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Government announces Al-Houthi's death after heavy military clashes

Rebellion terminated

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Ministries of Interior and Defense announced on Friday September 10th, the end of military operations after the death of Sheikh Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi and some of his followers.

"The leaderships of the Ministries of Interior and Defense this Friday, announce the killing of Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, and a number of his followers, the surrender of the rest, and the end of all military and security operations of the army and security forces that have been directed towards quenching the rebellion ignited by Al-Houthi," the statement read.

In a telephone conversation, a

source close to Al-Houthi on Saturday night did not confirm nor deny the news. He said: "The issue will not be ended by the death of Sheikh Al-Houthi. Many will adopt the cause for the sake of which Al-Houthi was martyred. They will serve as leaders and instructors. War will continue endlessly, and the authority will not find rest unless it answers their crucial and lawful demands."

The source added: "the ferocity of bloody clashes between the government's forces and Sheikh Al-Houthi's followers has accelerated. It is no longer guerilla raids, but it is now fierce war covering areas of Mran, Al Shaifi'ah, Hamdan bin Zaid, Al Al-Ka'abi, Al Al-Ruzami and other districts."



Sheikh Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi

According to him, human and property losses have reached the highest levels since the beginning of the war on June 18th as the government uses warplanes, and destructive weapons forbidden to be used in internal conflicts.

At the end of his statement, the source appealed to the President Ali Abdullah Saleh to fear God in his treatment of his fellow citizens, and hold dialogue with the followers of Al-Houthi in a way that benefits the religion, and people. The source urged the Government to stop shedding Yemeni blood, which has been bleeding for three months, resulting in over 20,000 deaths, massive property losses and billions of riyals from the public treasury.

President Saleh shows support for Iraq

By PETER WILLEMS
AND MOHAMMED KHIDR
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zeibari held talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and high government officials last week during the first visit of an Iraqi senior official to Yemen since Saddam Hussein's regime fell last year.

Speaking to the press after his meeting with Zeibari, President Saleh emphasized "Yemen's stand in support of Iraq and backing any effort that can end the occupation and achieve security and stability in Iraq"

The President also stressed the importance of the Iraqi people working together to unite the country and create a free and democratic state.

According to Zeibari, the meeting focused primarily on support from Arab states while Iraq gets ready for elections scheduled to take place at the beginning of next year and "rebuilding Iraq and preserving its security, unity and territorial integrity"

Zeibari said the talks did not focus on Yemen sending troops to assist bringing stability to Iraq.

Last July, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad



President Saleh meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister

Allawi called on Muslim nations to send forces to help stabilize the country. His appeal came a day after Saudi Arabia announced a proposal that would put together a multi-national Muslim force to be sent to Iraq.

The Yemeni government offered to send troops to help stabilize the country, but only after US-led coalition forces have left the country and with the soldiers operating under the auspices of the United Nations.

US military officials recently said that US troops will not be able to withdraw from Iraq over the next few years due to ongoing violence and attacks in the war-torn country.

Last week, the number of US soldiers

killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003 reached 1,000. Although there are no official figures available, some have calculated that between 10,000 and 30,000 Iraqis have been killed since the war began.

"The Yemeni government has made a wise choice of not committing troops to Iraq," said a Yemeni analyst. "Sending forces to Iraq is a high risk and it looks like the United States is going to have to stabilize the country."

US President George Bush and the Democratic candidate John Kerry have not mapped out in detail a plan to pull US troops out of Iraq while campaigning for elections next November.

Continued on page 10

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Iranian vessel stranded at Mion Island

BY RUHDWAN AL-SAQQA
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Iranian vessel "Iran Ardebil" has stranded at the shore of Yemeni island of Mion following its crashing into heavy colonies of coral reefs on August 15.

Coming from the Arab Gulf en route to Europe, the vessel was loaded with over 2000 containers at a total cost of \$55 million.

The cargo has been unloaded and transferred to Yemeni Aden Container Terminal so that the vessel can be towed, and repaired before resuming its journey.

Yemen Times learned that negotiations are undertaken with Yemeni Ports Authority to rescue the vessel and tow it to nearby ports after the Maritime Affairs Authority checks that



there is no pollution caused by the vessel.

Minister of Transportation Omar Al-Amoudi said Yemeni authorities are

doing their duty perfectly, in accordance with regulations and laws that authorize it to issue permits for international maritime rescue companies.

Shaphaco listed among top Arab drug manufacturers

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Shaphaco Corp. was recently presented with the Gulf States Award for being the first Yemeni company listed among the Gulf's top drug manufacturers.

A committee consisting of representatives from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE investigated the quality of regional drug manufacturers and found that Shaphaco meets the required GMP quality standards, which are applied to drug manufacturers in most Arab states and many European coun-

tries.

The committee assessed the quality of factory buildings, equipment, document archiving, and storage facilities. The standards are approved and regularly updated by the World Health Organization.

Shaphaco, founded in 1993, is a nationally owned company offering support to doctors and pharmacists throughout Yemen. It consistently sponsors scientific medical seminars.

The company officially began production in 1999, producing six different pharmaceuticals. At the time, it

employed only 40 staff members. To date the company produces 62 pharmaceutical products and now employs 240 workers.

Shaphaco began exporting medicinal products in 2001, exporting firstly to Iraq and then to Somalia and Eritrea. Shaphaco currently has plans to export products to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Tanzania.

The company stands by its motto for the quality of its products, "Worth the trust of today's and tomorrow's generations."

Functions of RACC wrapped up

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The function of the Regional and Annual Coordinating Convention (RACC) between the General Authority for Researches and Agricultural Guidance (GARAG) and the International Center for Agricultural Researches in Dry Areas (ICARDA) was concluded on Wednesday 8th September in Dhamar.

The two-day convention was devoted to discussing different subjects related to previously implemented joint functions, as well as evaluating research programs, ICARDA's performance level in Yemen,

and approving future work strategies.

By the end of the convention, Dr. Ismail Moharram, Chairman of the GARAG, Dr. Habbab Tailah, the Regional Coordinator for ICARDA in Cairo and Dr. Ismail Ahmad, Coordinator of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, delivered speeches pointing out the positive results of the convention.

The convention also recommended supporting research programs, training agricultural cadres, and exchanging experiences and efforts for the purpose of maintaining natural resources and exploiting them in an ideal way.

Conclusion of second workshop on societies law in Taiz

A second workshop was concluded on Thursday 2nd September at the hall of Taj Shamsan Hotel. It aimed at raising awareness on law of the national societies. It was organized by the Cooperative Social Care Society under the auspices of Mr. Abdul Kareem al-Arhabi, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, and financed by the Social Fund for Development, in the participation with 36 male and female trainees representing 12 societies of the 72 targeted societies of different districts in the Taiz Governorate. This second workshop was inaugurated on August 31st 2004 in pres-

ence of Mr. Abdo Muhammad al-Hakimi, General Manager of Social Affairs & Labor Office of Taiz Governorate, where he urged the male and female trainees to be interested in reading the law and its implementing rulings. He clarified that many of the societies are not effective and are considered as dependants on their proprietors, as there are fifty active societies in Taiz out of 500 ineffective ones.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. Hadi Saeed Abdo, Executive Director of the Cooperative and Social Care society as well as by a number of experts.

Antiseptic substitute for alcohol

Drinking antiseptic has spread notably in the city of Taiz. Reckless youths buy locally made and imported antiseptics as a substitution for alcohol. The "Tiger" brand antiseptic contains concentrated alcohol and is manufactured locally and, instead of YR 50 for a bottle, it is sold for 200 at pharmacies and drug stores due to its marketability.

"We have stopped dealing with this commodity because we came to know that some people misuse it," said a group of chemists.

Sellers of this sort of intoxicant-antiseptic have gained increased profits though a number of addicts have died or suffered blindness.

First Yemeni computer

The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has announced that it is going to inaugurate the first project of assembled computers in Yemen during this month. The ministry confirmed that the production capacity of this project reaches 150,000 computers annually, adding to a thousand laptops. This will be achieved in more than one process depending on the request in the Yemeni markets.

CM on environment and Yemeni islands

A Consultative Meeting (CM) held in Sana'a, on Wednesday, September 8th 2004 discussed a number of issues associated with environment of, and tourist development in, Yemeni Islands. It aimed at creating a clean environment, economic recovery and investment opportunities in those islands.

An agreement, stipulating that all sides should report functions, strategies and programs carried out by the General Authority for improving the islands in the fields of environment and tourism, has been reached.

It is worth noting that Al-Shora council has the intention of carrying out an entire study on Yemeni Islands and their investment significance.

Parliament activates its control role

In its session held Wednesday September 8th, the Parliament conducted a general discussion on continuing and increasing its role in connection with the controlling tasks and follow up to enforce its recommendations on various topics which the council has stood against, and discussed during its previous meetings. The Parliament admitted that it had exposed some financial and administrative breaches in some of the administrative authority's units. This applies to both the public and the mixed sectors, as well as the local councils. This prompted the Parliament to recommend scrutiny, and taking all necessary constitutional and legal steps.

Open-heart center to be established

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sami al-Wshali, executive manager of the Emirates Red Crescent authority, announced the establishment of an Open Heart centre in Yemen. The announcement came at the conclusion of his visit to Yemen on September 8th.

"An Italian medical committee is studying the establishment of the open-heart center in Yemen according to the

directives of Sheik Hamdan Bin Zaid Al Nahyan, Head of the Emirates Red Crescent Authority," he said.

"Zaid Establishment for Charitable Activities sponsored the construction of the Zaid Hospital for Motherhood and Childhood," he added.

He has also confirmed that the Emirates Red Crescent helps in operating surgeries for patients who suffer from eye diseases in Yemen.

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.

This edition's question:

Do you think that normal relations between Yemen and Iraq would resume after the recent visit of the Iraqi FM?
- Yes, they would despite US presence
- No, they won't until US military leave0

last edition's question:

Do you think that the arrest of journalist Al-Khaiwani and verdict to shut down his newspaper are a serious blow to press freedom in Yemen?
Yes, it truly is 91%
No, it is not 9%

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Water pollution

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The lack of water and the exhaustion of underground basins has shifted our attention from the issue of water pollution. Although the current situation dictates "water issuance is prior to its source and quality", this does not take into account the fact that pollution nullifies water supply. What, after all, is the advantage of the availability of polluted water which one can not use?

Polluted water can only be solved by medical field workers. Most hospitalized patients, infected with digestive system-liver and urinary passage dis-

eases, suffer due to water pollution. Moreover we are not aware of the bad consequences and the fact that ailing people will lose energy and mental concentration owing to this problem.

Recovering from such diseases costs a large amount of income at the expense of one's basic needs. It is also a heavy burden on the government.

This phenomenon can be largely prevented in both urban and rural areas in an approximately similar way - by establishing a sewage network and sanitary disposal mechanisms which will help decrease water contamination.

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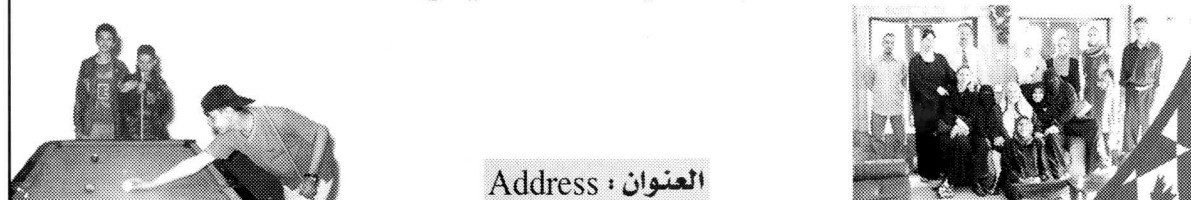
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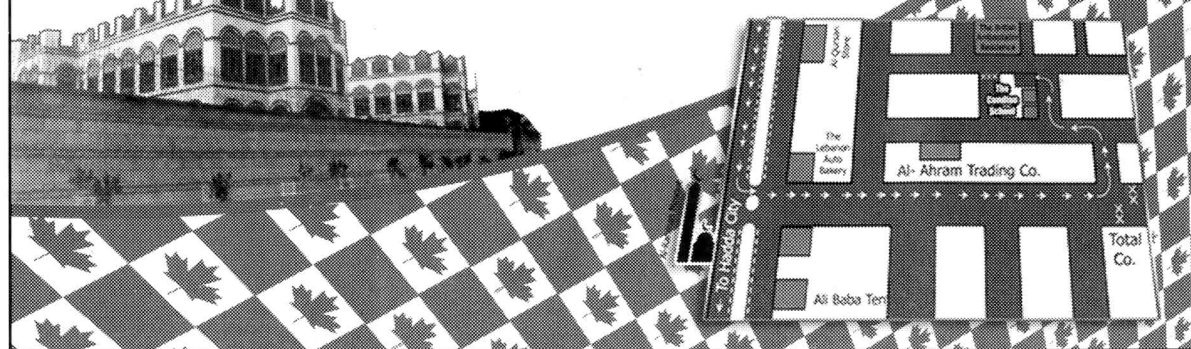
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Japanese Deputy Director-General for Middle Eastern Affairs to Yemen Times:

“Yemen’s major problem is population”

INTERVIEWED BY SHAKER MOHAMMED
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

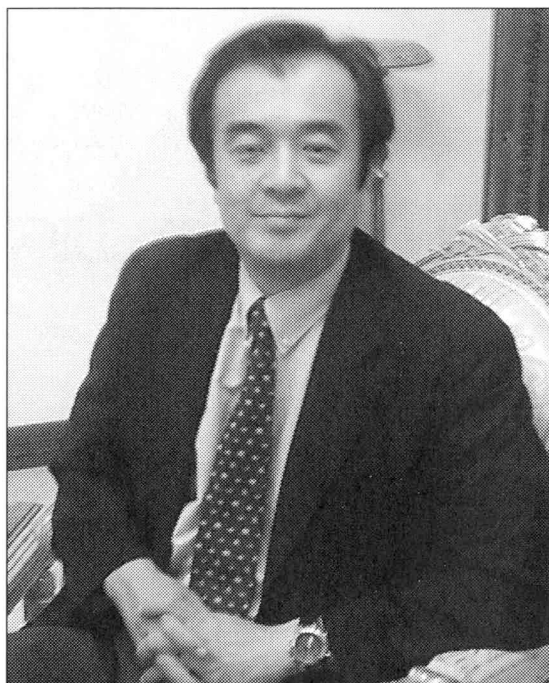
Yemen Times seized the opportunity during his recent visit to Yemen, to ask about the situation in Iraq and the international efforts of reconstruction. Mr. Kuni Miyake, Deputy Director-General for Middle Eastern Affairs at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also gave a summary of Japanese policy regarding Yemen.

Q: Could you tell us about the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: I was in Baghdad between February and July this year. I came back from Baghdad to Tokyo, to become Deputy Director General. Now I have to cover not only Iraq but also the whole region of the Middle East. I always wanted to come to southern Arabia where the Arabs were born. I wanted to see some friends here and witness the developments of the past seven years in this country. I was director for the second Middle East Division, which is in charge of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula. This was when I visited Yemen for the first time in 1997. I wished for an opportunity to come back to Sana'a to see what is happening here. I have come back and I think over the past seven years you have made great progress.

However, there are difficulties in Yemen that we are fully aware of, primarily, the population problem. The birth rate is more than 3%, and you have some financial and economic problems too. Nevertheless, I think it is better to get first-hand information about your country. When I go back to Tokyo, we will try to consider all things when we formulate the policy for Yemen.

Q: Could you give us an account of the international reconstruction



Mr. Kuni Miyake

efforts in Iraq up until now?

A: The overall picture: I was in Iraq in 1982 and 1984. I have some friends there and I know how much they have suffered, not only during the past year, but also for the past twenty years since the Iranian-Iraqi war, which started in 1980. So when I went back to Baghdad and talked to people, I found the situation very miserable. I became convinced that they need help for reconstruction. They are capable people, and very sophisticated, and proud. They can take care of themselves if things are right. Unfortunately, there are various kinds of insurgencies, which prevented us from implementing the reconstruction programs. We have to send people to help them but because of the explosions, and kidnapping, we cannot send as many reconstruction experts to the country as

we wish. It is the same for the UN, the Americans, the British and everybody who wants to help. As far as Japan is concerned, we have already committed up to \$5 billion: a \$1.5 billion grant; and up to \$3.5 billion in loans. Of the \$1.5 billion, we have already implemented \$1.1 billion. We are the biggest donor after the Americans, who have devoted a huge budget.

Q: It is said that Americans do not provide grants for the Iraqi government, but use the revenues of the oil industry for the reconstruction process. What do you think?

A: No, revenues are in the hands of the Iraqi government. I was in the

CPA and the funds went to the Iraqi Ministry of Finance. The problem is the security. We are committed and will continue to do our best to help the Iraqis. The Iraqi people can govern themselves. We are not occupying powers, and we are not fighting there. We are there to help, and we believe it is the Iraqis who govern Iraq. That is how we can help Iraq. This is our policy; it has been so and will continue to be so.

When American General McCarthy (the former US commander of Japan) controlled Japan, the Japanese army protected him. Japanese people could keep the sense of unity and they therefore could rebuild their country.

We hope that soon the situation will improve so we can send people of the UN and other like-minded countries, not troops, but civilians, experts, and construction workers to Iraq to help Iraqis rebuild their country.

Q: How much have you achieved in terms of reconstructing Iraq?

A: More facilities have been damaged by the insurgencies than by the Americans. If you go to Baghdad, there are some damaged buildings, but American weapons pinpoint targets so that damage is a minimum. However, these days, because of the insurgencies and terrorist activities, many pipelines and power plants have been damaged. They are all soft targets, and have been destroyed by unknown groups of people that may be Iraqis or that could be foreigners. Nevertheless, it is sad to see that more and more facilities are still being damaged even after the war has ended.

Q: What is the role of countries in the international efforts and of Japan in particular?

A: For us, we concentrate on the basic requirements of the Iraqi people: medical facilities, power plants, water, hospitals and we send vehicles. We have been doing our best to help the Iraqis' basic human needs. These are our main concerns. Japanese reconstruction efforts have focused on those areas.

The Americans have a larger budget. They focus on other issues including security. Iraqi security forces still require improvement, and training. Other countries are helping through their own means. Many areas require help. I cannot give you more details because actually they are doing everything and trying to do as much as they can.

Q: Is it a concerted effort?

A: Yes. In the CPA, there was an organization called CIC (Council for International Coordination). The Iraqi minister of planning heads the organization. He chairs the donors' meeting, and the domestic donor coordination mechanism, through which we try to avoid duplication, and try to concentrate on most needed areas. I think the coordination has been successful. In addition, the Americans or the foreigners have not dictated the coordination, but the minister of planning and his staff and the minister of finance have controlled it. Therefore, it is a concerted effort by Iraqi ministers in close cooperation and coordination with the international community.

I am part of the organization, and my main responsibility is to coordinate Japanese reconstruction efforts with other countries' efforts.

We propose projects, and if they have similar projects, we talk to the other parties to avoid duplication so that we can make the best use of funds.

Q: What are your thoughts on the future of Iraq?

A: Well, it is most difficult and in a sense a sad thing to sum up, because probably in the short run, I do not know how long it will take to improve, the situation will remain as bad as now. I have enough reason to believe that insurgents or terrorists are still entering Iraq. You have murder, kidnapping, bombing, mortar attacks, and all kinds of destructive activity by many players' from abroad and from inside. Their number is growing. It will never stop in the short term. Therefore, I am afraid the situation will continue as bad as it is now.

In that sense I am pessimistic, but in the medium term and the long term I am not that pessimistic, because the Iraqis can govern themselves, and it is in their hands. The US is only represented by an embassy. It has no authority though it may have some influence, and maybe some relationships with the Iraqi government, but it is the Iraqi leaders, and ministers who are making decisions. The Americans are aware of that. Of course, the Iraqi people should eventually select their leaders. We do not want to do that, because it is their country. There are some difficulties, but I believe that in the long term, they will find the right people through elections, and the democratic process, and they will rebuild their country, and we will help them as long as they are elected by people and show good governance.

Q: Taking into account the damages and losses that have befallen Iraq so far, do you think that the decision of toppling the former regime was not well studied?

A: We thought that Saddam was not complying with UN resolutions. I was the director for the Gulf at the Japanese Foreign Ministry and I visited Iraq in 1997. We strongly encouraged them to abide by the UN resolutions, but they did not listen. We wanted them to tell us everything, whether they had weapons or programs, and we waited four years until 2003. We had come up with many kinds of resolutions to give Saddam's regime a chance to comply with international obligations.

Of course, everybody wanted to avoid war, but the decision complied with some UN resolutions. I feel sad for the Iraqi people, but not the Iraqi government of Saddam.

If Saddam had shown a little more flexibility and willingness to share information with us, we could have avoided it. Nevertheless, the victims are the people,

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ple, and I feel sorry for the people.

Q: What is the Japanese policy for Yemen?

A: We believe that Yemen is an important country for us. It is not only because you have a great leader, Ali Abdullah Saleh, whom we had the honor to welcome in 1999 when he visited Japan as a state guest. We have a traditional friendship since the '60s, and being the origin of the Arabs, Yemen has a great tradition, and a great number of talented people. They are hard working and willing to be active. I have talked to a number of high-ranking government officials including deputy ministers and several university professors. They are very competent, and fully aware of the difficulties. We want to help, because we want Yemen to be stable.

I think we need to continue this kind of friendship.

We have been extending economic assistance to Yemen. We used to be number one or two in terms of grants to

Yemen, but now I think the Americans have surpassed us. Yet, we are still among the major donors to Yemen, and will continue to be so.

What is more important is that we should maintain a constant dialogue. The stability of this part of the world is a common interest we all share. We do not want to see instability in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf area or in Yemen.

I think we have a lot in common, and you have good relationships with neighboring countries, not only in economic assistance but also in terms of cultural exchange, and political dialogue. We can do many things with Yemen and we will learn from each other.

Q: Do you have any last comments?

A: I am very happy to be here. It is nice to be back, and nice to see old and new friends. We highly value our relationship with the people of Yemen. I hope that we can continue this kind of good relationship for the years to come, and I will try to come back again.

VACANCIES

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Will be responsible for administrative and operational management and function of the office located in Sana'a. He/she will establish constructive relationships with partners, donors, and headquarters staff in USA. He/she will establish systems for monitoring and logistics (including supervision of a small motor pool), maintain fixed asset inventory, and perform other administrative and support services task. He/she will be part of the team ensuring the project is always in compliance with requirements of the US government, Yemeni government, and implementing agency.

Qualifications Required:

- Proficiency in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Demonstrated experience as Manager
- Demonstrated experience in administration, logistics, and personnel management
- Advanced computing skills (MS Office and database)
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- International experience and/or background in education are preferable
- University degree or equivalent experience
- Translator experience is a plus

FINANCE MANAGER

Will be responsible for financial management of an office located in Sana'a. He/she will perform financial transactions, prepare computerized monthly financial reports using both financial software and Excel spreadsheet applications, disburse/monitor petty cash. Additional responsibilities include budget charging, cash flow management, budget preparation, and other financial services tasks. He/she will establish constructive relationships with headquarters staff in USA. He/she will be part of the team ensuring the project is always in compliance with requirements of the US government, Yemeni government, and implementing agency.

Qualifications Required:

- Proficiency in written and spoken English and Arabic
- University degree or equivalent experience in accounting/financial management
- Prior use of accounting software (QuickBooks preferred or will train)
- Advanced computing skills (MS Office)
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- International experience is preferable

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من أبوولد ٢٠٠٤

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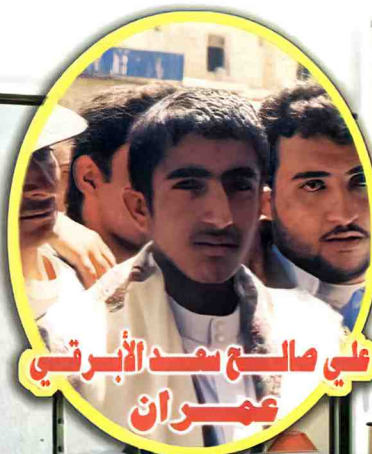
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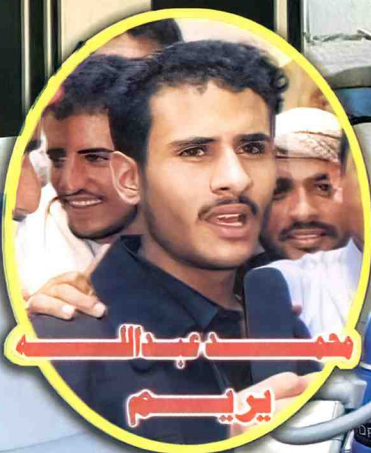
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US intelligence soldier jailed for Abu Ghraib abuse

BAGHDAD, Sept 11 (Reuters) - The first American military intelligence soldier to be court-martialed over the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal was sentenced on Saturday to eight months in jail, a reduction in rank and a bad-conduct discharge.

Specialist Armin Cruz, a military intelligence analyst, had pleaded guilty to maltreatment and conspiracy to maltreat detainees. The court martial accepted his guilty plea.

Cruz, 24, is the eighth person to be indicted for abusing Iraqi detainees in an affair which provoked worldwide outrage when it broke in April. He was the second to be sentenced.

In emotional testimony before being sentenced, Cruz told the court he took full responsibility for his actions, but he offered few explanations.

"I knew my actions were wrong," he said. "There's no way to justify it."

As the first intelligence operative to be tried, Cruz's case is significant because the Pentagon has said the abuse was the work of a few bad military police acting on their own accord, and not on the orders of intelligence officers.

Defence lawyers for some indicted soldiers say intelligence officers ordered military police to "soften up" prisoners ahead of interrogation, and that senior commanders knew about or even sanctioned the abuse.

Stephen Karns, Cruz's civilian lawyer, described his client as a "war hero" who acted out of character in Abu Ghraib because he was suffering from traumatic stress following a mortar attack which blew up a close colleague.

Karns said he was disappointed with the bad-conduct discharge and would appeal.

"I believe he can still make contributions to the U.S. Army ... I think the army is losing a lot in this soldier."

In a report into the abuse by U.S. Army Major General George Fay issued last month, Cruz was identified as having taken part in the mistreatment of three prisoners at the jail.

A photograph taken on October 25, 2003, showed Cruz and two other intelligence soldiers standing in the background as military police abused three

prisoners in the foreground.

Purple Heart

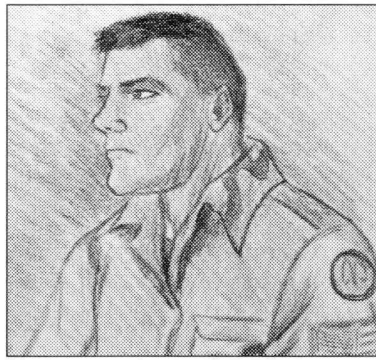
Cruz, a reservist from Texas, was assigned to the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion in Iraq. As an analyst he was not supposed to be involved in interrogations, but, like other analysts, was often drafted in to help with questioning.

In sworn testimony presented in another Abu Ghraib case, Sergeant Samuel Provance said Cruz "was known to bang on the table, yell, scream, and maybe assaulted detainees during interrogations in the booth".

Cruz was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in a mortar attack on the prison in September 2003 and was nominated for a Bronze Star, an award that was suspended pending the abuse investigation.

In his report, General Fay said Cruz joined in the prisoner abuse with two military policemen, Sergeant Ivan Frederick and Corporal Charles Graner.

"All three made the detainees act as though they were having sex," the report said. The court also heard that Cruz used his foot to force naked detainees to crawl across the floor, their genitals dragging



A U.S. Army hand-out sketch shows U.S. Army Specialist, Armin J. Cruz attending a court martial in Baghdad September 11. The first American military intelligence soldier to be court martialled over the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal was sentenced on Saturday to eight months in jail, a reduction in rank and a bad-cond. REUTERS

on the concrete.

Frederick and Graner are two of the seven military police soldiers so far charged in the scandal. The first to be tried, Private Jeremy Sivits, pleaded guilty at a special court martial in May and was sentenced to a year in prison and other penalties.



U.S. Judge Col. John Pohl addresses courtroom in Baghdad U.S. military Judge Colonel John Pohl addresses a courtroom held in the Iraqi capital Baghdad September 11. The first U.S. military intelligence soldier to be court martialled over the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal was sentenced on Saturday to eight months in jail, a reduction in rank and a bad conduct discharge. REUTERS

Israel pulls back forces in northern Gaza

JABALYA, Gaza Strip, Sept 11 (Reuters) - Israel pulled most of its forces out of the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday after a four-day incursion it said was staged to halt Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israeli towns.

Eight Palestinians died in the incursion, five of them civilians, and more than 100 were wounded, medics said.

The raid, Israel's largest in Gaza in months, followed twin suicide bus bombings that killed 16 in the city of Beersheba on Aug. 31.

Witnesses said troops and tanks withdrew before dawn from Jabalya, Gaza's largest refugee camp, and from other northern Gaza areas, but kept a limited presence near Beit Hanoun.

An Israeli military source confirmed the troops had pulled out of Jabalya and other areas but said they would remain elsewhere in northern Gaza to prevent the launching of makeshift rockets, known as Qassams, at Israeli towns.

Jabalya residents venturing outside on Saturday found that in addition to medics' accounts that eight people had been killed and more than 100 wounded in the raid, at least a dozen homes had been destroyed.

There was also no water and electricity in some parts of the camp, and roads were badly damaged. Ten other homes were in ruins in nearby Beit Lahiya.

"God help us ... They gave us five minutes to leave the house," Zaina al-Bahri said as she surveyed the damage. "Now we are homeless."

An Israeli military source said troops had destroyed several buildings used by militants as cover to fire anti-tank rockets and guns at soldiers, and several other structures that housed welding machines used to make Qassam rockets.

Imad al-Falouji, a Palestinian lawmaker and former cabinet minister, condemned the damage. "Israel is undermining all efforts to restore calm in the region," he said.



A Palestinian man inspects a damaged shop after the Israeli troop withdrawal from the Jabalya refugee camp northern Gaza Strip September 11. Israeli forces withdrew early on Saturday from a northern Gaza Strip refugee camp, three days after launching an incursion to prevent the firing of rockets at Israeli towns, an Israeli military source said. REUTERS

Hamas vows to continue attacks

A Hamas spokesman said the militant group, which is bent on Israel's destruction, would pursue efforts to attack Israel despite the raid.

"All means including the firing of Qassam rockets will continue," spokesman Mushir al-Masri said.

Hundreds of mourners at a funeral Saturday for a Palestinian teenager killed in Jabalya also chanted calls for revenge against Israel as they marched through the dusty streets.

The growing spiral of violence could further complicate Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw troops and 8,000 settlers from the Gaza Strip by the end of 2005.

Palestinian militants are determined to claim any Israeli pullout as a victory, but Israel has vowed to smash them first.

As Israeli troops moved out of the Jabalya area, several key roads were reopened to Palestinian traffic elsewhere in Gaza following talks

between Israeli and Palestinian officers, Palestinian sources said.

The Palestinian officers had agreed in exchange for the pullout to help monitor security. Some officers were seen conducting spot checks on vehicles at roadblocks on Saturday.

Meanwhile other restrictions on Palestinian traffic were tightened as the Israeli army, citing the threat of attacks, sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip through the three-day Jewish New Year holiday, which starts on Wednesday.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie resumed his duties on Saturday, three days after threatening to resign over a dispute with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who is under international and domestic pressure to relinquish some powers.

The threat by Qurie, known as Abu Ala, was the latest of several he has made since taking office in November. A senior official said Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak had helped mediate the dispute.

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The Rector of the University of Sanaa and all the participants in the Fifth International Conference on

Yemeni Civilization
Convey their sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to Sima family parents, wife and daughter

On the death of their beloved,

Dr. Alexander sima

Who died in al Mahra on 3rd September, 2004

Prof. Dr. Saleh Basurra
Rector of Sanaa University

Child kidnapping in Afghanistan

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The increase in violence in Afghanistan has attracted a lot of attention in recent months as the country draws closer to elections in October. In Afghanistan over 40 aid workers and a dozen election workers have been killed in the last 12 months, and in just the last two weeks, over 20 people have been killed, most of them victims of car bombs in the capital, Kabul.

The horrors of deteriorating security in the war-torn country have also had an affect on innocent Afghan children. Hundreds of children have been abducted in the last year and organized networks that carry out child trafficking have been operating with few obstacles standing in their way.

According to the Ministry of Interior, around 200 children have been kidnapped in the last 12 months, while the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) estimates that there are more than 300 cases. Some, however, believe that the numbers are much higher.

"There are reports of cases of children being abducted, but the number of children that have been kidnapped might be much higher than the official figures," said Lieutenant General Sibghatullah, General Director of Criminal Investigations at the Ministry of Interior. "It might be worse than it appears."

In one week last June, over a half-dozen children either escaped or were rescued in Kabul, Jalalabad east of the capital, and at the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. In 2003, Afghan authorities discovered a child-kidnapping ring in the northern province of Takhar and rescued 85 boys between the ages of seven and seventeen.



An Afghan girl working at a market in Kabul, the capital, always at risk of being abducted (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Laden along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The Taliban fighters have recently regrouped which has intensified the fighting. Over 1,000 people have been killed in ongoing clashes over the last 12 months.

Around 10,000 soldiers make up the Afghan National Army (ANA) but it will not have the capacity to stabilize the country for a number of years. The US army, training local troops, expects the ANA to have 70,000 soldiers by the year 2011. NATO increased its peace-keeping force from 6,500 to 8,500 this summer, but most Afghan analysts believe that the number of NATO troops will not be enough to bring security to the nation.

Warlords supported by thousands of armed militant fighters now control vast areas of Afghanistan. A number of

elections coming up next month, nobody has been able to figure out how the central government will be able to reach out and control areas under the command of warlords," said one Afghan analyst.

According to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, child kidnapping is not the result of independent kidnappers looking for opportunities to abduct children but is actually coming from organized networks. Official organizations also state that warlords are involved in the networks.

"It is very clear and obvious that the local commanders are involved in these crimes," said Hangama Anwari, Head of the Children's Rights Department of Independent Human Rights Commission. "The warlords' power is above the government's power."

The Afghanistan government has recently taken steps to fight child kidnapping. Last July, President Hamed Karzai signed a decree that said a kidnapper found guilty of killing an abducted child would face capital punishment. The decree also added more years to prison terms of those convicted of injuring a kidnapped child.

Lutfullah Mashal, Special Assistant to the Minister of Interior, said that the ministry has intensified its efforts to capture kidnappers and close down networks involved in child trafficking. He said that over 150 kidnappers have been arrested in the last few months.

The criminal investigation division of the interior ministry is now working closely with Unicef to try and protect children. According to Sibghatullah, one of the initial steps has been to raise awareness among families in cities and rural areas in a number of provinces. Schools have been advised to teach students how to be cautious going to and from school. The criminal investigation division has also assigned officers to patrol the capital looking for suspicious people who might be involved in kidnapping.

Carwardine said that attention is also given to educating families on how kidnappers often try to convince them that their children will be sent to work at jobs that will support their families.

"Traffic agents often convince families to handover their children," said Carwardine. "Families believe that their children will get a good job or be adopted by a more affluent family. We are now working on raising awareness among families so that they know the dangers of handing over a child."

Carwardine said that although some steps have been taken, it will take time for the government to be able to fully eradicate child kidnapping.

"The biggest problem is that the government is facing limited capacity," said Carwardine. "The police, the judiciary system, and various arms of law enforcement here are simply lacking in what is needed."

Some worry that if Afghanistan's security is not brought under control, child kidnapping will continue. "If instability continues in Afghanistan, kidnapping children will probably increase," said Sibghatullah.



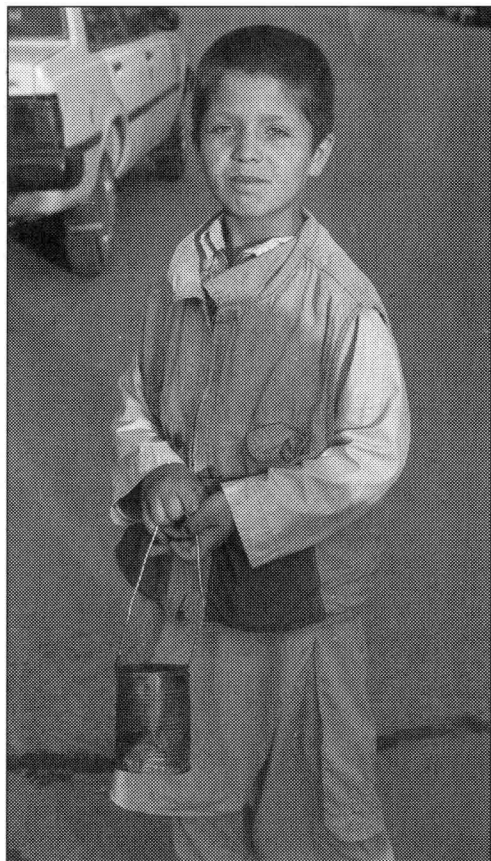
Two young Afghan girls on the streets of Kabul, the capital, vulnerable to the rise in child kidnapping (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Reports have shown that the intentions behind child trafficking vary. Some kidnapped children have been sold into slavery while others have been used for sexual exploitation or forced marriages. More alarming, are reports that a number of children's organs have been removed for sale on the international black market for transplants.

"Under harsh economic conditions in Afghanistan, some kidnappers abduct children to sell their body parts to make money," said Sibghatullah.

Edward Carwardine, Unicef's Communication Officer based in Afghanistan, said that since child kidnapping surfaced only a year ago and research is in its early stages, the routes used for child trafficking are unclear. Up to now, evidence has shown that some children have been sent to two neighboring countries, Pakistan and Iran, and to Arab countries. There are also reports that some abducted children have been sold into slavery within Afghanistan itself.

Many officials claim that child kidnapping is the result of Afghanistan's lack of security. Since the US-led invasion that toppled the Taliban regime in late 2001, instability has spread across the country. Roughly 20,000 US troops are preoccupied in the south fighting against the remnants of the Taliban and other militant groups and searching for the Al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin



An Afghan boy working on the streets of Kabul, the capital (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nexen Scholarships – Program IV

As a reflection of their friendship and commitment to assist in Yemen's human resource development, Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen., and its Masila Block Partners, Occidental Petroleum and Consolidated Contractors International Ltd. (CCC) are pleased to announce a further 10 scholarships for post secondary study in Calgary, Canada. The Canadian Nexen PetroleumYemen scholarship program was originally initiated to celebrate their 10th anniversary in Yemen. This highly successful initiative received a fourth extension in 2004 to include an additional twenty scholarships (ten scholarships a year over a two year period will be awarded by the Scholarship Steering Committee to deserving post-secondary graduates).

1. The first ten (10) scholarship recipients will commence their respective study programs in September, 2005 or September 2006.
2. Post-secondary study programs currently available for this scholarship competition:

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

4 Year Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree Programs

- B.Tech - Computer Engineering Technology
- B.Tech - Computer Technology

University of Calgary

4 Year Degree Programs

- B.Sc – Electrical Engineering
- B.Sc – Civil Engineering
- B.Sc – Chemical Engineering
- B.Sc – Mechanical Engineering
- B.Sc – Manufacturing Engineering
- B.Sc – General Mathematics
- B.A. – Psychology

3. To qualify for a scholarship all applicants must satisfy the following requirements:
 - Must be a Yemeni citizen who has resided in Yemen for the past two years.
 - Aged 17-22 years
 - Must have good English language skills
 - Minimum of 80% overall average on secondary school certificate
 - Committed to undergo up to 400 hours of Yemen based English language training (if necessary).
 - Committed to return to Yemen after completion of his/ her studies in Canada .
 - Submission of all the required documents that are requested in this announcement .

Selection Process:

Candidate selection will be based on fulfillment of the above noted requirements, a personal interview and satisfactory performance during the Yemen based English language training sessions. Both the University of Calgary and SAIT will not grant formal admission to their respective institutions until the scholarship recipient achieves a TOEFL score of 220 (computer based exam) or 560 (paper based exam). Applicants who are in a position to sit for the TOEFL/ITP exam are encouraged to do so prior to submitting their applications.

Required Documentation:

- An application form completed in English
- Copy of the secondary school grades or transcript
- Copy of personal ID card or passport
- Six certified passport sized photos .

4. Scholarship application forms can be obtained from the following application distribution/collection centers :

AMIDEAST, Inc.

Algiers St., House No. (66)
Sana'a - Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 01-400279/80/81
Contact Person: Mr. Najeeb Al-Sharafi

AMIDEAST, Inc.

Khormaksar
Aden
Tel: 02-232345/236953
Contact Person: Mr. Shakeeb AbdulHamid

Mohamed Ali Othman School

Near Road Constr. Authority
Taiz,
Tel: 04-223671/2
Contact Person: Ms. Samar Ahmed Moh'd

Hadramout University

University Campus, Al-Fowah Area
Mukalla, Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 05-360867/8 Ext. 112
Contact Person: Mr. Anwar Khamis Bal'ala

Hodeidah University

Hodeidah
Tel: 03-227500
Contact Person: Mr. AbdulKarim Al-Ward

Or you may download the application from either of the following:

http://www.nexeninc.com/Our_Commitment/Community/Yemen_Scholarships.asp
http://www.amideast.org/whats_new/announcements/nexen.htm

5. Completed application forms and requested documentation must be returned in a sealed envelope to any of the above noted application distribution/collection centers. Failure to comply with any of the information requirements will result in disqualification.
6. The closing date for accepting applications is September 29, 2004. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after that date.
7. The Scholarship Steering Committee acting on behalf of Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen and its Masila Partners, is committed to give all Yemeni scholarship applicants equal, fair and competitive opportunities.

U.S. marks anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

NEW YORK, Sept 11 (Reuters) - Americans rang church bells, remembered the nearly 3,000 dead and gathered to pray on Saturday to mark the third anniversary of the devastating Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

At the site of the fallen World Trade Center towers in New York, parents and grandparents of the victims solemnly read the names of victims before a large crowd, adding personal comments or blowing kisses skyward.

"We love you more today than yesterday, and we will love you more tomorrow than today," one mother said. Musicians played softly as the names were read.

The ceremonies were smaller and more subdued than those of the first two years since the attacks, and some speakers used the day, within two months of the Nov. 2 presidential election, to make political points.

In Washington, President George W. Bush led a national moment of silence and then used his weekly radio address to mark the day.

"Three years ago, the struggle of good against evil was compressed into a single morning," he said, describing the 102 minutes in which hijackers crashed planes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

In Boston, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic nominee seeking to replace Bush in the White House, called for Americans to come together to fight terrorism.

"While Sept. 11 was the worst day we have ever seen, it brought out the

best in all of us," he said. "And we must always remember that we will only defeat those who sought to destroy us by standing together as one America."

LAUDS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld discussed the al Qaeda hijackers and praised the United States and Bush at a Sept. 11 memorial ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery that included a moment of silence at 9:37 a.m. when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon three years ago.

"They wanted America to retreat from the world, so that they could impose their ideology of oppression and of hatred. They thought they could strike us with impunity and that we would acquiesce," he said. "But the enemies have underestimated our country, they failed to understand the character of our people, and they misread our commander-in-chief."

Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security, spoke at a ceremony in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh, where church bells rang to mark the anniversary of the moment the fourth plane crashed.

In New York, Mayor Michael

Bloomberg remembered the individuals. "Each person was someone's son or daughter," he said in an opening address. "There is no name for a parent who loses a child," he said, "for there are no words to describe this pain."

The reading of victims' names at the World Trade Center has become a tradition. At last year's ceremony to mark the second anniversary, children of victims read out the long list of names.

On the first anniversary, they were read by relatives, local politicians and other public figures.

Many in the crowd carried photographs and flowers as they descended into "Ground Zero," the World Trade Center site, from which the remains of many victims have never been recovered.

They cried and hugged one another as they floated blossoms in two small reflecting pools designed to symbolize

the footprints of the two fallen 110-story towers.

But in a sign of the amount of time that has passed since the attacks, a new office building was under construction at one side of the site, replacing one of several destroyed three years ago.

Plans for a memorial in downtown Manhattan are mired in legal wrangling and dissension among victims' relatives over what would be appropriate.



Family members of victims of September 11 2001 attacks gather to pay respects at the site of the World Trade Center in New York City September 11. New York marked the third anniversary of the attacks that killed nearly 3000 people at the World Trade Center. REUTERS

Vatican says China "once again" abusing Catholics

VATICAN CITY, Sept 11 (Reuters) - The Vatican accused China on Saturday of launching a fresh crackdown on Roman Catholics, upping the ante in its war of words against the Communist state.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said in a statement that eight priests and two seminary students had been detained last month in northern China — the latest in a long line of Catholics seized by Chinese police in recent years.

"If this news is indeed true, then we would find ourselves yet again facing a grave violation of religious freedom, which is a fundamental human right," Navarro Valls said.

China does not allow its Catholics to recognise the Pope's authority and forces Christians to belong to state-backed patriotic associations if they want to worship openly.

Those who refuse, worship secretly and are members of the so-called underground Church.

The Vatican said that among those arrested last month was Paolo Huo Junlong, the vicar-general of the Baoding diocese in northern Hebei province.

"As of September 6, 2004, there are 23 priests in the Baoding diocese who are detained or deprived of their freedom," Navarro Valls said.

Among those missing were Bishop Giacomo Su Zhimin, who vanished in 1997, and his number two, Francesco An Shuxin, last heard of in 1996. "They are detained in a secret location



Pope John Paul II waves as he leads a special audience for the Schenstatt movement in his summer residence at Castelgandolfo, near Rome, September 9. REUTERS

and have not been put on trial," the Vatican said.

Another priest arrested in the late 1990s, Giovanni Gao Kexian, died in prison last month, it added.

The Vatican appears to have decided on a policy of protesting whenever members of the Catholic hierarchy are arrested. Saturday's statement was at least the third time this year that the Church has criticised the Chinese government.

The Connecticut-based Cardinal Kung Foundation rights group has said the priests and seminarians were seized last month during a religious retreat in the village of Sujiazhuang, near Baoding city.

"About 20 police vehicles and a large number of security policeman

surrounded Sujiazhuang village and conducted a house-to-house search in order to arrest these priests and seminarians," said group said in statement released in August.

China broke links with the Vatican in the 1950s after expelling foreign clergy.

The Vatican estimates it has about eight million followers in China, compared with about five million who follow the state-backed Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

The U.S. State Department's Annual Report on Religious Freedom, issued in December, rebuked China, saying that believers who did not belong to state-sanctioned groups suffered varying degrees of "interference and harassment".

China rejected the criticism as unfair.

عائلية بروح رياضية
جراند قيتارا XL-7

فتحة بالسقف
تكييف أمامي وخلفي
مقاعد 7 ركاب
إمكانية تحريك المقعد الأول والثاني
مثبت السرعة
مسجل سي دي ورائدو
وسادة هوائية
جير أوتوماتيك 5 سرعات
نظام فرامل متع للترزلي
4x4

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THE MISSING LINK FOR BETTER HEALTH

الحلقة المفقودة للصحة المثالية



ما هو سيل - أيد ؟

سيل - أيد هو مستحضر بروتيني نباتي قوي تم تطويره على مدى 12 عام واستخدمه آلاف من الناس للمساعدة على استعادة الوظائف المناعية الطبيعية والحيوية.

سيل - أيد : هو مستحضر ممتاز لاستعادة العافية ويعزز صحة وسلامة كل خلية من خلايا الجسم.

سيل - أيد يبد أنه يعطي فوائد صحية شاملة:

سيل - أيد هو مستحضر بروتيني نباتي قوي يعمل على دعم الوظائف المناعية في الجسم بشكل طبيعي وبالتالي فإنه قد يساعد على زيادة الحيوية والشعور بالعافية بغض النظر عن مشاكلك الصحية وأن تعددت لدى الشخص الواحد واعتمادا على حالتك الصحية العامة قد تبدأ في ملاحظة التحسن خلال أيام أو أسابيع قليلة.

من الذي يجب أن يستخدم سيل - أيد ولماذا ؟

سيل - أيد يمكن أن يستخدم الجميع للحصول على الصحة والعافية المثالية. سيل - أيد يفيد حيث أنه يقدم فوائد صحية حقيقية لجميع الأعمار.

مؤسسة خط الحياة - صنعاء - أمام مطعم الخيمة - تليفون : ٠١/٤٤٤٧٣٦ - ٠١/٤٤٢٦١٥

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سيار : ٧٣٦٤٣٠٢٤ - ٧٣٦٤٤٠٢٤

Fischer-Germany deserves UN Security Council seat

BERLIN, Sept 11 (Reuters) - Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said on Saturday Germany, as a major world power, deserved a permanent U.N. Security Council seat and dismissed proposals for a European Union seat as "utopian".

"If the Security Council is enlarged in the course of a U.N. reform, then we should be represented there on account of our economic power and our political weight," Fischer told the Bild am Sonntag newspaper. "We are the third largest contributor."

Germany has long sought a permanent seat on the Security Council whose five members with veto power — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — have held their seats since they emerged victorious

from World War Two.

In addition to the blessing of the permanent members, Berlin needs a two thirds majority in the U.N. General Assembly.

Fischer said the hopes of some EU countries to win a permanent seat for the EU as a whole had no chance.

"A European seat is utopian," Fischer said, according to an advance text of the interview to appear in the newspaper on Sunday.

The U.N. General Assembly has debated for decades a reform of the body, to which an additional 10 countries are elected for two-year terms.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan plans to put forward his own plan for reshaping the council this year and press for its acceptance in 2005.

Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINION

*After al-Houthi's death and
the end of his rebellion:*

Can this be a
new beginning?

For most Yemenis, the end of the military clashes and confrontations in Saadah after the confirmation of the death of the cleric and rebel leader al-Houthi has signaled a new beginning for Yemen. This also signals a new chapter for the security situation on the Yemeni-Saudi border.

However, the fight against al-Houthi is over, but what about the fight for law enforcement? Al-Houthi's case does not end the problem of tribal or religious leaders leading future rebellions throughout the country, nor does it put to an end to the outrageous situation of free flowing weapons and the almost nonexistent presence of the state in various remote areas. But it could help enforce the power of the state. The wide media coverage of the killing of al-Houthi locally and internationally has indeed boosted the morale of the government, which is expected to use this victory to warn other tribal leaders to abide by the laws of the central authorities.

We also feel that this constitutes a great opportunity to launch a massive disarmament campaign and take steps to enforce the law in remote areas as far North as Saadah, and Mareb and as far east as Jowf.

This is the chance, while the memory of the huge losses of al-Houthi and his gangs is still fresh, to take the initiative and use persuasive means to collect the arms spread throughout the country, and to start to monitor the flow of weapons and arms markets which are still operational.

For investment to flourish, Yemen needs to rid itself of the image of a tribal country where tribes dominate in their geographical regions and the state has only limited control over certain regions of the country. It should start approaching those stubborn tribes or sheikhs who refuse to give up their arms using peaceful means and reminding them of the case of al-Houthi. For many al-Houthi was simply a scapegoat for other similar figures to rethink about the next steps before taking any action.

Enforcing the law in remote areas requires strict monitoring of the flow of weapons. Additionally, education, spreading awareness among the public, and enhancing the role of local councils are essential to develop the country.

It is well-known that Yemenis don't want to carry and use arms just because they like to, but rather because of the lawless nature of the areas they live in, and because of the lack of law enforcement in their areas.

The younger generation, which constitutes more than 70% of the population is not concerned about fighting tribal warfare or using their arms at all. They are rather more worried about how to develop means to make ends meet and work to earn a living. They are concerned with job opportunities that would enable them to live decently. They are eager to educate themselves and their children to be more productive and increase their chances in making a better living.

Hence, if the government takes this into account, it should easily realize that this is the perfect time - after the rebellion of al-Houthi - to implement laws and regulations and reach deeper to the most deprived areas in the country. They can now start all over again by developing those regions which may have been under the control of sheikhs and tribal figures that had little to do with the government.

We are all optimistic that the government will take advantage of this situation and start a new chapter of security, disarmament, law enforcement, education, economic development, and bringing prosperity to the areas of Yemen that have been deprived for far too long.

I hope they seize this opportunity, which didn't come without a lot of sacrifice of life, time, and money.

The Editor



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Reform and Development

Yemen: the
promise of tourism

BY PROF. DR. ABDULAZIZ ALTARIB
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Tourism is one of the heavy weapons in developing the Yemeni economy and society. Planning in this field has been good in the last two years, here, we have to salute the President, who took the necessary steps. But we need more promotion and an office in every Yemeni embassy abroad.

Income from tourism could be more than Yemen's revenue from oil exports or greater than remittances of Yemenis working abroad via official or legal routes.

In Yemen we have the culture, the climate and the history. Most of the world's population is in developing countries, and external tourism is a luxury they cannot afford, but it is true that countries of the first and second world include one and half billion, and

they are the hidden market for Yemeni tourism.

Beside this, even in developing countries (3rd world) there are a certain percentage with sufficient wealth to participate in the international tourism movement, and they could be attracted to Yemen.

If planning in the field of tourism in Yemen has reaped the fruits of doubling the amount of tourists expenditure in the past four years, then in turn, doubling this increased number of tourists and their income has to be a national aim during the coming year. By 2010, our aim should be to reach the level of at least 1 million tourists, with an approximate income of 1 billion dollars.

Despite certain gains, there are still many weak points in tourist institutions, at the top of the list are aviation service, conference tourism, adequate youth hostels and hotels for students or those of limited income - who make

up the majority of tourists even in countries of the first and second world.

The most obvious weak point is the Yemenia - Yemen Airways. During 2003, I traveled on its lines not less than ten times, and every time, I swore not to travel on it again! However, because of an innate desire to support our national airways, and because of urgent need, I traveled with Yemenia again. On all of those flights, the plane was delayed, running between an hour and several hours late. In addition, I witnessed many shameful scenes in Cairo, Amman, Paris and London, by Yemenia staff towards the unlucky Yemenis who chose, or were forced, to travel on this Airline.

The government would do well by inviting others to think of establishing a private airline. The government also has to consider the condition of this national company, and take pity on the promise of tourism in Yemen.

Letters to the Editor

**To Haifi: Clean up our
house first**

I want to respond to Hassan Al-Haifi's recent article. Why don't you give your Zionist paranoia a break and make a few statements about the disastrous state of:

- 1) Islam in general
- 2) Yemen in particular.

My patience has run out after 3 years here. I am so furious at your country. Yemen is so corrupt (and getting worse daily)- Arabia Felix Baksheesh, that youth Prophet and your God must be hanging their heads in shame.

They see that from the lowest clerk at any ministry, all the way to the president, nothing will get done without the obligatory baksheesh.

And you? You rant and rave on a weekly basis about others while being too scared to say a single critical whisper about your own religion and country.

Before talking about another's dirty houses make sure your own is clean and in order.

I hope that the editor lets you read letter this because I KNOW it will never be published.

Mike A.
Sanaa, Yemen

Thanks Yemen Times

I would like to express my gratitude towards your useful newspaper. I consider it as the best window to the English Language. It enriches my knowledge of English day in, day out. It provides me with the ENGLISH I need in for all fields of life. Moreover, it provides me with the latest news in an easy way.

Ibrahim Mahfoodh
imahfoodh@yahoo.com

Terrorism: a major
problem for Yemen

I am sure that the impending visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to London and the discussions that he is expected to hold with British Prime Minister Tony Blair will yield tangible results especially in the fight against terrorism.

Looking back at the September 11th attack on the U.S.A. though the terrorist aimed at one nation only, it wounded the entire world. It was a unity born of horror, of fear, of outrage, and of profound sympathy with the American people. It was no doubt an attack on all humanity not on the U.S.A.

We should recognize the fact that wherever there are

common aims, there are common enemies and the eloquent global answer to the attacks on humanity is to get united and act firmly to eradicate terrorism. The international community across all lines of religion and race should join hand to fight terrorism.

It is sincerely hoped that as has been in the past Yemen would take strong action in its fight against terrorism under the guidelines of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

R. Kandeth,
rachuthar@hotmail.com

When brothers
hate each other

The world doesn't know it but Big Brother Satan does. We are Manasseh and along with our brother Ephraim we received the birthright and blessing from Almighty God. That's why they hate us. So it's nice when a few like us. First, thank you Ephraim (Great Britain) and your sons in Australia and New Zealand. South Africa would have been with us but we stupidly gave it to the blacks. Canada? Many Canadians must be ashamed of their government.

So where's the British Commonwealth? Where's India in this? Didn't we give you enough grain when you desperately needed it? Didn't we save you from the Japanese? Only Singapore from the Commonwealth is with us.

Where are our other Israelite brothers? What happened to the firstborn, Reuben (France)? Didn't we save your necks twice? Didn't you help us in the beginning? What about Issachar (Finland)? The only nation to pay back its WWI debt to us. WHERE ARE THE IRISH (Dan)? Where's Sweden (Naphthali), Belgium (Asher) and Switzerland (Gad)? Thank you Norway and Denmark, sons of Benjamin. And why shouldn't you be close. We had the same mother, Rachel. Simeon and Levi, sons of Jacob and Leah, support us through Britain. Thank you Zebulon (Holland) for your help.

Thank you former communist countries who know where they got their freedom. Thank you Poland, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Albania, Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan. May God look favorably down upon you

Letters to the Editor

for this.

We saved Europe twice but where's Old Europe? Where's Spain? Where's Germany? Where's Russia? Thank you Italy and Portugal. I now feel the army did the right thing when they sent me to Italy instead of my request, Germany.

Thank you in Asia - Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Mongolia and Tonga. We know where you stand, China. If I had my way you wouldn't be selling anything here.

As far as you bastards from the Middle East, Africa and Latin America are concerned - you who are not with us are against us! Thank you El Salvador, the only one of these groups of nations who is with us. Thank you Israel! Even though you aren't in the coalition, you are most to be thanked. Now I know we Israelites are very disobedient to God, and will be punished, but I can't help but think there is a warm spot in His heart for you who are with us.

Harold Reimann
hreimann@sisp.net

Role of parents

I lived in Yemen in 1988 for one year. I was formerly married to a Yemeni. During my stay, I do not recall any of the children bringing books home to read, or having any homework. And I don't recall parents participating or encouraging students to study.

I would like to know the percentage of women that participated in the study and the percentage that passed.

My ex-husband had such hope for Yemen in the 80's, he emphasized that Yemen was growing so quickly, but I could see that it would not equal the quality of life available in the United States, at least in my life time. I chose to return to California where I raised my children as a single parent and am proud to say my oldest son, age 19, is a university student and my daughter, age 15, is in high school (secondary). They are both in GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) classes. I always attend the school's functions/meetings and make sure I know the curriculum. I am employed full time and must make sure my house is in order. So I guess what I'm trying to emphasize is that parents need to be involved in their children's education. On the other hand, do Yemenis still chew qat? I always found

this pass time such a waste of time, especially when young children were ignored and easily influenced by their parents' actions.

M. Catherine
Catherine@Garcia.net

Female education
must be encouraged

I have been in Sana'a for only 10 days and I really appreciate having access to both local and international news through your newspaper. Furthermore, I highly respect your selection of topics as well as your editorials, which reflect a clear desire to help the country improve its socio-economical status.

You had an interesting article and editorial in last week's edition about the results in final high school exams. I read it with great interest and would like to comment on the following paragraph:

"Another concern for the government is the worrying sign of more successful female students relative to successful male students.... It is predicted that many successful females will not work, whilst unsuccessful males would still have to earn a living."

I was disappointed to see that there was no other comment on this fact by your staff. These successful female students might not work outside the house but are likely to have healthier children, who will be better students when they go to school. As was pointed out in yesterday's edition of your newspaper, education of the women is an important key to improve health and education in the population. Female students should be encouraged to succeed, and their success should be perceived as a step towards a better life for Yemeni people!

Nathalie Bussi eres
nbussi eres@hotmail.com

Qat must be uprooted

From the bottom of my heart, I commend you on the your article concerning "Qat" which I personally view as a National Disaster in Yemen. I urge you to continue writing and increasing awareness in this area. The people of Yemen deserve a good life and a promising future. Eliminating the Qat tradition is a very important step in improving the lives and future of Yemenis.

Steven Halawani
stevenhalawani@mind-spring.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Since 9/11...

This observer recalls very well the traumatic moments of the unfolding airplane attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the subsequent attack on the Pentagon and the Pennsylvania forced landing that somehow reportedly mysteriously diverted from its intended unknown target. Yet, for all their tragic consequences on the victims of the attacks and their shocking precision at inflicting such high toll in human lives and for all the obvious fragility they revealed in the security and defense capabilities of the world's only superpower, the observer is still beset by the awesome mystery that still surrounds one of the most bizarre events of modern times. Do we really know what happened on that fateful day? There are many people who have striven to indicate to the world that 9/11 is far too complex to attribute to one, relatively speaking, stateless paramilitary organization, even if the leadership of that organization takes pride in being culled as International Public Enemy No. 1 for responsibility for the attacks. To date, the Bin Laden video tapes suggesting admission of Al-Qaeda's role in the daunting death and destruction of that day are the only semblance of any ties linking the renegade guerilla group to the attacks. Because of the complexity of the arrangements required for such phenomenal series of attacks and the severity of their impact, these skeptics insist on a far more grandiose scheme behind these perplexing attacks. In the internet, one has come across several web sites dedicated to the assertion that 9/11 must simply not be dismissed as the work of Bin Laden and his organization of disgruntled guerrilla fighters, who were let down by the very source of their rise to international stardom. We have invited one of them to contribute to our American Viewpoint column of this week. Mr. John Kaminski is one of those advocates for a deep scrutiny into the real forces, as he and others suggest, that are behind the shocking events of that day. Mr. Kaminski is not the only voice alluding 9/11 to an intentional conspiracy to bring about a new world order that will function to serve the narrow interests of an international institutional socio-political network. There are many who will note how this international clique has become capable of mobilizing power, influence and money to suit its own agenda and its own perceptions of how the world should be in the Third Millennium. Mr. Kaminski has written much literature on 9/11 and has been on many radio talk shows in the United States explaining his assertions. He (and many of his fellow 9/11 "Truth" advocates) also have tied Zionist interests to involvement in the 9/11 attacks. Because of his strong arguments and deep analytical probing, he may be regarded as presenting the most powerful arguments to the conspiracy theory behind 9/11. This has caused some worries amongst those who are strong advocates for the Zionist cause and unabashed supporters of the Zionist state in Palestine in the United States. They have directed various forms of harassment and threats towards Mr. Kaminski and some of his closest of social relations. Yet, Mr. Kaminski continues to follow up on all those, who have entered the 9/11 Truth Movement and to decipher their arguments and assertions, filtering out the outlandish and the irrational and adding those arguments that he feels have rational and scientific plausibility to his own theories about how 9/11 came about.

For the observer, the impacts of 9/11 continue to overwhelm the course of world events, even in ways that 9/11 should, in principle have nothing to do with. We have an American Administration that has rushed its country into two wars. It sent the US forces to Afghanistan without insuring that the first war achieves its primary objective of supposedly eliminating Al-Qaeda, the leading suspect behind 9/11, to restore the prestige of a superpower, that was indeed caught off guard on that fateful day, and to bring the "culprits to justice", as George W. Bush assured his nation he would do soon after 9/11. Moreover, the regime that accommodated Al-Qaeda, although removed from power in Kabul, still apparently continues to tenaciously undermine the stability of that war torn country and to test the ability of the successor government, instilled by the "coalition", to extend its rule beyond the capital city and some of the major urban centers of that rugged country. Thus, purpose has come to have little influence in the US decision making process, and results are evaluated without attachment to initially declared intentions. This certainly poses serious questions as to the seriousness with which the White House has given to the use of the ultimate power at its disposal, and the astuteness by which it conducts massive military adventures with respect to American interests. This brings us to the second war that the Bush Administration decided to wage, initially supposedly to continue the restoration process of American prestige after the 9/11 attack. This kind of frantic sheer display of power is void of rational superpower behavior and is tantamount to irresponsible conduct, with an obvious contempt for the prudence expected in the appropriations of the public resources of the American people towards meaningful endeavors. Furthermore, one is inclined to suggest that the posture of the United States and its attachment to civilized values has been severely damaged by the misguided adventure in Iraq, on the international arena. Domestically, the Bush Administration has come to rely on deceit and misrepresentations to the American people, through the use of a well organized servile media that has forgotten that the American people do have a right to get an honest portrayal of where their leadership is leading them to. 9/11 has helped to serve those who rely on repression, twisted emotions and dishonest hidden intents to have their way. For us in the Middle East and the Moslem World, 9/11 was a gift to the Zionist cause and the curtailment of all legitimate struggles against oppression of Moslems from Palestine to the Caucasus Mountains to the schools of France! 9/11 also gave added strength to repressive government throughout the world, where in some places some light at the end of the tunnel had actually begun to appear before that turbulent day.

YT Business

Yemen LNG may supply gas for South Korea

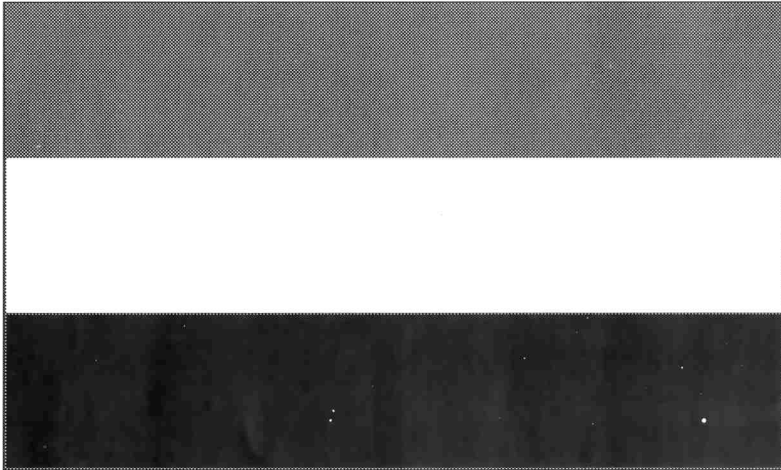
By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen LNG plans to bid for a contract to supply South Korea with around \$23 billion of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for up to 25 years.

In August, Korea Gas sent invitations to bid to 11 gas suppliers in nine countries and expects proposals by September 20th. Korea Gas plans to choose suppliers in November and sign an agreement in December. The new agreement would replace Korea Gas's contract with Indonesia's PT Arun NGL.

Hugues Montmayeur, Chairman of the Marketing Committee at Yemen LNG, said at a function carried out to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Yemen's Marib oil project, "We are definitely going to bid for the Korean contract. We have prepared for it for a long time."

Korea Gas is looking to buy up to 6

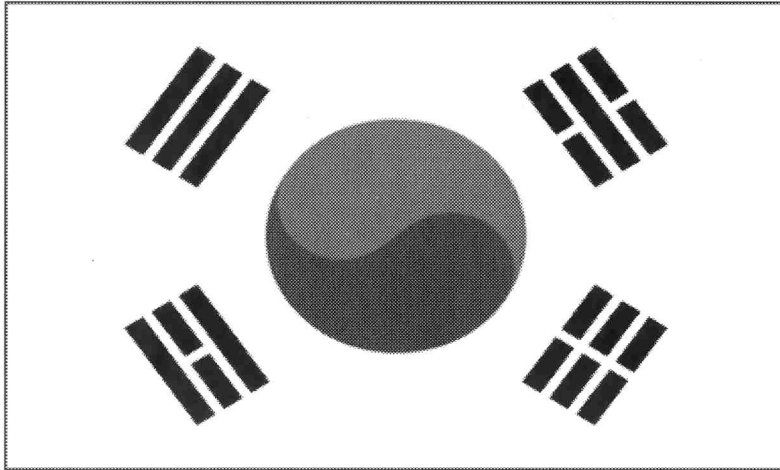


million tons of LNG each year, for between 20 and 25 years after the contract with PT Arun expires in 2007. State-run Korea Gas plans to buy from a number of different suppliers.

Yemen has roughly 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas underground. Jean-Francois Daganand, General Manager of Yemen LNG, recently

told the Yemen Times that Yemen can produce and export 6.2 metric tons of natural gas annually for the next 25 years.

Yemen Hunt Oil Co. currently extracts more than 3 billion cubic feet of gas per day, strips out 22,000 barrels of liquids to add to crude oil, then re-injects gas back into the ground in the Marib area.



When Yemen LNG captures a market, it will build a 320 kilometer pipeline that will carry gas from Marib to Bal Haf, a site on the west coast of Mukalla where a liquefaction plant will be built. Partners in Yemen LNG will invest \$2 billion in the project, and the pipeline and plant will take around \$43 million to be completed.

France's Total has a 43% stake in Yemen LNG, followed by state-owned Yemen Gas owning 23%, followed by Texas-based Hunt Oil with 18%, then South Korea's largest oil refiner SK Corp. having 10% and lastly Hyundai owning 6%.

"We are optimistic about the bid in South Korea," said a representative from one of the companies that has a

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7900	184.9300
Sterling Pound	328.1200	328.3700
Euro	222.8600	223.0300
Saudi Rial	49.2700	49.3100
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.8300	627.3100
UAE Dirhem	50.3100	50.3500
Egyptian Pound	29.7300	29.7600
Bahraini Dinar	490.1500	490.5200
Qatari Rial	50.7600	50.8000
Jordanian Dinar	260.6300	260.8300
Omani Rial	480.0100	480.3700
Swiss Franc	145.3000	145.4100
Swedish Crown	24.4200	24.4400
Japanese Yen	1.6733	1.6746

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

stake in Yemen LNG. "South Korea would be a good market and Yemen would be a very good supplier."

Yemen LNG is in talks with four US companies with the goal of supplying natural gas to the US market, and is also aiming at the Indian market.

Other countries that received invitations for bids sent out by Korea Gas last month included Indonesia, Malaysia, Qatar, Brunei, Oman and Australia.

Taha Al-Ahdal, Director General of the Gas Division of Yemen's Ministry of Oil and Minerals, recently said that South Korea would be a very good market for Yemen to tap into. According to Al-Ahdal, the fact that two South Korean companies - SK Corp. and Hyundai - are shareholders in Yemen LNG will help Yemen LNG to enter the Korean market.

The demand for natural gas in South Korea is expected to rise 5% annually over the next 10 years.

Manager of YCIC quality section for Globalization & open market

By MOHAMMED AL-HAKIMI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

Jamil Abdul-Majeed Al-Maqtari was born in Taiz in 1969, he has got three children, and studied primary and secondary school education in Hodeidah. After receiving a bachelors degree in the food industry in Baghdad in 1990, he worked for three years at Bajil Food Industry Complex, before joining YCIC in 1994, as a chemical specialist, microbiologist, and then head of the quality section.

He has done an MA degree in the food industry from Baghdad, and is now doing a masters degree in business administration.

Can you tell us the reasons behind your adoption of international quality standards?

There were many factors that drew our attention to the issue of quality, most important of which are the conditions engendered by international changes in the world economy, technology, politics and societies. These changes have made quality a priority in the activities and services of companies.

The pressures of globalization, the trends of the international market, and the demolition of barriers to markets, have necessitated conformity to international standards. As the company's management realized the importance of that, quality standards have been adopted as a matter of policy, incorporating the application of concepts of quality and distinction management, and the introduction of various administrative patterns that foster distinctive performance.

Accordingly, we have been able to live up to the new challenges brought about by the changes. We are, therefore, the first company in Yemen to receive the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificate. We were also awarded the Arch of Europe certificate in March 2004 in Germany,

and the HACCP, which is given for adherence to food safety standards. The company also received ISO 9002 in 1994, and ISO 9001 in 2000. All of these achievements were primarily due to the prudence of the administrators of the company and their realization of the changing requirements, as well as the efforts of staff at all levels.

We know that a great quantity of the company's production is exported. Do you apply quality standards to goods for export, and do exported products face problems?

It is true that the company exports several biscuits products, including child biscuits like Haiati, and Bisci, cakes, wafers, and sweets to Arab and other foreign countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Morocco, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Ghinia, Djibouti, and Somalia.

The application of quality standards positively affects the company in the first place by improving the quality and quantity of production, and by manufacturing products that conform to quality standards. It has also become a must, due to the world's changes and the nature of the market, as prescribed by international trade conventions and rules facilitating the movement of trade, and protecting the health of consumers. There are quality systems such as ISO and HACCP. Quality standards are also applied to ensure conformance with local laws such as the application of GMP system.

The quantity of exports is acceptable, and currently represents 10% of total production. The rate is rising though, and is now 60% more than it was in the previous period, as we have explored new markets such as Libya and Taiwan.

National exports, however, face many hurdles such as the frailty of the export infrastructure and dispiriting exportation services. We should also mention the poor promotion of investment activities and difficulties in regaining custom fees on raw materials used in manufacture.



Mr. Jamil Abdul-Majeed Al-Maqtari

There is no evidence of serious desire to reach agreements with countries that would exempt some Yemeni products from taxation, and there are many governmental bodies, with overlapping responsibilities, that supervise industrial and commercial activities - which causes bureaucratic complications.

We also face difficulties in terms of laws and legislation: they change quickly and some essential laws are not issued. Another problem arises from the slow pace of court proceedings in settling disagreements.

Being the representative of the Yemen Industrialists Association at the National Quality and Standards Committee, are there obstacles to national industry?

Actually, there are a host of diffi-

culties hindering the national industry, including a weak infrastructure, no industrial zones like other countries of the world, and customs that do not deal fairly with local and foreign manufacturers. There are some products on which a 10-15% taxation has been imposed, in some cases this tax rate equals custom fees on imported products, which means that there is no protection for local products.

Local products are costly. We import raw materials and spare parts from abroad. Moreover, electricity is expensive and there are many fees and taxes on local products, including consumption, sale taxes, cleaning and municipality improvement fees.

Yemen is soon going to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), what results are you expecting?

Industry was, and still is, the indispensable strong ground for any country aspiring to attain a strong economy and desiring to activate its development process.

Industrial establishments seem healthy, but we should not ignore the overall fact that they do not reflect the reality of this important sector. Only a limited number of them survived the past years due to their size and distinctive performance. Many other establishments have closed down and sacked their employees.

Joining YTO emphasizes a fundamental commitment to international trade freedom, legitimate and real competition, although, it is almost impossible to keep away from such changes.

The price of the government's sudden and hasty adoption of the new system, without taking the necessary measures or implementing supplementary policies, has been paid by the industrial sector. We are effected by the negative consequences because we went rushing for the WTO without figuring things out first.

The industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic production had sunk from 12.6% to 6% in 1995.

Joining the WTO may well raise the level of manufacturing quality in some sectors because of dog-eat-dog

competition. We should make use of policies that prevent flooding, from which our markets currently suffer.

Being a developing country, Yemen should have mobilized efforts to cope with the dire consequences of joining the WTO.

Being the deputy of the quality and standards committee of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, what kind of support do you provide for local products?

Industrial establishments need a lot of support to be able to do their jobs according to standards prescribed by the WTO.

This support should come from different organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the General Investment Authority, and the Higher Exports Council. Yet the role of these establishments ranges from very limited to nonexistent. They do not meet the needs of the private sector. This may be due to the under-funding of these organizations or the lack of highly-qualified administrative staff. They need to be re-structured so that they can accommodate the current demands of international change. Responsibility for the current situation should be shouldered by both the private sector and the government.

We can currently see the silver lining of the cloud.

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Yemeni Midwives Association holds first meeting in Sana'a

BY AKRAM ALI AL HINDI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

There was only a room for standing for more than 120 midwives from all over the Republic of Yemen attending the first general meeting of the Yemeni Midwives Association held at the Sheraton Hotel on September 2.

The meeting was the first step a law stipulated as a condition for the foundation of a Midwives Association to represent interests of all Yemeni midwives. Participants in the meeting discussed and approved the rules of procedure of the association, elected an administrative board, and selected a monitoring and inspection committee. Attendees were eager to see finally the formation of this association meant for addressing their development and career needs and to ensure for them a voice in decision-making about how to improve maternal and child health services. They were also keen to elect qualified and committed representatives to manage and lead the activities of the association.



Ms. Taiz Al-Ba'adani, representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MOSA&L) with a legal background, chaired the meeting together with two members of the preparatory committee, Ms. Fawzia

Yousif and Ms. Suad Kassem. The rules of procedure were read out, discussed and endorsed by the participants. The majority of participants approved the board and committee members. Ms. Taiz, the chairperson,

deputy chairpersons and other staff members were appointed as stipulated in the rule of procedure. Two additional members were added by the administrative board to increase government representation.

The Administrative Board

1. Suad Kassed
2. Samia Hakim
3. Fatoum Noor Aldin
4. Huda Jahlan
5. Salama Al-Rabooee
6. Samah Al-Rammah
7. Nabila Al-Faqih
8. Afrah Otaifah
9. Iltaf Antar

Chairperson
the General Secretary
the Financial Person
Member (Amran)
Member (Aljawf)
Member (Albaidha)
Member (Dhamar)
Member (Hajja)
Member (Sa'adah)

The Monitoring and the Inspection Committee

1. Jamila Yehya
2. Fayeza Al-Arhabi
3. Hedaya Ahmed
4. Saeeda Mohamed Saeed
5. Azizah Othman

Chairperson
Deputy
Reporter
Member
Member

Continued from page 1

President Saleh shows support for Iraq

Last week, US Central Command Chief John Abizaid said that rebel groups control more areas of Iraq than they did a year ago. Sam Gardiner, a consultant for the US Defense Department, also said that daily attacks on US soldiers have increased from an average of 20 per day in October 2003 to 87 a day last month. Some analysts are questioning how the Iraqi elections can be carried out in early 2005 while fighting continues to escalate.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, who met with Zebari during his visit, is reported as assuring Zebari that Yemen has been involved in helping to secure Iraq.

"Yemen took firm measures since the beginning of the Iraqi crisis to curb any attempt by Yemenis to infiltrate Iraq because we are keen on boosting this country's security and stability," said Qirbi to Iraq's Foreign Minister.

After his meeting with Zebari, Qirbi said

Yemen is ready to help rebuild Iraq, and the talks included reactivating the Yemeni-Iraqi Joint Committee.

Zebari also met with Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Qader Bajammal during his two-day visit to Yemen.

Meanwhile, before his departure from Yemen at the end of his visit, Mr. Zebari had last Thursday met with an elite group from the Iraqi community living in Yemen. The meeting was held at his residence in Sheraton Hotel where Yemen Times representative had attended the meeting. Meeting with Iraqi community abroad had been a gesture made for the first time by an Iraqi senior official since the downfall of the Saddam regime in Iraq.

The visiting Iraqi foreign minister started the meeting with an introductory address explaining the present situation in Iraq, admitting that the interim government was facing many difficulties

A girl child appeals



Ala'a Mohammad Ghalab is 6 years old girl from a needy family, Sana'a. This child constantly suffers from a long time tibia fracture in her left ankle when she jumped from a height of 2 meters and thermal burn in the right arm when she tried to get a potato from an oven.

Disabled Ala'a is in an urgent need of travelling abroad to receive treatment but cannot afford that and is anxiously waiting for their lavish help. She has a medical report from Al-Thawrah Hospital that gives a complete diagnosis of her critical case.

officials, Mr Zebari mentioned they were fruitful and characterised by sincere brotherly spirit and the Yemeni side had shown all support for the people of Iraq, adding he had discussed with Yemeni officials all aspects of bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Iraqi minister had after that listened to questions and remarks presented by some members of the Iraqi community in Yemen, particularly Iraqi teachers and university professors, explaining some difficulties and problems they were facing despite the great help and hospitality they were receiving from the Yemeni government and people. The minister promised that the Iraqi government would not spare any efforts in trying to solve their problems, calling upon them to return to their country to contribute to building it after the fall of the former totalitarian regime, particularly that most of them were of high quality expertise in various walks of life.

Last week it was reported that the Yemeni government approved the new Iraqi ambassador to Yemen, Talal Al-Obeidi. Al-Obeidi, once the undersecretary of Iraq's Foreign Ministry, will be the first Iraqi ambassador in Yemen under the Iraq's new government.



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Impressions from a special visit of a Yemeni to the land of technology:

Japan: Perseverant people, a mighty nation

Walid Al-Saqqaf
Editor, Yemen Times

I knew that my 10 days in Japan would be extraordinary. But to say the least, it is also the country that made me baffled, amazed, and inspired at the same time. It is the country that made me believe that nothing is impossible! I have been to so many countries in my life, either on invitations or based on self-motives, but never have I thought I needed to write a long and comprehensive report on a country as much as I did for Japan, the country which I would gladly want to call the country of miracles, and the country closest to 'perfection' compared to all other countries I have seen.

And here I explain why.

The beginning

In 2003, I was informed that the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the embassy in Yemen decided to have me nominated for an information visit of Japan. I welcomed the initiative and had thought of the idea as an opportunity to explore and know more about this fabulous country.

For a very long time, I wanted to visit Japan but didn't find the opportunity. But there it came, and I knew it would be fascinating, especially after I was shown the visit program weeks before it started.

The impressions of Japan started on my first visit to the office of Ambassador of Japan to Yemen in July 2004, H.E. Mr. Yuichi Ishii who, along with the embassy staff, received me with great hospitality and friendly faces. But along with such friendliness came strict discipline and organization to endure that the very tiny details of the trip are clear.

When my journey started, I did realize that friendliness and strict organization do come together in the Japanese society. And that was first revealed to me when I landed on Japanese soil.

Due to the delay of my departure from Dubai to Kansai Airport in Osaka for more than half an hour, I began to worry about the connecting flight to Tokyo, which was supposed to depart an hour after landing. But when I realized that over 50 other passengers were also due to leave on the same airplane, I felt relieved thinking that the other flight would probably be delayed for us to board on the connecting plane. But I was wrong. The connecting flight, which had more than 50 missing passengers, still took off on time, and without us on board. All of us who missed the plane - coming from the Middle East - were shocked and amazed at the extreme accuracy of the flight schedule. We knew that if the same had happened for another airplane in any of our countries, it would have probably waited. We asked the check-in female desk office why it was taking off without us and the response was simple and straightforward. With a smile on her face she pointed to the clock and said, "Sorry, the boarding time is now over and the plane is leaving." But this is not the Arab world; it is Japan.

Uniformity everywhere

When my escort at the airport received me, I was amazed to realize that she had

already studied my personality and learned much from my biography. She even knew what types of dishes I liked and what I didn't, and that was taken into consideration in all the activities carried out during the trip.

It would be obvious for me to try to compare Tokyo to European cities I have been to, and to some crowded American cities as well. The very basic difference I noticed was uniformity. It amazed me to see how Japanese people talk, walk, eat, and live their lives. There seemed to be a mysterious law that they all had to abide to. I had difficulty understanding why this is the case, and why Japanese tend to behave in a way that makes you predict their second move.

But it wasn't long before I solved this mystery.

I learned that the Japanese society is very well organized. To say it differently, it is a group-oriented society. Japanese people prefer teamwork in which individuals have assigned duties to perform and are expected to do their best in those duties. This way they guarantee that the overall performance is excellent. Individual qualities or exceptional characteristics are not of much importance. In some occasions it may be a disadvantage for you if you have different hair or want to be seen as 'not like the rest'. People try to think and act as a group. So given a particular situation, I think, almost every body would react the same way.

Taking into account the assigned duties of individuals in their groups, part of the success factor behind Japan is probably the nature of Japanese people in liking to work harder than normal. Japanese are 'workaholics' and usually love their work. But all over Japan there is a tendency to remove the label of 'workaholics' from them. That is something that I had difficulty understanding because for us in Yemen and the Arab world, being named 'workaholic' is a praise that would make our spirits high, even though we know are not at all what the word implies.

On the other hand, Japan's uniqueness is in being a country famous for its ancient gods and customs, but also for its cutting edge of cool modernity. High-speed trains whisk you from one end of the country to another with frightening punctuality in seconds rather than minutes. That cannot be possible unless citizens abided by the law strictly.

In the cities I was first struck by the mass of people. In this mountainous country of 378 thousand square kilometers is a little larger than half the area of Yemen. The vast majority of the 126 million people of Japan live on the crowded coastal plains of the main island of Honshu. The three other main islands, running north to south, are Hokkaido, Shikoku and Kyushu, and all are linked to Honshu by bridges and tunnels that are part of one of Japan's modern wonders - its efficient transport network of trains and highways.

'Underground' Tokyo

Just as the case with the millions of Japanese living in Tokyo, we also had to use the underground metro services to get around. Until we first went to the underground world of Tokyo, I was wondering where those millions are. I didn't see that

many people in the streets. They must have been somewhere. But when we arrived to the Shinjuku underground station, where we saw waves of thousands upon thousands of people moving in harmony and uniformity in the wide halls of this spectacular underground world, I realized that there is another Tokyo indeed, and it may be called 'underground' Tokyo.

What I mean by underground Tokyo is literally the part of Tokyo that is below the surface. Believe me, there is a whole breathing and living world beneath the crust of earth in that part of the world.

One look at the highly sophisticated metro network, I came to concluded that it was not a mystery not to find as many people on the surface because there were millions of people moving underground. Tens of meters beneath the surface of the island, there are railway and metro stations, infrastructures for electricity, water, Internet, communications, sewage, and many more cablings and wirings.

Everything is concealed from view and maintained in well-organized channels that are regularly checked. On the surface, trees and green parks can be seen where people enjoy the four unique seasons. I was amazed to see the extreme complexity of technology and modern infrastructure alongside natural beauty and clean air, which we in Yemen are in dire need of.

For a country where space is so valuable, it is no surprise that Japanese people would start building upwards and downwards. One square meter of land in downtown Shinjuku or Ginza could have a value of more than USD 100,000, making Japan the most expensive country to own property in the whole world.

The ability to have it both ways where



The peace memorial statue at the peace memorial park in Hiroshima. YT photo

superior technology and beautiful nature coexists, as I mentioned, seems to be attributed to the degree of organization and strict discipline that Japanese people enjoy. That is something we in the Arab world need to learn from. For us in Yemen, the issue is of particular importance. It is shameful that with a few cars on one crossroad, we jam the traffic and cause a cloud of exhaust gases polluting the air around us, while in Tokyo millions of vehicles move very smoothly with rare accidents and almost no pollution.

When we look at it objectively, we realize that it all comes to discipline and organization.



A view of Tokyo's city center, where millions of people pass by everyday, yet everything goes so smoothly.

It is the culture of uniformity and strict abidance by law that makes Japan unique. However, this is now slowly being affected by a wave of immigrants and illegal workers. Japanese are obedient to the established rules and orders. Consensus is highly appreciated in Japanese society.

Some illegal Koreans, Chinese, Brazilian workers and immigrants from all over the world live in Japan and cause some disruption to this harmony. But the problem is that in the case of Koreans and Chinese, one can hardly tell the difference between them and regular Japanese.

other deeply rooted traditions are in the inner minds of Japanese people and make them proud of their roots. The different wars and historical events that took place in Japan only added to their insistence to hold on tight to their rich culture and history.

Indeed, the culture of hard work, discipline and insistence on success is not only a genetic factor in Japanese people, but their generation-after-generation teachings of the importance of cultural values such as uniformity, mutual respect, completing the job until the end, hard work, and discipline, are no doubt a major factor behind the level of development Japan has reached.

However, talking about culture, uniformity and strict Japanese discipline, I must also admit that I had a tough time adjusting myself to the Japanese style of life.

For example, Japanese are ceremonial people. They start work with the morning ceremony. They bow to each other, saying "Ohayo Gozaimasu" or "Good morning" first. Formality creates tension, nervousness and bureaucracy among Japanese themselves, let alone with foreigners.

On the surface, Japan is not actually as different than other developed countries as one may think it would be. On the outside Japan is just as Westerners imagine—cities of tall modern buildings; businessmen going to work in their suits; everyone sleeping on the train. But despite my short visit, I have come to see that Japan is totally different from the inside, with unusually unique customs and a culture that is different, much different than that of the West.

One interesting thing I have noticed is the fact that due to the extreme speed in the pace of life in Japan, as I could see people running to appointments and having very short breaks for lunch, Japanese people tend to use their extra time with ease and attempt to get maximum pleasure.

For example, when they have the opportunity to stay late at night drinking, they do so in an exaggerated manner, perhaps to forget the pains of the day. Sometimes they may also go for a luxurious meal where they would spend hours on various types of dishes.

To compensate for their days of hard work when they were young, after retirement, Japanese people use their savings to tour the world and spend a lot on their entertainment and luxury. Pensions are now causing a great concern to the economy, especially when we realize that the Japanese population is getting elderly by the year, and those above 50 years of old have great influence and power.

Talking about food habits, I must admit that I have lost some weight during my stay. When I think of Japanese food, the first thing that comes to mind is soya, which is an inevitable ingredient in almost all Japanese preparations.

Japanese pay much attention to the arrangement and looks of food and one tempts to say 'It is beautiful' rather than saying 'it is delicious' when looking at the food.

Eating raw fish and octopus was something I thought I would never attempt to do in my life, but trying never harms, so I did give it a shot. It was not that bad!

Culturally, Japanese people are peaceful people who prefer to mind their own business. That is why Japan is among the safest countries in the world where people live in peace and harmony, and where you can leave your apartment's door open with no worries.

A day to remember in Hiroshima

Like most visitors to Japan, I ensured that I don't miss visiting Hiroshima City where the first of two atomic bombs was dropped killing hundreds of thousands of people more than half a century ago. When I entered the city, I found beautiful nature, green grass and trees everywhere, and people enjoying life to the maximum.

For a normal visitor, Hiroshima didn't look much different than the rest. It rather seemed to be more lively than many other towns and cities. But it wasn't until I visited the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, when I realized the pain and suffering that the city had to go through. In the museum, I got to know more about the atomic bomb and its consequences. It is truly sad to see how a whole city was wiped out of existence in an instant. But it is also inspiring and amazing to see how Japanese people were able not only to cope with it, but to rebuild their city from scratch after losing the Second World War. They also won the top rank in being the world's largest producer of electronic goods and emerged as the second economy in the world.

Hiroshima resembled to me the other side of Japan. There I discovered that Japanese people hate wars more than any other people on the planet and lean towards peace on every occasion. This is what explains the massive protests against the war on Iraq. It was also the reason behind the country's support for international treaties banning the proliferation and use of nuclear and non-conventional weapons. That is the same reason for having the Mayor of Hiroshima harshly criticize the USA in his peace declaration issued at the Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6, 2004 for not complying with such treaties and it is the same reason Japanese people criticize USA's current administration for withdrawing from environmental treaties such as the Kyoto Treaty. Shintoism, the indigenous religion of Japan values nature greatly, and that may be another factor behind Japan's interest in protecting the environment, and that is the very reason behind various Japanese initiatives for world peace and protection of nature.

The country closest to perfection

In overall terms, I have come to conclude that Japan is the closest country to perfection, something that—as Arab countries—we are very far away from. I was once looking at the window while in a Taxi in Kyoto, one of the fabulous cities of the country. It was raining cats and dogs that day. I wanted to compare the case if the same situation had happened in Sanaa. In our capital, if it rains continuously for a minute, we would find water accumulating in holes resulting in floods in streets that would cause disruption to traffic and inconvenience for pedestrians. But in Kyoto, it kept on raining for more than an hour, yet I couldn't spot one single incident at any street where water was a few inches deep. All streets were clear from any tiny water floods as the water was channeled through very well organized lanes that would drive it to a perfectly established sewage system built underground. I was amazed at the clear difference between the two cities Sanaa and Kyoto in this specific aspect.

Indeed, Japan in my view is the closest to perfection among all the other countries I have been to. I could have explained why in a more thoroughly manner, but I know time and space don't allow me to do so.

I am glad that I made the visit and got the clear picture. I know that if I had the chance I would go again and again. I did get a clear idea of the country overall, but the people are still a mystery, and to know them better, one can only hope to live with them one day and know how they think and how they succeeded in coming this far.

In my view, we can indeed learn from the Japanese example. Let us take Japan as a model and work hard to reach its level even if it takes centuries.

Who knows? Maybe we can have a similar future. After all, it was a Japanese proverb that once said, "The best way to predict your future is to create it."

Why can't we create a future that we would be proud of?

A visit to Panasonic Center

Panasonic

This is a group photo with the management of Panasonic Center in Tokyo. I was quite astonished at the level of hospitality and great attention I was given during the visit. I was shocked to find that the company had put my name on the large electronic seen (seen on the building) as a gesture to welcome me.

The tour was a complete tour to the different departments and lines of production and was baffled by the high-tech edge of the future zone, which was the best section of the center.



A visit to Suzuki Motor Co.



This picture was taken with the management of Suzuki Motors Company in Hamamatsu.

It was a splendid visit in a hospitable atmosphere. The visit explained how the company grew from a producer of small pedal-driven wooden loom to a giant vehicle manufacturer. Its agents in Yemen are Sabeha Trading Company and Suzuki Yemen (Member of Bamarouf Group).



AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

9/11 was staged to defame Muslims

By John Kaminski
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For the Yemen Times

In addition to the millions of Americans who are protesting their nation's unjust and immoral torture of the shellshocked country of Iraq, there are also a substantial number of people in the U.S. who see through the lies of Zionist controlled U.S. mainstream media and believe the story told to them by their government about the tragedy of September 11, 2001 is merely another self-serving, nightmare fairytale meant to rally political support for the ignorant and uncaring for the continuing American/Israeli assault on the Islamic world.

Indeed, this small but vociferous minority of 9/11 skeptics believes that was the primary purpose of that awful day — to vilify Muslims in the collective mind of the American public and enable the Western war machine to increase its level of aggression against the Persian Gulf states without any political opposition at home. Half the plan seems to have worked. Few Americans initially questioned the official version of 9/11 and rallied round the flag, but now, as clumsy excuses for the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq have been exposed throughout the world as blatant lies, even some of the most closed-minded Americans are beginning to question their government's dishonest behavior, even in regard to 9/11.

The deaths of many American troops, the sex crimes by American soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, and the scandals involving misappropriated funds by giant American corporations have emerged into mainstream discussion throughout America, causing not only shame but a reconsideration of the public lies used to start these wars in the first place.

Yet, exposure of these embarrassing revelations seems to have had no tempering impact on the behavior of the U.S. military. It is a sad barometer of mainstream thought in America that President Bush's chief opponent in the upcoming election (November 2004) talks in even more warlike terms than his war-mongering opponent, so that the rest of the world can expect no change in America's charge toward violent imperialism no matter who

wins the election.

Still, a vocal minority in America continues its efforts to expose the deceptions that comprise perhaps the greatest threat to political stability the world has ever known, as the Zionist-controlled neocon cabal in Washington continues its efforts to usurp all the Persian Gulf oilfields by planning a series of wars throughout the Middle East aimed at accomplishing this objective.

In both the cases of the 9/11 tragedy and the Iraq war, the great unspoken influence continues to be Israel. The principal figure in the 9/11 mystery continues to be Larry Silverstein, who leased the World Trade Center towers months before their demise and collected a \$3.5 billion insurance payout shortly after their destruction. Silverstein was caught on video ordering the destruction of one of the undamaged WTC towers after the initial damage had been done, leading to speculation that the two main towers were wired for destruction prior to the event. Silverstein, an influential official of several powerful American Jewish groups, is known to be a telephone friend of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Among the various groups in the American 9/11 skeptics movement, one dividing line appears to be the validity of the hijacker thesis. Since the FBI published a list of the names of the alleged 19 hijackers mere hours after the disaster, eight of those names have belonged to people reportedly alive and well and living in various countries. Yet the FBI has never made an attempt to change its list, nor has it attempted to question those with names used by hijackers who are still able to talk. In addition, there is no legitimate security camera videotape showing the hijackers ever got on the fateful planes, nor any record of their purchasing tickets. And their names were not included on the passenger lists recording the names of the dead.

Adding to the Israeli angle of this discussion is the distressing fact of the Israeli "art students" who were shadowing the alleged hijackers during the months prior to 9/11 were all sent home without investigation when they were "discovered."

And, after much discussion about why

America chose to invade Iraq at the moment it did, the oil issue and Saddam's switch to the euro have moved to the background, while Israeli influence at the White House in Washington has come to the fore as the reason for the sudden bombing of Baghdad, especially since America's stated reasons — Saddam's connection to al-Qaida and 9/11, and his concealment of alleged weapons of mass destruction — have long since been proven groundless fabrications. The real reason for all the fomented misery in the Middle East appears to be nothing more complex than the expansion of Israel's borders.

Bush's White House staff is dominated by Israeli operatives: Perle, Wolfowitz, Libby, Bolton, Zakheim, Feith. In addition, warmongering advisers Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Rice are inextricably linked to both the oil industry and the Zionist agenda, as is much of the leadership of the opposition party, the Democrats, which is why Americans saw a recent vote in their House of Representatives supporting Sharon's policy of wall-building and mass extermination of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories by a count of 407-9. And yet, with all this evidence (and much more), those trying to expose the 9/11 charade don't primarily focus on Israel. Instead they devolve into convoluted theories about the peak oil scare, questionable film analysis, and some even insist that no planes were used at all in the attacks.

The solidest piece of evidence about 9/11 lies that seems to be emerging is photographic footage of the disaster at the Pentagon, which shows, from a multiplicity of angles and sequences, not a trace of the wreckage of a jetliner. A new video, "911 In Plane Site," convincingly exploits this contention with numerous shots of flames inside the Pentagon behind a relatively unblemished wall (where the plane was supposed to have hit) with all its windows still unbroken.

Another recent revelation has involved the so-called cellphone calls from distressed passengers on the hijacked planes. It seems that cellphone calls cannot be successfully completed above 8,000 feet,

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.

and most of the purported calls were supposedly made above that altitude.

Probably the most compelling evidence for a 9/11 coverup, however, has always been the duplicitous statements made by top American officials immediately after the attacks. Cheney, Rice, and military chief Richard Myers all said that same day that they had no idea attacks like this could ever happen, but then the FBI blew their cover by releasing the names of hijackers they said they had been tracking for six months. Since that time, President Bush has worked diligently to prevent a legitimate investigation of that day's events, culminating recently in the official publication of the 9/11 Commission Report, which never attempted to fix blame on any perpetrators.

Can you imagine? The greatest crime in American history, and it was never properly investigated. Even more amazing: most Americans don't seem have noticed this stupendous affront to honest behavior!

But that's the way it is in America, and probably always has been. Their government storms around the world shooting up innocent civilian populations and stealing the resources of underdeveloped nations, while a majority of Americans believe their brave soldiers are fighting evil terrorists and bringing justice to the unfortunate backwaters of civilization.

It's basically the same situation in Palestine, about which most Americans are brainwashed by Zionist media into believing the brave Israelis are struggling for freedom against the evil bandit Palestinians, when in fact it is a population of unarmed Palestinians who are being exterminated by Israeli Jews who believe that anybody who is not a Jew is less-than-human vermin, and therefore it is OK to kill them with impunity.

Indeed, it is the world turned upside down for purposes of plunder and profit.

In understanding a little more about who the true perpetrators of all this evil violence actually are, two recent articles circulating on the Internet have been particularly instructive. The first in a ten-year old fragment of a book by religious historian David Livingstone that gets into the Jewish heritage in the Wahabbi movement within Islam, casting a serious question about motivation of Saudi royalty and its possible connection to Zionist interests, and the second is a series of pieces (all available on [rense.com](http://www.rense.com), as is the Livingstone essay) by the Canadian writer Henry Makow about who are the true powers in the world. Makow, a Jew who became a Christian, insists that it is the London banking cabal that controls everything, and makes the interesting point that the Zionist menace in Israel that has captured the political will of the United States is as much a danger to God-

fearing Jews as it is to all the other honest, well-meaning people in the world.

What is definitely becoming clearer now, three years after the initial shock of 9/11 jolted America into all-out war mode, is that the information emanating from the big media companies all over the world is clearly and tragically twisted by an evil Zionist corruption that blames innocent people for crimes that these media whores themselves are complicit in. And because of this power, millions of people are being unjustly murdered, while soulless American corporations reap unprecedented profits. And all the while a majority of Americans wave their flags and praise the sacrifice of their young soldiers who squander their lives in a needless war based on lies.

What is encouraging is that more people around the world are realizing this every day. However, whether that will be enough to stop these soulless, money-hungry murderers from destroying the entire planet remains very much in doubt.

John Kaminski is an Internet columnist based in Florida whose essays are seen on hundreds of websites around the world. They have been collected into two anthologies, "America's Autopsy Report" and the soon-to-be-published "The Perfect Enemy." For more information go to <http://www.johnkaminski.com>

The Fall of France

By PIERRE MOSCOVICI

French influence in Europe is declining, and President Jacques Chirac is largely to blame. He made the right choice before the Iraq war — America's intervention was never justified and has yielded a terrible failure — and so found himself in sync with an emerging European, even global, opposition to the Bush administration. But he has failed to transform his position into one of ongoing leadership.

Chirac's stature and experience should have allowed him to rally all of Europe before, during or after the crisis. But he never sought such a role. Faced with American unilateralism, he failed to promote realistic multilateral solutions. On the contrary, despite being right about Iraq, Chirac became isolated, an isolation that grew because he also failed to re-establish satisfactory relations with President Bush. Indeed, under Chirac, France appears increasingly arrogant, a nation convinced of the righteousness of its views and the universality of its model — the very charges so often levelled against George W. Bush's America.

Chirac compounded his errors over Iraq in his approach to the new European Commission. On the old commission headed by Romano Prodi, France was powerfully represented, with Pascal Lamy holding the trade portfolio. Lamy is widely acknowledged for his skill, his intellect, and his strong personality. Maintaining France's weight within the European Union should have led Chirac to re-confirm Lamy when José Manuel Barroso took over as President of the Commission.

But, in Chirac's eyes, Lamy possessed two fatal flaws: he is a socialist, and he favors reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Chirac, Georges Pompidou's agriculture minister in the 1970's, wants to keep the CAP as it is. So Chirac replaced Lamy with Jacques Barrot, an honorable and experienced politician, but one with little knowledge of EU affairs and no language other than

French.

No surprise, then, that Barrot was given a minor role on a new European Commission that is liberal and Atlanticist, quite out of sync with French positions. Barrot received the transportation portfolio, a minor post far below the type of position — competition or domestic affairs — that Chirac demanded. True, Barroso offered Barrot the symbolic title of Commission Vice-President, but this is a mere consolation prize that doesn't fool anyone.

Chirac's very character works against French influence in Europe. He seems to belong to an era when France considered Europe a "French formal garden." He is nostalgic for the 1960's and the Gaullist ideology that shaped both France and himself.

These biases matter because they do not jibe with the enlarged Europe of today. France was a core part of Europe when the Union had only six members and reflected the primary goal of Franco-German reconciliation. The fall of the Berlin Wall changed all that. Of course, the French vision still plays a major part in today's Europe of 25 members; our "exceptionality" — be it cultural or political — remains important, even if it is less well regarded. But French ideas are not necessarily central to a Europe no longer driven by the Franco-German engine.

Given this change in European dynamics, France should have looked for new ways to assert influence. Instead, Chirac demeaned and sometimes humiliated his European partners, gradually rallying everyone against him. No one should be surprised that so contemptuous a French attitude, one utterly disdainful of the Union's Solidarity Pact and competition regulations, provoked a reaction detrimental to France.

That contempt is also manifested in France's nominees to serve on the Commission. Unlike, for example, Great Britain, France rarely nominates young and talented persons capable of shaping the EU's future.

Of course, this decline must not be

overestimated. France remains a major European country: it is a founder of the Union, one of the world's richest nations, and holds a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. It defends, with its nuclear power, an autonomous and important foreign and defense policy. France represents values, a culture, and a history that grant it a durable global audience. It matters and will continue to matter in the European Council and the European Parliament.

Moreover, France needs to avoid the temptation to overcompensate for the diminishing role of the Franco-German tandem, which may no longer be sufficient to power the Union, but nonetheless remains necessary. In this respect, the composition of the Barroso Commission worries me: the role given to my friend, the German Social Democrat Günter Verheugen, is no more enviable than that given to Barrot. A Commission that keeps France and Germany at bay and entrusts its major posts to representatives of "small countries," to more liberal actors, and partisans of the American intervention in Iraq, will not be successful. This is why I cannot trust such a Commission.

France will also have to reform its European strategy if it is to regain influence. I wish France could adopt a more humble attitude, show more respect for its partners and the EU's institutions, and view Europe as more than an extension of its own philosophy. Here I have no confidence in Jacques Chirac. Thankfully, his reign won't last forever.

The decline of French influence in Europe is undeniable, but it is neither fatal nor desirable. It must be stopped. But this won't be achieved by invoking past glory. For the rising generation of French political leaders, the essential task is to spur France to lead a reunited Europe by working within it.

Pierre Moscovici is a former European Affairs Minister for France and the current Vice-President of the European Parliament.

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By Yahya Al-Olfi
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Reflections

Extreme insincerity in writing History
Yemeni, Omani, Kuwaiti, Qatari,
Emirates & Saudi Human Beings!

One night as I was watching T.V. I was extremely thrilled and appalled at the same time to watch some broadcasts of a seminar held about the history of a certain Arab country situated in the Arabian peninsula. The convening historians kept repeating the phrase "The.....Human Being".

The relevant state was merely founded as such during the later half of the past century. Different Arab and foreign historians attending the said seminar did not spare any of their efforts to assert that the historical human being of that diminutive entity was civilized and left many relics behind and so forth of the usual complete mumbo-jumbo and applause.

I wondered how could such historians utter that nonsense just because they were in need of some money. They are using their knowledge to defraud instead of telling the truth wherefore they can earn everybody's respect. Then came another funny joke, the civilization of the Northern Arabs compared to the civilization of the Southern Arabs.

They were speaking about regions, which formed part and parcel of the ancient Yemenite civilizations Main, Sheba, Hazramavi and Himiyar. It is very funny when I kept waiting and waiting for them to mumble something about the relics and the times of such civilizations but instead listened to prevarications solely uttered in order to please the officials of the country hosting the seminar.

I do not know if the participants were ordered to limit themselves to subjects already specified by the host country or from past experience they

found out that speaking like that shall earn them approbation of the officials hosting that futile seminar.

An unbiased honest reader of the history of the Arab peninsula shall for sure know that the current population of the Arab peninsula belong to one race and are speaking one language. In remote past the strongest entity in the peninsula extended its control on most if not all the area now consisting of the Gulf States in addition to modern day Yemen.

During the past two centuries the U.K in its capacity as the last occupying power of the peninsula divided the different regions in line with its motto "Divide and Rule". It is pitiable to hear the said historian now and again repeat the so and so human being dwelled here in ancient past and excelled in so and so without referring to the virtual civilizations which existed, neither closely nor remotely.

The human beings referred to were coined such political names synthetically a few decades ago. Why don't they speak correctly about the history of the area. The said seminar had shown that the rulers think that they have become custodians of the history of their realms and are as such owners of the destiny of the people they are ruling. Thus, they decided to write and interpret history according to their whims.

They do not discern that such lies would earn them disrespect and derision by anybody knowing a bit of information about the past. Why in order to know our news we have to listen to the outlanders and why if we want to know our true past we have to obtain it from non-natives.

What is even more ridiculous is

forcing the population to change their habits and traditions so that they can be in uniformity with their fellow citizens. In some cases they have been forced to relinquish their traditional costumes and traditions and often had to change their lineage in order to suit the Northern Arabian heresy.

Known Qahtanites have dubbed themselves Adnanites so that they can have a better status. What do they think, do they think that taking such measures shall efface the parameters of several thousand years of uniform history. Even books were interpreted in a way serving the goals of the rulers. Thank god ! There are still people enamored with the search for the truth. Denial of the past shall not serve the present times or futuristic times. The truth only shall lead us all towards the right path.

A correct interpretation of the past is very necessary for a stable present. Why don't we write true history. The populations of the Arabian Peninsula are one people speaking one language and are ethnically the same. Telling the truth will not make an entity overpower the other because each entity must be respected and claiming historical dominance is impractical.

Mutual interests and cooperation must be the goal of everybody. Fake history hurts later in time whilst true and real history enables us to envision our future properly and our judgements become more practical rather than fictitious.

So let us, highlight the turning points and name things with their true names. Luckily nowadays none can monopolize the facts, as the world has become closer due to the continued advance in technology.

Arsenal extend unbeaten premiership run

LONDON (Reuters) - Champions Arsenal have extended their record unbeaten Premier League run to 45 games with a 3-0 win at Fulham but title rivals Chelsea were held 0-0 at Aston Villa and Manchester United scraped a 2-2 draw at Bolton Wanderers.

Arsenal lived dangerously in the first half on Saturday but floored Fulham with a three-goal blast in 10 minutes, courtesy of Fredrik Ljungberg, a Zlatko Ibrahimovic own goal and one from Spanish substitute Jose Antonio Reyes.

Victory left Arsenal two points clear at the top after Chelsea lost their 100 percent record, with boss Jose Mourinho furious at referee Rob Styles for refusing his team a penalty and booking his Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba for diving.

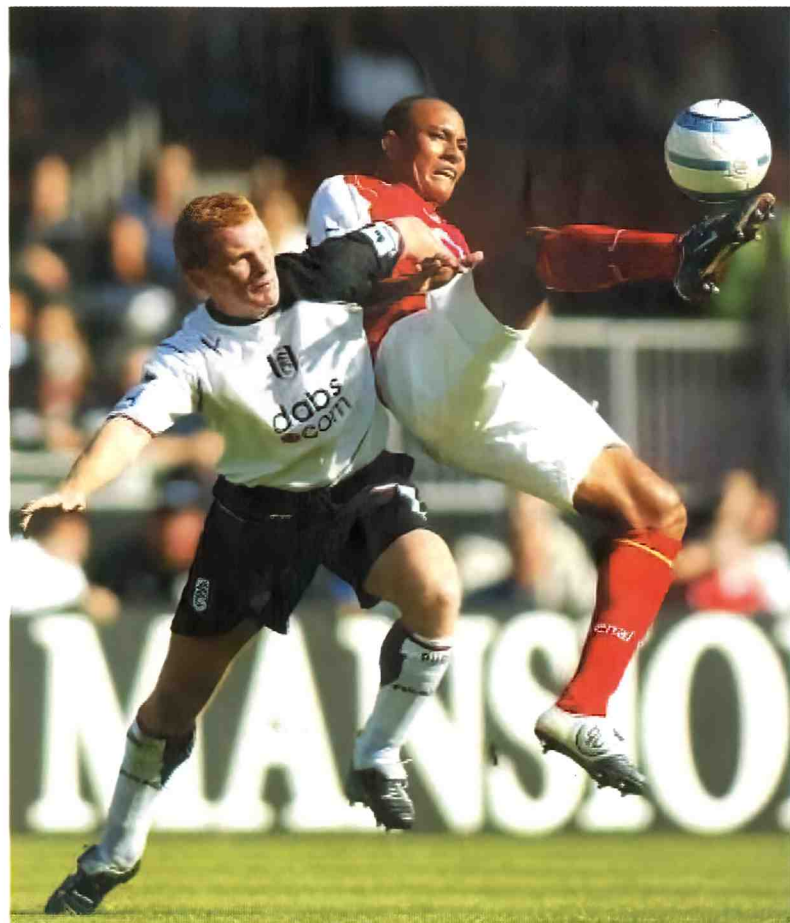
United continued a faltering start to the season and were heading for defeat after Les Ferdinand got Bolton's second in the 90th minute, only for an Alan Smith effort to go in off David Bellion in stoppage time.

Liverpool cruised to a 3-0 win over West Bromwich Albion, skipper Alan Shearer scored once as Newcastle United beat Blackburn Rovers 3-0 and Middlesbrough were 2-1 winners over Birmingham City.

Arsenal rode their luck in the first half, with referee Mark Halsey initially awarding Fulham a penalty for an Ashley Cole challenge on Andy Cole before reversing his decision, having consulted his linesman after Arsenal protests.

Fulham forward Collins John then had a goal disallowed, though Arsenal also had a spot-kick appeal turned down for Moritz Volz's challenge on striker Thierry Henry.

REYES STRIKES



Fulham's Mark Pembridge (L) grabs at Arsenal's Gilberto as he controls the ball during their English premier league soccer match at Craven Cottage, London. REUTERS

Federer advances to U.S. open final with win over Henman

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Top seed Roger Federer was at his dismissive best on Saturday as he breezed to a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over fifth seed Tim Henman to reach the final of the U.S. Open for the first time.

The world number one Swiss, looking to become the first man since Mats Wilander in 1988 to win three grand slam titles in the same year, was rarely troubled by the Briton as he set up a final against former champion Lleyton Hewitt.

After a cagey opening to the match, Federer ripped a forehand pass to break Henman in the sixth game, only to immediately drop his serve. But the Swiss bounced back to break again in the following game and served out for the opening set.

Henman, bidding to reach his first grand slam final at the age of 30 and only the second Briton after Greg Rusedski to make the final in the Open Era, lifted his game at the start

Ljungberg scored in the 62nd minute and pressured Knight into adding another before Reyes maintained his record of scoring in every game, a sixth goal in six appearances.

Victory gave Arsene Wenger's side 15 points from five games and an ideal lift before opening their Champions League campaign against PSV Eindhoven at Highbury on Tuesday.

Asked about Halsey's penalty call, Wenger told Sky Sports News: "He was not completely sure... he decided to consult his linesman because he certainly had a doubt in his mind. That's the referee's right."

"If the players go around him, he can say 'No, I don't need to consult my linesman'. He decided he had to, but that's down to him, not the players."

Mourinho was seething after Chelsea stayed second on 13 points due to a controversial decision by Styles, who booked Drogba after what appeared a clear trip by Ecuador defender Ulises De la Cruz in the 80th minute.

Asked if his team should have had a spot-kick, Mourinho told Sky Sports: "Yes, and the three points."

"A big, big, penalty in the country of football is not a penalty... it's ridiculous," said Mourinho.

UNITED STUMBLE

Tenth in the table, after being leapfrogged by Portsmouth following their 3-1 win over Crystal Palace in the late kick-off, Alex Ferguson's United are now nine points adrift of Arsenal.

Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze put them ahead on his debut, Kevin Nolan levelled just after the re-start and Ferdinand looked to have won it for Bolton until United equalised in the second minute of stoppage time.

Ferguson was pleased with a back four that included Olympic champion

Heinze and Wes Brown in his first game of the season.

"It was tough. Gabriel doesn't speak English, it's his first game with the team and he's been away a long time, playing in the Copa America and then the Olympic Games...and I thought he coped very well."

"I don't think we deserved to lose or win the game, it was a fair result."

Asked if he was worried about the gap on Arsenal, Ferguson said: "You don't enjoy it, but everyone knows we will get better, there's no question about that."

United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy played his first game of the season after injury, while suspended defender Rio Ferdinand and injured newcomer Wayne Rooney are due back later this month.

The draw meant Bolton stay third on 10 points, ahead of both Middlesbrough and Everton, who won 1-0 at Manchester City, on goal difference. Everton's Australian scorer Tim Cahill was sent off for over-celebrating his goal on the hour.

Yemeni footballers retaliate, gratify public

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, Al-Thawrah Stadium, Wednesday (8 Sept)-In a home scenario full of pleasure, Yemeni football team won over its U.E.A. counterpart 3-1 to raise its credit to 4 points in the 5th Asian group that also includes North Korea and Thailand.

After loosing to U.E.A. 3-0 in the away match Yemeni players took revenge. They exhibited high level of performance and control over the course of the scenario, which was attended by high-ranking officials including Dr. Yahya Al-Suaibi, Governor of Aden and Shaikh Hussein Al-Ahmar, Chief of Yemeni Football Federation (YFF).

In the first half, Ali Al-Nono, after recurring attempts, scored the first goal for Yemen, but in few minutes the U.E.A. equalizer came through a penalty kick. The second half also wit-



Player Ali al-Nono at a moment of extreme joy

nessed two goals for Yemen by Radhwan Abduljabbar and Al-Nonoto to end the match with a deserved triumph.

After the match was over, we met Crowned footballer Ali Al-Nono and

asked him about the factors behind such distinguished performance. "The external camp in Malaysia, utilizing the friendly match against Syria, the plans and strategies adopted by the Algerian Rabeh Sadan, Coach of the team, who assigned a certain task for every individual as well as public support and the facilities offered by the YFF," replied he affirming that the role of the coach has been the be-all and end-all of the scenario.

Now Yemen is ranking third in the group with four points following North Korea which brought down Thailand 4-1 on the same day to raise its credit to 8 points and U.E.A. having 7 points.

So we have nothing more than to say: had we but hired Mr. Sadan earlier to handle the responsibility of the team, we would have led the 5th Asian group and easily qualify for World Cup 2006 in Germany.

Improve Your English



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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (70): Marriage Anniversary (II)

Apart from receiving good-will or good-luck messages from well-wishers, the spouses also wish each other joy as well as a sense of rejuvenation and fulfilment on the occasion of marriage anniversary.

- To my wife on our Anniversary. In all my most important plans you have the greatest part and all my love is yours because you are first within my heart. The way your loving nature matches a spring in every season... the way you catch my eye and smile for no apparent reason... the way you listen to me and respond with tenderness... the way just being with you is my greatest happiness... These special ways you've shared with me throughout our life together and that's why I love you so much and I know I'll forever. Happy Anniversary.
- Anniversary wishes for two special people. 'When two hearts are filled with love, everyday is filled with joy.' Hope you'll find as much joy in your day as the joy you have found with each other.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- A number of my friends feels that they are not properly paid for the work they do.
- He has no issues; therefore, he has adopted an orphan child.
- How much is half of a bottle of honey at this shop?
- It is an admitted fact that Bushra is most intelligent than her sister Hanan.
- He has not sung much songs after his last album was released.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- One should always help **one's** friends in difficulty.
- Hana'a should **avail herself** of this golden opportunity to get success in life.
- In Bombay he **enjoyed himself** to his heart's content during his stay at Taj hotel.
- If I were **he**, I would go there at any cost.
- The speed of my new motor cycle is much higher than **that** of the old one.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Something that is like or that may be compared with something else.
- Person who wishes to overthrow all established governments.
- Something that is detested.
- Plants that are both male and female.
- Machine for measuring the strength of wind.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The distance between the middle and the top or bottom of a sound wave: **amplitude** (n)
- The study of animal behavior: **zoosemiotics** (n)
- The study of human bodily communication: **kinsemics** and **proxemics**
- Words or phrase made by changing the order of letters in another word or phrase: **anagram** (n) [Ex. Plum - lump' silent - listen]
- The condition of being unable to feel pain even though conscious: **analgesia** (n)

(B) Some useful terms and their origin

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following

- spoonerism
- stanza
- strophe
- syllogism
- symposium

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- slang** (old Norse 'slyngva': 'to sling'): Offensive language.
- slogan** (derived from the Gaelic compound 'sluagh' meaning 'host' or 'army' + 'ghairm' meaning 'cry' or 'shout'): A war-cry; the cry of a

political party.

- solecism** (Gk. 'soloikismos': barbarous): A deviation from conventional usage of grammar, syntax or pronunciation. For ex. 'I ain't done nothing'; 'I never ought to have come'; 'You didn't ought to do it.'
- soliloquy** (Lat. 'soliloquium', from 'solus': alone and 'loqui': 'to speak'): A soliloquy is a speech, often of some length, in which a character, alone on the stage, expresses his thoughts and feelings.
- sonnet** (It. 'sonetto', a 'little sound' or 'song'): A poem of fourteen lines, usually in iambic pentameters. The three basic sonnet forms are: a) the **Petrarchan**, which comprises an octave rhyming abbaabba and a sestet rhyming cdecde or cdcdcd, or in any combination except a rhyming couplet; b) the **Spenserian**, consisting of three quatrains and a couplet, rhyming abab, bcbc, cdcd, ee; c) the **Shakespearean**, again with three quatrains and a couplet, rhyming abab, cdcd, efef, gg.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- vain, vane
- read, read
- form, farm
- temporal, temporary
- faction, fiction

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- sanguinary** (adj) (with much bloodshed): History is filled with may sanguinary battles.
- sanguine** (adj) (hopeful): I am still sanguine about my success.
- shade** (n) (comparative darkness caused by the cutting off of direct rays of light): The fatigued traveler took a rest in the shade.
- shadow** (n) (area of shade): The earth's shadow sometimes falls on the moon.
- causal** (adj) (of cause and effect): There seems to be no causal connection between the two incidents.
- casual** (adj) (happening by chance): We had a casual meeting.
- whither** (adv) (where is the stated person or thing going?): Whither the human civilization?
- wither** (vt) (become dry): All the flowers in the garden have withered.
- abate** (vi) (winds, storms, floods, pain, etc. to become less): People returned to their houses after the flood abated.
- abet** (vt) (help somebody in doing wrong): He aided and abetted in the crime and so was punished.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- turn a deaf ear to (something)
- take sides
- get carried away
- upto the mark
- to make a hash of

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- as fresh as a daisy** (very bright and lively): After a good night's rest, I feel as fresh as a daisy.
- flog a dead horse** (to waste time on a subject or action that is no longer likely to produce successful results): Any effort to recover the borrowed money is flogging a dead horse as he has already been declared bankrupt.
- play one's cards right** (to make the most one's chances of success): You have to play your cards right to get success
- be on the go** (to be active or busy): Looking after little children is not an easy task; they're on the go all day.
- be in a cold sweat** (to be in a state of fear and anxiety): The students were in a cold sweat day results were to be announced.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Choose the best answer

- New York is — expensive than I had expected.

A. as B. more C. such D. so

- Several years ago, someone succeeded — across the Channel in a bicycle-powered aeroplane.

A. to fly B. to flying
C. in flying D. at flying

- At the end of the meeting, they decided — a conference in two week's time.

A. to have B. having
C. for having D. with having

- I was driving along the motorway when I saw a restaurant, so I stopped — something.

A. eating B. to eating C. to eat D. for eating

- I'm sorry I'm so late for the party, but I couldn't understand the directions you gave me and I —

A. lost myself B. got lost
C. lost D. went missing

- You have to pay more if you have — baggage.

A. enough B. excess C. several D. many

- When he came back to England, he — up the job he had had before.

A. got B. took C. made D. set

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- It was the success of the musical concert for which all the tickets were sold out
- Ali told me to drop in and see him the next day.
- Although he was ill, he carried on working.
- It's quite a long time since I haven't seen my aunt and uncle.
- If Henry hadn't worn a seat belt, he would have been hurt.
- I'll remind you about your appointment.
- It was just over three days that they crossed the Atlantic.
- She is too young to play in the championship.
- The car must have been stolen (by someone) during the night.
- If he passed his exams, he would have become an accountant.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

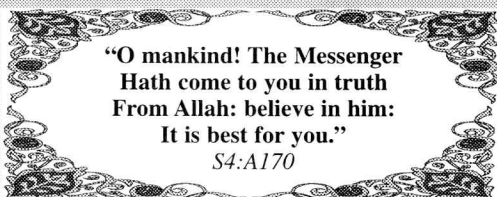
79: LIFE IS ACTION,
NOT CONTEMPLATION

Last week's topic

78: LIBERTY CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT DISCIPLINE

Liberty is not license. That is, it does not give one unlimited freedom to do what one pleases. Liberty, on the other hand, is a social contract. Mutuality and reciprocity constitute the hallmark of liberty and its invaluable component. Personal liberty is the right to act without interference with other people's rights. The best way to safeguard and uphold one's liberty is to respect other people's liberty. That is what discipline precisely means. Discipline does not concern itself with what should not be done but more with what should be done. Unless every individual preserves the canons of personal liberty in a principled and organized way, we cannot enjoy the fruits of the collective or social liberty. Hence, there is little doubt that discipline is an integral part of liberty.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thoughts

"When we trust as far as we can, we often find ourselves able to trust at least a little further."

—Mark Gibbard

Reading skills and language learning

By MOHAMMED AL-FATTAH
TEACHER

Readng means understanding and interpreting the pieces of the language. It is one of the most important of learning skills. God created the man and provided him with the ability to gain knowledge and get information from different sources. Reading is the first command from Allah the Almighty to our Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). His first meeting with the Angel was about reading. He ordered our Prophet by saying 'recite'. It was the responsibility of the Angel Gabriel to guide our Prophet and teach him to be the first great teacher and preacher to his nation. But before doing so, the Angel wanted to teach him and before teaching him, he should learn to read and he should read to learn.

To improve yourself, you must read a lot of materials. The great thinkers and the proficient writers mostly depended on self learning, self improvement and home reading which opened all the fields of knowledge and accessed the entries of information for them. Home reading is a kind of self teaching.

Readers read for various goals. Reading for pleasure is the easiest way to become a better reader in English. Pleasure reading is very important for learning English according to many experts. Dr. Stephen Krashen, a famous expert on learning a language, says, "pleasure reading helps you learn many important things about English." Learners learn more grammar and vocabularies when reading for pleasure. They also learn about writing. Each reader learns from reading in a different way because the needs and purposes for reading vary from one person to another. It is worth mentioning here that when readers read for pleasure, they select their own books and don't have to remember everything.

Pleasure reading is different from academic reading. Reading for pleasure helps you to learn how the native speakers see the language. It gives a train or practice to read faster. It gives a chance to be in touch with different cultures. When you read a story in English, read it from the beginning to the end and don't stop if you meet new or difficult words or foreign expressions. Read the story against and don't waste your time in translation or looking up for some words. You must understand the main ideas of the story. You just need to know where the story takes place, who are the people in the story, and what happens in the story. You don't need to know the meaning of all the words.

Ways to make effective and exciting reading classes

First we should ask a questions, "how can the teacher make his reading class effective and exciting?" To answer this question, the teacher can follow the following steps:

- He/she should motivate his/her learners and warm them up to make the class enjoyable to develop their habits of reading regularly.
- He/she can prepare the learners' minds by giving a short introduction about the text, or asking questions to promote discussion or showing pictures to attract his/her learners' attention.
- He/she shouldn't let the learners turn to busy work in the class.
- He/she should involve his/her learners and tell them about the purpose of the reading task to increase their awareness.
- He/she should ask the learners to read, think and to increase their awareness and ability about critical reading. The should think, criticize and comment.
- He/she should encourage the learners for pair work and group work, especially in the reading comprehension classes because this may facilitate their acquisition of the language.
- He/she should encourage the learners more to guess the meaning of the words from the context than to use a dictionary during the class or while doing their homework.
- He/she should encourage the learners to read silently and ask them some guiding questions which can be short answer questions, yes/no question or true/false questions.
- At the primary levels, the teacher can make glossary. But what can be glossed? Not all the words can be glossed, but he/she should give the learners a chance to guess the meaning of the words from the context before making the glossary. The difficult and new words can be glossed. The technical terms can be glossed. The strange expressions can be glossed. The foreign names can be explained if necessary.

To develop the learners' reading skills and all avenues of language, it is essential for them to pay attention to the quantity of reading. They should know the differences between extensive reading and intensive reading. The goal of each type should be clear. In intensive reading, the learners are always led by the teacher. He/she pays an important role in these kinds of reading classes. Intensive reading serves for academic goals whereas extensive reading aims at leisure reading and develop the learners' ability of silent reading. Extensive reading promotes reading out of class. Intensive reading is obviously slow and careful.

Motivating learners to read

Here are some suggestions for the teacher to encourage his/her learners to develop their reading skills:

- The teacher can tell the learners about the benefits and the advantages of self learning and self improvement by reading which is essential to develop their reading skills.
- He/she can ask them to bring reports to the class mentioning what they have read, how many pages they have read and add their comments and impressions about the text. This may promote arguments and develop their reading skills.

He/she can do this by asking them to work in pairs and in chorus discussing their reports.

3. He/she can ask them questions about their reading to encourage fluency in the language.

4. He/she can ask them questions about their reading to encourage fluency in the language.

5. Learners always complain that they read and yet don't understand the text and so the teacher can encourage them to follow their work to understand the main idea of the text. He/she can remove their problems step by step by telling them to start from simple to difficult and to the most difficult to build mastery through reading in gradual steps.

Developing the learners' comprehension skills

Reading comprehension means getting the main idea of the text or understanding the writer's intention. Reading comprehension exposes many problems of the learners in the classrooms. Some learners complain they don't understand the text. The amount of the information picked up from a text varies from one reader to another, as we said earlier. This depends on the information presented in the text and the reader's ability and readiness to understand. To help the learners improve their reading skills, there are some principles the teacher can bear in mind:

- He/she can encourage the learner to think.
- He/she should give them a good model of answering the difficult questions and the complexity of the tasks.
- He/she can clarify the difficult parts of the text if possible.
- He/she should concentrate on the classroom techniques such as: pair work, group work, individual work and give enough practice to raise their awareness of the language.
- He/she can encourage classroom discussions and the learners' participations to elicit the best answers from the learners themselves.
- He/she can assign some activities to be done individually because this may build the learners' confidence.
- Identify the discourse makers and distinguish the conjuncture words to enable them to understand the text properly.
- Give the learners a chance to recognize the language functions that may enable them to develop their reading skills.
- Synonyms exercises can help to raise the learners' alertness to connect ideas.
- Recognize the development of the ideas throughout the paragraph to help the learners to achieve efficiency in reading comprehension.

Reading skills and strategies

The strategies of reading comprehension vary according to the purposes of the reading the teacher expect to be established in the classroom. In primary levels, reading aloud, model reading by the teacher and the repetition by the learners may prevail the classroom activities because the focus will be on pronunciation. In the secondary levels, silent reading by the learners, explaining the difficult words of the text and the difficult parts, and asking comprehension questions by the teacher are important steps to be done because the focus here will be on comprehension.

1. Scanning is a very fast reading to look for information as to look for advertisements in a newspaper or a magazine.

2. Skimming means starting rapidly through a text to determine its gist as to read the beginning and the end of a paragraph to get the main idea. To get the main idea of a long text, the reader should first look at the title and subtitles, read the first sentence which introduces the subject or the topic of the paragraph, and it is called "the topic sentence". The reader can also look at the illustration or pictures such as drawings, diagrams and photographs. He/she should know how many paragraphs the text is composed of.

Reading for specific information (extensive reading)

This is when the reader sometimes reads medical or scientific for his/her university studies, he/she reads for specific purposes or reasons. In this kind of reading the reader doesn't need to understand the details of the text.

Reading for details (intensive reading)

This kind of reading demands a high degree of understanding the text. The reader needs to understand the details of each paragraph, to understand each sentence and word likewise. Even he/she needs to understand the writer's attitude, purposes, cultural relevance, settings and the reader's reaction.

To conclude

Readers can enjoy reading better than conversing with a close friend. When you sit alone in your home, you can travel around the entire world, and you can understand the reasons for thousands of things. Living in this age, you can talk with those who lived thousands of years ago and become a close friend of them.

1. Reading helps us to develop our thinking skills in such a way.

2. The strategies of reading vary according to the objectives of reading and the classroom situations.

3. The goals of reading influence the methods of reading.

4. The background and the willingness of the readers affect their understanding of the text.

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- Nuttal Christine, Teaching Reading Skills in a Foreign Language.
- Dr. Bose A text book of English Language teaching for Yemeni students

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

Amusement	Enjoy	Lake	Polo	Suntan
Appreciate	Escape	Laugh	Pools	Surf
Away	Evening	Lawn	Raft	Swim
Beach	Exercises	Leisure	Read	Teens
Beer	Fair	Moss	Resorts	Tennis
Bike	Family	Mountains	Rest	Terrace
Boat	Farm	Movie	Ride	Tows
Camp	Fish	Museum	River	Trek
Canoe	Friends	Music	Safely	Trips
Casino	Golf	Near	Sail	Trunk
Circus	Guests	Need	Sale	Video
Club	Hide	Options	Scuba	Walk
Cook	Hike	Pack	Season	Warm
Country	Home	Parasol	Share	Water
Cycling	Horse	Park	Shorts	Weather
Dance	Hotel	Party	Site	Week
Date	Jogging	Patio	Sleep	Yacht
Days	Journey	Picnic	Soccer	Years
Deserved	Kayak	Plan	Sports	
Dive	Kids	Play	Spot	
	Kite	Plow	Sunny	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Antihistamines

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

E	O	H	O	M	E	B	G	S	H	O	R	T	S	R	A	E	Y	R	R
O	C	N	R	H	F	U	O	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	F	N	S	E	T
E	T	A	I	C	E	R	P	P	A	S	E	H	N	L	N	U	E	T	R
D	F	K	R	S	S	K	I	B	T	W	N	A	O	U	N	B	D	A	U
I	E	Y	T	R	A	P	U	E	I	J	G	S	T	I	E	D	W	N	
V	E	S	I	Y	E	C	O	A	N	M	O	T	A	K	E	P	A	R	K
R	L	V	A	T	S	T	T	R	Y	D	Y	N	E	N	T	L	Y	R	A
H	E	K	H	F	I	H	S	A	T	E	S	M	S	E	K	R	S	M	M
R	F	C	R	A	E	L	W	E	E	S	R	O	H	G	N	E	U	O	U
C	A	U	C	R	O	A	R	J	N	E	N	V	N	T	E	S	L	S	S
Y	S	T	A	O	B	U	O	M	T	R	B	I	R	P	I	O	C	S	E
C	D	H	P	T	S	G	E	I	U	V	N	E	A	C	P	R	A	U	M
L	S	A	S	I	G	H	K	L	S	E	K	C	A	T	G	T	N	C	E
I	Y	E	E	I	L	I	A	S	V	D	S	R	B	C	N	S	O	R	N
N	R	L	N	R	N	W	L	E	I	E	I	U	H	O	H	U	E	I	T
G	A	G	I	K	N	M	V	H	D	L	K	M	I	N	Y	O	C	O	
S	I	T	E	M	N	R	E	S	E	C	O	S	F	T	D	C	A	M	P
U	I	E	C	N	A	D	I	T	L	O	S	A	R	A	P	E	E	L	S
S	W	O	T	W	L	F	P	A	C	K	T	Y	T	P	I	W	O	L	P
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911 third anniversary marked in USA

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Americans rang church bells, remembered the nearly 3,000 dead and gathered to pray to mark the third anniversary of the devastating September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

At the site of the fallen World Trade Centre towers in New York on Saturday, parents and grandparents of the victims solemnly read the names of victims before a large crowd, adding personal comments or blowing kisses skyward.

"We love you more today than yesterday, and we will love you more tomorrow than today," one mother said. Musicians played softly as the names were read.

The ceremonies were smaller and more subdued than those of the first two years since the attacks, and some speakers used the day, within two months of the November 2 presidential election, to make political points.

In Washington, President George W. Bush led a national moment of silence and then used his weekly radio address to mark the day.

"Three years ago, the struggle of good against evil was compressed into a single morning," he said, describing the 102 minutes in which hijackers crashed planes into the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

In Boston, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, the Democratic nominee seeking to replace Bush in the White House, called for Americans to come together to fight terrorism.

"While September 11 was the worst day we have ever seen, it brought out the best in all of us," he said. "And we must always remember that we will only defeat those who sought to destroy us by standing together as one America."

LAUDS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld discussed the al Qaeda hijackers and praised the United States and Bush at a September 11 memorial ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery that included a moment of silence at 9:37 a.m. when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon three years ago.



Family members of victims of September 11 2001 attacks gather to pay respects at the site of the World Trade Center in New York. Family members of victims of September 11 2001 attacks gather to pay respects at the site of the World Trade Center in New York City September 11. New York marked the third anniversary of the attacks that killed nearly 3000 people at the World Trade Center. REUTERS

"They wanted America to retreat from the world, so that they could impose their ideology of oppression and of hatred. They thought they could strike us with impunity and that we would acquiesce," he said. "But the enemies have underestimated our country, they failed to understand the character of our people, and they misread our commander-in-chief."

Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security, spoke at a ceremony in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh, where church bells rang to mark the anniversary of the moment the fourth plane crashed.

In New York, Mayor Michael Bloomberg remembered the individuals. "Each person was someone's son or daughter," he said in an opening address. "There is no name for a parent who loses a child," he said, "for there are no words to describe this pain."

The reading of victims' names at the World Trade Centre has become a tradition. At last year's ceremony to mark the second anniversary, children of victims read out the long list of names. On the first anniversary, they were read by relatives,

local politicians and other public figures.

Many in the crowd carried photographs and flowers as they descended into "Ground Zero," the World Trade Centre site, from which the remains of many victims have never been recovered.

They cried and hugged one another as they floated blossoms in two small reflecting pools designed to symbolise the footprints of the two fallen 110-story towers.

But in a sign of the amount of time that

has passed since the attacks, a new office building was under construction at one side of the site, replacing one of several destroyed three years ago.

Plans for a memorial in downtown Manhattan are mired in legal wrangling and dissension among victims' relatives over what would be appropriate.

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