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Yemeni Shiites condemn Najaf bombing

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
AND REUTERS

Sana'a, August 31 - Yemeni Shiites in Al-Haq Party have openly condemned the Najaf bombing which killed around a hundred people, including the top Iraqi Shiite leader, Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer Al-Hakim.

Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, the head of the political office of the Al-Haq Party, known for its Shiite background, told

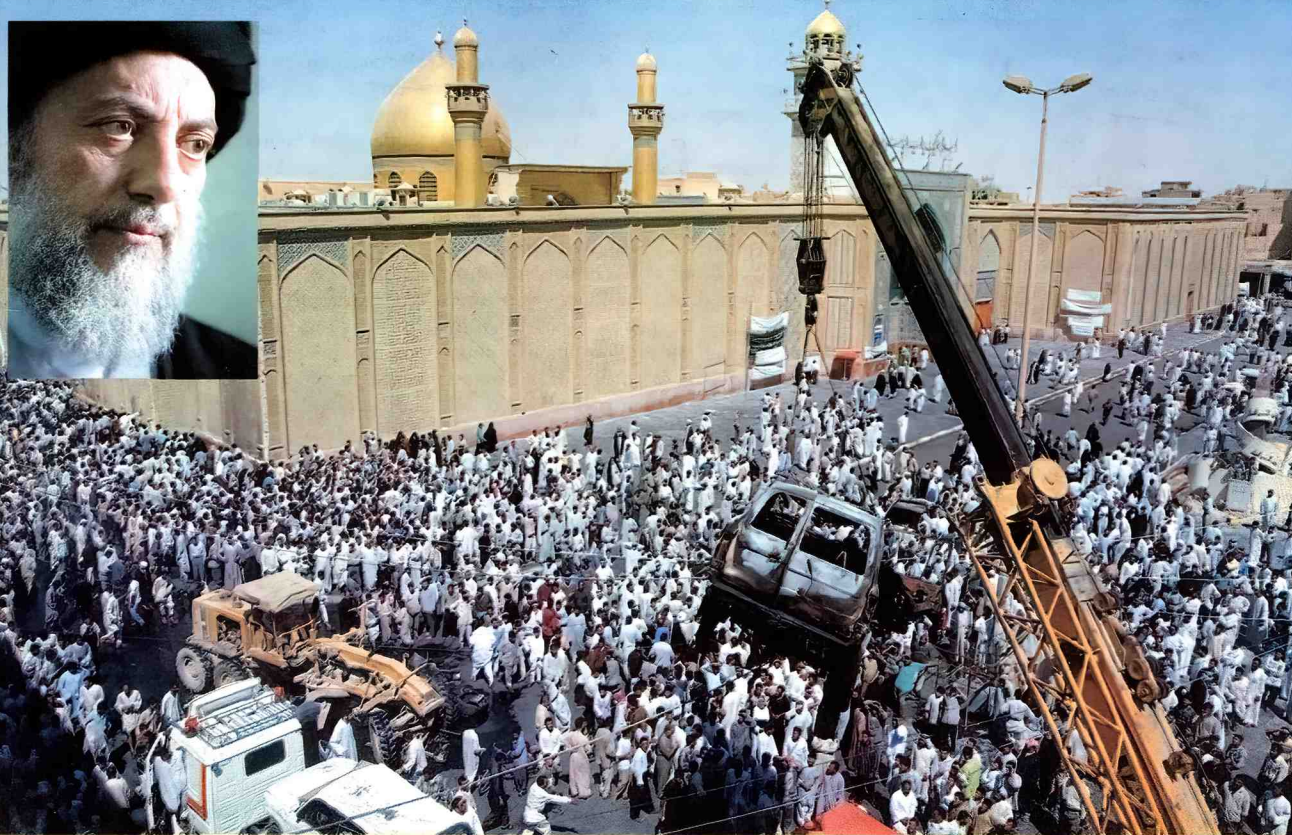
Yemen Times that the Shiite community in Yemen was shocked and deeply saddened by this development and expressed his sorrow and grief for the victims of the explosion.

"The Shiites community in Yemen and all citizens alike have expressed sadness for the loss of Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer Al-Hakim, and would like to convey our condolences to the people of Iraq -Shiites and Sunnis- for this tragedy, which I feel will not result in any internal conflicts among Iraqis," he said.

"It is clear that this explosion is of wicked intentions to destabilize Iraq and cause internal sectarian conflicts."

"What happened to Al-Hakim is a crime, not aiming at his life alone, but at the unity of the Iraqi people. There are powers that wish to disintegrate the Iraqi state to be weak and vulnerable so they can continue to impose their control on it. The occupation is only one of many means used to cause more instability in Iraqis."

Continued on page 3



A burned-out car is removed from the front of the main Mosque in Najaf, August 30, 2003. Up to 87 people including, a top Shi'ite leader were killed in a car bomb attack outside a mosque in the Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim holy city of Najaf just after prayers on Friday. REUTERS

Insert: Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim leader Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, seen in this file picture taken on May 26, was killed by a car bomb in the Iraqi city of Najaf on Friday, his nephew Mohsen Hakim, a top official for the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) based in Tehran, told Reuters. Picture taken in Najaf during interview with Reuters on May 26. REUTERS

Tribesmen dominate 30% of Parliament

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, August 30 - A recently published study on the present parliament structure revealed that tribesmen take over 30% of its 301 seats, something that shows how influential the tribe is still in the social and political life of the Yemeni society. Businessmen rate mounts to 26%, military guys to 8% while 13% is taken by what has been described as the "new-traditional elite", meaning the sons of tribal sheikhs and political leaders who have received some education but obtain their power of the social prestige and importance of their fathers and families.

Continued

Initiative to overhaul Arab situation

Sana'a, August 30 - After Yemeni diplomacy worked hard last week to get an Arab support for it, the Yemeni government announced Thursday its initiative to overhaul the Arab situation and develop an Arab joint work and solidarity. Letters presenting the initiative were delivered by Yemeni officials and ambassadors to Arab leaders. The initiative states that Arab Union should be established in place of the Arab League with a council to include in its membership heads-of-state to cope with the challenges facing these countries. It calls for respect of human rights principles, supporting democracy, refusing any

assumption of power by force and at the same time respecting the autonomy of all Arab states. It highlights the necessity of sorting out disputes between Arab states through diplomacy and peaceful ways, observing all treaties and UN charters, keeping peace and stability and fighting against terrorism. The initiative also proposes that ministerial councils for foreign and social affairs, defense, security, economy, development as well as parliaments and Shura councils should be set up with an equal representation of all Arab states.

Continued on page 3

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34 Islamic fundamentalists freed

Sanaa, August 30 - Thirty four detained Islamic fundamentalists who were suspected of having links to al-Qaeda organizations or those who were involved in Jihad in Afghanistan have been freed by the Yemeni security authorities after they supposedly expressed regret for their radical past, said the 26 September weekly, the mouthpiece of the Yemen's Armed Forces.

The source said that the release decision was taken after the detainees had

committed themselves to discard extremist ideas and start a new life of tolerance and balanced religious practice.

Negotiations are still underway in order to release the other detainees, who are still being convinced to abandon extremist ideas.

On the other hand, Mohammed Ali al-Zaidi, who is suspected of having links to al-Qaeda organization, has returned from Syria after medication. However, his legs remain paralyzed

after he was shot in his spine six months ago.

Sources told the Yemen Times that Abu Asem, a key al-Qaeda mastermind, who is still at large, might have moved from Mareb to Abyan.

The source ruled out the possibility that Abu Asem participated in terrorist acts launched by the Hattat terror group more than a month ago due to his leg disability caused to him in a fight in Bosnia and Herzegovina against the Serbs many years ago.

In memory of the founding of the first Mosque in Yemen:

Yemenis perform devotional journey

By SALAH SALEH AHMED
YEMEN TIMES STAFF, TAIZ

Taiz, August 30 - The inaugural ceremony of the scientific religious symposium was held at al-Saeed Cultural Foundation, a Taiz-based institution to commemorate the month of Rajam, in which the first mosque in Yemen, al-Janad Mosque was established in 627 AD (sixth Hijria) by Moad Bin Jabal who was the special envoy sent by the Prophet Mohammed to Yemen to spread Islam throughout the Arabian land.

The symposium was entitled, "Nations' Need to Rearrange the Fatherly Methodology in Education", which is parallel to the modern educational methodology.

The symposium was organized by the Cultural Center Studies and Heritage Services affiliated to the Islamic Education Unions.

The symposium was held under the motto "Towards Tackling Extremism and Violence and working together under the fatherly methodology in Education impartiality."

Mr. Hamoud Abbas, the Minister of Guidance and Endowment said that the event comes in memory of the glorious time when Islam started in Yemen and its love started evolving in



our ancestors' hearts for the first time.

On his part, Abu Bakr al-Mashhour, the Instructor in the Islamic Education Unions stressed on the importance of such religious occasions.

Speeches were delivered by prominent religious scholars including Sheikh Omer Bin Hafeedh, the Dean of al-Mustafa House in Tareem and Sheikh Salem Bin Omer al-Jailani, the Tareem Union Supervisor along with the Deputy Minister of Guidance and Endowment and Sheikh Salem al-Shateri.

Mr. Abbas emphasized to the Yemen Times the significance of the

modern educational methodology in the lives of Yemeni youths. "Such religious schools can fill the gaps lived by our youths, who should be educated properly on Islamic principles that enhance national unity and disseminate the values of forgiveness and fraternity among them based on good morals," he said.

The first day of Rajab is a memorable day for most Yemenis. On this day most of our ancestors embraced Islam. Then al-Janad Mosque was established by Moad Bin Jabal who, on the first Friday of Rajab, prayed in it. Yemenis in different parts of Yemen are very keen to celebrate this occasion. However, the celebration gains special importance at Al-Janad Mosque itself.

People of both genders go to perform prayers, listen to sermon discourses given by preachers, who explain the virtues of Islam and praise the Prophet.

These sermons also talk about the pious role of our grandfathers in embracing Islam, and making us all Muslims.

Yemenis celebrating this occasion also carry all their required food, clothes, etc. to stay in the mosque for the whole night of Thursday to pray and praise God for everything bestowed upon them, including the sending of Moad bin Jabal, the Prophet's first messenger to Yemen.

Seiyun to host 2003 Science Conference

By ABDUH M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, August 31 - Yemeni Scientific Research Foundation (YSRF), is expected to hold the 2003 Science Conference in Seiyun on October 11-13, 2003.

Working papers on various branches of science are to be discussed during the conference such as, medicine, agriculture, biology, geology, chemistry, engineering and energy sources, environmental and marine sciences, mathematics and computer science, physics and meteorology.

Other scientific activities are scheduled to be conducted during the conference including a training workshop for

scientific news editors of Yemeni magazines and newspapers.

Around 20 participants representing different local papers and magazines are to take part in the training course.

Mr. Richard Stone, the trainer and the European Science Magazine editor is to train participating journalists.

Dr. Mahfoud S. Abdullah, the Secretary-General of the conference confirmed that the training course would greatly contribute in dealing with problems in scientific reporting and news coverage, adding that such training courses will be of great significance to promote the overall efficiency and capabilities of those editors in scientific news coverage and reporting.

Efforts to end phone call theft

Sanaa, August 30 - The Ministry of Telecommunications disclosed last week a large-scale operation to stop all illegal international phone calls originating from Yemen.

Engineer Kamal Al-Gabri, the General Manger of the Yemen's wired and wireless telecommunications cooperation stressed that Yemen is indeed losing tremendously because of international phone call theft. He estimated the loss at millions of US dollars monthly.

He added that the matter is a threat that touches the national security of the country and those who practice phone call theft benefit so little compared to the great losses caused to the national economy in lost credit.

Al-Gabri added that a number of illegal networks making such illegal calls through the Internet or small satellite connections were discovered in Sana'a City. He said that their equipment has been confiscated and they will be referred to courts for trial.

He concluded his statement by stressing that "anyone caught red-handed while using this illegal service will be taken to court. Many measures were taken in cooperation with GSM providers to remove any barriers or restrictions the general authority of telecommunications had faced in the past in order to observe and identify illegal calls, and those who carry them out."

Indonesian vice-president to visit Yemen

Sana'a- Indonesian vice-president Hamzah Haz is scheduled to visit Yemen in mid September, al-Thawra daily of Yemen mentioned Saturday. The newspaper added that the Indonesian leader's visit is in return to a visit to Indonesia by Yemen's vice-

president Abdu Rabou Mansour Hadi last year. The Indonesian vice-president would have talks with Yemeni officials on enhancing economic partnership and calling Indonesia capitals for investment in Yemen, in addition to discussing issues of common interest.

Saudi businessman asks president to rescue his investment

Ibb, August 30 - An investor based in Saudi Arabia has said in a letter addressed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh last week that he lost YR 20 million while trying to invest in Yemen. In his letter, Ahmed Rajeh Mohammed Hussein said that he bought a piece of land in Ibb in the early 1990s, but after he started construction, his land was taken from him by two Yemeni men, with the support of military and police officers.

"After you called upon investors to

come to Yemen and after you said you would encourage them to invest by carrying out necessary measures, we decided to start our investment in Yemen and bought a piece of land to build a hotel in the city of Ibb. We announced a bid and after paying 40% of the cost of construction, we were approached by two men who stopped construction using soldiers and policemen... I plead to you to protect my investment so I can continue building the project, which has been running in loss of YR 20 million

Readers' Voice

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

How do you feel will the other Arab rulers receive Yemen's latest initiative?

- As usual, they would neglect it.
- It would only be taken for discussion, but no serious consideration
- It will be discussed thoroughly, and efforts will be made to implement it
- It will be adopted instantly

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think that the government should meet the Iraqi governing council?

- Yes, they should meet and recognize them as the governing body of Iraq. **53%**
- No, they should not meet them at all, and never recognize them as representatives of Iraq. **24%**
- Yes, they should meet them, but not recognize them as official representatives of Iraq. **23%**

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Family Health Project inaugurated

Family Health Project held in Ibb governorate a 6-day workshop on Exchange of Experience and Monitoring and Evaluation, M&E, beginning on August 30.

The discusses topics on the presentation of objectives and content exchange of experiences, basic concepts and considerations, systematic approach to M&E; procedures and tools and how to conduct meetings.

The workshop also centers on the systematic approach and how to develop checking lists and forms, preparation for statistics training for TSTs and report writing.

During the concluding activities of the workshop, participants are to be fully informed on the general review and evaluation.

Mr. Saleh al-Badani, the Family Health Project Manager told the Yemen Times that around 28 trainees were taking part in the workshop. "The workshop aims basically at exchanging experiences and making use of implementing activities, along with previous training course implemented during the previous two years," Mr. al-Badani said.

Continued from page 1

Shiites condemn Najaf bombing

Who is responsible?

About who he believes is responsible for this attack, Al-Khaiwani says, "The US-UK led occupation is mainly responsible for this crime because they prevented the Shiites from protecting their leaders and holy sites."

"This has not been the first killing of such a prominent Shiite leader. Two Shiite leaders have also been killed, and a third targeted, which indicates a systematic assault against Iraq's Shiites, which is the largest group in the country."

"Americans and enemies of Iraq are the only beneficiaries from this attack, and Al-Hakim was among the balanced scholars who called for the unity of Iraq, and who called for peaceful co-existence with all other sects."

On the possibility of outbreak of internal violence in Iraq, Al-Khaiwani said, "Shiite scholars have always taken wise decisions and I believe would not take any hasty decisions. They are aware that the plans to cause internal conflicts are there and will continue, and hence will not serve those plans."

"I believe that our Iraqi brothers will not fall prey to this plan and would maintain solidarity to resist occupation which has so far caused tremendous damage to the Iraqi people, Shiites, Sunnis, and from all other sects."

Occupiers blamed

Even though coalition forces were blamed heavily by the Yemeni scholars, leading Shiites and Iraqi political figures were quick to blame supporters of ousted President Saddam Hussein for the assassination of Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim.

Some blamed America for failing to provide security and stability in post-

occupation Iraq.

Meanwhile, Iran, which hosted al-Hakim in exile for more than two decades before his May 10 return to Iraq, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei condemned this killing of the slain cleric and praised his work and said that the attack only served "the aims of the arrogant United States and Zionists".

Iraq mourns

Iraqi is mourned on Saturday the slaying of a leading Shiite Muslim cleric and scores of his followers in a car bomb attack which dealt a major blow to U.S. efforts to pacify postwar Iraq.

As the country began three days of national mourning for the victims of the blast in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, weeping relatives gathered to collect the bodies of loved ones from the mortuary and carried coffins through the streets.

The bomb went off close to the Imam Ali mosque just as Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, the most prominent Shiite leader to back cooperation with the U.S.-led occupying authorities, was leaving the building after Friday prayers.

The city's chief pathologist said the death toll from the carnage in the area around the mosque stood at 87, with more than 200 people wounded.

"This is the greatest crime ever against the Muslims in this holiest place," said Sheikh Ali Jabbar, a cleric at the mosque.

In central Baghdad, more than 2,000 Shiites marched to lament Hakim's killing. The bombing was the deadliest attack in Iraq since the official end of major combat in the war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

Tribesmen 30% of Parliament

This shows that the bond and the cozy marriage between the state and the tribe is still very strong, remaining as a major obstacle to the civilization and development of Yemen.

The study which was published in a book titled as "Democratic Transition in Yemen: Challenge and Response" by the Yemeni Institute for Democratic Development said that the rest 23% is distributed among employees (12%), academicians (4%) and holders of other professions (7%).

The ruling General People's Congress (GPC) party headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh won 229 seats with a percentage of 76.9%. The study points out the reasons behind this overwhelming victory for the ruling party to the presence of the tribe in the governorates like Shabwa, al-Jawf, Hajjah, and al-Mahweet. The GPC also got half of the seats of Saddam while the rest was taken by the independent candidates. Despite the fact that the rule of the tribe is not there in the governorate of Hodeidah, the GPC won the seats of it due to the fact that it is ruled by influential sheikhs. The ruling party failed to achieve remarkable result in the most civilized governorates as, according to the study, it did not succeed in using the civil work means in addressing the people, winning their interest. Most of the people in such governorates are youngsters, intellectuals and other educated people whom the opposition, mainly the Islah party, could address properly like what happened in the capital where the Islah scored over half of the constituencies. The study argues that the GPC won a number of the votes in the urban and civilized provinces as it depended on the power of the state and the influence of some social dignitaries and government officials in manipulating the voters. This puts the ruling party in a fix as it depends on the power of

tribe in tribal areas and the state power in others as well as the person of Ali Abdullah Saleh as a president of the party. However, the opposition bets on the role of civil society organizations and development of their work among the public life.

The study has shown that 168 MPS are new comers while 62 join it for the second time and 71 others for the third time. The GPC has 116 new faces, 51 for the second time, and 62 for the third time. The Islah has 32 new comers, 9 for second time and 5 for third time. The socialist has 7 new faces as it boycotted the 1997 election. A comparison between the two sides show that the opposition has tended to present new faces while the ruling party maintained its old candidates and in some cases it presented new faces either because of the death of the old ones or for growing old, or they insisted to present their sons or any of their relatives to replace them.

With respect to the opposition parties, the study showed that these parties won the constituencies where they had coordination while the Islah could win 22 seats even with the competition of other opposition candidates.

Despite these drawbacks, the study said that the 2003 parliamentary election revealed that there is a growing electoral sense as shown in the increase of the number of voters and women participation. However, this does not show paralleled democratic consciousness. This gap entails that all political parties should work hard to increase the democratic sensibility among the people.

It is cynical that while the political regime is presenting proposal to reform the critical Arab situation, it still depends mainly on the power of the tribe to control and parliament and country at large.

Initiative to overhaul Arab situation

It also includes other goals like integration of Arab states under a single economic market, continuing of economic reforms and promoting development projects in these countries.

The initiative calls for the formation of pan-Arab economic council including Arab fiscal fund and Arab justice court. It also suggests that seven member states would take the responsibility of drafting a Constitution of the union and that the voting system of the union should not be based on a consensus manner only once a new member state is accepted to join the union, otherwise it can be based on the importance of the issue.

This initiative of Yemen has not been received well by Arab leaders and did not receive due media reporting as Yemen anticipated. In Yemen, people

were not giving any care for it as they looked at it in a cynical manner. People in Yemen believe the government and political system should busy itself with getting solutions for the great economic challenges facing the country. "They could not maintain the streets of the capital which sink whenever there is rain, so how can they propose to reform the situations of the fragmentary Arab states and leaders?," a street walker observed sardonically.

Other political observers commented on the proposed initiative by saying that the political regime is facing many problems inside and this is why it is trying to escape, looking for a regional role. They believe Yemen should at this time focus on sorting out its own problems and then think of problems and disputes of Arab.

Cooperation Agreements with Dhafar

Sana'a, August 30 - Headed by Mr. Abdulqadir Ali Hilal Governor of Hadramout, the Hadramout delegation's visit to Oman was concluded successfully last week by signing a joint memo for both Hadramout and Dhafar chambers of commerce in economic, commercial, investment, cultural and scientific fields plus other common projects between the two governorates.

The memo included points of agreement on facilitating the exchange of goods and products of national origin across land borders in order to enhance trade movement between the two countries and to establish joint projects.

It is believed that this trip was quite successful and would contribute to training and qualifying Yemeni cadres in fishery, marine and other fields which Oman has good experience in.

It was also visible that Oman had a future vision for its economy until year 2020 centered around shifting

from governmental spending or oil revenues and incoming labor to a more stable and qualified source through training and creating local qualifications among the Omani people.

In order to bring about a variety of income sources and not to be dependent on oil alone, Oman plans to carry on privatization strategies and human resources development. Looking at the Omani exports it is seen that 77% are of crude oil, 3% of refined oil, 4% of natural gas, 5% other non petroleum sectors and 11% from re-exporting.

It is also worth mentioning that Oman alone has 6 industrial areas, while Yemen has not been able to make a technical / economic feasibility study not for industrial areas mentioned in the council of minister's decree no. 138 for year 1997 and 1999 and 2002, but even for just one industrial area of those mentioned in the decree in either Hodeidah, Hadramout or the Aden, Lahj, Abyan triangle.

Sheraton renovation in full swing

Sana'a - The Sheraton Sana'a announced last week that it was gearing up to complete phase 1 of its renovation by the fourth quarter of 2003.

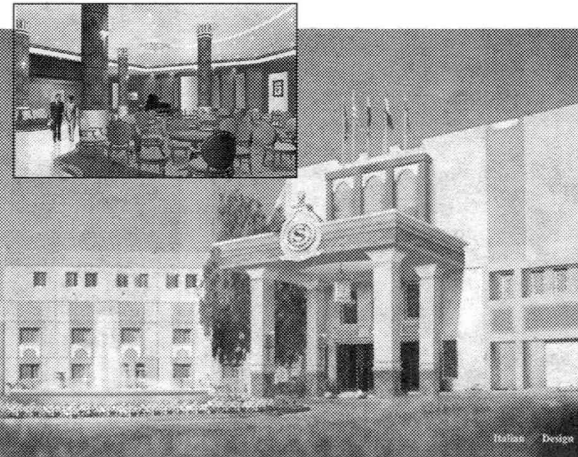
"Once this phase is over the hotel will have a brand new facade with easier access, extended lobby with sit down check-in / check-out desks, new executive floors with executive lounge, additional executive and presidential suites, latest business center, an elegant new lobby lounge and extended shopping arcade. The hotel is fully operational during the renovation period and every effort has been made to minimize disturbance to guests," Mr. Saqib Anwar, Director of Sales and Marketing of the hotel said.

Another important aspect of the ongoing renovation is the installation of an advanced fire alarm and extinguishing system for the whole hotel as well as electronic key locks in all 270 rooms to ensure the safety and security of guests.

"In addition, brand new standby generators have been installed to ensure un-interrupted power supply and eco-friendly chillers have been put in place to improve the air-conditioning as well as to contribute to improving the environment," Anwar added.

The owner company of the hotel,

Arab Hotels Co. YSC is investing an amount of US\$ 3.6 million for this renovation phase and plans to invest more in the future.



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Apollo holds 2nd Syrian Solo exhibition

Sana'a, August 18—Preparation is now under way by Apollo Co. for International Exhibitions, in cooperation with the Syrian al-Salam Exhibitions Company, to open the 2nd Syrian Solo Show from September 1-12 at the Sana'a Expo Center. Around 25 Syrian companies are to take part in this show exhibiting products of stationery, perfumes, men and women wears, carpets, curtains, foodstuff products, and household appliances. The Marketing Manager of the Apollo Co. for International Exhibitions, Mr. Omar

Annehmi said that the Syrian show is the second of its kind held at the Sana'a Expo Center. "The show has come within a serious orientation performed by the governmental bodies of both countries together with the private sector for supporting the economic development process," Mr. Annehmi said. "This has been done with a view of reactivating the trade exchange among Arab countries in order to establish the Arab common market and to create a healthy competition atmosphere for the benefit of both countries," he noted.

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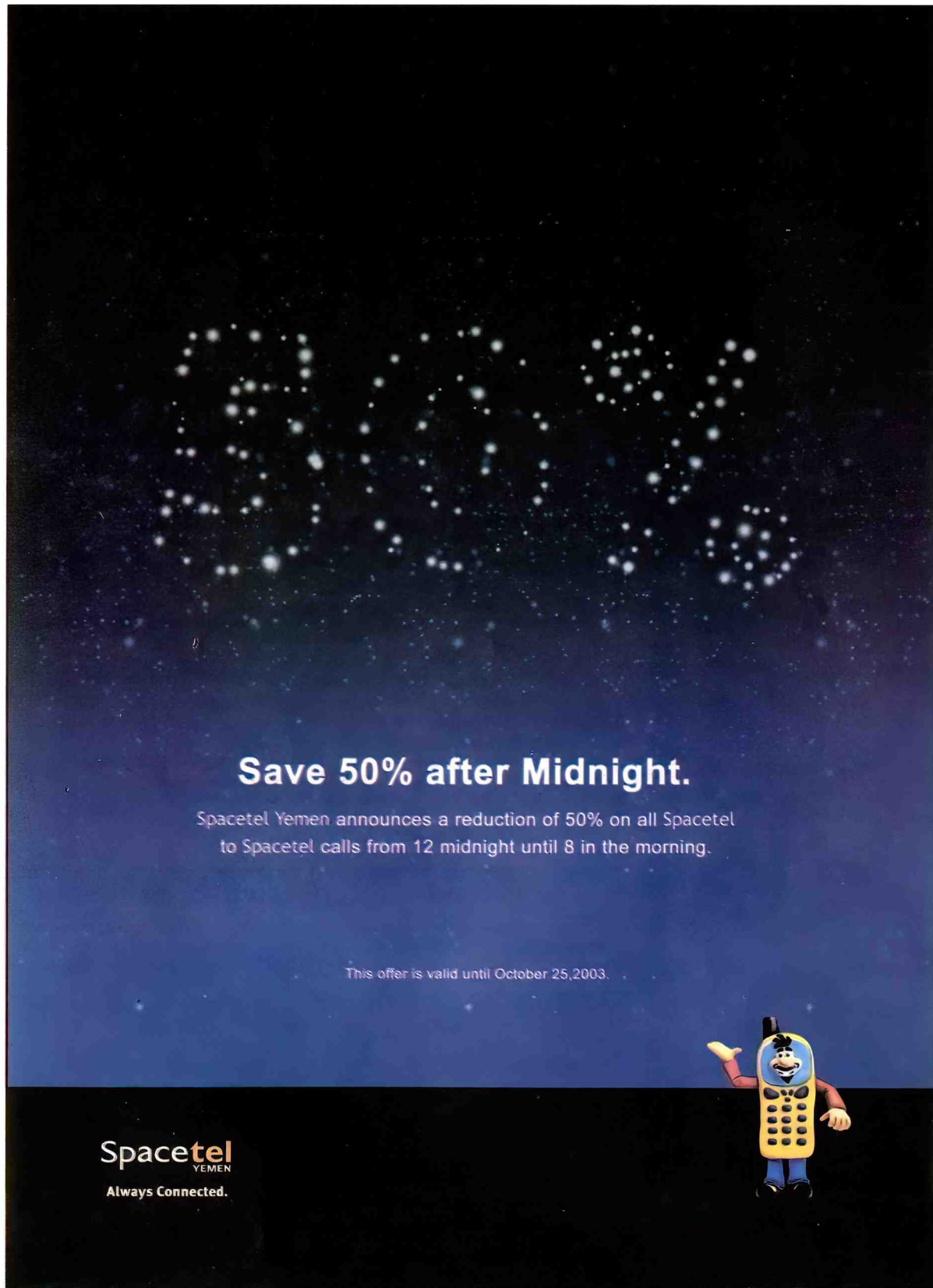
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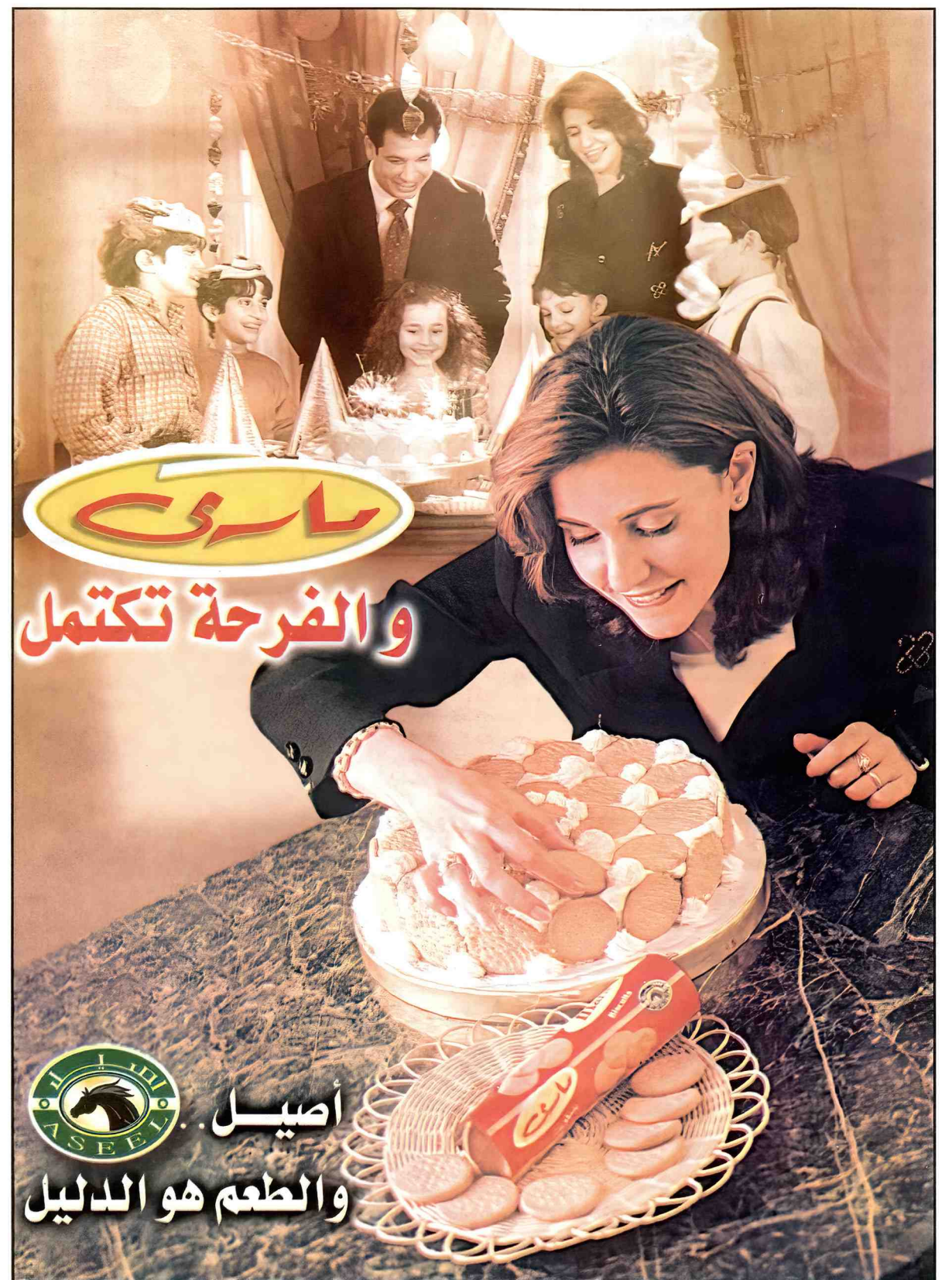


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Artist in UK brings pride to Yemen

A REVIEW BY VAL BURTON

This first solo Exhibition in the UK of a Yemeni artist has taken place on May 30 in London. Kamal Makrami had its 'invitation only' opening on Friday 30th May where a number of members of local business and art organisations were invited to a private viewing before the exhibition began for the general public.

The exhibition featured the artist's oil on canvas work which evokes a response to the form and colour of each piece. It was advertised as: - an exhibition which explores all human emotions through the eyes of an artist from Yemen. He said, "For me art is an expression of myself and enables me to have dialogue with the audience."

which was in stark contrast to the simplicity of the surroundings. A number of pieces were particularly popular: - including 'Whisper, Whisper' - a piece that looks like a stained glass window usually associated with religious dwellings but the content of which is more about the deceit of human nature; 'Free Spirit' - a depiction of someone throwing off the constraints of a life of oppression and 'Out of the Depths' - a particularly strong piece, the figure looking as if he is moulded from solid rock and trying to prise himself out. Everyone had their own view of each piece and all were challenged to think about life in general, themselves and others in a new way. To meet with an artist of such strong work and to talk with him about his

along with the emotions - works so well, made me feel warm and made me smile.'; 'What an enjoyable afternoon! Stirred up many emotion/feelings - thank you so much; a vibrant and unique display of images; Very interesting, vibrant and colourful work. I've enjoyed the work and hope to see more. Each piece tells something different and makes me really think. Thank you for sharing your work with me. The success of the exhibition can be seen through the comments of those who attended the fact that it was extended by two weeks and that a number of pieces were sold. I'm sure the artist will go from strength to strength in the UK and that this is the 1st of many solo exhibitions for him.'



The figures in his work are full of emotion, each piece saying something about the human state and leaves one to 'figure out' the meaning for oneself - it's uniqueness being that everyone will see something different. Colour and line are used dynamically to express shape and form producing figures in a contemporary style. His changing style reflects his own upheavals and changing lifestyle and everyone can empathize with the characters. Those who had the privilege of being at the opening were certainly challenged by the dynamic style and colour

own views and why his work has changed in the way that it has was also a privilege that few will forget. The pre-exhibition writing also said it was - A thought provoking and challenging exhibition. For those of us who were there - it certainly was. The exhibition was from Saturday May 31st - Saturday 14th June but owing to the popularity of the artist it was extended a further two weeks during which time he held a drawing workshop for a local training group. Comments included - 'Love the colours



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Three detained over Iraq bombing - U.S. forces

NAJAF, Iraq, Aug 30 (Reuters) - U.S. forces and Iraqi police have detained three people in connection with the car bomb attack that killed a top Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim cleric and scores of followers, a senior U.S. military officer said on Saturday.

Immediately after Friday's bombing in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, local people turned over to U.S. troops two people they believed looked like outsiders, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Woodbridge told Reuters.

The two had indicated they were from the southern city of Basra and had been visiting the grave of a relative, he said.

Woodbridge said Iraqi police had also detained a suspect who would be handed over to U.S. forces for questioning.

Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, a Shi'ite political and religious leader who headed the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), was among at least 87 Iraqis killed in the attack on Friday close to the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf.

Hakim, who had returned to Iraq from exile in Iran several weeks after U.S.-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein on April 9, was the most prominent Shi'ite leader to back cooperation with the U.S.-led occupation authorities.



Shi'ite Moslems demonstrate outside of the main mosque in Najaf, August 30. Up 80 people including a top Shi'ite leader were killed in a car bomb attack outside a mosque in the Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim holy city of Najaf just after prayers on Friday. REUTERS

EU says Iran needs more nuke checks for good ties

TEHRAN, Aug 30 (Reuters) - European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana urged Iran on Saturday to sign up for tougher inspections of its nuclear programme to maintain good relations with the 15-nation bloc.

Iran is under mounting pressure to sign the so-called Additional Protocol and allow short-notice inspections of its facilities, which the United States says Tehran is using to develop nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charge.

The EU has pursued a policy of dialogue with Iran, including holding several rounds of talks on a possible trade pact. But EU officials have said Iranian agreement to enhanced inspections is a key demand for trade talks to progress.

"If you don't sign the Additional Protocol, it will be bad for you and second, bad for us," Solana told a news conference in Tehran with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi.

Asked what Iran would get in return for signing the protocol, Solana said: "The only thing you have to expect is we continue working as friends."

Iran said this week it was ready to start talks with the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to allow inspectors more access to its nuclear facilities, but Tehran also said it wanted some clarifications regarding its sovereignty, a reservation some analysts fear may cause delays.

Weapons-grade uranium
The IAEA said in a report obtained by Reuters on Tuesday that Iran had improved cooperation, but there were still questions about weapons-grade uranium found at a site in Iran.

"If that process of enrichment has taken place, this has nothing to do with a programme for peaceful use of nuclear fuel," Solana told reporters.

Kharrazi repeated Iran's stance that contaminated imported equipment was to blame for the enriched particles. He also said it should be left up to the IAEA, whose governors meet in early September to discuss the Iran report, to judge.

In July, the EU issued its strongest

warning so far to Iran about its nuclear programme and human rights and said it would review relations in September in the light of Iran's behaviour.

Under the proposed trade pact, Iran would have greater access to the EU, a key Iranian trading partner.

But the EU has said it wants to see progress on the nuclear issue as well as human rights, Iran's attitude to the Middle East peace process and cooperation in the fight against terrorism for progress. Solana said he raised all four issues.

An EU official told Reuters no date would be set for a new round of talks until there was progress on these issues.

Iran says its nuclear programme is civilian. It says it needs nuclear power to meeting booming electricity demand and save its massive oil and gas reserves for exports.

Iran is the first stop on Solana's regional tour that will also take him to Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, where he will focus on the battered Middle East peace "road map".

Saudi denies militants cross border into Iraq

DUBAI, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's interior minister has rejected U.S. accusations that militants were slipping across the kingdom's borders with Iraq to attack U.S. troops there.

But Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz told the London-based Arabic-language al-Hayat newspaper that any Saudi who might be in Iraq must have entered through a third country.

"These allegations are absolutely

baseless and we have no information about any Saudi crossing from our borders into Iraq," Prince Nayef said in an interview published on Saturday.

"We will never allow this to happen and would not be lax with any Saudi who tries to interfere in Iraq's affairs."

"If Saudis did enter Iraq, then they could not have done so through the kingdom's borders. They are likely to have travelled to a third country and

then moved to Iraq as a last destination."

U.S. soldiers have faced daily guerrilla ambushes since the end of the war that ousted Saddam Hussein in April and U.S. officials have long suspected that some militants have come through Iraq and Syria.

Last week, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said in an interview that some of the people attacking U.S. forces in Iraq are coming into the country from Saudi Arabia as well as Iran and Syria.

Relations between long-time allies Riyadh and Washington have hit their lowest ebb after the September 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. cities, which Washington blamed on Saudi-born Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network.

The oil-rich kingdom, which has witnessed a spate of attacks linked to al-Qaeda, has cracked down on Muslim militants since a May suicide bombing in Riyadh killed 35 people, mainly foreigners.

Israeli missiles kill two Hamas militants in Gaza

GAZA, Aug 30 (Reuters) - An Israeli helicopter gunship fired several missiles at a Palestinian car driving through a refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing two Hamas militants, Palestinian security officials said.

Palestinian security officials said senior Hamas militant Abdullah Aqel, leader of the Islamic group's military Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades in central Gaza, was killed in the attack along with brigade member Farid Mayet.

Witnesses and security officials said nine bystanders were wounded in the missile raid that caused the car to burst up in flames and damaged several vehicles nearby.

Islamic militants renounced a seven-week-old truce a week after Israel killed Hamas's second-ranking political leader, Ismail Abu Shanab, by destroying his car with a missile. That followed a suicide bombing that killed 21 people in Jerusalem.

Seven other militants have been killed in Israeli missile strikes since the bus bombing and Hamas leaders have told militants to lay low to evade



A Palestinian boy chants anti-Israel slogans from inside a damaged car after the car was hit by missiles fired from Israeli helicopters in Gaza Strip August 30. Israeli helicopter gunship fired several missiles at a Palestinian car driving through a refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on Saturday, killing two Hamas militants, Palestinian security officials said. REUTERS

helicopter attack. Three Palestinian

On Friday, Palestinian gunmen shot dead a Jewish settler and wounded his pregnant wife in a West Bank roadside ambush that followed

Israel's killing on Thursday of a militant in Gaza.

The violence has battered a U.S.-backed peace "road map" which intends to end three years of violence and create a Palestinian state by 2005.

UN staff in Iraq pay last tribute to bomb victims



U.N. staff are led in prayer by a Christian pastor from the Chaldean church in front of the devastated former U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, the scene of a massive car bomb, during a memorial service on August 30. The bomb on August 19 killed 22 people, including the U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello. REUTERS

BAGHDAD, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Standing among the ruins of the of their devastated Baghdad headquarters, United Nations workers on Saturday paid a final tribute to 22 colleagues killed in a bomb attack last week.

About 150 sombre staff, some wearing the U.N.'s trademark blue caps, stood at the corner of the building blown away by the blast and to hear speeches and Muslim and Christian prayers.

"It's important that we do this here at the Canal Hotel," which housed the U.N.'s Iraq headquarters, said spokeswoman Veronique Taveau.

The event was the latest in a series of funeral and memorial services held across the world for those killed, among them the U.N.'s special envoy to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello.

"I wish to assure you and the people of Iraq that the United Nations remains engaged in Iraq, in full solidarity with the Iraqi people in this moment of need," said Ramiro Lopes da Silva, acting head of the U.N. mission.

Nine of those killed were Iraqis, and most attending the ceremony were local staff, while the rest came from Brazil, Britain, Canada, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Philippines, Spain and the United States.

The United Nations has reduced its expatriate staff in Baghdad from around 350 to about 120 since the attack on August 19.

"It's good to have the chance to remember the local people," said Tim Healing, a World Health Organisation worker at the ceremony. "There was a lot of publicity for Sergio de Mello, which of course was fine, but there were also a lot of ordinary workers who died."

The U.N. is operating out of tents and prefabricated buildings next to the Canal Hotel until new premises are ready which is expected to take a month.

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Zimbabwe votes in urban council elections

HARARE, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Zimbabweans began voting on Saturday in urban council elections in the face of a deep economic crisis with analysts saying President Robert Mugabe's ruling party looked like the underdog.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) has built a strong support base in cities and towns to emerge as the biggest threat to Mugabe, who has ruled Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980.

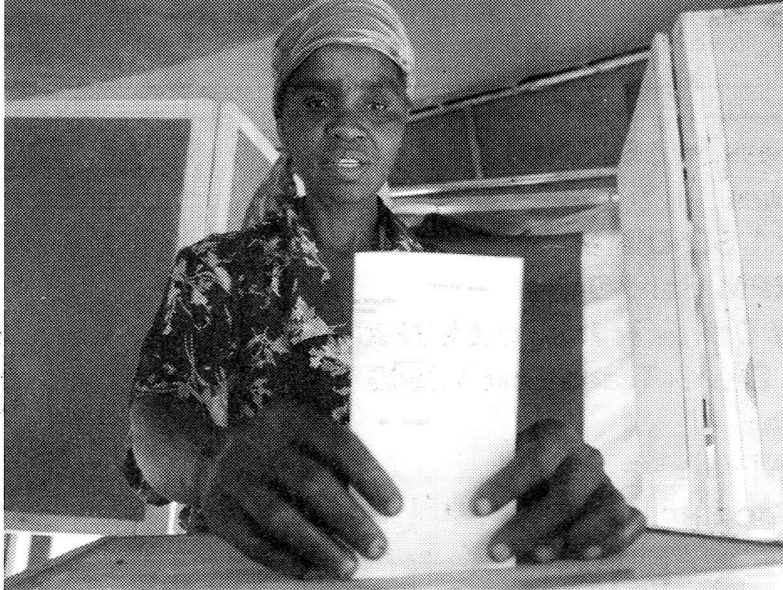
The two-day municipal polls are running concurrently with two parliamentary by-elections in the capital Harare and in Zimbabwe's northwestern rural Makonde district.

Opposition victory in the polls would expand the MDC's symbolic grip on major towns but the government has imposed central control of municipalities through the sweeping powers held by the minister of local government affairs.

Voters in central Harare trickled into polling centres in schools to cast their ballots in the by-elections. But the numbers were very small, nothing compared to the pay-day queues at banks around the capital, where cash is in short supply.

Polling officials said voting had begun peacefully, though slowly in 16 towns, where the MDC and Mugabe's ZANU-PF party are contesting some mayoral posts and 130 council seats.

"The elections have started off well. There are no reports of any problems so far," Electoral Supervisory Authority spokesman Thomas Bvuma



A Zimbabwean resident of the city of Chitungwiza, 25 Km's south of the capital Harare, casts her vote in local council elections August 30. Zimbabweans began voting on Saturday in urban council elections in the face of a deep economic crisis with analysts saying President Robert Mugabe's ruling party looked like the underdog. REUTERS

said. In the run-up to the polls, the MDC accused ZANU-PF of violence, intimidation and tampering with the vote register, saying it was using "its usual crude tactics" to try to win the elections. ZANU-PF dismissed the charges.

MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai has gone to court to challenge Mugabe's re-election as president last year, saying he used violence and rigging to win the poll, which the West also condemned as fraudulent. Mugabe says he won fairly.

Political analysts say ZANU-PF has

been running a low-key campaign, which appears designed to allow the government to play down any big opposition victories and suggests that it probably accepts the role of underdog in the polls.

Zimbabwe's major towns have suffered the brunt of a serious economic crisis which has brought severe fuel and banknote shortages and soaring inflation, now at about 400 percent.

ZANU-PF retains support in Zimbabwe's rural areas, where about 65 percent of the national population lives.

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Writing of the new version of the Transparency International Source Book in Arabic and for the Arab World

Transparency International (TI), the leading international anti-corruption and good governance organisation, and its National Chapters in the Middle East and North Africa are now seeking experts of high calibre who would be involved in the process of re-writing the existing chapters of TI's famous Source Book (SB). This new book would be adapted to the legal, socio-economical and political reality of the Arab World.

The overall objective is to produce a new source book in Arabic, which will be used by anti-corruption activists, civil society organisations, governments, the private sector and policy makers as a tool, helping them to implement reforms which would promote good governance and limit the spread of corruption in their country.

A translation in Arabic is already available and would be used as a basis for further work. This whole process will run for 18 months and bring together various anti-corruption experts from the Middle East and North Africa.

The writers of the new TI Source Book for the Arab World would be entrusted with the re-writing of one or more chapters of the existing Source Book. The Sanaa-based Forum for Civil Society and TI-S are now recruiting writers for the following chapters of the book:

- 1- An Independent Judicial System
- 2- Local Government
- 3- Laws to fight Corruption

TOR for above chapters at the end of this advertisement.

Qualifications:

- Perfect command of Arabic and excellent writing skills required.
- Working knowledge of French or English is a must.
- PhD not required but University Degree is a minimum. Work experience in a research centre would be advantageous.
- Working experience in the Middle East or North Africa, as well as active experience in anti-corruption practices or familiarity with TI's work, is a plus.

Timetable:

The first workshop would be held around mid-October 2003, the second around February 2004 and the third around July 2004. Publication of the book is expected in autumn 2004.

The writers are expected to provide their first draft ahead of the workshop dedicated to the chapter(s) they will be working on and their final draft two months after the workshop has taken place.

Remuneration:

The remuneration will be proportional to the number of chapters attributed to one given writer. The writing fee will be 1000 _ per chapter of the book.

Additional information:

The original Source Book (in English); a list of its chapters clustered into thematic workshops, as well as more info on the project can be found on TI's website: <http://www.transparency.org/arabicsb/index.html>.

Applications, deadline and inquiries:

Applications should be sent to TI's international secretariat in Berlin (Germany), preferably by email:

Transparency International
International Secretariat
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Fax: +49-30 3470 3912
Email: stassen@transparency.org

The deadline for applications is the 10th of September 2003.

For any inquiry, please contact Forum for Civil Society at 421482 fax 421484

Terms of Reference for the three chapters:

1- An Independent Judicial System

The re-writing of this chapter should talk about the judicial system in Yemen taking into consideration the adequacy and credibility of information and the significance of the conclusions reached by judges to the extent of independence of the judiciary system and its role in confronting corruption in Yemen. Moreover, this chapter should include the following topics and should clarify the legislative position and practical status thereof:

- 1- The level of independence and integrity of Yemeni judiciary and its role in creating honest, responsible and honest government. A judiciary that reviews government's and its officials' measures and decides whether such measures are in compliance with the constitution and laws. And how laws approved by the parliament or issued by the president are constitutional. Also the significance of independence of judiciary for judges, courts, and citizens rights.
- 2- The extent of implementation of judges to the rules of

the law, their neutrality, the possibilities of questioning and even dismissing them. The extent of subjectivity of their verdicts to contestation and appeal, which is entitled to question them and issue penalties. Does the judiciary system in Yemen allow a member of court board to have an independent opinion from other members?

- 3- To detect points of weakness of the Yemeni judiciary, the re-writing of this chapter should concentrate on the relation between corruption and the malfunction of the judiciary post, the performance of judges, and the role of each individual in the corruption process including the judges, lawyers, court staff, government, citizens, ..etc, indicating as well the process used by the government to control judges to its will such as appointments, promotions, privileges, budget, distribution of cases, caring for or negligence of courts, and appointment of judges for government-related cases.
- 4- The level of criticism directed to judges by the press for instance, the level of acceptance of judges to such criticism, the level of protection of Judges from slander and false accusation, comment on their performance, the effect of statements by groups or parties on cases seen by courts of law or on process of investigation. Does the Judiciary council or the Minister of Justice has a role in protection of judges from exaggerated criticism or destructive accusations?
- 5- Is there a periodic inspection on courts, performance of judges, administration, filing, case file keeping, monitoring of bosses over their staff. If there are corrupt lawyers, are there measures taken by the Bar against them?
- 6- The method of appointing, promotion and dismissal of judges is related to the independence of judiciary as well as to corruption, therefore, the re-writing of this chapter should take into consideration the criteria of appointing judges, the judiciary movement, and political impact of any resolutions issued to that respect.
- 7- General prosecution and its relation to the judiciary and executive authorities. Its role in protection and implementation of law and concerning the judicial verdicts that require consultation and reviewing.

2- Local Government

The re-writing of this chapter should aim to the system of local government or (local administration) in relation to combating corruption in Yemen and should pay utmost attention to the issues embedded in the following topics:

- 1- Population distribution on rural and urban levels and the role of local councils in increasing urbanization ratio (transforming rural centers into urban ones). Does the existing system allow the citizens to participate through

democratic process in the policies of administration that run local communities?

- 2- Is the local administration designed in a manner that ensures transparency in elections, and not allows practice of corruption? Does it allow correction and reformation starting from foundations? Does such system include transparency in decision making process and monitoring over the local councils? Does Local councils truly express decentralization system where decisions can be followed from lower to higher levels?
- 3- The following issues should be considered by the re-writing of this chapter in concern with local councils on governorate and district level:-
 - a. What hazards can corruption cause to democracy and the development of local council experience?
 - b. Private sector's role in these councils and their decisions.
 - c. Powers of local councils in questioning government officials, how transparent are the financial and administrative affairs of these councils. How public and announced are the meetings and decisions of such councils?

3- Laws to fight Corruption

The re-writing of this chapter should aim to all laws and regulations regarding combating corruption in Yemen and should pay utmost attention to the issues embedded in the following topics:

- 1- What the Yemeni constitution contains, or should contain, regarding combating corruption, and whether there are laws that allow, through its wording, to practice corruption?
- 2- There are several laws that may assist in combating corruption and penalize activities that can be described as acts of corruption; penal code, civil law, the law regarding formation of the Central Organization for Control and Audit, the law of prosecuting high level governmental positions, the law of tendering. Such laws require special attention.
- 3- Do legislatives and practices in Yemen include re-appointment of corrupt persons in public positions; allow them to run for elections, grant them immunity from questioning or investigation, or protection of confiscated illegal moneys?
- 4- It is clear that having penalties against the corrupt persons is not enough. Transparency and combating terrorism require laws to organize freedom of speech and expression, having access to information, and freedom of NGOs. The re-writing of this chapter should pay attention to this issue from all legal and practical aspects.

UK arrests three as security alert shuts port

LONDON, Aug 30 (Reuters) - British police have arrested three men under anti-terrorism laws after weapons were discovered in a car on a ferry at Dover port, police said on Saturday.

Police closed the busy port on England's south-east coast, Britain's main sea route to continental Europe, for seven hours after the discovery of the weapons, trapping thousands on ferries outside the harbour and causing traffic jams on roads leading to the town.

"Three men were arrested in connection with terrorism offences and are currently being held in custody at a police station in Kent," said a Kent police spokeswoman.

Police said they discovered "pro-

hibited weapons" in the car after an inspection of the ferry by an Army bomb disposal team. Police did not say where the ferry was coming from.

A police spokesman would not comment on what kind of weapons were found.

Customs officers stopped the car at around 7:20 p.m. on Friday evening and called the bomb disposal squad after discovering what they believed to be a "suspicious device".

An exclusion zone was set up around the car and the port closed.

The all clear was given at around 3 a.m. and waiting ferries were allowed to dock.

Traffic is now moving normally through the port, police said.

Germany may review Turkey arms exports ban - paper

BERLIN, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Germany's government may ease arms export restrictions that have stopped it supplying its NATO partner Turkey with battle tanks, Handelsblatt newspaper reported on Saturday, quoting Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

"In the past we ruled this out on the basis of the facts. When facts change, you have to re-evaluate the question according to the changed conditions,"

Fischer was quoted as saying in the article on Handelsblatt's Web site.

According to the newspaper, the arms exports ban could be reviewed if European Union leaders agreed next year to begin formal EU membership negotiations with Turkey.

However, it cited a backbench member of Fischer's Greens party as saying the concerns over Turkey's human rights record that led to the arms export

restrictions remained.

A German government spokesman told Reuters no change in policy was imminent. "There is no change in the government's position on this issue," he said.

Germany is trimming its heavy armour to make its armed forces more mobile. As part of the process it plans to mothball or sell about 2,000 Leopard 2 tanks. It has already sold some surplus

tanks to Poland and Finland.

Fischer's comments were published two days before Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan begins a three-day official visit to Germany, which is home to some two million Turks.

In two German newspaper interviews on Saturday, Erdogan reiterated Turkey's ambitions to join the EU as quickly as possible and urged German support.

Fire breaks out on Russian oil tanker on Volga

MOSCOW, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Firefighters battled to put out a fire on Saturday on board a tanker carrying 2,000 tonnes of oil on the Volga river in central Russia, river officials said.

The blaze broke out on the privately owned tanker shortly after midnight following an explosion which killed one crew member, a duty officer for the Transport Ministry's river department said.

"One member of the tanker's crew was blown off the vessel by the explo-

sion and was killed," the official said.

But he added that the tanker's load of light crude had not ignited and the fire on the surface of the tanker itself had now been localised.

"There is no threat of an explosion now. Traffic is travelling normally along the river. The load itself is not on fire," he said, adding that no oil was leaking into the river.

The tanker is located on the Volga near the town of Sizran, about 700 km (440 miles) east of Moscow.

Spain's Aznar to name Rajoy to succeed him- report

MADRID, Aug 30 (Reuters) - Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar will propose Deputy Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to succeed him as the ruling party's candidate in next year's general election, state television reported on Saturday.

Spokesmen for Aznar and the ruling centre-right Popular Party could not immediately be reached for comment

on the report on state television, which quoted sources close to the prime minister's office.

Aznar has long said he will not stand for a third term in general elections expected in March next year. He will propose a successor to meetings of the Popular Party's ruling bodies next Monday and Tuesday and they are expected to ratify his choice.

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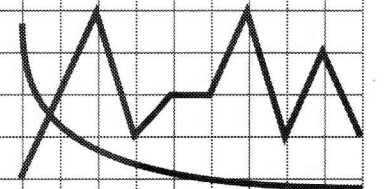
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YT Business



Investment partnership between Saudi, Yemeni businessmen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The 90-member Saudi businessmen delegation that visited Yemen last week has come out with positive results on conclusion of its discussion with Yemeni counterparts.

The two parties have agreed on setting up United Committee to consider possible opportunities for the establishment of investment partnership in vital areas.

During its stay the Saudi delegation visited Aden trade and tourist center, Aden Cisterns, meeting a number of merchants and businessmen their expressing admiration of investment privileges in Aden's free zone.

On its visit to the city of Taiz the Saudi delegation visited the biggest trade and industrial firms as well as many to rest utilities and companies for food industries.

The Saudi delegation

expressed admiration of tourist diversity, calling on both private and public sectors to invest in Yemeni tourism on order to surmount many of difficulties and financial challenges.

In the delegation's meeting with the minister of industry and trade Dr. Khaled Sheikh, bilateral relations, partnership and cooperation in vestment and inter-trade and solving problems and impediments facing the flow of trade between the two countries.

The Saudi businessmen had also praised development climate and investment environment in Yemen, a matter urging them towards the establishment of a partnership with Yemeni investors.

It is accepted that relationship between Saudi and Yemeni businessmen would see a bigger development in the coming period particularly in developing joint investment in the tourist sector.



Saudi businessmen on a recent visit to Aden

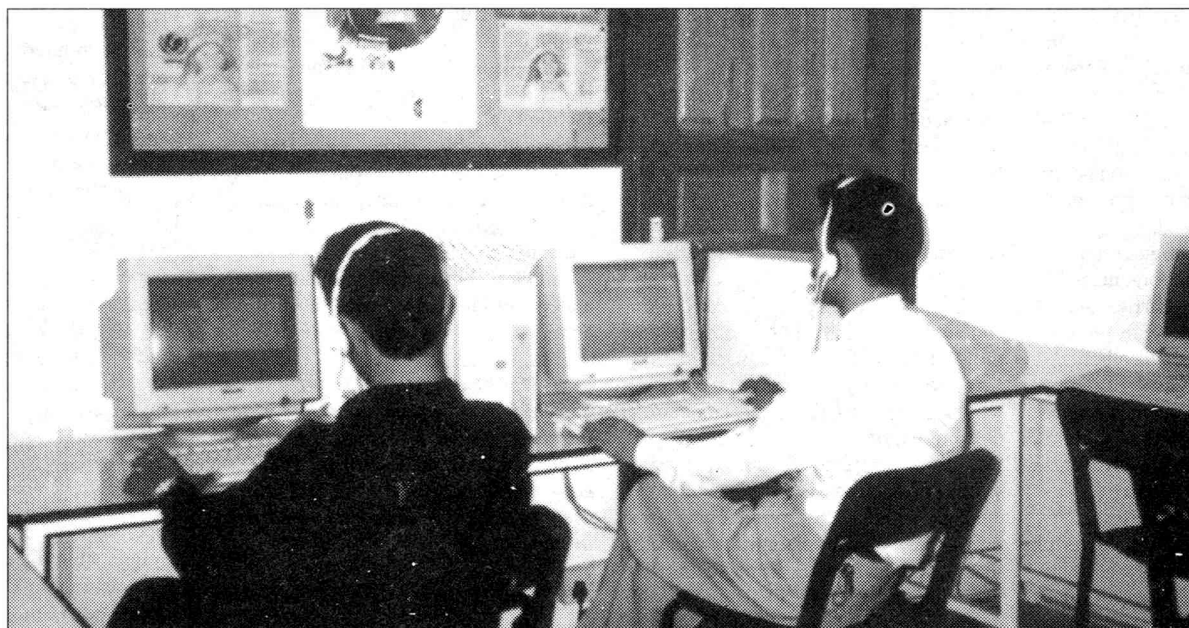
Project for electronic education, Beginning for an information society

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United States is to be funding a project for electronic education in Yemen that will include the establishment of computer and internet workshops in the capital Sana'a and a number of other governorates as a beginning for preparing an information society implemented by AMIDEAST office in its first phase in supplying workshops to schools in the capital and then in Aden.

The project would provide the school the opportunity for competition among them for obtaining computer workshops. Some schools would be chosen according to field criteria besides the participation of representatives from the ministries of education and communications as well as from the American embassy in Sana'a.

It is scheduled that the D.D.S. establishment from Washington to train teachers for working on the computer



workshops in order to render them into educational workshops and that is in implementation of the principle of Yemeni-American partnership.

According to the project and its goals there would be in future a twin-

ning operation between schools in Yemen and schools in the United States of America. The students would then be able to exchange expertise in addition to facilitating the process of communication between the students

in Yemeni schools. The project embodies the development and growth of the educational relations between Yemen and the United States that has become supporting higher education at universities.

The project of electronic education comes as complementary to the attention of the Yemeni government to disseminating the information technology in Yemen. The ministry of education would include the computer as part of the curricula in the secondary schools starting from next academic year.

The ministry of education has drawn up this plan in the core of its activity and therefore it has set up committees for authoring curricula in the computer subject and it is now appointing teachers for teaching this subject.

The project of electronic education would help consolidate the culture of technological awareness and positive uses of the means of the technology of communication and information in walks of life and economy and the state's national plans.

Yemen's vision on reforming Arab Order, Backs Arab economic integration, encourages private sector partnership

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen has given the economic question a special importance in its initiative dispatched to Arab leaders on the development of the Joint Arab Action and the establishment of an Arab Union to replace the Arab League.

The Yemeni vision has given prominence to Arab economic integration an introduction to political unification and he realisation of the goals of sustainable development. Yemen's perception of the whole issue also includes encouragement of the Arab private sector for laying the foundation for a genuine partnership among the member states of the new union.

Yemen has demanded the drawing up of policies and timetables leading to the establishment of an Arab free trade zone in the process of attaining the formation of Arab Common Market.

It has set up certain mechanisms for pushing forward the Arab economic relations summed up in:

- the establishment of tribunal body for settling disputes by arbitration and reconciliation,
- the creation of a fund for supporting and developing the union, qualification of Arab states for the realisation of

rapprochement in the field of economic and technical advancement,

- establishment of a bank for union development undertaking funding of integrating projects and joint investment for the achievement of the Arab common market,

- formation of a ministerial council for the ministers of finance, development and economy and trade bearing the name of the Economic Council. It is entrusted with drawing up plans and programs for creating a climate convenient for an integrated Arab economic action.

Thus the Yemeni initiative for reforming the Arab situation has taken into consideration the efforts for encouragement of international cooperation between the union member states and other economic groupings.

The Yemeni project has also proposed the necessity of raising the living standard of the people in the Arab countries and the coordination of joint efforts in the manner realizing the objectives of the monetary integration as one bloc with the purpose of keeping pace with international economic developments.

The Yemeni perception in the economic area is considered as achievable for increasing the volume of Arab cooperation and the establishment of a new economic grouping in the region for facing the current of globalization.

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Words of Wisdom



The role of ethics is central to establishing acceptable norms and relations among members of the community. Degeneration of values can only lead to more trouble. Even from an economic point of view, high morals are important. I can remember a time when many deals were done on the basis of a hand-shake or a person's word. These days, you cannot depend even on a notarized contract, unless you have the power to make it stick.

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



OUR OPINION

When journalists cry...

Ever wonder when a journalist can come to the stage when he would break down and cry? Ever thought that writers who have been in this business for tens of years could end up in tears one day?

It is not easy to visualize a grown up man working as a journalist shedding tears in silence. That would be the most horrific thing that could ever happen to any man, let alone a well-known writer.

To tell you the truth, it is heartbreaking to know that there are, were, and will always be journalists who cry out of sadness and despair. Ever imagine having your most beloved person, let's say your only child, taken away from you? How would you feel then? Wouldn't you cry in silence in an emotional moment of sadness and total frustration?

Well, journalists are humans too, and they cry when the closest thing to their heart is taken away, i.e., their pen.

Yes, the most severe punishment that could ever be imposed on a journalist or writer is to deprive him from writing. They talk about human rights and liberties and the need to protect them, yet many forget that the right to express and write is a fundamental human right as well.

When reading our own press and publications law, I noticed a sober and frustrating sentence in article (106) of the Penal Provisions section saying "The court may order the prohibition of continued practice of the profession of journalism."

We do admit that there are other penalties including closure of newspapers, imprisonment, and fines. But in case of closure of a newspaper, another can be opened with the same staffers but with a different name. Imprisonment and fines are all temporary. But to sentence a writer to not write again is total destruction. It simply means a death sentence.

How on earth could Arab regimes accept to have a journalist deprived all his life, from writing simply because he wrote his own opinion? How can a country like Yemen, which signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, approve such a terrible punishment?

I am only saying this because I know what a journalist feels when he is prevented from writing, and I personally found a journalist of mine who was subject to this article and asked him, "What did you feel when you knew that you could never write again?" All he said was, "I cried..."

Our Arab regimes have become so oppressive that they could become so strict in their punishment and disregard any human values whatsoever. They preferred to destroy others' lives and erase the ambitions and dreams of journalists in one simple verdict preventing them from writing again. This goes beyond any torture that could ever be imposed on a journalist.

Some readers may feel I am exaggerating, but unless they put themselves in a faithful journalist's shoes they will never understand, because taking away a journalist's pen could not only make him cry, but it is like taking away his soul.

It is a pity that oppression in our countries has unfortunately reached that far. History will never forget the day when those regimes made their countries' journalists cry behind closed doors in silence.

The Editor



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Remembering 1996's Sana'a Declaration, whose articles were never implemented

Arabs still craving for a free media

BY MAHBOOB ALI* CHAIRMAN OF THE YEMENI JOURNALIST SYNDICATE

We can easily presume that the strong relationship between freedom and human rights is not that representing the present or is specified to a certain country or region. It is rather a universal humane relation servicing humanity as a whole and not a certain group of people.

This is despite the fact that the issue of democracy and human rights has been raised more frequently lately by the West, calling it the basis of 'modern civilization'. Freedom is certainly not confined to laws and declarations of today, but is mentioned long before the term democracy came into existence, and it was mentioned in all celestial religions.

The dialogue between civilizations of the East and the West has been bequeathed to us by our ancestors but has recently been manipulated by the logic of power and not the power of logic. Selfish interests in international relations have taken over everything else including the fate of vulnerable nations, who have had their freedoms and rights stripped off by foreign powers in occupations and colonies. But even after liberation, generation after generation, the same nations had also been compelled to give up their freedoms to the power of oppressive rulers within their own countries.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been approved on 10 December 1948 following the end of the bitter World War II. However, the declaration was not compulsory even for those countries that had signed it. It was neither a condition in international bilateral or multilateral relationships. Its articles and ideas were never enforced when drafting laws and regulations, including constitutions of countries that signed it, including Arab states, of which some did not approve the declaration until almost fifty years later, i.e., in 1994.

The same thing applies to a number of similar agreements including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights signed in 1966, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of 1976, Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, Convention on the Political Rights of Women of 1952, Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic of Persons and Exploitation of Prostitution of Others of 1949, Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, and many others. They have all been signed by most Arab countries, but were rarely implemented on the ground.

Due to the fact that Arab governments disregarded civil society organizations and because of the many barriers set on their way, just as the case with political parties and organizations and other professional syndicates, the issue of human rights has become a weapon in the hands of the opposition against ruling authorities, resulting in greater governmental control of the media in an unprecedented way to prevent the opposition from using it. This step made the media as powerful as military establishments as both entities are trump cards in the hands of rulers to preserve their power, prevent parliaments or entities elected by the people from having any role whatsoever.

Political and civil rights are not the only ones disregarded in Arab countries because of their religious, cultural, or intellectual background, but Arab women were also unfortunate in not getting their political rights compared to men who control much more power, but share miseries equally with women.

Those rights were never granted to the Arab people, no matter what group they were from. The Arab official media are also been held captive in the hands of governments. There wings are clipped off so they cannot fly high in the wide skies and horizons. On the contrary, official media are under continuous surveillance and clamped with heavy chains and allowed to move only within a strict scrutiny.

Most Arab laws that regulate the profession of journalism, for example, are full of punishments and prohibitions that high mountains cannot carry and human souls cannot withstand. Those regulations have been preventing the Arab media from exploiting their potentials or competing with the rest of the world.

The advance permission and censorship required for newspapers to be published are conditions set by most Arab press regulations. The injustice continues in prohibiting the ownership and running of private electronic media (TV, radio) in most Arab states, including those countries that claim to have freedom of the press. The injustice goes further in considering a writer who writes his opinion a criminal who is subject to imprisonment and treatment as any other culprit based on the 'punishment' articles of Arab press regulations.

Press freedom in Arab countries should not be defined to those who practice journalism alone. It is rather the responsibility of journalists along with all citizens and parties concerned because the freedom of the press is the label of all public freedoms and the compass of democracy and mirror of the culture of human rights.

The responsibility in spreading our culture as Arabs to the rest of the world lies mainly on the press. This is done side by side with other educational and civil society organizations that are working on restructuring the curricula. Hence journalists should consider this their priority.

To achieve this, Henrikas Yushkiavitshus, Assistant Director-General for Communication, Information and Informatics, UNESCO, had called upon Arab countries to cope with the trend towards democratization that is taking place everywhere in the world. A seminar on "Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Media" held in Sana'a in January 1996 was organized for this purpose by the UNESCO in coordination with the media department of the UN.

Mr. Yushkiavitshus said during the concluding session of the seminar that the UNESCO's Communication, Information and Informatics sector would provide financial aid taken from the international community to support training activities of journalists and would provide assistance to member countries that wish to enhance their media laws and regulations to conform to democratic standards and to transfer their national radio, TV stations and news agencies to the public domain, where they would enjoy complete and true independence.

The seminar that involved around 300 journalist from Arab countries along with representative of governmental institutions, NGOs, and International organizations, was concluded by issuing a statement called the 'Sana'a Declaration**' that emphasized the importance of providing constructional and legal guarantees for the freedom of expression and the press. The declaration considered the tendency of Arab regimes to set up 'red lines' a constraint to human rights, which cannot be acceptable in any terms. It also referred to the importance of linking international assistance given to Arab countries to the improvement of independent printed and electronic media, which would enhance overall freedom of the Arab media.

In this specific subject, and in order to limit the influence of Arab regimes on the media, the declaration stressed the need to encourage journalists to establish independent press institutions that they would own and finance themselves. It also demanded the abolishing of any legal punishment. The declaration emphasized the need to eliminate any legal constraints that would prevent journalists from setting up their own independent media establishments.

Seven years have passed since the seminar was concluded, and almost none of the objectives mentioned in the declaration were achieved on the ground. This is mainly because governments avoided taking any steps to liberalize the Arab media. It is important to mention that journalists themselves have nothing to be blamed of when questioning the reasons behind the failure to implement the Sana'a Declaration. On the contrary, journalists are the ones who are eager to achieve the declaration's goals because it would be a step towards allowing the winds of change to blow and help develop and enhance all walks of life in our communities. This could only happen if the Arab media are freed from the heavy shackles that made them suffer so long.

The obligation to free the media in the Arab world is not the responsibility of certain groups or sectors in the Arab world. It is the responsibility of all of us. We need to realize that none of our democracy's pillars can be straightened in a time the environment for free media to emerge is inexistent.

Once again, I assert that the free media is the gateway to public freedoms and is our truthful compass that would guide us to the right path leading to achievement of democracy and human rights for all the people with no discrimination at all.

Human rights, which includes freedom of the media, is a complete picture that cannot be disintegrated because once a piece of it is gone, it loses its meaning.

Similarly, human rights cannot be separated from its eternal twin in spirit and ambition, i.e., democracy.

* Mahboob Ali is a prominent Yemeni journalist and writer. He is now the chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, which is an independent entity defending journalists' rights and working to enhance media conditions in the country

** Sana'a Declaration can be found on the UNESCO website at: www.unesco.org/webworld/com_media/communication_democracy/sana'a.htm

Letters to the Editor

When Islam is victimized by Muslims

I read a letter by Hassan Al-Haifi about Islam and I have to agree with him whole heartedly. The raising of the sword within Islam was raised when Muslims were attacked from the disbelievers on all sides, when peace treaties were broken again and again, and when they were not allowed to live as Muslims who submitted to Allah the Most High.

We often have to look at the situations of many wars of 20th/21st century which so-called leaders and so-called Muslims say 'In the name of Islam.' Let us look first at just one of many bat-

cles called the Battle of Badr and briefly, the battle of Uhud. In these two are lessons for us as Muslims to learn from, and within it a message for non-Muslims who truly wish to embrace the truth, the true Islam and not the Islam many have painted with their own words and action.

Whatever challenges and no matter how awesome they are, we can make it happen and solve them and we need no one, no one but Allah the Most High. Yes, Islam was not spread by the sword alone. It was raised only when Muslims were attacked and persecuted. It was by the beautiful character and love for Allah and

Letters to the Editor

His messenger Muhammad (saw) that Islam lifted the curtains from the eyes of barbarians, brought knowledge to a backward world called the west and now they reap the rewards and we don't but follow. You know exactly why we are at this place, in this situation and if we point one finger then three are pointed back at us. A splendid character drawing it can be for the caricature artist of Yemen Times. Alawi Abdulla Abu Bakir Taha adam_taha2000@yahoo.com

Al-Haifi's ideas: appalling I take strong exception at Mr. Al-Haifi's character-

ization that terrorist attacks are self-defeating only when they occur in Moslem countries. Mr. Al-Haifi seems to suggest that it was acceptable to target civilians as long as they are not Moslem, such as in 9/11. All acts that target civilians are wrong whether in Moslem countries or non-Moslem countries. The rule that innocent civilians cannot be targeted must be applied to all humans, after all this is a basic Islamic tenet. Furthermore, our rhetoric should be very clear on this issue, we cannot afford ambiguities at this critical stage. Jalal Omar Yaqoub jyaqoub@hotmail.com

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

The tragic death of Al-Hakim et al in Najaf: Amidst the fuzziness, some clear signs

In looking back at the months preceding the calous invasion of the Republic of Iraq (Does the title still stand?), one is bound to recall the many songs that the White House War Office was singing in defense of its latest war mongering effort. The most important of the reasons for going into war have so far proven to be dubious lies that hide a lot of mischief and distort the facts: no more than a pack full of lies and a great insult to the American public's trust in its leadership. Most of the rest of the world had in fact seen that the dubious effort raised more suspicions than common sense and the logical human mind was willing to consume. Yet, the White House has already set its mind on rejecting any pleas for returning to reason and went on its calamitous adventure. When arrogance and chauvinism become the driving force behind any regime, one can only expect the end result to be one nightmare after another.

Yes, nightmares are the great results that the Great Coalition has yielded in Iraq with the Iraqi people not knowing where they are heading and the people of the rest of the world watching trying to determine just what is really at stake in the unwarranted invasion of Iraq. Most people have already forgotten the songs that War Office was bellying out prior to the invasion, because it is for certain that they are not worth the air eschewed to blare them out. None of the allegations and intentions of the invasion have surfaced and in fact, as time proceeds it seems that everything that the proponents of the war were saying are lies and innuendos, with a clear intent to mislead the public and distort the facts, not to mention the ugly play on sympathies by associating the adventure with the war on terror and the liberation of the Iraqi people.

In addition, if we are to believe that we have to accept the invasion as now being a fait accompli and the clock of time just can't be rolled back, when a monster has set its mind on something and does it, we have to pass judgment on the effectiveness of this calous invasion. What has the invasion produced in Iraq? The picture is clear, that as the invasion continues, the situation in Iraq becomes even more dreadful than anyone could have dreamed of it being even under the "horrible dictatorship" of Saddam Hussein! That is the overwhelming belief of most of the Iraqi people and it seems to be inescapable to the observer, who strenuously looks for a certain light at the end of the tunnel for the Iraqi people to hinge their hopes on for the better. Apparently that light at the end of the tunnel is nowhere near coming into view.

The ugly massacre of Najaf last Friday is an ugly reminder to the observer that the invasion truly brought havoc to the region and that the Zionists are far too entrenched in the American establishment for the world to have any hope that the Americans can ever pursue a genuine goal of world peace and stability. Yes, this right wing Zionist coalition in Washington is unleashing too much havoc to believe that any good intentions are ever being served by their military and political adventures at home and abroad. Even people who have seen some possible hope in maintaining a wait and see attitude towards the American invasion of Iraq - which is really the best that the Americans can ever expect for the hated occupation by the "Coalition" - should not expect to enjoy even to live in peace, let alone see their hopes for a peaceful and prosperous Iraq ever surface. Yes, notwithstanding all of the extenuating circumstances, the massacre would be fully in line with how the Zionist establishment just wants Iraq and every Arab State to be. Let these Arabs slaughter each other and let their resources serve the interests of someone else. That is classic Zionist doctrine and anyone who might have any doubts about that should read the Protocols of Zion, and all the other dogmatic references that are the operating manuals of the Ariel Sharon machine that reigns supreme in Tel Aviv and the Bush War Machine in Washington D.C.

There is a high degree of certainty that the go-ahead for the tragic death of a great fighter for the liberation of Iraq, Ayatollah Mohammed Al-Baqir Al-Hakim, must have come from Tel Aviv and the International Zionist establishment, who stand to profit the most from this dangerous turn of events in Iraq. The obvious reasons are that the invasion of Iraq was really meant to "check" the Islamic Republic of Iran, and dilute any efforts to raise another Islamic Republic in Iraq, which was a dreaded fear of Israel. The Israelis know that the only effective Islamic Jihad has only come out of the genuine liberation drives carried out by Shiite Moslems. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a clear example that has shown how sensible advocacy for genuine Islamic causes yields effective results, as shown by the ability of the IRI to survive amidst all the hate unleashed against it, and the ability of Hezbollah to stand one on one against the Israeli menace that has haunted the area for the last eighty years. Thus the death of Al-Hakim was a clear message to Iran that "we are here to keep you on hold" to say the least, if not to also spread the havoc we see in Iraq and Afghanistan to Iran as well. Again, the observer cannot help but imagine further unrest and instability in the region, because the White House War Office is adamant in fulfilling the Sharon vision for the region to the letter so that the entire region becomes a much larger rendition of the Gaza Strip in all its destitute manifestations.

'One hundred years of tyranny is preferable to one year of anarchy and chaos'

By MICHAEL JANSEN
JORDAN TIMES

The Attempt on the life of Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Saeed Hakim, one of Iraq's four senior Shia clerics, revealed the depth of the three-way split which has opened up in Iraq's Shia religious establishment. While spokesman for the ayatollah and the Hawza, the Najaf-based council which governs Iraq's Shias, laid the blame for the attack on supporters of ousted President Saddam Hussein, most Shias believe the bombing, which killed two of the Hakim's bodyguards and a cleric, was the work of Sayyed Muqtada Sadr, a young (30-35) rabble rouser who controls the Shia slum quarter of Baghdad, originally called Al Thawra, then Saddam City, and now Sadr City, and has considerable influence in Najaf, Kufa and Basra.

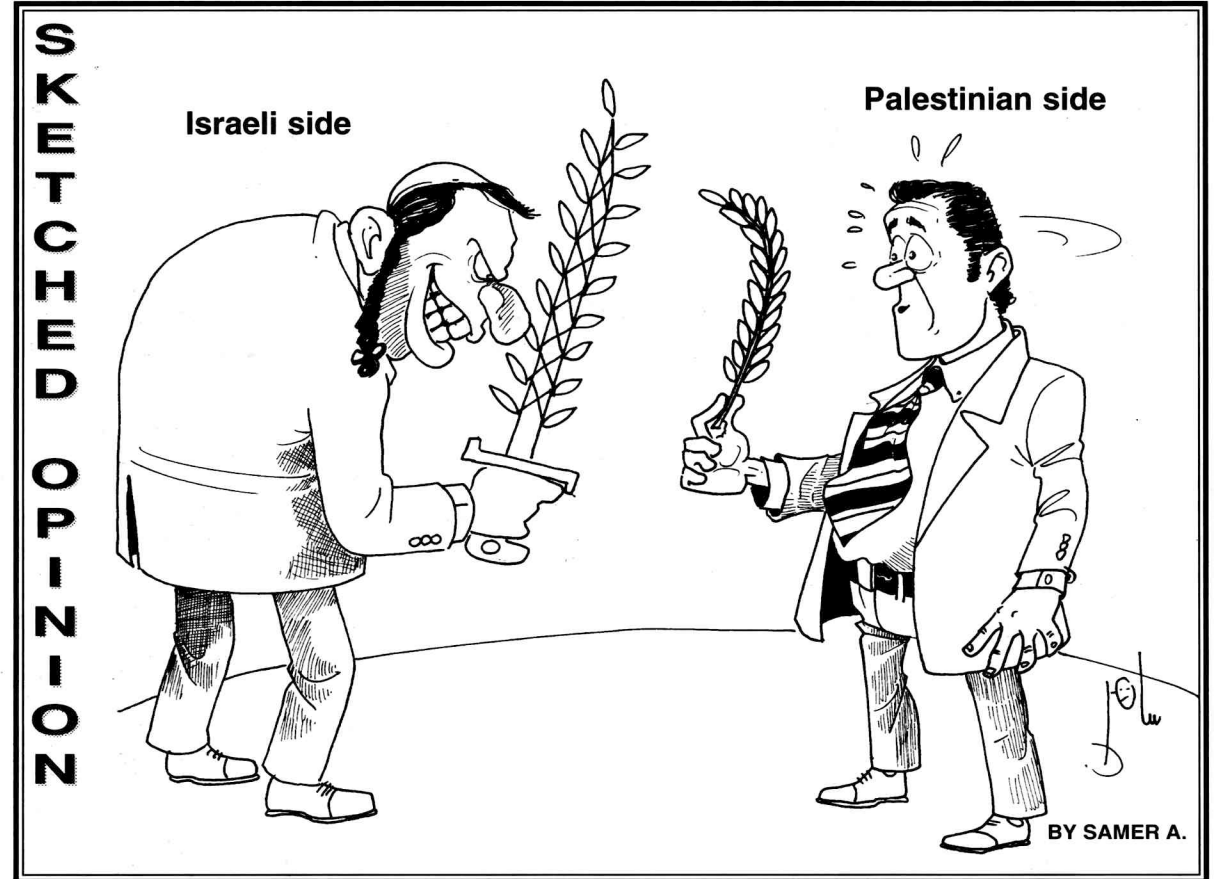
Muqtada Sadr is the son of one of the Shias' most revered clerics, Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Sadiq Sadr, who was assassinated along with two sons in 1999 by the former regime's intelligence agents. Another highly respected relative, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqr Sadr, was killed in 1981. Sayyed Muqtada's movement,

the "Army of the Mahdi," is based in Najaf at the "Office of the two Martyrs," a name chosen to capitalise on the high regard most Shias feel for their murdered spiritual leaders. So far this "army," remains unarmed. But it has recruited tens of thousands of volunteers for social and religious work in Sadr City and the southern cities. Since the fall of Baghdad last April, Sadr has adopted a very strong anti-US and anti-occupation line, advocating jihad against the foreign intruders. He says the Shias should build an Islamic state modelled on Iran's Islamic Republic but independent of Tehran.

The Hawza — to which Saeed Hakim belongs — has followed the "quietist" line adopted by Shia and Sunni clerics who traditionally try to maintain a certain distance from the rulers of their countries. While the Hawza has taken a wait-and-see line towards the Anglo-US military intervention and occupation, it has not recommended cooperation with the occupiers. Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani has refused to meet with US Viceroy L. Paul Bremer III and has been highly critical of the appointment in July of an interim Governing Council. Sistani said Iraq should be governed by an executive body elected by its citizens. In particular,

Sistani stood against the appointment of a constituent committee. He issued a fatwa or religious ruling which stated: "The [occupation] authorities are not entitled to name the members of the assembly charged with drafting the constitution. There is no guarantee that such an assembly will draft a constitution upholding the [Iraqi] people's interests and expressing [Iraq's] national identity, founded on Islam and lofty social values." In his view the figures set to draft the constitution should be clerics well versed in Islamic law. While formally expressing obedience to the Hawza, key Shia factions ignored Sistani's opposition stance and joined the Governing Council. The largest and most influential group to do so is the Tehran-backed Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), headed by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqr Hakim, a nephew of the ayatollah who was attacked.

At first SCIRI said it would not take a seat on the council but when it was constituted along lines the movement could accept, Abdelaziz Hakim, a brother of Baqr Hakim became a member. The other Shia party to join the council was Dawa. The current president of the council, Ibrahim Jafari, is from Dawa, the mainstream Shia religious movement in Iraq until



it was crushed by the Baathist regime. Dawa is split between conservatives who favour an Iran-style Islamic state in Iraq and progressives, represented by Jafari, who want to see a secular state. SCIRI is an offshoot of Dawa. Political differences between the Sadrist and SCIRI reflect longstanding familial rivalries between the Sadrs and the Hakims. Such rivalries may also account for other violent actions of the Sadrists. In addition to the attack on Ayatollah Hakim, the Sadrists are widely blamed for the murder of a cleric with close ties to the Anglo-US occupation regime, Sayyed Abdel Majid Khoei, at the mosque in Najaf in April soon after he returned to Iraq from exile in London. Khoei's father, Grand Ayatollah Sayyed Abdel Qasim Musawi Khoei, was also assassinated by the Baathist government. Abdel Majid Khoei was a strong advocate of the Anglo-US military campaign to topple the Iraqi government and called upon Shias to support the foreign forces. The

"Sadrist" also laid siege to the home of Ali Sistani who was released when tribesmen loyal to the Hawza threatened violence.

Recently, the Sadrists were given a political boost when a populist Sunni cleric, Sheikh Ahmad Qubeisi, expressed his support for their cause. He is said to have provided financial backing for the Sadrists. The connection is seen as the first sign of coordination between the former Sunni ruling minority and the Shia majority and could lead to cooperation between Sunni militant groups carrying out attacks on US and British troops and Sadr's "army." A key factor in the Iraqi Shia struggle for power is Tehran, which has considerable influence with two of the three groupings. Iran's Supreme Guide, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, strongly condemned the bomb attack on Ayatollah Hakim. Tehran says it wants stability and democracy in Iraq. But the US accuses Tehran of backing members of Ansar Al Islam, a militant Islamic group expelled into

Iran from the Kurdish north during the war, which has crossed back into Iraq in recent weeks. This group, comprised of Sunni veterans from the Afghan war, is said to have ties to Osama Ben Laden's Al Qaeda. While Tehran has been cool to the adventurist Sadr, it has relations with Sistani and, apparently, has been courted by Ahmad Chalabi, the secular Shia who heads the Iraqi National Congress, founded and funded under the aegis of the US Central Intelligence Agency.

The course of the Shia clerical power struggle is likely to be decided by how the US deals with the deteriorating security situation, the uncertain electricity supply and joblessness. The ayatollahs who put forward the traditional quietist line espoused by the vizier of the 11th century Seljuk Caliphate, Nizam Al Mulk, that one hundred years of tyranny is preferable to one year of anarchy and chaos, cannot recommend a foreign "tyranny" which is the cause of anarchy and chaos.

America has to realize it's starting from scratch

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

As I was riding back from the United Nations office in Baghdad a few days ago, I came to an intersection where an Iraqi civilian in a brown robe was directing traffic. I don't know whether he was a good Samaritan or simply out of his mind, but he had a big smile on his face and was waving cars here and there with the flourish of a symphony conductor. Some cars obeyed his directives, and others didn't, but he was definitely better than nothing - and he was definitely having a good time.

This man came to mind as I thought about the debate over whether the United States has enough troops in Iraq. The truth is, America doesn't even have enough people to direct traffic. This troops issue, though, is more complicated than it seems - because it's not just about numbers. No, what America needs in Iraq today is something more complex: the right mentality, the right Iraqi government and the right troops. Let me explain.

Let's start with mentality. America is not "rebuilding" Iraq. It is "building" a new Iraq - from scratch. (This is going to cost so much more than President George W. Bush has said.) Not only has Saddam Hussein's army, party and bureaucracy collapsed, but so, too, has the internal

balance between Iraqi Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, which was held together by Saddam's iron fist. Also, the reporting on Iraq under Saddam rarely conveyed how poor and run-down Saddam had made it. Iraq today is the Arab Liberia.

Which leads to the second point. Yes, America needs more boots on the ground in Iraq, but it also needs the right mix: military police, experts in civilian affairs and officers who know how to innovate. Sure, there is still a guerrilla war to be won, but the main task today for U.S. soldiers in Iraq is political: helping towns get organized, opening schools and managing the simmering tensions between, and within, different ethnic groups. If Bulgarian or Polish troops can help do that, bring 'em on. If not, stay home.

Just ask Colonel Ralph Baker, commander of the Second Brigade, who oversees two Baghdad districts. He and his officers have been conducting informal elections for local councils and getting neighborhoods to nominate their own trusted police.

"First we taught them how to run a meeting," he told me in his Baghdad office. "We had to teach them how to have an agenda. So instead of having this sort of group dialogue with no form, which they were used to, you now see them in council meetings raising their hands to speak."

"There is a big education process going on here that is democratically founded," Baker said. "The faster we

get Iraqis taking responsibility, the faster we get out of here."

And that leads to the third point: America needs to get the 25-person Iraqi Governing Council to do three things - now. It must name a cabinet, so Iraqis are running every ministry; announce a 300,000-person jobs program, so people see some tangible benefits delivered by their own government; and rehire any Iraqi army soldier who wants to serve in the new army, as long as he was not involved in Saddam's crimes. It was a huge mistake to disband the Iraqi army, without enough U.S. troops to take their place.

Together, all of this would put much more of an Iraqi face on the government and security apparatus, and begin to reclaim the mantle of Iraqi nationalism for the new government, taking it away from Saddam loyalists - who are trying to make a comeback under the phony banner of liberating Iraq from foreign occupation.

I have to repeat the dictum of Harvard's president, Larry Summers: "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car." Most Iraqis still feel they are renting their own country - first from Saddam and now from America. They have to be given ownership. If the Bush team is ready to put in the time, energy and money to make that happen - great. But if not, it's going to have to make the necessary compromises to bring in the United Nations and the international community to help.



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2. Coordinate & Organize the training courses.
3. Perform all correspondences related to training (local & International).
4. Keep Documentation of all training activities and records.
5. Work on improving the training & development of courses.

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- Must have computer skills (Microsoft Office).
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- Must be proficient in Arabic & English; both written and spoken.

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- Fax #: 73333333 Ext. 1666 or 1660, Att. HR Manager
- Submit it in person to **Human Resources Department, International Bank of Yemen Building, Zubairi St, Fifth Floor.**

Deadline: September 30, 2003

Continued from back page

A journey to mountains of Barat

Barati tribes are now caught up in an entrepreneurial cash economy. Among the different sorts of time that make up history the long term thus presents itself as a troublesome, complicated, often entirely new characters. It is in relation to such vast expanses of slow-moving history that the totality of history is to be rethought. Every one of the thousand levels, the thousand explosions of historical time can be grasped.

Bonding new Links

Along with the opportunities generated by modernization and globalization some challenges that must be faced such as the loss of traditional markets, increased competitions from imported modern goods, changing attitudes toward traditional lifestyles and modes of production, along with rapidly evolving

cultural expectations have lead to a decline in traditional crafts and often social status.

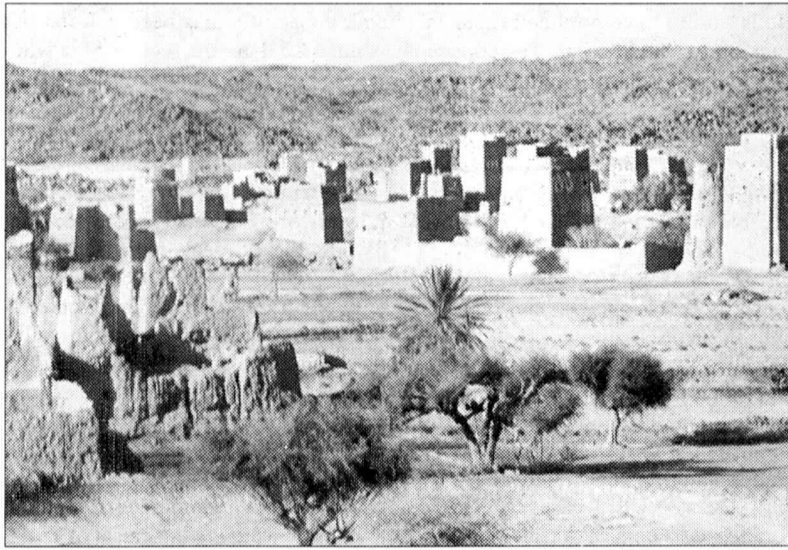
The challenge here is working hand in hand to take advantage of emerging commercial opportunities for traditional crafts and pass their skills to future generations with pride.

Unusual glamorous sunset turning over to the darkness interwoven with light, golden, brown sun lines on their skies before Baratis after saying their evening prayers went into their night dreaming. I viewed it from a place where the wind carried small rare white blossoms. As in a dream everything was simple and clear. The silence now was overwhelming. Far below a yellow haze hid the desert of the east and blinding glare in a land without shade or cloud. We breathe their air, their scent and their strength. It

was a rare moment, and I wanted to interrupt it as long as it was untouched in order to receive it untouched another time.



Barati folk dances performed in groups



General view of Barat

The evening visitor

BY ABDULQAWI SALIM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

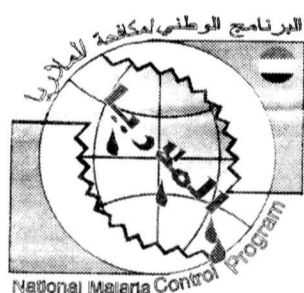
Like a black ribbon, a long line passed through the place starting from its eastern side. The sun of a hot summer day was about to set when the news about the evening visitor had spread out. Just when villagers became alert to the danger threatening to overrun the village, in a few moments a dark mass of locust hid the sky hurling from all sides covering the plains, mountains and everything there, devouring anything in their way. In desperate attempts to protect their harvest the villagers rushed to the fields and started collecting as many locusts as possible. The animals and birds participated in the resistance while they embarked on eating and attacking the insects. Even the sky put in a hand as light showers of rain dropped paralyzing the locust which made them an easy target for the villagers to collect and keep in huge sacks.

In an ironic cycle of life the villagers started preparing food out of the insects which were initially the ones to attack. And in no time women were roasting the insects in pans and stoves while children were singing to the glory of victory and the reward of an endless feast.

However, the scene was quite different in Dirhim's house. The children gathered their preys by shaking the trees on which the creatures crouched, and had taken

their prize back home to devour. As the bag full of dizzy locust was opened and the unfortunate insects were about to be poured into the pan; a great snake appeared from underneath the mud stove. Seared by the fire, the snake leaped into the kitchen and crept rapidly amongst the women's and children's feet disappearing in a glance. The celebration was killed by the fright which controlled the scene, and although many lanterns and lamps were lit, no one could sleep fearing that the vanishing snake would appear any moment in the night. Everybody launched out combing the rooms, halls and stairs and everywhere in search of the serpent. All the furniture was turned upside down in the search and the children's clothes and sleeping bags were checked and then the kids were tightly fit into their bags so that the mothers would be sure their children would be safe.

Men continued their search around the village and it wasn't until daylight broke in and the children awaked that the villagers discovered the snake had slept all night in one of the kids sleeping bags keeping warm at the child's feet. That was when the snake smoothly made its way through the window and into the fields, through the astonishment of the people, who in turn, perhaps because the serpent did not do the children harm or perhaps they were still in total shock, let it flee quietly and peacefully into the wilderness.



The Republic of Yemen is receiving a grant from the global fund in support of NMCP. The MOPHP / NMCP therefore invite qualified applicants to apply for the following:

1. Information Technology Specialist

Duties & Responsibilities

- Maintains computer server, network, operating system, etc, to work efficiently by proving managerial and technical.
- Troubleshoots and solves any software-related problems related to the e-mail server and the internet connection.
- Provides computer technical assistance, support, and orientation to end users.
- Provides technical support on the operating system when necessary.
- Processes and operates required software applications that are needed. This includes installing, configuring, and optimizing applications in order to access and facilitate work implementation.
- Updates and keeps track of any software upgrades.
- Develops and applies policies for deploying end-user operating system and applications.
- Provides managerial and technical input and works closely with the office management for services related to computer equipment, internet services, and LAN management, etc.
- Tracks all computer and network equipment and supplies including desktops, laptops, data show projectors, and digital cameras and maintains inventory records for both hardware and software.
- Arranges for the maintenance and repairs of IT resources.
- Assists in the procurement process for computer-related purchases (software/hardware purchases) and provides technical

Qualifications

- University Degree in Engineering or Computer Science.
- 5 years experience in the field of network administration and software/hardware support.
- Familiar with network, hardware, and software policies.
- Previous contact and communication with end-users requirements and orientation.

Skills

- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Very good analytical skills.
- Experience with Microsoft Office applications (English & Arabic).
- Good command of English.

2. Human Resources Manager

Duties & Responsibilities

- Prepares the overall plan and budget for the human resources function.
- Formulates and periodically reviews and updates HR policies and procedures covering recruitment, salary scales, compensation and benefits, promotions, disciplining, counseling, coaching, government regulations and labor legislation.
- Monitor the proper communication and implementation of the developed HR policies and procedures, and takes the necessary corrective actions.
- Maintains personnel records, including incentives, penalties, health insurance, social insurance.
- Maintains records for annual leave balances.
- Prepares career development plans for employees, with input from the functional managers.

recommendations as required.

- Ensures the undertaking of performance evaluation session for all employees by their relevant managers in their due time and compiles and analyses records for staff performance for the purpose of recommending salary increases, promotions and training needs.
- Conducts training needs assessment and prepares the yearly training plan for various positions.
- Revises the job descriptions on a yearly basis, ensuring that the roles and responsibilities for each position, still reflect the business requirements.
- Supervises the recruitment and interviewing process of candidates and participates in the final selection decision.

Qualifications

- Advance human recesses.
- At least 7 years experience, with 3 years of experience in a human resources management position.

Skills

- Strong organizational and planning skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong people management skills.
- Good command of the English language.
- Good computer skills.

3. Finance Manager

Duties & Responsibilities

- Manages the accounts receivables (A/R) and accounts payables (A/P) transactions, and supervises entries to the financial system.
- Develops detailed annual budgets for the program in coordination with the Deputy Program Manager and sets specific time frames for the achievement of the budget.
- Prepares monthly and quarterly financial statements.

- Supervises the preparation of quarterly financial reports stating the financial balances and expense details of the donor funds.
- Monitors the bank donor balances, ensuring that all disbursements are as planned.
- Responds to Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) reports in coordination with the Accounting Manager on the project.
- Liaises with the representative of the Ministry of Finance.
- Oversees the cash affairs, ensuring the accuracy of transactions and recording.
- Conducts monthly bank reconciliation.
- Prepares the payroll calculations on monthly basis in coordination with the HR Manager.
- Performs detailed analysis on individual budget components to identify deviation from plan and report for G.F.
- Liaises with external auditors.
- Maintains the legal statutory reports.
- Prepares the procurement plan and costing for program activities.
- Suggests means to optimize the maximum use of the grant properly.
- Maintains the records keeping.
- Prepares and comprises the procurement plan of the program.

Qualifications

- Preferably an advanced finance degree.
- 5-7 years of professional experience in the finance field.
- Experience with international donors is preferred and knowledge of donor compliance requirements and standards.

Skills

- Strong organizational and planning skills.
- Strong supervisory skills.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Good command of the English language.
- Good computer skills.

Applicants are required to send their applications and detailed Curriculum Vitae in sealed envelopes by 10 September 2003.

General Director of NMCP

Dr. Shawki Al-Mawri

Sana'a - Hadah St.

Fax: 967-1-415147, Tel: 413988, P.O. Box (16456)

WTO seals deal on cheap drugs for poorer countries

GENEVA (Reuters) - The World Trade Organization (WTO) approved a deal on Saturday to let poorer nations import cheaper generic drugs to fight killer diseases such as AIDS and malaria after days of emotionally charged debate.

The deal plugs a gap in world trade law and allows poorer countries unable to manufacture medicines domestically to override international patents and import cheap generic drugs when they need to.

"The decision that you have just taken is an historic agreement for the WTO," WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi told member states.

The accord, given a final seal of approval by the WTO's 146-member executive General Council on Saturday, means setting aside patents owned by multinational firms that are protected by trade rules.

"I find a special satisfaction in the fact that the decision will be of particular value to the smaller and poorer countries... in Africa and elsewhere," Supachai said.

"It will enable them to make full use of the flexibilities in the WTO intellectual property rules in order to deal with the diseases that ravage their peoples."

An impassioned plea on Friday by African states, who said that thousands were dying as trade envoys bickered, got the talks back on track after a deal agreed on Thursday by the main negotiating body on medicines ran into last-minute problems.



But health activists attacked the accord, hammered out by the United States, Brazil, India, Kenya and South Africa, saying it imposed too many conditions on countries seeking to use it.

"Today's WTO agreement that is ostensibly intended to get drugs to the poorest countries does not provide a workable solution," Medicines sans Frontiers (MSF, Doctors without Borders) and Oxfam said in a joint statement.

U.S. concerns

The pact aims to allay U.S. concerns that any waiving of patents could be abused for commercial gain by generic producers such as Brazil and India.

The United States, home to many major pharmaceutical firms, had feared they could turn out highly profitable life-style remedies such as Viagra for sale in richer developing nations.

The drugs industry has welcomed the pact as balancing the need for poor states to fight health problems with the demands that

WTO members waive patents only to import generic medicines "in good faith" and do not abuse the system for commercial gain.

Steps will be taken to ensure drugs sold to poor countries do not turn up on rich country markets, and a number of richer developing countries — such as Mexico and South Korea — will agree to use the system only in dire health emergencies.

Existing world trade rules allowed countries — developed or developing — with their own drugs industry to waive patents and issue compulsory licenses to generic manufacturers when they face health emergencies.

But the regulations said nothing about states without their own drugs industry and WTO states have been battling over the issue for nearly two years.

A deal before a trade meeting in the Mexican resort of Cancun in less than two weeks was seen as vital to giving new momentum to the WTO's struggling Doha Round of free trade talks.

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Study: Youngest in class face stress challenges

LONDON (Reuters) - The youngest children in any school year face more stress than their older peers and are at greater risk of developing mental illness, scientists have found.

A survey of more than 10,000 children in Britain between the ages of five and 15 showed that regardless of when their school year began, if they were the youngest in the class they faced greater stress.

"It is not a huge stress like family problems, trauma or being in an accident. But it is a moderate stress and, given that it applies to a lot of kids, it is a serious health threat," research leader Robert Goodman told Reuters.

Goodman and his team at the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at King's College London said the study stripped away seasonal factors that can cause stress, clearly exposing the school year effect.

In England and Wales the oldest children in the school year are born in September, with the youngest in August — the middle of the northern hemisphere summer.

By contrast in Scotland the oldest are born in March and the youngest in February — the start of spring.

But there were no significant differences in the findings between the different school years.

"They are sufficiently far apart to strip away any seasonal effects, so we have been able to rule that out," Goodman said.

The study, published in the British Medical Journal, involved questions to children, parents and teachers covering all aspects from their emotions to social behavior and peer relations.

It found a greater incidence of mental health problems among the school year youngsters than among their older colleagues.

"We found that this was true all the way through the age range in our study," Goodman said. "Other studies have also found that the younger in the school class tend to have lower levels of university entrance."

He said the study showed the need for greater flexibility among schools and policy makers on cut-off dates for school year entry — perhaps allowing an extra year of pre-school for a child who would otherwise be the class fledgling.

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Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ or the Nasserite Unionist organisation, 26 August 2003.

- Main headlines:**
- 6 Islamists put in political security prison
 - Elections supreme committee denies intention to adopt proportions or closing woman constituencies
 - Oil workers and employees threaten of all-out strike
 - Armed attack, kidnapping of citizens in Bait al-Fakieh
 - Expired juices in the markets in Ibb

The editor in chief of the newspaper says in his article on the tour of the Iraqi interim governing council of the Arab region that a council tailored and appointed by the American occupation administration on sectarian and ethnic basis as a first step for dividing the country into ethical and sectarian state-lets would necessarily be faced with refusal and denunciation of every Arab. True, there are intense American pressures on the Arab rulers to recognise the interim council and many of them still showing a rejection of the American demand, but the pressures if not directives on receiving the delegation of the council have been received with full response. The tour made by chairman of the council of a number of Arab countries and the hospitality it has been received with by officials of those countries indicates that recognition of the council has become imminent. Who of the rulers would dare to disobey America especially that they have understood that it could keep and change any of the rulers it wants in power?

Nevertheless, the peoples have their decisive word. Undoubtedly the Yemeni people would tell the American puppies you are not welcome and the Iraqi resistance would remain in the eyes of the Yemenis and all the Arab peoples the legitimate representative of Iraq and its people.

Al-Isbou weekly, 28 August 2003.

- Main headlines:**
- Some ministers' signature on money checks are not recognised
 - Oil institutes' students fear of permanent unemployment
 - Death of Yemeni man of letters Abdulla Khaki al-Omari, a rumour Mr Nabil Natakly says in an article that after the events of September 11

the Yemeni-American relations have witnessed steady development. The President took the initiative to visit Washington in December to confirm Yemen's stand with regard to those inhumane events and condemn those who had perpetrated them in addition to emphasize Yemen's firm stand concerning terrorism. Thus Yemen had stressed its being with the international community and the United States in fighting terror. Relations of cooperation between the two countries continued in hunting down the terrorist groups and chasing them in implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy in a way not contradicting the national sovereignty. The UN Security Council had on 28 September taken a resolution demanding all world countries to prevent and chase terrorist acts and increasing cooperation and full implementation of international agreements related to terror.

Yemen has shown satisfaction for the American role in urging the donor states and organisations in Paris Club to offer Yemen grants and easy loans to help it in economic development.

Nevertheless the American support is not enough for realization what is intended from it if it is measured to the great tasks that need huge capabilities, especially the immediate necessary ones for sustainable chasing of the suspect elements feared to infiltrate across the sea inlets along the long coast of Yemen.

Al-Sahwa weekly 28 August 2003.

- Main headlines:**
- Death penalty for Lahj killer
 - Hawth court holds its session to decide the case of killing prayers at al-Hamzi mosque
 - August 1982, anniversary of establishing the GPC rule
 - Journalist Abdulfatah al-Hakiemi under arrest
 - Refugees rights with the ministry of human rights
- Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes an article on the anniversary of the foundation of the GPC saying the GPC is celebrating the elapse of 21 years of its foundation and they are years of changeables. The GPC was grouping all the Yemeni political trends as partisanship was banned and political pluralism prohibited and that gathering had provided the opportunity for political parties and leaders to meet and conduct dialogue and to know each other closely. Despite all that the affiliation of the GPC did not abolish the

Main headlines

- Extremist elements handed over to Yemen, new arrest campaign in Aden
- 61 government institutions on the way for privatization
- Large-scale popular resentment for the government intention to receive delegation representing the Iraqi Interim Governing Council
- Presidency-tribes mediation failed
- Prison administration in Berlin refuses to provide safety measures in treatment of al-Mouyad
- Speaker of the parliament Sheikh al-Ahmar back home from Saudi Arabia
- Iraq's Islamic party: Governing Council not American
- A new round of mediation between Jahm and the government
- "Aden" conference demands non-confidence in 22 May body
- Secret meeting of the American ambassador and commands of political security
- Distributing his photo for arresting him, America admits it has not killed Qusay Saddam Hussein
- Al-Jifri prepared to return home
- Foreign ministry concerned with following up al-Mouyad case
- In Jordan: 22 parliamentarians demand the trial of Chalabi
- Scientific study confirms development of election awareness among the Yemenis
- Islah's assistant secretary general al-A'nisi: The GPC discarded the initiative of national alignment
- Scheduled Yemeni meeting with world insurance companies in London
- Lay off of 132 workers for the Chinese fishing company
- Death sentence for the killer of Mashala mosque in Yahar
- Most dangerous "Mafia" group arrested in the capital

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removed the alienation and the political forces had known each other's visions on various political issues and national, regional and international issues. Factors of trust began to grow

among them and all had participated in the national woes as they considered the construction of the homeland the responsibility of all of its sons.

After the unity came the political pluralism as a necessary form for the merger of two variant political entities. At that time the GPC voices began calling for the necessity of the return of each political organisation to its own entity and that what actually happened. The hope was that multi-party system would lead to honest competition for serving the homeland and rights would remain guaranteed for all citizens.

While the GPC is celebrating the anniversary of its foundation we would like to remind it that the homeland is spacious enough for all and following the road of canceling others and narrowing the opportunities of science and work before them, or raising the banner of the one party, had led totalitarian political parties to a deadlock and led to the loss of homelands. We wish wholeheartedly the GPC good wishes and hope it would adopt a reasonable and objective stand with all.

Al-Balagh weekly 26 August 2003.

- Main headlines:**
- In a recent study by the National Institute for Democracy in, 30% of parliament members are tribal sheikhs, 26% tradesmen and 13% sons of officials
 - Warnings against attack on American ports and naval bases
 - Oil trade Union calls for a comprehensive strike
 - American cultural attaché announces the start of implementing electronic education program in Yemen
 - The popular committee in Mahweet denounces behaviour of security men
 - The editor in chief of the newspaper says in his article judiciary remains the essential and major axis of any investment operation or economic development especially in attracting Arab and foreign capitals. Yemen has understood this significance and therefore began the process of judiciary reform that may take a long time. And due to the importance of investment in our country a court specialized in dealing with trade issues has been established with the aim of realizing justice and guarantees interests of capitalists away from the mafia of corruption and corruption of judgments.
 - The writer in his article submits the

question with regard of the possibility and rightness of abolishing a bank guarantee. The writer says he has put his question about this matter before some specialists who told him that a bank guarantee issued by any side could not be abolished by the beneficiaries or the bank that it has issued it or even by a judiciary judgment. Abolishing a bank guarantee leads to losing the economic trust in the bank and trade dealings. The people responsible for protection of capitals and attracting investments should ponder seriously on the process of reforming the trade courts in particular and the judiciary in general.

RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen League party, 26 August 2003.

- Main headlines:**
- Al al-Zaidi and the state, blocked road
 - Citizens appeal to the president for stopping aggression on their land properties
 - The issue of Jarallah Omer on the internet
- In an article columnist Khalid al-Harwachi says the journalists are nowadays discussing the status of their union and deliberating the suitable stand that should be taken towards its council that has no longer been legal as the date fixed for holding a meeting for the union's general assembly to elect a new council as the present one ended its legal period six months ago. These awakenings of the journalists though it has come rather late but it renews activity that has been idle throughout the past four years. The journalists have in that time forgotten that they have a syndicate because particularly its council forgets about its members and would not remember them but in denunciation and condemnation statements when journalists are exposed to insults and humiliation. Throughout the past four years the syndicate has many droopy stands to an extent hindering the journalists from attaining their legal rights, the most important of which is that of their wages bill which two years before was about to be approved, had it not been for the syndicate's interference that halted the sit-ins staged by the journalists. Despite of all that I do not blame the syndicate and hold it responsible because we the journalists are to blame due to our weakness and negligence of our legal rights, whether the unionist rights or the material and moral rights.

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Gomhuria

Ibrahim Qwidar, Secretary General of the Arab Labor Organization, on Friday said the unemployment rate in the Arab world hit 18 percent and the Arab economic integration is the only solution to this problem.

Egyptian Mail

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Friday lauded the establishment of the German university in Cairo, which will be inaugurated on Oct. 4, as the first German university set up outside the country.

Al Akhbar

European Union security and foreign policy chief Javier Solana is due in Cairo on Sept. 6 for talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher on Egyptian and European roles in salvaging the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian territories.

Al Ahram

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has decided to postpone his visit to France, which was due to start from Sept. 8, because of his busy schedule.

France

Le Figaro

The toll of the heat wave from August 1 to 15 is worse than previously forecast. With 11,435 more deaths than that of the same period last year, France was the country the most severely hit in Europe.

Le Monde

France is challenged by a persistent high unemployment rate. Latest reports said 9.6 percent of the active

population are jobless.

Labor unions, association of entrepreneurs and the government are pessimist, with a unique hope pinned on the growth of the American economy.

Liberation:

The summer death toll was 1,000 more deaths per day in the first 15 days of August. The government can not deny its faults in dealing with the national catastrophe.

Britain

Financial Times

British Prime Minister Tony Blair lost his closest aide and political ally Friday when Alastair Campbell announced he is to quit his job as Downing Street's head of communications.

The Guardian

Following Campbell's leaving, Blair and Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, are now the sole surviving members of British politics' most exclusive, and garlanded, club: the men who founded New Labor.

The Times

Matthew Pinsent, one of Britain's finest sportsmen, gets the chance Saturday to claim the title of the greatest athlete of all time. If he and his

partner James Cracknell win the coxless pairs at the World Rowing Championships, he will have won a world or Olympic title every year since 1991.

The Independent

Campbell bowed to the inevitable Friday when he said he would stand down as Downing Street's director of communications and strategy within four weeks.

The Daily Telegraph

A prominent cleric was among at least 125 Iraqis who were killed Friday by a car bomb that exploded outside the Imam Ali mosque in Najaf, one of the holiest sites for Shiite Muslims.

Germany

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The leadership of the UN-mandated High Representative in Bosnia is increasingly under criticism.

Der Tagesspiegel

The opposition parties will present their chancellor candidate only one

year before the 2006 election.

Die Welt

In a car bomb attack in the Iraqi holy city of Nadschaf on Friday, more than 80 people were killed, including a prominent religious leader.

Philippines

Manila Bulletin

The Philippines and China have agreed to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation to combat international terrorism and hasten development in the Asian region, Speaker Jose de Venecia of the House of Representatives said Friday on the eve of the arrival of China's top legislator Wu Bangguo.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, announcing his resignation Friday, said there was "a well-organized, well-funded effort by certain

forces to bring down democracy through massive disinformation and political agitation."

The Philippine Star

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved Friday a proposal made by Senate President Franklin Drilon to call a political summit of legislative leaders and instructed her staff to coordinate with the leadership of the Senate and the House of Representatives to hold the summit soonest. She will also hold a separate gathering of economic officials to repair the damage from the military mutiny last month.

India

The Hindustan Times

Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee on Friday ruled out a dialogue with Pakistan until terrorist activity ended.

The Times of India

Five Hindu boys from Pakistan who were arrested over a year ago for illegally crossing the border will return home with sweet memories of a six-year-old Pakistani girl who tied luck-

strings on their wrists earlier this month.

The Hindu

Addressing a press conference in Jammu of the India-controlled Kashmir area, Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee on Friday said a solution to the Kashmir impasse would take time. He said that the situation in the area was improved and the people were more relaxed.

Improve Your English



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199

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (55)
Expressions of Emotion (VIII)

ST. Coleridge, the celebrated Romantic poet says, "Poetry is the blossom and fragrance of human knowledge, human thoughts, human passions, emotions, language." The poet Shelley holds the view: "Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds." According to Wordsworth "All good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" and is marked by "impassioned expression which the countenance of all science." The following expressions, we believe, would bear eloquent testimony to these. Mark the intensity of emotion and the beauty of expression.

- In small proportions we just beauties see:
And in short measures life may perfect be.
B. Jonson: The Noble Nature
- Yet this inconstancy such
As you too shall adore;
I could not love thee, Dear, so much,
Loved I not Honor more
Col Lovelace: To Lucasta
- But a smooth and steadfast mind,
Gentle thoughts, and calm desires
Hearts liveth equal love combined,
Kindle never dying fires:
Where these are not, I despise
Lovely cheeks or lips or eyes.
T. Carew: The True Beauty
- Give me, instead of beauty's bust,
A tender heart, a loyal mind,
Which with temptation I would trust,
Yet never link'd with error find,
G. Darley: The Loveliness of Love
- Sweet, be not proud of those two eyes
Which starlike sparkle in their skies;
R. Herrick: To Dianeme
- Drink to me only with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine
Or leave a kiss but in the cup
And I will not look for wine.
B. Jonson: To Celia
- There is a garden in her face
Where roses and white lilies blow;
A heavenly paradise in that place
Wherein all pleasant fruits do grow;
Cherry: Ripe
- A sweet disorder in the dress
Kindles in clothes a wantonness
Do more bewitch me, than when act
Is too precise in every part.
R. Herrick: The Poetry of Dress

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Babies grow up very quickly.
- What is the cost of this watch?
- Only I and my brother are present.
- Both of them didn't go to school.
- The ship was drowned in the ocean.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Do not **approach** him.
- I **tore** my shirt on a nail.
Note: "To tear" means to divide along a straight or irregular line, sometimes by accident; "**to tear up**" means to destroy by tearing to pieces.
- This boy is **older** than that one.
Note: "Older" and "**oldest**" are applied to both persons and things; while "**elder**" and "**eldest**" are applied to persons only, and most frequently to related persons. Remember, "**elder**" cannot be followed by 'than'.
- The wind has almost stopped **blowing**.
- My friend **shared** his books **with** me.

III. Increase Your Word Power

A) How to express it in one word

- Showing decorum, propriety, good taste, etc.

- A thing or person used to lure or tempt into danger or trap.
- An official order, or decision of court.
- Broken down or worn out by old age.
- To speak against strongly and openly.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Give political independence to: **decolonize** (vt)
- Reduce the pressure of or on something: **decompress** (vt)
- A medicine that reduces swelling and blocking, especially in the nose: **decongestant** (n)
- Remove dangerous, impure substances from: **decontaminate** (vt)
- The ornamental furnishing and arranging of a room: **décor** (n)

B) Foreign Phrases

Give the sources of origin and simple meanings of the following

- magnum opus
- malapropism
- mal mariee
- mantra
- maqama

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- literati** (Lat. 'the learned'): Men of letters and learned men.
- litterateur** (Fr. 'a man of letters'): One who devotes himself to the study of writing of literature.
- loco citato** (Lat. 'in the place') (often abbreviated to **op. cit**): The term indicates a reference to a book or a page or passage already mentioned.
- logogram** (Gk. 'logos' = word + 'gramma' = letter): a single sign for a word. Abbreviated to 'logo'.
- macrology** (Gk. 'long language'): Verbose repetition by way of long words and phrases.

C) Words Commonly Confused

Bring out the meaning differences in the following pairs of words

- recently, shortly
- imprudent, impudent
- previous, preceding, last
- predictor, predicator
- for, fore

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- dose** (n) (exact amount of a medicine): You have to take the medicine regularly according to the prescribed dose.
doze (vi) (to sleep lightly): I dozed away the hours on flight.
- cook** (n) (someone who prepares and cooks food as their job): Latif works as a cook in a local restaurant.
cooker (n) (a piece of equipment for cooking food on or in): I use a pressure cooker for my cooking.
- cynical** (adj) (believing that people are motivated in all their actions only by selfishness): Cynical as he is, he sees little or no good in anything and often makes unfair remarks about people and things.
snobbish (adj) (having contempt for those whom one considers his inferior): His snobbish attitude has earned him many enemies.
- drench** (vt) (to make wet all over thoroughly): I was drenched in the rain.
wet (adj) (covered with water or other liquid, not dry): Wipe the table with a piece of wet cloth.
- dead** (adj) (no longer living): Sanskrit is a dead language.
deed (n) (a thing done, an act): The soldiers were honored for their heroic deeds.

D) Idioms and Phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences

- in anticipation
- anterior to
- posterior to
- antagonistic to
- answer for

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- work of art** (a painting, film, piece of writing etc. which has a high artistic value): Satyajit Roy's films are works of art.
- under arrest** (kept by the police): He is under arrest on charges of cheating.

- arrange for** (organize or make plans for something): I have arranged for the passport to be delivered to you.
- get around** (to avoid or solve a particular problem or difficult situation): How do we get around the problem of stiff immigration rules?
- get around to** (to finally do something that you have been intending to do for a long time): I will get around to completing the book in foreseeable future.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A. Grammar

Match the sentences on the left with the sentences or clauses on the right that continues the meaning in the best way.

- He tried to cheat in the exam;
- He tried cheating in the exam;
- I like to go to the cinema once a week;
- I like going to the cinema;
- I stopped to talk to my neighbor
- I stopped talking to my neighbor yesterday
- I regret to tell you I don't like her;
- I regret telling you I don't like her;

- that's why I was late home.
- I know you do like her.
- he kicked my dog.
- but he still got a very low mark.
- you immediately told her what I said.
- but he was caught.
- but I hardly even get the chance
- it helps me up-to-date with good films.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- She is so charming that everybody likes her.
- Before going to India my father **worked** for an American bank for three years.
- You'll never **guess** who I met in the street today. Mrs. Jackson!
- Jane is a very good friend. I **have known** her for a long time.
- They tried to prevent me **from** going with them because they thought I had measles.

B) Composition: Paragraph Writing

Expand the idea contained in the proverb

32. SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE

Last week's topic:

31. A STITCH IN TIME SAVE NINE

This proverb literally means that if there is one hole in a piece of cloth and if it is stitched at the nick of moment, it spares one the trouble of making more stitches in future. The board significance of the statement is the one should be cautious and take care of a problem as and when it appears. If neglected the problem is likely to be compounded and become complicated so as to need more time, money and effort to remedy the situation. If appropriate remedial steps are taken when early symptoms of a disease begin to appear, then the disease may be arrested preventing it to complicate further. Otherwise, it may aggravate and demand a lot more efforts for its remediation. Similarly, if students attend to their studies in time, they would save themselves a lot of botheration when the exam is round the corner. So we should be prompt in taking action in case of a difficult or emergent situation.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"And Allah has full knowledge of what they conceal"
S3:A167

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Alternate rest and labor long endure"

—Ovid

A LETTER TO THE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH: 24

Teacher-friendly students and student-friendly teachers



DR..M.N.K.BOSE
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Associate Professor of English,
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

If you read the history of ELT, you will find that it has taken about 30 to 40 years to realize that the learners should be treated as human beings; I'm referring to the humanistic approach to teaching English, which made its existence in the 1970s. Earlier teaching philosophies treated the learners as 'machines' or receptacles for receiving information and the teachers or the textbooks took the center stage in the classrooms. The humanistic philosophy insists that the learners are to be treated as human beings with flesh and blood and more importantly mind and the teachers should gear their teaching methods to trigger their minds off so that they can participate in the classroom activities. Another important feature of the humanistic approach is not to hurt the learner's feelings while correcting their errors or while they are attempting to take part in the classroom activity. The teachers are made to realize that the self-esteem of the learner is as important as that of the teacher.

So, it is important that you treat your learners in as friendly a manner as possible, considering them as partners in the teaching-learning process. Believe that they are intelligent and can contribute to the classroom activity, if they are motivated and encouraged to do so. It is said that today's children are more intelligent than yesterday's children – that's we; then, why don't we exploit their potentialities for the benefit of the teaching activity? This is possible only when you

let them realize that you are sincere about it and treat them in a friendly way.

You will agree with me that our students, at least those in the cities, have access to the internet facilities; I see adults crowding the net cafes these days. You can make use of this and ask them to collect information related to their lesson; for example, when you teach the lesson 'The United Kingdom' in Pupil's Book 5, you can ask them to collect information about another country, say Japan, from the internet. You can set this a task for a group of students so that it will not be a burden to one student. I think such activities will make them feel 'great' and bring them closer to the teacher; they will definitely develop a liking for the English classes.

I would like to stress that the girl students should also be given opportunities to explore these possibilities so that they may feel that they are not left behind; I find that there is a lot of thrust in the empowerment of women in this country and this will be a step in the right direction.

Being friendly does not mean that you lose control over the class and let loose the students to chaos. Be friendly and be firm; treat the students with respect but pull them up when necessary. After all you know what is good for them. I am only addressing my fellow teachers who wrongly think that the class has to be kept 'under the thumb' in the name of discipline; who think that students know nothing; who think that the teacher is the 'all knower' and the only source of knowledge.

Student-friendly teachers have always been successful as they make the students teacher-friendly. Be friendly but firm; be kind but strict. Good luck.

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

Dictators as pictured in Hawk Roosting

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Ted Hughes is a great English poet. Majority of his writings are concerned with strong and violent forces of nature. He has written a whole lot of animal poems. Hawk is the bird in which Hughes is so interested that he has written several times about it. "Hawk Roosting" is a very interesting and significant poem which highlights superficially for enjoyment, and deeply for thinking. The symbolism of the poem gives it richness and depth to generate different themes and ideas. Therefore, it can be considered as a comparison between the nature of human beings and the forces of nature or as a symbol of the dictators whose qualities, attitudes and behavior become similar to these birds of prey.

So let us identify the characteristics of the dictators through this powerful bird-hawk who views and treats the people and the whole world. The poem starts with how describing the postures of the hawk sitting on the top of the wood as if he were an arrogant king who boasts of his throne and power, in the second stanza, the poet portrays the dictator's vanity. So the bird (dictator) claims that all components of the nature are designed for his sake-sun, earth surface and air (Are of advantage to me) in the third stanza, the dictator increases his vanity to go beyond the standard of people. What's more, he shows off his greatness and power, imagining that he is equal to God since he controls God's creatures. Here the dictator's vanity exceeds the allowable bounds ("It took the whole of creation to create my foot. Now I hold the whole creation in my feet").

After that, the poet shifts to picture the imperious and oppressive attitudes and features of the dictator. So he regards himself as the ruler of the whole earth. ("I kill where I please because it's all mine"). Further he completely has no conscience so he does not feel guilty of committing crimes and massacres. But he enjoys killing others, as if killing them where his favorite art or sports.

In the rest of the poem Ted Hughes shows us one of the noticeable features of all dictators, which is the pride of their power of determining the death of others without justifications. ("The allotment of death for one path of my lights is direct.") The poem ends in a strong determination

of the tyrant to keep on ruling his states through his dictatorial order without any change, ("I'm going to keep things like this")

"Hawk Roosting" is replete with splendid aspects that beautify and strengthen its language and theme. First, the diction is simple and formal which makes the poem readable. The poet uses forceful metaphors and personification that depict the excessive boastfulness of the dictator. (I hold the whole creation in my foot- the earth's face is upwards for my inspection. The manners tearing of heads... etc.) Actually the whole poem is an extended metaphor of all the dictators.

Now we will mention some beautiful points in this poem. For instance, the connection between the phrases "whole creation" and "in my foot" implies the maximum degree of the tyrant's contempt towards people and the world. There are two exciting images, which reflects the absurdity and illusion of the dictator's view that arise from his extreme arrogance. In the first image the hawk mistakes the earth's surface for a deliberate reaction and submission from the earth for the hawk to help him look for his preys. "The earth faces upward for my inspection". The hawk in the second image thinks that it is able to rotate the whole earth during his flight in the sky although it is the natural movement of earth. "Or fly up and revolve it all slowly."

We find a lot of symbolic words and phrases in the poem such as, top of wood-highness, leadership, hooked head, hooked feed-mind, emotion, in my foot – under my control, allotment of death – massacres and ruin, no argument- no freedom of opinions.

It is said that language is the mirror of the mind, so the poet skillfully selects the proper words that reflects the dictator's haughtiness successfully. The poet employs the syntax and structures in the poem to suit and emphasize its subject and meaning. Thus, he focused on the first person "I" and its relevant pronouns (am, my, mine, me) so as to show the egotism and selfishness of the dictator. So every stanza includes most of these pronouns.

Finally, we notice the excellent use of the various tenses, which asserts the unchangeable resolution of the tyrant through different stages of reign without alteration. These tenses are: present – I kill, I sit, past – it took the whole, future – I'm going to keep things like this, present perfect – nothing has changed, my eyes have permitted no change.

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
- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Ache | Deaf | Labyrinthitis | Olivary | Shot |
| Acoustic | Disease | Lateral | Ossicle | Small |
| Acute | Doctor | Ligament | Otitis | Sore |
| Anatomy | Drain | Listen | Otologic | Sound |
| Arcs | Drops | Lobe | Outer | Spiral |
| Auditory | Drum | Loud | Pain | Stapes |
| Bacterias | Dysplasia | Malleus | Pair | Study |
| Bare | Exam | Mastoid | Perceive | Tectorial |
| Bath | Feel | Mechanism | Phones | Tensor |
| Bone | Fluids | Membrane | Phonic | Throat |
| Canal | Function | Muff | Piece | Treatment |
| Cavity | Hair | Muscle | Plug | Trumpet |
| Cell | Head | Nerve | Ring | Tubes |
| Cerumen | Health | Noise | Saccule | Utricle |
| Clean | Hear | Nose | Scala | Vestibular |
| Cortex | Implant | Nuclei | Sense | Wash |
| Crista | Inner | Nurses | Sensitivity | Wax |

EARS TO YOU

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

Solution: 11 letters

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Blueprint

Capel atones for 100 metres failures

By John Mehafeey

PARIS (Reuters) - John Capel has atoned for the failure of the U.S. men's 100 quartet with a storming victory in the world 200 final.

The former American footballer on Friday clocked 20.30 seconds, the slowest time in the 20-year history of the championships, ahead of team mate Darvis Patton.

"This is what we wanted. We knew we could do it, it feels great me and Darvis doing it for the U.S.A.," said Capel.

Patton was equally exultant. "We made up for what happened in the 100," he said. "The U.S. sprinters have not gone anywhere. We're back and we're back tough."

Maurice Greene, given a wild card as a defending champion, did not even make it to the 100 final, pulling up injured in the semis.

Jon Drummond was disqualified in the second round heats, arguing with the decision for nearly an hour, while world record holder Tim Montgomery was fourth followed by national champion Bernard Williams.

American Dwight Phillips, immediately dubbed 'Spiderman' by the crowd at the Stade de France in recognition of his blue and white body suit, added the world outdoor long jump title to his indoor gold.

Phillips jumped 8.32 metres on a cool, wet evening in sharp contrast to



John Capel (C) of the U.S. celebrates his gold medal win in the men's 200 metres final with compatriot Darvis Patton (L) who won silver and Japan's bronze medalist Shingo Suetsugu (R) at the 9th World Athletics Championships in the Stade de France at Saint-Denis near Paris on Friday. REUTERS/Charles Platiau

the oppressive heat a week ago, taking advantage of the absence of Cuba's four times champion Ivan Pedroso who was injured in qualifying.

"Pedroso has owned this event for years and I wanted to be the guy who brought it back to the U.S.," said Phillips.

Mike Powell was the last American to win the world title, breaking Bob Beamon's 23-year-old world record at the 1991 Tokyo championships.

Felix Sanchez, who celebrates his 26th birthday on Saturday, was unstoppable in the men's 400 metres hurdles, striding to victory in 47.25 seconds. Sanchez has not lost a race for two years.

"I tried to get out in front so I wouldn't be looking at anyone in front of me," said Sanchez. "It was special."

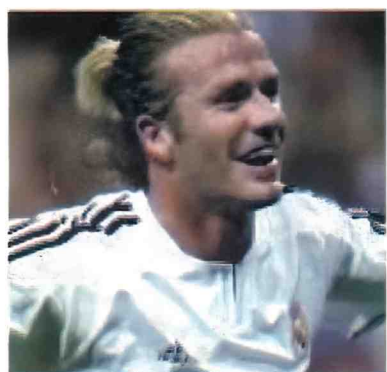
Sanchez and the peerless Ed Moses are the only men to retain the world title.

Beckham seriously considered quitting

LONDON (Reuters) - England captain David Beckham says a combination of factors made him feel so low that he seriously considered retiring from soccer after the birth of his second child Romeo last year.

"I actually did discuss retiring with (wife) Victoria," the Real Madrid midfielder told the Sun newspaper on Saturday.

"There were all sorts of things going on in my life at this time — Romeo had just been born, my parents were divorcing, there was the relationship with the (Manchester United) manager (Alex



Real Madrid's British player David Beckham. Beckham says a combination of factors made him feel so low that he seriously considered retiring from soccer after the birth of his second child Romeo last year. REUTERS/Sergio Perez

Stephens. I really seriously considered it.

"I wasn't happy going into work every day and I think that contributed to me thinking about that decision," said Beckham, who left United when he signed a four-year contract with Real Madrid last month.

"It wasn't just a bad day at work, it was quite a few weeks and months." Beckham said his wife Victoria, a member of the now-defunct band the "Spice Girls" who enjoyed a string of hits in the 1990s, was shocked that he was contemplating retirement.

"It shocked her because she realised how serious I was about it. She realised there was a real problem there and that I really wasn't happy.

"I didn't want it to start affecting my family life and my children (sons Brooklyn, now aged four, and Romeo, who will celebrate his first birthday next month)."

Beckham, 28, said it was his wife who changed his mind about retiring.

Great opportunity

"She was the one who changed my

Ferguson) and the kidnap threats (against Victoria). "It was a serious thought of mine (retirement). I never told anyone else apart from Victoria and my agent Tony

Vacant Positions – Jotun Yemen Paints Limited

Jotun Paints is one of the leading paint manufacturers in the world and is a division of Jotun A/S group of Norway. Jotun Yemen Paints Limited is a company being setup in association with the HSA group. Jotun is in the process of starting up paint trading operation as a precursor to the factory scheduled to come up in a year or so. We are looking for dynamic, motivated and independent functioning personnel to fill in the following vacancies based in Aden:

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- Should have experience in preparing periodical financial statements and management reporting;
- Should be bilingual (English and Arabic).

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Fax: 448 378
e-mail: psreeram@deloitte.com

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	Lo	12	11	11	12	11	11	11
Aden	Hi	39	38	39	39	40	39	38
	Lo	28	28	28	28	28	28	26

GARFIELD

BURP!

TEDDY BEARS ARE LIKE KEYS... THEY'RE ALWAYS IN THE FIRST PLACE YOU THINK THEY'D BE, AND THE LAST PLACE YOU LOOK

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Take charge of your life before someone else tries to. Your thoughts have been accurate regarding whom you deal with and the projects you work on. Protect your interests.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
If there is something that you are dedicated to doing, you will have the reserve and determination to complete the project. You will be able to overcome any obstacle you encounter.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Rethink your current direction. If you aren't completely happy with the way things are going, you may want to change course. There are professional opportunities that promise a better future.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Emotional matters at home may lead to an unexpected event. Someone is likely to drop by unannounced. Prepare to make an excuse if you don't want company. Go out and do something you enjoy.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Don't put limitations on yourself. New partnerships will form if you are blunt about your future and your intentions. Your certainty will attract the type of interest you want.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
You may want to give some thought to your past and the upbringing you had. There is probably a link between why you are doing what you are and where you came from.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Travel will broaden your mind or bring you in contact with people you look up to. Don't sit back waiting for things to come to you.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Keep an open mind and don't take sides. Do your own thing. Lots can be accomplished if you put your energy in the right place.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Unique developments will occur through the people you meet today. Talk about your ideas and you will soon have someone in your corner. Interesting partnerships can form.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Someone may try to cause a problem with a loved one. Make sure you do not leave yourself in an awkward position because you neglected to disclose what you've been up to.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You will be on the go today trying to take in as much as you can. Travel or interaction with interesting groups will lead to new friendships. Opportunities will develop.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
You will have to gauge your time carefully. Someone may try to get you to do more than your share. Be fair, but don't let anyone take you for granted.

Teenage blaster worm suspect arrested

SEATTLE/SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Seeking to deliver a blunt warning to hackers everywhere, U.S. officials on Friday arrested a teenager who admitted to making a copycat version of the Blaster Internet worm that infected computers around the world.

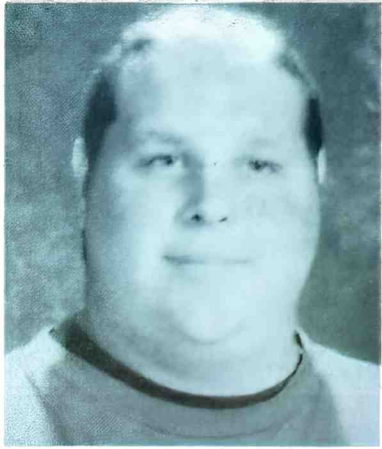
Jeffrey Lee Parson, 18, was arrested in his hometown, the Minneapolis suburb of Hopkins, and charged with one count of intentionally causing or attempting to cause damage to a computer. He faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

"With this arrest we want to deliver a message to hackers around the world," John McKay, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington, told reporters at a news conference shortly after the Minnesota arrest.

"The handcuffs were not cyber-handcuffs, they were real handcuffs," McKay said, speaking of Parson's arrest, which was the result of a joint investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The 6-foot-4-inches (193-cm) tall Parson, who weighs 320 pounds (145 kg), appeared in U.S. Federal Court in St. Paul wearing a faded gray T-shirt with "Big Daddy" spelled out on the front, as well as cargo shorts and high-top sneakers.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Nelson



The FBI on August 29, arrested Jeffrey Lee Parson, 18, Minnesota teenager officials said admitted to making a copycat variant of the devastating Blaster Internet worm. Parson is pictured in this Hopkins High School 2003 yearbook photo. Reuters

ordered Parson to be held under house arrest, although government lawyers had argued for keeping Parson in jail, based on the "grievous and substantial" harm he had caused computer users.

Parson was banned from using the Internet, surfing the World Wide Web or using messaging services. She also told Parson there had been threats made

against him and she was concerned for his safety.

The suspect had previously admitted to law enforcement officials that he created a variant of the worm, according to a complaint filed in the Western District of Washington state. Parson's next court hearing will be Sept. 17 in Seattle.

The Blaster worm exploited a flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows software that was made public last month. Engineers and lawyers at Microsoft, which is headquartered in Redmond, Washington, 15 miles outside of Seattle, cooperated with authorities in the case.

Modified blaster

As experts combed over data in the hunt for the creator of the original virus, which Microsoft said had caused it "millions of dollars of damages," authorities detailed in the complaint how Parsons created the worm variant.

Parson admitted modifying Blaster and creating a variant known by different names, including "W32/Lovesan.worm.b" and admitted he renamed the original code, dubbed "MSBlast.exe," "teekids.exe" after his online alias, the complaint said.

FBI agents interviewed Parson when they searched his home on Aug. 19 and seized seven computers.

Blaster, which appeared Aug. 11, and

its variants are self-replicating Internet worms that bore through a Windows security hole, harnessing computers to launch concerted data attacks via the Internet on a Microsoft technical service Web site.

At least 7,000 "drone" computers tried to attack the Microsoft Web site, the complaint said. Microsoft thwarted the attacks by disconnecting the Web address from the Internet.

The Internet addresses of infected computers were sent to the t33kid.com

Web site. That site was traced back to Parson through a third party, according to the complaint.

The t33kid.com site is registered to Parson at an address in Hopkins, Minnesota. A phone number at that address is registered to R. Parson. A woman who answered the telephone there declined to comment.

Mark Rasch, former head of the Justice Department's computer crime unit, now chief security counsel at Solutionary Inc., a managed computer security com-

pany, said he thinks Parson will serve time "because of the amount of damage resulting from the worm."

Meanwhile, anti-virus vendor Trend Micro Inc. said another worm had surfaced that takes advantage of the Windows hole Blaster used, but the new worm was rated low risk with few infections. (Additional reporting by Eric Auchard in New York, Bernhard

Warner in London, Deborah Charles in Washington, D.C., Daniel Sorid in San Francisco, and Andy Stern in Chicago)

Closest encounter with Mars in 60,000 years

SYDNEY (Reuters) - The last time Mars came this close to Earth, our ancestors were living in caves and struggling to make basic tools out of rocks.

A mere 60,000 years later, thousands of people around the world were using a vast array of high-tech digital and optical equipment on Wednesday to observe the red planet as it passes.

From the shores of Tahiti in Polynesia to outback Australia and Japan, amateur and professional stargazers aimed their telescopes at the eastern sky for a close encounter with Mars.

away.

But Wednesday night will not be the last opportunity for a closer look at the planet.

"It makes no real practical difference whether you look at Mars tonight or...next week. It doesn't move that fast and is going to stay bright for some time," said Dr Dave Laney, an astronomer at the South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town.

After that, though, you'll have to wait 284 years for another such close encounter.

large crowds of people eager to take a look at the planet through their telescopes.

But while Mars came the closest it has been to Earth since the Stone Age, man's long-held dream of landing on the planet remains as far away as ever.

The red planet has always fired the human imagination.

Red planet of focus

Mars was the god of war in Roman mythology and the planet made good copy for early science fiction, such as Ray Bradbury's "Martian Chronicles." When Orson Welles broadcast "The War of the Worlds," H.G. Wells' story of a Martian invasion, many of his radio listeners were terror-stricken.

Fortune tellers, looking for clues in the sky to the future of an uncertain world, say that little good is likely to come from Wednesday's close encounter.

Pointing to bloodshed and violence in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East, or to a rash of terror attacks, the latest of which killed more than 50 people in Bombay in Monday, they predict disasters, both natural and man-made.

"Violence will increase as people will be less patient and get angry quickly," Vineet Jain, a leading New Delhi-based astrologer, told Reuters.



At 05:51 a.m. EDT, Mars passed just 34.65 million miles from Earth, making it the closest such encounter since the Stone Age.

Hundreds of stargazers queued up outside the Sydney Observatory as dark fell, eager to look through some of about 10 telescopes set up in the observatory's grounds.

"This is only once in a lifetime that I can see another planet...it's really great," stargazer Rebecca Horton told Reuters Television.

Sydney's harbourside observatory was bathed in red light to celebrate the passing of the mysterious planet, clearly visible to the naked eye as a bright, twinkling dot.

"We wanted it a little bit bigger," a young schoolgirl named Victoria told local radio after watching Mars with her family from a Sydney beach.

The last time Mars came nearer was around September 12 in 57,617 B.C. when it passed about 34.62 million miles

The U.S.-based Planetary Society has declared August 27 "Mars Day." Its Web site (<http://planetary.org/marswatch2003>) details global events from official viewings from observatories in Sydney and Beijing to desert star parties in places like Jordan.

Away from city lights

Some of the best viewing will be in the southern hemisphere, especially from isolated tiny South Pacific islands like Tahiti, thought to be the closest point on Earth to Mars, and outback Australia, where a lack of pollution from city lights means the planet will shine bright red in the night sky.

Australia's Siding Springs Observatory, around 250 miles northwest of Sydney, beamed images of Mars from its 24-inch telescope onto a large screen at the local Coonabarabran community hall.

In South Africa, planetariums and observatories said they were expecting

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A journey to mountains of Barat



Irena Knehtl
For the Yemen Times
iren_knehtl@maktoob.com

A symphony of colors

Houses are the most striking feature of this region. Houses the same colors of the sand and a contrasting explosion of colors from inside. Houses earth brown and brown walled, flat-roofed and swaddled in silence. Houses that are built using available materials are in all shapes, square, round towers, four to six stories high mud skyscrapers. Colors are the most picturesque device, red or blue with accompanying white straps around their windows and doors. Flat roofs are decorated with gray or white triangular motif. Most houses have small vegetable gardens at hand. Here Barati dreams were captured and re-dreamed.



Spacious fertile plains

Hussien. From these mountains came soldiers who during the making of the Islamic State were an important source of armed strength throughout the Islamic period and conquered vast territories for Islam. They settled in so far away places such as Syria, Morocco, Andalusia, Sicily, and even Malta.

... It was spring when the desert dreamt of roses, when they left. Dusty and unkempt. For new religion and Book of Life... They eyes turned back but the Barati mountains were no longer visible... their hearts turned back... everywhere they were foreign, and everywhere they met relatives... war is not just talk it is what we saw and tasted...

As they went, they returned. Since they are on an eternal voyage, a voyage that travels within them, like ocean drops, then fall down with rain....

They also played important role during the Yemeni 26th September 1962 revolution. events. The essence of Arabia's past is embodied in Yemeni ancient settlement. The predominantly mud brick settlements like Barat are living craft industries. Yet it is these houses

and crafts produced under rigorous conditions by individuals or in small family workshops which are most representative of Yemen, its people and its past. They are an extraordinary heritage and culture:

A rich cultural heritage that needs to be cherished.

The tribesman of Dhu Mohammed are grain farmers who rely on rainfall for their cultivation of wheat and barley and produce largely for their own use. They are mainly villagers who grow sorghum, barley, and wheat by "dry" (rain-fed) cultivation. When rains became scarce than migrations to the southern, greener places such as Ibb became inevitable carrying with them the landscape into which they were born. Barat is above an old place where people have settled so long. When the land still lived but part of the rich sea that washed the villages, life was made equally of the seen and unseen, balanced in careful harmony. The mountains might be persuaded to put down their roots again and link the place with heaven once more.

Continued on page 12

I have been visiting Barat Mountains on the outskirts of AIRub AlKhali (Empty Quarter) during a span of five years. It is not such a long time if one thinks in terms of relationships to places and people. But we seem to get along. Barat in the past used to be brown and dusty, Barat without rain, but last time after substantial rains it glared in the sun and looked happy: ...It was that cloud brought this rain....

The mountains of Barat occupy the northern plateau and eastern slopes. This is also the place of mans unavoidable meeting with the destiny of nature. Here houses, mosques, towers simply grow off the ground: rising up to the sky and stretching out on earth. A place made out of people and land, faces in the shape of their mountains. Thus its inhabitants have created one of the most unusual cultures on the Arabian Peninsula.



Mud skyscrapers of Barat

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