

Opposition questions GPC seriousness

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The opposition Joint Meeting Parties (a coalition including Islah, Socialists, Nasserites and other five small parties) refused to join the dialogue proposed by the ruling General Peoples' Congress (GPC) unless the agenda of the dialogue is set and agreed upon beforehand.

Sultan al-Attwani, the Nasserite Secretary-General told Yemen Times that the opposition parties stipulate that the GPC deals with them as a coalition rather than separate parties as well as setting a timetable for the dialogue. "We were invited to the dialogue, we welcomed

this initiative that came as a response to our calls. We told the GPC that there must be a timetable and arrangement for the issues to be debated and discussed. The reply was that our request will be discussed and then they will respond to it. We are still awaiting their answer," he said.

The ruling party said that the opposition coalition requested at the opening session of dialogue and that the GPC-favored National Council Parties be not involved in the dialogue. Dr. Abdul-Karim al-Eryani, GPC Secretary General, insisted however, that the dialogue should include the 21 parties licensed by the Parties Committee.

"We know beforehand that the GPC is going to say so. We are interested in the dialogue. But, dealing with us as separated parties is a good signal that the GPC is not serious about dialogue; The GPC has the right to dialogue with whosoever but we will join the dialogue with it as one bloc for the opposition parties," al-Attwani said.

"There must be an agenda and issues for the dialogue. It is not just media propaganda. We have political, economic reforms and other issues that need to be discussed. It is now at the hand of the ruling party and we hope that it will respond positively to our letter to prove it is serious about it."

The GPC Permanent Committee's

last meeting notice had called on opposition parties to join a dialogue based on national principles, law, and the constitution. This was in the wake of protests against the sales tax sweeping the country in the middle of last month.

Political observers believe that the technique of dialogue and deliberation promoted by GPC leaders enhances the opposition's air of caution especially as the dialogue invitation goes against the GPC's recent accusations and smear campaigns against some opposition parties conducted by official and Ruling Party's newspapers. They are also carrying out an ongoing policy of duplicating parties as well as threatening to dismantle existing parties.



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Yemen & Syria sign 13 agreements



Bajamal (right) and Attri during press conference. YT photo by M. al-Qadhi

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and Syria signed 13 agreements and executive programs of cooperation, covering economic, marine, transport, trade, culture, education, media, justice, environment and other areas on Monday.

In a press conference, PM Abdulqader Bajamal said that Yemen and Syria decided to establish a joint sea transportation firm, confirming the meeting with his Syrian counterpart Mohammed Attri yielded positive results as it highlighted the imperative of exchange of trade and fishing in Yemen.

The Yemeni Prime Minister complained that the trade exchange is not very good at the moment. "There are some problems facing the boost of Yemeni-Syrian trade exchange and we have discussed how to overcome them," he said.

He pointed out that the current low level of trade exchange estimated at \$20 million per year is contrary to the hopes of the two countries in boosting their economic ties. He further explained that the two sides have agreed to involve the private sector as a main partner in the economic relations as the weak rate of exchange trade is due to the whole dependence on the public sector.

He disclosed that several agreements between the two countries have been signed but without enactment. A reliable source at the Cabinet told Yemen Times that over 100 agreements between the two countries have never been put into practice. "This is an Arab characteristic that we sign agreements without implementing them," said Bajamal. However, he said that a special committee has been set up to follow up the implementation of such agreements. He further said that the two sides agreement to establish a fishing firm to work in favor of Syria in Yemen.

On the political level, he reiterated

Yemen's support to Syria against the pressure it is under, particularly from the US. "We support Syria, our hearts support our Syrian brethren, and we will still support them. Syria was a staunch supporter of Yemen's unification and revolution."

The Syrian premier challenged the Arab countries that Israel said have the intention to normalize their relations with it. "It is up to them to normalize or not. We will see the results. These countries will pay a high price for taking such a step. Syria will stay firm in its position," he said.

The Syrian official said that his country was maintaining dialogue with all countries including the United States and that Syria prioritizes the support of fair peace in the region, regaining of occupied Arab lands and establishment of democracy.

During his meeting with the Syrian delegation, President Saleh praised the Syrian decision to withdraw its troops from Lebanon as that, according to him, would thwart any excuses that makes it a target.

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As to be specifies for Marine Forces People of Makha lose livings

By IMAD AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of Makha citizens warned of the catastrophic consequences of specifying the seaport of Makha, for the ships of marine forces.

They expressed their concern over the status of the port after implementing this decree, which was revealed in the meeting minuet of Ministers of Finance, Defense, and Transportation, Deputy Chief of Customs Authority, and Commander of Marine Forces and Coastal Defense.

The minuet stated that part of the port yard, a store, and the eastern side

of the harbor's berth, 175 in length, should be submitted to the marine forces.

"The implementation of this decree mean the end of the trade city of Makha, and for those people who depend principally on the harbor in securing their livings," Mohammed Hassan Obadi, Financial Official of Makha Harbor, said.

"The monthly port's income exceeded US\$ 70,000 from the live-stock and oil ships and nearly YR 3- 5 million from other sources," Obadi explained, 'have mercy on the officers and workers of the port.'

Continued on page 3



Some sources reported that the port of Makha annually provides the public budget with about YR 1 billion from customs of which 70% are earned from cattle trade.

PWC expresses solidarity with war prisoners

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, April 17- The Palestinian Women's Committee (PWC) held a symposium to express solidarity with war prisoners in Israeli jails on World Prisoner Day.

The symposium, under the slogan "Freedom for prisoners of freedom", was attended by legal specialist al-Abeed Ahmad al-Abeed, UNDP officials in Yemen, and Basheer Mohammad, officer of Palestinian war prisoners' affairs.

The symposium recommended the increase of popular efforts to express

solidarity with war prisoners and pressure the Zionist authorities to free them, as well as to reporting the sufferings of detainees in the media.

The symposium suggested the activation of the Arab and international media to disclose facts, breaches of international conventions and violations practiced under Israeli occupation.

It called on civil society organizations, human rights institutions and lawyers' syndicates in Yemen to draw more attention to the Palestinian issue and to collect donations for detainees and war prisoners.

Justice Minister urges partnership between judiciary and media

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- April 18, Dr. Adnan al-Jefri stated in a press conference that a partnership between judiciary and media is essential and that his ministry is planning to hold a comprehensive meeting to cover the prosecution of journalists and closures of publications.

The meeting aims to enhance contact and cooperation between the judiciary and the media, establish the status of judiciary and protect the rights and freedoms of journalists.

He stressed that judges and journalists are the two main guarantors of justice and expressed concern over the violations practiced against the judiciary and media, which he describes as being targeted against

national unity.

Al-Jefri urged the journalists at the meeting to team up with judiciary officials to fight corruption.

The Justice Minister confirmed the strategy of developing and updating the judiciary, due to be announced in the second half of the year, will include a study on the actual levels of partnership between the media and the judiciary.

Both the judiciary and the media witnessed a series of controversies and heated arguments over the past few years due to the trials of some journalists and closure of newspapers. This made journalists lose their trust in judiciary apparatuses.

Dr Adnan al-Jefri is one of the active ministers who exerts effort to bringing journalists and the judiciary together to serve the goals of each.



Dr. Adnan al-Jefri

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 dialogue between the GPC ruling party and opposition parties is imperative step towards boosting national unity?

Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Are the amendments to the press law by the government going to be in favour of press freedom?

No 56%
Only if the syndicate approves them 34%
Yes 10%

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

US Embassy organizes two workshops

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a recently organized two workshops to support Yemeni civil society. One focused on supporting the Yemeni parliament and the other to directly supporting Yemeni civil society organizations.

The IRC, in partnership with the University of Technology and in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), sponsored a two-day workshop on 'Basic Concepts of Information Technology on April 11 and 12, 2005. The workshop will be attended by members of the Parliament, parliamentary committee staff, and parliamentary personnel. The

workshop was offered as part of the IRC's PC Literacy Training (PCLT) program that aims at eradicating PC illiteracy and bridging the digital divide gap.

The IRC also conducted a two day workshop on 'Proposal Writing and Submission Techniques' for female civil society activists on April 10 and 11. The workshop centered on the first module of the IRC-developed 'Becoming the Source in Resource' training program that also includes 'Project Management Essentials', 'International Communication Skills', and 'Advanced Internet Research Techniques'. The University of Technology in Sana'a hosted the training. Twenty-five female participants took part in the training, which was

conducted by the IRC Director, Hisham Al-Omeisy. The training focused on proposal concepts and writing techniques and strategies. It also included a step-by-step walk-through of international proposal standards and best practices. Submission strategies and follow up techniques were also introduced and discussed. The female participants came from a variety of civil society backgrounds, including NGOs, political parties, journalism, academia, and government.

Italy writes off Yemen's debts

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and Italy signed an agreement on April 13, regarding exchanging Yemen's debts to Italy.

The meeting minuet included the agreement on the first development projects that is financed in the frame of the agreement of the cancellation of debts which reach to US\$ 11 million

provided that the agreement will be executed at the beginning of the next year after completing all technical procedures by both the sides.

The agreement was signed by Ahmed Al-Fadhli, Deputy Minister of Finance, representing the Yemeni side and Federica Ferrari Bravo, Director of Middle East Department in the Italian Foreign Ministry representing Italy.

Husband throws wife and children in well

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The area of Dhubab, located on the Red Sea coast Sea witnessed a tragic incident on April 15, when Fadhil Awadh Qasim, 40, threw his wife along with her children in a deep deserted well, killing one of his sons. His wife was injured along with her daughters.

The father committed the crime after long-running disputes with his family.

The authorities are still interrogating the father to determine the motives behind the crime.

Security officer and civilian killed in shootout

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

TAIZ- A security officer, Majed Naji al-Mekhlafi, was killed a few days ago along with Mohammad al-Haj al-Shamiri, a local wanted by the authorities. Two soldiers were wounded while storming al-Shamiri's house.

The exchange of fire occurred between Mohammad al-Shamiri and the policemen after al-Shamiri refused to attend to court for an alleged charge.

Wife kills herself after quarrel with husband

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Taiz, April 10- A 25 year-old lady has committed suicide by pouring petroleum on her body and setting herself alight.

After being badly wounded, the victim Abeer Hisham was rushed way to al-Thawrah General Hospital where she died.

Sources revealed that the lady often fought with her husband, who used to severely beat her and accuse her of adultery, and that this was probably why she killed herself.

The security authorities are still investigating the case to confirm the motives behind the suicide.

Meeting on media and population

ISMAIL AL-GHABERI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A meeting organized by the National Population Council in collaboration with the Public Program for Media and Population Communication was held on April 16 to introduce the National Strategy for Media, Awareness and Population Communication.

The meeting aimed to introduce the

ways in which participants should treat population and reproductive health issues in the media. It aimed to raise awareness of issues of population, development, family planning, and governmental efforts in this respect. It discussed the role played by the political parties and civil society organizations in raising public awareness.

More than one hundred people from all provinces attended the meeting.

Vacancy Announcement

The Social Welfare Fund Support Project financed by the European Commission is anticipating two job openings for its extension period for Yemeni nationals. These concern:

National Expert Training & National Expert Coaching

- Requirements for both positions include:**
- University degree in a relevant subject;
 - Experience in development work in general and human resources development in particular;
 - Fluency both spoken and written in Arabic and English;
 - Computer literate;
 - Available in early June 2005.

The project welcomes applications from both female and male candidates. Applications should be in English and should include an application letter and an updated CV. Applications should be received in the project office on 27 April at 12:00 hours (noon) latest. Applications can be sent by mail, email or be delivered at the project office.

Applications are to be addressed to:
Teamleader SWF Support Project
P.O. Box 4304, Sana'a
Email: SWFEU@y.net.ye

For further information please call the project office
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United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has the following vacant posts:

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VACANCY

A jointly foreign-local investment company seeks to hire a

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- Computer literate

Interested candidate please send your CV to fax No. 01- 427774, Sana'a

AESDF grants Yemen \$50 million

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- April 17. A loan agreement was signed on Sunday between the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund (AESDF).

Under the agreement the AESDF will grant Yemen \$50 million to contribute to funding the third phase of the project of the Social Fund for Development.

The money will be used for funding service and development projects in different economic and social sectors, particularly small enterprises implemented by the Social Fund for Development.

Two Yemeni students die in car accident in Malaysia

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Two Yemeni students doing their higher studies in Malaysia died in a car accident, while three of their colleagues who also injured.

They were in the highway going to Kuala Lumpur International Airport since one of them was intending to depart to Yemen.

Kuala Lumpur & Jakarta package special offer

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IFES report recommends changes to Yemen's election law

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

SANA'A- April 19- IFES- Yemen has submitted a report to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) recommending significant changes to Yemen's election law.

IFES- Yemen Country Director Dr. Paul Harris said that the country's 2003 parliamentary elections are recognized as a significant improvement on previous elections. However, they also suggested that amendments need to be made to the election law before the presidential and local council elections scheduled for 2006 and the parliamentary elections due in 2009. These amendments should improve the partiality and transparency of the electoral process and deal with a number of omissions, procedural gaps and technical issues in the law.

The report is the result of a yearlong process of consultations and discussions with the SCER, with representatives of 13 political parties and with local and domestic NGOs. This transparent, parliamentary approach to law reform helps strengthen democratic governance. IFES provided a neutral venue for groups representatives to express concerns about the necessary changes to the law and suggest improvements.

The report contains a total of 56 recommendations to the law for action by the SCER. It covers the composition of election committees, voter registrations, boundary delimitation, candidate nominations, voting and counting processes, elections campaigns and finance, local council elections and other matters. The report also contains a draft election law, which incorporates the changes recom-

mended in the report. The report is available in Arabic and English on the IFES website (www.ifes.org).

"It is now up for the SCER, the government and parliament to consider the recommendations in the IFES report and proposals submitted by the political parties and local NGOs so that amendments to the law can be made well before next year's elections," Dr. Harris said.

IFES is an international, non-profit organization that supports the building of democratic societies by providing expert technical assistance in all areas of democratization and civic education. IFES has worked in Yemen since 1993 and has had an office in Sana'a since 1999. IFES-Yemen is providing training and locally defined technical assistance to the Yemeni Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum.

Saudi prince hails ties with Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Saudi Second Deputy Premier, Defense Minister and the General Inspector Prince Sultan Bin-Abd-al-Aziz stated on 17 April that Yemeni-Saudi relations are the best they have ever been.

During a meeting with the Civil

Services Minister Hamud Khalid al-Sufi, who is currently visiting Riyadh, the Saudi prince underlined significance of these relations, pointing to the importance of opening the door for more joint cooperation between the two brotherly countries in various fields.

Al-Sufi told Saba that he had con-

veyed a letter to Prince Sultan from the Yemeni political leadership related to enhancing the bilateral relations between the two countries.

He said the Yemeni-Saudi relations have witnessed continued progress, particularly since the Jeddah border treaty was signed in 2000.

Society News

- Sisters Arab Forum has organized a seminar on the ten years following the Beijing Conference on Women, focusing on the Yemeni experience. The seminar was conducted yesterday at Sana'a International Hotel.
- A training course for teachers on Illiteracy Eradication and Adult Learning was concluded last Wednesday in Hajjah. The course was financed by Care Organization and aimed at acquainting participants with the necessary skills for eradicating illiteracy and activating the role of women.
- The Child Rights Society (CRS) organized an award ceremony on April 16 in Aden in which over 152 orphans from different schools across the governorate were awarded on the occasion of the World Orphan Day.
- The Yemeni Women's Union in Taiz concluded on April 13 the special symposium on ways of cooperating with women to overcome living difficulties and other barriers that hinder their development.
- The Bahraini "Women First Conference" awarded on April 17 the monument of political participation to Mrs. Ramzia al-Eriani Chief of the Yemeni Women's Union in recognition of her effective participation in functions of the conference.
- The government and non-governmental organizations reviewed in Sana'a on April 16 the national strategy for media and population awareness on health and population.
- A meeting on a project to support girls' primary education was held in Sana'a on April 17. The event, which was organized by Ad-dali Center in cooperation with Sabafon Mobile Company, aimed at raising public awareness and helping girls get access to education.
- The Taiz Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a training course on the commercial transactions from April 19-22 with the participation of 60 trainees from different trade institutions.
- Oil company DNO ASA reported on Monday (18 April) oil production of 13,783 barrels per day (BOPD) in March 2005. Oil production in Norway in March amounted to 1,616 BOPD and in Yemen to 12,167 BOPD. The average production for the three-month period January-March 2005 amounted to 14,092 BOPD. Oil production in Norway was 1,601 BOPD and in Yemen 12,491 BOPD. — Reuters

Alanssi sentenced to 5 years probation

BY ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Mohammed Alanssi, a Yemeni immigrant who set himself on fire outside the White House last year, after giving testimony in the recent case against cleric Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad and his aide Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed. Both defendants, who are also from Yemen, were convicted in March of conspiring to provide material support, including

financing, to Hamas and al-Qaida.

Alanssi was given five years probation on Monday for bank fraud after federal prosecutors extolled his work as an informant in a major terrorism case.

He admitted to writing thousands of dollars in bad checks while helping the FBI in several terrorism investigations. He suffered from psychological disorders especially with the cancer illness of his late wife and had admitted to torturing himself earlier.

Continued from page 1

People of Makha lose livings

Mohammed Abdullah al-Ossili, member of the local council in Makha, got surprised when hearing the news, described this decree as improvised, taken haphazardly, and it does not signify but murdering the port absolutely, though the president issued a decree on specifying the port for livestock. The port was accordingly included in the plan of developing ports.

"It will directly harm the people's livings," Al-Ossili added.

The locals, Sheikhs, members of the local councils of Makha, Thubab, and Mawza complained to the governor of Taiz, President of the Local Council.

to regain its rights being possessed by the seafaring companies, after letting them have alternative settlements in Hodeida. It also suggested that they should take a decision from the Minister of Transportation to divide the Makha port into two: one for the marine forces and the other to be managed by Customs Authority similarly like what happened to Ras Eisa port. They asked for deciding the date on which the new decision will be implemented in order to know how to make the accountancy procedures.

It is worth mentioning that a meeting headed by Alawi Al-Salami,



Mohammed Abdullah al-Ossili



Mohammed Hassan Obad

They exposed the various dangers that will be faced by all inhabitants, merchants, and seafaring agents since the rest of the port, 150 meters in length, is not enough for them to perform their activities.

The letter expressed that there are some projects, such as the Cement Factory of Abdulqawi Al-Humaiqani, that is supposed to start working after two months as well as another subordinate project. Another project by the Red Sea Organization is building three blockages, which are to be used for receiving, keeping and exporting livestock to neighboring countries. Some tanks will be built to store oil from the ships of Ghee and Soap Company, and the oils of Hayel Saeed Anam Group yet, all of them exploit the entire berth.

The letter was concluded with recommending the obedience to the state instructions, confirming the availability of many options at the hand of the Ports Establishment that will achieve the purpose.

A letter from the Director of Board of Directors of the Ports Public Establishment (PPE), requested the Minister of Finance, Minister of Transportation, and Deputy Minister of Ports and Marine Affairs to form a committee to count all PPE assets and find out solutions. It recommended that they should have an interim period, supposedly three months, for PPE

Minister of Finance, along with Minister of Transportation, Minister of Defense, Commander of Marine Forces and Coastal Defense and Deputy-Chief of Customs Authority was held. It discussed the execution of the Cabinet's decree No. (1), for the year 2005 dated Jan. 4 2005, according to the presidential directives No. (2), approving 175 meters, store No. 4, and 500 square meters in an area that does not cause any hindrance for customs work, should be specified for the marine forces. There should also be coordination with the Minister of Oil to specify two oil tanks for the marine forces. The directive stated that Customs Authority should supervise the port's activities including the imports and exports. Not only that, but also reinforcing coordination with the armed forces in activating the strategy of fighting terrorism.

Some sources reported that the port of Makha annually provides the public budget with about YR 1 billion from customs of which 70% are earned from cattle trade. Local products annually exported to Djibouti and Somalia cost nearly YR 3 billion, and they are increasing by 20%. Besides, Makha is considered one of the most important seaports for passengers, either Yemenis or foreigners who mostly travel through the African horn countries and Yemen.

Over 330,000 children educated in secret religious schools

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni prime minister Abdul Qadir Bajamal said last Saturday that around 330,000 children are being educated in underground schools uncontrolled by the government.

"With the teachers, we will confront the reactionary and backward culture in Marran and the Al-Muzamat mountains," Bajamal said, referring to the area where security forces quashed a two-week uprising last week by followers of the former MP and radical preacher Hussein al-Houthi. He vowed to eliminate those schools that are thought to be dominated by religious parties that promote the extremist interpretation of Islam "We are not against religious education. We are free people, but we are against extremism, fanaticism, tribalism and sectarianism," Bajamal said.

Vacancy

Community Based Integrated Development Program, which is implemented by SOUL AND FUNDED BY Oxfam organization, in Hadhramout invites Yemeni applicants for the Post of

Community Based Integrated Development Program manager

Qualification and Skills Requirements:

- University Degree in medicine/ social sciences/ development.
- Proficiency in the use of computer and office software package.
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- Able to travel as requested by job.

Candidates who have the necessary qualifications and experiences (Preferred applicants from Hadhramout governorate) are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae not later than April 28th to *Society for the Development of Women and Children SOUL*

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As you will represent BP in Yemen, integrity and a commitment to conducting business in a professional and ethical manner is of paramount importance. The job is based in Aden, and you should be prepared to remain in Yemen for at least the next four years.

If you match the criteria and are looking to join a multinational company, please email your CV with covering letter to bpozyt@y.net.ye, or post your CV to the Attn: HR Administrator, BP Oil Yemen Ltd., P.O. Box 6112, Aden, Yemen, or Fax. 02-234889 by the 4th of May, clearly marking the envelope with the post and job code being applied for.

Child trafficking raises concern

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The recommendations of the children parliament's fourth round held on April 11-13 on the issue of "Situations of children between legislation and reality" stressed the issue of trafficking Yemeni children into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The children parliament's fourth round was attended by representatives from the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the Ministry of Interior, the Committees of Constitutional Rights and Freedoms at the Parliament and representatives from international organizations concerned with the issues of childhood.

The recommendations stated that the government should be responsible for solving the issue of child trafficking,

particularly the Ministry of Interior as well as imposing penalties for those found to be involved with children trafficking.

The Children's Parliament urged the Yemeni and Saudi authorities to capture those who traffic children into the KSA and refer them to the court, and conduct medical check-ups on children who returned after being taken to Saudi Arabia.

The recommendations emphasized the necessity of establishing a juvenile police and training police recruits how to deal with children, calling on the concerned authorities to activate the international and local laws related to child rights.

The Children's Parliament was formed three years ago and holds its regular round once a year at the Yemeni Parliament.

The Yemeni Parliament referred the phenomenon of child trafficking over

eight months ago to the Committee of Public Freedoms and human Rights, which in turn sent its recommendations to the Council of Ministers. However, a vote has still to be set, despite the fact the suggestions include fighting child trafficking.

The phenomenon of child trafficking has been magnified over the past two years and has increasingly become a matter of serious concern. Recent studies conducted on child trafficking indicate that around 64.4 percent of children smuggled between the ages of seven and fourteen were beaten and sexually abused.

Al-Wasat Newspaper mentioned in issue No. 47 that over 3797 children were trafficked from Yemen into Saudi Arabia in January 2004 while 3741 children trafficked in March of the same year, however there is some doubt about the authenticity of these figures.

Taiz Education Office forbids additional fees

TAIZ, April 16- Dr. Mahdi Ali Abdussalam, General Manager of the Taiz Education Office, forbade the payment of any additional money to the officially approved examination fees, after he heard one of the locals complaining of the extra fees his children pay.

Dr. Abdussalam ordered so in a meeting held at the education office on Saturday. It also involved the examination committee for the sake of making the necessary arrangements for primary and secondary school examinations for the educational year 2004-2005.

Members at the meeting also discussed the situation of examination centers and reviewed reports prepared by the examination committee after last year's examinations.

The members talked about the very low budget allocated for a great number of examination centers, and demanded the concerned sides to raise the examination budget.

Dr. Abdussalam then ordered the committee members to send reports to the ministry of education, so that students will not be compelled to pay any fees other than the officially approved ones.

Judge al-Herdi apologizes to lawyers

By Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A - April 17, Chief Magistrate of the Capital's Court of Appeal Judge Hamoud al-Hirdi apologized to lawyers Mohammad Najji Allaw and Jamal al-Ja'abi for the attacks against them by his guards while they were attending the trial of journalist Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani at the beginning of March.

The apology was made by Judge al-Hirdi at the big hall of the court during the reconciliation meeting organized by Judge Hamoud al-Hitar and a number of MPs as well as leading social and political figures.

The reconciliation meeting was carried out in consultation with the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate.

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الغذاء المضمون ... في الطاحون



يحتوي على نسبة عالية من الفيتامينات والبروتينات

مطحون بأحدث ما توصلت إليه التكنولوجيا العالمية من وسائل



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening:

"Senior Education Advisor"

The position is located in the United States Agency for International Development USAID, in the American Embassy. The Senior Education Advisor provides leadership, strategic, and technical direction for the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the US-funded basic education and adult literacy portfolio in Yemen. S/he also conducts related discussions and negotiations with senior level officials from the Yemen Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donors. The FSN Education Advisor must be willing and able to travel within Yemen and to travel within the region and to the United States. S/he must also be able to pass a background investigation and obtain a visa for travel to the United States.

Qualifications:

Education: A Masters level degree in Education, Education Planning and Management or related field is required. Preference will be given to individuals with a PhD degree in a relevant field and teaching experience

Prior Work Experience: At least six years experience in education and/or education policy and development, with demonstrated increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, coordinating, and guiding education activities is required. Up to two years graduate work in a related field beyond the Bachelors level may be substituted for work experience. Demonstrated ability to develop and manage complex education projects/activities is required.

Language Proficiency: Fluency in reading, writing and speaking English is required. Preference will be given to candidates with fluency in reading, writing, speaking Arabic. Yemeni Arabic will be a plus.

Knowledge: Thorough knowledge and understanding of the current education system in Yemen and social and cultural values affecting basic education and women's literacy in Yemen.

Skills and Abilities: The necessary technical training, skills/abilities required to perform the duties/responsibilities required of this level. Ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate complex development projects is absolutely required. At least 2 years of managerial skills are required. Ability to obtain, analyze, and evaluate and present a data. Excellent communication and writing skills.

Grade/Salary: *Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-04 (to be confirmed by Washington).
*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-12.

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sanaa, Yemen, Tel: 755-2000, no later than April 30, 2005.

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

Reforms in the Arab League... in progress



BY WALID AL-SAQQAF
WASHINGTON, DC
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

There seems to be a solid commitment by Arab countries to reform the Arab League and make it a more effective institution that would help urgently needed reforms in the Arab world, said Dr. Hussein Hassouna, the Ambassador of the League of Arab States in Washington DC on April 15.

Dr. Hassouna emphasized that the Arab League, which celebrated its 60th anniversary this month, is suffering from a number of problems,



Dr. Hussein Hassouna

which could all be solved if its member countries were more committed.

"The Arab League was established at a different time under different conditions and it needs to change so as to cope with the challenges of the current world," he said.

He pointed out the need to bring more transparency and democracy into the Arab League, ensure financial dues to the League are paid from the members and most important of all, guarantee that adopted resolutions are implemented.

"The Arab League is going through a soul-searching process to rethink what it has achieved and how it can be more effective in the more challenging world of today."

Dr. Hassouna stressed on the need to follow up and ensure the enforcement of all resolutions adopted. "We need to create a follow-up mechanism to see that those resolutions are implemented. After adopting a resolution, we need to follow-up and see why it wasn't fully implemented by some or all member countries" he added.

The Ambassador said it was clear that this year's Arab summit held in Algiers in March, was a milestone that showed that its members are changing their mindsets and are accepting change and reform as an inevitable factor toward development and prosperity. He noted a number of decisions taken during the summit which, if implemented, will bring a new era to the Arab world.

Among those important developments in the summit, Dr. Hussouna said, was a plan to establish an Arab Security Council, similar to that of the United Nations, to look into the security challenges of Arab states and contain crises before they get out of hand and without having to take them out of the Arab framework.

Arab countries have also agreed to allow Arab civil society to be involved in the work of the social and economic Council of the Arab League. "This is a good development as the League is becoming more democratic," said Dr. Hassouna.

He also noted another decision to establish an Arab Parliament, which will be representing the populations of each member country and will not in any way be appointed by governments.

Furthermore, the summit also considered the establishment of an Arab Court of Justice with Arab judges dealing with legal issues between the members. "This has been a step that we all have been waiting for a very long time," Dr. Hassouna said.

"I find it unbelievable that legal issues, for instance, involving border differences between two Arab countries, are filed before the International Court of Justice instead of being dealt with in an Arab framework."

The summit also considered the creation of pan-Arab financial institutions within the framework of the Arab League. This includes an



The summit considered the creation of pan-Arab financial institutions within the framework of the Arab League.

Arab Development Bank to help less developed countries develop more rapidly with the assistance of richer Arab countries. Establishing an Arab Investment Bank was also seen as an important step for better growth for the region.

"So as you can see, the Arab League is reforming gradually. Reform cannot come overnight. It

needs time and a lot of follow-up... I think the League is on the right track, but it is all down to the political will of the member states. If they want reform and change to the better, they can achieve it," Dr. Hassouna said.

Dr. Hassouna affirmed the importance of having Arab countries themselves understand the implications of keeping the status

quo. He emphasized that all Arab countries must realize the need to have "the political will to push for reform" both in their countries and in the Arab League.

"If Arab countries don't stick together and don't integrate with each other to form one strong bloc, they will have no global weight in the future."

HE The Ambassador Of Indonesia To YT :

I want to build our relationship

By YEMEN TIMES TAIZ BUREAU

Having only served as Ambassador to Yemen for less than one year, HE Kemas Fachrudin, has been made strenuous efforts to improve the relationship between Yemen and Indonesia. He has visited the majority of import provinces in Yemen and met with the communities. He has organized many activities throughout this year, one of which is the dancing and food festival that will take place in many provinces.

He says that Yemen has many remarkable businessmen, such as the Hayel Saeed Anam group of companies and appreciates Yemeni Media represented by Mr. Emad Al-Saqqaf, al-Osra, development Arabic language magazine editor-in-chief and Yemen Time Taiz Bureau Chief, who had also the privilege of interviewing HE, the Indonesian Ambassador.



Indonesian Ambassador with Emad al Saqqaf: I hope that the relationship between the two countries will develop even more.

Q: What brought you here?

A: This my third visit to Taiz province. This time it is an official visit. The purpose of my visit is to introduce myself to the officials here. Secondly, it is to have a discussion with the officials of this province on how to improve our relationship regarding economy and trade between our two countries.

Q: Why only Taiz?

A: I have been to Mukalla, Aden, and Hodeidah and have met with the governors of those provinces and chambers of commerce too. Here I met the vice governor. The purpose of the visits to all these provinces is to improve our relationship.

Q: How long have you been in Yemen?

A: Less than one year.

Q: How do you evaluate the economic relationship between Yemen

and Indonesia?

A: The relationship is good. We both have the potential to develop it more. The main question is how to improve it.

Q: Do you wish to invest in Yemen?

A: So far we have tried to distribute some Indonesian products here, so that they are available on the Yemeni market. There is a requirement from the government and the community, especially from the chamber of commerce to ask Indonesian investors to come here and invest. They want our investors to invest in the Aden Free zone. They are like brothers, they have the same religion and so many Yemenis live in Indonesia. Our relationship was established long time ago but I mean to improve our relationship even more, we have to create the atmosphere of

business and then convince our investors to come here.

Q: Are there any Yemeni products in your market?

A: We are a member of OPEC, but we still need to import. We import fish, honey and oil from Yemen.

Q: You rarely find Indonesian products in Yemeni markets. However, we find some of your neighboring countries invest here. Why is this?

A: This is why I am meeting with everybody here. I talked to them on how to improve this. This is why I talked with the chamber of commerce 'please, lets work together.' It is still difficult to convince our investors to do it but I will do my best.

Q: Is it something related to the

quality of your products?

A: In comparison to the Chinese products, ours are better but some people tend to buy the cheaper products over quality products.

Q: Media can play a good role in this course. It's role is still weak, isn't it?

A: Yes, this is a good idea. Not only in the field of economy and trade, but also in the cultural field. Yes, as media people, you need to go to Jakarta and see for yourself what's going on there. Once you come back, you could write about it, and vice versa. Insha'Allah, we will implement it this year.

Q: How has our bilateral relationship been improving?

A: Officially, we have been doing lots of efforts to develop this. We have six million Yemenis in Indonesia. I

used to talk to officials here (look, you can find a Yemeni everywhere in Indonesia), we can't rely on that only but we have to feel this in the form of activity. We have joint commissions. This is an umbrella for us to talk on matters that can be discussed and developed. It works like this in all Arab countries. Your president, as the foreign Minister al-Qirbi told me, will be going to Jakarta soon. He won't only attend the commemoration held there (the Asia and Africa conference), but he would also like to strengthen our relationship personally with our new president.

Q: Can we develop our folklore culture even more?

A: To answer this specific question, I want to tell you that I talked to your vice governor. Along with my staff, we are arranging a dancing and food festivals here this year in Yemen. We are organizing them in many Yemeni provinces. It is good that you ask this question, which means you have something in mind...

Q: What roles do Indonesian women share in public life there?

A: We try, like here, to empower women to join everything. We have ministers, teachers, judges, parliamentarians and doctors. The only thing that an Indonesian women can't do is become an Imam. In short there is no limitation to Indonesian women's lives in this respect.

Q: Does it ever happen that a Yemeni man marries an Indonesian lady?

A: Why not! You are most welcome. First, come to Jakarta and see people there, see your brothers and enjoy splendid landscapes, enjoy paradise there.

Q: Is tourism in your country a major contributor to national income?

A: Very much so, tourism is one of

the most important sources of our income. As a matter of fact, we are islands and our problem is that we need capital to do this. However, everywhere you go you are surrounded with greenery. The weather is cool, pleasant and very fresh. We have mountains covered by tea plantations. We have visitors from all over the Arab world.

Q: Are you keen on learning the Arabic language?

A: We are a Muslim country. I discussed this with the vice governor. We participate in Qur'an competitions. Our youngsters come to your universities to learn. Eight hundred Indonesian students learn religion here in many province. Anyhow, Arabic is not an easy language, it is quite difficult. And in Indonesia we do not study Arabic in primary school. Some study it later on though. We may need your support on this.

Q: Have you visited the Hayel Saeed Anam group of companies?

A: I know these courteous people. They are charitable, kind and obliging. I have been to Sabr Mountain in the company of Abdul-Wasea Saeed Anam, and saw for myself how he gave charity to every person he met on the road.

Q: Do they a play role in helping your people?

A: Yes, these companies are present there. Recently, they have built houses for needy people, especially those who suffered from the tsunami. I do appreciate this family and wish them even more success.

Q: Any last message?

A: I hope that Yemen will be a stable country - politically, economically, and security. Then, I hope that the relationship between the two countries will develop even more. We have everything in common. I hope, as an ambassador, to see lots of improvements in our relationship.

Insurgents kill at least nine people in Iraq



Relatives mourn the death of Iraqi Army Major-General Adnan Midhish Kharagoli, an adviser to the Defense Minister, who was killed along with his nephew when ten gunmen burst into his home in Baghdad, April 19. REUTERS

BAGHDAD, April 19 (Reuters) - Guerrilla attacks on Iraqi forces in Baghdad and in a town west of the capital killed at least nine people and wounded 42 on Tuesday, police and hospital officials said.

Insurgents opened fire on members of Iraq's National Guard in Khaldiya, west of Baghdad, killing five people and wounding four.

In Baghdad, a suicide car bomber killed four National Guards in the Athamiya district, where insurgents

are active, the police and hospital officials said. Thirty eight people were wounded in the blast.

Iraq's al Qaeda wing, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said a member of its "martyrs' brigade" carried out the attack, according to a statement posted on an Islamist Web site.

Iraq's politicians, who have yet to form a government 11 weeks after elections, have been confronted with a resurgence of violence over the past

week, after signs of a decline in activity immediately after the January ballot.

Sabotage attacks have increased on Iraq's oil infrastructure, such as twin blasts at an internal oil pipeline near the city of Kirkuk on Monday, as rebels attempt to set back the country's reconstruction.

Iraqi officials fear the longer it takes to form a government, the more encouragement insurgents will take from the indecision, allowing them to exploit the political vacuum.

Death toll from Iran ethnic unrest climbs to five

TEHRAN, April 19 (Reuters) - Iran's government said on Tuesday at least five people had died during ethnic unrest in the southwestern oil-producing heartland of the country in recent days.

One lawmaker put the death toll in Khuzestan province bordering Iraq as high as nine, which would make these the bloodiest protests in the Islamic state for many years.

During the violence, which began on Friday and continued sporadically until Sunday, groups of Iranian-Arabs smashed and set fire to police cars, banks and government offices and clashed with security forces who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Officials say the unrest was sparked by the circulation of a forged letter in which a senior government official discussed the idea of watering down Arab influence in Khuzestan by relocating more non-Arabs to the province.

Only about three percent of Iran's 67 million population is Arab but in some parts of the country's southwest they constitute a majority.

Iran is very sensitive about any suggestion of ethnic unrest, particularly by its Arab and Kurd populations. Anti-government demonstra-

tions are usually dealt with quickly and strongly.

Interior Ministry spokesman Jahanbakhsh Khanjani said three people had died in the provincial capital city of Ahvaz and two more in the nearby town of Mahshahr.

"The latest figure we have is a total of five (dead)," he said.

"Around 200 people were arrested, most of whom have been released and the situation is calm and peace has been restored," he added.

But Javad Saadounzadeh, lawmaker for Khuzestan port city Abadan, said nine people had been killed in the violence, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Various theories have been put forward by officials and politicians for the cause of the unrest, ranging from attempts to influence Iran's June presidential elections to foreign plots aimed at destabilising the Islamic state.

Tehran closed down the Iran bureau of Qatar-based Arabic-language news channel Al Jazeera on Monday and said it would investigate its possible role in provoking the unrest.

Al Jazeera called the decision "unexpected and unwarranted" and urged the government to reconsider.

Israel puts off decision on Gaza pullout delay

JERUSALEM, April 19 (Reuters) - Israeli cabinet ministers on Tuesday put off a decision on whether to delay a withdrawal from Gaza by three weeks to avoid clashing with a Jewish mourning period, Israel Radio said.

It said the ministerial committee headed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon wanted to have further consultations with security commanders before making a decision.

Sharon had suggested the postponement on Monday, citing the religious sensibilities of settlers during a three-week period of mourning, which ends on Aug. 14, for two Jewish temples destroyed in Jerusalem in biblical times.

Israel Radio quoted Sharon as telling the ministers on Tuesday that a decision would be made soon but he wanted to ascertain how a delay would affect preparations by Israeli security forces to evacuate the settlers.

The government could use a postponement to buy time to train security forces for possibly violent far-right resistance.

But a delay would also give ultra-nationalist opponents more time to organise protests.

The current plan calls for the evacuation of all 21 settlements in the Gaza Strip and four of 120 in the northern West Bank to begin on July 20 and be wrapped up by Sept. 1, the start of the school year.

Lebanon's PM forms govt to lead country to May polls

BEIRUT, April 19 (Reuters) - Lebanon's prime minister formed a new government on Tuesday, boosting chances that a general election can be held on time in line with demands by the international community and anti-Syrian opposition.

In a key concession to the opposition after seven weeks of deadlock, Najib Mikati, a wealthy businessman with close ties to Lebanon's long-time political master Syria, said he would immediately seek the removal of pro-Syrian security chiefs.

Comprising largely businessmen and technocrats, Mikati's 14-member cabinet must now win a confidence vote in parliament and draft and steer through the assembly an electoral law, all within 10 days, if the polls are to be held by the end of May.

Mikati immediately vowed to try to meet the deadline.

"This government will ... begin shaping the future in this short period," Mikati told reporters after meeting the president and speaker of parliament. "The government will hold parliamentary elections in the fastest possible time and, God willing, within the constitutional period."

None of the ministers will run in the election, threatened with delay after the Feb. 14 killing of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri threw Lebanon into its worst political crisis since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Mikati, a telecommunications tycoon and personal friend of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, was appointed last week after winning the surprise support of opposition lawmakers.

Lebanon had been without a cabinet since his predecessor, Omar Karami, resigned on Feb. 28 in the face of street protests over the killing. Karami, a staunch pro-Syrian, was reappointed but quit again after failing to form a government.

Opposition figures cautiously welcomed the small cabinet — the 14 ministers are replacing 30 — though some reserved judgment until after it declares its programme.

Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, a figurehead of opposition to Syrian influence, welcomed the line-up, which includes several newcomers from outside politics.

Security chiefs out

Mikati secured the support of the opposition with his pledge to seek the removal of the security chiefs, one of their key demands alongside an end to Syria's 29-year military presence and an international probe into the bombing that killed Hariri.

"I demanded the resignation of the security chiefs when I was (just) Najib Mikati.

Now I'm prime minister and I will relay my point of view to the cabinet ... and I promise that it will agree with me," Mikati told reporters.

A United Nations fact-finding mission into Hariri's killing had reported that international investigators would probably not be able to do their job if the security chiefs stayed in power.

In a sign that Mikati is serious about holding timely polls and cooperating with investigators, he named retired security official Hassan al-Sabaa, a moderate, as interior minister and respected judge



Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati talks to reporters at the Baabda presidential palace in Beirut April 19. REUTERS

Khaled Qabbani to head the Justice Ministry.

Foreign Minister Mahmoud Hammoud, who retained his portfolio, promised to cooperate fully with the Hariri probe.

The opposition wants swift polls to capitalise on public sympathy after Hariri's assassination.

Loyalists want elections delayed, hoping cracks in the opposition would begin to show and the pro-Syrian loyalists would do better.

According to Lebanese law, an election must be called at least a month before they are due to start.

Parliament's term expires on May 31, so the election must be called

soon if the first round is to be held before then.

The United States, the European Union and the United Nations have led international calls for timely elections and on Syria to withdraw its troops and intelligence agents from Lebanon.

Syria has withdrawn most of its forces, in line with a Security Council resolution, and promised to be out by April 30.

Witnesses said at least 100 Syrian military trucks crossed the border into Syria overnight, leaving fewer than 1,500 troops in Lebanon. Syrian military police also left the border area.

Kuwait parliament lets women join municipal polls

KUWAIT, April 19 (Reuters) - Kuwait's parliament approved a law on Tuesday allowing women to vote and run for the first time in municipal elections in the Gulf Arab state, fuelling hopes for wider female suffrage.

"The National Assembly approves women's participation in the Municipal Council elections," state news agency KUNA reported.

Kuwaiti women are not allowed to vote or run in parliamentary polls but the government has introduced a bill to grant full female suffrage that has yet to be approved by the 50-man house. Similar government moves have failed in the past in the pro-Western country, including a 1999 law narrowly defeated by an alliance of conservative Islamist and tribal MPs.

Kuwait was the first Gulf Arab state with an elected parliament but women have been fighting for decades for the right to vote.

They have had to watch as women in other Gulf states like Qatar and Bahrain won political rights.

Last month, Kuwaiti lawmakers passed a municipal elections law without a government-proposed article to let women participate, setting back hopes the house would approve broader female

suffrage.

Hundreds of activists, mostly women, demonstrated outside parliament on that day to demand equal rights for women as stipulated by Kuwait's constitution.

The government later amended the law and sent it back to parliament.

On Tuesday, 26 MPs out of 49 in attendance backed the bill allowing women to take part in municipal polls.

Twenty lawmakers were against while three abstained, KUNA said.

"The amended draft stated ... that women will have the right to run, vote and be appointed as Municipal Council members," it said.

Six council members would be appointed by the state.

Some Islamist MPs have said they would back the right of women to vote but not to run in parliamentary polls.

Other Islamists or tribal lawmakers oppose the bill altogether.

Kuwaiti women have traditionally been more liberal than their Gulf counterparts.

They serve as diplomats, run businesses and have senior roles in the oil and banking sectors.

Kuwaiti officials have set progress on political and economic reforms as a priority for the oil-rich country.

UNHCR chief visits displaced Sudanese in Darfur

ZALINGEI, Sudan, April 19 (Reuters) - The acting U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees visited displaced Sudanese in an isolated and dangerous part of the Darfur region on Tuesday and said the agency was doing what it could to protect them.

UNHCR gives women alternative fuels so that they need not leave their camps to collect firewood and risk attack or rape by militiamen, Wendy Chamberlin told reporters in the town of Zalingei in the centre of the

region. "There are many ways to die in Darfur and there are also many ways to protect people from this," she said.

It has also set up soap and pasta production units in the camps so that women can make some money without having to sell firewood on the local markets, she added.

Zalingei contains about 62,000 displaced people from the surrounding area, four times as many people as used to live there.

They are among some 2 million who have fled their homes in Darfur because of a conflict now in its third year.

It lies in a region where tensions between Arab nomads and non-Arab farmers run high and where the danger of abduction and robbery on the roads has hindered access for humanitarian workers.

Chamberlin said UNHCR was working in local villages to publicise local security problems and alert

African Union forces who are monitoring a shaky ceasefire between the government and rebel groups operating in the region. "We are moving white UN vehicles up and down thousands of kilometres (miles) of fine red dust tracks to head into communities and highlight security issues," she said. Zalingei lies 120 km (75 miles) southeast of the West Darfur state capital Geneina, in the foothills of Marra mountain.

إعلان

تعلم جامعة صنعاء عن تأجيل بيع وثائق المناقصة الدولية الخاصة بإنشاء كلية الهندسة المرحلة الثانية إلى ميعاد سيتم الإعلان عنه في موعد لاحق بعد الإعلان الخاص بتأهيل الشركات لهذه المناقصة.

Czech SocDems seek talks to break govt deadlock

PRAGUE, April 19 (Reuters) - The ruling Czech Social Democrats asked to meet their two former coalition partners on Tuesday in an attempt to break a deadlock that has pushed their government to the brink of collapse.

Czech President Vaclav Klaus said last week he would push for early elections if the three former coalition partners could not resolve their differences and end a political crisis that has dragged on for months.

Social Democrat Vice-Chairman Jiri Paroubek told reporters he believed an agreement could still be found to form a new government to replace the collapsing administration of Prime Minister Stanislav Gross.

"I think some room for negotiation has been opened," he said. "We really want, depending on the possibilities, to reach an agreement today if the other two parties are ready for that."

Talks to re-unite the coalition collapsed last week.

Gross's leftist Social Democrats rejected a deal that would have seen the prime minister resign to allow for a new government to be formed with the centrist Christian Democrats and the rightist Freedom Union.

Social Democrat leaders were

unhappy the Christian Democrats would appoint top party officials who helped to destroy the old coalition into the new administration while Gross had to go.

The Social Democrats were especially upset that Transport Minister Milan Simonovsky and Environment Minister Libor Ambrozek would have kept their positions even though they pushed for the breakup of Gross's cabinet.

But both gave up their vice-chairman positions in the Christian Democrats on Tuesday in an attempt to ease tensions over their participation in a new cabinet.

The parties have been feuding for months over Gross's personal finances. The Christian Democrats quit the coalition and said they would return to form a new cabinet only if Gross left.

Gross has said he would rule in a minority cabinet if the talks collapsed, even if that meant he would have to seek support from the populist Communists.

But Klaus has said he would not allow creation of such administration, making early elections a possible outcome.

Bangladesh ends search at collapsed factory

DHAKA, April 19 (Reuters) - Bangladesh ended the search for victims from the collapse of a nine-storey garment factory on Tuesday, with the final death toll at 74, much lower than was feared at first.

"We have cleared all the rubble, dug out the last victim and are now officially closing down the operation," Major-General Aminul Karim of Bangladesh Army told Reuters.

The Shahriar Fabrics at Palashbari, 30 km (18 miles) from Dhaka, collapsed early on April 11. Survivors and local officials said the disaster struck while up to 250 people were working a busy night shift.

Army, police and firefighters rescued more than 100 workers and took 74 dead bodies from the mountain of concrete slabs, bricks and mangled iron. They said the rest were feared trapped under the debris and may have died.

"But no more bodies have been found after the last corpse was pulled out late on Sunday. The final death toll remains at 74," Brigadier-General Nizam Ahmed, chief rescue coordinator, said on Tuesday.

He said the initial estimate of people trapped was probably overdone by



Soldiers and other rescue workers stand at the site of the collapsed nine-storey garment factory after ending the search for victims near Dhaka April 19. REUTERS

shocked survivors, who did not have a list of people working on the night shift.

Witnesses said rescuers had pulled most of their equipment away from

the site by Tuesday afternoon. The crowd of mourners had also left, they said.

The garment industry employs nearly 2 million Bangladeshis, most

of them women, and is notorious for poor safety standards.

Garments account for two-thirds of Bangladesh's exports, earning more than \$5 billion annually.

Australian ports vulnerable to attack, report says

SYDNEY, April 19 (Reuters) - Australian ports are vulnerable to an attack due to the island continent's extensive coastline, reliance on foreign-crewed ships for trade and proximity to Asian extremist groups, according to a new security report.

Australia's heightened security since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States had resulted in few extra resources to prevent a maritime attack, said the report from independent thinktank The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).

"A determined terrorist is still likely to have little difficulty in entering Australia by sea," said the report, which was released on Tuesday.

The most likely target for a maritime attack would be a cruise liner or passenger vessel, a ship carrying dangerous goods or a U.S. navy ship using an Australian port.

"The tendency of terrorists to attack transport infrastructure in general, while so far focused on air, road and rail, has given rise to the view that the maritime sector was the next logical choice," said ASPI director Peter Abigail.

The report said there had only been four maritime terrorist attacks in the world out of 26 major attacks since 1992.

A maritime attack was "a credible scenario" in Australia given its vast coastline, high dependence on shipping and proximity to groups such as the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) Southeast Asian network and the related Abu Sayyaf.

Philippines-based Abu Sayyaf was responsible for the bombing of a ferry in Manila in 2004 that killed more than 100 people.

Australia is a staunch U.S. ally and sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan to join the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

Australia has never suffered a major terror attack at home but 88 Australians were among 202 people killed in the October 2002 nightclub bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali. Its Jakarta embassy was hit in a suicide bomb attack



The 240-metre-long crude oil tanker New Argosy is guided by tug boats as it passes by the Sydney Opera House in this Aug. 26, 2004 file photograph. REUTERS

last September.

Australia had spent A\$200 million (\$154 million) since July 2004 upgrading maritime security, which resulted in an increase in shipping container inspections, but the report said the nation's maritime security was dependent on state and territory governments which had insufficient resources.

"Australia faces major challenges in reducing the risks of maritime terrorism," said the report, titled "Future unknown: The terrorist threat to Australian maritime security".

Foreign crews

The report highlighted Australia's reliance on foreign-crewed ships for its seaborne trade as a weak link in maritime security. It said 113 foreign sailors had

"jumped ship" in Australia between July 2001 and April 2004.

In 2002, 3,298 foreign-flagged ships made 18,043 calls to Australian ports, bringing around 115,000 foreign seamen into the country. It said security checking of Australian seamen was high, but questioned the reliability of checks on foreign crews.

"The system depends on the accuracy of the crew list supplied by the ship and it may be difficult to detect fraudulent documentation," it said.

Australia has about 70 commercial ports around its 37,000-km (22,990-mile) coastline, 60 of which handle international passengers or freight. Within its ports there are more than 300 separate facilities which handle hazardous or toxic materials.

Cardinals resume voting after first black smoke

VATICAN CITY, April 19 (Reuters) - Cardinals sequestered in a secret conclave in the majestic Sistine Chapel began a second day of voting for a new pope on Tuesday after an initial ballot failed to find a successor to John Paul.

The 115 red-hatted princes of the Roman Catholic Church who are locked in the conclave, meeting under Michelangelo's famed frescoes and sworn to secrecy, cast a first vote on Monday.

Tens of thousands of excited faithful in St. Peter's Square watched as black smoke spewed from the Sistine Chapel's chimney, signalling an inconclusive vote.

The first wisps of smoke appeared white - the age-old signal that a new pope has been chosen - prompting loud cheers. But the crowd soon went quiet as the smoke turned black.

Pilgrims eager to see history in the making began gathering in the square early on Tuesday. Many had been there on Monday.

"I wasn't born last time around (in 1978) and I wanted to be here this time," said Frenchman Clement Waquet, who hitch-hiked from Paris. "Yesterday it seemed white at the beginning and I thought, 'Fantastic, they've chosen!'"

The cardinals began their second day of voting on Tuesday at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) and will now vote up to four times a day - twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon.

Smoke is expected at around noon (1000 GMT) and 7 p.m. (1700 GMT). But if the cardinals elect a new pontiff in the first vote of the morning or afternoon sessions, smoke could come earlier.

In the 20th century, there were eight conclaves. They lasted from two days to five days, with the average just over three days. The conclave to elect John Paul II lasted three days and eight ballots.

"Dictatorship of relativism"

Latin chants and organ music accom-



Black smoke rises from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican, indicating no decision has been made after the second vote for the election of a new pope, April 19. REUTERS

panied the red-robed cardinals as they processed slowly into the conclave on Monday, laid their hands on the Gospels and swore themselves to secrecy and fidelity to the Church.

Before the conclave door shut, the dean of cardinals Joseph Ratzinger urged his fellow electors from around the globe not to listen to the world and its "dictatorship of relativism".

He told them the papacy should remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus, who stares down at the cardinals from Michelangelo's "Last Judgment" fresco behind the chapel's altar.

Ratzinger, who has been the Vatican's doctrinal defender for 23 years, made no mention of the topics that other cardinals and ordinary Catholics say should top the agenda such as poverty, justice, Islam, science, sexual morality and Church reform.

Until the cardinals agree on a new pope, their only communication with the outside world will be the smoke from the Sistine Chapel chimney.

With the first, often symbolic, ballot of the way, cardinals enter Tuesday's

session with a clearer idea of the strength of blocs voting for the 265th pope in the Church's 2,000-year history.

There is no outright campaigning in the voting sessions but past experience suggests there will be plenty of whispering and candidate-pushing during breaks and meals, especially as the names of "papabili" rise and fall in the ballots.

Nothing must be discussed with anybody outside the elite circle, not even with the cooks and confessors waiting on the cardinals in a new hotel within the Vatican walls.

To prevent any contact with the outside world, the Sistine Chapel's 16th century frescoes have been joined by 21st century anti-bugging devices hidden beneath a false floor.

Phones, television, radio and the Internet have all been banned in the hotel to ensure cardinals will not be swayed by the world but will rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Ratzinger was considered the early frontrunner, but at least one online betting site showed he had slipped back after Monday's inconclusive vote.

Jakarta police say Bali a narcotics transit hub

JAKARTA, April 19 (Reuters) - Smugglers use Indonesia's resort island of Bali as a waystation for narcotics distribution, the country's police chief said on Tuesday, following the arrests of nine Australians in Bali over heroin trafficking allegations.

Indonesian police, working closely with their Australian counterparts, netted more than 11 kg (24.2 lb) of heroin, most of it seized at Bali's airport where five of the nine Australians were arrested on Sunday as they were about to leave for Sydney.

The others were arrested at a Bali hotel where more heroin, scales and other equipment were found, police said.

"This is another case that Bali evidently has always been a place of transit for those carrying narcotics. It is impossible if there is no syndicate behind this but they



An Australian leaves a Denpasar police station after a questioning in Bali April 19. REUTERS

always use the cell system," Indonesian police chief General Da'i Bachtiar said.

"This is quite a big catch so at least this can be a deterrent" for the narco-smugglers, Bachtiar told reporters. "But they have their own spies. So when we are tough on the Bangkok-Jakarta-Denpasar line, they usually find a diversion like a city with lower surveillance, like moving the route to Manila."

The police chief said heroin supply in Indonesia mostly comes from the Golden Triangle - the area where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet - and moves through Thailand.

Bachtiar added that his force was working hand-in-hand with the Australian Federal Police to sever the drug traffic in Bali.

"They have given us big support including taking actions towards their own

citizens," the police general said.

This week's arrests come amid a controversial marijuana smuggling trial in Bali of another Australian, Schapelle Corby. Indonesian authorities accuse her of attempting to import 4.1 kg (9 lb) of cannabis into the tourist island last year.

Corby has said she did not know the drugs were in her bag and her lawyers have said they could have been planted in Australia. The 27-year-old, who faces a possible death sentence, has fallen sick during her trial, postponing proceedings.

The Corby case has attracted wide publicity in Australia and a death penalty could dent the increasingly positive ties between the two neighbours, who have often had a rocky relationship.

Canberra has pleaded with Indonesian prosecutors not to demand the capital punishment for Corby.

Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator. The children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mis with bad company.

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

OUR
OPINION

Social responsibility

For certain legal violations, western legislations occasionally impose a punishment on the violators that includes community service. These can range from helping old people cross the streets to professional lawyers providing unpaid legal defense in court.

But people don't need to violate the law to do community service, for there are hundreds if not thousands of associations and community service agencies that people can sign up to to serve their communities in a productive and organized way.

Arabic culture has practices concerning community relations where the able help the disabled and the rich help the poor, etc. The "Zakat," or alms procedure for example, takes place in a very systematic way where a fixed percentage of a person's wealth that is above a certain amount gets deducted annually, but even this is a state's affair which happens without much participation from the community.

Perhaps most of our problems in Yemen as a community are due to our lack of social responsibility or initiative. So many things could be helped if only someone made a little more effort or felt a little more responsible. Simple things like getting to an appointment on time, returning phone calls, completing a task to the end, rechecking on completed work, making sure precautions are taken, and ensuring quality presentation, all contribute to improving the way that society functions. Just by taking that extra step, life could be simpler and Yemenis could enjoy a better standard of living. For example, instead of digging roads on parallel streets for drainage network or electricity cables and obstructing traffic for days, the cable authority could do one street at a time and finish their job professionally.

It is a matter of feeling responsible towards the people we provide the service to and to the community as a whole. What would it take to install this value in our culture and in the younger generations who are the future of this country? If only people put in a little more effort to do their jobs in a better way. It is sad to see all the potential of Yemen and its people in terms of human and material resources wasted because the people who process this country are too lazy or too careless to get their job done efficiently.

What is more frustrating is that most Yemenis abroad are tremendously successful and are very efficient in their fields. So is it about the environment that creates this human culture in Yemen or is it the people who create this environment? The chicken or the egg? It's even sadder when talking to many of the Yemenis who live abroad and asking them if they would like to come back to Yemen to stay and they say "NO". Why is that? Simply because the culture of this country is not helping them progress, living in Yemen you would have to either chew Qat, get sedated and watch your life progress from bad to worse, or go mad because there are so many things wrong that should and could have been right.

Why are we in Yemen not taking the responsibility towards our community and future generations seriously? Perhaps it is left to the intellectuals and responsible people in this country to set things straight, to give more insight into the community about social responsibility and creating a change, a real change.

Editor



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Fighting corruption



BY: HOORIA MASHOOR
VICE PERSON WNC
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In the concluding session of the round table conducted in partnership between the Yemeni government and the World Bank earlier this month, heated discussions took place between government and opposition on the reasons behind the spread of corruption in this country. However, everyone admitted to the seriousness of the issue and that the way corruption is spreading it would lead to collapsing the efforts in development unless and until independent and active measures are taken in order to deal with this critical problem.

During the discussions, some questions were raised on whether it was appropriate to spread our dirty laundry in front of the World Bank, forgetting that this institution has been in Yemen as a donor since mid nineties as an important partner in the financial and administrative reform program and whose efforts are being hindered because of corruption. The least that

this donor could do is simply stop providing the support it does to such countries that don't utilize best the millions of loans, grants and aids.

Many international organizations have sensed the criticality of this problem that is found around the globe, but unfortunately is concentrated in the developing countries, ironically the ones that need any support of any kind the most. This is the case due to the weak control of the law and the domination of the individual roles over roles of institutions. The United Nations Development Program had organized a regional workshop mid last month in Dubai on this very phenomenon. The workshop concluded to a number of recommendations most important of which is to support independent jurisdiction and endorsing the monitoring role of the parliaments along with freeing them from executive authority's control.

The recommendations called for activating the monitoring bodies and to apply unbiased standards that are based only on quality and qualification. It also called for the importance of the involvement of civil societies in the supervising mechanisms and anti

corruption machineries. This regional workshop was a foundation step for the international forum to be conducted in Seoul at the end of May, attended by heads of governments and many international organizations.

The United Nation's in its framework aiming at supporting good governance has called on the member states to ratify a convention on fighting corruption. This international interest in combating this phenomenon is critical now, especially since any issue that was considered in the past to be local and of local interest, today has an impact globally especially with regards to investment climate and international trade. These two issues are the backbone of economic growth because burdening investors with need to pay bribes, unreasonable fees and commissions would only deter them from investing in these markets and lead them elsewhere where there is less corruption and better rule of law.

Back to our round table, that was full of recommendations and clear suggestions regarding fighting corruption, it is still unclear until today whose responsibility it is to put the words into action.

Asia's Age of Thaksin?

BY THITINAN PONGSUDHIRAK

The retirements from frontline politics of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew and Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamed have deprived Southeast Asia of its senior leaders. Can Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra fill the regional leadership vacuum?

A series of bold foreign-policy strokes – the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Economic Cooperation Strategy for the development of mainland Southeast Asia, and America's designation of Thailand as a "major non-NATO ally" – turned the international spotlight on Thaksin during his first term. Violence in Thailand's predominantly Muslim south seemed to dent his ambitions last year, but his Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party's landslide victory last February gave his bid for regional leadership a new lease on life.

With the TRT capturing over 75% of the seats in the lower house of parliament, Thaksin is now politically invincible at home. Indeed, he has become the first elected Thai leader to finish a four-year term, be re-elected, and preside over a one-party government. Thaksin's dominance of Thai politics is unprecedented, and his resilient popularity in the face of a fickle electorate is unparalleled.

Apart from his complete control of domestic politics, Thaksin commands other prerequisites of regional leadership. Already eyeing a third term, he can count on political longevity on the order of Mahathir's 22-year rule. Notwithstanding the one-party system that the TRT is cultivating, Thaksin is armed with democratic legitimacy in a global arena bent on democracy promotion, and he speaks English decently enough to articulate his views and vision to a global audience.

He even has his own development strategy, dubbed "Thaksinomics," a self-styled approach that blends neo-liberal export-led growth with grassroots-based domestic demand. The Thai economy emerged out of its post-1997 crisis doldrums under Thaksin's watch, and is now firmly

positioned on a 6% annual growth trajectory. While it relies on profligate subsidies and cash handouts, Thaksinomics also banks on structural reforms to propel economic growth.

The strategy's most promising prospects include the promotion of industrial upgrading, niche industries, and competitiveness-boosting cluster projects that aim to make Thailand a global and regional hub for food, fashion, tourism, automobiles, and healthcare. A vibrant economy – GDP growth is second only to China's in Asia – is indispensable for regional leadership.

Of the policies that will determine his future role in the region, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue and Economic Cooperation Strategy stand out. Based on the concept of "Asia for Asians," the nascent ACD's membership straddles the Asian landmass from the Korean Peninsula to the Middle East, with Thailand at the geographic center. Although its future directions are uncertain, this 26-member forum trumps Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and ASEAN Plus Three, which includes China, Japan, and South Korea.

The region-wide crisis in 1997, weak progress on free trade, and the region's security vulnerabilities have made Thaksin aware of ASEAN's limitations. As Indonesia's size makes it a natural leader of ASEAN, the ACD lends Thaksin a broader platform that stresses Thailand's geographical advantages. It allows him to trumpet Thailand's strategic objectives and the region's major issues, sometimes in confrontation with the interests and the demands of the West. Within the ACD framework, Thaksin launched the \$1 billion "Asia Bond" last year in an effort to match Asia's financial capital with its financing requirements.

In a smaller sphere of operations, the ECS envisages economic development in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Under Thaksin, Thailand graduated from aid recipient and became a donor country for the first time, having turned away development assistance from countries like Japan. A Thai fund of 10 billion baht was

established to provide outright aid and soft loans to the ECS members. Like the ACD, the ECS shifts Thai foreign policy priorities to the Southeast Asian mainland, highlighting Thailand's role and Thaksin's canny leadership.

Two major obstacles stand in Thaksin's way. The raging violence in southern Thailand over the past 15 months has made him look bad, as his myriad strategies and tactics have failed repeatedly. Nor have his bluster and ill temper improved matters. Thaksin initially dismissed the violent attacks as the work of bandits. Only late last year did he admit that southern Muslim separatism was the cause.

Signs of a symbiotic relationship between local separatists and regional terrorists have emerged. If the attacks widen beyond the three southernmost provinces of Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat, Thaksin's regional leadership chances will be dimmed.

Thaksin knows this. Since his sweeping re-election, he has been surprisingly modest and magnanimous. He has appointed Anand Panyarachun, a former Thai prime minister who recently headed a United Nations reform panel, to select and direct a blue-ribbon national commission to seek reconciliation with the southern separatists.

In addition, Thaksin will have to do something about Myanmar if the international community is to accept his wider role. To many, Thai-Myanmar relations are too cozy. Critics accuse Thaksin of conflicts of interest, as his family-owned telecommunications conglomerate holds sizeable investments in Myanmar.

It is now largely up to Thaksin himself. If he is enlightened enough to make amends with disaffected southerners and move beyond his vested interests in Myanmar, he retains a good shot at becoming Asia's next spokesman.

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a Professor of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Waiting for
Saladin or Aladdin?

"You don't really expect Saladin to return and get the New Crusades out of the Near East, like Salah Eddine Al-Ayyoubi did some eight centuries ago do you?" asked

Khadija.

Her brother Faris was ready with the answer: "Look sister, things are already pointing in that direction. First of all the elections of Iraq have produced a Kurdish President for that volatile country. Saladin was a Kurdish warrior who rallied all the Moslems of the Tigris Euphrates Valleys and the Levant to throw out the Crusades from the Holy Land and to liberate Jerusalem. So, it should not be difficult to see Jalal Eddine Talibani doing the same again and getting rid of the Americans and the Israelis at the same time!"

Khadija was not reassured: "Look Faris, Talibani is not Saladin and the Israelis and Americans were not sent by the Pope. In fact, Pope John Paul II did not approve of the American invasion of Iraq. We do not have a religious war in the region. We have a war for oil."

"But it was the Israelis who convinced the Americans to enter the region by military force, because the so called Islamic terrorists emanate from the region, and this puts Western Civilization in jeopardy. Israel and her friends are putting themselves as the front line against the war on Islamic fundamentalism. There are a lot of people in the United States who sympathize with the idea that Israel must be listened to as Pope Urban was listened to eight hundred years ago" Faris tried to paint a simile between the two situations.

"What are you two fighting about now?" said Fadhil, their younger brother, continuing, "If it is about the situation in the Arab World, you would be better off by betting on the return of Aladdin2 and his magic lamp!"

"Saladin or Aladdin; is this all we can come up with as hopes for getting the Arab and Moslem World back in shape again?" remarked Khadija.

"Look Khadija", said their father who lifted his eyes from the newspaper he was reading to take part in his kids' conversation. "I really do not blame your brothers for their wishful thinking. Throughout the Arab and Moslem World, all we have been seeing is one disappointment after another. All the leaders of the Arab and Moslem world put together can not compare to the great achievements of Saladin, nor can we expect them to produce any miracles like that of the Genie in Aladdin's lamp. In fact they may be even considered as part and parcel of the cause that got our once great nation to the demise and suffering it faces now."

Fadhil elaborated more on his magic lamp idea: "Dad, can you dish out a couple of hundred riyals? I saw a lamp in the Old Suq of Sana'a that I think can reproduce Aladdin's Genie. The storekeeper there told me that the lamp is a few hundred years old and originally came from Baghdad. All he wants is YR 200 for it."

"Come on son, you don't really believe the cut throat merchant do you? If it was true that the lamp was so old, you think he would sell it for just YR 200?" Faris did not want his to be sleazed.

Khadija wanted to expand a little on the fantasy that was brewing in their living room: "Maybe Fadhil has a good idea worth considering. We can't have any more hope on our leaders, because all they have produced is one calamity after the next. Maybe by rubbing the lamp with the right oil, we can get the Genie to come out and then ask him at least to change our leaderships, since we can't do it at the polls. He would probably have better luck than President Bush and his fantastic illusions about bringing democracy to the region!"

Faris felt somehow he had been taken out of the discourse: "You are all getting carried away with you imaginations. I am talking about hedging on the recent appointment of a Kurdish President for Iraq and you all started to talk about genies and lamps and all kinds of American Nights fantasy. It is a fact that Saladin, in his time did what no other Arab leaders could do then. He had the same devotion and fealty to Allah which those Arab leaders should have had, but were too busy looking out after their thrones. Saladin focused all his energies on the cause he believed in. The Arab leaders had forgotten that if you do not have a mission in life, then do not bother leading because all they are doing is adding more misery to their subjects, which is what the Arab leaders were bringing to their people then. Besides, the oil we have now is more powerful than any oil we well use to rub 'Fadhil's lamp' by, because we can use it to choke our enemies."

Khadija had a solemn reminder for everyone: "We have tried that before and look what happened to King Faisal! The Arab leaders know that they can't use oil as a factor in pressuring the Americans to leave us alone. That is a no no!"

Fadhil saw strength in his Aladdin's lamp idea: "You see, with Aladdin's lamp, everybody would be caught by surprise, because the oil we will use will not be under the control of western oil companies. I know a guy who makes good sesame oil that all the people from villages all around Sana'a are buying to cure them for all ailments. If it can do that, who knows how it might work on the lamp I have in mind. It is only two hundred riyals and anything would probably turn out as a better alternative to the present situation we have in the region."

¹ He is Salah Eddine Al-Ayyoubi, who was able to launch the first successful offensive against the Crusades, who have controlled most of the Levant area since Pope Urban II issued his Holy Wars against the Moslems to wrest Jerusalem from "infidel" control.

² One of the famous heroes of the Arabian Nights tales, who had a magic lamp that answered to all of Aladdin's wishes.

Letters to the Editor

Future of Yemeni intellectuals

I would like to comment on Tariq's letter, and write back to him as he requested about the black future Yemeni's face.

There is no reason to blame Yemeni's abroad or those who have graduated.

There are two types of Yemeni intellectuals, whether they are in or outside of Yemen.

1. The real intellectuals that have really studied and gained whatever they wanted at any cost, but never had the chance to fulfill

their dreams in Yemen, due to corruption and lack of opportunities, and thus choose to live abroad, like in gulf countries or the west.

2. The other group are those wannabe intellectuals, from either rich families who were sent abroad to study and never had the intention of studying, but still comes back to their home country with their seat in the office awaiting them. Or those who have family and friends, or a powerful tribe to help them get a job.

Letters to the Editor

So Mr. Tariq, as far as Yemen is going in this direction, they shall never move forward, but go backwards to the dark ages, and may even get worse.

I do hope the best for Yemen and still have some hope that this curse will be reversed.

Saeed Murjaan
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Between the extremes

I read Al-Haifi's column with more than a passing interest. How difficult for so many Yemeni citizens to be, in a sense, caught

between zealots [one must always remember that both Judaism and Christianity also have their zealots] who think their way is the only way to salvation and a government which seems to often subservient to USA interests, interests which are often the interests of the Likud Zionist extremists in Tel Aviv. I do not pretend to perceive a solution for this difficult bind of so many Yemeni people.

Alan Balboni
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Yemeni Press, A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr



Annas weekly, 18 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines

- Yemen's fragility, American accusation or Arab characteristic?
- The president stresses hunting down those indirectly involved with al-Houthi
- The movement fell, the idea remains, Skeptics about negotiations with Razzami
- University teachers refuse government patch-up reforms for university situations
- Yemen: No normalization with Israel before commitment to comprehensive settlement and establishment of the Palestinian state
- It does not allow plurality of media, Prime Minister refers press draft law to Shoura Council and involves the Journalists Syndicate in its amendments
- Columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawshaie writes saying the American president is still expressing his happiness and pride of the democracy he has made in Iraq and which he considers an example to be followed by Middle East countries. It is not strange for this man to twist the facts and visualize the ugly as beautiful and the right as wrong.
- The American president is boasting of founding a democratic regime in Iraq on remains of Iraq's former dictator Saddam Hussein. Many of the American politicians have mentioned that the present regime led by the American forces is no less ugly than the regime of Saddam Hussein, rather bloodier and more corrupt. The democratic system of which Bush is talking is just a time bomb that will go off immediately after the departure of the American forces from Iraq because it is a sectarian regime and does not express the population reality there.



Ash-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces of Yemen, 13 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines

- Hunting down war continues in Saada
- Leadership from JMP: Threats of dissolving the parties of al-Itihad and al-Haq, a coup against democracy and constitution
- The International Union of Journalists requests from the president not to punish journalists
- Seizure of peasant lands in Abyan
- Smuggled medicines invade Yemeni markets
- Leadership of 14 October Establishment interrogated
- JMP issues a statement on confrontations in Saada
- Al-Mithaq printing press workers demand for their rights
- The center for qualification, protection of press freedom launches an initiative of ethics charter
- Columnist Rashad Salam Ali says in his article that the establishment of a social and political pressure group working for providing introductions to the woman partnership with the society, is what the efforts believing in the right of the woman to partnership should join forces.
- The issue of quota is nowadays occupying distinguishable presence in activity of the active forces in the society. Surely, this expresses a political and social action and it is an indicator to escalation of the movement and presence of the Yemeni woman and her issues. Surely also we are going to stand by her.
- This stand is part of a look at life and problems of the society. It stems from the fact that conditions of building modern societies would be realized on

the basis of a real awareness of all people partnership, the foundation of which is the man and the woman, let alone the constitutional and legal texts that are supposed to establish for all people partnership in building their society.

The quota is a mechanism for enabling the woman to take part in with the society at various levels of life. Putting the quota to discussion and its transfer to levels that are more serious requires:

- a vital role of the woman as a partner in these dialogues
- that part should change into a beginning including pressures carried out by the woman and all supporters of renaissance and advancement. This is to admit a certain proportion for the woman to occupy high posts as an expression of her partnership at all levels of civil establishments.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 12 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines

- JMP condemns the use of force outside the stipulation of law
- Bloody confrontations inside the city of Saada
- Malaria and dengue claim lives in Mareb
- Inhabitants of 45 residential quarters in the capital exposed to threat of burning their houses
- Restructuring of information and establishment of a private satellite channel
- Following non-seriousness of the government, Universities teaching staff resume their strike
- Columnist Hamdi al-Bukari writes saying if suppose the existence what is so-called good intention in the official dealing with the call for political reform in Yemen, to know that obliges the authority to embark on taking actual democratic steps.
- Here are many opportunities for the authority to form an important pillar for the political reform. But using them is connected to the extent of the authority to depart from the fear for the collapse of its interests as long as there is an interest for the society and democracy. Currently there is talk about possible amendments on the law of press and publications, but we do not know what the secret kitchens are preparing of a draft law and where they are steering the freedom of the press.
- We could suppose that the authority in front of a historic opportunity to distance itself from adding new aspects of the oppressive image has to accept the expansion of the democratic margin of freedoms and to accept three reformist demands for the law. Those demands are the abolishment of confiscating press freedoms; abolish prohibitions on publication and providing the opportunity for possessing radio and TV stations by individuals and organisations.



As-Sahwa weekly, 14 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines

- Sheik al-Ahmar: the Arab governments are demanded for speeding up reforms
- Conflicting news on the fate of al-Houthi and Razami. The government confirms closeness of decisiveness and the JMP demands the parliament for a decent investigation
- University teachers affirm their insistence on strike
- The British embassy resumes its services, the US State Department warns its citizens from travel to

Yemen

- The wounded in wars stage an open sit-in in Sana'a
- Chairman of the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies: Political reform, key for economic development
- An official report confirms the Yemeni authorities seizing of gunboats aiming the support for networks of sabotage and terror in Yemen
- Arresting boats tying to carry out smuggling operations to Eritrea
- Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes saying the Aqsa Mosque has a great status in the soul of each Muslim because it is one of the sanctities mentioned in the Quran and it is the first place to where the Muslims had directed their faces in prayers.
- The fanatic Jews have repeatedly launched aggressions on the Aqsa Mosque and during the twentieth century had committed more than forty attacks, some committed by groups and some individual, the latest of those attacks and violations was in the year 2000 when Sharon entered by force the Aqsa Mosque courtyard under protection of more than three thousand soldiers and the sons of al-Aqsa confronted them and resulted in the Aqsa intifada.
- On the 10th of this month, the extremist Jews prepared to storm the Aqsa and the Palestinians grouped themselves in thousands to protect the Aqsa against any aggression and repelled those extremist Jews. Our admiration of the Palestinian heroes does not pardon or relieve us from the duty of defending the Aqsa. Unfortunately, we have not heard any reactions but very few timid statements and calls.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Conference (GPC), 18 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines

- The president confirms the importance of Arab economic integration to enhance the nation's capabilities
- GPC secretary-general: Civil organizations are the other voice of the opposition and the authority
- JMP sets a condition of keeping parties of the Opposition National Council out of dialogue
- Vice-President calls upon political parties and organizations to visit governorates to be acquainted with development changes
- Sheik al-Ahmar: Al-Houthi followers instigated a sedition having nothing to do with al-Zaidi sect
- In meetings of the Yemeni-Syrian joint committee, 12 cooperation agreements signed for the achievement of economic integration
- Verdict on the case of Dailami and Muftah to be issued on 29 April
- The newspaper's editorial says educational institutions have now become the arenas where societies would decide the type of life they would choose and the future they aspire for. At present we are studying our educational system, as it is the best means for bringing up our generations and spreading knowledge and new values among them.
- We believe that the school is the convenient environment for the development of national affiliation and acquiring skills and, knowledge and development of the generations' mental talents.
- The government has worked for reforming the educational process and modernizing it. It decided to unify the education process, improve teachers' wages, modernize curricula, abolish educational centers and institutes that had not been licensed legally and introduce democratic concepts and human rights to be part of the curricula.
- Some backward forces have seen in

SKETCHED OPINION

Tongue conference of quitting violence in Middle East



By Samer A.

those measures as depriving them of the strongest and most effective ways for disseminating their backward and extremist ideas.

They claimed that those measures were meant to target religious education or target some religious trends and sects.

The truth is that the process does not target the mistakes and to straighten failures and spare our children the extremist culture that some forces of backwardness are trying to implant in their minds for the instigation of sedition and split the national rank.

in dialogues resulting in agreements and charters.

The regime itself is the first to violate. Nevertheless, there must be a stress that any dialogue with the ruling party without practical controls would only be a contribution by the opposition to prolong the regimes' stay in power with all the aspects of corruption and squander of the public property.

One of the most important controls is to separate between the ruling party, as a political organization, and the state institutions because those institutions are not a monopoly for a certain party.

Arab Journalists Union discusses political issues in a number of Arab countries

Abdulbaqi Ismael has said in his article when tracks of development in the country are exposed to some dangers, whatever their size was, and when those in power see there is what threatens stability of the society, it is out of wisdom and out of sense of responsibility not to consider it sufficient to take the opinion of the authority alone.

There must be an involvement of the remainder parties of the political process in bearing the burdens of national responsibility and giving opinion about the events. In the light of the ruling party offer to others to participate in dialogue and seeing the directions of the course of events. The ruling party invitation would not be conditioned in dealing with definite issues.

It is expected that various political parties would present their visions and what must be on table for discussion and dialogue.

The call for dialogue between the opposition parties and the rule is not a Yemeni initiative or tradition in itself, it is rather a style pursued by political leaderships and ruling regimes in many advanced and developing Arab and non-Arab countries.



Ath-Thawri weekly organ of the YSP, 14 Apr. 2005.

Main headlines

- Following the announcement of the end of military operations, arrest campaign against employees in Saada
- Prosecution summons Ath-thawri editor in chief and two of its senior writers
- As the seven government universities resumed their strike, The government launches unprecedented attack on the teaching staff
- Journalists Syndicate astonishes for presenting the draft amendments by the ministry of information
- Columnist Rashad al-Shara'abi says each time the ruling regime is exposed to a crisis or before any electoral project; there would be a call for dialogue and launching dialogue initiatives according to the ruler conditions. The latest call for dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition takes the same course. The regime has formed a committee chaired by secretary general of the ruling party and called it an initiative for dialogue with political parties.
- However, it has not paid attention and disregarded the previous calls launched by the same political parties, the latest of which the call by the third general conference by the Islah party. The regimes initiative is nothing but a result of a crisis it is suffering from in several axes; political, economic and security. The protest demonstrations against the sales tax and what is happening in Saada and security failures are considered the most prominent and clearest image of the regime's crisis.
- I think there is another reason that pushed the regime to launch its call for dialogue. It is the presidential and local councils elections due in approximately a year. This has forced the regime to seek for outlets so that there would not be a real electoral competition, particularly in the presidential elections. It has therefore headed for deceiving the opposition and drowns it



Al-Mu'aradah weekly, 14 Apr. 2005.

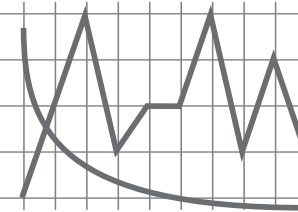
Main headlines

- Parliament fact-finding committee: Demonstrations took place in some governorates against sales tax, illegal
- Large-scale popular satisfaction for the end of military operations and defeat of rebels
- National Council of opposition condemns al-Houthi insurgency and praises bravery of the armed forces

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى
الأستاذ/عبدالله مسعد الغراسي
وإلى آل الغراسي
لوفاة المغفور له - بإذن الله تعالى
أحمد عبدالله الغراسي

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه
ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان
«إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون»
الأسيفون:
مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر
بسام أحمد السقاف، رشيد علي السقاف

YT Business



Benefiting from Iceland's experiment in electronic government

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen has resolved to seek help from the Icelandic experiment in the field of electronic government and the steps it had undertaken in this regard. Electronic government system represents one of the practical solutions to improve proficiency, circulate bonds and statements, to take decisions, sending and receiving electronic messages.

A special workshop, organized for this purpose, affirmed that success of the electronic government would, according to the Icelandic experiment, depend essentially on creating cooperation among the ministries. Those ministries work on implementation of this project and defining authorities of each ministry.

It has revealed that success of the electronic government does not depend



on implementing it all at once but rather in phases. It would begin application in one ministry and if it succeeded, it would be applied to another and then merging

the two ministries on condition that they are both at the same standard of efficiency.

The workshop was organized in

Sana'a on 17 April 2005 by the ministry of communications and information technology in cooperation with government institutions, the preparatory

committee for information summit to be held in Tunisia, and the national program for information technology committee, discussed Iceland's experiment in the area of electronic government. During the symposium, undersecretary of the ministry of communications and information technology Yassin Mahmoud pointed out that the development was being based essentially on benefiting from technology in all fields.

The Yemeni official said the electronic government and information society effect a qualitative transfer as it is representing a revolution in the area of information and that of changing the approach and mentality of any society in the world. In addition, the deputy director of the national program office for information technology Samira Abdullah has affirmed the importance of exchange of expertise, adding that they should be accomplished by knowing what we have

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	189.9500	190.4500
Sterling Pound	360.7700	361.7200
Euro	246.5700	247.2200
Saudi Rial	50.6500	50.7800
Kuwaiti Dinar	650.3400	652.0500
UAE Dirhem	51.7200	51.8500
Egyptian Pound	32.7900	32.8700
Bahraini Dinar	503.8500	505.1800
Qatari Rial	52.1800	52.3100
Jordanian Dinar	268.1000	268.8100
Omani Rial	493.3800	494.6800
Swiss Franc	159.3400	159.7600
Swedish Crown	26.8600	26.9300
Japanese Yen	1.7671	1.7717

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

achieved in information area through decisions and recommendations that have been issued by Geneva summit.

She has praised the preparations that Yemen is making for taking part in activities of information society that would be held in Tunisia in November. The meeting aims to create awareness in the area of information.

It is expected that Israel would take part in the meeting especially after Tunisia had announced that they had extended the invitation to Sharon to attend the summit. Arab countries have expressed their reservations regarding the Israeli participation and may boycott the world conference of information society.

Roundtable conference recommends,

Ministry for woman development to be established

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A two-day roundtable conference on social growth and development organized last week by the ministry planning and international cooperation in cooperation with the World Bank recommended the necessity of adopting a practical policy removing hindrances of investment in Yemen and drawing up a collection of measures in all fields.

All that in addition to the importance of activating partnership between the government and the private sector, development of the banking sector and enhancement of its role in financial mediation as well as an establishment of a stock exchange market as a mechanism for attracting savings.

Recommendations called for the building was thorough an economic policy based on diversification of the base of economic resources and resources of national income through the exploitation of promising sectors such as fish, tourism and agriculture.

At the time the prime minister has, at the conclusion of the conference, stressed the importance of exploiting Yemen's strategic situation as a free area for attracting foreign investments

directly. The increment of trade activity, exportation and encouragement of women in the private sector through facilitating and simplifying the procedures of registering economic projects established by women, acquires great importance.

The recommendations also called for defining the public officialdom, adoption of the criterion of efficiency, raising the level of the public sector employee to curb corruption. Regarding gender, recommendations called for the dependence system of quota and the approach of gender in plans, programs and budgets, in addition to encouragement of investments in areas employing women labour as well as the development of women in agriculture and encountering their educational, health and technical needs. Those recommendations demanded improvement and development of educational programs to be in line with needs of labour market and requirements of the private sector.

They called for paying attention to industry that attracts labour particularly that which help create job opportunities and enhancement of the role of the sector of small enterprises. They also called for building governmental institutional frame meant for encouraging small

labour sectors, concentration on all out rural development as well as encouragement of agricultural, fish and tourism sectors.

There should be an effort for caring for the change from traditional economic activities to modern ones which have added value. There must be an enhancement of women participation in drawing up general policies and translation of the strategy of working women into programs and projects. As well as taking care of government employment offices and opening more of them especially in the facilitation of abroad labour transfers.

Dr Mutahar Abdulaziz al-Abassi, undersecretary of the ministry of planning and international cooperation has confirmed that the government would give articles of the recommendations great importance and attention, pointing out that holding roundtable came as part of the third developmental plan 2006-2010, a matter which would render their articles entry in that plan and there would be executive procedures.

There would be a technical team that would undertake follow-up results and the assistant World Bank team so that that program would have certain time, goals, policies and measures that must be

taken as well as defining roles of relevant sides.

On his part, the World Bank senior economists at the sector of economic and social sector in the Middle East and North Africa reviewed the WB plan on how to revive the deteriorated growth in Yemen, stressing that there was hope in improvement in performance of the Yemeni economy through activation of promising sectors and not to depend on oil as a major resource.

He clarified that the cost of local investment in Yemen is still little and that helps engagement of the private sector in greater manner in the economic construction. He mentioned that Yemen was among the few countries that has great profits from trade and investment and there must be an activation of this characteristic in addition to activation of the role of judiciary and registration of land ownership and spread of security stability.

The participants' establishment of a ministry for women development and to make her participant in the plans of economic development and mechanism of fighting corruption, spread in some government institutions, as well as formation of a committee to follow up implementation of the recommendations with the relevant sides.

In Brief

- Yemen and Mauritania signed six bilateral agreements in the Mauritanian capital city. The agreements include the political, diplomatic and cultural fields as well as scientific research, vocational training, trade and commerce, encouragement and protection of investment and religious affairs and endowment.
- During his visit to China, Dr. Khaled Rajeh Sheik, Minister of Industry and Trade, discussed with Vice President Chung Hi and a number of businessmen the possibility of Chinese investment in an industrial free zone in Yemen.
- Ahmed Mohammed Sufan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Mrs. Yulin Hayz, UK Middle East Official, discussed the aspects of bilateral cooperation between Yemen and the UK. They talked about preparations for the new grants to Yemen and the future cooperation in the coming three years.
- The Yemen and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development signed an agreement for a loan of \$US50 million to finance the third step of the Social Fund for Development (SFD). The loan will be used to finance a number of developmental projects in all development of social and economic fields, particularly social development projects and supporting micro-projects being executed by SFD.
- Yemen and the USA agreed on a modified US Grants Program. According to the meeting minutes, the program recommended sponsoring highways and agricultural projects in Abyan and providing financial assistance to the fishing port in Hodieda. It also underlined the importance of animal wealth, environment and development projects in a number of provinces including Socotra. The two sides agreed to use \$US 500,000 of the grant as a secondary grant for an SFD project to train nurses in Shabwa, and Al-Jawf.
- Iqbal Bahadir, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, confirmed that there is a partnership between the government and the private sector concerning the negotiations on Yemen's ascension to the WTO. "Partnership between the two sides is the focus of the state systems," Mr Bahadir said. He also confirmed that the dialogue between the two sides is continuing but that it is below their expectations.
- The Ministry of Local Administration executed 329 projects at the cost of YR 4,904,141,096 during 2000 and 2004. These projects covered the fields of local administration, education, and health in addition to water, roads, guidance and endowment sectors.

Yemen, Syria agree to boost trade exchange

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen and Syria had, last Monday, signed a group of agreements and memorandums of understanding in areas of sea transportation, exports, tourism and enhancement of trade and economic relations. In addition, they discussed ways of enhancing relations in areas of politics, culture, specifications, standardization and technical and scientific cooperation.

Those agreements had been signed at the conclusion of a three day visit to Yemen by the Syrian Prime Minister Naji al-Etri during which he had chaired his country's delegation at meetings of the joint committee.

Official sources told Yemen Times that the agreement also included drawing up of a mechanism for activating agreements already concluded by the two countries which have exceeded 107 agreements, protocol and memorandums of cooperation.

Sources have expected those agreements would lead to increase trade movement of the two countries after the volume of trade exchange has risen during the year 2004 to YR4.43 billion compared to YR 1.9 billion in 2003. The sources added that the value of Yemeni exports to Syria in 2004 has amounted to around YR 647 million with an increase of a million riyals compared to 2003. On the other hand, the Yemeni imports from Syria

amounted to around YR 3.7 billion, with an increase amounting to YR 1.9 billion in comparison with 2003.

The sources attributed the increase in the volume of trade exchange between the two countries to growth of their economic and investment relations in the light of the strong political ties of the two countries. Their encouragement of the private sector to more exchange of trade and the establishment of joint investments.

The volume of trade exchange between the two countries has risen gradually, from 528 million riyals in 2000 to reach at 1.8 billion riyals. The Yemeni exports rose from 46 million riyals in 2000 to 651 millions in 2002. Imports from Syria have also risen noticeably, reaching 1.6 billion riyals in

2002. Nevertheless, the sources see that the present volume of trade exchange does not respond to ambitions of the two countries' people and the hope that meetings of the joint committee in Sana'a would result in the expansion of trade and investment.

Trade relations between Yemen and Syria receive official as well as people's support, as the Yemeni consumer prefers buying Syrian clothes and products in support for the Syrian economy and the good relations between the two countries. It is also expected that the agreements and regulation of transportation movement would contribute to advance horizons of trade cooperation and establishment of an economic partnership for the service of the Arab economic integration.

WTO membership harms national industry

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Informed sources at the Chamber of Trade and Commerce said that the relative benefit Yemen would gain by joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) is an annual decrease in customs by 20 percent. Under this arrangement customs would be abolished by 2010, yet the Yemeni exports to the Arab countries will be increased.

This step will negatively affect national industry with Yemeni products and would seem as having lower quality when comparing to the other products available in the local markets. Sources told the Yemen Times that ascension to the WTO would help improve Yemen's economy by reinforcing commercial exchanges between Yemen and the other Arab

states working to establish an Arab Free Trade Zone.

The private sector would also benefit from the clear strategy of industrial development that WTO membership would provide.

The sources called for limits to state ownership and management of economic establishments and a widened scope for private sector initiatives in development. The coming period requires the decrease of customs of imports to the lowest degree after joining WTO.

This condition of the World Bank and IMF will negatively influence the national industry and remove its legal protection. Sectors of transformational industries, according to specialized studies, are suffering from the increase of burdens on the part of the industrialists as taxes and other fees.

Betraying Beijing

BY NISHA
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, culminated with the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA). The Declaration describes and seeks to improve the situation of women around the world. It outlines and analyses twelve principal areas of concern: women and poverty; education and training; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and girl-child. It outlines a series of measures, which governments, civil societies, and international organizations including bi-laterals and multilaterals should adopt and practice in order to eliminate causes of discrimination against women in all societies, and to progress toward equality.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is the most comprehensive guiding document ever produced by a United Nations towards ensuring women's rights. The Declaration integrates the accomplishments of preceding conferences and treaties, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Vienna Declaration. Another significant achievement of this Declaration is that it was prepared and approved by delegates of all the governments present at the conference.

So, 10 years down the line, where do we stand in terms of implementation of the Declaration?

Governments, in order to reduce

women's poverty are obliged to adopt and effectively implement a variety of measures to give women property ownership rights, access to economic resources, market, credit and technological know-how, and equality in at all stages of employment. Governments are also responsible for ensuring decent living conditions for women and support them in fulfilling family responsibilities by improving services such as housing, sanitation and water supply. Women, in the absence of inheritance and ownership rights and lack of access and control make up a significant number of poor people the world over. In Yemen, both religion and law grant women some property and inheritance rights. But in practice, these rights are hardly exercised due to socio-cultural factors. If the government of Yemen is to reduce poverty, it must address women's poverty alongside men's. According to Oxfam GB's report on PRSP process in Yemen, Voices of the Poor, women's poverty to some extent is included in the government's poverty analysis, but that's about it. It is not sufficient if analysis of poverty is not supported by an analysis of how embedded gender biases are in customary practices, macroeconomics and structural policies and no analysis is sufficient if it is not followed by programmatic and budgetary decisions.

Poverty links to opportunities to access not just resources but also human development. Education and training is the key to human development. A multidimensional analysis of poverty, which goes beyond 'income poverty', will help see how exclusion from opportunities to educate and train themselves in technical and vocational and professional fields has contributed to women's marginalization in all areas of human development. Women's education is essential not just for its intrinsic value but also because it has a dramatic impact on economic and social development. There are innumerable research from the world over to demonstrate that education

and training for women bring remarkable social returns – improved family income, reduced infant and maternal mortality, improved family health, etc. However, in order to get higher social returns, governments must take measures to promote gender equality in all fields and encourage women to access primary, secondary and university, and technical training. But results will not start coming in with mere provision of access, as is evident from Yemen's experience. According to a UNICEF report 77% women in Yemen are illiterate. Yemen Family Health Survey, 2003 also indicates poor performance of the government towards meeting its obligation to BPFA. As per this survey 75.7%

rural women and 40.5% urban women in 10+ age group are illiterate. Innovation in education, especially in areas of adult and continuing education and vocational training are critical to eradicate illiteracy from Yemen's face. Also, given the situation, it is important that the government takes steps to address socio-cultural barriers to women's education. It must come up with measures to ensure that girls and women receive the support that would enable them to complete their education. One often hears in the villages that most families stop girls from going to the school after they reach the age of puberty or if a school is far or if there are no women teachers. The government cannot meet its obligation unless it addresses these special obstacles that prevent women from obtaining education and training. The Yemeni governments is

obligated under BPFA to institute a wide range of measures to provide health care in gender appropriate ways so as to ensure that both women and men benefit. In matters of general health care needs, equality of access to health services must be ensured. More than often access is not just an issue of having a health unit/facility/hospital within reachable distance, it is also about the ways of delivering the health services. For example, in Yemen, some basic issues which prevent women from accessing health services, even if a health centre is available, include: most health workers in the health centres are men, there are no separate arrangements to examine women and absence of pregnancy and STDs related services. But pregnancy is not the only different health need. Many other health needs of women are different from men also due to their traditional roles and responsibilities, like family planning, child care, nutrition for family. It is the government's responsibility to make sure that these needs are being met through its health services. If we look at the Yemeni government's performance to meet its commitment to BPFA, the poor achievement is alarming. According to the Family Health Survey, 2003 as many as 30.8% women in urban areas and 61.7% women in rural areas do not receive prenatal care. Women who suffer from complication during pregnancy is 51.1% in urban and 52.9% in rural areas. As many as 29.5% women in urban and 43.8% women in rural areas suffered medical

problem during delivery and 32.4% and 46.5% suffered postnatal complications. The worse indicator of availability and access of health care is the that 59.5% women in urban areas and 82.2% women in rural area give birth at home. Miscarriage rate, uterine, urinary and vaginal infection rates, number of women wanting contraception but not being able to access it, etc are equally high. The worse indicator of the failure is the sustenance of an extremely high maternal mortality rate. It stands at 39.7% in urban and 36.6% in rural areas. The poor performance of the government suggests its poor commitment to obligations relating to the provision of health care under BPFA. No effort is being made by the government to deal with practices like early marriage, which is a major cause of poor health, specially reproductive and sexual health among girls and women.

Violence against women is another area where BPFA expects the states to respond through specific integrated provisions. But first of all, it requires that the states see women as human beings entitles to equal rights in all aspect, understand socio-cultural norms and beliefs that lead to acceptance of a subservient position of women and tools that are used to enforce those norms and beliefs. Violence against women in any form, perpetrated by anyone, is a violation of women's human rights. It requires a government with a humane and gender sensitive perspective and political will power to challenge systems and practices that allow violence against women to take place. It demands special provisions and dedicated implementation of those provisions. In Yemen, legislative provisions like Article 23 of the Personal Status Law No. 20/1992, which regard 'silence' as the consent of a virgin to be married to the person selected by her parents, continue to exist. Inequality continues to exist in case of custody of daughter above nine years and son above 12 years. There is no law in the country to stop early marriage, which violates

both child and women's human rights. As to the extent of prevalence of violence against women, a study by Oxfam GB, Violence against Women in Yemeni Society, suggests it is widespread. Another study conducted by Dr Adel Mujahid Al-Sharjabi Al-Sharjabi's conducted in 2003 on behalf of the Women's National Committee reaffirms this finding. Discriminatory laws, gender blind legislation, ineffective implementation of existing laws pertaining to violence against women, and the heightening of women's vulnerability to accusations of moral crimes like khalwa and zina, arbitrary arrests and detention of women in illegal 'prisons' are not the only indicators of poor commitment to BPFA. Female prisoners being held in jail past the expiration of their sentences because their male relatives refuses to authorize their release as they disapprove of their moral behaviour, etc speak volumes about Yemen's failure to honour women's human rights.

Armed conflict is not an unknown terrain for Yemen. Conflicts between communities and tribes often take violent form. One does get news about casualties in general but one does not get specific information about casualties. The impact of these conflicts on women, particularly due to their status in society and their sex is almost unheard of. It is widely known that women assume the key role of ensuring family livelihood in the midst of violent pandemonium and destruction. Given the rate at which violent conflicts erupt in Yemen, one would imagine that the impact on women's livelihood, reproductive roles and social status would be quite severe. However, this cannot be articulated in any clearer terms in the absence of the government's efforts to measure and address it. BPFA stresses the need to promote the equal participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels but there has been no effort on the part of the government to engage Yemeni women in conflict resolution.

To be continued next issue.

The Queen of Sheba (2/5)

TRANSLATED AND ANNOTATED BY
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Summary of part 1:

King Solomon checks his army of creatures of all kinds and misses the hoopoe bird, he threatens to punish it for not being present in the parade, when the hoopoe appears coming from Yemen where he had seen a queen that worships not the true God. King Solomon sends the hoopoe bird with a letter back to the Queen of Sheba.

Now since the hoopoe bird was greatly desirous of being sent back to the land of Sheba with a message from the king, he was forthwith released with this message to bring to the queen of Sheba. Whereupon, he spread his wings aloft, chirped as he flew away, and was quickly joined by a large flock of birds incapable of being numbered.

These all lighted upon the castle Qitor, in the land of Sheba, at the time when the queen of Sheba was going out in the morning to make her obeisance to the sun, which was on the rise. But for the multitude of birds, the sun would have put forth its rays. Yet, now, the sky was darkened by the multitude of fluttering creatures. The queen, being astonished by such a sight, immediately rent her garment.

At this token, the hoopoe bird suddenly descended in plain view of the queen, and she took notice that there was an epistle bound to one of its



wings. She took up the bird and untied the letter, reading what was written therein. Again, she could not withhold her shock and surprise, and so she raised her hand a second time, and rent her garment.

She then sent and called for the elders and great men of her kingdom, saying unto them, "Have ye not heard what King Solomon has sent unto me?" They answered her, "We do not know such a one as King Solomon, neither will we acknowledge his kingdom." Yet, the queen was not satisfied with their counsel and advice, and so quickly called and sent for all of her ships at sea, and commanded her sailors to load them with timbers of box-wood, and jewels and precious stones, and that all vessels should be fitted out to the deck's brim with such things as they might stand in need of for a long and protracted voyage at sea.

Camels were also to be carried along, so as to permit hauling the burthens once they had landed and gone ashore. She also commanded that six-thousand youth, some boys and some girls, should accompany her on this journey, children who were to make up the main core of her delegation, besides a great entourage of sailors and servants and attendants, and only those children who were born all in the same year, and in the same month, and on the same day, and in the same hour, and all of them must have the exact same height or stature, and all of them must have the same hair trimmings, and all must be clothed in purple tunics, so as to make it hard, at first sight, to distinguish between them, that is, the boys from the girls¹.

Meanwhile, the queen of Sheba sent back a message to King Solomon, requesting leave of the king to come unto him in seven years' time, considering the long voyage that had to be taken at sea. For such would be the time needed to fit out an expedition, and to set sail when the winds were favorable, and then to circumnavigate the entire continent², docking at the various ports while en route, in order to rest and to replenish their supplies, and again, to avoid traveling the Great Sea (i.e., the Mediterranean) in the midst of winter for fear of being shipwrecked. Yet, she added, if the king should pray to his God, perhaps she could come unto him in only three years' time.

Now the men and sailors of Sheba, though skillful at sea, knew not that had they embarked on their journey by foot, traversing the great and barren wastelands, they would have reached their destination in far less time.

At the end of three years, the queen of Sheba came with her entourage, a great train of servants and attendants, bearing in their camels' baggage precious stones, and gold and silver, and much spices, as well the Balsam of Mecca³.

The king, having intelligence that they had arrived off shore, sent along Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, to greet them and to escort them along their way to Jerusalem. Now this man was of extraordinary beauty and grace, like a flower when it blossoms in the morning, and like the planet Venus which shines out brightly among the stars, and like a rose standing by the rivulets of water.

So when the queen of Sheba saw

him, she mistook him for being King Solomon, and so alighted from off her camel. Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, enquired why she had gotten herself down from her camel. She answered, "Art thou not King Solomon?" He returned an answer, saying that he was not the king, but rather one of his attendants who stood before him.

At hearing this answer, she immediately turned away her face, and made this proverb to her great men who came along with her in this journey:

"If you have not seen for yourselves the lion, then come! Observe his resting place! If you have not yet seen King Solomon, then come! Observe the visage of a good man who standeth before him!"⁴

1- However incredible this might sound, we are admonished to remain faithful to the traditions as they have been reported, without changing or altering what has come down to us.

2- Meaning, the continent of Africa, since the Suez Canal was not yet built.

3- Heb. **afarsemon**, also **falsemon**. Believed to be **Balsamodendron opobalsamum**, but classified by some botanists as **Commiphora opobalsamum** (which has yet still the other taxonomic name of **Commiphora gileadensis**), a tree still found in the Dhofar district of Yemen. A similar tree is **Commiphora meccanensis**.

4- Meaning, if you wish to know the greatness of a king, observe the calibre of men who serve him.

Dr. Rosa refutes claims

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Dr. Rosa al-Aghbari, like dozens of qualified doctors working at the General Police Hospital, has suffered considerably. For almost one decade, people have been complaining about the management of the Police Hospital to no official response.

The deputy at the concerned ministry backs the current management. The current condition of the medical staff is a poor sign and stands in contradiction to official media discourse on development issues and the importance of medical staff rendering services to soldiers and ordinary citizens.

Here, Dr. Rosa responds to the Hospital's reply published in a previous issue:

"The letter in response to my article contained lies and distorted facts. As for my relations with my colleagues in the workplace, they are good and have no problems. If there was any dispute, it was for the sake of improving services. You may refer to the petition signed by 60 doctors' and presented to the Hospital's management.

"Concerning my commitment to work, I conform to the daily working hours. I did not receive any warnings, and I question what they said about me.

"The Minister's directives to have the case examined have fallen on deaf ears. The Hospital's belated reply and the unreasonable claim therein are evidence of the chronic malfunctioning of the management. This is apparent in the illegal papers sent to you as they

are not dated, referenced, and endorsed by the addressee, which was me. Dr. Mohammed Rajeh Najad has been the Supply Manager since 2001, and since the inauguration of the Hospital, no doctor has been addressed by the supply manager.

"We doctors have the honor to establish the Hospital and its different departments. My colleagues and I have provided everything for that end, yet we have been treated ungratefully, some physically assaulted, and others forced with guns to ask for a move to the supply and officers' affairs departments.

"Today, the Hospital's management are making more violations by rejecting the Minister's directives and labor laws by illegally deducting from my salary. They are representing the tip of the administratively corrupt pyramid. They speak about systems that they have themselves ignored. They could not respond to the previous interview and the forged papers they have given are not unusual from such corrupt people. You can see the documents that charge them according to reports of previous Ministry of Interior's committees. They cannot defend themselves.

"I am asking for my right not because I am a woman but because I am an honest staff member working in one of the noblest professions. Out of respect for my profession and humanity, I will not succumb to blackmailing and extortion practiced against me. For the record, clinics' registers expose their cheap schemes.

"I have nothing but esteem for my



Dr. Rosa al-Aghbari

fellow doctors and we have no differences between us. As it is part of the profession's nature, a doctor may disagree with another doctor in order to benefit the patient, ensure correct diagnosis, and prescribe the most effective medicine. However, the managers have offended many doctors and workers and generated disturbances. The proof is before you: the complaint signed by sixty doctors, technicians and administrators. We are not trying to wrong anybody and we respect all honest leaders but we do not approve of unethical and uncivilized behavior. Would anyone accept being deprived of their personal efforts and official salaries by corrupt people?

"We live in dignity and honesty and self-respect. We have happy families unperturbed by problems and we divide our time between home and work. All this is a proof that we are capable. However, they present baseless claims and do not admit that I have rights. I therefore ask for a neutral committee to probe into the subject and discover why these documents appeared only after the newspaper's article. I had resorted to the Minister and to the Parliament and now one year has passed with no solution. Do they want to give my post to one of their relatives who have not yet completed their studies, as they employ staff with forged documents?"

"Now, they object to me fighting for my rights. My salary is being deducted, my settlement is suspended and they don't want me to seek my rights.

"They referred to my working for another establishment. This is yet more proof that I have abilities as a doctor and I will not hesitate to provide medical services for patients where I feel that I am protected and respected. The management does not feel secure and does not want to have good staff members. They have scared away the Hospital's main staff. I am trying to get my job back as I had worked for nine years and documents bear witness to that."

Thinking creatively (PART 2 OF 3)

Overcoming the natural barriers in your mind



BY MOHAMMED AL-TOM
ELECTRONICS
SANA'A BRANCH MANAGER
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In order to succeed in developing your innate creativity, you need to overcome the natural barriers in your mind. Start to challenge your usual approach to situations.

Overcoming barriers

A big barrier to creative thinking is a tendency to seek quick solutions to problems. This may help you in the short term, but you will not excel in the long run. Look at the way you currently use your time, and start to spend more time being creative.

Human beings have a natural tendency to seek quick and simple solution to problems. We often know the answer we want and make sure the facts support our chosen solution. However, some situations require a different, more creative approach. Divergent thinking focuses on generating as many ideas as possible and opening up new opportunities in order to find a "best fit" solution. Make the time to think creatively, think about the big picture, and avoid rushing to quick conclusions.

Making the time

The Japanese believe that there are four types of managerial time: "Operational time"-the time necessary to correct yesterday's errors; "Strategic time"- the time needed to plan for the future; "Innovative time"- the time needed to become more competitive tomorrow; and "Kaizen time"-the time needed for the continuous improvements that ensure that we will have a tomorrow. It is generally true that we do not devote enough time to finding better ways of doing things. Make the time to review what you could improve in your work and your life, and then take action.

The Japanese believe that senior managers should spend no more than 25 per cent of their time on operational issues. The rest of their time should be spread across the other three categories. The more time senior managers spend on operational issues, the less time they can spend working creatively, and this reflects poor planning. Assess how you can restructure your time more effectively.

Remember that the only way to manage time successfully is to set yourself realistic schedules, and then to stick to them.

We need to believe that we can think the unthinkable and believe the unbelievable. Challenge the accepted way of doing things. Overcome your fear of looking foolish in front of other people and have the courage to put forward your ideas.

Challenging beliefs

Sometimes we have creative ideas, but we are reluctant to put them forward because they may create precedents that "go outside the box" of accepted beliefs. You may not like to say something that others may find challenging and thus reject. Being creative means not only having the ability to come up with ideas but also being willing to challenge the conventional wisdom. Realize that all creative solution, by their very nature, involve change and change involves having the courage to challenge the status quo.

Thinking the unthinkable

New ideas are essential for progress, yet most new ideas are initially perceived in a negative way. The unknown is seen as dangerous, and an individual's instinctive response to a new idea is often to reject it, because it is safer to stay with what he or she has already tried and tested. Have the courage to think the unthinkable. Persuade others that what seem like impossible ideas are possible.

Benefiting from change

Most people are intuitively opposed to any idea that they see as "not being in their best interest". The problem is that opposing a new idea does not stop others benefiting from it. For example, deciding not to implement a technical innovation in your organization does not prevent a competitor from making that change. Recognize that those who fail to change will be left behind.

Being creative means using a different approach to the way you solve certain problems. This is not something you need to do all the time- this approach is time- consuming and irrelevant when the solution to the problem is clear (close-ended). However, if a problem is open-ended and has a number of potential solutions, start to form some creative ideas and discuss them with others.

When you put forward a creative idea, you stand the risk of being called foolish. No one wants to look foolish in front of their peers and this innate fear often prevents people from voicing their ideas. Do not be deterred by the fear of being ridiculed- have confidence in yourself when you express your ideas.

Changing your approach

To be able to increase your inventiveness, you need to learn how to tap into your mind's creative resources. Practice changing your natural approach to problems until the new method becomes instinctive. Take the time to exercise your mind.

Preparing to change

The way you do things is determined by your values- your beliefs. These are influenced by the culture you grew up in and are also affected by your character. Thus, if you enjoy structure, you will tend to resist changes that appear to cut across your desire for order. If you prefer a flexible lifestyle, you will resist changes that threaten to impose order on you.

Recognize that adapting your behavior requires practice, until the change in your approach becomes a "natural" impulse.

Learning to change

Changing is one of the few constants in life. Some embrace it, others "wait and see". But no one can avoid it. Try following a set process to move from a current behavior to a new one. For example, for some people, being overweight is a lifestyle problem. Changing this situation means following guidelines (a diet) and having regular weight checks (feedback) to create new eating habits. Identify the change you want to make, commit to change, resolve any potential obstacles in your path, and then take action.

Exercising your mind

Developing your creative potential means freeing up your mind. Just as someone who is used to a sedentary life and decides to take a walking holiday needs to get fit before the trip, so you need to train your mind to work in new ways before you can develop your own creative potential. Try exercising your mind. For example, imagine where you would like to be in a year's time. Focus the image so that you can touch, hear, and feel it. Develop a plan that will help you achieve this aim.

Remember:

- 1- Recognize the advantages and pitfalls of different thinking patterns
- 2- Structure your time so that it is more productive
- 3- Generate lots of ideas before making decisions
- 4- There are many ways of looking at things
- 5- Be ready to question the accepted
- 6- View problems as an impetus to change
- 7- Ask questions even if they seem ridiculous
- 8- Recognize that developing creativity takes time and practice.

Facts of Life

By WHO- Yemen Program

What do you know about Naphthalene?

Moth repellants, insecticides, smokeless powder, solvents, and lubricants are many products that are used in our daily life. Those and many other chemically synthetic products are manufactured using a hydrocarbon called naphthalene directly or as an intermediate in the manufacture process.

Naphthalene, also referred to as naphthene, naphthalin, tar camphor, aldocarbon, or mothballs, is a white solid that exhibits a typical mothball odor at ambient temperature. Having a molecular weight of 128.19, naphthalene is a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon composed of two fused benzene rings with the empirical formula of C₁₀H₈. It has a melting point of 80.5 °C, a boiling point of 218 °C, a vapor pressure of 0.082 mm Hg at 25 °C.

Naphthalene is almost insoluble in water, but is soluble in benzene, toluene, ether, and several other organic solvents. It is flammable; the vapors and dusts can produce explosive mixtures with air.

It occurs in crude oil, from which it may be recovered directly as white flakes; it can also be isolated from cracked petroleum, coke-oven emissions, or from high-temperature carbonization of bituminous coal.

Naphthalene is used directly as a moth repellent, insecticide, anthelmintic, and intestinal antiseptic and is also used as an intermediate for the manufacture of synthetic resins, celluloid, lampblack, smokeless powder, solvents, and lubricants.

Most of the naphthalene entering the environment is released directly to the air from sources such as burning of fossil fuels and use of naphthalene-containing mothballs. Other sources include urban air pollution and cigarette smoke.

Small amounts of naphthalene are released to the aqueous environment as a result of discharges from coal tar production and distillation. In the atmosphere, naphthalene undergoes a number of degradation processes including reaction with photochemically produced hydroxyl radicals.

In natural waters and soils, volatilization and biodegradation are major removal processes.

Naphthalene has a short half-life and is not thought to bioaccumulate over time processes.

Absorption of naphthalene by the oral, inhalation, and dermal routes can be inferred in humans from the systemic toxic effects of the compound. However, the rate and extent of absorption is not known. An oral study with rats suggests that the rate of absorption remains fairly constant at doses up to 200 mg/kg.

Data on the tissue distribution of naphthalene in humans are very limited. Naphthalene or its metabolites can cross the placenta in humans in amounts sufficient to cause fetal toxicity. Oral and intraperitoneal studies with animals showed that naphthalene distributes to several tissues.

Following oral exposure, naphthalene was detected in the fat, liver, lungs, and heart of swine; in the liver and milk of dairy cows; and in the liver, kidneys, lungs, fat, and yolk of laying pullets.

Naphthol was found in the urine of patients four days after naphthalene ingestion; smaller amounts were detected at five days and none thereafter.

Reasons for concern

Naphthalene has many critical effects when introduced to the body. Target organs that might be affected include the vital ones; the liver and kidneys as well as many others. Some of those significant and noteworthy effects are showed as follows:

1. Blood: Hemolytic anemia associated with decreased hemoglobin.
2. Gastrointestinal tract: Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea.
3. Nervous system: Confusion, listlessness and lethargy, muscle twitching, convulsions, decreased responses to painful stimuli and coma.
4. Liver: Jaundice, enlarged liver, and increased serum enzyme activity.
5. Kidneys: Increased creatinine and blood urea nitrogen levels, proteinuria and hemoglobinuria.
6. Eyes: Restricted visual fields and cataracts.
7. Reproduction: Hemolytic anemia has been reported in infants whose mothers were exposed to naphthalene during pregnancy.

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Henry out but Campbell back for Arsenal

LONDON COLNEY (Reuters) - Arsenal striker Thierry Henry will miss Wednesday's Premier League match against leaders Chelsea after failing to shake off a groin injury, manager Arsene Wenger said on Tuesday.

Midfielders Freddie Ljungberg, Mathieu Flamini and defender Gael Clichy are also out but Wenger has included England defender Sol Campbell in his squad for the trip across London to Stamford Bridge.

Wenger was unsure how long Henry, the league's leading scorer with 25 goals this season, would be sidelined for but said he could return for the north London derby against Tottenham next Monday.

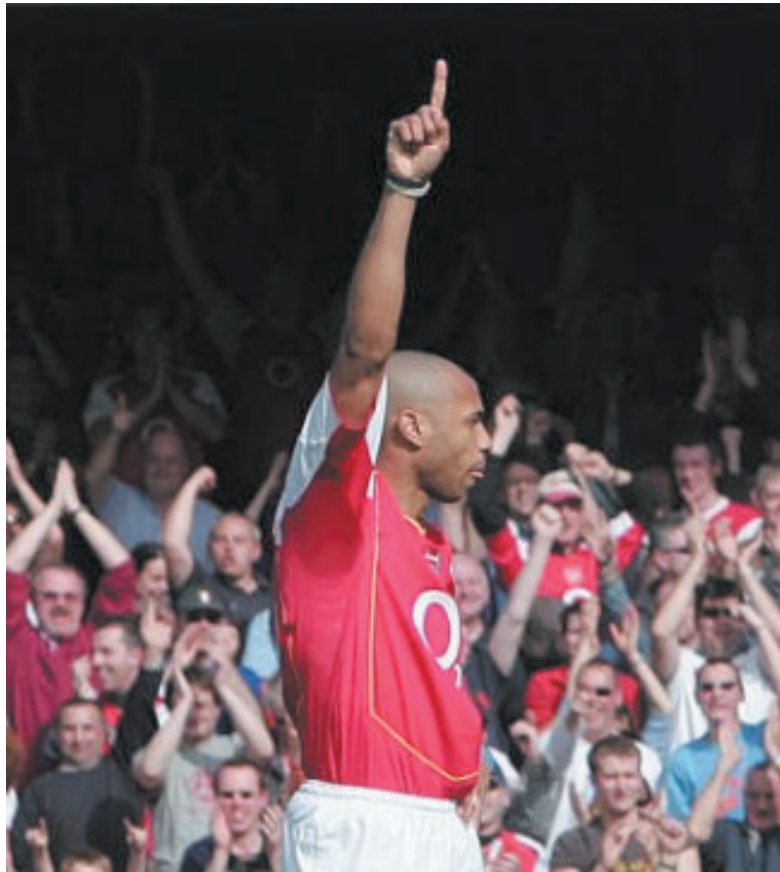
"He was not right in training today," Wenger told reporters at the club's training ground.

"How long will it be? - I don't know."

I don't think it will be long, long term. Maybe (he will return for) Tottenham, maybe the game after that."

Campbell, who has been out for 11 weeks, has recovered from an ankle injury but lacks match fitness and Wenger was uncertain he would get through a full 90 minutes.

"He's getting there slowly but I'm not sure to start him or not," said



Arsenal striker Thierry Henry will miss Wednesday's Premier League match against leaders Chelsea after failing to shake off a groin injury, manager Arsene Wenger said on Tuesday. In this file photo, Henry celebrates scoring his second goal against Norwich City during their English premier league match at Highbury, London April 2. REUTERS

Wenger.

"He has been out for a long time. The last time I rushed him back and he was not completely right and the performances were not of his usual standard and his confidence suffered.

"I have to give him time, but just having him back in the squad is important and a big boost to everyone."

Sweden midfielder Ljungberg has not shaken off the hip injury he sustained in the FA Cup semi-final win over Blackburn Rovers on Saturday while Clichy is recovering from foot surgery.

Chelsea lead champions Arsenal by 11 points with six games to play but Wenger said his side would not give up their title without a fight.

A Chelsea victory would leave Jose Mourinho's side requiring one more win to seal their first league title since 1955.

"It's important to win tomorrow, as long as there is a mathematical chance we have to go for it."

It's important to be strong in big games," said the Frenchman.

"We must fight for the championship as long as we can. What makes the difference between a big champion and a normal person is that as long as there is a chance, the big champ will keep fighting."

Bolton hopes dashed by Phillips equaliser

Wed Apr 20, 2005 7:23 AM BST

LONDON (Reuters) - Bolton Wanderers missed out on the chance to move into fourth place in the Premier League on Tuesday as they were held 1-1 at home by struggling Southampton.

Greece midfielder Stelios Giannakopoulos opened the scoring for the home side after 25 minutes, heading home from close range.

However, striker Kevin Phillips levelled on 69 minutes with a right-foot shot to deny the hosts the chance of moving into the final

Champions League spot.

The result left Bolton in fifth on 53 points from 34 matches, a point behind Everton who have two games in hand.

Southampton edged out of the relegation zone on goal difference. They are level on 28 points with third bottom West Bromwich Albion, who have two games in hand.

In Tuesday's other match, Middlesbrough drew 1-1 with Fulham who nudged up one place to 15th on 35 points.



Bolton Wanderers missed a chance to move into fourth place in the Premier League on Tuesday as they were held 1-1 at home by struggling Southampton. The photo shows Wanderers players Nolan, Speed and Davies reacting to a missed chance during their FA Cup quarter-final match against Arsenal earlier in the year. REUTERS

Terry fit for Chelsea's Arsenal clash

COBHAM (Reuters) - Fleet-footed winger Arjen Robben has failed to recover for Chelsea's top-of-the-table Premier League clash with Arsenal, assistant manager Steve Clarke said on Tuesday.

Inspirational captain John Terry, who limped off after the second leg of his side's quarter-final triumph over Bayern Munich a week ago, is in the squad for Wednesday's game, however.

"Terry is fit and available....(Robben) within the next couple of weeks could be in the squad and pushing for a place in the team," Clarke told a news conference at Chelsea's training ground outside London.

Robben has played only a few minutes as substitute for Chelsea since breaking a bone in his foot against Blackburn on February 2.

He returned against Crystal Palace last month but was injured almost immediately playing for the Netherlands.

Terry, the heart and soul of Chelsea's mean defence this season, hurt his thigh in a collision with Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Arsenal are 11 points adrift of Chelsea who will clinch the title if they win back-to-back at home to their north London rivals on Wednesday and neighbours Fulham on Saturday.

The Gunners are also likely to be missing key players with strikers Thierry Henry and Freddie Ljungberg injured.

Clarke, standing in for manager Jose Mourinho who has been avoiding the British press after run-ins with UEFA and the FA, said Chelsea's commanding position proved they were the top team in London despite a poor record against Arsenal.

Chelsea have not won any of their



Fleet-footed winger Arjen Robben has failed to recover for Chelsea's top-of-the-table Robben is pictured during Chelsea's match at Stamford Bridge in London, March 19., in this file photo. REUTERS

last eight home league matches against the champions, their last success a 1-0 win in September 1995.

"You have to judge the top team as the top team in the league."

We're in a position where we are 11 points clear.

In our eyes that makes us the top team," Clarke said.

"We beat Bayern Munich which Arsenal could not do."

The former Chelsea full back dismissed newspaper reports saying several Arsenal players had suggested Chelsea's style was boring as "not a

fair criticism".

He said some of the attacks might be borne of jealousy.

Chelsea, he said, wanted to win the title as soon as possible to concentrate on the Champions League where they play Liverpool in the semi-final on April 27 and May 3.

"It would be nicer to win it at home than to win away."

It's been a long time. It would be very special - very special to win it anywhere."

Chelsea have not won the championship since 1955.

Agassi breezes threw

RALEIGH, North Carolina, April 19 (Reuters) - Second-seeded Andre Agassi needed a second-set tie-breaker to wrap up his match after top-seed Andy Roddick won easily in the opening round of the U.S. Clay Court Championships at Houston, Texas, on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old Agassi dominated the opening set against Czech Michal Tabara but had to work in the second set to claim a 6-2 7-6 victory.

"The second set could have gone either way," said two-time champion Agassi, who is making his first clay-court appearance of the season.

Agassi admitted that facing an opponent he had never played worked against him at time.

"Never playing each other makes it slightly uncomfortable," he said.

"It's nice when you have a better sense of what a guy does well."

"I was pretty frustrated through the middle of the second set on," Agassi said.

"I had some love 30 chances and I never stepped up."

I felt like I waited and he took it to me."

The two-time champion will face Spaniard Alex Calatrava in the second round of the tournament, which Agassi said is bringing back fond memories.

"This is where I became the oldest No. 1 player two years ago, so it stands out as a very memorable time," he said.

"It was a big accomplishment for me."

Roddick turned back American qualifier Matias Boeker in straight

sets, 6-2 6-3.

"I had one sloppy game where I missed a couple of balls I felt I should have made, but overall it was a solid performance," said Roddick, the runner-up in Houston the past two years.

"I got to the ball with enough time to do something with it, which is

especially key on this surface," said Roddick, who will play fellow American Robby Ginepri on Wednesday.

Defending champion and third-seeded Tommy Hass of Germany also won.

He defeated Belgian Kristof Vliegen 6-3 7-5.

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NBA: Iverson guides Philadelphia into postseason

TORONTO (Reuters) - Allen Iverson poured in 39 points, dished out 12 assists and grabbed seven rebounds to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 122-106 win over the Milwaukee Bucks Monday and back into the playoffs after missing out last year.

It was another tireless effort by Iverson but the NBA's leading scorer got plenty of support, with Kyle Korver contributing 19 points, Chris Webber 18 points and Andre Iguodala adding 15 as the 76ers delighted the home crowd by extending their season.

With a playoff spot secure, the 76ers could even finish as high as sixth in the Eastern Conference when the regular season ends Wednesday.

Dan Gadzuric had 21 points and a career-high 20 rebounds for the Bucks.

In Memphis, Mike Miller had 28 points to guide the Grizzlies to a 94-92 win over the Spurs, ending San Antonio's bid to finish top of the Western Conference standings.

San Antonio's loss guarantees top seeding for the Phoenix in the West and home court advantage throughout the playoffs.

Pau Gasol had 20 points for Memphis, while Stromile Swift added 16.

Glenn Robinson led the Spurs with 23 points while Tim Duncan continued his return to form after missing nearly a month with a sprained ankle, scoring 17 points.

In Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire and Joe Johnson each scored 26 points as the Suns scorched the Denver Nuggets



Philadelphia 76ers rookie forward Andre Iguodala flies through the air toward the hoop for a slam dunk against the Milwaukee Bucks during fourth quarter NBA action in Philadelphia, April 18, 2005. Iguodala finished the game with 15 points in the 76ers 122-106 win over the Bucks. REUTERS

128-114 to clinch first place in the Western Conference standings.

Shawn Marion collected 18 points, Quentin Richardson 16 and Steve Nash chipped in with eight points and 13 assists as the Suns claimed a franchise record-equaling 62nd win.

Carmelo Anthony had a game-high 36 points for the Nuggets with Kenyon

Martin adding 22.

In Salt Lake City, Matt Harpring had 24 points and 13 rebounds and Mehmet Okur also had a double-double as the Jazz eased to 92-82 win over the Sacramento Kings.

Okur notched his 22nd double of the season with 21 points and 12 rebounds while Gordan Giricek finished with 12

points and five assists.

Mike Bibby had 26 points and six assists for the Kings, while Darius Songaila added 15 points and 11 rebounds.

In Houston, Yao Ming poured in 24 points and Tracy McGrady added 16 points and 10 assists as the Rockets blasted the Los Angeles Clippers 115-90 for their sixth straight win.

The Rockets put the contest out of reach with their best opening half of the season surging to a 70-49 halftime lead.

Elton Brand had a season-high 36 points for the Clippers.

In Orlando, Steve Francis nailed 24 and DeShawn Stevenson added 18 as the Magic halted a seven-game losing skid with a 92-88 win over the Indiana Pacers.

Fred Jones had 19 and Jermaine O'Neal added 16 for the Pacers, who are slumping toward the playoffs with a three-game losing streak.

In New Orleans, Wally Szczerbiak scored 18 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, to help the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 102-99 comeback win over the Hornets.

Sam Cassell had 16 points and NBA MVP Kevin Garnett added 14 as Timberwolves dealt the Hornets their eighth straight loss.

In Oakland, Mickael Pietrus had 25 points and Baron Davis 24 as the Golden State Warriors stomped the Los Angeles Lakers 126-99.

Kobe Bryant had 22 points for the Lakers.

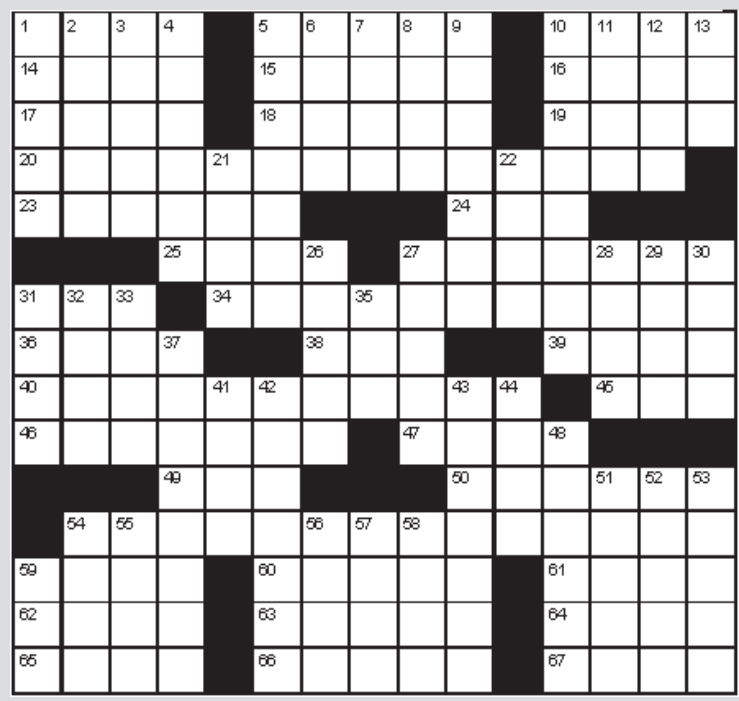
Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
- 1 A driver may change one
 - 5 Performs "Stairway to Heaven," e.g.
 - 10 Southwestern desert feature
 - 14 Semester ender
 - 15 "Christ Stopped at"
 - 16 Like a Southwestern desert
 - 17 Warm and friendly
 - 18 One pointing at a target
 - 19 Love potion's number
 - 20 TV producer's hot daughter?
 - 23 Some sorority women
 - 24 Means of escape
 - 25 CPR givers
 - 27 Mediterranean resort site
 - 31 Carnival city
 - 34 Hot item in the alley?
 - 36 Type of history
 - 38 "Full Metal Jacket" setting, briefly
 - 39 Little Joe's brother
 - 40 Hot Far East place?
 - 45 Leamington's attraction
 - 46 Trap
- DOWN**
- 1 Slow, to a conductor
 - 2 Self-evident truth
 - 3 Mother-of-pearl
 - 4 Come to the fore
 - 5 Regales with a story, perhaps
 - 6 "The Mikado" wraps
 - 7 Provide for free, informally
 - 8 Swiss painter Paul
 - 9 Steak choice
 - 10 Winnipeg's province
 - 11 "Brookovich"
 - 12 Warble
 - 13 Orange or lemon
- end**
- 21 Poetic foot
 - 22 It's breathtaking
 - 26 Subsequently
 - 27 Impersonate
 - 28 Physics units
 - 29 Thank the singer
 - 30 ___ mater
 - 31 You may find a judge in it
 - 32 Qom locale
 - 33 Twelve ("GWTW" plantation)
 - 35 ___-di-dah
 - 37 Victoria's not-so-secret Secret
 - 41 Alternative to a Lady Schick
 - 42 Most in need of a dye job?
 - 43 Eggnog spices
 - 44 Big do
 - 48 One with megabucks
 - 51 Household task
 - 52 Hair-raising
 - 53 Great fear
 - 54 Farm delivery?
 - 55 Shakespearean villain
 - 56 Charity festivity, e.g.
 - 57 Whitish gem
 - 58 Out of the oven
 - 59 Apt. divisions

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"THE HEAT'S GETTING TO ME" by J.R. Richardson



Chelsea prepare to steal Arsenal's crown

LONDON (Reuters) - The shift in soccer's balance of power from north to southwest London will be all but confirmed on Wednesday if runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea beat second-placed Arsenal at Stamford Bridge.

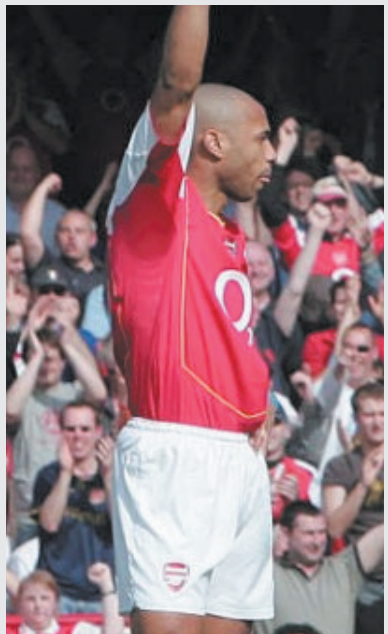
Jose Mourinho's team, 11 points clear with only 18 left to play for, will be tantalisingly close to their first league title since 1955 if they beat the champions.

A Chelsea victory would leave them needing only one more win to secure a title that has looked destined for Stamford Bridge for most of the season.

That could come at home to their local rivals Fulham on Saturday. Arsenal do not play north London neighbours Tottenham Hotspur at Highbury until the following Monday.

Chelsea have already won this season's League Cup and are favourites to reach the Champions League final after being drawn in the last four against Liverpool, the team they beat in Cardiff to win their first major trophy under Russian owner Roman Abramovich.

Mourinho's team enjoyed a week-end off after their Champions League exertions against Bayern Munich and their outstanding captain, defender



The shift in soccer's balance of power from north to southwest London will be all but confirmed on Wednesday if runaway Premier League leaders Chelsea beat second-placed Arsenal at Stamford Bridge. REUTERS

John Terry, expects to shake off a thigh injury in time for Wednesday's game.

Dutch winger Arjen Robben is also back in training.

Arsenal have a big doubt over top scorer Thierry Henry, who missed their FA Cup semi-final win over Blackburn Rovers on Saturday with a groin injury.

Defender Sol Campbell is expected to return after an 11-week absence with an ankle injury. Midfielder Freddie Ljungberg is doubtful (hip).

Recent history suggests Chelsea might not have it all their own way.

Chelsea have not won any of their last eight home league matches against Arsenal, their last success being a 1-0 win in September 1995.

Bolton quest
Bolton Wanderers will jump into a Champions League qualifying spot, temporarily at least, if they beat third-from-bottom Southampton at the Reebok Stadium on Tuesday.

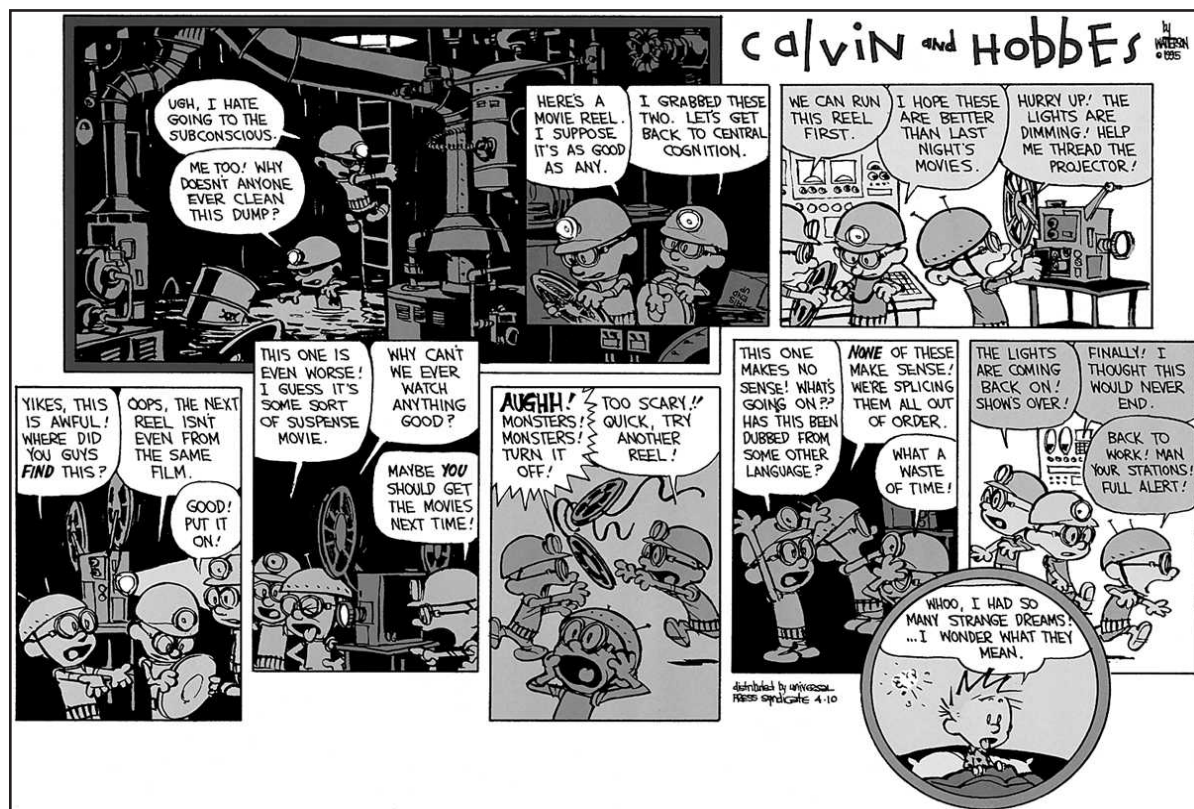
Fourth-placed Everton are two points clear of Bolton, who have never played in Europe, but have a tough home fixture against third-placed Manchester United on Wednesday.

Sixth-placed Liverpool, a point behind Bolton, visit Portsmouth the same evening.

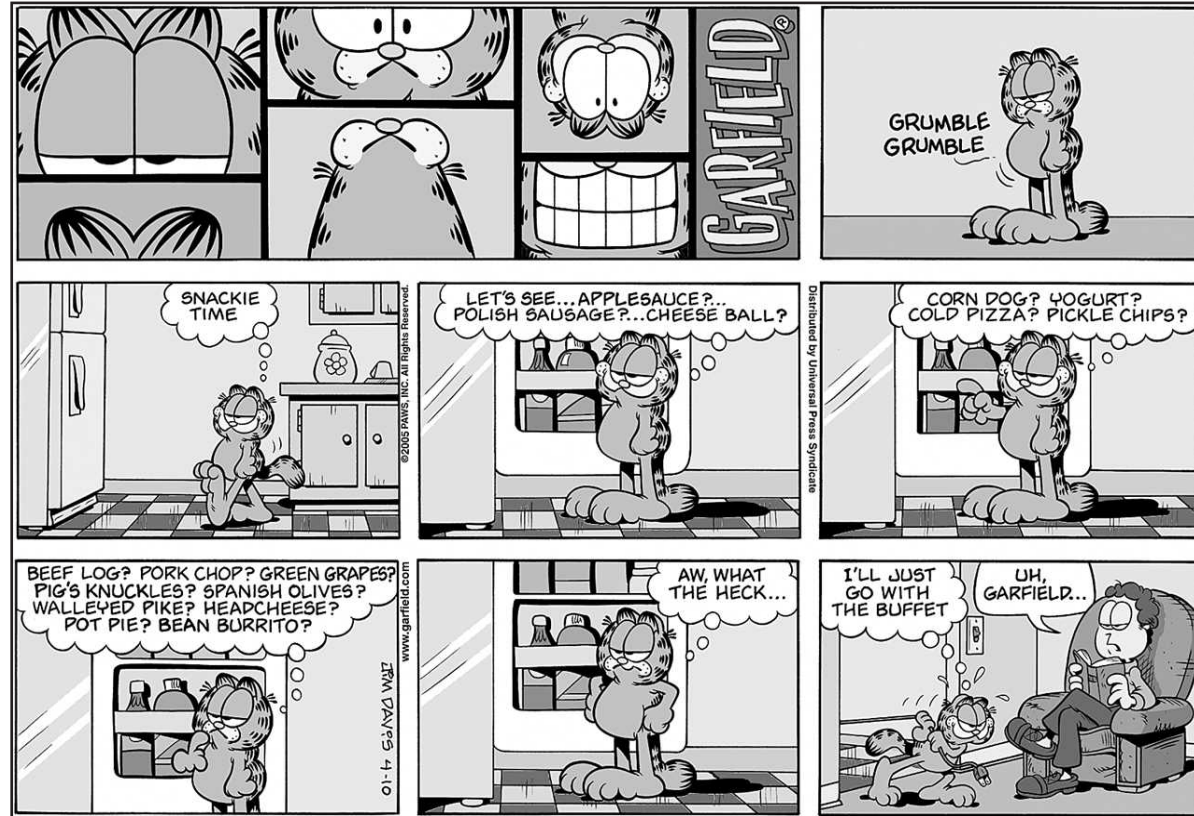
The bottom two, Norwich City and Crystal Palace, will hope their respective opponents, Newcastle United and Blackburn, have not

recovered from their FA Cup semi-final drubbings at the weekend.

Fourth-from-bottom West Bromwich Albion, who have a one-point safety cushion and a game in hand, visit Tottenham.



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Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer
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Ans & Winner contest : 40
All the sentences are the same
Fuad Al-Mohanna

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A woman who adores Sana'a

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
ym_almayasi@yahoo.com
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

I used to wonder whether a person would be willing to live in harsh, difficult conditions in stages of life that are supposed to be spent relaxing from hard work. I also wondered whether there are people willing to forsake their comfortable developed countries and prestigious positions for another country with less prosperity and status. I had not thought there were such persons. I have realized however that this does happen but only with great people.

There may be a wisdom that we cannot conceive as we are living in a fast-paced world. Those wise people's intention perhaps is to renew their abilities and be creative. The point may be to regain patience or live in isolation, contemplating Allah's vast creation.

Great people may have all the trappings of success and creativity but they abandon it all that for the sake of these fundamental goals and noble ends from



Professor Marlena Ratti

which many people benefit. Preferring to take this humble course, they are reborn.

They are many people like this but we are not interested to find them and tell their amazing stories. Why don't we have an interest in them? They are trying to bring a ray of hope into others' hearts. They should be held in high esteem because they lay their fame aside and set off to distant and difficult cities leaving behind their green, cultivated gardens in order to grow heart-soothing gardens in our simple modest cities.

There are many stories of enchantment between the Old City of Sana'a and her visitors. One such story is between Italian Professor Marlena Ratti and Sana'a. Yes, Sana'a.

She has been in love with Sana'a since 1960, 45 years ago. The relation became stronger when she purchased a house in this city, which is on UNESCO's world heritage list.

It was by coincidence that I came to know the active Prof. Ratti. That was before a few days when someone interested in her cultural and scientific activities asked me to write a news story about her.

I went to the Old City where I found several surprises: a

three-story house the first of which is an Italian cultural center containing some 5000 books at the disposal of knowledge seekers especially Yemenis studying in Italy. Drawings cover the walls and you are astonished at their craftsmanship and creativity.

Marlena Ratti, aged 65, works industriously at her paintings, for which she has received several international prizes. She paints diverse scenes, and some of those that depict Yemen and are displayed in Italy, France and the U.S.A.

As a professional, she rose to fame in

the West when she won international contests in Geneva in drawings reflecting the plight of political abductees whose fates are unknown (desaparecidos). She also won a contest organized by Amnesty International focusing on human rights.

She has an unbelievable number of certificates in drawing, and psychology, etc. Her house in the Old City of Sana'a, which is a living masterpiece of drawings, is a reflection on her character.

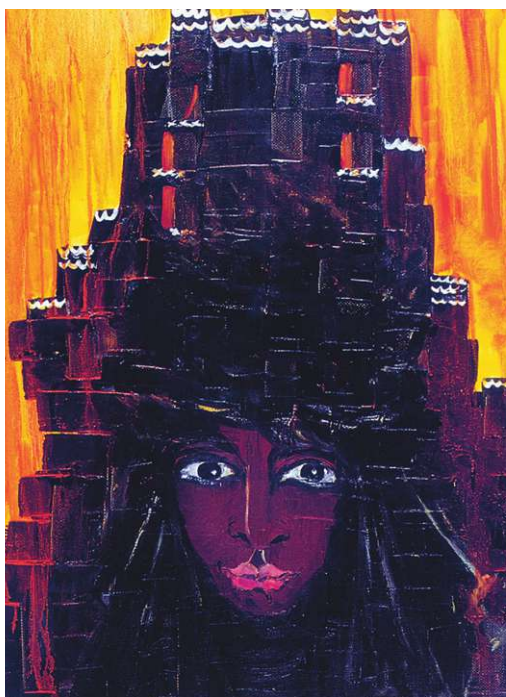
"I love Sana'a and Yemen," says Marlena. "My house in this city has inspired me with much creativity. It gives

me seclusion, simplicity and tranquility."

She does drawings in her room at top of the house. "From my room, I enjoy looking at the moon, the sky and the stars." She goes beyond our world where she feels a stronger belief in God.

"I derive creativity from the simplicity of this city," she confessed.

Marlena offer us in colors a view of her private world, overwhelming us with happiness and a great sense of respect for her.



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