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Suspects indifferent and hailed for Bin Laden Prosecutor & judge quit tribunal

Mohammed al-Qadhi
Yemen Times Staff

The eighth hearing session in the tribunal of the 15 alleged al-Qaeda suspects, one of them still at large, on charges of blowing up a French Tanker and other terrorists operations turned into a debate between the prosecutor and the suspects, which led the prosecutor to prematurely quit the hearing. The hearing, which was boycotted by the advocates because of the refusal of the prosecution to provide them with copies of the investigation reports, started Saturday with the presentation of some evidence by the prosecution.

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A scene from the court trying al-Qaeda suspects.

YT photo by Mohammed Al-Qadhi

President Saleh orders hostilities cessation

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, last Wednesday 21st July, gave orders to

cease military operations against Sheikh Hussain Badruddin Al Houthi and his followers in Haidan district of Saadah Governorate, North of Yemen.

Those orders came after bloody confrontation between the army, the security and Sheikh Al Houthi and his more two-thousand strong followers, calling themselves the "Believing Youth". Hostilities have so far continued for (34) days. Following of what is said of mediation carried out by a number of leading religious men including Sheikh Mohammed

Mohammed Al -Mansoor, one of the leading clerics of Zaidi sect in Yemen.

Government sources said that "military operations were ceased since midnight of last Wednesday to give chance for the mediators to go to Sheikh Al-Houthi to convince him to surrender himself to Major General Mohammed Al-Qassemi, Chief of staff who is to be entrusted with providing protection to Al-Houthi and accompany him to the Capital Sana'a and then to stand trial".

While official sources attributed the president's decision to authorities intention to avoid more bloodshed, political sources viewed that the step came as a result of casualties and material losses, expected to increase had the hostilities continued with Al-Houthi and his insurgents who during the past days proved to be stronger than what was expected and that the number of his men had increased.

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Improved travel advice to Yemen

By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United Kingdom announced last week that it had revised its travel warning to Yemen which could help encourage British tourists to visit Yemen.

The British Foreign Office lifted its warning against non-essential travel, once viewed as a potential target of terrorist attacks.

"Any positive changes in travel advice definitely enhance Yemen's tourism industry," said Taha Al-Mahbashi, Executive Director of Tourism Promotion Board. "Warnings have had a very negative effect on tourism as companies will not cover Yemen when they follow warnings from the governments."

Continued on page 11



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Saadah on the plate of fire

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

After thirty days of bloody confrontations between Saadah tribes which support Al-Houthi and the government forces, President Saleh took the decision of treaty and is beginning negotiations with Al-Houthi and his supporters. President Saleh's new mediators started their tasks last Thursday; they were headed by a man more welcome to Al-Houthi's militants who is Sheikh Hames Al-Owjari, and Othman Mujally, a member of the Yemen Deputies council. Sheikh Hames Al-Owjari has entered into controversy with the local authorities and military ones as well in his refusal to hand over the father of Hussain Badruddin Al-Houthi who came to the former seeking safe refuge.

Meanwhile, though the battles over in the Miran mountains between Al-

Houthi's supporters and the Army forces have calmed, other battles and confrontations are about to flame out between Abdullah Al-Rezamy and the military campaign which was prepared to besiege the former and compel him to extradite himself. The sources expected that the war curl in Al-Oshash villages in Nushoor area will flame out between Al-Rezamy, the parliament ex-deputy, and the forces tending towards the area.

Other sources have mentioned that Al-Rezamy has handed over the leadership "Believing Youth party's leadership" to a person called Ben Laaser, one of the sheikhs of Hamdan tribes, after his heading to his district.

Ben Laaser leads approximately 800 militants from his tribesmen who are supporting him. Multi-leaderships are lot; even if Hussain Badruddin Al-Houthi fell into the hands of the State, the battles will continue as per some

sources make it clear, as the forces left behind seeds for revenge and feuds, as a result of their attitudes over there.

The forces have used lethal weapons and utilized petroleum, as a weapon to destroy the mountains in which Al-Houthi and his followers are believed to be. The forces have burned the mountains, but when the infantry soldiers proceed, they normally face fierce resistance. In fact, Saadah will not be salvaged from gorilla raids in the towns where explosions and fire shootings are heard in the province every night during periods of battle. Al-Houthi's supporters have used other tactics by tending towards gorilla raids and hitting the army rear and setting ambushes which resulted in big losses to the forces; some of which reaching to hundreds, although we do not yet know the limit of the losses directly via Al-Houthi sources estimated it at approximately 260 fatalities until now.

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate hosts Minister of Human Rights

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate hosted on Monday July 19th, the Minister of Human Rights, Ms. Amat Al-Aleem Al-Soswah.

The Minister presented a lecture, to a number of journalists and the board of the syndicate in order to shed some light on the legislation that organizes the press, in light of the President's directive to reconsider the Press Law with the objective of eradicating the imprisonment of journalists.

The Minister urged journalists to be active and to present a project at reflecting their vision towards the amendments of the Press Law.

On Wednesday, the reaching information group held its first meeting at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, with the presence of the syndicate's secretary general Mr. Hafedh Al-Bukari and first undersecretary Mr. Saeed Thabit.

The group agreed to conduct a comprehensive study relating to the problems journalists encounter in obtaining information and in attempting to reach reliable sources and the availability of search mechanisms as basic rights of journalists. The participants also

agreed to prepare a study regarding the role and responsibilities of journalists and mass media, in developing the case to obtain information, by highlighting the obstacles standing against journalists and the free flow of official information.

Commencing these studies came in preparation of a broad meeting of Yemeni journalists to be held next September, to discuss these important issues and within the framework of cooperation between the syndicate and Danish program, as promised, to develop the information sector in Yemen.

Mr. Hassan Al-Zaidi, Chief of the news division at the Yemen Times will present a working paper underlining the obstacles and difficulties that face news editors at private, independent and political party newspapers, in obtaining information and the accessibility to sources. The working paper will touch upon the mechanisms and methods of how to search for information and on the issue of news editors of some media organizations lacking the sufficient expertise.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Will president Ali Abdullah Saleh orders of halting hostilities on Sheikh al-Houthi and his followers bring an end to the crisis?

- Yes, it will.
- No, I think it is more complicated.
- Not quite sure

last edition's question:

Do you think there are prospects in the offing of settling Saada battles peacefully?

• No, I don't think so 55%
• Yes, I think so 30%
• I don't know 15%

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Blast rocks Hababa

SANA'A-The blast that occurred Wednesday, July 21st in Hababa town, Thula district, claimed 18 lives. A quantity of gunpowder stored at the bottom of a building of six flats, was ignited by an electrical short. It was reported that the gunpowder was to be used in construction works.

The explosion was so terrible that it shattered the building, caused damage to adjacent ones, and shook the ground.

"This blast should be pondered over" as a message to responsible authorities. Storerooms, particularly in cities, packed with inflammable materials such as iod, toxic chemicals, and pesticides should be rigorously supervised.

Aden Cultural and Sports Festival concluded

ADEN- The activities of the first cultural and sports festival organized by the National Womens Committee, Aden were wrapped up Wednesday, July 21st. Huge crowds filled the parade square in khurmaksar district at the conclusion of the festival organized by the National Woman Committee, Aden, and the Aden Woman and Child For Culture and Sports.

Governor of Aden Dr. Yahya Al-Sha'ibi delivered a speech at the occasion. "The festival is an indication of the significant role of Yemeni women

in social and economic activities, and a proof of her ability to contribute to disseminating humane folklore and cultural heritage," said he.

He stated that the high status of the Yemeni woman and her key contribution to development, and emphasized the support for women of the governorate leadership.

He praised the civilized and aesthetic touches of the festival, and those who organized the festival including heads of sports, child, dance, and song performances, and directors of NGOs.

The festival featured a photo show

on the city of Aden depicting signs of civilizations up until the recent age, and others on traditional Yemeni kitchen tools, folk heritage, and traditionally popular games. The festival included a display made by male and female youths, and an exhibition of products of local societies.

The concluding ceremony was attended by Staff Colonel Abdullah Qairan, Dr. Ghazi Mahfoodh, Mohammed Abdu Al-Sheikh, men of distinction, and a great crowd of people, all of whom expressed their admiration of the festival.

Joint meeting of General Assembly and Handicapped societies

A joint meeting comprising the Judge Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hejri, Governor of Taiz, Doctor Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anaam, the Chairman of the Cooperation and Handicapped societies, Doctor Ahmed Muhammed Al-Olufy, the Director of Taiz Security, Abdullah Abdo Saeed and a number of the board members of both the management, and the general assembly of the charitable social cooperation society and the members of charitable general assembly of the handicapped. In

the meeting which is headed by Doctor Ahmed Hayel Saeed, the activities and the tasks of both the societies for the last year period were discussed. As well as listen to the management and the final account reports and voting on the same, trust was renewed in both of the current management boards and a financial supervisor was appointed for 2004.

The Governor of Taiz, in the meeting, addressed all the merchants to adopt Hayel Saeed Companies group

in supporting and securing homeless children and orphans. He also boasted of the role of Al-Saeed group has played in supporting the charity works and helping the needy. He also remarked upon the support shown to both societies by the Governorate leadership and the local council through concerned officials and departments, to ease its tasks in activating charitable activity in the governorate, and helping the needy to obtain their necessary requirements.

Vocational Education Strategy for 2004-2013

The Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Abdul-Qadir Ba Jamal, approved on Tuesday July 20th, the project of the national strategy for technical education and vocational training 2004-2013, which aims at improving and diversifying technical education syllabuses and programs so that they meet the labor market's needs for socially and economically qualified technicians.

The strategy will focus on ensuring management of all the processes for the technical education system so as to satisfy various employees' demands, and improving the organizational structure of the Ministry of Technical Education in order to catch up with the rapidly changing demands of the labor market.

Al-Shoura council discusses Yemeni expatriates' situations

Al-Shoura Council, chaired by Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani concluded on Tuesday 20th July a two day discussion on the situation of Yemeni expatriates living in a number of Arab and foreign countries, based on the report filed by the Council's Political, Foreign Relations and Expatriates Affairs Committee.

The report consisted of an oversight and an evaluation related to the current situation of Yemeni expatriates abroad.

The council's discussions and comments focused on the measures that ought to be taken and adopted to improve the situations of Yemeni living abroad.

At the conclusion of the discussions, a sub-committee of some members from the main committee and other concerned authorities, was formed in order to formulate the final recommendations and suggestions, before transferring them to the related authorities to take appropriate measures.

Third specialized course concluded on bee breeding

The activities of the third course on bee raising were wrapped up Thursday at the Bee Raising Development Project in Osaifira, Taiz. It was organized by the project from July 17th to 22nd with the participation of 15 trainees and from different governorates.

Participants were given information on how to raise bee queens, select categories, and examine hives for the purpose of maintaining the quality of the internationally renowned Yemeni

honey.

The project is planning other similar courses in the coming period that are meant for preserving the good reputation of Yemeni honey as it is a national wealth, contributing hard currency to the public treasury.

"There should be a serious interaction among different responsible sides so as to raise awareness on the vitality of this wealth and of methods of preserving it," said a source in the project.

Yemeni-Chinese workers union

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The General Federation of Yemeni Workers Union (GFYWU) held in its headquarters a meeting to discuss the cooperation of Yemeni and Chinese workers unions.

Mr. Yahay Mohammed AL-Kohlani, the head of GFYWU, said in a statement to Yemen Times "The meeting has focused on many issues mainly discussing the channels of enhancing and supporting the bilateral relationship between the two unions. We also discussed about finding ways and mechanisms to develop the collaboration and coordination between the two unions represented in exchanging the experts and experiences in the fields of training and rehabilitation as well as technical support and the exchange of information and visits between the unions.

He further said "Moreover, we talked about many common and different issues



that have been tackled in the international worker conferences and how to benefit from the Chinese experience in the union field"

Dong Li, member of the CPPCC National Committee and Chairman of the ACFTU Auditing Committee, commented on the meeting "We have a chance to be closer and know two friendly coun-

tries experiences in the field of unions. We have displayed the union activities of each and their relationship with other unions and organizations as well as the services that the unions have been giving to workers in the two countries"

Members of the executive office of GFYWU and the consultant of the Chinese embassy attended the meeting.

Arab Press Foundation Watch condemns violations of press freedoms

The Arab press foundation watch issued a strongly-worded statement of condemnation in response to recently-committed violations to press freedoms in Yemen. The infringements included the suspension decision against Al-Shoura newspaper issue number 491, the permission given by the ministry of information for the publication of a newspaper that closely resembled the weekly Al-Shoura newspaper, (the mouthpiece of the opposition Yemeni Union of Public Powers Party) and the summoning of editor-in-chief of the newspaper, Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, by the Public Prosecution without specifying clear charges. In

addition, the editor-in-chief said to the official of APFW in Yemen that he had received threats to be physically eliminated by a caller using a phone with a hidden identity number.

The organization expressed its regret of the serious setbacks to press freedom in Yemen which would have a negative effect on the democratic experiment to this country at a time when the world was believing that Yemen had abandoned the single-mandate system, in favor of the foundation of a system based on law and order, and the respect of political rights and information pluralism.

The organization expressed its utter

support to Al-Shoura newspaper and to its editor-in-chief and to the stances of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate in defending freedom of the press. It confirmed that it would closely monitor the situation and developments related to the freedom of the press in Yemen, and at the same time, it called on the Yemeni authorities to withdraw the publication permit granted to the other newspaper if it would sustain the obvious similarity to Al-Shoura newspaper, and to reconsider decision against Al-Shoura newspaper issue 491 and to bear the responsibility of protecting the editor-in-chief from encountering any coordinated assault.

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In Brief

Workshop on Communication

TAIZ BUREAU

During the period 20th-21st July, the French DIA Organization organized a workshop on contact and communication for twenty health awareness trainees in the Governorate of Taiz.

Ms. Huda Abu Talib explained that the trainees in the workshop received practical and theoretical lectures on the conception of contacting and communicating with people, in addition to how to acquire listening skills and overcome obstacles to contact. The objective for the trainees was to gain skills that would assist them in implementing their mission of increasing health awareness among the poorest segments of society.

Preparation to establish a national hotel and tourism institute

The Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education is currently preparing to find a national hotel and tourism management institution in Sana'a.

Engineer Abdulwhab Al-Aqel, the Vice Minister, explained that the institute is expected to be inaugurated in September of next year.

The institute will include six fields of study including tourism guidance, travel and tourism agency, hotel management, beverages and food catering.

Cultural days of Sana'a Govt

BY ISMAIL ALI AL GHABRI

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Cultural days of Sana'a Governorate events start from 24 July 2004 and include the continuing days till Tuesday 27 July 2004. All of the exhibitions of plastic arts, trades and the handicrafts are to be conducted at the Cultural Center in Sana'a in addition to songs, anthems and folklore parties, poetic and stories readings, as these cultural days comes within the frame Sana'a the Capital of the Arab Culture for 2004.

Yemeni Female Media Forum holds training session

The Yemeni female media forum organized a training session for 20 female journalists working at various media organizations in Yemen, held on Sunday 25th July.

The training session, sponsored and funded by Sabafon company, aimed at strengthening the skills of the journalists in writing press reports, analyzing news, gathering information and conducting field research.

The session will be held at the TMC-Yemen Hall on the eighth floor of A-Saeed Trade Center. The closing session will be attended by Mahboob Ali, President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, who presented the journalists with certificates of participation.

Session on Internet uses by journalists

Tuesday 21st July, Sana'a- A special training session regarding the use of the Internet was concluded.

The 10-day training session involving 12 journalists and was organized by the Media Training Institute with the cooperation of several different media organizations. The session aimed at strengthening the skills of journalists in using the Internet and personal computers, and utilizing Internet services in conducting research and in the collection of information.

Dr. Abdulhah Al-Zalab, Dean of the Institute, emphasized the importance of using the Internet in obtaining information and as a major source in gathering information.

Yemen bids farewell to Ambassador Hull

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Farewell parties have begun to bid farewell to the outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America, H.E. Edmund Hull, on the occasion of the termination of his post as ambassador an expert on combating terrorism. Ambassador Hull, who speaks Arabic and whose wife is of Arab origin was considered one of the most controversial American ambassadors to Yemen amongst political and social circles in Yemen.

He encountered a fierce campaign against what media organizations described as his moving out from diplomatic norms, in conducting his activities and movements in various Yemeni tribal areas.

It is believed that Ambassador Hull personally supervised the assassination of Ali Al-Harethy a member of an alleged Al-Qaeda Organization in Yemen (and six of his guards), by a missile launched from an unmanned US warplane.

However, Ambassador Hull was looked upon by Yemeni governorates



H.E. Edmund Hull

accused of harboring terrorists, as one of the best and most successful American Ambassadors, primarily because of his comprehension of the special situations of those governorates and for his frequent visits to them, particularly to Marib, Sadaah and Al-Jouf governorates. His visits were followed by the implementation

of several development and services projects, the governorates were desperately lacking in water, health, education, and agricultural fields.

Some went further by saying that due to his policies, he helped to defuse major crises in the regions that could have dragged on (under the pretext of fighting terrorism) with the consent of the international community.

But some political parties and circles cast doubts on the ambassador's activities and field visits to tribal areas in Yemen, citing political and intelligence aims. To the extent that some parliament members questioned his activities and visits during several parliamentary deliberation sessions. A case was brought up that the Ambassador sought the support of the Yemeni government to withdraw and purchase weapons from Yemeni markets.

Ambassador Hull, a shrewd diplomat and security expert, is preparing to depart Yemen after spending four years as one of the most active ambassadors to Yemen who will be remembered as the ambassador who did not give a damn about diplomacy.

Civil Society organisations role activated

YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

An intellectual forum organized by Al-Noaman Youth Cultural Forum was held in Alsaheed Cultural Forum hall of Alsaheed establishment on 19 July 2004, under the title "what do the youth require from President Saleh". A large number of educated persons and youth have attended.

The forum was opened by a word of Mr. Lutfi Noaman, the Chairman, in which he ascertained of the President's interest in the Youth sector since his ruling, through constitutional establishments and the democracy, to upgrade the youth's thought and their enthusiasm towards prosperous future.

The youth submitted three paper works indicating the necessity of activating the role of civilian society, the media and press organizations upon what the President relied towards the youth and in activating the political movements and the cultural in addition to the necessity of the public contribution in the same line, where he addressed the youth to avoid violence, extremism, fanaticism and accept the principle of the dialogue, and the peaceful transfer of power.

Discussions and interventions were opened, which matter encouraged the calling for more interest in the youths. Meanwhile, the participants tendered their thanks in a cable to President Saleh, on occasion of his ruling anniversary. The forum was attended by Sheik Jaber Abdullah Ghaleb, Branch Head of GPC in Taiz and Mr. Faisal Saeed Farar Mudhaji, the General Manager of Al-Saeed Science & Cultural establishment, Taiz.

The Babutain Establishment gives Al-Saeed publications as present

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Mr. Faisal Saeed Fare', Director of the Taiz-based Al-Saeed Culture and Science Establishment, said the Babutain Award Establishment has presented Al-Saeed Establishment with most of its publications including the creative work "The Babutain Encyclopedia of Contemporary Arab Poets," and "Twentieth Century Arabic Poetry Anthologies" which is published in five volumes, comprising poems of 1050 poets from different

parts of the Arab world.

"Al-Saeed Establishment had the initiative of presenting its publications to the Babutain," added Mr. Fare', pointing out the appreciable response on the part of Mr. Abdul-Aziz, Al-Babutain, head of the Al-Babutain Award Trustees Board.

He also highly commended the role of the Kuwaiti renowned writer Laila Al-Othman in bringing together the two cultural establishments in the brotherly countries of Kuwait and Yemen.

Story in my bag: New series released

BY: FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Under the title "To spread child knowledge" and under the auspices of Mr. Abdulkader Bajamal, the Prime Minister and the head of the Higher Council for Motherhood and

Childhood, and in cooperation with the Ibhaz Foundation for Childhood Creativeness and Rada Barner Sweeden, the first part of the series of the story "story in my bag" was inaugurated on Wednesday 21st July and took place in the Technology City.

Ms. Najeeba Hadad, the deputy of the ministry of culture, commented on the activity, "We always demand and

ask for a number of magazines, books, and stories special for children to effectively participate in promoting knowledge among children. Today Ibhaz foundation along with the ministry of culture and Technology City organized this activity as part of helping children to show their talents and skills"

She confirmed "Actually there are many programs and qualifications as well as collaborations between the child-concern bodies in order to uplift and develop childhood issues."

Ms. Maha Naji Salah, the head of Ibhaz foundation for Childhood and Creativeness, in statement told Yemen Times "Today we celebrate and honor the first-stage of the children of technology project that basically aims at eliminating illiteracy of computers and the internet among children"

She added "The first stage has witnessed the participation of 100 children and there will be a second stage in which 20 distinguished children will be chosen to run and design a website for children in order to partially erase ignorance of computers and the internet. This activity coincides with the release of a series of stories that the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood has adopted. These important publications come at a time when there is nothing addressing the child's mind and spiritually. It is a true attempt to build an educated and intellectual generation."

The 15th gymnastics championship

BY: FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The 15th 3-day gymnastics championship that took place in 22 May Nation Hall, and was

wrapped up on 7th July. The participants included 215 senior and junior gymnasts of which 35 were female. It had been the second time in which female were able to participate in the championships.

The participants were from 9 governorates and had been trained on different gymnastic activities and were watched by the minister of Youth and Sport Mr. Abdulrahman AL-Akwa'a, along with Ehab Al-Slami, the head of the federation of gymnasium along with many other sports enthusiasts.

The participants put on wonderful shows that captured the admiration of the spectators.

The minister of youth and sport praised the role that the federation of the game has played. He also exalted the extraordinary participation of the female gymnasts and promised to keep supporting the sport in accordance with the capabilities of the ministry.

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The films shown will be as follows:

Wednesday, July 28th, "The School".

Thursday, July 29th, "Three Undelivered Letters".

Friday, July 30th, "Harakiri"

The films are open to the public.

It is worth mentioning that within the framework of "Sana'a the Arab Culture Capital of 2004" the government of Japan will extend support toward the Child's Theater in the Republic of Yemen, by providing Audio-Visual equipment valued at approximately US \$ 400,000. This equipment will be assembled at the Child's Theatre during current year 2004.

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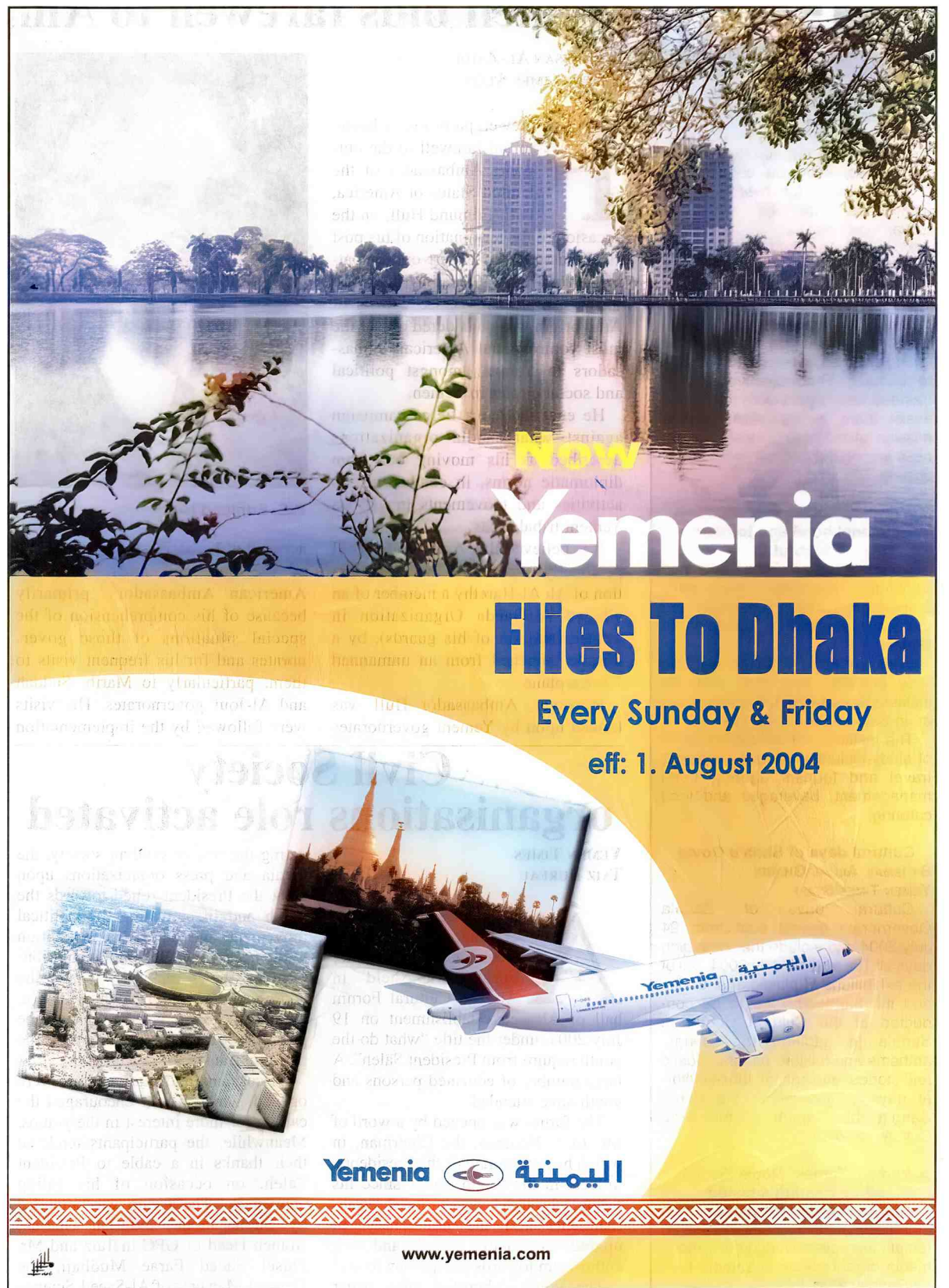
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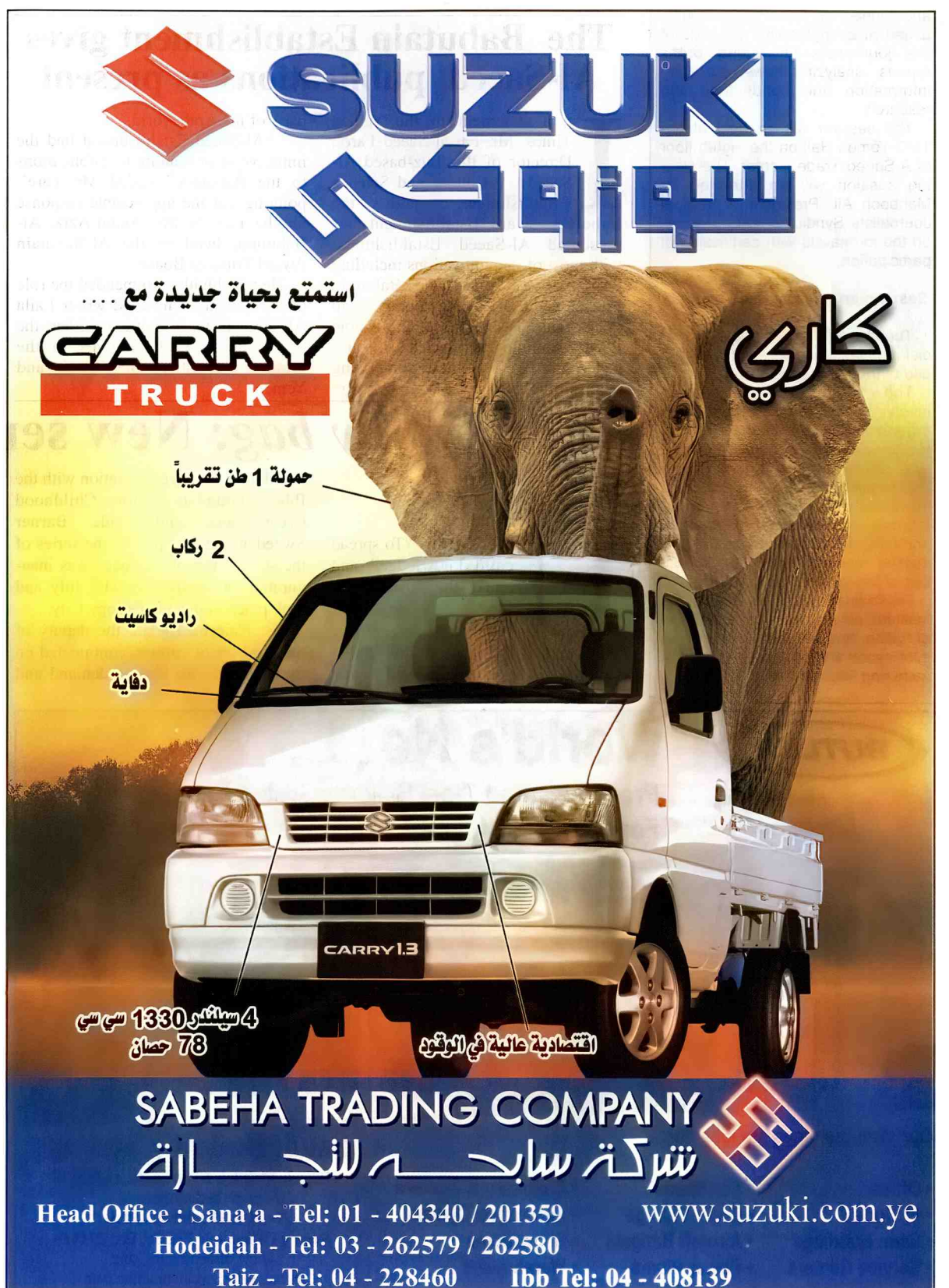
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Gunmen storm Gaza govt office, challenge Arafat



Masked Palestinian militants from Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction commandeered the Khan Younis government building in southern Gaza Strip July 24. The militants demanded the Palestinian president fire a nephew recently appointed as security chief, witnesses said. REUTERS

GAZA, July 24 (Reuters) - Palestinian militants seized a government building in the Gaza Strip on Saturday but left peacefully after saying President Yasser Arafat had agreed to reinstate comrades dismissed from the national security forces.

Dozens of gunmen from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades stormed the governorate of Khan Younis town at dawn, causing no casualties but dealing a new blow to an Arafat-led Palestinian Authority beset by corruption allegations and widespread civil unrest.

Hours earlier, unidentified Palestinians torched a two-storey police station in the nearby village of al-Zawaida.

"We are trying to determine who took advantage of the instability in the Palestinian territories to commit this crime," Mayor Ahmed Abu Zayyid said. Al-Aqsa denied involvement.

The masked militants in Khan Younis demanded the Palestinian president fire Moussa Arafat, a nephew of Arafat whose appointment to a top security post last weekend sparked armed standoffs with reformist vigilantes who flooded Gaza's streets in protest.

But by noon, the leader of the barricaded gunmen said they had decided to quit the governorate after receiving assurances that 11 fellow al-Aqsa men who had been dismissed from jobs with

the security forces by Moussa Arafat would be reinstated.

"The crisis is over, as we received a decision by President Yasser Arafat to stop the dismissal," the leader, Abu al-Haj, told Reuters by telephone.

Al-Aqsa, a disparate group of Fatah young bloods, has spearheaded a revolt that erupted in September 2000 after talks on Palestinian statehood in Israeli-occupied Gaza and the West Bank stalled. Its members have also grown vocal, and violent, in challenging the old guard's grip on Palestinian government.

A senior Palestinian Authority official confirmed the 11 men were employed by the security services, but

denied that they had ever been dismissed or moonlighted as al-Aqsa militants.

"This has all been a misunderstanding," said Major-General Faisal Abu Sharaikh, head of Arafat's bodyguard Force-17.

Pointing to the al-Aqsa link, Israel and the United States accuse Arafat of encouraging Palestinian violence. He denies it. The Palestinian president shuffled security chiefs on Monday, but did not dismiss his nephew. He has also scrambled to head off a resignation threat by Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie, who demands long-awaited reform of security forces.

Iraq and Syria to form border security committee

DAMASCUS, July 24 (Reuters) - Syria and Iraq will form a committee to improve security along their long desert border, which Washington says anti-U.S. insurgents use to infiltrate Iraq, the countries' prime ministers said on Saturday. After a series of meetings in Damascus, Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said the two countries had agreed to look at how to better control the 600-km (375-mile) frontier, which Washington and Baghdad see as a serious source of instability in Iraq.

"We have ... formed a joint committee to look at these issues (border and security) in detail in the future, in the weeks ahead," Allawi told a news conference.

"Syria has seen terrorism in earlier days, even by the old regime in Iraq when Saddam tried to inflict a lot of damage on the Syrian people and kill a lot of Syrian civilians. Now it's time for us to close ranks."

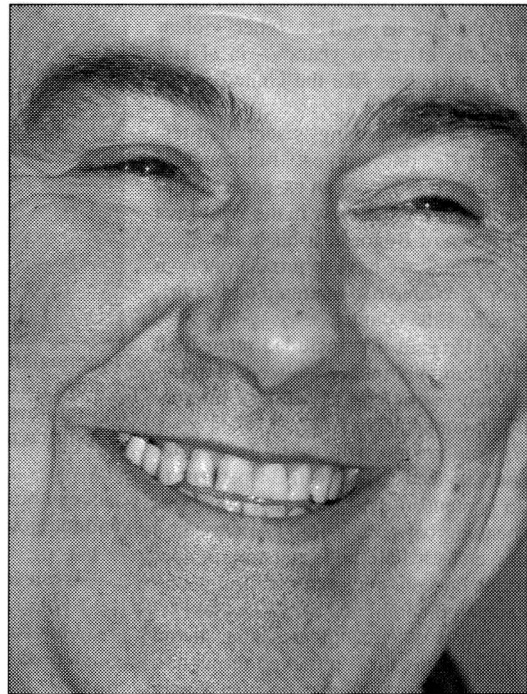
U.S. officials have repeatedly accused Syria of failing to do enough to keep anti-U.S. militants from crossing into Iraq, though the U.S. military acknowledges that foreign fighters account for few of the guerrilla suspects it has detained.

"We do not only say that we deny, but moreover we oppose any infiltration that takes place from Syria to Iraq as we do oppose any

infiltration from Iraq to Syria," Syrian Prime Minister Naji al-Otari said.

"We have affirmed during the meeting the keenness of Syria under the leadership of President Bashar al-Assad to achieve security and stability in Iraq and Syria's support to the efforts that aim at achieving that."

Allawi's interim government won a pledge of support on border security from Jordan on the first stage of his regional tour.



Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi smiles during a news conference in Damascus. Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi smiles during a news conference in Damascus, July 24, 2004. Allawi met Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and urged Egypt on Saturday not to give in to kidnappers who have taken an Egyptian diplomat hostage in Baghdad. REUTERS

No talks until Arab militias disarm, Darfur rebel



A young boy cares for the few animals that survived the long walk to the safety of Bejingi transit camp in the dry border area between Chad and Sudan. The United Nations says fighting between Arab Janjaweed militias and African rebels in Darfur, western Sudan, has killed some 30,000 people and created the world's worst humanitarian crisis with 1 million people forced to flee their homes. REUTERS

KHARTOUM, July 24 (Reuters) - A rebel leader from Sudan's troubled western Darfur region said on Saturday his group would not talk to the government until it honoured commitments to disarm Arab militias. Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader Khalil Ibrahim's statement cast doubt on a United Nations announcement that Darfur's two main rebel groups were ready for talks to help end what the U.N. says is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. "JEM will not have any direct contact with the government and will not start any political negotiations ... until the govern-

ment meets preconditions which are the terms of the ceasefire signed ... on April 8," Ibrahim said from Eritrea. The JEM has set disarmament of the Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, as a key precondition.

The rebels and Khartoum have accused each other of truce violations. The JEM and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) launched a revolt against Khartoum last year, charging the government with arming the Janjaweed to loot and burn black African villages.

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said on Friday the JEM and SLM had

agreed at a Geneva meeting with special U.N. adviser Mohamed Sahnoun to participate in "substantive political negotiations" on Darfur.

Peace talks hosted by the Africa Union were suspended last week when rebels walked out after Khartoum rejected some of their preconditions.

The U.N. estimates at least 30,000 people have been killed in the Darfur crisis and that around 1.5 million have been made homeless.

A U.S. congressional resolution this week branded atrocities in Darfur as genocide.

Oil pipeline ablaze north of Baghdad, witness

TIKRIT, Iraq, July 24 (Reuters) - An explosion set fire to an oil pipeline north of Baghdad on Saturday,

witnesses and an oil refinery official said. Witness Ali Mohammed Samarra said he heard the blast and saw the pipeline catch fire at a point just southwest of the town of Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad. An official at Iraq's main northern oil refinery at Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, said the blaze was on a pipeline that carries oil from the refinery to Baghdad.

Guerrillas frequently attack Iraq's oil infrastructure, setting explosives under pipelines in an effort to disrupt the country's reconstruction.

The pipeline attacked on Saturday was a subsidiary line and not Iraq's main northern oil export line which runs north to Turkey.

That line has also regularly been sabotaged and is currently out of commission, with no oil flowing to the port of Ceyhan in Turkey.



An Iraqi man views the column of smoke rising from a burning oil pipeline near Samarra, north of Baghdad July 24. On Saturday an explosion set fire to a pipeline, which carries oil from Baiji refinery to Baghdad's refinery of al-Dora, Iraqi officials said. REUTERS

Kuwait says it was also target for Qaeda suspects

KUWAIT, July 24 (Reuters) - A group of suspected al Qaeda supporters arrested in Kuwait for recruiting militants to attack U.S. troops in Iraq also planned to strike targets in Kuwait, an Interior Ministry official said on Saturday.

"The maps found with them revealed that they also had plans to attack foreign troops in Kuwait, as well as Iraq," the official told Reuters.

Kuwait said on Saturday at least 12 suspected al Qaeda supporters had been arrested since last week and authorities were searching for two more on suspicion of indoctrinating young people in radical Islamist ideology and helping them enter Iraq via Syria to fight foreign troops.

The official said police had arrested at least three of the 12 men after interro-

gating four Kuwaiti youths recently handed over by Syria.

Two of them managed to enter Iraq and leave earlier, and the other two were arrested while attempting to infiltrate Iraq, he added.

The Interior Ministry identified Kuwaiti nationals Khaled Abdullah al-Dossari and Ahmed Mohamed al-Mutairi as suspected al Qaeda supporters on the run.

It called on citizens and residents to contact the ministry with any information on the two men. All suspects had been referred to the Public Prosecution where they would be further questioned, the official said. The father of another Kuwaiti caught in Iraq, 16-year-old Abdul Rahman Mubarak al-Bathaly, said on Saturday his son would be handed over to Kuwait by the Red Cross

within days. "My son called me yesterday and told me that he has been released from Abu Ghraib (prison), and that he will be returning home within a few days," said Mubarak al-Bathaly, adding his son had illegally entered Iraq via Syria in January.

He said his son was accused only of illegally entering Iraq and was not connected with the group in Kuwait.

Kuwait has tightened security after a surge in violence in Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

It has also launched a crackdown on Islamists opposed to the presence of U.S. forces, which used Kuwait as a launchpad for last year's war against Iraq.

The official also said authorities were investigating any possible presence of terror networks in Kuwait.

Terrorism top target of leading Indonesian candidate

BOGOR, Indonesia, July 24 (Reuters) - Indonesia's leading presidential candidate vowed on Saturday to intensify the war against terror if he won September's election, saying terrorism was the biggest challenge faced by the country.

Former security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who is leading the vote count in the first-round of election on July 5, looks set to face incumbent President Megawati Sukarnoputri in a September 20 run-off.

How the candidates approach terrorism in Indonesia — hit by the October 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, as well as other violent incidents in recent years — is of key interest to allies like the United States and to investors.

"I think one thing is sure, that terrorism is our biggest fundamental threat," Yudhoyono, an ex-general, told Reuters in an interview in the West Java hill town of Bogor near his home.

"I think we have to protect our own people. We have to maintain our security across the country."

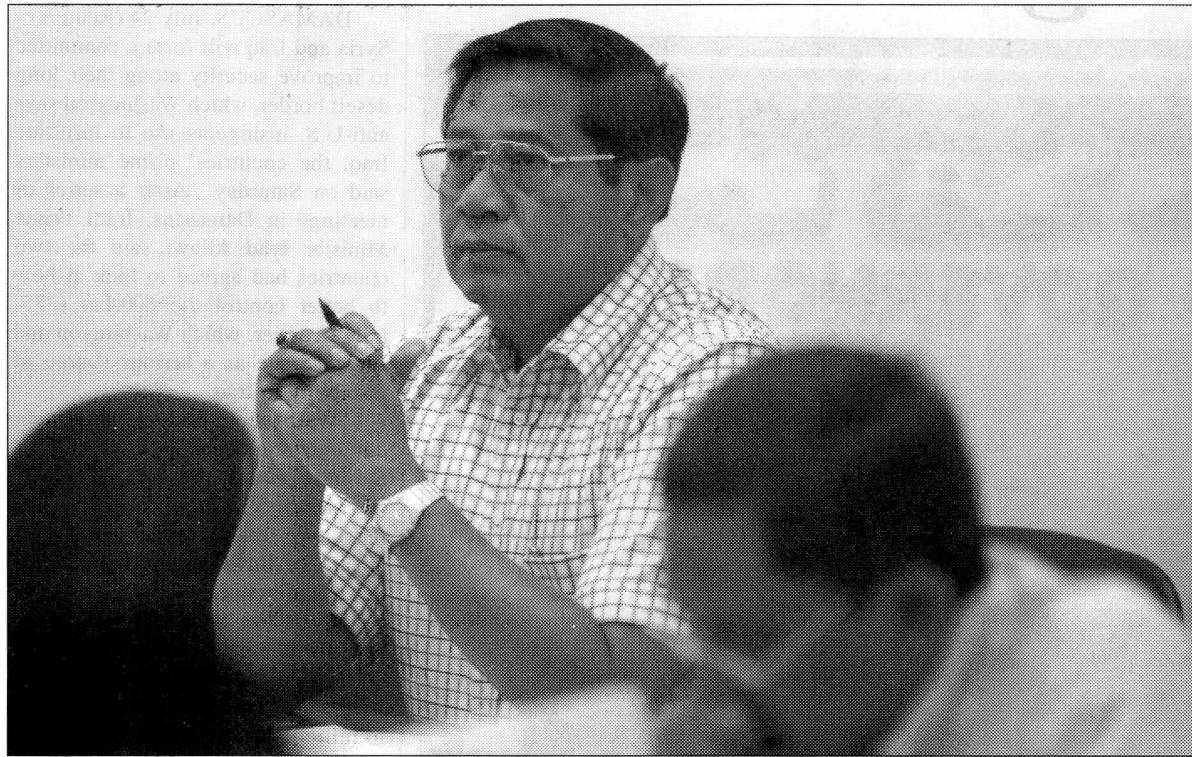
He said that included intensified efforts in intelligence, police and immigration operations as well as international cooperation.

Yudhoyono, who with most votes counted leads Megawati 34 percent to 26 percent in the first round tally, was speaking between a graduate class at a university where he is pursuing a doctorate in economics and the filming of a campaign commercial.

Three other candidates contested in July but only the top two go through to the run-off, required if no one wins a majority.

Yudhoyono's tough anti-terror stance is not liked by all in the world's most populous Muslim nation, where some call it anti-Islamic. He vehemently rejected that criticism.

"Actually it is the obligation of Indonesian leaders, Indonesian ministers to combat terrorism and there is no direct connection between terrorism and Islam," he said, adding that terror-



Indonesian presidential candidate Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (L) sits for an examination, a part of the requirement before he can earn a doctorate degree in agro-economics at the nation's leading agricultural university, "The Bogor Agriculture Institute" in the West Java city of Bogor July 22. Yudhoyono is expected to win the first round of the country's presidential race without the majority needed to avoid a run-off in September. REUTERS

ism can be committed by many groups and religions.

Irrelevant

"I am Muslim myself.

I am praying.

I practice in Islamic teaching, so this is really irrelevant," said Yudhoyono, who had military training in the United States and earned a degree there.

Yudhoyono said he was still studying a court decision on Friday that said parts of Indonesia's anti-terrorism laws were unconstitutional, but added: "I don't think that Indonesia will reduce its seriousness to combat terrorism."

Terrorism is not Indonesia's only

problem with violence.

It suffers from sporadic ethnic and religious clashes and is fighting two simmering separatist rebellions, the most serious in its resource-rich far northwest province of Aceh.

"A military solution alone can't solve the problems in Aceh," Yudhoyono said, specifying that social, economic and political efforts in the province needed to be intensified.

He suggested that "reconciliation and rehabilitation" were needed in other trouble spots where violence has flared since he left the cabinet in March after a spat with Megawati that drew sympathy for him as the perceived underdog.

Despite soaring personal popularity

since then, Yudhoyono's Democrat Party won just 10 percent of parliament seats in an April 5 election, far behind Megawati's party and Golkar, the former vehicle of long-time authoritarian ruler Suharto. Yudhoyono said that while if elected he would try to form a governing coalition: "It's not necessary that the executive is weak compared with the authority possessed by the parliament."

On endemic corruption, a major concern for investors, he said: "I will lead by myself in the war on corruption by giving examples, making sure every single rupiah should be audited." "I'm looking for a tough man to be appointed as attorney general," added Yudhoyono.

N.Korea rejects U.S. nuclear proposal, ministry

SEOUL, July 23 (Reuters) - North Korea dismissed as "nothing but a sham offer" on Saturday U.S. proposals that the communist state follow the example of Libya and scrap its nuclear weapons in exchange for aid and diplomatic recognition.

The United States laid out a plan for North Korea last month that would extend multilateral energy aid after the North first commits to dismantle all of its nuclear programmes and begins a verifiable disarmament process. American officials have also urged North Korea to emulate Libya and trade away its nuclear arms and other dangerous weapons for better ties with the West.

Tripoli moved quickly from declaring its intent to scrap banned weapons in December to the lifting of U.S. sanctions to full diplomatic ties in June. "The landmark proposal made by the United States is little worthy to be

considered any longer", the official KCNA news agency quoted a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman as saying.

The statement was North Korea's most detailed public comment on proposals advanced last month at six-party talks

involving the two Koreas, Japan, the United States, China and Russia. It did not threaten to stay away from the next round in September.

It said the Libya advice was "worse still", because it demanded unilateral disarmament by North Korea. "It is a day-dream for the U.S.

to contemplate forcing the DPRK to lay down arms first under the situation where both are in a state of armistice and at war technically," it said, using the initials for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The U.S. is foolish enough to calculate that such mode imposed upon Libya would be accepted by the DPRK, too," it said.

The statement came two days after U.S. disarmament diplomat John Bolton finished a tour of South Korea during which he said the U.S. proposal and Washington's response to Libya showed that the Bush administration was serious about solving the nuclear impasse and not stalling before the November election.

North Korea now denies having such a programme. Pyongyang may have at least one and perhaps as many as eight nuclear weapons, U.S. officials say.

Pakistan releases three in proliferation probe

ISLAMABAD, July 24 (Reuters) - Pakistani authorities have released three aides to disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan after holding them for months in a probe relating to a huge proliferation scandal, officials said on Saturday.

Military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan said out of about a dozen people detained late last year for questioning, the government was now holding only one, but added the investigation was not over.

"We have released all of them except one," he told Reuters.

Sultan said Mohammad Farooq, a key associate of Khan, was still being questioned.

"The investigations have not yet been concluded and anybody could be called back whenever it is needed."

The three men released on Friday were Dr. Nazeer Ahmed, a former nuclear scientist, and two retired military officers, Sajawal Khan and Ehsan-ul-Haq, who were connected to the country's top uranium enrichment facility until it was headed by Khan in 2001. Khan, praised at home as the father of the country's nuclear programme, confessed in February in a televised address that he sold nuclear secrets to Libya, Iran and North Korea.

The government sacked him as special adviser but President Pervez Musharraf pardoned him in recognition of his role in developing a nuclear weapon for the Muslim nation. Khan has virtually been under house detention since the probe was launched against him and his network spanning across several countries.

Southeast Asia winning war on terror, Malaysia PM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Reuters) - Southeast Asia was winning the war against terror but could not yet declare victory, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi said, a day after his intelligence chief warned of fresh attacks.

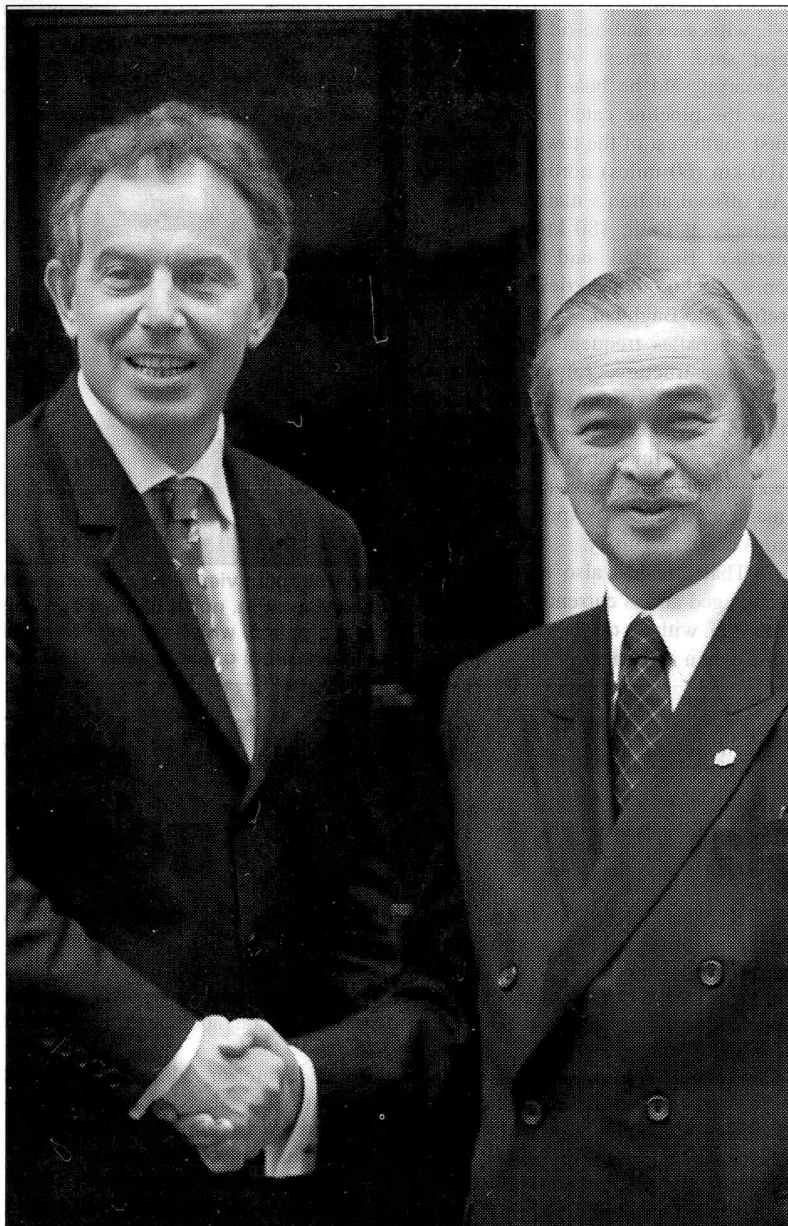
"I think we are winning that war ... not completely but we are watching very, very carefully and we believe that soon we should see no more threat," Abdullah told the BBC in an interview broadcast on Saturday.

"I'm not looking for a date to declare victory," Abdullah's comments, recorded during a visit to Britain this week, were aired barely 24 hours after Malaysian police said remnants of the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) were regrouping to plan more attacks in Southeast Asia.

Believed to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, JI is suspected of carrying out the Bali nightclub blasts in Indonesia two years ago that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. Abdullah said that although the regional terror arm had not been completely destroyed, "I think...if there is any more, we are able to contain them".

Dozens of JI members have been arrested in the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia over the last two years, although many more are believed to be at large. "A big group of them are preserving their strength while reorganising themselves," Mohamad Yusof Abdul Rahman, head of the Malaysian police's Special Branch, told a conference on terrorism in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Police and intelligence officials say JI, which seeks to establish an Islamic state across much of Southeast Asia, has also planned or carried out other attacks in the region.



Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (R) is greeted by Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair outside Downing Street in London in this July 22 file photo. Southeast Asia was winning the war against terror but could not yet declare victory, Badawi told the BBC in an interview broadcast on July 24. A day after his intelligence chief warned of fresh attacks, Abdullah's comments, recorded during a visit to Britain this week, were aired barely 24 hours after Malaysian police said remnants of the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah were regrouping to plan more attacks in Southeast Asia. REUTERS

Mali calls for help to fight locust swarms

BAMAKO, July 24 (Reuters) - Mali urged international donors on Saturday to help the government fight locusts swarms which threaten to destroy vital food crops in the West African country.

West Africa is facing its worst locust crisis for 15 years with swarms moving rapidly south from Algeria and Mauritania.

Forty-two swarms have already been spotted in Mali and Communication Minister Gaoussou Drabo said serious damage was already visible in some grassland areas.

"We are threatened with a locust invasion...Every day we receive new reports (of locust swarms)," Drabo, who is also acting agriculture minister, said on the sidelines of a meeting with international development agencies.

Drabo said Mali could afford about half of the locust-fighting campaign and needed an extra \$1 million to treat some 100,000 hectares with pesticides — which experts say is the minimum it must do to protect its crops from the locusts. Desert locust swarms, which can contain as many as 80 million insects per square km, can travel more than 130 km (81 miles) in a day. Adults can eat roughly their own



locust of swarms threatening vital food crops in Mali

weight, or about two grams, of food every day and swarms can devastate entire crop fields in a matter of minutes.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation says the locust crisis is the most serious in West Africa since a 1987-1989 plague which cost more than \$300 million to contain. Some \$9

million has been pledged to help this year's campaign.

The desert locusts have shifted from breeding areas in northwestern Africa and moved south to countries such as Mauritania, Senegal and Mali.

They are likely to multiply over the next few weeks, the FAO said earlier this month.

Fiery S.Africa highway smash kills 14

JOHANNESBURG, July 24 (Reuters) - At least 13 people were burned to death on Saturday when their minibus was in collision with a luxury sedan on a South African highway outside Johannesburg, police said.

Police spokesman Wayne Minaar said the crash also killed the driver of

the sedan, which apparently veered into the opposite lane and crashed head-on with the minibus.

"It actually caught fire and 13 out of the 17 occupants burned to death, including the driver," Minaar told reporters, adding that the four survivors had been taken to hospital.

Minaar said a charge of culpable homicide would be investigated despite the fact both drivers had been killed.

South Africa has one of the worst road safety records in the world, with accidents claiming about 10,000 lives a year.



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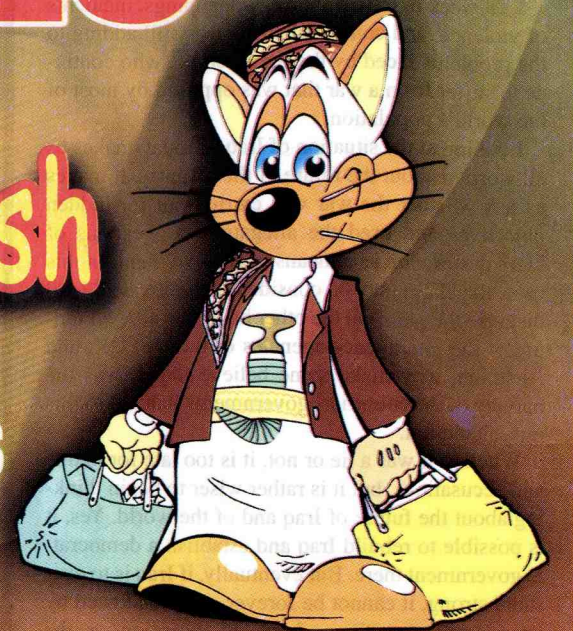


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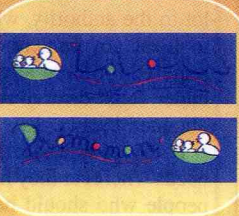
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Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

Lie or naivety?

Today, we are witnessing one of the most bizarre situations in political history. The report recently released in the USA about the 911 event revealed that there is no connection between Iraq and the incident, and confirmed many shortages in intelligence and administrative bodies. Concurrently, reports issued in the USA, UK, and Australia investigating the intelligence that formulated the reasons for war on Iraq, have shown outrageous mistakes in calculations and predictions, which led to the war catastrophe. All of these reports confirmed the doubts of millions throughout the world that the war on Iraq was not based on accurate information, and was not at all justifiable.

But again, the three leaders of the US, UK, and Australia are defiant and continue to insist that the war was the right choice and that Iraq constituted a danger to the world's peace. Many diplomats, intellectuals, and the general public in most countries of the world, find it difficult to understand from where these leaders find the audacity to claim that what they did was right.

Last week in Iraq, fighting, kidnappings, incidents of violence, and continued chaos was still adding to the problems faced by the Iraqi people, who continue to suffer from a war that was opposed by most of the world's population.

Looking at the situation of Iraq of today makes us all worried about the future of this country. It makes us ask whether the war was carried out for hidden objectives and used the allegation of weapons of mass destruction as a means to achieve them. In this case, the claim may be considered an intended lie to disguise the plan. On the other hand, the alleged failure of the intelligence agencies of the US, UK, and Australia, may make some believe that it was the naivety of the countries' governments that led to this miscalculation.

Whether it was a lie or not, it is too late for blame and accusations, but it is rather wiser to begin thinking about the future of Iraq and of the world. Yes, it is possible to rebuild Iraq and establish a democratic government there. But eventually, if Iraq is to ever stand strong, it cannot be forever over-shadowed by unanswered questions about its inception or the moral ambiguity of its basis. Hence, I believe there will always be a scar on the efforts to rebuild Iraq and the country's future. This scar will never go away unless people know whether the WMDs allegation was a lie or simply, a naivety of the US intelligence and government.

The Editor



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We and reforms in Yemen (6)

BY PROF. DR. ABDULAZIZ ALTARH
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Reforms begin with modernization and change, modernization should coincide with every new development, in order to keep up with what's going on in the world. We in Yemen need a revolutionary set of reforms, in the broad sense of the definition of reforms. The reforms strategy must not be limited to slogans, chanted on special occasions. At the same time, we do not want the general public to lose the enthusiasm that has arisen since the President's declaration of his campaign to fight corruption wherever it might be.

Mr. President, we need a new type of government and a responsible press. We want the government to sense that it is being monitored by another alternative government-in-waiting, and that there is another government waiting to take over and to commence missions and duties when the current government fails to effectively carry its required duties. We want a standby government that is setting itself up to bear the responsibilities the other has failed to carry out. We want everyone to have a sense of responsibility and to compete and to be innovative for the best interest of society, that is if we really want to catch up with others ahead of us.

We do not want to feel that the changes are limited to only changing ministers, ineffective by-laws and primitive concepts, but also includes encouraging a new government with claws, that could fight corruption, bureaucracy, and handover 'corrupts' to the judiciary, to receive the punishment they deserve in accordance with effective laws. A government that would be able to attract new investment, to alleviate poverty, to improve living conditions and to build the trust and confidence of the public, and raising expectations of a brighter future. A government that would reconsider the ill and ineffective policies with the aim of rectifying the deficiencies it encounters. A government that would sincerely launch giant projects, which would make a difference to the economy. The public does not want to feel that there is a long way ahead before achieving that. We want to prepare for a more honest and fairer local councils, parliamentary and presidential elections.

After 14 years since the unification of the country, and ten years of governance by the ruling party, ordinary citizens want to see genuine changes at all levels, so that they can believe in the rhetoric, the prom-

ises and the truth of intentions that are proclaimed in carnivals and on special occasions. They have had enough of chaos, price hikes and lack of security in their daily lives.

We agree and admit that previous crises have influenced every aspect and thus, changes include persons, mentality and perceptions. Civic society organizations and civil liberties must be encouraged and supported. They are the prerequisites to achieving a strong and viable economy.

We want each minister to be independent and yet accountable for all of his actions. We want ministers and heads of banks and corporations to be leaders and not employers. The first reform measure must be to implement a free market economy in reality, that would be based on organized and well-prepared policies, not just what some randomly call for. Regrettably this is utterly absent and subsequently, the changes continue to be merely related to individuals, places and based on the same policy. I bet that the sought changes would come as to meet the desire of the public. But it is important to have an awareness of the importance of having and handling them wisely. Any crisis that arises must be confronted immediately and effectively rather than waiting and prolonging its remedy for years. Problems such as an ineffective educational system; a government that controls media organizations; an economy that lacks practical mechanisms to revive it; and crippled political parties with only marginal freedom have led to a loss of trust and confidence in the government and its performance. In contrast, organizations have offered suggestions and solutions to emerge from this situation on many occasions. The participation of the private sector is critical when preparing for, or before introducing, new legislation related to reformation, in order to avoid any discrepancies or conflicts of interest.

I strongly believe that the keys to reformation and modernization of Yemen lay in the hands of the President. I would present the following points that constitute a threshold to conduct changes whenever he wants to commence to do so:

- Adopting an effective and efficient administrative reform program.
- Creating trust between the banking sector and clients, importers, and investors and easing policing and monitoring measures against employees at the banking sector.
- Undertaking privatization programs by rates that coincide with economic growth, including the privatization of certain government funding banks and companies

and allotting shares for employees working in them.

• Intensifying efforts to diagnose the reasons behind the current markets stagnation with the aim to find remedies to come out from it.

• Working to create legislation stability and judicial reform that could decisively settle disputes especially those against state corporations and corrupt civil and military officials.

We also demand the development and promotion of exports through some urgent measures, the most of which are:

- Tax exemptions for locally produced or manufactured goods for export.
- Reducing custom tariffs on heavy transportation vehicles.
- Fully implementing a fast and prompt response system.
- Organizing the various importation procedures at customs and tax authorities and surtaxes on agricultural related components, and regularly updating them.
- The importance of enacting laws relating to merged companies, competition and baring monopolies and fraudulent traders.

We also demand opening of a national conciliation dialogue and the holding of an economic conference to present problems in order to find solutions. We need to change our methodology and mentality as we are not against any specific person but rather against random policies. I am still worried about our economy following a period of austerity the country had to go through in recent years.

Therefore, commencing a reform operation quickly would assist in remedying a number of problems as soon as possible before they require more difficult measures to treat or they become difficult to overcome.

We, Mr. President, want an end to the states of apathy, arrogance and extravagant expenditures despite the sufferings and difficult economic hurdles. I think we spend as a state more than what our economic condition permits. This is a catastrophe we have to face now.

Last but not least, we regret that nobody reacts unless the President interferes. The President of the country has special missions to attend to, and he should not be distracted all the time with the things conducted by the government. But where is the government?

This is why Mr. President is urged to interfere and to launch his program against bureaucracy and corrupts and to appoint capable leaders to assist him in translating his words into deeds. Will he do that soon? The general public is waiting!

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

A message to President Saleh

My name is Mohammed, I'm a Yemeni living in Europe. I work in the fish export business and want to give a message to the president of your country.

I have spoken to his office by phone with some of his people and also send a fax to which nobody replied.

It is about the fishing zone of Yemen. All the countries of the world have their own fishing zones where nobody can fish without permission from the respective government.

As I speak, many fish are no longer there because of over-fishing, especially by European companies that come to poor countries, to drain their fish stocks empty and then laugh in their faces.

If Yemen, Oman, Somalia and all the other countries don't ban those fishing ships from Europe, Korea and other countries, all the fish will be gone soon.

Every country has its own domestic stock and season in its economic zone but sometime it sells its fishing zone for peanuts. We have to protect our fishing zone's or else, in time, there will be no more fish to fish.

I hope that the message will reach our president directly and personally. I wish he realizes that this is no joke, but it is a serious issue. Unfortunately, some ministers are corrupt and only fill their pocket with "black money" and care little

about the country and its fish wealth.

Mohammed K.
Kanduvai@arabia.com

UAE visas to Yemenis: why us?

This message is to the Yemeni government's ministry of foreign affairs and is as follows:

It is strange to see that Yemenis are still (and always) suffering with difficulties obtaining Visas to enter the UAE. It's not about Europe or America. I think it is easier with that part of the world or at least I understand their point of view. I have experienced this myself while traveling several times to the US/Europe or to Africa via Dubai. It is pity and annoying on such action. Yemenis are treated completely different at Dubai Airport, all the other nationalities go thru smoothly at immigration except Yemenis who are stranded for a couple of hours and in the end forced to buy visas at Emirate desk at a ridiculous price in addition to the stringent security check on us. This does not apply to other nationalities, which pay 100 dirham and they are done, straight to immigration. My question is why is this happening to us (Yemenis)?

My question is: Where is the Yemeni government in all of this?

3 weeks before my UAE visa rejection, the president of Yemen and his cabinet were in UAE for a 3 day official visit.

Hugging and kisses where seen on the television between the 2 parties. What are these 2 parties discussing? Nobody knows. These kisses and hugs don't make sense if simple issues such as Visas are not tackled. My request to the Yemeni government is to bring up the visa issue and discuss it with UAE officials on a clear and fair basis.

Jamal Bin Ishaq
jishaq@eajb.com.sa

Re: "Murder at Jamal Street"

Mr. Al-Sofi has raised an excellent issue for discussion. Why does a 30 yr old woman not qualify as being a wife anymore in our society? Our Prophet Mohamed "May peace be upon him" married his first wife when she was 40 years old. This man is our true idol whom we should all look up to, but unfortunately we only tend to take what we like from our religion and disregard everything else.

It is about time that our society gets rid of its ridiculous traditions and wakes up. A 16 yr old girl still needs to enjoy her childhood for a couple more years. An older woman is not only more physically and mentally mature for marriage, but will also have more experience in life to better manage her married life and her husband's everyday affairs.

Another important issue to discuss here is the depression and hopelessness that single women feel when they grow

older and society no longer sees them as suitable for marriage. This also goes for women who have had bad experiences with marriage and are divorced.

I strongly disagree with Mr. Al-Sofi in this issue. Multiple marriages are not the solution in this case. Just because a woman is a little older, she shouldn't have to lower her standards and accept a married man.

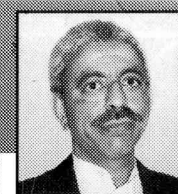
Instead of planting the idea of marriage into these women's heads we should give them other options in life. If people do not accept them as married women then they can still find fulfillment from life by other means. They can work, volunteer, and play a vital role in their communities. After all, our country will never develop if half of its population are either house wives imprisoned in homes, or single women crying over the issue of not finding a husband.

Roaa Bahrar
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Clarification on my article

On the last page of the issue number 753 there was a topic written by me. I Just want to clarify that some ideas are taken from an essay of Mahmood Darwish "Defeating a tree". This is because I have to give him the intellectual properties of his own.

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COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

It is people who bring development

One of the big problems that developing countries are confronting is in finding a clear path towards overcoming the hurdles that stand in the way of achieving the right venue for continuous economic growth and sound management of existing economic assets and available resources. This is quite clear to most of the governments of developing countries, but beyond that most governments of developing countries tend to view development as merely gathering some physical assets and plants and thus all efforts are directed towards this task, with little or superficial attention to the more important aspect of development: the human side. Oh yes, many a developing country will tell you, "Look at the number of schools we have built, or the number of vaccinations we have made, etc." This kind of information is significant, but what kind of influence are these numbers having on the real important indicators of development: quality of output of the education system, the number of skilled technicians and professionals, the decrease in rapid population growth and the number of additional jobs created, etc? The experience in Yemen and many of the other least development countries of the world is that the reliance on quantitative tallies of physical substance to project their level of development tends to overlook some very fundamental aspects of development. These aspects are of a primarily qualitative nature, but without them no quantitative projection of development achievement can have value. These qualitative aspects will show the true levels of achievement, because they are primarily dealing with the human side of development and will truly reflect the extent to which development is having its desired effects on the element of the society that matters the most: the people of the land.

On the international theater, experienced has shown that societies that harness a healthy portion of their development efforts towards upgrading the human resources in the society have succeeded in overcoming the hurdles that stand in the way of development. Not only that, such societies have actually more to show in quantitative terms of physical attributes than those who focused all their attention on gathering a few assets here and there and neglected to look at the human resources that will benefit from such assets and run them sustainably. Even in countries, where there is a very timid natural resource base, such as Japan, or to come closer to home, Jordan, development was attained in all its true manifestations, because the human resource base was the focus of attention on their development plans.

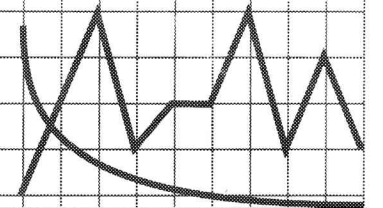
We in Yemen have gone a long way since the pre Revolutionary period and many in Yemen have been able to uplift their standard of living significantly from what it was like in their own childhood years. But, there are many who will attest that there is much inequity in our development strides. Moreover, we have not really developed the right human resource base that can see opportunities and make use of the appropriate facilities that will enable them to take advantage of these opportunities. Moreover, we need to have a fundamental review of our educational system and how it is able to translate the learning experience into the lives of the people and into productive capacity. In other words, it is not enough to know that there is an internet in the world and in the end have to rely on foreign expertise to help us stay connected to the rest of the world, while our people are still not capable of even knowing the many useful things that can be obtained through the internet, thus making up for all the lacking sources of information and facilities for cultural enhancement. On the other hand, to make sure that there are adequate services for the people in the major cities, while neglecting the overall majority of the people who live in the rural areas of the country, even for such basic things as proper schooling, is bound to leave a sizable portion of the population out of touch with development altogether.

One of the essential elements of development is to have development programs that rely on participatory community management of projects and programs. This is not just after a program or project have been implemented, but in the pre implementation stages of planning and design. The Yemeni development effort in its earlier stages was in fact based on such an approach and many of us remember very well how active local development cooperative associations went along way to bringing important development projects to event the remotest parts of the country. What made the cooperative schemes of the mid 1970s so successful? They were fairly democratic in nature and depended on transparency and accountability of the officers of the associations. When the government decided to reduce the autonomy of the cooperative movement, it brought participatory development work to a standstill.

One was hoping that with the Law of Local Authorities, the local communities will be able to regain some of their empowerment over harnessing development resources and managing the assets acquired through the infrastructure projects already implemented, but the observer is inclined to suggest that there has been little progress in getting local communities to take the initiative and move forward on their own. The Central Government has yet to relinquish a lot to the authority, which the Law supposedly turned over to local government. Moreover, access to the resources required for these local authorities to function viably is still under tight central control, even if these resources were obtained locally.

If the people are the ones best able to determine their needs wherever they live in the country, then it should be the people who should be allowed to set their own plans and carry out the projects that they really need. Moreover, greater empowerment of the people means better transparency and more credible accountability. We have sufficient proof that a tightly net centralized regime can never be a guarantee that these important elements of governance are there, not to mention the avenues for corruption that such regimes usually open up.

YT Business



Development administration hits success and justice for all



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Development administration in Yemen, as in other developing countries, is still weak in its performance and the proportion of its production does not reach a rate of 35%, compared to the advanced administration in developed countries. It is therefore in need of training, qualification, and providing it with knowledge, developed information in

order to achieve its goals fully.

What urges us to tackle the importance of developed administration is the people's search for justice and equality in rights and duties inside official administrative machinery or in dealing with the citizens. There are ongoing reforms led by the government to attain the development and productive objectives of the proper scientific administration. It is to be remarked that the program of administrative reforms has allocated a financial budget and the government has external grants and loans to carry out financial reforms at an expensive cost in order to attain the developed advanced administration.

Nevertheless, the development administration in Yemen requires more training for its cadres' in short training courses or seminars or training workshops on programs of limited effect because many of many of leading administrators, reaching about 45%, are basically in no possession of capability of qualification during a short period because originally they bear rather low degrees.

Therefore, here emerges priority in administrative development and the necessity of change and empowering young leaderships that are qualified to bear responsibility for effecting new styles and methods in the modern administration work.

Although administration work remains a fertile environment help develop administration in case there is an acceptance of change, or a sterile environment in case of refusing change, and the latter blocks the desire of administrative reform because it refuses modernization and impedes attaining the aspired for development administration.

Using the language of production, the traditional administration would stay non-productive and derelict in performance in addition to hindering administrative development as well as wasting potentials and public properties.

Hence, efforts of financial and administrative reforms process should be channeled to creating an essential change in administration leaderships so that to realize their goals of equality of opportunities and obtaining productive gains of avail in interest of the entire economic performance.

It is also observed that the measures taken up to now are still at the start-point towards development administration aimed at realization of the principle of justice for all and equality among members of administration in rights and duties for the increase of production and ending failures resulting from administrative negligence.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.6900	184.8700
Sterling Pound	345.8400	346.1800
Euro	229.9900	230.2200
Saudi Rial	49.2500	49.2900
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.4700	629.0800
UAE Dirhem	50.2800	50.3300
Egyptian Pound	29.8400	29.8700
Bahraini Dinar	489.8900	490.3600
Qatari Rial	50.7400	50.7900
Jordanian Dinar	260.4900	260.7500
Omani Rial	479.7300	480.2000
Swiss Franc	150.5600	150.7100
Swedish Crown	2499.0000	25.0100
Japanese Yen	1.6983	1.7000

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Out of all this, it could be concluded the stress on importance of advanced administration and work for qualitative change of administrative leaderships to achieve success for attaining an effective developmental administration.

Aden the road to the world of investment and commerce



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Since ancient time, Aden has played an important role as an economic and commercial port in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula and as a destination that serves as a meeting point in world trade. At the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century, Aden began to regain important ground towards bearing its vital role as a major international trade port. It has rapidly developed since then, to become one of the most important seaports in the world. The importance of Aden as a seaport is due to its unique geographical location, and the naturally suitable environment has contributed in the rapid transformation of Aden into one of the best seaports, in a century and half.

After achieving independence from British colonization and after the unification of Yemen twenty years later, Aden port began to surface as a major



View of Al-Moalla, Aden Gov.

issue, deserving of special priority, especially after Aden became the official commercial and economic capital of the Republic of Yemen. The announcement of the establishment of a free zone in Aden city over an area of 31 hectares, laid the foundations commencing serious development of Aden city and Aden port in all aspects of development.

Loading and unloading activities increased by one hundred percent at a rate of 20 containers an hour immediately after construction of the container port at the Caltex region with an operation capacity of 500,000 containers per annum. The rate of berthing giant vessels increased as well. The area of the free zone was divided into fifteen areas, most importantly Aden port, container port, airport, air cargo village, heavy and light industries, petrochemical areas and tourism areas.

During the past eight years, the Free Zone management board implemented a number of vital projects that included surveying and developing the area, establishing a special security force for the port, the construction and asphaltting of roads, installation of street lights, establishing the air cargo vil-

lage, the industrial and tourist regions in addition to carrying out effective marketing and promotion campaigns.

Despite the immense movement and activities that Aden witnessed during the past period until the year 2001, where some 8660 ships in a variety of sizes, types and activities had entered the container port, the level of activities at Aden port dropped following the incidents to USS Cole and the French Limburg oil carrier. The announcement by insurance companies of increased insurance rates on various ships going to Yemeni ports including Aden port only exacerbated the situation.

The Yemeni government was compelled to deposit a US\$500 million as a bank guarantee to insurance companies in order to lure shipping companies to resume their activities to Aden port.

The number of ships reported to have anchored at Aden port during the period January-April 2004 was 107 ships in comparison to only 50 ships for the same period in 2003. The number of containers during January to April 2004 was 242962 in comparison to 20600 containers for the same period in 2003.

To encounter atmosphere pollution,

Draft resolution for control of materials affecting Ozone

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ozone unit at the State Authority for Environment Protection at the ministry of Water and Environment has been working at preparation of a draft resolution regarding a regulation for controlling materials that cause depletion of ozone layer that would be soon submitted to the competent authorities to be endorsed.

The draft has been discussed at six workshops in the capital Sana'a and a

number of governorates. Many experts in this field have participated in discussions and contributed with their opinions to articles of the project and they have added valuable suggestions guaranteeing success of implementation in future.

According to sources at the Ozone unit, the third article of the project has defined its goals to controlling the use of ozone-depleting materials and watching other materials subjected to monitoring and that is in implementation of Yemen's commitment to international pacts and protocols.

The project stipulates that the State Authority of Environment Protection should not grant licenses to any new activities using materials depleting the ozone layer, and not to give acceptance for expanding industries based on using such materials. In compliance with article five of the project the Authority, in coordination with concerned parties at the ministry of agriculture, would implement a program for gradual riddance of the methyl bromide substance and to utterly stop using it as well as offering alternative assistance to farmers and organization

of the importation of bromide substance in coordination with customs. The draft regulations has defined the importation registration process and obtaining licenses of import according to portions of amounts, in addition to naming equipment and apparatuses that are banned from importation.

The draft stipulated the prevention of all sides using materials exhausting ozone layer from launching them to the atmosphere and that they work for recycling them according to conditions worked out by the Authority. Article 25 of the project stipulates that the

customs authority, in coordination with the environment protection authority, should implement the symbols regarding materials subjected to monitoring stipulated in the customs system and to put an end to trafficking with harmful equipment and material through application of marking mechanism.

Article 28 stipulates that all companies and factories that would produce or contain substances harmless to the ozone layer have to write the substance's trade and scientific name in a clear way on those products.

The draft regulation also stipulates that the concerned parties specialized in tackling dangerous solid wastes must prevent getting rid of equipment and apparatuses that contain materials subject to monitoring until obtaining approval of the environment protection authority according to measures it adopts. This project is regarded as an important legislation for controlling the materials causing depletion of the ozone and demonstrates Yemen's orientation and intent of cooperation regarding problems of atmosphere pollution.

Progress on Alzheimer's dramatic - U.S. researcher

PHILADELPHIA, July 22 (Reuters) - A cure for Alzheimer's disease is unlikely in the near future, but big advances are coming soon in the treatment and prevention of the fatal brain illness, a leading researcher said on Thursday.

Researchers have made strides in learning about causes and possible therapies, and just in time, too, as the burden of Alzheimer's threatens Medicare, said Dr. William Thies, vice president for medical and scientific affairs at the Alzheimer's Association.

"We will see drastic improvements in ways of treating and preventing the disease," Thies said in an interview at the end of an international Alzheimer's conference. "It might be three, five, seven, 10 or 12 years away — something like that."

Thies said researchers have made a "staggering amount" of progress on finding causes, developing medications that have the potential to treat it, and identifying preventive steps, particularly lifestyle changes that may delay the onset of the brain-wasting disease.

Research presented at the conference suggests, for example, that risk factors for heart disease may also lead to dementia. A study in Sweden and Finland found that participants who were obese in middle age were twice as likely to develop dementia in later life.

Another study from Harvard Medical School found that women who ate vegetables such as spinach and broccoli in middle age preserved more of their cognitive abilities as they entered their 70s.

Drug trials presented to the conference appear to show that beta-amyloid, the abnormal protein that is a prime suspect as the cause of Alzheimer's,

can be broken down in the brain using medication, slowing the process of cognitive decline.

16 Million cases

Such preventive measures could help cut the number of Alzheimer's cases in the United States, which is expected to hit 16 million by the middle of this century — almost four times the current number — as the baby boom generation ages and lives longer.

That number could be even greater because of the higher incidence of Alzheimer's in the U.S. black and Hispanic populations, which are growing faster than the white population, Thies said.

The financial burden of treating the expected increase in Alzheimer's sufferers threatens to bankrupt the U.S. health care system, Thies said. Alzheimer's patients often have other illnesses, and the cost of treatment to Medicare — the state-federal health insurance system for the elderly — averages \$13,207 per patient per year.

That amount is more than three times the average for other Medicare patients, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Seeking to avert a crisis, the association is asking for a 32 percent increase in federal research funding, to \$1 billion a year.

The association's campaign have been helped by the Alzheimer's-related death of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, whose widow Nancy has called for more government support to fight the disease.

"Congress would like to recognize the contribution of Mr. Reagan, and rather than putting his face on a \$20 bill, funding to find a cure for this awful disease would be the right decision," Thies said.

US FDA OKs Merck-Schering-Plough cholesterol drug

WASHINGTON, July 23 (Reuters) - Merck & Co. Inc. and Schering-Plough Corp. won U.S. approval on Friday to sell a two-in-one cholesterol pill called Vytorin that is expected to generate billions of dollars in yearly sales.

Vytorin combines two currently available drugs that lower levels of LDL or so-called bad cholesterol in different ways. Merck's Zocor and jointly developed Zetia.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Vytorin late on Friday, an agency spokesman said.

The companies said the new drug will cost wholesalers \$2.34 per pill at all doses and will begin shipping to customers as soon as possible and no later than early September.

"We believe that Vytorin can successfully compete as a first line agent with all statins for all patients requiring cholesterol medications," said Adam Schechter, a vice president for the Merck Schering-Plough joint venture.

Shaojing Tong, an analyst with Mehta Partners, expects the medicine to post eventual annual sales of \$3 billion.

Other sales forecasts veer as high as \$8 billion, based on Vytorin's ability in clinical trials to slash LDL levels by up to 60 percent at higher doses.

"Vytorin is a marketing breakthrough because it combines two drugs with different mechanisms of action into a single pill," Tong said.

High cholesterol is considered a major risk factor for heart disease, the leading killer of Americans.

Golden opportunity

Zocor is a member of the statin family of medicines that limit the liver's production of cholesterol. Zetia, launched in 2002 for use by itself or with any statin, helps block the inter-

times from absorbing the artery-clogging fat.

Merck and Schering-Plough, which both need to reverse years of disappointing earnings, will split profits from Vytorin.

Moderate doses of the new drug are as potent as the highest doses of Pfizer Inc.'s \$10-billion-a-year Lipitor and AstraZeneca Plc's new Crestor, giving it a possible safety advantage over its rivals.

Moreover, the two drugs in a single tablet would be more convenient for patients and require them to make only one co-payment, doctors and analysts said.

New U.S. guidelines calling for lower ideal cholesterol levels were issued earlier this month and could prompt doctors to favor the most potent medicines when they reach for the prescription pad, giving Vytorin a golden opportunity for an exceptionally strong launch.

"Lipitor will remain the market leader because it is so well established and doctors are so comfortable with its safety record" after seven years on the market, Tong said.

Merck badly needs a big new product to replace Zocor. The company's top-selling drug, with sales of \$5 billion last year, will lose U.S. patent protection in 2006 and face cheaper generic competition.

In the meantime, Vytorin will be a mixed blessing for Merck because it will wrest sales away from highly profitable Zocor.

Schering-Plough is in worse financial shape than Merck. It lost \$92 million in 2003.

Most of its sales from allergy blockbuster Claritin have evaporated since that drug lost patent protection in 2002. And its hepatitis C drugs have been overtaken by newer treatments sold by Roche Holding AG.

Narcotics in Taiz

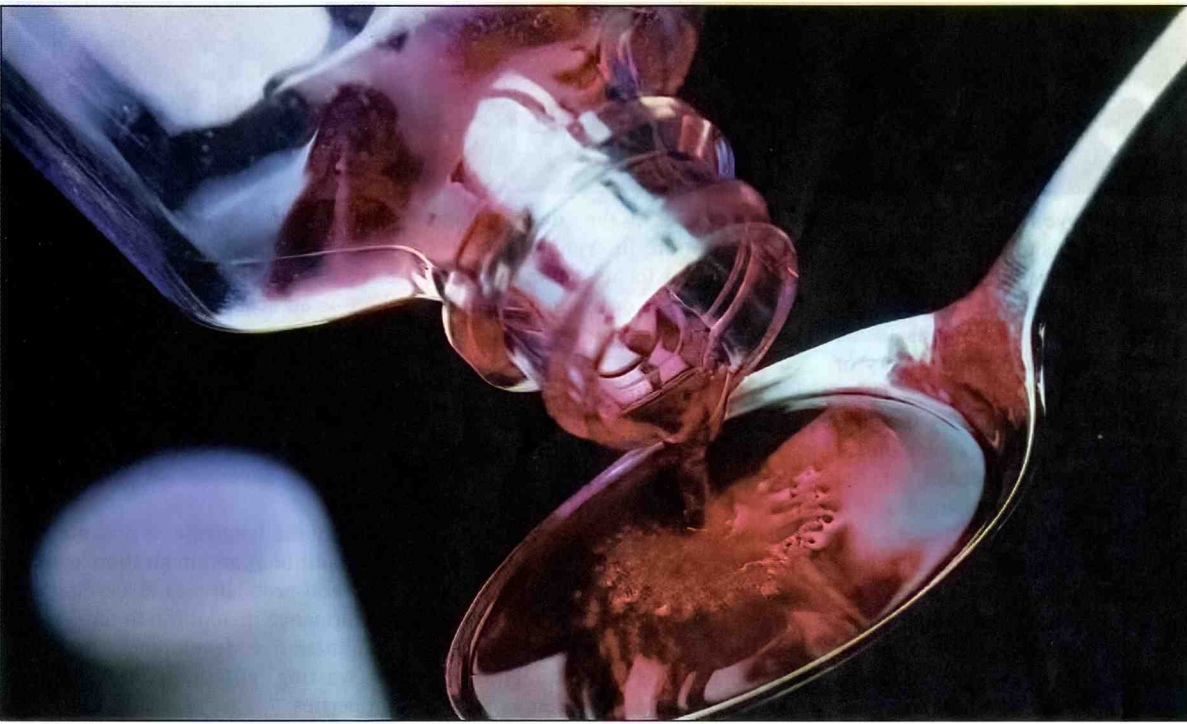
TAIZ BUREAU

Many youths nowadays are becoming more creative in order to obtain the effect of illegal drugs by mixing two or three types of medicine with soda or a non-alcoholic beverage.

The drugs can be easily purchased from drug stores without a prescription.

Many of youths after taking this cocktail lose their ability to control their behavior and become short-tempered and violent.

Col. Yahya Al-Haisame, vice-chief of security, emphasized the importance of press, media and health related departments to increase awareness of their side effects and in confronting the prevalence of this phenomenon.



Third meeting of the High Health Council in Taiz

TAIZ BUREAU

A meeting was held late last month, in Taiz under chairmanship of Judge Abdullah Ahmed Al-Hajry, Governor of Taiz and Chairman of the Local Council of the Governorate. The governor chaired the third meeting of the High Health Council, discussing the importance of developing and improving health situation especially in the medical field, training and integrating new plans to develop health services in Taiz districts.

The meeting also discussed the study presented by the director of the High Health Sciences Institute, which focused on expanding the institute through opening new divisions.

The meeting approved installing independent financial units at public hospitals to be appointed by the finance office.

The meeting also confirmed the importance of emphasizing the monitoring restrictions in order to improve performance and to discuss the situation of the foreign medical cadre, partnership and cooperation with private health establishments and how to implement the directives of the minister of health in this respect.

مناسبة افئناح فرعها الجديد
في امكلا

لسلامتك على الطريق
استعمل قطع غيار سوزوكي الأصلية

الأصالة صادية

SUZUKI GENUINE PARTS

SUZUKI YEMEN
سوزوكي اليمن

سوزوكي اليمن (عضو مجموعة بامعروف) الجمهورية اليمنية

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Doann... the decorated land

By Ali Al-Sharmani
For the Yemen Times

Doann valley... the land of Yemeni famous to businessmen for the highest quality of honey. The name "Doann" refers to the blessed valley that is associated with the best quality of honey, the "Doanni honey". This phrase is the most attractive title for honey lovers of all types, retail and wholesale shops inside Yemen and abroad.

The Geography of Doann:

Doann is one of the provinces of the Hadhramout governorate, situated on the road between Sayoun and Al Mukala. The construction and asphaltting of a 63-kilometer road that connects Ras Hobarah and Khailah Bugshan to the valley has made it more convenient for the inhabitants, tourists and honey seekers. The construction and asphaltting of the road was implemented by the Bin Ladin group at the expense of the prominent Sheikh Abdullah Ahmed Saeed Bugshan.

Before asphaltting the road, it required many hours of suffering to reach the valley. The passing, however, through the valley could only be made by four-wheel drive cars. Currently, construction works are taking place on the northern side that would connect Doann and Al-Mokala. The road is being constructed at a cost of 1.6 billion Riyals, also at the expense of Sheikh Bugshan.

The left and right valley

The right valley of Doann valley

According to Hadhramout towns book reference, titled, "Adam Al-Qout", by the deceased author Abdulrahman Aboidah Bin Mohsen Al-Saqqaf, the name Doann is a Persian name that refers to two valleys at the peak of Hadramout. The right side is planted with valuable palm trees with scattered villages and towns at the edges of the roadbed. This side is actually divided into two mini valleys, "Al-Nabi" and "Hamodha" valleys, the latter embraces the population



Woman working in local handicrafts housings.

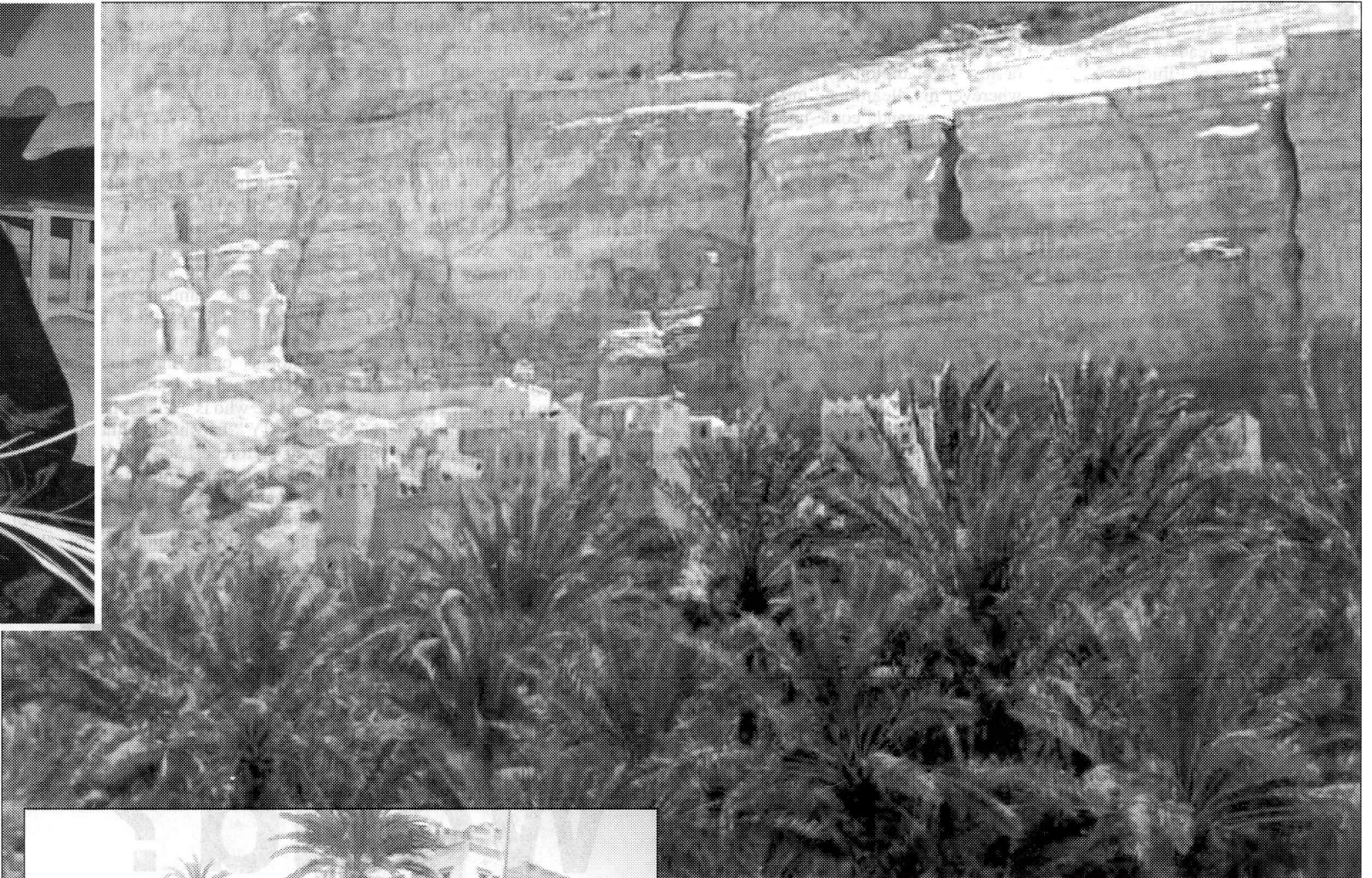
The eastern side of Doann valley

The first area is "Rabad Baashen" the hometown of Bin Ladin, followed by Awrah area, referring to Doann's fortification and housing of its elite, the populated areas such as "Gareen", "Rehab", and "Hoden", the third refers to the town of Prophet Houd, (peace be upon him) are found on this side before reaching "Bawazeer and Garn Majed areas.

The left valley of Doann valley

The first area is "Rasmah" town and then the populated areas, Juha Al-Khnabesha, Sabeah Khailam Hawfah, Saif, Gabdoun, Al-Hajreen, Mekh, and Al-Mashhed (Al-Attas town).

The above mentioned extracts from the above-mentioned book are the names of areas and populated regions. But in reality and what we witnessed in our fielded visits, the villages and towns possess naturally astonishing sights and present spectacular views and magnificent architectural designs



of homes and multi-floor mud palaces.

Historic areas in Doann

Raiboun area, at the tip of Doann according to archeological studies are indications that it was inhabited at the

eight century BC as evidenced by traces of irrigation networks and the remaining ruins of temples and homes.

According to historic books, Doann valley was one of the areas passed through by merchants' caravans that were carrying goods, textiles and "Bakhour" through the desert to ports on the shores of the Red and Mediterranean Seas.

Doann... the valley of famous businessmen

Citizens from the Doann valley throughout history immigrated to many parts of the world. They worked as merchants and Islamic missionaries in Eastern Asia and Africa. The Doanni people were very clever in making for-

tunes from their various working activities. In many parts of the world, because of their immense contribution, they were able to become nationals in any country they chose to settle in.

Almost all parts of the Doann valley have witnessed the implementation of services and development projects financed by Yemeni businessmen living abroad, from construction of roads, to the building of schools and hospitals.

Doann and Poet Al-Mehdhar On a final note, the Doann valley is the hometown of the famous Yemeni poet, the deceased Hussein Abo Bakr Al-Mehdhar, where some of his poems and song lyrics still echo their admiration of the beautiful valley.

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Prosecutor and judge quit tribunal of 15 al-Qaeda suspects

The court judge listened to the testimony of the merchant who bought the car that was used in carrying the boat used in attacking the Limburg. Other evidence and reports were read out in the courtroom while the suspects showed indifference to what was going on, refusing to comment on the charges in the absence of their advocates.

Chief prosecutor Saeed al-Aki and his deputy Saeed al-Samit quit the session before the judge Ahmad al-Jermozki announced its end. The prosecutor left the courtroom when the suspects refused to keep mute and listen to the evidences presented by the prosecutor, complaining that they were harassed in the intelligence prisons, and demanding that they should be transferred to the central prison. They even shouted and hailed after they said they were teased by intelligence agents; they claimed they do not care whatever sentence they got, death or imprisonment, as much as they were annoyed by the interrogation that they were subjected to by some US men and women investigators. "It is you who gave permission that we be interrogated by the Americans. Sit down or you want to turn the judge into a decoration," said alleged ring leader Fawaz al-Rabee when talking with the prosecutor. The suspects said they were teased by intelligence agents and that they should yell with their slogan and then burst together "Allah Akabar, death to the US. Bin Laden is the dear of God." This angered the prosecutor al-Aki who asked the judge to silence them and then left the courtroom before its end. On his part, the judge, who appeared very weak and influenced by the prosecution from the first hearing, felt insulted by this behavior of al-Aki and left the courtroom without terminating the hearing or even fixing a date for the next hearing session. The suspects appealed to the judge to listen to them but to no avail; they told him "listen to us otherwise we will not forgive you now or in the hereafter."

The fifteen suspected terrorists were charged in the first hearing with blowing up the French Oil Tanker in Mukalla in October 2002, carrying out several explosions in Sana'a, killing one soldier and

plotting to blow up the US, UK, French, German and Cuban embassies in Sana'a as well as plotting to killing the US ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hui.

The only advocate who was present Faiz al-Hajori described the quit of the prosecution as against the law. "The prosecutor violated the law by this behavior as the hearing was not yet concluded by the judge. The prosecutor was angered by the suspects who have the right to convey their demands to the judge," said al-Hajori while talking to journalists outside the courtroom. He said that his friends boycotted the tribunal as they were denied access to copies of the investigation reports so that they would be in a position to probe into the charges against their clients.

The suspects said the orders of the judge in the last sessions were not enacted. They complained that their friend Aref Mujali was not attended to by the doctor despite the serious wound in his leg but the judge ordered the prosecution again to take him to the doctor.

When journalists approached the bar, the suspects were furious and said "come and report what is going on. Otherwise, we will come out and turn into atomic bombs that would blow you up." It seems that both the prosecutor and the suspects are not happy with journalists for the prosecutor allowed filming only before the hearing for five minutes. When journalist Khalid al-Mahdi, reporter for the German DPA agency tried to take a picture during the hearing, the prosecutor shouted at him and asked the judge to kick him out. Journalists were furious and intended to leave the courtroom but the judge calmed them down.

During the session it was found in the reports of the prosecution that the boat used in the bombing was made in the UAE and was bought for around one million and eight hundred thousand Rials. The suicide bombers were Khaithama al-Hadrami and Hussein al-Badwi; al-Badwi is the brother of the second prime suspect in the USS Cole terrorist attack Jamal al-Badwi.

The reluctance of the prosecution to

allow advocates to have copies of the case files and the insistence of the advocates, as well as the refusal of the suspects to comment on charges, have all crippled the progress of the tribunal despite the fact that it started on May 29th.

The same problem is found in the tribunal of the USS Cole 6, one tried in absentia, suspect operatives. The advocates Khaled al-Anisi and Abdulaziz al-Samawi insisted in the third hearing held last Wednesday that they should have copies of the case files to which the judge and prosecutor refused and said they are allowed to copy whatever is possible only. "We are committed not to display any secrets if secrecy is what the prosecution wants to maintain," said al-Samawi.

The suspects refused to comment until their advocates have this right. However, the court judge Najeeb al-kaderi who looked more influential and controlling, said this behavior on the part of the suspects will be considered as a refusal to reply on charges and that the procedures of the hearing would go on. The judge even fined the two advocates YR 2000

each for talking in the courtroom without his permission. He also authorized Mohammed al-Azani to defend the prime suspect Abdulrahman al-Nasheri being in US custody after his arrest in, and extradition from, the UAE. The judge ordered the arrest of al-Nasheri and considered him a suspect still at large.

The court, on July 7th, charged the six alleged operatives of the al-Qaida terror network in connection with the bombing of the USS Cole four years ago.

The prosecutor accused the suspected terrorists of forming or setting up an armed gang, and joining al-Qaida and planning, terrorist acts against the USS Cole, which affected the Yemeni-U.S. relationship, putting Yemen as a target in the war on terrorism. In the attack in 2000, two suicide bombers Hasan al-Khameri and Ibraheem al-Thawr in an explosive-laden boat rammed into the USS Cole as it was refueling in the port city of Aden. The attack on the U.S. Navy destroyer killed 17 American sailors and wounded 39 others.

The two trials are carried out amidst intensive security measures.

Improved travel advice to Yemen

The British Foreign Office adjusted its warning after the UK government's recent review of travel advice. In June, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said that "in the future in the case of intelligence-based terrorist threats, the British government will advise against travel to a specific country only in situations of extreme and imminent danger."

Although the statement from the Foreign Office dropped the warning against all but essential travel, it included advising tourists about terrorist threats.

"The threat against Western interests in Yemen has not changed. The Travel Advice maintains that there is a continuing high threat from terrorism and that there is reliable evidence that international terrorists are targeting western, including British, interests in Yemen," said the Foreign Office in the statement.

The Foreign Office lifting the travel

warning but still offering advice about terrorist threats did not sit well with some Yemeni tourist agencies.

"Their advice didn't change very much," said Marco Livadiotti, General Manager of Universal Touring Company. "It lifted the warning, but it also said to tourists that Yemen is still a dangerous place. There was not a big effort to show that Yemen is a safe place."

The Foreign Office also advised tourists to avoid traveling in areas near the Saada province where fighting has continued.

Clashes between Shiite militants and government forces in north Yemen have been ongoing since the fighting began on June 18th. Tourist agencies have reported that large numbers of foreigners that planned to visit Yemen have canceled their trips as a result of the clashes.

This month the Yemeni government lifted some restrictions that had been in

place since the war on terror began after terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11th 2001. Travelers from over 30 countries - including nations in Europe, North America, the Far East and the Arab Gulf - can now get a visa entering Yemen at Sana'a International Airport or other places of entry. Individuals can also visit Yemen without having to join a tourist group or come for business.

The government might also make it easier for foreigners to move around inside the country. Tourists have to get permission, are escorted by Yemeni police and are stopped at numerous checkpoints to reach certain areas. Soon, the government may drop tourists getting permission, reduce the number of checkpoints and have police cars patrol areas instead of escorting tourists.

According to Al-Mahbashi, it is important for Yemen to see other countries

President Saleh orders hostilities cessation

Until it reached to approximately 2000, most of them have come from various Yemeni districts, a matter made security authorities close inlets to Saadah Governorate.

On the other hand, a close source to Sheikh Al-Houthi denied on Saturday reliability of the news about the cease-fire. The source told Yemen Times that "military attack was going on against Al-Houthi and his followers in Al-Sayfi, Al-Shafeah, Nushoor and al-Hamzat districts of Haidan-Mran district. On news of sending mediators to Sheikh Al-Houthi, the source said "All the Sheikhs who arrived in Saadah were hosted by Major General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmer. They are the followers of the authority and are not mediators, they are not expected to meet Sheikh Al-Houthi because there are some parties working for giving priority to military settlement rather than any peaceful agreement". The source added, "Sheik Al-Houthi has shown his willingness for peaceful settlement in an interview to the BBC, and in a letter he had sent to the president of

the republic last month, offering to meet him and discuss the whole issue with him, regarding the issues of dispute were ideological and that he had not refused previous mediations, describing them as mainly messengers for fact-finding and gathering information".

Some sources had earlier mentioned that a mediation by an Arab leader to host Sheikh Al-Houthi in his country in return for ending the crisis but the offer was rejected by Yemeni authorities. The same sources claim that it is probable that the offer has been renewed and that some parties in the authority might be of the opinion of accepting the offer, despite rejection of other parties.

On the other hand, Amnesty International expressed concern over Saada events. On 22nd July 2004 a letter from the German office of Amnesty International was addressed to Dr. Abdu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qurbi, Yemen's minister of foreign affairs, on the military events in Saada, expressing concern over civilian killings resulting from the confrontations there.

revise their travel warnings to help give a boost to the country's tourism sector. The United States issued a warning last spring that said US citizens planning to travel to Yemen should "consider carefully the risks of travel to Yemen."

"We hope that the US warning will change in the near future. This would help tourism in Yemen tremendously," said Al-Mahbashi.

Security in Yemen has improved since it joined the United States to fight terror soon after the attacks on American soil in 2001. Hundreds of suspected terrorists have been rounded up, and suspects accused of being involved in the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000 and the French oil tanker in 2002 are now on trial. It has been three years since a foreigner has been kidnapped in Yemen.

The British Foreign Office also revised its warnings of travel to Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

Clarifications and response about 'Abyssinia'

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I would like to reply to the letter of Mr. Thorap, concerning my previous article and answer (to a letter of a reader) with regards to the name of Ethiopia.

Mr. Thorap's brief mail does not have the aim of convincing anybody by means of counter-arguments, but to insult. The reason is very simple: there are no counter-arguments to what I said in so clear and simple words.

I feel the need to stress the point that plain historical truth never has the aim of tarnishing, disrespecting or defaming an entire people! On the contrary! It helps people cooperate on its own ground, the only truly objective one!

Mr. Thorap's melodramatic accents ("what the poor Ethiopian people have done to this writer") have no value in light of the public support I received from numerous Abyssinians that I am going to describe hereby.

Now, if Mr. Thorap still dares to think that I am "vicious" and "an Islamist" having "biased views", and

more precisely a "Sudanese Islamist", he has to make public his whereabouts, for I intend to sue him for slander with the utmost vigor.

If he does not appear in public again, he will prove my thoughts correct, namely that using a false nickname, he is an Abyssinian Secret Services' agent or low level diplomat trying to react wherever his illegitimate interests and wrong propaganda come under severe academic criticism. Who else would find my "article and the subsequent response concerning 'Abyssinia' ... very concerning"?

There is - of course - only one more type of person who might be disturbed by my texts: agents of colonial powers that first diffused the vicious and devious historical falsehood, and then exploited the various peoples and countries that fell victims to this vast falsehood, i.e. the Colonial Falsification of History. However, several American scholars have developed counter-models, and engaged themselves in serious criticism of the colonial model of history that one expects that it should not survive for too long.

I will dedicate several features to

this subject in the future, because it is essential for Yemen and several other modern countries so that they get rid of the shackles perniciously adjusted to them by the criminal Colonial powers, namely France, England and to a lesser extent Italy, who are the only ones truly afraid of a "regional cooperation". And they know only too well that a great perspective of cooperation necessitates plain truth and equity before history.

What is most important for the readers and the direction of the Yemen Times, and at then same time testifies to the international radiation of the newspaper and the website, is that both, my article and my letter, have been quoted in an Abyssinian web portal and forum. Since this debate is definitely vital for Abyssinia's disentanglement from Colonial structures of thought, ideology and attitude that have long bound the otherwise rich country to stagnation and underdevelopment (and this disentanglement will help that beautiful country solve many inner and outer problems), it was only normal for the debate to be 'transferred' to ethioindex dot com / Medrek

forum.

I find it necessary for the best (and most multi-faceted) information of the readers of Yemen Times to quote here Liban Digalu, an Abyssinian, who supported my idea, and in his courageous participation addressed an earlier participant, and wrote the following:

"Ato Musa Gedi!

Why don't you ask your parents and relatives when exactly they heard about the name "Ethiopia" before you make such unproven and down right INACCURATE statements?

The Oromo communities I am from and the vast majority of people south of the towns of Awaasa-Jimaa have only become familiar with the name "Ethiopia" in the past few decades. For example, in my home regions, "Ethiopia" or "Ethiopians" are still referred to as "Sidaama". It [sidaama] means he who is "alien"; he who is the "ENEMY" that should either be eliminated or forced back to his homeland somewhere in the north. That is: the vast majority of "Ethiopians" in these regions only have a VAGUE notion of what constitutes Ethiopia, let alone

know what the term stands for.

Even the Amhara people in their home regions such as Menz, Gojjam, Lasta, Gondar HAVEN'T HEARD of the name "Ethiopia" until after the Italians were forced out what was then known as the "Kingdom of Abyssinia" by the British army headed by the famous general Winget (?). That was the case because their world was limited to their own districts. They [Amhara] didn't even know the existence of other Amhara regions outside theirs let alone know about the whole of Ethiopia; Africa and the World. sii galtee dubbib tuni jaala keena?

All the same; I have this feeling that Abyssinians - deep down- regret having chosen a name that actually stands for the "LAND OF THE BLACKS or AFRICANS". The rulers of Abyssinia assumed this name thinking that it, somehow, put them in the league of the "civilised" Middle Eastern world away from the "primitive", hence, undesirable neighbors (blacks/Africans). Theirs was an attempt to define themselves as a "Semitic and Christian Nation" that is qualitatively different from and superior to the rest of Africa.

That was then. Today, the name/term Ethiopia is synonymous with sheer misery, famines, desperation, country of warmongering rulers, the SADEST place on earth!

Hence, time to change the name of that country [Ethiopia] again.....perhaps back to Abyssinia. Good idea

Liban"

This quotation is the best answer to the foreign and ignorant Mr. Thorap!

And I believe that the road is open for truly free people like Mr. Digalu to meet and coordinate efforts around the Horn of Africa. Next time Mr. Thorap writes, he should include some excerpts of Heliodorus' Aithiopika, a most valuable source of information about Ancient Meroe (today's Bagrawiyah), since the hieroglyphic and the cursive writings of Ancient Sudan have not yet been deciphered. He will then understand the very simple reality that for the last 150 years Colonial scholars (for the single benefit of their dirty games), abnormally tried to alter and hide the fact that:

Ethiopia is the Ancient Greek name of Sudan, not Abyssinia.

What's wrong with the Arab World?

BY GWYNNE DYER

It was just a random statistic, but a telling one: only 300 books were translated into Arabic last year. That is about one foreign title per million Arabs. For comparison's sake, Greece translated 1,500 foreign-language books, or about one hundred and fifty titles per million Greeks. Why is the Arab world so far behind, not only in this but in practically all the arts and sciences?

The first-order answer is poverty and lack of education: almost half of Arabic-speaking women are illiterate. But the Arab world used to be the most literate part of the planet; what went wrong? Tyranny and economic failure, obviously. But why is tyranny such a problem in the Arab world? That brings us to the rub of the matter.

In a speech in November, 2003, US President George W. Bush revisited his familiar refrain about how the West has to remake the Arab world in its own image in order to stop the terrorism: "Sixty years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe....because in the long run, stability cannot be purchased at the expense of liberty" — as if the Arab world had willfully chosen to be ruled by these corrupt and incompetent tyrannies.

But the West didn't just 'excuse and accommodate' these regimes. It created them, in order to protect its own interests — and it spent the latter half of the twentieth century keeping them in power for the same reason.

It was Britain that carved the kingdom of Jordan out of the old Ottoman province of Syria after the First World War and put the Hashemite ruling family on the throne that it still occupies. France similarly carved Lebanon out of Syria in order to create a loyal Christian-majority state that controlled most of the Syrian coastline — and when time and a higher Muslim birth-rate eventually led to a revolt against the Maronite Christian stranglehold on power in Lebanon in 1958, US troops were sent in to restore it. The Lebanese civil war of 1975-90, tangled though it was, was basically a continuation of that struggle.

Britain also imposed a Hashemite monarchy on Iraq after 1918, and deliberately perpetuated the political monopoly of the Sunni minority that it had inherited from Turkish rule. As Gertrude Bell, an archaeologist and political adviser in the British administration in Baghdad, put it: "I don't for a moment doubt that the final authority must be in the hands of the Sunnis, in spite of their numerical inferiority, otherwise you'll have a mujtahid-run, theocratic state, which is the very

devil." When the Iraqi monarchy was finally overthrown in 1958 and the Baath Party won the struggle that followed, the CIA gave the Iraqi Baathists the names of all the senior members of the Iraqi Communist Party (then the main political vehicle of the Shias) so they could be liquidated.

It was Britain that turned the traditional sheikhdoms in the Gulf into separate little sovereign states and absolute monarchies, carving Kuwait out of Iraq in the process. (Saudi Arabia, however, was a joint Anglo-US project.) The British Foreign Office welcomed the Egyptian generals' overthrow of King Farouk and the destruction of the country's old nationalist political parties, failing to foresee that Gamal Abdul Nasser would eventually take over the Suez Canal. When he did, it conspired with France and Israel to attack Egypt in a failed attempt to overthrow him.

Once Nasser died and was succeeded by generals more willing to play along with the West — Anwar Sadat, and now Hosni Mubarak — Egypt became Washington's favourite Arab state: to help these thinly disguised dictators to hang on to power, Egypt has ranked among the top three recipients of US foreign aid almost every year for the past quarter-century. And so it goes.

Britain welcomed the coup by

Colonel Gadaffi in Libya in 1969, mistakenly seeing him as a malleable young man who could serve the West's purposes. The United States and France both supported the old dictator Bourbouga in Tunisia, and still back his successor Ben Ali today. They always backed the Moroccan monarchy no matter how repressive it became, and they both gave unquestioning support to the Algerian generals who cancelled the elections of 1991 — (nor did they ever waver in their support throughout the savage insurgency unleashed by the suppression of the elections, that killed an estimated 120,000 Algerians over the next ten years).

'Excuse and accommodate'? The West created the modern Middle East, from its rotten regimes down to its ridiculous borders, and it did so with contemptuous disregard for the wishes of the local people. It is indeed a problem that most Arab governments are corrupt autocracies that breed hatred and despair in their own people, which then fuels terrorism against the West, but it was the West that created the problem — and invading Iraq won't solve it.

If the US really wants to foster Arab democracy, it might try making all that aid to Egypt conditional on prompt democratic reforms. But I wouldn't hold my breath.

Can Democracy be the Main Feature of the Middle East?

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In the light of the latest events from Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, etc. etc. people often ask: is it possible to see democracy flourishing in the Middle East?

Some say that modernization will come, but it needs time, other say that democracy is not likely to blossom there.

The gulf war pointed out the long term problems of the region — the lack of the military power and the political will to form an independent regional security structure, the incapability of the Arab League to establish dialogue between the Arab leaders, are not the least important factors of instability in the region.

One of the main features of the region is the ruling political, social, ethnic and religious elites who fight for their survival by creating or dissolving shifting alliances with domestic, regional and external players.

Most of the region's states are superficial entities that were produced by British and French imperialism.

So, in addition to lacking political legitimacy, they do not have a viable economic system experience or liberal, democratic traditions. In these societies, various ethnic and religious groups are engaged in a fierce competition for power. (eg. in Lebanon the political struggle between Shia, Sunni and Christians).

In this globalized era the Arab states can not afford to isolate themselves. Their leaders realize that this is the right time to change their policy. At the same time, they strongly reject the external attempt to democratize their respective countries. We have in the example of Iraq a demonstration of how the attempt to democratize the country from outside produces a political and social instability, creating a vacuum that entices the domestic and external fundamentalist militants to take action.

The Arab leaders recognize the need to reform, but they want to do it in their own way. I do not deny the fact that each culture has its own path of development - fast or slow - and its own set of rules and philosophies to guide its growth and progress. But, they should speed up the moderniza-

tion process and make the region what it once was - a cosmopolitan and flourishing place where diversity was praised, economic development encouraged, cultural and academic advancement promoted.

Foreign intervention may aggravate the region's shaky stability and reinforce the tendency to resist to the West's call of reform and democracy. When US is asking its Arab allies to implement democracy they refrain from reforming their political systems and they reject practical solutions to end the hostility with Israel.

If, for example the ruling elites of Saudi Arabia were to suddenly implement democratic rule, then they would lose power. And, they do not want that.

Instead, they agree with all of the 'small steps' policy, hoping that the US and the EU will somehow get tired, or concentrate on other issues (like the war on terrorism) and will forget their case.

The goals from President Bush's speeches: establishing democracy in the Middle East, forming regional security arrangements, moving towards arms control agreements,

peace between Israel and the Arab states - have only created unfulfilled expectations that will probably lead to new American commitments and entanglements. But, a commitment to the region means military presence and direct intervention — and this is one of the reason's why anti-US feelings are still very much alive in the Arab and Muslim world; the other reason may be the US's almost unconditional support for Israel.

However, Israel and the Arab states are not just nation states striving for security, democracy and modernization; they represent powerful ideologies, such as Pan Arabism, Islamic fundamentalism and Zionism — ideologies used by the ruling elites to mobilize domestic and external support.

Only if a reasonable solution can be found for the Israeli Arab conflict with some sort of ideological accommodation between these opposite views, only then will stability and economical development be possible. If Israel and the Arab states will be partners in the economic process, then the Middle East is most likely to move towards reform, democracy and even peace.



By Yahya Al-Olfi
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Reflections

Sana'a University's rotten routine, Al-Houthi's Mokhnadari mission & the rivers of honey

Knowing that formalities in Yemen take ample time more than is supposed to be necessary I charged one of my friends with the task to extract my Cardboard University Graduation certificate.

Upon his arrival at the office of the university's competent employees, he was asked to bring an original copy of my academic record and my Identity Card amongst other documents. They told him that the original document was old-fashioned and that he should get a newer one. He told them well take this original copy, compare it with your records and issue the newer type. They asked him for fees, which he immediately paid and believe it or not it is now more than three months and still the certificate is not extracted yet.

I wonder what is the miracle behind such dillydallying and careless nonchalant conduct exercised nowadays at the university by the lowest employee all through to the highest administrators. Strangely enough, this was not the case a decade ago where even university teachers were far more qualified by miles. It would seem that Sana'a University instead of being improved does continue its pitiable deterioration.

The Education Quality and behavior towards its visitors are urgent problems, which do need to be addressed.

Everybody is astonished at the resistance put up by Al-Houthi followers, for now, a month is about to complete without the quick defeat people expected. Many local observers attribute such fierce resistance to the inoculation of false theological information in the minds of adolescent youngsters (*Al Qaeda Technique*), whom this rogue convinced that their death is far more better for them than their present dismal transient life because according to him they shall be considered martyrs and thus shall deserve the reward of Paradise where in addition to the usual delicacies of rivers of wine, Milk and honey each and every one of them shall be rewarded with 70 gorgeous lassies.

This is why the followers have been heard chanting this *Zamil or chant:*

Mum do not lament my death for my martyrdom is my goal.

I prefer death to reneging my convention with the Imam.

I am pleasantly sacrificing my self for My Beloved Houthi.

Let that who feels happy about it, have it and that who feels angry from

my action have it too (i.e. I do not give a damn).

It is stupid when we mock the lies spread amongst Yemeni Jews prior to their immigration to Occupied Palestine in that they shall eat Apples and Oranges near to their windows, when we have more extravagant promises.

The above incitement chant reflects the degree to which the minds and small brains were charged with superstitious nonsense. They do not know that they are dying for a bogus Imam who himself is a victim of an age-old lie or else he would not have embarked on this Mokhnadari Mission.

If we can find a justification for Palestinian suicide missions in that Palestinians are being pushed to the extreme by the relentless Israeli oppression we cannot find justification for those committing suicide in defense of an outsider who cannot substantiate his being an Arab let alone being the Messiah/Mahdi or its preliminary flambeau bearer.

Arabs and Muslims nowadays are facing the challenge, either to adapt with modern times or relive "European Middle-Ages style life" a thing which cannot be achieved nowadays due to the huge development in human life.

Extremist Shiites believe that god created the Universe, Humanity and everything for the service of whom they term People of the Cloth (*Referring to an alleged incident where prophet Mohammed shrouded himself and his daughter Fatimah's family consisting of Ali her husband and the Children Al-Hassan and Alhussein*). They always chant that Ali is the Deputy of God on planet earth (i.e. Waliullah), that Ali's children Al-Hassan and Hussein are God's chosen ones and their mother Fatimah is to God the Best Woman ever. Credulous followers ignore that they are nothing when compared to two billion Chinese, and more than One Billion Indians. This racism does not exist in Sunni Islam, albeit Sunnis can be very harmful indeed because they have their own out of place beliefs and just look at the incident of setting a Stereo Shop in Aden on fire because its sells songs and provides internet service which they consider contrary to their ideas and beliefs.

In brief Islam and Muslims are at the crossroads, either to interact with the times or recoil with their medieval mentalities whether they be Shiites or Sunnis.

الوكلاء الوحيدون : الحاج / محمد علي سويد وأولاده
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I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (68)

Friendship Day (VII)

Friendship is like a perennial stream. It's a sublime contract for a life time. Friendship is all-embracing. It stands the acid test of trials and tribulations of life. Age can not wither it nor custom stale.

- We're friends forever. There are so many things that you've given me which makes me happy. Your friendship is the most important and the most amazing of them! Thanks for the same!
- How come you're so priceless to me, dear friend! There's one thing which I want you to know: How I wish I was you... So genuine! So likeable!
- Some one who stands by you as a pillar of strength at all times is the one who is a friend. Thanks for standing by me always.
- The best place in the world is right beside a friend. No wonder I'm always happy when I'm with you, dear friend.
- You're my friend, with whom I would love to share my big and small dreams, hopes, fears, joys and much more, now and always.
- Your presence adds colors to my life.
- How rare and wonderful is that flash of a moment, when we realize we have discovered a friend. With love and care.
- You know how people marvel when someone's lucky in love. Well, I feel like I'm lucky in friendship.
- You're one of life's precious finds. You're all the things I could wish for a friend. And I think to myself just how lucky I am to have you in my life. You'll always be special to me.
- Dear friend! The best moments of my life are the ones spent with you.
- Friendship makes the day light in the understanding, out of darkness and confusion of thoughts.

II. How to Say it Correctly

- Ticket-holders can only get seats for this concert.
- Neither they nor I were ready to agree.
- I went to the meeting with Bashar and Adel, but neither of us was impressed.
- Majdi's uncle asked Majdi and myself to help him.
- The spectators were shouting at the referee and arguing with each other.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- In the beginner's class one was taught the correct way of looking after **one's** equipment.
- A large number of people **are** taking part in the cross-country race.
- Neither Hana'a nor her father **has** blue eyes.
- Neither our cousins nor their parents **answer** letters.
- Neither their neighbor nor the friends **are** happy with him.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- To give a person forgiveness for wrong doing.
- Something which is not a necessary part of something larger but which makes it more beautiful, useful and effective.
- To cause oneself to become accustomed to new conditions.
- Highest point of development or perfection.
- Person who can do clever things with his body.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- The pilot and others responsible for flying an aircraft, together with those who look after the comfort of passengers: **crew** (n)
- To cause to feel uncomfortable or ashamed in

- the presence of others: **abash** (vt)
- To give up officially an official position, especially that of king or queen: **abdicate** (vt)
 - To take away a person unlawfully, by force: **abduct** (vt)
 - Go away suddenly, secretly and aware of having done wrong: **abscond** (vi)

(B) Literary term of Foreign origin

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following

- peripeteia
- periphrasis
- phenomenology
- philology
- phoneme

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- parenthesis** (Gk 'put in beside'): Sentence within another sentence, marked off by commas, dashes, or brackets.
- parody** (Gk 'beside, subsidiary or mock song'): The imitative use of the words, style, attitude, tone and ideas of an author in such a way as to make them ridiculous.
- pastoral** (Lat 'pertaining to shepherds'): Relating to shepherds and country life.
- pathos** (Gk 'suffering, feeling'): That quality in a work of art which evokes feelings of tenderness, pity or sorrow.
- penta meter** (Gk 'of five measures'): The five-foot line and the basic line in much English verse; especially in blank verse and the heroic couplet.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- efface, deface
- forgiveness, pardon
- innocent, innocuous
- memorial, memorable
- imperial, imperious

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- beneficial** (adj) (having good effect): Exercise is beneficial to health.
- beneficiary** (n) (person who receives a benefit): The new scheme has helped many beneficiaries.
- artistic** (adj) (done with skill and good taste): She is a person of artistic taste.
- artful** (adj) (cunning, deceitful): Beware of his artful strategies.
- contagious** (adj) (disease that spreads by touch): AIDS is not a contagious disease.
- infectious** (adj) (disease that can be spread by means of germs carried in the atmosphere or in water): He has been affected by small pox which is an infectious disease.
- crime** (n) (an offence which is punishable by law): The punishment was lighter than his crime.
- sin** (n) (the breaking of law regarded as holy): No one commits a sin during the holy month of Ramadan.
- devoted** (adj) (having deep, strong love): I am a devoted husband.
- addicted** (vt) (given up to a habit): He is addicted to reading books.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

- play second fiddle to
- pull a long face
- call a spade a spade
- catch (some one) red-handed
- a bed of roses

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- a peeping Tom** (a man who secretly watches people): He is a notorious peeping Tom, very curious to know the secrets of his lady colleagues.
- a doubting Thomas** (a person who doesn't

believe something): Don't be a doubting Thomas; I'm telling you the truth.

- live from hand to mouth** (to be very poor): After the death of their father, the family has been living from hand to mouth.
- earn an honest penny** (to earn money in an honest way): Teaching may not be very rewarding financially, but at least I earn an honest penny.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Complete the sentences below with the correct form of 'lie' or 'lay'

- I don't need any help in the kitchen, but do you think you could — the table?
- Do you remember reading that fairy story about a goose that — golden eggs?
- Do you know if the men — the carpet yet?
- She wasn't feeling very well, so she's gone upstairs to — down.
- I can see just by looking into your eyes that you are —.
- He didn't move, but just — where he fell.
- I don't have to work tomorrow — I can have a nice long — in.
- Have you ever — to any about your past?
- When he came home he found the letters — on the floor.
- I don't know how long I must have — awake last night, worrying.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Bassim and Shahera lived in an **isolated** cottage on the hills, eleven miles away from the nearest town.
- Ramzy hasn't got any brothers or sisters. He **is** an only child.
- No one agreed with her. She was **alone** in her belief that she had made the right decision.
- Although there were thousands of people around him in the city, Moin felt **lonely** because he didn't have any friends.
- I'm not married, I'm still **single**.

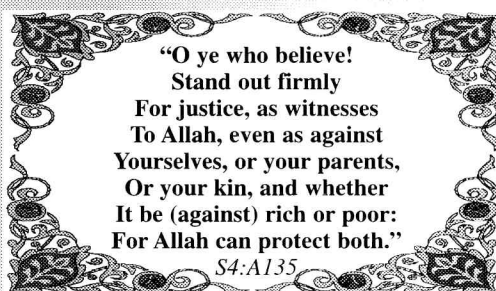
(B) Composition

Last week's topic

73: AN IDLE MIND IS A DEVIL'S WORKSHOP

Action leads to the culmination of the inner potential of a being. Conversely, idleness makes the wit rust. Nothing comes out of nothing. Hence idleness generates emptiness; it is the mother of vices, the nurse of sin. A busy mind is dynamic and vibrant. It has no time to admit evil thoughts or murky ideas. Like a stream it is fresh and pure. But, as the poet William Blake says: 'Expect poison from the standing water.' An idle mind is marked by a negative attitude. It harbors all kinds of evil thoughts and designs. Often it becomes a recipe for motiveless malignity. Therefore one should be well advised to cultivate a positive attitude and be engaged in constructive thoughts and never let the mind brood or be engrossed in counter-productive ideas and thoughts.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"It is cynicism and fear that freeze life; it is faith that thaws it out, releases it, sets it free."
—Harry E. Fosdick

A letter to the teachers of English: 53

Some more useful activities for the vacation



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

Dear fellow teachers,

In the last letter, I suggested that you reflect on your classroom teaching of last year in order to freshen up for the next year. I also pointed out that you read and listen to English more and more so that your fluency in reading and listening to English increases. If you happen to travel abroad, make use of English more often so that your communicative skills improve. In this letter, I am suggesting two more activities exclusively for the benefit of the teachers of English, for the vacation.

One of them is preparing a glossary for your Pupil's Book. A glossary, as defined by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of 1996, is 'a list of technical or special words, especially those occurring in a text, explaining their meanings'. In other words, it is a list of words and their meanings in the contexts in which they occur. It is like a dictionary because it provides the meanings of words, but it is different from it in that it does not give all the meanings of a word but only the meaning of a word in the context in which it is used. A glossary is, therefore, of immediate use to a teacher of English.

I am aware that you have no time to prepare a glossary during the school days and the vacation is the right time for it. You know well the important words in each lesson because of your experience of teaching it; take down each of these words from a lesson and with the help of a good dictionary, prepare a glossary, taking down only the meaning of that word in the context it has been used in the lesson. For example, the word 'date' has at

least 6 different meanings, but in Pupil's Book 1 page 22, it is used in the meaning of 'a sweet brown sticky fruit that grows on the palm tree'; the word 'get' has about 30 different meanings, but in Pupil's Book 5 page 7, it is used in the meaning of 'reach'.

In addition to the meaning, if you are interested, take down from the dictionary the sentence in which it is used to make sure that your students understand the meaning clearly; alternatively, you can write down your own sentence using the word. For each lesson, you will have to choose about 10 to 15 words; you need not choose the word, if it is repeated in another lesson. This means that your glossary for a Pupil's Book will have about 100 to 150 words, which can be prepared in about 2 to 3 hours spread over a week, roughly. The advantages you will have of this glossary are going to be manifold, I am sure. The most important of these will be the confidence with which you enter your class; furthermore, you can avoid using Arabic unnecessarily; then there is the benefit of your increasing your own vocabulary as a byproduct of referring to a dictionary. You can also help your colleagues who teach the same class in another school. Think of its benefit for a teacher who teaches in a village school, where there are no facilities like a dictionary or another teacher of English or someone else to consult.

Please think seriously about my suggestion, which benefits you and your learners to a very large extent. Even if you are lucky to work in a school where there are dictionaries and you have access to them, a glossary is of immense and immediate help to you. The time invested on its preparation is time well spent, which you will realize after the successful completion of the task. Get at it! Good luck.

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

Level of Education in Yemen from students' perspective

By NAZEEM ABDULLAH
YEMEN TIMES - ADEN

Today, education in Yemen has reached a state of confusion and permanent chaos through the random changing of the syllabus and the unsuitable content of school books.

Teachers are teaching subjects unrelated to their specializations, to the extent that you find all specializations, perhaps excluding medicine, covered in schools.

Unfortunately these are the conditions of one of the largest sectors in our country, the educational sector, to which millions of rials every year are allocated through the national budget as confirmed by Mr. Abdu Rabo Mansoor Hadi, Vice President of the Republic, when he said that the budget for education is higher than that for the army forces in order to expand the educational facilities. "Every week there is a classroom being built somewhere in Yemen," he said. Yet, in spite of the attention and the budget the level of education is getting worse. The state must work on educational strategies that aim at developing the educational sector starting from primary education and ending with the high schools. Well-studied syllabuses must be set out so as to support the desired understanding among students and increase their knowledge and learning.

Whose fault is it?

Secondary school girls in one of the high schools explained that more often than not it is not only the fault of the teachers or of the text books. In fact the level of students is very poor. In many cases the students themselves do not want to learn and they do not exert enough effort to do well. That is why, he explained, there are students who are not regular in their attendance, yet they get high marks.

An alternative opinion is that it is a complex issue and many factors contribute to the success of education or the lack of it. In many cases it is family circumstances such as economic instability and carelessness of parents regarding the follow-up of their children's school performance.

Teachers do not fulfill their duties honestly, as some students in the secondary level commented. As the teacher is not specialized in the subject, so he teaches it very superficially and completes the syllabus without the core knowledge on the subject being transmitted to the students.

Favoring teachers' children:

One student pointed out that if there is a true will to reform education this should

start from the basic education, i.e. the very first grade through the choice of a qualified teacher in order to create a good environment where healthy competition takes place. Student's spirits are dampened every year because it is always the teachers' children who come out first in class. This leads to frustration among the other deserving students as they feel that, no matter how hard they work, there will be no recognition of their merit; so they lose interest in studying right from the early years of schooling. It also leads to the graduation of a generation that is not really qualified. In the past, one high school girl commented, education was much better and students did struggle hard to learn and they were better educated.

Lost image of the teacher:

Although apparently teachers have a number of benefits and are appreciated by the Ministry of Education and receive bonuses every now and then, they have lost their image completely in front of the students who do not pay respect to their teachers and do not hold them in high esteem. Students disturb class sessions and reply curtly and rudely to teachers, they do not appreciate teachers' efforts and instructions. In spite of having an educational system as well as schools and teachers, yet if students do not respect their teachers, it is unlikely that the level of academic success will be high.

Satellite generation:

One promising student pointed out to a new dimension of the issue. She brought up the topic of satellite channels and the deterioration of the students' concentration and learning ability as a consequence of continually watching of TV. Students prefer to sit for hours in front of the TV screen and watch any nonsense that is presented, rather than studying or participating in social activities. For example, she explained, "The social studies teacher gave us a task to review a number of questions and some of them were very simple, such as 'when the September and October revolutions took place' and 'when was Yemeni unification and what was the significance of those events.' However, most of the students did not know how to answer these questions."

Finally

These were some facts and opinions gathered from girls in secondary schools about the status of education in Yemen. What will be the percentage of pass in this year's secondary exams is yet to be known! Students nowadays are working through their exams and we hope that they do well, honestly and in reality.

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

Adult	Dating	Home	Pair	Soul
Altar	Dinners	House	Past	Speak
Anniversaries	Drink	Husband	Personable	Special
Attract	Elite	Input	Picture	Spouse
Baby	Evolve	Lauds	Pleasure	Sustain
Betrothed	Experiences	Letter	Positives	Sweetie
Births	Fidelity	Longing	Prayer	Taste
Brain	Flowers	Lover	Presents	Travel
Bride	Friend	Marry	Pride	Treasure
Caress	Giddy	Maternity	Prince	Vacation
Changes	Gift	Merry	Relationship	Values
Charm	Glance	Moment	Rely	Wife
Chat	Great	Mood	Remembering	Wish
Child	Groom	Needed	Routine	Wine
Connect	Happy	Notes	Scent	
Cute	Hints	Occasion	Serendipity	
Damsel	Holidays	Outfit	Silent	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Balanced

FAMILY REUNIONS

Solution: 7 letters

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

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Repairing Aden water cisterns to attract tourists

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The water cisterns of Aden are characterized by enchanting historical features that can attract attention of foreigners forming tourist groups to visit them, especially after the authorities there have been carrying out many kinds of repairs and renovations to restore their former features to look the same as they were during the first century when they had been built during the ancient Yemeni Himyarite state.

Overhauling operations include repairing terraces and utilities affiliate of them at a cost amounting to YR six million. The garden of water cisterns accommodate around 400 visitors and have a children playground. Reconstruction of the rest of historical landmarks is also under renovation, including lighting and gardening works expected to be finished during next October.

The underway recon-



Aden water cisterns

struction works are part of the second phase of local authorities efforts to improve condition of water cisterns after they had finished the process of cleaning water canals extending from them to the center of the city of Aden to end up at the seacoasts.

The number of cisterns is 50 but most of them are still hidden under earth of exposed to negligence and destruction. What are ready of those cisterns now are only 18 accommodating 20 million barrels of rainfall water torrents.

Ancient Yemenis had built Aden cisterns at a mountainous narrow passage of 750 feet long to store rainwaters descending from mountaintops and are meant to be used for many irrigation purposes and to protect the city of Aden from torrents. Those cisterns have a good, entertaining historical, and tourist importance and give an indication of the genius of the Yemeni human in dealing with his environment in an engineering way and accommodating environment to match with his interest.



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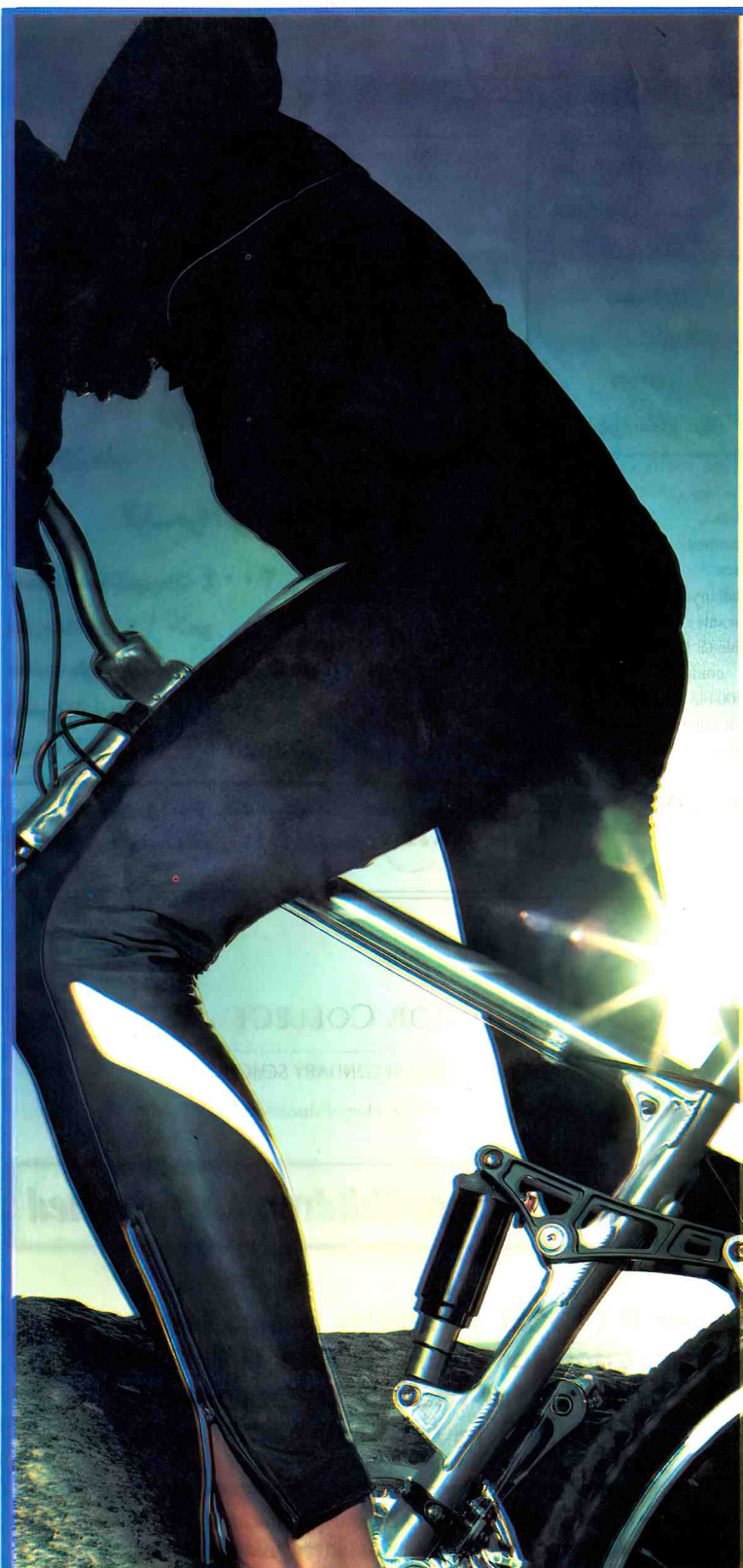
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