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عيد سعيد وكل عام وأنتم بخير

Defends price hikes, admonishes GCC comments Bajammal speaks out

By MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In an effort to defend government moves to hike prices on certain goods, Yemen's Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal says the increase in Yemen is due to price hikes in other parts of the world.

Yemen is not isolated in a global economy, and governments and tradesmen are no longer able to hide any secrets about prices of any goods, said Bajammal, in a recent interview with the Qatari newspaper al-Raya.

The prime minister says when

prices of wheat are raised in the world, that is to be reflected in similar rises in the price of flour. And the same thing applies to oil prices that would naturally lead to the rise in wages of transport services. Thus the issue has become both worldwide and local.

The prime minister confirmed the Yemeni government's determination not to return to any totalitarian regime, but, depending on the rationing card and the public sector, he stressed that the government cannot perform magic in the face of economic crises governed by external factors.

Bajammal said the government was thinking of implementing a new system of integrated economics, noting there would be limited exposure through raised salaries and the minimum scale of wages. This could be a kind of compensation for people of limited income. There would also be new timelines for customs duties, so that Yemen could move closer to customs levels of GCC states and other neighbouring countries. This would help very much to implement an integrated economy.

On the impact of Yemen joining the GCC, or not, the prime minister clarified that the economic situation in Yemen and the GCC states would witness a recovery in case of accession.

The recovery would come because Yemen embraces a consumer market amounting to 21 million consumers. Consequently if there is another non-petroleum industry in the Gulf looking for suitable markets, it would not find it except in Yemen's market. Gulf investors would also show willingness to invest in projects inside Yemen, which would create new job opportunities and consequently benefits would be reciprocal, said the prime minister.



Yemen's Prime Minister Abdulqader speaks out on price hikes and recent comments made about Yemen not being part of the Gulf Cooperation Council. (News Services photo)

Not happy about GCC comments

Bajammal expressed his admonition towards Gulf states leaders for recent statements in which they said Yemen was not qualified for joining the GCC, wondering about the concepts, conditions and rules of qualification and whether they were close or far in addition to the required yardsticks.

He has made it clear that Yemen deals with the question of joining the GCC within the context of strategic, civilization, economic and security harmony extending to the coming generations. He said according to that perspective, Yemen and the GCC countries have to be together because of their historical, geographic and civilization depth that is considered the main center of Arabian civilization. Yemen's absence from the GCC system constitutes a loss for both Yemen and the Arabian peninsula peoples.

President Ali Abdulla Saleh, in an interview to a Kuwaiti newspaper, recently ridiculed objections by some leaders of the GCC states regarding Yemen accession to the system, saying "we have begun with football games and later the basketball and other games in the field of our presence in the GCC."

Meanwhile, Yemeni weekly newspaper Al-Ra'y Al-A'am in its Jan. 20 issue quoted Yemeni citizens as calling the Yemeni president to keep away from the GCC and to work for development of the tripartite grouping that includes Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia, for their economic, political and security importance, at present and future and working for the formation of a common defense.

The newspaper added that many Yemeni citizens had denounced the statements made by Gulf officials. They said regional circumstances gave them the feeling of being wealthy and looking from top to a deep-rooted country as Yemen.

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Critics don't like US ambassador Hull either

Yemeni-Saudi relations need mending

By Mohammed Binsallam
Yemen Times Staff

Al-Ra'ie Al-A'am weekly newspaper said in its Jan. 20 edition that many people have expressed resentment to the behaviour of both American and Saudi ambassadors to Yemen; Edmond Hull and Mohammed Bin Mardas al-Qahtani. They see their behaviour as irresponsible and incompatible with rules and morals and norms of diplomats.

Some circles have demanded expulsion of the two ambassadors, believing that their behaviour are violating norms and suspicious and exceeding the limits of their basic tasks for which they have been accredited to Yemen to represent their countries as ambassadors. They have made themselves high commissioners and began behaving in a way implying they are working for their own or for intelligence sides.

These circles consider the two ambassadors as persona non grata, because they do damage to relations of their countries with Yemen instead of serving them."

The newspaper mentioned that the ambassador al-Qahtani is a man who does not understand anything of the political job, for otherwise he would

have been keen to embody a good image as representative and ambassador of the Kingdom of sisterly Saudi Arabia, a place that has strong historical bonds and relations with Yemen based on fraternity, neighbourhood and common destiny, and not as representative of the special committee for which he works.

Regarding the American ambassador to Yemen, the newspaper said some critics have expressed their indignation towards his behaviour and dubious movements and his arrogant conduct through which he tries to interfere in Yemen's internal affairs, all under the pretext of fighting terror. They say Edmund Hull behaves in a manner that hurts the good relations between the Yemeni Republic and the United States of America.

In the same issue the newspaper has also mentioned that a number of citizens demanded to grant the Yemeni foreign minister the title of his highness the prince so that he would be a matching to his princes counterparts and given reception when he visits their countries.

The paper has added that the demand came in the light of the latest visit he made to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and was not received by his Saudi counterpart prince Saud al-

Faisal, but by his assistant Ayad Madani, perhaps Dr al-Qirbi, who does not hold the title of prince.

On the other hand various media have mentioned that Saudi authorities refused entrance of Yemeni pilgrims to their territories via al-Wadeea' inlet, on which Saudi officials said the inlet, was not agreed upon between the two countries to be used by the pilgrims.

More 422 Yemeni pilgrims had returned from al-Wadeea' crossing via Sana'a and entered the Saudi territories across Hardh inlet which is hundreds of km away.

This measure comes about a week after the Saudi authorities have allowed the entrance of Yemeni agricultural products after they had prevented them under allegation of being contaminated with pollution. Some political observers say it seems the Saudi Arabia intentionally tries to create crises with Yemen for political purposes.

And within the framework of the new Saudi-Gulf hostile campaign against Yemen the Saudi interior minister prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz confirmed last Wednesday his county's refusal to have Yemen join the GCC because, to his opinion, it is not a Gulf state.

Yemen Qaeda to avenge US killing of leader

A Yemeni Web site published on Saturday a statement purporting to come from the Yemeni wing of al Qaeda, in which it vowed to attack the United States to avenge the 2002 killing of its leader by a CIA drone aircraft.

The statement, which could not be authenticated, said Osama bin Laden's network had over the past year prepared a "devastating and

crushing blow in the United States that will happen soon".

It would be in retaliation for the death of Ali al-Harathi, who was killed by a missile fired by the pilotless CIA drone at his car in eastern Yemen.

The statement, published on the al-Sahwa and other Islamist Web sites, gave no details about the proposed attack.

Harathi, and his aide Mohammad Hamdi al-Ahdal who was arrested last year, were suspected of responsibility for the 2000 bombing of the U.S. warship Cole in Yemen's Aden harbour, which killed 17 American sailors.

Diplomats say that Yemen has largely succeeded in breaking the back of the group, but some militants remain at large. **Reuters**

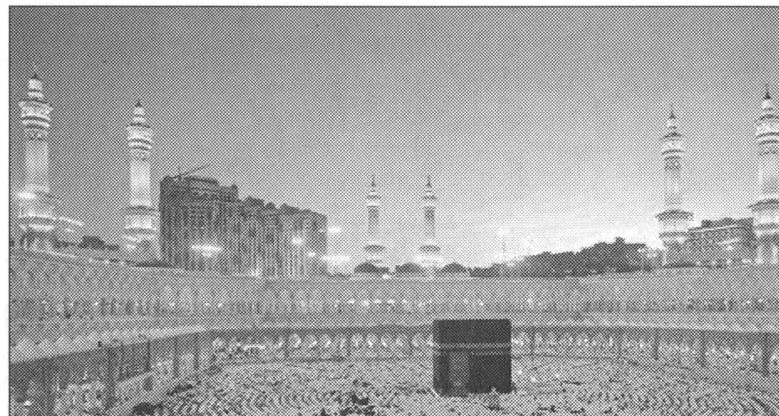
More than 20,000 Yemenis leave for Mecca

Twenty-two thousand Yemeni citizens have this year headed for the holy land in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia perform the pilgrimage.

Agencies specialized in organisation of travel and residence of pilgrims operating in Yemen in cooperation with the ministry of Endowments and Guidance have finished arrangements and procedures concerning the care for the pilgrims. Press reports have mentioned ear-

lier that a number of Yemeni pilgrims have faced some difficulties at one of the Yemeni-Saudi border crossings and have been solved and that those reports attributed those hindrances to the recent tension that happened between the two countries.

It is worth mentioning that the number of Muslim pilgrims from all over the world has this year reached around two millions.



Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

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The trial of Saddam Hussein is coming up in the next few months. Do you feel that, if convicted, Saddam will be:

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First directory on NGOs in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Human Rights Information and Training Center HRITC organised in Sana'a on 28 January special symposium on directory of non-governmental organisations NGOs in the field of human rights, in cooperation with the American cultural attaché office.

The symposium had reviewed the first directory issued on NGOs in Yemen which the HRITC had during a full year gathered and prepared data of the directory through a field research

team that visited twenty governorates and through a questionnaire form gathered information on the NGOs working in Yemen.

When the field work was finished it was followed with administrative follow-up and re-arrangement of statements which produced the present directory that contains information on 236 organizations among them 20 political parties. In addition to that there is an annex of the international and foreign organisations working in Yemen. The directory also contains

basic information on each organisation, such as the name, address and goals and activities that it undertakes. The work is aimed to offer the reader a full service for knowing the organisations and communicate with them. The symposium also announced the issuance of the first edition of the directory in an electronic form.

It is worth to mention that this directory is part of the information program the HRITC is offering in service of knowledge about the non-governmental organisations in Yemen.

Thieves break through Atwani Trading center in Taiz

By YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

A group of thieves had in the early hours on Jan. 27 stormed Al-Atwani Trading Center in the city of Taiz, where they used tools for cutting and braking locks. They fled the place after they had stolen the main case of

the center.

After reporting of the incident to the police of the city at the Al-bab al-kabeer area, the police embarked immediately on tactical measures to trace clues about the criminals to arrest them.

Stealing and robbery operations have lately increased in the city of

Taiz as a result of abject poverty, spread of unemployment and rise in prices of foodstuffs.

That made some desperate people resort to the use of violence and deviation, and also because the responsible authorities are not preventing the main causes leading to these crimes.

Lebanese parties to be held in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As part of the efforts exerted by the Yemeni-Lebanese Fraternity Society it is to host during the Eid al-Adha days the Lebanese Al-Rimah Art Troupe. The troupe will perform a number of parties in a number of parties in a number of governorates.

In the area of Aden cisterns, the troupe will perform parties entertaining the audience and other parties in the city of Sana'a during the celebrations of Sana'a capital of Arab culture.

The Yemeni-Lebanese Fraternity Society aims through its activities at strengthening the brotherly ties between Yemen and Lebanon as the

society is one of the active societies among the non-governmental organisations. Chairman of the society Yahya Abdulla Saleh works for increasing its activity and that has been reflected on realizing more results of deepening the ties of fraternity between the Yemeni and Lebanese peoples.

British Foreign Office considers moving embassy

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen Times has learnt that owners of trade shops nearby the British embassy building on Hada street in Sana'a downtown intend to file a lawsuit demanding the embassy pay compensations for losses they have been sustaining during the last two years, as a result of the strict securi-

ty measures around the embassy building. Security measures prevent citizens from standing or approaching the areas and shops adjacent to the embassy.

Security authorities have sealed off the streets nearby the embassy after its building came under a bomb attack in October 2000, and resulted in burning of the electric generator of the embassy and one of its offices.

A source at the British Foreign Office had mentioned last week that the embassy in Yemen is among other foreign embassies decided to be transferred to safer places as a result of incapability of protecting them from car bombs and vehicles.

The British embassy in Yemen last year foiled an attempted attack by elements from al-Qaeda organisation.



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On the road to recovery

More regional visitors help boost tourism

BY SELINA DENMAN
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemen's tourism industry is showing the first signs of recovery, following a series of setbacks over recent years.

"The number of international tourist arrivals has fluctuated dramatically, reflecting problems both internal and external to Yemen.

"However, international visitor arrivals in 2002 recorded good growth, from 75,600 in 2001 to 98,000 in 2002, representing a rise of 30 per cent over 2001 and the highest volume in the last few years," said the director of the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board, Taha Al-Mahbashi.

Travel warnings issued by a number of European governments have deprived Yemen of many of its main markets. "The composition of Yemen's visitors by origin shows the severe loss of tourists from Europe, which has traditionally been Yemen's principle source market, contributing almost 60 per cent of arrivals," said Al-Mahbashi.

However, the downturn in European arrivals has been counterbalanced by a rapid rise in the number of regional visitors. Since 1997, there has been a steady increase in Middle Eastern arrivals, culminating in a total of 63,415 in 2002.

Lebanon, Bahrain, Syria and Saudi Arabia are all displaying a newfound interest in the country. "Strong initiatives are presently being taken by Yemeni operators to build up demand

from the Middle East and other markets which are less sensitive than European markets to political factors," stated Al-Mahbashi.

This emerging trend has been welcomed by the industry. "It is hoped that these sought after Arab tourists will come in greater numbers, contributing to the influx of international visitors," commented general manager, Universal Touring Company, Marco Livadiotti. There are many aspects of Yemen that appeal to regional travelers: "In the Middle East there are still travelers who are not nightlife orientated. They may be interested in culture and want to be with their children.

Warm climate helps
"The weather is also an attraction. There is a market for this kind of tourism. We need exposure. People need to be told that Yemen has a lot to see," commented director of sales and marketing, Sheraton Sana'a, Saqib Anwar.

Many in the industry agree, and are pushing for wide-scale promotional campaigns that will redress the international perception of Yemen. Re-educating the international al-arena and reconstructing Yemen's reputation abroad should be a top priority, according to industry insiders.

The government has also recognized that positive promotion is vital to the success of the tourism sector.

"Yemen has a great cultural heritage and hasn't had the chance to show this to the rest of the world. Nobody knows about the product because it has appeared in the media very little," commented Yemen's minister of

tourism, Khalid Alrowaishan.

There are other areas that need attention before Yemen can establish itself as a viable tourism destination, according to production manager, Abu Taleb Group, Mohammed Abu Taleb.

"The airport is too small and too old and the process of passport registration takes too long. We need to show a better face for Yemen. Most international flights come through Sana'a and we need to be examined. Internal security measures and external pressure from the US have converted the visa process into a long and tedious task.

"We have to invite clients. We must send an official letter with names and passport numbers to embassies. If you are an individual you can't travel, as you need a tour operator to organize your visit. This is a major problem," claimed Abu Taleb.

While all in the industry agree that there is room for improvement, there is a general consensus that the ministry of tourism, through the recently rejuvenated Tourism Promotion Board, is taking a more proactive stance than ever.

The tourism board is listening to what we have to say and asking for our participation. They are serious about improving tourism. It won't happen in the short term, but it will in the mid to long term," said Sheraton's Anwar.

While an official tourism master plan has not yet been drawn up, guidelines for the development of the industry have been established. They include targeting a wider range of markets, creating essential infrastructure, and identifying and conserving poten-

tial tourism sites.

The cultivation of high yield and low volume international tourism is high on the agenda. "Yemen's goal has always been to become a main cultural destination in the region, aiming at a market of prestigious clients who are willing to spend more to avoid overrun destinations," Livadiotti said.

Yemen calls for investors

Yemen's General Investment Authority has created a number of tourism-related investment opportunities. Initiatives include a tourist resort in the Mukalla region of Hadramout.

The authority proposes the construction of an international standard tourist and health resort, which will be classified at no less than three-star. The \$5 million project would utilize the area's hot springs and include a 30-bedroom hotel and 12 chalets.

Additional amenities would include a restaurant, swimming pool and a spa treatment area. Other suggested projects include a \$3 million tourist village on Socotra Island. It would offer a 30-bedroom hotel or 30 chalet units, and marine sports, such as diving, fishing and swimming.

The General Investment Authority is also calling for \$3 million to be invested in a fleet of ten fully equipped tourist buses for transportation to and from Hodeidah.

Also, a tourism conference was recently held in Sana'a, giving the private and public sectors an opportunity to discuss key issues concerning the industry. The event was hosted by Sheraton Sana'a on October 17 to 20.

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"The Ministry of Culture and Tourism organized the second Tourism consequences for Yemeni tourism of uncertainly resulting from a number of problems, both internal and external, in recent years," explained director, Tourism Promotion Board, Taha Al-Mahbashi.

The conference focused on the need to develop a strategic master plan for the long-term development of tourism in Yemen. "In addition, the conference demanded that the concerned authorities review current investment laws and legislation relating to tourism investment and remove all obstacles facing investment in the tourism sector."

With respect to historical site conservation and environmental protec-

tion, the conference emphasized the importance of protecting resources from negative conduct. It also raised awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and conserving historical sites, noted Al-Mahbashi.

Visa procedures and security issues were also addressed the importance of strengthening and developing security procedures and ensuring the safety of the community in general, and tourists in particular.

The conference marks a move towards increased cooperation between the public and private sectors. Follow-up sessions are expected to take place, with selected industry representatives communicating directly with Yemen's minister of tourism.

Eid traditions carry on

Let the children be glad!

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

When the new moon is expected to appear, people go out to mosques and parks in order to have a glimpse of it. When a definite sighting is made, Eid Al-Fitr is declared, and children happily go out singing in the streets. It is easy to see happiness in children's eyes when they are taken by their parents to buy clothes and toys for the Eid.

Every one of us has special fond memories about Eid, not only about buying new clothes, but also about waiting for the first day of Eid to wear these clothes. It is as if an intimate meeting will take place between the children and their new clothes. Some of us remember how he or she sued to open his cupboard to look at these beautiful new things.

They are eager to wear these clothes and appear in front of their friends and relatives. Memory also holds the most beautiful moments of waiting for the happiness of wearing the new clothes which fades a few hours after taking them off. So the Eid starts before its date by a short time.

The Eid traditions are almost the same on the public and personal levels. In all nights of the Eid, people stay up late until the early hours of the following day. In all Islamic areas, everything starts at the dawn of the first Eid day. Children and adults go to the mosque to the Eid prayers. Everybody comes out of the mosque before sunrise to exchange the traditional greetings and felicitations - "kul aam wa antum bikhair" or many happy returns.

At the mosque, calls of Allahu Akbar or God is great rise to heaven. The faithful would feel his voice coming from deep within his soul and that he has an unlimited energy of light and ability to communicate with God. God's wisdom manifests itself not only in presenting the power of Muslims in their congregation, but



Children on a merry-go-round.

also in creating the feeling that a person acquires more strength of conscience by being beside another Muslim praying to God.

A Muslim person may not even know the name of the other Muslim beside him or her, but knows that he or she is also honestly and spontaneously praying to God and calling Allahu Akbar.

This great meeting of Muslims during the first few hours of the Eid is a major celebration of this sacred occasion. These rituals have been known since the time of the Prophet Mohammed (P) when they were characterized by simplicity and solemnity, and were done in a quiet manner. With the passage of time, however, these rituals acquired a lot of variety and color.

Religious occasions during the time of the Abbasid dynasty saw many social features. Men in the Caliph's entourage stayed with him throughout the night of the Eid until dawn broke.

They then went to the mosque headed by the Caliph riding on a white horse and surrounded by his soldiers. People chanted in the street praising God and the Caliph who prayed in the mosque in front of other men and later delivered the Eid sermon. Upon the return of the Caliph's procession to the palace, banquets are held and poets recited their poems eulogizing the Caliph.

The first hours of the first morning of eid are similar in all Muslim towns and cities. After the dawn prayers and the exchange of felicitations, people start doing their own special traditions which differ from one country to another. Many people visit their relatives and friends to exchange greetings. Some people nowadays use the telephone for this purpose. Eid is truly a happy occasion for all Muslims. For this reason new habits have appeared in many Muslim societies. Children in particular engage in many festive activities. The first thing a child looks

forwards to is the "Eidia" or the gift money given by the child's senior relatives. The amount of money given varies according to the seniority and closeness of that relative. This Eidia is seen as a huge fortune by the little children who use it to buy sweets or go to parks and fun fairs.

Thus, Eid is an opportunity of children to become grownups for a short period of time. They start to behave as if they are an economic establishment. They save their money and divide the expenditure over the Eid days. It is very joyful to see children in their bright colored clothes playing in parks and enjoying themselves.

There is no doubt that Eid belongs to children immediately after its early hours. Some children accompany their parents, while, others prefer to be independent and go together with their friends to the place they themselves choose. So Eid is a good opportunity for a little child to feel his or her independence for the first time. Some of us may remember those moments when we felt that we didn't want to ask the

older people for Eidia because we had become adults and were far removed from the world of childhood.

During the last few years, new habits have entered our lives. We became gradually connected with Eid Radio, TV, and now satellite TV competing with each other to bring happiness to the people during Eid. Various programs, happy songs, comedy plays, films and other activities are presented during Eid.

As long as people stay at home then Eid is connected with food. Each Eid has its own special types of food. Eid is celebrated by the artists and ordinary people alike who find a lot of opportunity to express themselves. The main Eid celebrations, though, are performing its religious rituals when people are united by the words "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is His Prophet". These awe-inspiring words arouse feelings of reverence among the faithful. The hearts of all Muslim people look forward to the next Ramadhan.

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Kerry crosses new Hampshire in all-out, final bid for votes

By Christopher Wilson
 KEENE, N.H., Jan 26 (Reuters) - On the eve of New Hampshire's crucial primary, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry made an all-out effort on Monday to win support among late-deciding voters and ward off a challenge from Howard Dean. "We're down to the final hours here," the senator from neighboring

Massachusetts told a town hall meeting in Portsmouth on New Hampshire's seacoast. "I'm here to persuade anyone who is still undecided," he said. "I hope you will join me in this effort which is about our country and our hopes and our future." A Reuters/MSNBC/Zogby poll released on Monday showed Kerry

with a shrinking three-point lead over Dean, the former Vermont governor, on the last full day of campaigning before the vote.

Several other polls have shown Kerry with a widening lead over Dean in the country's first primary and a key step toward winning the Democratic nomination to challenge President George W. Bush. But Kerry has said repeatedly he places no stock in such numbers and is "not taking anything for granted."

In Portsmouth he worked to convince those voters who were still undecided, delivering a shortened version of his standard stump speech, hammering Bush on domestic and foreign policy and leaning heavily on his record as a four-term senator and decorated Vietnam War veteran.

Kerry has tapped into a reservoir of dissatisfaction and concern among some Democratic and independent voters in New Hampshire and the crowds at his blizzard of appearances over the past week in diners, town halls, parlors and factories have grown day by day as he crisscrossed a state that prizes intimate politics.

Name calling

Accusing the Republican administration of practicing "the politics of fear," Kerry said Bush had taken the country in "a radical direction" and vowed to change that if he is elected president.

And in response to charges by Republicans he is too liberal for mainstream American, Kerry said, "If they worst they can do is start calling me names, they've got a problem. If the worst they can say about me is that I'm a liberal or something, I say



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) greets supporters during a visit to the Jewett St. School polling station in Manchester, New Hampshire, Jan. 27. Kerry began today's New Hampshire primary election day at the front of the Democratic contenders according to most polls. REUTERS



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-Ma) points down as he passes placards for contender Howard Dean during a visit to the Jewett St. School polling station in Manchester, New Hampshire, Jan. 27. Kerry began today's New Hampshire primary election day at the front of the Democratic contenders, according to most polls. REUTERS

let's go. Bring it on!"

New Hampshire's voters are known for their independence and the unpredictability of the electorate is legendary, particularly since the large block of voters registered as independents can vote for either party.

Kerry then raced across the state through snow-blanketed towns close to border of his home state before flying off to another event by helicopter.

"I've never seen the power in Washington as distorting of our nation as it is today," he told an audi-

ence at Keene State College."

Challenged on his vote in the Senate to authorize the president to take America into the war in Iraq, Kerry defended it, saying he had voted for a process" and that Bush had promised to exhaust other remedies, take the issue to the United Nations and go to war only as a last resort.

"He broke every one of those promises. He went around it in a rush to go to war," said Kerry.

While vowing to fight for every

vote in Tuesday's primary, Kerry also was looking ahead to campaigning in other parts of the country, particularly the seven states that will hold caucuses or primaries on Feb. 3. South Carolina, Missouri and Arizona are seen as the key contests among them.

"The South is not a foreign country," he said. "All across the country, people want truth and reality. I will trust Americans with the truth. And we're going to create a different conversation in the United States of America."

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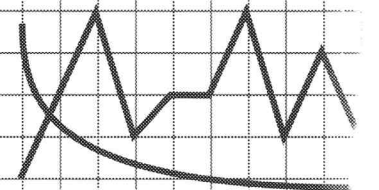
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 Hodeidah (202890/1/2), Mukalla (304172/73)

YT Business



Despite government programs and foreign aid

Poverty still rampant during Greater Bairam

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite a strategic plan to fight it, and support of donor countries, poverty is still prevalent in all parts of Yemen, snatching the smile from children, elderly people and women faces.

This includes the workers who have been laid off public sector projects, subjected to privatization program.

In a field survey in the capital streets it has been revealed that about 75% of workers has decided to stay in the capital Sana'am and not to travel to their birthplace villages to spend the Greater Bairam holidays among their families.

A tiles worker Hamoud Saif Ahmed said the reason why he was staying in the capital during the Eid holidays was that the money he had saved since coming to Sana'a for work amounted to only YR 27.5 thousand and therefore he preferred not to travel to his village in Shar'ab area, Taiz governorate.

Thus he posted the money to his family to buy some of the Eid shop-pings. He said if he had decided to go to his family half of the sum would go for transport and his personal needs, and as for the sheep to be sacrificed in the Eid he said his family would manage as it is used to prepare it a year before the time of Eid.

Another worker, Qassem al-Sabri, who works in constructions sees that the Greater Bairam could be a good opportunity for finding a job during the holiday and therefore he would stay in the capital.

He says the capital municipality

would be on leave and some people would embark on building their houses in areas that are not designed on the maps. Therefore he hopes the holiday would help him save some money for his family and to pay back some money he had borrowed to buy a sheep for the sacrifice for the Eid.

A plumber, Mohammed Farhan al-Utmi, says there is no joy in the Eid for him because of his not getting a job in two months since he came to the capital.

The money he's earned is not enough to meet his own personal needs, and he queries how he could manage the money enough for his family to buy a sheep whose price is ranging between 80 to 150 dollars at least.

So all these are similar cases observed in the survey and they point out that the social safety net, since its being launched for fighting and ending the phenomenon of poverty in the Yemeni society since 1995, has not produced the effect hoped for.

Saeed Ali al-Maswari, a worker in a private sector factory in the capital, says his monthly salary would not assist him to spend on his travel to the village to spend the festivities of Eid amidst his family that numbers even members.

The same case could be applied to numerous people of the limited income segment of those working for government institutions. Thus most of those people prefer to stay in the capital on such occasions under pressure of the drop in their incomes and deterioration of their purchasing power that throughout the whole year looking for jobs to cover the expensive expenditure of their families against the rise in price rates in general.



At YR 8,000 to YR 10,000, the cost of slaughtering a sheep for Greater Bairam is out of the reach of many Yemeni.

Around 255 workers at non-governmental institutions and public sector live with their families in the capital and spend what money they gain

on their daily life without being able to save additional sums of money.

The suffering and the phenomenon of poverty draws a miserable picture

of the life of those of limited income in Yemen, and these scenes are repeated on all occasions. All this happens despite the government's

implementation of the strategy for fighting poverty supported with \$2.5 billion by donor organizations and countries.

Spending at fishing ministry in murky waters, says report of Parliament

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Aparliamentary report reveals that the total amount of financial violations of the Ministry of Fish Wealth and some establishments and sectors affiliated to it during the past period amounted to YR 95 million.

The report that was prepared by the parliamentary committee of agriculture, fish and financial revenues made it clear that the results of reviewing spending of the ministry's headquarters office and the support fund for the fiscal year 2001 were spent in illegal ways, such as travel allowances and for renting a building for ten months although the ministry did not benefit from using it.

The report depended on a memorandum of the public property prosecution that the central apparatus of audit and accountability on embezzlement other sums of money and cutting arrears of employees without paying them, while an

amount of YR 12 million was spent on paving the road of Shaqra-Abyan that was build directly without announcing a tender about it. That is in violation of the law of tenders and biddings.

The report also indicated that the asset of consignments was not settled. In the end of 2001 the amount of assignments reached YR 31 million. The accountancy archives were found to contain payment vouchers that had basics at the accountancy archives.

The parliament report has also mentioned about violations committed at the state establishment of fish services and marketing till the end of 2001, among which debts exceeding YR 30 million that had not been repaid and more than one million rials as assignments that were not settled in addition to not paying an amount of more than YR 26 million in payable of employees. There were discovered some spending fields worth more than 14 million rials and carrying out purchasing dealings violating the law of contracts and biddings at an amount of YR 2 million, 218 thousand and

669 hundred.

On the state establishment of coastal fishing in Aden governorate the report mentioned that the establishment had during the year 2001 had written off about seven million rials from the establishment's assets without seeking the finance ministry's approval and was found that there missing assets worth of 17 million rials.

In 2001 the fiberglass factory sustained a loss of more than YR 9 million because of absence of audition on the factory's production of boats and the establishment sustained a loss worth YR 15 million in boat production. And in Mahra governorate it was found out that those in charge at the establishment had expended money amounts unlawfully.

These violations are deemed very small of the corruption deeply spread in some state bodies and establishments for which the government is now seeking to put an end to it through implementing a comprehensive program for financial and administrative reform.



Yemeni fishermen bring in the day's catch.

Words of Wisdom



Individuals must be held accountable for the way they handle property, especially if it is publicly owned. Thus, drivers of government vehicles, operators of machines, an other people who have direct responsibility for government assets have to be constantly brought under supervision. By the way, this would also apply to traffic violations by government drivers. They should be made to pay for the tickets.

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



OUR OPINION

Our duty

In a chat with a representative of the tourism authority in Sanaa, I came to realize that he was quite angry at Yemen Times. "Why do you always favor negative news in your newspaper? Don't you know that readers all over the world read it? Don't you think you are damaging Yemen's image?" is what he asked me.

I had to explain to him that as a newspaper, we have to report the facts, whether they are good or bad. We cannot afford to have our newspaper continuously cover the good news and filter out everything else. "It is simply not what newspapers are meant to do," I explained.

I gave him the example of the official press. I told him we cannot turn to an official pro-government paper writing rosy stories about the limited positive happenings and leaving the 70 per cent or more negative events out of the picture.

"If I do so, that would not only mean I would mislead the public, but it also means I would be unfaithful to my duty as a journalist," I said.

Others criticized me for bringing a bad image for Yemen when covering news items about tribal conflicts, travel warnings, assassination incidents, and other similar stories.

Can't satisfy everyone

I take this opportunity to explain to all readers that it is only normal to receive such criticism because satisfying everyone is virtually impossible. When the paper tries to tackle issues of general interest such as economic reforms, interviews with officials, and other investigative stories, the newspaper is trying to dig deep into reality and find the facts that lie beneath the surface to expose them to readers in Yemen and abroad.

In publishing stories of developments happening in different parts of the country, the paper tries to convey an image that is quite clear and accurate, regardless of whether they were positive or negative developments.

It is important to note that in either case, the press is simply a reflector of reality and not a means of propaganda or a tool used to manipulate or exaggerate the news.

That is why it should not be blamed for bringing bad reputation to Yemen because if things are happening on the ground, then the press MUST, and I repeat, MUST report them. It is a duty and obligation to do so. Furthermore, if journalists continue to worry about whether they would harm Yemen's image or not when they write about an accurate story or do a critical investigative report on negative phenomena in Yemen, they would impose on themselves self-censorship, damaging the freedom of the press in the country.

Image determined by the conditions

In other words, Yemen's image cannot be damaged because of the press.

If for example, conditions in Yemen continue to improve - as they do today - then in the long run, the image of Yemen would be automatically enhanced because it is not only Yemen Times, but most international news wire services that cover negative incidents in Yemen, especially those concerning security.

Finally, I need to stress on the fact that there is no country without trouble. Therefore, there can be no country with a free press that does not report about such trouble.

It is common sense, and if journalists can understand it, then the tourism authority can too. **The Editor**

EAST AND WEST

By JAMIL ABDUL KARIM
jamil@yementimes.com



Afghanistan

Keeping sight of the goal

A car is sprayed with gun fire. Several men in the bullet-ridden vehicle are left slumped over, bloodied, quite dead. A scene from the film *The Godfather*? No, just Yemen.

The slain - you'll recall from a news report in *The Times* late last year - were police who chased a suspect in a tribal murder. Their killers ran free. Ho hum, life in Marib goes on. Such are the ways of a country trying to poke its head into modernity.

Indeed, a tribal sheikh said the cops had it coming. "This loss of life is merely the result of the government's interference. We have our own rules, our own lifestyle, our own ways to deal with things, and we want the government to stay out of trouble."

This, after the Yanks have given tens of millions of dollars, and training, to help secure Yemen. One wonders if Yemen can guard its own coastline without sticking American chewing gum on its boats. The Marib incident even came after thousands of new security officers were put on the beat.

Afghanistan

Now to Afghanistan, that backwater that's been forgotten in the terrible crash called Iraq. About 5,000 international troops are trying to keep the peace there. Critics say they're unwittingly protecting drug lords, as

Afghanistan apparently now produces 75 per cent of the world's opium. (The Taliban would cut your nose off if your beard wasn't the right length, but it did curtail opium farming.) Still, you can bet that troops sta-

tioned mainly in the capital Kabul, are appreciated by security-starved Afghans. And those peacekeepers deserve our thoughts as Afghans now try to leave 20 years of ugly war. Community leaders have finished with their magic markers and easels, and have a draft constitution in hand.

It enshrines rights, like the freedom to mark an X beside the electoral candidate of your choice, rather than the guy with the biggest gun. If the document isn't torn up before the summer, there's hope. Afghanistan may be able to build a new society. Free elections, maybe, in June.

Bumpy ride

If Yemen is any indication, however, theirs will be a bumpy ride. Owner of the only multi-party parliament in the Gulf region, in one generation Yemen has moved from medieval, feudal state under Imam rule, to democratic republic. And for that, it can very proud. Still, democracy Yemeni-style is running a bit like a wobbly jalopy.

It's a good thing that its parliament has been headed for 12 years now by former military chief Ali Abdullah Saleh. He's a moderate and that's been good for the country. And it truly is an amazing feat that he garnered 96 per cent of the tally during the last presidential election.

Not that the opposition is burning up the track with strong candidates. Yemen's second party may have 46 seats, but it still feels it's not quite the right time yet to field its first female candidate. Hey, to each, his (or her) own.

And we know that elections at all

levels do tend to get a bit rough amid all those charges and countercharges of poll-rigging, not to mention back-room deals cooked up over a mish-mash of bread and honey. And those kidnapping games, taking hostages to gain leverage in anti-terror pacts with tribes? Isn't that what the former Imam did?

Okay, enough about the nobility and bourgeois. Most Afghans, like Yemenis, live in the sticks, where you're lucky to have a change of clothes for the kids. They want water and electricity and health clinics. A paved road to get there before dying would be nice too. They care less about elections than safety so they can send their kids to school.

So while the best form of counter-errorism may be democracy, even the Magna Carta (remember that great Charter of English Liberty from 1215) carved in gold won't help folks who are drowning in poverty, ignorance and danger.

Freedom

Freedom for Afghans, with their historic divides and six million widows, it seems afraid, will be a slow journey to a hazy destination: like in Yemen, a trying game of three steps forward and two back.

Still, at the end of the day, when all is said, the effort is really is worth it, is it not? If it wasn't, chances are, you wouldn't be reading this. Go Yemen. Go Afghanistan. Keep your eyes on the goal.

Jamil Abdul Karim is an editor at *The Yemen Times*.

BBC's objectivity

Some things don't change

By YEHYA AL-OLFI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Recently I heard the news about stopping a BBC program because the employee who airs that regular program published a racist article against the Arabs: that they are futile and merely cause of nuisance and terror.

The man is named Mr. Silk, and thanks to him I remembered having written a letter to the BBC World Service Fourteen years ago when I was just 21 years old.

Fortunately I still have the letter and I leave the reader to sense my feelings towards the BBC 14 years ago, when I was still bent upon learning English.

Here you are: the letter in its entirety:

Centuries of misunderstanding

Salam Alaikom, shalom Alaykhem (Peace be upon you).

I am a frequent listener of the News Bulletin and Twenty-Four Hours BBC World Service programs. I feel disappointed for your naive comments and coverage of Arab affairs. You compel any given Arab to hate Britain and non-Arabs to doubt in your comments and news bulletins.

In fact there is an everlasting misunderstanding between the British and the Arabs and most of that is due to the negative British attitudes towards Arabs. Why not tell the British people that they have a lot of Arabic words in their own language. Why not telling them the origin of vocabulary such as Admiral,

Arsenal, Cup, Almanac, Alcohol, Camel, Alkali, Coffee, Zenith, Café, etc, to mention but a few?

Why not tell them the truth instead of describing Arabs as terrorists, why normal dictionaries do not refer to the Arab impact on your culture. Of course, Arabs now are backward just like you at the time when they were learned and you were ignorant.

So what are you doing in order to enlighten Arabs do you support real genuine democracy and human rights or install agents as leaders to serve your egoistic interests?

Unfortunately, it seems that the British opinions and policies towards the Arabs are overwhelmed by the naive reports of the famous Lawrence of Arabia and the naive opinions of the so-called Orientalists, such as Arnold Tenby not to mention the myths of Theodore Hertzl, and the silly works of Sir John Philby.

The above-mentioned is not everything but the British unfortunately are still employing anti-Semitic personnel (i.e. Anti-Arab) in universities and other important bodies including the management of the BBC World Service.

Of course you undoubtedly shall be curious to know who are those anti-Semites? But, the simple answer is that Jews are anti-Semites, you would say but how! Jews are supposed to be the Semites? Well prepare yourself for the bitter reality, to be a Jew is merely a religious trait and should not by any means, be thought of as a name of a race, then

where are the real Hebrews.

Well I venture to say that they were Arabized 15 centuries ago and if any are left they are those living amongst Arabs, not the blonde haired Europeans of Europe, the slitty-eyed Asians or the Black Ethiopians.

In short such Jews belong to their own countries and races but are embracing Judaism just like African Christians and Muslims or Asian Christians and Muslims.

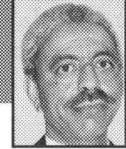
Real Semites

Thus real 100% Semites are the Arabs and it is rather idiotic to call the one and only Semite Arabs "Anti-Semitic." Please have insightful brains and accord them respect.

All in all, I do not like to implore the British sympathy with the Arab Cause but as the Arab Proverb says "A knowledgeable Enemy is far more better than an ignorant one."

I call upon British journalists to respect their jobs and become professional. Then, they shall discern that Zionism equals verily Nazism and if you are still in doubt visit the occupied 1967 territories. And once you come to know the truth you shall for sure be eliminated by the Israelis/ Zionists, like many British and Americans who chose to stand side by side with the rights of poor Palestinians against the wrongdoings and barbaric acts perpetrated by the Israeli military, which is composed of every race i.e. based on religious affiliation not ethnicity.

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Hizbullah has real clout

Over the last three decades, Hizbullah has proven its ability to remain at the forefront of the public media channels in the Arab and Moslem world, as the most effective force against the supposedly undefeatable Israeli and intelligence machinery. It outwits the political maneuvering of the Israeli Government and the international Zionist establishment.

Hizbullah is an active social and political organization with wide influence in Lebanon, especially in the Southern Lebanese Shiite stronghold, and has proven that a popular movement can make a big difference in the political and military equations in the area, relying on a strong faith in the mission that they have bestowed upon themselves and a discipline and tightly controlled organizational acumen that is impregnable. Unlike most of the modern Moslem activist groups, which have gained media prominence and little effectiveness in achieving any major strides in the projection of Jihad in its truest manifestations, Hizbullah has proven that Islam is far more than random poorly calculated suicide missions that are more the result of frustration than effective confrontation.

Moreover the obvious projection of a moderate Islamic image goes a long way in dispelling some of the harm that may have been done by radical extremist groups, with dubious backgrounds and questionable approaches to delivering the Islamic message. In the resistance battle against the illegal occupation of Southern Lebanon, Hizbullah carried out a series of successful hit and run blows against strategic positions held by the Israeli forces in the Bika'a and other areas of Southern Lebanon inflicting casualties and destroying vital occupational infrastructure with state of the arts surveillance systems and other sophisticated defense installations.

Show the world

As Hizbullah carried out these raids, they did not forget to make use of the video camera to show the world the deadly precision of their attacks and thus dispel the myth that the Israeli Defense Forces are not vulnerable to any defeat. Such dramatic use of simple media helped to raise the popularity of the indefatigable resistance movement in Lebanon and showed the meekness of the IDF with all of its state of the art technology and preparedness.

In addition, any Israeli efforts to thwart the claims of Hizbullah were quickly dispelled and thus ensured that Hizbullah's credibility is unquestionable. During all these resistance operations, Hizbullah was able to project the movement as a determined and persevering foe against the Israelis with far more credibility than even their Israeli foes and all their supporters throughout the world. Even the Israelis themselves had to acknowledge the credibility of Hizbullah, for this observer remembers that Ehud Barak, the former Prime Minister of Israel, was asked in a CNN interview about a certain claim made by the untiring leader of Hizbullah, Barak could only say: "If Hassan Nasrullah said that, then it is bound to be true!"

Every time the leader of Hizbullah makes a public speech, many of the Arabs at the grassroots level are excited by the strong vocal disdain he has for the Israelis, while enjoying the obvious contempt for the ineffectiveness of most of the Arab regimes in meeting their real national obligations towards their fellow Arabs in Palestine and Southern Lebanon, who have been subject to ongoing persecution and suffering under a merciless chauvinistic occupation by one of the most ferocious "nationalist" movements of modern times, which manifested the evil Zionist creed that disrespects all the moral principles that have been engrained in the behavior of modern nations.

Anyone who has any illusions about the Zionist movement being an innocent nationalist effort has not had a chance to see all the human rights violations the Israeli regime has openly carried out or facilitated, from the massacre in the innocent village of Deir Yasin in 1948 to Qana in 1996, in which hundreds of innocent civilians were butchered by Israeli forces, while in their sleep. In addition, the obvious contempt for international legitimacy and international community concern for the plight of the victims of ongoing persecution and suffering by the Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza does not lend credence to this claim of innocence.

Serious menace

Thus Hizbullah was able to prove to be a serious menace to the occupiers and the Israelis realized that further successes by Hizbullah are bound to dispel the myths that the Israelis continue to deceive world public opinion with. The Israelis pulled out of Southern Lebanon unconditionally and frantically, which for most Arabs meant that Hizbullah has been more successful than all the Arab regimes with all the muscle at their disposal (which Hassan Nasrullah rightly says is actually used to keep the Arab people under the tyrannical rule of their rulers).

With the Israelis out of Lebanon, Hizbullah continued to score on the political and strategic arena, while at the same time checking any efforts by the Israelis to present any serious challenge to Hizbullah's capability at defending Lebanon's sovereignty over the freed territories. Thus we have the well conducted operation a couple of weeks ago against the Israeli "encroaching" tractor (more on Israeli encroaching tractors in future articles), which was just a reminder that Hizbullah remains alert and prepared to counter any threat or intimidation by the Israelis. To soften the blow, the Israelis then succumbed to the prisoner exchange, in the fervent hope that they can have a respite from Hizbullah activities, while they continue their pogrom in the West Bank and Gaza.

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Another rule for the Arabs

By BRIAN WHITAKER
FOR THE GUARDIAN

While sifting through my father's belongings after his death a few years ago, I came across a book of autographs that he had collected as a child. Some of the signatories had added short verses or quotations, and on one page I found this:

God made the little nigger boys
He made them in the night
He made them in a hurry
And forgot to paint them white

In Britain during the 1930s, it was considered perfectly acceptable (at least among white people) to write that sort of thing, and some may even have found it amusing. In those days, of course, there were not enough black people in Britain to challenge such attitudes, but we have moved on and now have a multicultural society.

Today, anyone who suggested that blacks were created as a result of divine amnesia or a malfunction on God's production line would justifiably be accused of inciting racial hatred - as would anyone who suggested that Jews, for example, had made no worthwhile contribution to civilisation. Even now, though, there is still one notable exception: the Arabs. People happily write and say racist things about Arabs that they would not dream of saying about blacks or Jews - and usually they get away with it.

The explanation lies partly in international politics but also in the negative stereotypes of Arabs that have become deeply imbedded in western popular culture. This is nowhere more apparent than in Hollywood films where Arabs, unlike other racial groups, continue to be demonised on screen.

A couple of years ago Jack Shaheen, a Lebanese-American professor, published *Reel Bad Arabs*, a massive study of some 900 films featuring Arab characters. With very few exceptions, he found that Arabs are portrayed as hate-figures in films to a degree that the studios would no longer dare with any other ethnic group.

He accused the film-makers of "systematic, pervasive and unapologetic degradation and dehumanisation of a people". In the early days of Hollywood, Arabs were portrayed as over-sexed, exotic creatures living in the desert, riding camels, fighting among themselves and buying women at slave markets.

By the 1970s - probably as a result of

the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and the oil embargo - Hollywood Arabs turned into oil sheikhs: rich, vengeful, corrupt, sneaky and invariably fat. From the 1980s onwards, they have usually been portrayed as crazed terrorists - evolving more recently into crazed terrorist Islamic fundamentalists.

Which came first - the politics or the stereotypes - is a moot point, but Shaheen and others argue that both are interlinked. The stereotypes help to justify the foreign policies of western governments, particularly the US, while at the same time government policies help to legitimise the stereotypes.

It is only recently that such attitudes have been seriously questioned. The events of September 11, and the ensuing "war on terror", caused alarm among Arab and Muslim communities living in the west, sparking fears of a racist or religious backlash. As a result, they have become much more media-conscious, actively monitoring what is said about them and complaining when they feel they have been treated unfairly.

The stereotypes help to justify the foreign policies of western governments, particularly the US, while at the same time government policies help to legitimise the stereotypes.

Last Tuesday, the Guardian (and presumably other newspapers too) received two emails complaining about a column which had appeared in the Sunday Express on January 4. One came from the Muslim Council of Britain, the other from the Islamic Affairs Central Network in Nottingham. Next day there were more, from the Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism (Fair), Arab Media Watch and the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding.

The offending column was headed "We owe Arabs nothing" and it said: "Apart from oil - which was discovered, is produced and is paid for by the west - what do they contribute? Can you think

of anything? Anything really useful? Anything really valuable? Something we really need, could not do without? No, nor can I."

"What do they think we feel about them?" it continued. "That we adore them for the way they murdered more than 3,000 civilians on September 11 and then danced in the hot, dusty streets to celebrate the murders?" By any standards it was an appalling article, a sweeping denunciation of Arabs in general, without any qualification or exception, implying that all 200 million of them were "suicide bombers, limb-amputators, women repressors".

The author of this trash, Robert Kilroy-Silk (who is known in the popular tabloids simply as "Kilroy") was once a Labour member of parliament, admired for his dashing good looks and occasionally tipped as a future prime minister.

Instead, he ended up as presenter of a TV chat show which goes out at nine o'clock in the morning and is sometimes described as the BBC's answer to Oprah Winfrey.

He also airs his prejudices in a weekly column for the Sunday Express, a tired right-leaning tabloid which has suffered years of decline and cost-cutting under various proprietors.

The row over his latest anti-Arab outburst was reported by the Guardian and the Independent last Thursday. Other papers, which had shown little interest initially, took it up later when the Commission for Racial Equality - a government-funded body - said it had taken legal advice and was reporting Mr Kilroy-Silk to the police with a view to prosecuting him for incitement under the Public Order Act.

In the meantime, the Muslim Council of Britain received a large volume of



hate-mail, apparently prompted by its complaints about the article. One message said: "Why don't you go back to the desert and get busy oppressing the opposite sex and everyone else who doesn't agree with your weird, backwards religion?"

On Friday afternoon, the BBC announced that it was suspending Mr Kilroy-Silk's show with immediate effect, pending further investigation. By Saturday, the story was all over the front pages.

On Sunday, the Express returned to the fray, defending the article on the grounds of free speech and attacking the BBC's decision, though it also published a reply from the Muslim Council of Britain, as well as several critical letters from readers.

The BBC's suspension of the Kilroy show has been criticised by some as an over-reaction, but the BBC - along with other broadcasters in Britain - has a legal obligation to be impartial. Newspapers, on the other hand, can be as partisan as they like. The BBC has also been trying to clamp down on freelance writing by its journalists and presenters (such as Mr Kilroy-Silk's column for the Sunday Express) because of possible conflicts between the two activities.

The problem of freelance writing came to light during the recent Hutton inquiry into the death of the weapons scientist David Kelly, over remarks made by the BBC reporter Andrew Gilligan. In addition to his work for the BBC, Mr Gilligan wrote an article for the Mail on Sunday in which he said the prime minister's press secretary had been responsible for "sexing up" the British government's dossier on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

A broader point, made by the Arab League's ambassador in London, is that

the BBC has its worldwide reputation to consider. The BBC's Arabic service has a large audience in the Middle East and is highly respected there, but the views expressed in Mr Kilroy-Silk's column, which were reported in the Arab press, have damaged that reputation.

One complicating twist in the tale is that the offending article has appeared twice in the Sunday Express - on January 4 this year and on April 6 last year - under a different headline and with some differences in editing.

The explanation given by Mr Kilroy-Silk is that his secretary accidentally plucked an old column out of the computer and emailed it to the newspaper instead of the column intended for January 4.

Nobody at the Express seems to have noticed, though there were several clues in the text that ought to have rung alarm bells. The first sentence began: "We are told by some of the more hysterical critics of the war that 'It is destroying the Arab world'..."

Writing last April, Mr Kilroy-Silk was referring to the war in Iraq. Receiving the article again this month, a subeditor - apparently baffled as to which war the columnist was talking about - blithely changed "the war" to "the war on terror".

Thanks to this mistake, Mr Kilroy-Silk and the Sunday Express are able to point out that there was no great outcry the first time his anti-Arab column was published.

Part of Mr Kilroy-Silk's defence is that in its original context of the Iraq war his article was unobjectionable - as demonstrated by the lack of objections at the time. That has subtly muddled the waters, but it is really no excuse: racism is still racism, whether or not anyone happens to complain.

Throughout the "war on terror" and

the war in Iraq, Tony Blair, and even George Bush at his most rabid, made clear in their speeches that they had no quarrel with Arabs or Muslims in general - unlike Mr Kilroy-Silk, apparently, since he included no such caveats in his column. Writing in the Sunday Express again yesterday, Mr Kilroy-Silk said: "The article was always intended to be a criticism of certain Arab regimes - never of Arab people in general."

If that was really the intention, it does not explain why he wrote instead about ordinary Arabs dancing in the streets to celebrate September 11, chanting support for Saddam Hussein or "living happily in this country on social security".

Mr Kilroy-Silk also "spoke movingly of how fiercely he guards the right to free speech for which his father died fighting during the second world war", according to an "exclusive interview" with the Sunday Express (who else?).

"He died so that I could grow up in a free society, with the right to free speech to say what I like, when I like," Mr Kilroy-Silk told the paper. That is all very well, but we also carry a responsibility for what we say. Racist articles by high-profile figures not only reinforce popular prejudices but lend credibility to the unsavoury views of neo-Nazi groups. If the freedom-of-speech argument is taken to its logical conclusion, then all kinds of racial abuse become permissible - blacks, Jews, the Irish, everyone. That becomes a recipe for communal disaster of a kind that even Mr Kilroy-Silk would probably not wish to see.

Where racism is concerned, therefore, freedom of speech has to be tempered by restraint. But whatever applies to one racial group has to apply to them all. It is no good having one rule for blacks, Jews and the Irish, and another rule - or none at all - for the Arabs.

Jerusalem: The wall at the end of the cul-de-sac

By MICHAEL SCHWARTZ
FOR ELECTRONIC INTIFADA

Until recently, when any of the hundred thousand people in Al Eizarya, Abu Dis or Sawahre wanted to reach Jerusalem, all they had to do was take Al Eizarya's main road, which connects to the Jerusalem-Jericho road, and within minutes they could reach the Old City. Those days are gone.

Today the Al Eizarya road comes to a sudden halt at a wall two meters high, topped by rolls of barbed wire. What was once a major artery has become a parking lot for service cabs. If you want to get to Jerusalem, you must turn around, drive east to a checkpoint (not shown on the map) at the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim, turn around again and head northwest to the A Zaim checkpoint, then to French Hill... and finally to East Jerusalem. The expedition goes on for an hour or more.

Even if you take this approach, however, your arrival in Jerusalem - supposing you're a Palestinian - depends on additional factors. First, the checkpoints: the soldiers don't always let Palestinians through. Second, anyone seeking to enter Jerusalem must have a blue identity card ("Jerusalemite") and not a green one ("West Banker"). This measure rules out half the people of East Sawahre and the vast majority of those from Abu Dis. These may enter only by a special permit, rarely granted.

In its present two-meter-high version, the wall is jumpable. Here the Jerusalemites have an advantage. If a Palestinian jumps from Jerusalem toward the West Bank and a soldier

catches him, a blue ID will save his neck. If the ID is green, however, and he's caught jumping either way, his next stop will be the Cliff Hotel in Abu Dis, now a prison.

In any case, such infiltration is temporary. Israel intends to replace the two-meter wall with another one eight meters high. It is also planning a fence to enclose the three villages on the east as well. That will cage them in on all sides but the south. They will be cut off from their natural metropolitan region, Jerusalem, as well as from points east (Jericho, the Dead Sea, Jordan) - except by permit under special conditions, still unknown. If Israel does not block egress to the south as well, their only passage to a wider world will be by back roads through the desert fringe to Bethlehem (which will also be behind the barrier). Given the present checkpoints at A Zaim and Ma'ale Adumim, these 100,000 people already feel like inmates.

Security?

The barrier looks like it's meant for security. In open areas, it is 50 yards wide, consisting of barbed wire, an anti-vehicle ditch, a dirt path to pick up footprints, an electric fence, another dirt path, an asphalt road, yet another dirt path, and more barbed wire. In built-up areas, it becomes a wall eight meters high.

If the barrier is intended for security, however, its course is very odd. It does not separate Jews from Arabs, or Arab villages from settlements. It separates Arabs from Arabs. It includes about 60,000 West Bank Palestinians who are not Jerusalem residents, while fencing out 26,000 of the 230,000 who are

Jerusalem residents can travel anywhere in Israel. Several bombings have been their work. As long as Israel insists on keeping Arab Jerusalem inside, it is hard to see how the barrier can make a significant difference. By creating more bitterness, it will likely increase the attacks. Furthermore, it won't stop Palestinians beyond the fence from shooting, as they have frequently done against the neighborhood (settlement) of Gilot.

If the purpose is not security, what then?

By nipping off pieces beyond the municipal border, the wall continues the policy of annexation begun in 1967. Until the June war of that year, Arab Jerusalem amounted to a modest 6000 dunams (1500 acres), which comprised the Old City and several neighborhoods. On the war's last day, the Knesset decided to annex it along with another 64,000 dunams. The guiding principle was this: as much land and as few Arabs as possible. Israel annexed the refugee camp in Shuafat (it isn't including the camp within the new wall), Jabal Mukabir, parts of Al Eizarya, parts of Abu Dis, parts of Beit Hanina, and parts of a dozen other West Bank villages. "Jerusalem", thus enlarged, stretched from the fringe of Bethlehem to that of Ramallah. It divided the West Bank into separate cantons, north and south.

Jerusalem had always played an essential role in the lives of the villages surrounding it, whether or not these became part of the city after 1967. It has the commercial centers, hospitals, universities, government agencies, news agencies, and of course the holy places. It supplied the villages not only with

goods and services, but also with 60% of their jobs.

The wall cuts through all that. Take, for example, the tribe of Arab al-Sawahre. Some of its members live in Jabal Mukabir, which was annexed to Jerusalem and is inside the new barrier. But others live in East Sawahre and Sheikh Sa'ad, which were not annexed and will be fenced outside. In pre-barrier times the tribal members could visit one another without impediment. There was marriage, friendship, commerce - all the relationships that go to make up a human life. As a result of marriages, half the tribal members wound up with blue ID's and the rest with green. Now comes the barrier, dividing blues and greens on one side from blues and greens on the other, separating the store from its customers, the farmer from his lands, the pupils from their school, the sick from the hospital, the dead from the cemetery.

Nasser Abidat (green ID), a member of East Sawahre's Committee Opposing the Fence, describes his own situation: "My whole family lives in Jabal Mukabir, and ever since the fence was built I haven't been able to see them. I have a twenty-year-old son taller and heavier than me. He needed urgent treatment at Muqassed. I had to carry him on my back for hours over goat tracks to get him to the hospital. People with money can hire an ambulance for 350 shekels to drive through the checkpoints. As for women in labor, whoever has the money calls an ambulance. Whoever doesn't, God help her!"

The service cabs, which ferry people between the checkpoints, multiply with the growth of the fence. The academic level of their drivers too is on the rise:

most today have college degrees.

Jamal Ja'fer of Sawahre, a member of the secretariat in the Jerusalem branch of the Association of Trade Unions, points to a checkpoint erected by the army on the road that once joined Sawahre to Jabal Mukabir: "Even when you're dead the wall blocks your way. Our cemetery is in Jabal Mukabir, west of the fence. When someone dies, we drive the body to the checkpoint, then carry him on foot to the other side and there transfer him to a car that takes him to his final resting place.

"Some 380 pupils," he continues, "have to travel this Via Dolorosa every day: they live in Sawahre but study in Jabal Mukabir. A bus takes them to the checkpoint, they cross 250 meters on foot, and another bus picks them up. How we'll manage in winter is anyone's guess."

For those not allowed into Jerusalem, Wadi Nar, a winding, hazardous, desert road, has borne the traffic between the southern and northern West Bank for the last ten years. Wadi Nar too was closed in the recent sealing of villages. Wherever you go today in the areas outside the fence, you see Palestinians on foot: women carrying babies, workers seeking jobs, pupils trying to reach their schools, whole families in fancy dress on their way to weddings or funerals... they follow the goat paths over the hills, skirting the checkpoints.

A blind policy

Security, as said, is a pretext. The barrier establishes the new border intended for Jerusalem. Its purpose is to isolate the surrounding Palestinian villages, cutting them off from each other, and strengthen the Israeli settlements, creat-

ing continuity between them. It will prevent the establishment of Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital. Dividing Abu Dis, it also squelches an idea, once floated, to count this village as part of Jerusalem and place the Palestinian capital there.

The broader aim is to prevent the possibility of a normal Palestinian state or, for that matter, a normal Palestinian life. Throughout the country, the barrier attaches broad stretches to Israel. It outlines the map of "greater Israel," with enclaves (read "prisons") for the Palestinians. Not by chance do they call the fence their "third naqba, catastrophe" (after 1948 and 1967).

The barrier has become, in addition, an essential component of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's latest threat: a unilateral Israeli pullback to the borders he intends to make permanent, which would leave the Palestinians with a mere 40% of the West Bank. The fence thus symbolizes the cessation of efforts to achieve a negotiated agreement.

When South Africa's apartheid regime enclosed the blacks in Bantustans, the world applied sanctions until it fell. Israel is using the barrier to create a map along racist lines, ghettoizing the Palestinians. The world protests, but it seems unlikely that the West, especially America, will ever reach the point of sanctions against its most reliable foothold in the Middle East.

The inhuman conditions imposed by Israel will breed, nonetheless, more revolt. They will undermine the credibility of the Occupation - not only in the world, but within the Jewish State itself. After 36 years of Occupation, Israel has reached a cul-de-sac, and there it builds a wall.

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (62):
Birthday wishes (I)

A birthday is a great occasion for rejoicing. It is the day on which the new arrival in the family spread waves of joy all around. On this day friends and well wishers wish the person concerned many happy returns of the day. Some of the expressions used on this very special occasion are the following:

- It's your birthday. Enjoy all the good wishes, warm thoughts, and the pleasure of knowing just how special you are. Happy Birthday.
- May your Birthday be full of sunshine and a soft, caressing breeze. May the butterflies delight you and the birds sing in the trees. May your friends be true and many. May your health be sure and strong, and may you have love and joy enough to last a lifetime long. Have a lovely Birthday.
- May your Birthday be filled with special memories and wonderful moments and may you always find joy and happiness in the days ahead.
- A HAPPY BIRTHDAY is just the start of all that's wished from the heart. Love, contentment, joy and cheer are wished for you all through the year, for very special persons like you are very dear and very few.
- With warm thoughts of you on your Birthday. Beautiful days, wonderful memories, and heart full of joy.
- What a wonderful occasion your Birthday is because it's always a joy having the chance to express warm thoughts and happy wishes to someone as special as you.
- Day by day and year by year you're loved a lot, and it's so nice on your Birthday to pause and tell you so. It's nice to wish you the things you hold most dear and joys that keep on growing, day by day and year by year!
- Life is a song of melody with tunes that are soft and happy. May the songs of your life have a tone of cheer and fun. All the very best wishes.
- As you celebrate another Birthday with wishes for happiness, it's important to remember that you are in charge of your life.
- May your Birthday be one, that's wonderful in every way - warm memories of which stay in your heart, for always. Here's a hoping, that on your Birthday, you explore and enjoy every joy that life has to offer.
- The peak of happiness lies in the skies of peace. The warmest wishes, sincerely meant for a day and a year of sweet content. Happy Birthday.
- To a wonderful husband, here is a Birthday wish that's warm and sincere. Best of luck and happiness to you throughout the coming year.
- A special Birthday wish for you. It's yours. You hold the power to mould each golden moment, each shining hour into new designs, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES. Wishing you all the excitement, all the challenges, all the happiness life can hold on your Birthday and always. Have a memorable Birthday.
- If wishes come true, I would give them as a Birthday gift for you! Happy Birthday.
- For my good mother on your Birthday. May you enjoy a long life filled with peace, happiness and cheer because to me you are very dear.

II. How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

1. The doctor told the patient that prevention was better than cure.
2. Immediately the boy saw the snake, he started crying.
3. His desire was great, his prayers sincere.
4. One must do his duty honestly.
5. He being dishonest, he is disliked by the boss

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. I saw the tigress was weak and was badly wounded, but still she **was running** fast.

2. **Unless** you work hard, you will not pass.
3. She is **more** beautiful **than** but not so intelligent as her sister.
4. **Not** to speak of English, he cannot read even Arabic.
5. She is so **proud** that she will not admit her mistake.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. A hospital for the mentally challenged.
2. The art of the beautiful hand writing.
3. A person who is hundred years old.
4. An empty pretender to knowledge or skill.
5. A round about way of expression.

Suggested answers to last week's question

1. A great lover of books: **bibliophile** (n.)
2. A man with narrow, prejudiced views, specially about politics and religion: **bigot** (n.)
3. The act of speaking disrespectfully about sacred things: **blasphemy** (n.)
4. A man of free and easy habits, one who is socially unconventional: **bohemian** (n.)
5. Something that denotes a fall from the sublime to the ridiculous: **bathos** (n.)

(B) Foreign words and phrases.

Give the sources of origin and the meaning of the following

- 1) prima facie
- 2) R.S.V.P.
- 3) sine die
- 4) status quo
- 5) terra incognita

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **modus operandi** (Lat.): mode or manner of working.
2. **mon ami** (Fr.): my friend.
3. **Ominia vinist labor** (Lat.): Labour overcomes all things.
4. **par excellence** (Fr.): without equal, as the best and most typical of its kind.
5. **par example** (Lat.): for example.

(C) Words commonly confused

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

1. does, dose
2. spilt, split
3. precise, concise
4. sometime, sometimes
5. asperity, aspersion

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **silent** (adj.) (making no or little sound): The workers took out a silent procession to press their demands.
2. **silenced** (Vt.) (pp. Of 'silence'; make silent): The mother silenced the baby's crying.
3. **small** (adj.) (opp. Of 'large'): Mahaweel is a small town.
4. **short** (adj.) (opp. Of 'long'): I went home on a short holiday.
5. **inability** (n.) (being unable): He expressed his inability to offer any help.
6. **disability** (n.) (lack of ability to do something): As he is physically handicapped, he is getting disability pension from the government.
7. **like** (prep.) Don't talk like a fool.
8. **likes** (n.) He is a man of strong likes and dislikes.
9. **ward** (n.) (division of a prison or hospital): The boy has been admitted in the children's ward.
10. **word** (n.) (a unit of language): I have no words to express my gratitude to you.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Illustrate the meaning of the following in sentences

1. to see eye to eye with
2. to play ducks and drakes
3. to put the cart before the horse
4. to have too many irons in the fire
5. to kill two birds with one stone

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **to live from hand to mouth** (to have a poor standard of living): He has a low income and, consequently, has to live from hand to mouth.
2. **to lose heart** (to be disheartened): Do not lose heart although you have poor marks. Make efforts for a better result next time.
3. **to make up one's mind** (decide): You need to make up your mind about which career you want to pursue.
4. **to make both ends meet** (to live within one's means): He struggles very hard to make both ends meet with his meagre income.
5. **to move heaven and earth** (to go up to the extreme): I shall move heaven and earth to prove the innocence of my friend.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A) Grammar

Complete each sentence with a word connected with the idea of 'giving' or 'receiving'

1. The bank has agreed to give the company a ---- of \$20,000 which must be repaid by the end of next year.
2. There were a lot of ---- for him on the Eid day.
3. I don't suppose you could ---- me your bike for a couple of hours, could you?
4. You can bring the music system back if there's anything wrong with it, but you must bring the ---- with you to prove that you bought it here.
5. I'm playing badminton this afternoon, but my racket's broken. Could I ---- yours?

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. The passenger asked the taxi driver **not to drive** so fast.
2. Aisha asked Eiman **if she could bring a friend along to the party**.
3. He stopped **smoking obeying the advice of the doctor**.
4. There aren't **many people in Yemen who use English in general social contexts**.
5. Neither of **my sisters speaks English**.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the proverb

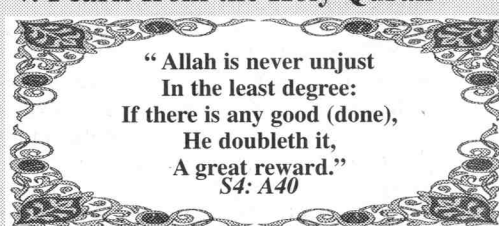
52. CUT YOUR COAT ACCORDING TO YOUR CLOTH

Last week's topic

51. COURTESY COSTS NOTHING

Courtesy is the other name of polite behavior, good manners and a kind action or expression. It's not difficult to be considerate and gentle in one's approach. Its actually a question of cultivating a positive and friendly attitude. A kind, courteous and mild-mannered person has the natural attributes of a winsome personality. He makes friends more easily than a rude person with rough and gruff manners. With a touch of unalloyed affection and pleasing manners to one and all, he wins people's hearts. An unpleasant message seems less bitter by his soft and soothing words. The hearer's heart is filled with hope, and happiness. Thus the magic of good behavior casts a spell on every one and spreads the sunshine of hope and cheer all around. Courtesy truly costs nothing but pays rich dividends.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of wisdom

"We make war that we may live in peace"

—Aristotle

A letter to the teachers of English: 41

Use funny examples for easy understanding



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

Dear Fellow teachers,

Using examples has always been found beneficial to the learners in English classes. An experienced teacher makes use of plenty of examples for making his/her students understand easily. For instance, when we teach 'beautiful', we say 'beautiful like a flower'; when we teach 'magnificent', we say 'as magnificent as the Grand mosque in Sana'a' etc. This kind of comparison with the familiar objects or situations enables the learners to understand difficult words or ideas and remember them for a long time. Moreover, this technique of using examples makes our teaching easier and we can avoid the use of the mother tongue in the English classes to a large extent.

Using suitable examples in grammar classes makes grammar teaching easy and the learners find grammar classes interesting. If these examples will be a fun for our learners. It is a common complaint among our learners that grammar classes are not at all interesting and funny examples to explain grammar items will be one of the solutions to this problem. For example, while teaching main and subordinate clauses in my class, I compare the subordinate clause to 'a lame man with the crutches' and the main clause is like 'the crutches'; as the lame man who needs the support of the crutches, the subordinate clause needs the support of the main clause. While teaching phras-

es and clauses, the clauses are compared to 'people alive' and the phrases to 'dead bodies', the verbs giving life to the clauses. These are just two samples, and there are some funnier ones too. These examples make my students laugh but they remember the grammar points associated with them for a long time; some of them write the funny examples in the examination in addition to the grammar points. There are a few who write only the examples!

You must have heard of grammar games for teaching grammar items. Drawing pictures on the blackboard to teach tense forms, or using objects to teach prepositions is another way of making grammar classes interesting. Most of the textbooks produced by the western writers have funny pictures to illustrate language points. Why? They appeal to the eyes of the learners and sell well. Similarly, if we appeal to the ears of our learners through funny examples, our ideas will sell well. Cartoons, for example, always have attraction and funny examples will serve the same purpose.

Funny examples are not just for teaching grammar; you can use them in other classes too, for explaining difficult words or ideas or stories etc. For example, while teaching them English sounds, you can, compare the sounds to the sounds of animals, if they are similar and if you can produce those sounds.

A word of caution. Think of your examples before the class and note them down, if necessary. Your examples should not hurt the feelings of others, should not have any political or religious overtones at all. You can get many more examples, if you think. Good luck.

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

President Saleh honours illustrious students of Hodeidah University



REPORTED BY ARIF AHMED AL-AHDAL
DEMONSTRATOR,
FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY

The Hodeidah University is a premier institution of academic excellence in Yemen. This temple of learning has established a healthy tradition of organising a function every academic year to honour its meritorious students. The colourful function this year was held on Saturday 2/1/2004 with enthusiastic fervour, thanks to the organizers Prof. Mahyoub Abdul Rahman SAEED, Dr. Ibrahim Hugar, Prof. Abdullah Al-Shami, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ma'mari, Dr. Khawla' Al-Shameeri and Dr. Abbas Al-Harazi among others.

His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh, The President of our country, Prof. Abdullah Al-Junaid, Rector Hodeidah University, Mr. Moh'd Saleh Shamlan, Governor, Hodeidah Governorate, all the Deans of the Faculties of the University, a large number of teachers, students as well as members of the local authorities in the Governorate graced this occasion.

Honoured by the presence of the President of our country, the glorious function began with a recitation of some sacred verses from the Holy Qura'an rendered by Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Shami. This was followed by an opening address delivered by Prof. Abdullah Al-Junaid, President of Hodeidah University, who welcomed those present and expressed the importance of Information Technology in an institution of higher learning. Soon after that, there was a video presentation unfolding the utilization of Information Technology at Hodeidah University. On behalf of the graduate

students, Miss. Shareefa Al-Maqdari delivered a speech on the feelings and impressions of her fellow -students at the end of their academic journey, and expressed their deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to all their teachers who had helped them shape up as worthy citizens of Yemen and the architects of a prosperous tomorrow.

Then H.E Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh made the splendid morning of 2/1/2004 more memorable by his encouraging words in which he expressed his pleasure at attending the ceremony at the beginning of the new year that coincided with the Arab Cultural Capital for year 2004. In his speech, President Saleh also thanked Thabit Brothers represented by Haj Abdul Jaleel Thabit for having donated 250 computers to the Hodeidah University.

On behalf of all the teachers and staff of Hodeidah University, Dr. Abbas Al-Harazi and Dr. Abu Ali Ghalib presented mementoes to President Saleh, as a mark of love and respect. President Saleh, Prof. Abdullah Al-Junaid and Prof. Mahyoub Abdul Rahman Saeed then honored the meritorious students of Hodeidah University by presenting them with certificates of merits and awards.

At the end of the function, everybody present expressed his admiration for the ceremony, wishing Hodeidah University all the progress and more success in the months and years to come. Needless to point out, the function drew to a close with flicker of a smile of happiness on the lips of everyone present on the occasion.

In fact, Prof. Mahyoub Abdul Rahman Saeed, Dr. Ibrahim Hugar, Prof. Abdullah Al-Shami and Dr. Ahmed Al-Ma'mari deserve a special word of mention for the personal efforts they took in making the function a grand success.

WONDERWORD®

by DAVID OUELLET

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

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Advertise | Colors | Hair | Pads | Steam |
| Advice | Compact | Image | Palette | Tack |
| Aesthetic | Consult | Improved | Pencils | Tanning |
| Appearance | Contour | Item | Perfume | Tests |
| Apply | Cream | Jars | Pink | Therapy |
| Atomizer | Customer | Kits | Price | Tint |
| Bags | Dips | Lashes | Professional | Tips |
| Balm | Dress | Lipstick | Puff | Tissues |
| Base | Drops | Looks | Reds | Tone |
| Blush | Ease | Makeup | Results | Transform |
| Body | Exfoliant | Many | Salon | Treatment |
| Boxes | Eyeliner | Mask | Setting | Trim |
| Brows | Face | Massage | Shade | Tube |
| Brushes | Facial | Mirror | Shampoo | Vaporizer |
| Bubble | Fashion | Mist | Shops | Waxing |
| Caps | Foam | Model | Skin | Wear |
| Care | Gels | Mousse | Soap | |
| Case | Gloss | Nails | Soft | |
| Clips | Glue | Pack | Spray | |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Winter

COSMETICS

Solution: 8 letters

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

2004 YEMEN TIMES

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الفائز الثالث 250,000
الفائز الرابع 150,000
الفائز الخامس 100,000

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الإسم: السن: الجنسية: رقم البطاقة لشخصية / الجواز:
التلفون: العنوان: المدينة / المحافظة:

- ١/ اذكر العناصر الغذائية الموجودة في مشروب الطاقة والحيوية باورهورس؟
٢/ مشروب الطاقة والحيوية باورهورس غير مناسب لمرضى القلب أم السكر أم من لديهم حساسية ضد مادة الكافين؟
٣/ كم عدد فروع شركة تهامة التجارية (نيسان) مع ذكر أسمائهم؟
٤/ مشروب الطاقة والحيوية باورهورس غير مناسب لمرضى القلب أم السكر أم من لديهم حساسية ضد مادة الكافين؟
٥/ تقع مدينة صنعاء بين جبلين مشهورين، اذكر اسم هذين الجبلين؟

للمشاركة إقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في مسابقة الملايين الكبرى ٢٠٠٤ تعبئة المعلومات الشخصية في الكوبون المرفق وقص الكوبون ومن ثم عليهم ترقيب عدد الخميس القادم للإجابة عن الأسئلة التي وردت في هذا العدد ثم جمع الكوبونين معا وإرسالهما إلى مقر الصحيفة في صنعاء (شارع حده - خلف السفارة الفلسطينية) أو إلى مكاتب الصحيفة في عدن أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركين إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩ ، صنعاء).

ستستمر المسابقة لعدة أشهر ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشارك بأكثر من كوبون، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقا، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على ٢٦٨٦٦١ (٠١) في أوقات الدوام. حظاً موفقاً للجميع....

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Orangutans in rehab only the start for Borneo apes

SEPILOK, Malaysia, Jan 25 (Reuters) - In great ape terms, nine-month-old orangutan orphan CT could consider herself lucky.

The furry orange ball's arrival at Malaysia's main orangutan centre last month, after a plantation owner tipped off staff about her fate, makes her future prospects quite bright.

Her kin and other great ape species are not so fortunate.

Sepilok has a strong record of rehabilitating its charges to the wild. It sits in Sabah state, the part of orangutan territory probably least likely to be destroyed.

But orangutans elsewhere in Borneo and in Sumatra face a grave risk of extinction while their close African cousins gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos are in danger everywhere.

Orangutans' main problems are forest fires, illegal logging and poaching of their babies to supply an illicit pet trade.

Habitat loss threatens the other great apes across central and western Africa, which also face being killed for their meat.

Adopted as "flagship species" by conservationists, along with animals such as rhinos and giant pandas, great apes have assumed the role of high-level envoys in extinction diplomacy.

For orangutans, that means symbolising efforts to protect Southeast Asia's rainforests and other habitats, according to Geoffrey Davison, WWF Malaysia's Borneo Programme Director.

"If orangutans are conserved, then other wildlife will be saved alongside them," he says.

Such issues feature high on the agenda for a meeting from February 9 to 20 in Kuala Lumpur where government officials from around the world will discuss how to slow global species loss.

Beefing up protected areas is one of the priorities of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the broad aim of which is to achieve a "significant" drop in the rate of species extinctions by 2010.

Extinction date hole

While scientists wrestle with exactly how many species exist and how fast they are vanishing — no one really knows — other groups are busy with projects on the ground.

Data on apes, though patchy, was alarming enough to prompt the United Nations Environment Programme to launch its great apes survival project (GRASP) in May 2001.

The accepted estimate for orangutan populations has now risen to 40,000-plus after a workshop in Jakarta this month increased it from a previous figure of around 30,000.

Sabah hosts maybe a quarter of them, although most live outside protected areas, increasing their vulnerability.

Of the Africans, chimps are most numerous at around 100,000 while bonobos are anywhere between 30,000 and 50,000. Gorillas number somewhere between the two, but spread across several subspecies with some reduced to just a few hundred animals.

GRASP's plan is to be a focus for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on great apes and to act as a diplomatic channel between ape range governments and major donors.

It hopes to repeat the 1990s success



Nine-month-old orangutan, "CT", takes its drink at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center in the Malaysian state of Sabah on Borneo island on Jan. 11. The accepted estimate for orangutan populations rose to 40,000 plus this month after a workshop in Jakarta, which raised it from a previous figure of around 30,000. REUTERS

of a similar effort to help halt the plunge in African black rhino populations.

"There's 30 or 40 NGOs and a whole bunch of scientists and other researchers working on great apes. It helps to make sure we don't duplicate efforts," says Matthew Woods, a technical coordinator for GRASP in Nairobi.

APE rights or sustainable cull?

Its work includes reconciling different ape campaigners' goals, from those wanting quasi-human-rights standards of protection to others supporting sustainable culling for food.

GRASP has run workshops in four of the 23 states with great apes, producing national action plans each time, and aims to hold more across the other states.

The Jakarta orangutan meeting, although not a GRASP event, did much the same for Indonesia and Malaysia, and spread word of a previously unknown population of a few thousand animals in Borneo's Kalimantan.

Ashley Leiman, director of the Orangutan Foundation's UK office, said the finding was welcome but not the critical issue.

"It's not how many orangutans there are right now, we have to look at the trend," she said, citing a projection that just one percent of the Asian ape's habitat would remain by 2030.

That put projects like Sepilok, albeit with a proud 40 years of successfully returning distressed and orphaned animals to the wild, further down the list of priorities.

"Rehabilitation is very much a welfare issue. Putting them back in the wild isn't anywhere near as important as saving the wild population," she said from the Jakarta meeting sidelines.

Cede Prudente, a Sabah photographer and former wildlife guide, knows

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what Leiman's talking about, having recently visited Gunung Palung National Park in Indonesia's West Kalimantan.

"We were filming here and there was, about 200 metres (yards) behind us, a chain saw rattling. I could not believe that could happen in a national park," he

said, visibly saddened by his memories of watching one of mankind's closest relatives in distress.

"You could tell from their faces they are losing hope. They know there's disturbance, they know there are chain saws, they can hear. They are very intelligent animals."

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