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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 Ômar 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-Mikhlafy, 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



Government agrees to demands Public university staff end strike

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ing on April 20 at the Faculty of Law, est the government has shown toward where they rejected the government's solving the crisis. They also warned 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

at Sana'a University attended a meet- disappointment over the lack of inter-



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-p12 cancer William Shakespeare and his challengers -p14



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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

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



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. Continued on page 3



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Around the Nation



Suspect murdered in dock at Sana'a Court

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- April 20- Yemen Timessuspect Nabeel Dabwan al-Mekhlafi was murdered on Wednesday inside the dock at the West Capital Court located neat 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 broth-

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

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

The other three vessels in this service

are Hatsu Pride, Uni Popular and Irenes

Myth. Port rotation of this weekly serv-

By Rudhwan al-Saqqaf

Yemen Times Staff

Container Terminal (ACT).

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

the District of Haraz, Sana'a, 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.

incident.

eral stability in Yemen.

quality marine services.

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Taiz.

Truce between Jihm

A one-year truce was made last

Monday between sheikhs from the

al-Mekhlaf tribe in Taiz and Jihm,

his followers were granted a yearlong 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

Sheikh

one of the tribes in Marib.

Under the truce, Mohammad Sa'eed al-Mekhlafi and

and al-Mekhlafi

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

Appeal to President to repeal execution

illegal.

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President of the Republic to stop oppres-- Mrs. Shadha sion and execution of the defendant, particularly as her rights were violated dur-

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.

tral prison.

finance a variety of activities, including community development projects in Socotra, Tihama and Hajja; agricultural and livestock programs in Abyan, Mareb, Amran, Tihama and Dhamar; 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

Mrs. Shadha appealed to HE the

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' /oice" 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 Now

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% |
|--------------|-----|
| l don't know | 14% |
| | |

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British Embassy Sana'a

ing her prosecution.

execution of the suspect. time-saving port with a strategic location. It comes with the shipping lines'

her husband Hizam Hassan Miqa'el, to The return of EMC/Hapag Lloyd the President and Chairman of the joint service to the ACT is a good indi-Supreme Judiciary Council to repeal the cator of the shipping lines' confidence in the efficiency as well as streamlined systems and procedures of the ACT as a

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

perception of the improvement of gen-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 Mrs. Shadha Nasser explained that the

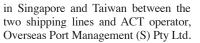
suspect was subjected to rape in prison in the city of Maheet, giving birth to an illegitimate infant and this led the prison authority to transfer her to the Sana'a cen-

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

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sels used to call at ACT from 2001 to 2002 but left ACT after the Limburg

Evergreen maiden voyage arrived 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

Overseas Port Management (S) Pty Ltd. EMC is not new to the ACT. Its ves-

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(ALTI) wants to fill the following positions within its organization urgently:

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 chil-

dren 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

An official source at the Islah Party

General Secretariat welcomed the positive directives of European Union for-

eign ministers in their informal meet-

ing held last Saturday on dialogue with moderate Muslim groups in the Arab

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 posi-

tive directives confirm respect and

enhance political participation, maintaining freedoms and human rights and

expanding dialogue between the

Islamic world the USA.

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

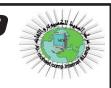
and Islamic world.

Al-Mahweet Mohammad Nasser, a lawyer at the supreme court appealed, on behalf of Amina Ali Abduladif suspected of killing

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Deadline: Monday 2 May.



Around the Nation

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 compells 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 April15. 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 prob-lems 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 $% \left({{{\rm{s}}_{\rm{s}}}} \right)$ 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 assassin 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 pub lic 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 through, 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

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 plaster, 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

Abyan Corniche and picked up plastic bottles and other trash for 500 meters along the beach. Over that half kilome-

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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 with HOOD collaboration Organization and the Yemeni Center for Human Rights to discuss the specialized penal court was held at Sana'a

'Human Rights the and Specialized Court'. The symposium made the following recom-

1. The partici-

mendations:





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International Hotel.

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

A number of the working papers were presented such as Ahmed al-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

pants 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.

2. That the president of the republic for the release all political prisoners.

3. 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.

on Aden Bay (Indian Ocean). The stu-

dents began at the south end of the

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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25 April, 2005

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Interview / Report

"Journalists get familiar to punishments" in press law

By Hassan al-Ziadi

ore than 30 journalists representing various public, private, and parties' newspapers met in a course to train on how to avoid being asked by law officals, 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 Abduljawad, 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



Abdulraheem 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

failed.

"We are involved and are closer than Israel were reaching a decisive stage at any time in the past to the hour of but warned it could resort to force to truth on this issue, the issue of negoti-

> 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 Thamar 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:

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- Able to touch type in both Arabic and English.
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- Willing to improve skills through specialized training, possibly outside of normal work hours.

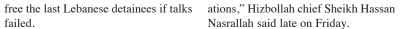
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- Experience with financial record keeping.
- Experience with project work or work with non-governmental organizations.
- Willingness to travel occasionally to Thamar or Al-Hodeidah for project activities

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



"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 vehi-

cles 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.

Saudi Arabia detains 40 **Christians : newspapers**

Arabia has detained 40 Pakistani Christians for holding prayers at a house in the Muslim kingdom, where practicising 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

RIYADH, April 23 (Reuters) - Saudi 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

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 ally last year. Washington accused militancy and intolerance of other





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the raid took place on Friday while a Saudi Arabia of severe violations of 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

world

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.

TMES

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 Haechan, after the talks with North Korea's president of parliament, Kim Yongnam, 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 defecfrom Vietnam, angering tors



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

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

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 allpowerful 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 REUTERS Quirinale Presidential Palace in Rome April 23.

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

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 dis-

tribution, 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 ple, that number will likely drop to around 600,000 over the next year.

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 peo-



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a test

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



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

Furthermore, the Team Assistant will be expected to perform the following tasks:

- Provide assistance in the implementation of the unit's work program, including some specialized support in specific areas e.g. filing both electronically and hard copies, editorial assistance, interpretation/ translation etc.
- Attend meetings, draft minutes and ensure timely clearance and distribution
- Draft routine correspondence and proofread materials
- Incorporate agreed comments into documents, making full use of shared software capabilities
- Serve as a resource and information source as regards travel arrangement, assisting visiting mission, stationary, publications etc.
- Ensure phone coverage, handle calls and requests for information if required
- Suggests ways to enhance work organization and effectiveness
- Schedule appointments and meetings taking priorities into account
- Organize events and coordinates support required for visiting missions and consultants
- Process transactions in SAP and ensure adequate follow up
- Accept ad-hoc tasks assigned by the Manager

Selection Criteria

- Ability to work effectively and efficiently. Limited relevant experience but keen interest in task management, administrative and logistical support
- Fluent in Arabic and English both spoken and written
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- Demonstrated willingness to make an extra effort, particularly during time of peak workload
- Keen to work in a multi-cultural environment

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Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Opinion

Words of Wisdom



I personally feel that female journalists can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the touchbearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum -

not optimal - conditions.

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



he Ecuadorian people chanted these words in the streets outside the Brazilian ambassador's home in Quito last Friday trying to prevent Ecuador's dethroned president Lucio Gutierrez from leaving the country-seeking asylum in Brazil. We all saw the angry crowds on TV, thinking what could make people so mad, desperately mad.

It was amazing, the human mix of demonstrators coming from various orientations and backgrounds. One would think the poor people would go to the streets leaving the other classes observing from their homes. One would think the men would go while women and children remained silent and sheltered and one would think only educated activists and intellectuals would go out in the streets, like what happened last month in Yemen, leaving the merchants and business men safe in their shops trying to avoid any disturbance and social movements. The people of Ecuador are dignified warm blooded people. It seems they maintained their pride and freedom that believed in their rights and in the judiciary system. Even demanding on Wednesday that Gutierrez's stand trial in Ecuador on corruption charges.

Statistics indicate that during the charge of this ousted government the economy went down, inflation had risen and in the two years of his rule he imposed economic reforms without combating armband corruption in the country a matter which has made people in Ecuador poorer. The authorities did not gain any achievements for their people and the people did not trust their authorities or their strategies. And so, they did not give the old government much time before aggressively changing the situation.

I really admire the Ecuadorian people and all the free citizens of any nation who stood their grounds, put their foot down and said enough is enough. There are two types of people, those who are committed to their nations and those who don't care. The Ecuadorians knew the difference. I wonder what the first thing the next president would do once he is made in charge. Whatever it is, I am sure he would think twice before testing the Ecuadorians' patience. I do hope that Ecuador finds its new leader a good man who would set an example to the rest of the developing and developed world, providing a better life for his people.

Arab countries: bilateral relations or conflict

territories.

BY PROF. ABDULAZIZ AL-TARB

nter-Arab relations have special characteristics, that can be seen from the Arab League through to the regional Arab councils. Bilateral bonds between geographically adjacent countries have been influenced by colonization.

The history of Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations is well-known, the present reality of Syrian-Lebanese relations is stark; Yemeni-Saudi relations have been governed by border demarcation treaties and agreements; the Egyptians and Sudanese are most often on good terms except when they tackle the "Harib" issue; and Algerian-Moroccan relations are characterized by sensitivity. Differences in opinion between Arab

countries happen because of adjacency and political propositions. In this week's article, I intend to point out that Arab disputes are mainly

between adjacent countries with a few exceptions, such as the recent setback to Saudi-Libyan relations: First: The Iraqi-Kuwaiti example is one of the most notable example.

Kuwaitis have been going through hardships since their independence when Abdul-Karim Qasim tried to swallow the then new Gulf State on a historical basis, echoing what King Ghazi had claimed two decades earlier. Were it not for the Arab League and the nationalist Nasserite surge, the situation could have been different, although Kuwait's legal and international status was not a debated issue.

When Saddam invaded Kuwait, he meant to highlight the claim in the Iraqi subconscious and led his aids and followers into a losing battle. The endeavor ended with Kuwait being liberated by an overwhelming international coalition including forces from heavy-weight Arab countries such as Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Another failure was Saddam's attempt to manipulate the Palestinian cause or to orchestrate a confrontation with the US. The whole matter was settled by Kuwait restoring its complete

Second: Syrian-Lebanese relations have become a historical obsession since independence. During the second half of the 20th Century, these relations were subjected to many tests. Charter 349 was an important station preceded by the implementation of Taif Treaty and redistribution of power among Lebanon's religious sects. The relations between the two countries had their special nature, which nobody tried to trespass. Even Abdul-Nasser, at the peak of his power and nationalism, talked on many occasions about Lebanon as a special case.

When Sadat came to power in Egypt, he coined the slogan "Lift your hands on Lebanon" in the turmoil of the Lebanese civil war. The organic connection between Syria and Lebanon, which have no mutual political representatives, is a unique and complex example. When UN Security Council's Resolution No. 1559 was issued, backed by France and approved by the US, many saw it as interference in the special Syrian-Lebanese relations. It also violated the concept of national sovereignty ensured for every UN member. The assassination of Rafik al-Hariri has unfairly been blamed on Syria and brought pressure on it, making the pullback from Lebanon a question of time not as much in submission to international pressures as it is in implementation of Taif Treaty.

Third: The history of Yemeni-Saudi relations was marked by conflict and sensitivity. A few years ago, the border issue hampered relations between Sana'a and Riyadh. Although King Abdulaziz the father signed with Yemeni Imams in the 1930s, the gap in living standards between the two neighbors after discovering oil in Saudi Arabia increased sensitivity and gave vent to tribal feuds. I may be wrong when I say that the US supported Yemeni unification and helped defeat the secessionists in order to stabilize Yemen and, consequently the Arabian Peninsula.

Fourth: Sudanese-Egyptian relations are distinctive. It is enough to remember that the 1952 Egyptian Revolution that overthrew the King of Egypt and Sudan brought an end to the two countries' one-king rule. Notwithstanding brotherly sentiments with the northern neighbor, the Sudanese have developed sensitivity fueled by past mutual governments and British practices based on the standard colonial practice of divide and rule.

Their relations have been seasonal, and the power struggle between Abdul-Nasser and Najib in mid 1950s provided a chance for the Sudanese national will to assert itself, replacing the "Unity of the Nile Valley" with independence on January 1, 1956.

When the United Arab Republic emerged in February 1958, hundreds of students at Alexandria University chanted "Sudan First," directly criticizing the move eastward at the expense of unity with Sudan. Egyptian-Sudanese relations have now shaken off past sensitivities and have attained equal status, despite the current problems in Sudan. Egypt supports unity of Sudan's land, taking no sides in regard to the conflict in the southern part of the valley.

Fifth: Algerian-Moroccan relations are an example of inter-Arab relations in North Africa. The two countries share many characteristics of the so-called North African Arabs. However, relations have been affected by disputes over the Western Desert.

Although, Morocco backed the Algerian liberation revolution, sensitivity surfaced in early 1970s and has remained to the present. Their disputes hobble inter-Arab work and the solidarity of North-African countries.

This is a brief review of several relationships between a number of Arab countries. There may be examples of sensitivity-marked relations between other Arab countries such as Qatar and Bahrain, the issue of which has been settled by the International Justice Tribunal's resolution.



Questions without answers

hat is going on? That is the question that has been racing through the minds of many Yemenis as they are trying to figure out exactly where this country is heading and what is in store for the

future. One is not at all surprised by the sullen faces one encounters on the buses, in the streets, in meetings - official and unofficial - and in the seminars and workshops. All these inquisitive faces seem to seek answers to several perplexing issues lurking in their mind, as they ponder skeptically, are we all right in this country? All indications are that the country is facing an unclear direction, economically and socially. The recent bloodshed in Sa'ada remains in murky surroundings and as expected, no real winner seems to come out of the senseless resorting to armed warfare, just when the country is in need of a climate of peace and stability.

A friend of this observer remarked: "You know, this country seems to run on paradoxes. With Yemen gaining in revenues from rising oil prices, the exchange rate of the Yemeni Riyal is plummeting. Just ask the market and you will find that the exchange rate is now US \$ 1=YR 192. In the space of a week that is a jump of 4 points. With that in the background the Government is seeking to carry out another dose of the Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Program, whereas the benefits of the previous doses have yet to be felt by the people of the country. With the prospects of gas and new oil finds, we are still seeing Yemenis get further plunged into poverty. I am not sure there is much room for optimism with so many incongruent events overshadowing all the niceties constantly blared out by our Ministry of Information and about the great achievements of our Government."

I tried to argue on behalf of the reforms at least that many will take time before they have a tangible effect on the standard of living of the people. But I knew for sure that it is getting harder and harder to find real justifications for our deteriorating way of life. It is also hard to explain why the YR is plummeting, when there are reserves of over US \$ 6 billion in the Central Bank of Yemen. Paradoxes like these are indeed worthy of explanation by the Government and the more clearer the explanation the better, because one feels that somehow much of what is happening defies logic. There is a war against so called "religious extremists" brewing in Sa'ada, but there are Quranic schools run by religious inclinations that have been proven to nurture terrorists right in our capital city. There are also religious extremists of the Salafi genre assaulting mosques and removing the preachers assigned by the Government itself, yet the War on Sa'ada is being fought against the people of a marginalized and neglected province of Yemen, who have not been known to harbor any attacks against civilians or intimidations against any followers of other sects. The people of Yemen were glad to hear that the battles in Sa'ada have seen their end, a few months ago although the approach may not have been agreeable to many a sensible observer, but now we read the battles have spilled over to Al-Jouf, Dhamar and Amran Governorates. With a tight lid placed on information about the fighting, speculations are mounting that the conflict could draw international attention, especially with mounting civilian casualties and further suffering by the people of Sa'ada. The once peaceful and calm city of Sa'ada is now under a tight military curfew and subject to breakouts of fighting within the city itself. While most Yemenis tend to feel that the Government should find a quick and peaceful finale to the senseless fighting, which

Oppressed children Do we work for their sake?



ting more exacerbated, and it requires all the concerned authorities to take quick action to control this challenging phenomenon. Besides, the different media means must play an integral role in the adoption of children issues and restricting risks associated with them.

Parliament to deal with the issue but no response was shown.

Sorrowfully, the report has still been discussed up until today by the MPs who show more tendencies toward the discussion of political issues at the expense of children.

Editor



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ad stories narrated by children who are illegally trafficked outside of their home country makes one irritated. They feel melancholy and sad for being harshly treated during their earlier days without mercy.

Poverty and misery made them drop out of school in search of income sources to sustain their families and improve their standards of living. They themselves shoulder the responsibility of their families at earlier ages, depriving them from enjoying their innocent childhood

There are many reasons and motives behind the phenomenon of child trafficking, which warn of a social catastrophe to occur. The faulty culture and our escapism from discussing such problems with

transparency and clarity were the primary factors leading to the magnificence of such a phenomenon. Child trafficking is on the way of get-

Weakness of performance on the part of the concerned bodies helps the phenomenon of child trafficking to get more exacerbated along with a variety of child-related issues.

Researches and studies conducted by concerned people on children issues revealed terrible scores of smuggled children from the Yemeni lands including female children under the age of 7, most of whom become subjected to severe beatings and sexual abuse.

What is more lamentable is the stance of the concerned bodies in the Yemeni government that do not pay any attention to the sufferings of children although the Yemeni Parliament ordered the formation of a committee to discuss the rights and freedoms of children seven months ago. The committee then conducted a field survey in the governorates that are notorious for the smuggling of children and sent reports concerning the phenomenon to the

Until now, only one study has been conducted on child-related issues, by some non-governmental research centers in cooperation with the UNICEF. The study explored terrible scores and motives associating with child trafficking.

The family is also responsible for the smuggling of children, in addition to the lack of laws and legislations to protect children who are usually exposed to different kinds of abuse, and some times to death.

The increasing numbers of smuggled children reveal the extent of misery and strife children endure as well as for us to be careless about their sufferings.

One can realize the days that children are harshly treated, even within the scopes of their families and schools, and some families are found to prefer their children to be laborers in order to add to the family income, compelling them to drop school at earlier ages.

has obviously taken on tribal manifestations as well as some differences in the dogmatic beliefs or the political attitudes of the adversaries.

The Government, rightfully wants to encourage the return of tourism and foreign and emigrant private investments in Yemen, but it should not expect tourists to rush to a country in a state of war with itself and investors to throw their valued capital in unsure prospectuses.

There is good sense in initiating a dialogue of all the different political factions in the country, but to date this dialogue has not materialized, nor has an agenda been drafted for the meeting. What are the paramount issues that have to be discussed and what kind of solutions are being looked for? The truth of the matter is that neither the Government nor the opposition can give the faintest idea of what this dialogue should produce. Needless to say, the opposition is yet to feel comfort in this gesture by the ruling party, as many dialogues in the past have been fruitless and for all intents and porpoises were just a matter of biding away the time, until God works out an arrangement that will not require any further dialogue. Nevertheless, the opposition should answer favorably to calls for rapport by the ruling party, the People's General Congress. I say this because I know that there are first of all people in the PGC, who are not naïve or oblivious to the frailty of our present situation. Furthermore, the opposition should be loud and clear and present constructive and meaningful suggestions in such dialogues, rather than to just feel content with the eternal motto of our late friend Omar Al-Jawi. who would always start of such meetings with: "We told you so....".

I know this suggestion may not be so agreeable to the staunch PGC members, who see some remembrance of days past in it. But, I say it in all earnestness that the Political Accord Document signed in Amman just a few months before the outbreak of the Civil War of 1994, still has several points in it that could form the basis of genuine political reform. There is no question that such political reform is evidently called for now more than any other time since that dark moment in the history of Yemen, just a little over a decade ago. To let things stand as they are have been shown over the last ten years not to be fruitful or answerable to many of the questions that lurk in the observer's mind.

Letters to the Editors

Your standards decline Alsaqqaf was the main reaam an English teacher. I son behind my complete have been following your change, from a man of excellent and esteemed almost nothing, careless, newspaper for the past ten hesitant, away from people, years and since then, I kept society etc, to a very differlearning not only English, ent human being. A man but also how to be openborn again . I am sorry to say that, the son and the minded, accurate, tolerant, frank, honest etc when dealdaughter, who are now the ing with people and issues chief editor of the newspaof all kinds. I know that per, of the late Alsaqqaf, people won't believe me if I are absolutely nothing comsay that the late Abdualaziz pared with their great father.

They are still far away from the greatness, fame, popularity, rank, universality, experience, knowledge, patience etc. of their late father. Once again, sorry to express my opinion that way, but believe me, since the great loss of the late, the newspaper has fully changed in almost every single aspect. Even the articles, which are written by the editor in chief, are

almost incomparable to the of the late. ones I am not exaggerating when I say my humble opinion of the late, that he was matchless, unique and the first of his kind not only in the Arab world but also in the world. In conclusion, I am sure it is very hard to be like your father, so please try to imitate him. Fuad Alaswadi

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Ed **Op** /

IMES **China's victimization** syndrome

BY ORVILLE SCHELL

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 confidant 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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By Joseph S. Nye

s 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 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

يقلوب مؤمنة يقضاء الله وقدره

China and India could be a serious factor 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 Parvez Musharaff. 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.

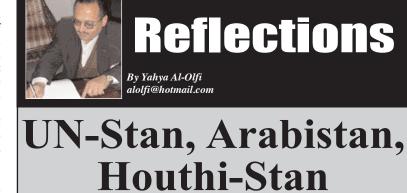
Secretary Rice made this plain during her March visit, stressing the importance of a strategic relationship, including a willingness to consider trade in high technology, nuclear energy, and co-production of fighter aircraft such as F-16's and F-18's.

Shortly after Rice's visit, the US announced that it would honor a longstanding 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 it we had to choose, it would be easi-

er 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. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.



& Eritrea-Stan

UN-stan:

Hussein. Now they are complaining

نتقدم بأحر التعازى وأصدق المواساة إلى الأخ/عبد الحفيظ محمد طه ناجي لوفاة المغفور له بادن الله تعالى نحله/أمير عبد الحفيظ محمد طه سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان «وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون» الأسيدفون: مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر جميع أل السقاف وأل المريري عنهم: الأستاذ/ عماد أحمد السقاف، الأستاذ/عدنان فضل السقاف الأستاذ/ رمزى طه ياسين المريرى

he United Nations was established after World War Two. Its main achievements surround the establishment of Israel, which some say was estab-

lished 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 nonapplication 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

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-Ittihad" 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.

10 25 April, 2005

Business & Economy



YT Business Agricultural areas see drop in food production

By Mahyoub al-Kamali Yemen Times Staff

emeni 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 Naji 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 role 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

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency Buying Selling US Dollar 190.5500 190.9500 365.2700 Sterling Pound 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

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

chieving 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 dis-

tious 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: h i g h e r 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.

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 budgetfinanced 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 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 portolio.

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 nontransparent, ineffective, or unsound. Jürgen Stark is Vice President of the Bundesbank.



LICSS.

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-

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

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Hard financial questions about soft development money

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he 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 heath investments would rise from \$950 million in 2006 to around \$14 billion in 2015.

المناقصة

عمارة للإيجار عمارة مكونة من ٦ شقق حجر أبيض جديدة تشطىب دىلوكس. كل شقة فدها ثلاث غرف + ديوان + حمامين ومطيخ. عنوانها: شارع جبل حديد بجانب الهلال الأحمر/ خور مكسر (عدن) للإستفسار: يرجى الإتصال على الأخ / إسماعيل النعمان ٧١ ٨٠ ٢٤ ٩٩ أو الأخ نائل غازي ٣٩ ٨٧ ٢٥

Culture

Betraying Beijing

By NISHA FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

TEMEN

ombating poverty, marginalization and violence against women is both a social and economic imperative at all levels. Women's rights cannot be protected and their position improved unless their current role and the need for its transformation receives equal recognition in the public sphere. The recognition will not come as long as women continue to be segregated in the private sphere and their economic contributions remain unseen, unacknowledged and unpaid. Statistics from across the world show that efforts undertaken to strengthen the economic capacity of women and promote their integration with the economy has immediate effects on the overall development of a country. BPFA recognized that the feminization of poverty is linked to a lack of opportunities and economic autonomy and a lack of access to education, services and economic resources. It also recognized that these economic disadvantages result in poor status of women and support a gender based exploitative and violent practices. Though the government of Yemen has drawn a National Women's Employment Strategy (2001–2011) and also constituted the Directorate General for Working Women in 1998, very little change has taken place in reality. Women's labour force participation rate is low at 21.8% and two-thirds of women remain segregated in unpaid work, with most women working as unpaid family workers in rural areas. According to UNDP, ILO and Ministry of Social Affairs' Labour Force Survey, 1999, only 13.8% of women are engaged in paid work. and 24% are selfemployed. Issues of land ownership and other assets, gender, wage gap, absence of supportive credit and technical support mechanisms for women's enterprises are other weak areas in Yemeni women's engagement with economy.

Yemeni women are far from power and decision-making. With a woman minister and a deputy minister, two women consultants to the President's office and three to the Cabinet, two women in Shura Council, and four women deputy assistants, women's representation at the highest levels of national decision-making has definitely improved but nowhere near being fair. If the Yemen government is to meet its However, until date, this amendment or obligation to BPFA and ensure justice to both women and men, it must take immediate action to share power with women and put them in decisionmaking positions as a prerequisite. Without women's access, their capacity building in public participation and active presence in the decision-making arena, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved.

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women are essential if women are to have access to participation in power and decisionmaking. Speaking at the Beijing meeting at New York, the Chairperson of the Women's National Committee lauded the progress Yemeni women have made in the 10 years since the Beijing Conference but also pointed out that significant challenges remain to be addressed. Yemen is, indeed, the first country in the Arab region where women have equal rights to vote, they can be elected to the parliament, be appointed minister or hold any administrative and diplomatic posts. But these achievements remain ad hoc in the absence of their institutionalization and concrete goal achievement plans. The establishment of the Women's national Committee was a step towards institutionalization. But this step was taken in 1994 as part of preparation for the Beijing Conference. The Yemeni Government must continue to demonstrate its commitment to BPFA by adopting strategies that would transform gender equality from a lofty goal to a reality.

BPFA expects the states to provide an enabling environment for women to enjoy full and equal human rights and fundamental. It implies that the states have to not only protect women's human rights when it is being violated, but have to work actively to promote these rights. Women in Yemen, as discussed so far, continue to face discrimination in many areas including personal status law. For example, only a male guardian could contract marriage for women. The Women's National Committee and national and international NGOs have been advocating for systematic promotion and protection of women's human rights. With regard to the personal status law, in October 2001, the Women's national Committee referred an amendment to the parliament through the cabinet. The amendment envisages adopting 18 years as the legal minimum age at marriage for women and men.

any separate legislation has not been passed. Similarly, there is also a lack of effective safeguards to protect women from forced and polygamous marriages. Often perceptions regarding women,

including concern for their human rights, could be measured by images seen through media. Media is such a powerful tool for the construction of women's images. Its capacity to orient collective representations of and attitudes toward women is undoubted. It is important, therefore, that not only journalists are sensitized and made aware of their role in transformation of women's role; rather, women are given access to decision-making in media. A look at Yemeni media in general is sufficient to see the extent of prejudices and stereotypes that underestimate women are perpetuated by it. Media is a critical tool of dissemination of information and ideas. It could play a significant contribution to the advancement of women's rights in Yemen. In order to meet its obligations to BPFA, it expected from the government in Yemen that it would encourage media to depict the diversity of women's lives and their contributions to society and create opportunities for women to access information technology. Yemen has two newspapers devoted exclusively to women's issues and headed by women. One mainstream English newspaper which is now headed by a woman editor and four quarterly women's magazines, which are headed by women. These are progressive changes, which need to be supported through interventions that would help women acquire skills and knowledge, their which would improve effectiveness in media.

Women in Yemen, like most part of the world, are responsible for meeting family's daily subsistence requirements. Given Yemen's harsh terrain, climatic conditions and scarce natural resources like water and vegetation, women's tasks are equally difficult to carry out. Logically, if women are the ones who are most dependent on the natural resources to meet their traditional role. women's leadership, participation in the formulation, planning and execution of environmental should be of critical importance. But this is not the case in Yemen. In general, Yemen's development approach does not incorporate sustainable livelihood views towards natural resources. The concept of environment management and sustainable livelihoods is yet to take

roots in Yemen. At present, there are no measures available to assess the impact of environmental pollutants, mining and changes in subsistence farming patterns on women. In general, there is paucity of interventions aimed at promoting and protecting the environmental aspects of human health and hardly any involvement of women in whatever is going on vis-à-vis environment.

Yemen has taken certain steps to improve rights of girls. School enrolment of girls has improved from 49.8% in 2000 to 56.45% in 2003. However, this success is not reflected in retention and educational completion rates. But on the whole, girls are a marginalized lot in the country. Yemen is still in the stage of transition from a system, which viewed women in a particular light and bestowed adulthood on girls as soon as they reached the age of puberty to a society, which views girls as entitled to same human treatment and opportunities as boys. Certain traditional practices and customs like early marriage, stereotypical perception of gender roles and concerns related to morality continue to result in systematic exclusion of girls from education, training, health care and enjoyment of their childhood. All these eventually affect a girl's capacity to take up paid employment, participate in public life and lead a healthy empowered life. The burden of adulthood is an invisible form of discrimination and violence that girls face. It is the responsibility of the state to promote an environment in which girls have equal access and support to benefit from all available and future opportunities and grow to their full potential.

It is not surprising that the gender gap in Yemen is one of the widest in the world, with Yemen ranked 131st out of 146 countries. BPFA obliges states to intervene in both private and public spheres to protect and promote women's human rights. By identifying 12 critical areas, it also provides a framework to the states to focus their intervention. Intervention in private arena demands that the state will have to generate political will to address discriminatory attitudes and socio-cultural practices, lopsided division of labour between women and men within the family and unequal power relations between women and men. These form the root of gender inequality in the public sphere. It is not possible to meet state obligations under BPFA by ignoring either sphere.



No sooner had the word been spoken upon thy calling. But rather, we have down before the king, presenting his than the floor of the room was filled heard it stated by our ancestors of old, vessel to Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, with roasted seeds and walnuts. At the



Literary Corner

the significance that the scholars of Islamic jurisprudence had on the history of Islam and the shaping of different sects of Islam, although that was not their intention or their design. Over the next couple of weeks, we will look briefly at these 9 Islamic personalities as they appeared chronologically and see what it was in them that let their influence transcend the ages. The description by Abdurrahman Shirqawi will help us see that the factional affection for these men was born out of their piety and defiance of some of the corruptions that have entered Islamic jurisprudence. As always, these great men were speaking for and on behalf of the discontent in their times.

Subject: The Nine Imams of Jurisprudence (1/3) Author: Abdurrahman Al-Shirqawi

Language: Arabic Publisher: Dar Igra, Beirut Lebanon

Year Published: (1st) 1981 No. of Pages: 393

Zeid bin Ali Zein Al-Abidein:

After the death of the fourth of the Orthodox Caliphs, Ali bin Abu Talib, the Umayyads turned the Islamic state into a dynastic regime that deviated far away from the simplicity and down to earth appeal to the grass roots that the State enjoyed under the Prophet Mohammed and his early successors as temporal rulers.

Zeid, was a grandson of Hussein bin Ali Bin Abu Talib. The latter had fought an indecisive war with the Umayyads led by Ma'awuiyah bin Abu Sufyan. Hussein himself was killed in Karbala, Iraq after coming to Iraq on the prodding of the Iraqis to free from the oppressive yoke of the Umayyads.

Although thousands have pledged to rally around Hussein, when he arrived to Iraq, no one showed up except a large Umayyad force that massacred the entire lot of Hussein's entourage (mostly relatives and supporters who had come from Medina). They did not exceed three hundred fighters, whereas the Umayyads had over five thousand well armed and disciplined troops.

Zeid was also known for his high scholastic attainments and piety and the people of Iraq again prodded him to come to lead them in rebellion against the Umayyads. He suffered the same fate as his grandfather and no Iraqis showed up to fulfill their pledge of allegiance (there were forty thousand who pledged allegiance to him). Dogmatically, Zeid dealt with many of the issues confronting scholars at the time: The role of fate and the deeds of the believer; rulings on matters outside of the Quran and the hadith (traditions and actions) of the Prophet Mohammed; reason in jurisprudence; political repression and the rights of the believers in a Moslem state. More important, Zeid sought to free Islamic jurisprudence from the misguided rulings and opinions issued by those "scholars", who provided opinions that justified the wrongdoings of oppressive rulers and who insisted on absolute obedience to the ruler as part of faith. He insisted that the Moslems should stand up against any oppressive ruler by all means. He also insisted that Moslems should go back to the simple basics of Islamic worship and beliefs and that faith should not be governed by fate, as man has given men freedom of choice and they are able to discern what is right or wrong, thus making them responsible for their actions notwithstanding that God has fated the course of the universe, otherwise there would not be a need for reward or punishment for the behavior of men. Unlike many of those who were sympathizers of Ali and his descendents and their right to the Caliphate after the death of the Prophet Mohammed (PAUH), he said that

ast week, we discussed those who ruled after the Prophet may have taken a right of Ali's, but nevertheless, because they were just and strict adherers to Islamic principles of governance, they deserve the respect of all Moslems, since his grandfather Ali respected them and did not dissent or break away his loyalty to the state. His religious and social principles are outlined in the "Al-Azhar", which is the text book of the Zeidi sect.

Ja'afar al-Sadiq:

Also a descendant of Ali, Ja'afar lived from 80 AH to 146 AH in Medina, where he developed his scholastic attainments . Unlike Zeid, and many of the descendants of Ali, although he renounced oppression and tyranny, he did not believe it wise to rise up in revolt against oppression. He felt one would be more effective in enlightening people to the right path until there is enough of a strong following that can counter tyranny and oppression.

He did not believe that revenge was the right path for the persecution faced by the House of Ali from successive Umayyad rulers and that dialogue was the best means of convincing people of right and wrong. He was a great giver of charity and often without revealing the source of his giving to the beneficiary.

A revolt overthrew the Umayyads (after 90 years) in Ja'afar's time and he was asked to take the Caliphate. He refused, saying "Whosoever sought leadership will be destroyed!" With the takeover of the Caliphate by the Abbasids (cousins of the Hashemites) on the pretext of avenging the death of so many of Ali's descendants, they also were repressive and relied on the advice of opportunists who twisted the facts and exalted rulers to think of themselves as ruling by "divine decree", and that any opposition to them stems from jealousy or ambition! Ja'afar also noticed that the ruling regime sought to convince people that asceticism was good for the believers and that poverty should be construed as akin to religious faith.

This would not then cause people to suggest that corruption and oppression are breeders of poverty. He insisted that people should pursue all that is sanctified by religious dogma and not exaggerate the virtues of asceticism by depriving themselves of sanctified

Summary of part 1 & 2:

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BEN-ABRAHAM

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. The Queen reads the letter and decides to travel from Yemen to the King in Jerusalem.

Part III

he and her great train were conducted by Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, to Jerusalem, and when the king was told that the queen of Sheba had just arrived in the city, he stood up from his place and went to sit in his glass house. The queen was brought before him, and when she saw the king sitting in his glass house, she thought within herself that the king sat upon water, and so proceeded to draw up the hem of her dress so that she could pass over without getting wet. The king then saw her legs that they were full of hair, and when the queen had sat down beside him, he said unto her, "Thy beauty is the beauty befitting women, but thy hairs are the hairs befitting men. Hair on a man's body is comely, but uncomely on a woman's."

Now while she yet sat in his glass house, the king asked her, "What portends to thy coming, my fair queen? Hath the tokens of the hoopoe bird summoned thee unto me, which he didst carry in his wings aloft?" She answered, "Nay, my lord the king. T'was not merely tidings from thee which didst trouble even by Abraham who was married to Keturah, who bare him six sons, from whom came Sheba our ancestor, that Abraham's descendants through Isaac would bring forth a deliverer into the world, even the Messiah. For this is what was meant by the words, 'For unto the sons of the concubines belonging to Abraham, Abraham did give unto them gifts, and sent them away, etc.' (Gen.25:6); Those gifts meaning none other than the mystery of the earth's redemption, delivered unto us by our ancestor Abraham. I have come here out of due respect to his great name, to wit, God's name, to know whether or not

thou art this Messiah." Now Solomon knew not what to answer the woman at her words, being astonished at her great measure of faith. And so, not willing to disappoint the queen who had endangered herself to come unto him, he wisely evaded her question, and asked, "Who are these youths, my fair queen, who have come along with thee?" "My lord," she said, "if thou art so wise that even the wild beasts of the field and the birds of the air do heed thy call, then I shall yet make trial of this thy wisdom. For I would prove thy wisdom by words and by riddles, and by way of puzzling problems which I shall pose unto thee. Canst thou then distinguish between manchild and womankind, though they might appear to thee to be alike?"

At these words, she nodded, and the children whom she had brought along with her came forward in single file, passing before the king. Each child carried within his bosom a vessel laden with either gold or silver, and the best of the spices and incense that grew in their land. When each child reached the place

who stood before the king and queen. while Benaiah passed the same onto a servant who stood nearby. When this procession came to an end, each child returned to his place within sight of the king, and the king answered:

"Tis but a trial of character, it is. For the mannerisms of a lad are not as those of a maid. Call hither my servants, and let them fill the floor of the room with parched grain and walnuts.

Let each child take up into the borders of his skirt his fill, or as many as he can thereby hold, and I shall forthwith tell thee who is male, and who is female."

given signal, the children began to fill up their garments, racing to outdo the other. The boys filled their garments by lifting up their skirts, exposing their legs without the slightest embarrassment or shame. The girls, however, bent over awry, and out of modesty would not expose their legs.

"Here, then, my queen, are thy menservants and here are thy maidservants!" quoth Solomon, who rising up from his chair did intimate with his hand to separate the boys from the girls, putting the one on his right side, and the other on his left side.

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي والمواساة إلى الأخ/هاني فتحي رسول لوفاة المغفور له - بإذن الله تعالى- والده فتحی رســول سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان الأسيفون: فيصــــل عمـــران، فــــوَّاد الطـــــشي، عبـــدالسلام الحـــداد وإدارة التسويق في الخطوط الجوية اليمنية

pleasures in life. He died leaving a wealth of works on religious jurisprudence.

Abu Hanifah Al-Nu'uman:

He was born on 80 AH. Like his predecessors, he was a staunch believer in freedom and a supporter of the claims of the Shi'a to the caliphate, although he was not from the House of Ali. He was a Persian.

He defended them strongly and supported the revolt of Zeid. He was also initially a supporter of the Abbasids. but when he saw them follow the path of the Umayyads he renounced them openly.

He was a staunch advocate of freedom and the rights of citizens and believed that any restrictions on freedom is irreligious; he suggested that the misuse of freedom is less of a sin than the absence of freedom altogeth-

He insisted that freedom and respect for human rights was a fundamental principle of Islam and people should struggle for them. When the Abbasid Caliph was finding some of his commanders falling for the teachings of Abu Hanifah, he would persecute them. The Caliph tried to lure him with presents and money, as well as a senior position. He refused them all. Then the Caliph arrested him and persecuted him until he died a martyr for freedom and an advocate for the discontent.

He wrote in his will that he should be buried in land that was not stolen by any of the political peons of Caliphate and should be free from any rightful claims by anyone.

12 25 April, 2005



5000 cancer patients seeking treatment abroad Yemen's battle against cancer

BY AMAL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

ancer 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. government, The

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.

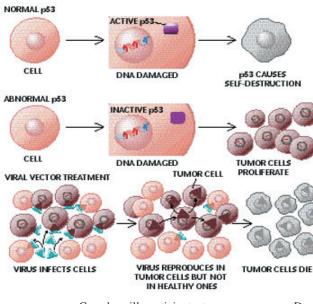
Consequently, many studies have been made available to the public through the media, to show that cancer usually develops gradually over many years as a result of a complex mix of environmental, nutritional, behavioral and hereditary factors

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

These studies and the current on April 20, under the patronage of 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, Jordon, and



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

the Prime Minster, and the Minster 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,

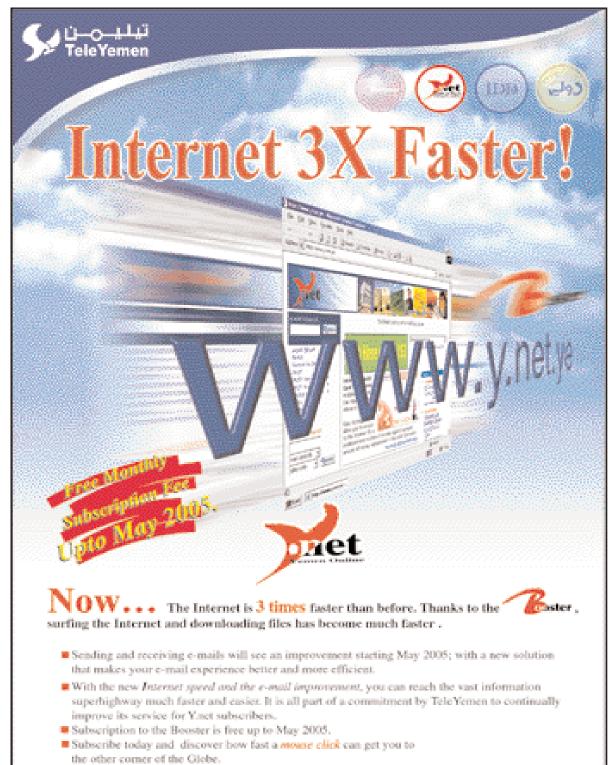
and Aden.

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.



www.teleyemen.com.ye

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.

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

them the main cause of cancer diseases

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

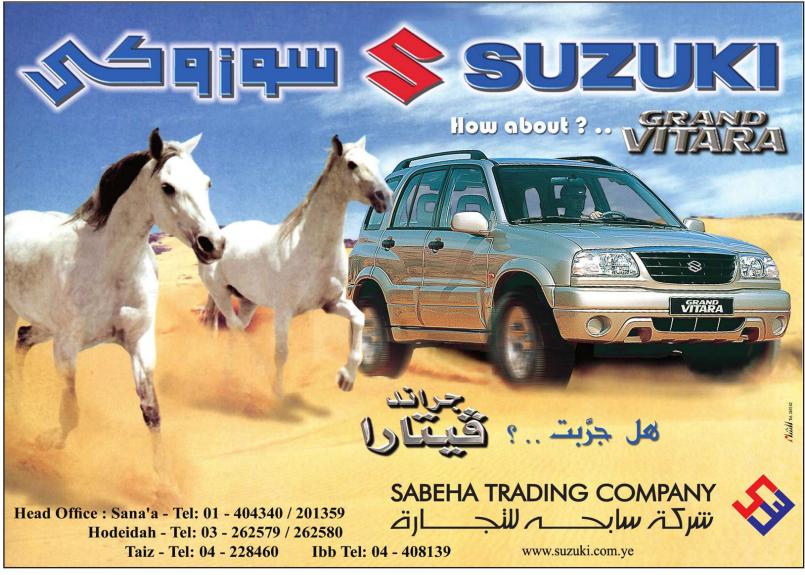
Tariq al-Ashwal, General Manager of the authority told the Yemen Times that a large quantity of dates estimated at 2 tons were seized along with other foodstuffs bound to expire within a short period of time.

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

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 Mishíal 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.





Sports

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."

Schumachrer 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 10place 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 2/3 strong innings and Marcus Giles Jennings pitched a complete game, Brad Hawpe drilled a two-run homer and Cory Sullivan just missed hitting for the

cracked a two-run homer to power the Braves to a 6-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.



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ycle 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

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.

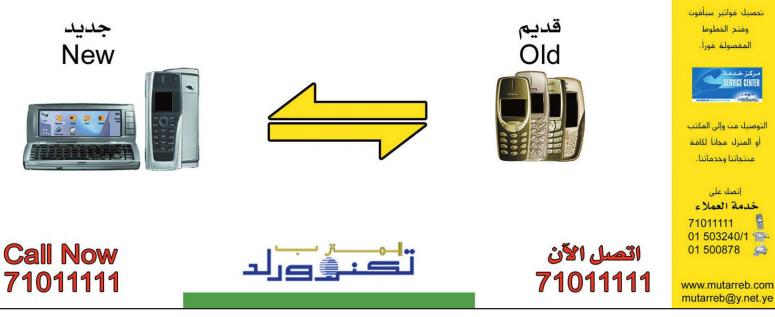
Jeff Cirillo had two hits and pair of RBIs while Damian Miller also had two hits and scored a run.

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



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William Shakespeare and his challengers



DR MURARI PRASAD prasadm123@rediffmail.com FACULTY OF EDUCATION. ARTS & SCIENCE SADA'AH

ven as the spate of fierce controversies surrounding the authorship of William Shakespeare's works has continued to rage since the late 1990s, the faith of academic Shakespearians in the man from Stratford-upon-Avon (23 April 1564-23 April 1616) seems far from shaken. However, the claims and counter-claims by Stratfordians, on the one hand, and Oxfordians or antiStratfordians, on the other, have thrown up interesting facts about the Elizabethan playwright and actor as well as about his challenger Edward de Vere(1550-1604), the 17th Earl of Oxford and preferred candidate as an alternate Shakespeare. Inevitably, flourishing material in the form of attribution studies and competing theories on the plays and poems attributed to the Bard has come out more recently, such as Joseph Sobran's Alias Shakespeare, John Michell's Who Wrote Shakespeare? Irvin Leigh Matus' Shakespeare, In Fact, and Alan H. Nelson's Monstrous Adversary, plus a plethora of research papers and web stuff.

The debate which started in 1920 with an English schoolmaster J Thomas Looney's claim in favour of Edward de Vere has now turned into a battle following the wave of the Bard's new vogue. Hollywood's take on Shakespeare in the late 90s came up in modish remakes of the earlier versions. "Shakespeare cures everything," says Tina Packer, the founder of Shakespeare & Company, one of the most acclaimed Shakespeare festivals in the United States. Stressing the Stratford screenplay writer's continuing relevance, Packer adds: "[He] comes alive in your soul and helps you contend with the human condition. Hamlet is the first modern hero because he knows there's no absolute answer. We make choices out of lesser versions of goodnone's perfect. What's the most ethical? The most creative? The choice that'll make us grow? Shakespeare's an excellent guide for this. When Falstaff asks. 'What is honour? Who hath it?' Shakespeare's saying, 'What do you think, guys?' He's searching for a way to look at life."

Not surprisingly, the unmatched plot pitcher during the last 400 years was recently not only the hottest writer of treatments in Hollywood for the new crop of pop creations-Franco Zeffirell's

"Hamlet" with Mell Gibson: Leonard Di Caprio and Clare Danes in Baz Luhrmann's 1996 gangland " Romeo+ Juliet"; a modern version of Hamlet, featuring Ethan Hawke; takeoffs on Macbeth, Titus Andronicus, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and of course Love's Labour Lost -- but also the hero of the romantic comedy "Shakespeare in Love" (1998). Certain well-known facts about his life (that he was married and that his theatrical rival was Christopher Marlowe) and fantasies got melded into a clever and charming screenplay by Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman. The movie about the young Shakespeare (played by Joseph Fiennes), which has strong similarities to the plot of No Bed for Bacon (a 1941 novel by Carvl Brahms and S J Simon), is a fantasia, lacking in the sequence of a literary biography, although it does capture Romeo and Juliet admirably, according to Harold Bloom, the Yale scholar and author of a 1999 best seller, Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human.

As it happened, the first-ever film on Shakespeare fuelled the fringe belief that it was the 17th Earl of Oxford who wrote the works attributed to the half-educated glover's son from Warwickshire. Incensed Stratfordians described Oxfordians' reconstruction as "a farrago of misinformation" based on evidence "plucked from thin air". However, the new candidate put up as the real Shakespeare proved more credible than his predecessors such as Christopher Marlowe, Francis Bacon, William Stanley, the sixth Earl of Derby, Sir Edward Dyer, the Earl of Rutland, and William Pierce. Each of these candidates as alternate Shakespeare has been set up by a cadre of promoters, but the thesis in support of Edward de Vere supported by articulate advocates and a new slew of evidence has grabbed considerable attention, making him the Bard's chief challenger. Consequently, the two-century-old Baconian argument, or Marlovian hypothesis for that matter, has fallen by the wayside.

De Vere's champions or Oxford partisans harp on the known fact that the outward events of Shakespeare's life are incompatible with his literary eminence. Certain clues do make the Earl's supposed authorship of these poems and plays plausible. Besides drawing on the similarity of language in de Vere's copy of the Geneva Bible and Shakespeare's texts, the Oxford camp has been playing up the circumstantial evidence which links the episodes in plays such as *Hamlet*, *Love's Labour Lost*, Taming of the Shrew, Measure for Measure, Othello, Cymbeline, Winter's *Tale*, *King Lear*, as well as the sonnets to

certain events around the Earl's life. But his death earlier than Shakespeare's weakens the Oxfordians' plea in that the plays like The Tempest. The Winter's Tale, Henry VIII, Timon of Athens, Coriolanus, Antony and Cleopatra, Cymbeline, Pericles, King Lear, and Macbeth were written after 1604. Although the revisionist faction defends de Vere's authorship with the contention that the plays are misdated, the Earl's extant poetry -20 short lyrics-does not match the elegance and spark of the lines attributed to the William of Stratford-upon- Avon.

None the less, the non-believers in the Stratford man have pressed the verbal parallels between Oxford's acknowledged poetry and Shakespeare's poems and plays to assert that the former was the pseudonymous author of the Shakespeare canon. Among the facts turned up to Oxford's credit are the legal terms used both in his private letters and in Shakespeare's works. As the Oxfordians have argued, intimate knowledge of court intrigues, nobility, history and law as well as the details of Italian life evident in Shakespeare's plays was beyond the background of a country bumpkin. None but a gifted writer like Oxford, who was also among the movers and shakers at Elizabeth's court, could have authored these works. Why did he choose to remain anonymous all along? His admirers declare that playwriting was beneath the dignity of nobility in Elizabethan England, so de Vere hid behind the nondescript man from Stratford whose name came in handy because Gabriel Harvey once saluted the Earl before Queen Elizabeth as a man whose countenance 'shakes a spear"-hence the literary twinning.

Orthodox Stratfordians have taken these assertions as fanciful contortions and have rallied round the Bard with equal vehemence. They also see an American angle in this conspiracy to subvert the English literary heritage headed by a provincial rough diamond. As regards Shakespeare's education, it is generally agreed that he attended the local grammar school, the Stratford Free School, where good education in Latin including training in rhetoric was imparted. "Stratford came to be known as a town remarkable for the birth of famous William Shakespeare as early as the seventeenth century," said Robert Smallwood, deputy director of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in a conversation with me during my visit to Stratford-upon-Avon. A road or straet across Avon's ford, a major tributary of the Severn in the south-western corner of Warwickshire, gave the place the name of Stratford in Roman times. During the middle ages its growth was fostered by tradesmen who crossed the Avon by a wooden bridge alongside the ford on their way from Coventry to Bristol. During Shakespeare's time, it became the centre of a flourishing glove-making industry. His father, John Shakespeare, was a glover and wool dealer. Stratford is still a small district town with a population of less than 30 thousand but it is now known as Shakespeare's town where over 2.5 million tourists come every year to see the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Swan Theatre, the Shakespeare Centre, adjacent to Shakespeare's Birthplace, New Place (the most expensive house in the town bought by Shakespeare in 1597 where he lived in retirement and died), Anne Hathaway's Cottage (named after Shakespeare's wife), Mary Arden's House(named after Shakespeare's mother) and Hall's Croft (the home of Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, and her husband, Dr John Hall).

Thus Stratford and Shakespeare have become synonymous with each other. More to the point of the larger Shakespearian camp, the doubters have not convincingly explained away the printed allusion to the Stratford screenplay writer from Greene's 1592 pamphlet [or possibly by Chettle?]: "an upstart Crow" who "is in his own conceit the only shake-scene in a countrey" and Ben Jonson's encomium in the 1623 First Folio: "the sweet swan of Avon". Also, no claim came from any quarter for the authorship of Shakespeare's works during his life time, or even much later.

Nevertheless, the mystery of authorship of Shakespeare's works, which carries the weight of doubt expressed in the past by writers like Mark Twain and Walt Whitman in America and of late by scholar politicians like Enoch Powell in Britain and the media (the New York Times, February 10, 2002) as well, has engaged the attention of many scholars. Some of them do veer round the tantalizing de Vere line, following up Charlton Ogburn's contention in his book The Mysterious William Shakespeare, while a few have rejected the Oxfordian chestnut as an altogether unpalatable doctrine. The debate continues as Edward de Vere Studies Conference held every April at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon , Shakespeare Oxford Society meetings as well as Dutch Shakespeare Authorship Conference, Utrecht (Netherlands) have been drawing a large number of academicians over the years to share their research on who wrote Shakespeare. Notably in addition, a US-Aussie grant of \$170,000 to develop computer software capable of analyzing the works of

Curriculum revision: some lessons to learn (2)

A letter to the teachers of English: 83

DR..M.N.K.BOSE (BOSE@y.net.ye) Associate Professor of AN English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

he curriculum revision I am talking about has been a 'storm in a tea cup', creating rather than solving the problems of the old curriculum. To mention a few, there aren't reference materials to teach the new courses in the university concerned; competent teachers to teach these course are hardly available: the time which can be allotted for each of these course may not be enough to make the learners understand the content of it; the English classes are large and discussing these subjects in large classes compounds the problem. Let me look at some of the courses suggested in the new curriculum.

Pragmatics, one of the courses in the new curriculum, is a new field of linguistics and suitable books to teach this subject are hardly available in Yemen; while this course is included in the curriculum of the M.A programme in one of the Yemeni universities, what is the justification in including this subject in the curriculum of the B.A. programme in another university? Ideational politics of literature is another course in the new curriculum: sounds fantastic, doesn't it? What does it mean? I asked some of my friends who teach literature and a few M.A holders in English; they are at a loss to get the grips of the title. I wonder what the content of this course will be and I feel pity for the students who study this subject, leave alone the teacher who teaches.

Communicative grammar, another course in the new curriculum, is definitely a new field of grammar and a valuable subject; my question is 'Is communicative grammar not a burden to those who are learning the foundation grammar?' I am not an old-is-gold sort of conservative to suggest that you should not have anything new, nor am I saving that communicative grammar is a waste of time. I am only saying that our students in the graduate programme of the Faculty of Arts are not linguistically strong enough for such difficult subjects. On the other hand, the new curriculum could have set guidelines for teaching the grammar courses in the old

curriculum in a more useful way.

A new curriculum is not necessarily one with new courses; the existing courses can be retained, if they do good to the learners; the revised curriculum has been in a hurry to 'throw the child with the bath tub', because the bath tub was found defective.

A similar thing happened when the new English curriculum consisting of the Crescent English Course Books was introduced in the Yemeni schools; the old course books were unceremoniously thrown away, though they had many useful items, some of which were more useful than the present books.

Periodical revision of curriculum is welcome and is a step in improving the education system in a country both at the school and university levels, but the people involved should be careful in revising the curriculum and should not take it as an opportunity to incorporate their own ideals irrespective of the results the revision will bring in. As stated earlier, a curriculum should reflect the needs of the learners for whom it is meant and more importantly it should result in producing students who will be useful to the society they belong to. I am afraid the new curriculum I have been discussing, which has involved a lot of expertise and expenditure, has not succeeded on this count. It may be high on its 'scholarly look' with tongue-twisting titles and mind-boggling phrases but, in my considered opinion, will fail miserably as a need-based curriculum that will enable the learners to come out of the Faculties as employable graduates to be useful to the Yemeni society.

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



By Rania Ali Alwan-Altyf **Department of English Faculty of Education** Khawlan

I. What to Say Situations and expressions (76): Job advertisement (VII)

dvertisements as vehicles of with persuasion play grammar at various levels: lexical, syntactic, stylistic and discoursal. At the lexical or word level, they often manipulate or distort their everyday meanings. The use of the imperative mode, questions without interrogation markers, short sentences without verbs and objects, omission of structure words, unusual punctuation are widely prevalent at the sentence or syntactic level. At the stylistic level, the use of aesthetically pleasing Suggested answers to the previous construction, repetition of certain phrases and clauses, marked deviation of style from formal to colloquial are the advertising characteristics.

- We choose our employees carefully, and equally, they choose us very carefully.
- Buy-n-fly offer!
- 'It is not where you want to reach, it is actually how soon and safe you can reach your goal. Join ---
- Abide by the law. Untax your mind. Pay your taxes. Catch up with your taxes before the taxman catches up with you.

II.How to say it correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

- There are a lot of informations in that book.
- 2. The oil is a natural resource.
- Lions are wild animal.
- 4. I was late because there were too many traffics.



- 5. I drank two waters.
- 6. Our teacher gives us too many homeworks.

week's questions

- Queen Victoria was the famous empress of the British empire during the nineteenth century.
- The Earl and the Countess were present at the coronation ceremony.
- 3. We are **about to begin** the function.
- 4. We want **each** child to develop in his or her own way.

III. Increase Your Word Power (A) How to express it in one word To improve the character or mind.

- To prepare from collected material a
- cinema film, radio performance, or recording.
- 3. Medicine and medical treatment producing the desired effect.
- The period or action of the forming and developing of flowers on a plant. 5. Strong stream of bright light, as from the sun.
- Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- 1. The quality of being full of happiness or excitement: ebullience (n)
- 2. Not following any one system or set of ideas, but using parts of many different ones: eclectic (adj)
- The pattern of relations of plants, animals, and people to each other and to their surroundings: ecology (n)
- 4. Feeling of great joy and spiritual uplift: ecstasy (n)
- 5. The improvement of character or the mind: edification (n)

(B) Words Commonly Confused Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- 2. affluent, effluent 1. eerie, airy 4. evolve, involve 3. adduce, educe

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

does not have the force, when the conductor's hand is raised): The repeated upbeats of the orchestra rendered the music dull and

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(C) Phrases and idioms

3. hang fire

week's questions

often.

title.

long bus journey.

5.

Use the following phrases in sentences

1. lead a charmed life (to continuously

more than one serious accidents.

escape from danger or harm with no

ill effect): He leads such a charmed

life - he has escaped unhurt from

shift one's ground (to change one's

opinions): No one will take you

seriously if you shift your ground so

put (someone's) back up (to annoy

someone): It put his father's back up

set one's sight on (something) (to

try to get something): He has set his

sight on winning the championship

go to sleep (of a limb to feel numb):

My foot went to sleep during the

when he defied him (his father).

1. make a packet 2. a tall order

put the wind up (someone)

IV. Grammar

Complete the sentences. Give the idea of the speaker's words

- 1. The doctor said to me, "you should lose weight."
- The doctor advised me ---
- The doctor advised ---
- The doctor suggested ---
- The doctor recommended – 5.
- 6. The doctor recommended that -
- The doctor suggested that –

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- 1. She asked her boss if it would be all right for her to come to work a little late the next day.
- 2. Bassim asked Abdullah if it was ok for him (Bassim) to borrow his (Abdullah's) motor bike.
- 3. Ramzy asked his son to turn the music down a little.
- He asked Mr. Parkinson if it would be okay for him to use the phone to call his parents.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

600 **O**T "And He is Allah in the heavens and in the earth. He knoweth what ye 🥻 hide, and what ye reveal. And He knoweth the (recompense) which ye earn (by your deeds). S6: A3

VI. Food for Thought "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

-Winston Churchill

3.

5. affective, effective

6. deface, efface

1. **upbeat** (n) (the beat in music which

uninteresting. offbeat (adj) (unusual): Offbeat

music is the main reason behind the popularity of the film. guts (courage (n) and

determination): He is a man with 4. rub (someone) up the wrong way plenty of guts. grit (n) (lasting courage and cheerful effort made during difficulty): His Suggested answers to the previous grit enabled him to overcome the

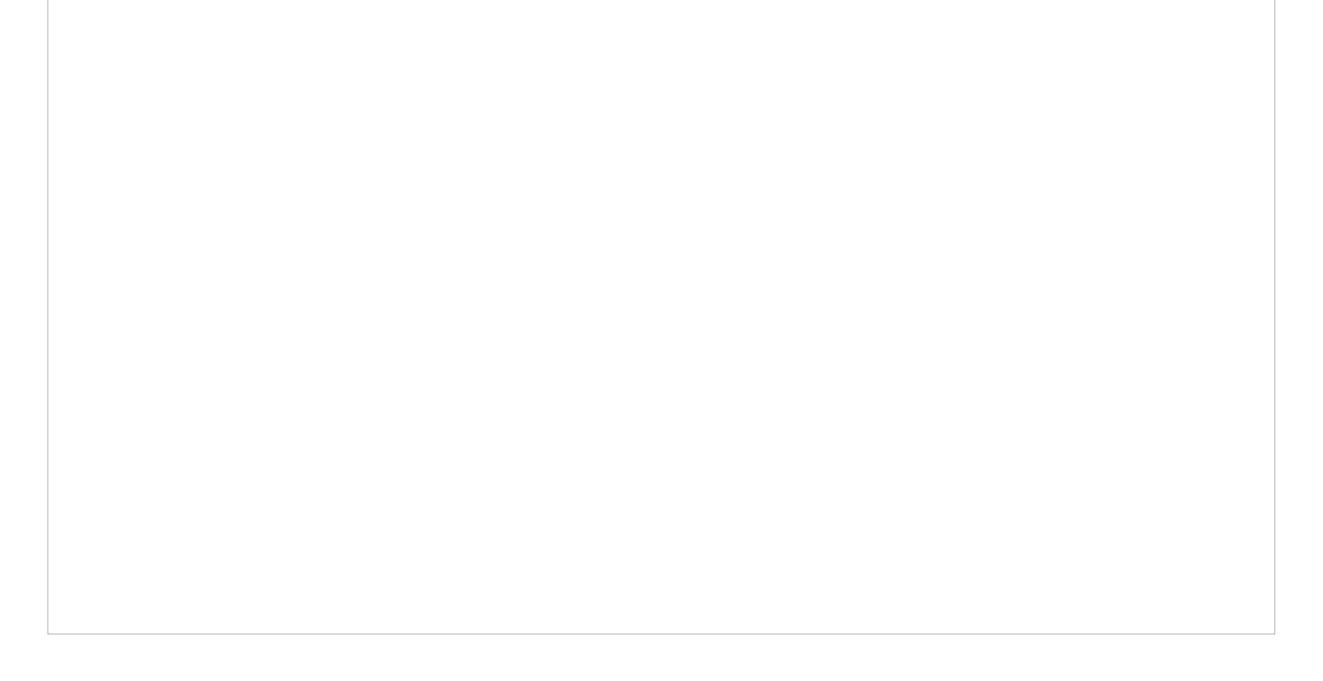
- difficulty. minister (n) (a member of the cabinet): The Minister of Education has announced a nice and encouraging package for teachers. minstrel (n) (One of a company of wandering performers): People were
- charmed by the brilliant performance of the minstrel. 4. dyspepsia (n) (indigestion): He 3. suffers from chronic dyspepsia.

dyslexia (n) (inability to read): In the western countries reading clinics 4. treat cases of dyslexia.

5. verbal (adj) (spoken, not written): The officer gave a verbal order to arrest the accused. oral (adj) (medium of, about, using the mouth): She is going to face an

oral exam tomorrow.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS PAGE



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Yemen and therapeutic tourism

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI Yemen Times Staff

emen is the country which has preserved its treasures of beauty. Its jawdropping 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 paints, 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 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* (bowelshaped). 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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Today, many countries worldwide resort to this type of tourism because it is exceptionally sought in this world of annoyance and unbearable



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