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Arab world silent while 'in a coma'

Millions march

By REUTERS
AND NEWS SERVICES

Millions of protesters took to the streets around the world on Saturday to urge the United States to give peace a chance and not to rush into war with Iraq.

In the biggest demonstration of "People Power" since the Vietnam War, peace campaigners from Antarctica to Iceland poured scorn on President Bush's hawkish stance.

While the Arab world was largely quiet, as it celebrated the end of Eid, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh did urge Arab countries to adopt a stronger stand against a possible US-led war on Iraq.

"We should have played a pioneering role in this anti-war campaign and should have requested support from the Europeans and others," he said Friday.

Saleh, who was in Saudi Arabia to perform Haj said, "Not only Yemen but also all

Arab and Islamic countries are against war and they call for peace."

He said a stronger Arab stand will strengthen the ongoing French, German, Russian, Belgian and Chinese initiatives to avert war.

Continued on page 2



Thousands of protesters march through Hollywood in Los Angeles, California, Feb. 15. More than four million protesters took to the streets around the globe on Saturday to send a message to U.S. President George Bush not to attack Iraq and to give peace a chance. The huge demonstrations, hit more than 600 cities worldwide. Inset photo: signs at a rally in London (Reuters)

Technical tests show tape is of his voice

Bin Laden's back

By REUTERS

WASHINGTON - A CIA technical analysis of an audiotape aired on al Jazeera satellite television channel Feb. 12 week shows "almost certainly" it is of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, a U.S. intelligence official told Reuters.

"The technical analysis tells us it is almost certainly bin Laden," the intelligence official said, adding the audio was of

better quality than a tape released last November.

Another U.S. official said "fairly sophisticated" means were used to compare the recent audiotape with past samples known to be of bin Laden's voice.

U.S. intelligence analysts familiar with bin Laden's voice had earlier this week determined the tape was probably of the al Qaeda leader, but it could not be determined to a greater degree of probability until the

technical analysis was conducted.

The United States has blamed al Qaeda for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon that killed about 3,000 people.

Continued on page 2



Usama bin Laden

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Continued from page 1

Millions march

He said Arab and Islamic countries wanted the UN inspectors to be given more time to find out if Iraq actually possesses weapons of mass destruction.

Asked whether Yemen would take part in the proposed emergency Arab summit, he said it would depend on the summit's agenda. "We support Arab summits having an agenda agreed in advance," he added.

While global protests swelled on Saturday, the voice of dissent was muted in the Middle East.

Protests planned in Cairo were limited by a huge security presence. Security was visibly beefed up in central Cairo, notably around the U.S. and British embassies.

Apart from the earlier demonstrations in Bahrain and Yemen recently, there have not been large anti-war protests in the conservative Gulf Arab region.

That prompted the United Arab Emirates al-Bayan newspaper to comment: "Today, the people of the world and more than one million Europeans demonstrate against an attack on Iraq while the Arab people and their leaders are in a deep coma."

In London, protesters streamed into the capital for a march that reached 750,000 to 1 million people, in the biggest peace rally in British political history.

Hundreds of thousands also attended a rally in the center of Berlin.

"We haven't seen anything comparable in Germany since the 1980s," organizer Malte Kreutzfeldt said. "And it will be the first global demonstration of such a scale," he added.

In Italy, tens of thousands of people, from dreadlocked teenagers to graying pensioners gathered in Rome for a peace march expected to draw more than one million people.

"I look at Bush but see Hitler," proclaimed the banner of a Bulgarian protester in Sofia.

"The whole world is against this war. Only one person wants it," said Muslim teenager Bilqees Gamieldien as she protested in the South African city of Cape Town.

"What the United States is doing now is wrong. We are on the brink of World War Three," said Japanese housewife Mariko Ayama at a Tokyo rally.

One Russian protester's banner in Moscow showed a photograph of the U.S. president with the words: "Butcher: Get out of other people's lands."

Massive rallies were staged around

the globe, with more than 600 cities and towns pledging to join in.

The protesters received a boost on Friday when U.N. chief weapons inspector Hans Blix told the United Nations he held out hope arms inspections in Iraq were working.

And the rallies offered a boost to Iraq's own cause.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, in the Italian city of Assisi to pray at the tomb of St. Francis, said: "The people of Iraq want peace and millions of people around the world are demonstrating for peace, so let us all work for peace and resist the war."

"This is a day all good women and men in the world will show the protest against the war of George W. Bush," he told Reuters. "Our hearts are with them."

In Australia, about 16,000 activists gathered in the capital Canberra a day after about 150,000 protested in the southern city of Melbourne in what was Australia's largest protest since the anti-Vietnam War marches of 30 years ago.

In nuclear-free New Zealand, several thousand people marched through the center of the nation's main city Auckland, while a plane trailed a giant banner reading "No war, peace now."

"Stop the war!" More than 2,000 South Koreans gathered in the capital Seoul, shouting "Bush, terrorist!" and "Stop the war!"

In mainly Muslim Malaysia, about 500 protesters protested outside the U.S. embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Protesters waved placards reading "Drop Bush not bombs," "No war for oil" and depicting Bush with yellowing missiles for teeth.

Pakistani protesters carried white flags and placards that read "No to war, yes to peace" and "Bush and Blair are terrorists."

In Europe, the same message echoed across the continent.

In the French city of Toulouse, marchers walked in the cold winter sunshine under banners reading: "No blood in the oil," and "No to war for petrol."

In Croatia, several hundred masked protesters burned the American flag in front of the U.S. embassy in Zagreb.

In Moscow, about 400 people, hoisting aloft anti-war banners and chanting "No to war in Iraq," marched from Russia's Foreign Ministry building to the U.S. embassy in a communist-led protest at U.S. policy on Iraq.

Bin Laden's back

The U.S. government recently raised its national alert to the second-highest level of orange after intercepted communications of suspected al Qaeda operatives and other intelligence information suggested they were poised to strike U.S. interests possibly as early as this week, U.S. officials have said.

'WALK-IN' INFORMATION

One U.S. official said on condition of anonymity that some of the information about the al Qaeda threats came from a "walk in" who approached U.S. authorities overseas with intelligence that corroborated other information that U.S. spy agencies were picking up.

That person, who was not identified, confessed later to lying to U.S. authorities about a threat to a Jewish-owned hotel in Virginia Beach, Virginia, after failing a polygraph question about that piece of information, the official told Reuters.

But other information from the "walk in" matched intelligence that was coming in from multiple sources and methods, and the basis for raising the threat level to orange was not substantially based on this individual's information, the official said.

The most recent bin Laden audiotape was released as the United States amasses thousands of troops in the Gulf region for a possible war against Iraq.

On the tape, bin Laden referred to the United States as "crusaders," called on Muslims in Iraq to fight, and labeled the Iraqi government "socialists" and "infidels" but said they had common cause against America.

Some U.S. officials have seized on the references to Iraq in bin Laden's

tape to promote their views that Baghdad has links to al Qaeda. Iraq denies any ties to al Qaeda.

CIA Director George Tenet said earlier this week at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that bin Laden was trying to energize followers in the latest audiotape and that U.S. intelligence agencies were analyzing it to determine whether it contained hidden signals to prompt an attack.

The U.S. intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was uncertain whether there was a signal in the recent tape aimed at prompting a specific attack.

The authenticity of the tape, however, showed that bin Laden was alive during the "past several weeks," the official said.

U.S. forces have been hunting for the al Qaeda leader, and his fate has been the subject of much speculation since the Sept. 11 attacks. U.S. officials believe he is hiding somewhere in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Tenet noted this week that the airing of previous bin Laden tapes were followed by attacks on Western interests.

About two weeks after an audiotape believed to be from bin Laden was broadcast on Nov. 12, an Israeli-owned hotel in Kenya was bombed and shoulder-fired missiles narrowly missed an Israeli-chartered plane leaving Mombasa.

Another bin Laden tape aired on Oct. 6 by al Jazeera was followed that same month with attacks on a French tanker off the coast of Yemen, U.S. Marines in Kuwait, and explosions in a nightclub strip in Bali that killed nearly 200 people.

Yemen denies asylum offer to Saddam

According to UPI news agency, Yemen denied on Saturday reports that it was chosen as providing asylum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in the event of a U.S. war on Iraq in the next few weeks.

A Turkish newspaper on Friday quoted a Turkish official as saying that Saddam "may go to Yemen because Washington refuses his exile to a country neighboring Iraq."

A Yemeni official told the agency that, "The subject of asylum to the Iraqi president has not been discussed with Iraqi officials, or the Americans, as alleged."

The official described the reports in the Turkish press as "mere fabrications without any basis."

The Turkish official, who was not

named, said that as the United States "prepares for a full-fledged war, it is also exerting psychological pressure on Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq."

He said the possibility of the Iraqi president's departure from Baghdad to Yemen was "one of the reasons the Turkish government is reluctant to submit a memorandum to Parliament for allowing foreign military deployments" in the country.

The Turkish paper quoted the official as citing two choices with the start of a war regarding the fate of Saddam: Either for the United States to topple him, or for him to agree at the last moment to leave Iraq and head to Yemen.



Saddam Hussein

Website course held

The British Council Sana'a held an Internet and Website training course Feb/ 1 to 5. The training was run in the NCC facilities and trainer was Matthias Leibbrand from the International Community Services.

The 12 participants were representatives of Yemeni partner institutions including the National Women Committee, the Parliament, the National Population Council, as well as the Yemeni British Friendship

Association and the British Embassy; the British Council was represented by one of its employees.

In addition to the professional use of Internet, the training program covered the significant issue of website design and website updating, which is a main concern by many organizations. This is because the common procedure is that these organizations get their website preliminary designed and set-up by a specialist, but the staff are usually not

trained on the crucial process of updating the site. During the training course the participants designed their own websites and some even put them live.

The closing session was attended by HMA to Sana'a Frances Guy, Director of the British Council Adrian Chadwick, and chairperson of the Woman National Committee Rashida AlHamdani.

HMA handed out attendance certificates to all participants.



Frances Guy, UK ambassador

During 2002

Traffic incidents increase

Official sources confirmed that 2002 witnessed horrible traffic incidents compared to previous years.

Azaman, a London based newspaper, indicated that statistics issued by the General Traffic Authority show that car crashes reached 4,749.

These resulted in the deaths of around 270 people.

More than 1,592 others have been injured.

The official statistics indicated further that the main reasons behind the traffic incidents can be attributed to speeding, reckless driving and narrow roads.

On the other hand, the number of suicide cases in Yemen reached 519 during 2001 and 2002.

Sana'a and Aden ranked the first of committing suicides.

Youths in particular have been falling prey to this phenomenon.



Traffic mishaps like this were part of the horror on Yemen's roads in 2002.

Marib Dam work continues

Three Yemeni and two Indian companies are ready to carry out the second phase of the Marib Dam canal project, at a cost of \$23.9 million.

The work is being financed by Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan A'al Nahain, President of United Arab Emirates, and the Abu Dhabi Development Fund. It was pointed out at the General Corporation for Developing

the Eastern Areas that the three companies will implement the project, starting February, for two years.

The Marib Dam can project will greatly help in irrigating more than 7,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Marib Valley in Ubiada.

The new project will help to double the volume of agricultural products.

"OUTLANDER" cars exhibition held

The first production of "OUTLANDER" Cars of Mitsubishi has taken place in Hotel Vince in Beirut-Lebanon. Mitsubishi Middle East agents and many important international personalities attend the exhibition as well as a large number of journalists and reports from various universal media organizations.

According to the latest technical and investigative reviews about the car, specialists confirm that this model of is Mitsubishi characterized with fantastic performance, strength and quality, functioning on the best car engine that ever was manufactured, Mr. Mohammad Dosoqui, Adhban Group's Marketing Manager, declared.



Readers' Voice

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

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

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

What do you think is the main reason behind the suspicious calmness in the Arab street in a time the whole world is protesting against the possible US war against Iraq?

- Arabs are looking after their daily needs to feed their children and have no time to protest
- Oppression of Arab regimes against protests is the main reason behind public fear to demonstrate
- Arab communities don't have active civil society organizations that call for active demonstrations
- The holiday season (eid)
- All above reasons
- Another reason

LAST WEEK'S

QUESTION:

In your opinion, will Germany hand Al-Moayed to the US as requested by the American administration?

- Yes, he will be submitted to the US and then sent to Guantanamo. (%28)
- Yes, he will be submitted to the US but will not be sent to Guantanamo. (%10)
- No, he will stay for trial in Germany. (%32)
- No, he will be sent back to Yemen. (%30)

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

Thousands march**Omar remembered in Ibb**

IBRAHIM ADDAHAN
YEMEN TIMES
IBB CORRESPONDENT

Ibb governorate witnessed thousands of people demonstrating last Tuesday on the occasion of the passing of 40 days since the death of Jarallah Omar, the deputy secretary general of Yemeni Socialist party, the martyr of freedom and democracy.

Many important people from the ruling and opposition political parties attended the demonstration.

The demonstration set off from Mafrag Jibla, passing through the main street, until it arrived to Al-Kabsi stadium where many speeches were spoken by the representatives of the opposition and the ruling parties.

They talked about the features of the martyr and about the great loss of the whole country as well as the achievements he left to his country.

Yahia Mansour Abu Osba'a, a member of the Yemeni parliament, talked about the role Omar had in fighting corruption, and his continuous demand to restrict the phenomenon of carrying weapons.

"The murderers were able to assassinate Jarallah Omar in the street or in his

house or on his way to home or in any place. Omar has no guards or custody," Abu Osba'a said.

Hassan Alwajih, the spokesman of the rule party, said Omar was a victim of terrorism.

Mohammed Almaqaleh, a well known writer, said that Ibb governorate must be proud that Omar came from there, and indicated that he will remain in every Yemeni heart.

The spokesman of Islah Party, Sa'ad Alrubaia, indicated that the relationship between Islah and the socialist party and all the Joint Meeting parties is stronger than before.

The representative of Nassri party, Abdullah Dahan, said that the assassination of Omar is an assassination for all the Joint Meeting parties.

In addition, many poets presented poems describing the features and the bravery of Omar



Thousands rallied last week on the 40th day memorial since the death of Jarallah Omar, secretary-general assistant of the YSP.

Canadian Nexen dismisses war fallout in Yemen

A Canadian daily revealed that Canadian Nexen's activities in Yemen will probably not be affected by a possible war against Iraq. Charlie Fischer, chief executive of Calgary-based Nexen, said that the company's investment in Yemen, which accounts for 45 per cent of its total petroleum production, won't be threatened by a war in the Gulf.

"There's a lot of uncertainty in the region and there is an awful lot of concern around the world about the potential of war in Iraq," Fischer told

CANADIAN nexen

investors and analysts on a conference call. "Iraq is still a fair ways away from Yemen . . . and I do not see that (Yemen) would have anything to do with this war."

Nexen's Yemen operations have been one of the company's most profitable and prolific investments and its

production there has never been halted.

"It's an issue of perception," said Brian Prokop, an analyst at Peters & Co. in Calgary, "because it's in the Middle East, the (production) gets discounted. It's a great cash cow for Nexen, but the value that's there isn't being recognized."

According to the Canadian paper, Calgary Herald Nexen earned \$452 million in 2002, or \$3.34 a share, up slightly from 2001 and revenue rose less than one per cent to \$2.6 billion.

Jibla hospital reopens

JIBLA - The former Baptist hospital in Jibla, where a terrorist attack killed three American mission workers on Dec. 30, reopened in the first week of February with a new name, new leadership and heightened security.

As expected, the hospital, now known as the "Hospital of Peace", is currently operated by the Yemeni government after its management was transferred to the ministry of health.

Even though the hospital is now known among the public simply as "Jibla Hospital" as the word "Baptist" was erased from the hospital sign even before the shooting took place, yet the local media are calling it "the hospital of peace," a name to resemble the opposition to the attack that took place in 2002.

Yemenis attend research methodology course in UK

Five staff members of each of Sana'a and Aden Universities are leaving to the UK on the first of March to attend a 12-week course on Research Methodology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) in the UK.

This is the first time Yemeni students are enrolling in a British university to assist them in their recently developed PhD program in both Yemeni universities. The course aims at providing students with necessary research skills and knowledge to carry out their PhD studies. At the same time, the students will have the chance to present their thesis proposals for discussion with their external supervisors from the LSTM. It is planned that the local supervisors will join the group at a later stage in the training course.

The course program is an achievement of the efforts exerted by Yemeni and British institutes to promote cooperation in higher education. Relations between LSTM and the two Yemeni universities have been developing throughout the last 3 years and are being extended for a second 3-year term.

Prof. Abdullah Al-Junaid, Vice Rector for Sana'a University and Dr. Najeeb Hassan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine are on a visit to the LSTM. Besides their own duties as senior university staffers, Junaid and Hassan have been active in exploring possibilities for further collaboration between their universities and British institutes.

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**New edition of the "Industry" Magazine**

The second edition of the "Industry" magazine (for January 2003) was released this month after its first issue was published a few months ago. The magazine, which is published by the Yemeni Industrialists Association, is considered a pioneer in specialized press in relation to industry in the Republic of Yemen in particular and in the world in general. In the second edition of the magazine, various topics were covered including issues on corruption, means to enhance national industries, focus on investment environment, the association's activities, technology, etc. The magazine is being widely read by businessmen throughout the country and its publisher, the Yemeni Industrialists Association has its own website on the Internet at www.madeinyemen.org.

**Yemenis attend research methodology course in UK**

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Correction

In the last issue, No. (622), page 2 titled "Electrical project launched", Mr. Hassan Abdu Giad was mistakenly identified as the Minister of Electricity, while he is the chairman of the board of directors of the company.

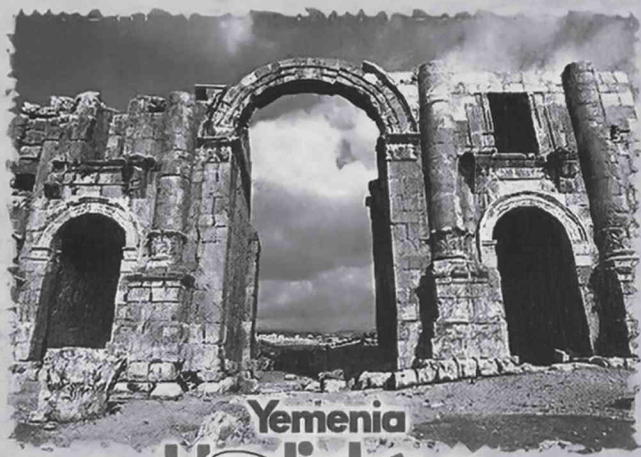
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Customs have changed over time

Eid: Then and now

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABRY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Social bonding bringing joy to the hearts of children and gatherings throughout the day and night are a few of the pleasures of Eid al-Adha.

As Muslims annually celebrate Eid al-Adha, the festival of Sacrifice which starts on the third day of the pilgrimage, they share their happiness with family and friends. Hospitality is the hallmark of this celebration.

People, of course, differ in the dishes served, differ from region to region and even from household to household. These differences can be attributed to the observers' national and regional affiliations.

One constant feature of this Eid and Eid al-Fitr, which follows Ramadan, is the serving of coffee or tea upon enter-

ing homes. This is usually followed by the tasty ma'mul (pronounced ma'mool) or what is known as Eid cakes. Throughout the Arab world, these pie-like cookies are a favorite of children and adults alike.

In Yemen the social and culinary traditions associated with Eid al-Adha, have evolved over time. However, there is one tradition that has survived the tides of time throughout Arabia and the Muslim world. In accordance with Islamic doctrines, those who have the means, sacrifice an animal on Eid al-Adha.

The meat of the sacrifice is divided into three parts. One is given to the poor, the other to neighbors and the third portion is kept for one's family. Thus, meat and rice dishes are often served to family and friends during this Eid either for lunch or dinner.

Yemenis throughout often reminisce about the past and cherish their memo-

ries of a simpler way of life. They remember a time when celebrations of this festival were a unique occasion.

Special attention is given to children during this time. Not only do they get new clothes, gifts and money, but they are also taken on trips to amusement parks, large toy stores, and to the beach.

These outings are not a new pastime as one might think. In the western province, for instance, fathers took their children to a site outside the village or town, or watch men dancing with daggers or other weapons. The dancing varied in each group according to the nationality of the participants. Entrepreneurs profited from the festivities by setting up swings and seesaws for the children.

For family

In the summer, a favorite activity for those who picnicked at the farms was swimming in spring-fed pools. Men,



Children across the Muslim world are among those who enjoy Eid the most.

who enjoyed the sea, took long fishing trips, which lasted for two or three days.

In those days, people in the western province enjoyed dishes other than the Eid specialties prevalent nowadays. They greeted guests by serving refreshments such as fruit juices and rose or almond syrup diluted in water and sweetened with sugar.

Callers also had coffee or tea with a cardamom-flavored cookies called Kalayjah, instead of Ma'mul. Many are fond of eating the readymade rahash, a delicious and rich, golden-hued sweet made of sesame-seed meal and sugar.

This sweet is still known in the Arab world as halawah tahiniyyah.

Children used to dip their hands into bowls full of multicolored chick-peas coated with sugar, instead of chocolate with sugar, or chocolates, and the sugar-coated almonds consumed with great pleasure during Eid and throughout the year nowadays. Little boys and girls went around their neighborhood, extending to their elders the Eid greeting, "I dukum Mubarak" and they received coins or what is now known as "idiyyah".

To celebrate this Eid, in Makkah there is a grand, festive style. But in other parts of the Western province, especially in the major cities, the essence of Eid is in the visits the celebrants paid to each other.

For the duration of the festival, visits were exchanged and if a host had to

go away, he left a note pad for callers to write down their names. This saved their time and relieved them the duty of paying another visit. It also helped the absent host reciprocate visits.

Open doors welcomed visitors all day long, and many enjoyed drinking pomegranate, grape or lemon juice along with coffee and tea. In those bygone days, women did not have wooden molds and formed ma'mul into cookies as large as the palm of the hand. They decorated the cookie using the minqash, a jagged-edged tong-like device, made of cooper or silver.

Children enjoy

Young men helped their fathers in serving refreshments. These youths also participated in the last hospitality ritual. Children, in particular, looked forward to the Eid, as parents and relatives took special pleasure in making the youngsters happy. Large, colorful, round palm-frond trays and mafattat were heaped with nuts, sweets and coins.

These trays were thrown into the air to land at the children's feet, who vied

with each other to get as much candy and money as they could. Children also received silver riyals, which they spent in the following days.

In the afternoon, fathers took their children to playgrounds set up especially for this occasion. The children spent many hours on the ferris wheels and swings. They went on pony and donkey rides and had cotton candy and other sweets as they romped in play.

Nowadays Eid gatherings and outings include visits to amusement parks, toy stores and malls throughout Yemen's regions, plus outings to beaches and chalets along with groups of family and friends.

Another favorite excursion for those with a love for camping, is spending the whole holiday in the desert, tending barbecues and campfires. In all, Eid still retains its festive flavor. It offers a welcome chance to relax and enjoy the company of others.

As the days of Eid pass by in a round pleasure and festivity, many bid farewell to the two favorite parts of the year for Muslims: the Haj and Eid.

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Vitaly Naumkin: Portrait of Soqatra's first ethnographer (Part 2 of 3)

BY SERGE D. ELIE
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Currently, he is a sought after commentator on Islamic affairs on television channels in the Gulf. Also, since his work on Soqatra he has published books on ethnic conflicts in central Asia, and numerous articles on a plethora of subjects. In the summer of 2003 a book will be published on the liberation struggle of South Yemen against the British entitled "The Red Wolves of the Yemen".

Long before he could make the initial trip to Soqatra in 1974 he has been "dreaming" about it. His curiosity was aroused by two factors: First, the presence of an indigenous language, which was not a dialect of any known language. Second the survival of a unique culture due to isolation from external influences, and which allowed the testing of a number of anthropological hypotheses, such as the nature of the kinship system according to which the people of the island organized their communal relationships; the particularities as well as the resilience of their religious beliefs in the face of a generalized Arabization of the peninsula, among other topics.

More important was his desire to test the validity of a grand hypothesis he had formulated about the groups of people speaking what are called the Modern South Arabian Languages. He hypothesized that during the time of the ancient civilizations of South Arabia, the group of people who are the carriers of the languages of Mehri, Soqotri, and the languages of the tribes in Dhofar in Oman were nomadic bedouins roaming on the margin of these civilizations and who lived under conditions of semi-autarky, which partly explains the maintenance of their distinct languages.

His original plan was to study these three groups in their milieu from an ethno-linguistic and archaeological perspective in order to reconstruct their cultural ways of life on the periphery of the ancient civilizations, which could help elucidate the origin and preservation of their languages and thus of their cultural uniqueness.

Although he had taken a number of short trips to the island since 1974, the decisive moment arrived in 1983 when



A scene from Socotra.

he led a three month expedition of a team of over a dozen Soviet scholars representing the following disciplines: Archaeology, physical and social anthropology, linguistics, medieval history, and a medical doctor. This initial mission was followed by yearly visits until 1991. The research missions to Soqatra were financed by the Soviet Academy of Sciences at the rate of sixty five thousand dollars a year.

The interest of this institution was not simply a matter of political solidarity with the newly constituted state in South Yemen, but based on a long tradition of Soviet scholarship on South Arabian civilizations, of which there were a few Russian scholars of world-renowned status. The political friendship between the two states only facilitated the pursuit of fieldwork to complement the library/archival research that had been done thus far.

When asked about the theoretical framework that informed the investigation conducted on the island, Professor Naumkin equivocally suggested that given the time that has elapsed since his initial investigation that led to the book *Island of the Phoenix*, and the changes that have occurred in the discipline of anthropology since, it was not

useful to try to recollect the theoretical influences on the research. In fact, there was not one theoretical framework as the book is in essence a synthesis of all of the disciplines represented during the many research expeditions to the island.

Although he had full editorial control over the final product, he felt obliged to include the contributions of all his co-researchers. The sub-title of the book then is a misnomer, namely "An Ethnographic Study of the People of Socotra." Instead it should have been, at least as I see it, "A Multidisciplinary Overview of the Socotra Archipelago."

Whatever the framework it reflected the prevailing influences within the academic context of the Soviet Union at the time, in terms of the available theoretical lenses. These lenses showed a lack of awareness of the changing criteria of ethnographic knowledge, and of the more recent theoretical paradigms for the appropriation of ethnographic subjects.

In terms of his own methodological approach, he suggested that it was one driven by trial and error, as there was no precedent to follow beside a few indirectly relevant scholarly articles and travel books.

Key issues

I sought his opinions on a number of issues that were pertinent to the current situation in Soqatra: The first issue concerned the cultural geography of the island. That is, the "ethnic" composition of the population. He was not sure that ethnicity was an applicable concept. For, according to him, the economic base that would support the constitution and the maintenance of such social category was lacking.

In referring to an economic base he warned that he was using a Marxist analysis, as it was pertinent. I seized the opportunity to comment that there was no Marxist analysis whatsoever in his ethnography of Soqatra. He revealed that he was always more liberal than Marxist. He had abandoned his division of the population into a three-tiered "ethnospheres" each composed of a distinct racial typology and linked to the distinctive ecological milieus of the island and their livelihood systems.

Now he was deploying the conceptual capital of the social sciences in late modernity: There was great "fragmentation" within traditional social categories, and "multiple identities" were being formed, he asserted. There were hidden linkages between people that

could no longer be contained within a traditional kinship grid.

All of these have to be uncovered and interpreted. Indeed, identities were undergoing a kind of enlargement process in Soqatra. This entails a self-identification process that was gradually emerging from a localized identity confined to the boundaries of clan or tribe, and that was being encompassed by one that currently straddles the communal (Soqotri) and the national (Yemeni). In spite of his hesitancy to deploy the concept of "ethnicity", this process of self-identification suggested an evolving transition process from tribe to ethnicity and lastly incorporation into a national identity. The latter was still in progress as "inter-ethnic" contacts have only recently begun to intensify between the islanders and the mainlanders and, increasingly, foreigners as tourists, researchers and UN experts.

The second issue was that of language. I inquired whether he had ever raised the issue with the government of South Yemen of formalizing Soqotri into a written language. He confirmed that he had discussed the issue at the highest state level that is with the Prime Minister and the President. Their answer was that the issue was not a priority at the time, as their political focus was on meeting basic material needs not cultural ones.

Moreover, there was some political sensitivity to the issue, as there was a potential for divided allegiance during the conflict with Oman in the 70's since many Soqotrans were of Omani origins. Today, however, the situation has changed. There is not the slightest manifestation of interest, nor the faintest spark of desire, among Soqotrans for any kind of autonomous political entity that would be constituted as a loose association with the Yemeni state.

There is neither a historical nor a legal basis for any claim by another state against the legitimacy of the Yemeni state's sovereignty over the island. Thus there seems to be no currently existing or potential threat that could induce political nervousness or security concerns about the Soqotri language being used as a pretext for claims to political autonomy.

Indeed, given the current emphasis on Soqatra as a touristic destination, preserving its cultural particularities would enhance the island's assets.

Accordingly, it would seem that the current context provides a strategic window of opportunity for the national authorities to consider the fate of the Soqotri language within the framework of a national cultural policy. The continued absence of such a policy, is contributing to the gradual disappearance of many assets in the national cultural patrimony, and not only in Soqatra.

The third issue was whether the model of a "segmentary society" - that is, a society characterized by strong tribal divisions and the use of violence as a means of conflict resolution- was applicable to Soqatra. Prof. Naumkin admitted that it was not. He noted the absence of bellicosity, and of its corollary institution the blood feud, among the tribes, the lack of a strict hierarchical system, and the small number of members within each tribe. His discussion of tribes in the ethnography of Soqatra did not make use of the conceptual repertoire associated with a segmentary society.

Indeed, he confessed that at the time of his research in Soqatra he was not aware of the literature on segmentary society. Thus an opportunity to invalidate the generalized applicability the segmentary model is assumed to have in the context of tribal societies was missed. Moreover the reasons why the introduction in Soqatra of the Sheikh system (Nidham Mashayekh) after unification seemed not to have found a conducive milieu and the consequences it has generated remain to be explored.

He became acquainted with the debate on segmentary societies in the middle of the 1990's, and sought to make use of it in an article entitled "Tribe, Family and State in Mahra and Socotra" published in 1995 in *Arabian Studies*. In this article, however, the issue received short shrift. Thus an investigation into the attempt of the newly unified Yemeni state to replicate what was the political model of the northern part of Yemen into the Soqatra tribal landscape has yet to be undertaken.

That is, the attempt to affix a corporate identity linked to territorial boundaries to Soqotri tribes in order to turn them into administered entities has escaped scholarly attention and an opportunity to cast the segmentary paradigm to the dust bin of history, at least as far as Soqatra was concerned, was not seized.

Life's journey

The dreams of Yemeni women

BY MAYASA M. GAWAD
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

As there are dreams in our time, there are the hopes to realize them too. They are our rights which no one can deprive us of.

Dreams of young woman in Yemen are so simple like any others around the world. However, they are confined to red lines, drawn by the Yemeni tradition customs, and morals, the society itself, and the social circumstances.

Those dreams actually differ from one class to another according to certain social needs - to get free from family, society, or culture dominance - dreams of peace, security, love, a bright future, self dependence, family independence and many others.

One young woman's dreams are of getting a practical life in order to erase the dust left of old ages in Yemen; to uproot the ill-thoughts planted in the minds of some people that confine her

role within the walls of the house; or to defend her rights and her equal sister's in the society.

Another young woman dreams to find a man to share life with and to be a good housewife, having two or three children to take care of. She dreams of family independence, which may become very essential for many young women, while it may not be to some others.

The dreams are like Khadega and Aisha in the Islamic periods, and Bilais and Arwa in Yemen yesterday, like Suha, Hanna and others today.

The orient-rooted, Yemeni young women tries hardly to raise her own state in all fields of life, within the limits of the Yemen society, never to go beyond.

Young woman in Yemen never give up dreaming. When one comes true, she dreams of another, a dream flying far into space, and another on the earth until they come true.

The most important thing is that she hold on to her dreams, because with no dreams, humans will actually die.

Eid in Palestine

At least remember them

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
fahmia25@yahoo.com

Every Eid brings with it a distinguishing merry atmosphere. I wonder if our brothers on this Earth spend the same cheerful moments and if they share us all the happy things.

Really, it is hard to know that at the moment you enjoy a wonderful time and in the same time there are people who greatly hurt and suffer and live in hard times.

This Eid is as any previous and usual ones. While we are going to prepare for this Eid, our Palestinian brothers as usual do not know the meaning of the Eid.

While we are going to wear new Eid clothes, Palestinians are going to put on shroud for the everyday martyrs.

While our clothes get performed, Palestinians clothes get bloodstained.

While we cannot sleep waiting for the morning of the Eid day, Palestinians stay up fearing any Israeli sudden attack.

While we are going to gather around the Eid table that is full with manifold

sweet dishes, Palestinians gather to carry coffins of their beloved ones.

While we greet each other about the happy occasion, Palestinians condole each other and mourn all their losses and martyrs.

During Eid days we watch beautiful programs and hear pretty songs, whereas Palestinians watch Israeli forces killed their brothers and committee the heinous massacres against them and they just hear the cry of their frightened children and the wail of the mothers and widows.

We celebrate all happy occasions for more than 25 years with a cold blood.

Today the case becomes two. We have not only the ages to ages Palestinians case but also in the last decade we have witnessed another tragedy, for a brotherly country whose people starve and suffer under a long severe siege.

This is Eid AL-Daha we are going to slay our sacrifices, and Israel is going to keep slaying our brother in Palestine and the possible US-led attack will slaughter our Iraqi brothers.

I do not want to spoil the happiness of the Eid but we Arabic and Islamic nations are considered as one body. If

one part gets hurt, the other should take care about it and cannot get rest and feel comfortable.

Are we becoming heartless people?

Are we losing our dignity and morals?

I wish I were a dead before seeing this stigma on Arab and Muslim nations. And keep celebrating.

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Mr. Khalid al-Rowaishan to Yemen Times:

Publishers print books to help cultivate Yemen's cultural scene

Yemen's General Authority for Books is one of the pioneer institutions that has achieved great success in spreading culture and presenting the Yemeni culture to the world. In the few years since its establishment, it has proved its effectiveness in motivating talented writers, poets and intellectuals to write and publish their books. Within this time, it has published more than 100 titles covering different cultural fields. The Yemen Times interviewed the chief of the General Authority for Books, Mr. Khalid Abdullah al-Rowaishan Ismail al-Ghaberi. Following is an edited version of the discussion.



Khalid Abdullah al-Rowaishan

Q: What's the role that your organization had played in support of the cultural movement in Yemen?

A: The General Authority for Books has refreshed for the first time the contemporary cultural intellectual and talented movement that started in mid-90s. So during the past five or six years this organization represented the gate through which the light of the cultural movement has appeared to go beyond the country, into the borders to the world.

Q: What have you played in support of the youth?

A: Most of the publications of our organizations are focused on youth production, notably the production of the creative youth whose first works were published by the organization which sponsored the creative youth literature. We consider our organization as the first station for youth's ambitions.

Q: What about the publications that your organization has achieved since its establishment so far?

A: Within this year we are about to chive our one hundred title project that we started four years ago. The ministry of information and culture had sponsored this project in the seventies but it could only achieve small part of it. So we feel proud that we have achieved this project within four years. This project will include all sorts of creative writing, notably the cultural production.

Q: It is noticed that you have been focusing on poetry and prose more than the other literature fields. Comment.

A: Actually most publications and literature production that is published by our organization or by others is mainly poetry or prose. Eighty per cent of all publications are poetry or prose. Most Arab countries publications are either poetry or prose as well.

We welcome all creative production of any sort and a any subject conditioned to be written in good structure, rational thoughts and to make sure that the author had made clear efforts in writing his book or that the book does not contain any plagiarism. We seek to show the uncovered side of the Yemeni creative work, as Yemen was isolated and its literature and creative work were unknown to the world until the nineties of the last century when the first Yemeni publications started to appear after decades of deprivation.

Moreover the organization focuses on literature and creative works trying to present the real visage of Yemen, especially since most Arab media have been publishing negatively about Yemen. We try to present the uncovered pretty part of the country represented in the creative work.

We also try to come to a balanced atmosphere between the political and informational activities and the literature activities, knowing that the political and informational activities have

been dominating all other fields having the lion share in the mass media, while literature and creative works are not covered by the media.

Therefore we focus on literature and creativity more than other fields such as politics and science, putting into consideration that there are lots of universities and research centers that can cover these aspects.

Q: What about the role of your organization in sponsoring and publishing works for foreign creative writers?

A: We have gone beyond the creative issue in Yemen to cover some Arab and foreign creative writers. We have published some books for some Iraq and Syrian creative writers. We also started this year to publish some universal novels that were translated by Yemeni intellectuals, such as Almaha Baharta which is a story of an Indian legend translated by Dr. Abdul Wahab al-Maqaleh, an Indian book entitled 'Silence is a Spiritual Sport' and a book on Sana'ani song written in French by the French oriental author Jan La

Meniere.

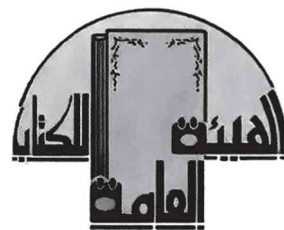
We also published a number of Arab poetry and prose works. This manner did not exist before as we in Yemen used to publish books that is written by Yemenis or focused on Yemen. Now we publish Arab and universal literature aiming to contribute in making communication between our culture and other cultures.

Q: What standards do you adopt for accepting a certain creative production to be published by your organization?

A: Actually there is a special committee that is in charge of reading and evaluating the texts and then approving them. This committee is comprised of the head of the organization, his deputy and a number of intellectuals and writers. No book can be published unless it is approved by this committee. Among the main standards is the correct grammatical structure, which is a main condition for accepting any work whether it was written in classical or contemporary style.

Q: What facilities do you provide for researchers?

A: The book house of Sana'a plays a key role in presenting facilities for all Yemeni and foreign researchers giving them a chance to loan some historical books and documents as well as newspapers and periodical magazines etc. The books General Authority for Book



Publications issued by General Authority for Books.

is also about to finalize the index of all books and documents that it has in all its libraries and computerized these indexes in order to facilitate for researchers and readers getting to the proper topic or book easily.

Q: To what extent has your organization has participated in the various regional and Arab book exhibitions and other related activities?

A: The Book organization has been playing a key role on this respect. It is well known that this organization had never participated in any of such exhibitions five years ago. However since 1998 we started participating in different book exhibitions and now after the organization production had increased you will find that Yemen's section at any book exhibition is full with a number of valuable books and publications.

Q: What is the role of your organization in searching for the old Yemeni manuscripts and publishing them?

A: Concerning old manuscripts, we think that there should be a specified professional authority that should deal with such important issues. This authority should have good resources so as to be able search for the different manuscript icons and purchasing them from citizens. The researchers and concerned people of such fields should participate in searching for such manuscripts and when they find that a certain

مايو
عبد الله البردوني



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Two volumes of poetry by the poet Abdullah al-Baradoni published by General Authority for Books

manuscript icon should be published, we won't hesitate to publish them.

Q: Finally you are a great writer, Khalid al-Rowaishan. Through your position in this organization, have you achieved your goals in bringing Yemen into the Arab cultural map?

A: I think that the three axes that our organization is focusing on have succeeded in achieving our goals. These three axes are publishing books, establishing more libraries in all governorates and the activities of the cultural house.

For the first axis, we as I mentioned above are about to reach the 100th title which we think is a good achievement in a limited time.

As for the second axis, we are proud that we have established 20 libraries in the various governorates and cities of Yemen.

And as far as the third axis goes, the culture house has been playing a key role in sponsoring the various cultural activities covering plastic art, theater, cinema, singing and other related arts.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Thawra daily,
16 Feb. 2003.

Main Headlines:

- President Saleh: we are with any emergency Arab summit, Arab stand concerning Iraq should be more advanced than of others
- Al-Qirbi: Arab foreign ministers to discuss Iraq's and Palestine issues
- Four Israeli soldiers killed in blasting a tank in Gaza
- All Arabs refuse any military act against Iraq
- World uprising against war in Iraq
- Thousands of Arab lawyers hold solidarity conference with Iraq.

The newspaper's editorial says that the widening international circle opposing the policy of war against Iraq comes as a natural reflection of world public opinion stance. World peoples have taken to the streets in massive demonstrations included most

world capitals and cities condemning tendencies of using force under whatever justification. This unprecedented stand which extended to all world countries confirms categorically that world public opinion has become well aware that peace is an urgent need and that it is its responsibility to besiege destructive fires and that regimes and governments must not be left to act by their own. It is really regrettable that while world stands are advancing with high-principled action towards peaceful solutions and ridding the region of war disasters and the Arabs will be the first losers, we find a hazy Arab stand while it should have been in advance of any other stands. The Arab stand must get liberated from its defeatism, fear and bewilderment. The necessity dictates that the proposed emergency Arab summit must have an agenda agreed upon before convening it so that the summit must not be a cover for a new division complicating the nation's wounds.

أنا نارت شمعة جديدة منزل الاخ المهندس/
عبد الرقيب البعداني
وجعلت العيد أكثر بهجة وإشراقاً
قال ألف مبروك..
موظفو نت تكنولوجيا وجميع الزملاء..

أهلاً «نور»



World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Britain

The Observer

British Prime Minister Tony Blair laid his political future on the line Saturday as he spelt out the moral case for waging war on Iraq, warning peace marchers that there would be "consequences paid in blood" for showing weakness now.

The Sunday Telegraph

Tony Blair warned the estimated one million anti-war protesters in Britain Saturday that they would have blood on their hands if they succeeded in stopping action to depose Saddam Hussein.

The Sunday Times

More than 5 million people opposed to war against Iraq took part in over 600 demonstrations from Iceland to Antarctica Saturday in the largest global protest ever staged.

India

The India Express

India Saturday voiced serious concern over the existence of insurgent camps in Bangladesh and large-scale illegal migration from that country and asked Dhaka to take immediate steps to check the problems.

The Hindustan Times

India has decided to pull out of the South Asian Federation Games in Pakistan next month citing threats to its contingent from al-Qaeda, Taliban and other terrorist outfits operating from that country.

A decision to this effect has been taken by the External Affairs Ministry in consultation with the Sports Ministry which had earlier decided to send a 350-strong contingent to Islamabad for the ten-day event beginning March 29.

Philippine

Manila Bulletin

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will convene the National Security Council next week to discuss the Philippine position on the escalating tension in Iraq after most of the 15 member nations of the United Nations Security Council shied away from a showdown with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

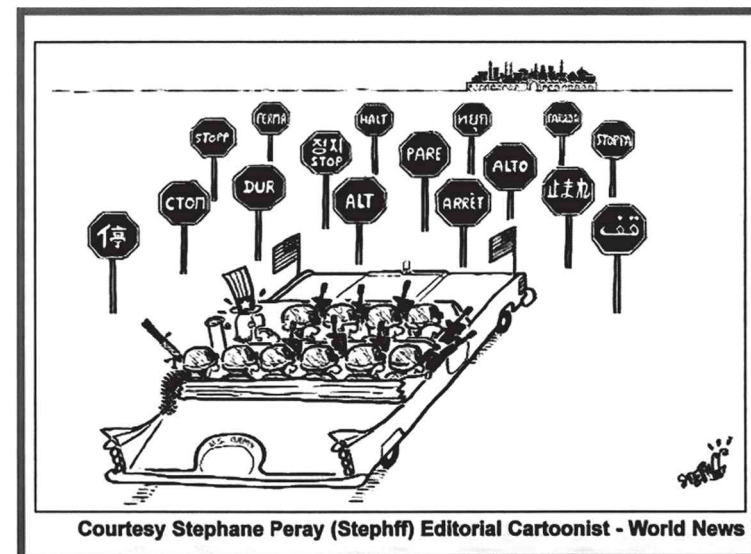
The Philippine Star

Government officials expressed hopes on Saturday that the legislature

could pass the amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act before industrialized countries start imposing sanctions on the Philippines starting March 15.

Manila Standard

The military guaranteed Saturday an end to the fighting in Mindanao by Monday after it announced that it had totally occupied Bulik complex, the birth place and final sanctuary of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.



Courtesy Stephane Peray (Stephff) Editorial Cartoonist - World News

Egypt

Al Akhbar

Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri on Saturday lauded Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call for holding an emergency Arab summit on the Iraqi issue.

The Egyptian Gazette

Capital for investment projects in Egypt has stood at 182 billion Egyptian pounds (33 billion US dollars) by January 2003, of which 146 billion pounds (26.5 billion dollars) was generated by local investors, said Mohammed Al Ghamrawi, chairman of the General Authority for Investment and Free Trade Zones.

Al Gomhuria

Arab League chief Amr Moussa said Saturday night an Arab foreign ministerial consultative meeting probed a number of ideas, including a date for an emergency Arab summit and a memo presented by Egypt for the summit.

Al Ahram

Arab lawyers will hold a conference in Cairo on Sunday in solidarity with the Iraqi and Palestinian people. Representatives from various organizations are expected to take part in the gathering, which calls for "no for war and yes for intifada (uprising)."

At the 11th-hour on the war-clock

Anti-war call roars across West Europe

BEIJING, Feb. 16 (Xinhua) — A global anti-war wave swept West Europe Saturday as millions of protesters streamed into the streets to voice their strong appeal for peace.

In Britain, hundreds of thousands of protesters from about 250 cities gathered in London, sending a strong call for peace, despite the British government's staunch position in backing the United States.

"If he (British Prime Minister Tony Blair) doesn't take notice what the vast majority of British people think and feel today, he will realize his mistake at the next general elections," said a 50-year-old doctor who introduced herself as C. Hill.

At the time when protesters in the lead reached the Hyde Park, many people of the 3.5-mile (5.6 kilometers) march had not even left the starting point at Blackfriars along the Thames River in east London.

Roads on the marching route were closed to traffic for seven and a half hours and a total of 3,500 police officers were deployed for the event with all police leave in the capital canceled, said a police spokesman.

About 3 million people joined the peace rally held in Rome, expressing their disagreement with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's support for the hard-line stance of the United States.

In Paris, about 100,000 people, according to the French police, marched in a demonstration, carrying banners with anti-war slogans such as "No blood for oil," "Our lives are worthy more of their oil" and "Veto to war. Yes to peace."

"This demonstration is an alarm to all governments. The people do not want the war," said Christian Picquet, one of the chief coordinators of the demonstration.

Eye-catching were dozens of American pacifists in the rally in Paris. They held banners reading "citizens of the United States oppose unilateral and bellicose foreign policy of the US government" and "Americans against the Bush war."

Demonstrations also took place in Toulouse, a city in southern France, with about 10,000 people joining a protest.

In Berlin, the tree-lined street between the Brandenburg Gate and the 19th-century Victory Column became a sea of banners and balloons emblazoned with "no war in Iraq," with the police estimating the crowd at between 300,000 and 500,000.

Spanish marchers, who flocked to the cities of Madrid, Barcelona, Cordoba, Santander and Seville, shouted "No, no, we don't want war" and "No to war, yes to life."

According to authorities, nearly 1 million people participated in the Madrid demonstration, 1.5 million in Barcelona and more than 150,000 in Seville.

The anti-war call was echoed by more than 23,000 people in Austria's Vienna, Salzburg and Klagenfurt and about 30,000 people in Greece's capital of Athens and its northern city of Salonica.

Up to 40,000 demonstrators gathered in the Swiss capital of Bern while the protest in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, drew



An old man shouts slogans during a demonstration against a possible US attack on Iraq in Baghdad, Iraq Feb. 15. More than 100,000 Iraqi people took part in the parade. Xinhua

some 80,000 people.

The anti-war movement erupted one day after United Nations weapons inspectors told the UN Security Council that they had not found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Uppermost among demonstrators' concerns is the potential humanitarian catastrophe likely to ensue following any attack on Iraq.

UN agencies have warned that half a million Iraqis could be wounded and a further 5 million displaced by a conflict.

Mass demonstrations were also staged in major cities across East Europe on Saturday against a looming US-led war on Iraq, said reports reaching here.

About 2,500 people rallied before the US embassy in Poland's capital of Warsaw to protest the looming war pushed by US President George W. Bush. One organizer said it will be a war for oil, and only benefit those magnates of US companies.

Although the Polish government supported the tough US line on the Iraqi issue, a recent poll showed that 63 percent of the Polish people opposed the official stance.

In Bulgaria, thousands of protesters took to the streets of the capital Sofia. They issued a statement, calling on the US administration to abandon its intention of launching war, as it would turn into a war against all people in the world.

The military action will bring about economic turbulence and produce severe consequences to the Bulgarian people, the statement said.

In the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, nearly 5,000 citizens gathered in a downtown square in protest against a possible US-led war on Iraq.

Mayor Danica Simsic said in a speech that she hoped the sense of military strategists will force them to consider the stance of millions of anti-war protesters throughout the world.



A demonstrator holds a placard reading: "Humanity, Stop the War on Iraq" during a massive anti-war demonstration in downtown Paris, Feb. 15. Thousands of French citizens took to the streets in Paris on Saturday afternoon to protest against a possible US-led war on Iraq. Xinhua



More than 5,000 Cuban people take part in a demonstration against war on Iraq in Havana, capital of Cuba, Feb. 15. Millions of people took to the streets of towns and cities across the globe on Saturday to demonstrate against a possible US-led war on Iraq. Xinhua

Little hope is left

Arab League holds talks

CAIRO, Feb. 16 (Reuters) - Foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League held emergency talks on the Iraq crisis and a forthcoming Arab summit on Sunday, but hopes were slim of any breakthrough that might help prevent a U.S. attack.

As Washington continued to mass troops in the region ahead of a possible war over Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, the ministers discussed a date and venue for the summit and ways of resolving the Iraq standoff peacefully.

"Military aggression on Iraq will not only have serious consequences for Iraq and its people, but will also have serious political, economic, social and humanitarian repercussions for all countries of the world," Lebanese Foreign Minister Mahmoud Hammoud told the opening session of talks.

"We must make clear our rejection of a war on Iraq or any other Arab country and we must make clear the need for a peaceful solution...Anyone with good intentions must allow the inspectors enough time to do their work," he said, adding Iraq had to continue cooperating with U.N. arms experts.

Arab and other states including Russia, France, China and Germany have called for more time for weapons inspections. But Washington has said time was running out for Baghdad to come clean on its alleged arms programmes, which Iraq denies having.

On the sidelines of the Cairo talks, Iraq and the European Union held their highest-level contact in several years as Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri met his counterpart from Greece, which holds the EU's rotating presidency.

Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreu is expected to brief an emergency EU summit on Monday on the outcome of the foreign ministers' meeting.

LIMITED LEVERAGE

Despite the diplomatic wrangling, analysts say Arab leverage is limited in the showdown between Baghdad and Washington.

At best, they say, Arab leaders could suggest possible face-saving measures for both sides to back away from the brink. At worst, Arabs might just reiterate their opposition to war and urge more diplomacy instead.

Diplomats and analysts say Arab leaders, especially those whose countries host U.S. troops, are anxious to convince their people that they have done all they could to avert war and thereby limit any popular backlash.

Analysts say one reason the forthcoming Arab League summit of heads of state was moved to Egypt from Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, was to avoid any accusations of Arab complicity in an attack on Iraq.

The Arab League had originally planned to hold its annual summit in Manama at the end of March, but decided to bring the date forward amid concerns a war might be imminent.

Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said the Arab League was proposing back-to-back summit meetings from February 27 to March 1, with the first "extraordinary" sessions focusing on Iraq and the Palestinian issue and the rest dealing with other matters on the annual meeting's agenda.

Iraq's Babel newspaper, owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, said on Sunday it hoped the summit would "take a serious and decisive stance to force the United States and its wicked administration to change its biased policy against the Arabs and Muslims".

Most Arabs believe that Washington is applying double standards by threatening war on Iraq for disobeying the United Nations while failing to apply the same standards to Israel.

Syrian-Lebanese border

15 die in fuel blast

AL-MASNA, Lebanon, Feb. 16 (Reuters) - At least 15 people were killed when a Syrian army fuel tanker truck overturned at a Syrian-Lebanon border post and burst into flames, destroying several nearby vehicles.

A witness said he counted 15 charred bodies at the checkpoint on the Beirut-Damascus road. Security sources said at least 18 were killed, while hospital sources said 27 were injured.

The witness said the fire, which stopped traffic passing through the main land crossing between the two countries east of Beirut, had been brought under control.

He said the truck had been heading from Syria into Lebanon, where about 20,000 Syrian troops are based.

The al-Masna checkpoint is usually busy on Sunday as many Lebanese head to Syria during the Lebanese weekend to visit or shop.



Lebanese civilians try to put out fires in their cars at the Masnaa border post with Syria Feb. 16. At least 15 people were killed when a Syrian army fuel tanker overturned at a Syrian-Lebanon border post and burst into flames, destroying several nearby vehicles. REUTERS

Bahraini women prepare for chemical attacks

MANAMA, Feb 16 (Reuters) - Amina Essa is one of 26 Bahraini women police officers who have trained for the past two weeks to decontaminate other women in case of a chemical attack on the Gulf state that hosts around 4,000 U.S. military personnel.

"Because we are Muslim country we can't let the men remove women's clothes," Essa said before a decontamination drill by civil defence services on Sunday. "That's why the police women are here, to wash their bodies, to dry their bodies and then to dress them to take them to hospital."

Home of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, Bahrain is an important U.S. ally in the region which is bracing itself for a possible war against Iraq over its alleged nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Iraq denies having any banned weapons.

Anti-U.S. sentiments are running high among Arabs in the Gulf. Bahrain has seen a number of anti-war demonstrations in past months and this weekend authorities said they had arrested five men suspected of planning "terrorist" attacks.

Officials say the chances of Iraq directing a chemical or biological attack at Bahrain are slim, but they are taking no chances. Civil Defence authorities have issued a leaflet advising the public how to prepare for an emergency.

The leaflet advises people to prepare a safe-room with windows and doors sealed, stocked with food, water, a torch and a radio or television to keep in touch with the outside world.

The fire department boasts of state-of-the-art command and control facilities and mobile decontamination facilities are ready to be deployed at a moment's notice around the island of Bahrain which measures around 50 km by 20 km (31 miles by 12 miles).

A special unit of women officers has been trained to handle female casualties, but officials say privately that in case of a major disaster there would likely be no distinction made.

"These girls have been trained for the last two weeks every day. There are 26 and I am looking for more," said Major Salah Salim as the team practised donning suits and gas masks. "It makes no difference to us whether it's a chemical or biological weapon delivered by a missile or by a terrorist," said Colonel James Windsor of the fire department which has around 850 personnel and is expanding to over 1,000. Brigadier Abdul Ghaffar Abdul Aziz Mohammed said Bahraini authorities had a direct line to the U.S. military base on the island to ensure early warning of any attack.

In Sunday's drill, suited and masked officers ferried in casualties on stretchers, cut off their clothes, dabbed them all over with decontaminant material and hosed them down. A doctor would be on hand to stabilise patients at the same time.

The decontamination process would take seven minutes for a wounded casualty, while a spray tent for uninjured people could deal with hundreds of people an hour, officials said.



Bahraini police woman Reem Jassim wears a protective mask during a civil defence exercise against chemical and biological attacks in Manama, home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, Feb. 16. Jassim is one of 26 women police who have undergone training to decontaminate the female population in the Muslim Gulf state of Bahrain in the event of a chemical or biological attack. REUTERS

4.5 million Africans infected

Mandela retreats from row over AIDs drugs

CAPE TOWN, Feb 13 (Reuters) - Former South African President Nelson Mandela has stepped back from a row over anti-AIDS drugs, shunning a protest march to demand a mass government-funded treatment programme.

More than 4.5 million people in South Africa are infected with HIV — more than any other country — but the government has dragged its feet over making drugs widely available, citing worries over possible side-effects and the potential cost.

The influential Mandela has often spoken out in favour of drug treatment, but found it too much when his picture was used to promote a planned

Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) march on parliament as the assembly opens in Cape Town on Friday.

"Although Mr Mandela supports the TAC in their call for treatment the march is not endorsed by the Nelson Mandela Foundation or Mandela personally," a Foundation statement said.

Mandela had let TAC, which received the 2003 Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, use pictures of him in a promotional T-shirt taken during a visit to one of its centres.

"However, it was never anticipated that it would include the call for a march to parliament on the day of the opening of parliament," his foundation said.

"The Nelson Mandela Foundation would not like to be seen opposing government on this issue."

Foundation staff dismissed speculation Mandela would take part in the march before attending the opening of parliament. Since standing down as president in 1999, Mandela has found it hard to reconcile his views on some issues such as the need to treat AIDS with his loyalty to the ruling African National Congress, which spearheaded the fight against apartheid rule and campaigned for his release during decades in prison. Mandela's successor, President Thabo Mbeki, has in the past questioned the link between HIV and

AIDS. TAC director Zackie Achmat said in Cape Town that Mandela may have been pressured into renouncing the march. "I have no doubt that there has been some pressure but let me say this in defence of former President Mandela: He has done an enormous amount more than our president has done on HIV and AIDS and the fact that he is standing by the right of people for access to treatment is very important to us," he told Reuters.

Pressure has built on Mbeki ahead of his state of the nation speech to parliament to announce the roll-out of anti-retroviral treatment across the country, as agreed in principle last year.

Audio quality is very clear this time

Bin Laden tells Muslims to fight the 'holy war'

DUBAI, Feb 16 (Reuters) - An Islamist website broadcast an audio tape purported to be the voice of Osama bin Laden telling Muslims to fight against the "enemy" United States and saying holy war was the only way to win Muslim rights.

If authenticated, the recording broadcast by the Jihad Forum site would be the latest proof that bin Laden had escaped the 2001 U.S.-led military campaign to flush him and his al Qaeda operatives from Afghanistan.

The voice on the recording was very clear and sounded like previous audio and video recordings which other media organisations said were made by bin Laden.

"Regarding this Zionist Crusader war on the nation of Islam, it is the duty of

Muslims to fight for the sake of God and to incite the faithful to fight the infidels," the speaker said.

Jihad Forum said the new message was made on the occasion of the three-day Muslim Eid al-Adha feast, which this year coincided with the threat of a looming U.S. war on Iraq and heightened anti-American sentiment in many Arab countries.

"It is the utmost duty to fight the enemy that sabotages the world. The only way to deal a decisive blow in the conflict with the enemy is through killing and fighting," the recording said.

The Saudi-owned Al Hayat newspaper first published excerpts of the recording, which they said could be found on the Islamist "Jihad Forum" site hosted by the www.arabforum.net website.

It follows another tape broadcast last week by Qatar's al Jazeera television in which the Saudi-born bin Laden called on Muslims to stage suicide attacks to prevent a U.S. war on Iraq.

Both recordings coincide with a state of high alert in the United States and its ally Britain, who said they had concrete information that al Qaeda was planning a slew of attacks.

Attacks have in the past followed messages by bin Laden, and al Jazeera's Tuesday broadcast of its tape heightened fears of an imminent strike.

Bin Laden said an attack on Iraq would be followed by U.S. "aggressions" against more Arab countries such as Egypt, Sudan, Iran and Syria for the benefit of its ally Israel.

"This attack on Iraq is part of a new

crusade to prepare the region, after dividing it, for the creation of a Greater Israel. This means the whole region will be ruled by Jews," he said.

The recording began with bin Laden identifying the United States and its "foolish" President George W. Bush as the enemy.

YEMEN EXECUTIVE MINE ACTION CENTER

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Republic of Yemen

Invitation to bid for supply of food items and pharmaceuticals

Sealed bids prepared in the English Language for the supply of food items and Pharmaceuticals will be received by the Yemen Mine Action Program till 2.00 p.m. on 23.02.2003.

Bidding documents may be obtained from the undersigned till 2.00 p.m. on 22.02.2003.

Director, Yemen Executive Mine Action Center, Building No. 46, Tourist City, Sana'a. Telephone Nos. 302790 and 302791.

Vacancy

A major humanitarian organization in Yemen has a vacant position of an assistant for two expert country representatives.

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Be highly qualified interpretation/translation (Arabic/English)
- Have accounting skills
- Have basic computer knowledge
- Be capable of handling general office duties

Applicants interested in this position should contact one of the following numbers:

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or

(01) 204484

Vacancy Announcement

The International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) would like to announce the following posts:

1. Administrative/Financial Assistant
2. Bilingual Secretary

An excellent command of Arabic and English is necessary for both posts as well as good computer skills and preferably experience with international organizations.

The potential candidates have good communication and organizational skills; with the ability to work on their own as they would be required to assist the Programme Manager in maintaining efficient financial and filing system, as well as communicate with implementing agencies on a day to day basis.

Interested candidates should send their Resume to the following fax No. 423072 Not later than 18 February, 2003. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



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Accommodation half board (breakfast + dinner)

Note: group of 4 persons (adult) & more we offer the discount of YR4,000.

Casualties unknown

Afghanistan hit by avalanches

KABUL, Feb 16 (Reuters) - Heavy snow around Afghanistan's key Salang tunnel caused avalanches on Sunday but it was not immediately clear if there were any casualties, the government and aid agencies said.

The 2.7-km (1.7-mile) long tunnel connecting the capital with the northern provinces was ordered closed because of the snow and avalanches, a joint situation report issued by the ministry of public works, USAID and the French aid agency ACTED, said.

"There were some avalanches in the southern side of Salang in Paridagi region, the casualties are not clear," the statement said.

It said workers would take about four hours to clear the snow from the road leading to the tunnel.

Kabul radio said the snowfall is likely to continue until late Monday, which could delay a re-opening of the tunnel perched on the Hindu Kush

mountains.

The Salang tunnel located at an altitude of 3,385 metres (11,100 feet) is a key artery in winter linking the south with the north because all other routes are blocked by snow.

Several passengers died last winter when their cars were caught in an avalanche near the tunnel, which has been badly damaged by years of fighting and negligence.

But the heavy snowfall has been greeted with joy in most parts of Afghanistan, after four successive years of harsh drought.

Aid work could be hampered by friction between the foreign workers and locals.

ACTED said in the situation report that local commanders in the Salang region had beaten up its workers in the past two weeks in a bid to control traffic, and added it might have to pull out its men.

Response to army

Philippine rebels kill three

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines, Feb 16 (Reuters) - Muslim rebels shot dead three villagers after being driven out of their stronghold in the southern Philippines in a major army offensive, the military said on Sunday.

The civilians were killed in Lanao del Norte province on Friday, a day before troops occupied a base of the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF) in nearby Pikit town on the main southern island of Mindanao, a military report said.

The villagers were tilling their farm when they were shot for still unknown reasons by a band of rebels fleeing pursuing soldiers, the report said.

A total of 157 rebels and six soldiers were killed in a five-day military assault on the MILF base in Pikit town, the military said. Sixty-seven soldiers were wounded.

An MILF spokesman said 40 rebels were killed.

The MILF is the biggest of four factions fighting for an Islamic state in the south of the mainly Roman Catholic country.

Manila and the MILF have held on-and-off peace talks since 1997 to end a separatist conflict that has killed more

than 120,000 over three decades.

President Gloria Macagapal Arroyo has said the target of the military offensive was not the MILF but a notorious kidnap-for-ransom gang hiding in the MILF camp.

Since being dislodged from their base, the guerrillas and allied groups have launched small-scale attacks on military and civilian targets in Lanao del Norte and nearby provinces, armed forces spokesman Colonel Essel Soriano told reporters.

"We have alerted our forces to prevent a spillover of the fighting in other areas," he said.

The fighting has forced more than 30,000 villagers to flee their homes.

The fighting took place 300 km (185 miles) east of Zamboanga city, where hundreds of U.S. troops are due to begin next week the second phase of anti-terrorism training for local forces.

Presidential adviser Eduardo Ermita said on Saturday the government would seek the help of the neighbouring Muslim country of Malaysia to restart the peace talks stalled since 2001. Kuala Lumpur has brokered previous negotiations.



Philippine army soldier and armed civilian volunteers take up a combat position inside the army camp detachment after members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) attacked the detachment in Tulunan town, North Cotabato, southern Philippines on Feb. 13. The Philippine military said on Thursday it may have killed as many as 122 Muslim guerrillas in three days of heavy fighting on the southern island of Mindanao. REUTERS

South Korean president apologies

Hyundai paid \$500 M to North Korea

SEOUL, Feb 16 (Reuters) - An executive of South Korea's Hyundai group acknowledged on Sunday his firm had secretly sent \$500 million to North Korea, saying the payments secured business rights and also helped bring about a landmark North-South summit.

At a news conference, Hyundai Asan Corp Chairman Chung Mong-hun apologised "with my head bowed", for controversy over the payments, which he said had secured for Hyundai the exclusive rights to seven

business projects in North Korea.

But Chung added: "I also thought that the payments contributed to the summit."

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung apologised to the country on Friday over two-week-old revelations that Hyundai sent cash to Pyongyang in 2000, including \$200 million just days before Kim's historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

But Kim's government has denied allegations that the cash and state

loans sent to the North by Hyundai Merchant Marine were used to entice Kim Jong-il to hold the summit in June 2000.

The "cash-for-summit" scandal has complicated the transition from Kim Dae-jung to his elected successor Roh Moo-hyun this month and tainted South dealing with North Korea at a time when South-North ties are strained by an international crisis over the North's suspected attempts to build nuclear weapons.

Chung, a son of the founder of the

conglomerate, had just returned from North Korea, where Hyundai Asan operates a tourist project that has been the centrepiece of economic projects between capitalist South Korea and the communist North.

Chung declined to provide details on the projects he said were secured by the payments, defending the secrecy as key to maintaining Hyundai's advantage in competition with Western and Japanese firms for business projects in North Korea.



Young North Koreans promise their loyalty to their leader Kim Jong-il in a mass rally celebrating his upcoming birthday at Pyongyang's Kumsusan Memorial Palace plaza Feb. 11. North Korea is capable of striking U.S. targets anywhere in the world if provoked, France's Agence France Presse news agency quoted a senior foreign ministry official as saying in Pyongyang on Thursday. REUTERS

In New Zealand

Iraq war, America's Cup split PM's attention

AUCKLAND, Feb 16 (Reuters) - The looming threat of a U.S.-led war against Iraq was not enough to totally distract New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark's attention from her country's faltering defence of sailing's America's Cup on Sunday.

Clark said a split-screen television helped her keep tabs on the second race of the best-of-nine America's Cup while she also listened to Australian counterpart John Howard, a staunch Washington ally, talk about the possibility of war.

"I've been listening to his voice and watching the visuals on the race," Clark told the New Zealand Press Association.

NZPA said the race commanded most of her attention.

But it came to nothing as Swiss challengers Alinghi came from behind to beat Cup holders Team New Zealand by seven seconds to take a 2-0 lead in the series.

New Zealand were forced to withdraw from Saturday's first race after suffering a chain reaction of gear breakages which Clark called a "tragedy".

Biotechnology heir Ernesto Bertarelli's Alinghi are vying to become the first European team to win sport's oldest trophy, which was first contested in 1851.

هل أنت الفائز بالمليون؟؟

هل أنت الفائز بالمليون؟؟

ترقبوا نتائج السحب

لمسابقة الملاييه

أكثر من 200 جائزة..

آخر موعد لاستقبال كوبيوناتكم غداً الثلاثاء 18 فبراير 2003م

سيتم السحب يوم الخميس القادم ٢٠/٢/٢٠٠٣م في الساعة الرابعة عصراً

بمقر الصحيفة الكائن في تقاطع شارع حدة مع شارع الستين

خلف السفارة الفلسطينية في تمام الساعة الرابعة عصراً..

والدعوة عامة

Millions Competition draw will be on
20 February at the Yemen Times Sana'a premises.

Open Invitation

YT Business



Hadramout office tries to boost foreign investment

Private sector development

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The office of the industry and trade ministry in Hadramout has selected three industrial zones for founding investment opportunities in the industrial sector and for attracting Yemeni, Arab and external capitals. The objective is to enhance Yemeni production capacities and develop exports to foreign markets.

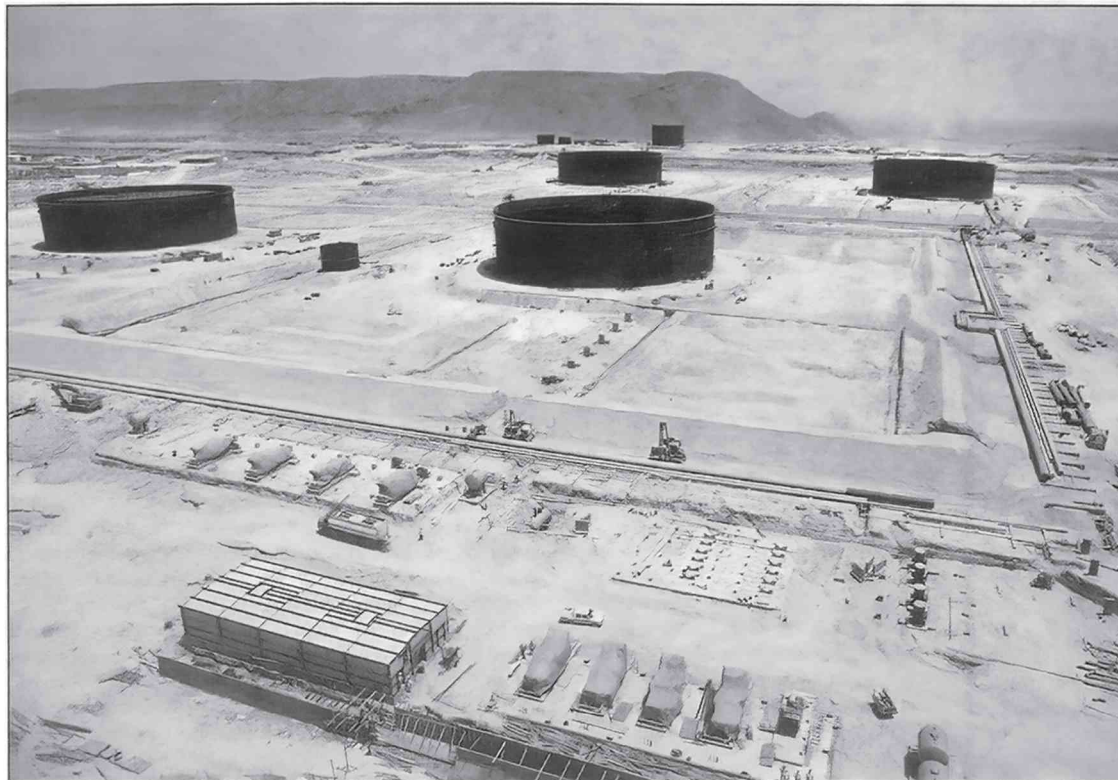
The office has finished studies on building the three industrial zones in Dhabba plateau and the regions of Fuwwa and Brum Dhalouma. The three areas are characterized by industrial and trade advantages because of their situation on the Arabian Sea and proximity to Hadramout oil wells, but they are in need of building industrial services infrastructure and support geological surveys for installing cement industries and building materials and metals. The ministry's office has also laid proposals for establishment of investment projects available for the private sector in the new industrial zones, including:

- allocation of sites for raw material investment,
- drawing up a map for geographical and qualitative distribution for the industry of construction materials in the governorate,
- building chemical and petrochemical industries, building food industries for exportation, depending on local agricultural products,

• supporting and developing small industries and increasing production of handicraft professions, as figures indicate that the number of small industries in Hadramout is mostly covering: a) food industries, b) wood industries, c) paper industries, d) chemical industries, e) metal ores industries, f) mining products industries, g) spinning industries and conversion industries.

The governorate of Hadramout is seeing noticeable investment activity. The number of projects licensed to be invested in various fields is more than 160 at a cost exceeding YR 6 billion. Some of them began production and all provide job opportunities for around 3,500 workers. Therefore, the office of industry and trade has sought the help of the ESCWA organization for making an evaluation of the new industrial zones and it has been focused on the right choice of the three zones. Authorities there are endeavoring to attract Yemeni expatriate capitals, particularly of the sons of Hadramout who are living in Gulf states and possess huge financial assets. These people can build industrial areas and ensure their success as investment projects to be gaining necessary exemptions and facilities and provision of infrastructure.

In order to develop performance of private sector projects in the governorate of Hadramout, the governorate's chamber of commerce and industry signed an agreement with the Dutch



Oil installations in Hadramout.

establishment for administrative cooperation, known as (N.M.C.B.) on cooperation in investment fields so as to support medium industrial factories and companies. The agreement aims at upgrading performance of the private sector in Hadramout and enable it increase production, development of

exports and establishment of partnership relations with its Dutch private sector counterparts.

These steps represent the government's interest in alleviating burdens and losses hindering progress of the Yemeni economy, which has suffered tremendously as a result of terrorist

activities that in turn damaged Yemen's reputation on the global scale. The instability in the governorate of Hadramout had severe effects on the desire of foreign investors to invest in seaports and the future free zone in Aden. Besides, high shipping insurance costs have also added insult to injury.

Workshop presents host of papers IT: Let's get on with it

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's government is planning to use communications and information technology to help curb illiteracy promote development.

Access to information is part of its goal, especially after adopting free internet services.

The government declared its intention to provide customs-free computers for employees selling them on installment basis.

A workshop was recently organized by the Ministry of Communications on the role information and communication technology plays in development.

Several important working papers were discussed. One was presented by the Central Bank, which confirmed that the Bank was among the first of government institutions to use computers and new information technology.

The Central Bank has provided the bank's main centre with the internal network by using distribution devices.

In its development of external distribution equipment, the bank has adopted routers equipment and dial-up systems in its telephone lines.

The bank, the working paper says, simplified and shortened procedures by supplying the government with information and statistical data to help it take proper economic, development and financial decisions.

In addition, the bank has used this technology to facilitate services to customers and investors.

The private sector working paper referred to the social segments using information to three categories: a) employees of both public and private sectors, b) students and researchers, c)

the public in general.

The paper confirmed the ability of the Yemeni public to comprehend and absorb means of development and information technology, along with the increase in companies and centers selling computers and more institutes teaching computer technology.

The paper has, however, says there's a lack of enough knowledge on the significance of the use of information technology and notes the high cost prevents those of limited income from buying computers.

That includes customs and taxes imposed on them by the state.

The paper has also defined that Yemeni aged 16-40 make up more than 70 percent of the population. This indicates the existence of big investment opportunities in electronic commerce, e-learning, health care and e-government systems.

The paper encourages investors in information, customs and tax breaks, new laws on protection of intellectual property and new administrations at

various institutions concerned with information and data.

A working paper presented by the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education reviewed the ministry's efforts for building and developing information systems and data rules as well as preparing mechanisms and plans for linking technical education and vocational training information systems to the labor market.

The paper confirmed that adopting information and information systems needs 75 per cent of providing information and 25 per cent of skills and capabilities.

The working paper presented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade has reviewed hindrances, including a shortage in qualified manpower in this area and scarcity of financial allotments for providing information.

The paper confirms that the situation has impeded the ministry's efforts for the development of the industrial and trade sector performance although the ministry has a centre for economic

information and research, designing programs for various departments.

The centre, says the working paper, has designed a program for the trade agencies and companies and branches of foreign firms. It has designed a program for protection of trademarks and another for industrial record in addition to a program for external trade containing statements on exports, imports and balance of trade between Yemen and the world.

The ministry of industry has also drawn up a program on inlets for imported goods to know about commodities undesired to enter into the Yemeni market. The program also is concerned with commodities imported via land, sea and airports.

But this program has not been carried out yet for administrative reasons. As part of updating statements, the ministry is presently working for allocating all investments regarding

establishment of companies or registering trade marks.

The ministry also intends to benefit from the UNCTAD program for opening international trade before new subscribers regarding supply of information through the electronic network.

The civil service working paper looks at the role of data and information in administrative development by implementing a program on updating civil service to rationalize the volume of labor, reconstruct a pension system and disclose cases of double job by means of computer.

The civil service has managed so far to discover nine per cent of such cases in government departments. The paper summarizes the challenges facing the electronic government in Yemen against the social, scientific and economic challenges.

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The Road Ahead

The value of advertising

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
r_saqqaf@hotmail.com

A lot of injustice is done to advertising in Yemen. It is the first item to be cut if there was any pressure on the business to maintain high profitability, especially in recession times. Yet some businesses maintain and increase their advertising expenditure at those times, so that they gain market share because they know that everybody else is cutting. And when you gain market share, you keep it.

Maintaining profitability in the long term involves more than maintaining advertising expenses. It involves brand building for the medium and long terms, because strong brands give a company longer staying power in business and a reason to charge a premium. However, such efforts for brand building will go to waste if there is under investment in the advertising expenditure, and that hurts the brand's long-term value.

The focus is on immediate action. Those who cut on advertising budgets believe that advertising which doesn't have an immediate effect is useless. Whereas the attempt should be made to check and evaluate the medium and long-term effects of it and the strength it adds to a brand name. For example if 100 riyals spent on advertising generates 50 riyals of sales plus the accumulated added value that was generated, measurement of that value can prove that advertising doesn't only pay back for its costs but also adds more to the value of the product and builds strong brand names.

Advertising depends on three things: creativity (execution), budget and media planning. You can't do these efficiently unless you know what's been previously done and have been able to measure it. Knowledge and measurability are essential for efficient practice.

There are six factors that are measurable for a brand's strength and will be discussed below.

First, brand penetration. It means how many people use a particular brand, for example how many people read a particular newspaper or magazine. The second is purchase frequency; how many times your brand gets picked among others in the same category.

Third is price elasticity. This is the change in sales and the brand's sales responsive to changes in price over a period of time.

The fourth, actual price, is the price premium a brand is able to charge in its category because of added value, over and apart from functionality.

The fifth is advertising flexibility. It refers to a measure of advertising responsiveness. How much extra sales did you get from the extra advertising? Finally advertising intensiveness is a measure of aggregate investment in accordance to the size of the brand.

By measuring those factors you can understand the real value behind advertising and hence appreciate the long-term effects of it.

Remember: There is more to advertising than immediate effects. There is brand building, which is critical in today's competitive world. The six aspects mentioned above can help in the process of measuring advertising effectiveness.

Words of Wisdom



One of the major problems of underdeveloped societies is their inability to look ahead. Good planning is probably the most crucial factor in success - whether in business, in government, or even in life itself.

We in Yemen suffer enormously because we are unable to look ahead. The ability to look ahead comes with training and education; it is not an inherent part of the individual. It is something people can acquire.

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



OUR OPINION

Arab failure ... again?

The present time constitutes a major test to Arab nations and leaders. In a time when war is being prepared by the US and Britain, Arabs are witnessing one of their weakest and most humiliating moments.

It is truly a pity to see the whole world protesting in millions the possible strike against Iraq, while we Arabs continue to go on in a trance that we have been put in by our oppressive and backward regimes.

Despite the fact that it is us Arabs who should be the first to protest and call for demonstrations in solidarity with our Iraqi and Palestinian brothers, we seem to be the only ones not so enthusiastic about going to the streets and expressing our anger.

"If fifty or more people try to gather in Al-Tahrir Square, the city center, for a demonstration, they are immediately dispersed or arrested by the police forces," said one of the Yemenis I asked of the reason why we are so quiet.

Our regimes have made us afraid of protesting and think that it is against the law. In fact, a new law has been approved in Yemen to limit the right of demonstrations creating obstacles and challenges to all those who want to express their opinions.

"Even when we are allowed to protest, we are given posters of the president to raise them high during the protest," he added. "In a time we are protesting oppression possible oppression against Iraq by a foreign state, we are suffering of oppression in our own countries. I just hope that our leaders realize the damage they have done to our reputation through their cruel actions against their own people."

Yemenis, like many other Arab citizens fear going to the street without the permission of the state, which mostly doesn't permit demonstrations unless it serves its own interests. Looking at the millions who demonstrated last Saturday in the streets of London against their own Prime Minister, we need to gain more self-confidence and trust in that people are the ones who should speak out if governments are too weak to do so.

It is us, the public, who should exert pressure on our governments to not blindly support the superpower of the world in all its actions. But how can we raise our voices if we are not even given permission to gather in the city center?

On the other hand, our Arab foreign ministers are still debating the program and timing of the urgent summit to be held in Cairo. They have not come to any consensus on how to handle the event, and how to go about it. They have shown how scattered, divided, and weak we are as nations. They have brought us embarrassment by not being able to come to common grounds on vital issues such as this eminent war.

Will Arabs fail again to bring about a positive change in heart and unite our stance?

From what I see so far, they wouldn't, and they will fail ... again!

The Editor



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A German's view of Yemen

Inside al-Qaida

BY LUDGER SCHADOMSKY
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Next time you pass through al-Qaida, make sure to take a close look at the sign that bids you farewell at the far end of town, where the road descends towards Taiz.

It reads "Qaida" in both English and Arabic, but what caught my eye was the billboard that comes with it: It's an ad for "Ariel" washing power, and depicts a Yemenite and his son in clean white clothing, a result no doubt of the said washing agent.

My assignment was to produce a 45-minute documentary for Deutsche Welle - the Voice of Germany - on the life in a town struggling to shed the impression that it had anything to do with that infamous terrorist organization.

It's become a running gag in Yemen to warn friends not to travel to Qaida because "you will end up in prison."

Well, it's not a joke at all: several residents told me relatives abroad had been picked up by the police after they had asked operator for a line to al-Qaida.

The article advert, I decided, was to become the working title of my story: Was Yemen's "vest" as regards the sponsoring of terrorism as "white" as the one depicted on the billboard?

To find an answer to that question, I spent a week traveling the environs of al-Qaida - Taiz, Jiblah and Raidah in what used to be south Yemen.

It was no an easy task: only days before my departure German security had arrested well-known Imam al-Moyyad at a Frankfurt airport. Would this result in hostile acts against German citizens abroad? After all, the foreign office had issued a travel warning!

But then again: had not Guenther Grass, the well-known German author, just published a rave review of his visit to Yemen? As it turned out, my concerns were ill founded: the customs officer on duty offered a "you are most welcome" and from there on it was smooth sailing.

Well, who would have thought, I wondered as we were waived through another roadblock amid cheers from the security guards, that Gerhard Schroeder



Chewing qat at Mr. Derhim's house.

would once replace Oliver Kahn as Germany's goodwill ambassador? Yemenis regard the German Chancellor as a friend of the Iraqi, and by extension, the Arab, peoples.

Although I doubt that Mr. Schroeder's PR people back in Berlin are amused, it certainly opened doors wherever I went. "Alemania No.1" was to become the refrain as I moved around the country.

Journalists sometimes have to make sacrifices in the pursuit of their profession. Mine was to give a substantial amount of my hair to a barber in al-Qaida.

Barbershops are arguably one of the most rewarding news sources, and I decided to treat myself to a "Michael Jackson" cut. Well, that's the term my barber, Ali Mohammed, used anyway.

To the bemusement of by passers and the bewilderment of Ali, a heated exchange developed, spanning everything from the origin of the name "al Qaida" to Israel's policy Vis a Vis Palestine. In what would become a standard pattern during my visit, people complained about what they perceived as "double standards" by the U.S.

More butter-and bread issued centered around the upcoming elections, the fall of the Rial against the dollar and rising unemployment among youths. One of my lasting impressions was a visit to Jiblah Hospital, the scene of the cold-blooded killing of three American aid workers in December. It was heartening to see the determination with which the staff both local and foreign were once again going about their daily routine, firmly set on seeing through the job they had started more

than 30 years ago.

Another very encouraging development is the establishment of a commission by President Saleh, tasked with the re-education of former jihad fighters in Afghanistan. As commission chairman Khadi al Hitar explained the objective of the commission, I thought it would be laudable if this dialogue-approach was followed by others.

To cut a long story short, I couldn't agree more with Guenther Grass that Yemen is unfairly portrayed as a safe haven for terrorists. Yes, there are elements, but it would appear that the government is determined to root them out.

One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to realize that poverty and a lack of education support the spread of terrorism. So while a heavy-handed approach by the Yemeni authorities is certainly called for, the real challenge is to make sure that Yemen moves ahead with literacy programs, the provision of basic health services, access to water etc. to its citizens.

Yemen, they say, is unique in its history and the makeup of its people. They also say Yemenis based on "consensus democracy". (Why else would a high-ranking member of the ruling party say it doesn't want a "landslide victory" in upcoming elections, but afford the opposition the opportunity to make its voice heard in parliament?)

So, as long as there is a consensus that terrorism is a cul-de-sac that only harms foreign interests, but even more so local industry and tourism, I have little doubt that terrorism will be stamped out rather sooner than later, and the country can once again be an "Arabia Felix".

Look at our similarities

ROY YEREX, USA
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My father taught me that one should always listen to a person carefully and without prejudice.

A mentor once told me "Roy, everyone has a story to tell and they have every right to be heard."

With that as a background, I started reading the Yemen Times. I had a picture in my mind of Yemen and its attitudes.

How wrong I was. When I read the Yemen Times, "How much like our own newspapers." I thought. Complaints about government policy; youth in extreme acts; discussions about politics; discussions about social ills and government efforts to deal with them. How similar Yemen's society is to our own, I concluded.

There are deep differences, as well. I note a much deeper involvement of religion in government. But, instead of a negative influence, I noted many positive influences. And I learned what I have always maintained is true: Islam is a religion of tolerance and respect. I had been maintaining that was the case, even out of ignorance of the religion. I

knew it had to be true - why else would so many people adhere to the religion. If I am not showing respect in some way, please excuse my ignorance. I mean no respect - I mean every respect.

You should know that the opposition to violence in the Middle East; be it against Iraq, Afghanistan or any other country - is the subject of widely differing opinions in Canada - my country. It is also the subject of widely differing opinions in the United States. Many are extremely opposed - as a matter of fact, if the U.N. does not approve, our Prime Minister reflects the majority of the people in Canada - we should not be doing violence against Iraq. Disarm, because of fearful suspicion of Saddam Hussein, yes. But, by force of arms? No.

If, at any time, Yemenis feel they differ from our side of the world in their opinions, I invite you to use your computers and read our newspapers. Be ready, when you read our newspapers, for a culture shock! You are similar in every regard excepting the conjoiner of religion and state. We, in the west, have had such horrors when the two joined, that we prohibit any religion in government of any kind. Our religion is in our churches, mosques, synagogues and temples. The decency our people

receive there, spills out into society. It restrains government - keeps it within bounds.

We, in the west, have strong opinions on all matters and our political parties span the spectrum. We have managed to reduce the vehemence of our support of whatever party we support, to the point where there is, essentially no violence in our domestic politics. Even banging a table while making a point is frowned upon and likely to get the speaker less attention, rather than more. Canada's army is proud to be a peacekeeping army that, in most part, trains to assist in countries torn by war but wracked with a desire to attain peace.

Now, if we can just get all the countries in the west to rid violence from international affairs, we will have attained our goal as a society.

It seems the people of the world yearn for the same goal. Let's put our shoulder to the political cartwheel and keep shoving our governments that way.

Let's hope both Yemen and we, attain our goal - peace. The sooner the better, as my father used to say when I said it was time to get my duties performed in the home. The sooner the better.

Letters to the Editor

Casualties of war for peace
The tragic death of the American aid workers many weeks ago is a reminder that the war for peace also has its casualties. Humanitarian workers and missionaries have always been safe in Yemen. They have been afforded the protection and sponsorship of the government. More importantly they have been given the protection of the

local tribes and the people they serve. The tribal code that would normally protect them from harm does not apply in this new Islamic radicalism.

It is in a sense a breakdown of Yemeni culture and a dishonor on the tribe of Jibla. The aid workers in Yemen were aware of the dangers but decided to stay because of their devotion to the people of Yemen. The

Letters to the Editor

remaining aid workers in Yemen have not evacuated and I suspect they would not want to abandon their friends buried on the hillside of Jibla. Peace has a price in the Koran and the Bible and it is called love.

Thomas Richard
vze4twpd@verizon.net

No to War!

As a 63-year old American, I would say

that I do not want war. Americans do not want war. The whole world does not want war. But also the world does not need a man threatening other countries whose political or religious opinions are different. Americans are made up of many different people from the world and they all want peace. If the Arab world wants peace, then join us in our efforts to topple Iraq's regime and

make the world more peaceful. I do not like what Israel is doing to Palestinians as well, and I fight against it. But I do not kill Israelis to make my point.

M. Hardy
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Lessons from WW II

I have read your viewpoint article published a few weeks ago on lessons to be learnt from World War II

with much admiration and praise for it. The great people of Germany and Japan are due historic credit for their acts. But at the same time one should not forget the role of the US in supplying the Marshall Plan and the revitalization of Japan after the victory. We are prepared to do the same for the citizens of Iraq who have come.

Cliff Baker
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COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

A fishy ordeal

The Bush administration was painstakingly looking for the missing link between President Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden so as to "make sense" out of all the nonsense that the White House has turned the world into over the last year and a half. As if responding to a proper signal, Bin Laden comes out with his most recent of many corny taped messages to prompt Colin Powell to declare that he has found the "proof" that he needs to justify amassing the world's most destructive conventional (and non conventional) arsenal against the helpless Iraqi people.

Notwithstanding all the corny rhetoric in Bin Laden's message, one wonders how Colin Powell was able to use the message to justify his boss's senseless behavior, even before the message was aired by Al-Jazeera satellite news on television. One wonders if there is no clandestine link between the White House and Bin Laden, directly or indirectly. This is probably the reason why the defense minister of the United States could not answer the oft repeated question by reporters: "Why haven't you captured Bin Laden yet?" which was again asked of Donald Rumsfeld last week.

After Gulf War I (1990), the same question was asked of the Foreign Minister of Bush's father, but that time the culprit was Saddam Hussein: "If you say Saddam is so bad, why didn't you finish him off when you were already in Iraq and everything was going against Saddam?" Baker quickly pointed out: "We have no plans to eliminate Saddam Hussein, because he is serving an important strategic role for the United States!" We are now not sure if that strategic role is used up or is still continuing, but the essence is quite clear that there are role players of strategic importance for the United States and American covert interests in gender, political, religious and even "nationalistic" manifestations.

A bizarre figure ... and message

How could Bin Laden come out with a normal Friday sermon of common utterance in every mosque and proclaim to the world his outstanding feats of bravery in the Tora Bora Mountains of Afghanistan (one is reminded of the movie, "The Three Hundred Spartans") and suggest that he knows that he has the right tactical formula for countering the United States' almost eminent invasion of Iraq? Very few Moslems were aroused by the latest of Bin Laden's tapes, which only raised more suspicions about the nature of this bizarre figure, who was raised in the midst of the Najd Desert, from where it seems half the troubles of the Moslem World seem to emanate.

What is really going on in this world today? How many clandestine operations are taking place here and there, just to serve the interests of an entrenched American military-industrial complex and the international Zionist establishment, which have solidly joined hands to wreak havoc throughout the world to satisfy their selfish and arrogant aspirations?

Going back to Bin Laden's tape, it is not clear where Washington found the missing link it was looking for, since Bin Laden has openly declared that Saddam Hussein was an "infidel as all socialists of the world are infidels, including the Arab Socialists and the Yemeni socialists, etc." I am not sure if the Americans are ready to buy everything that comes out of their fumbling leadership, but it might be advisable to start listening to their European allies, who are really beginning to feel somewhat confused by the latest whirlwind the White House has stirred in the world, lacking in meaningful purpose and intent.

Now there is even talk of economic sanctions against European nations that dare to defy the God-ordained wishes of the United States. One would never think that this is the kind of talk that comes out of a wise American leadership, which has yet to display any sense of wisdom in all its actions or inactions since it took over the United States. Quite frankly, it seems clear that Mr. George Bush is leading the United States to an abyss of ambiguous chauvinistic drives that reflect a strong Zionist influence, which will only bring the United States into an isolated corner, to which not even its might will be of use.

Hooray for Belgium!

Carry on Belgium: you are on the right track by insisting that Ariel Sharon should face justice for his criminal deeds. It is about time someone disproves the "anti-terrorist" cloak of the biggest terrorists of modern times! The evidence is there, so proceed for you will serve the cause of justice, which seems to have taken a back seat in this troublesome world, where the mighty insist that they will inherit the earth, forgetting that God Al-Mighty has declared that it is the "meek who shall inherit the Earth".

Can Europe stop America?

The revolt against the reborn U.S.

PATRICK SEALE
GULF NEWS

There were two striking moments in Russian President Vladimir Putin's long interview on French television last Tuesday night at the end of his state visit to France. The first was when he said that Russia was, of course, part of Europe. "Look at the map! Look at our history!" he exclaimed.

"We are the heirs of Greece, of Rome, of Byzantium, we are the heart of Orthodox Christendom." (I am quoting him from memory and may not have recorded his exact words.) The second moment was when, in discussing the Iraq crisis, he declared that Russia's ambition was to see the emergence of a multipolar, rather than a unipolar, world.

Putin's remarks signal that, beyond the trans-Atlantic dispute over Iraq, we are witnessing a rebellion by major European states against the dominance of the United States, a dominance which has characterized international relations since the collapse of the Soviet Union a dozen years ago.

The notion that a single hegemon can dictate terms to the rest of the world and make war on whomever it pleases is being categorically rejected.

Common global aim

The rebellion has spread beyond Europe, seeing that China has expressed its support for the solemn joint February 10 declaration by Russia, France and Germany (read out at the Elysée Palace by President Jacques Chirac himself).

It states that the disarmament of Iraq, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, is the common aim of the international community, but that "We are sure there is an alternative to war. The use of force can only be a last resort."

On the surface, the dispute is over how best to strip Iraq's President Saddam Hussain of his alleged arsenal of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The U.S. says that, because of Saddam's record of lies and deception, it must be done by force.

In this the U.S. has the backing of Britain's Tony Blair - its most loyal, some would say its most slavish, ally - but also of the leaders of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Denmark, and a clutch of newly-democratised Eastern European states.

In contrast, France, Germany, Russia and China, supported by much of world opinion, believe Iraq can be disarmed peacefully by the UN weapons inspectors, who must be given the time and resources they need to finish the job.

This is the essence of the so-called

Franco-German plan, spelled out in a French working paper and circulated to the chief weapons inspectors and to members of the Security Council.

It calls for the "doubling or even tripling" of the UN weapons inspectors who now number 350; the recruitment of accountants and customs officials to examine Iraqi government records; the dispatch of an expanded team of armed UN security guards to protect the inspectors' premises and "freeze" suspect sites; the aerial surveillance of Iraq to monitor road movements around sites due to be inspected; the creation of a joint intelligence office in either Vienna or New York to collect and analyse information supplied by the intelligence services of UN member states; and the creation of a permanent co-ordination office in Baghdad to represent the chief weapons inspectors, Hans Blix and Mohammad El Baradei.

The plan has been scornfully dismissed as a time-wasting irrelevance by the United States and Britain.

The dispute has split the European Union, threatened the cohesion of the Nato alliance and paralysed the UN Security Council. It has fed the flames of anti-Americanism in Europe and of anti-Europeanism in America. Volleys of insults are being fired across the Atlantic.

France, in particular, has been the target of a barrage of abuse from American right-wing pundits and columnists, who have accused it of ingratitude, of appeasement, and of a lack of moral fibre.

A New York Times columnist, Tom Friedman, wants France voted off the Security Council, while Jonah Goldberg of the National Review Online has depicted France as a nation of "cheese-eating surrender monkeys," a phrase taken up with glee by many others. All in all, it is the worst quarrel inside the "West" for several decades.

The real roots

Two questions need to be asked. Can the European "rejection front" stop America's war against Iraq? And secondly, what are the real roots of the crisis?

The answer to the first question must, alas, be negative. It would take a miracle - or an act of statesmanship such as President George W. Bush seems incapable of - to halt and reverse the American war machine.

The military build-up continues inexorably, with over 130,000 U.S. troops already in place, and more on the way. Two formidable instruments of war are heading for the region: the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk has left its usual station in the Straits of Taiwan and is head-

ing for the Indian Ocean, to join four other U.S. carriers within range of Iraq, while the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, which in 1991 launched the largest helicopter assault in history against Iraq, is also on its way.

Diplomatic warfare

The ill-tempered diplomatic warfare across the Atlantic, the anti-war axis inside Nato of France, Germany and Belgium, the massive anti-war demonstrations across the world on February 15, the inconclusive report of the UN inspectors to the Security Council, the more than doubtful evidence of Iraq's links to Al Qaida (in spite of Osama bin Laden's latest call to Muslims to join forces against the "Crusaders" in defense of Iraq) - none of this is likely to stop the Washington hawks who are determined on war. Early March remains the most likely date.

What then are the real roots of the crisis? Who is driving the rush to war? As most people have grasped by now, the "war party" in the United States is a coalition of three main forces.

• First are the so-called "neo-conservatives" or "neo-imperialists" who want to affirm America's global domination, and see off any potential rival. Led by Vice-President Dick Cheney and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, their fury at France is precisely because they feel that America's leadership is being challenged by a presumptuous military and economic pigmy.

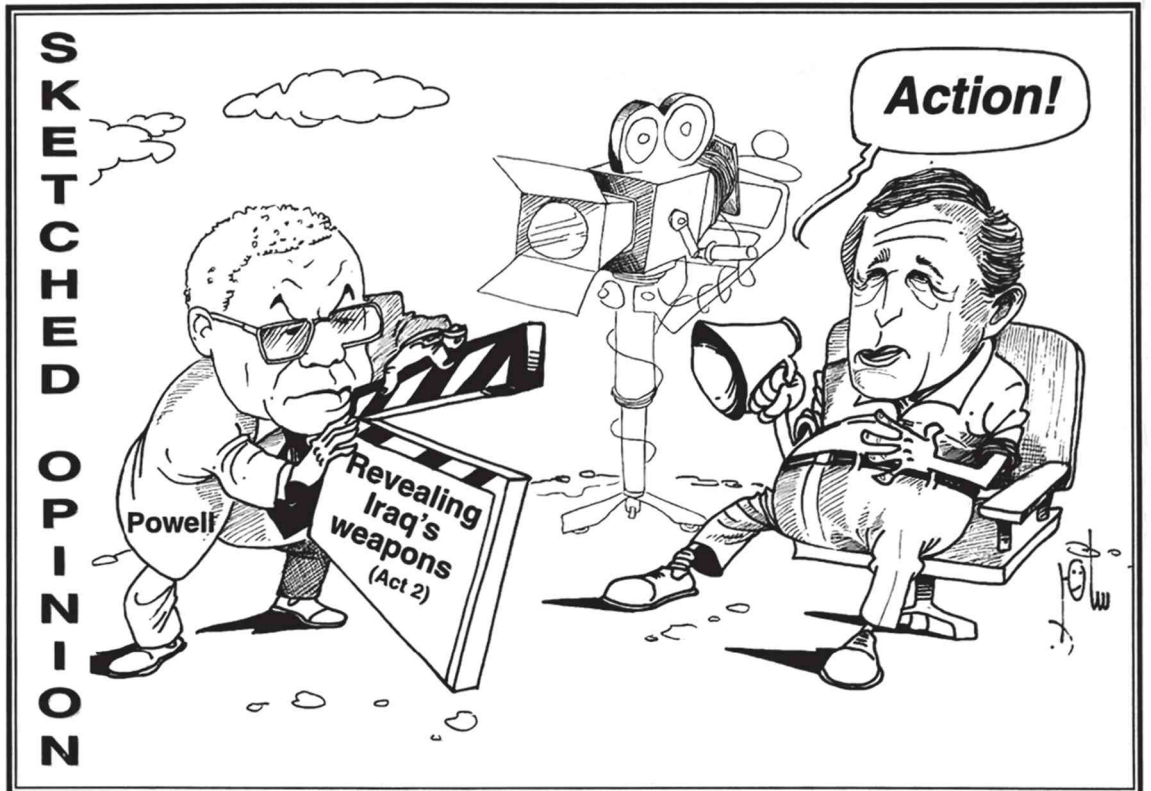
However, the devastating terrorist attack on the U.S. of September 11, 2001 demonstrated that power alone could not guarantee security. The terrible fear of another mass-casualty attack has caused the Bush administration to develop a doctrine of "preventive war".

It is intended to pre-empt the possibility that a "rogue state", such as Iraq, might at some time in the future supply a terrorist group with weapons of mass destruction able to kill thousands, if not tens of thousands, of Americans.

This is the often-cited justification for the coming war, although the ambition to dominate the Middle East's oil resources evidently comes a close second.

• A second group consists of right-wing American Jews, close to Ariel Sharon's Likud party in Israel, who have achieved unprecedented power in the Bush administration. Several of them are themselves "neo-conservative" activists, but their principal concern would seem to be Israel's security, expansion and regional hegemony.

One of the most prominent is Paul Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld's deputy in the Pentagon, but there are many others in influential positions inside and outside



government, in think tanks, in the media and in lobbying organisations. Almost as one man, they are baying for war.

In Israel, Prime Minister Sharon (and the brutal men around him such as defence minister Shaul Mofaz, chief of staff Moshe Yaalon, Mossad chief Meir Dagan, and air force commander Dan Halutz) make no secret of their belief that the smashing of Saddam Hussain's regime will change the Middle East balance of power in Israel's favour, allowing them to complete the destruction of Palestinian society, of the Palestinian national movement and of its leader Yasser Arafat, with the ultimate aim of absorbing all, or at least a great deal more, of historic Palestine into the Jewish state.

The 'Likudniks'

A third group are the so-called "born again" Christian fundamentalists, like Bush himself, Attorney General John Ashcroft and many others in America's "Bible belt", who profess to believe that God gave the Holy Land to the Jews.

David Frum, a former Bush speech writer responsible for the "axis of evil" speech, has written a book about the President, entitled *The Right Man*. "Of course," he writes in one passage, "the Palestinian Authority is the epicenter of world terrorism... Can we really suppose that we could begin the war against terror by creating an Arafatistan on the West Bank?"

This is just one indication of the way right-wing American "Likudniks" have hijacked America's "war on terror" to promote Israel's criminal agenda in the Middle East. It is a recipe for more violence against both America and Israel for years to come.

The writer is an eminent commentator and the author of several books on Middle East affairs. The writer can be contacted at: pseale@gulfnews.com

US gets snookered

EDITORIAL
ARAB NEWS

There was nothing in yesterday's reports by UN chief arms inspector Hans Blix and IAEA chief Mohamed El Baradei to the Security Council to justify an attack on Iraq at present. There were no new revelations about unaccounted-for chemical or biological materials, no new evidence of a smoking gun, no acceptance that the case presented by US Secretary of State Colin Powell 10 days ago was proven.

What came from their reports, loud and clear, was a plea for more time. The message was that the system of inspections is working and has continued to make headway since they last reported to the UN. There have now been private interviews with scientists and while more are needed, three weeks ago Iraq was still blocking them. Likewise, Iraq has backed down on aerial surveillance.

This is progress. In his impassioned response yesterday at the Security Council, US Secretary of State Colin Powell himself effectively confirmed that things are moving in the right direction when he said that Iraq had been pressured into greater cooperation because of the stand taken by the U.S. Iraq is being surely, remorselessly, pushed into a corner, pushed into divulging what its plans are. It does not want to - and no one would dispute Powell's assertion that it has tried to deceive and cheat and that it hopes to play for time. But it has not succeeded and it is not going to succeed. Blix and El Baradei and their colleagues have it on the run.

Their reports immeasurably strengthen the position of France, Germany, Russia and China that arms inspectors must be given more time - all the time needed. They snookered the American and British argu-

ments by the sheer logic of what they implied. If the inspection system is coming up with results, then why undermine it? Of course, more still has to be done, much more. There are unanswered questions about possible anthrax and nerve gas stocks and long-range missiles. Iraq must give an account - and, what is more, by giving an account, by being forced into complying with inspection process, it is effectively being forced into disarmament - and all without war. That is what the world wants.

Yesterday, after Blix and El Baradei had spoken, France's Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin was given a rare burst of applause after his comments. He was given it because he was convincingly right that arms inspections have not been taken to their conclusion and that the use of force is so fraught with danger for the region that it has to be used as a last resort. In the same way Powell was convincingly wrong. It is not those who want more arms inspections who are refusing to face reality; it is the U.S. The reality is that inspections can work. But Washington is not interested in them. It never was. All it is interested in is toppling Saddam Hussein, a goal that can only be achieved by force. The consequences for the whole region would be too horrific. Maybe, in the end, it will have to come to that, but there is still plenty of time to try the inspections route. We do not have to rush into war now. It is Washington alone that wants it.

Unfortunately, there is no point deceiving ourselves that the US will not sift the nuggets it desperately wants out of yesterday's reports. Powell's response seemed to say that the US is determined to get rid of Saddam Hussein, come what may.

Who then, is the bigger danger to regional and world peace: Saddam Hussein or George W. Bush?

The 1st pillar of Islam

God is one

BY INAYAT BUNGLAWALA*
THE GUARDIAN

The concept of tawhid is the very essence of Islam. It refers to the affirmation of the Oneness of God. It is the most important metaphysical concept and answers the ancient riddle of the cosmos: how did it all come into being? Indeed, the Islamic declaration, la ilaha illa Allah - There is none worthy of worship but God - must be understood and asserted before one can become a Muslim.

The Koran teaches that the prophets were sent by God to remind all nations of this truth and to urge them to avoid the grave sin of shirk, the association of partners with God. It is no coincidence that Moses and Jesus taught that observing the shema, the Hebrew equivalent of tawhid, was the most important commandment of all (Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29).

In the Islamic worldview, all beliefs contrary to tawhid represent a falling away from that original monotheism. All creation is thus properly regarded

as standing on this side of the line dividing the natural from the transcendent. Islam's insistence on the absolute transcendence of God eliminated all possible fusion of the divine with the creaturely, and therefore, any misperception of the natural as the supernatural or vice versa.

Mohammed is described in the Koran as having been sent to confirm what remained of truth from the earlier revelations, and to correct any historical distortions. Consequently, Muslims since the time of the Prophet have been critical of trinitarian Christianity for postulating three persons in the godhead, each of whom is "fully God" according to the Nicene creed. They assert that this represents a deviation from clear prophetic teachings. Islam holds up the prophet Abraham as an example of one who had pure faith in the one God and was yet "neither a Jew nor a Christian" (Koran 3:67).

From the beginning of Mohammed's mission, there was precision and care in the use of language when describing God. Consequently, words such as

"father" or "son", which had caused some confusion and had detracted from the pristine monotheism preached by the earlier prophets, were absent from the Islamic vocabulary.

On the other hand, the Old Testament ban on the use of graven images was strongly reaffirmed. Even today, in mosques throughout the world, no matter how large or small they are, the use of pictorial representation of human beings is forbidden, so as not to detract from the worship of God alone. The most ostentatious decoration will usually only consist of naturalistic mosaics and verses from the Koran.

Today's proliferation of the statues of rulers and their murals in some parts of the Muslim world is perhaps more a reflection of their own insecurity than the embodiment of Islamic teachings.

Mohammed's success was to re-establish the pure faith of his forefather Abraham by emphatically insisting that worship should not be directed towards anyone except God alone, and that no one else should be the object of adoration or fear.

So, tawhid is not just a metaphysical concept but also a dynamic belief. It teaches the believer that every man, woman and child - as creatures of the same one God - are his brothers and sisters, and deserving of his assistance and cooperation.

As the Tunisian Islamic thinker Rachid al-Ghannouchi - currently in exile in London - has observed, tawhid represents the struggle to liberate the human being not only from discrimination based on colour, class or race, but also the tyranny of his fellow man, who seeks to monopolize wealth, power and law-making.

"There is no obedience due to a creature that involves disobedience of the creator" is a well-known saying of the Prophet on the essence of tawhid. It is this that has kept the fires of individual freedom and integrity burning, especially in the face of oppressive and authoritarian institutions and regimes through the ages - and even now.

** Inayat Bunglawala is secretary of the Muslim Council of Britain's media committee.*

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Asaa'd al-Kamil

Legacy of a Yemeni king

BY ISMEAL AL- GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Asaa'd Al-Kamil is one of the memorable figures in Yemeni history. His real name was Abi karb Asaa'd bin Malaky Karb. He ruled Yemen towards the end of the 4th Century AD.

He was the most famous of all Himyrate Kings who were known as Tababia. He was famous as Asaa'd Al-Kamil and as Al-tuba' Al-Yamani in history books.

His name is still deep in the memories of all Yemenis until present

time. To him, all the old virtues are attributed.

His palace of Ghamdan, the first sky scraper in the world, is known as the palace of Asaa'd. A road built between Yemen and AL-Taif is known as Dakb Asa'ad, meaning the path of Asad.

The water reservoirs but in ancient times are known as Khazan Asaa'd.

Ancient original gold is attributed to Asaa'd.

Even Janbla's of high quality are known as Asaa'di.

Al-Kamil ruled Yemen for more than 50 years. He led a very eventful

life and conquered all parts of Yemen and all the Arabian Peninsula, and, according to old sources, he conquered all the way to China.

Al-Kamil is believed to be the first ruler of Yemen to unite the whole country. His official title was king of Sheba, Dhu Raidan, Hadhramout Yemenite, Tawd and Tihama. During al-Kamil's reign, Yemen prospered. The number of dams and reservoirs built in the region of Yahsub alone, was so dams and reservoirs.

Al-Kamil is believed to be the tuba' whom Prophet Mohammed (Peace Upon Him) forbade unparsed

words to be said on him, and is the character which was praised in the holly Koran.

Tuba' in Arabic means the one who is followed.

Al-Kamil means the complete meaning a person of all virtues and of complete integrity.

Al-Kamil began his rule from the Dhafar, Yemen's Himirate capital, and died in the city of Ghaiman.

No Yemeni figure has been surrounded with so much fame and myth as al-Kamil has.

Mysterious mountain dungeons are a constant reminder of his time.

Where else can a man throw a bomb at street vendors?

Watch out for grenades!

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is well-known that Yemen is a country where carrying weapons is the norm. Everywhere you go in the country, you will be able to see vast numbers of weapons all over. However, could using those weapons become a norm as well?

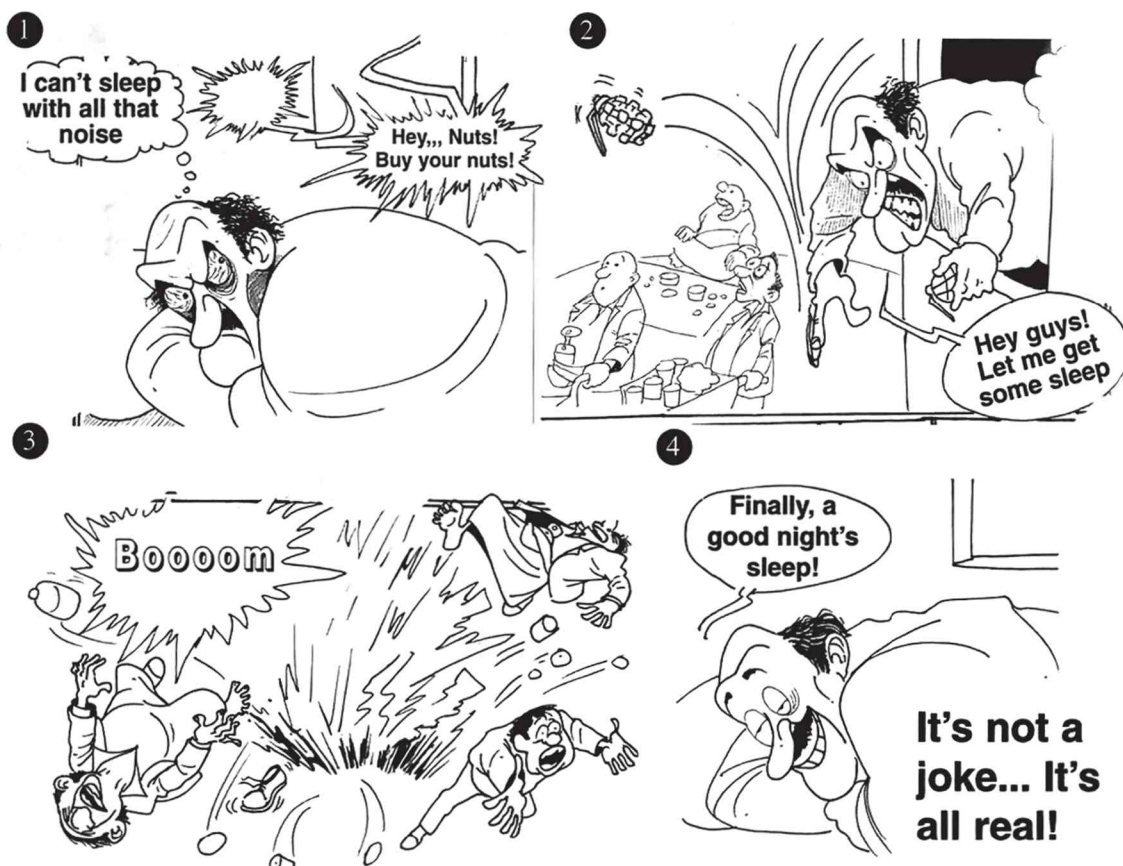
Well, it seems that that may be possible after all. Take the example of the incident that occurred in Hadda several days ago.

On Feb. 7 a Yemeni man irritated and annoyed by noisy nut sellers outside his house decided to commit a bizarre act that can be considered outrageous in all terms everywhere else on this planet. The man decided to simply throw a hand grenade on those poor vendors.

Indeed, and yet with very calm manner would justify his action by claiming that he was bothered by the noises of those vendors who wanted to take advantage of the Eid season to sell their nuts to the neighborhood.

This act, which resulted in seriously wounding four of the peddlers, has also caused great concerns for authorities that are helpless in controlling the flow and carrying of weapons in the country.

The bomb thrower may have been arrested, but he also shows the world that throwing bombs on a crowd is



such an easy task in this country. As a matter of fact, purchasing bombs, Kalashnikovs and all sorts of bullets is as simple as purchasing any other popular goods.

Hasn't the time come for our government to wake up and end this phenomenon? Doesn't the government feel a little embarrassed of the conditions of security in the country today?

Well if they still aren't, I guess we will continue to watch out for grenades as we walk in the streets.

MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

44

Written by
Abdulrahman Muthahhar

Translated by
Janet Watson

Shikma

M – Where have you been, Mus'ida? Come on! Tell me you think! Should we take ourselves down to the Centre to learn to read and write better, or do we know enough already?

Ma – They do say that you can't ever have too much knowledge, and that we should seek knowledge even if it means going to China!

M – And just what would take us to China? But we've got a Centre just round the corner! We could start getting up early from tomorrow to study there. You do one day, and I'll do the next, so that you and I can learn Standard Arabic, the language of the Holy Qur'an.

Ma – But you already know the Qur'an, the sayings of the Prophet, literature, and the rules of grammar. What benefit would you get from going back and forth to the Centre?

M – Oh, we'd have to go to the Centre, at least so that they could translate the meaning of the word shikma for us, and tell us what it means in Arabic, or at least give us the dialect meaning of it.

Ma – Ah, so that's what it's all about, is it! I was beginning to wonder what you were going to say!

M – But it's not just that! After we get them to translate the word shikma for us into Arabic, you and I are going to go to a legal advisor, and get him to see exactly what you did to me, and to the household, and what you did with the neighbours' pots and pans, and plates, and spoons, and what you went and threw into the rubbish bin!

Ma – They say, 'If you're not used to doing something it's torture!' The only

person I know who invites people round and opens up his house and moans about it afterwards is you! It isn't as if you don't know the Yemeni proverb, 'Open up your house and be proud, or close it up and hide yourself away!'

M – Well you didn't make us proud, and they didn't talk about your pride in all the papers, and we've nothing left to hide ourselves away with! You've simply gone and made a spectacle of us and shown everyone how stupid we are!

Ma – Why on earth are you going on so much? Simply because I held a party for my niece. Don't you think I should repay my debt?

M – What debt? Tell me what debt you owe! And who would want to lend you anything anyway?

Ma – My sister held a party for my daughter, and I owed her that, so I held a party for her daughter. That's what I mean by repaying a debt, and if you're not prepared to repay other people's generosity to hell with you!

M – Things should be appropriate, though. You can't do something properly without having the means! Your sister is one of those who have tons of money, little sense of charity, lots of conceit, and love being ostentatious and showing off, even if it's at the expense of Mus'id and Mus'ida!

Ma – What do you mean, 'even if it's at the expense of Mus'id and Mus'ida'? You really are getting everything muddled up today!

M – The only people who are getting things muddled up are you and your sister! When you invite people over or visit

members of the family and friends and neighbours it's supposed to be done because you like them and genuinely want to see them. Your sister's giving your daughter a party, on the other hand, wasn't for that selfless reason at all. It was simply so that she could show off and be ostentatious. When she asked you to hold a party for her daughter, she insisted that you put on all the trimmings, and you certainly didn't fail her! You relieved the neighbours of their pots and pans and plates; you slaughtered a calf; you barbecued a sheep; you roasted chicken; you fried fish; you stuffed the boot of the car with sweets and cakes; and rather than religious chanting, you decided on pretty songs and the lute. Then you invited all the posh people of your sister's ilk, and didn't bother inviting your own neighbours, friends and acquaintances! Half of the posh women didn't turn up, and the half that did come for lunch didn't have any appetite and couldn't eat. All that food and drink that God blessed us with was tipped into the dustbin, and that was because of your sister having an overconceited view of herself, and because of you being ignorant and blindly doing other people's work for them. As the Yemeni poet said, 'A crow learnt to walk like a grouse, but he used to walk like a quail; he stumbled around doing both; but in the end could do neither.'

Al-Akwa', p. 820.
Cf. al-Akwa', p. 191.

The view from here

by Jamil Abdul Karim

Looking for love, Arabian style

As many of you know, on Friday it was Valentines Day, a day that offers great fun. It was on Valentines Day two years ago when I proposed to my wife.

We were engaged in Canada, land of her birth. And there was plenty of fanfare around the event.

Her ring was presented in a restaurant with the help of the official town crier. You know, in medieval times, in Europe, criers would announce the day's news. Some countries around the world now maintain the old tradition by having modern-day criers dress the part and participate in crier competitions.

In this case, the town crier came right into our restaurant with his booming voice, clanging bell and scroll. Moments later, along with thousands of others in London, Canada, we heard about our upcoming 'royal wedding' on the radio.

Shortly after that, attending a stage-play, we came across dozens of people in the theatre's lobby reading copies of that day's newspaper. The big engagement story, with smiling childhood photos of the 'prince' and 'princess' (that's us), filled the front page.

Such are the advantages of working in the press.

My poor wife-to-be didn't know what would happen next. It really was a fun soufflé.

"You must love your wife," is what a colleague here at the Times' office told me recently.

"I do," I responded to him, a 20-something Yemeni on the cusp of marriage himself at the time. Then he asked the big one: "How do you know if you're marrying the right person?"

It's worthwhile question, and Ramzy seems to have figured it out, since, now married, he seems happy as a lark. He has followed the traditional route for this part of the world, and married his cousin.

Young people in Yemen have various views about this. Some frown on it. But there are some advantage also.

One is that this culture doesn't promote flighty notions of Hollywood romance, where emotions take over your castle and make slaves of your reasoning faculties.

Neither are there lonely singles here. Save your dowry and that's it. Looming war in Iraq or not, wed-

dings – held here on the streets like block parties are held in Canada – will go on.

With that said, Valentines Day in Yemen is a concept that's growing – albeit slowly – and that's a good thing. Because while custom is important to maintain a healthy society, so is independent thinking.

You may have heard of the Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) saying that "If a man and woman are alone in a place, the third person present is Satan." Ramzy has explained to me that's because if alone, men and women are tempted with illicit sex.

Okay. Then there's the face veil. I'm all for modesty. The West could use a bit more. But think of the challenges the veil gives the guys here.

Anything could be under there. Might be high-society in something risqué. Could be a high-schooler in jeans and cotton t-shirt. Then again, might be granny in an old, frilly dress.

Now consider meeting. Even if some teens escape the watchful eye of their parents, where can they meet? A movie? No theatres. The mosque? Women have their own. The gym? Precious few. Besides, imagine a girl working out, chatting to the guy beside her, when her bike or treadmill suddenly grabs her loose balto. That's got to hurt.

Which leaves the common restaurant. Most have so-called 'family rooms' for the gals. But I think fast-food joints have some great potential. Their wide-open spaces give fair chance to scope the territory as needed. Then for personal contact, I'd get a job behind the counter.

Sana'a already has a KFC and a Pizza Hut. Now all we need is a McDonald's, which, yes, is still rumoured to be on the way. Sure it's fatty and boring. But it's the fast-food granddaddy of them all. Get the teens in those golden arches, and next thing you know they'll be sharing their McFlurries.

Of course, you'd be careful about inviting your cousin. You wouldn't want a drive-thru. And you'd especially want swings outside.

Need to put the folks someplace.

Freelance journalist Jamil Abdul Karim is a regular contributor to The Yemen Times.
Email jamil@yementimes.com

Continued from Last Page

Aden has many cultural influences

Gates and fences

The fence around the city was built for a defense purpose in order to protect the political and commercial borders of the city.

The gate played a significant role in controlling and organizing the trade activities in and out of the port. It also facilitated the monitoring over the city to ensure no dangers are threatening the city.

There are no confirmed documentations or even rumors as to when the fence was built, but more agreed on that it was built in the era of Bani Zurae in 1173, which was mentioned by the historian Abualfida in his book "Ta'weem Al-Buldan" or 'Country's Calander.'

Historian Ibn Makhrama in his book "Al-Mustabser" or 'The Visionary' said that Aden's fence was built by Othman Al-Zanjabili surrounding Krater and has six gates. The main gate of which is named Bab Al-Agaba or Aden Gate, is considered the main link between Al-Muala City to the west and Aden.

Aden Lighthouse and other features

Aden Lighthouse is situated in a small closed garden in Krater.

It is composed of six stories and reaches 21 meters in height. It has eight sides and a staircase from inside allowing climbing to the top.

As to when it was created, there have been conflicting views between the pre-Islam era, 1200 years ago, and that it was remains of a mosque built in the times of Omar Bin Abdulaziz.

Al-Bughdadan is a small duct or canal through Mount Hadeed that links the two sides of Al-Barzakh. And it is known as one of the wonders of Yemeni monuments, where it displays the ability and creativity of the ancient Yemeni man in architecture and civil engineering.

Ibn Al-Mujawer stated in his book "Thugher Aden" or 'Opening of Aden' that Aden was surrounded by mountains and there was no land rout joining it with the other lands, and that the first who carved the way was Shadad Bin Aa'd and work on the rout took 70 years.

Water reservoirs and a fort

These are located below the most condense rain drainage at the top of Al-Taweel Valley.

Its capacity reaches 20 million gallons and is considered one of the main tourist attractions of the city. And it

reflects the architecture skills of the old Yemeni people in building damsns and water reservoirs.

Al-Saharej were mentioned in Ibn Batota's publications when he visited Aden in 1329, but when were they actually built is still a debated topic. Some historians indicate that it was built way before Islam and that there were more than 50 reservoirs out of which the Al-Tawila Reservoirs only remained.

The Seera Fort was built on peak of mountain Seera, as a fort used for protecting the old port. It was also used during the liberty struggle against the British in 1839.

Historian Ibn Al-Mujawer mentioned that building forts and castles dated back to Al-Zuraen era who ruled over Aden in 1173, and built such forts as a defense mechanism against any external threat to the city.

This was a brief review of a few of the historical sites in Aden, and although the monuments deserve much more attention and elaboration. They not only have historical importance, but also they pose as a strategic political and commercial symbol of how the old city of Aden was a significant link between Arabia and the rest of the world throughout history.

Ongoing crises in Yemen

Water policies needed: now



By ISMAEL AL-GHABERI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Most research that have studied water issues in Yemen indicate that the country is living in a dangerous situation.

Some cities such as Taiz are critically threatened, while in Sana'a the threat of drought is as close as it's been in 15 years.

These studies confirm that the gap between consumption and available water resources is greatly increasing, especially since the growth rate in population is approximately 3.7%. This is considered one of the highest in the world.

As a consequence, an individual's share of the present water resources is estimated to be 150 cubic meter per year. Meanwhile unjustified wastage of underground water (4.9 billion cubic meter yearly) takes place south, west, and east of Yemen, where the bulk of the population works in agriculture.

World average

Statistics indicate that regenerative water is about the same amount. And supposing that the population was around 16 million inhabitants then the share of each person this way would be 2.6 cubic meter, therefore the actual situation where the population is more than 18 million would be much worse comparing to North African or other Middle Eastern countries, where persons consumes 1,250 cubic meter annually, or to the world rate of 7,500 cubic meter annually.

International standards estimate 1,000 cubic meters for domestic water consumption and the nutrition needs require another 1,000 cubic meter of water yearly. According to those standards, Yemen is certainly a very poor country in water resources.

In 1994, statistics informed that the country's water utilization reached 202 billion cubic meter, whereas underground water was estimated then to be



With more wells being dug deeper every year in main cities, cost of water will increase and quality will deteriorate

1.4 billion cubic meters. This means that the country used 1.2 billion cubic meters more than what fed to its water reserves.

More studies indicate that the western region of Yemen particularly suffers from the water problems; ironically it is this part that is inhibited by more than 90% of the population. The feeding into underground water in this area is around 1.1 billion cubic meters annually.

And in Sana'a, underground sinks the annual feeding is estimated to be 42 million cubic meters whereas the water consumption is 224 million cubic meters, that is four times more than the feeding. The only exception in this is Hadramout district where oil companies' studies indicate the water storage is about 360 billion meters of static underground water.

Underground water

Efficient water management in Yemen is considered one of the most difficult challenges of the country during the coming years. During the last 30 years there has not been any significant improvement of the irrigation systems or in water consumption mechanisms, or even any tool to limit consumption of underground water.

On the contrary, the situation has only become worse. It could be said in this issue that the policies and instructions directed to the water problem were not effective and were not successful in finding economic alternatives to underground water, and could not achieve a balance between stored and consumed water. In fact it was the opposite and the agriculture dams were reversed.

The past and current policy in agriculture was and still is an important factor in draining water sinks in many of the country's regions. Also the environmental deterioration presented in discarding agricultural mountain fields and the traditional remedies to keep water lead to deforestation, which increased the threat of floods and reduced the feeding of water sinks. Also the concerned establishments did not work efficiently in directly consumption and this lead to more wastage and contributed in making the situation worse.

Programs and plans to reduce wastage must be executed. An effective strategy must be implemented immediately in order to save the situation and focus on the water balance in our country in a way that guarantees the continuity of water supply.

His biological 'clock' is also ticking . . .

By REUTERS

While much has been made of women's "biological clocks," new research confirms that men have them too—although the male clock is slower to wind down.

According to researchers, the findings show that a caution often directed at women may apply to men as well: Waiting till middle age to try to have kids may dampen the odds of success.

The small study suggests that as healthy men age, their sperm begin to slow down and lose sight of their goal—swimming in circles rather than sprinting for the female egg.

The scientific term for speedy, goal-oriented sperm movement is "progressive motility." And among the 97 study participants, progressive motility declined 3.1% each year.

Overall, the number of men with abnormal sperm concentrations or movement increased with each decade of age, according to findings published Thursday in the journal Human Reproduction.

"Because semen quality is a proxy for fertility, these data suggest that men may become progressively less fertile as they age," write the authors, led by Brenda Eskenazi of the University of California, Berkeley.

For women, fertility is known to

markedly decline around the mid-30s. The new findings indicate that a 30-year-old man has about a 50% chance of having abnormal progressive motility—odds that increase to 67% by age 50 and 84% by age 80.

"Women tend to be the focus in fertility issues," Eskenazi said in a statement. "What we are saying is that men are not scot-free in this."

She added that, although everyone has heard of men fathering children in their 70s and beyond, the true odds of success "may be lower than we thought."

The study included 97 volunteers ages 22 to 80 who were all employees or retirees from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The men provided semen samples and details about their lifestyle habits, medical conditions and occupational exposures.

All of the men were non-smokers, and there was no evidence that occupational exposures at the government research facility explained the age-related decline in semen quality, according to the researchers.

They speculate that certain physiological changes that come with aging—such as narrowing of the testicular tube or normal changes in the prostate—may explain their findings.

Another possibility, they add, is that older men, by virtue of their longer lives, were more likely to have been exposed to tobacco smoke or some other environmental toxin that may harm semen quality.

. . . And watch the lead intake

By MERRITT MCKINNEY
REUTERS

Lead exposure may cause some cases of unexplained male infertility by impairing sperm function, new research suggests.

In a study of 140 couples who were trying to conceive through in vitro fertilization (IVF), the more lead a man had in his semen, the lower the odds were that his partner would conceive.

Lead may be "a significant cause of human male infertility," the study's lead author, Dr. Susan Benoff, told Reuters Health in an interview.

Additional testing, including measuring lead levels in sperm, may be a good idea for men who are infertile for unknown reasons, said Benoff, who is at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Research Institute in Manhasset, New York.

But Benoff cautioned that the public should not "get frightened that there is an epidemic of lead poisoning" in men. She noted that the men in the study had normal levels of lead in the blood, but their semen contained elevated levels of the metal. Benoff explained that "the testis is often a storage depot for environmental exposures" including lead.

Although none of the men were exposed to high levels of lead on the job, Benoff said that there are many ways lead exposure can occur.

Sources include lead pipes, paints, ceramic glazes, pewter and some types of metal utensils.

Lead seems to impair normal sperm function, Benoff and her colleagues report in the journal Human Reproduction. When the researchers took sperm from fertile men and exposed it to the metal, two out of three signs of healthy sperm function were abnormal.

If an infertile man does turn out to have too much lead in his semen, it may be possible to lower lead by taking zinc supplements, Benoff said. She and her colleagues found that "lead seems to be competing with zinc" in semen. As lead levels rose, zinc levels dropped, she said. Benoff noted that zinc was used in the past to treat some sorts of infertility. Although zinc may not always work, it may help some men, she said.

Ironically, insights into how lead may contribute to infertility could eventually help researchers develop ways to help people who do not want to conceive, according to Benoff.

While giving lead to men to prevent conception would be a terrible idea, Benoff said that it may be possible to develop a male contraceptive that would hit some of the same targets as lead does.

According to Benoff, in about half of all couples who cannot conceive, male infertility is to blame. She added that in nearly half of these cases, the cause of male infertility is unknown.

Sana'a has improved

Let's not forget our environment

By ALI YOUSEF AL-SHARIF

Perhaps the authorities should be reminded on the new development in our environment, which in near future would unavoidably be catastrophic.

Going through main road heading to any cities, your eyes cannot simply escape seeing black residue of diesel, settling thickly on side roads and on plants along the roads. The impact of diesel engine vehicles, if not controlled by a conventional mechanism, is huge.

At the same time, plastic bags in some towns and other local markets on the way to Hodeidah are so widely scattered on the cultivatable land that they have caused much concern. The governor of these towns should not shy away to address the issue with fellow countrymen on the serious impact of plastic material in the

soil.

It would be more practical if we could have a televised program on issues related to such cases.

As part of such campaigns, the United Nations Environment Agency is the relevant organization to approach for the required assistance to further raise awareness of the public on environmental protection.

Although the environmental issues in our country is so wide, I would rather restrict myself to these mentioned problems.

Indeed Sana'a city has shown tremendous progress environmentally in some areas. The garbage collectors can be seen almost round the clock, keeping the city streets and roads clean. The capital is being shaped up with all resources they could get apparently. We all feel proud of the achievements.

But the governor should keep the momentum.

Women are sick and dying

Laws needed to govern reproductive health

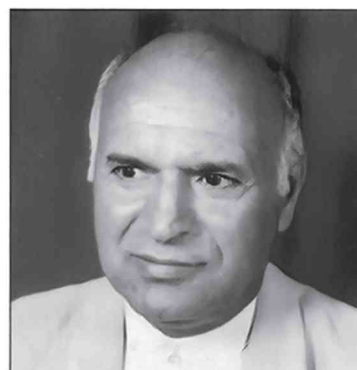
By AHMED AL-KHAZAN
SPECIALIST IN OBSTETRICS

I have specialized in obstetrics for about 25 years and this is a comment coming from long-term experience in this field.

During the past 20 years I've seen many difficult cases involving very deplorable conditions due to stress-related illnesses and poverty of health services, especially in the remote areas.

We're used to seeing cases such as this: a women's uterus ruptures as a result of dystocia. In this case, some of these women die. Some were taken to hospital just for saving their soul.

For those who survive, this also



Dr. Ahmed Mohammed al-Khazan,
consultant in obstetrics.

leads to more disease symptoms, including a difficulty to give birth.

Some of those women had lost their uterus due to a total ignorance of the significance of their reproduc-

tive system. This has also resulted in an inability to give birth.

They have fallen a prey to so many diseases including anemia, brittle bones, rupturing of the reproductive systems, hemorrhaging, high pressure, and other incurable diseases.

Accordingly, one should restore proper reproductive health systems.

Laws have to be enacted for regulating reproductive health.

Human laws and legislation forbid abortion in cases when it threatens the mother's life. I am in favor of those laws but I advise parents to be fully aware of the great importance of using the most useful methods for proper reproductive health.

Consulting doctors who are specialized in this field makes the reproductive health more beneficial and more useful.

Improve Your English



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171

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (41)
Expressing obligation (in the sense of gratitude)

Last week we discussed some of the ways of expressing 'obligation' in the sense of compulsion. In this lesson, we shall be discussing obligation in the sense of gratitude.

- I am so **grateful** to you.
- I am **beholden** to you for your timely help.
- Need I say how **obliged** I feel for your kind advice.
- I feel **privileged** to have you as my friend, philosopher and guide.
- How **nice of you** to have paid me a visit.
- How **thoughtful of you** to have brought a bouquet of flowers.
- It's indeed a **rare gesture** on his part.
- I'm indeed **touched by** the largeness of his heart.
- I'm **overwhelmed by** your love and affection.
- What an **elegant expression** of loyalty and devotion
- I feel **overjoyed** to see you all here.
- My **heart is full** to see such enthusiastic response.
- One feels **intoxicated** by your goodness.
- Words fail to articulate my **thankfulness** to you.
- No words can adequately articulate my **sense of profound gratitude** to you.
- How can I say how **truly bound** I am to you.
- I feel so **small** before your generosity.
- I am **spellbound** at such eloquent expression of nicety.
- Without any fear of exaggeration, you are the **nicest lot** I've ever come across.
- I fumble for words to convey my **gratitude** for your magnanimity.
- The cordiality and the warmth you bestowed on me have left an **indelible impress** on my mind.
- The volumes of your **unalloyed love and affection** make me feel I'm one of you forever.
- You may be out of sight, but never out of mind.
- My **heart goes out** to you for all your kind gestures.
- It is so **gratifying** to get your help and support.
- It's **heartening** to note that such nice specimens of humanity are here.

II. How to Say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- He hanged the lamp on the wall
- He was hung for murder.
- I have not and shall not bear this insult.
- He has finished to mend the puncture.
- She knows to sing and dance.

Answers to last week's questions

1. Excuse me, where's the **nearest** post office?

Note: We usually use 'next' in relation to time expressions to mean 'nearest in the future'. 'Nearest' is used for place. It means 'most near' or 'closest'.

2. Has he brought **any** books?

Note: 'Some' is usually used in affirmative clauses whereas 'any' is used in questions and negative expressions. We can use 'Some' in questions if we expect an affirmative answer or when we want to elicit a positive response from the hearer.

3. She is my **eldest** sister.

Note: The words 'elder' and 'eldest' are used for making a comparison between or among the members of the family. 'Older', 'oldest' are used with regard to age and in connection with human relationship.

4. He hasn't got a **good enough** voice.

Note: The word 'enough' can qualify an adjective or adverb. It usually comes after adjectives and adverbs.

5. He made no **further** remarks.

Note: 'Farther' means 'at a great distance or a more distant point'. 'Further' means 'more, additional.'

III. Increase your Word Power

A) How to express it in one word

- The study of the skills of housekeeping, cooking.

Etc.

- Power or right to rule.
- To make a gift or something for a good purpose.
- A small engine on a ship.
- The hard uninteresting part of a piece of work.

Answers to last week's questions

- A place where ships are built or repaired: **dockyard** (n)
- The place in a law court where the prisoner stands: **dock** (n)
- The person who works at the bottom of the sea in special dress: **diver** (n)
- Of the home, family, household: **domestic** (adj)
- A legal place where a person lives permanently: **domicile** (n)

B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Use the following foreign phrases in sentences

- attaché; 2. au fait; 3. au fond;
- au pair; 5. au revoir

Answers to last week's questions

- Alumnus ptalumni** (Lat) ('first child', student of a school college or university): He was honored as the Alumnus ptalumni in the Silver Jubilee celebration of the school.
- amende honorable** (Fr) (public apology for an offence): The minister had to render an amende honorable for his offensive remarks.
- Aqua regia** (Lat) (a mixture of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid that dissolves gold and platinum): The goldsmith is an adept user of aqua regia.
- art brut** (Fr) (primitive or pseudo-primitive art): In London museum one can find many specimens of art brut.

C) Words commonly confounded

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

- elementary, elemental; 2. ablution, oblation;
- problem, trouble; 4. risk, responsibility;
- annual, annular

Answers to last week's questions

- allay** (vt) (make pain, trouble, excitement, fears less): Your soothing words of comfort allayed my fears.
- alloy** (n) (mixture of metals): The bell is made of an alloy of iron and copper.
- alliance** (n) (association or connection between persons or families by virtue of marriage): He entered into a matrimonial alliance with a girl of another culture.
- allegiance** (n) (loyalty, faith): We swear allegiance to our government.
- allocate** (vt) (give as a share or for a purpose): The government has allocated funds for repair of the highway.
- relocate** (vt) (move to a new place): The industry had to be relocated following strong protests from the public.
- all in** (adj) (very tired): Heavy responsibility in the college leaves me all in at the end of the day.
- all out** (adv) (using all possible strength and effort): I tried all out to achieve my target.
- all-in** (adj) (with everything included): I sold the house, furniture and all amenities at an all-in price.
- all-out** (adj) (complete, total): We made an all-out attempt to get an excellent grade.

D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases and idiomatic expressions in sentences so as to illustrate their meanings:

- the beauty of; 2. beat down 3. beat about;
- off one's beat; 5. can you beat it!

Answers to last week's questions

- become of** (to happen to): I can't imagine what will become of you if you waste your time and money like this.
- between you, me and the bed post** (without anyone else knowing): Between you, me, and the

bed post, I think it is he who has stolen the camera.

- misfortune makes strange bedfellows** (bad times make very different people come together): What a surprise to see the two sworn enemies come together! Indeed, misfortune makes strange bedfellows.

- a bed of roses** (happy, comfortable condition): Life is not a bed of roses. It's a vale of tears.

- get out bed on the wrong side** (to be in a bad temper): He doesn't talk to anyone. He seems to have got out of bed on the wrong side.

IV. Grammar and Composition

A) Grammar

Change the following sentences from the active to the passive. Use the expressions given in brackets:

- Rivers full of dead fish are supplying our drinking water. (by)
- Additives, such as chlorine, have ruined the taste of our drinking water. (due to)
- Traffic pollution is contaminating agricultural crops. (because of)
- Agricultural sprays have caused mysterious new illnesses. (by)
- Factories are burning extremely dangerous chemicals. (by)
- Smog has endangered people's lives in many large cities. (as a result of)
- Global warming has damaged plants and wild life. (through)
- Reduced rainfall is creating bigger and bigger deserts. (because of)

Answers to last week's questions

- archaeologist:** studies ancient cultures, people and places.
- artist:** paints, draws, or makes sculptures.
- astronaut:** travels into space.
- interviewer:** asks people questions for stories in newspapers and magazines, or on radio and TV programs
- journalist:** writes articles for newspapers and magazines.
- medical researcher:** studies health problems and looks for cures.
- set designer:** creates stage scenery and background for films.
- conductor:** leads an orchestra or choir, often in classical music.

B) Composition

Explain the idea contained in the proverb

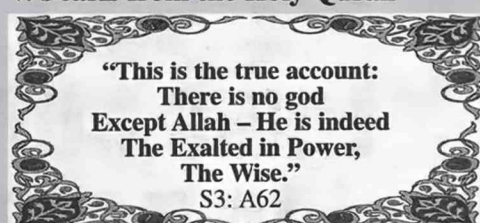
ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

Last week's question explained

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

We should do something only after we have carefully considered the pros and cons of what we are going to do. We must first think of the consequences of our action in order to avoid any complication or embarrassment in future. It is stupid to take a leap in the dark because we don't know what is there on the ground on which we may fall. He who doesn't take into account, well in advance, the possible effects of any course of action and thoughtlessly plunges into it is very likely to come to grief. Therefore a careful pre-thinking and planning is an indispensable imperative before deciding about one's course of action.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Decision of character will often give to an inferior mind command over a superior."

—W. Writ

Letter to English teachers: 14

Students are different; so are teachers

Dear Fellow teachers,

Have you heard of an old saying 'not all the fingers of a person are of the same size'? This is more suitable to the learners in our class. The learners in our classes are different from each other, may not be in size and colour or the dresses they wear, but in their ability to learn what we teach. This is true in all classes, not just in English classes. You can hardly see two learners of equal abilities in any group; some learners, for example, learn fast, some take a long time to learn. To give an analogy, some of them are like a sponge, which absorbs water very quickly, some others are like a chalk, which absorbs water a little less quickly and some others are like a stone, which hardly absorbs water. In any class, we can identify three levels of learners - the average, the above average and the below average and the methodology we use should be suitable to these levels. Here I am not talking about these levels, but the differences among the individual learners. We can identify two kinds: the first kind consists of those who are happy with written materials, want to be given grammatical rules probably in the mother tongue and depend completely on the teachers; the second one consists of those who are happy to listen to the teachers rather than read the textbooks, do not want to be given grammatical rules but use their common sense and work with their peers rather than depend on the teachers completely. There are several reasons for these differences; some of them are biological, psychological, and sociological. I don't want to discuss them in this letter. Instead, I want to make suggestions as to how, as teachers of English, we can deal with the learner differences in our classes in order to teach successfully.

It is also important to be aware that like learners, teachers are also different in their teaching styles. We can identify at least three kinds: some are autocratic (those who think that they are the masters and the students should do what they are told), some are bureaucratic (those who only follow what the syllabus prescribes) and some are democratic (those who try to teach according to what the students need). It goes without saying that the third kind is the most likely to get the best out of his/her students.

Coming back to the learners, there are several ways to deal with the learner differences. One, we can group them according to their abilities and use teaching materials and methods suitable to each level. This is called 'streaming' and an experiment with streaming in a college in India did not succeed because of several reasons, the most important of which was that students did not like to be deliberately grouped according to their abilities. Two, the teacher can have several activities in each class to suit the two kinds of the learners; some grammar-based activities and some common sense activities, for example.

Yours fraternally,
Dr.M.N.K. Bose
(BOSE@y.net.ye)

Haiku 2003



ANIL K PRASAD
Faculty of Arts
Ibb University

"No, the human heart
Is unknowable,
But in my birthplace
The flowers still smell
The same as always."
(A tanka by Tsurayuki, 882-946)

Peace riding on hope
nods at the swallows hatching
the eggs of heyday.

Autumnal tone tears
brains with the fear of falling,
yellow leaves laugh.

Fragrance floats in dreams
cat's shadow falls on dewdrops;
flowers fade in life.

Psyche plunges deep
into word's meandering rivers;
seagulls wait ashore.

Eyes shed rainbow
when the sun shoots an arrow
bent with colours.

Sunrays hide the stars
moon happily reveals them
soothing the day's sores.

Dawn's silent dreams
are covered with gray at dusk,
night awakens them.

Days die to be born
again in the dark dawn to
begin from the end.

Love at sunset, hope
at sunrise: stirred in the hearts
of millions mounting.

A falcon soaring
higher higher and higher
up, beyond the stars.

The river is full
horses in shake-up, harnessed
on the banks, ready.

New year's magic land
thick with roses and thorns,
waiting to be picked..

TIMES Quiz 55

Tick the most appropriate choice

- Date of events, seasonal fluctuations are calculated using**
a) water b) type of plants
c) tree rings d) none of these
- Name the woman scientist who discovered 'jumping genes'**
a) Barbara McClintock
b) Rosalind Franklin
c) M. Curie d) None of these
- The negatively charged particles moving at velocities near that of light, released in a natural radioactive reaction are**
a) Alpha b) Beta
c) Gamma rays d) Zeta
- The vertebrate group in which the skin is naked and kept moist with secretion is**
a) Amphibians b) Reptiles
c) Fishes d) Poidres
- What does the abbreviation DAS stand for?**

Answers to Times Quiz (54)

- The particle delivered to the air and soil by thunderstorm and lightning is **nitrogen**.
- Morchella** is an edible fungus.
- An amoeba reproduces through **binary fission**.
- The weight of air which we carry on us is **15.4 tons**.
- The abbreviation BDC stands for **Back-up Domain Controller**.

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

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Alarm | Clean | Duct | Office | Tidy |
| Armoire | Clock | Dusty | Padded | Tile |
| Bamboo | Closet | Duvet | Personal | Towels |
| Bedclothes | Cluttered | Flooring | Pictures | Toys |
| Bedding | Comfort | Freshener | Pillow | Trash |
| Blanket | Corner | Furnishings | Post | Trays |
| Bookshelf | Couch | Furniture | Purse | Tree |
| Brass | Cover | Greenery | Rack | Trunk |
| Brush | Curtains | Hotel | Radio | Tubs |
| Cabinets | Decorate | Keys | Rocker | Vacuum |
| Candle | Design | Knob | Sham | Vent |
| Cards | Desk | Lamps | Shut | Walk-in |
| Carpet | Diary | Light | Skirt | Warm |
| Chain | Divan | Lounge | Sleep | Washing |
| Chair | Dolly | Magazine | Sofa | Wood |
| Charms | Doors | Many | Sound | |
| Chest | Down | Messy | Teak | |
| Child | Drawers | Mirror | Telephone | |
| Clasp | Dresser | Night | Throws | |

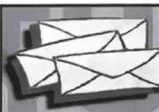
ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Gasket

BEDROOMS

Solution: 8 letters

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



The call

It was midnight, the strong winds were blowing... every body was fast asleep and suddenly the phone rang. So Sarah woke up, she answered the phone, but no one was answering her and the line went dead.

Sarah was scared. So she woke her sister Samira up, and she told her what happened. The two girls couldn't sleep. They were thinking of that call.

In the morning their parents went to work, Sarah and Samira went to their high school and they didn't tell any one about what happened.

At midnight, the phone rang again. The two sisters couldn't have a wink of sleep. They were apprehending this call. This time Samira answered. A strange voice said 'Hi, sweetie! Samira was scared out of her wits. Nervously she asked him what he wanted, but he didn't reply he was only laughing and the line went off.

The next day too at midnight Sarah and Samira didn't sleep. They were anxiously waiting. The phone started ringing, Samira answered and a guy told her that something really dangerous would happen to one of her

family members. She was so scared that she told the guy she could do for him anything he wanted, but wouldn't bear any harm to her family. The guy agreed and told her not to tell the police and that something worse would happen if she did.

After two weeks Sarah was killed, by a mysterious person. All the family were sad and completely broke.

Samira couldn't stand it. So she went to the police and told them all about the midnight calls. She didn't care about the man's warning to her.

After one week Samira's parent died in an accident.

Samira was a lonely girl. She was very upset, and always sad. Once while she was shopping, she saw a man who came to her and told her that he is the one who was responsible for everything. Hearing this, Samira started screaming. So the guy took out a knife... and... and... Samira woke up... trembling severely. It was a dream, a very long dream. Samira looked around. She saw Sarah, her mom and dad standing. They were wondering why Samira was screaming all through the night.

Aalaa Ghalib Al-Iryani
Sanaa Intl. School

Dolly the sheep was first cloned animal Cloning's poster child dies

By MAGGIE FOX, HEALTH AND SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - She may not have been exactly one of a kind but Dolly the sheep, the first cloned adult mammal, was definitely unique.

Dolly, aged 6, was put to sleep by veterinarians on Friday after they failed to cure her of a severe lung infection, her creators said.

Dolly's birth in July 1996 was kept secret for months while her creators at the Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics Plc., a tiny biotech company in Edinburgh, Scotland carefully checked her lineage. The announcement of her birth, in February 1997, sent shockwaves around the world.

Now cloning of farm animals has become almost routine and headlines were made this week when the offspring of some cloned pigs made it to market. Cloned animals are being bred to produce human proteins for medicine, and for meat.

But no one would have dreamed of slaughtering Dolly, or any of her lambs.

Dolly was a breed called a Finn Dorset, with a white face and cream-colored curly wool. Hand-fed from birth, she was friendly even after she outgrew the curious lamb stage.

In contrast to her hardy cousins, put out to graze on steep hillsides in Scotland, Dolly lived indoors. She reared up on her hind legs to nuzzle visitors, looking for handouts.

DEATH TO BE AUTOPSIED

Some scientists believe this behavior, and not her lab-dish origins, led to Dolly's well-documented arthritis. "There is a very real chance Dolly's illness had nothing to do with cloning," said Dr. Robert Lanza of Advanced Cell Technology in Massachusetts, a private firm doing cloning research.

"There is a virus ... that sheep get at almost precisely Dolly's age. This virus can cause arthritis and respiratory infections, particularly in animals raised indoors," he said in a telephone interview. Dolly's creator, Ian Wilmut, said her body would be carefully autopsied to determine the cause of death.

"Obviously it is very sad news. We were all hoping Dolly would live to a ripe old age," said Lanza. "She's a symbol of all the research that we are doing."

For Lanza her death illustrated why most scientists oppose cloning a human baby. "Dolly's death confirms what we all know — which is that there are problems with cloning," he said. "Cloning is still just as much an art as a science."

Shares in California-based Geron, which bought the rights to the technology that created Dolly, fell 16 percent on the news but later rebounded.

Dolly's mother/twin died years before Dolly was born. She was made from a frozen cell taken from the mammary gland of the anonymous ewe and Wilmut said he named her after Dolly Parton, the American singer famous for her own



Dolly the Sheep, the world's first cloned mammal, died according to her creators at Scotland's Roslin Institute on Feb. 14. Veterinarians gave the world famous six-year-old sheep, shown Jan. 4, 2002, a lethal injection after they discovered signs of progressive lung disease. Reuters

mammaries.

While Dolly is best known for being an almost precise copy, she was unique in her birth. Wilmut's team tried to clone 276 sheep embryos in an experiment that resulted in just one lamb — Dolly.

Mike Bishop, former president of the privately owned firm Infigen Inc., which also clones farm animals, said Dolly's death was clearly premature. "We've got ewes here that are eight, nine years old," Bishop said from a farm in Wisconsin. "We are in the middle of lambing now in the frigid Midwest and we have ewes that are eight, nine years old that are lambing."

Most sheep never make it to old age and are culled as soon as they become unproductive, he noted.

"Sometimes if you have got that special ewe that deserves the right to live out her normal life ... like she has been a real trooper, delivering twins every year ... they'd like to see them live out their lives to the end," he said.

Dolly, all would agree, was a trooper.

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■ يلين باريس غاليري عن حاجته إلى موظفة مبيعات، على أن تتوفر فيها الشروط التالية: - حاصلة على الثانوية العامة، تجيد اللغة الانجليزية، حسنة المظهر والتعامل، يستحسن من لديها خبرة سابقة، صنعاء، ص.ب. ١٩١٤، ت: ٤٤٨٤٧٤، فاكس: ٤٤٨٤٧٥

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■ ابو مختار: مترجم ومراسل تجاري، خبرة ١٠ سنوات، ٧٣٧٠٤١٦

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Architecture is just one wonder

Aden and its cultural influences



BY RIDWAN AL-SAQQAF
ADEN BUREAU

The Garden of Eden, as mentioned in the holy books, historical publications and even linguistics, was perhaps the source of inspiration for naming that historical town situated in the most important strategic location south of the Arabian Peninsula, Aden.

It's one of the oldest cities that's a link between various civilizations through trade activities of history. The coming and going of different nationalities has left its trademark on the city's architecture, giving it a unique style and a special charm.

Architecture during the British occupation:

Several tourist sites in the town date

back to pre British occupation, such as the Al-Tawila Saharej (water reservoirs), Aden Lighthouse, Aden Gate and a number of courts and old fences located on mountain tops in Crater.

Even those the English left their mark through restoring the monuments and maintained them during their occupation.

There is also Shamsan Road, which was built in Al-Daraj by the Ottoman Empire, but is unfortunately ignored by the Yemeni government and so is left without maintenance.

Captain Haines in his diary, which he wrote during his arrival to Aden in 1837, said that the small city of Aden is inhabited by 600 citizens among which was a small number of Japanese, 300 Jews and the rest from Arabia and Somalia.

There weren't more than 100 mud houses during that time, the largest was that of Sultan Muhsen and later the residence for Captain Haines in 1842.



Many districts of Aden were built with the look and feel of a modern city.

But there was a number of mosques the remained in good condition, especially Al-Aidaros Mosque and Abaan Mosque in Crater.

Colonies such as the Jewish colony and the Japanese colony managed to maintain their style and architecture since the British occupation, in spite of the little changes here and there and artistic additions on the structures.

Some buildings have become public buildings and some have become private. Also the layout of the streets and the infrastructure of the city roads clearly display the British touch on them.

They designed the streets and named them such as Al-Haddadeen, Al-Bazazeen, Al-Ta'am, Al-Taweel, Al-Haraj, and AlZafaran Markets. These markets were controlled commercially by Al-Buhra sect.

Also the British divided the colonies of Crater in an alphabetical way start-

ing from colony A at Al-Maidan Street to F at Al-Khasaf Street.

They also numbered the streets sequentially, however the people still used the old names which they have been used to such as the Jews, Al-Aidaros colony ... etc until day.

During the British occupation a number of temples were established such as the Shri Minraj Managi Temeple, in Al-Khasaf Street, the Hanoman Temple, on the Ghandi Crater link and the Shanker Mindu Temple, on Queen Arwa road, which was used as a Hindu cemetery for cremation.

In this context, the Persian also built the Fire Temple in the Parisian Gardens in Al-Tawila and on the mountaintops tangible to the city.

Also the British built two churches; the Catholic Church in 1852 and the Protestant Church in 1871.

Continued on page 14



A view of Aden in the 1950s.

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