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# Crisis reignites:

# Deaths mount as fighting escalates in Sa'ada

Mohammed al-Qadhi YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dozens of people have been reported killed and many injured in the ongoing battle between government troops and the followers of the slain dissident anti-US preacher Hussein al-Houthi, in Sa'ada, 240 km north Sana'a. Al-Houthi was killed last September after he led a three-month insurgence against the authorities that claimed the lives of more than 40 peo-

The recent clashes broke out when some of al-Houthi's followers attacked

between Suq al-Talh and Sa'ada, an official source said. These attacks killed seven policemen and wounded twenty others.

Government troops have escalated have been bombing the their assault on the rebels, who are now being led by the father of Hussein al-Houthi, cleric Badr Eddin al-Huthi. There have been tens of casualties since fighting recommenced. The army has brought in artillery to pound the brick compounds that the rebels are holding out in.

The rebels belong to the "Believing Youth" organization, a militant Islamic

by Hussein al-Houthi in 1997, with the approval of authorities.

Security forces, which rebels' mountain strongholds in Nushur, Al-Shafia and Razamat, have lost five reconnaissance and military intelligence personnel in an ambush laid by the militants, sources said. Around 200 people have been

wounded on both sides. Continued on page 3





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# HR Minister: US report partial



BY MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Minister of Human Rights Mrs. Amatalaleem al-Soswa held last Tuesday a press conference at the Information Ministry to respond to a



report from the U.S Depsartment of State on the situation of human rights

Mrs. Al-Soswa criticized the report mentioning it did not include authentic information, was partial and characterized by overgeneralization, and confusing between different issues and was not based on field research.

Mrs. al-Soswa confirmed that the report misunderstood the reality and situation of the political system in Yemen and it contained apparent contradictions, particularly in describing activities of the opposition.

Continued on page 3







# Pope John Paul dies, world grieves

VATICAN CITY, April 3 (Reuters) -Pope John Paul II, whose 26-year papacy helped defeat Communism in Europe but left a Roman Catholic Church divided over his uncompromising orthodoxy, died on Saturday after a prolonged struggle with ill health.

'Our beloved Holy Father John Paul has returned to the house of the

Sandri, announcing the death to a huge crowd that had massed under the Pontiff's windows to pray for a miraculous recovery that never came. A wave of applause rippled through St Peter's Square, in an Italian sign of respect for the dead, and then hush descended. Many of the faithful wept uncontrollably.

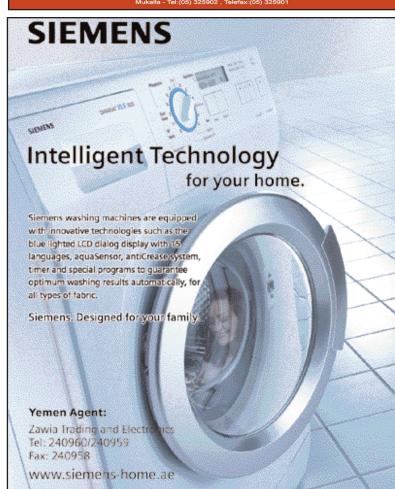
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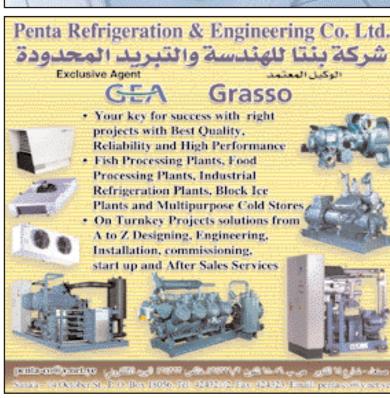


Pilgrims crowd Saint Peter's Square after hearing the news that Pope John Paul II (inset) had died at the Vatican, April 2. Pope John Paul II, the Pole who headed the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years and played a key role in the fall of communism in Europe, died on Saturday evening, the Vatican announced. He was 84.













### **Environmental** pollution reporting

The introductory workshop on the integrated plan for coastal areas and cities management was held on Wednesday March 30 in the city of Aden with the participation of decision-makers and implementation officers.

The workshop was organized by the Aden Environment Protection Authority in collaboration with the Regional Authority for Protection of the Red Sea and Aden Gulf Environment.

The 34 participants came out with a number of recommendations most important of which is activation of the technical office's hot line which is to be established according to an integrated plan of coastal areas so as to report on environmental violations and crimes.

They also asked the concerned authorities to study and revise the plan of Aden province set up by the Yemen Ports

The participants approved quick issuance of the Environment Protection Law, its executive statute and legislations related to environmental effect proce-

The participants also discussed a number of themes including introduction of the guidance plan for the province of Aden, the integrated areas management plan and updating it as well as a summary of plan preparation stages, complete approval by different concerned bodies before and during the project's implementation and the material and organizational support for the plan.

The conclusive ceremony was attended by Jamal al-Lawzi, General Manager of Aden Environment Protection Authority, Osmah Faraban, expert in the Regional Authority for Protection of Red Sea and Aden Gulf Environment, and national expert Abdullah Abu al-Futooh.

### **Marginalized Yemenis** granted 185 houses

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Capital Secretariat has distributed ownership contracts to 185 marginalized families, who currently dwell in one of the Esser zones. They are due to move destroyed by fire last week.

to the government-built housing development in Sa'awan soon.

The houses were built in response to directives by President Ali Abdullah Saleh after many of their huts were

# ICDL granted in Yemen



Edutech Center for Training and Information Technology inaugurated last Thursday the tests of granting the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) in Yemen, which is also available in many countries all around the world.

The international standards assess

the skills of any person in using computer and information technology.

Mrs. Sarah Yahya, Manager of the Center, confirmed that granting the ICDL will help many Yemeni youths develop their skills in the field of computer and information technolo-

They will learn how to deal with the information technology that in turn guarantees them a variety of job opportunities and helps them cope with the demands of time.

The license, which is internationally recognized, is granted under the supervision of the UNESCO.

### **Readers' Voice**

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

This edition's question:

Do you think the report on human rights in Yemen ssued by US **Department of State** has credibility? Yes

last edition's question:

Do you think the recent events in Sa'ada are fabricated by clandestine forces aimed at destabilizing Yemen's internal security?

Yes

No

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

# VACANCY

For Yemeni nationals

### Ministry of Water and Environment **Monitoring & Evaluation Officer**

The Ministry of Water and Environment wishes to appoint a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Officer within its Department of Planning and International Cooperation. Reporting through the Director of Planning to the Deputy Minister, the M&E Officer will be responsible for the entire range of M&E activities required to track progress and report on implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program (NWSSIP). The M&E officer will be responsible for the following tasks and duties:

- 1. Finalize the design of the Monitoring Framework, including verifying data sources and
- Design the evaluation system, the financial monitoring and reporting system
- Collect from all agencies the necessary data, format and analyze information received and prepare preliminary evaluation reports
- Prepare semi-annual monitoring and evaluation reports for presentation to the semi-annual NWSSIP review meetings and participate in these meetings

### The applicant should have the following qualifications, skills and characteristics

- 1. Some knowledge of the Yemeni water sector and its institutions and a broad understanding of the technical, economic, social and policy aspects of the sector
- The ability to analyse large amounts of quantative and qualitative information and to condense the results carefully and concisely in reports to given deadlines
- Level of education minimum BA or BSc-level, with minimum of 7 years working experience
- 4. Be computer literate in MS office programs (Word, Excel, etc.)
- 5. Be able to present and report well in Arabic and English
- A commitment to quality work, a willingness to work hard, and an ability to work with both senior and technical staff in other agencies.
- Be under 45 years of age

The applicant will be provided with a salary comparable to internationally funded projects, based on qualifications and experience. He/she will have the opportunity to benefit from on-the-job training through external technical assistance. Interested candidates should send their applications (letter, CV and supporting documents) no later than 15 days from the date of publication of this announcement to the following address:

**Minister's Office** Ministry of Water and Environment Haddah Road, behind Shammer Centre PO Box 19237, Sana'a Tel: 01-418283/89/90/91 Fax: 01-418285

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JW Mariott	Jakarta / Indonesia	\$ 945	\$ 1295	\$ 1295	\$ 1645	Category * * * * *

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### Government replaces several preachers

By Yasser al-Mayasi YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Spokesman and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance Sheikh Mohammad al-Najjar, confirmed that his ministry has replaced a number of mosque preachers in Sana'a over the last

Sources at the ministry said that around 18 preachers were dismissed for allegedly fomenting racial conflict and fanaticism by spreading outdated thoughts.

The replacement process was a reaction to conflicts between persons from the Salafi Sect and others Congregation Party (Islah), as both sides were involved in harsh quarrels, leading to the stabbing of an innocent child.

The ministry emphasized that it takes severe procedures against those who attempt to foment conflicts in mosques and deliberately distort the Islamic religion.

Officials at the ministry considered this as an initial step in a process that will eventually include mosques nationwide

### Preliminary court convicts 30 supects of prostitution

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Mansourah Preliminary Court, Aden convicted 30 suspects, including 14 Saudi men and 13 Yemeni young ladies of adultery

Three of them, who run the hotel, were sentenced to one year in prison while the other 27 received a suspended verdict 6-month imprisonment

The court, under judge Ali Saleh al-Quheif ordered a one-year closure of the so-called Canary Blaza Hotel, which is located in al-Mansourah and the confiscation of all the properties at the hotel.

The hotel was stormed on Jan.28 by the investigation and police prosecutions after receiving reports of immoral practices and the suspects were captured inside rooms of illegal privacy. The court attempted to manipulate

the case from adultery into being a suitcase of privacy due to the lack of legal evidences for the charge, which stipulates the testimony of four eyewitnesses.

The hotel management was suspected of running pornographic practices.



### **Vacancy Advertisement**

An immediate vacancy exists at the World Bank Office in Sana'a for a *Receptionist*.

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### Continued from page 1

### Deaths mount as fighting escalates in Sa'ada

Rebels carrying out guerrilla attacks in various parts of the governorate attacked a military compound near the education college on Thursday night, killing two soldiers, a tribal source told the Yemen Times. They also attacked Kahlan military brigade, wounding six soldiers. Tribal sources told Yemen Times that one of the leading military officers on the ground was killed on Friday evening along with four of his escorts. "Abdulkareem al-Makdashi, operations officer of the canon brigade was killed in an attack by the rebels with four of his escorts," said the

As there have not been accurate official reports about the death toll, it has been left to estimations, but opposition media reports said on Thursday that the Wednesday's fight left 120 deaths and injuries among the rebels.

Army Deputy chief of Staff, General Ali Mohammad Salah, said on Thursday that army and police units were "surrounding the subversive elements and outlaws in order to force them to surrender and then prosecute them.'

Mrs. al-Soswa urged human rights organizations operating in Yemen to cooperate with her ministry through the special center for receiving complaints and information related to human rights, pointing out that there is a committee composed of human rights and legal affairs ministries to look into all human rights conven-

Security forces are "using military force... and trying to storm the rebels' hideouts while seeking to minimize human losses by capturing the insurgents or persuading them to turn themselves in," he said.

However, tribal sources dismissed the possibility that tribal mediations could bring fighting to an end as the rebels, who have been brainwashed by al-Houthi, are fighting vigorously. The broker committee that was set up last year by President Saleh, failed to convince al-Houthi surrender.

Abdullah Ayedh al-Razami, Yusuf Madani who recently married one of Hussein al-Houthi's daughters and Houthi's brother Abdul Malak, are now leading the rebels on the ground, while al-Houthi's father, the 86-year old Badr Eddin, has taken the role of spiritual

The old man left Sana'a two weeks ago and was received by over 2000 of al-Houthi's supporters. The authorities accused Badr Eddin al-Houthi of standing behind his son's supporters, saying that he left the capital suddenly after he was granted safety by the government.

He has been accused of breaking his promise not to support an insurgency against the government.

Razami, a top Huthi aide, was reported by officials to have surrendered to authorities along with dozens of supporters ten days after the announcement of the preacher's death, but he was later released and went back to Sa'ada

People have begun evacuating their villages, looking for shelter from the aircraft raids, artillery shells and tanks. "The al-Salam hospital is full of dead and wounded bodies from the two sides," a tribal source told Yemen Times while observing military helicopters hovering over the battle zone. He described the human situation there as "miserable, as poor people have started leaving their houses in the look out for a safer place.'

The Yemeni authorities accuse the slain Hussein al-Houthi, a former member of parliament for the al-Haqq Islamic party, of fomenting sectarian strife in a society where the Shi'ite minority and Sunni sects have lived in harmony for hundreds of years, and of soliciting foreign support to achieve this goal. Al-Houthi denied these allegations and said that the conflict with the authorities was a result of his anti-US stand. During the main weekly prayers each Friday, al-Houthi's followers used to chant slogans against Israel and the United States, calling for a boycott of American products. The authorities arrested hundreds of his followers and said that it was difficult to convince them retract from their fanat-

The Interior Minister Rashad al-Alimi told the parliament last July that the "activities of al-Huthi started in 1997, by setting up some unlicensed religious centers in Sa'ada which then spread to other governorates," He added that the man established an armed secret organization which split from al-Haqq party called the "al-Shabab al-Mum'en" (Believing Youth). He said that that some militants within the organization receive monthly salaries of between \$50 and \$200. which shows that there are foreign elements acting behind them. The minister did not say who these foreign elements

Yemen has any political detention

### HR Minister: US report partial

tions and agreements and compare them with the laws operative in

In spite of being criticized at the conference and charged with beautifying the image of the government, al-Soswa asserted that Yemen had made leaps in the field of political and developmental life.

Human Rights Minister avoided answering many questions about the deterioration of human rights in Yemen and the harassment and detention of journalists suspected to have relations with al-Qaeda Organization and the "Believing Youth" which was founded by cleric Hussein al-Houthi. Al-Soswa has strongly denied that

centers or political prisoners despite the fact that some people reminded her about those who have been in prisons like al-Khaiwani, who was recently freed by a President pardon. and judges Miftah, al-Dailami and many others who are still imprisoned for political cases.

### Pope John Paul dies, world grieves

The Pope died in his bed at 9:37 p.m. (1937 GMT), surrounded by the only family he had - his closest Polish aides. Newspapers reported that his dying word was "Amen"

As the news spread through Rome, thousands of faithful streamed to the Vatican to join those already there, paying homage to a man who revolutionised his office and took his rigorous message far beyond the confines of the Vatican.

John Paul's death triggered a rare outpouring of global grief, with people of all faiths and none praising his humanity, courage and moral integrity.

"We're grateful to God for sending such a man, a son of Poland, who became the bishop of Rome and a hero for the ages," U.S. President George W. Bush said from the White House.

Around 130,000 people packed into St Peter's Square within two hours of his death, necks craned up towards the lighted windows of the Pope's apartments where he had just expired.

As day broke over the Polish Pope's adopted twin cities - Rome and Vatican City — the flow of pilgrims from afar began arriving in a fitting tribute to a Pontiff who travelled the equivalent of 30 times the circumference of the earth.

Tens of thousands were to attend a Requiem Mass for the Pope at 10.30 a.m. (0830 GMT) in the same cobblestoned square.

### "Pope who changed the world"

The city prepared extra trains, fresh water supplies and thousands of beds to accommodate one of the greatest influxes of pilgrims in its memory.

"We were at a party last night when

Rome's main train station from an outlying town.

"Every one immediately stopped dancing. We went home and then decided to go to Rome. It's important to be close to him spiritually but also physically because he was great."

"The Pope Who Changed the World", "Goodbye Wojtyla", "The Pope for All People" and "World Cries for the Pope" read headlines in the local press full of stories on Italy's adopted spiritual father.

The exact cause of death was not details. given but the Pope's health had deteriorated steadily over the past decade with the onset of Parkinson's Disease and arthritis.

He had an operation in February to ease serious breathing problems, but never regained his strength and last Thursday developed an infection and high fever that soon precipitated heart failure, kidney problems and ultimate-

"We want to greet him one last time," said Valentina Malafoglia, a 23year-old student, as she arrived in Rome from the city Terni in central

### Last word

The Vatican announced that the Pope's body would lie in state for public viewing in St Peter's Basilica from Monday afternoon at the earliest. No date was set for a funeral, but it was likely to happen between Wednesday and Friday.

Many countries decreed periods of national mourning, with his native Poland announcing six days of mourn-

we heard of the Pope's death," said ing and Communist Cuba three days. Erminia Palmieri as she arrived in Italy also called for three days of mourning.

The conclave to elect a new Pope will start in 15 to 20 days, with 117 cardinals from around the globe gathering in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel to choose a successor.

Many red-hatted princes of the Catholic Church had rushed to Rome in recent days to be near the Pope in his dying hours. Many others will arrive before the first General Congregation of the Cardinals gathers on Monday to decide on the funeral

There is no favourite candidate to succeed John Paul, with possible choices, or "papabili", coming from around the world. The former Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Krakow was himself a rank outsider when he was elevated to the papacy on Oct. 16,

In Poland bells rang out across the country and sirens wailed in the capital Warsaw as news of the death dashed any lingering hopes of a miraculous

Wojtyla, who saw his country occupied by the Nazis in his late teens, cut his teeth as a clergyman when Poland was run by atheist pro-Soviet communists after World War Two.

Apart from his battle against communism and quest for global peace, John Paul will also be remembered for his unswerving defence of traditional Vatican doctrines. He drew criticism from liberal Catholics who opposed his proclamations against contraception, abortion, married priests and women clergy.

#### Globetrotter

The first non-Italian pope in 455 years, John Paul threw off the stiff trappings of the papacy, meeting ordinary people everywhere he travelled — 129 countries and territories in all.

But as the years passed, his energy

Once a lithe athlete and powerful speaker, he suffered a series of health dramas, including a near-fatal shooting by a Turkish gunman in 1981. By the end of his life he could no longer walk and his voice was often reduced to a raspy whisper.

Earlier this year, the breathing crises silenced the great communicator and he failed dramatically in two attempts to address the faithful last Easter Sunday and again on Wednesday.

The Vatican said the Pope had received the Catholic sacrament for the sick and dying, once called "Last Rites".

Tributes poured in from around the

"The world has lost a religious leader who was revered across people of all faiths and none. He was an inspiration, a man of extraordinary faith. dignity and courage," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Pope was an untiring advocate of Christian unity and inter-religious dialogue. He was the first Pontiff to preach in a Protestant church and a synagogue and to set foot in a mosque. Some Catholics hope the next Pope will be more liberal.

But John Paul appointed all but two of the cardinals who will elect his successor, thus stacking the odds that his controversial teachings will not be tampered with.

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# An appeal to the **President and Sheik Abu Luhoom**

The children of Ahmed Yahva Al-Shami who was killed in 1997 during a fight between the security forces and the guards of Sheik Sinan Abu Luhoom appeal to the President of the Republic and Sheik Abu Luhoom for compensation.

They requested the President and Sheik Sinan build a house for them since their father died unjustly while his walking on the pavement.

The children are searching for help but in vain, their calls do not reach the President, and Sheik Sinan is no longer a generous man.

They are sending a message through the Yemen Times to the President in particular because it is he that is responsible before the Almighty for the loss of their father who was a soldier. They are addressing Sheik Sinan who is tribally driven to respond to the humane regulations because his guards contributed to their loss of the father.

> Ali Ahmed Al-Shami The victim's brother

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### **Parliament: Government should** not renew agreement with YHOC

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Parliament confirmed in its last Wednesday session that it rejects any renewal, expansion or amendment of the original agreement signed between the government and Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) with respect to bloc 18 in al-Jawf

Validity of the agreement is due to end on Nov.15 this year and the government is recommended to look for possible alternatives based on transparent competition to achieve better revenues and develop the economy of the country. The report of the Development and Oil Committee at the Parliament urged a discussion of the contract the Ministry of Oil and Minerals is intending to renew with YHOC for the next five

On the other hand, the parliament

included a number of violations by the government against this bloc, which started producing in 1981 under the first agreement due to end next November.

report concerned with bloc18 in al-Jawf

The report explored that renewing the contract for five more years was not legally justified and is expected to negatively affect the general treasure of the State.

The report confirmed that the State will recieve, during the next five years approximately \$2.6 billion. That is \$3.87 million less than the revenue expected to be during a similar period.

The general treasure of the State meanwhile will obtain additional \$898,849,000 to its oil-related revenues in case the government singed a contract with any company other than YHOC to operate this bloc.

It is worth mentioning that riot against the agreement was caused by the governments intention to expand and

The opposition members at the Parliament accused the government of being unable to bring alternatives to YHOC and that the Ministry of Oil and Minerals does not have a strategic vision to manage the oil wealth. This becomes evident in it being unable to look for feasible economic alternatives to profit from the oil wealth. The parliament report is expected to incite riot in the coming days particularly after the sudden step taken by the government to withdraw the agreement project by virtue of the renewal with the YHOC issued by the Parliament in

amend its original agreement with YHOC

The Parliament added the government does not have any transparent justifications for withdrawing from the project.

response to the letter of Prime Minister.

Those who oppose the agreements renewal fear the government will expand the agreement term in an illegal way.





# Yemen tries to meet Millennium Development goals

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemen has prepared the First Five-year plan for 1996-2000 and the Second Five-year plan for 2001-2005, the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation is currently preparing the third Five-year plan. Under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister, along with UNICEF a two-day workshop was concluded on March 24 on the ways for the Third Five-year plan 2006-2010 to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

That workshop targeted four governorates: Lahj, Aden, Abyan and Al-Thale for the representatives of the local councils and development partners from the private sector and the civil society organizations and media.

Dr. Mutahar al-Abassi, Deputy of the Ministry of Planning, delivered a speech stating the aim of the workshop as being to discuss with the local councils leaders how to connect local development plans with national plans.

Dr. al-Abassi led the two-day workshop and submitted his paper entitled "Trends of the Third Five-year plan for Development and Alleviating Poverty 2006-2010" that talked about the development challenges. These challenges include the population increase (3.5% annually, with around 51% of Yemeni population less than 15 years old), the scarcity of water, increasing unemployment, economic weakness, decreasing investments, a weak infrastructure, and imbalances in education between males and females, and urban and rural areas. The paper recommended public awareness campaigns, and encouraging people to move to water rich areas.

Mr. Sulaiman al-Katabri, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, also presented a paper titled "Methods of Preparing the Third Five-year plan for Development and Alleviating Poverty 2006-2010" in which he illustrated the basic goals of the plan.

Mr. Abduallah al-Khaithi, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, submitted a paper "The Indicators of the Local Development" within which a number of development indicators in education, heath and poverty were displayed.

Mr. Naseem al-Rahman, UNICEF representative, outlined the eight Millennium Development Goals: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary goals, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve material health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and to develop a global partnership for development.

The MDGs commit the international community to an expanded vision of development, when that vigorously promotes human development as the key to sustaining social and economic progress in all countries, and recognizes the importance of creating global partnership for development. The goals have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress.

He stressed on the importance of journalists to highlight the development issues and raise awareness among people.

Dr. Abduallah al-Zalab, commented that the "workshop is an important step to creating strong relationship between planners, decision-makers and media people. Such a workshop is a chance to [create an] open communication channel and share information... Shared information between the decision-makers and media people also gives the chance to enrich the law. The workshop has its aim to break the boundaries between the information resources and information seekers. The workshop in general was very good."

# VACANCY

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# Charity: Your money makes a difference

Zahid Bashir Raja (Vice-Principal) Middle East Modern School For the Yemen Times

uring the term the extra and co-curricular activities programs run by the Middle East Modern School were highly stimulating for all the concerned, and it is an integral part of all-round education we offer.

After its outstanding achievement in the first term, the school held its first Charity Bazaar on 24th March. The Charity Bazaar started with the opening ceremony and our students performed admirably. Apart from the wide range of

stage entertainment, visitors had the chance to sample outstanding food from Indonesia, Yemen and Syria. Orphans also took part in the Charity Bazaar enthusiastically.

I remember a very interesting example of the generosity of Hazrat Usman, the third Caliph. During the Caliphate of Abu Bakr, people were in great distress due to drought. The Caliph told them to remain patient, for God would soon relieve them. Before long Uthman's caravan arrived with its merchandise from Syria. There were one thousand camels in it, all of them loaded with wheat and foodstuffs from Syria. When the news got around Madina, all the great traders of Madina rapidly converged on Usman's house. When he emerged to meet them, they

expressed their urgent desire to purchase the foodstuffs so that they could pass it on to those townspeople who needed it.

Ushering them inside, he asked them how much profit they were prepared to give him on this merchandise. "Twelve dirhams on every ten dirhams worth," they replied. "But I can get a better price," said Uthman. "Then we'll give you fourteen," Uthman again said that he could get a better price, whereupon they put their price up to fifteen dirhams. But Uthman stood firm. Bewildered by his attitude, they asked him who could give him a better price, considering that all of the merchants of Madina were already assembled there. "I can get ten dirhams for every dirhams's worth," he told them, then asked them if any one of them could

give a better price than that. No one spoke up. Then Uthman recited the verse of the Quran that says that those who do good will be rewarded tenfold. He explained to them that he intended to give away all the wheat and other foodstuffs to the needy people of Madina.

Keeping in view the virtuous deed of Caliph Uthman, the Middle East Modern School has the honor to give paternal affection and consolatory cash prizes to Al-Haithum school (Orphans).

"Every good act is charity. A man's true wealth, as regards the Hereafter, is the good he does in this world to his fellow men. When he dies, people will say, "what property has he left behind him?" But the angels will ask, "what good deeds has he sent before him?"

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### How the mind can starve

# Yemen's intellectuals are deprived

By Ismail Ali al-Ghabri For The Yemen Times

s it possible for the writer who practices writing as a profession, 'the profession of bad omen' as Al-Tawheidi calls it, to stop reading and still write with deep meaning and dimensions?

Is it possible for the journalist to quit reading and go on with high standards? Is it possible for the intellectual in general to go on as an intellectual, without reading?

No. Without continuous reading, it is not possible for all these sorts of men to go on their work creatively, considering that every type of writing is a creative work

But how can one keep on reading if the price of the book is more expensive than anything else? I tried recently to explore these ideas

of the profession with writing colleagues in the Arab world.

The answers I found are ones of regret.

Here are some.

• "I reduced the number of the foreign

books, I decreased taking taxis; I hesitate so much before buying a book."

• "The severe social crisis reached me as the other people of the middle class.

What I was specifying as culture

What I was specifying as culture expenses: books, plays, conferences, and other cultural phases is being kept for the sake of the main affairs of life.

I refused even to travel unless I got an invitation covering all the expenses.

I became an admirer of the cheap clothes for me and for my children.

Of the cultural activities, I select for them what causes no more burdens."

"We exert more difficult efforts in order to secure the simplest requirements of the professional life.

I work during the day and night because one's work is no longer beneficial, I have accordingly no time to read. There were many things I used to do but now I am compelled for financial reasons to sacrifice them today."

These are some models of the writers

The intellect is in a tight corner, being between his desire for knowledge and the reality of deprivation.

They are good models representing

the life of the intellect in most of the Arab countries.

On wonders if there is not a political intention to make the intellect as poor as possible.

Then the intellect becomes disabled and marginalized and that's why we understand the screams coming out of the feelings and suffering from the real situation that marginalize the intellect gradually.

Not only that, the intellect is looked at as a mischievous person and a resource of chaos and an instigator for fishing in dirty water.

Therefore, he is deprived of the distinctions that are given to others of the technocratic people who interact with the political figure more than the intellect.

From this point rises the great separation the intellectual lives in.

Observing the cultural movement in

Observing the cultural movement in and out of his own country is one of his duties.

The separation is too steep when he discovers the gap between his capabilities and his desires and the comparison between what his writings cost and what he himself cost.

There are many writers who criticized countries, political leaders, capitalists, and destroyed states on papers, yet they can't afford the cost of bread that helps them keep on writing.

Some of them cannot find the price of the bus in order to transport between house and job

One may think that this is a touch of exaggeration, but it is the fact that is lived by a variety of writers.

Is that separation the fate of the intellectual and he has to spend his lifetime in it?

If we tried to find the outlines that may lead to limit the separation and the consistent suffering, we will find that the intellectual faces deprivation in all aspects of life.

Here is an answer of one journalists: "In the past, Gandhi was asked why he traveled in second-class seats in the plane.

He answered 'because there is a third class."

Yes, the intellect and journalist in Yemen spends a life of deprivation and poverty.

Where is the care?

# Netherlands and Sana'a University to train civil servants

By Aziz A. Alhadi For the Yemen Times

ust because the future is known only to God, that does not preclude searching for it. Toward this end, and in line with the Dutch saying "Learn to look beyond your nose," Yemen held its second successful "Future Search" workshop last week.

The venue on this occasion was Taiz, where Sana'a University held a distance workshop under the theme "Toward Modernizing the Civil Service." The workshop was sponsored through Sana'a University under a multi-million euro package of support from the Netherlands Programme for Strengthening

Institutional Capacity in Education and Training (NPT).

This programme currently funds some 12.6 million euros for full-circle institutional capacity development at six public universities around the country.

This workshop launches a program which will oversee development of training leading to an Executive Master's Degree in Public Administration, geared exclusively toward Yemen civil servants at the mid-to-high levels of the bureaucracy.

The project envisions extensive cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Civil Service and Insurance, the National Institutes for Administrative Sciences and Sana'a University's Department of Political Science through

its Public Administration Unit.

The "Future Search" framework has proved successful in the past where it was utilized by the Higher Education Project.

It's been used toward development of strategy for a Master Plan to install IT capacity, including administrative systems for Yemen's public universities and three community colleges.

On this occasion, Dr. Yahya Motaher of Sana'a University, Project Coordinator for the MPA project, along with his Dutch counterpart, Dr. Sander Dankelman of the Dutch Institute of Public Administration (ROI) organized the program to include maximum participation of a wide range of specialists and stakeholders to help in the development

plan.

To help, organizers called in a renowned expert Dr. Han Rakels, a specialist in the Future Search framework to facilitate the discussions. In addition, two senior specialists from the ROI, Marc van den Muyzenberg and Angela Kwok, along with two professors from the University of Leiden, Prof. Frank de Zwart and Prof. Frits van der Meer complemented the participation.

According to the chief architect of the project, Drs. Han Blom, the program envisions becoming linked to a merit-based system for the Civil Service.

As an indication of the importance placed on these discussions by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of

# Thinking creatively (PART 1 OF 3)



BY MOHAMMED AL-TOM ELECTRONICS SANA'A BRANCH MANAGER tom2000@maktoob.com FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he ability to think creatively is an essential skill for every manager. By applying your creativity, it is possible to break out of routines and habitual patterns of behavior to increase your personal effectiveness. Tapping into your creativity will help you find innovative solutions to difficult problems and find ways build new opportunities.

Creativity is the process of challenging accepted ideas and practices in order to find new solutions or concepts. Being creative means seeing ideas or objects in a different way, either by recognizing their unused potential or by connecting old ideas together to create something new.

Some people are naturally creative, but most of us accept things as they are. For example, a plastic bottle is only a bottle to some people, but to a creative thinker, it could also be a reusable container, a funnel, or a tiny greenhouse. Creative thinking starts with questioning. Are objects really just what we assume them to be?

We generate ideas by thinking creatively and then use logic to help turn these thoughts into action. If you understand the benefits of both logical and creative thinking, you can start to change the way you think.

When we are faced with a familiar problem, logical thinking enables us to use personal experiences to find a suitable solution with minimum effort. The logical approach, also known as convergent thinking, is very efficient. However, it can become a barrier

when you have little relevant experience, where there are few suitable solutions, or where you need a brand new solution.

Divergent thinking, or creative thinking, involves opening your mind to find new solutions and new ways of doing things, instead of taking your usual, logical approach to a problem. It requires learning to suspend your judgment to look for different, more inventive solutions.

Most people are creative in their private lives, but tend to be less creative in their "public selves". Our conditioned behavior encourages us to keep problems to ourselves and find quick fixes that involve as few people as possible. Try to break this habit. When you are faced with a problem, spend time exploring ideas, and involve other people in your search for the best solution.

Our mind stores vast amounts of information. When you receive an input signal, such as someone asking you a question, your mind will automatically access its relevant data. Without this natural ability, you would spend a lot of time doing ordinary things for example, finding your way to work would be a new experience every day. However, this mental process, which makes us very efficient in our everyday lives, is a barrier to creativity.

Avoid making instant assumptions and connections and recognize that every one has the ability to be creative. Change your current patterns of thinking and remember that change begins with questioning. Understand how logical and creative thinking are integral to each other. Use your past experiences to find solutions and explore possible options before making decisions.

Civil Service and Insurance, the Yemen government also sent very high level participation in the four-day workshop. The participants included all the deputy ministers of the Civil Service Ministry, senior officials and select technocrats from across the public sector and education leaders from Sana'a University and NIAS, among others.

The Minister of Civil Service, Mr. Hamoud Al-Soofi, opened the workshop emphasizing the crucial need to develop focused training linked to "the defined needs" of Yemen's civil administration.

He also stressed the need to ensure effective coordination between his ministry, NIAS and Sana'a University, and pledged full support for the effort.

### **Tender Notice**

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Sana'a University inviting the local and international contractors who are well experienced in the construction of big projects. To participate in the tender for construction of the Faculty of Engineering Phase (2) Sana'a University.

Tenders are requested to prove with evidence their successful of at least 3 projects of US\$ 8-12 million cost for each during the last five years.

The interested companies can collect the tender documents starting of Saturday March 26 2005 till April 23 2005 from General administration for financial affairs (Alwadi Road) telefax: 01-464677 against non refundable amount of US\$ 2000.

### Given that, tender bids submission must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Bids should be accompanied by a bid security "Bank guarantee or payable cheque" of a minimum of 2.5% of the total bid price valid for 90 days.
- 2. Bids should be accompanied by a copy of the Tax license renewed for 2005, along with the original for verification and insurance card with the original for verification.
- 3. Tender bids should be delivered in envelopes sealed with ted wax.
- 4. Tow copies of the submittals are to be delivered by hand or courier at the above address not later than May 24-2005 at 11:00 pm.

# إعلان مناقصة مشروع كلية الهندسة المرحلة الثانية – جامعة صنعاء

تدعو جامعة صنعاء شركات المقاولات العالمية والمحلية ذات الإمكانيات والخبرات في مجال تنفيذ المشروعات الكبرى، للإشتراك في مناقصة تنفيذ مشروع كلية الهندسة – المرحلة الثانية ويشترط:

أن تكون الشركة المتقدمة قد قامت وبنجاح بتنفيذ ثلاثة مشاريع على الأقل خلال الخمس سنوات الماضية بقيمة ٨ -١٢ مليون دولار أمريكي للمشروع الواحد. بالإمكان الحصول على مستندات المناقصة إعتباراً من يوم السبت الموافق ٢٦ مارس ٢٠٠٥م وحتى يوم السبت ٢٣ إبريل ٢٠٠٥م من الإدارة العامة للشئون المالية – طريق وادي ظهر مقابل مبلغ وقدره (٢٠٠٠ دولار) لا يرد.

ويشترط لتقديم العطاء مايلي:

- ١) يرفق مع العطاءات تأمين بواقع ٢٠٥٪ بشيك مقبول الدفع أو ضمان بنكي صالح
   لمدة ٩٠ يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.
- ٢) إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة للعام ٢٠٠٥م وإحضار الأصل للمطابقة
   مع صورة كرت التأمين والأصل للمطابقة.
  - ٣) تقديم العطاء داخل مظروف مختوم بالشمع الأحمر.
- ٤) تسلم مستندات المناقصة من نسحتين إما باليد أو بالبريد على العنوان المذكور أعلاه، في موعد أقصاه الساعة الحادية عشر من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ٢٤ مايو ٥٠٠٠م. (يوم فتح المظاريف).

# Abbas fires security chiefs for not stopping chaos

RAMALLAH, West Bank, April 1 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas fired several security chiefs on Friday for failing to halt lawlessness in the West Bank and Gaza, two days after gunmen from his Fatah faction fired at his compound.

The head of Palestinian national security in the West Bank, Haj Ismail, also quit after the president called for his resignation, a senior Palestinian security official said.

Abbas has yet to approve it.

"(Abbas) was not happy with the performance of some of the heads of security forces," a Palestinian official

"He was very upset about what happened in Ramallah and he will take other crucial measures in the near future.'

Abbas, elected in January after Yasser Arafat's death, is struggling to impose law and order and reform corruption-tainted security forces after securing a truce with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Police deployment in the West Bank town of Ramallah has increased since then.

Several al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades

militants fired at the president's compound in Ramallah on Wednesday and then rampaged through the city after security commanders urged them to put aside their weapons.

Abbas, who has secured a pledge from militant groups to cease attacks against Israel temporarily, has been under pressure from Israel and the United States to round up militants to push forward a U.S.-backed peace plan.

He has preferred to enter into a dialogue with the groups rather than confront them.

Hours after Abbas's announcement, gunmen from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades stormed a recreation centre in the West Bank town of Nablus to protest against a recent election of the building's management that the militant Hamas group had won.

Hamas has gained more popularity among Palestinians, especially in the Gaza Strip, since a Palestinian uprising began four years ago.

Abbas's orders also followed the resignation of the head of Palestinian intelligence, who quit after complaining to the president that too little was being done to halt the chaos.



Palestinians carry a man shot with rubber bullets by Israeli forces during a protest against Israel's controversial barrier near the West Bank village of Nazlat

# Sudanese students march in protest against U.N.

KHARTOUM, April 2 (Reuters) Hundreds of Sudanese students gathered on Saturday to denounce a U.N. decision to refer those accused of war crimes in Darfur region to the International Criminal Court.

Sudan's government on Friday dismissed the U.N. Security Council resolution, originally a French draft, which will refer to the ICC a sealed list of 51 people suspected of crimes against humanity during more than two years of rebellion in Darfur.

Last minute wrangling allowed an exemption for U.S. citizens and other nations who are not party to the court from prosecution during peacekeeping operations in Sudan.

Neither Sudan or the United States has ratified the treaty establishing the

The government-dominated student union organised the march, which began with speeches in Martyrs Square outside the Republican Palace denouncing the United States and France, and was to follow on to the French and British embassies and finally to the U.N. building in central

Khartoum. red scarves around their heads signalling jihad, or holy war.

The at most 200 students chanted "down, down U.S.A", and called for the cutting of diplomatic relations with

There were almost as many security and police as students.

Organisers said the poor turnout was due to the holidays as most students had gone home to their villages outside

"This U.N. resolution is not helping anyone solve the problem in Darfur," said Haitham Osman, the executive head of the Sudan student's union.

"We totally reject it," he said.

Students carried banners saying "Death and blasphemy to America" and slamming the U.N. resolution.



Sudanese students gathered on Saturday to denounce a U.N. decision to refer those accused of war crimes in Darfui region to the International Criminal Court.

homes into camps in Darfur after non-

Some shouted over loudspeakers: "The

A is the daughter of the devil" and "The Muslim people will never surrender".

Students stopped traffic to give out leaflets saying the Security Council was following the "agenda of international Jewry to create disunity

Tens of thousands have been killed in the fighting in Darfur, which the United States calls genocide.

A U.N.-appointed commission stopped short of the U.S. declaration of genocide but said heinous crimes took place which may be no less serious.

More than 2 million have fled their

#### Arab rebels took up arms in early 2003 discrimination against non-Arab accusing the Islamist Arab-dominated Iran rejects fresh

TEHRAN, April 2 (Reuters) - Iranian officials rejected on Saturday the testimony of a defector who said Canadian ohotojournalist Zahra Kazemi was tortured and possibly raped before her death in Tehran in July 2003.

They said they had no record of Shahram Azam working as doctor in the hospital where he said he saw evidence of flogging in addition to battered feet, extracted nails and a broken nose.

A nurse saw possible evidence of ape, Azam said.

Azam's account of Kazemi's injuries, viven in Ottawa on Thursday, differed sharply from that of the Iranian authorities who insist Kazemi fainted and struck her head.

"These allegations made by an Iranian refugee are baseless and false," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told the official IRNA news

"Hospital officials have denied this person's name was on the medical staff eam," he added.

IRNA also quoted Mostafa Naderi, nead of the Baghiyatollah hospital where Azam says he examined 54-yearold Kazemi, saying Azam had never

worked there.

Kazemi was arrested in June 2003 for taking photographs of Tehran's notorious Evin prison where dissidents are

government of neglect and of

Her death has soured diplomatic relations with Canada and drawn attention to the practices of Iran's shadowy security apparatus.

Iran's judiciary initially announced Kazemi had died of a stroke.

But a government inquiry revealed she received a heavy blow during questioning, which split her skull and caused a brain haemorrhage.

Last year Iran's judiciary acquitted an intelligence agent charged with killing Kazemi and now says she died after fainting and striking her head on the

Ottawa says Iran's hardline courts covered up the real circumstances of Kazemi's death in order to protect senior judiciary officials implicated in her murder.

Canadian Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew said Azam's testimony proved Ottawa's assertion that Kazemi was murdered and did not die in ar

## Syria to announce Lebanon pullout timetable Sunday

DAMASCUS, April 2 (Reuters) -Syria will announce a timetable for the withdrawal of its remaining forces from Lebanon on Sunday, a Syrian official source said on Saturday.

"The date and timetable will be announced tomorrow, Sunday, after it is given to U.N. envoy Terje Roed-Larsen," said the source, who asked not to be named.

Syria has come under intense international and Lebanese pressure to end its 29-year military presence since the Feb. 14 assassination of Lebanese former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

The source said a joint Lebanese-Svrian military committee had met in Beirut and Damascus in the last few days to agree on the timetable.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara and Larsen will hold a joint news conference at 11:30 a.m (0830 GMT) on Sunday after the U.N. envoy has met President Bashar al-Assad, the source said.

In Beirut, a military source said Lebanese army chief General Michel Suleiman held talks with Assad in Damascus on Saturday, but gave no details of what they discussed.

## **UN envoy to meet Assad on Lebanon timetable Sunday**

BEIRUT, April 2 (Reuters) - U.N. related to the full implementation of envoy Terje Roed Larsen will hold talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus on Sunday on a Council in mid-April," U.N. timetable for the complete pullout of spokesman Nejib Friji told Reuters. Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Larsen would hold talks with Egyptian Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, he and Jordanian officials on Saturday before flying to the Syrian capital later in the day.

He will hold similar talks in Lebanon from Monday.

Larsen is charged by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan with following up implementation of a Security Council resolution stipulating a total Syrian pullout from Lebanon.

"He will have discussions with sen-

Resolution 1559 to prepare the secretary-general's report to the Security

Larsen will deliver a personal mes-A U.N. spokesman in Beirut said sage from Annan to Assad and

Damascus completed last month the first stage of a two-phase withdrawal plan, pulling back to the Bekaa valley and withdrawing nearly half the 14,000 troops it kept in Lebanon.

Annan has said he expects Syria to complete the withdrawal before general elections in Lebanon in May.

A Syrian-Lebanese military committee will meet next week to finalise for officials and others in the region details of the pullout.

## Three killed in Kurdish rebel violence in Turkey

TUNCELI, Turkey, April 2 (Reuters) - At least two Kurdish guerrillas and one village guard were killed in clashes in southeastern Turkey on Saturday, a military official said.

Another village guard and three security officers were also wounded after rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) attacked a group of soldiers in a remote area of Bingol province in the largely Kurdish southeast, the official said.

Village guards are local militia armed by the state to fight the PKK.

Some 50,000 still patrol rural areas of the southeast.

"Clashes are continuing in the

According to our information, at least two PKK were killed," the official

said on condition of anonymity.

A large-scale operation with support from helicopter gunships was under-

There was no comment from the

The militant group launched an armed campaign for an ethnic homeland in 1984, since when more than 30,000 people, mainly Kurds, have been killed. The violence has subsided since

1999, when rebel commander Abdullah Ocalan was captured, but fighting has escalated since the PKK called off its unilateral ceasefire last year.

There were other clashes on Saturday between security forces and rebels in Sirnak province near the border with Iraq, another official said.

It was not immediately clear if anyone was killed or wounded.

Separately, authorities accused the PKK on Saturday of causing minor damage to an oil pipeline in a bomb attack in Batman province.

#### President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has decided to lift visa requirements for Moroccans, state radio said on Saturday, in a gesture that will help normalise tense relations between the North African neighbours.

Algeria lifts visas for

Moroccans as ties warm

Bouteflika informed Morocco's King Mohammed of his decision during a telephone conversation on Saturday, the radio said. Rabat lifted visa requirements for Algerians in

ALGIERS, April 2 (Reuters)

It was not immediately clear when the decision would take effect.

Morocco introduced visas in 1994 when the land border between the two countries was shut after an attack on Spanish tourists in Marrakesh by radical Islamists coming from Algeria.

Decades of poor ties between the two countries have undermined stability in North Africa, closely watched by the West as a possible source of Islamic militancy.

Better relations are expected to inject new life into a stalled U.N. peace plan for Western Sahara, a desert territory seized by Morocco in 1975 after colonial power Spain pulled out. Bouteflika and King Mohammed held talks on the sidelines of an Arab summit in Algiers last month, signalling a thaw in relations.

testimony about dead reporter

# Pope weakens as world braces for his death

VATICAN CITY, April 2 (Reuters) -Pope John Paul is slipping in and out of consciousness, the Vatican said on Saturday as Roman Catholics around the world prepared for the death of the Pontiff who fought communism and defended church doctrine.

The Vatican said the Pope, whose long declining health took an abrupt turn for the worse on Thursday, remained in very serious condition and was intermittently losing consciousness.

"As of this morning at dawn, we are noticing that his state of consciousness is compromised," spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters.

"This absolutely does not mean he is in

When he speaks, his eyes are open and he remains conscious, but at times he seems to be sleeping," Navarro-Valls

Bracing for his passing, faithful around the world gathered in prayer for the Polish-born Pope who led the Catholic Church for 26 years — the third-longest reign of a Pontiff - and visited more countries than any predecessor.

"If God decides that the Pope should perish, I wish God will give us another Pope just like our beloved John Paul," Gregoria Elabastina, a nun in the Philippines, told Reuters between sobs.

Several thousand people, some singing, dancing and clapping, gathered in St Peter's Square to be close to the Pope, who was lying in his bed in the papal apartment overlooking the square.

#### "Last hours"

While periodically unconscious, the Pope still showed signs that he recognised people, Italian Cardinal Achille Silvestrini said after visiting him in the morning.

Navarro-Valls said the Pope made an effort to speak on Friday evening, apparently while thinking of young people he had met on visits to 129 countries and territories outside of Italy.

"He seemed to have said the following sentence: 'I have looked for you.

Now you have come to me. And I thank you'," the Vatican

spokesman said But Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's top doctrinal watchdog, said the Pope "is aware he is going to the

"It looks as though these may be his last hours," Cardinal Wilfred Napier of Durban, South Africa, told Reuters.

Once an athlete, the Pope has had a series of health dramas, including a nearfatal shooting in 1981 by a Turkish

He has suffered from Parkinson's Disease in recent years and was twice rushed to hospital in February with breathing crises.

He failed to recover from throat surgery aimed at helping him breathe and on Thursday developed a high fever caused by a urinary infection.

He told aides he did not want to return to hospital and received the holy sacrament reserved for the dying.

On Friday, the Vatican said John Paul's heart and kidneys were failing, his breathing was shallow and his blood pressure had fallen dangerously low.

#### "Losing my friend"

The faithful in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas said special prayers for the Pope who revitalised the Church and brought his vision of Christianity to the masses.

China, which does not allow its Catholics to recognise the Vatican's authority, took the unusual step of expressing concern over the Pope's health and said it hoped he would

Communist Cuba's state-run television gave the country's top Catholic prelate rare air time to inform Cubans that the Pope was on his deathbed.

Israel-based Brown.

international director of the World Jewish Congress, said the Catholic Church had become an ally of the Jewish people.

"There is a shattering difference between the Catholic church of 20 to 50 years ago to today."

In Warsaw, churches stayed open all

"I am losing my friend, my neighbour," said Eugeniusz Mroz, the Pope's schoolmate and neighbour from Wadowice, the Pontiff's hometown.

"I am suffering now. I cry.

I still pray.

For me it is the biggest tragedy in my

In Australia, Gwen Vari, 73, prayed at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney with rosary beads blessed by the Pope.

"He's been the greatest advocate for peace," she said.

#### Once an outsider

It was from Poland that Karol Wojtyla sprang onto the world stage on Oct. 16, 1978, a surprise choice for the papacy after his predecessor, John Paul I, died after only a month in office.

From the throne of St Peter he continued to flay communist oppression and human rights abuses elsewhere in the



People attend a mass at a basilica in Poland's Wadowice April 2. REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hailed his contribution, saying he was "one of the most important actors" in the fall of communism in Europe.

But his orthodox line on many Church teachings drew criticism from liberal Catholics in developed countries who opposed his proclamations against contraception, abortion, married priests and women clergy.

After the Pope dies, more than 100 cardinals will be called to Rome to choose a successor at a conclave that normally starts in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel 15 to 20 days after the death.

There is no favourite candidate to take over as head of the Church, but some churchmen believe the developing world should provide the next pope as that is where the religion is most vibrant.

Nearly half of all Catholics are in Latin America.

"There are candidates on almost every continent," Cardinal Napier said. "One could come from anywhere."

The Pontiff's mourning rites will last nine days and his body is likely to be laid to rest in the crypt underneath St.

# Rescuers find quake survivor, thousands need aid

GUNUNGSITOLI, Indonesia, April 2 (Reuters) - Rescuers dug to save a man trapped in a collapsed house on Saturday, five days after a huge quake struck remote Indonesian islands where up to 2,000 are feared to have died, many crushed under their homes.

Relief workers are trying to reach thousands of people cut off from aid in the area off western Sumatra island near Aceh province, where another powerful quake three months ago triggered a tsunami that killed or left missing nearly 300,000 people along Indian Ocean

A Singapore rescue team tried to free the man after Indonesian soldiers picking through rubble in Gunungsitoli, the main town on devastated Nias island, said they heard a voice.

"Help, I'm very weak.

I need something to drink," the trapped man was quoted as saying by one of the

The rescue workers had managed to get food and water to the man, who said his name was Hendra, and said they were confident of pulling him out alive.

"He is suffering from abrasions, but his voice is strong," said a Singaporean civil defence official on the scene.

Around 1,500 Indonesian soldiers have been digging through the rubble of houses, but rescuers who pulled several ors from buildings week had said there was virtually no

hope of finding anyone else alive. The U.N. has said that 1,300 people may have died in Gunungsitoli alone, and there are concerns the death toll could rise as they reach isolated parts of the



Indonesian villagers walk past giant cracks in the main road heading to the southern part of Indonesia's Nias island April 1.

island that have been cut off by landslides and damage to roads.

Deaths have also been reported on nearby islands.

"People (aid workers) are moving out of town for the first time in a serious way today," Oxfam official Alex Renton told Reuters by telephone from Gunungsitoli.

"Outside town, things are still very

Renton estimated that only about 10 percent of the 5,600 sq km (2,100 sq mile) island had been assessed by aid

Reuters correspondents who rode motorbikes from Gunungsitoli on Friday along the road to Teluk Dalam town some 120 km (75 miles) south saw widespread damage to houses, bridges and roads and little sign of aid reaching people.

Thousands of people are facing food and water shortages because the quake destroyed water mains and markets.

> "There is no problem with the amount of food. The problem lies with the distribution," Vice President Jusuf Kalla told reporters after meeting local officials

Kalla said the government was sending more ships and helicopters from the mainland and would try to restore the water supply within a week.

Heavy rains on Thursday and early on Friday, and ruined roads have hampered relief and rescue efforts, but increasing amounts of aid personnel and supplies have begun to reach Nias.

Aftershocks compound misery Aid agencies already had a large

presence in the area after more than 220,000 Indonesians were left dead or missing by the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in December.

An Australian navy ship carrying 60 medical personnel docked in Nias on Saturday morning to help treat hundreds of residents wounded by the magnitude 8.7 quake on Monday night.

"The issue is because of lack of road infrastructure and the lack of ... helicopter support, we are not really sure what is happening in the outlying areas," George McGuire, commander of HMAS Kanimbla, told reporters.

In a sign that some roads could reopen soon to vehicles, late on Friday an earthmoving machine was shifting dirt into large cracks near bridges not far from Gunungsitoli, although it was unclear if it would be safe for cars and trucks to use.

S. Samfau, a government official in Teluk Dalam, said there was an urgent need to get the economy going again on an island that was already heavily dependent on Indonesia's Sumatra island, 125 km to the east, for some of its needs.

"It's very serious, it's very sad. All of southern Nias has been hit by the quake,"

On Friday, foreign doctors and medical staff treated the injured in Teluk Dalam in a makeshift hospital set up on the verandah of church overlooking what would normally be the picturesque town of about 10,000 people.

"A lot of people are not sleeping well. They are fearful of another earthquake or tsunami," said Brad Quist, 45, an American doctor from Michigan.

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\*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-07 (Trainee Level)

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NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

### Mugabe party grabs powerful two: thirds majority

HARARE, April 2 (Reuters) -President Robert Mugabe's party seized the two-thirds parliamentary majority it needs to change Zimbabwe's constitution on Saturday, clinching an election which both the opposition and western powers said was rigged.

Official results announced on Saturday showed Mugabe's ZANU-PF party winning 71 of the 120 contested seats against 39 for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

With the president appointing 30 additional members of the 150-seat parliament, ZANU-PF now has the two-thirds majority that Mugabe had set as a major

MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai has said the polls were marked by massive fraud and held in an atmosphere of fear and political intimidation - an assessment echoed by the United States, Britain and other major western powers.

Tsvangirai, who has accused Mugabe of rigging the country's previous two elections in 2000 and 2002, has hinted his supporters may launch protests rather

than attempt to fight the result in court. The official Herald newspaper urged the MDC on Saturday to accept defeat, saying the party's poor showing was the result of its "reflex reaction" to court Mugabe's western critics rather than

Zimbabwean voters at home.

"The lesson the MDC should learn from its defeat is that electoral battles are fought in Zimbabwe, not Europe," the newspaper said in an editorial.

Mugabe, 81, and in power since independence from Britain in 1980, has dismissed criticism of the election, which he said were as free and fair as any in the

### **Constitutional changes**

Analysts say the party could use its majority to push through constitutional changes to protect Mugabe from the kind of prosecutions that have plagued some other African leaders when they stepped down. Mugabe is due to retire in 2008.

Critics accuse Mugabe of ruining once-prosperous Zimbabwe by a chaotic seizure of white farms for landless blacks and economic mismanagement.

Zimbabwe, once a regional breadbasket, is now crippled by huge inflation, unemployment and food and fuel short-

Mugabe blames his Western critics for sabotaging the economy and had demanded a crushing ZANU-PF victory to see off the challenge from the MDC, which he pillories as a British puppet.

The MDC says the whole electoral process favoured ZANU-PF and the 5.78 million-strong voting roll was inflated



Zimbabweans sell newspapers announcing the ZANU PF victory in parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe's capital Harare April 2.

with 1 million "ghost voters".

It also questioned why tens of thousands of voters were turned away from

MDC party leaders were due to meet on Saturday to consider the path for-

Regional observers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), who had been expected to give the poll a clean bill of health, expressed concerns.

"The picture that emerged at the close of the poll was an election day which was peaceful.

Notwithstanding these initial observations the SADC elections observer mission is however concerned with the number of people who were turned away from polling stations," the mission said in a statement.

"It is still not clear to us exactly how many people were affected in this way as well as the reason for them not being able to cast their votes," added the observers.

The conduct of the poll was roundly condemned by Western governments including Britain, the European Union and Germany.

# **Proof-reader** Wanten

The Yemen Times is taking applications for an immediate opening for a proof-reader. The successful candidate will work about five hours a week proof-reading the newspaper's laid-out

- pages, and must: • be a native English speaker;
- have experience in journalism or print media, preferably with headline writing skills;
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Arabic language skills are not essential, but are an asset. For the right candidate, there is the possibility for this job to expand in the future. To apply, please email your resume (with telephone number) to: editor@yementimes.com or nadia@yementimes.com, OR send it in an envelope marked "proof-reading position" to:

> The Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief Nadia al Saqqaf P.O. Box 2579 Sana'a, Yemen

Applications close April 20.

#### Words of Wisdom



The Government has been dished out a lot of talk on how important is the economic reform program it is implementing. That is actually true. The reform is very important, and its success is quite vital for the future well-being of the nation. Yet, in my reform and the people managing it will not lead us to the results we want.

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

### TIMES **OUR OPINION**

# With due respect

s intellectuals, defenders of human rights and activists, it is our responsibility to push development forward and to enhance the attitude and convictions of Yemeni people. Yemen Times was founded for the sake of making Yemen a "Good World Citizen," a better place for people to live in. This includes being just and objective and eliminating discriminative thoughts, beliefs and practices at least within our close community and most important, through what is written and portrayed in our newspaper.

Talking about Yemen and Yemeni culture, with its versatile structure we have to be careful not to fall into the stereotyping that majority of the society's practices as regular tradition. We have to do this for two reasons, first because we are supposedly "change agents" striving to make this country better and secondly, and perhaps more importantly, because it is wrong. It is wrong by all measures to discriminate against

A friend of the Yemen Times, called Jamal Khalib in the UK, brought my attention to this point. And he told me about the mistake we made in our previous issue No. 829, we mentioned about the tragic fire outbreak at the a shelter of marginalized people in Assir in Sana'a. Thanks to Jamal and all our readers, we feel that there is someone who will guide us when we go astray, and who will remind us when we forget. After all, the Yemen Times belongs to all its readers and not just to us the people who work in this organization.

I hear you Jamal, and I believe you are right. We will do our best to present sincerely the best of Yemen and in the way we should. There are many traditions in Yemen that need correction. The journey is long, and it isn't easy to make change cultures, but if we really want to make a difference, the place to start is

**Editor** 



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# Arab role after Algeria's Summit

By Prof. Abdulaziz al-Tarb FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

he 17th Arab Summit in Algeria produced a statement, which in my opinion, lays a strong foundation for a new period of progress. This summit ran in sharp contradiction to previous summits where leaders advocated either leaving everything as is, or simply trying to prevent further deterioration.

I believe that the Algerian Summit realized its expectations. It emphasized the key role of mutual work between Arabs and ways to improve the region gradually that have been missing from previous summits, where projects and plans were detached from reality. This is why most of them remained ink on paper. Continuous but gradual work, with a temporally defined schedule, will serve the Arab world well in the coming

The international participation at the Algerian Summit was exceptionally important. Many globally well-known personalities took part, such as the UN Secretary General and the Spanish Premier. The latter presented a considerable vision on dialogue between civilizations, their coexistence and even cooperation. This was to counterbalance submissions on civilization collision and

The Spanish Premier was quite right when he said to the Arab leaders that terrorism is the product of deviant thought and is no reflection on a civilization, cul-

ture or religion. This vision corresponds with that held by most countries.

During the summit, Arab leaders defined their stance on a number of regional issues. If other parties will be committed to it, the Summit's manifesto will ensure peaceful and comprehensive settlement of these issues.

Concerning the Palestinian Cause, the initiative highlighted that full normalization in Arab-Israeli relations is conditioned by Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, establishing an independent Palestinian state with al-Quds as its capital, determining a fair solution to the refugee issue according to UN Resolution 194, and rejecting all forms of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian state. The Summit stressed the international community's responsibility to support this initiative, the formation of a three-part committee to quickly promote the initiative internationally, and the need for a lobby group for the adoption of the initiative by the Security Council and UN General Assembly.

The Arab stance is based on an essential idea, that is, Arab commitments should be matched with Israeli commitments. It is unreasonable to put the burden on Arab parties while the other party is exempt. Mutual commitments will help reach a peaceful settlement from which a permanent solution can be

Concerning the Syrian-Lebanese relationship, there has been an international agreement that there is no contradiction between the Taif Treaty and Resolution No. 1559. Arab leaders were particularly concerned that a peaceful settlement will be reached without sanction or

Regarding Iraq, those at the Summit called for the restoration of normal conditions and the rebuilding of the state apparatus. They also called for a schedule for the withdrawal of foreign forces

Concerning reform and development in the Arab region, it was agreed that Arab countries have already started making reforms. It seems that the general tendency is that Arab countries will continue reforming themselves each as fast as its conditions and national vision

I expect that the coming period will witness big reforms in the Arab World based on people's economic, political, and social aspirations and wariness of superpower intervention. Reform is a pressing need for Arabs. There was consensus on preserving the system and institutions of the Arab League, introducing genuine reforms and development by establishing an Arab Parliament, amending the voting system within the Arab League, and the need to consider establishing an Arab Justice Tribunal and Security Council.

This Arab Summit signals the end of the "deterioration prevention" policies and in favor of a new stage of positive, constructive and effective work. Until the 2006 Khartoum summit is held, we will wait to see if the Algeria Summit's resolutions are implemented to give hope to Arab citizens.

COMMONSENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

## Is war the only solution?

eedless to say the recent outbreak of fighting between Yemeni Government military and security forces and religious and tribal elements in Sa'ada Governorate have put Yemen on the headlines all over the world again and certainly this will not help project a stable situation in the country, notwithstanding the arguments put by both sides. It is not clear what has again brought on this sudden twist of events, especially as Hussein Badr-Aldin Al-Houthy was killed last September and peace has been relatively restored in the Sa'ada Governorate. While no one is pleased to hear of attacks on Government forces, the worry is still quite strong that in the end the greatest casualties and suffering would be amongst the civilian population of Sa'ada, who might be caught in the crossfire, as they flee homes to seek shelter in the surrounding mountains where their villages are located. Also reports of air attacks, would cause one to hope that these air attacks are not indiscriminate bombings against civilian

What has even increased the worries of observers is that the present fighting seems to be on a larger geographical sphere and has even spread to other governorates such as Amran Governorate, which is only less than an hour's drive from the City of Sana'a. Common sense would dictate that observers and commentators would appeal for the Government to earnestly seek a peaceful way out of this unfortunate bloodletting as it seems that both sides in the conflict are mistaken if they believe that a decisive win in the battlefield is attainable and this is clearly shown by the fact that the initial victory against Hussein Al-Houthy has not led to a peaceful conclusion of the conflict. It is not for certain why there is a strong feeling of pursuing a military solution to all the disputes that arise between the government and its citizens, regardless of their conflicting views about the state of affairs in the country, region or the world. Furthermore, with the region beset by so many difficulties and threatened by possible foreign intrusions in its affairs, under different justifications, one would think that a peaceful environ would be sought by all governments in the region, especially with their citizens.

One was pleased at the recent Government policy of pursuing dialogue with "extremists" and it is indeed a sensible approach to dealing with misguided religious persuasions. However, the relatively less threatening rhetoric of the "Houthi followers" at the outset was not accorded the same privilege apparently and had the policy been pursued with seriousness with leaders of the Houthi "rebellion", chances are a lot of lives on both sides would have been spared. Hussein Al-Houthi did indicate a desire for a peaceful solution, and he appealed to the President accordingly in a handwritten letter, which was published in several papers during the earlier phase of the fighting in Sa'ada.

It is safe to say that the Government, in its pursuit of only a military solution, is not helping to cool down the tensions, between the military forces that may be inspired by a feeling of revenge for the loss of many troops and the equally fired up followers of Al-Houthi and other citizens of Sa'ada, who have also lost relatives in the fighting. Thus, it would be wise not to get a blood feud get blown further out of proportion. One would think that an immediate cease-fire should first of all be called for by the Government to stop any further loss of life. Then a sincere mediation effort should be pursued, probably led by leading dignitaries, with long experience in such conflicts, such as Sheikh Abdulla Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar and Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhoum, with the help of moderate religious leaders respected by both sides.

The region of Sa'ada is one of the most deprived regions in Yemen, in terms of development focus and it is easy to understand why perhaps the people of the area may have their grunts against the Government. After all they lie between the rapidly developing areas of Najran and Asir in Saudi Arabia and the more steady developing areas of Sana'a Governorate and even Al-Jouf and Marib, notot mention the acceleration of development efforts in the Southern and Eastern Governorates. Sa'ada has hardly gotten a taste of what development entails, with very fewer schools and health, educational and service facilities than almost all the other regions of Yemen. A friend told this observer that had the Government announced it was increasing development investments in the region and will carry out a broad study to determine the Governorate's needs in terms of development projects, this could help simmer down the heated feelings.

On the other hand, the Government should be careful in its handling of the competition amongst different religious persuasions (quasi-Shi'a versus the more extreme Wahhabi elements that has been allowed to grow and is fast becoming very active and noticeable in the area. Therefore the Government should not appear as if it has taken sides in this senseless religious race for followers, especially as the former has been in existence in the area for centuries and the latter is supported by external generous financial support, as most Yemenis well know. Surely, it cannot be overlooked that the latter would encourage any Government help to remove any opposition to the propagation of this recent extremist entry to Yemen, especially in Sa'ada, where the population has generally resisted the spread of this Salafi or Wahhabi rendition of Islam, thanks to the appeal that people like Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi seem to enjoy amongst them. Accordingly, one is inclined to believe that the War on Terror would be greatly served by putting an end to this senseless bloodshed and not to let factional violence become a fact of life in Yemen, which has rarely seen such level of violence associated with religious persuasions. Otherwise, one would think that the country is being directed into a more serious long drawn out conflict of wider geographical dimensions, the end of which can simply not be visualized. Nor is it sensible to allow a venue that could call for foreign interference (including the influx of foreign gangs a la Zerqawi), and God only knows what will then fol-

Correction: Common Sense apologizes for the oft repeated mistake in the CS of Issue 829, starting in the second paragraph of writing "reinforcement" when it should have been "enforcement".

# The tortuous path of Arab democracy

BY AMR HAMZAWY

he Arab world is changing. Popular protest movements, parliamentary and municipal elections, and successive concessions by the ruling elites are creating a momentum for political transformation in countries as different as Lebanon and Palestine, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Yet it is difficult to foresee what the outcome of the long anticipated "Arab democratization wave" is likely to be. The dream of pluralist polities and open public spheres goes hand in hand with the risk of authoritarian backlashes and radical Islamist insurgencies.

Apparently we can account for the uncertain political path of the region by referring to the inherent ambivalent nature of profound transformations in non-democratic countries.

Neither their driving logic nor their consequences are clear from the out-

This was the case in Eastern Europe in 1989-1991, and it is definitely going to be the case in the Arab world in the years to come. However, there are other sources of political uncertainty that are specific to the historical legacy and social reality of Arab countries.

Throughout the last decades we witnessed various seemingly promising beginnings that did not bring about any substantial changes.

Different measures of political liberalization did not pave the way for real democratic change, and privatization strategies led to stagnant crony capitalist structures rather than socially responsible market economies.

Several Arab countries suffered from a systematic rise of radical ideologies and violent movements that had its root causes in state repression and economic deprivation.

Traditional elements, mainly tribalism and primordial loyalties, remained as persistent in the social fabric as authoritarian and chauvinistic nationalist notions in the prevailing political

Above all, in the last two decades the region lacked agents of democratic transformation.

Arab ruling elites, including the young, Western-educated generation of monarchs and presidents' sons, were not interested in power sharing in any substantial way.

Liberal parties and civil society organizations were never able to alter their legacy of structural weakness and social isolation

The formation of broad alliances for democracy to contest the dominance of autocratic rulers and force democratic concessions clearly exceeded their capacity in the 1980s and 1990s.

Back then, non-violent popular Islamist movements such as the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and the Moroccan Justice and Development Party were yet to come up with a strategic commitment to democratic forms of governance.

Caught in a triple iron cage of state oppression, continuous radicalization on the fringes of the Islamist spectrum, and international fears of their potential role, these movements were forced out of the official political sphere and excluded from Western efforts to promote democracy in the Arab world.

In the last few years, however, this overall picture has gradually fallen

Confronted with increasingly disenchanted domestic populations as well as Western, primarily American efforts to promote democracy in the region, a representative number of Arab governments has embarked on the road of political reforms or accelerated the pace of their realization.

Changing regional conditions, especially since the collapse of the Baath regime in Iraq, have helped create an unprecedented momentum for debating the perspectives of democratic transformation, from Morocco to

Never before 2003 was the public interest in power sharing and good governance as genuine and far-reaching as it has been since then.

Yet the path to Arab democracy continues to be problematic.

Reading the contemporary regional political scene, legitimate doubts emerge at three central levels: the degree of commitment to reform by governments, the limits of internal democratization pressures, and the plausibility of effective democracy promotion strategies implemented by

authoritarian polities never happen out of impulsive noble motivations of autocratic rulers.

The experiences of Eastern Europe and other parts of the non-Western world in the 1990s suggest that a combination of opposition movements pushing for democracy and international pressures on ruling autocrats is crucial in paving the way for significant reforms to take place.

However, pressuring the autocrats does not mean alienating them.

Managing the first reform steps remains the prerogative of existing governments, and without their backing the whole process can not take off.

In the Arab reality of 2005, the predominant missing element when compared to more successful experiences of political transformation is the emergence of democratic opposition movements with considerable constituencies that contest authoritarian power and force concessions.

American efforts to promote democracy in societies where the tradeoffs of undemocratic governance continue to be bearable for the ruling elites do not suffice to make political reforms plau-

sible or viable. Without the formation of far-reaching popular alliances for democracy, the Arab autocrats and their rather sophisticated state apparatuses will eventually manage to deal with external pressures, either by inventing a "theater of democratization" based on various creative scenes, such as cosmetic reforms, and official discourses on human rights and good governance, or by discrediting them publicly as acts of foreign aggression against national sovereignty.

History informs us that authoritarian rulers are best equipped to successfully play the game of "us against them," and in so doing to portray themselves as national heroes to whom unquestioned obedience becomes a sacred

Amr Hamzawy is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

He previously taught Middle Eastern politics in Cairo and Berlin. This commentary is taken from bitterlemons-international.org,

online newsletter.

the United States. In a nutshell, democratic reforms in

# What to make of Europe's longer work-week

BY HANS-WERNER SINN

rance's decision effectively abolishing its 35-hour workweek by allowing employers to increase working hours and pay - marks a reversal of a decades-old trend. In the 1980's and 1990's, most European countries reduced working hours: Germany went from more than 40 to 38 per week, the UK from 40 to 37, Denmark from 39 to 37, and France from 40 to 35. Today, however, as Europeans struggle with high unemployment and stagnating living standards, they may have to work longer to cope with globalization.

The French actions follow changes in Germany, where some recent wage settlements resulted in longer working times. The difference between the two countries is that, in Germany, working times were increased without compensating pay

Siemens was the forerunner, going from 35 to 40 hours per week. Bavaria's government increased the workweek from 38.5 to 40 hours for older employees and to 42 hours for younger employees. When Daimler-Chrysler increased work hours from 35 to 40 hours in its research and development center, the dam broke and other bargaining agreements fell into

Germany primarily reacted to lowwage competition from ex-communist countries. Currently, the average wage of the ten countries that joined the EU in May 2004 is about one-seventh of the West German wage level, and the Chinese wage is one twenty-fifth.

Those differences are so huge that some people consider efforts to compete futile. But, as productivity is much higher in Germany, an effective reduction of hourly labor costs by uncompensated increases in working hours seems worth trying. This could be an example for other European countries. The next step for France could be unpaid increases in working times.

Trade union opposition to extending working hours is based on the "lump-oflabor" theory. According to this view, there are no economic advantages of such a policy, because the total amount of labor in the economy is fixed. As a result, a 10 per cent increase in working time will merely reduce employment by 10% per-

Despite its seeming plausibility, this view is wrong. Working longer for the same pay is a useful way of making Europe more competitive, and, when compared to reducing wages, it imposes a much lighter burden on workers and employees.

Working longer will boost economic growth, for if people work longer, then so does capital. Except for where all 24 hours of the day are filled with shift work. increasing the daily working time of people extends daily capital utilization. Thus, a 10 per cent increase in working time is the same as if the economy's stock of productive capital were increased by 10 per cent. There is a jump in wealth and an immediate production boom.

The lump-of-labor theory assumes that working longer and employing more people is the same thing. But they are very different. Longer working time can be achieved nearly instantaneously, whereas employing more people is time consuming and expensive, as it typically requires new physical investment. Working longer is thus the ideal way to achieve growth and competitiveness.

In fact, extending daily working times will, in the medium term, also result in higher employment, because it will increase productivity while labor costs remain constant. Some workers whose productivity was too low to cover their cost will now be hired, as firms will find it worthwhile to expand output above the level resulting from the increased working time itself by investing more capital and hiring more workers.

Some fear that extending the workday will not produce more jobs because the resulting expansion of hours worked will reduce the capital-labor ratio. This would lower the marginal productivity of hours worked sufficiently to offset the positive effects of increasing the number of hours

But, again, capital would also work

longer. Because of the "capital utilization effect," the capital-labor ratio would not, in fact, decline, and hence there would be no significant effect on the marginal productivity of hours worked. The theoretical effect on employment is unambiguously positive, because marginal workers will be more productive as they work longer.

Would there be enough demand to absorb the additional output resulting from increasing the workday? Advocates of the lump-of-labor view say no. But as more goods are produced while the wage per worker is fixed, profits increase by exactly the same amount as the value of output does.

Thus, in principle, the purchasing power for the extra output would be available. The entrepreneur might buy his wife a new fur coat or his workers a new production plant. If all firms work longer, most will experience more demand, and the average firm will face as much extra demand as it provides extra supply.

True, some extra demand will go abroad, but so will some of the extra supply. A slight devaluation would solve any remaining problem with export demand. This could be an explicit devaluation or an implicit one due to a price reduction, made possible by the reduction in unit production costs resulting from the extra working time at constant pay.

The argument that working longer destroys jobs and that we need technological progress in order to become more competitive and maintain employment is inherently inconsistent, because working longer is nearly the same as technological progress that makes capital and labor more productive.

Either one or the other view is correct, but both cannot be true simultaneously. In any case, only the second interpretation is correct. The fear that extending the workday will damage employment is unfounded. It is a tried and true path towards growth, competitiveness and employ-

Hans-Werner Sinn is Director of the Ifo Institute for Economic Research,

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# Everyone in fear **The Ivory Coast** shipwreck on hell's shore

BY BRIGITTE GRANVILLE

est Africa's jewel is fracturing. The Ivory Coast miracle is now the Ivory Coast hell, where natives and non-natives live in fear

Since the arrival of a small contingent of French troops in 2003, the horror of this latest African civil war has occasionally intruded on the awareness of the global public, only to recede again. Last November, for example, seven French soldiers were killed in a regime-ordered air raid against the northern rebels. France retaliated by destroying the minute Ivoirian air force.

With its peacekeeping mandate due to expire on April 4, France may decide to leave. Many Ivorians fear that this will mean renewed civil war.

But instead of international intervention, the Ivory Coast needs homegrown solutions for its problems. It must avoid the pernicious ethnic nationalism of recent years that led to one ethnic group being banned from running in the presidential election. Without solutions that claim broad support, the Ivory Coast will likely join the grim list of the world's failed states precisely because of its inability to develop into a cohesive nation based on equal political rights for all

The problem of inter-ethnic conflict is, sadly, all too typical of Africa. The Ivoirian example is neither unique nor the most extreme – at least not yet. Rwanda's horrors, and more recently Darfur, come quickly to mind. But the Ivory Coast's dilemma is notable both because the country's decline came from a relatively greater height, and for the lessons it holds concerning how

At first sight, the Ivory Coast's postcolonial history looks like a variation on standard themes. Independence from France (in 1960) spawned a dictatorship remarkable mainly for its longevity. Felix Houphouet-Boigny's rule lasted more than 30 years, until his death in 1993, when power passed to his handpicked successor, Henri Konan Bedie.

Houphouet's fondness for money and power was plain from the outset, and his regime offered no exception to the dismal African rule of corruption, fraud, cheating, cronyism, embezzlement, and weak law enforcement.

These handicaps to the country's development grew worse over time. As early as the 1960's, Houphouet was spending lavishly on his native junglebound village, Yamoussoukro, which in 1983 replaced the port city of Abidjan as the capital. Yamassoukro boasts grand eight-lane highways lined with over 10,000 lights and a full-scale replica of St Peter's in Rome.

Alongside such Pharaonic waste, however, the infrastructure and economic development supported by continuing dependence on French finance and public-spirited expatriate French technocrats helped produce what became known as the "Ivoirian mira-

Indeed, at independence, the Ivory Coast was the most prosperous state in French West Africa, with coffee and cocoa exports accounting for 40% of the region's total exports. This relative prosperity lasted until the second oil shock of 1979, when global stagflation depressed prices for the primary commodities that comprise the Ivory Coast's narrow export base, while rising interest rates increased the cost of servicing the debt contracted by the Houphouet regime.

Economic crisis and corruption undermined Bedie's presidency, leading to a military coup in 1999. But the new regime, facing continued unrest, eventually allowed multi-party democracy.

The result has been disastrous, as ethnic rivalries sharpened. Whatever else is said about such French-backed authoritarian regimes, hindsight leaves no doubt about the benefits of the social stability seen in the Ivory Coast during the period until the 1980's, when France remained paternalistically engaged with its former colony. The political upheavals of 1999-2000 resulted in a new "democratic" constitution that became an invitation to civil war.

Regional and religious tensions had

been growing since Houphouet's death and were aggravated by the new constitution, which enshrined ethnic discrimination. About four million northerners were denied political participation or land ownership on the grounds that they were descendants of migrants from neighboring countries. Yet the only real difference between most inhabitants of the Ivory Coast - which has the most immigrants of any West African country – is the timing of their forefathers'

The nationality issue first came to a head over the status of Alassane Ouattara, the Muslim opposition leader and talented technocrat whom Bedie barred from running in the 1995 presidential election on account of his "foreign" ancestry. Stripped of his Ivorian citizenship in 1999, Ouattara is popular in the north of the country, which has been held by the "New Forces" rebels since 2002.

The rebellion led in January 2003 to a French-brokered deal in which all sides - including the New Forces signed up to a government of national reconciliation. The parties also agreed to work together on modifying national identity, eligibility for citizenship, and land tenure laws. But the deal has not stuck, and the conflict has continued.

The best hope for the Ivory Coast is probably a parliamentary-based system that will require inter-ethnic alliances to form governments. The division of the country into more ethnically homogeneous federal components might also promote stability. Above all, dominance by one group through a powerful presidency must be avoided. But that will require strong international supervision, resembling today's EU Protectorate in Bosnia. The alternative is a vicious circle of violence and poverty, exacerbated by rapid population growth.

Brigitte Granville is Professor of International Economics and Economic Policy, Centre for Business Management, Queen Mary, University of London.

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# Poverty can be reduced: Giving until it heals

By Jeffrey Sachs

Poverty, I show how extreme poverty can be ended by 2025, but only if the rich world follows through on its promise to help the poorest countries. In order to thrive, and to foster the private-sector investment needed for long-term growth, an economy requires functioning health and education systems, investments in soil nutrients and water management, and basic infrastructure such as electricity and motorized transport. Yet the poorest countries, even well governed ones, lack the resources to finance these investments.

Lack of adequate foreign assistance is one of the greatest disgraces on our planet, and the United States has been the biggest laggard of all. It is urgent that the US wake up to global realities, and that it follow through on its commitments.

The most famous single promise by the rich countries has been to provide aid to the poorest countries equal to at least 0.7% of their GNP. The commitment began 44 years ago, in 1961, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the objective that foreign assistance should increase significantly, "so as to reach as soon as possible approximately 1% of the combined national incomes of the economically advanced countries." At the time, foreign assistance was about 0.5% of rich-country income.

Despite the promises, aid continued to decline. By the early 1990's, official development assistance was still around 0.33% of donor GNP, and by the early 2000's, it had declined to around 0.22% of GNP. Now it is roughly 0.25% of GNP. But the long-term decline in the ratio of aid to GNP did not stop the rich world from promising time and again to reach 0.7% of GNP, including at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development in 1995.

n my new book The End of world's leaders got together to adopt the world leaders in September 2005, has Millennium Development Goals, the global commitment to halve extreme poverty by 2015. To implement these commitments, world leaders, including US President George W. Bush, met again in Monterrey, Mexico, to adopt the Monterrey Consensus on how to achieve the breakthrough from poverty. The personal presence of Bush is notable, because the rich countries once again adopted the target of 0.7% of GNP, with the US being a signatory.

The US government often declares these days that it is not bound by any "arbitrary" numerical target such as 0.7% of GNP. Top officials even declare that the US never signed on to such a goal. Yet the US and other countries did sign the Monterrey Consensus urging "developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of Gross National Product as official development assistance." It could hardly be more clear. Alas, the US has shown absolutely no "concrete efforts" towards keeping this commitment.

In fact, US official development assistance amounts to just 0.15% of America's GNP, which is less than one-fourth the global target. This contrasts with the 4% of GNP that the US spends on its military, roughly \$500 billion this year. So the US spends around thirty times more on the military than it does on peaceful development aid for the poorest countries.

From a global point of view, there are currently five countries that have reached 0.7% of GNP in aid: Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. Six more countries, all in Europe, have recently set a timetable to reach 0.7% of GNP by the year 2015. They are Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in At the start of the new millennium, the his report in advance of the UN summit of called on all donor countries to reach at least 0.5% of GNP in aid by 2009, and 0.7% by 2015. He also noted that countries like Germany and Japan that aspire to permanent UN Security Council membership have a particular responsibility of global stewardship in reaching the target.

> Sadly, the ideological mouthpieces for the super-rich in the US, especially the editorial page of The Wall Street Journal, remain bitterly opposed to foreign aid, even if it's just 70 cents per hundred dollars of income! In criticizing my book, a Wall Street Journal review said that I was calling for "Giving Till it Hurts."

> But there is a limit to greed I am quite sure that The Wall Street Journal does not really represent the interests or views of many or even most of American rich people, including the millionaires and billionaires whose contributions to aid could make a huge difference for the lives of millions of people.

> Many remarkable philanthropists, such as Bill Gates, are already leading the way. I believe that few wealthy people would refuse to contribute a small portion of their huge wealth for the chance to save the lives of millions of people each year and help the poorest countries get the first foot on the ladder of economic development. They will know that they would not only save lives, but also contribute to a much safer and more prosperous world.

> Instead of worrying that 70 cents per \$100 is giving till it hurts, our slogan in the rich countries should be "Giving Till it

> Economics and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005

Jeffrey Sachs is Professor of

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى الشيخ العقيد / حميد القائفي لوفاة المغفور لها بإدن الله تعالى والدته سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمدها بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنها فسيح جناته ويلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان «إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون» الشيخ / محمد على الزلب - الأستاذ/ نشوان الزلب - الأستاذ/ عبدالله الجورى مدير عام مكتب أعلام م/عمران - عسكر العيدى مدير عام مكتب وكالة سبأ للأنباء م/عمران - عادل مخارش وجميع آل نجاد ومراد وفؤاد



# T Business

# It is time to free the World Bank

FINANCIAL TIMES, LONDON

emocracy begins at home if the World Bank is to be a leading force in the promotion of good governance in developing countries, its own governance must move beyond backroom politics, the bank is now choosing a president. The first steps of this process have been unsatisfactory, based on the idea that the US can choose the president without competition and with no questions asked. Before the bank is further damaged, there is an urgent need to make amends.

In spite of the World Bank being a multilateral institution of 184 member governments, its presidency is widely assumed to be owned by the White House. Europe seems happy to play along presumably to ensure its own "ownership" of other international posts. The 150-plus developing countries are relegated to the back benches.

The White House's perceived lock on the World bank presidency is unsatisfactory for three reasons. First, the US has only 16 percent of the bank's votes and other countries play an ever- larger role in its operations. Behind the scenes, the US has been the biggest brake on increasing the bank's finance for poor countries, and has pushed for debt relief in ways that would weaken bank finances. The US demands to run the bank but on the cheap.

Second, the US government stands aloof from the global consensus on economic development, The world has rallied behind the United Nation's Millennium development Goals, the shared global objectives for cutting extreme poverty, disease and hunger. The US has signed the relevant documents but5 has refused to champion he

The most egregious US lapse lies in foreign assistance, he conservatries mantra in Washington is that the US supports the Monterrey consensus (adopted in the March 2002 conference that George W. Bush attended), rather than increased development assistance. The conservatives claim hat the consensus us about trade and the private sector not aid. This is wrong.

The Monterrey consensus signatories, including the US, agreed to urge developed countries that have not done so "to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance." US aid stands at a mere 0.15 percent of GNP, the lowest ration of any donor country, around Dollars 65bn (Pounds 34bn) per year short of Monterrey target. The US alone is responsible for half of the global financing shortfall in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, according to the recent report of the UN Millennium Project. Yet the Bush administration has so far shown no concrete efforts towards 0.7 percent.

Third, the US has advanced an unlikely candidate for the World Bank position – Paul Wolfwitz, after all, has spent a career on military matters and diplomacy, not in development and

Europe, in spite of deep concerns, seems likely to accede to the US nomination. Developing countries, dependant on international aid, are wary of speaking out. Yey, the bank's ligitmacy will be damaged by a sgow of unlimeied White House power over the appointment. Moreoever, the hard-won consensus represented by the Millineum development Goals may well be put at risk. For these reasons, serious due diligence by the bank's members and executive

Mr. Wolfowitz and any other candidates put forward should be required to clarify their positions on at least four central issues for global development. This is especially the case given US "exceptionalism" on these issues.

First, does the candidate support the Millennium Development Goals? Would the president make these goals the Operationnal targets of the bank's programmes? Second, does the candidate endorse the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP in official development assistance from all donor countries? Would the new bank president press the US and other donors to increase aid to 0.7 percent by 2015, as advocated by world leaders and the report on UN reform by Kofi Annan, the secretary-general. Third, would the candidate champion the call of free-market ideologues to privities public health, education and infrastructure, or would he or she agree that increased public finance is vital to ensuring universal access to health, nutrition, water and sanitation, schooling and family planning?

Fourth, does the candidate support a bigger voice and vote for developing countries in the World bank and International Monetary Fund, as is widely argued?

This question is highly pertinent today, as poor countries are being told once again to swallow hard on any appointment that comes down from Washington. Is the World Bank to be truly a bank for the world, or simply the "American Bank", as Washington commentator put it last week?

By Jeffery Sachs is the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the UN Millennium Project, author of "The End of Poverty", Penguin Press

The participants in the 14th annual

meeting of COCA recommended last

Wednesday that a working team be cre-

ated to study how best to follow up on

their reports. Participants also stressed

the need to study the reasons why some

parties are no longer subject to their con-

trol and audit. They highlighted the

necessity that COCA undertakes its

tasks throughout all districts and empha-

sized the importance of COCA in pro-

They stressed that the current levels of

corruption are hampering the process of

**National survey** 

on families

12-month survey is being

carried out on around

14,400 families through-

out the country to exam-

ine family budgets over

The survey will examine family

incomes, production, housing, health,

education, and employment to help

local councils to match programs and

development plans to people's circum-

stances and to provide a basis for further

research. It also aims to chart differ-

ences between urban and rural families.

met difficulties in meeting women

because of the gender-segregated nature

of Yemeni society. The study will be

negatively affected if more female

researchers are not found throughout the

Sources in the Central Organization

for Statistics (COS) stressed that they

are trying to avoid the weaknesses of

previous surveys by consulting with as

wide a sample as possible.

Those conducting the survey have

tecting judicial independence.

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALY

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

the coming year.

country.

### **Ministry of Finance Civil Service Modernization Project Implementation Project Unit**

**Accounting & Financial Management Information System, (AFMIS)** REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM INTERNATIONAL THIRD-PARTY SOFTWARE TESTING COMPANY FOR AFMIS COMPONENT.

NOTE: Only software testing Companies or Firms should Respond (not Individual Consultants).

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

This advertisement replaces previously published advertisement on Request for Expression of Interest of International Advisor / an AFMIS Component Test Third-Party Consultant. Now, only software testing Companies or Firms should Respond.

#### Introduction

The Government of Yemen (GOY), is conducting a Civil Service Modernization Project (CSMP), which comprises, among other components, the computerization of a Financial and Accounting Management Information System (AFMIS), that is supervised by the Ministry of Finance (MOF), through a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and funded by the International Development Agency (IDA), of The World Bank.

AFMIS is designed to address three major parts of public finance management reform; those are budget preparation, budget execution and accounting. AFMIS is a main component of the whole modernization project, and will accommodate certain agreeable sets of reform steps in the public expenditure process, of Yemen, both at the Central and Local Authority Levels. The system in its first stage will be rolled out to three large spending units, and ultimately to all other governmental spending units. At this stage of implementation it has been agreed between the GoY and World Bank that technical assistance (TA) is needed to mitigate potential project implementation risks in the areas of Project Management, treasury design and independent third-party testing. To address these needs and help ensure that the target milestones of the AFMIS component are met, a Project Management Advisor and Conceptual Design Advisor have been recruited. The Bank has proposed deploying an independent third party testing company to test and certify the AFMIS applications to be developed by the project contractor (Yemen Soft and CEW).

### **Ensuring Effective Testing**

of the AFMIS System
Once the AFMIS system modules are developed by Yemen soft, the selected independent third-party testing firm should subject the system(s) to rigorous testing in order to provide assurance that it is working properly and provides the specified functionalities. System testing is broadly divided into two main categories: (1) unit testing and application testing, which are the responsibility of the vendor (Yemen soft and CEW); and (2) user acceptance testing including the testing of the integrated system as a whole is the responsibility of the client (GOY – Ministry of Finance AFMIS Project Implementation Unit). It is the testing of the second category that is very demanding and requires specialized skills of an independent third party testing company to supplement the skills of the client (MOF-PIU). The testing company should have highly specialized personnel with extensive experience in conducting systems testing of enterprise financial systems such as Treasury operations.

### Responsibilities

The selected Contractor should be familiar with the following aspects while doing the testing of AFMIS: The contractor is expected to perform, inter alia, five main testing activities. These five activities collectively ensure that the AFMIS software that has been written and produced by Yemen Soft is error and bug free. The five major testing activities

- Creating a Test Plan Designing Tests
- Implementing the Test cases
- Executing Tests
- **Evaluating Test results**

Each of these activities has inputs and output test assets associated with each; each activity will require certain assets as inputs produce other test assets as outputs and may use these assets interchangeably.

- Ensuring that all Software components comply with the approved conceptual design documents, the following tasks should be carried out
- Performing application software test process in accordance with all General Condition clauses and special condition clauses stated on the project contract signed between AFMIS and the contractor (Yemen Soft) on 31/5/2003.:
- The deliverables, modules, and sub-modules

must be provided as part of an integrated system with clear specification for the central role of the general ledger.

A transition path for an AFMIS move to full accrual base accounting is well defined, implemented, and produced.

While remaining on a cash basis of accounting, a GFS2001 compliant budget classification is to be implemented as a main part of AFMIS.

A confirmed chart of accounts is developed and implemented.

A budget execution function currently undertaken by the CBY is taken over by MOF through AFMIS application.

Business process description for each modules and sub-modules is reflected in AFMIS deliverables through input process and outputs.

Qualifications and Experience

1 MS./Ph.D. in computing with extensive knowledge of governmental public expenditure computerized systems.

Extensive experience in testing and certification of large-scale financial systems including Treasury systems.

Industry accepted, best-in-class international standards of system testing methodologies.

Solid experience in AFMIS conceptual Design, Networking and Implementation

Excellent command of English; Arabic also would be very useful.

### <u>Deliverables</u>

For each module and sub-module of AFMIS, in accordance with the responsibilities mentioned above, a testing procedures document should include the following: (a) Test processes or procedures; (b) Test indicators; (c) Test data; (d) Test measurements; and (e) Test results.

To accomplish the above, the broad tasks would include (i) preparation of a detailed test plan for each module/sub-module and the integrated system as a whole; (ii) development of any necessary test scenarios and test scripts; (iii) provision of advice on the need for any additional software for testing purposes, for example, load testing; (iv) training the assigned staff on how to undertake the detailed testing work; (v) managing the testing program; (vi) reviewing the test results in liaison with the PIU coordinator and software contractor (Yemen soft) to discuss errors and fixing them; (vi) managing and delivering re-tested outputs for user acceptance; and (vii) report the results of the tests and certify that each module/sub-module satisfies the specified requirements and make recommendations to the authorities that it should be accepted.

### Reporting Responsibility

The independent third party testing company will be report to the Project Coordinator and Project Management Advisor; and shall work collaboratively with the AFMIS PIU Coordinator and Treasury Conceptual Design Advisor.

### Scope of the Mission

Short term visits to Yemen at two-month intervals approximately between June/July and December 2005, with the possibility of extension depending on how much progress is made at the end of December, 2005.

The firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines on Selection and Employment of Consultants/Firms by World Bank Borrowers (May, 2004 Edition)

Candidates firm who have the necessary qualification are invited to submit their Curriculum Vita with a copy of their qualification no later than 26 April, 2005 to the following address:

**Ministry of Finance AFMIS Project Coordinator's Office** Alsafia -Sana'a -Yemen, Tel-504164 -504161 Or by email: afmisyemen1@yahoo.com

# **COCA** to fight corruption

By Mahyoub al-Kamali **Yemen Times Staff** 

he Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) will renew its fight against the financial and administrative corruption that is prevalent in government institutions throughout Yemen.

COCA plans to implement a project to lion. The COCA report indicated that restructure government institutions with most of the cases are being prosecuted in assistance from Arab and foreign the court of first instance, and several other courts across the country.

The organization revealed that the number of cases concerning public property that it uncovered last year reached 240, and the total damage caused by these was over YR2 billion, in addition

experts.

to damage estimated at over YR900 mil-

### **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the following position within its project "National Adaptation Programme of Action.

**Post Title: Technical Assistant** Post Level: SSA-5 **Duration: Two Months** 



### Tasks to be performed

Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Cordinator (NPC), the candidate will organize and supervise the regional consultation workshops and training needed during the period, Liaise with relevant ministries, national and international research institutions, NGOs, review and comment on reports and outcomes of working groups, prepare periodic progress report of the project activities, and .....

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

> UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a Fax: 448841

E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday,14 April 2005

### The color of coral (2):

## The challenges of the Red Sea Region

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

#### The red sea taoday

The Red Sea is a long and narrow body of water that provides a line of communication from the Far East to the Mediterranean and North Atlantic.

The Red Sea is only moderately integrated into the regional level but it is much more deeply integrated into international level.

The geopolitical position of the Red Sea is of special importance bordering as it does the eastern coast of Africa and the western coast of the Arabian Peninsula. It is the vital route for the transportation of oil through Bab al-Mandab and the Suez Canal in the North.

Issues of free navigation, nuclear disarmament, environmental pollution remain of paramount concerns to the states of the region.

The Red Sea region is nevertheless relatively poorly explored.

Its marine riches from the mangrove swamps of the south, through the spectacular coral reefs of the center, to the sea-grass beds of the north.

The Red Sea marine, life, isolated in a long sleeve of water, developed away from its Indian Ocean beginnings.

Thus were created the unique life forms found in the Red Sea today and on Arabian soil, where, for example, four out of 10 insect species are endemic, that is, found nowhere else in the world.

The Indian Ocean still passes over the shallow threshold of the Bab al-Mandab to replenish the Red Sea, and flow the thousands of kilometers of coral cliffs, atolls, reefs and lagoons, which give the sea some of the most stunning underwater landscapes in the world.

In the southern Yemeni portion of the Red Sea, abundant plankton supports an immense chain of life.

Microscopic creatures support triggerfish, boat fish and great variety of gobies and prawns.

Where they meet the land, the nutrient-rich waters of the south have also created mangrove swamps - the domain of crabs, rock skippers and herons.

But by the time the water reaches the central Red Sea - drawn north by evaporation from the surface – the Indian Oceans flow is depleted of nutrients, marine life there is concentrated on deep coral walls.

These coral cliffs stretch north for a thousand miles to the Gulf of Aqaba, where sand washed down from coastal mountains provides ideal conditions for great meadows of sea grasses.

Within its boundaries there remain some of the richest coral - reef systems in the world.

The Yemeni Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, for example contain some of the most important coastal and marine environments and resources in the world. Almost no rivers flow into the Red Sea except for the Bardra in the Sudan. One of the characteristics of the Red Sea is its

The flora of the Red Sea is mainly tropical, similar to the vegetation of the Indian Ocean and in particular to that of the East African Coast.

The most spectacular in color, shape and behavior among inhabitants of the coral reef are the tropical fish.

The observed color change likely gave the water its present name, the Red Sea. Surrounding countries have all established strong links with the Red Sea weather for fishing, navigation and commerce - or as a source of sea - salt commerce.

In the recent years these have been added in an increase in leisure activities, and tourism and industrial projects such as desalinated fresh water.

The central portion of the Red Sea is unique in that the medium rift has created rich deposits of heavy metals. Zinc 3.4%, copper 1.3%, lead 0.1 %, silver 54%, and gold 0.5% parts per million. Found beneath pools that have formed in depressions two kilometers deep, these muds are rich in zinc and copper, smaller amounts of other metals, including gold, and the main target - silver. However, metal markets are highly volatile.

The Red Sea region faces a huge number of problems, particularly demographic imbalance, pollution, and environmental degradation.

These problems will only intensify as the coastal population increases in size. It will be only though cooperation and dialogue on matters associated with the

sea, and in particular, mutual and bilateral economic cooperation, that people will be able to overcome these

This will be only possible if littoral



Different bird species living in the Red Sea.

states will overcome their weakness and consolidate their economic, political and strategic cooperation.

Such cooperation would not only foster peace and stability in the area but will also increase the prosperity and welfare of the people of the area.

Dialogue and solidarity remain the only valid means available for transforming the Red Sea into a zone of peace, cooperation, mutual economic cooperation and partnerships and increased investment opportunities.

#### Shaping the future

So far, no oil or gas is being extracted from the Red Sea apart from the Gulf of Suez whose fields are very important to Egypt. Off shore natural gas production around Arabia is also important.

In future it will become an even more valuable resource as it is increasingly utilized for industrial development in particularly petrochemicals.

A second potential source of offshore wealth lies in the metal bearing mud of the Red Sea.

A number of extremely deep depressions at depth of around 2,200 meters were located in the Red Sea.

Quantities are estimated to be 1.7 million tones of zinc, 400,000 tons of copper, 4,000 tons of silver as well as gold, lead, and iron.

Further, the sugar industry has considerable potential for expansion.

Neighboring countries are a potential natural market.

Application of water and electricity inputs will further enable farmers to rise production on existing fields.

Specialized agriculture production, including fruits and vegetables, oil seeds, spices, garden seeds, and flowers that could also be attractive to innovative

Conditions also favor specialized livestock and poultry operation and fish farming. Food processing, for domestic use and export, also has enormous

The textile industry is capable of great

Hydroelectric power potential remains 98 percent under developed.

Live animals, hides and skins need to

be upgraded. Ethiopia's great reserves of man-

power are best in the region. There is, however need to restore and improve degraded land in the highlands,

and improve storage facilities. Transportation and logistics are another field in which the Red sea countries can gain great benefit from cooperation. Better highways would facilitate trade, rapid expansion of tourist

services and specialized tourism. Fishing is important around the Arabian Peninsula and most national development plans envisage contained expansion of commercial fishing.

This matter is of particular importance to Yemen where export trade is headed by fish products.

The desire to extend territorial waters has become more pressing in recent

On matters of the sea careful management, particularly, in respect of environment and pollution control will become urgent.

### Development strategy for value

Sound financial management, creation and maintenance of favorable provisions for domestic and foreign investment, expansion of democracy and improvements in provisions for enforcing social justice are required for further development.

When communal bonds unite a group of people, great success is possible.

But such bonds can develop only

when personal interests are subjugated to goals that carry in them the essential virtues of humanity.

The broader the basis for action, the greater the good that can be achieved.

A spirit of cooperation steadies the boat, but it helps to have a beautiful island to row towards.

For a community, power lies not in its numbers, but in the diverse skills and resources of its members.

Just as the stoutest walls are reinforced with many different materials, so the strongest groups allow differences to coexists inside the whole

The aim here should be to bring people of the region together, businesses and organizations of the region together, and providing added value to both people and businesses.

Here free zones can play a role in facilitation industrial development and the flow of trade between countries of the

Internal trading agreement should define the mechanism and framework of collaboration aiming for the regional countries to achieve best project results. Below are some proposed regional development projects of mutual interest:

#### Infrastructural projects: Transportation, regional transportation

network, roads, marine, and air transport resulting in expansion of market size of each country.

Roads, airports, electricity and energy, petroleum and industry focus on complementarily in the region, and industries that provide high added value to accelerate economic growth through an aggressive policy and that target international markets.

Construction materials: Cement plants, mining for construction material

Food and fishery processing: Cash crops for export, processing and canning of vegetables and fruits, development of marketing facilities, infrastructure, upgrading of ports and irports, Spinning, textile, and readymade garments.

Agriculture: Eco-farming, vegetable, flowers, cereals, oil crops, vegetables, fruits, aromatic oil, medical plants, and concentrates, animal products, forest and agro-forestry.

Bio-Technology: Desert farming, coastal protection, waters resource management, sugar crops.

Tourism: Recreational, religious, cultural and health tourism, diving, yachting tourism. Health farms, culture and heritage preservation project regional cultural heritage, integrated cultural heritage sites management.

Free Zones: In the selected areas, these should serve as basis for increased trade among member countries. Such zones will be attractive strategic areas for investment and provide direct access to the markets. Further free zones specializing in export oriented industries.

**High Technology**: Software industry, computer business, biomedical technology, environment, agriculture and biotechnology, regional information

#### **Human Resources Development:** They are the key prerequisites to regional development and national growth.

To achieve regional development comprehensive human resource development strategies should be put forward based on education and professional development, investment in human capital.

**Environment**. The protection of environment is a challenge for all countries in the region. Waste water treatment, desalination technology, greening programs.

Also technologies such as stabilization

ponds, wetlands, lagoon technology, renewable energy.

#### A FRESH APPROACH

The Arabian Peninsula Seas contain two of the most important strategic waterways in the world, the Bab Al-Mandab and Strait of Hormuz.

Without them much of the geopolitics of the Horn of Africa and South West Asia would make little sense.

The fact that Somalia has a coast both on the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean gives it enormous strategic importance since it enables it to control navigation in the Red Sea as well as in the Indian Ocean. With three ports in the Indian Ocean and one in the Gulf of Aden, Somalia overlooks the Cape of Good Hope ocean route and practically controls the southern entrances of the Red Sea.

The main shipping lanes use the

channel to the west of Perim Island. It is estimated that approximately 18,000 ships pass thorugh the Bab Al-Mandab annually, or about 50 per day.

Approx ten percent of Western Europe oil supplies pass through Bab Al-Mandab, which is in the territorial waters of Yemen, Djibouti and Eritrea.

Of these, Yemen is well placed to exercise direct control of the shipping

All of maritime trading nations that use the Suez Canal have an interest that Bab Al-Mandab remains open and safe for shipping and maintain safe and

unimpeded movement of shipping. Although the Sea is a major cause of rivalry and conflict by virtue of geographical configuration, physical resources, and global location, it could be also unifying factor.

The quest for regional security, war on terror, problems of environmental management, and a common desire to limit outside interference could form the basis for fruitful regional cooperation. Thus the sea which is a potential source of disunity is also a powerful argument for cooperation.

The Red Sea states may yet to recognize the value of unified political front on matters associated with the sea and mutual economic cooperation, while gaining space for formulation ideas for their own development.

It is the geo-strategic significance of the Red Sea as resource that the Red Sea countries themselves have yet to explore to the full as the sea will further gain in its importance.

After completion of the enlargement of the European Union, the natural space for growth present will be the Mediterranean region and the Arabian Peninsula.

The Red Sea region could, perhaps in one generation, become an interface between the enlarged Europe, Russia, the Indian Sub-continent, and the Indian Ocean countries.

Throughout the history the Yemeni port of Aden has been a port of commercial importance, as it served as a meeting point of ships coming form the Red Sea from India, from the Persian Gulf and from East Africa. Due to its location across from the Horn of Africa and at the entrance to the Red Sea, as a member of both the Red and the Indian Ocean States, at the hub of world and regional shipping routes, as bridge between ancient and modern and as creator of new relationships, Yemen has an important role to play.

There must be not a balance of power but a community of power, not organized rivalries but an organized peace.

Irena Knehtl is an economist and writer who has been researching economic cooperation among the Red sea countries for a number of years.



# **Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shami** (2/2)

ne of the most amazing phenomena Yemen's long and tumultuous history is that it still produced one of the most dynamic and constantly evolving culture, that has done much to enrich the Arabic language with literary wealth, nevertheless still holding on to some of its own distinctive qualities and flavor.

Notwithstanding the underdevelopment of the country in many fields, in literature, Yemeni writers continued to dish out over the ages, monumental works in literature, theology and other areas of the liberal arts.

Of course the prevalence of religion will be found in most of this long track record of literary achievement, since most of the educational institutions were primarily geared to produce a cadre of public servants and private citizens who were well-versed in religious doctrine and jurisprudence.

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shami was mostly a product of the traditional schooling that most of his fellow literary peers, such as Mohammed Al-Zubeiry, Qadhi Abdurrahman Al-Iriani and to a certain extent Ahmed Nu'uman1.

Yet, of all his peers, he probably had the greatest output of published works, which will always be viewed as the greatest enrichment to Yemeni literature in modern times.

A close friend - a prominent Yemeni political and social figure - once said that he was flabbergasted when he visited the London home of Mr. Al-Shami in Bromely, where the latter incidentally passed away after residing there for over four and a half decades.

What he saw were around four floors of bookshelves all stacked with books.

In addition, there was a room, where our literary subject kept a photocopier, with which he used with avidity unequalled by anyone he ever knew.

Out of this literary factory came out a substantial list of published works, in a variety of fields: politics, history, literary critiques and volumes of his own works of poetry.

His writings are of the highest literary quality, whether in prose or in verse, and the reader is often unable to leave any of Al-Shami's writings until he has devoured it.

His insight into human nature and the attitudes of his people, many of whom are locked in long inherited social customs and habits is equally penetrating. He was harsh to anyone who did not have a fair perception of justice, freedom and religious tolerance and his poetry often revolves around the forces that seek to implant such new phenomenon to Yemen as religious sectarian disputes, factional intolerance and regional and tribal loy-

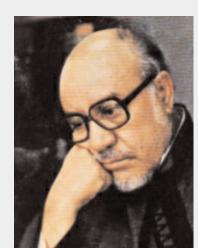
He was a staunch defender of Yemen's long history of achievement in Arabic literature and quickly rebuffed any historians or writers who either refused to acknowledge Yemen's contributions to Arabic literature, including responding to such scholars as Taha Hussein, the famed Egyptian scholar and historian of the 1940s and 1950s, who failed to include the Yemeni literary achievements in Pre-Islamic times, in his historical narra-

Politically, Ahmed Al-Shami was one of the early vanguards of the Yemeni patriotic movement and was one of the leading participants in the unsuccessful coup of 1948 against the Imamate.

He wrote the National Charter or constitution of the coup and for that got seven years in the dismal Prison of Hajjah, to which he and his fellow revolutionaries were taken in shackles.

In prison, Al-Shami conducted Arabic Studies and lectured on Arabic Literature and still managed to produce many of his poems and research into the past of Yemeni literature.

He was always keen on upholding



the right of his people to enjoy political freedom and safeguarded rights and constantly gave counsel to the prevailing regimes in Yemen to look after the people's interests and open the channels for them to harness their energies and capacities to advance their standards of living.

His political involvement climaxed with membership in the Republican (Presidential) Council after the national reconciliation that ended the War between the Republicans and the Royalists in 1969 (after seven years).

After a two-year stint in that position, and a couple of years in the diplomatic arena, he decided that the best service he could give his country was in enriching its literary output.

He was able to debate with some of the most prominent versant Arab scholars in literature and poetry and, because of his mastery of Arabic poetry and literature, he lashed out severely against those writers who either misrepresented their stature in the field or who were horrendous in their structuring of

poems or language in general. Writers who sought to distort historical facts were also dealt with merci-

lessly by Al-Shami. He is viewed as a romanticist, poeti-

cally and an idealist politically. His published works include by sub-

Poetry (His own composition): From Yemen, The Emigrant's Plight, the Compositions of Al-Shawqi, "The Harvest of Life", "With the Sparrows of Bromely" and many other volumes

Literary Critiques and Research: The Old and the Favorable (2 volumes); the poetic works of "Al-Hassan Bin Ali Jabir Al-Habal", one of the great Yemeni poets of the Middle Ages; "the works of Ibrahim Al-Hadhrani" another modern Yemeni poet and patriot; the "Story of Yemen's Literature", one of the finest historical insight into Yemeni literature; "Al-Mutanabbi – the Poet of the Most Noble of Traits" (Al-Mutanabbi is perhaps regarded as the Greatest of Arab Poets, whose eloquence is unrivalled to this date.

History and Politics: His memoirs, "the Winds of Change from 1948 to 1955", which also attempted to point out some of the inaccuracies and exaggerations that some have sought to mislead about the Patriotic Movement.

Many unpublished works, including 'Abdurrahman Al-Iriani, the Poet!" the "Second Volume of the Winds of

With the loss of Al-Shami a big vacuum will be felt in the Yemeni literary movement and all the obituaries written by most of Yemen's renowned surviving literary personalities attested to the irrecoverable loss Yemen will feel with the end of a long journey in literary genius. Thanks to God, he left so much in print for us to be inspired by. May God bless and have mercy on his

Correction: In the poem given in Part 1 "Snake-worm" should actually be "Dawdahiyah", which is a traditional folklore type of song.

<sup>1</sup> All four were active founders of the Yemeni patriotic movement.

# Yemeni women are dying

# What is a mother's life worth?

By Nadia al-Sakkaf Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief

he had been suffering from labor pain for two days before her husband thought of taking her to the hospital. It took more than two hours to reach the main road, and when she reached the hospital five hours later, both mother and baby were dead."

This is a common scene in the rural areas of Yemen, where the maternal mortality ratio is 570 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births and infant mortality is 84 infant deaths for each 1,000 live births.

Dr Jean Chamberlain Froese who is a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology has devoted herself to helping improve Yemeni women's health for the last five years. She describes these facts as depressing; "The fact is that most of these deaths are preventable. But it seems that not enough attention has been given to this issue so far" she says.

Coming from Canada as an assistant professor at McMaster University in Hamiltion, Ontario, her primary focus is international women's health. Chamberlain-Froese decided to do her best in helping Yemeni woman directly through providing medical support in the cities and villages and also through training medical staff, especially midwives in order to achieve sustainable impact in reproductive health.

Dr. Chamberlain-Froese is working for an NGO called International

Community Services as a consultant with a focus on women's health education. She spends a day and half every week at Kuwait hospital teaching medical students, in addition to seeing patients at other times.

She has also helps to coordinate Yemeni physicians to receive additional medical training at McMaster University in Canada. She is also involved in a 3-day training course called ALARM (Advances in Labor and Reducing Mortality), an emergency obstetrical course where doctors and midwives are given training in obstetrical complications and treatments.

At the present time, the course is sponsored by Catalyst (a reproductive health project of USAID) in coordination with the Association of Obstetricians and Midwives of Yemen. She has also helped in the Yemeni Family Care Association by coordinating donations from Canada and offering her expertise in research.

The Canadian doctor dropped by The Yemen Times after coming from a field visit to one of the rural areas outside Sana'a where she provides medical treatment for women on regular basis. She has kindly agreed to talk about her work in Yemen.

The facts are astonishing. I landed up with mixed feelings whether to feel hope knowing that so much could easily be done to improve reproductive health in Yemen or feeling frustrated knowing that although it is not that difficult not enough is being done. So I leave it for you to decide, and perhaps see where you can play a role in this issue.



Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese holds a newborn baby at the Sabeen Hospital in Sana'a. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese)

# Q: You recently talked about women's health in the Majority World. What does that term mean?

A: Majority World is a term used to describe the developing world where 90% of the world's population now lives. This means that the majority of women live in the developing world and that is where the improvement of women's health should be. There are many challenges facing women's health in Yemen since many of them suffer from poor general health and reproductive system complications.

## Q: How severe is the situation regarding reproductive health complications?

**A:** When the tsunami tragedy hit, there were approximately one quarter of a million death cases. If one had known beforehand that this tragedy would happen, they surely would have rushed

along the beach and warned the people to get off the shoreline. Compare this with the than 585,000 mothers who die every year from preventable pregnancy complications.

That's the equivalent of three jumbo jets crashing daily—loaded with pregnant mothers. Why isn't more attention paid toward these women who die from preventable causes? The Tsunami caught worldwide attention but these mothers die silently with very little notice.

In Yemen, women are very vulnerable to reproductive health complications, obviously because of a shortage of medical treatment coupled with lack of awareness. Numbers say that one in nineteen Yemeni women face death during her life from maternity related complications. One important reason that leads to this high rate is that the average woman in Yemen has 6.7 chil-

dren.

So every single time a mother is pregnant, she has a chance in dying. Compare this to Canada for example, where 1 in 4000 women die from pregnancy complications. It's not that Yemeni women are physically different, but in most cases, the problem is due to a lack of proper medical treatment.

For example, a medicine called Oxytocin (costing approximately 60 Yemeni Riyals) stops bleeding during delivery. It is very cheap and yet can save a woman's life. We know that at least 5 % of all pregnant women need a caesarian section, if the actual number is lower than that it is not because women don't need it, but rather the service is not available. In Canada where I come from the percentage is 20%.

### Q: How many mothers are dying in

A: According to the UNFPA, the Maternal Mortality Ratio in Yemen is 570 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births. That means one in 19 Yemeni women will die of pregnancy complications. Compare Yemen's ratio to the ratio in North America which is has one out of 10,000 women dying from pregnancy complications. The ratio in Yemen is not just double, it's hundreds of times more. The fact is that most of these deaths take place during delivery.

A lot of people think that prenatal or antenatal care is the solution to maternity death, but it isn't the most important part of the mother's care. Most women die during delivery or just after delivery. Prenatal care is important but it is not the final answer. You can only identify 33% of pregnant women with complications ahead of time. It means that over 50% of the deaths can't be predicted and will happen during or just after delivery.

There are several cause for deaths during delivery but at least 25% of them die due to bleeding (see chart). A similar percentage die due to infection. Other significant causes include high blood pressure and unsafe abortion.

All of these complications are preventable. Mothers lives can be saved.

### Q: How can mothers' lives be saved?

A: There are three reasons or delays which lead to mothers dying. The first is that decision to seek care, the next delay is reaching the facility and the third is receiving the care. I recently heard of two cases of women in Sana'a

who were just two kilometers away from the hospital yet they died at home during delivery. The reason is that nobody made the decision to take these women to the hospital. The women herself may not be the one to make this decision. She might not have the money or the transportation...etc.

The next delay is reaching the facility especially in the rural areas. There is often a combination of factors where the husband waits until the situation deteriorates and the women is really ill. By the time he organizes a ride, thirty kilometers across the mountains to reach the facility, the mother reaches the hospital either dead or barely alive. And whether this facility is in Yemen or in the best hospital in the world, it's very difficult to save a nearly dead person.

The finally delay is receiving the care at the hospital. Sometimes there are no medications, or there is no doctor or midwife. The person in charge may make a bad decision. That is why part of my purpose here in Yemen is to give modern and up to date training to medical and reproductive health staff in

### Q: If a mother lives, what are risks after the delivery?

A: A condition called 'fistula' is one of the possible complications of an obstructed delivery especially for young girls. It is common in Ethiopia where because of the baby pushing for a long time against the mother's pelvis, a hole is created in the bladder or in the rectum. One million women worldwide suffer from fistulas caused by pregnancy complications. There are a lot of women here in Yemen who suffer from this and the consequences are tragic. These women are outcasts, unemployable, their husbands leave them and they can't have children again because in most cases their uterus or womb is destroyed. All of this could be prevented if more value was given to a woman's life.

### Q: Is it is about value then?

A: Women here in Yemen are like women in most of the developing world. It's about women's social situation and how much are they valued. I can't forget what a Yemeni women told me once in Sa'ada when I was trying to explain to her how to use the medication she said: "Oh don't explain it to me I am a *cow*, explain it to my husband!". That's what that woman thinks of herself, that she is a cow. Many women think very low of themselves.

If they don't value themselves, they don't felt they are worthy of help. Women's value in society needs to improve. Husbands need to prioritize their wives' health over other issues (including qat!). Education also plays an important role. Statistics convincingly show that if the level of women's education goes up, then maternal mortality goes down.

Many international agreements include the protection and improvement of women's lives yet many women continue to die from preventable pregnancy complications. This is clearly a violation of these women's human rights which were guaranteed in so many of these agreements.

### Q: Is maternal mortality a cause of other problems in the society?

A: When a mother dies, many times she leaves children behind who are more vulnerable to illness and death. So it is not only do women die, but the babies also die. Children under five years of age who have lost their mothers are five times more likely to die than children who have their mothers.

In addition, due to poor care during pregnancy and delivery, many women in Yemen have lost at least one or two babies. I can't get over it when they talk about it as a natural thing. I would have to work a year in Canada to come across a case where a mother has lost two babies.

### Q: What about other health indicators?

A: If you look at the statistics around the world, maternal mortality is still the worst health indicator between developed and developing countries. What I mean is that the infant death rate is 5 times higher in developing countries (as compared to developed countries) while the maternal mortality ratio is 17 times higher. It really hasn't changed much during the last few years. Infant mortality has improved because antibiotics are becoming more commonly used and this prevents many children from dying of infection. In contrast, the case is different for saving mothers' lives. Ineffective interventions such as promotion of antenatal care with little provision of labour and delivery care and the training of traditional birth attendant have had little impact on globally reducing the rate of mothers dying.

### Q: What about professional health

A: I think that this is a basic issue in saving mother's lives. Doctors or skilled midwives or birth attendants are the solution to improving pregnancy care. The greater the access to skilled professionals and adequate health facilities, the fewer the number of mothers who die. This is a basic problem in Yemen. I ask pregnant women where they plan to deliver and their answer is usually "at home". I ask them: do you have medicines in your house? Do you have oxygen in your house? Do you have a skilled attendant in your house? And the obvious answer is no. I want them to start thinking about it seriously and to realize that they need to deliver in a place with adequate facilities under the care of someone who can treat any complication they may have.

### Q: What about other reproductive health problems in Yemen?

A: Female gentile mutilation (FGM) causes significant reproductive health problems. Consequences of FGM range from pregnancy complications eg obstructed labor, recurrent abscesses, infertility, sexual problems and bleeding and death.

In addition to the problem of female gentile mutilation there is the HIV/AIDS. Although accurate numbers are not easily obtained, the disease does exist in Yemen and there are many cases reported especially in the coastal areas. Cervical cancer is also a preventable cause for women's death claiming 200,000 lives per year 80%. Most of these deaths are in developing countries such as Yemen. In developed countries there is a regular screening test, which is not routinely found in Yemen.

### Q: With these alarming numbers, isn't anything being done?

A: Yemen is one of the countries that ratified most international conventions that protect human rights, of which is the right to life, and the right to health.

There are specific convention for women such as the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The goal was to reduce maternal mortality by 75% by year 2015. In Yemen, this is far from happening. There are a number of traditions and policies in Yemen that hinder women's health.

For instance, a women need her husband's approval for any surgery and there is often restriction in access to birth control methods. Early marriage is a good example of a tradition which places a girl's life at risk. She is more likely to experience obstructed labor (and death) because her body hasn't fully developed.

As such, no government opposes safe motherhood, but until there is real action with legal ramifications, little will change. Isn't a man responsible for his wife's un-necessarily death? The government should be responsible to ensure safe motherhood.

There is a lot that could and must be done to help women in Yemen. Financial support must be given to programs related to women's health and this must be made a priority. Advocacy and lobbying for basic human right for mothers are essential. Influential individuals must champion the cause of safe motherhood.

### Q: Are there examples of initiatives that should be supported in Yemen?

A: There are several programs and projects that aim at improving maternity health in Yemen, for example the activities of the Association of Obstetricians and Midwives of Yemen. This Association is to be headed by Dr Arwa M. El-Rabee who is deputy minister of health for population and women's health. I think it is important that there is such a governmental department that focuses on women's health and doesn't just brush the topic aside. I think that leaders such as Dr. Arwa can help to give women's health the priority that it needs. The Association is providing training as well as establishing guidelines for safe and proper maternal care. The Association is trying to be a voice for women's health.

It is going to take a long time to change the situation, because it requires an infrastructural change. I mentioned those three delays and I would like to think of them as links in a chain. If one of the links breaks, the woman's life is threatened. The fact is that 15% of pregnant women are bound to have some complications naturally, but the vulnerability increases in countries like Yemen because of the three delays: the decision to seek care, no transportation and inadequate medical treatment. An infrastructural change is required and people have to take a social responsibility to make it happen.

# Q: As you are leaving Yemen, after 5 years of giving, is there anything you would want to leave behind?

A: As I leave Yemen, my desire is that the Yemeni people bear their social responsibility. It is not just the government – although it has a vital role. Care is available but so many women do not get to it. Often, somebody in their family did not take the responsibility for taking this woman to the hospital. Also the government in cooperation with health NGOs and health care workers, must continue to help the situation.

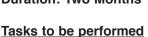
There are a lot of professional health workers who don't have a job and there are many places that are in dire need for those workers, but obviously no one works for free. This is the responsibility of the government to support these workers for women's health. In Canada if a mother dies there is a huge inquiry and people come together questioning, why did it happen? In Yemen, nobody outside the family may even know that the died!

Change takes time. The commencement of a women's health department at the ministry of health is a good step, through leadership of Dr. Arwa El Rabee. However, in the big picture, the society needs to take responsibility for mothers' health. The situation can be different. It will require individuals from many disciplines and expertise to creatively develop a more effective health care system for all Yemeni mothers. But each mother and baby are worth saving.

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the following position within its project "National Adaptation Programme of Action.

Post Title: Admin/Finance Officer Post Level: National UNV Duration: Two Months (starting May 2005)



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Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a Fax: 448841 E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday,14 April 2005

# Lakers playoff hopes dim after defeat by Spurs

Sun Apr 3, 2005 2:17 AM EST

TORONTO (Reuters) - The Los Angeles Lakers slumped to their 10th loss in 11 games on Saturday to leave the storied franchise on the brink of missing the postseason for the first time since 1994.

Brent Barry had 20 points, including the game winning lay-up with six seconds to play, as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Lakers 95-94.

Kobe Bryant had a chance to steal the win but watched his jumper rattle off the rim at the buzzer.

Frenchman Tony Parker had 17 points, nine assists and six rebounds for the Spurs who continue to be almost unbeatable at home, improving to 36-3 at the SBC Center.

Caron Butler had a game-high 27 for the Lakers while Bryant was held to 15 points and eight rebounds.

In East Rutherford, Steve Francis did it all for Orlando — scoring 33 points,

snaring seven rebounds, dishing out five assists and grabbing four steals to lead the Magic to a 103-102 win over the Nets.

Josh Howard added 15 points and DeShawn Stevenson had 14 for Orlando, who won for the third time in four games to stay in the chase for an Eastern conference playoff spot.

Rookie Nenad Krstic counted a career-high 28 points for the Nets while Vince Carter had 21 and Jason Kidd added 20 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists.

In New Orleans, Shaquille O'Neal pumped in 34 points and grabbed 15 rebounds while Dwyane Wade added 33 points and nine assists as the Miami Heat cruised to a 111-99 victory over the Hornets

It was another comfortable win for the Eastern conference leaders, who led by as much as 20 in third quarter on their way to improving their record to 55-19.

P.J. Brown had a season-high 21 for New Orleans while Speedy Claxton added 18.

In Chicago, Othella Harrington counted 22 points and Chris Duhon chipped in with a season-high 17 as Bulls stampeded past the Charlotte Bobcats 112-97 for their ninth straight win.

The Bulls continued their late season rampage without leading scorer Eddy Curry, who remained in the hospital with an irregular heartbeat and Luol Deng, sidelined with a sore wrist.

Bobcats Emeka Okafor underlined his rookie of the year credentials with another impressive display hitting the double-double with a game-high 28 points and 16 rebounds.

In Portland, Carmelo Anthony drained 23 points and hauled in six rebounds sparking the Denver Nuggets to a 103-97 win over the Trail Blazers, collecting their 17th win in 19 games but yet to lock up a Western conference playoff spot.



Illinois forwards Roger Powell (C) and Jack Ingram (R) battle Louisville forward Ellis Myles (L) for a rebound during second half action in the semifinal round of the 2005 NCAA men's Final Four tournament in St. Louis, Missouri, April 2. 2005. Illinois defeated Louisville 72-57 to advance to the national championship game.

# Illini face Tar Heels for NCAA title

ST. LOUIS (Reuters) - Top-seeds Illinois Illini and North Carolina Tar Heels will contest the NCAA championship final after convincing semi-final victories at the Final Four tournament on Saturday.

Luther Head and Roger Powell Jr. each scored 20 points as Illinois (37-1) overcame Louisville Cardinals 72-57. Standing in their way of a first national title on Monday will be the Tar Heels for whom Sean May scored 22 points in a 87-71 win over the Michigan State Spartans.

"We put April 4th on the board six weeks ago and we're playing April 4th in the national championship," said Illinois's Bruce Weber, the NCAA coach of the year.

"We are very excited."

Jack Ingram added nine points for Illinois and Dee Brown chipped in with eight, all in the first half.

Ellis Myles led the Cardinals (33-5) with 17 points, while Taquan Dean and

Larry O'Bannon added 12 apiece.

The teams played a tightly contested first half, with the Illini leading 31-28 at the intermission.

Louisville took the lead briefly early in the second half, but the Illini answered every challenge from the Cardinals, hitting numerous key 3-pointers to stay in front.

"Tonight our veteran team made the plays," said Ingram.

"I was glad we were able to go play our style of basketball."

North Carolina (32-4) will be seeking its first national championship since

1993 and fourth overall.
Jawad Williams added 20 points and Rashad McCants slipped in 17 points for the Tar Heels, who will look to give veteran coach Roy Williams his long-

awaited first national championship.
Williams is in his second year at his alma mater after 15 years at Kansas.

This is his fifth appearance in a Final Four and first with the Tar Heels, but the

national title has eluded him during his 17-year career.

"It was the kids," Williams said of his players. "The kids came out in the second half and played their tails off."

Raymond Felton chipped in with 14 points for the Tar Heels, who got almost all their scoring from four players.

Maurice Ager scored 24 points for Michigan State but the Spartans failed to hold on to a five-point first half lead against the nation's top-scoring team this year.

Tom Izzo's Spartans had reached the Final Four despite being just the fifth seed in the Austin region.

"We just didn't have enough weapons." Izzo said.

"They played awfully well, they deserved to win.

It's going to be, I think, a great championship game with the two number one

It's probably the way it's supposed to be."



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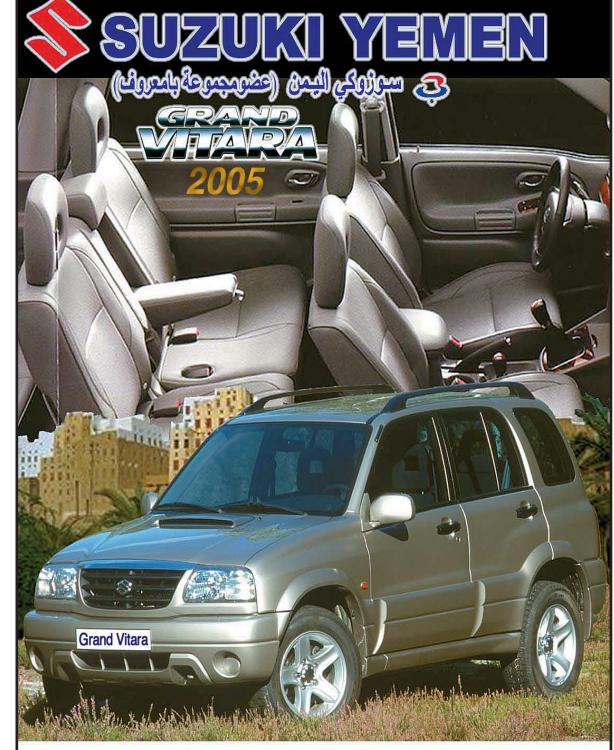
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# Impressions of Al Mahweet:

# "Almania tammam" "W' al Yemen kaman"



DIANA HEDRICH AL-MAHWEET

date I have worked and lived in Al Mahweet town for six months. My landlord who is my neighbor at the same time and his family have made me most welcome. He calls me his "European daughter", which brings the number of his daughters up to 6 and his total number of kids up to 8...

My established daily routine is as follows: Usually my day starts around 6.30 am - without electricity - but with the most beautiful view of the mountain ranges of Hofash and Bani Saad. Then I am off to work on a bumpy road with kids running behind my car greeting me "Diana, Diana, bye bye Diana".

Every day when I return from work on the same bumpy road the same procedure is being repeated: kids running alongside my car yelling "Diana, Diana, hello Diana". I think I will never be able to leave or enter my house without half of Al Mahweet knowing about it.

Upon my return from work there is always an Al Mahweeti speciality provided for me: my landlord's wife gives me some of her homemade bread. This is a soft, big, round, yummy pastry kind of chubz, that became an integral part of my daily diet. Some things you get used to very easily.

In the meantime, I became friends with three Mahweeti girls who studied English at Al Mahweet College. In my free time we often meet in order to do English and Arabic conversation. Then we talk about their life in mountainous Al Mahweet and my "former" life in Bonn on the Rhine River in Germany. Obviously, two very different worlds. And yet - right there in this mountain Mafradsch they meet.

And who of my colleagues from the German Development Service has not experienced this kind of marvelous standard conversation that takes place whenever meeting someone new?

The Yemeni/Mahweeti usually asks: Where are you from?"

I answer: "Ana min Almania".

Then the Yemeni/Mahweeti says smiling brightly: "Almania tammam".

My reply is - smiling at least as

And I have already started feeling a little bit Mahweeti myself....

brightly: W' al Yemen Kaman.'

Diana Hedrich (German Development Service/CARE

International in Yemen) Technical Advisor on Project Cycle Management in the framework of the "Western Highlands Rural Community development project" funded by the European Commission and CARE Germany, implemented by CARE International in Yemen in cooperation with the Al Mahweet Agricultural and Irrigation Office.

### A letter to the teachers of English: 80

## How to use what you have learnt in the faculties?



Dr..M.N.K.Bose (BOSE@y.net.ye) **Associate Professor of** English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

ecently I read a thesis of a researcher in a Faculty of Education, an interesting piece of work; he has studied the impact of the teacher education programmes in the English classrooms, though he didn't call it by this name. The researcher has found that there is a wide gap between the language teacher education offered at the Faculties of Education in this country and the teaching of English in the schools; this is what I have been saying for a long time. I wish this study is taken up on a large scale with the help of the Ministry of Education, not only for English but also for all the subjects for which the teachers are prepared in the Faculties of Education, because, having spent a lot of hard currency on the teacher education programme (the dollars paid to the foreign experts in the Faculties), which I have discussed in my early letters, the Ministry has the responsibility to know if the Faculties of Education deliver the goods: alternatively, the Faculties of Education themselves can undertake this study in order to make sure that their curricula are effective and to modify them, if necessary. Teacher education, especially the language teacher education is an expensive commodity in this country, and unless it is put to proper use, it is going to cause a great damage.

In this letter, let me suggest how you can use the teacher education you have had in the Faculties of Education. I have said enough about the need for updating the English curriculum of the Faculties of Education to suit the needs of the teachers of English. Several articles

have also appeared in Yemen Times to strengthen my point of view. In my earlier letters, I have presented the challenges that are awaiting the teachers of English in schools. Unless the Faculties of Education modify their curriculum with these challenges in mind, teachers will be left in the classrooms without much help; the result will be that each teacher does whatever he or she thinks best, irrespective of whether the students in these classes learn English or not. All this will end up doing injustice to the younger generation.

In the present set up, with the present teacher education programme, which is not adequate, what can you do in your classes? Use the teaching materials - the Pupil's Book, the Workbook and the Teacher's Book - wisely. The first two are used in almost all classes but the third one is hardly available in all schools. Even if available, they are sparingly used by the teachers; this is what is shown in the thesis that I have just read. The Teacher's Books have been prepared for each class with a lot of care and concern for the teachers. They present all the necessary details for each class: what the teacher should do to introduce vocabulary, to teach reading, to teach writing, to teach grammar etc. This is nothing but a printed lesson plan and new teachers need no other help, if they use the Teacher's Books.

Lesson planning is essential for a teacher; I will write about it in detail later. The Teacher's Books are an invaluable and inevitable help for writing lesson plans. Read each unit in it and write your lesson plan in your words (there is no harm even if you copy it as your lesson plan). The techniques suggested for each lesson, if followed scrupulously, will enable you to teach the lesson successfully. Try it. Good

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

### **English for special purposes**

# **English for science and technology**



By Dr. Ramakanta Sahu ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FACULTY OF EDUCATION **MAHWEET** 

ver the past few years, there has been a steady increase in focus on the use of a specialized variety of English for specific disciplines. This is broadly known as register- based English or English for special purposes (ESP). M. A. K. Halliday, a prominent linguist, defines 'register' as 'language distinguished according to 'use' not to 'user'. Within the broad framework of general English, register based use of English forms a subset where there is high correlation between linguistic features and subject matter. The individual style or idiolect has no place in register simply because the focus in on 'use' and not the 'user'. Examples of register based use of English are :English for Science and Technology (EST), English for Business and Trade (EBT), Legal English, Religious English and so forth.

Let's look at some of the main features of EST. In science and technology, language is used to define, classify, report, explain, and prove. Clarity of concepts and logical thinking are very important cornerstones of scientific English. Keith Jones and Peter Roe in their seminal paper "Designing English for Science and Technology" (1975) rightly point out that the central concern of EST is the accessibility of knowledge. 'We thus need a rhetoric that reveals how knowledge is mapped into the print and sound system of English.'

The language here serves a purely referential purpose. Objectivity and impersonal tone are the watchwords in science and technology. Most often it is concerned with the referential or propositional meaning of language and not with the pragmatic or a socio-linguistic meaning. The latter is used in a context where the speaker or writer has a particular listener or reader with a distinct socio-cultural background in mind. Obviously, the language in science and technology is valued for objective, propositional content, where an interrogative structure means a question and a declaration is embedded in a state-

English for science and technology is a variety of language usage. Here the language is manifested in a certain way in the expression of concepts and procedures that characterizes the study of science and technology. Language, per se according to this view is not of vital importance in so far as the its basic concern is with the purely symbolic operations of the language. Hence words are primarily associated with, what MAK Halliday calls, "the heuristic and representational functions" as contrasted with "personal and interactional function." Therefore words used in English for science and technology have to be immune to any cultural associations or implications.

There is a high degree of correlation between grammatical structures and the purpose of language. As far as the style

of writing is concerned, there is little scope for individual style of writing. As a natural corollary of this, a greater emphasis is put on the language 'use' and not the 'user'. Moreover, there is little consideration for role relationships

In view of these features, the teacher of EST is ultimately concerned with teaching language as a linguistic system. There is a greater accent put on the 'use' rather than 'usage' with a shift of emphasis from 'grammar' to 'rhetorical acts'. As such, in teaching the register of science, there is no scope to focus on language as a social system in order to preserve its objectivity.

The most important purpose of English for science and technology is, so to say, not to show how beautifully one can write, how wide is one's vocabulary, how varied is one's sentence structure ,but to focus on its referential, roles and functions. Keeping this in view, English for science and technology should be properly taught and learnt.

# Rooting out malpractice in exams



Cost

By Hasan Ba-Udan HADHRAMUT University. HADHRAMOUT

heating in all its forms has been strictly forbidden by our prophet (PBUH).Yet it is a pity that cheating in the exam seems to be legitimized in the opinion of many students and teachers. In order to justify this practice; they provide arguments as feeble as the web of a spider. Some of them hold the view that peeping at one's answer paper is not a crime. Nothing can be farther from truth than this.In fact, some answers can be copied by a single swift glance, especially, in yes-no questions. As a result, an unintelligent student might get high marks through such swift glances.

Secondly, the view that cheating in exams is wide spread,not only in their

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Appropries as an ancient

schools, but in many other schools is a high schools but in colleges as well. A silly justification! We must imitate others good morals not their immoral practices. Teachers must do their best in fighting this endemic phenomenon. On pass the exam. Moreover, some teachers' leniency in invigilation encourages students to cheat. The parents and teachers are considered the most effective role models for children. They must be aware of the far reaching ill-consequences of this act of deception on the child's blossoming personality and the evolving pattern of behavior. The child is most likely to consider cheating normal or perfectly legitimate in later life, unless the evil practice is nipped in the bud in his childhood. This act may as well be reflected in his treatment with

others. Cheating now is not only rampant in

cheating graduate will perpetrate more harm to his society rather than benefit it. Undoubtedly, the to-day's cheat will be a burden on his society as he will not the part of students, they must work be professionally equipped for the posihard from the beginning of the session tion to which he is nominated. The curso that there is no painful necessity to rent prevalence of corruption in private resort to cheating as the only means to and government organizations may be due to the unchecked illegal practice in schools in the past. The young deceiver of today will be the matured criminal of tomorrow. That is because it is very hard for someone accustomed to a certain habit to abandon it. It is high time for us all to seriously ponder about the country's future. No country can ever improve by unqualified, pseudo teachers, doctors, engineers, architects etc.

There can be no second opinion about the fact that cheating is most certainly a destructive factor for the progress and prosperity of the society. The dismal consequence of this heinous practice is borne out by the fact that

CAR MASNITENANCE

now we have a large number of school graduates who are of low calibre and substance.

The main reason behind the deterioration of quality in the educational field is students' dependence on cheating which drives them to neglect preparing for exams.

There must be an urgent solution for this corrupt practice. A cooperative effort between school and family will positively help eradicate it. The school should not be lenient with those cheats and impose a strict code of punishment against them. A student will not cheat when he knows that he will be fired from school. In addition to that, the school administration must be strict against those careless invigilators who let students cheat. On the other hand, the parents must exercise moral influence on their children and make sure that they are studying. If all gates of cheating are locked, the students will depend on themselves to pass the exam.

Solution: 7 lothers:

### Poetry Corner

### For your sake, dear ones

I hate hucledy bucledy I do like things be goody I am always feeling huppy Let my students be ready To read my notes with memory Don't forget to hard study And get more points goody

Be familiar and happy With peers not be melancholy God bless you and make merry

> By Dr. Abbas Naama University of Hodeidah Faculty of Education Department of English



### When dreams come true

happened yesterday. Two years ago, I lived in Hodeidah, with my family, and used to teach in a high school. There, I spent the most beautiful days of my life which I will never forget. In fact ,what made my days more interesting were my three nieces with whom I truly shared my happiness.

One day I was in my room standing. It was very dark so I could not recognize anything around me. I was crying and was scared to death. Two of my nieces were also crying, holding me tightly. We were all standing around a dead body, aged about seven. It was the body of my third niece, Shiema, who had been killed.

A short time later, I saw the killer holding a gun in his hand standing aside the dead body. I was not afraid of him as if I knew him well. As we were crying one of my nieces asked me whether Shiema would go to paradise, and the answer immediately came from my mouth, "Yes, she will". I added that she would go to paradise for she was an innocent girl, or so I thought.

I suddenly woke up filled with panic, fear, and sweat. I carried myself and went to my nieces' room. They were all sleeping peacefully and their faces

were shining. Then, I felt greatly relieved for it was such a dreadful dream. In the morning, I told my dream to my family, but no one cared about it. However, Shiema, whom I saw as dead last night, hugged me smiling as if she was newly born.

Two months later, my dream came true. One evening, we arrived in Sana'a to spend a few days with my parents. Next morning, while Shiema was playing with her sisters, she had a terrible accident. She was seriously injured. After she spent two days in the hospital, she died.

Five years on, she is still inside our hearts and well-remembered by others, too. No one can forget her beautiful eyes nor the wonderful days she spent with us. It is a fact that she is so far from us, but her soul is still flying with wafts of scent around. This event took place on September 26, 2000, and really it was the worst dream that unfortunately came true!

By Ashwaq Saleh Ahmed Faculty of Arts Department of English, University of Science and Technology,

Ashwaq-m@maktoob.com

### My heart

My heart loves life My soul longs to live My mind likes to rest So, I pray to God Who gives me peace Who fills my space.

> I long to obey I long to kneel

I long to muse So, I pray to God Who helps me to deal Who helps me to heal.

I desire to magnify I desire to forgive I desire to believe So, I pray to God

Who protects me every Who sees me in every way.

By Faiza Ali Al-Hamzi Faculty of Education **Department of English** Sana'a University

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### by DAVID OUE:LLET

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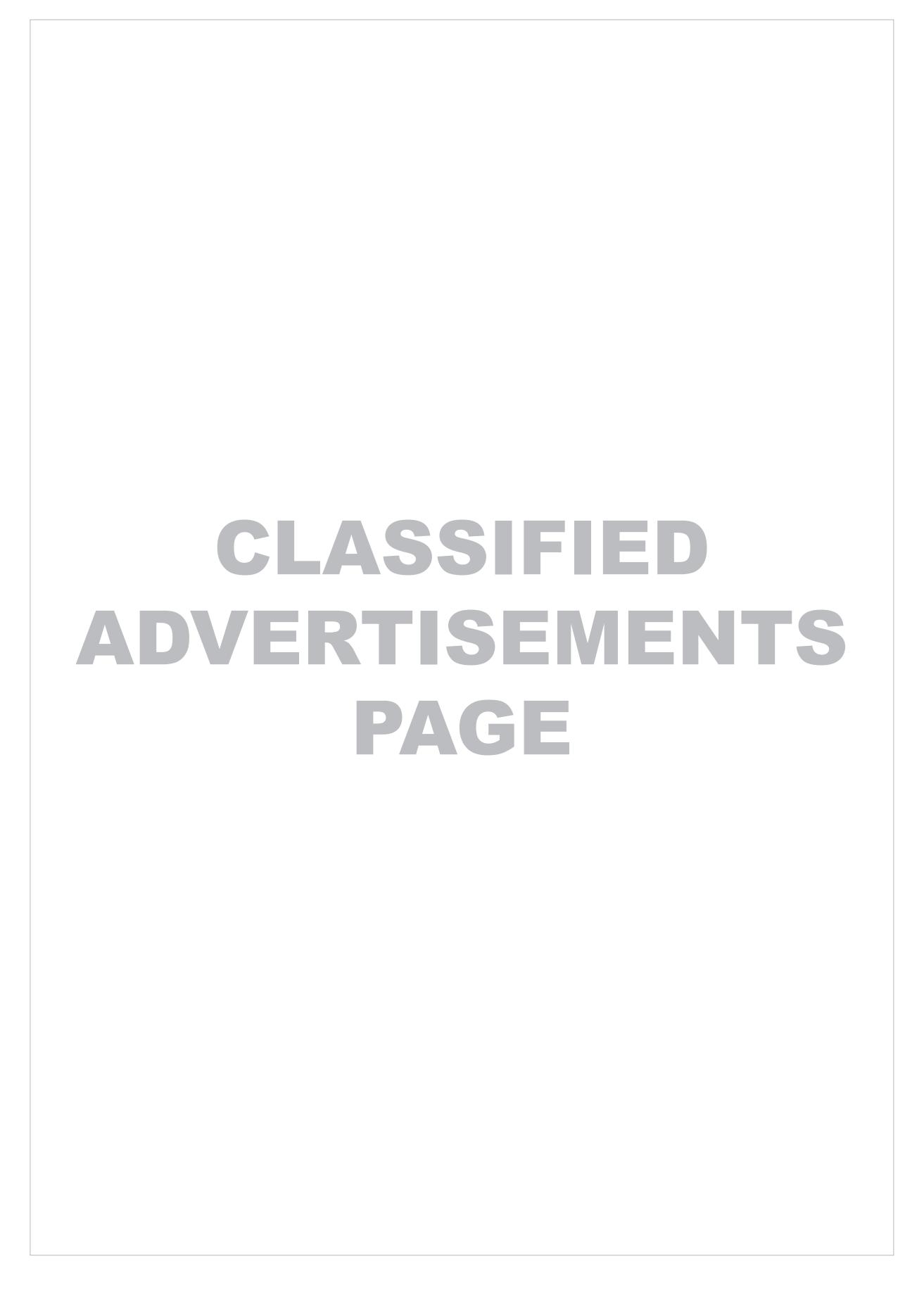
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معنا بعرفك الحميع

# A story of a prodigy

YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMSE STAFF

ecently a seven year old school kid named Moneer M.Moassa Al-Shabi visited the Yemen He Times. accompanied by his father who was wearing a military uniform. The staff of the Newspaper was getting ready to leave, and no one knew the guests at the moment. .

Many ideas came to their minds as a result of his coming in his uniform to an independent newspaper. That was not normal for them because the newspaper is caring about the citizen in society and would not have caused unwanted intrusion of military personnel.

Silence prevailed, while every body would take a look upon the father and his child but Moneer overtook them by a quiet genius smile which wasted their fear and worry.

The father of the child told them that he is came here to introduce everyone to his smart boy who may be a miracle. Asking them to make an interview with him after making sure of his cleverness by testing him in different scopes such as mathematics and geography or other scientific fields.

He declared that Moneer can easily multiply a large mathematical operation with thousands numbers.



I went with them to the editing room because the subject was really appealing and before starting with them, Moneer picked up the newspaper

and started to translate some words

Moneer's father confirmed, "My boy is so clever and quiet, when he was three years old, he was known as an intelligent boy and since that time I tried to test his cleverness many times. One day, one of my friends stopped me while I was walking in the street with my son.

After the greetings, he gave me his mobile number and I did not have a pen at that time however I memorized the number and left.

"Once I was at home I tried to remember the number of but in vain. "The surprise was that Moneer

memorized the number and gave it to me, and since that time I believed that my son has a great talent and he will have a great future. So I have been trying my best to develop that talent and preserve it as a gift from Allah."

"How did you hold to develop his knowledge?" I asked his father.

He replied "I let him listen to me and his brothers while I teach them, he memorizes the information from the first time and I teach him the Arabic and English alphabets and the names of Allah.

"Then I bought the Atlas for him. He alsomemorizes the names of the capitals of the Arab countries.

"He could speak English when he was four years old."

"Did he attract the attention of others?" I asked.

"Yes, of course he did. You know that our traditions are not free from

gatherings, especially in the Qat meetings where we exchange speech. I am used to taking my son with me to these meetings and the people get very surprised. They get interested in him as they find that he can answer their difficult questions, Some of them give him their phone numbers to ask him to retell them."

"MBC channel hosted him, how was that prepared?" I asked.

"One day earlier, I watched the T.V. (Dwreed's World Program) on MBC channel which was presented every Thursday by the famous star and actor Mr. Dwreed Laham.

"This program was specialized in hosting the distinctive children and I wondered why that no child from Yemen was ever present.

"Then, I sent a film of my genius child in order for him to participate with them in the program.

"Moneer was selected to participate in the program after a conversation on the phone with him. however Moneer amazed them extremely by his information, so the channel decided to host him."

The child answered difficult questions on geography and mathematics.

He declared that he can memorize so many things, and wished to be a space scientist to discover the unknown.

Moneer likes to watch T.V, scientific programs and kids programs too.

Moneer is known to many statesmen whom are wondering at his character but he would like to meet the president in the future.

Finally, I say, "It's a story of a child which really deserves attention".





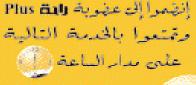
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