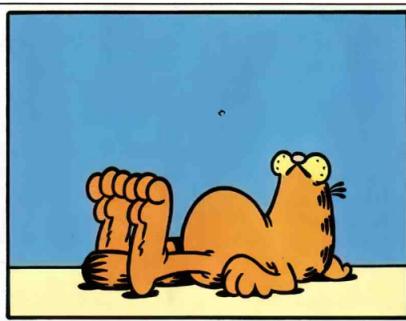
Solution: 6 letters

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

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7-Day Weather Forecast

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Sana'a	Hi 28	28	27	27	26	26	27
	Lo 12	11	11	11	11	10	10
Aden	Hi 39	39	32	36	34	34	35
	Lo 26	26	25	25	26	24	24

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia



Aries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Someone you thought you could count on is likely to let you down. Work on something charitable. Your giving and competent nature will pay off in the future.



Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)
Your hard work has paid off and you should feel satisfied and confident about your professional direction. Get together with industry acquaintances.



Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)
Begin something new, especially if it will get you back on track physically and mentally. Join a group that will help you realize your true potential or value.



Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Deception is apparent when dealing with financial matters. This is not the day to lend or borrow. Focus on your home and family.



Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)
This is a great day for love and romance. You will meet someone interesting today if you travel or get out and enjoy a social event.



Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)
If you have a good idea for making extra cash, don't let it go to waste just because it isn't a workday. Put your thoughts into action. Children will feel good if you include them.



Libra
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)
This may be a difficult day, especially if you have been indecisive about your personal life. Reevaluate your motives. Self-deception is likely.



Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Worrying about something that you can do little about today is a waste of time. Be creative and you will come up with ideas that may lead you in a new direction professionally.



Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Socialize with friends or relatives. Plan an event that will gather all the people you enjoy being around. Don't be daunted by someone who doesn't want to take part.



Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Someone may be talking about you behind your back. Keep a positive spin on the situation. Be gracious and kind and you will be the one who ends up on top.



Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You must get out and do things today. You can pick up valuable information that will aid you with future projects. Listen to someone who can put a new spin on something you've wanted to do for some time.



Pisces
(Feb 19 - Mar 20)
Hard work, creativity and patience will pay off. Don't worry about things that you can't change. Discipline and patience will be required.

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Homeland Security warns of Microsoft Windows flaw

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Users are flocking to Microsoft's website after a warning from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that hackers are planning to attack computers by exploiting a previously announced flaw in Windows operating systems.

The flaw, revealed by Microsoft two weeks ago, works by exploiting a tool that allows one computer to run programs on another computer over the Internet or over corporate networks.

The Department of Homeland Security, created in response to the 2001 hijacking attacks, issued two warnings this week saying that "several working exploits are now in widespread distribution on the Internet."

Those seeking to exploit the flaw were scanning for vulnerable computers, the U.S. government said in its warning.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft has provided a patch that could be downloaded to fix the problem for the past two weeks, but traffic to the software giant's website increased significantly since the U.S. government issued its warnings.

The flaw exists in Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP as well as Microsoft's newest major operating system, Windows Server 2003, used to manage networked computers.

Microsoft promised to improve the security and reliability of its software 18 months ago in a memo issued by Chairman Bill Gates.

States cooperating on antitrust probe of oracle deal

PALO ALTO, Calif. (Reuters) - Attorneys general from about 30 U.S. states are cooperating in federal antitrust enforcers' review of Oracle Corp.'s ORCL.O \$7.3 billion hostile bid for PeopleSoft Inc. PSFT.O, sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

"This is purely procedural and a matter of course," Oracle spokeswoman Jennifer Glass told Reuters on Friday.

Glass said all of the information Oracle provides for the Department of Justice's antitrust review is also available to the state attorneys general, who are also invited to attend the company's ongoing meetings with regulators.

The attorneys general, including those from New York, Texas and California, have already spent more than a month reviewing the deal. They have agreed to share information and costs associated with their investigations, and to divide up tasks related to the probe, according to a report in the

Wall Street Journal. Oracle has said it would not actively market PeopleSoft products if the deal is completed, a move that has stoked concern among some large PeopleSoft customers.

Connecticut, which is in the midst of a \$100 million project to update its computer systems with PeopleSoft products, said in June that an Oracle takeover of PeopleSoft would cost it "tens of millions of dollars" and it asked a judge to block the deal, citing antitrust law.

Connecticut cannot participate in the other states' investigation because it already is a litigant.

The Justice Department review of Oracle's proposal was not expected to be finished before the end of the summer, and the states' decision to work together could help them conduct their review on the same timeline, the Wall Street Journal report said, citing Oracle Vice President for Governmental Affairs Ken Glueck.

Wildfires cause havoc in Western Canada

By Allan Dowd

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (Reuters) - Emergency crews struggled to slow the advance of forest fires on Saturday that have forced more than 3,000 residents to flee their homes in the tinder dry mountains of British Columbia.

Winds fanned the flames of two fires near Kamloops, British Columbia, one of which is feared to have destroyed as many as 60 houses and a sawmill in the town of Barriere, about 185 miles northeast of Vancouver.

Premier Gordon Campbell has declared a state of emergency around Kamloops as crews struggle against fire conditions that some officials have described as the worst the province has seen in 50 years.

The weather forecast does not predict major rain in area of south-central British Columbia for at least several days.

No deaths have been reported, but more than 300 fires are burning in British Columbia, which is about the

size of Germany and France combined. Most are small, but more than dozen are large fires and many of those are out of control.

Among the most dramatic fires was a 10,000 acre blaze that began near the town of McLure on Wednesday, raced north through the hamlet of Louis Creek and reaching Barriere about 15 miles away from McLure by Friday afternoon.

Fire officials said the blaze moved so quickly they could not use crews on the ground to fight it, and conditions were so dry from weeks without rain that the wildfire often burned through retardant dropped from aircraft.

Officials have not been able to get into Barriere to do an exact count of the number of buildings destroyed, but local media put the number at more than 60 and a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer said the department was not optimistic about what they would find.

An estimated 3,000 people have been forced from their homes because of the McLure fire, which also closed a

major highway, destroyed an electrical transmission cable and forced the Canadian National Railway to shut down its main line.

A fire that erupted near Kamloops Friday afternoon quickly spread, forcing hundreds of residents of an outlying neighborhood to evacuate and briefly closing a highway that was the evacuate route for residents fleeing the McLure blaze.

The largest fire now burning in the province was a 13,000 hectare blaze near Chilko Lake in the Cariboo Region of central British Columbia. That fire is not currently threatening any communities.

British Columbia officials are also worried about a large fire near Eureka, Montana, that has threatened to burn across the border into Canada.

In Rocky Mountains of southwest Alberta, an estimated 100 residents of Hillcrest have been kept from their homes since last weekend by a blaze that had expanded to 54 square miles despite an army of 800 firefighters trying to hold it back.

Hate your hair? Blame your mother's diet

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - In a study that shows more than ever you are what you eat, U.S. scientists said on Friday they had changed the coat colors of baby mice simply by altering their mothers' diets.

The study shows that common nutrients can influence which genes turn on and off in a developing fetus, and help explain some of the factors that decide which genes "express" and which remain silent.

Writing in Friday's issue of the journal Molecular and Cellular Biology, the scientists at Duke University Medical Center said they changed the color of baby mouse fur by feeding pregnant mice four supplements — vitamin B12,

folic acid, choline and betaine. Mice given the four supplements gave birth to babies predominantly with brown coats. Pregnant mice not fed the supplements gave birth mostly to babies with yellow coats.

Careful study showed the extra nutrients turned down expression of a gene called Agouti, which affects fur color.

"We have long known that maternal nutrition profoundly impacts disease susceptibility in their offspring, but we never understood the cause-and-effect link," said Randy Jirtle, a professor of radiation oncology at Duke who directed the study.

"For the first time ever, we have shown precisely how nutritional sup-

plementation to the mother can permanently alter gene expression in her offspring without altering the genes themselves," he said in a statement.

The findings have not been shown in humans, but the researchers said there is much support for the idea that nutrition can affect gene expression in people.

Several studies have shown, for instance, that women who eat a poor diet while pregnant have children who grow up with a tendency to diabetes and heart disease.

Obesity, Diabetes link

This study could help explain that. The Agouti gene not only affects coat

color, but also metabolic factors involved in diabetes and heart disease.

Mice with overactive Agouti genes tend to be obese and susceptible to diabetes because the protein controlled by the gene affects one brain signal involved in appetite.

"Diet, nutritional supplements and other seemingly innocuous compounds can alter the development in utero to such an extent that it changes the offspring's characteristics for life, and potentially that of future generations," said researcher Rob Waterland, who worked on the study.

Nutrition is likely to be one of the "environmental factors" that decides which genes turn on and which stay

silent.

Everyone inherits two copies of each gene — one from each parent. For most functions, only one gene expresses while the other is silent.

This idea, first explained by 19th century genetic pioneer Gregor Mendel with his experiments on green and yellow peas, can explain why two brown-eyed parents can have a blue-eyed child — who may be expressing a grandparents' gene that was silent in the parent.

"Our study demonstrates how early environmental factors can alter gene expression without mutating the gene itself," said Waterland said.

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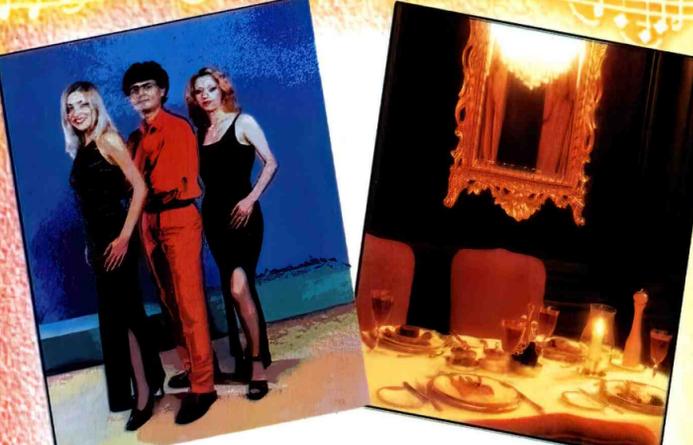
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Is this Saddam in disguise?

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Central Command has released five digitally enhanced pictures of Saddam Hussein showing what the deposed Iraqi president might look like if he was trying to change his appearance.

The pictures, distributed to troops searching for him in Iraq, show the normally moustachioed Saddam clean shaven or with a beard, and also show him with white and gray hair rather than his usual dark hair. One shows him in a traditional Arab headdress.

Lt. Ryan Fitzgerald, a spokesman at Central Command headquarters in Florida, said U.S. troops in Iraq were given the five altered images on Thursday to help them recognise Saddam in the event he has changed his appearance to elude capture.

Fitzgerald said the use of pictures of what a suspect might look like in disguise is a standard investigative technique.

"But it also became more clear after Uday and Qusay's bodies were

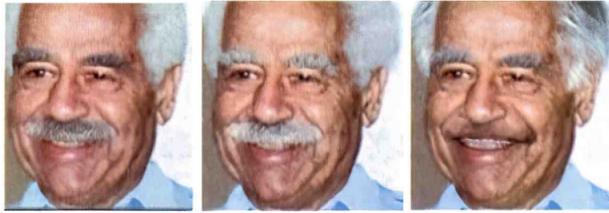
discovered, that sure enough they had been trying to alter their appearances through growing different beards and so on. It became apparent that if they were doing that, Saddam Hussein may well be doing that as well," Fitzgerald said.

Uday and Qusay Hussein, Saddam's formerly powerful sons, were killed by U.S. troops in a raid on July 22.

Units hunting Saddam, including the secretive Task Force 20 leading the search, have been given the digitally enhanced pictures, according to a military spokesman in Iraq.

"The photos have been distributed to units and commanders who are actively involved in the search. The main purpose of the photos is to ensure the soldiers have an idea of what Saddam may look like," Lt. Colonel Kevin Gainer said.

The CIA separately has created other images depicting what Saddam might look like after three months on the run, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.



The U.S. Central Command released these digitally enhanced photographs of what former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein might look like, August 1. A CIA analysis of a new audio tape broadcast on Friday has found a "high likelihood" that it is Saddam Hussein's voice, a CIA official said. "Although it cannot be determined with absolute certainty, CIA's assessment after a technical analysis of the tape is that there is a high likelihood that it is Saddam Hussein's voice," the official told Reuters.

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