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Socialists say verdict a green light for terrorists

Court upholds death sentence

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
 YEMEN TIMES

Sana'a, April 23- The North Sana'a Court of Appeals upheld the death sentence of a Muslim extremist convicted of assassinating prominent socialist politician Jarallah Omar and overturned the jail sentences of other five of his accomplices on Saturday.

The verdict had been postponed for three months to reiterate the death penalty of Ali Ahmad, who assassinated the Yemeni Socialist Party's assistant secretary-general, Jarallah Omar on December 28, 2002 during the general conference of the Islah party. The convicted Islamic extremist was accused of helping to plot an attack that killed three American missionaries in a hospital days later.

After the verdict was read by judge Mohammed al-Akkwa'a, Ali, who was dressed in a blue prison suit and confined in a cage in the courtroom took off his shoes and held them up toward the judge's face, a sign of contempt. He shouted "God is Great! God is Great!" and warned, without elaboration, that "the court has itself to blame." He nodded in respect to God and signifying a challenge. He said before the verdict was read that he killed Omar due to his being anti-shari'a and for being secular.

Ali was also convicted on charges stemming from his involvement in a plot that killed three Americans at a



Yemeni Islamic militants Ali Jarallah raises his shoe as he shouts from behind bars in an appeal court in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, April 23. REUTERS

Southern Baptist missionary hospital in Jibla, two days after Omar's assassination. He was also found guilty of forming a terror cell to buy weapons with the intention of killing other local intellectuals, writers and journalists, members of the al-Buhra religious sect and missionaries.

The judge said that there was not enough evidence to convict the other accomplices and therefore acquitted them. Hisham al-San'e was sentenced during the preliminary court verdicts to ten years in jail, Maimon al-Sihdar to five years, Ahmaed al-Batit to four years, and Abdulkareem al-Qaifi to three years. They were all acquitted. They were very happy with the verdicts and hugged their relatives from behind the bars.

Mohammed al-Mikhlaflay, the advocate representing the late politician, was critical of the court's decision to acquit the alleged accomplices in Omar's killing.

"The court has now given the chance to the acquitted defendants to kill the remaining socialists and Westerners," he said. "The court has dealt with the case as a personal criminal act, ignoring its political implications." These are not just and fair verdicts; they are meant to satisfy the government's intention to let this terrorist cell free-handed and give them a green light to target the socialist party."

Continued on page 3

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Government agrees to demands Public university staff end strike

By MOHAMMED BIN SALAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni Universities Teachers Staff announced last Tuesday that they will end their strike after the government promised to meet their demands and improve their situation and life conditions.

In a pamphlet distributed by the Council of Yemeni University Staff Syndicates, they said "the doctors and teachers who have recently met discussed the government's agreement on the initiative of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Rectors of Public Yemeni Universities and came out with some points such as:

1. a 40 percent rise in salaries for the teachers and assistants staff to be paid in two steps: 20 percent to be added from January 2005 and then 20 percent after conducting reforms in July 2005 with retroactive effect from January.

2. YR 30,000, which is not deductible, to be considered as a monthly housing allowance.

3. US\$ 3000 for expenses of medical treatment abroad for incurable diseases according to the medical reports of the Medical Committee.

4. Specifying a sum of money for each university in order to provide the all medicine for the teachers staff, their assistants and their families." Hundreds of professors and assistants

at Sana'a University attended a meeting on April 20 at the Faculty of Law, where they rejected the government's offer of a 40 percent pay rise. The implementation was to be in two steps: 15 percent (nearly YR 4000) to be paid retroactively from January 2005 in the first step, with the remaining 25 percent to be added to salaries when the government decides on suggested reforms in the second half of this year. In response to the government offer, a number of professors expressed their

disappointment over the lack of interest the government has shown toward solving the crisis. They also warned that the continuation of the current situation will lead many qualified professors to leave the country. The university doctors called the on government to reply quickly to their reasonable demands. The Council of the Yemeni University Staff Syndicates distributed a pamphlet on April 16 confirming their constitutional right to strike.

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Suspect murdered in dock at Sana'a Court

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- April 20- Yemen Times-suspect Nabeel Dabwan al-Mekhlafi was murdered on Wednesday inside the dock at the West Capital Court located near the ministry of justice meanwhile the court closed its doors in protest of the incident.

The suspect, al-Mekhlafi has been prosecuted for two years for murdering Majed Ali al-Jaradi over quarrels between their families.

Mohammad Ali al-Jaradi, brother of the murdered, entered the court with a pistol in his pocket before holding the sitting on the murder case of his brother.

Eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times that Mohammad al-Jaradi, who is from

the District of Haraz, Sana'a, approached the dock where suspect Nabeel al-Mekhlafi was standing, shot him dead and wounded another suspect.

Eyewitnesses said that Mohammad Ali al-Jaradi gave himself in without any resistance, but showed self-satisfaction.

The security apparatuses are still investigating how the murderer was able to enter the court with his personal weapon.

Children of the two families, who live in al-Sonaina Zone to the west of the capital, quarreled with each other two years ago, leading to the murder of Majed Ali al-Jaradi by Nabeel al-Mekhlafi, who was killed recently at the court.

Nabeel al-Mekhlafi claimed to the court that his killing of Majed al-Jaradi

was self-defense. This led Mohammad al-Jaradi, brother of the victim, to put an end to the life of murderer before being executed by the court.

A great number of al-Mekhlafi's relatives gathered before the general prosecution immediately after the tragic incident, claiming that Mohammad al-Jaradi be referred to the court of urgent cases.

Regarding the incident, some lawyers stated that it is a violation and humiliation against the judiciary and the security apparatuses, which are required to take all the necessary procedures for protecting citizens.

They expressed their concern of what has been so far practiced by courts in terms of prolonging case procedures, leading people to commit violations against the law and the constitution.

USA and Yemen reallocate US\$ 14 million in agricultural assistance

US Ambassador in Sana'a and Yemen's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation signed an 'Allocation Minute' to allocate US\$ 14 million in US agricultural assistance funds for a variety of development projects across Yemen.

The reallocated funds come from the proceeds of the PL-480 program for the year 2003. The PL-480 is a commodity conversion assistance program whereby agricultural products donated by the US Department of Agriculture to Yemen are sold on the Yemen market to generate funds for economic and social development projects.

The \$14 million will be used to

finance a variety of activities, including community development projects in Socotra, Tihama and Hajja; agricultural and livestock programs in Abyan, Mareb, Amran, Tihama and Dhahar; the building of a fishing port in Hodeida; a rural road project in Tihama; and the restructuring of the Cooperative Agriculture Credit Bank.

At the same ceremony, Minister Sofan and Minister of Social Affairs Abdelkarim al-Arhadi signed an agreement to allocate US\$ 500 thousand from the 416 (b) US commodity conversion program proceeds (of 2002) to train health workers in Shabwa and al-Jawf.

Appeal to President to repeal execution

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Mahweet - Mrs. Shadha Mohammad Nasser, a lawyer at the supreme court appealed, on behalf of Amina Ali Abduladif suspected of killing her husband Hizam Hassan Miqa'el, to the President and Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council to repeal the execution of the suspect.

Amina was accused of murdering her husband on Jan. 22, 1998 when she was 14 years old.

The lawyer pointed out that al-Mahweet's prosecution of appeal did not take into account the young age of the suspect and her psychological condition. Therefore, the court of appeal continued until the execution order was issued on September 14, 2000. The Supreme Court confirmed the verdict on July 20, 2002.

Mrs. Shadha Nasser explained that the suspect was subjected to rape in prison in the city of Maheet, giving birth to an illegitimate infant and this led the prison authority to transfer her to the Sana'a central prison.

The infant was the main reason for granting the repeal, but the verdict is to be carried out within one month. There is also a medical report issued upon the request of the prosecution on September 14, 2000 confirming that 18-year-old Amina was still under age when she committed the crime, making her execution is

illegal.

Mrs. Shadha appealed to HE the President of the Republic to stop oppression and execution of the defendant, particularly as her rights were violated during her prosecution.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that there are people who incited al-Sa'awani to assassinate Jarallah Omar, as Jarrallah Omar's family and party claim?
Yes
No
I don't know

last edition's question:

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

Yes 50%
No 36%
I don't know 14%

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

Evergreen maiden voyage arrived

By Rudhwan al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times Staff

The Far East - Red Sea Service, a joint service between Evergreen Marine Corporation (EMC) and Hapag Lloyd commenced on April 21 2005 with the arrival of the EMC vessel Santa Maddalena at 15:00 at the Aden Container Terminal (ACT).

The other three vessels in this service are Hatsu Pride, Uni Popular and Irenes Myth. Port rotation of this weekly serv-

ice is as follows:

Port Kelang (Malaysia) - Singapore - Tanjung Pelepas (Malaysia) - Aden - Jeddah - Aqaba and return.

MV Santa Maddalena's maiden voyage to the ACT on April 21 was the culmination of a series of discussions held in Singapore and Taiwan between the two shipping lines and ACT operator, Overseas Port Management (S) Pty Ltd.

EMC is not new to the ACT. Its vessels used to call at ACT from 2001 to 2002 but left ACT after the Limburg

incident.

The return of EMC/Hapag Lloyd joint service to the ACT is a good indicator of the shipping lines' confidence in the efficiency as well as streamlined systems and procedures of the ACT as a time-saving port with a strategic location. It comes with the shipping lines' perception of the improvement of general stability in Yemen.

ACT thanked both EMC and Hapag Lloyd for making the ACT one of their ports of call. At the same time it expressed its appreciation to the Yemen Port Authority for its cooperation in assuring the lines of its provision of quality marine services.

Truce between Jihm and al-Mekhlafi

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A one-year truce was made last Monday between sheikhs from the al-Mekhlaf tribe in Taiz and Jihm, one of the tribes in Marib.

Under the truce, Sheikh Mohammad Sa'eed al-Mekhlafi and his followers were granted a year-long reconciliation by the tribe of al-Zaidi following the murder of Sheikh Jarrallah al-Zaidi who was killed by the bodyguards of Sheikh Mohammad Sa'eed al-Mekhlafi at the beginning of April in the city of Taiz.

A number of MPs from Taiz as well as tribal leaders and officials, including Brigadier Naji Ali al-Zadi one of the military commanders in Taiz, offered apologies to the children of the victim. They stated that the killing was an accident and that the victim had not been targeted.

Islah welcomes directives of EU foreign ministers

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An official source at the Islah Party General Secretariat welcomed the positive directives of European Union foreign ministers in their informal meeting held last Saturday on dialogue with moderate Muslim groups in the Arab and Islamic world.

Dialogue is the best way to increase justice and equality among people.

The source also commended the statements of the US Secretary of State in this respect, saying that such positive directives confirm respect and enhance political participation, maintaining freedoms and human rights and expanding dialogue between the Islamic world the USA.

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Deadline: Monday 2 May.

Continued from page 1

Court upholds death sentence

Security had been tight for the trial, with several police vehicles and roadblocks just outside. The acquitted defendants were taken away in an armored vehicle. Their chants of "God is Great!" could be heard from inside.

On Dec. 30, 2002, Kamel walked through a hospital security checkpoint, concealing his weapon under loose-fitting clothes, and opened fire at a staff meeting, killing three American doctors.

The Islah party welcomed the verdict against Ali, who was a student at al-Eman university. Mohammed Qahtan, head of the political dept. of Islah said that his party compels the Yemeni authorities to disclose all accomplices in the crime. "This crime of

killing Omar has been so heinous that it moved all Yemeni people and therefore, we ask the Yemeni authorities to present all people involved in it," he said.

In their meeting April 9, the Opposition Joint Meeting Coalition, including the socialists and Islah threatened to internationalize the inquiry into Omar's assassination if the judiciary fails to investigate the murder properly, disclosing facts to the public. The socialists have always asked for interrogations of all the people whose names were mentioned during the investigations with the assassin, including prominent leaders of the Islah like Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, Mohammed al-Anisi and others, which the prosecution refused to carry out.

Court upholds death sentence

The pamphlet called on teaching staff and their assistants in public universities to keep up with their demands until the government makes an acceptable response. It also asked the media and NGOs to support the strikers. The council sent a letter to the President on April 15, complaining of the government's negative reaction toward them saying that "the government intended during the past period to delay the discussion of our demands." Concluding their letter, they asked the President for a number of demands, including quick action in reforming university education, academically and financially, including the problems that the government talked about in the media for which it is directly responsible. It called for a reply "to our just and legal demands... to care for the staff's rights and grant them stability. This is to keep the [teaching staff] in the country

and encourage them to be creative and serve their society. This is particularly important in light of the many reports showing that education is declining because of low staff salaries." The letter also asked for a discussion of "the situation of the staff as an exceptional issue as it is in the item No. 6 considering the nature of the university education as the mind and conscience of the nation."

In this respect, seven university professors, parliament members, threatened to present their resignations from the parliament opposing what they call the government's directive to issue a decree for preventing them to teach in their universities and to cancel their salaries.

In its Bylaw, The Parliament specified the cases in which it is prevented to combine the parliament membership and the previous job of the member.

During the appeal hearing the YSP advocates complained that the procedures of the tribunal were not done well; they accused prosecution of not working on the case in a serious manner and not completing the investigations into the case, unraveling the real perpetrators behind the assassination of the outstanding politician. The advocates insisted that some pages from the investigation report conducted by intelligence agents were torn out by the prosecutor.

The socialist party, which is expected to officially comment on the verdict soon, have already accused some influential figures, including clerics, of cooperating with the terrorist group of Ali to assassinate Omar and other socialist leaders and intellectuals. It demanded that the religious fatwa passed during the civil war of 1994 against the socialists should be abolished and that springs of extremism and terrorism should be dried. The YSP warned against the attempts made to marginalize the political dimension of the crime, pointing out that investigating the criminal aspect would encourage other terrorists.

The socialist party appealed to international and Arab human rights organizations and activists to exercise more pressure on the Yemeni authorities not to go ahead with the case and conduct further investigations into the assassination, dealing with the case as a political crime.

Human Rights Watch urged, in a letter addressed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh in August 2003, that government of Yemen should undertake "a full, independent, and impartial investigation" into the assassination of Omar. "There are serious and widespread allegations about possible involvement in this killing by government security officials and prominent Salafi political figures. These allegations need to be addressed in a transparent and serious

manner, and dismissed or acted upon. We therefore call on you to authorize a special investigation, to be conducted in a thorough and impartial manner, into all aspects of this crime, and to make the results public," the letter said.

"A special investigation is essential because the case is a highly charged one, owing to the prominence of the victim. Omar was deputy secretary-general of the YSP and its leading strategist. At the time of his death he was working to forge an alliance of the YSP with the Islah (Reform) Party. His assassination occurred at a public Islah party congress", the letter said, adding, "Because of the very public setting of the assassination, which was carried out at close range on December 28, 2002, the fact that 'Ali Ahmad was the trigger-man in this killing is not in dispute. However, between twelve and thirty other persons have reportedly been detained in connection with the assassination and in connection with the reportedly related murders of three American medical missionaries two days later, on December 30," information relevant to the investigation." Article 17 of the Principles calls for a written report "within a reasonable period of time on the methods and findings" of the investigation, and calls for the report to be made public.

"Given Omar's status as one of Yemen's most important opposition figures, we strongly urge your government to take immediate steps to carry out a thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. We thank you for your attention to this important matter, and look forward to your response," the message stressed.

The verdict, is believed to have put an end to the case from the point of view of the judiciary but as a political crime the case remains open.

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Youth clean Abyan beach

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

On Thursday, April 14, forty eight students and staff from AMIDEAST Aden joined millions of youth around the world to participate in Global Youth Service Day* (GYSD). The students involved in Aden's GYSD event are students from the ACCESS English language micro-scholarship program, which provides one year of English language training to secondary school students, and the Youth Exchange and Studies (YES) program, a student exchange program for secondary school students from the Middle East and North Africa to study in one academic year in the United States. Both programs are funded through grants from the United States Department of State and the US Embassy.



The students who gathered in the morning, received their GYSD hats and plastic bags, and began collecting plastic bottles strewn across Abyan Beach on Aden Bay (Indian Ocean). The students began at the south end of the

Abyan Corniche and picked up plastic bottles and other trash for 500 meters along the beach. Over that half kilometer, they collected 230 bags of trash. The bags weighed over one ton, and most of the bags contained plastics, which is one of the least biodegradable materials polluting the world's oceans today. Students concluded that they hoped that others will help keep Yemen's beaches clean. The students also expressed hope that people will begin to realize the importance of putting trash where it belongs, in order to protect Yemen's environment for the generations to come.

Tourists rescued off Yemen's coast

BY YEMEN TIMES NEWS SERVICES & STAFF

Sana'a, Yemen, April 23- A source at the security office of the U.S. Hunt Oil Company told the Yemen Times today that a towboat owned by the company rushed to rescue 12 European tourists and the crew from a sinking yacht four days ago. No one was injured in the incident. The source added that the sinking yacht

was about 21 nautical miles west of Safirshib area, off the Yemeni coast. A marine source said on Thursday that the yacht, called Katarina M, capsized off the coast of Hudeidah in western Yemen with 12 European tourists and crewmembers on board, including women.

The boat was en route to the Yemeni island of Badih when it capsized. It was towed to the nearby port of al-Salif for repair.

Independent judiciary discussed

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

April 21, Sana'a. A symposium was organized by Democratic Rights and Freedoms Protection Organization in collaboration with HOOD Organization and the Yemeni Center for Human Rights to discuss the specialized penal court was held at Sana'a International Hotel.

A number of intellectuals, lawyers, human rights' activists and politicians took part in the event.

A number of the working papers were presented such as Ahmed Wadee's paper that was on the constitutionality of the court. A paper titled 'Is the punishment court special, exceptional, or political?' was prepared and presented by Abdulaziz Al-Baghdadi. The second session contained a paper dealing with the court's unconstitutional nature, presented by Mohammed Naji Alaw. Mohammed Al-Mekhlafi presented a paper titled

'Human Rights and the Specialized Court'.

The symposium made the following recommendations:

- The participants confirmed that the court has no constitutionality considering that it belongs to the exceptional judiciary and they requested the NGOs, the specialized syndicates, lawyers to underline this point.
- That the president of the republic for the release all political prisoners.
- That political forces and NGOs activate their role in defending human rights by coordinating between them to appeal to the authorities for law and

order, discipline, equal citizenship, and a just, independent judiciary.

4. Cancellation of the court with lawyers requested not to defend any case in it and to consider all verdicts issued by it canceled and not effective.

5. The symposium called for similar symposiums in order to highlight human rights violations.



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معرض التعليم الدولي في اليمن لعام ٢٠٠٥ م
YEMEN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR 2005

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“Journalists get familiar to punishments” in press law

By Hassan al-Ziadi

More than 30 journalists representing various public, private, and parties' newspapers met in a course to train on how to avoid being asked by law officials, while performing their journalistic duties. This course came at the time the Journalistic Freedom Institution in Yemen reported in 2004 that 120 cases of dangerous violations and harassments to the journalists rights and their professional freedoms, and the freedom of expression in Yemen.

Those violations started with detention, hunting down, investigations, psychological and corporal attacks, sentencing some journalists to prison, and deprivations from practicing the profession. Besides, there were many cases of kidnapping journalists by police forces, as well as canceling licenses of independent private newspapers, stopping newspapers and unjustified sacking of view writers from public jobs.

Lawyer Yasser Abdulgawad, Egyptian expert of training in the course organized by Woman Forum for Researches and Training (WFRT) in collaboration with the Canadian Program for Self Efforts Development, taught journalists the legal items of prohibited publications in punishment law; it is what they preferred to call 'catastrophes'. They get familiar to the misinterpreted items that may make the journalist fall to the scope of being asked by law under the accusations of breaking the Press Law No. 25 for the year 1990.

Su'ad al-Qadasi, WFRT Director, said, 'since the government recently started trying journalists, we realized that journalists themselves are not aware of laws that limit their freedom. Therefore, it was necessary to have this course.'

The trainer, Yasser Abdulgawad, said: 'it is very important to modify laws in order to show a wider opportunity for the journalist to be productive without being threatened. There are many warnings among the items of the Punishment and Press Laws that each



Su'ad al-Qadasi

journalist should deal with carefully.

The participants got familiar to these laws and they presented models of actual trials and essays that may put their writer in dock. They are absolutely influenced by the reality.

The representative of the Canadian Program for Self Efforts Development mentioned that 'the course is considered a contribution to qualifying journalists and raising their awareness about the law items. It is organized in collaboration with WFRT in the frame of supporting the Civil Society Organizations considering the journalists a means of developing this society.'

Mr. Khalil Al-Buraihi from the Yemen Observer said, 'Press Law is flexible and obscure and it needs to be modified by experts of legal affairs especially those that deal with press issues. Law has given freedom in some aspects but it hasn't in others.'

Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani, a journalist, said: 'The journalists should struggle to cancel the idea of imprisonment of journalists. We do not want to exploit the law's shortcomings or to learn how to do so. On the contrary, we want to know how to deal with it properly as long as it meets our needs and the society's. Law should not be a hindrance to freedoms but it should stop the journalists' exaggerations. The newspapers should exceed the state of fear and sacredness given by law to some establishments that should respect the nation as well as constitution.'

Arwa Al-Sharjabi, a journalist, declared that 'the course unveiled the laws that try the journalistic act before all attended participants, especially when we see a lot of the publications issues that deal with expression freedom presented to courts. The course



Abdurraheem Mohsen

helped in familiarizing journalists in the legal and practical aspects especially the international agreements of expression freedom and publication. We knew the nature of the terms and expressions that prevent us not to break laws.'

Aidi Al-Manifi said: 'a number of laws issued in Yemen, including Press and Publications Law, confined the journalists' freedom. This matter makes us loudly call for modifying this law that has a bad reputation because of the imprisonment and detention it includes without being in proportion to what all people are looking for.'

'Many official, journalistic and foreign institutions started to work on changing this law in order to go proportionally with the democratic margin all of us hope to enhance. What is happening is the contrary, we limit the democratic margin in front of the world.'

'Press and Publication Law No. 25 for the year 1990 has flexible items and expressions that are always in favor of the state. Not only that, but the Punishment Law has also a number of such items. What the press law allows is not permitted by the Punishment Law. Thus, many laws should be reconsidered especially those that were exactly copied from the Egyptian Law in 1970s though Egyptian have changed theirs.'

Arafat Mudabesh said: 'generally speaking, Press and Punishments Laws which journalists are tried in their light include a number of items that confine press and journalists freedom should be reconsidered as soon as possible.'

Abdurahim Mihsen, stated that 'the course has a distinctive feature because it is related to limitations of the jour-



Aidi al-Muneefi

nalistic act. The course is very short and journalists need more and more.'

This is the way the journalists get familiar to the items Press Law and



Ra'afat Mudabesh

Punishment Law that they may be tried in their bases and how they got shocked accordingly. Anyway, they realized what limits their acts and they can



Jamal al-Ju'abi

avoid falling in such legal traps till issuing a law canceling the punishment of journalists and enhancing the journalistic freedom.

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Hizbollah: prisoner swap talks near decisive stage

BEIRUT, April 23 (Reuters) - Lebanon's Hizbollah said prisoner exchange negotiations with its arch-foe Israel were reaching a decisive stage but warned it could resort to force to

free the last Lebanese detainees if talks failed.

"We are involved and are closer than at any time in the past to the hour of truth on this issue, the issue of negoti-

ations," Hizbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said late on Friday.

"When we fail on the issue of negotiations, which must be decided very soon one way or another, then we have a commitment and only one choice left before us, the one that returned our dear brothers," he told a rally.

Israel and Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah carried out a German-negotiated swap in January 2004 that freed hundreds of Arab prisoners for a kidnapped Israeli businessman and the bodies of three Israeli soldiers.

Hizbollah, which is backed by Syria and Iran, had snatched those soldiers from a disputed border area in 2000 to pressure Israel into releasing Lebanese detainees held in its jails.

A second stage of talks was expected to focus on the fate of Israeli airman Ron Arad, who was downed during a bombing raid over Lebanon in 1986, and four Iranian diplomats who disappeared in Lebanon in 1982, the year the Jewish state invaded Beirut.

An Omani newspaper said in September that Hizbollah had given Israel information on Arad that would secure the release of Samir al-Qantar, the longest-held Lebanese who is serving a 542-year prison sentence for killing four Israelis in 1979.

But in the first news on the progress of negotiations for months, Nasrallah said the guerrilla group refused to link the release of three remaining Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails to the fate of Arad.

"The negotiations for the detainees could continue. But we refuse to tie the case of the brother Samir al-Qantar, and Naseem and Yehia to the issue of the Israeli airman," he said.

Bomb attack on U.S. patrol kills two Iraqis



An Iraqi policeman stands by a car used in a suicide bomb attack in the southern city of Basra April 23. Seven people were wounded in the blast. REUTERS

BAGHDAD, April 23 (Reuters) - A car bomb in western Baghdad exploded near a U.S. patrol on Saturday, killing at least two civilians, police said. Police had no further details, but the U.S. military said in a separate statement the blast

wounded three American soldiers and seven Iraqi civilians.

A U.S. vehicle and two Iraqi vehicles were destroyed, and the blast knocked down power lines, the statement said. In other violence, an Iraqi National Guard member was killed

and two were wounded by a roadside bomb at Yusufiya, about 75 km (45 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Two suicide car bombers wounded seven Iraqis on a highway 10 km (six miles) south of the southern city of Basra, according to police.

Vacancy Announcement

The MASTERY Project (Mathematics and Science Teacher Education Reform in Yemen) is a project of the Faculties of Education and Faculties of Science at Sana'a University, Al-Hodeidah University, and Tamar University to improve the programmes of science teacher preparation.

The project is recruiting a Project Secretary/Assistant for a full time position (0830 to 1430 Saturday-Wednesday) at the project office in the Faculty of Education, Sana'a University.

Profile

The following skills are essential:

- ∞ Fluent in speaking and writing in both Arabic and English.
- ∞ Able to touch type in both Arabic and English.
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Preferred background and characteristics:

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- ∞ Experience with financial record keeping.
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- ∞ Willingness to travel occasionally to Tamar or Al-Hodeidah for project activities.

Candidates should submit their CVs and contact information, to

Dr. W. Scott McCullough
Email: wsmccullough@gmail.com
Telephone: 472558
Fax: 742559

The deadline for submission is 1:00 PM on Sunday, 1 May 2005. Interviews will be 8 May 2005, and short-list candidates will be invited by phone beforehand

Saudi Arabia detains 40 Christians : newspapers

RIYADH, April 23 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia has detained 40 Pakistani Christians for holding prayers at a house in the Muslim kingdom, where practising any religion other than Islam is illegal, newspapers said on Saturday.

A group of men, women and children were attending the service in the capital Riyadh when police raided the house, Al Jazirah newspaper said. It said authorities also found Christian tapes and books.

Another Saudi daily, Al Yaum, said the raid took place on Friday while a

Pakistani preacher was delivering a sermon.

It was not clear what measures might be taken against the group.

Saudi authorities were not immediately available to comment.

There are around six million foreigners in the conservative kingdom, which has a population of 23 million, including many Christians from Europe, North America, Asia and other Arab states.

In a rare official rebuke of a close ally last year, Washington accused Saudi Arabia of severe violations of

religious freedom.

"Freedom of religion is not recognized or protected under the country's laws and basic religious freedoms are denied to all but those who adhere to the state-sanctioned version of Sunni Islam," the State Department said in an annual report.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, which were carried out by mainly Saudis, the Gulf Arab state's religious establishment came under sharp criticism by the West for fostering militancy and intolerance of other religions.

Head of Middle East UBL International Division has visited Yemen and met government officials and high net worth individuals and to the Sub Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen Mr. Abdullah Hameed Al-Olofi at his office.



From left to right: Mr. Abdul Salam Khan, S.M. Nafees, Shaukat Mahmood Mir, Abdullah Hameed Al-Olofi, Wajahat Husain, Mohammed Anwar

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North, South Korea meet again in Indonesia

JAKARTA, April 23 (Reuters) - North and South Korea discussed the stalled six-party talks on Pyongyang's nuclear plans in Jakarta on Saturday, the second high-level meeting after their first such contact in five years the previous day.

But there were no details if any fresh ground was broken.

The second-ranked leaders of the two Koreas met in a conference room on the sidelines of an Asia-Africa summit.

"It was the highest-level meeting between the South and the North since the summit on June 15, 2000," said South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan, after the talks with North Korea's president of parliament, Kim Yong-nam, who deferred to Lee when asked by reporters to comment.

"We had a great deal of frank discussions on important issues ...going beyond scheduled time. It was a good meeting," Lee said. The discussions lasted about 30 minutes.

"We had frank discussions about dialogue between the authorities (of the South and North) and the six-party talks," he said without elaborating.

The two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and China have met for three rounds of discussions — aimed by the others at stopping the North's development of nuclear weapons — without substantive progress.

A fourth round scheduled for last year never took place because Pyongyang wants Washington to drop what it calls a hostile policy.

The leaders had already met briefly and less formally on the summit sidelines on Friday and discussed regional problems, but not the six-party talks.

The North had broken off formal contact with the South last July after Seoul airlifted 468 North Korean defectors from Vietnam, angering



A South Korean maritime police vessel patrols in the East Sea of South Korean territory near Ulungdo, east of Seoul April 23. REUTERS

Pyongyang.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the two sides spoke on Friday of cooperating on a dispute with Japan over desolate islands, called Tokto in Korea and Takeshima in Japan.

Conflicting views

Officials from other countries have voiced conflicting views on whether greater pressure must be applied on the North to bring it back to the negotiating table.

Some of the other six parties have talked in recent days of taking the issue to the United Nations Security Council if there isn't progress soon.

Speaking at a news conference in Jakarta on Saturday, U.N. Secretary

General Kofi Annan said he hoped the issue would not have to be dealt with by the Security Council.

"I would urge North Korea to work with the others and resolve the crisis," he said.

In Seoul on Saturday, a senior government official said there were no indications North Korea was about to test a nuclear weapon, playing down a Wall Street Journal report on Friday.

U.S. stocks fell after the report, which said the United States had warned China that North Korea could be preparing for a nuclear weapons test and asked Beijing to press Pyongyang to stop.

U.S. officials later said there was no evidence Pyongyang was preparing for

a test.

The South Korean official added: "There are no such indications. It looks to be a groundless report."

Despite the meetings in Jakarta, Pyongyang launched a fresh rhetorical attack on Seoul on Saturday.

In a commentary carried by the state KCNA news agency, the ruling communist party's Rodong Sinmun newspaper said the South was preparing to wage war against it by taking military equipment from the United States.

"Nothing is (a) more blatant insult to the nation than this because they are just applying a double-dealing trick reminding one of a peddler crying wine and selling vinegar," Rodong Sinmun said.

Berlusconi forms new Italian government

ROME, April 23 (Reuters) - Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has put together a new centre-right coalition government which will be sworn into office later on Saturday, a spokesman for the Italian president said.

The announcement ends weeks of political turmoil in Italy and gives Berlusconi's new administration barely a year to try to relaunch the stagnant economy ahead of general elections slated for May 2006.

The government includes new communications, health, industry and culture ministers, but the all-powerful economy portfolio remains in the hands of Domenico Siniscalco.

Berlusconi has also appointed a new deputy prime minister, Giulio Tremonti, who was ousted as econo-

my minister in a cabinet coup last July, but is political heavyweight and a senior figure in the prime minister's own "Forza Italia" (Go Italy) party.

Gianfranco Fini, head of the conservative National Alliance party (AN), will maintain his dual role of foreign minister and deputy prime minister in the cabinet.

Berlusconi was forced to step down last week by two allies who demanded radical strategy changes after the centre right suffered a crushing defeat in April regional elections.

Both the rebel parties, Fini's AN and the Union of Christian Democrats, have returned to the new cabinet, but have said it must be seen to do more for poorer voters, especially in the underdeveloped south.



Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi arrives to read a new list of government ministers which will be sworn into office later on Saturday, at Quirinale Presidential Palace in Rome April 23. REUTERS

Angola farming recovering despite mines, virus-UN

LUANDA, April 23 (Reuters) - Angola's farming sector is slowly recovering after decades of civil war, but landmines and destroyed infrastructure hamper progress and a million people still rely on food aid, United Nations experts say.

Thousands of refugees have returned to abandoned fields since a 27-year civil war ended in 2002. Some have lost farming skills altogether and for those who have them, getting produce to market is all but impossible.

"The country is destroyed, it needs to be completely rebuilt," said U.N. World Food Programme country director Richard Corsino, whose agency is having to rebuild bridges as it attempts to deliver food aid to isolated areas.

"But it's not all bleak. The agricultural production of the country is rising slowly. It looks like it will rise more."

Along with battered roads, the WFP is now also faced with truck drivers refusing to drive to the northern province of Uige, where a Marburg virus outbreak has killed more than 200 people over the last several weeks.

"We've also been asked by the World Health Organisation to provide food aid to families affected by the outbreak," Corsino said in an interview late on Friday. "But these are very small numbers."

A prolonged outbreak of the viral sickness might prevent some of the province's staple sweet potato and cassava crops reaching the rest of the country, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said.

A small commercial farming sector exists along Angola's southern Atlantic coast, mainly providing bananas, potatoes and cabbages to markets near the capital. But FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator Jean-Francois Dontaine said bad roads were stifling the industry.

Mined airfields

Angola's government was working on rebuilding its destroyed coffee sector, he said, but this would take a very long time.

Millions of landmines laid during the civil war were also hitting farmers, but more through hitting delivery of vital seeds and fertiliser than keeping workers

off the fields.

"It's a problem in terms of access but people tend to know where the mines are," he said. "It's more of a problem on roads than in the fields."

Landmines also hamper WFP food distribution, with roads blocked and one airstrip, swept by clearance teams at the end of the war, closed again for 10 days after an anti-tank mine was found on the runway.

The WFP currently imports around 8,000 tonnes of food aid a month, two thirds of it cereals, mainly maize. By 2006, it expects to cut back to around

50,000 tonnes a year.

With South African maize prices low as the region's largest producer expects the largest crop in over a decade, most of the maize would come from there, Corsino said.

While some of the reduction is due to Angola's post-war recovery, partly fuelled by oil and diamonds, much is also due to international donors cutting back funding as they concentrate on disasters such as Asia's tsunami.

While the WFP currently feeds about one million of Angola's 14 million people, that number will likely drop to around 600,000 over the next year.



An Angolan vendor sells fruit on the streets of the nation's capital Luanda April 23. REUTERS



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China's victimization syndrome

By ORVILLE SCHELL

A contest for China's soul is now underway in that giant country, pitting two powerful forces and two very different stances toward the outside world against each other. The outcome will have a major impact on whether China succeeds in becoming a nation capable of having truly constructive and durable relations with the outside world.

On one hand, China's economic revolution has helped position it in the world as a confident powerhouse of trade, a more responsible global powerbroker, and even as a reassuring military presence. On the other hand, China remains trapped by a past and a mindset steeped in a sense of victimization, which tempts it to export blame for internal problems.

The main question is whether China can escape the pull of this old psychological syndrome – which kept it preoccupied throughout the twentieth century with debilitating sentiments of weakness, insecurity, and humiliation – and allow itself to be guided by a new outlook on the world, and even on old enemies.

The anti-Japanese demonstrations are a symptom of the old syndrome, fueled by grievances born at a time when China

was, indeed, aggrieved and humiliated. With China's growing economic clout, rising standard of living, and increasingly respected place in the world, one would hope that the Chinese and their leaders would find a way to let go of the dead. Yet, even as the luster of the "China miracle" dazzles the world, the Chinese seem loath leave behind their dark feelings of victimization.

Instead of assuming a new national paradigm based on the reality of their accomplishments (national unity, robust international trade, and growing global influence), China's leaders cling to the old paradigm of their country as victim, the "sick man of Asia" being "cut up like a melon" by predatory imperial and colonial powers like Japan. That bitter memory of oppression and exploitation lingers in the minds of too many Chinese like the afterimage of a bright light long after it has been turned off.

The Japanese occupation of China was a particularly galling and humiliating period because Japan was an Asian, not a Western, power. Moreover, like China, Japan was a society steeped in Confucian culture, which many Chinese reformers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries blamed as a critical impediment to their own country's development and modernization.

Of course, Japan did occupy China, committed unimaginable savagery, and has since paid no reparations or apologized in a convincing way. Nevertheless, what benefit does China gain by continuing to raise these issues 60 years later? What is worth the risk of alienating the world's second largest economy and one of China's most important trade partners?

First and foremost, aiding and inciting the expression of popular anger against Japan gives China's Communist Party leaders a powerful and readily available vehicle for rallying domestic support, thereby legitimizing their own power. At the same time, the demonstrations represent China's experience of the world as an unequal place where the weak are inevitably bullied, exploited, and humiliated. This mindset suggests that, despite the panoramic city skylines, the billboards, and the flashy five-star hotels say otherwise, China has a long way to go before it truly comes to understand and appreciate its actual accomplishments and status.

Indeed, surges of organized anger when China is attacked or insulted are hardly new. The reaction of China's leaders to the America's accidental attack on China's embassy in Belgrade in 1998, and to the collision of an American spy plane with a Chinese plane over the



Pacific, was to permit, if not foment, large anti-foreign demonstrations. In keeping with this syndrome, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing has accused Japan of having "hurt the feelings of the Chinese people" by not apologizing for their crimes, as if he were Minister of Psychology, rather than foreign affairs.

Of course, China's wounded psyche and the desire for restitution from its former tormentors deserve sympathy. In this sense, China, like many countries, could be said to have something of a bi-polar personality. Much of the emotional force of Mao's revolution derived from the

widespread sense of unequal treatment and humiliation by foreign powers, and this revolutionary fervor has never been properly interred. Just as Mao's portrait has never been taken down from The Gate of Heavenly Peace, so whole elements of his revolution continue to survive in China's institutions, ways of thinking, and modes of interacting with the world. Like recessive genes, they sometimes suddenly re-express themselves.

The role of victim is all too familiar to the Chinese, perhaps even somewhat comforting, for it provides a way to

explain (and explain away) China's problems. But it is also dangerous, because it derives from China's old weaknesses rather than its new strengths. The era of Japanese militaristic and imperialist power has long gone, and the world is beating a path to China's door. The last thing the country needs is to remain trapped in the past.

Orville Schell, the author of many acclaimed books on China, is a dean at the University of California at Berkeley.

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An India-China axis?

By JOSEPH S. NYE

Is a new alignment between India and China rising to balance America's global power? Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao just completed a four-day visit to India during which 11 agreements were signed, including a comprehensive five-year strategic cooperation pact. In addition, Wen announced that China would support India's bid for a permanent seat on an expanded UN Security Council, and opposed the inclusion of Japan, which the United States supports for a Council seat.

With over a third of the world's population and two of the globe's highest economic growth rates, an alliance between

China and India could be a serious factor in world politics. While both are developing countries – many of whose people remain impoverished – they also boast impressive capabilities in information age technologies both for civilian and military purposes. As Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh put it during Wen's visit, "India and China can together reshape the world order."

The two countries' recent rapprochement marks a huge change from the hostility that bedeviled their relations following their 1962 war over a disputed border in the Himalayas. When I first visited India as an American government official in the late 1970's, I was struck by my Indian hosts' fixation on gaining equal

status with China. In 1998, when India tested its nuclear weapons, the defense minister referred to China, and then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee spoke of China as India's number one enemy.

By contrast, on more recent visits to India, I have found my hosts referring to the need to learn from China. Trade between the two giants has grown from \$100 million in 1994 to nearly \$14 billion last year, and India's minister of commerce and industry has predicted that it will double by this decade's end. One agreement signed during Wen's visit was a new set of guiding principles on how to settle boundary disputes between the two countries.

While improved relations and diminished prospects for conflict are welcome, relations between India and China are more complex than they appear at first. Not long before the visit of the Chinese premier, India hosted US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Ever since President Bill Clinton's visit to India, but especially under President George W. Bush, the US has moved from relative indifference to India to the development of a strong strategic relationship.

This new approach might have seemed threatened by Al Qaeda's attacks on America, which led to a strengthening of US relations with Pakistan's General Pervez Musharraf. But the US reassured India that they faced a common threat from transnational terrorism, and that the old Cold War pairings of India and Pakistan were outdated.

Secretary Rice made this plain during her March visit, stressing the importance of a strategic relationship, including a willingness to consider trade in high technology, nuclear energy, and co-production of fighter aircraft such as F-16's and F-18's.

Shortly after Rice's visit, the US announced that it would honor a long-standing promise to sell F-16's to Pakistan.

While the announcement incited Indian protests, they were relatively muted compared to the past. One reason is that the State Department also issued a statement that America would help India to become a major world power in the twenty-first century, involving both a strategic and economic dialogue.

Several factors underpin this new American attitude toward India. Rhetoric about "the world's two largest democracies" is not new, but it fits with the Bush administration's new emphasis on promoting democracy. The increasing role of the Indian diaspora in the US, particularly in the information industries, also had an influence, as has the rise in bilateral trade accompanying India's surging economic growth. Equally important are strategic concerns about transnational terrorism and the rise of Chinese power.

The rise of China is a major factor in the politics of the twenty-first century. China has tripled the size of its economy in the past two decades, and has been increasing its military strength. While both India and the US seek trade and good relations with China, both are aware – and wary – of China's growing strength.

Thus, both seek to hedge their bets, and what better way to do so than by improving their strategic relationship? Neither country aims to restrain China in the way the "containment" strategy aimed at an aggressive Soviet Union during the Cold War, but both want to create an international structure that does not tempt China to throw its weight around.

India has a 3,000-kilometer border with China, a 2,000-kilometer border with Pakistan (which has been the beneficiary of Chinese military and nuclear assistance), and growing concerns about the security of sea routes in the Indian

Ocean over which oil and other trade move. As one Indian strategist put it to me during a recent visit, "By 2030, we envisage the US, China, and India as the three largest powers in world politics. We don't want a China- or a US-dominated world, but if we had to choose, it would be easier for us to live with the latter."

So, while improvement in India-China relations is welcome, it is unlikely to herald the beginning of an India-China

alliance against the US. Rather, it more likely represents another move in India's age-old tradition of managing regional balances of power.

Joseph S. Nye, a former US Assistant Secretary of Defense and dean of the Kennedy School at Harvard, is now a professor at Harvard and author of *The Power Game: A Washington Novel*.

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بِقَلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنَةِ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ
نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَارِ التَّعَاوِي وَأَصْدَقِ المَوَاسَاةِ إِلَى
الأخ/عبد الحفيظ محمد طه ناجي
لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى
نجله/أمير عبد الحفيظ محمد طه
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنه
فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان «وإن الله وإنه إليه راجعون»
الأسيفون:
مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر
جميع آل السقاف وآل المريري
عنهم: الأستاذ/ عماد أحمد السقاف، الأستاذ/عدنان فضل السقاف
الأستاذ/ رمزي طه ياسين المريري

Reflections
By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

UN-Stan, Arabistan, Houthi-Stan & Eritrea-Stan

UN-stan:
The United Nations was established after World War Two. Its main achievements surround the establishment of Israel, which some say was established as an outpost for the West in the oil rich Middle East, and to solve the Jewish issue in Europe. The second achievement of the UN is its non-application of UN resolutions on Israel through the notorious American veto.

Lately, talk is heating up about widening Security Council membership. I think it would be fit to accept all genuine democracies as full Council members, but instead of the veto system, a majority vote should apply. Adherence to human rights and real democracy should be the benchmark for prospective members. Beijing could remain a member provided that it adheres to human rights and never repeats the outrageous events of Tiananmen Square.

Arabistan:
I once read a book by an Englishman and his wife who toured Syria, Iraq and Iran on camelback. What attracted my attention was the fact that Iran has many Arab Nomadic tribes and the fact that the English couple were hosted, more than once, by the Iranian Sunni Arabs, while the Iranian Persians were xenophobic and interested only money.

The British colonialists deliberately annexed several Iraqi territories into today's Iran, the people of that area (Iran's Marsh Arabs) call their oil rich area "Arabistan". Being Shiites, they sided with Iran against Saddam

Hussein. Now they are complaining about Persian oppression and seek Arab support, which has not been forthcoming as most Arabs are Sunni Muslims and distrust Iranian ideology. They will have to wait longer for "Abasalih" who will never come, except in their dreams.

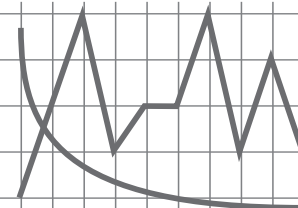
Houthistan & the Racist Parties:
The writer al-Mugahed in al-Thaqafiyah issue 288, Thursday 21 April 2005, correctly called the recent events in Sa'ada an incomplete achievement, because the main rebels are still on the run. A similar rebellion is bound to emerge under the allegation of children of the two tummies if the serpents' heads are not caught.

On the other hand, I do not know whether it is good for Yemen to annul the two racist parties "al-Haqq" and "al-Itihad" or leave them, as they just represent a tiny inflexible minority.

Eritrea-stan:
According to my Eritrean friend Berkessa Tesfaye who is a refugee in Yemen, the current rulers of Eritrea do not seem to be able to remain in power except by antagonizing their neighbors. Yemen has always hosted and is still hosting an ever-increasing number of Eritreans. Yemeni sea guards have never shot at an Eritrean boat even if it is in the edge of our coast, not to mention our continually violated territorial waters. The government of Eritrea has the right to protect its territorial waters but it is not free to shoot to kill. Everybody around the world ought to criticize this behavior on the part of the Eritrean government, behavior that my friend Berkessa treats with contempt too.

YT Business

Agricultural areas see drop in food production



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	190.5500	190.9500
Sterling Pound	365.2700	366.0300
Euro	249.3400	249.8700
Saudi Rial	50.8100	50.9200
Kuwaiti Dinar	652.5700	653.9400
UAE Dirhem	51.8800	51.9900
Egyptian Pound	32.8500	32.9200
Bahraini Dinar	505.4400	506.5000
Qatari Rial	52.3400	52.4500
Jordanian Dinar	268.9500	269.5100
Omani Rial	494.9500	495.9900
Swiss Franc	161.6700	162.0100
Swedish Crown	27.1400	27.2000
Japanese Yen	1.7823	1.7860

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni agricultural areas are nowadays witnessing a decline in food production at a time the role of official sides is getting weaker with regard to administration and supervision over agricultural projects. Fertile areas are being swept by planting qat trees, which are non-nutritious, exhausting water reservoirs and affects water basins.

Engineer Hassan Omar Sweid, minister of agriculture and irrigation has urged in his meeting with coordinator of the World Bank in Yemen engineer Najji Abu Hatem to support Sana'a in technical, environmental and social fields regarding water projects, preservation of soil and role of societies specialized in the use of water and how to activate them.



The minister has confirmed the necessity of consolidating cooperation between the ministry and the World Bank in aspects of executing as well as funding water and agricultural projects. He also stressed the possibility of the Bank's contribution to restructure irrigation administration and work for privatization of some of the administrations, activation of the irrigation, water projects administration in drawing up plans, strategies to determine projects needed to be implemented and the feasibility expected from them, whether in irrigation or feeding subterranean waters.

On his part the engineer Abu Hatem called the Yemeni side for the necessity of taking care and paying attention to the guidance, awareness and continuous communication with farmers with regard to required technology and modernization as well as modern agricultural ways. Especially since more than 75% of

Yemen's population depends on agriculture. In addition, this gives agriculture priority in work and concentration on implementation of water projects, enlightening farmers on the importance of those projects and engages them in the work and supervision over those projects.

The World Bank has decided to dispatch a team in the near future to conduct field visits to a number of areas to get acquainted with the implementation volume of projects and the actual feasibility of them, in addition to define needs of other areas. The team would present results of the visit to the Yemeni minister of agriculture to study and analyze them, then taking necessary arrangements.

It is also expected that the team would meet with some beneficiaries from those projects to closely observe the level of services offered to them and other requirements.

America's Interest-Rate Puzzle

By JÜRGEN STARK

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) by 2015 is a tremendous challenge facing the international community, and there is widespread agreement that additional external aid is required to meet it. So the question now is not whether to increase aid, but how best to finance it.

The search for additional and more stable funding to meet the MDG's has led to various proposals for innovative financing mechanisms and debt relief, in particular by British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown. But the broad range of proposed schemes to bolster resources for development assistance raises hard questions about the appropriate balance between objective needs and sound and effective financing.

Donors as well as recipients must ensure consistency between financing and absorptive capacity. They must also ensure that additional official financing and debt relief will not distort incentives or create moral hazard. New money should go to good performers, not just to those who are experiencing debt distress.

In addition to these issues, financing proposals to achieve the MDG's should be discussed from a central banker's perspective. The best solutions include sufficient increases in rich countries' foreign aid allocations and more ambi-

tion trade liberalization. But such policies seem politically untenable in the short term, even though – according to the World Bank's estimation – an appropriate conclusion of the current trade round under the auspices of the World Trade Organization could contribute \$350 billion a year to developing countries by 2015.

Similarly, when it comes to increasing foreign-aid budgets, politicians want solutions that are not "felt" by taxpayers (that is, voters) and that can remain outside of national budgets. However, opaque solutions designed to avoid critical public scrutiny do not seem particularly democratic. "Innovative" financing solutions might also undermine the clear assignment of responsibilities for raising and using public money.

Indeed, the term "innovative financing mechanism" conjures the idea that there is an easy way to meet the MDG's. But, in the end, there are only three ways to secure additional financing for development aid or debt relief: higher taxes, increased indebtedness (that is, higher taxes for future generations), and/or monetary expansion.

One proposal calls for taxing national and international financial transactions. Others call for allocating Special Drawing Rights (SDR's) from the IMF, or for using the IMF's gold resources. But none of them appears desirable.

To be effective, any tax on financial transactions would have to be implemented on a global scale, which current-

ly does not seem realistic. Moreover, taxation would increase costs (passed on to borrowers) and reduce the volume of transactions, thereby fueling market volatility amid decreasing liquidity.

Allocating new SDR's also is inappropriate. Above all, SDR's represent liquidity and can be allocated only if and when there is a "global need," which would currently be difficult to prove given highly liquid and "easy" international capital-market conditions.

Even if a "global need" were recognized, SDR's, as a component of countries' official foreign-exchange reserves, should not be available for budgetary spending. Financing development aid with SDR's – or even to replace budget-financed aid with such allocations – is comparable to financing budget deficits with central bank money.

In any case, new SDR allocations require the support of 85% of votes within the IMF's board, which appears unachievable in the foreseeable future, as major shareholders are opposed. Even the special one-time issuance of SDR's, agreed upon in 1997 to ensure that all Fund members receive an "equitable" share of cumulative SDR allocations, has still not been activated, owing to insurmountable opposition.

Finally, the proposed "better use" of the IMF's gold holdings to finance the costs of debt relief seeks to raise up to \$8 billion. At the current market price, this would require selling about a quarter of the Fund's holdings of 103.4 mil-

lion fine ounces. However, these reserves represent an important "hidden" asset that lends strength to the Fund's balance sheet. The IMF's creditors consider it a necessary safeguard against increased risks in the Fund's credit portfolio.

This is because the Fund has experienced exceptionally high access and prolonged use of its resources by a few large economies in the last decade. Moreover, the IMF's share in crisis countries' total external debt has reached unprecedented and systemically problematic levels.

As a result of both tendencies, there is a high concentration of credits on a few large borrowers. To use IMF gold for further debt relief in the face of increased risk threatens the Fund's financial integrity and contradicts the recent decision to increase the IMF's precautionary balances.

Development aid has to be financed in "real terms," or in a reputable manner, not by spending central bank money or by jeopardizing the IMF's financial integrity. Aid should preferably be financed out of donor countries' national budgets in a transparent, democratically accountable way. "Innovative" must not become a euphemism for non-transparent, ineffective, or unsound.

Jürgen Stark is Vice President of the Bundesbank.

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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.

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Hard financial questions about soft development money

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The millennium project for Yemen (mdgs) until 2015 has diagnosed the health problem the country is suffering from and concluded that it is multi-featured such as epidemics, contagious, demic diseases and non-communicable diseases such as heart, veins and diabetes diseases. As well as diseases of the respiratory and digestive apparatuses, kidney, urinary tracks, cancers and liver diseases.

The project of which the Yemen Times obtained a copy, mentions that despite improvement of the health situation in general, there are more than 30 thousand Yemenis infected with malaria disease every year and 20 to 30 thousand die of malaria each year. Most of those fatalities are among children and women. It also mentions that diseases like tuberculosis, bilharzias, typhoid, liver infection, malnutrition and inflammation of meningitis, respiratory apparatus and diarrheas. Death is also caused by a drop in proportion of vaccination

and delay in conveying services for giving birth. Ignorance of labour emergencies result in many death cases of both mothers and children. Most of those child fatalities are of newly born infants (from one to twenty-eight days of age), children of one month to one-year, and children from one year to five years of age. The project depends on health plans and programs as art of a strategy aimed at reaching results and purposes aimed to cure those diseases.

The project also indicates that Yemen suffers from high proportion of unemployment reaching 46% and majority of the population suffer from poverty and illiteracy. Those have added other burdens on the health sector and its services performance dropped lower. The project included scientific outlet of the deteriorated health situations through the realization of the goals of the millennium in cooperation with the United Nations and its organisations like the WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and the world fund for fighting AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and health partners such as US-AID, HRP PLUS, DFID, in addition to the existing cooper-

ation with Holland, Germany, the World Bank, the European Union and the international alliance for development and vaccinations. The project has made it clear that health restructuring would achieve goals of the millennium in the health sector, evaluating and measuring effectiveness of health quality.

Policies and measures: The project has also included the executive measures and policies for scoring positive results in the implementation of the project, the achievement of justice, high efficiency and transparency in health services. It has pinpointed its objectives to a large-scale participation of all society sectors in planning and implementation of health activities, making information available for revision and evaluation. In addition to reformation of incentive systems to health care and security that mothers get relevant services, fighting malaria and providing health awareness.

With regard to decentralization and enabling societies, the project has drawn up some aims, among them the enhancement of the role of committee entrusted

with population activities in planning and health follow-ups, control and evaluating health activities, involvement of local leaderships and development of scientific studies to improve health services in districts.

The project estimated the total cost of the health sector services until the year 2015 at \$ 13 billion, 916 million, 64 thousand and 203 hundred distributed over the years 2005-2015. The project has distributed those estimates on the cost of medicines, health supplies for mothers, family planning, child health, malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. They are also distributed for the cost of infrastructure and human resources allocated to building, qualification, training and employment. In addition to the cost of cementing, the health regime through follow-ups and evaluation, health information and research, facilitation of access to basic medicines and boosting administrative capabilities. According to the estimates mentioned above the total cost of health investments would rise from \$950 million in 2006 to around \$14 billion in 2015.

5000 cancer patients seeking treatment abroad

Yemen's battle against cancer

By AMAL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Cancer is one of the most dangerous fatal diseases, and its impact is aggravated in a third world country like Yemen.

This disease threatens Yemen as it does any other country, however, unlike the other countries Yemen is ill-prepared to face the problem and the situation could turn into a disaster.

Reports of specialized institutions estimate that there are around 5000 Yemenis who travel abroad for cancer treatment every year. Although there are no exact numbers, the estimates indicate that there is a large cancer problem in Yemen.

Considering the level of life and spread of poverty many patients are forced to sell their property in order to cover the expense of expensive treatments, which include surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and hormone therapy. This affects the economic life of people, but also on a national level the country loses large amounts of hard currency that could have been invested in Yemen.

The government, represented by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, has become concerned with the situation and has met with many Yemeni businessmen, scientific and social personalities, and realized the importance of establishing a national charity concerned with cancer.

Consequently, many studies have been made available to the public through the media, to show that cancer usually develops gradually over many years as a result of a complex mix of environmental, nutritional, behavioral and hereditary factors.

Scientists do not yet completely understand what causes cancer, but they know that certain lifestyle choices can dramatically reduce the risk of developing most types of cancer. For example, not smoking, maintaining a healthy diet, and exercising moderately for at least 30 minutes each day reduces the risk of cancer by more than 60 percent. Moreover, many studies have warned about the risks of the extreme use of the herbicides in agriculture, which most of the time are not legal as they are smuggled into the country. Yemeni farmers use herbicides for Qat, vegetables, and fruits plantation in a careless way.

These studies and the current circumstances motivated all concerned bodies to integrate their efforts. The first step was establishing the "Charity Establishment for the Support of Cancer Patients Centers". This charity was established in 2003 and is headed by the well-known businessman Abdul Was'e Hail Saeed. The establishment aims to support centers specialized in cancer, to provide medicines and equipment. The establishment also plans to adopt awareness projects about cancer.

Additionally, the establishment's projects are financed by the businesses behind the establishment of the charity as well as other sources from individuals, governmental organizations and charities. Among the donations made was the grant from President Ali Abdullah Saleh of YR 500,000,000.

The establishment will organize several medical conferences and events in which international specialists from Egypt, Jordan, and

on April 20, under the patronage of the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Public Health and Population, consists of a Chemotherapy Section, a Radiation Therapy Section, and a Treatment Planning Section. According to statistics received by the Yemen Times, the center already receives more than 62 patients each day for radiation therapy, and the external clinics receive around 40 cases daily. Considering that the capacity of the center at this stage is 46 beds, this means that at least 270 patients cases will be waiting for treatment.

Dr. Bleqis Abo Lohom, manager of Quality Section, told the Yemen Times that the center receives different kinds of cancer patients (Bladder Carcinoma, Brain Tumor, Breast cancer...etc). However, what makes the situation more difficult is that most of the patients are quite poor.

Dr. Nadeem Mohammed Saeed, manager of NOC, emphasized the need for expanding the center and providing it with equipment and medicine to enable it to treat the patients and deal with different types of tumors. He added that the medical staff, which consists of ten Yemeni doctors, who have been trained in different countries including Pakistan and some European countries. The advantage of employing Yemeni doctors according to Dr Nadeem, is that it prevents any interruption in the absence of foreign doctors, and Yemeni doctors know the lifestyle, eating habits, and environment of Yemeni patients.

Dr. Nadeem considers such centers a national investment, because it saves tens of thousands of dollars from being spent outside the country. It would attract patients who be treated in their country instead of traveling outside.

He confessed that the center is not able to do high-risk operations, such as brain surgery, in which case, patients must still travel abroad for treatment. However, by using radiation treatment and chemotherapy the center is likely to be able to help 85 percent of patients.

Dr. Mostafa Bahran, manager of Atomic Committee, said that there is need more than one center, and more are going to be built in Mukala, Taiz,

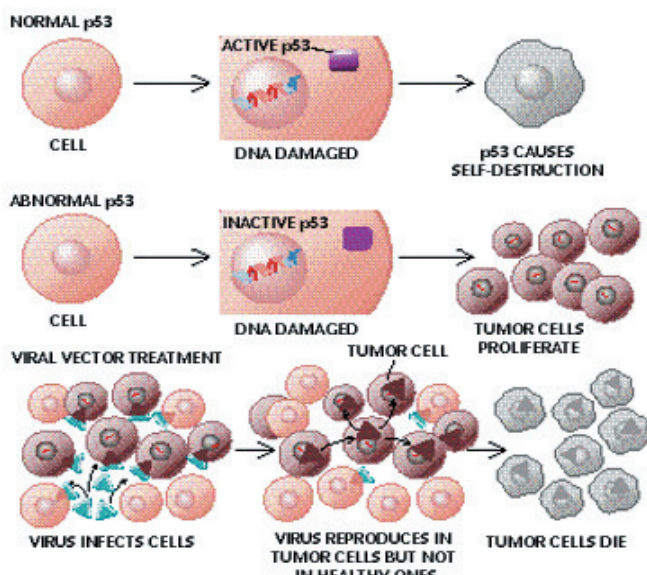
and Aden.

The Prime Minister, Abdulqader Bajmal, stressed the importance of studying the reasons behind the increased rate of tumors and cancer patients. He also highlighted the role of legislation in preventing extreme behavior against the environment that

subjects people's health to danger. He referred to the legal procedures against those who use the herbicides exceedingly.

Constructing the NOC and the "Charity Establishment for the Support of Cancer Patient Center", are considered an important step, but

there is a lot more to be done to face this disease, which does not distinguish between young or old, man or woman, poor or rich. The efforts of the doctors, researchers, businesspeople, local councils, and the media must be combined in this pursuit.



Canada will participate to encourage volunteers and qualified specialists to work in the establishment.

Prior to the establishment of the Charity Establishment for the Support of Cancer Patients Centers, the National Committee for Atomic Energy had been working in this field since 1998, when it launched its battle against cancer and sent a group of doctors, physicians, technicians, and experts to learn from international experiences of planning standards in cancer centers. They established the National Oncology Center (NOC) affiliated with the al-Gomhri Hospital.

The NOC is the result of the combined efforts of the charity establishment, the Atomic Energy Committee, Public Health and Population Ministry, and Municipality, in addition to individual charitable contributions. The medical equipment and requirements cost YR 150,000,000, and the cost of medicines was about YR 120,000,000.

The center, which was inaugurated

Environment Health seizes expired foodstuffs

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The environment health authorities in Salah District launched a campaign on some trade stores, groceries and cafeterias in search of expired foodstuff.

Tariq al-Ashwal, General Manager of the authority told the Yemen Times that a large quantity of dates estimated at 2 tons were seized along with other foodstuffs bound to expire within a short period of time.

These foodstuffs included infant milk, beans, fruit juices and dyes used in the mixture of juice that were all confiscated, considering

them the main cause of cancer diseases.

Tariq al-Ashwal added that he, along with other concerned people checked all the water tanks and found sedimentation full of bacteria at the bottoms.

On their part, Eng. Hussein al-Quladhi General Manager of Public Works Office at the district and Eng. Faisal Mishfal recommended the provision of safe water tanks in order not to put citizens at risk.

The former mentioned that one of the cafeterias was shut down after cockroaches were found in its water tanks and so was a barber shop, because of being situated between two restaurants.

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Raikkonen pips Alonso for provisional pole

IMOLA, Italy (Reuters) - Kimi Raikkonen beat Renault's Formula One leader Fernando Alonso by the blink of an eye to put McLaren on provisional pole position for Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix.

The Finnish 'Iceman' lapped Imola's Enzo and Dino Ferrari circuit in one minute 19.886 seconds, just three thousandths quicker than the Spaniard who is chasing his third pole and victory in a row.

Ferrari's seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher, with just two points from three races won by Renault, was third quickest in 1:20.260 with Australian Mark Webber fourth for Williams.

"It would have been good to have a little gap between him and me for tomorrow but we'll see what we can do," said Raikkonen.

The starting grid will be decided on aggregate times after Sunday's final qualifying.

"The car overall is much better than it was in Bahrain," added Raikkonen, who finished third in that last race three weeks ago.

"The conditions seem to suit the car much better than the previous circuit and it was good yesterday straight out

of the box. I'm very happy with it."

Schumacher confident

Alonso, 10 points clear of Toyota's Italian Jarno Trulli, is in no danger of losing his championship lead in Italy and was also happy with the Renault's performance.

"We did our job. Imola has been historically not a perfect circuit for the Renault but the car is much better this year over the kerbs," he said.

"Okay, we are second, but we are still competitive and we are still fighting for pole and hopefully tomorrow for the victory," he added.

Schumacher's time was perhaps more impressive than the others given that the German had to start much earlier when conditions were less favorable due to his early retirement in Bahrain.

"We have been showing pretty consistently a strong performance over the weekend," he said.

Ferrari, eclipsed in the first three races, have been working flat out to iron out problems with their new car after rushing it into action in Bahrain and Schumacher said they had made big steps.

"The result I think we can see here,"

he said.

"Qualifying sort of confirms what we have been doing so far and we look forward to the race.

I think we will be there.

It's going to be tight and tough but I think we have an opportunity."

His Ferrari team mate Rubens Barrichello was 11th.

Briton Jenson Button, who started on pole at Imola last year and finished second in his best race yet, was fifth fastest for Honda-powered BAR with Trulli sixth.

Austrian Alexander Wurz, the McLaren test driver qualifying for his first race in more than four years as a stand-in for injured Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya, was in eighth place.

Canadian former world champion Jacques Villeneuve was again outpaced by his Sauber team mate Felipe Massa but is sure to start ahead of the Brazilian who had his engine changed on Friday night and will suffer a 10-place penalty.

Italian Vitantonio Liuzzi, making his Formula One debut for Red Bull, was 16th with Alonso's Italian team Giancarlo Fisichella a disappointing 15th after a big wobble at the Rivazza corner on his fast lap.



McLaren Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen (L) of Finland is congratulated by McLaren-Mercedes motorsport director Norbert Haug after the first qualifying session for the F1 San Marino Grand Prix at the Imola circuit in Italy April 23, 2005. Raikkonen beat Renault's Formula One leader Fernando Alonso by the blink of an eye to put McLaren on provisional pole position for the San Marino Grand Prix April 24. REUTERS

Rockies rout Dodgers



New York Mets third baseman David Wright leans back to catch a pop-up hit by Washington Nationals batter Cristian Guzman in the first inning at New York's Shea Stadium, April 22. REUTERS

TORONTO (Reuters) - Jason Jennings pitched a complete game, Brad Hawpe drilled a two-run homer and Cory Sullivan just missed hitting for the cycle as the Colorado Rockies crushed the Los Angeles Dodgers 9-1 in Denver on Friday.

Jennings (1-2) scattered 10 hits, struck out six and walked two to register his 24th career win at Coors Field, equaling a franchise record held by Pedro Astacio.

Jeff Kent's eighth inning home run ruined Jennings' bid for a complete game shutout.

Aaron Miles led the Rockies at the plate with four hits while Sullivan had three, falling a home run shy of hitting for the cycle.

In Miami, A.J. Burnett struck out 13 and Luis Castillo went three-for-three at the plate, including a key seventh inning three-run triple as the Florida Marlins tamed the Cincinnati Reds 4-2.

Burnett, coming of two complete game efforts, was overpowering through six innings of work to strike out a season-high 13 but did not figure in the decision after surrendering two runs on four hits.

Matt Perisho (1-0) worked a scoreless seventh to get the win while Reds reliever Kent Mercker (1-1) absorbed the loss.

In St. Louis, So Taguchi and Mark Grudzielanek each had two-run doubles as the streaking Cardinals held on to beat the Houston Astros 8-7, for their seventh win in eight games.

The Cardinals built an 8-1 lead after four innings and needed all of it as the Astros came back to score five in the sixth and Morgan Ensberg homered in the seventh to trim the advantage to one.

Jason Marquis (3-0) tossed 5 2/3 innings, surrendering five runs on seven hits and helped his own cause at the plate by scoring a pair of runs on two hits.

In Atlanta, Mike Hampton pitched 8

2/3 strong innings and Marcus Giles cracked a two-run homer to power the Braves to a 6-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Hampton (2-0) held the Phillies to two runs on seven hits before turning the ball over to closer Dan Kolb, who got the final out to register his sixth save.

Andruw Jones had an RBI double in the third to end a career high 28-game hitless streak.

In New York, Cliff Floyd homered and Tom Glavine tossed seven solid innings to guide the Mets to a 3-1 win over the Washington Nationals.

Glavine (1-2) held the Nationals to just two hits, one of those a sixth-inning home run to Christian Guzman but otherwise sparkled, striking out seven and walking three on the way to his 263rd career win.

Esteban Loaiza (0-1) took the loss, giving up three runs on six hits.

In Phoenix, Troy Glaus and Royce Clayton both homered and drove in a pair of runs to power the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 5-3 win over the San Diego Padres.

Brad Halsey (2-0) threw seven innings to get the win, allowing just two runs on five hits and striking out four.

Phil Nevin, Ramon Hernandez and Xavier Nady all homered in a losing cause for the Padres.

In San Francisco, Victor Santos pitched the complete game five-hitter and Junior Spivey cracked a two-run homer as the Milwaukee Brewers eased past the Giants 6-1.

Santos (1-0) allowed one run on five hits, struck out four and did not walk a batter to register his first career complete game.

Jeff Cirillo had two hits and pair of RBIs while Damian Miller also had two hits and scored a run.

Kirk Rueter (0-2) took the loss giving up five runs on seven hits in seven innings of work.

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Yemen and therapeutic tourism

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is the country which has preserved its treasures of beauty. Its jaw-dropping valleys and eerie mountains inspire you with a heartening feeling. It is rich in resources of therapeutic tourism in the form of natural baths scattered here and there and giving a prospective about medical tourism.

Located on Sana'a-Aden road close to the town of Yarim, Damt town is an example of many typical Yemeni urban settlements. It is 210 km south of Sana'a and is dwelled by some 17 people in addition to visitors estimated at thousands seeking the therapeutic properties of the many hot springs.

Yemen enjoys tourist and therapeutic potentials. Its topography is created magnificently. Baths have been formed as a result of geological reactions and volcanic activity. Statistics show that Yemen possesses some 50 natural baths in different places as well as hot springs.

Those baths and springs represent a store for hot mineral waters which are important in terms of medical



Sulphuric waters bond in Damt, Al-Dhalea governorate

qualities useful in treating many diseases either by washing or drinking. They are useful for skin diseases, rheumatism and blood cycle troubles. International scientific studies reveal that natural baths and volcanic hot springs are associated with therapy, health, refreshing beauty and vitality.

These baths are frequented by

aged people who suffer from joint pains, laziness, and lethargy due to its sulfur content proven by a water analysis.

Some of them are also used to treat scabies and fungus, while others contain rare beneficial radioactive materials and high concentrations of dissolved salts and carbon dioxide. Such waters, usually with temperature of 185, are used for treating many chronic diseases. Some of these baths are hot and permanently flowing and others are not. However, there are other springs which are of no use.

These springs and baths are spreading all over the country. Areas where they lie enjoy enchanting scenes and greenery covering the fact which encourages Arab and foreign investments to establish investment projects, taking advantage of the availability of therapeutic natural waters and the virgin nature.

Difficulties faced by areas which enshrine these springs are not that big if they are to get projects. For example, they lack services such as water, electricity and roads. They also lack restaurants and hotels to accommodate visitors.

Many people do not realize the significance of these baths and do not realize that they have great and manifold benefits. There is also lack of awareness on therapeutic tourism issues either on the part of officials or of citizens. This hides this kind of tourism in the shadows although its potentials are available. The shortcoming lies in inefficient or absent promotion of introduction of such tourism which would make it remain unexplored.

Today, many countries worldwide resort to this type of tourism because it is exceptionally sought in this world of annoyance and unbearable

noise.

Damt is an example of natural baths:

The district of Damt which is administratively part of Dhale'a province has 10 baths, six of which are natural and can be seen in many forms such as a *haradhah* (bowl-shaped). Damt is visited by locals, Arabs and foreigners for therapy. Many hotels and private health centers have been established as well as houses serving as shelters for visitors.

Yemen's natural baths need attention and great efforts as well as large investment capitals to attain a regional and international status so as to beef up the public treasury and strengthen the national economy.

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