

Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for al-Baidha ambush, and promises more:

Al-Qaeda threatens

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A group calling itself the 'Al-Qaeda branch in Yemen' claimed on Monday its responsibility for the ambush set for the governor of Shabwa, who was injured and his brother, who was killed in the incident on December, 4.

In a press statement sent to al-Wahdani.net last Monday, al-Tawheed brigade, a part of Qaedat al-Jihad in Yemen claimed responsibility for ambushing the governor Ali Ahmad al-Rassas, leading to the killing of his brother, who is also the chief of intelligence in the governorate of Ibb.

The statement said that the incident came as a result of the government's 'violation of its agreement' with the al-Jihad fraction of al-Qaeda as well as to retaliate for the attack that targeted al-Muatazzbellah, head of al-Qaeda in Yemen, two days before Ramdhan in al-Jawf province. It also pointed out that security forces failed to arrest Abdullah al-Karaam last Sunday in Haddah. Al-Qaraam, who is, according to the statement, the main assistant of Abu Assem al-Ahdal who was arrested last month and is believed to be the mastermind of the terrorist attack against the USS Cole in Aden in 2000.

The statement warned that any mistreatment of al-Ahdal will invite grave



Just as the country started to become more secure and stable, a group calling itself Al-Qaeda Yemen branch claimed responsibility for last week's deadly attack in Shabwa, and said that al-Qaeda organization, led by Osama bin Laden (shown) is currently in negotiations with the Yemeni government. In a press statement, the group threatened that it would hit hard if Osama bin Laden's wife or her family are harmed by the government in any way. Archive photo (R).

sequences. The group also warned against any acts by the government that could cause harm to the family of the wife of Osama bin Laden, Amal al-Saddah.

It also called upon the Yemeni government to release al-Qaeda detainees.

"The arrest campaigns by Yemeni government's authorities and its attempts to dry up financial resources of al-Mujahedeen will undermine the spirits of Special Security forces, yet will not affect the people who made a great slap to the big guys of the Yemeni intelligence in al-Baidha governorate," the statement said.

It stressed that 'al-Mujahedeen' are committed to carry out more attacks till the government releases all detainees and stops harassing their families. It confirmed that there were negotiations conducted between al-Qaeda and the government and that there were no repentant people except Khalid Abdunabi, the leader of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army who surrendered himself and pronounced his desire to give up his extremist ideas, according to official sources.

The statement pledged to avenge for the killing Abu al-Al-Harithi who was murdered by a US drone in November last year. "We have moved from the preparation phase to actual implementation and we will shake the ground beneath the feet of the treacherous and American people," it concluded.

Reeker: Fighting terrorism is Yemen's primary responsibility

Yemen Times Staff

Mr. Philip Reeker, former deputy spokesman of the US State Department said that the US Defense Department and other officials were working to quickly resolve the problem of al-Qaeda detainees at Guantanamo.

He said in a press conference held in Sana'a last Tuesday that he did not know about the list of the Guantanamo detainees, who would be released. He also said that he had no idea if some of the would-be released were Yemenis.

When asked to comment on the complain of Yemeni officials that the

US is making more pressure on Yemen without any tangible financial assistance, he stressed that fighting terrorism a primary responsibility of the Yemeni government itself and that the US wanted to help as much as it can. "It is in Yemen's best interest to fight against terrorism," he said.

However, Reeker also spotlighted the growing level of cooperation between his country and Yemen in fighting terrorism, adding "we all have to keep doing more." He pointed out that the whole world should join hands to fight terrorism and that al-Qaeda is not merely targeting the US, citing examples of the terrorist

operations that have hit Saudi Arabia and other countries. However, he also confessed that al-Qaeda still represented a threat and challenge to the US and the world at large.

Reeker said his visit of the region was part of the US administration's efforts to bridge the gap and misunderstanding between the US and Arabs. He briefed journalists on how the US deals with media and referred to the important role the media plays in conveying US policies to the people as well as listening to their comments. Reeker who had also visited Aden, is expected to leave Yemen today heading for the UAE and Oman.

Yemen's application to join Commonwealth rejected

Yemen has been officially rejected from membership of the Commonwealth on Friday.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that took place in Abuja rejected the application of Yemen along with Palestine and Rwanda.

Yemen has been eager to join the 45-nation group based on the fact that former south Yemen was one day under British colonial rule.

Speaking with news reporters on Friday at the closing press conference given by President Olusegun Obasanjo Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr. Donald McKinnon, explained that the Commonwealth looked at the application for membership from Yemen and didn't consider that it met the criteria.

"It considered Rwanda along with both Palestine and the Yemen. All three showed an expectancy to join, and all three were informed that

they didn't meet the Commonwealth criteria," said McKinnon.

According to This Day News media corporation, the Commonwealth as a rule insists that applicant countries have had a constitutional or administrative association with a Commonwealth member country, comply with Commonwealth values, principles and priorities as set out in the Harare Declaration and accept Commonwealth norms and conventions.

McKinnon did not, however, say in specific terms how the applicant countries failed to meet the set criteria, nor if they could be considered in future, but there had been precedence in the past where a new member had been admitted, after meeting the set conditions. Recently Cameroon applied for membership and got admitted, after persistent efforts.

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YEMEN TIMES
2004
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إجابة (١)
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للمشاركة إقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في المسابقة تعبئة الكوبون المرفق وكتابة الإجابات الصحيحة للأسئلة المنشورة في كوبون الأسئلة للعدد الماضي ومن ثم فصح الكوبون وإرفاقه مع كوبون الأسئلة وإرسالهما إلى مقر الصحيفة في صنعاء (شارع حده - خلف السفارة الفلسطينية) أو إلى مكاتب الصحيفة في عدن أو تعز أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركة إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩، صنعاء). لن يتم قبول المشاركات التي يقصدها أي من الكوبونين أو التي تحوي معلومات شخصية ناقصة أو إجابات خاطئة لأي من الأسئلة المنشورة.

ستستمر المسابقة حتى مارس ٢٠٠٤ ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشارك لأكثر من مرة، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقا، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركة الاتصال بالصحيفة على ٢١٨٦٦١ (٠١) في أوقات الدوام. حظا موفقا للجميع....

المصدقية هي شعارنا، وثقتكم هي غايتنا، شاركوا وترقبوا أسماءكم من بين الفائزين.....

FANA concluded – no drastic decisions

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES

The Federation of Arab News Agencies concluded last Sunday its 31 2-day conference with attendees from 17 Arab News Agencies. The Conference, despite the lack of decisions or recommendations, discussed in its last session the decisions that were made in its previous conferences such as Istanbul Conference, and made a few decisions in this regard. The participants also discussed arranging a conference in cooperation with international establishments, the proposal of extending an international media bridge. They discussed the outcome of the International Conference of News Agencies convened in Tehran, Iran, as well as decisions made by the Permanent Committee of Arab Media, which was convened in Cairo and its relation and cooperation with UNESCO in terms of Arabizing the Internet to benefit the Arab News Agencies.

The General Assembly discussed in its sessions the budget of the Federation in light of the consensus that it be reflected upon various development programs and activities. Those will include the arrangement of training programs to be offered by the Federation in



Representatives of 17 Arab countries attended the conference

cooperation with Reuters News Agency in the field of producing general and economic news items. The Committee, meanwhile, considered the results of the contributions of Arab Agencies in the Federation Internet site, and proposed to convene anew and discuss the challenges which hinder the performance news agencies. It valued the role which Yemen News Agency, SABA, undertook to arrange and prepare for the 31st Ordinary meeting of the Federation of Arab News Agencies.

Deliberations of the 31st FANA Conference had produced ideas to define the stands of those agencies relative to the changes in international media rhetoric during the next stage. It is noteworthy to mention that, since its creation, the Federation contributed to offering advice, encouraging the exchange of expertise, convening of regular and specialized conferences of the agencies presidents, and worked to enhance media and technical cooperation among its members.

Workshop on money laundering

BY RADHWAN AL-SAQAF
YEMEN TIMES BUREAU CHIEF

The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) and the Banking Studies Institute are to hold a 4-day workshop on fighting money laundering in Aden on Saturday.

The workshop meetings are expected to be attended by a number of senior government officials, banking apparatus of Yemen and it is to aim at dissemination of awareness on the theme of fighting money laundering in Yemen.

Chairman of board of directors. The

director-general of the Yemeni National Bank Abdulrahman Mohammed al-Kuhali major supporter of the workshop told Yemen Times that the workshop would focus on many economic, political, legal, banking and financial topics, in addition to information premise and all of them would focus on fighting money laundering.

This is to be considered the first step the Central Bank and other concerned parties are taking. The Central Bank is currently preparing a draft law on the fighting of money laundering in Yemen.

The workshop also aims at explain-

ing the law No.35 for 2003 that has considered such operations as crimes. Participants in the workshop are also to be informed on the concept of money laundering and ways of tackling them as well as the negative impact of those operations and their economic, political and monetary damage.

Yemen efforts in this regard come within the framework of the international community interest and for unifying international will for fighting this phenomenon through pinpointing its sources and requisites for ending it according to international criteria.

Improving the Quality of Yemeni Bread

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES

More than 50 Yemeni agricultural researchers from the various research stations of the General Organization for Agricultural Research and Guidance, and Centers of Food and

Post-Harvest Education reviewed in Aden last week a number of unique researches dealing with improving the quality of Yemeni bread by adding the grain bran.

This comes in compliance with a decision by the Council of Ministers calling for improving the quality of

Yemeni bread. Techniques of implementing such methods as well as production and artificial coloring of bananas, storing of dates and similar commodities which can maintain their physical and chemical characteristics for extended periods were also discussed.

Yemen landmine blast kills four, injures four

SANAA, Dec 8 (Reuters) - Three Yemeni women and a boy were killed by a landmine which exploded as the boy was playing with it, a security official said on Monday.

The official told Reuters the explosion late on Sunday injured three other women and another boy in a village in Taiz province, 260 km (160 miles) south of the capital Sanaa.

The mine was apparently left over from a conflict between former South and North Yemen before they united in 1990. A brief civil war took place in 1994 after southern leaders made a failed bid to restore their state.

A Revenge Crime Beside Al-Hawban Checkpoint

YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ OFFICE

As a result of continued vendetta and bloodshed, the spread of hatred and enforcing revenge practices, without reporting to competent authorities of the government so justice may be served, a tragic crime was committed after Eid Al-Fitr holidays which took the lives of Abdurrahman Ali Qaid, 25,

and Mohammed Abdu Al-Faisal, 45, both of Al-Makhader, governorate of Ibb.

The crime was committed by Mohammed Muslih Ukaishan, 40, of the same region who intercepted them in Al-Hawban, governorate of Taiz, where pointed his AK-47 and shot them directly before fleeing the crime scene.

Information indicates that the murderer committed his crime in retaliation

for his cousin, Abdu Hasan Al-Faisal, who was killed at the end of the Holy month of Ramadhan by those individuals. Authorities were transporting the victims from the governorate of Hodaidah to the governorate of Ibb through the governorate of Taiz where the culprit waited for them at Al-Hawban checkpoint. Security authorities are pursuing the culprit to bring him to justice.

More aid from the UN

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have signed two agreements by which the U. N. donates \$942,000 to Yemen for its Small Loans Programs to help fight poverty.

The first agreement stipulates that the United Nations Investment Fund (UNIF) provide Yemen with U.S.

\$800,000 for the purpose of executing the second phase of Small Loans Project complementing an earlier agreement signed last February.

The second agreement stipulates that the UNDP provide Yemen with \$142,000 in support of the Yemeni Government policies in eradicating poverty.

Ahmed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation who signed

the agreements on behalf of Yemen, declared that a committee would be formed to consider ways to create suitable investment environment that would expedite economic growth, and create new work opportunities.

Oscar Fernando Tracko, General Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Arab Countries Office of the United Nations Program in New York, signed the agreements on behalf of the United Nations.

American Corners to be established at Dhamar University and Dar Al Kutub

A ceremony at Dhamar University on December 8, 2003, Alam Misenheimer, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U. S. Embassy in Sana'a, announced funding for two American Corner Partnership Projects in Yemen.

American Embassy Public Affairs Office Press Release has said that American Corner Partnerships are programs funded by the U. S. Department of State that provide for the establishment of resources centers with items such as computers, printers, electronic resources and books to an institution.

These resources work to create an information link between cultures to foster greater understanding. American Corner Partnerships are being funded to Dhamar University and the Sana'a Public Library, Dar al Kutub. During the ceremony, Mr. Misenheimer stated that he hopes these resources will work to increase knowledge and understanding of American life and culture and will provide additional resources to facilitate cross-cultural understanding between our two countries.

Two killed and a body found

BY YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ OFFICE

Malik Noman Ismail, 17, of Al-Mirzah, Jabal Saber (Mountain of Saber) Al-Mawadim was killed by Mohammed Yahya Ismail on 30/11/2003 as a result of a quarrel about a water canal in the mentioned region, where the culprit used his pistol to shoot him dead.

The body was transported to the hospital and authorities detained the killer so he may be tried. Meanwhile, in Al-Buraihi region, of Jabal Habashi (Mountain of Habashi), security author-

ities of the governorate of Taiz managed to detain Yaseen Abdu Qasim, and Yousuf Hasan Qasim. They are alleged to have killed Ahmad Mohammad Amer of the same region by shooting him several times, using an automatic weapon. The body was transported to Al-Thawrah Hospital, and the motive for the killing is still unknown as investigations are still underway. In another region, Al-Rummah, the body of Abdu Omer Mohammed, 36, was found after being left in the open for four days. Security authorities are investigating the motives for the crime, and to arrest the killers.

Host Kills Guest

BY YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ OFFICE

Of the crimes resulting from quarrels among people is the use of the most despicable to put an end to the lives of their rivals.

An example of this is what Mohammed Ghalib Al-Shar'abi, of Al-Rawdhah District, Usaifirah, Taiz, did last Friday evening, 5/12/2003. He allured his rival, Mohammed Yahya Qasim into coming to his house to a Qat session, and at 1 o'clock after midnight, shot him in the face using his pistol. Brigadier General, Dr. Ahmad Mohammed Al-Olofi, Chief of Security of the Governorate of Taiz, Usaifirah District, instructed that an immediate investigation be conducted and criminal brought to justice. The killer was put in central prison in Taiz.

Elections begin Dec. 11

The High Committee for Elections and Referendum called on the registered voters in the districts which have vacancies in the Local Councils to head to voting polls Dec. 11 to elect their representatives in those councils.

The directorates which have vacant representative positions amount to 92 election centers, and according to the High Committee for Elections and Referendum statistics, there are 608,000 eligible registered voters in 38 districts.

Fifty four candidates are competing for these local council vacancies in governorates, 179 candidates in the directorates.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll.

This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you think that the latest statement from the so called "al-Qaeda Yemen branch" is for real?
- No, it is an absolute hoax
- Yes, it is real but exaggerating
- Yes, it is real, and they are al-Qaeda alright
- I cannot guess

Go to our website at:
yementimes.com/#poll
and have your voice heard!

Journalists' meeting Dec. 10

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate announced that its extended meeting would take place Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. at its main location.

A four-member committee comprising of Mahboob Ali, the Syndicate President, Abdulbari Taher, Salim Ba-Jameel, and Sami Ghalib are collecting suggestions and remarks for a Syndicate by-law project.

It had decided to delay the meeting from Dec. 8. This delay would allow more time for journalists to submit their inputs.

Short Term Job Vacancy

A leading international consulting company has an immediate short-term vacancies (duration 3-5 months) in Zabid and Tuban areas:

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- Computer literate (able to use Microsoft Word and Excel and knowledge of engineering programs is an advantage).

B. Irrigation Design Engineers

- Civil / Irrigation Engineers with 5 years of proven experience in the design of rehabilitation and improvement of surface irrigation infrastructure
- Familiar with participatory design processes
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic
- Computer literate - able to use Microsoft Word and Excel and good knowledge of engineering programs (AutoCAD) is an advantage
- Engineering drawing ability (draft design drawings)
- Understanding of topographical surveying

C. Quantity / Cost engineers

- Civil / Irrigation Engineers with 3 years of proven experience in:
 - the calculation of quantities from contract drawings
 - estimating construction costs
 - preparation of bidding documents
 - Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic
 - Computer literate (good ability in using Microsoft Word and Excel)

Note:

- All candidate will be interviewed
- Should be able to start immediately (if selected)

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Created 32 years ago

UAE celebrates anniversary

By Yasser Al-Mayasi
Yemen Times Staff

The United Arab Emirates celebrated its 32nd National Day on Dec. 2. The creation of the Emirates Union occurred in 1971, included the emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ujman, Al-Fujairah and Umm Al-Guwayn.

It marked an historic foundation in which they endorsed an agreement to

unite and ratify a constitution defining the goals of the state.

In 1972, the last emirate of Ras Al-Khaimah joined the Union which completed the seven-emirate union.

Under the leadership of Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the UAE, adopted clear policies with its sister Arab countries, especially Gulf states, and the rest of the world.

It worked on strengthening ties among the Gulf states that the creation of the Gulf Cooperation Council was



Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan

announced from Abu Dhabi in 1981.

The United Arab Emirates has also played important and dynamic roles in Arab League, Organization of Islamic Conference, United Nations, and other Arab and international organizations to realize the Arab solidarity in facing their challenges.

The UAE followed effective strategies that realized tremendous and quick developments in various fields, under the leadership of Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, emerging as a contemporary government which made use of the appropriate means that offered social and economic prosperity.

In recent years, and in spite of economic recession prevailing in the region, it realized notable economic advancements. For example, the UAE's economy is marked by high growth rates that the annual revenue reached 229 billion Dirhams in 2002.

This was reflected upon the living standards of its citizens that the annual income per capita reached 16,000 Dirhams in the same year, which is con-

sidered on the highest in the world.

The oil sector realized successive growth rates especially in the field oil-related industries, and production development recording an oil reserve of 98 billion barrels at the end of 2002.

This rated the UAE as third country in world in terms of oil reserves, and the forth in the field of natural gas reserves.

Despite its oil wealth, the UAE has adopted policies of diversifying its income resources realizing a revenue of 199.2 billion Dirhams in 2002 from non-oil related industries.

The agriculture, construction, electricity, water, and industry sectors also realized a revenue of 140 billion Dirhams in the same year.

The free trade zone in Dubai is considered a critical element in realizing economic advancements in the UAE where education, health, social welfare, and transportation sectors realized notable growth rates. The achievements of the UA, remain a glowing witness on the determination of the government of the UAE which does more than it says.

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Candidate are requested to send their CVs to the following:

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E-mail address: Saleh&Aujan@yemen.net.ye

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its National Water Resources Authority(NWRA) Project.

Job Title: Programme Implementation Officer (PIO)
Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen.

Responsibilities include:

The incumbent will work under the direct supervision of the National Program Director (Chairman, National Water Resources Authority) and in collaboration with all implementing partners both within and outside NWRA, as well as with the national and international experts and consultants.

- Assist the NPD in the application of administrative and technical procedures as required by the UNDP in the administration of program under the national execution (NEX) modality.
- Provide close and regular administrative backstopping to ensure coordinated implementation of all program components. This would entail active follow-up with various program sub-managers to determine if program implementation is on schedule and track.
- Coordinate the preparation of quarterly and annual work plans in collaboration with all implementing units both within and outside NWRA, as well as monitoring of program progress in line with pre-established indicators and benchmarks.
- Assist program sub-managers in the preparation of TOR and job descriptions for the national and international experts and consultants, as well as in their recruitment.
- Contribute towards the assessment of technical capacity gaps in relation to the competencies required to implement the planned tasks, as well as implementation of the HRD plan.
- Provide support to the NPD in streamlining the flow of information at different levels of NWRA, improving the organizational discipline, and crating job awareness among national staff.
- Assist the NWRA management in the opening of new field branches, and provide support for their institutional strengthening.
- Prepare quarterly and annual program progress reports, as well as budget revi-

sions and financial reports in line with the requirements of donors participating in the program.

- Establish effective reporting systems between the PMU, donors, international cooperation agencies and implementing units.
- Support the implementing units in the finalization of planned outputs in the form of reports and technical papers for publication and distribution
- Facilitate the financial disbursements of the program budget in accordance with the agreements reached between the implementing units and financial office.
- Organize program related meetings; prepare and distribute documentation for the meetings; and preparation and distribution of minutes of the meetings.

Qualification:

- Advanced degree in economics, or water resources engineering, or MBA or another closely related field
- Experience in working with donors funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- Significant project management experience is required, including experience in preparing work plans, managing project budget, procurement of goods and services, and most importantly in coordinating staff activities.
- Prove leadership qualities are required as "agent of change".
- Fluency in English Arabic with excellent report writing capabilities. and Computer literacy.

Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for the above position may submit their applications by mail to Human Resources Unit, UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a

The deadline for receiving applications is 05 January 2004

For further details of our vacancies you may visit our website at:
<http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm>





Inauguration of Al-Naqib Hospital

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مستشفى النقيب

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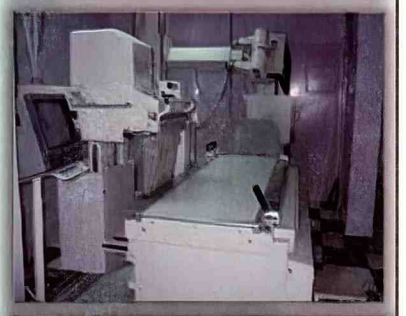
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Yemeni Steps Towards E-Government

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES

Telecommunications and information technology revolution has nowadays become the cornerstone of construction and development of any country. Reality depicts this fact as it plays a direct and crucial role in all social, cultural, economic, and development aspects by being used in all administrative and services as well as other walks of life.

Governments also use this technology in running its day-to-day affairs. Benefiting from the use of this technology in development, however, differs from one country to another. The industrialized countries, for example, have the lion's share of this technology. On the other hand, the underdeveloped or poor countries found themselves forced to use this technology in order to coexist and keep pace with the rest of the world. Yemen is one of the countries, which expedited the improvement of telecommunication and technology sectors by implementing policies that enhance the quality of their services. These policies take into account educating the public, and taking steps to implement the telecommunication and information technology system which will serve the nation's development. The Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology has prepared the National Project for Information Technology, which aims at assisting the Yemeni society to arrive at implementing the electronic government. The project was adopted by the Council of Ministers in November 2002 under the supervision of a higher technical committee chaired by the Prime Minister. This committee draws up general policies for the project while the Minister

of Telecommunications and Information Technology was tasked with its execution. The committee arranged a number of activities to establish clear foundations for launching the services of the E-government. The latest of these activities was the regional workshop on the E-government in the Republic of Yemen which was organized by the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology in cooperation with Social and Economic Committee of West Asia (SECWA), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The workshop with attendees from 14 Arab and international countries aimed at introducing the role the UN, especially the SECWA, and the UNDP in Yemen may be able to play in bringing this project into existence. In addition, it discussed the areas where those organizations may support Yemen in learning about the main issues of defining the E-government for Yemen, and providing decision makers with necessary data and expertise relating to the implementation of the project. The importance of electronic devices which enhance the performance of various sectors of the Government, and experiences of more advanced countries were also discussed.

Infrastructure of Telecommunications Sector in Yemen, and the Preparation of E-Government Project

The telecommunications sector in Yemen witnessed a gradual growth, which enabled Yemenis to stay in touch with the world. The pace was rather slow due to the scarcity of available means, however, the last decade of the twentieth century saw expansions of telephone networks from 153,866 lines in 1990 to 460,736 lines

at the end of the year 2000. By mid of 2002, the lines increased to 627,832. Meanwhile, in preparation for the E-government, the Yemeni Internet Gateway was established, and the National Project for Information Technology "E-Government" was adopted. As mentioned earlier, several steps were taken to execute this project one of which was the expansion of telephone network which witnessed an increase of 500,000 lines in 2001 plus the expansion of rural network by adding 115,000 lines in 2000. With these expansions, both networks have a capacity of 1,400,000 lines. Of the projects relating to information technology, the first phase of the City of Telecommunications and Information Technology has been completed. The City houses various technological contents as the Yemeni Internet Gateway, the center for the advancement of the gifted, program development, etc. The second phase of the project is being executed where a representation of the government, private, and mixed sectors will be housed, and specialized centers for training, program development and applications will be constructed. Those centers will also house equipment assembly facilities, offer and exchange data and applications among companies, academic institutions, researchers and students. The adoption of the National Project for Information Technology (E-Government) which had an initial cost of U.S. \$60 million is one of the practical methods of implementing e-government. Also, the design of a government site on the Internet that includes 31 sites for the ministries and government agencies, and 20 sites for the governorates. The President adopted a project to offer computers to employees of some government agencies at easy installments.

Traffic congestions in cities

By Ismail Al-Ghabri
Yemen Times

Traffic congestions in most Yemeni cities are among the leading causes of increasing traffic accidents. These traffic congestions became increasingly obstructive of which many complain especially businessmen and students who face a great deal of difficulty in getting back and forth to their businesses and schools at peak times.

Suitable solutions are badly needed to reduce these negative effects. Main cities such as Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Hodeidah, for example, are witnessing extensive construction growth which

requires the construction of suitable complementary roads, and parking areas to serve the increasing population density. It is noted that old roads in these cities are no longer providing streamlined traffic movement in light of the sizes of modern vehicles, and the scarcity of parking lots further aggravates the situation. Moreover, attention should be paid when planning new neighborhoods to provide for better traffic flows so similar congestions may be avoided with the increase of population. One of the basic reasons for such traffic congestions in cities is probably the increasing rate of population density migrating from rural areas, and the concentration of government institutions and facilities in those

cities. In addition, the planned and random construction expansions in those main cities created random roads and intersections that do not properly serve the increasing density of the population.

This comes to light very clearly at peak periods. In addition to the random construction expansions, especially in new neighborhoods and suburbs, which were created with no planning whatsoever, and where roads and vehicular exit, were completely neglected, putting additional burdens on the flow of traffic. It is, therefore, deemed necessary of concerned authorities to start serious initiatives to rectify these situations and avoid them in the future.

Workshop on Health Insurance

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A workshop on health insurance commenced in Sana'a on Saturday, 6/12/2003 organized by the Ministry of Health and Population in cooperation with Oxfam Organization.

Fifty health insurance professionals from the Ministry of Health and other related sectors, as well as other international organizations that contribute

to the improvement of health conditions in Yemen attended the workshop. Dr. Mohammed Al-Naimi, the Minister of Health, attended the workshop which presented a few interesting topics, and stressed the importance of health insurance which the Ministry considers as one of the important tasks to accomplish in order to improve health conditions in Yemen. It contributes to the enhancement of the quality of health services, and the reduction of burdens which the health

services department shoulders. He added that the foundation of Health Insurance System was laid a few years ago by creating a separate department for this purpose. This department started gathering information about experiences of donor countries, and international organizations so a practical Health Insurance System may be implemented. Mr. Thabet Baggash of Oxfam Organization also mentioned the unique role which his organization undertakes in supporting a number of health projects in Yemen. Health Insurance System is one of those important projects as well as a few others in the various health sectors. Baggash indicated that Oxfam is in the process of conducting studies on several additional potential projects.

The workshop included several working papers and discussion topics presented by health insurance professionals, related to international experiences in the field. They also discussed the legal context of local experiences of health insurance. A committee has completed a legislation project for the health insurance system awaiting its ratification by the government.





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Several attacks causing concern for coalition forces in Iraq: Resistance intensifies

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Reuters, Dec 9) - After a relatively peaceful period lasting from the last few days of Ramadan until Sunday, Iraqi resistance seems to have resumed its attacks with even greater strength throughout the country.

U.S. helicopter crashes

Among the attacks on coalition forces in Iraq was apparently the firing by rocket-propelled grenade against a U.S. helicopter, bringing it down near the tense Iraqi town of Falluja according to eyewitnesses. Reuters photographer Akram Saleh, at the scene, saw the helicopter in flames in a field near Falluja.

A military spokeswoman in Baghdad said the aircraft involved was an OH-58 Kiowa observation helicopter. A spokesman for U.S. Central Command in Florida said he had no details to support suggestions the helicopter had been shot down.

"It was a controlled landing, a hard landing. There were no casualties or fatalities. We don't know what the cause was," said Marine Major Pete Mitchell on Tuesday.

Last month, guerrillas shot down a U.S. Chinook helicopter near Falluja, killing 16 U.S. soldiers.

all over the compound," said Colonel Michael Linnington of the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division.

Most of the U.S. soldiers injured suffered cuts, bruises and broken bones, the military said, but four were more seriously wounded and were evacuated to a military hospital.

An Iraqi translator at the base was also wounded and two Iraqis in the town went to hospital with cuts, a doctor said.

Linnington said soldiers manning the gate at the camp in Tal Afar, 28 miles west of Mosul, had opened fire after the driver charged toward them, ignoring orders to stop.

"The soldiers hit the driver several times, causing him to detonate the bomb prematurely," Linnington said. "He was definitely trying to get through the gate and into the camp."

Nearby, Hazam Ismail's house was littered with debris.

"The explosion shook our doors and windows. The wheel hub of the exploding car smashed through the window of the room where my five children were sleeping," he said. "If any of them had been standing up they could have been killed."

Iraq Attack Injures 41 U.S. Troops

On the other hand, a suicide bomber wounded 41 U.S. soldiers and three Iraqis in an attack on a military base in northern Iraq Tuesday while in Baghdad, a car bomb exploded outside a mosque killing three Iraqis. The attacks coincided with an announcement from Japan that it had approved a plan to send non-combat troops to Iraq, despite strong voter opposition.

The blast at the U.S. base occurred shortly before dawn. The explosives-laden car blew a crater in the street and sent glass and debris flying across a wide area.

"It was definitely a suicide bomb -- there were pieces of the individual

Mosque blast kills three

Furthermore, a bomb has ripped through a Sunni Muslim mosque in a largely Shi'ite area of Baghdad, killing at least three people and wounding one, police say.

The blast, which gouged a gaping hole in the mosque nestled in Baghdad's Hurriyya district, raised the spectre of sectarian tension in Iraq, where Shi'ite Muslims persecuted under Saddam Hussein hope to consolidate political power in the government that replaces him.

As they poked through the wreckage, residents called the incident part of a pattern of intimidation by Shi'ites, who make up 60 percent of Iraq's population and whose leaders have largely opted to work with the



Iraqi men run towards a U.S. helicopter which crashed near Fallujah December 9, 2003. A U.S. helicopter came down near the tense Iraqi town of Falluja on Tuesday and witnesses said it had been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. REUTERS

country's U.S. occupiers.

"We are pointing the finger of accusation at the Shi'ites for this act," said Sheikh Ahmad Dabbash, who leads prayers at the damaged Ahab al-Mustafa mosque, and linked the blast to previous attacks on Sunni mosques in the capital.

"Elements which claim to be Muslims, but which have nothing to do with Islam, came to divide Muslims and spread sectarianism in

this country," he said.

The explosion, which struck about 7 a.m. (4 a.m. British time), shredded and scorched a car parked in the mosque's courtyard, left behind pools of blood mingled with dust.

"They were there this morning, and either let it happen or helped," said a man who identified himself as Hamid, pointing at armed guards affiliated with a Shi'ite Muslim political party patrolling outside a

school by the mosque.

Like other residents of the area, he disputed the bomb account put forward by Iraqi police and insisted that a rocket or shell was fired into the mosque's courtyard from atop a nearby building.

A local police commander speculated that attackers got inside the mosque compound in the early hours of the morning and left the bomb there under a car.

"Our view is that someone passing by the wall of the mosque put the bomb under the car, where it was timed to detonate," said Captain Sabah Faid, who added there were no suspects in the blast as yet.

An association of Iraq's Sunni clerics called the attacks part of a campaign against the Sunni sect, of which Saddam is a member, and most of the people in areas where friction with U.S. forces is highest. "Sunni mosques and those who pray in them are being attacked...across Iraq by elements we know of, on a pretext we reject: that these are the supporters of the former regime," the League of Muslim Clerics in Iraq said in a statement.

Guerrillas kill two in Iraq

This comes after a U.S. soldier and an Iraqi policeman have been killed in separate attacks as a number of South Korean contractors pulled out of Iraq and Bangladesh closed its embassy because of guerrilla warfare.

Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, spokesman for the U.S. Army in Iraq, said on Monday the soldier -- from the 101st Airborne Division -- was killed in a drive-by shooting in the northern city of Mosul, which has seen an upsurge in attacks on American troops.

"There was a drive-by shooting by four Iraqis. They shot and killed him," Kimmitt told a news conference.

The shooting brought to 308 the number of American soldiers killed in action since U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq in March to oust Saddam Hussein. A total of 193 have been killed since U.S. President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

In another attack in Mosul on Monday, three U.S. soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb, a spokesman for the 101st Airborne Division said. On Sunday, another roadside bomb in Mosul killed one U.S. soldier and wounded two.

In Baquba, some 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, an Iraqi police bomb disposal expert was killed when a tank round planted on a busy street was detonated by remote control, a U.S. military commander in the city said.



Iraqis look at a car damaged in an explosion outside a mosque in Baghdad December 9, 2003. An explosion rocked a Sunni mosque in the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Tuesday and local residents said there may have been several casualties. REUTERS

Japan approves disputed troops-for-Iraq plan

TOKYO, Dec 9 (Reuters) - Japan's cabinet approved a plan on Tuesday to dispatch troops to Iraq, a landmark decision setting the stage for what is likely to be the nation's biggest and most dangerous overseas military mission since World War Two.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi convened a special meeting of his cabinet to approve the controversial plan, which critics have said is ill-conceived and violates Japan's pacifist constitution.

Earlier, Koizumi met Takenori Kanzaki, the head of his coalition partner New Komeito Party, and got his backing for the plan. But he also agreed to carefully consider the security situation in Iraq before actually sending in troops.

"The utmost caution must be exercised if Ground Self-Defence Forces are to be sent. Their dispatch should made after an improvement in the security situation there is confirmed," Kanzaki told reporters after meeting Koizumi.

Koizumi will hold a news conference to explain his decision, which comes as surveys show that most of the public oppose sending troops now and follows the killing of two Japanese diplomats in Iraq late last month.

The prime minister has had to balance Japan's tight security ties with the United States, which is keen for the dispatch, with domestic concerns that increased after the diplomats' deaths.

Just minutes before the cabinet approval, the U.S. army said 31 U.S. soldiers were wounded in northern Iraq when a car believed to be driven by a suicide bomber exploded at the entrance to their base.

No member of Japan's military has fired a shot in combat or been killed in an overseas mission since World War Two, although they have taken part in United Nations peacekeeping operations since a 1992 law made that possible.

Stretching the constitution

The plan to be approved on Tuesday will allow troops to be sent during a one-year period starting December 15, but will not set a specific date for the dispatch or the size of the mission, media said. The bulk of the forces are expected to go next year.

Tokyo intends to eventually send 500 to 700 soldiers to southern Iraq, where it believes the security situation is stable, but equip them with the heaviest artillery they have ever taken overseas, according to media reports.

The army will have portable anti-tank rocket launchers and recoilless guns to protect against possible suicide bomb attacks, the reports said.

Seven or eight planes from the air force as well as three transport vessels and three destroyers from the navy are also expected to be sent to Iraq.

Japan's constitution renounces the right to go to war and prohibits the country from having a military, but has been interpreted as allowing Japan to have forces for self-defence.

Recent governments have stretched the constitutional constraints, and debate over revising the pacifist clause is heating up. Koizumi is in favour of making such changes.

A law allowing troops to be sent to help rebuild Iraq was enacted in July, but specifies that military staff be sent only to "non-combat" zones.

Japan as target

The killing of the two diplomats by gunmen near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and growing attacks against non-U.S. personnel in Iraq have raised fears that Japanese troops may become targets if they are sent there.

Many Japanese also fear they could become the targets of terrorist attacks at home following reported threats by al Qaeda to "strike at the heart of Tokyo" if Japan sends troops to Iraq.



Japanese demonstrators shout slogans as they hold a placard saying "Stop sending troops to Iraq" during a rally in front of the parliament in Tokyo December 9, 2003. Japan's cabinet is set to approve later on Tuesday a plan for the dispatch of troops to help rebuild Iraq, setting the stage for what could become its biggest and most dangerous overseas military mission since World War Two.

REUTERS

"In a sense, he made a promise (to U.S. President George W. Bush) based on his mistaken judgment, and is sending the troops to a dangerous place to protect his own political career," said Naoto Kan, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, after a meeting in

which Koizumi explained the government's decision to him.

More than 100 demonstrators protested outside the prime minister's residence on Tuesday, shouting and holding banners saying "No to the Iraq troop deployment".

A weekend survey by public broadcaster NHK showed that only 17 percent of voters favoured sending the military to Iraq soon, 53 percent would support a dispatch after peace and order were restored, and 28 percent opposed it in any circumstances.

N.Korea insists on simultaneous action for talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9 (Reuters) - North Korea insisted on Tuesday that it would return to six-party talks on scrapping its nuclear programme only if the United States and its allies agreed to simultaneous concessions, a demand they have already rejected.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Yong-il, in Malaysia for a visit to boost bilateral ties, told reporters if Pyongyang's proposal was not met, it would show that Washington was not serious about peace. "If the next six-nation talks will be a process towards the realisation of a package solution based on the simultaneous actions we have proposed and that could give good news to the world, then we are willing to come for the meeting," Kim said.

"If it is not so, then it will be a deception and it will not be a talk for peace," he said. "It will be a talk for currying up the aggression and it will be regarded as a trick to only earn time for the presidential elections in the United States."

His comments come a day after a South Korean official said a new proposal formulated by the United States, Japan and South Korea on resolving the nuclear crisis would reward Pyongyang's disarmament with security guarantees and other concessions in "coordinated steps" over time.

He said the North Korean demand for simultaneous action was "not going to be acceptable to us".

That proposal has been sent to China to be sent on to Pyongyang.

The United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia are seeking a resumption of nuclear talks with North Korea by the end of the year after an inconclusive round in August, but many officials believe they may not resume until January or February.

It was not immediately clear if Kim's comments reflected Pyongyang's final word on its demand for simultaneous concessions. The Communist state is also notorious for hardline rhetoric ahead of any compromise.

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- An ability for analytically and strategic thinking and results orientation.

Other requirements

Successful candidate must have a master's degree I business administration, public administration finance, information technology, and economic or related fields. We expect professional experience of 5 to 8 years, preferably in administration, finance, or office management in the public or private sector. Language requirement are: fluently in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications and corporate IT system.

Please send your application to UNFPA, Sana'a P.O Box 7292
Dead line for application 25th December 2003

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered and not field.

At least five dead in Moscow blast

A suicide bomb attack killed at least six people in the heart of Moscow Tuesday, just two days after Russian voters handed President Vladimir Putin an even tighter grip on power.

After the explosion, bodies lay unattended on the pavement outside the plush National Hotel, on the corner of the capital's main shopping street and opposite the Kremlin, where Putin was meeting legislators.

A woman's severed head lay on the pavement and scraps of flesh were scattered in the snow up to 30 meters (yards) away. "We can say with certainty that this was a terrorist act ... linked to the elections to the State Duma (parliament)," said Sergei Tsoi, a spokesman for Moscow's mayor.

It was the second suicide bombing in Russia in five days and the second deadly bomb attack in the capital this year. The first one in July, which killed 15 people at an outdoor con-



A police officer works with a sniffer dog as he inspects a blast site outside the National hotel in central Moscow, Dec 9. An explosion in central Moscow on Tuesday killed at least five people and one Russian news agency said initial investigations suggested a woman suicide bomber was responsible. REUTERS

cert, was blamed on Chechen separatists.

Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said the explosion may have been the work of one or possibly two women suicide bombers. Later, deputy interior minister Rashid Nurgaliyev said police were investigating whether as many as three were involved.

Putin, speaking after the attack, called for new action to halt "terrorists," saying they were trying to undermine Russia's economic and democratic development.

"The actions of criminals, terrorists which we have to con-

front even today are aimed against all that," he said.

Police spokesman Kirill Mazurin said four people were killed outright. Another was reported to have died on the way to hospital. Moscow police said a sixth died later.

Thirteen people were wounded, police said. Itar-Tass news agency said the bomb had been packed with nails and metal pieces, making its effect more devastating when it went off just before 11 a.m.

It quoted security sources as saying one of the suicide bombers had been on a police wanted list and was suspected of having undergone training at a camp for armed militants.

Germany's Schroeder, France's Chirac press for EU constitution



German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (L) poses with French President Jacques Chirac upon his arrival at the Elysee Palace, Dec 9. The leaders made a joint appeal to their EU partners to back the EU draft constitution. Reuters

PARIS, Dec 9 (Reuters) - German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac made a joint appeal to their EU partners on Tuesday to back a draft constitution for the bloc before it expands from 15 to 25 members next year. Paris and Berlin are the staunchest advocates of the draft EU constitution that would rebalance voting rules in Brussels and reform other EU institutions before next year's eastward enlargement of the European Union.

"We're on exactly the same wavelength," Schroeder told a joint news conference with Chirac after talks at the French president's Elysee Palace. "The constitution (should be) identical with the draft constitution if possible, or at least come very close to it," the German

leader said.

Spain and Poland are leading resistance to proposed changes in voting rules that would strip them of privileges won in the Nice Treaty of 2000 by adjusting voting power to reflect population size more closely.

Chirac, flanked by a beaming Schroeder, said he hoped a deal could be struck with Madrid and Warsaw but that an EU deal should not be "at any price".

Schroeder was accompanied by Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer for the talks in Paris, ahead of the EU summit on Friday in Brussels.

Tuesday's meeting was the latest in a series that have marked a resurgence of ties between the two countries, the main driving force of EU integration over the past 50 years.

EU officials say the chances of a deal at the summit are slightly better than 50-50.

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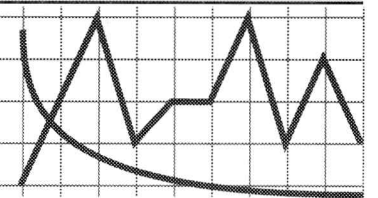
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YT Business



Spending outweighs revenue by YR 63 billion

Yemen's 2004 draft budget is up by YR 84 billion

By Mahyoub al-Kamali
Yemen Times Staff

Yemen's draft 2004 budget now stands at an YR 84 billion increase over last year's, with a deficit of YR 63 billion. Recently submitted to the parliament for committee debate, it gives development and services a priority.

It focuses on:

- improving security,
- giving more fiscal authority to local governments,
- reforming the school system and social services
- investing in both public and private sectors,
- attracting international attention, to get help with economic reforms in Yemen.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance Alawi Saleh al-Salami said general revenues the fiscal year 2004 amount to YR 681.1 billion, and spending is estimated at YR 744.6 billion, for a deficit of YR 63 billion.

This past year's revenues were estimated at YR 604 billion and the estimated total expenditures were YR 668 billion with a deficit estimated at

about YR 64 billion, making the deficits of 2003 and 2004 virtually identical.

The 2002 budget draft gives YR 162 billion for education with an increase of YR 25.8 billion

Three society colleges would be built in the capital secretariat at the President Al Abdulla Saleh Center for Rehabilitation and Care of Orphanages, and also in the city of Seiyoun, Hadramout Governorate, and in the district of Sanhan, Governorate of Sana'a.

The draft budget has also determined funds for the health sector, which would get YR 35.5 billion, with an increase of YR 1.1 billion

The new budget has appropriated YR 189.4 billion for capitalist and investment expenditures, out of which a sum of YR 20.9 billion will be used as contribution to shares of economic units' capital.

Security spending is estimated at YR 117 billion, while the ministry of interior would get YR 35.4 billion.

The draft of the state budget also includes YR 38.1 billion for interests and services duties, of which YR 10.7 billion would go for foreign interests and YR 18 billion for principle installments of foreign loans.



Workers guaranteed jobs and pensions

Government sells Aden steel factory

By Yemen Times Staff

The council of ministers in Yemen, as part of the privatization of public projects in Yemen, has approved the restructuring of Al-Thawra factory for steel industries in the governorate of Aden.

The decision stipulates privatization of the factory for the leaseholder under conditions of accommodating all employees of the factory.

The conditions also include guarantees their jobs with all their legal rights and terms of social securities as well as pensioning those at the age of retirement.

The council of ministers also approved restructuring the State Establishment of Agricultural Services.

A committee will propose the best way for privatization of this establishment, after annexing the factory of agricultural implements in Aden, and the unit of digging in the governorate of Seiyoun.

The committee would carry out the redrafting of goals of the establishment and its organizational structure and necessary arrangements for the labour force.

This comes in completion of the privatization program the government is implementing, started in 1997, including the selling of some public installations to get rid of their financial burdens and upgrading their production.

Nevertheless it is noted that the program is progressing with slow steps and under some official cautions aimed at gradual application of the program especially to avoid its social consequences

resulting from deterioration of local labour situations and aggravation of unemployment problems.

The Yemeni privatization program has included a number of factories producing dairies, other food products, shoes and some tourist institutions, and submitting the state property for partial contribution in some ports and establishments.

The World Bank says the privatization program in Yemen would help the country overcome financial problems and additional burdens the state budget is bearing.

In its implementation, the program is facing up much protest by Yemeni opposition that thinks the liquidation of state ownership of public establishments would not help the national economy progress.

The Embassy of United States of America announces for an immediate job opening within its organization.

"English Teacher Trainer/Curriculum Specialist"

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

Required Qualifications

Education: M.A. in English as a Foreign/Second Language (ESL/EFL) or Applied Linguistics or, as a substitute, a Bachelor's degree with 7 years of ESL experience, including a minimum of two years of teacher training and a minimum of two years working in a developing country is required.

Experience: A minimum of five years of ESL/EFL work, including a minimum of two years of teacher training and minimum of two years working in the Middle East is highly desirable.

Language Proficiency: Native speaker of North America English is required; knowledge of Arabic is desirable.

Knowledge: Knowledge of language learning theory and methodology is essential; basic computer skills and ability to use MS Word and Excel is desirable.

Skills and Ability: Ability to work well with others while still maintaining high instructional and organizational standards, ability to be constructively critical in order to effect improvement in teacher performance, ability to be flexible in working in a cross-cultural environment, ability to achieve work goals/objectives in a timely and organized manner, and an ability to analyze and formulate conclusions and develop recommendations.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-06

*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-8 (annual starting salary USD33,682)

How to apply: Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 303-155.

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Fish perishing phenomenon spread,

Fish Wealth Ministry bans random fishing

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The researcher Ahmed Said from the Yemeni Center of Oceanology emphasizes the necessity of studying the phenomenon of fish perishing in the Yemeni coasts in order to find out the real causes behind this phenomenon that affects the level of fishing and its financial revenues. The researcher has explained that the phenomenon has extended from the eastern coasts of the governorates of al-Muhra and Hadramout and to the west towards Bab el Mandab for the first time last winter.

The researcher said the fish perishing phenomenon is a natural one that occurs in the summer season as a result of cli-

matic changes caused by south-eastern monsoon winds in the sea waters at a depth of 500 meters. This leads to the rise of very cold waters empty of oxygen and causing fish perishing.

Fish Wealth Ministry had announced that the phenomenon of fish perishing happened last week offshore the Muhra governorate, mentioning that it happens annually and not being caused by any pollution.

The minister of Fish Wealth Ali Mohammed Majour has warned foreign ships against the consequences of working in Yemeni territorial waters without obtaining official licenses and indicated to prohibiting haphazard fishing by ships working in the Yemeni territorial waters and dredging habitat of fish and

marine life reproduction. Mr Majour also said the ministry had stopped issuing or renewing any fishing licenses in the Yemeni waters. He had confirmed in a meeting with chairmen of fish societies and investors in the island of Socotra his ministry's intention to build berths for fishermen and organize the fishing process in Yemeni territorial waters.

The Fish Wealth ministry also intends to activate sea monitoring in order to guarantee exploitation of fish wealth and support fish societies in the field of production. The coasts of Socotra Island extend to 320 km. they are rich with biodiversity and possess a huge fish wealth. They also need the building of central markets and ice factories and facilitating communicating with fishermen.

Words of Wisdom



This fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issue and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization

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



OUR OPINION

Yemen's youth

A glimmer of hope

I was reading through my email the other day when I found a link to an organization known as the Yemeni Student Association Abroad (www.ysaa.org). My curiosity led me to visit the site, which is a forum and network for Yemeni students, particularly those in universities, around the world.

The first thing that caught my eye was the eagerness to bring Yemen to a better rank among world nations.

The introduction presented on the website's main page was more than enough to bring a glimmer of hope that these students, who may one day be decision-makers, truly care for their country and will do their utmost for its progress and prosperity.

Even though a year has past since the site was established, I feel glad that I was able to find out about it.

The site notes, "The lack of proper education, the greatly propagated feelings of inadequacy and inferiority, the poverty-stricken majority, the overwhelming diversion from our Noble Islamic teachings, the destructive tribal and sectarian zeal and bigotry, the Rich's unfair superiority, the degrading of educators and the educated, the suffocation of talents, all and many other echoes through the ages; the call upon us for the long awaited difference.

It continues, "If we don't hold ourselves accountable, and not take the responsibility, no one else will dare to take it. If we can't use our granted knowledge multicultural and educational experiences to help others, we absolutely don't deserve all of those useless disguises. Here together under the YSAA, we will strive to harness our knowledge, experiences, and feelings to help make a change for the better."

This is the introduction presented on the main page of the website. Those words resemble the sense of responsibility of Yemeni students to help Yemen get out of its stagnancy, to move on to achieve a better tomorrow.

Nevertheless, the obstacles are many. While touring through the different sections of the website, I stopped at the site's forum to get a feel of what did Yemenis think of what is Yemen going through. I realized that most are pessimist and feel somewhat let down. The overall sense of negativism is felt in the different articles published.

There are many who complain that Yemen is far behind in terms of technology, education, health, etc. But at the same time, those who say so do express their will to go on in helping the country through all means possible.

An opposition is somewhat formulated in many topics against those who wish to just immigrate and live abroad all their lives. There is a tendency to become more responsible and beneficial. After all, the site is only for students who wish to help their country by going back with the knowledge and skills attained and participated in building Yemen of the future.

I felt that there could be great hopes on those Yemenis who return to genuinely and sincerely help their country get on its feet and develop, to become one of the strongest in the region.

I believe those young men need our support. So let's join hands in encouraging them to achieve their goals in making our country a better place.

The Editor



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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The silent American public

BY GARY VEY
MYRISTICIN@HOTMAIL.COM

I am currently living in Asia with many other ex-patriots who fled America prior to the recent decline of my beloved country. I still love my country and its people.

I am not alone. There are many of us who have sought to escape the oppression of dissension to the current political agenda by moving to foreign lands. For many of us, hearing news from our homeland is like hearing about an ex-lover that we have not entirely forgotten. We are sad to hear the universal hatred of America by even the most peaceful and neutral nations and of the systematic erosion of the freedoms and liberties that once made us proud to love America.

After the attacks of September 11th we were told that the terrorists "hated us because of our freedom." But it seems now that America has surrendered many of these same freedoms under the present political administration. The news at home is censored and void of any realistic account of the horror in Iraq to civilians

and our own military. The Patriot Act has stripped every American of even their most basic rights to privacy and personal opinion. What the terrorists failed in doing has been vigorously accomplished by our own government.

Someone, I can't remember who, once said that "the people always get the government that they deserve." These are wise words. I search every day for news of the American people's outrage at what is happening both domestically and globally under the present administration but there is only silence. Perhaps massive unemployment and the poor economy at home have left little time for such political concerns as families try to cope with rising expenses and enormous health care costs.

From a distance, it is easy to see the irony of tax breaks for the wealthy and an international policy geared to make petrochemical conglomerates absorb the world's wealth. It is easy to see the billion dollar contracts going to Vice-president Cheney's old company, Haliburton, to rebuild the destruction heaped on Iraq by the military and ten years of economic

sanctions. But the greatest irony is that the American people, the Moms and Dads who suffer from these policies, are silent.

It is easy to blame the American news media for not reporting the complete truth. Most of the media is today controlled by five or six huge companies with a vested interest in the billions that will be spent on the military budget. It is easy to blame politicians, supposed to represent the average American, who are instead anxious about getting re-elected for another term in office. But the real blame must also be born by the American people who do not complain, who do not ask questions and who let others do their thinking. Yes, it is true, the people do get the government that they deserve.

The silence of German people during the last century eventuated in the horrors of the Nazi regime. This same scenario has been repeated again and again in history. In the end, as it has happened many times before, even the greatest empires will be defeated — not from an external enemy — but from within by rot of complacency and the silence of their own people.

Support for Iraq's occupation grows

Dialogue is the way to start

BY JANE NOVAK
Gavsrule@aol.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Yemen Times has taken a noble stand by calling for dialogue and mutual understanding on the subject of the American occupation of Iraq. Cultural integration is not pretty, not easy, not fun. The clash is the engagement, the anger the drive toward unity, and on both sides, the accusations partially true. Dialogue is mutually beneficial.

Saddam may have perpetuated the myth of WMD, like the myth of the Republican Guard, to scare the world; he succeeded. After 9/11, America was heavily criticized for not being proactive in the Arab world and for support of repressive regimes. America subsequently took down the most brutal Arab dictator and still is strongly denounced. History shows the US occupation of Iraq can and probably will bring Democracy or a non-lethal government with accountable and reflective intuitions. An Islamic monarchy seems the latest idea.

As noted by James Dobbins in the Wilson Journal, US nation building has failed or succeeded depending on the level of US commitment and on a unified civil and military command: Japan, Germany, Bosnia, Somalia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Haiti.

President Bush appears very committed to Iraq. Americans are committed to spending blood and billions to create a

non-lethal, child-supportive Iraqi state. The American military is fully committed. Giving, not lending, unrecoverable billions, the US motivation is not to enrich the America ten trillion dollar economy. Jed Rubenfeld notes the 1999 "illegal" US intervention in Kosovo did not advance US interests but rather sought to prevent Muslim genocide.

The Iraqi people appear committed to a life without Saddam, who murdered hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. The sentiments of the Iraqis toward the US remain mixed. As the Yemen Times has noted, some Iraqi teenagers "cheer as American blood flows." Ahmed Al-Jarallah, editor of The Arab Times, has noted that Iraqi schoolgirls are sporting shirts which say: "Iraq is not afraid of kicks by dying mules." While a small number have participated in protests, a genuine popular Iraqi uprising against the US has not occurred.

Perhaps recognizing the consequences of an early US withdrawal, more Iraqis support the occupation now, according to Reuters:

In November 2003, 71.5% thought "the US occupation is necessary at least for a while," compared to 42% in June. Perhaps in Baghdad, as in Riyadh, Istanbul, Bali, Gaza and New York, civilians have begun to strongly support the concept of civilian immunity in warfare and to support the War on Terror.

With the Iraqi infant mortality rate of 55 deaths per thousand and the US rate of 6.75 per thousand, perhaps Iraqis recognize that American meddling will

probably result in more living babies, possibly babies with political rights and a choice of over 200 uncensored newspapers. The Iraqi police, brave heroes who voluntarily fight for their country and children, get more support and respect from the New York City Police Department than from their Arab and Muslim neighbors and brothers.

As an alternative response to support of the occupation, there is the French model: stand back and criticize as Muslims die, become a counter weight to "liberte, egalite, and fraternite." The French Ambassador to the US, Jean David Levitte believes in "an early transfer of sovereignty" to the Iraqi people under the auspices of the UN. If French ideas are "taken on board," France will assist in training the Iraqi Army. If not, the French will do nothing to help the Iraqi people. Because the French care so much about the Iraqis.

Strong and divergent opinions on the legitimacy, the motivation and the expected outcome of the US occupation of Iraq may result from widely different interpretations, viewpoints and backgrounds but similar values. Coming from opposite sides of the mountain, Americans want Iraqis to be free from both Saddam and the US, as do Arabs and Muslims. The question becomes what is the best path for the Iraqis to take in liberation from the US: a constitution or another suicide bombing? What is the moral path for the world and its peoples: support and investment, or criticism and neglect?

Letters to the Editor

Are you out of this world?

You wrote in your article about why the US will fail in Iraq the following:

"This is because Iraqis are very conservative and tend to refuse being dictated upon."

My question is, what planet have you been living on for the past 10 years? The Iraqi people have had a murderer for a dictator for years and did nothing about it. For that matter, neither did any other Arab country. You let the poor people there suffer and be murdered without comment. This must be Islam at its best. How can you even look at yourselves in the morning knowing what you allowed to go on in Iraq? Then you write editorials about Islamic Law? You must be kidding.

Byron Allen
ballen@novolink.net

No right or wrong about US war

I just wanted to say that there is no right or wrong answer for the US being in Iraq. If you ask many different people, you will receive many different answers. This does not make the decision

that of America, it is the decision of our government. Many support Bush. Many do not. It seems that every time I read a letter in the Yemen Times, it points to "the Americans", well, I'm here to tell you that many of the Yemenis here in the USA, have gone on television, held parties, and voiced their opinion of the war in Iraq and to much surprise, most were for the US going into Iraq. Instead of placing blame, which we are all pretty good at, how about a prayer for the people who are immediately affected by this war. The families in Iraq, and those of us who have families in Iraq.

Michelle Aldaeri
yemenwife@yahoo.com

Tell the 'truth' I read your editorials and find them absurd. You are becoming part of the problem by not telling the truth. There are people who profess to be Muslim who are killing people in the name of God. These people are nothing more than murderers hiding behind Islam. Stop trying to blame anybody else but these terrorists for the killings.

Did you see what happened in Istanbul? Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility just as they did before.

Start being part of the solution by telling your readers the truth.

Byron Allen
ballen@novolink.net

You are wearing glasses too

I don't know what kind of glasses you are wearing but they are not allowing you to see the world any clearer than those of us in the USA that wear 'Rose colored glasses'.

You speak to the insinuation that 'Americans' do not see the rest of the world with clarity.

It seems that you rarely speak of anything but Yemen, Iraq, and Palestine. From my view, that is a very limited view of the world. What is your country's policy toward Mexico, Ireland, Taiwan or Vietnam to name a few of the concerns of the day.

Have you a position on the ramifications of the discovery of the DNA molecule on your rather stiff religious

doctrine? We embrace these political and philosophical concerns and challenges, and look forward to further scientific discoveries so that they may help us in the continuing development of our ever changing culture.

When you have finally grasped the problems in your backyard, we will have leaped ahead again leaving you even further behind culturally and economically. Remove your glasses of whatever color now, and step away from your endless pre-occupation with your tiny subjects. The world is bigger than you imagine!

Peter Irlenborn
irlenborn@earthlink.net

Why the USA would fail

If the US fails in Iraq, it will be because of active subversion by the Arab world. Do not forget that Islam and the Arab world have already failed in Iraq miserably. Surely you don't call the tens of thousands of innocent victims murdered and tortured there during the past 10 years a success?

Byron Allen
ballen@novolink.net



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Jordan: A true model of Arab intellect and drive

In traveling to any of the other countries of the Arab World, one is bound to start getting into the dangerous world of comparison as to which nation has really managed to get itself on the ball.

Of course it will be some time before we can honestly say that Yemen can really be assessed as having gotten its act together. What gives more weight to this presumption is that for all practical purposes, we can really say we have goofed and let ourselves get bogged down into a myriad of trivialities and nonsense that for the most part defy explanation or assume that much reason stands behind our state of being. The truth of the matter is that there is really no sensible logical explanation that justifies what we have let ourselves get into. But then again let us leave Yemen aside for awhile and we are sure that our leadership can find the appropriate solutions to the quagmire of problems, many of which by their very nature defy solution.

In Amman Jordan there is a whole different story that is laid out before us. One is caught with an impressive perception upon setting down on the city's airport. There does not seem to be any hassles in getting processed into the country, save for some of the minor snags that are related to a post 9/11 World, in which any idea of ease and comfort have been thrown out the window in most of the corners of the world. Arabs do not need visas to visit Jordan? That would be only seen as reckless management by the most progressive of our revolutionary juntas, or the most reactionary of archaic monarchies! The drive into the city already turns into a reflection by the viewer of real order and cleanliness, and a well laid out road with ample greenery to the left and right and in the middle of the road. That is just the beginning. Amman is a growing metropolis that clearly tells the world: "Look out world, we are mighty small, but we are here to have our impression well set in, in the minds of our visitors, before they even start to contemplate about their trip home."

Anyone who remembers the short erratic history of the tiny Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will have to remember that what Jordan was able to accomplish in the historical context it had to go through, must be deemed as miraculous. Furthermore one cannot help recall that the late King Hussein Bin Talal was absolutely a phenomenal Head of State, who unquestionably deserved the most elaborate praise he got by the multitudes who came to participate in the last rites before the chivalrous monarch of legendary attainments was laid to rest. If one recalls that fateful day well, the presence of the largest number of heads of states and other dignitaries of the world was clearly testimony to the astuteness, by which the well cultured King Hussein was able to steer a literally empty land to a vibrant society that shouts to the world, "We are small, but we are HERE and you know that well."

What did present itself as the motivation behind the rapid and continuous development of this tiny desert kingdom? Is it oil? No, there is no oil in Jordan. Is it peace and stability? Forget that! Jordan's geographical position on the map couldn't have offered that to Jordan, even if Gabriel was given the mandate over this once arid desert wasteland that is the Northwest extension of the Northern Peninsula desert plains.

No matter how one tries to analyze the dynamic force behind the steady and effective modernization of Jordan, one is bound to realize that for all practical purposes, the Jordanian people and their wise monarch saw to it that it is people who really can make a difference where you are going and how you are going to get there. Yes, only people can turn sour grapes into a delectable sweet beverage (non-alcoholic of course). Yes sir, only people can overcome the agonies of persecution and despair and create a new life for themselves that allows them to say, we know what we must do to get out of the rut of underdevelopment and backwardness.

This observer recalls, in the late 1960s, reading the early memoirs of the late King Hussein, while he has yet to surpass his Third decade in age in the most of trying of times, laying out a surrealistic perception of his troubled domain that was beset with all kinds of challenges. I thought to myself, what is this guy saying. Jordan an empty wasteland faced by enemies literally all around the tiny country becoming a viable productive society? That simply was no more than a figment of opiated imagination. Hussein was not about to allow anyone to make a mockery of his optimism and genuine faith in his people's ability to shut their eyes to the melancholy of fear and insecurity. He told his people his vision for them and they simply just listened and said, what our leader is saying is only the strongest of common sense. If that is how he sees it then we say that is what it shall be. The Jordanian people did not let their king or themselves down. They worked night and day to make the factories produce and the farms to harvest the highest yielding crops. But even more than that, with unprecedented wisdom, the people of Jordan saw the only path towards modernization and development is to get Jordan's people up to par with any modern society, while taking note of the most effective and valuable of traditional values that truly move them over so closer to the side of their Lord Almighty, King Hussein hedged on education and technical rehabilitation of his people and the gamble paid off remarkably.

Why Bush needs Osama and Saddam

BY GREG WEIHER
FOR COUNTERPUNCH

Do you remember that great deck of playing cards that the Bush Administration came up with at the end of "major combat operations" in Iraq? You know, the one with the pictures of the 52 most loathsome Iraqi evildoers? Well, here we are only about six months later, and it turns out we've been really successful in rounding those guys up. We don't have the big fella yet, but we've got about three quarters of the rest of them, and we're told the others are too busy running to stir up much trouble.

So what difference has it made?

Sure, the New York Times comes out with a splashy article on the front page every time we reel one of these guys in, but aside from that, it doesn't seem to have much impact. The helicopters keep falling and the non-governmental organizations like the U.N. and the Red Cross keep closing up their offices in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Remember when they got Uday and Qusay? That one was on all of the evening news shows and above the fold on the front pages of all the major newspapers. They even trucked out the bloated, mutilated, stinking-of-real-death bodies for all the world to see. It was a big deal then, but looking back on it now, it seems to have just disappeared in the mists of time, as they say. You're hard

pressed to understand what it was supposed to accomplish. Did it make Iraqis more secure? Did it stop the attacks on American troops? Did it weaken Al Qaeda? It obviously didn't add to our intelligence about the resistance or the whereabouts of Saddam—for that, you would have had to wait them out rather than pumping them full of lead. (By the way, why didn't they just wait them out?)

Most of us can remember being afraid of something when we were small—the monster that lived in the dark beneath our beds, or the bogeyman. And most of us eventually came to know that the bogeyman didn't really exist. If he did, we came to understand, life would probably be a lot simpler. We could just run enough amps through him to melt the polar ice cap, like they did with It: the Creature from Beyond Space, and live happily ever after. Instead, at about the time we realized there were no bogeymen, we also realized that there were very real things to be afraid of—being old and alone, working all your life at a job that was stupid and dehumanizing, and even bigger things like war and poverty. Unlike the bogeyman, these really frightening and complex things didn't go away when the sun came up.

American foreign policy seems to be founded on the bogeyman fallacy. All we have to do is get rid of the evildoers—Osama Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Fedayeen, Yasser Arafat—and everything will be OK. It's not the modern history of the

Middle East, during which the great powers redrew national boundaries and toppled popular regimes to suit their own economic and political purposes, that's causing our problems—it's Saddam Hussein. It's not the barbaric treatment of the Palestinians, glossed over so that we could assuage our consciences about the holocaust, or the grinding hopelessness of everyday life in the occupied territories that destabilize the region—it's Yasser Arafat. It's not the decade of sanctions, the bumbling stupidity of our occupation, and our knee-jerk dependence upon indiscriminate firepower that causes Iraqis to hate and kill American soldiers—it's those sore losers, the Saddam loyalists.

The Israelis understand our bogeyman complex and they use it to manipulate us. A couple of years ago, they started floating the argument that Yasser Arafat had to go. The real impediment to peace, they insisted, was that you couldn't negotiate with Arafat. He refused to control the various militias, liberation fronts, and armed factions that carried out attacks on Israelis. He said one thing in Arabic for home consumption, and something else in English for world opinion. He waffled. He was dishonest. He was ugly, dumpy, and he needed a shave.

The next thing you know, the United States was singing the same chorus. President Bush insisted that no progress could be made on the roadmap to peace as long as Yasser Arafat held the reins of the Palestinian authority, and the U.S. refused to deal with him. Bush preached to the



BY SAMER A.

Palestinians, letting them know they needed a real democratic leader (though of the two, Arafat actually was the popularly elected one).

This, of course, was music to Israeli ears. As long as they could focus attention on the unphotogenic Arafat, no one paid attention to the structural issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. As the U.S. dithered with Mahmoud Abbas, the Israelis continued building settlements, constructing the separation wall, and carrying out targeted assassinations.

So the Bushies keep harping about what a bad man Saddam Hussein is and what a bad man Osama Bin Laden is. But the worst thing that could ever happen to Bush and the prevari-cons would be to actually catch Saddam and Osama—because once those guys were out of circulation, and nothing at all changed in the Middle East, they'd have to start talking about policies instead of personalities. Unless, of course, they could find a couple of new bogeymen.

I am an angry man

BY KENZABURO OE*

I am an old man, and an angry one. This is because I feel responsible for the current situation in my country, a situation I very much regret. Prime Minister Jinichiro Koizumi was recently re-elected and is preparing to send Japanese soldiers to Iraq. Many journalists have been asking the prime minister about this and his responses are always vague. Since the beginning of the war in Iraq the Japanese prime minister has seemed to be in agreement with the policy of United States President George W.

Bush. "The war is just," he keeps repeating. France and Germany have adopted positions different from that of the United States. Japan has definitely not. The impression is that no matter what is happening in Iraq, Japan is acting as though its positions and decisions were dictated in advance. From the start of the war it has been expected that Japan would send soldiers to Iraq, from the moment Prime Minister Koizumi decided that "Japan unreservedly agrees with President Bush."

When American Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited Japan, Koizumi reiterated that Japan intends to send soldiers to Iraq. Here is proof, if any more proof were necessary, that Japan is subordinate to the defense policy of the United States. My country obeys. This is why I am angry. This is why I am always angry. Sending Japanese soldiers to Iraq is a strange decision. In the entire world, apart from Britain, the majority of countries have come out against the war. It seems to me that the Japanese prime minister is one of the few to have missed the point. He agrees entirely with the policy of the United States. And most Japanese intellectuals and journalists are incapable of contradicting him.

During the recent parliamentary elections, the left-wing parties that opposed this policy lost half their seats. Why? Because Japan no longer has critical powers. The prime minister is free to do whatever he wants. He never criticizes President Bush, who can therefore behave as if he is acting with Japan's agreement. It could be said that ever since the end of World War II nearly 60 years ago, Japan has never been so obedient. My friend Edward Said, who passed away, sadly, not long ago in New York, wrote in "Culture and Imperialism" that if there are a state and a nation that are submissive to the domination of the United States on the political level and in international relations, these are definitely Japan and the Japanese. As a child I grew up until the age of 10 in the horrors of World War II. I knew Japan's ultra-nationalism. After the war, democracy and the democratic idea were imported to Japan by the best of all democracies - American democracy. Japan, in turn, itself became a democracy, with a constitution and a basic code of education. Since then the Japanese have been influenced by popular American culture, its cinema and its music. There is nothing wrong with this. The Japanese did not lose

their identity because of this. But I argue that there used to be intellectuals who were very influenced by Europe. My teacher Kazuo Watanabe was the Japanese specialist on Rabelais and French humanism. It was he who made the word "tolerance" popular in Japan. He wanted "the new Japanese" to be tolerant.

Another intellectual, Masao Maruyama, asked himself what Japan's new identity could be after its years of imperialism and its former role the aggressor state of Asia. He created the idea of Japan as a "community of repentance." At that time, Masao Maruyama was against Japan's war of aggression in Asia. When the Swedish Nobel Prize Committee awarded me the Nobel Prize for Literature (in 1994) it said that I wrote "to exorcise a ghost." I definitely adopt this expression. The writer is like an African shaman who exorcises ghosts. I wanted to keep on writing, that is, to pray like such a doctor and magician - but impotently. If there is a demon against which we must act, this is the demon of violence.

There are two major forms of violence today - nuclear weaponry and international terror. Therefore we must succeed in eventually getting rid of nuclear armaments. At least within the next 30 years. Nuclear weaponry cannot serve as a "means of violence" for any country in the world, no matter which and no matter what its reasons may be. This is why we cannot tolerate that Iraq today, Iran and North Korea tomorrow, could have nuclear weapons. But we must be prudent. Did Iraq have the means to obtain nuclear weapons rapidly? President George W.

Bush himself knew that this was not the case. It is necessary to fight international terrorism. The large capitals, Paris, New York, Tokyo and other cities are vulnerable to terrorism, as September 11, 2001 showed. Today Tokyo in turn must be prevented from becoming the target of a terror attack. What should Japan's role in Iraq be? It must first provide food and medical aid to the Iraqi population and help the children of Iraq. Japan can also increase its financial support. The war George Bush decided to wage against Iraq was an error. We must never cooperate with this type of war. Japan must not send troops to Iraq. If soldiers of the Jieit - the Japanese army, known as the Japanese Defense Forces - are stationed there, the risk of seeing Japan become the target of terrorism will become serious. The mission of prime minister of Japan is to prevent this from becoming the case. Prime Minister Koizumi thinks that by sending Japanese troops to Iraq he is fighting terror.

He is mistaken. This is rather the mission and the province of the United States. The prime minister of Japan must, however, adopt a critical stance and provide Iraq only with humanitarian aid.

* A Japanese writer, winner of Nobel Prize for Literature

Secrets and spies

BY ROBERT DREYFUSS
FOR TOMPAINE.COM

Calling all spooks and spies. If you want to help Congress get to the bottom of the scandal over Iraq intelligence, now's your chance. Later this week, a key member of Congress will issue an all-points call for intelligence analysts to blow the whistle on President Bush, Vice President Cheney and others in the Bush administration who may have distorted, exaggerated, manipulated or lied about intelligence on Iraq in the run up to war.

By creating a "tip line" on his official Web site, Democratic congressman from California Henry Waxman is encouraging current and former U.S. national security officials to come forward and disclose how the administration played with intelligence on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction and ties to Al Qaeda. A ranking member on the House Committee on Government Reform, Rep. Waxman is making it possible for offi-

cials to go on the record or remain anonymous, according to one of his aides.

The announcement that Rep. Waxman intends to ask whistleblowers from the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies to come forward will be included in a letter to Rep. Tom Davis, the Virginia Republican who chairs the committee. The letter will also ask Davis to begin an official investigation of how the name of former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, was leaked to the media. Wilson, a retired diplomat, helped quash forged documents that Iraq sought to buy uranium for bomb-making in Niger, and subsequently Plame, who was an undercover CIA officer, was outed by anonymous U.S. officials.

Waxman's effort, which is sure to be controversial, is a sign that the simmering scandal about U.S. intelligence on Iraq won't go away during 2004. The Senate intel committee is locked in a partisan dispute over Republican efforts to stonewall an inquiry into the Bush administration's use of intelligence to justify

war, including the Pentagon's Office of Special Plans (OSP) and its subordinate intelligence unit. Yet there are signs that more and more disgruntled officials, including CIA officers, may come forward in the weeks to come. In The American Conservative, Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski, who has already talked to some reporters, has begun penning a breathtaking account of her year in the Pentagon's Office of Near East and South Asia affairs, which was headed by Capt. William Luti, a pro-war neocon. The OSP, headed by Abe Shulsky, another neocon, fell under Luti's shop.

Meanwhile, Newsweek reports that Luti was a recipient of intelligence passed on to him by the Washington office of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the former Iraqi exile group led by Ahmad Chalabi, the darling of the neocons and their candidate to be Iraq's next prime minister. The INC—whose intelligence was widely considered bogus and unreliable by the U.S. intelligence community—served as a conduit for hair-raising but unproven (and later disproven)

reports about Iraq WMD and terrorism links. Now, Newsweek has obtained a memo from the INC's Washington rep that claims the INC fed its intelligence to Luti and directly to Vice President Cheney's office.

Heaping more doubts on the integrity of the fact-finding process is new information from Israel suggesting that Israeli intelligence officials, too, joined U.S. and British intelligence in exaggerating the threat of Iraqi WMD. A report by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University last month called for an official investigation of how Israeli intelligence assessed the Iraqi threat. According to informed U.S. sources, a secret intelligence team was set up in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office before the war in Iraq to generate data adding yet more justifications for war—intelligence that Sharon's office then shared, in English, with Luti's OSP—even though the Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, was said to be much more cautious and restrained about the threat to Israel from Iraq.

A President of big ideas

BY RICHARD REEVES
FOR YAHOO NEWS

The creative political types at the White House, a euphemism for Karl Rove, have apparently suggested to President Bush (news - web sites) that now that he has gone to Baghdad, it may be time to go to the moon—again. I happen to know many people who think that might be a great idea, depending on whether or not our leader has a better exit strategy than he has in Iraq (news - web sites).

"White House Considers 'Big' New Initiatives" was the Washington Post headline Friday on a story attributed to "administration officials." Well, I'm all for whatever they decide. I like big, I like initiative, and I generally resent the short shrift usually given science and technology by big-thinking politicians and political thinkers.

As a pro-science guy — my college degree is in mechanical engineering — I am constantly angered by politicians who would holler bloody evil at burners of books of poetry but think nothing of demanding bans on research or innova-

tion into scientific subjects, from space exploration to genetics or evolution.

The moon idea may be a bit old, and it was never great science. But it was certainly great politics and spectacle during the Cold War, when most of the world believed the Soviet Union was winning "the space race." Going to the moon, the challenge thrown down to the nation and the world by President Kennedy, was always more about politics than science, as Kennedy explained to a reluctant James Webb, the director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration:

"The Soviet Union has made this a test of systems. ... Everything we do ought to be really tied into getting to the moon ahead of the Russians. ... Otherwise we shouldn't be spending this kind of money because I'm not interested in space. ... The only justification for it, in my opinion, is because we hope to beat them and demonstrate that starting behind as we did by a couple of years, by God, we passed 'em."

A tape of that conversation on Nov. 21, 1962, can be heard at the Kennedy Library in Boston. Presidential libraries are, by the way, filled with such materi-

al because amazing numbers of intrepid Americans with big ideas find a way to reach presidents. In the Reagan Library near Los Angeles, you can find early stirrings of the idea called "Star Wars," the Strategic Defense Initiative.

(You can also find the correspondence between President Reagan and a western politician with important Republican connections who had a big idea to show that Reagan was a man of the people. He wanted Ron and Nancy to hold a Tupperware party in the White House — and, by the way, his wife was the biggest Tupperware dealer in Oregon.)

Now, according to the Post and other sources, this White House and an interagency group have been working on interplanetary and space travel ideas since the summer. Other big government ideas being explored include crusades against childhood hunger, childhood illnesses and symptoms of aging. It's hard to be against all that, even in an administration determined to privatize public health care and such. After all, it could be argued that government public health programs, beginning with sanitation measures and inspections, were the single most important advances of the 20th

century. The big idea of big ideas is to make President Bush look decisive. I would have thought that matter was decided, even if you hate some of his decisions. I remember the first time I saw Bush in action before he was president. He could not remember the name of someone he said he had worked closely with, and as his audience held its nervous breath, he said, "Hey, I'm a big-picture guy."

I take him at his word. He is already a president of big ideas — privatization, unilateralism and preventive war among them. And it seems perfectly obvious what some of the next big ideas are. They are out there already, and a surprising number of them do involve science and technology. This should be the White House big-idea list:

Affordable health care for Americans; modernization without war for developing countries; serious research rather than slogans on global climate. And there are smaller big ideas, too, beginning with stem cell research.

To govern is to choose, said Kennedy. And, like him, Bush will be judged by which of these ideas he chooses — and makes happen.

Memories and reflections

Dancing the dance of life

BY ADAM TAHA
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Months have already gone by and it really didn't hit me until I walked passed an open hut, which was a school. I watched as the children rocked to and fro, reciting verses from the Holy Qur'an. The old man that was teaching them looked up, started towards me and smiled. I walked back to a wall that was half of my height and sat down. I felt a soothing feeling within my soul. Suddenly they all stopped and the call of the prayer embraced the sky. At that time I didn't know what it was and nor did I know much about the words the kids were reciting. I didn't even know much about God.

I don't know what it was but I fell in love with that sound that glided through the blue sky. I felt a cool breeze touching my face as I saw the mothers and fathers of the children walking towards the school. It was only then that reality hit me hard about my parents.

It was then that I realised I'd be walking back home to find either an empty house where my grandma would be cooking or asleep. I watched as the children gave their goodbyes to their teacher. I kept on staring as the parents opened their arms to embrace their children. I felt empty inside and it was like my heart was breaking up into a millions pieces. I tilted my head backwards to stop the tears and my hands shaped them selves into clench fists. I could never get this image out of my head no matter how hard I tried. I don't know why but later on, by mistake or subconsciously; I included this experience into my treasure box of memories.

I never took that path again because I didn't want the school reminding me of what I saw. I wanted to somehow forget it ever happened and move on with my life. Life for me would never be the same even when I avoided walking passed the school. The only way I can explain it even more is that loves for anyone especially for your parents is like a fragile glass. It falls to the ground and breaking into so many pieces.

Picking up the pieces

You stared at the broken pieces and you know you didn't push that glass, someone else did but still feel it is your fault, your to blame for some reason. You pick up the pieces to fix them together with glue and

no matter how of gluing them together, placing it on the mantle piece, when you stare at it, you will also see the cracks. I don't think my parents will ever understand in the years to come that the little they left behind will not be their little boy anymore. He will be someone different in many ways and he will trust them again.

As more months passed by I grew to think and act like a man and my innocence that all children should have drifted away to be replaced with grown up things. I began to watch how the men talked and walked, and duplicated them. I saw how they played their cards games, chewing a matchstick and acting macho, and I copied them. I watched how they would swear at each other even when they were the one who cheated and I copied them.

Through them I learnt to lie and cheat. I had no father at that present time to give me examples of how a great man should live. I had to find a way to learn and this was the only way for me. I suppose it made me feel safe. Instead of thinking like children do, I started to work on 'who is going to bring in the food? Can I find a job to bring in the money?' There were so many things I was thinking about, things that no child should really think about at that age.

The memories of my parents began to slowly disappear. I couldn't remember their eyes, their lips, their words, the way they walked and talked. Even the roughness of my father's cheeks or the smell of my mother's hair slowly disappeared. The stories I use to hear from my to teach me lessons or the history of Yemen or to give me lessons of courage slowly disappeared and it was hard to remember even one.

Did I feel anger towards them or bitterness? I was hurting, I was lonely and I felt rage growing inside of me. I was in some way working to invent myself, trying to forget the old me and create the new me with future consequences. Sure, my parents were doing what parents do, sacrificing and building for my future. What hurt me most was not the fact that they left me but if only they just said goodbye and explained to me what they were doing. That's all children ever really want; an explanation for why things happen so they can hold onto something, a reality to cling to. Hope.

The Boom of the Steel industry in England changed my life and it took away the two people I loved. I didn't see it as a means to make a better future for me. I just wanted my parents back home and

the government wouldn't let a ten-year-old Yemeni boy leave his country until he's grown to be a man and served a few years in the military. I had only had two things that gave me some comfort and they were singing and music.

My love for music started when I made friends with someone called Khalid. I use to sneak out at night while my grandma went to visit my Uncles. I'd go and meet Khalid at the back of his house, which was a ten-minute walk. We would explore the tomato and red watermelon fields. Khalid's father had his own market stall, which sold not just fish but also vegetables, fruit, rice and powder for khubs. I was lucky to have a friend like him because he was a human being that taught me something special.

Something I rarely saw in my fellow man. I found kindness in him and the understanding of the power of giving. He would sneak an apple and some oranges for me and he never reminded me of his kindness. He knew I would have done the same if I were so fortunate. I remember when his father once caught him taking some dates for me and instead of his father getting angry he opened the cupboard, got some paper and wrapped up some more dates for me. They weren't a rich family in material wealth but rich in love and kindness.

Sweet were the memories and such was one of those treasured memories when Khalid and myself pretended to be explorers, searching for Hab Hab (red watermelons). As we walked closer to the field we heard drums beatings, clapping, music and men singing. We ran towards the beautiful sound of Yemeni music and stopped at a tree and climbed it. We quietly stared down at them, watching him sitting down on the floor and just celebrating life.

The singer was strumming an Oud as two men created rhythms on the small drum called the daff. The camp was full of men sitting in a large circle as a couple of them got up and started dancing. It was amazing to watch and I forgot about all my worries. I listened to the melodies as the other men began to join in and sing together through the chorus. I would have stayed longer but Khalid was getting hungry. We climbed off the tree and headed towards the fields of red watermelons.

Dancing like fools

We walked passed the cotton fields as we talked about what we saw. We saw it

as an accomplished adventure, a memory to talk about through the years we knew each other. Through that dark night we walked and imitated the men, singing their words that I can still hear inside of me. If anyone saw us walking through the rocky roads of Yemen that day they would have thought we were crazy because we were dancing like fools, singing the words we heard like drunken youths.

It was like the story of this girl that found friends in a loin, a scarecrow and another character I just can't remember. They were following the Yellow Brick Road so she can ask the Wizard to help her to go back home and the lion wanted a brave heart. There was no yellow brick road for us and there was no Wizard at the end of this adventure to answer my many questions but there were fields of cotton, tomatoes, red watermelons and two young boys that had an amazing bond of brotherhood.

We stopped on our tracks because we saw a few men marching to and fro with rifles. Khalid stared at them and asked if we should just head back home but I was hungry now, and wanted to sink my teeth into the watermelons. We waited for the men to walk far away from us and started crawling on earth. I reached out to one large watermelon and Khalid began searching for a sharp stone and then we devoured it. The taste was amazing and the juice from the watermelon quenched our thirst. Khalid laughed when he saw half of my face covered in seeds, and then he asked me something.

'Have you heard from your mum or dad?'

'No,' I replied.

'Do you know where they've gone?'

'My grandma told me they went to England.'

'Oh! England!'

'Yes. Have you heard of it?'

'Yeah, its really far and you have to fly there on a steel bird. My older brother is studying there to be a doctor.'

'What's it like?'

'Well, from his letters it's a rich country but again, not so rich as everyone thinks.'

'What do you mean?'

'He says he has to pay for electricity which lights the house, the gas to cook the food, and he also pays for the house he lives in, the car he drives and so many things.'

'I thought it would be easier when it's a rich country.'

'No. My brother's letters told us that there's so much to pay for and by the time he got his money it all goes onto so many other stuff too.'

'Oh.'

'Can I ask you something but don't get upset all right?'

'Sure Khalid, what is it?'

'What if your mother and father sent money for you to go to England,' he paused, 'would you go?'

'I don't know.'

'Think of the new clothes, the toys and you can buy and you can go to school. You can have anything you want when you're in England.'

'That means I will have to leave you, wont I?'

'Yeah, I know but you know what you can do if that happens?'

'What?'

'Well, whatever you do, come back and help me out.'

'Yeah, I will always do that Khalid, you know that.'

'If you go there, what do you want to be?'

'I really don't know.'

'Hey, you could be the first Yemeni to walk on the moon!'

'Yeah! Or bring lots of sweets and have money to buy all the watermelons we want!'

'Hey, that would be great!'

'Yeah, wouldn't it!'

We walked back home that night with not just our stomach's full but we also walked with our hearts filled with dreams. Both of us had one thing in common after being Yemenis from the same village called Lahaj; we loved to dream big. As we walked with our dreams we also remembered the men who sang and danced, and as we sang we imagined an awesome orchestra accompanying us, lead by Khalid and myself. I pretended strumming on the Oud guitar and Khalid was on the daff drum.

Everything to live for

Even when we had nothing, it seemed we had everything to live for. And happiness for that moment didn't cost a penny. No money, no wealth, no glittered lights of fame or some cushy job could ever replace such a beautiful night as this one. If only I could turn back the time right now. I would want that moment to have lasted forever but like I said; nothing ever lasts forever. Swiftly do the pages of our lives turn through the passing years and

how fast we somehow grow from a world where we believe anything is possible into a world that believes nothing so great can ever be achieved. Amazing how we so want to skip the pages.

I see you want more, I see it in your eyes

I hear you cry, 'has this become my life?'

Yeah it changed, it changed all so fast Let me help you to take off that mask

I can see through it, just look into you're self

Deep inside you knew it, what you're really worth

Every night you do it, staying up to curse

There's no one else to blame, but you're self

Yeah I know its hurts When you look deep into your self Like knife cutting through your flesh And your face to face with death

You don't need the wallpaper on your walls

You don't mobile phones to make the calls

You don't need the high heels to stand tall

You don't need any of these at all

You don't need to replace these beautiful lines

Or make a time machine to rewind the time

You don't need to join the rat race so you can win

Cause all you gonna do is lose everything

You believed in

You don't need to the face behind these words

See my love for you until it hurts All you need to do is one simple thing Look up to the sky, look up to the sky And breathe it all in

You wanna live life over again Breathe all the magic all in You wanna live life over again Breathe all the magic all in

You wanna live life over again Start it all over again But tell me when? To breathe the magic of life in

Drama from real life

Family experiences tragedy over property dispute (part 1 of 2)

What can we do when our land is plundered?

BY AMIN MOHAMMED QAID AL-DA'ARI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

On the advent of the year 1990, a real estate society named Amal Cooperation & Housing Society was founded, registered in the real estate record authority.

Its work is purchasing and selling lands. One should first submit his application to the society explaining his desire of possessing a land plot describing its size, dimensions, and whatsoever.

After that, he should pay the amount demanded for the land through the Cooperating & Agricultural Bank for Credit.

It is here where the tragedy of this story begins.

The initial purchase

Mohammed Qaid al-Da'ari, a Yemeni citizen, rushed to buy small land from this society and credited the value of the land fully on the society's account at that time at the same bank mentioned above.

On 18/7/1993, he was given a card from the society depicting the dimensions of the land bought and as a notification of possessing.

In 1993, the general assembly meeting of the Society was carried out which came out with a resolution on 14/7/1993 stipulating that every member of the society should pay 5,000 YR as fees for protecting and distributing the land among its new owners, who bought in portions the whole land belonging to the Society.

Even though we paid the fees, we didn't receive the land we bought immediately. The chairmen of the society presided by Hamed Ali Mosa and Ali Saleh Al-Oqabi, continued to fool us and

the other owners for long time, until we all as owners headed for the parliament to submit a petition which explained our demands.

This resulted to authorizing sheik Zaid Mohammed Abu Ali and Mr. Mohammed Yahya Al-Sharafi to work out this problem with the owners from one side and the society chairmen from the other. Thereby, on 11/8/1998, the two-parliament members were given unlimited authority by Hamdan Court to define the whole land owned by the society on the way to deliver the lands to their right persons in accordance.

Every person has received his land later on basis of 25%, less then the agreed area, but we just received 15 per cent, with no justifications, for reference, all document are kept with us.

One more offensive thing, that we were forced to pay 100,000 YR in order to receive the document of purchase. How did they reckon it?

These details are referred to the purchase document endorsed on 16/4/1999 by the judge, Ibraheem Mohammed Nasser. The purchase document is registered in the real estate authority on 24/10/2000, record No.1187, and confirmed by the west Sana'a Court on 13/5/2002, record No.116.

For our father, Mohammed Qaid, he paid the full amount.

In 1993, right after the committee represented by Sheik Zaid Abu Ali and Mohammed Al-Sharafi finished their land delivery to us, we started to build a fence around it as a precaution.

It was only a week after we started fencing when a barbaric person, a sheik named Bakil Al-Shaeef, along with his fellows and escorts, tried to prevent us from continuing, claiming that he was the

custodian of the lands of the region, Shamlan Area.

It turned out that this person had relations with some influential employees at the Ministry of Endowment who cooperated with giving such people some groundless papers to take as evidence of possession.

The fact was that this group presided by Bakil Al-Sahaif just wanted to embezzle us of money as a ransom to leave the land peacefully.

We did pay the money they want for our land.

Land takover

And since then, our land had stayed safe till early November 2001, when a gang of land looters planned to capture land located in Shamlan area, one of the secretariat suburbs, where our land is.

This armed gang tried to take the land for their own by force, giving threat to the right owners and claiming that the land, which had been related to Amal society, is endowed and some influential people had bought the block from the Ministry of Endowment. They said to us, 'You all have nothing to possess here and if you have anything to do with it you can go back to the society you bought it from, to work out your problem with them, for we have nothing to do with you and your problems.' They have not the slightest evidence to prove it, though.

It's worth mentioning that we bought and fenced the land related to us several years ago, and the block of which our land is a part is owned also by some other people, and there is a house still under construction owned by Khalid Hamid Dhafer, where these terrorist gang hid to protect themselves against any probable attack.

By the way, Kalid Dhafer's house is licensed for construction from the relevant authority; so it is evidently clear that the house and the whole block is not endowed as the terrorists said. These looters intended to tell that story as a pretext to dominate the land and put their hands on it.

On 24/11/2001, when we found these terrorists in the house under construction, we asked them about the reasons beyond their presence. They replied the block was owned by Sheik Abdullah Salem Al-Kuhaily, including the land on which Khalid's house was built.

Right after that, we reported that to the police post in charge there and a military vehicle equipped with several soldiers and an officer was sent in accordance to bring them or any representative for interrogation.

Three of them were brought to the police headquarter and during the interrogation they admitted that they were ordered to be there by a police officer named Al-kadri, a security officer of the ministry of defense.

When we heard that, we along with the other owners immediately entrusted Sheik Salah Al-Roba'a, also one of the owners, to represent all the owners before the police from one side. Meanwhile Abdullah Salem Al-Kuhaily, an officer at the first armed squad, delegated Mohammed Abduldaem Al-Molatay, used to work as No.1 secretary at the minister's cabinet.

The two representatives were asked to submit their possessing proofs, for ours. He did, but for the later, he refrained from offering any single evidence proving his possession saying 'I have rented the land from the ministry of endowment, along with my companions as the following:

1. Aziz Ali Aleewah, defense minister's son.
2. Dr. Alawi Gara'ah, the personnel affairs manager at the ministry of defense.
3. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Saiane, a relative to the intelligence officer
4. Abdullah Salem Al-Kuhaily, a Sheik from Shabwah
5. Mohammed Gaber
6. the general manager of the insurance in Abian

Agreement reached?

We reached an agreement to the controversy at the region security administration that the attackers should stop fencing or any other building activities in the disputed land.

Moreover, the two factions authorized the colonel, Ahmed Jaber, to go over the terrorists' allegations and make a settlement for the dispute, and the two parties were requested to turn up to Jaber's house on 25/11/2001 for the same purpose.

On 25/11/2001, we turned up from our side on time. As for the other party, no one turned up that day.

When we felt that it is not easy for us to solve the problem by negotiations with occupiers, we resorted to justice and tribal norms to avoid confronting and fighting such terrorists and solve the problem peacefully, but to no avail.

And it turned out that this terrorist gang was backed by some influential persons and the fact was that these terrorists were mere agents whose main task is ransacking others' lands as a preparatory step to give the occupied land to these influential people, according to their sayings in the investigation office in Sana'a.

We reported this problem to the Hamdan court pleading for making fair end for the land dispute but to no avail

once again.

The Court endorsed its verdict to these terrorists to halt any building activities, because they had already started building in the land right after they occupied it. However, they did not stop building.

We call upon sheik Zaid Mohammed Abu Ali to interfere to make end for disputes, as he was one of the members authorized the delivering process and has great background on this topic as we mentioned in advance, the sheik from his side undertook to do the best and exert every possible effort to sort out the problem. And he did. He made his contacts with them but these terrorist gangs refused to even offer any concessions, depending on the support they received from these influential people, and their final reply to the sheik was their demand on which they insisted to demolish the fence we belt around our own land several years ago.

Barrier

You know why? Because it was the only barrier interrupting them from laying their fence around the whole block, since our land is situated on the corner of the block, so no way for a fence to be put around it.

After sheik Zaid said 'it is impossible to reach a solution with them and every one should protect his land by his hand', we understood that the war is the only solution with such terrorist land looters.

Only several days later we decided to build one or two guard rooms in our land, and when we brought all building materials to the land, they prevented us from even getting in. We started hearing fire shots coming from their side and then we realized that the war was started.

REST OF THE STORY NEXT ISSUE...

Flora of Yemen (2-2)



BY ABDUL WALI AL
KHULAI,DI,
PLANT ECOLOGIST
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH
& EXTENSION AUTHORITY
(AREA)

3. Medium altitude mountains:

a) Western mountains:

Comprise of the mountains located west of Hajja and al-Mahwit governorates, around J. Milhan and Jabel Bura, Taiz highlands, and mountains located around Madinat Ash Sharq, west Huth and west al-Makhadir (Ibb). The altitude ranges between 1000 to 1800m above the sea level.

b) Southern and southern east mountains:

The altitude ranges between 1000 to 1800 m above the sea level (high to the west and low to the east), and comprise the mountains of Adhale, Mukairas, Yafe assufila, J. Eraf (south al-Maqatra), al-Awaleq assufila, Loder, Modia, J. al-Arais (Abyan governorate), J. Jihaf (Lahj governorate), Harf and mountain of Hadhramot.

The following vegetation types can be found:

3.1- Acacia asak-Indigofera spinosa type

Is a woodland found on large parts of steep to moderate steep slope mountains. Associated species are Ruellia patula, Aerva javanica, Barleria trispinosa, B. bispinosa, Acalypha fruticosa, Anisotes trisulcus, Ormocarpum yemenense, Blepharis ciliaris, Grewia erthrea, G. tenax, Eragrostes sp., Kleinia odora, Caralluma quadrangula and many others.

3.2- Euphorbia spp. shrub land

A large number of vegetation types occur here for example:

3.2.1- Pergularia tomentosa-Euphorbia cactus type

3.2.2- Euphorbia schemperii-Euphorbia inarticulata type

3.2.3- Psiadia arabica- Euphorbia schemperii type

3.2.4- Euphorbia cactus-Euphorbia parcircumlosa type

3.2.5- Euphorbia coneata-Andropogon greenwayi type

These types found on the slopes of mountains around Taiz, east Madinat Ashsharq, near Hammam Ali and south Hajjah. Associated species are many, such as Ruellia patula, Aerva javanica, Hibiscus deflersii, Commicarpus helenae, Barleria spp., Ormocarpum yemenense, Grewia spp., Cissus rotundifolia, Kleinia odora, Indigofera spinosa, I. arabica, Anisotes trisulcus, Caralluma quadrangula, Blepharis ciliaris, Sarcostemma sp., Sanseveria spp., Lantana salvifolia, Justicia flava, J. odora, Heliotropium spp., Hypostes forskalea, Cadia purpurea and many others.

3.3- Aloe vera-Acalypha fruticosa type

Is sparse shrub land found on steep to moderate steep slope near Madinat Ashsharq. Associated species are Anisotes trisulcus, Ormocarpum yemenense, Cissus quadrangularis, Indigofera spinosa, Acacia asak, A. etbaica, Kleinia odora, Barleria bispinosa, Adenium obesum, Acalypha fruticosa, Euphorbia cactus and others.

3.4- Grewia villosa-Andropogon greenwayi type

Is sparse shrub land to grassland found on steep to moderate steep slope mountains south Hajjah, (between 1240-1550m.). Associated species are Psiadia arabica, Pupalia lappacea, Salvia sp., Ruellia patula, Commicarpus helenae, Leucus glabrata, Grewia spp., Ocimum hadiens, Adenium obesum, Seddera arabica, Acalypha fruticosa, Blepharis ciliaris and others

3.5- Cenchrus ciliaris-Commicarpus glandiflorus type



Is open woodland to dwarf shrub land found on almost flat to steep slope stony mountains and road sides (between 1600-1800m.). Associated species are Andropogon distachyus, Aerva javanica, Indigofera spinosa, Anisotes trisulcus, Eragrostes sp., Forsskaolea tenacissima, Commicarpus grandiflorus, Acalypha fruticosa, Withania somnifera, Alternanthera pungens, Kleinia odora and others.

3.6- Aerva javanica-Hibiscus viti-folius type

Is a shrub land found on stony steep slope mountains near wadi Sharis (south Hajjah), between 1300-1400m. Associated species are Forsskaolea tenacissima, Indigofera spinosa, Heliotropium longiflorum, Cissus quadrangularis, Borhavia repens, Solanum incanum, Adenium obesum and others.

3.7-Acacia mellifera woodlands

These woodlands cover a large parts of medium altitude mountains such as north and North east, of Taiz, J. al Arayes, west Huth, around Madinat Ashsharq. For example:

3.7.1- Acacia mellifera-Euphorbia cactus &

3.7.2- Acacia mellifera-Euphorbia inarticulata types are found on slopes north and north east Taiz (between 1200-1500m.). Associated species are: Ruellia patula, Grewia erythraea, Cissus rotundifolia, Kleinia odora, Indigofera spinosa, I. arabica, Anisotes trisulcus, Borhavia repens, Lantana salvifolia, Cassia italica, Seddera arabica, Euphorbia shemperi, Heliotropium sp., Hypostes forskalea, Cadia purpurea and many others.

3.7.3- Acacia mellifera-Ocimum hadiens type

Is a woodland found on moderate steep slope mountains and hills east Madinat Ashsharq (between 1400-1610m.). Associated species are Kleinia odora, Grewia tenax, Ormocarpum yemenense, Indigofera spinosa, Seddera arabica, Commicarpus helenae, Acacia asak, Ruellia patula and others.

3.7.4- Acacia mellifera-Euphorbia coneata type

Is a woodland occurs on moderate to steep slope mountains and hills east Madinat Ashsharq (between 1380-1440m.). Associated species are the same of type 3.7.3 plus the following : Sarcostemma sp. Blepharis ciliaris and Aloe sp.

3.8- Tridax pvocumbeus-Indigofera spinosa type

Is a shrub land to grassland found on wadi beds and degraded slopes east of Madinat Ashsharq and east Hammam Ali (between 1590-1650m.). Associated species are Solanum incanum, Bidens bitata, Ocimum hadiens, Indigofera spinosa, Eragrostes papposa, Aristida adscensionis, Acalypha fruticosa, Commicarpus boissieri, Borhavia repens, Lavandula pubescens, Rumex nervus and others.

3.9- Mentha longifolia-Conyza incana type

Is a shrubland found on wadi beds where the water is flowing almost all the year, (e.g. wadi Rimaa, between 1200-1300m.). Associated species are Ricinus communis, Polygala sp., Flaveria trinervia, Trichilia emetica, Acanthus arboreus, Cordia africana, Pandanus odoratissimus and others.

3.10- Breonadia salicina-Tridax pvocumbeus type

Is a sparse shrubland found on wadi beds of Sharis (south Hajjah), between 1100-1380m. Associated species are Aristida adscensionis, Solanum incanum, Indigofera spinosa, Borhavia repens, Ziziphus spina-christi, Tagetes minuta and others.

3.11- Acacia asak-Cadia purpurea

type

Is open woodland found on the western escarpment mountains at elevation of 1200-1600m. Associated species are Acacia mellifera, A. etbaica, Commiphora kataf, Boscia angustifolia, Adenium obesum, Psadia arabica, Kleinia odora, Commicarpus helenae, Becium filamentosum, Rhynchelyten repens, Themeda triandra, Elyonurus muticus, Eragrostis papposa, Hypostes forskalea and many others.

3.12- Acacia etbaica woodlands

These woodlands are found on plains, plateaus, at the bottom of mountains and on moderate steep slope mountains (between 1400-1800m.). A number of vegetation types can be found:

3.12.1- Acacia etbaica-Gnidia somalensis type

Is open woodland found on plateau of J. Eraf (about 1350m.). Associated species are Euphorbia schemperii, Ruellia patula, Aerva javanica, Aloe inermis, Commicarpus helenae, Lantana sp., Ormocarpum yemenense, Tetrapogon villosum, Solanum incanum, Fagonia incanum, Euphorbia coneata, and others.

3.12.2- Acacia etbaica-Euphorbia cactus type

Is woodland found on moderate steep slope mountains and hills south Taiz (between 1400-1600m.). Associated species are Euphorbia inarticulata, E. schemperii, E. ammak, Acacia mellifera, Cissus quadrangularis, C. rotundifolia, Blepharis ciliaris, Fagonia indica, Justicia flava, Solanum incanum, Polygala senensis, Cyanotes sp., Borhavia repens, Psadia arabica, Heliotropium sp., Dodonaea viscosa, and others.

3.13- Juniperus procera-Psiadia arabica type

Is a forest found on moderate steep slope of J. Eraf (al Maqatirah, Taiz) and J. Thogan (al Qabatah, Taiz), between 1350-1450m. Associated species are Acacia etbaica, Cadia purpurea, Teucrium yemens, Tetrapogon villosum, Barleria sp., Rhus spp., Carissa edulis, Aristida sp., Seddera arabica, Tarchonanthus camphoranthus, Commicarpus helenae and many others, some of the species not unidentified yet and could be new or endemic to Yemen or to Arabian peninsula.

4. High altitude mountains:

a) These mountains lie above 1800 m and comprise the mountains of Ibb, Sabir, at-Turba, Reyma, Dhamar, J. Alloz, J. an-Nabi Shuaib, Mukairas, J. Abran, Yafe al-Ulya, Hajja and Sana'a. Average temperature ranges between 10-26 degree, annual rainfall ranges between 200-800 and reach to about 1000 mm around Ibb, al Mahwit and Hajjah.

Main vegetation types of the region are:

4.1- Rosa abyssinica-Scabiosa columbaria type

Is a grassland or dwarf shrubland occur on the steep slope mountains of J. Sabir (south Taiz), between 2000-2300m. Associated species are Echinops spinosissimus, Chelanthus sp., Acanthus arboreus, Satureja biflora, Gomphocarpus fruticosus, Rumex nervus and others.

4.2- Themeda triandra-Barleria proxima type

Is a shrub land to grassland found on moderate steep slope mountains and hills, between 1900-2200m., such as east and south east wadi Mauna (between Maaber and Madinat Ashsharq) and south east Hajjah. Associated species are Psadia arabica, Andropogon greenwayi, Cadia purpurea, Ruellia patula, Cyphostemma digitata, Lantana viburnoides, Leucus glabrata, Aristida sp. Eragrostes papposa, Acacia etbaica and others.

4.3- Micromeria biflora-Pennisetum setaceum type

Is woodland to sparse grassland found on steep slope mountains and terraces (between 1950-2250m.). Associated species are Richardia tingitata, Andropogon sp., Anisotes trisulcus, Eragrostes papposa, Acacia origina, Themeda trindra, Acanthus arboreus, Teucrium yemense, Felicia abyssinica, Hypostes forskalei, Solanum incanum, Leucus glabrata and many others.

4.4- Kniphofia somarea-Acanthus arboreus type

Is a dense shrubland occurs on steep slope mountain of Sumara (between



2600-2700m.). Associated species are Pterocarpus pulverulentus, Satureja biflora, Ammi majus, Ferula communis, Anagallis arvensis, Echinops spinosissimus, Campanula edulis and others.

4.5- Thymus serpyllum-Acanthus arboreus type

Is a shrub land occurs on moderate to almost flat rocky mountains and hills at elevation above 2600m. Associated species are Euphorbia schemperiana, Andropogon sp., Hypostes forskalei, Teucrium yemens, Vermitrox abyssinica, Plectranthus spp., Themeda trindra, Osteospermum vaillantii, Jasminum grandiflorum, Echinops spinosissimus, Dianthus uniflorus, Rumex nervus, Polygala senensis and others.

4.6- Acacia origina type

Is open woodland found near or on cultivated fields of wadis, plains and plateaus or slopes (e.g. Ibb, NE Atturba, J. Sabir, and J. Sumara). Associated species are Ziziphus spina-christi, Euphorbia ammak Euryops arabica, Plectranthes spp. and others

5. Highland plains:

a) High altitude plains located over 1800 m and including those around Sa'da, Sana'a, Dhamar, Rada and qa-Bakil.

b) low altitude plains(< 1800m) include those around al-Qaeda.

Main vegetation types are:

5.1. Elyonurus muticus - Euriops arabica type:

Is grassland to dwarf shrub land found on rocky slopes of mountain plains. Associated species are Andropogon sp., Becium capitatum, Felicia abyssinica, Pennisetum setaceum, Kleinia semperviva, Dianthus uniflorus.

5.2. Peganum harmala - Blepharis ciliaris type:

Is a shrub land found on flat, rocky areas or old fallow lands. (Such as around Maber and Sana'a). Associated species are Enneapogon desvauxii, Lycium shawii, Pulicaria crispa, Sonchus oleraceus.

5.3. Tetrapogon villosus - Cynodon dactylon:

is a grassland occur on rocky fallow land. Associated species are Cenchrus ciliaris, Indigofera arabica, Pulicaria crispa, Sonchus oleraceus, Pennisetum villosum, Brachiaria erucidiformis.

5.4. Acacia etabaica - Euphorbia inarticulata type:

is open woodland found on plains below 1500 m (e.g. Qa al Qaeda). Associated species are Withania somnifera, Ziziphus spina-christi, Solanum incanum, Fagonia indica, Eragrostes sp., Aerva javanica, Lycium shawii, Caralluma penicilata, Euphorbia cactus, Cissus rotundifolia, Commicarpus helenae, Hypostes forskalei, Indigofera spinosa, Kleinia odora.

5.5. Acacia origina open woodland:

The common type here Acacia origina - Pennisetum setaceum type is a woodland found on mountain slopes and terraces (between 1950 - 2250 m). Associated species are Micromeria biflora, Andropogon sp., Richardia tingitata, Themeda triandra, Acanthus arborus and others.

5.6. Felicia abyssinica- Andropogon sp. type:

is grassland occurs on oderate steep slope mountains and hills (between 2300 - 2370m). Associated species are Teucrium yemense, Echinops spinosissimus,

Tetrapogon villosu, Indigofera arabica, Salvia aegyptiaca, Eragrostes papposa, Blepharis citiars, Helichrysum somaliense, Gomphocarpus fruticosos, Euphorbia granulata, Hypostes forskalei, Thymus serpyllum and others

6. Eastern and northern east mountains:

a) high altitude mountains > 1800 m.

They include the mountains which form the division between the wadis flowing west (Red Sea) and east into the desert, and comprise the mountains east mountain plains of Dhamar and Amran, east and north Rada', between Rada' and al-Bayda and between Abyan and al-Bayda.

Average temperature ranges between 16-20 degree, annual rainfall ranges between 50-300mm.

b) Medium altitude mountains (1200-1800 m):

These mountains drop several hundred meters into the eastern desert plains and include the mountains east Sa'da, around and west Marib, north al-Bayda, around Bayhan and north Ataq.

Average temperature ranges between 40-45 degree, annual rainfall ranges between 50-150mm, and less than 50mm towards the desert.

Main vegetation types of this region are:

6.1. Chrysopogon plumulosus - Lavandula pubescens Type:

Is dwarf shrub occurs on dry rocky slope mountain east Dhamar plains. Associated species are Andropogon sp., Beciumitatum, Felicia abyhssinica, Pennisetum setaceum and other.

6.2. Chrysopogon plumulosus - Helichrysum somaliense type:

is grassland to dwarf shrubland occurs on flat to moderately slope areas. Associated species are Tetrapogon villosum, Blepharis ciliaris, Enneapogon desvauxii, Lycium shawii, Eragrostis papposa, Aristida adscensionis and others.

6.3. Lavandula pubescens - Chrysopogon plumulosus type:

is a dwarf shrubland occurs o the plains and hills between 1800 - 2600 m (east highland plains). Associated species are Acacia arigena, Gnidia somaliense, Seddera arabica, Fagonia indica, Peganum harmala, Tetrapogon villosum and others.

6.4. Euphorbia balsamifera - Kleinia odora type:

is a dwarf shrubland occurs on limestone plateau. Associated species are Euphorbia fruticosa, Aristida adscensionis, Lycium shawii, Barleria proxima and others.

6.5. Andropogon crossotus type:

is open grassland found on plains, hills and montains around Rada at elevation up to 2600 m. Associated species are Helichrysum somaliense, Andrachne aspera, Aloe vacillans, Caralluma quadrangularis, Kleinia odora, Chrysopogon plumulosus, Cenchrus ciliaris, Tetraqogon villosum and others.

6.6. Euphorbia inarticulata - Psiadia arabica type:

is a shrubland occurs south west of al Baydha governorate and along the road Rada-al Baydah at elevation lower than 2200 m. Associated species are Solanum sepicola, Lavandula pubescens, Blepharis ciliaris, Tetrapogon villosum, Chrysopogon plumulosus, Euphorbia cactus and others.

6.7. Acacia nilotica - Barleria parvifolia type:

is an open woodland occurs on Wadis and plains or depressions at elevation about 1800 to 2000 m. Associated species are Solanum spp., Lycium shawii, Cynadon dactylon, Peganum harmala, Acacia gerrardii, Ziziphus spina-christi and others.

6.8. Acacia oerfota - Commiphora myrrh type:

is open bush land occurs on mountains and Wadis and hills adjacent to the desert and north east al Baydha governorate. Associated species are Acacia tortilis, Salvadora persica, Tamarix aphylla, Desmotachya bipinana, Pennisetum divisum, Stipagraostis hirtiguma and others.

6.9. Acacia asak - Cadia purpurea type:

Is open woodland occurs southern part of al Baydha governorate. The elevation is less than 1600 m. Associated species Acacia mellifera, Commiphora myrrha, "Adenium obesum, Euphorbia sp. The Wadis in this unit are characterized by large trees such as Brreonadia salicina, Trichilia emetica, Tamarix indica, Ficus spp. and Ziziphus spina-christi.

6.10. Acacia etbaica - Ziziphus spina-christi type:

Is open woodland found east of Sadha on Wadis and depressions.

7. Eastern desert:

Extend along the northern border of Yemen and drop from 1000 m towards north, east and northern east to less than 500 m, and include the areas east and north Marib, north Hadhramout and Ramlat assabatein..

The following vegetation types can be found:

7.1- Acacia tortilis - Aerva javanica type

Is a grassland to woodland occurs on wadis, drainage lines, along the edges of the wadi and sand dunes. Associated species are Panicum turgidum, Fagonia indica, Indigofera spinosa, Dipterygium glaucum, Rhazia stricta, Jatropa spinosa, Pennisetum setaceum, Pergularia tomentosa, Aristida adscensionis, Acacia oerfota and others.

7.2- Dipterygium glaucum-Panicum turgidum type

Is sparse shrubland occurs on undulating sand dune plain or almost gravelly plain near Marib. Associated species are Aerva javanica, Fagonia indica, Salsola imbricata, Stipagrostis spp. and others.

7.3- Suaeda aegyptiaca-Salsola imbricata type

Is sparse shrub-woodland found on undulating to almost flat, slightly saline soil areas (northern west Marib). Associated species are Aerva javanica, Panicum turgidum, Rhazia stricta, Dipterygium glaucum, Leptadenia pyrotechnica, Acacia tirtilis, Fagonia indica, Salvia merjamie, Tamarix sp., Desmostachya bipinnata and others.

7.4- Calotropis procera-Dipterygium glaucum type

Is sparsse grassland and accopies most of the eastern desert plain. Associated species are Aerva javanica, Panicum turgidum and Acacia tortilis.

7.5- Ziziphus spina-christi cultivated lands

Is found on many cultivated lands as a traditional Agro forestry system in the Marib and Harib areas.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Annas weekly,
8 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Caused by plan for expanding Amran cement factory, Amran residents demand damages and end of coercion
- A youth commits suicide for fear of vengeance after firing shots at pedestrians
- New rise in prices of oil products beginning of 2004

Columnist Nasser Yahy has written an article saying the project of building the gas power station deserves to be described as a strategic project but it is not worth of this description unless the prolongation of finishing the project deserves that many would really exert much efforts to know about the cause of the delay that befell such a vital project that had been thought about sine the half of the nineties and should have been in actual implementation at the end of the 1996 and to be finished in May 1997. Since 1997 the project of the gas power station remained the focus of news and announcements on its being finished in the near future. Last week an official announced in a press statement that the project had entered the stage if implementation and expected to be finished in 2006. Thus the project has taken ten years to be completed. Is it true that our country was unable to build this station whether by local efforts or by giving concession to a special company? The government has executed big projects throughout the past years that could be of the size or bigger of this station. There must be some secret behind all this and we only need some light to discover it.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC, 8 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- National strategy for secondary school education
- Return of commercial maritime movement at the Yemeni ports
- GPC's assistant secretary-general for political affairs Dr al-Asbahi opens in Beirut the symposium on

- reforming the Arab League
- Arab News agencies Sana'a meeting allots financial award for the best report and image
- Workshop on fighting money laundering in Aden

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says it is very apparent that the White House during the tenure of President Bill Clinton lacked its traditional ethics and it has become threatened to lose the last of what it has been boasting of smartness and prestige in the time of the republican president Bush. Many things are happening in the name of the White House and working on defaming the reputation of its administration. The very secret visit by President Bush to Baghdad would not be the last that has aroused mockery and laughter for behavior of the House administration. The very quick and surprise visit by Bush has missed its goals and failed in realizing what Bush desired to achieve in proving his lost courage and keenness on inspecting conditions of his soldiers who are chased by the Iraqi resistance in their camps and places of residency. Planning for the visit and the strict secrecy that accompanied it discloses the great confusion the American administration is suffering from and confirms aggravation of stupidity of decisions and stands and the absence of wisdom and balance.

Attagamou weekly, organ of the Yemeni Unionist Congregation, 8 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Saleh's advice to Saddam impedes a Kuwaiti agreement with Yemen
- President forms opposition delegation to Beirut symposium on reforming the Arab League
- Aden public hospital rehabilitated
- Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies takes part in a regional conference in Cairo and another in Sana'a.

Columnist Ahmed Said al-Dahhi says the eye-catching and worrying thing is that the program of economic reform has stayed too long and exceeded the boundaries designed for it. The Yemeni economic reform came in response to a need for dealing with an unexpected economic crisis hit the

Main headlines

- Parliament to approve the new state budget before the end of the month
- GPC's ministerial & parliamentary committees confirm the budget a proof of the sound orientations of the political leadership
- On Thursday, local councils by-elections begin
- Results of Sana'a regional forum on local governance circulated to countries and donors
- 22 working papers to be discussed by judiciary conference on Saturday
- Preliminary experiment on census on 17 December
- Saudi Arabia resumes dispensing salaries to Yemenis
- YSP secretary-general resigns
- Three American delegations to Sana'a and Aden in the wake of arresting al-Ahdal
- A girl disappears in Sana'a,
- Investigations with a man accused of raping six girls in Taiz
- Accused of assassinating Al-al-Rassas, security forces besiege al-Takfeer group in al-Baidha'a
- Arab News Agencies Union elects Nasr Taha chairman
- AIDS cases in Yemen estimated at 99 thousand
- Increase in diesel and electricity prices, government gift in 2004
- Yemenis in India appeal to the president to sack the cultural attach 
- Protest activities after a year of assassination of Jaralla Omer
- Diplomatic attempt to contain a crisis between Yemen and Kuwait

national economy at moment of a political inattentiveness and under a backward administrative mentality and under a climate of corruption. Apart from the extent of the program's success or failure, almost a decade has elapsed since it has been inaugurated and its supposed age has ended in 2001. The program's three stages have also been finished and it is no longer useful economically.

It is scandalous and shameful to keep the country's economy and its social conditions governed by an impact of an economic crisis took place ten years ago and subject to a short-term and outdated economic reform program. The experiment has proved its failure in more than one aspect at a time when course of the following events and consequences of international developments and tempests of globalization demand facing them and benefiting from them as well as encircling their negative impact. To continue drawing up the system of strategies and plans of development in the light of the standing program of economic reform and subjecting them to precepts and goals of such a cracked program places restraints on efficiency of planning and determinants of investment and development policies.

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces in Yemen, 7 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- American delegation in Yemen to investigate into reality of smuggling weapons from Yemen to Saudi Arabia
- James Rowley: Decentralization, no reality in Yemen yet

وظائف شاغرة

تعلم شركة العالمية للفندقة عن وجود وظائف شاغرة في قسمي الاستقبال والصيانة والحسابات لأحد فئاتها
بشروط للمتقدمين إجادة اللغتين العربية والانكليزية وستعطى الأولوية لذوي الخبرة في مجال العمل الفندقى

يتم إرسال طلبات العمل مرفقة بسيرة ذاتية للمتقدم وذلك إلى مقر الإدارة العامة للشركة في صنعاء في موعد أقصاه ٢٠٠٣/١٢/٣١ على العنوان التالي :

مجموعة شركات العالمية
شارع الستين (أمام مبنى الأمم المتحدة)
الدور الثالث (العالمية للفندقة)
صندوق بريد : ٢٧٤٥
هاتف (صنعاء) : ٤٤٠٣٥٥ تحويلة ١١٤
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ألف مبروك

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للأخوة/

حلمي عبدالله الفقيه
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إيهاب جميل موسى

بمناسبة زفافهم الميمون ودخولهم القفص الذهبي،
فألف ألف مبروك وبالرفاه والبنين

المهنيون: موظفي شركة أرتكس التجارية
موظفي معرض البيت الأبيض عنهم
إبراهيم صالح النعمي، زياد عبد الملك الشريف

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahram

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday downplayed the failure of Palestinian truce talks aimed at securing a ceasefire with Israel.

Mubarak said the inter-Palestinian dialogue in itself was a good initiative.

Al Akhbar

The 400 archaeological pieces retrieved from Switzerland have been placed inside the Egyptian Museum upon a decision made by the Cairo criminal court. The artifacts, which had been smuggled by Egyptian

businessman Tarek Al-Sweisi, aided and abetted by Egyptians and foreigners, include two mummies.

Al Gomhuria

The number of tourists who visited Egypt during the period from January till November this year hit 5.5 million, a 16 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

The Egyptian Gazette

Egypt and Brazil have agreed on the need to enhance Arab-Latin American dialogue at the level of heads of state during a summit in Cairo on Monday.

Britain

The Times

The British public has given its strong backing to Prime Minister Tony Blair's plans to introduce top-up fees for university students despite the hostility of Labor lawmakers who oppose the plans.

Financial Times

The British Foreign Office is considering changes to travel advice and diplomatic security after the terrorist bombings in the Turkish city of Istanbul last month.

The Independent

British drugs companies admitted Monday that it is very difficult for the public to find out how well prescription medicines work.

The Daily Telegraph

Six years of Labor government have left middle-class voters fearful about the future and increasingly financially insecure, according to a poll on Tuesday.

France

Le Figaro

The Delta camp in Guantanamo is the most mysterious prison in the world — 660 "terrorists" and "enemy combatants," including six French, have been detained there for two years.

Le Monde

Russian President Vladimir Putin got a landslide victory when the

India

The Times of India

A high-powered, government-appointed committee under former cabinet secretary Nareish chandra on Monday made a strong case for affordable domestic air travel and offered major stops to low-cost private airlines.

The Hindustan Times

Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Ajit Jogi on Monday urged senior

Congress leaders to lift the suspension order against him.

The Hindu

It was a historic day for the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday when two of its women members from distinctively different backgrounds took oath of office in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and became the first women to head these states.

Kenya

East African Standard

The Kenyan government has finally confirmed that it is going to send home thousands of civil servants in the country.

The People

Somali faction's 10-day retreat scheduled to start this week has been postponed to next week, Inter Governmental Authority on Development ministerial facilitation

Philippines

The Philippine Star

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo vowed Monday to crush the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf and the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, both allied with al-Qaeda, following the capture of a senior Abu Sayyaf leader suspected of involvement in the April 2000 kidnapping of Western tourists from Malaysia.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

"Commander Robot" of the Abu

Daily Nation

The Kenyan government has increased the producer price of maize from 1,010 shillings (about 13.1 US dollars) to 1,100 shillings (about 14.3 US dollars) per 90-kg bag to stabilize the price, Minister for Agriculture Kipruto Kirwa said Monday.

Manila Bulletin

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared Monday a 28-day unilateral ceasefire with the rebel New People's Army and its political wing the National Democratic Front as a gesture of goodwill during the Christmas season.

Coming to terms with the twentieth-century 'isms' (PART II)



BY DR ANIL K PRASAD,
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Certainly, we have been influenced by the slow 'decentering' of the canonical literature by the marginal or the literatures in English. The demand 'to open the canon' has been heard across the globe and the canon is enlarged to represent the other cultures and classes. Writers like Raja Rao, Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe, Naguib Mahfouz, Tayeb Salih, Abdel Rahman Munef, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Bapsi Sidwa and Amitav Ghosh... have found places in the university curricula worldwide. Competing with the big names of the West in the adventure of ideas we have names (to name a few) like Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Ihab Hassan, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Aijaz Ahmed, Abdul R JanMohammed, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Ngugi Wa Thiong'o from the 'Orient' and the 'Dark Continent'. The rise of democracy, consumerist culture, mass culture, blurring of demarcation line between the high and low culture, introduction of new approaches to reading and interpretation, locutions to persuade – how to do things with words, new theories dislocating, dismantling, refiguring, and reallocating the boundaries of the author, the reader, the literary critic, the teacher, the text, and context, and the simultaneous developments in the fields of cinema, mass media and hyper reality have demythologized the concepts of creation, perception, and interpretation of contemporary art, literature, literary criticism, history and culture in such a way that coming to terms with different 'isms', 'de/di-' and 'post-' terms is a bewildering intellectual exercise. No wonder one can encounter a number of new terms, in the postmodern metalanguage of theory and criticism such as 'deconstruction, decentering, dissemination, dispersal, displacement, difference, discontinuity, demystification, delegitimation, disappearance' (Hassan, Ihab. "Beyond Postmodernism? Theory, Sense, and Pragmatism", 1989), being used with altogether new connotations.

Even some the 'post-' terms like postmodernism, postcolonial, postfeminism, poststructuralism, postmodernism, postrealism, post-Marxism, and postnativism are used with/without the hyphen. The term 'postcolonial' has been described by Georg M. Gugelberger in *The John Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (1997) as 'one of the latest "tempests" in a postist world replacing *Prospero's Books* (the title of Peter Greenway's 1991 film) with a calibanistic viewpoint'. Commenting on the use of the hyphen in the term 'postcolonial', Padmini Mongia (1996, 1997: 16) observes:

There has been some discussion of whether the term postcolonial should or should not be hyphenated. While there is by no means consensus on this issue, when used with the hyphen the term usually marks a temporal shift from the moment when colonialism officially ended to the period that comes after. Without the hyphen, the term refers to a form of critical practice that includes, but is not restricted to, post-structuralist analyses of colonialism and its legacies. (see *Contemporary Postcolonial*

Theory: A Reader

And even the terms 'Poststructural' and 'Postmodern' are sometimes used synonymously and it seems there is no consensus over the use of these terms. The definitions of Abrams (1991: 238) are very revealing in this regard:

"Postmodern" is sometimes used in place of, or interchangeably with, "poststructural". It is more useful, however, to follow the examples of those who apply "postmodern" to recent developments in literature and other arts, and reserve "poststructural" for recent theories of criticism and of intellectual inquiries in general.

He further classifies:

Postmodernism in literature and the arts has parallels with the movement known as poststructuralism in linguistic and literary theory; poststructuralists undertake to subvert the foundations of language in order to show that its seeming meaningfulness dissipates, for a rigorous inquirer, into a play of conflicting indeterminacies, or else to show that all forms of cultural discourse are manifestations of the ideology, or of the relations and of constructions of power, in contemporary society (Ibid: 169).

Clearly, these terms defy clear-cut and precise definitions. This is again a reflection of the 'interconnected differences', overlappings, cutting across of the boundaries and the effects of a way of life in which even the 'cyborgs' cannot afford to be alone. Whether the former is more textual and language-based and the latter presents a vision of a new cultural wave that takes us to the realm of virtual reality both these pull together on the issues of creation, perception and interpretation of a text in the contexts of culture, history, psychology, gender, colonization, ethnicity, race, and power.

Consequently, in the present context the role of the traditional, authoritative and rigid classroom teacher and his/her strategies of teaching like everything authoritative and rigid have also been subverted and questioned. The traditional teacher has seen his/her demise with the death of the author and the absence of the text. And there appears in the class the incarnation of the teacher as a facilitator of learning/teaching. With the changing role of the teacher the meaning of the text has changed also. The traditional reader/teacher knew the definition of this world as the 'text, which the author intended' (Thorpe, James. *Principles of Textual Criticism*, 1972: 72), but now a 'text' is

...not a line of words releasing a single 'theological' meaning (the 'message' of the author-God) but a multi-dimensional space in which a variety of writings, none of them original, blend and clash. A tissue of quotations drawn from the innumerable centers of culture. (Barthes, Roland. (1977). "The death of the author". In David Lodge, *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*: 1988: 170)

We have entered the world of the twenty-first century with the 'necessity to substitute language itself for the person who until then had been supposed to be its owner' (Ibid p 168). The previous age has already seen the dismantling of the traditional distinctions between critic and creator, fiction and non-fiction, literature and non-literature where the English language has manifested itself under the hegemony of the British Empire the empire has written back to replace the canonical by the marginal, the Self by the Other decentering the centre and 'The centre is not

the centre' (Derrida, Jacques. (1966). "Structure, sign, and play in the discourse of the human sciences". In David Lodge, *Modern Criticism and Theory: A Reader*, 1988:109) therefore, it turns out 'to deconstruct the text into an undecidable scatter of opposed significations'. But

Most conspicuously, discourse has become the focal term among the critics who oppose the deconstructive concept of a "general text" that functions independently of particular historical conditions. Instead, they conceive of discourse as social parlance, or language –in-use, and consider it to be both the product and manifestation not of a timeless linguistic system, but of particular social conditions, class-structures, and power-relationships that alter in the course of history (Abrams, MH, 1999: 241).

In the world of academia there existed a relationship between the author and the text and the world during the heydays of classicism and humanism. Now the role of the author as a human subject is undermined, subverted and 'decentered'. Human author is 'simply a "space" in which linguistic and cultural codes come together to effect a text. In this antihumanistic stance, human being is no longer considered 'the major agency in effecting scientific, cultural and literary achievements'. To quote the French philosopher, Michele Foucault, 'Man is a simple fold in our language' and is going to disappear with the advent of the new form of language. Therefore an author is construed as the product of its own text; the result of the internal play of the language of the text. Further, the human subject is seen in relation to the surrounding world in terms of the relational effects of psychology, history, culture and society. On the contrary, the hitherto marginalized Others advocate for the identity of the human subject, the author as the representative of one or another groups, and consider him 'at the centre of the scene of writing, interpretation and political action'. As a result we have a number of relative perspectives and contexts, which interact with each other when a text is approached. These contexts (e.g. biographical, humanistic, classical, archetypal, historical, stylistic, psychoanalytic, phenomenological, dialogical, socio-economic, postcolonial, feminist, cultural, formalistic, linguistic, structuralist, poststructuralist, and deconstructive) can provide a possible point of entry for the students.

The twentieth-century literary world has been termed as an Age of the Reader and 'if a text does not have a reader, it does not exist – or at least it has no meaning' (Guerin, Wilfred, et al.: *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*. 1999: 356). Different theorists have variously defined the reader but the reader in the classroom is a different reader. He might be called the 'actual reader' but not the 'virtual reader' whom the writer has in mind or the 'ideal reader', 'the perfectly insightful' reader who follows the writer's every shift and move. Now the task of the teacher as the facilitator of learning is to make the actual readers in the class aware of what David Daiches (*Critical Approaches to Literature*, 1956:393) said:

Every effective literary critic sees some facet of literary art and develops awareness with respect to it; but the total vision, or something approximating it, comes only to those who learn how to blend the insights yielded by many critical approaches.

A pragmatic-pedagogic perspective

Constraints on translatability of Arabic (PART II)



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Receiving guests is another feature of Arabic politeness. Religion encourages warm reception of others. The Prophet's sayings emphasise meeting others with a happy face. In Arabic, care for 'face' is achieved not only through form politeness but also through warmth and hospitality as well as form politeness. Generosity is measured by giving warm welcome to the guests and offering them the best of what one has. Caring to face is viewed as a rewarding practice. Otherwise, one loses his face and feels uncomfortable or humiliated. Showing happiness when meeting someone communicates good reception and hence politeness to the guest. Arabs carry this tradition in their daily life. If one looks for example at the Saudi greetings rituals, one finds that speakers employ heavy repetitions of phrases and formulaic expressions when they meet and greet each other. These expressions seem fixed without variation. To be polite in this socio-cultural context is to inquire about the addressee's family, health, work, etc. It appears from the study that talk-participants tend to repeat the same phrase over and over. This repetition is to care for the face of the addressee and variation is not in the linguistic but in the tonal form of utterances.

As a sign of deference, Arabs prefer to use kinship names (such as father of or son of X or Y) rather than first name or professional name as a form of address. The kinship terms that are employed in addressing others are markers of politeness and ingroupness. Kinship terms as *ابو* [abu= father], *ام* [umm= mother], *اخو* [akho= brother] and *ابن* [ibn= son] are widely used while talking with others. *اخ* [akh= brother] or *اخت* [aukt= sister]

are used to address any friend as a sign of respect to care for the positive face of the addressee. A person is called by the name of his elder son, e.g. *ابو وليد* *abu Waleed* or *ابو محمد* *abu Mohammed* [father of Waleed or father of Mohammed respectively] etc. He is viewed as a person who has responsibilities and place in the society. It gives him a privilege and social status. The mother is called by the name of her eldest son too. Sometimes, for some social circumstances, she is called by the name of her eldest daughter, e.g. *ام حميد* [umm Hamida= mother of Hamida]. A wife expects people to use her father's family name, not the husband's name as it the case in the west. Arabs use endearment forms of address to a child such as *بابا* [baba= father] to a boy and *ماما* [mama= mother] to a daughter. The same phrases are used to address one's real father and mother (e.g. *بابا* [baba= father and *ماما* mama= mother]. Other kinship forms of address to one's children are *بنتي* [binti= my daughter] or *ابني* [ibni= my son]. Vocatives are made use of before some words as *يا اخ* [akh= brother], e.g. [ya akh= O brother] to address a friend or even a stranger. This address is similar to Indian 'Eh, bhai' or 'Eh bhai sahib'. This is to show respect and closeness with the speaker. The distinctiveness of Arabic becomes prominent when someone attempts to convey the implications of kinship terms to non-Arabs. These terms seem to be untranslatable to English because English does not offer such kinship form of address as this one. *Umm*, however, is sometimes used from a husband to show respect. It is to mark solidarity and harmony with his wife. Some aspect of politeness is lost due to the specificity of politeness in Arabic. Kinship terms are as difficult as conveying the meaning of *ان شاء الله* [insha Allah= God willing] to foreigners. A speaker of Arabic uses *insha Allah*, as a form of politeness, in many situations and contexts to give a religious touch to the interaction. If he means to come to an

appointment, *insha Allah* would be used to affirm the agreement. A non-Arab donot understand whether the speaker who uses *insha Allah* weakens or strengthens the speech act.

There are other forms of address forms in addition to kinship terms. Examples are *professor, captain, doctor, Madame, Miss*, etc. They are used in a courteous or formal way of speaking to other people. They are not based on family relationship as kinship terms but they are based on rank or social position (e.g. government official, member of royalty, religious dignitary, or a member of certain profession). Though Arabic employs these forms as a universal phenomenon but it has its own features. In writing formal letters, one uses forms of address *الاح العزيز* [alakh al aziz= dear brother], *سيادة* [syadat= sir], *حضرة* [hadrat= his excellency], *سعادة* [sadat= his excellency], *سيدي* [syeedi= his excellency], or *السيد المحترم* *alsayeed almuhtram*= respected sir], etc. to show respect. In speech sometimes these words (*syadat-kum, hadrat-kum, sadat-ukum*) are used to mark deference for the addressee. Here Arabic is similar to the use of second person pronouns in French *tu* and *vous*. To show respect in Arabic is to use a different form of address as the case in the use of *tu* and *vous* in French. In some dialects of Arabic, the address form is even sensitive to sex as in *Sana'ani* dialect in Yemen. To ask *how are you?* in this dialect is to use *كيف حالك* [kaif hal-ak; an address form for a male person] vs. *كيف حاليش* [kaif hal-ish; an address form for female person or *كيف حالكم* [kaif halukum; [kum= plural]]. This address using the plural indicates singular here but used as a form of respect. The addition of the suffix [-ish] while addressing women spreads in many parts of the Arabian Peninsula. It is called *الكشكاش* [kashkash dialect]. This marked use is to show a special consideration and care for the positive face of the female addressee.

Indian Poetry in English:

Turn-of-the-Century Signposts (PART 1)

BY DR. MURARI PRASAD
SANA'A UNIVERSITY

Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy and [now] Jhumpa Lahiri keep winning prizes, but for fiction. Apparently, poetry doesn't count. I am not complaining. Most magazines get on well without printing poetry. Would this be because poetry doesn't give us any information in an age of information technology?

Jayanta Mahapatra

Although the English-language poetry in India has not garnered the same kind of readership and critical attention as the postcolonial novel since the boom decades of the 1980s and 90s, it has continued to star stand-up practitioners. Like the 'literary lions' in the field of fiction, quite a few of our poets have brought a new expansiveness to their vocation with enviable command of language and access to an incredible range of experience. Notwithstanding the mediocrity of the majority, as is the case in fiction too, Indian poetry in English has gathered a core of critical mass at the turn of the century, and as such deserves fuller critical estimation. The purpose of this paper is not a cartographic one—to string up a clothesline of the published poems—nor do I intend to interweave a thorough-going commentary with selections from the poets. What I attempt to do is take a snapshot at what is well worth a read in a wide array of voices, make sense of the plurality and see patterns in diversity.

In the 90s and beyond we have noticed 'debutantes and stalwarts', feisty exponents and tricky craftsmen (and craftswomen too) with heft and gloss, as well as solemn, confident and vibrant voices amidst intimidating proliferation of titles. Among the poets who came to prominence and consolidated their reputation between the 60s and 80s, Dom Moraes, K. N. Daruwalla, and Jayanta Mahapatra have continued their output in recent years. Moraes's *In Cinnamon Shade: New & Selected Poems* (2001) includes poems which are impeccable

articulation of mature but still incandescent love. The raw vehemence of passion is subtly controlled. The following luscious extract from 'meetings in Mumbai' exemplifies his marvelous dexterity in enfolding pleasures of mature sexuality: Sundays, usually, I find my ghost, bedraggled and unshaven, by my bed. Over black coffee, evenly scarred Toast, we share the papers, but we do not speak.

All conversation would now be grotesque.

He clings like wet cloth, will not disappear".

The poet's preoccupation with love as a means of solace in the arid landscape continues in his latest book *Typed with one Finger: New and Selected Poems* (2002). In addition, poems such as 'A Day in Ayodhya' voice contemporary domestic concerns.

Keki N. Daruwalla's *Night River* (2000) after *A Summer of Tigers* (1995) is a striking sampler of his prolific creative energy. The two sequences of poems, 'Stalking Mandelstam' and 'Island Poems' carry the essential hallmarks of Daruwalla's poetry: admirable range of experience and the control of form to articulate the breadth and amplitude of insightful perception. As Daruwalla himself puts it, the poems were inspired by Nadezhda Mandelstam's book *Hope Against Hope* in which she talks about her husband's incarceration because of his poem on Stalin written in November 1933. The poet's mellow musings leavened with a train of amused observations are evoked in a variety of moods and textures. Sure enough, the book has many luminous moments. For instance, the poem 'Bird Eclipse':


"Birds know an eclipse from a cloud; we've all learnt that, when moisture shades the sun they don't turn silent. In fact bird-calls seem to trigger black nimbus into rain. But when a plant intervenes and turns silhouette,

Its dark rim bristling with fire - lit stakes
They scurry into shrub and leaf
and bird-heavy tree;
Clamber into long
tendrillous vine
And turn deathly quiet
like children cowering
As father enters
blind with drink."


Notably, Mahapatra's recent volume of poems, *Bare Face* (2000), foregrounds images of silence. Unlike his earlier poetry redolent of the rains, the temples, the sea, of the anguish and tragedy of an oppressed people as well as of Orissa's landscape, *Bare Face* is a string of self-reflexive verse with intense soul-searching on the vocation of words. Cumulatively, the poems underscore and emphasize a poet's commitment to truth and the voice of conscience. In the poem, 'sometimes,' the poet says: "And it is sadder/when words come out from a face/that isn't there. /Sadder like the bleat/the slaughtered goat gives out/ from the dinner plate. / One grows weak in those words..."

A. K. Ramanujan's posthumous poetry (he suddenly died in 1993) in *The Collected Poems of A.K. Ramanujan* (1995) and *Uncollected Poems and Prose: A.K. Ramanujan* (2000) is an enchanting treasure-chest of his well-crafted lines. With subtle and allusive art he could link deep feeling to a cool artistry, as well as slide behind the wall of words in his deceptively simple poems. Besides his preoccupation with the Hindu worldview and racial identity, he wrote a number of well-crafted love poems. In these poems the starch doesn't show in the collar even as the poet mines a fresh range of registers and liberates the language from official traditions, as in 'Julia':

"...And so on.
Yet this beauty throws pots and pans
whenever she is in a rage.
Does not wake up till noon, does
not wash between her legs and her
ruby lips open only
to speak unspeakable obscenities."



YOUTH FORUM



Keep Your Eyes Open

A young man said to his father: "The pompous and heart-rending sermons of the moralists make no impression upon me, because I do not find their practice in conformity with their precepts and teachings. They teach me to abandon the world, but they themselves run after it. Why should one teach mankind and forget one's oneself? A scholar who runs after money has lost his own way, how can he show the right path to others? Can the drowsy teach others to keep awake?"

The father replied: "It is not wise to

turn your attention away from the advice of men of learning, merely accusing them of contradiction between their words and deeds and, thereby, depriving yourself of the benefits of knowledge. If you shut your eyes, the sun cannot show you the way."

By Rania Ahmed Al-Shadadi
College of Education
Level 1
Khawlan

My Mother

O My mother, how dear are you to me!

By Faiza Al-Hamzi
Level 4, Department of English
Faculty of Education, Sana'a

You, indeed, are everything in my life
You're the most beautiful woman,
Your eyes glitter as the pearl
Your face beams as the sun's golden rays
Your speech is as sweet as the pomegranate's savour
Your heart is filled with kindness and unalloyed love
I take you as a Allah's priceless gift to me
May Allah bless me to make you ever happy.



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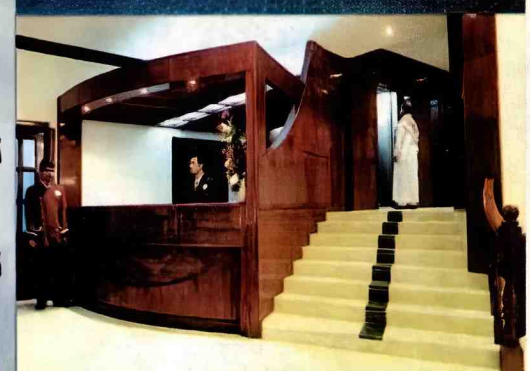
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We are causing more damage to the earth than we thought:

We're destroying our planet

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - There can be no doubt that global warming is real and is being caused by people, two top U.S. government climate experts said.

Industrial emissions are a leading cause, they say -- contradicting critics, already in the minority, who argue that climate change could be caused by mostly natural forces.

"There is no doubt that the composition of the atmosphere is changing because of human activities, and today greenhouse gases are the largest human influence on global climate," wrote Thomas Karl, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center, and Kevin Trenberth, head of the Climate Analysis Section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

"The likely result is more frequent heat waves, droughts, extreme precipitation events, and related impacts, e.g., wildfires, heat stress, vegetation changes, and sea-level rise," they added in a commentary to be published in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

Karl and Trenberth estimate that, between 1990 and 2100, there is a 90 percent probability that average global temperatures will rise by between 3.1 and 8.9 degrees Fahrenheit (1.7 and 4.9 degrees Celsius) because of human influences on climate.

Such dramatic warming will further melt already crumbling glaciers, inundating coastal areas. Many other groups



There can be no doubt that global warming is real and is being caused by people, two top U.S. government climate experts say. Industrial emissions are a leading cause, they say -- contradicting critics, already in the minority, who argue that climate change could be caused by mostly natural forces. File photo shows smog over Cape Town. REUTERS

have already shown that ice in Greenland, the Arctic and Antarctica is melting quickly.

Karl and Trenberth noted that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have risen by 31 percent since preindustrial times.

Carbon dioxide is the No. 1 greenhouse gas, causing warming temperatures by trapping the Sun's energy in the atmosphere.

Emissions of sulfate and soot particles have significant effects too, but more localized, they said.

"Given what has happened to date and is projected in the future, significant further climate change is guaranteed," they wrote.

The United States has balked at signing international treaties to reduce climate-changing emissions, but the two experts said global cooperation is key.

"Climate change is truly a global issue, one that may prove to be humanity's greatest challenge," they wrote. "It is very unlikely to be adequately addressed without greatly improved international cooperation and action."

Camera phone bans seen as aiding privacy

TORONTO (Reuters) - Camera cell phones, one of the hottest items on this year's Christmas must-have list, is also a growing privacy issue for both consumers and organizations.

The phones, with their discreet lens, tiny size and ability to immediately transmit images onto the Internet or other cell phones, are a voyeur's dream.

The phones first appeared on the market in early 2001, and for the last several months, media reports out of Asia have called attention to incidents such as nude photographs of unsuspecting victims turning up on the Internet. Their growing popularity in North America since their debut late last year has sparked similar concerns, prompting fitness centers across North America, from Los Angeles to Toronto, to begin banning or limiting cell phone



use on their premises.

With locations including Beverly Hills and New York, The Sports Club/LA -- one of the most luxurious fitness centers in the world -- was among the first to ban all cell phones in July, limiting their usage only to the lobby.

Privacy is a priority for the center, whose high profile clientele include celebrities and other prominent figures, company spokesman Rebecca Harris explained.

Other clubs have outright banned all cell phones because of the difficulty in distinguishing between regular cell phones and camera phones.

But not all clubs are taking such a hard-line stance.

In Calgary, where widespread bans and limitations drew media attention in Canada, the downtown YWCA took a more moderate approach.

من أجل بشرة أكثر جمالا

كومارك صابون للوجه

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Who Invented the Airplane? A Brazilian, of Course A century of injustice!

PETROPOLIS, Brazil (Reuters) - As Americans prepare to celebrate the centennial of the Wright brother's first flight, a whole country is cringing at what it believes to be a historical injustice against one of its most beloved heroes.

Ask anyone in Brazil who invented the airplane and they will say Alberto Santos-Dumont, a 5-foot-4-inch bon vivant who was as known for his aerial prowess as he was for his dandyish dress and high society life in Belle Epoque Paris.

As Paul Hoffman recounts in his Santos-Dumont biography "Wings of Madness," the eccentric Brazilian was the first and only person to own a personal flying machine that could take him just about anywhere he wanted to go.

"He would keep his dirigible tied to a gas lamp post in front of his Paris apartment at the Champs-Elysees and every night he would fly to Maxim's for dinner. During the day he'd fly to go shopping, he'd fly to visit friends," Hoffman told Reuters.

An idealist who believed flight was spiritually soothing, Santos-Dumont financed his lavish lifestyle and aerial experiments in Paris with the inheritance his coffee-farming father had advanced him as a young man. Always impeccably dressed, he regularly took a gourmet lunch with him on his ballooning expeditions.

But it was on Nov. 12, 1906, when Santos-Dumont flew a kite-like contraption with boxy wings called the 14-Bis some 722 feet on the outskirts of Paris. It being the first public flight in the world, he was hailed as the inventor



Residents walk past a mural painted in homage to Alberto Santos Dumont at the Santos Dumont airport in Rio de Janeiro. As Americans prepared to celebrate the centennial of the Wright brother's first flight, a whole country is cringing at what it believes to be a historical injustice against one of its most beloved heroes. Ask anyone in Brazil who invented the airplane and they will say Alberto Santos-Dumont, a 5-foot-4-inch bon vivant who was as known for his aerial prowess as he was for his dandyish dress and high society life in Belle Epoque Paris. Photo by Sergio Moraes/Reuters

of the airplane all over Europe.

It was only later that the secretive Orville and Wilbur Wright proved they had beaten Santos-Dumont at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, three years earlier on Dec. 17.

But to bring up the Wright brothers with a Brazilian is bound to elicit an avalanche of arguments -- some more



A Brazilian couple walks near a replica of Demoiselle, a first plane of Alberto Santos Dumont, at the Aerospace Museum in Rio de Janeiro, Dec 1. The design is comparable and some say even more efficient than the early Wright models. Photo by Sergio Moraes/Reuters

reasonable than others -- as to why their compatriot's flight didn't count.

"It's one of the biggest frauds in history," scoffs Wagner Diogo, a taxi driver in Rio de Janeiro, of the Wright's inaugural flight. "No one saw it, and they used a catapult to launch" the airplane.

Did it count?

Apparently, the debate comes down



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determined length in front of experts and then landed safely.

"If we understand what the criteria was at the end of the 19th century, the Wright brothers simply do not fill any of the prerequisites," says Lins de Barros.

Brazilians also claim that the Wrights in 1903 launched their Flyer with a catapult or at an incline, thereby disqualifying it from being a true airplane because it did not take off on its own.

Even Santos-Dumont experts like Lins de Barros concede this is wrong. But he claims that the strong, steady winds at Kitty Hawk were crucial for the Flyer's take-off, disqualifying the flight because there is no proof it could lift off on its own.

Peter Jakab, chairman of the aeronautics division at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington and a Wright brothers expert, says such claims are preposterous.

By the time Santos-Dumont got around to his maiden flight the Wright brothers had already flown numerous times, including one in which they flew 24 miles in 40 minutes.

"Even in 1903 the airplane sustained itself in the air for nearly a minute. If it's not sustaining itself under its own power it's not going to stay up that long," Jakab says.

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