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## GPC restructured

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a - Dr. Mohammed Abdulmajeed al-Qubati member of the general secretariat, the head of the political office and foreign relations at the GPC confirmed to the Yemen Times on Saturday the press reports on the GPC's intentions to rebuild its organizational structure with the aim of modernizing it and rendering it into a democratic organization.

He said: "The GPC is working seriously and hard on this issue in order to endorse democracy in its structure and implement decentralization in the governorates, districts and at all levels so as to become a successful modern programmatic democratic political party." And he added that this kind of change will not be a typical one but will differ according to meeting the peculiarity of each governorate and district.

Such transformation would make the party a pioneer in this respect among political parties in many Arab countries.

As Dr. al-Qubati said: "Democracy is not only a number of elected representing bodies, more than that it is the activation of the principle of transparency in a manner enabling the accountability at the level of organizations whether political parties or civil society organizations or local councils. Democracy does not go in harmony with the absence of the principle of accountability, as there is no accountability without transparency in the work of those bodies.

And if there is a liberal movement in Yemen then the General People's Congress is the one that could represent it in the presence of other currents representing the central right."

On the reports that claimed that the reason of effecting those changes were because of external dictation, Dr al-Qubati denied such allegations, confirming that the GPC felt the necessity of creating an organizational movement and restructuring in order to cope with the democratic developments the Arab region and the third world are experiencing.



Shown is the main page of GPC's website (almotamar.net). The site is quite advanced and has become an important media tool for the GPC. It has become quite competitive compared to Islah's - the main opposition party - website (alsahwanews.net). The success of such moves by the GPC shows commitment to launch massive reforms to the political body of the party and how it operates. The GPC is expected to go through even greater reforms to evolve it into a political party in the true sense, and not just a mere congress.

## In a letter issued by Human Rights Watch to President Saleh: Full investigation into J. Omar's assassination demanded

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Human Rights Watch, an international NGO based in Washington, urged in a letter addressed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh August 13 that government of Yemen should undertake "a full, independent, and impartial investigation" into the assassination of Yemeni socialist leader Jarallah Omar on December 28, 2002. "There are serious and widespread allegations about possible involvement in this killing by government security officials and prominent Salafi political figures. These allegations need to be addressed in a transparent and serious manner, and dismissed or acted upon. We therefore call on you to authorize a special investigation, to be conducted in a thorough and impartial manner, into all aspects of this crime, and to make the results public," the letter said. "A special investigation is essential because the case is a highly charged one,

owing to the prominence of the victim. Jarallah Omar was deputy secretary-general of the YSP and its leading strategist. At the time of his death he was working to forge an alliance of the YSP with the Islah (Reform) Party. His assassination occurred at a public Islah party congress," the letter says, adding, "Because of the very public setting of the assassination, which was carried out at close range on December 28, 2002, the fact that 'Ali Ahmad Jarallah was the trigger-man in this killing is not in dispute. However, between twelve and thirty other persons have reportedly been detained in connection with the assassination and in connection with the reportedly related murders of three American medical missionaries two days later, on December 30." It emphasized that Ali Ahmad Jarallah's extremist views stand behind his attack on Omar pointing out "However, Jarallah Omar's family and colleagues have expressed concern that government security services may have also played a role, citing, for example, meetings that the head of the Political Security Office, Ghalib al-Qamish, reportedly held with the accused assassin when he was in custody in 2000 and 2001." It demands that a full and comprehensive investigation into the case should be made.

Continued on page 3

## After a fight erupted among candidates and voters: Women Union's election cancelled

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A fight among candidates and voters in the election of the Yemeni Women Union led to calling off the election in Sana'a. Sources at the union said that fight erupted among 68 candidates competing to win 32 seats in the membership of the General Secretariat of the union. Ramzia al-Iryani, head of the preparatory committee of the election said that the election was called off due to the fight between the candidates and their fans who beat up the representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs conducting and monitoring the election process of any NGO. Sources at the opposition said that the fight took place because the representative of the ministry of social affairs tried to take the polling box through the window. The candidates and the voters beat him up and could snatch the voting box by force. Security and female police were called to the site and could disperse the voters, pushing them out of the building. Election was then cancelled. Female leading members in the society accused some political parties of attempting to control the union for their own political benefits.

Around 11644 women voted in other governorates to choose their representatives to the union. The general conference of the union is likely to hold its meetings by the beginning of September to nominate new leadership. The conference will be the first since the unification of Yemen where the two Yemeni women unions were merged. Around 350 women representatives will attend the event.

A new leadership with new blood chosen through fair election and free from the control and influence is expected to play an important role in serving the issues of women in Yemen, mainly in promoting their role in society and pressuring the government to abolish any discriminating laws against women in Yemen where most of them are still illiterate. The new leadership should do something to improve the situation of women in the country-side.

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## In order to set Shiekhs & their associates free: Negotiations entered

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A\_ Negotiations have been still currently underway by shiekhs from Khowlan to set shiekhs and their associates belong to the Jehm tribe free.

Those shiekhs have been held as prisoners at the Military Prison and the Central Prison.

They were kept as prisoners when altercations took place between Shiekh al-Zaidi and the president at the Presidential House in Sana'a.

Among those shiekhs who have met the president are; shiekh Mohammed bin Naji al-Qader, Shiekh, Saleh al-Rawaishan, Shiekh Ahmed Dawaid, and the Brigadier General, Naji al-Sofi to reconsider the

Conditions to give guarantees to the state were laid by the president during the his meetings with the Yemeni shiekhs in return for setting the prisoners free along with settling unsettled issues between Aal al-Zaidi tribe and the authorities.

Shiekhs in their parts refused an acceptance to any conditions laid before setting the prisoners free.

A source told the Yemen Times that Shiekhs have come to Sana'a with the hope of persuading the authorities to hand over military convicts accused of killing the brigadier general, Saleh Abbad al-Zaidi in Sana'a who was killed in Sana'a in May 3 at 60th Street.

A combing operation in all the capital's outlets and other cities have been performed by the Yemeni authorities in order to arrest every one who bears al-Zaidi's surname.

The interior minister has issued his directives to raise a siege against the Yemen Times journalist, Hassan al-Zaidi and to set his two brothers free who were taken from the al-Matawkil Hospital.

The security authorities have already set one of the Hassan's brothers free, while the younger one has been still in a detention center.

Al-Zaidi demanded an immediate release for his younger brother.

A number of human rights organizations condemned the illegal arrest of al-Zaidi without any legal justifications except that his surname belongs to al-Zaidi, a prominent tribe in Mareb.

## To review US human rights report on Yemen and other issues: Seminar on human rights held

Sanaa, August 16 - Civic Democratic initiatives' support Foundation (CDF) held on Wednesday August 13 a seminar to discuss the US 2002 human rights report carried out by the US Department of State.

Representatives of embassies, human rights organizations, civil society institutions, parliament and mass media participated in the event and commented on the US human rights report.

The Political and Economic Officer of the US Embassy in Sanaa, Ms. Catherine Westley was present in the event. Ms. Westley gave a briefing on how the report was carried out and what sources it relied on.

The participants discussed a number of issues related to human rights, law enforcement, justice system, press freedom, women rights and the cooperation between NGOs and the ministry of human rights and other governmental authorities.

Even though many participants praised the efforts of the US embassy in producing the report that tackled human rights issues in Yemen, most of them also criticized its contents claiming that it lacked completeness as it ignored many



Participant during human rights seminar held recently in Sana'a

important issues.

"When we are criticizing the USA, we do not mean to criticize American citizens, but rather decision makers in the US administration. We do not trust the US administration any more especially after 11 September. The human rights report should have been objective and transparent. However, the report issued by the US Foreign Secretary did not seem to be professional and had more of a political nature." one of participants said.

Meanwhile, other participants felt that the report could serve as an important source of information to correct current ongoing human rights violations. "We have to focus on the particular cases of

human rights violations mentioned in the report so as to know our problems and work on improving human rights conditions in Yemen." another participant said.

The seminar concentrated on issues concerning law enforcement and judicial reforms. "We should concentrate on judicial reforms that are badly needed for law enforcement before we go on to other issues," said Walid Al-Sagqaf, Editor of Yemen Times who participated in the event.

The participants concluded that the US report was a good step forward but should also be followed by follow ups and ways to pinpoint the cure and mean to prevent such human rights violations in the future.

### Readers' Voice

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you believe that once the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia is fully demarcated by 2005, smuggling from and to the two countries would end?

- Definitely, it will surely end.
- Not fully, but it will mostly end.
- It will be partially affected, but will continue to be a problem
- It will not be affected at all

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think that the USA would deliver its promises to Yemen in terms of economic assistance?

- Yes, but after some conditions are met. 36%
- Yes of course it will. 27%
- Yes, but after a long list of other countries. 17%
- No, it will probably not. 11%
- No, it will never. 9%

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Authorities dismiss rumors about closure of Yemeni-Saudi border:

## Yemen-Saudi border not closed

Sanaa, August 15 - Yemeni officials dismissed on Thursday reports that Yemen and Saudi Arabia have closed their borders and called those reports "untrue and baseless".

"The Yemeni Saudi borders are open, and will remain always a bridge for love and fruitful cooperation between the two brotherly countries, in a way that serves the common goals and interests," an official said.

This comes as a Saudi force of more than 200 security agents used tear gas and explosives on Friday to blast into a two-storey building where the Saudi and Bangladeshi suspects were hiding in Karbos village, near the Yemeni border in Jazan province.

The security forces were reported to have found 93 bazooka rockets, more than 50 hand grenades, a number of machine guns, highly explosive chemicals, detonators and three security uniforms.

Saudi Arabia has often stated that there are enormous amounts of weapons smuggled from Yemen to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi sources had confirmed in June that the arms confiscated last year along the Kingdom's porous 1,800-km border totaled up to 263 firearms, 1.2 million rounds of ammunition, 46,700 sticks of dynamite and a large number of detonators.

Great hopes were centered on the demarcation agreement that came after the two countries signed an international border treaty on June 2000, to end a 66-year-old border dispute and to limit smuggling of weapons, yet so far, solid results are not evident.

Demarcation works are expected to be over by the end of 2005.

## Robbers of \$650,000 from Iraqi Embassy captured

Sanaa, 16 August - Yemeni police was able to arrest two former embassy staffers who allegedly took part in the theft of \$650,000 from the Iraqi Embassy in Sanaa, Yemeni security sources said on Friday.

The two Iraqis used to work at the embassy and are alleged to be part of a gang of four that stole the amount from the embassy's case just after the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on April 9. The security sources did not say exactly when or how the theft was carried out.

Meanwhile, Yemen has asked Interpol to issue arrest warrants for the other two Iraqis, still at large. The two culprits have fled the country with the larger share of the money, the sources added.

## Truckload weapons seized

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A—Information obtained by Yemen Times disclosed that the truck loaded with weapons seized in Mareb last week belonged to a weapons dealer in the governorate of Mareb.

The information also indicates that the security authority may return the quantity of weapons to the owner or in case of confiscating them the government would pay compensations to the owner.

The seized truck contained 50 sacks and 20 boxes full of pistols, 20 hunting rifles and their ammunition.

The source clarified that the quantity was considered normal regarding trading in weapons in some areas in Yemen. It is a trade that has its own markets.

Those arms are bought from either citizens or officials who had found them during the 1994 civil war.

The Small Arms Survey in Geneva released two weeks ago said that millions of small arms and light weapons are found in Yemen.

"There are 40 weapons for 100 people," says the Small Arms Survey Director in Geneva.

In Yemen life tribal rules rather than law are the main determinants of weapon use.

The Yemeni government has recently started cooperating with Saudi Arabia to fight arms smuggling and smugglers.

The security cooperation between the two sides has clearly manifested itself after the seizure of large quantities of arms near the border.

It is said that those arms are originating from Yemen.

In this regard, most of the light as well as middle weapons are commonly used by the Yemeni tribes during tribal clashes as well as marriage ceremonies held in the Yemeni community.

A few years ago, the parliament proposed a law to curb possession and carrying of arms inside major cities. But this law has not been put to action.

Arms market spread over Yemen just like any other markets of vegetables, spices, etc.

The biggest and most famous arms market is the Attalh in Sadah which contains more than 30 arms stores.

The political analysts attribute spread of weapons to the good number of wars Yemen has passed through.

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**President Saleh blames some journalists for damaging Yemen's economy:**

**Exports to Saudi Arabia at standstill**

Sanaa, August 16 - President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared on Wednesday that Yemen's exports to Saudi Arabia have been at a standstill. The main factor behind this is the unfair coverage by some newspapers of Saudi-Yemeni affairs he said.

"Some of our products are being prevented from entering some of the neighboring countries (but) those

countries have nothing to do with it," he said in a speech broadcast on national TV, while he was in an event organized by the Agricultural Associations Federation.

"Unfortunately, the problem is internal. Some careless journalists, either in the official or independent press, are harming Yemen's interests...Our products are being prevented from

entering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. That was a result of biased coverage by the Ath-Thawra newspaper and some of the partisan newspapers," President Saleh directly blamed "careless writers" for this economic difficulty. He said those journalists cannot handle their responsibility and hence damage their country's interests.

**Iraqis in Yemen should not be forced to return**

Sanaa, August 16 - The UNHCR office in Sanaa issued a recommendation that states, including Yemen, should not force the return of Iraqis to Iraq, including rejected asylum seekers. "We are arguing states to refrain from returning Iraqi asylum seekers to countries in the region that they might have transited or visited," the statement said.

The advice follows similar recommendations on 7 and 20 March and 26

June, in which UNHCR recommended that temporary forms of protection be granted to Iraqis in Yemen and elsewhere, including to newly arrived asylum seekers.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR also committed itself to help Iraqis in Yemen and other countries who are keen to go back to Iraq, taking into consideration the position of the Coalition Authority that returns take place in a gradual and orderly manner.

**Great success witnessed in "Study in Malaysia" fair**

Sanaa, August 16 - The Malaysian International Education Fair "Study in Malaysia", held during 15-16 August under the auspices of Minister of Higher Studies and Scientific Research Dr. Abdulwahhab Raweh, witnessed overwhelming success. Thousands of interested Yemenis interesting in learning more about studying in Malaysia visited to the fair, which was organized at the Taj Sheba Hotel by the Yemen International Health Center (YIHC) and EXPAM and sponsored by Qatar Airways.

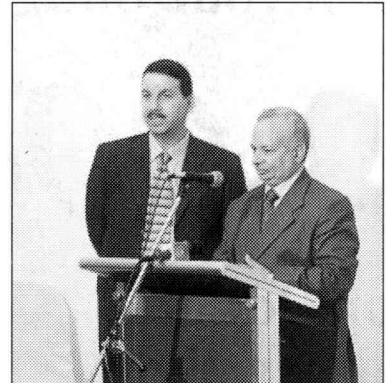
"This was such a remarkably successful fair. We have been impressed by the great interest of Yemenis willing to travel to Malaysia to pursue higher studies," said Dr. Ali K. Abbas,

YIHC's General Manager.

"We noticed that hundreds of application forms have already been filled in such a short time, and still, interest seems to be growing."

"I can tell you that education in Malaysia is indeed of international standards. Language used in all Malaysian universities is English, except for one, which is in Arabic," he added.

Eight prestigious universities and colleges participated in the event, which also included power point wide screen presentations about the institutes and their services. The participating institutes were the International Group of Colleges, Kolej Universiti Tun Hussin Onn, Limkokwing



Dr. Abdulwahhab Raweh (right), Dr. Ali K. Abbas (left)

University College of Creative Technology, Multimedia University, Olympia College, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Universiti Outra Malaysia, and Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Taking into account the advantages that Malaysian universities have over European and American universities in terms of cost and convenience -while maintaining same level of quality-, the number of Yemeni students to enroll in those universities is expected to rise substantially.

"Such fairs are instrumental to inform the Yemeni community of the great options and opportunities available in other countries such as Malaysia in terms of quality higher education," Dr. Abbas concluded.



Prominent guests attending the event

Continued from Page 1

**Full investigation demanded**

"The family of Jarallah Omar, through their lawyers, have sought without success to have adequate access to the results of the state's investigation into his killing. The prosecution's refusal to grant such access appears to contravene Article 122 of Yemen's Code of Criminal Procedure, which allows the accused and victim (or his or her heirs) to be present at all interrogation sessions. When the prosecutor, in urgent situations, conducts an investigation without their presence, under Article 122 they have a right of access to all documents pertaining to the investigation," the message reads.

It points out that Article 16 of the

U.N. Principles also speaks of the right of the family of the deceased and their legal representatives to have "access to any hearing as well as to all information relevant to the investigation." Article 17 of the Principles calls for a written report "within a reasonable period of time on the methods and findings" of the investigation, and calls for the report to be made public.

"Given Jarallah Omar's status as one of Yemen's most important opposition figures, we strongly urge your government to take immediate steps to carry out a through, independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. We thank you for your attention to

this important matter, and look forward to your response," the message stresses.

The court of Sana'a already upheld the case to pass the verdict against the defendant and some members of his gang by the mid of September.

Some politicians and lawyers demanded last week in a seminar to study the legal dimensions of the case that it should be taken to international tribunal, seeking the interference of UN legal organizations to stop the issuance of the verdict, seeking for more in-depth investigation that reveal all political dimensions of the crime and the defendant's compliance.

**Rural women rights program held**

TAIZ\_ In its special program on rural women rights, Women's Forum for Researches and Training (WFRT) along with Gender World Fund (GWF) will organize from 20-21 August a training course to raise the abilities and skills of 20 coordinators in the program who are considered the link between the forum and the program targets.

About the importance and objectives of the program, Ms. Suad al-Qadsi, the head of WFRT, said, "WFRT has realized the importance of spread human rights awareness among the rural society as it is one of developmental elements. Social traditions and norms have negatively affected the role of rural woman in the development due to the different points of view on her participation in the development and serving her society or to take the responsibility for educating generations"

She further added "We have worked in several activities for two years in three rural areas in Taiz to specify the local needs of the rural society and the challenges that women face. Today we are training 20 coordinators whom are carefully chosen from 5 rural areas to be the link between the program and the targets. We will help them to spread human rights and developmental awareness to have in return a productive rural society that equality and justice prevail in."

It is noteworthy that WFRT has established a distinguished web-site www.wftrt.net and called all the interested to visit the site and send their comments and suggestions to improve it.

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**BEEP 2003 report released**

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The project coverage extended to all districts of the four governorates of Sana'a, Amran, Al-Mahweet and Dhale. The steering committee decided on the basis for the preparation of the 2003 plan and schools selection criteria as well as the share of districts.

Therefore, the 2003 program is to include the construction of 317 new schools, extension and rehabilitation of

- Preparation for Year 3 program in the 4 Project Governorates
- Teacher training
- Preparation of training program
- Training Programs
- Teacher deployment and hiring plan
- Provision of Equipment
- Provision of Educational kits
- Furniture repair and maintenance
- Capacity Building
- The Community Participation (CP) included:
  - Preparation of a Detailed Program for CP activities
  - Implementation of CP activities
  - Operation support for CP activities.
  - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.
  - Routine Annual School Survey.

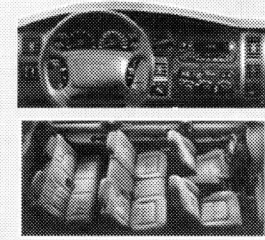
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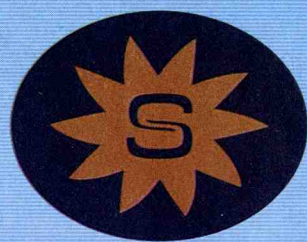
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(عروض جديدة تتناسب مع متطلباتكم)

### ١٠,٠٠٠ ريال يمني

للغرفة المزدوجة أو المفردة عن كل ليلة إقامة  
أيضا

أقم لمدة ٤ ليالي متتالية واحصل على الليلة الخامسة مجاناً  
يسري العرض من ١/١ إلى ٩/١٥

هذا العرض مخصص لليمنيين والمقيمين الأجانب

فضلاً لا يجوز للشركات الاستفادة من هذا العرض

# Students and summer time



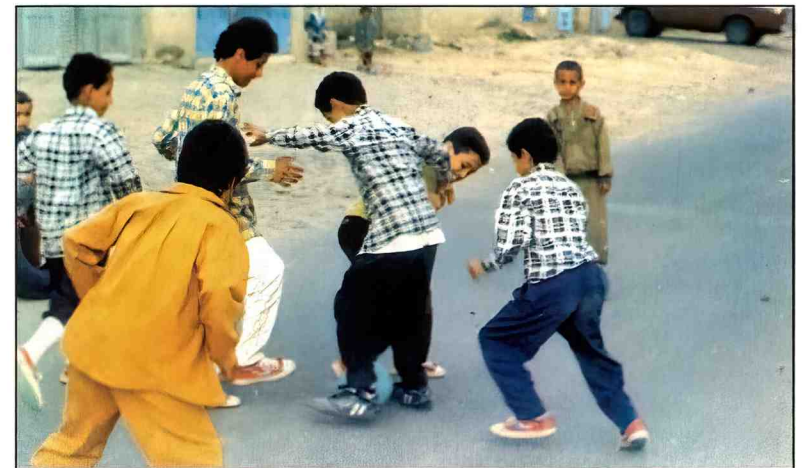
By ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Like every year the summer vacation comes and goes and nothing is done about it except talk. Here we are about to conclude another summer holidays and students are still with nothing to do during summer vacation or anything to utilize their free time. More than three months every year go just like that without any useful activities, worse is that idleness of the students causes a lot of troubles and bad habits too.

And every year the concerned ministries and educational instruments meet and debate and talk about what to organize for this summer, listing a long interesting list if various activities whether sports, scientific, cultural, intellectual and social. Yet all this remains ideas in the minds and dreams of the desperate. Education is not only that taken at school, it could be given through other means such as workshops, training centers and seminars. When the academic year is over it does not mean put a heavy lock on the student's brain and throw the key to the sea, learning is a continuous process that ends with the end of man, not limited to an academic year.

During the summer vacation students should go on reading and investigating knowledge through books and magazines etc... They should also improve their physical health through sports and outdoor activities especially that this also helps them psychologically where they interact with each other and develop good communication skills. The summer vacation is a part of the student's life and it is sad that it comes and goes in total waste. Especially for teenagers and high schools students where in this period they are developing their personality and improving their skills, yet especially those students you find them not interested at all in anything pro-

ductive except for very few who have found support and encouragement from their families and surrounding environment. The rest gather at the streets doing nothing except strolling about gaining bad habits and in many times annoying others passing by. And there you find the adults complaining that their children no longer listen to them and that every new generation is worse than the previous one. Are they too blind to see or is it just ignorance? This summer vacation is about to end, and the students will be back to school soon. We should take this chance to learn from our lessons, and make it a point that the next three months of summer vacation will be different.



Instead of making use of the summer vacation, students waste their time strolling in streets.

## A rejuvenation of historical ties;

# A TRIP TO TURKEY by the Sana'a Turkish School

By OWAIS A. ASIM  
SANA'A TURKISH SCHOOL

At last the 6th of July finally arrived. Four students and six teachers from the Sana'a Turkish School were gathered at the Sana'a International Airport en route to Turkey in order to rejuvenate the historical ties between their two brotherly Islamic countries. Fortunately I was one of them. For many of us Turkey was the land of distant dreams. The next fifteen days, saw our dreams being transformed into a reality.

We entered Turkey on the 8th of July via Syria. It was six in the morning; the sun was just ascending the horizon. Once we crossed the border the landscape changed dramatically. The rugged mountainous terrain abruptly transformed into a splashy kaleidoscope of green shades. Lush green crops stretched themselves in front of us as far as the eye could see. Already the farm hands were busy in their daily chores. Half an hour's journey through the windswept plains and the winding road brought us to the commercial city of Antakya where our Arabic speaking Turkish driver, Ramazan, awaited us with a Mercedes bus, this was to be our mobile home for the next two weeks as much of our time was spent on road discovering the mystical land.

Surprisingly we never felt like strangers in a land which we had entered for the very first time, so open hearted were the people. After enjoy-

ing our first Turkish breakfast of mouth watering cheeses, soft n' crispy bread and fresh fruits, we found ourselves on the road again on the way to Aksaray via Osmania. Aksaray proved to be a sight seers paradise. Cappadocia famous for its bizarre rocky landscape and fairy chimneys left us wonder struck. The next stop was Derinkuyu, the underground city, our descent into the seven floor underground building dug out of solid rock was truly enthralling. Before we called it a day, we visited the primeval Ihlara valley, which gathers the elements of nature, human, history and art in its folds. The scenery, the landscape and the ancient churches of this valley left longer lasting impressions on our minds. Both Derinkuyu and Ihlara once served as a safe haven for the early Christians escaping the wrath of the antagonistic Roman partisans and are believed to have housed a whole city in their dugout cave houses. While in Aksaray we also visited the famous volcanic mountain resort of Mount Hasan covered with oak forests and cascading mountain streams. Playing night football in floodlit mini stadium was also an exhilarating experience that went a long way in strengthening friendly ties.

If hospitality is an art the Turkish people have mastered it to perfection. A guest is almost something divine to them, this spirit of hospitality prevailed everywhere we went, we were greeted with radiant faces, open hearts and outstretched arms. Yet the people of Aksaray had an edge over others in this

regard. We left this city with tearful eyes and heavy hearts but not before entertaining our hosts with a Yemeni song of friendship, written and composed by our teachers.

Thereafter we arrived in the modern Turkish metropolis and political hub, Ankara, where everyone always seems to be in a hurry. On our entry into the city we were greeted by lofty skyscrapers, crisscrossing roads and humming shopping malls. Our guide was Mr. Zekeria, a dear friend and a former maths teacher of our school. A visit to the Middle East Technical University was the highlight of our stay in Ankara. The students in particular were greatly fascinated by the beauty and facilities offered by this University and resolved to continue their higher studies at this great citadel of knowledge. The day was complete with a visit to the Kocatepe Mosque and splendid fun at a private swimming pool.

Bursa, the city cradled in the heart of lush green pine covered mountains came next in our travel plans. Our activities here included a cable car excursion to a mountain top resort, a visit to a four hundred year old Turkish Hammam with natural hot springs, and a barbecue at a summer house nestled in the centre of a green forest. In the evening we bid farewell to the Hellenic resort for Istanbul via Yalova on a ferry.

It was past midnight when we entered the colossal megalopolis, yet the streets were bustling with activity. Early next morning we found ourselves at the threshold of the interna-



tionally acclaimed Blue Mosque also known as the Sultan Ahmet Mosque. It was a moment filled with ecstasy, our hearts were overcome by awe and amazement. A masterpiece of Ottoman architecture, which had withstood the onslaught of time, weather and stupendous political upheavals and continued to inspire the imagination of people the world over stood in front of us, we could hardly believe our eyes. Offering our Zohar prayers at this great mosque was a rare privilege.

A visit to Aya Sofia and Top Kapi Palace Museum, housing the remains of the Ottoman Empire and religious relics dating back to the times of prophets Moses and Joseph, was equally enthralling. The sight of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) sacred hair and personal belongings filled our hearts with love and an inexplicable sorrow. Lunch at the ancient Shehzade Mehmed Restaurant was simply an exquisite experience, followed by a visit to the Fatih Mosque hosting the tomb of the great Fatih Sultan Mehmed, the conqueror of Istanbul. As the day slowly merged into night we found ourselves atop a ferry under the Bosphorus Bridge. The memories of this cruise shall remain embedded in our minds

forever. Other adventures in Istanbul included visits to various historical mosques, the tomb of Hazrat Ayub Al-Ansari (M.G.B.P.W.H) and Bosphorus University.

Turkey is a shopper's paradise and Istanbul its pivot. The Grand Bazaar founded by Sultan Mehmet II in 1453 has a floor space of 30 square kilometres thronging with frenzied shoppers of all backgrounds. Here you can hunt for anything ranging from sumptuous carpets shimmering with garish Ottoman motifs, exquisite textiles, laboriously designed gold and silver jewellery embedded with precious stones to ancient antiques. Here we exhausted all our financial resources, which we had been saving throughout the trip in just under two hours, wishing only in the end that we had brought a few more dollars with us.

It would be unfair not to mention Turkish cuisine which added to the magic of our stay in Turkey. Whether it was Adana Kebabs, Iskender, Shawarma (Doner) or Turkish Delights, we were always compelled to lick our fingers in the end. Each area had its own culinary delicacies and our Turkish colleagues made it a point that we missed nothing.

Turkey is a place where civilisations met, evolved into a super civilisation and spread to the four corners of the Islamic world. The art of construction in Turkey, Syria and Yemen has striking similarities. The Yemeni and Turkish people are bound together by historical ties and a special love unscathed by the cruel clutches of time. We were stunned by the curiosity of the Turkish people, their love for and interest in Yemen. Often we found ourselves chatting into the small hours of the nights regarding the culture, the people and landscape of Yemen. Yet the interest of the Turkish people in Yemen remained insatiable and we were compelled to extend invitations for a visit to Yemen, which were cordially accepted.

Did Turkey fit the definition of an Ideal? It certainly did for us. Lying in the heart of the world, at the crossroads of East and West, Turkey caters for the tourist tastes of a wide variety of people, there is something for everyone; sun drenched plains covered with golden wheat, lovely lakes, lush green forests, meandering rivers, ancient treasures and golden sandy beaches. You name it and it is all there. So pack your bags and see it all yourself.



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# U.S. losing hearts and minds of Baghdad Shi'ites

BAGHDAD, Aug 16 (Reuters) - A Baghdad slum that gave a joyous welcome to U.S. troops after Saddam Hussein's fall is now seething in anger at the occupiers' shortcomings.

The sight of cheering Iraqis from the long-oppressed Shi'ite Muslim community was a big psychological boost for the Americans when they rolled into the Iraqi capital's previously named "Saddam City" in April.

Now they face daily protests from among the two million residents as growing resentment at the occupation turned into open fury when a helicopter appeared to try to knock off a religious flag on Wednesday.

"We were happy at first when the Americans came. Now they should keep out, no one wants them around," shop-owner Jasm Kathai, 40, said. "What they did to the flag was a grave insult to Islam. There will be consequences."

Inhabitants of the newly named "Sadr City" — in honour of a top Shi'ite cleric, Ayatollah Sadr, killed by Saddam's security services in 1999 — say the helicopter tore down the banner.

But the U.S. army said it may have blown off accidentally.

In protests on the same day, one Iraqi was killed and four were injured. The Americans say the Iraqi protesters opened fire first, but Sadr City residents contradict that.

"They provoked this...they shot first," Waleed Kathim, a 25-year-old electrical repairman said, as crowds gathered round a reporter eager to shout their opinions.

The U.S. military is investigating the incident, has denied deliberate provocation and leafleted the area saying sorry.

There was no sign of American



Iraqi people take part in Friday prayers in Sadr City, one of the suburbs of Baghdad, August 15. Guerrillas firing grenades wounded two U.S. soldiers and three Iraqi civilians in central Iraq on Friday, while thousands of Shi'ite Muslims gathered for prayers at the flashpoint Baghdad suburb. REUTERS

patrols on Saturday morning, following Friday's call from a local religious leader for troops to stay out of Sadr City.

#### Growing militancy

As 5,000 worshippers held prayers in the open air and chanted "Yes for Islam, No to America", Sheikh Abdul Hadi al-Daraji also demanded on Friday a more profuse apology from the Americans and compensation for the victims of the violence.

Rumours the sheikh was forming a local militia floated in Sadr City on

Saturday, and young men hung around his mosque in a typical rubbish-strewn street where goats mixed with traffic.

The flag incident and growing militancy of Sadr City is a further blow to the American military which had hoped the Shi'ites' hatred of Saddam would ensure they were easy converts in the battle to win Iraqis' "hearts and minds".

The Shi'ites, a majority in Iraq, were oppressed by Saddam, a Sunni Muslim. But some influential Shi'ite clerics have denounced the occupation and anger has been brewing in the mainly Shi'ite south over fuel and electricity

shortages.

That complaint was vehemently echoed in Sadr City.

"The people here have had terrible difficulties for years. After the war, we have the same problems. Nothing has changed," 52-year-old shop-worker Ali Kashan said, standing under a vast portrait of Sadr where a Saddam image was torn down.

"Look around you — the dirt, the unemployment, the lack of electricity, the thieves. If the Americans can't do anything, they should leave us to solve our own problems."

# Arafat suspicious of Israeli travel offer

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Aug 16 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat wants international guarantees of safe return before accepting an Israeli offer to leave the West Bank for a brief visit to Gaza, a senior adviser said on Saturday.

Arafat, accused by Israel of fomenting violence over the past three years in a Palestinian uprising for statehood, has been trapped by Israeli troops in his half-demolished Ramallah compound for 18 months. He denies encouraging bloodshed.

Security sources said on Friday that Israel had agreed to permit Arafat to make one trip lasting several hours to Gaza to pay final respects to a sister who died this week and was buried in the territory.

Commenting on the offer, senior Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rdainah told reporters: "We are asking for real guarantees from the Quartet, because the Israeli government does not live up to its commitments."

The Quartet — the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations — are sponsors of a Middle East peace plan calling for an end to violence and the start of reciprocal steps leading to the creation of a Palestinian state in 2005.

In a bid to bolster a truce crucial to the peace "road map", Israel agreed on Friday to hand security control of four West Bank cities to Palestinian authorities by the end of August, security sources said.

The six-week-old unilateral ceasefire declared by militant factions frayed badly this week with two Palestinian suicide bombings avenging continued Israeli army raids that have killed some wanted militants and netted dozens more.

The security sources said any fur-

ther Palestinian attacks would scuttle the accord on handing over cities reached by Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz and Palestinian Security Minister Mohammed Dahlan after a weeks-long impasse over how to implement the peace plan.

Militants dismissed the deal as "worthless" as Israel had not dropped a policy to hunt them down for previous attacks in the uprising.

Abu Rdainah called the accord insufficient. "Israel should withdraw from all cities in order to have a genuine withdrawal," he said.

Whether Friday's deal would be carried out was uncertain at best as the militant group Islamic Jihad threatened retribution "like an earthquake" after Israeli troops killed its Hebron commander in a shootout on Thursday after trying to arrest him.

An Israeli Defence Ministry spokeswoman said Mofaz agreed to pull back forces from Jericho and Qalqilya early next week and the larger cities of Ramallah and Tulkarm in about two weeks.

"There are three conditions for this transfer — that they (Palestinian police) fight terror, establish an apparatus to neutralise wanted terrorists and that there are no terrorist attacks in this (handover period)," she told Reuters.

Israel and the United States have called repeatedly on Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to dismantle militant groups as mandated by the peace plan.

Palestinian officials, demanding in turn that Israel honour its commitments under the road map, such as pulling troops back to positions held before the uprising began in September 2000, have said such a crackdown could cause civil war.



Palestinians march with a flags during a Hamas rally in Gaza City August 15. The Palestinian authority wants Israel to free more than 6,000 detainees in Israeli jails and detention centres. REUTERS

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# Libya accepts responsibility for Lockerbie bombing

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 15 (Xinhua) — Libya formally accepted responsibility for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and demanded an end to an 11-year United Nations sanctions against it, in a letter it delivered to the UN Security Council on Friday.

Libya "has facilitated the bringing to justice of the two suspects charged with the bombing of Pan Am 103, and accepts responsibility for the actions of its officials," it said in the letter, handed to current president of the Security Council, Mikhail Wehbe, Syria's UN ambassador.

Libya also pledged to renounce terrorism in all its forms and cooperate fully with the investigators in the probe of the bombing, which killed 259 aboard and 11 on the ground.

Libya "affirms that it will have fulfilled all Security Council requirements relevant to the Lockerbie incident upon transfer of the necessary sums to the agreed escrow account," it read, referring to 2.7 billion US dollars it has agreed on in compensations to the relatives of the 270 victims.

Libya is therefore "requesting that upon that event the UN Security Council immediately lift the measures set forth in its resolutions" adopted in 1992 and 1993, it added.

On behalf of the other two parties involved in the dispute over Pan Am 103, British Ambassador to the UN, Emyr Jones Parry, and US Deputy Political Counselor, Gordon Olson, also delivered letters to Wehbe, confirming Libya has met conditions set for the lifting of the UN sanctions.

"It sets out very clearly what it believes to be its responsibility, and the British government believes — as does the American government — that it fulfills the commitment," Parry said of the three separate letters.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told reporters that Britain would soon table a draft resolution to the Security Council to remove the UN sanctions on Libya.

But a US official was quoted by media reports as saying earlier that the removal of the UN sanctions will not mean an automatic end of US sanctions against the country.

In Helsinki, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that the United Nations will lift sanctions against Libya as the country has agreed to

accept the responsibility for the bombing.

An air and arms embargo on Libya were imposed by the UN Security Council in March 1992 to pressure it to extradite two Libyan agents, Abdel Basset Ali el-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, who are charged with plotting the bombing.

In December 1993, further UN sanctions were imposed, including the freezing of Libyan assets in foreign banks and an embargo on oil industry-related equipment.

The United Nations suspended some sanctions on arms sales and flights in 1999 after Libya agreed the suspects were extradited and could serve terms in Scotland if convicted.

The French government insisted that before the UN sanctions on Tripoli were lifted, the compensation from Libya for the 1989 downing of a French airliner must be increased.

"France is not prepared to waver on this," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Cecile Pozzo di Borgo, said Thursday. She added that Libya should provide more compensation for the families of the 170 people killed in the attack against a DC 10 airliner of the French UTA airline, flying from Brazzaville to Paris, on September 19, 1989.

Under a 1999 bilateral deal, Libya agreed to pay from 3,000 to 30,000 euros (3,400 to 34,000 dollars) to each of the victims of the French airliner, which seemed too little compared to the average of 8.8 million euros (10 million dollars) to each of the victims of the American airliner.

"France has revised its policy last year and decided to try to obtain an increase of payouts for the victims of DC 10," reported the French daily, Le Figaro, on Friday. "The signal came from Tripoli. The son of Kadhafi, Seif al-Islam, when staying in Paris in February 2002, has implied to families of the victims that a new accord was possible," said the paper.

The firmness of the French demand was highlighted after Libya agreed on Wednesday to instruct its central bank to pay 2.7 billion US dollars in compensation to the families of the victims.

Relatives of the victims on Friday welcomed the official confirmation of the compensation offer, but said they would continue efforts to seek an independent inquiry.

## Indian Hindu hardliners seen losing ground

NEW DELHI, Aug 16 (Reuters) - India's Hindu nationalists-led government is seen losing ground ahead of key elections despite strong economic growth prospects, an opinion poll showed on Saturday.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led coalition faces testing state polls later this year and national elections in 2004.

The poll published by the India Today newsweekly showed the 20-odd member alliance winning 242-252 out of 543 parliamentary seats, down from 304 it won in 1999, if a snap poll is held.

But BJP's Atal Behari Vajpayee remained the preferred choice as prime minister over Congress's Italian-born leader Sonia Gandhi.

The poll showed the main opposition Congress party was on a comeback trail particularly in the politically crucial states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Kerala.

It said the Congress and its allies would win 175-185 seats against the 140 seats they have in the current parliament.

"With the emergence of a fiercely competitive bipolar divide (the Congress and allies versus the BJP and allies) across the country, losses for the National Democratic Alliance (led by BJP) will end up as gains for the Congress and its allies," the magazine said.

The survey polled 17,500 voters in 98 constituencies across the country over a

month from July 6.

"By itself the BJP is neither gaining nor losing nationally: its is merely dormant," the magazine said, adding the picture was gloomier for its allies in states like Haryana, Orissa, Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar and Maharashtra.

### Bread and butter issues dominate

It said bread-and-butter issues were stoking the fierce anti-incumbency mood despite robust economic growth and rising foreign investment.

Nearly 81 percent feel the quality of life had either remained the same or worsened in the past year, while 63 percent do not expect any improvement in the future, the magazine said.

Over 52 percent people feel that economic reforms, launched more than a decade ago, has benefitted the rich and not the middle class or the poor.

More than 30 percent of India's more than one billion population earn less than a dollar a day and 40 percent lack access to clean drinking water and healthcare facilities and education.

Nearly 37 percent favoured Vajpayee as prime minister while 25 percent approved of Sonia Gandhi. Forty-six percent of those polled did not consider her foreign origin a problem. About 38 percent thought it was a problem.

The poll showed 60 percent approved of Vajpayee's peace overture to Pakistan and 53 percent said the peace talks with Pakistan would succeed.

# Pakistan Shi'ites torch cars in protest over killing

KARACHI, Aug 16 (Reuters) - Pakistani police fired shots into the air to disperse hundreds of demonstrators who torched cars and blocked roads in the southern port city of Karachi on Saturday in protest over the killing of a Shi'ite Muslim.

Two gunman on a motorcycle killed Abne Hasan, a doctor, in the eastern part of the city before noon, in what police said appeared to be a sectarian attack.

"It was a targeted killing. He was shot dead in front of his house," Tariq Jameel, the city's deputy police chief, told Reuters.

Witnesses said dozens of people, mostly angry Shi'ite Muslim youngsters, suffered minor injuries in scuffles with police, who struggled to control the crowd.

Another police official said protestors torched two cars, one motorcycle and a state-run bank, and blocked the city's main Sharah-e-Faisal road.

No group claimed responsibility for the killing, which came just over a month after at least 53 people were killed in a sectarian attack on a Shi'ite mosque in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, close to the Afghan border.



A Pakistani woman walks past a burning tyre used to disrupt traffic after the killing of a Shi'ite Muslim in Karachi August 16. Pakistani police fired shots into the air to disperse hundreds of demonstrators who torched cars and blocked roads in the southern port city of Karachi on Saturday in protest over the killing of a Shi'ite Muslim. REUTERS

## Uganda dictator Amin dies at Saudi hospital

JEDDAH, Aug 16 (Reuters) - Former dictator Idi Amin, blamed for the murder of tens of thousands of Ugandans in the 1970s, died on Saturday in a Saudi hospital where he had been critically ill for weeks, a senior medical source said.

"We can confirm that Mr Idi Amin has died from complications due to

multiple organ failure," the source at King Faisal Specialist Hospital in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

The Ugandan embassy in the kingdom would not comment on Amin's death, referring all queries to his family.

Amin, one of the bloodiest despots in Africa, has been living in exile,

chiefly in Saudi Arabia, since being ousted from Uganda in 1979. He was in his late 70s.

It was not immediately clear what would happen to Amin's body.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni had said that if Amin died abroad, his body could be taken home for burial.

Amin, who was in near-death condition for weeks, had received death threats by telephone, prompting the hospital management to post guards at his bed in the intensive care unit.

A man who expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler, Amin was denounced inside and outside Africa for massacring tens of thousands of people — some estimates say more than 100,000 — under his despotic 1971-79 rule.

A former boxing champion, he

came to power in a 1971 coup and his rule was characterised by eccentric behaviour and violent purges.

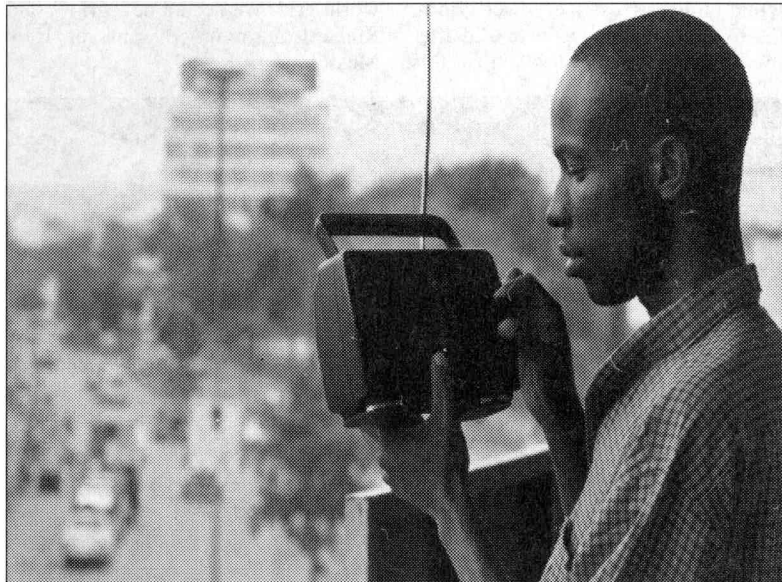
Amin was a ruthless dictator who, the International Commission of Jurists said in 1977, had violated every fundamental human right during a "reign of terror".

Exiles accused him of having kept severed heads in the fridge, feeding corpses to crocodiles and having one of his wives dismembered. Some said he practised cannibalism.

He was driven from Uganda in 1979 by forces from neighbouring Tanzania and Ugandan exiles, and was given sanctuary by Saudi Arabia in the name of Islamic charity.

A Muslim, Amin had lived quietly in Jeddah on a government stipend with four wives.

He was born in 1925, according to most sources, to a peasant family of the small, predominantly Muslim Kakwa tribe at Arua, in Uganda's remote West Nile district.



A man listens to the latest news on a radio in Kampala announcing the death of Idi Amin August 16. Former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, blamed for the murder of tens of thousands of his people in the 1970s, died on Saturday in King Faisal Specialist Hospital in the Red Sea city of Jeddah where he had been critically ill for weeks. One of Africa's bloodiest despots and a former boxing champion, Amin had lived in exile, chiefly in Saudi Arabia, since being ousted in 1979. He was in his late 70s. REUTERS



Ugandan President for Life Idi Amin is seen in military attire in this file photo taken around 1971. Former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, blamed for the murders of tens of thousands of Ugandans in the 1970s, died at a hospital in Saudi Arabia where he had been critically ill for weeks, a senior medical source said on August 16. REUTERS

## More peacekeepers due as Liberia talks stumble

MONROVIA, Aug 16 (Reuters) - West African peacekeepers were due to beef up their force in Liberia's capital on Saturday as wrangling between warring factions dimmed hopes of a quick peace deal to end nearly 14 years of war.

With almost all the rebels out of Monrovia since the deployment of Nigerian troops backed by U.S. Marines, hundreds of thousands of people started to rebuild their lives. A trickle of relief aid helped staunch widespread hunger.

A Nigerian army spokesman said a second battalion of nearly 800 troops was due to arrive in Monrovia, where peacekeepers have put a stop to weeks of fighting that left 2,000 dead and allowed pariah leader Charles Taylor to fly into exile.

The departure of Taylor on Monday has raised hopes of an end to years of strife that spilled chaos into the impoverished region.

But there was no sign of a break-

through at peace talks in Ghana, where new president and Taylor's former deputy, Moses Blah, has been meeting the leaders of rebel factions holding at least three-quarters of the country.

Mediators had hoped to sign a deal on Saturday providing for an interim government that would take over from Blah in October and then run the broken country for two years until elections could be held.

Sources close to the talks said the sticking point was rebel demands for top jobs they insist on having if they are to persuade their forces to disarm.

"They are still talking. It is unlikely they will sign a peace agreement today, but in these things you never know," Ghana's Foreign Minister Nana Akufo-Addo told Reuters.

Fighting, even since Taylor's departure, has kindled the fears of many Liberians that if there is no deal, there will be a return to tribal faction fighting like the war that ripped apart Liberia in the 1990s and left 200,000 dead.

Although all the rebels of the main Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) faction were meant to be out of Monrovia by now and well beyond the outskirts, dozens still hang back in the bullet-pocked streets.


"These are guerrilla warfare fighters, people you have to take time with because they are not being paid, they are volunteers," said rebel General Sky Power.

But the continued presence of the fighters did not stop the city getting back nearer to normal after weeks of division. Hundreds of thousands of people started returning to their homes from the camps and corners where they had found shelter as best they could from bullets and mortar fire.

The vital port is now in the hands of the peacekeepers and two aid ships docked on Friday, helping supplement the stores of rice, beans and cornmeal that people looted in the chaos of the rebel pullout.

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# U.S., Canada seek cause of power blackout

NEW YORK, Aug 16 (Reuters) - New York City's subway, stopped in its tracks by this week's historic power failure, resumed service on Saturday, and a U.S.-Canadian task force searched for the cause of the blackout.

The White House announced the cross-border task force Friday on the crisis that plunged as many as 50 million people in the Northeastern United States and the Canadian province of Ontario into darkness.

"We need to take a look at what went wrong, analyze the problem and come up with a solution. We don't know yet what went wrong but we will," U.S. President George W. Bush said during a visit to California.

"I view it as a wake-up call," the president told reporters, describing the worst blackout in North American history as "an indication we need to modernize the electricity grid."

Bush, who discussed the crisis for the first time with Canadian Prime

Minister Jean Chretien, said investigators must find out why outages spread so quickly to New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Ottawa, Toronto and a host of smaller cities.

Chretien had suggested earlier that the cause of the power collapse lay in the United States, but some U.S. utility officials insisted the problem started in Canada.

### NY subway running again

In New York, subway trains halted for nearly 36 hours started running again early on Saturday. In a recorded announcement, the city's transit authority said all but two subway lines were operating.

Power returned to the city late Friday, but transit crews needed time to test trains. New York City's subway and bus system carries about 7 million passengers on a normal weekday, making it the largest in the country.

Thousands of air travelers crowded



People lay stranded outside the Times Square Marriot around 3 a.m. in the morning as a power outage shut down the Eastern Seaboard August 15. More than 12 hours after the biggest North American power outage in history left huge swaths of the Northeast in sweltering darkness, much of New York and its suburbs were still without electricity. REUTERS

## NY subways running again - transit authority

NEW YORK, Aug 16 (Reuters) - New York City's subway resumed service early on Saturday, almost 36 hours after the largest power outage in North American history stopped trains in their tracks, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority said.

"All New York City Transit subways are running on or close to schedule," the MTA's travel information line said in a recorded announcement. Earlier on Saturday it had said there was only partial service on two lines, while the other 27 were running normally.

Electrical power returned to all parts of the city around 9 p.m. EDT Friday (0100 GMT Saturday), but

transit crews required several hours to get trains ready to resume running.

The resumption of subway service means New York's transportation system is returning to normal after Thursday's power outage. Bus service was fully restored Friday and major commuter train ran on a reduced schedule.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers were led out of stations and halted subway cars on Thursday by transit workers when the power outage brought service to an abrupt stop.

New York City's subway and bus system carries about 7 million passengers on a normal weekday, making it the largest in the country and the fifth-largest worldwide.

into airport terminals in New York, Cleveland, Detroit and Toronto on Friday, but airlines had canceled hundreds of flights.

In Manhattan, lights shone from the Empire State Building, Times Square reclaimed its garish neon luster and Broadway theaters opened for a full schedule of performances.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg applauded his city's 8 million residents for weathering the high temperatures without electricity or air

conditioning.

"It tells you something about New Yorkers," he said.

While officials were still unable to explain exactly what caused such a rapid collapse in the power grid, Americans expressed relief that they had not been the victims of a terrorist act.

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said there was "no evidence it was an intentional act."

In Washington, the House of

Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee said it would convene hearings on the blackout when Congress returned next month from its summer break.

New York Gov. George Pataki said he wanted to know why the system crashed so catastrophically.

"How did this happen, why did it happen and why did we have a systemic failure across the power grid in the Northeast when we were told after the blackout in the 1960s that this

would not happen again?" Pataki said.

Procedures put in place after a huge blackout in 1965 failed to isolate breakdowns to small areas of the country.

Former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said much of the U.S. electricity system was 50 or 60 years old.

"We're a superpower with a third-world grid. We need a new grid," said Richardson, now governor of New Mexico.

# From KFC Chicken

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# YT Business



*In Yemen: Expansion of agricultural land area,*

## Rains enliven hopes for overcoming water crisis, building more dams

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The proportion of waters in Marib Dam has risen to 165 million cubic meters during the early days of rains that fell on Yemen recently with an increase of 15 million cubic meters. This has revived and renewed the hopes in the country's surmounting of the water crisis along with the state's project of building 513 water dams and barriers in various governorates with an estimated cost of more than YR 9 billion.

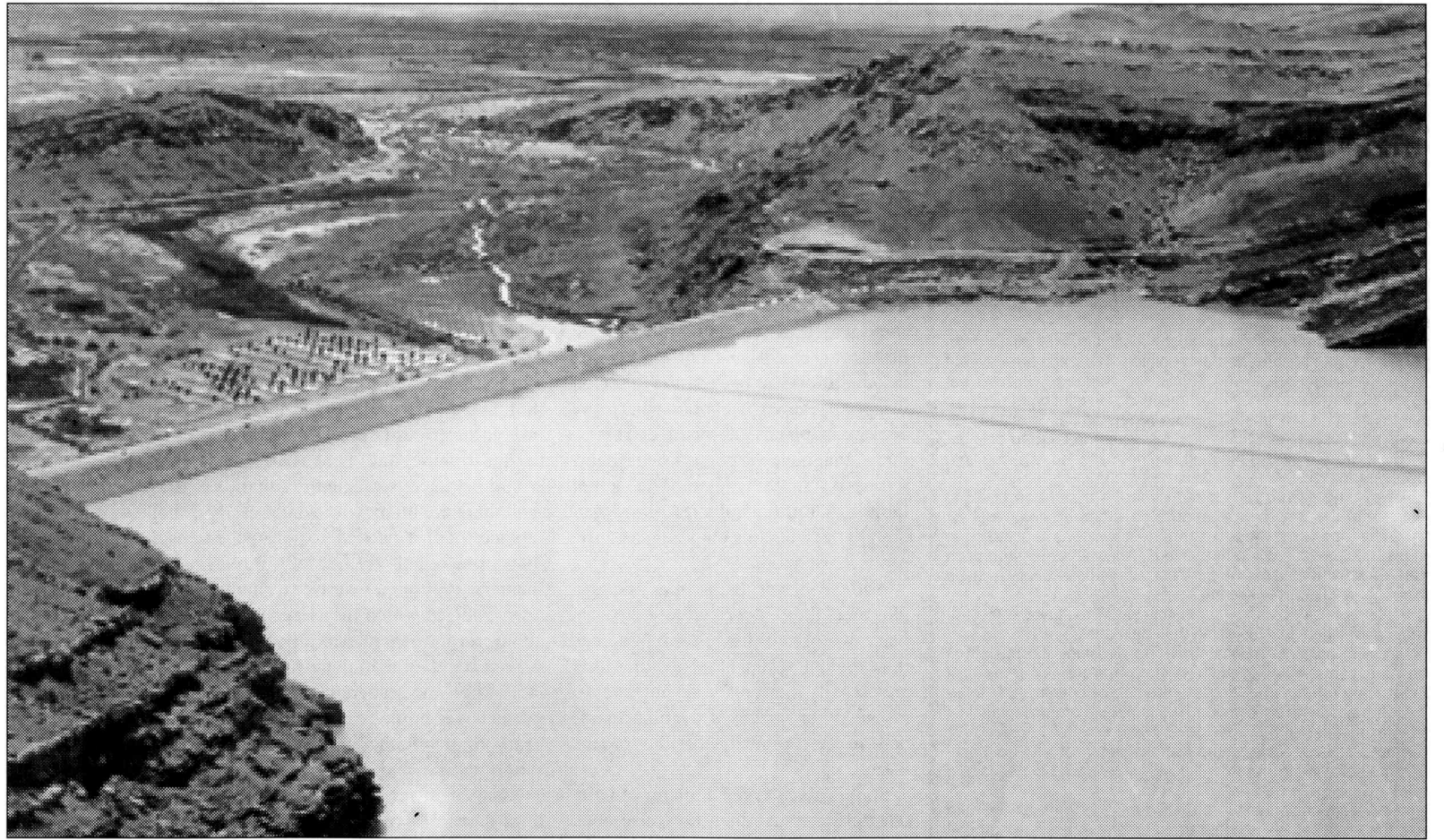
There are some important water dams around the capital Sana'a and they help feed water to water basins and increase reclamation of agricultural lands and raising livestock.

The competent authorities are now implementing 188 water installations costing more than YR 6 billion in addition to building modern irrigation networks and systems over an area of land estimated at 17 thousand hectares. Official figures mention that outcomes of Yemen's attention paid to the water sector have been the increase of agricultural lands to 102 million hectares in 2002, the share of agricultural land area planted with major crops was 102 hectares. That area's production of sesame had increased from 80133 tons in 1990 to 200152 tons in 2002 and cotton production doubled from

130036 tons to 300472 tons, coffee from 60807 tons to 115906 tons during the same period. Also the proportion of production of the area planted with fruits had risen to approximately double. It had recorded an increase in production from 31601 thousand tons to 70001 thousand tons, vegetables from 696 thousand tons to 80207 thousand tons. Cereals production increased from 990913 tons of wheat in 1990 to 1.430577 tons in 2002 maize from 2720886 tons to 3380287 and barley from 280912 tons to 410379 tons during the same period.

Production of beans increased from 430566 to 630042 tons in the same period. Parallel to that development the government has built three markets for selling vegetables and fruits in Marib, Hadramout and Sa'da and a center for development of exports in Hodeidah. Work is underway for building a project for increasing production and development efficiency of using water and reclamation of arable lands, including the implementation of a project for environment protection, the cost of which is \$11million. In addition there is the project of forestation of 266 farms of an area of 2540 hectares.

Besides, the development of agricultural production and taking interest in waters, the government has paid attention to animal wealth for achieving integration in securing food. The number of cattle in general increased from



Marib dam, water has risen to 165 million cubic meters

8.178.000 million heads in 1990 to 11.443.096 million heads in 2002.

Thus the heavy rainy season in Yemen during the past few days came

to help secure food and surmounting the problem of waters and feeding sub-

terranean water basins and the increase of the country's water reservoir.

## Does a cheaper, Public Internet Service really benefit the consumer?

BY RAYAN MOHAMMED  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

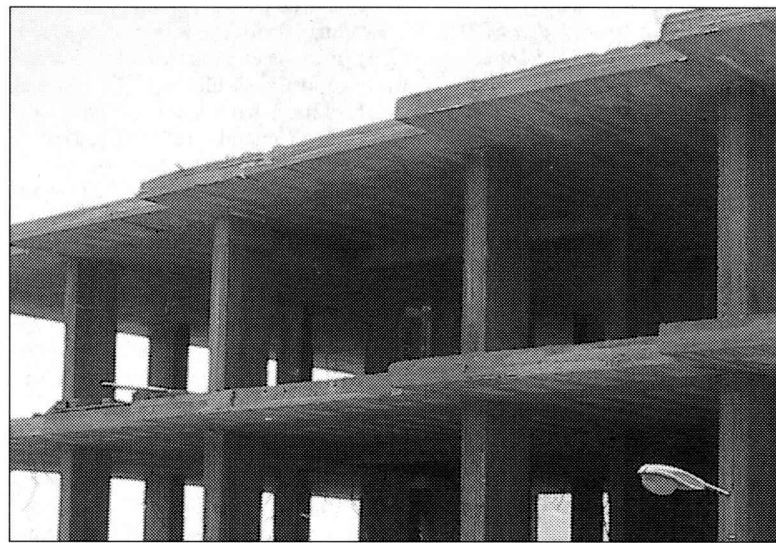
To many the internet is concerned the greatest change of the latter half of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The internet has not only proved a means of communication, but it has made the world smaller, and people closer to one another. It has become so integrated into our lives that the demand for faster, better and cheaper internet services has become a common cry among people. Yet it is no secret that the internet services in Yemen are in a state of stagnation, despite government's effort to make the internet more accessible by making it a public service. Yet the internet has become more unreliable and frustrating. The logic of a public internet service is questioned, was it better when the internet was provided privately?

Has a cheaper internet service resulted in higher costs for others? The internet in Yemen is greatly lacking in speed and efficiency, and the connection is notoriously unreliable. The argument for either case depends on moral views and economic opinion, though a lack of understanding of both views proves incompetence on the view held. As with all public services, the objective of the provider is to please the public.

The single most driving force in an individual is personal gain. We work from morning to night to make money so we can be rich to buy OURSELVES things. We marry and have children to find some happiness to OUR lives. Why neglect it, this is the way of the world. The more we try to gain, the more efficient we become in our methods of achieving this goal. A private internet service would have many advantages all relating to the idea of

profit maximization. Any private firm aims to maximize the amount of profit it makes by selling as much of the product as possible and using the cheapest method of production. Efficiency is perhaps the best arguing point. From the supplier's point of view, the quest for the most efficient and cheapest method of production is vital. If the product is of poor quality, the consumer will buy the same product from the competition. Therefore the firm must ensure that the product is of adequate quality for the slated price. Now if this was applied to the internet in Yemen, the internet would be faster and better. The firms will try to ensure that the connection seldom fails to please consumers; however it would demand a higher price for the consumers' wish. Secondly, when the firm makes profit, it may use some of their profits for research and development. Research and development may yield more efficient methods and new technology. If this were fully utilized in Yemen's internet, the possibility of broadband internet would seem brighter than it is right now. Also new technology may allow the firms to produce at a cheaper cost, therefore higher profits for them and lower prices for consumers. Lastly, a private firm will hire workers at better prices; therefore there is a competition among workers to work harder for faster promotion and better salaries.

The argument in favour of public internet service is closely linked to how significant the internet is. The internet has revolutionized the way we live, trade and learn. As more people connect to the web, more views, ideas and beliefs are exposed for people to read and learn from. A cheap, public service doesn't discriminate the right to learn and communicate to the highest bidder,



but rather allows the community as a whole to benefit from it. This allows your average working class citizen to broaden your horizons. However, one of the many advantages of the internet is to economies job availability. The internet has opened a market that doesn't really require the highest qualifications, but an interest in the internet itself may suffice. The cheaper the internet is, the wider its appeal becomes for all to become interested in. Therefore more people may enter the market and find jobs as web site managers, etc. Secondly, in a developing country like Yemen, where a large percentage of the population is poor or uneducated, an increase in public services boosts government popularity and is more forgiving on the nation poorer people. With new technology like the internet, it shows that the government isn't discriminating and neglecting the poor, but rather giving them the opportunity to be equally educated.

The internet is a window to many possibilities. Yet, we can take a series of small steps as a whole or we can take

steps at different rates. Though I support the growth of a community as a whole, I firmly believe that capitalism is a beautiful concept and I believe that a person should strive for him/herself and not drag behind for the welfare of others. Therefore, I disagree with the idea of a cheaper, government-owned internet. Though its advantages are numerous, if the internet is private the prices will eventually reach the price given by the government now. Firms' incentive to maximize profit by competing will keep prices low and keep the internet's quality higher. In my opinion, it would have been a wiser idea to invite more firms in the market, increasing competition. Competition is a great mechanism for ensuring efficient production, good products and reasonable prices, without much government interference. In turn, the government can focus its attention and finance to other issues such as health and social security. Meanwhile, the internet market can regulate itself maintaining quality internet at reasonable prices.

## Opportunities for investment in Socotra,

### To offer at the first conference for tourism

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government intends to submit opportunities for investment in the islands of Socotra, situated at the conjunction of the Red Sea with the Indian Ocean, during the first conference of the tourism scheduled to be held in the near future. The opportunities focus on building chalets, hotels and coastal parks.

Tourist sources in Sana'a have made it clear that the tourist conference aims at revitalization of the tourist movement to the Yemeni islands and the tourist resort in general. There are many of investment opportunities that would be proposed at the conference especially in the islands of Socotra which is characterized by their rare biodiversity in the region and the world.

Socotra is composed of an archipelago consisting of a number of islands most famous of which are Abdakorie, Dersa, Samha and Ka'l Faroun. The Yemeni government has built an infrastructure after it was declared a free zone in 1998 with the aim of attracting local and foreign investors.

Among the constructed projects is the building of an airport having international specifications. It is 3300 meters long and 45 meters wide aimed at offering high quality services and to receive all kinds of planes. The overall cost of the airport amounted to more than YR 1.5 billion. Other installations built are three fuel containers and a port at Hawlan area with a headland; 350 meters long and 14 meters deep at a cost of YR 40 million and a capacity

exceeding 600 tons. The government has also build and paved roads costing YR 10 billion. The Yemeni government has established a number of health centres, schools, communication centres, supplying Socotra capital Hadeebo with electricity and building a local administration for security.

Socotra is characterised by many elements for tourist attraction and investment as it possesses more than 800 medical plants species that most of them are used for treating incurable diseases. The island is a habitat for very rare birds, 80 kinds of insects and turtles. In waters of the island live many kinds of fish in addition to coral reefs, sponge and rare animals and plants.

Tourist sources say there are many local investors who have established projects in Socotra, among which building tourist resorts and hotels and investment in fishing. Some local and Arab investors have obtained permissions for building tourist projects in the island worth more than YR 2 billion... since it has been declared a free zone Socotra has changed into an active trade centre, linking Yemen to countries of the Indian Ocean.

It is thus scheduled that during the first tourist conference to promote for a number of tourist projects given priority to investment in Socotra in order to qualify it for attracting tourists and offering them the best services. The Yemeni government wishes to gain financial returns and development of revenues of government sector through rendering attention to investment projects with countries of the Horn of Africa and the countries situated on the eastern coast of Africa.

## Words of Wisdom



The Republic of Yemen cannot afford to develop on the basis of the traditional snail-pace growth rate. We need a strong force and zeal to address such grave issues as excessively high population growth rates, rapid depletion of water resources, corruption and mismanagement, etc.

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



## OUR OPINION

## Intolerance and 'Anti American' accusations

Looking into the history of the old dictatorships, and studying the way dictators used to threaten their people, we can easily realize that they used the term 'anti nation's interest'. This was a justification used against anyone who may have a different view than that of the ruler.

However, this era is long gone, and only a few dictatorships in the world continue to use this evil scheme. Nowadays, a person can easily criticize his government and ruler and give a totally different opinion without being accused of being unpatriotic, unfaithful, a traitor, or acting against his country's interest. Democracy is the magical word that not only defends the right of bringing about different opinions, but also promotes dialogue and diversity of opinions.

Americans are lucky for having a constitution that grants them great freedom in expression and opinion. Their first amendment to the constitution gave them unlimited freedom, which is yet another great advantage. The American constitution is close to perfection, as it guarantees that no American can or should be accused of being 'unpatriotic' for any reason related to opinion. This is a wicked thing of the past and not used today except in a few dictatorships.

After giving such a long introduction, I am sad and upset to realize that the 9/11 terrorist attacks have had a negative effect on 'some' and not all Americans. The effect was resembled in intolerance towards different opinions. Antiwar demonstrators in the USA were thought to be different. Some have even accused of not being faithful Americans.

Well, there is one thing I can safely say. Those who reject the freedom of others in expressing their opinions freely are the very ones acting against America. They are distorting the basis that the American culture of understanding and freedom was built upon. They are contradicting the themes of equality and tolerance brought in the constitution. Those people are acting against American interests.

American is a place where various races of various backgrounds believing in various religions are all living in peace and harmony.

I personally have lived in the USA for a long time. I learned from the American society that freedom of expression and opinion are basics that should never be denied. Any American can oppose his president or US government when it comes to foreign or domestic policies and that person remains a genuine American with all his rights preserved no matter how bizarre his opinion may be. This is the spirit of America that I was taught. It was even in the book 'The American Way' that I was once given as a gift by AMIDEAST when I was admitted a Fulbright scholarship in the USA for higher studies once in the past.

A few years later, I find an American person calling Yemen Times an 'Anti American' newspaper because the paper published opinions and articles against war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was told that American values constitute respect of others' opinions, while I find today that Americans working in some sensitive locations in our country are bringing the phrase 'Anti American' just because we are against certain policies that the current US administration has undertaken.

I fear that such actions will not be helpful in enhancing American relations with the rest of the world. This is not supposed to be, as people can have different opinions, but that doesn't mean that they have become enemies.

The personal experience faced in such a matter reflects the deep wound that 9/11 has caused to the American society. Nevertheless, it can also be a beginning for a deeper understanding of the rest of the world. We saw the USA as an example to follow in terms of democracy and freedom. The U.S. administration should not now divert from the path drawn by the country's founders, who focused on freedoms and human values.

I just wish that what happened the other day when an American called Yemen Times 'Anti American' and the accusations against our free media enterprises and governments by the US administration of being anti American would merely be a hiccup in the American history, which was full of moments of struggle and fighting for freedom and liberty for mankind.

I know American people can overcome this difficult time. They surely will

The Editor



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## Arab leaders or the Arab League

## Which needs reform first?

TAHIR MOHAMMED AL-JUNIAD  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Arabic as a language has granted Arabs a large scope for avoiding accusation phrases and blame words still conveying the same meaning. A clear example of which is how Arabs can easily throw the blame of all the mess Arab peoples are suffering today on the Arab League. The latter structure is nothing but a huge building based in one of the famous streets in Cairo, built according to regular building standards and consisting of offices and furniture. Accurately speaking we will be putting the blame on a building which does not make sense, the same way how we blamed the failure of freeing Palestine from the Zionist occupation is the fault of the defected weapons whereas weapons whatsoever remain pieces of metal or instruments that have no control over themselves or anything else. The actual fault is that of the defected brains that bought the weapons but still we blame it on the weapons.

And so on, setting the rules and regulations, then when violation takes place we blame the system. Whereas it is logical that when the rules that are actually man-made do not cater to his needs or wishes it becomes easy, and in fact logical, that he breaks them.

So it is actually not a matter of written rules because then how else does Great Britain go about while till date it is progressing without a written constitution. United States has a constitution more than 100 years old unmodified since its creation. France is working on the same constitution since the French revolution. Then

how come the Arab League Convention which is less than 50 years old continuously requires modification and adjustment as if it is the magic key to all doors and with just this additional change everything is going to be alright?

If true will was there it wouldn't need any modification of convention or enhancement of buildings, for if the Arab leaders truly wanted to make a change they could meet up even in one of the kitchens of the Arab League building.

So if it was not the building's fault, not the convention's fault then maybe we can blame it on the staff and personnel of the Arab League. But this also doesn't make sense, does it? Because those people work per contract and according to internal regulations within the league or delegated by their countries as ambassadors and diplomats. Any violation of the rules or contract would subject the culprits to questioning and hence measures would be taken to tackle the situation. And there are many who would easily replace them if needed so. Moreover these personnel are merely implementers to policies which they have no say about, for they merely follow orders.

So if it not all that, then whose fault is it? The Arab leaders who could not even have enough space in their hearts for each other and whose accusation words and harsh hints were exchanged in their meetings in front of millions of Arab people witnessing how their leaders who are supposed to be ideals for them are behaving.

With all regards, what is taking place in the Arab world has nothing to do basically with the Arab League, which is simply a ship that all are boarding on and each one is trying to

be the captain of to lead it where they wish, regardless of the common good. And when dispute takes place it is survival of the fittest and defeat of the weak.

If truly reform is what's Arab leaders seek then solution would be by taking an honest wise stand in the current developments in the world and to set the disputes and arguments aside, allowing common good and welfare of the people to prevail. This stand that is not only words but is action and steady implementation of the words.

Leaders must convince themselves of their leadership because the era of coups is over. The current Arabs have become immune to such concepts and are psychologically prepared to believe in the existing leadership. All is required today for leadership is to have a TV station that broadcasts the leader's achievements and movements along with a number of security guards to provide safety to the leader from some rare people who have a problem in their thinking and hope to reach power through coups.

The options of the future have become distinct; either a unity that yields pride or a more degrading life where failures and tragedies are the dominant feature of the Arabs lives. We must stop hanging our failures on the Arab League. Europe has united in spite of the drastic differences between the European nations why can't the Arabs who are originally same in every thing rise above the minor difference and get together?

A basic foundation of trust and good will must be ensured at first in stead of being lost in the power establishing loop, forgetting that being a ruler over a dead or handicapped nation is not much to be pleased with, not much at all!

## Letters to the Editor

## Editor's criticism not right

Y government's cooperation with USA without specific defined assistance is interesting. Does this mean you would not cooperate with the War on Terror? Is it not your obligation as a responsible country to assist in the War on Terror?

Is it not in your self interest to fight terror?

Your paper also had an article on vessel insurance and the impact on goods in Yemen, terror affects all of us. Many terror groups are from Yemen and without US assistance and efforts Yemen would be isolated as a terror nation.

It seems to me that your cooperation is in your self interest. I would not want to think that you are only cooperating for the money.

Randall Biggs, USA  
Mysongline@aol.com

## Conditions in Yemen: from bad to worse

As much I enjoy reading Yemen Times, I'm enjoying life in the United States I can't help but feel bad for my countrymen. I come to Yemen to visit my family and friends and life in Yemen is worst every time I visit. Even before oil was discovered Yemen was better off. I don't blame the government for everything but they are to blame for 80% of the problems, they take credit for the roads they build. Where are the jobs that people can work and make living for their families from? Yemen is beautiful country but a person can not make unless he is crook. I serve in the U.S. Army; can I come to

Yemen and serve without stealing from the people because the government can't give me decent pay?

Mohamed Saleh El-Haj  
moh3214@aol.com

## Tahreer Square's time bomb

Al-Tahreer Square in Taiz, a time bomb, below is the statement of Yahya Zahir and I will answer his statement below:

What do authorities have to say?

Head of the traffic authority in Taiz General Yahya Zahir when asked about the issue said: "these cars have become totally outdated and they are no longer usable. Car owners should do something about this and it is their responsibility to develop themselves. We personally have no responsibility towards them and survival is for the fittest."

The statement above is what Taiz General Yahya Zahir says about the challenges the taxi drivers face. Survival of the fittest is it? Yahya Zahir, you ain't in America or England, and this is about Taiz and it is not about the survival of the fittest. It is about a country surviving and that country, that city is filled with your own people. It is about who has the courage to look at the challenges head on and say "right, we are men! We shall not run away from such challenges and from now on the buck stops here!"

This Yahya Zahir, takes courage to do, it also takes love for humanity, for your people, for your city and most of all, yes, most of all, love for the One who gave you life and rendered you in

## Letters to the Editor

a power that you can choose to use for the benefit of your people or let the buck pass as many have done.

Reading such a remark, really made me think why we have lost such blessings as Muslims. I have a message for General Yahya Zahir. Remember what Allah teaches us, remember it well "that no one believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself!"

Remember that 'a nation 'Ummah' is like one body, when part of is in pain the whole body feels feverish.'

Also remember, what goes round comes round and you might hear your own words echoing when your time comes and you need help. Life Yahya has many faces, and the tide might roll in one day but it will roll back maybe taking away of what makes you speak with such arrogance to say:

"We personally have no responsibility towards them and survival is for the fittest."

That is why Yemen is the way it is now, at this present time because people who have the power to make that change say the same damn words and pass the buck, everyday, every week, every month and year!

I pray that Allah Almighty writes these very words you said and recall them on the Day of reckoning. Fear Allah Yahya and if not, then suffice that Allah is Just and may He help our people and He is the giver, taker and provider of every living soul. May He bring them a bright future.

As for my people - look towards Allah, run to Him and be sincere and truly He

is the Most Merciful and there is nothing He cannot do for you but walk to him with gentle hearts and true love for His mercy.

It was indeed a sad day to hear such words from the likes of you Yahya. Truly a sad day...

Alawi Abdulla  
adam\_taha200@yahoo.com

## Donors cannot interfere

I think I understand your point about donors knowing that corruption exists in Yemen on a massive scale. I don't share your view that donors ought to demand change. Because they would be walking a fine line between giving without conditions or giving with strings attached. Thus being seen as interfering in internal politics. You can just imagine a country saying "We will give you X amount of dollars but you must change X minister, or let so and so handle it." I think it is our responsibility, as a people, to, at least, thank charity given to us and deliver it to the right place. I really, don't want to believe that we are so morally corrupt, to the point we don't have a few honest individuals among us to handle this situation.

I love Yemen and the Yemeni people. But it is puzzling, to me, how we chant anti-western slogans, yet, when those Western "infidels" give us a donation, it gets stolen or sold before it reaches the intended destination.

I know that our religion and tradition emphasizes honesty. So, where have we gone astray?

Farouk Al Samawi  
samawif@toyotallojga.com



## COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

## The role of the Shiites in Iraq

The American adventure in Iraq is yielding many surprises, especially for the Americans who planned the whole ordeal at the Bush "War Office". At this stage the observer can pretty much assume that the adventure is not exactly unfolding as the schemers had in mind. Oh, we can say that the Americans have won a quick victory against an already ailing regime in Baghdad by all counts. However, in view of the daily taking of American (and now British) lives, one is inclined to believe that the victory is not quite sealed. First of all the ongoing violent resistance has been the prevailing scene in Iraq. The political set-up established in post Saddam Iraq has not received any international recognition of value. Even with the death of Saddam's two sons, with their exaggerated roles, to make the killing somewhat worthwhile, has not lightened the resistance fight against the American occupation. While this resistance has yet to show a coherent and coordinated effort, with many factions, proclaiming themselves to take the helms of the liberation fight, including elements of the old Baath regime, it is not clear yet who is actually behind all these guerrilla activities.

It is clear that for the past months since Bush declared that the "war is over", most of the fighting has taken place in the predominantly Sunni areas. This should not be taken to imply that it is only the Sunnis who despise the American occupation, while the others (Shiites and Kurds) welcome this uncalled for occupation. Ironically it is these groups that were the vanguard in the fight against Saddam before and out of whom most of the victims of the oppression of Saddam came. These groups do have some semblance of representative institutional setups to wage a considerable resistance fight against the Americans and their entry into the resistance fight would certainly introduce a qualitative leap into the resistance effort. However, the two leading Kurdish organizations of the KLP and the KLF were the first to welcome the American intervention and have tacitly approved the occupation up to now. Nevertheless, the extent to which this tacit approval is widespread among all Kurdish constituency is a matter of debate, as not all Kurds fall under the two groups. For sure, the approval may be deemed as more a political and strategic convenience than an association by conviction. This convenience is manifested in the neutralization of any Turkish incursions against the Kurdish nationalists in Iraq.

The Shiites of Iraq also have their own political and strategic arithmetic at work in the Iraqi situation. While they have openly denounced the occupation and all its efforts in Iraq (although willing to follow "liar to the door of his house", as the Arab saying goes, such as taking part in the "temporary governing council"), they have declined to turn this opposition into any violent efforts. This presents a problem for the War Office, as the whole idea behind the Iraqi adventure, was mainly to provide a strong base for the elimination of the Islamic Republic of Iraq, in response to rightwing-Zionist coalition aspirations in the region. With the Shiites, not willing to give the Americans the opportunity to use Iraq as a staging ground for anti IRI activities, they have wisely opted for maintaining a silent opposition to avoid the excuse of the Islamic Republic of Iran fomenting Shiite resistance (of course it will be called terror). This puts the War Office in a perplexing situation. Without Shiite violent resistance, how can an intervention of one form or another be justified in Iran.

For certain, the Shiites are capable of understanding these factors in the American efforts in Iraq (with oil and other factors not falling far behind, but IRI is a major factor in the effort, notwithstanding). Thus, they are insisting to avoid any opportunity for being used as strategic pawns for the War Office. Having said that, the War Office and their various operatives in the area are working hard to promote violent rebellion by the Shiites to enable them to take the initiative against the IRI. This has already been manifested this week by the violence unleashed against peaceful Shiite protests in Basra, dubious letters calling on the Shiites to rise up in arms (jihad) against the Americans and British and more openly the downing of a symbolic Shiite flag by an American helicopter. That was probably expected to trigger violent outrage by the Shiites and thus lead to finding a solid excuse for a new war against Shiite terror, supposedly inspired by Iran. But alas, the well-organized Shiites, saw behind the real intentions of all these efforts and again the War Office failed in underestimating the caliber and political and strategic expertise of the Shiites, in Iraq and Iran. For certain, the Shiites have been capable of facing the challenges brought upon them by the efforts of the War Office to get them to consolidate with their brethren in Iran and are apparently up to par with the Bush "War Office" conniving and scheming. This translates into a very long-term and costly stay for the Americans in Iraq, with a trial and error strategy leading to dubious and uncertain conclusions for all concerned. One is however reminded of the astute keen calculations of another Shiite organization that is unholy mention in the War Office and Tel Aviv: Hezbollah!

I know that our religion and tradition emphasizes honesty. So, where have we gone astray?

# 'Mini nuke strikes' and the ICJ advisory opinion

BY MYINT ZAN  
JORDAN TIMES

A recent BBC news item stated that the United States government is contemplating the development and potential use of 'mini nukes' whereby "many buried targets could be attacked using a (nuclear) weapon with a much lower yield than would be required (if) a surface based (nuclear) weapon was used." This news item appeared around the time of the 58th anniversary of the dropping of the first nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which led to the deaths of over 110,000 people. According to the BBC report this scenario or option of using 'mini-nukes' was being raised in a conference that was recently held at StratCom, the headquarters of US Strategic Command in Nebraska.

On July 8, 1996 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) gave an 'advisory opinion' on the issue of legality of the threat or the use of nuclear weapons. The advisory opinion was sought by the United Nations General Assembly which requested the ICJ to give its opinion as to whether the threat or the use of nuclear weapons is comprehensively prohibited in contemporary international law.

The ICJ by a majority decided that such threats or uses of nuclear weapons are 'generally' unlawful. However, in an important proviso the ICJ stated to the effect that it was "unable to determine under the prevailing circumstances and with the resources (concerning international law) at its disposal, whether there is or is not a prohibition against the use of nuclear weapons when the very existence of a state is threatened."

"Cold comfort" can be taken from the ICJ proviso and its frank admission that it was unable to decide whether international law mandates the avoidance of the threat or use of nuclear weapons even in a case where the "very existence" of a state is threatened. Arguably, this aspect of the ICJ advisory opinion could theoretically facilitate a state to justify its putative use — God forbid one should add — or threat to use, nuclear weapons on the grounds that its "very survival" is at stake.

It might be argued that even postulating

a scenario whereby a state, relying on this aspect of the ICJ advisory opinion, justifies its putative threat or actual use of nuclear weapons is "alarmist." (Strange as it may seem, though there are international treaties that prohibit states from testing or "proliferating" nuclear weapons there is not a formal treaty which specifically prohibits the use of nuclear weapons.)

How does one determine the fact that the "very" existence of a state is threatened? Would, say, Kuwait — if it had nuclear weapons — have used them against invading Iraqi troops in August 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait? Would the previous Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein itself — if it has the yet-to-be-discovered weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons — have used them against the invading 'coalition troops' under the same rationale? Would Israel have been justified to use nuclear weapons in the 1973 Yom Kippur war if the tide of the war had not changed and Egyptian and Syrian troops continued to make further advances to recover occupied Arab lands? Under this aspect of the ICJ advisory opinion would the United States have been justified to use nuclear weapons against Cuba in the October 1962 "Cuban Missile Crisis" if the Soviet Union did not withdraw its missiles from Cuba? Luckily in all these past historical instances the question was "academic" in that no nuclear weapons were used. Still, in the 1962 Cuban crisis there was at least an implicit threat that they might have been used if the Soviet Union did not accede to the late President Kennedy's demands that the Soviets immediately removed their missiles from Cuba.

The current Bush administration does not seem to have been bothered to check or "verify" whether its contemplated use of mini-nukes perhaps as a "preemptive strike" against underground targets is 'legal' or not.

As with many other actions of the current Bush administration, Sept. 11 seems to have given the legal and even the moral justification (for the Bush coterie) for launching mini-nukes against potential (underground) targets. Extrapolating the advisory opinion that was given by the ICJ in 1996 can we hypothetically justify the use of (mini) nukes by the United

States, say, in Afghanistan if the Taliban had proved to be a much tougher nut to crack? If the US used even mini-nukes in Afghanistan could it have justified it legally by reference to the 1996 advisory opinion?

Arguably, the attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, did amount to, in a certain sense, an armed attack since no armies or aeroplanes crossed borders, and they were non-state actors — such as the Afghanistan-based Osama Ben Laden and his Al Qaeda network which initiated the attacks of Sept. 11. But could the United States have claimed that its existence as a state was threatened as a result of those attacks to justify the use of mini nuclear weapons? Even in a future hypothetical scenario if there is evidence, say by Al Qaeda operatives to launch another Sept. 11 type attack, could the US use mini-nukes against say an underground Al Qaeda network? Or in such a hypothetical case would the hypothetical use of nuclear weapons fall within the first limb of the 1996 ICJ advisory opinion in that they would be generally unlawful since the (United States) existence as a state had not been threatened?

These questions for the time being remain theoretical. Yet it would not be inapposite to claim that events in the intervening years — since the ICJ gave the advisory opinion in 1996 — have developed to the extent that we cannot for ever take for granted that the above and other unanticipated scenarios would always remain as theoretical conundrums. A pessimist, perhaps alarmist, view is to claim that the ICJ in its advisory opinion has provided a potentially dangerous legal loophole for states to justify the threat, if not the actual use, of nuclear weapons.

All persons who care for the welfare of fellow humans must fervently hope that the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons will always remain (merely) as a theoretical conundrum. And those governments and persons in positions of power must also do all they can to see to it that the issue of the use of nuclear weapons continues to remain theoretical.

*The writer is lecturer at the School of Law, University of the South Pacific, Vanuatu.*

# Paying Iraq's Jews back, and the Palestinians less

BY MICHAEL R. FISCHBACH  
THE DAILY STAR

The American occupation of Iraq has already opened up various legal and historical files, including issues such as war crimes tribunals and what to do about the country's Kurdish minority.

A less well-known development is that former Iraqi Jews are seeking compensation for property frozen by the Iraqi government in the 1950s, when the emigrants left the country. Moves have already been made in this direction now that the US controls Iraq, affecting not only Iraqi reconstruction but also the future of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The Jewish property claims date back over half a century. As a result of inter-communal tensions stemming from the conflict between Zionism and the Arabs of Palestine, a majority in Iraq's ancient Jewish community emigrated under duress after 1948, especially in 1950-51. Most of them settled in Israel. The Iraqi Parliament passed a law in 1951 freezing the property of Jews who had renounced their Iraqi citizenship, which was a condition for emigration.

The issue became enmeshed in the wider Arab-Israeli conflict when Israel announced in 1951 that it would deduct the value of the frozen property from any compensation it paid for the property of Palestinian refugees it had confiscated. The Israeli government undertook several campaigns to persuade Iraqi Jewish immigrants to register their property claims, most notably in 1955 when a special semi-governmental commission was established. To the government's disappointment, only 3,000-4,000 of the 37,000 Iraqi Jews in Israel bothered to register claims in the last campaign.

The defeat of the Baath regime in Iraq resurrected such claims. As far back as the 1991 Gulf War, some Jews, including Yoram Dinstein, the president of Tel Aviv University, called for the defeated Iraqi government to compensate its former

Jewish citizens as part of its international obligations to pay reparations for victims of its occupation of Kuwait.

The recent Iraqi defeat led to a resumption of talk of compensation, especially among Iraqi Jews in the US. Several of them began contacting the World Jewish Congress (WJC) offices in New York on the matter. In San Francisco, Semha Alwaya, a prominent Jewish-Iraqi lawyer who is co-founder of a group called Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa, has spoken publicly of filing a class action lawsuit in American courts.

The object of such suits is to draw on Iraqi funds under US control. UN Security Council Resolution 1483, which ended the sanctions regime against Iraq, declared future Iraqi oil profits immune from lawsuits until 2007. However, the US controls other Iraqi funds. In March 2003, US President George W. Bush seized \$1.74 billion in Iraqi assets placed in 18 US banks — assets that had been frozen since 1990. He also requested that foreign banks transfer some \$600 million in Iraqi funds to a US account at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, pointing out that the funds would be used for the Iraqi people. However, at least \$300 million of Iraqi assets frozen in the US were previously set aside by American courts for potential use in paying out claims raised by US citizens. The Bush administration has said it would honor such claims.

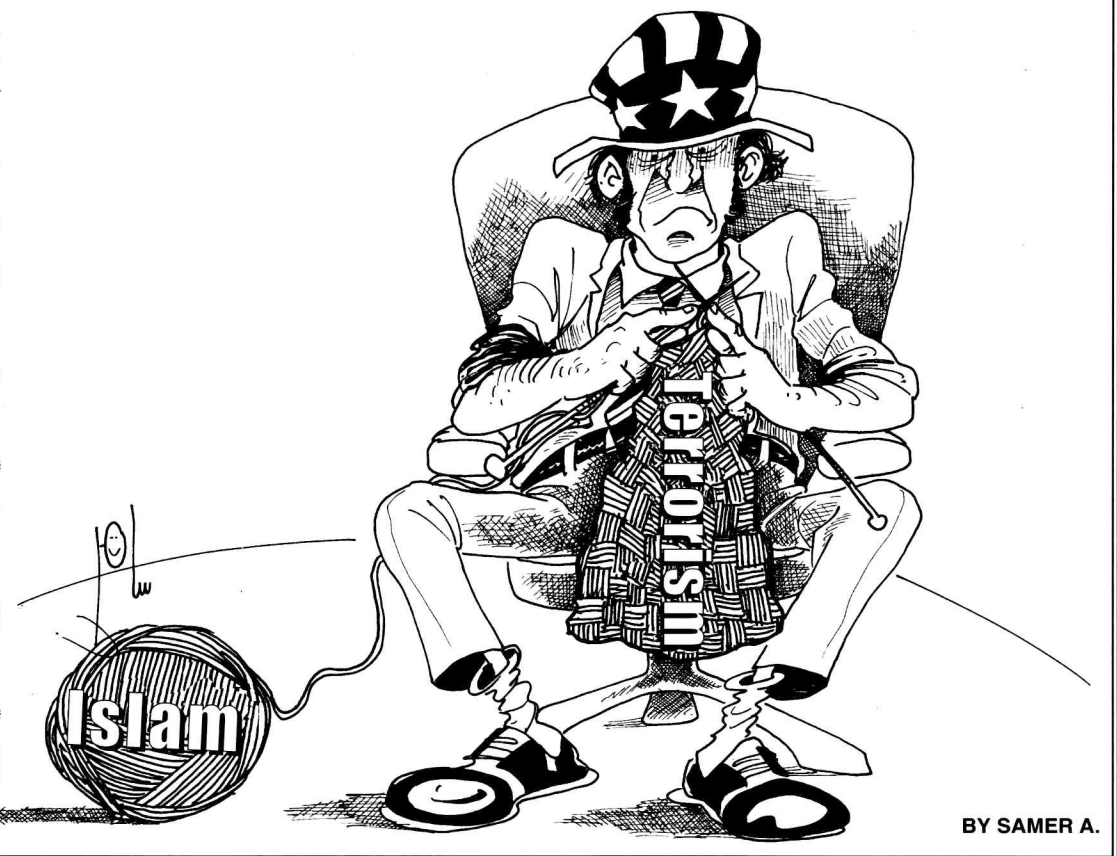
Congress has also been looking into the matter of Iraqi Jews. In April 2003, a House member called for congressional hearings on Jewish emigrants from the Arab world. This past June, the House subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia held a briefing titled The Forgotten Refugees: The Jewish Exodus from Arab Lands. At least one other representative is contemplating submitting legislation for congressional approval dealing specifically with Jewish property in Iraq. In addition, Britain's House of Lords recently heard testimony on the fate of Jews from Arab countries.

Jewish groups have also been working to secure property compensation for Jews from Iraq and other Arab countries. The WJC has held several conferences in recent months on the issue. Most such efforts predate Baghdad's fall, starting in the 1990s as a result of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries was formed in 1975, and has championed the cause of compensation, largely to support the Israeli government's linking the question to that of Palestinian refugee property compensation. The International Committee of Jews from Arab Lands (ICJAL) was formed in 1999 by the WJC and the American Sephardi Federation, and began gathering statistics on lost property. In May 2002, the Israeli Justice Ministry announced it was going to work with the ICJAL to establish a database on property, called the Jewish Refugees from Arab Lands Project. Another group, Justice for Jews in Arab Countries, was established in September 2002, although its focus thus far has been on securing "refugee" status for Jewish emigrants from the Arab world. Finally, the World Sephardi Federation approved a decision in June 2002 to sue the Arab League for restitution of Jewish property, although it has not yet done so.

These claims will not only affect the future of Iraqi reconstruction, they will also have an impact on Israeli-Palestinian talks and on compensation for Palestinian refugees. For this reason, the Israeli government and some Jewish activists hesitate to raise compensation claims against Iraq now, preferring to use the issue as a bargaining tool with the Palestinians. Inter-organizational rivalries have also affected such efforts. It remains to be seen what the outcome will be.

*Michael R. Fischbach is a professor of history at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia. His book Records of Dispossession: Palestinian Refugee Property and the Arab-Israeli Conflict will be published in October.*

SKETCHED OPINION



BY SAMER A.

# Pakistan poised for economic growth

DR. MAQBOOL AHMAD BHATTY

Following a lack-lustre performance in the 1990's, when annual GDP growth averaged 3 percent, Pakistan is poised to more than double that figure in coming years, as a result of the economic reforms of the past three years. The Economic Survey for 2002-03 revealed that the reform programme, initiated under the military government in 1999-2000, and which has been retained by the government elected last year has yielded truly remarkable results. These include a lowering of the debt burden as well as of the inflation rate, and a healthy increase in revenue collection, exports and foreign exchange reserves. The growth rate for 2002-03 was 5.1 percent, and the higher tax collection brought down the fiscal deficit to 4.6 percent.

In announcing the new budget for 2003-04, finance Minister Shaukat Aziz, who has been the main architect of the reform programme and has been retained in the elected government, did not levy any new taxes. Instead he announced an increase of 15 percent in salaries and pensions, while bringing the deficit further down. More significant was the provision of funds to tackle social action challenges in health and education, and for poverty alleviation.

The foundation for sustained growth was laid in the three years of the Musharraf government, when the focus was on domestic reform, notably on improving governance, and stabilizing the economy. By the time the military government completed its three years, foreign exchange reserves exceeded \$10 billion, and the debt burden had been brought under control. External debt went down from \$38 billion to 35 billion, and the cost of servicing the debt, internal and external, which had reached 66 percent of the budget in the late 90s, was nearly halved through rescheduling, so that more funds became available for development.

The reform programme was not painless, as taxes and fuel costs rose. On top of demands of the reform programme, the country was adversely affected by the 9/11 events, as the first theatre of anti-terrorist operations was Afghanistan, with which Pakistan has a 2200 km long border. According to estimates by the Central Command of the US that have recently become available, Pakistan suffered a loss of \$10 billion in 2001-02. The financial help from the US and other western countries fell considerably short of that figure. However, Pakistani capital returning home from abroad and an increase in remittances assisted in stimulating growth and investment. The stock exchange recorded the fastest growth anywhere in the world.

A truly remarkable success story has been in the growth of exports, which had stagnated around 48 billion for several years. In 2002-2003, they exceeded \$11 billion, and higher tar-

gets are being set for the coming years. The secret of achieving higher exports lies in a two-fold strategy:

Diversifying our exports by including fresh items with higher value-added components, and finding new markets, for instance in Eastern Europe and developing countries.

Equally important is the need to attract international investment. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was more than doubled in 2002-03, from \$307 million to \$696 million. However, this fell short of the target of \$1 billion. China and India are attracting much greater investment, with their communities abroad playing a significant role. President Musharraf, in his recent tours of western and Islamic countries, laid special stress on persuading foreign and Pakistani investors taking advantage of the favorable conditions created within the country for investment.

Human Resource Development is an area of great promise, in a world where many developed countries are facing labour shortages. We are inclined to look at the growing population as a problem, owing to the strain it puts on limited resources. However, if properly educated and motivated, our youth are a great asset who can raise Pakistan to prosperity and strength. This challenge is being accepted, though there is need for a much greater role by the private sector. Export of manpower will also provide employment and greater international involvement for Pakistanis, some 4 million of whom are already spread across the globe.

The financial policies of the government have played an important role in stimulating growth. The State Bank of Pakistan has brought the lending rate down to 7.5 percent, creating liquidity that has contributed to the booming stock market as well as investment. The privatization policies are also being followed with success, increasing the stake of the private sector, which tends to be more efficient and competitive.

The latest budget has revealed that we are moving in the right direction. The projected growth target of 6.5 percent over the coming years is realistic, and could even be improved, given the fact that China has maintained a growth rate of 8 percent since 1978. Pakistan went down in the Human Welfare Index according to figures released recently, which should be a warning against complacency. As the finance Minister stated while presenting the budget for 2003-04, political stability within the country remains the key to future growth. All our political leaders and parties have to realize that poverty, backwardness and unemployment remain our biggest challenges.

The decade of the 1990s, though marked by rule of elected governments, were a lost decade so far as economic development was concerned, with indebtedness and poverty rising. Now the ground has been prepared for sustained growth, which will be assured only if both out inter-

nal and external environment are conducive.

Internally, we are witnessing efforts to resolve differences between the ruling and opposition parties through dialogue, so that the parliament can be to play its proper role in providing democratic governance. The country's economic challenges have to be kept in view, so that the shared goal of improving the life of the people can be achieved. The results of the reform programme of the past three years have provided the foundation for sustained growth, and we can expect Pakistanis abroad to play their proper role.

Pakistan's external environment is also a challenge, because foreign investment is not attracted to regions that have tensions and instability around them. Indeed, the whole of South Asia is affected by the confrontation that has existed between its leading countries, India and Pakistan. Happily, we are witnessing a thaw in their relations, and a trend towards resolving issues through dialogue.

South Asia had made rapid progress in the 1960's, and was expected to reach the take-off stage in twenty years. Conflict over Kashmir produced tensions that have continued. In the meantime, the problems of poverty and underdevelopment have grown. Both India and Pakistan have begun to make progress, and better relations between them would benefit the whole region. The prospects for economic growth also look bright because there is realization in both that the welfare of their impoverished millions deserves priority. The re-activation of SAARC could also contribute to growth in all its members.

For Pakistan, both the example of its friendly neighbour, China, and its achievements and plans provide great scope for cooperation. They marked the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2001 with a landmark increase in economic cooperation. China is already engaged in several mega projects, such as the construction of the Gwadar port, completion of Mekran Highway, Lakhra Power project in Sindh and the modernization of Pakistan Railways. China's ambitious plans to develop its Western region will also open up avenues of cooperation.

With other neighbours also, scope exists for multilateral cooperation, for instance for the pipelines from Iran and Turkmenistan, that could eventually be extended to India. Pakistan is ready to play its role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and to deepen the cooperation with the ECO countries.

President Musharraf's tour to the US and major European countries also facilitated agreements in the economic field, including a \$3 billion grant from the U.S. spread over 5 years. With burgeoning domestic growth, and increasing interaction with the international community, Pakistan is poised for economic growth as it completes 56 years as an independent country.

# Wedding costs can be a strain on the success of a marriage

BY RAYAN MOHAMMED  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**L**ife objectives tend to be the following with most, a steady source of income, a desirable occupation, and almost to all, a good marriage.

This objective has taken a more demanding turn in recent times.

With almost half of marriages in the United States ending in divorce and the number is rising in Yemen and other Arab countries. A good marriage has become harder to find and sustain in our modern time. Though reasons for a marriage's end depend on the couple and their circumstances, some attribute this decay to the first night of a marriage, the wedding night.

Weddings are a joyous ceremony, once girls are old enough to talk, planning their wedding night become an all-consuming force and takes priority to many more pressing matters. Boys begin to believe that once married, all the confusion and pain endured in their single life will be filled with focus and purpose, that by the end of wedding night, they will gain the maturity necessary to become men. And why not? Weddings are a rite of passage shared by most world cultures; it marks the point in which girls change from daughters to mothers responsible for a husband and children. Meanwhile boys change from sons to fathers who are responsible for providing homes for their families. Yet it is my belief that weddings can be a major source of disappointment that can deteriorate marriages.

riages.

From the beginning of marriage proposals, expenses soar.

Many men are expected to pay money to their bride-to-be family otherwise known as a dowry according to the Islamic tradition.

The Prophet Mohammed said that a simple iron ring could suffice as a dowry. However, many brides and their families have become more demanding to an unreasonable extent.

Not only has it become more common to ask for very high dowries, but for a list of requirements such as a washing machine or a DVD machine. Though it is vital for the bride's family to be assured that their daughter is in good hands, it is greatly discouraging for young, working class man to afford such demands, while trying to satisfy wedding costs.

However, what worsens matters is if the groom pays the dowry and meets the demands.

It is human nature that once an individual invests great effort into something, higher rewards are expected.

When a groom pays a high dowry and provides for all the demands, he expects a perfect wife. It is almost impossible to marry someone who is tailor-made for you, and it is inevitable that some sacrifices have to be made on both sides. However, a high dowry makes the groom feel that he had done enough in his partnership, and therefore his wife should obey his every command and aim only to please him, before herself. This makes the marriage more breakable.

Next, you have the wedding night.

At a point in time, wedding seemed to

be about the bride and groom. However, weddings have been a contest among families, especially women, to see who can top the other family and have the best (in practice, the most expensive) wedding. From the groom's perspective, he has to provide qat for all the invited, which is pricey and has no real significance to the groom.

In most male weddings, everyone sits and chews with little attention to the groom or his happiness or in many cases, dismay.

However, weddings differ in Yemen, and this is but one example. However, it is the women's wedding that is truly expensive. Finding a dress and gold, arranging for a wedding hall and all its features, etc. are no easy feat.

Even though her dress and gold have to be of the highest style to please those around her.

Society expects the bride and her wedding to be custom-made to their tastes. However, what makes it more difficult is a constant sense of competition among Yemeni families.

Each family tries to outdo the other, spending and more on one night, whilst the groom's and bride's wishes take a backseat in an attempt to impress the guests. This

is fine for everyone except who is fronting the very high bill. If it is the groom, the same as with the dowry applies here, and therefore his expectation of his wife is set unbelievably high. If it is the groom's family, their perspective of the bride becomes bitter. If she is unable to get pregnant quickly, she will be named inefficient and irresponsible wife. If she chooses to have a career, she will be called an inconsiderate house



maker and unwilling to prioritize her career for her family. The reasoning may differ depending on the family, yet the feelings remain initially the same. What may even be worse matters are if problems arise between the couple. The groom's family will not as reluctant in pressuring the groom to divorce his wife. On the other hand, if the bride's family pays or co-pays for the wedding, resentment will grow between the two families. The bride's family will feel

that the groom's family should have paid for the wedding and will never adapt to them. They will blame the groom's family for any problems that arise between the couple. The relationship may be spotty at best; the bride's family will be more encouraged to convince the bride to ask for a divorce.

Marriages are not a science, and there is no real rulebook to handling one. However, from a wedding point of view, the groom and bride's wishes

should become a priority over society's expectations or their parents' demands. If the bride and groom understand and communicate their wants and needs from the beginning to one other, it will help establish the true fundamentals of marriage, which isn't a lavish wedding, but rather respect, understanding, compromise and sacrifice. The marriage will be based on more than a legal document but real love and respect for each other.

## A short story

# "On my birthday"



BY KHALID ABDO SALEH  
AL-RAZIH  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I was almost lost and handicapped by my background and hardship. My life was characterized by mystery and the fear of the unknown. I always had to look for an escape from the reality of who I was and search in a mirage for whatever possibility that may save my pride and dignity.

I met her when I was a small boy and was impressed by her appearance and kindness, which made me think that the world she came from was a beautiful one. Seeing her and listening to the language she spoke was of a great joy to me. I used to follow her when she walked around in the village, so did some other boys. This is how I was first motivated to learn English.

At school, English was my favorite subject which I exerted all efforts to learn. Before I finished my secondary education I sent her a letter in English. It was the first letter I ever sent to anyone in the world. In Yemen people rarely send post mails. If they want to send letters or parcels to anybody, say for instance, to a migrant in Saudi Arabia, they would wait until they find someone to carry and hand them in person. In my letter to her I wanted to say that I was inspired and motivated by her. I wanted, at the same time, to establish a bridge of friendship for her stay in Razih had its influence on me. I also wanted to learn more about the world she comes from. I made another attempt by sending a second letter. This time I wanted to introduce myself as someone who then was working for a British well-known institution. The third had it when a Scottish friend told me that she was in Sana'a on a visit to Yemen.

I called her at the French Institute for

Yemeni studies:

- Hello, May I speak to Ms. Shelagh Weir?

- Speaking.

- I introduced myself and asked her if it was OK to meet her for a short conversation. Her answer was positive. I headed to her residency right after I finished the phone call with my Scottish friend. I had no confidence in myself. She noticed the state of nervousness I was in and started to ask me some casual interrogative questions so as to save me the embarrassment of providing lengthy answers. Most of the questions were about my upbringing and family status.

- "I'll be your aunt in London". That was the last sentence she said while shaking hand to say bye.

What she said was like a torchlight that gave a hope to my broken soul and some strength to face frustration and the feeling of humiliation. She also gave me her book "Qat in Yemen" signed by her as a gift. I was extremely so happy that I started to tell the story of my meeting with her to all colleagues as the only source of pride I had and thus had succeeded in making many more friends (English friends). Whenever I get asked about how I learned English, I would say that I was inspired by Ms. Shelagh Weir, an English lady, who carried out a field anthropological research on the community in my village.

There was a swift change in my life. My colleagues and employer started to trust me. It was quite hard for English people to trust someone from Sa'ada having been misled about the killings and revenge problems attributed to some provinces in Yemen including Sa'ada. Trust and respect reached its peak when I received an invitation by her through the British museum. Only then, I felt that I was confident enough to face the world. She received me at the Gatwick and drove me with her to her cottage in

E. Sussex. I was little worried and afraid of failure. The first few hours were congested with wonders on her part. Then all diminished as she gave me a bar of chocolate at my amazement of the over-green scenery of land and road and railway networks. The next day she took me for a walk with her stepson, Mike, which I considered one of the most fascinating days in my life.

The month went very fast and I felt really sad when she reminded me of reconfirming my reservation. She never stopped checking on me ever since. Her letters were always the way out for a lot of problems that faced me. She kept supporting me by money and books until I finished my college in Sana'a. In one year, I felt I had gained what would have taken me years to learn. She sent me another invitation in the summer of 1994 which I considered another training course for me. It was more like to learn the English Culture i.e. to be alert, understanding, obey positive imperatives listen and be submissive so as to achieve a success. This is how I interpreted the overall goal of my second trip to England.

I was embarrassed to learn that I only knew very little about the community I was born and grown up in, at the same time, was impressed to realize how much information she knew about it. Coming to her office on daily basis to help translating tapes and tribal documents made me only discover my ignorance about the tribal system. Her office was full of documents about tribal disputes and the way tribesmen resolved them. I found it really hard to help in doing this job especially when it came to translating from the unusual legal dialect of Razih into English. It could also be because her office used to remind me of that complicated tribal structure which I resented to accept as a reliable system for governing people. The resentment feeling would get worse when approaching the fact that while I long to enjoy the freedom in the

reachable world I have arrived in; the culture still followed me and interrupted this enjoyment.

In the second trip things just went ok. After I returned to Yemen, I was not satisfied about my performance. However, she made me excuses due to her rich experience in this field. She never stopped checking on me or supporting although I was about to announce my bankruptcy with regard to my knowledge of the tribal law. She was and still is very persistent. She supported me until the British Council, Yemen, granted me a scholarship to study Translation for my MA in London.

There, I never felt lonely or stranger. I had a lot of fun during my stay in England. She was very supportive and kind.

In short, she was not just a friend, she was a miracle person:

- She brought me back to life.
- She gave me the necessary strength to face the world.
- She supported me to live with my full pride and dignity
- She worked hard to introduce me to important people whom I benefited from.
- She traveled to Razih despite all difficulties so as to introduce me to my own people, which was important for my stability and manly existence.
- She surprised me with "a hand-certificated party" which was attended by my friends and her friends as well as the director of the British council.
- She put me together and protected what I have been working on for years which are my refusal to be downgraded and to exist as a full dignified person.

Therefore and seriously speaking, I am fully indebted to her for my life, dignity, manly existence, education and understanding.

I do feel the burden of my debt and small for all that she did to me.



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- Perfekte Beherrschung der arabischen Sprache
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بمناسبة إرتزاقه مولوده البكر والذي أسماه

الحسين

جعل الله الحسين قرة عين والديه وأنبته نباتاً حسناً وبارك فيه..

المهنتون:

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رشيد علي السقاف، باسم جميل السقاف، مازن محمد السقاف

عزيز وعمار ووضاح عقيل عبدالله السقاف وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء،..

# When Yemeni patients suffer twice

ABDULWAHAB ABDULQAWI AL-SOFI  
AASOFI@HOTMAIL.COM

Health is a crown on healthy people's heads. No one can see or feel it except patients. As much as, I praise medicine and our doctors, criticize intensively ministry of health. Medicine is a human duty before it is a profession. Medicine is Allah's mercy gifted to human beings. We have to be honest in using this gift. Sick people are suffering twice. One is the disease that they are inflicted. The other is the opportunism and corruption they are facing in hospitals from all staff. Patients don't have a minimum care in governmental hospitals especially in Hodeidah province. They must pay for every simple

service. Patients' beds are hired or patients lie on the floor. Nurses don't perform their duty as it is. Making an operation needs a bundle of money. Once my child had a motorcycle accident. His leg was broken. I was not there at the time being. He was left from 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. I was there at 8:30 p.m. What I have seen shudders human bodies. The voice of pain-suffering patients is roaring all over the hospital. Many dead people are dragged out of the hospital. Bleeding patients were thrown on floor waiting their turn. Smell of death was emanated. It is a smell of a strong odor. It is a really scaring place.

Foreigner doctors are taught to receive bribery. A Russian doctor in the hospital completely refused to make the operation for my son's broken leg until I put YR 5000 in his

pocket. He went to his room to count his bribe before starting his work, which he did immediately afterwards. His assistants are paid to separately. Despite of that, the boy's leg became crooked. Therefore, patients prefer to visit private hospitals, but actually they escape from tiger's claws to the crocodile jawbones. The private hospitals prepare several operation rooms. As soon as patients visit doctors, operation is the final arbiter. So, patient should hire a room in hospital with his family and live there. And then, they leave these hospitals insolvent. They are like hotels. Patient is given a sack of painkillers initially; in order to make sure that patient is unable to move. This is the private hospitals' policy. This excessive analgesics cause many diseases such as cancer, kidney diseases, ...

etc. Kidney diseases increase all over the country. Hundreds of patients suffer from kidney failure in Hodeidah province. This will be clear if you visit kidney wash center in Hodeidah. It is a catastrophic sight. This is because of water we have is polluted. The atmosphere in which we breathe is also polluted. We are exposed to an actual disaster, so ministry of health with its senior officials should be hurry up and take into consideration what it could be saved.

## Diabetes on the increase but death rate falling

LONDON (Reuters) - Diabetes is rising in the rich world but the death rate from it is falling due to early detection and better treatment, scientists said in a study published on Friday.

Researchers from the University of Southern Denmark carried out an analysis of diabetes in a community of 470,000 people between 1993 and 1999.

While the proportion of people with diabetes increased by around three percent annually during the six-year study, the associated death rate fell three percent each year.

Commenting on the findings published in this week's edition of the medical journal The Lancet, Edwin Gale, diabetes expert at Britain's University of Bristol, warned against complacency.

"Make no mistake, obesity and diabetes are indeed on the increase, a problem big and deadly enough to need no supporting rhetoric," he wrote in the journal.

Diabetes effects some 135 million people worldwide and the number of sufferers has been increasing steadily in the West due in part to a rise in obesity. A healthy diet and regular exercise reduce the risk of getting it.

Patients with type II, or adult onset, diabetes produce too little insulin and too much glucose. It

can lead to blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, disability and death.

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# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

**Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation 12 August 2003.**

- Main headlines:**
- Nasserite central committee calls for political reform to face situations deteriorations in the country
  - Police demolishes 20 houses, leaving tens of families homeless
  - Arrest orders against "Al-Wahdawi" weekly
  - Six killed, four wounded in Mahweet and Abyan
  - Liquefied gas crisis continues, embezzlements and accused in Sa'da
  - Clashed renewed between Al-Ja'ban and Rassam in Nahm

On the American occupation of Iraq and its complications, columnist Mohammed Ibrahim Ahmed says in a number of remarks that:

- The foreign powers act for changing the ruling regime in Iraq was not to be carried out because of the existence of higher levels of oppression represented by the Iraqi Baathist regime. Therefore in other cases the non-similarity at the same oppressive level makes democracy implemented by the foreign force is something improbable. The case of Iraq was an exception notable to be repeated because it is linked to special internal and external circumstances.
- Foreign forces are always willing or capable of founding circumstances or a climate allowing them and that peoples would accept their interference to change their ruling systems.
- Closing the roads before achieving the democratic change is no longer able to stand firmly against realization of the concerned countries leadership regarding the necessity of moving with modest steps towards effecting an amount of popular partnership in authority and political openness.
- Under requirements of transparency, committing of grave violations of human rights is no longer an easy matter to impose blackout on because the internal and external public opinion is able to face up such violations.
- In the light of what happened in Iraq all, peoples and governments, have become aware that they are in the same boat and facing a common danger threatening them. It is therefore the interaction between governments and peoples has become an imperative matter.

The fact is that the national affiliation is the highest goal and the highest value that all should head for without squandering the human affiliation.

**Al-Balagh weekly, 12 August 2003.**

- Main headlines:**
- PM: Cooperation with America in all security questions, open
  - Nasserite organisation statement: Government handling the question of terror, propaganda work, cooperation with America violation of national sovereignty, engaging parties in Arab League resolutions, formation of committees to support Iraqi resistance.
  - Justice Minister: Judiciary conferences in governorates to modernize and develop judiciary
  - Security forces storm and demolish a number of houses in capital secretariat
- Editor in chief of the newspaper says that the recent rainfalls in the capital have unveiled the extent of manipulation by some companies that implemented services works in the capital, such as sewage or paving streets. This problem the capital experience every year. Many problems encounter the mayor of the capital and we cannot hold him responsible for what has happened in the past. But we have to call the attention of the mayor to the necessity of working for avoiding these problems by planning and implementation. As a beginning we ask the mayor to assign the concerned authorities in his office to pinpoint the areas where water gathers and the streets that have problems of water drainage to work for avoiding them during the next year. As we know that higher authorities have directed to present reports about some implemented projects that face problems such as cave-ins in some streets or breaking of pavement in some others. The other point is that the mayor has to put into force the black list containing the companies that cheated in implementation of projects and depriving them of carrying out any future projects.

**Al-Thawri weekly 14 August 2003.**

- Main headlines:**
- YSP assistant secretary general meets Palestinian ambassador and Dutch minister plenipotentiary
  - Bakiel tribes hold general meeting to tackle situations of their

## Main headlines

- Woman jurists accuse officials in Aden of hindering the woman conference
- Military units stationed at the courtyard of Lahj governorate building
- Bajammal praises development of relations with Saudi Arabia
- Fighting drugs, part of Yemeni-Saudi security talks
- Deputy Director of Aden refineries discloses defects of Aden port
- YSP Executive Committee calls for solving problems of returnees
- Special seminar on the assassination of Jarallah Omer
- Large quantities of weapons seized after entering Mareb governorate
- European Union office to be officially opened in December
- Official sources: Yemeni fruits allowed entering Saudi markets
- FM al-Qirbi: Yemen supports holding emergency meeting of Islamic foreign ministers
- Directives from higher authority on opening corruption files concerning implementation of services projects in the capital secretariat
- America demands Saudi Arabia to stop printing the Qura'an and omission of some verses
- New York Times: Iraq's defense minister helped in the fall of Baghdad, was agent for the CIA
- Al-Biedh and Attas decide not to return and retire from political work
- Security forces open checkpoints at inlets leading to Khawlan
- German government prevents Yemen's ambassador from visiting al-Mouyad
- Sewage system networks in Hudeida collapses
- Heavy damage in houses and public property in the capital
- Jahm sheikhs still under arrest in Sana'a
- Hundreds killed in tribal wars

detailed tribesmen

- Out of keenness on democracy, YSP: We refuse merger, ready for dialogue
- Security members attack house of a businessman in Hudeida, injure his sons

Columnist Jamal Amer writes saying despite of the president's generosity towards many of tribal sheikhs with money and prestige and granting them military or consultative posts at the state institutions he has nevertheless not been able to subject the tribe to the power of the state, let alone its regulations and laws. An implicit agreement might have been concluded between the two parties according to which the two sides remain above these laws. The sheikhs harbor loyalty to the first party and the first party guarantees whatever available of influence and wealth. It may be certain that Yemeni successive post-revolution authorities, excluding the reign of president al-Hamdi, have not viewed the tribe as an entity that lived severe isolation led to its lagging behind keeping pace with other societies that availability of various levels of education and other basic services had helped in their being civilized and delivered from their backwardness. These tribal gatherings were purposefully meant to be isolated and introvert, without any real interests to exchange with others. The tribes, except the their senior sheikhs, remained without regular living earnings securing for them means of dignified living instead of depending on looting or imposing royalties on petroleum or on the state after each kidnapping operation or blowing up an oil pipeline.

**Al-Tagamou weekly, organ of Yemen's Unionist Assemblage party, 11 August 2003.**

- Main headlines:**
- The president calls on Arab leaders to follow suit of Yemen leadership
  - FM confirms Yemen's insistence on calling for an international conference defining terror
  - Delegation from Hadramout governorate visits the Sultanate of Oman
- A newspaper back page article says the talk about the state of institutions and its role in and independence has greatly increased till people began to believe what they hear. The people have thus forgotten that when the authority, when talks much about

something, it does not mean it and it is an indication on its non-existence. The latest scandal is when the state appointed ambassadors from outside the diplomatic career and from some who are renowned of their failure in their posts and their abuse of positions. It is noteworthy these appointments contradict and embarrass the prime minister who had earlier stated that appointment of ambassadors would be from cadres of the foreign ministry that possesses many of qualified talents and experience in diplomatic job and that make such cadres fir for representing Yemen.

**Al-Isbou weekly, 14 August 2003.**

- Main headlines:**
- Sheikh al-Ghadir asks Jahm tribe to stop escalation, begins efforts for the release of sheikhs
  - Yemeni Journalists Syndicate member in the International Journalists Union
  - Elections of Yemen Women, abolished
- Columnist Sanad Abdulla Najad writes an article giving justifications for restructuring the Yemeni state on federal bases, saying that the diversity of the ethnic structure in Yemen; religiously, sociologically, psychologically indicate variation within the Yemeni one entity which represents a general framework that contain the national combination in its general form. It is a variation hat should be considered and to be received with interest in the state's national structural reality.
- The second pretext the writer submits in proposing his idea, he says that the historical experience of Sana'a central authority before the unity and after it proved the continuation of the policy pursued and performed by the former state which contained the sectarian characteristic represented by the ideological and governing experience of the Imamate rule of the family of Al-Hameeduldin. That ruling family had built its governance on the grounds of Zaidi sectarian and not the equal citizenship that includes all the sons of the homeland.
- The writer concludes that the federation as an issue is still vital and live in the opposition political address and represents a national political introduction to equal opportunities and political stability on democratic and civilized bases.

# World Press

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

## Egypt

- Al Ahram**  
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Political Advisor Osma Al-Baz on Friday stressed that Egypt supports the Iraqi people and the US occupation of that country should be ended.
- Al Akhbar**  
Arab League chief Amr Moussa on Friday stressed that the United States should play a key role in reaching a just and durable peace in the Middle East region as a fair mediator in the peace process.
- Al Gomhuria**  
Egypt on Friday criticised an article by the Washington Post that contained certain remarks about human rights and non-governmental organizations in Egypt while ignoring the country's impressive stride in improving human rights.
- Egyptian Mail**  
The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a new strategy to develop agricultural methods in Egypt by 2017 to achieve an annual target increase of 4.1 percent in agricultural production.

## Britain

- The Independent**  
British Prime Minister Tony Blair's reclusive inner circle will be exposed to unprecedented public scrutiny next week after Downing Street's most powerful officials were ordered to give evidence to the Hutton inquiry investigating the death of government scientist David Kelly.
- The Guardian**  
Tony Blair's headline-grabbing claim that Iraq could deploy weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes of an order to do so was based on hearsay information, the Guardian has learned.
- The Daily Telegraph**  
America and Canada were fighting on Friday night to restore power to huge sections of their most densely populated areas after the largest power cut in history.
- The Times**  
With America still reeling from the worst power shortage in its history, the British government is to investigate whether the UK electricity grid system is vulnerable to a similar huge breakdown.

## France

- Le Figaro**  
America fell victim of the biggest power blackout in history on Thursday, affecting the life of more than 50 million people.
- Liberation**  
As blackouts plunged the northeastern America into chaos, the French authorities were alerted that the French electricity system is not immune from this type of power loss.
- Le Monde**  
US President George W. Bush excluded the possibility of criminal origin of the blackouts across northeastern America. This incredible accident revealed the fragility of the two giant economies of the world.

## Pakistan

- Dawn**  
A suspected al-Qaida operative was killed while another escaped after a shootout with police in Pakistan's major city of Peshawar, which is near the border with Afghanistan, on Thursday.
- The Nation**  
Pakistani Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali on Thursday said durable peace in South Asia and normal Pak-India relations hinged on the just solution to the Kashmir problem.
- The News**  
Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Thursday protested to the United States against the killing of two Pakistani soldiers by US troops and demanded an inquiry to fix responsibility, the Foreign Ministry said.

## Nigeria

- This Day**  
Moves by former Liberian president Charles Taylor to get a "safer asylum" in Libya were turned down by Libya to avoid incurring the wrath of the United States.
- Saturday Punch**  
Just a week after former Liberian president Charles Taylor began a new life in exile, security agents have disarmed his retinue of bodyguards and replaced them with Nigerian escorts.

## India

- The Times of India**  
Every government makes tall promises on independent day, but this August 15, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee promised, quite literally, the moon. Calling for "a great leap forward," he said India would send its own spacecraft to the moon and the first Indians would set foot there by 2008.

## Hindustan Times

Pakistan, Kashmir and development were the issues that dominated Vajpayee's independent day address to the nation on Friday.

## The Indian Express

Though security forces were on full alert in view of the independent day boycott call given by over 15 different militant groups in the northeast, ultras managed to strike in Tripura and Manipur, gunning down at least 36 people in the two states in a span of less than 24 hours since Friday.

## The Hindu

Hundreds of children from across the capital had to sit in the rain for hours on end of independent day celebration on Friday owing to strict instructions from their school authorities not to get umbrellas and raincoats.

## Philippines

- Manila Bulletin**  
Members of a fact-finding committee decided Friday to adjourn their investigation of the leaders of the failed mutiny in Manila on July 27 after the renegade officers refused to give their testimonies as they accused the committee of being biased in favor of the government and unjust to them.

## The Philippine Star

Philippine authorities and Muslim guerrillas hailed Friday the arrest of Asia's alleged top terrorist Hambali, but Manila warned the Jemaah Islamiyah network could mount retaliatory action.

## Philippine Daily Inquirer

The Philippine government Friday charged Navy Lieutenant Antonio Trillanes, one of the leaders of the July 27 mutiny, with graft before the Office of the Ombudsman. Trillanes, who has already been charged with rebellion in a civilian court and faces a possible court martial, was accused of amassing "unexplained wealth," failing to file his statement of assets and liabilities in 2001 and 2002, and non-disclosure of his assets in violation of related regulations for public officials.

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (55) Emotional Reactions VI

Emotion is the main stay of the literary genre of poetry which uses emotive language. Poets are dream merchants and naturally the diction in their poems is suffused with emotional excesses.

- There's pleasure in the pathless woods There's rapture on the lonely shore... Byron: Childe Harold My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky Wordsworth Never saw I, never felt, a calm so deep Wordsworth: Composed Upon Westminster Bridge

II. How to say it Correctly Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- 1. He is beautiful. 2. Are you requiring any extra help? 3. The English is studied all over the world. 4. He was loving her but now he is not loving her. 5. The sun is shining during the window.

- Suggested answers to last week's questions 1. She is tall. Note: is is a stative verb. So it cannot take the progressive aspect. 2. The building looks very old. 3. Aisha cleaned the house. Or, Aisha is cleaning the house now. 4. We are students, aren't we? 5. Everybody is ready now, aren't they?

III. Increase your Word Power

- A) How to express it in one word 1. Increase the speed of. 2. To cause to go slower. 3. Wooden floor built across a ship. 4. The act of giving the different forms of a noun, pronoun or adjective. 5. To discover the meaning of a message in a secret language.

- Suggested answers to last week's questions 1. Something that makes a person weak: debilitating (adj) 2. A woman who has made her first public appearance: debutante (n) 3. Marked by a fall to a lower level from a higher level: decadent (adj) 4. A competition in out-of-door games consisting of ten separate events: decathlon (n) 5. The quality of being dishonest: deceit (n)

B) Foreign Phrases Give the source of origin and simple meaning of the following phrase:

- 1. homophone; 2. hubris; 3. ibidem; 4. icon; 5. jeu d'esprit

- Suggested answers to last week's questions 1. heteroglossia (Gk. 'hetero' meaning other, different + 'glossia' meaning 'tongue'); The variety and diversity of languages used in the epic and in the novel. 2. holograph (Gk. 'entire writing'): A manuscript written entirely by the person in whose name it appears. 3. holophrasis (Gk. 'entire phrase'): The use of one word to express a number of ideas. 4. homograph (Gk. 'same name'): A word having the same sound and spelling as another, but a different origin and meaning. Ex: 'row/row', 'bank/bank', 'lead/lead', 'tear/tear'. 5. homonym (Gk. 'same name'): A word having the same sound and spelling as another, but a different origin and meaning. Ex. 'rest/repose'.

- C) Words Commonly Confused Bring out the meaning differences in the following pairs of words 1. incidence, incident 2. chord, cord 3. collage, college 4. coma, comma 5. comity, committee

- Suggested answers to last week's questions 1. announce (vt) (to officially tell people about a decision): A government spokesman announced the government's decision about a hike in the employees' salaries. 2. disclose (vt) (to bring into view, uncover, reveal): The intelligence department don't disclose official secrets. 3. proclaim (vt) (to announce officially): After killing his father and brothers Aurangzeb proclaimed himself the emperor. 4. weak (adj) (lacking in strength of body): His weak physical condition doesn't permit him to do strenuous work. 5. week (n) (a period of seven days): Week after week he labored hard to win the competition. 6. same (adj) (being the very one, unchanged, not different): This is the same house where we stayed five years ago. 7. similar (adj) (nearly, but not exactly the same or alike): I have a similar car. 8. identical (adj) (the very same, exactly alike or equal): Both the countries have identical political systems. 9. hope (vt&i) (to want something to happen or be true): I hope you have an enjoyable vacation. 10. wish (vt) (to long, to yearn, expressed desire for something): I wish you a happy birthday. 11. familiar (adj) (friendly): I am familiar with the place. 12. familial (adj) (common to a family): I have always receive familial love and affection from my students.

- D) Idioms and Phrases Use the following phrases in sentences 1. antithetical to; 2. antithesis of; 3. antipathy against; 4. sympathy for; 5. sympathies with

- Suggested answers to last week's questions 1. anything but (by no means, not at all): The house is in a dilapidated condition. It is anything but safe. 2. if any: Please ask me questions, if any (it is likely that there will be none at all) 3. by any means (no matter in what way): He is determined to achieve his goal by any means. 4. in any case (beside, also): He was old and suffered long. In any case, we had to try our best to cure him. 5. any number of: Copies of the new dictionary are now available. You can get any number of them.

IV. Grammar and Composition

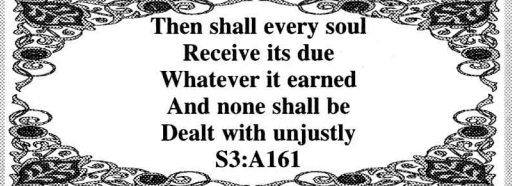
- A) Grammar Choose the best answers 1. I thought this dress looked really nice in the shop, but now I wish I — it. a. wouldn't buy b. had bought c. would buy d. hadn't bought 2. The good thing is that the village is very quiet, but on the other — there aren't any shops. a. way b. side c. point of view d. hand 3. The — we get going, the sooner we'll finish. a. quicker b. quickest c. quickly d. most quickly 4. Sheila succeeded — getting the manager's approval for the new project. a. at b. for c. to d. in 5. There's a man standing on the — corner who looks very suspicious. a. avenue b. path c. road d. street

- Suggested answers to last week's questions A) Grammar 1. Could I come and stay for a few days? Would it be alright if I came and stayed for a few days? 2. Do you mind me phoning my brother? Is it alright if I phone my brother? Do you mind if I make myself a cup of tea? 3. Can I make myself a cup of tea? Would you mind if I have a bath now? 4. Could I have a bath now? Would you mind if I have a bath now? 5. Can I turn on the TV? Do you mind if I turn on the TV? 6. Would it be possible for me to take the car? Would it be alright if I took the car? 7. Could I invite a few friends over? Would you mind if I invited a few friends over? 8. Can I read one of your books? Is it possible to read one of your books? 9. Would it be possible for a few of my friends to stay? Would you mind if a few of my friends stayed?

B. Composition: Paragraph Writing Expand the idea contained in the proverb 30. A BAD WORKMAN BLAMES THE TOOLS

Last week's topic 29. FOOLS RUSH IN WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD Some are not aware of their limitations and dare to achieve a task that men of superior capabilities dread to venture into. Such people are dare-devils who overestimate themselves and give a plunge without properly assessing the task-difficulty and their own limitations.

VI. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VII. Words of Wisdom "One meaning of education is knowledge of the self and it is perfect in itself." — Mahatma Gandhi

A LETTER TO THE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH: 22 Spend more time for reading



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

Dear Fellow teachers, If you remember, this is my third letter in a series about reading. No one can deny that reading is an important language skill, perhaps the most important one in an EFL setting like yours. The reason is obvious: You need to read English more often in your lives, as a student, as a teacher, as a businessman, as a manager in a company, as a worker in a firm, as a passenger on a plane, as a pilot, as an airhostess, as a taxi driver, as a doctor, as a nurse and as a pharmacist; in other words, the need for reading English in this country is greater than that for other language skills.

things you should keep in mind are the following: (i) your reading (oral reading) should be a good model for your students to follow. This is possible only when you have regular practice of reading aloud and constant use of a good dictionary for pronunciation. (ii) You should give enough opportunity to your students to read aloud, especially in the preparatory classes; more importantly you should listen to the student when he/she reads aloud and check his/her pronunciation when necessary. As I pointed out in my early letter, if you use oral reading by the students for filling up the class time, there is hardly any benefit out of it. Students can read in chorus (all the students together) to begin with, (but be careful, chorus reading should be limited to a short time in each class and with words and sentences and not longer texts), as chorus reading enables the shy students to give up their shyness and become bold to face the class. This can be followed by individuals reading; always start with students who are better than others but the weak ones should not be neglected. Friendly coaxing and tolerance to errors will bring all the students around. In addition to the lessons in the books, you can occasionally use some materials such as a comic, a joke, an interesting news item, an advertisement or announcement for reading in the class. In higher classes, these can be used for silent reading by the students to develop their understanding. Is there anything more interesting to your students than the announcement of a football match in the city or a news item about the victory of the Yemeni team in an international match? Try to use such materials now and then; your students will look forward to you English classes. Good luck. Yours fraternally, M.N.K. Bose

Computer Programming Languages (part 4)



BY AKRAM YAHIA BAKER APTECH, SANA'A CENTER

In the early 1990's, interactive TV was the technology of the future. Sun Microsystems decided that interactive TV needed a special, portable (can run on many types of machines) language. This language eventually came to be known as Java. In 1994, the Java project team changed their focus to the web, which was becoming "the cool thing" after interactive TV failed. The next year, Netscape licensed Java for use in their internet browser, Navigator. At this point, Java became the language of the future and several companies announced applications which would be written in Java, none of which came into use. Though Java has very lofty goals and is a text-book example of a good language, it may be the "language that wasn't". It has serious optimization problems, meaning that programs written in it run very slowly. And Sun has hurt Java's acceptance by engaging in political battles over it with Microsoft. But Java may wind up as the instructional language of tomorrow as it is truly object-oriented and implements advanced techniques such as true portability of code and garbage collection. Visual Basic is often taught as a first programming language today as it is based on the BASIC language developed in 1964 by John Kemeny and Thomas Kurtz. BASIC is a very limited language and was designed for non-computer science people. Statements are chiefly run sequentially, but program control can change based on IF, THEN, and GOSUB statements, which execute a certain, block of code and then return to the original point in

the program's flow. Microsoft has extended BASIC in its Visual Basic (VB) product. The heart of VB is the form, or blank window, on which you drag and drop components such as menus, pictures, and slider bars. These items are known as "Widgets". Widgets have properties (such as its color) and events (such as clicks and double-clicks) and are central to building any user interface today in any language. VB is most often used today to create quick and simple interface to other Microsoft products such as Excel and Access without needing a lot of code, though it is possible to create full applications with it. Perl has often been described as the "duct tape of the Internet", because it is most often used as the engine for a web interface or in scripts that modify configuration files. It has very strong text matching functions, which make it ideal for these tasks. Perl was developed by Larry Wall in 1987 because the Unix sed and awk tools (used for text manipulation) were no longer strong enough to support his needs. Depending on whom you ask, Perl stands for Practical Extraction and Reporting Language or Pathologically Electric Rubbish Lister. Programming languages have been under development for years and will remain so for many years to come. They got their start with a list of steps to wire a computer to perform a task. These steps eventually found their way into software and began to acquire newer and better features. The first major languages were characterized by the simple fact that they were intended for one and only one purpose, while the languages of today are differentiated by the way they are programmed in, as they can be used for almost any purpose. And perhaps the languages of tomorrow will be more natural with the invention quantum and biological computers.

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 Ability Dean Invitation Prize Stories Aisle Degree Jitter Professor Studies Alumni Desk Laws Program Arena Education Learn Rabbi Teach Attain Elegies Lesson Rated Team Bard Engineer Lists Record Toast Bash Essay Lush Ring Toga Biology Exams Master Rows Trophies Brain Excite Mathematics Scholar Turns Business Faculty Medals Science Video Cape Field Medicine Share Walkway Card Film Movie Sheet Waves Cars Gift Picture Smart Wear Cheers Gown Portraits Smile Wish Classes Grade Preach Songs Commencement Group Presentation Stairway Congratulations Happy Pride Stand Dance Hats Priest Step-up

GRADUATION DAY Solution: 8 letters. Grid of letters for word search puzzle.

*Yemen's federation presents a protest letter to FIFA for the unjust loss of our U17 team due to dreadful refereeing:*

# Hopes still high in our U17 team

Sanaa, August 16 – Many hope that the Yemeni U 17 team will still achieve if it continues its elegant performance shown during match with the Portuguese team. The team is expected to go through to the next stage if it gains at least one win.

**Total dismay**

Meanwhile, last Thursday's match between Yemen's Under 17 team with the Portuguese team was a disappointment in all measures. Yemen's team exhibited great performance, extraordinary talent, and mastered the game for most of the time during the match that was held in Finland as part of Group C's qualifying matches for the tournament. But the unfortunate loss 4:3 to Portugal had caused depression to many Yemeni viewers; especially as it was bad refereeing that caused the loss, according to many.

The commentator of the match on TV had himself expressed outrage at the way the referee handled his duties. "This referee cannot be assigned for such important international games, he is simply not qualified." The Arab commentator said.

**Complaint to FIFA**

Mr. Mohamed Al-Qadhi has also sent an official letter of protest on behalf of the Yemeni Football Federation to FIFA complaining about the low standard of refereeing by Uzbek referee Armtov during Yemen's match with Portugal. The complaint concentrated on the unjust decision of the referee to order the repeat of the penalty kick three times until the player missed the third time. Al-Qadhi also expressed outrage at the decision of sending the team's main player Akram Al-Sulwi out with a red card.



Yemen U17 team

**How it happened**

The Yemeni team's captain Abdo Al-Idreesi said that the team was the better in all standards during the first half of the match, which ended 2:0 in its favor. But during the second half, the team witnessed decline in performance due to overconfidence and self-esteem. "Portuguese players had taken advantage of this and scored twice. We did feel the danger and tried to absorb Portuguese players' excitement, but we couldn't and we lost the game," he said.

**Yemen: tournament's surprise**

However, the 'Helsinki' daily newspaper reported that Yemen was seen as the surprise of the tournament and its loss to Portugal was unjust, which is also Europe's champion. "The Yemenis have troubled the Portuguese by their distinguished performance. The Yemeni team was a puzzle for all,

but the match answered many questions and showed that the team does indeed deserve respect and should not be taken easily," the paper said. The paper also noted the bad refereeing that resulted in repeating the penalty kick three times as the justifications given by the referee were invalid. "It is the first time that such a decision is taken," the paper added.

**There is still an opportunity**

Many believe that the tie between Cameroon and Brazil gives Yemen a chance to qualify into the next round provided that it does well in the upcoming matches. Minister of Youth and Sports Abdulrahman Al-Akwa expressed his appreciation for the team's great performance and stressed that he still has faith in that the team would be able to make a comeback and become the greatest surprise in the tournament if it keeps its spirit high.

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<b>Aden</b>	Hi 37 Lo 24	Hi 37 Lo 26	Hi 38 Lo 27	Hi 37 Lo 26	Hi 37 Lo 26	Hi 35 Lo 25	Hi 36 Lo 25

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JIM DAVIS 8-17

**THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY**

**BY Eugenia**

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
Discuss your future goals with someone you feel can help you move in a more positive direction. You are ready to make the leap from one position to another and will experience the pleasure of advancement and stability shortly.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
You may be emotional regarding your personal life today. Get involved in a cultural event. The contributions you make will be worth your while.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**  
Whatever you have done in the past that was secretive will probably surface today. Accept the changes that occur. Consequences may develop if you continue to be in denial.

**Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**  
Past partners may make a point of getting in touch with you. Get out and mingle. Volunteer work will take your mind off your own problems.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**  
If you don't pay attention to what it is you are supposed to be doing, you will be lost when it comes to getting things done. Focus on what you set out to do. Your future may depend on it.

**Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**  
Travel and communication should be in the works if it will help you discover what you need to know. You don't have to reveal personal information to find out something secretive about someone else.

**Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**  
Focus on moneymaking investments. If you spend too much time thinking and not enough time doing, you may end up losing out on something lucrative.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
Lots of changes have been taking place that will help you gain some security and stability in your life. A relationship appears to be getting very serious. Let your intentions be known before you proceed.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
Someone you do business with will come through with all the promises he or she offered. If you treat that person well you will have a loyal ally for future assistance.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
You can make a new friend or expand a friendship you already started, but don't overspend in an effort to impress this person. Make sure that any children in your life know how much you care.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**  
The more you can do outside your home, the better. You will not get along very well with the people you live with. You probably need a little time to yourself.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)**  
You may receive a package today. The information you come across will be more important than you think. Put things away in a safe place for future reference.



# Tropical storm erika lashes northern Mexico

By DEBORAH TEDFORD

MATAMOROS, Mexico (Reuters) - Gusting winds and pelting rains struck northern Mexico on Saturday as Tropical Storm Erika swept inland from the Gulf of Mexico.

The fast-moving storm struck near the mouth of the Rio Grande, which forms the U.S.-Mexico border, but officials in Matamoros and neighboring Brownsville, Texas said they got only a glancing blow from its 70 mile per hour winds.

"Damage has been at a minimum," said Matamoros health director Ernesto Chanes. "There has not been serious flooding in most of the city."

"Right now, we're looking pretty good," said Brownsville emergency operations director Jeff Johnston.

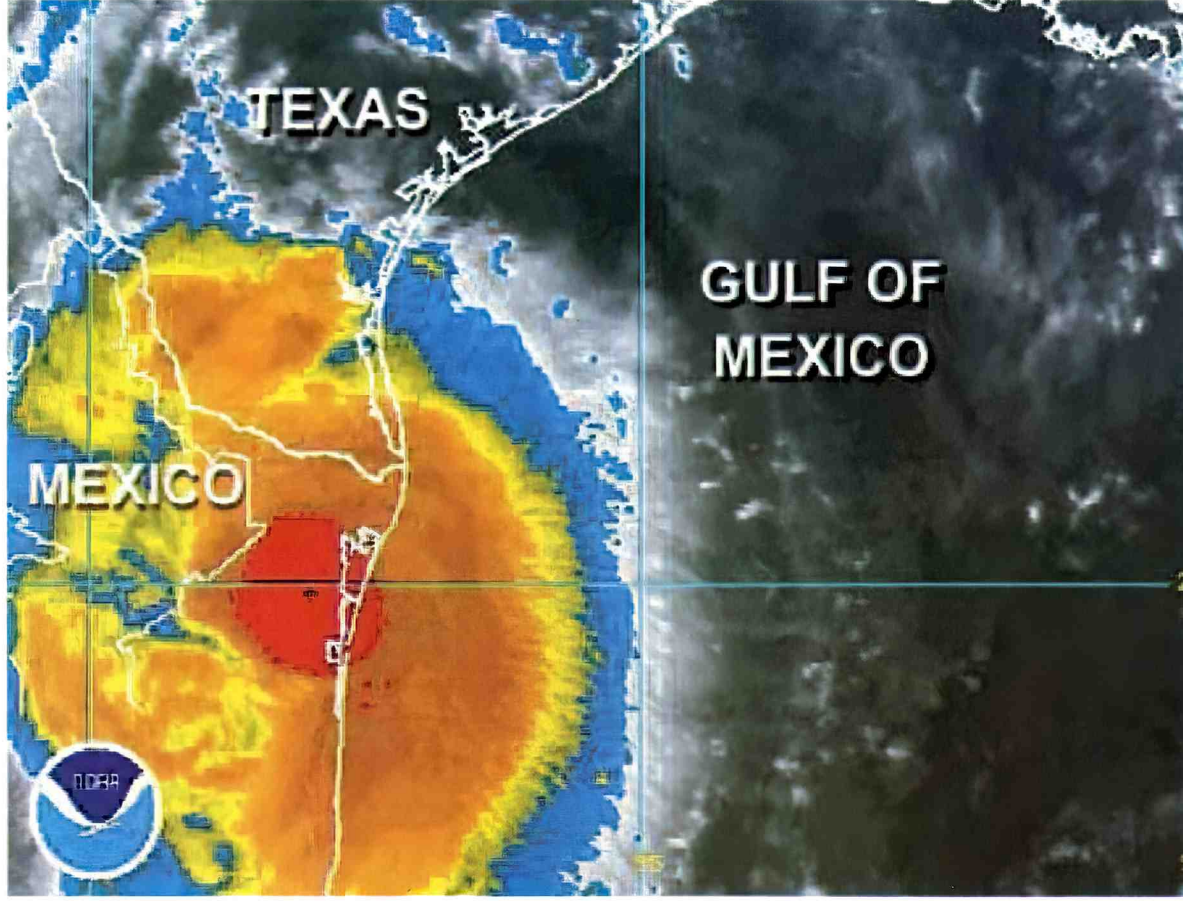
Rains up to six inches fell close to where Erika's center came ashore south of the two cities, bringing warnings of possible flooding.

High winds knocked out power in parts of both cities.

The streets of Matamoros were littered with broken tree branches and debris, but residents said Erika had been a breeze. "We saw nothing here, well, almost nothing. A little rain and a little wind, but everything is quiet," said Osiel Rubio, a clerk at a downtown convenience store.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said maximum sustained winds had not reached the 74 mph threshold required to become a hurricane and took down hurricane and tropical warnings along the Texas coast.

But it said hurricane warnings were still up from the Rio Grande south to the Mexican coastal town of La Pesca. As of 8 a.m. CDT, the center of the



Gusting winds and pelting rains struck northern Mexico on August 16, as Tropical Storm Erika swept inland from the Gulf of Mexico. The fast-moving storm, shown at 9:15 a.m., EDT, struck near the mouth of the Rio Grande, which forms the U.S.-Mexico border, but officials in Matamoros and neighboring Brownsville, Texas said they got only a glancing blow from its 70 mile per hour winds. Reuters

storm was overland in northeastern Mexico at latitude 25.3 north, longitude 97.6 west, or 45 miles south of Brownsville, the hurricane center said. Erika was moving west at 18 mph.

Tides 2.5 feet above normal had been reported in Port Isabel, Texas

near Brownsville, forecasters said. Storm shelters in Brownsville and Matamoros, which are across the Rio Grande from each other, sat almost empty for much of the night, but people streamed in as the rain and winds picked up, officials said. More than 2,000 had taken refuge in Matamoros,

Chanes said.

Erika swept so quickly across the offshore oil and gas fields in the Gulf of Mexico that it had minimal effect on operations, oil companies said.

They evacuated non-essential workers from offshore rigs and closed down small amounts of production.

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# Manners of begging

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**B**egging has begun to acquire disturbing dimensions in the life of our society. Going through the streets of our cities one can not fail to notice this phenomenon.

It is actually a very serious problem that needs prompt address.

Wherever you go you will find yourself at the mercy of those beggars who know well enough how to evoke a sense of pity in you and make you part with some money for charity. Wherever you go, you listen the oft-repeated phrase "Lillah" or "Hak Allah" which means money for God.

**Funny begging examples**

So many funny examples are found in

our day-to-day life such as, a man begging at a mosque in one of the mosques here in the capital was exposed as not being so destitute as he pretended when his mobile started ringing inopportunely on Friday.

The embarrassed man beat a quick retreat after worshippers heard his phone ring inside his bag.

There are only about five telephones, both land-lines and mobiles, for every 100 people in Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries

They sometimes even hold their hands firmly and refuse to release you before dispensing with "Hak Allah."

In return, they start liping prayers asking God to forgive you and give you much more in return. This is the time-tested model operating on securing your

sympathy.

**Begging as a profession**

What is worse is that those beggars are not bound to the streets as a public place to beg, rather they have begun to go to houses, schools, universities and other institutions. We aren't exaggerating if we say that they even disturb teachers and professors in their classes asking for help. The menace is actually indescribable.

As a matter of fact, many people who are very much concerned with this social problem think that begging has become a profession and a way of life for a good number of people.

We are to blame one important point that should be highlighted is that alms-givers play a very vital role in expanding this social disease in society. You might

ask how! When we give those beggars money, we push them forward to continue begging. That is, they become very idle and rely on this easy way for gaining money. Therefore the people themselves should stop giving money to those alms-seekers whatever embarrassments they may face. And in this way they will help a lot in tackling this social malaise.

**Solutions needed**

Therefore, many conscientious people think that it has become very urgent to stop or at least check this social malady for the sake of the health of society. Not only that but it plays a very significant role in distorting the civilized image of our society and makes other people astonished to see such a good number of beggars wherever they go.



Using children has become one of the most convincing means of profitable begging

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