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Monday, 2 May 2005 • Issue No. 838 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

YJS pledges to draft its own press law

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen Journalists Syndicate (YJS) completely rejected a press and publication law draft presented by the Ministry of Information which is full of taboos and prohibitions and is even worse than the press and publication law of 1990 which is now being in force.

At a roundtable discussion held last Thursday, the YJS demanded a campaign to overvet the draft law of the information ministry, and called on journalists to contribute to the press law draft it is carrying out. "We need a press law that complies with the developments and changes in the world. The ministry of information prepared this draft without the consultation of the YJS," Mahboob Ali, chairman of the YJS addressed the journalists participating in the roundtable entitled "Reading the Legislations related to Media Freedom... New Draft Press and Publication."



Continued on page 2 A view of the meeting of journalists who oppose the new press law draft.

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Yemeni ambassador to Damascus seeks asylum

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mr. Ahmed Abdullah al-Hassani, Yemeni ambassador to Syria applied to the British government for asylum. It is not known yet whether his application was accepted or not.

The motive of this move, according to al-Hassani, was his "facing an assassination attempt by the Yemeni government." He told the London media on Friday that Yemeni authorities tried to assassinate him because he is member of an opposition movement (Southern Democratic Assembly) in south Yemen, which was declared in the British Capital on July 7, 2004 as an organization calling for the separation between the north and the south. Al-Hassani further said that a friend

of his had warned him earlier this year that Yemeni authorities were intending to murder him.

He imparted his concerns to Syrian authorities who reinforced him with personal security, said al-Hassani.

Yet, he accuses Yemeni intelligence of planting a bomb in front of his house in the Syrian capital on March 26, 2005.

Yemen Times contacted Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr al-Qirbi for further clarification.

"Al-Hassani is suffering from psychological disorder," said Dr. al-Qirbi. "His being called back on the termination of his service term as an ambassador and according to diplomatic chord regulations worsened his state and forced him into asking for asylum from Britain." Al-Qirbi confirmed that al-Hassani's

service term as an ambassador to Syria ended two months ago. He wanted it to be extended but was told that it goes against diplomatic chord regulations and that he must return to Sana'a."

Ahmed Abdullah al-Hassani is from the Yemeni province of Abyan. After the Reunification, he was appointed as commander of Marine Forces but was later moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be employed as an ambassador to Damascus.

People from the southern provinces describe al-Hassani as being among the supporters of former President Ali Nasser Mohammed and that he was a notorious killer during the Brothers War of 1986 when he butchered many of Ali Salem al-Beedh's men.

"His hand was reddened with the blood of thousands of innocent people," they say.

Burned Bodies and Inhumane Treatment: Reports from Sa'ada paint a grotesque scenario

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Efforts by the Yemen Times, Yemeni and non Yemeni newspapers and other press organizations to get the facts about the situation in Sa'ada are still subject to a news blackout, imposed officially on the situation there. The Governor of Sa'ada, Mohammed Al-Amri has confirmed that the official

channels are the only sources of news that can be relied upon on the situation there.

However many eyewitnesses have come and gone to Sa'ada and the sketchy reports coming to the newspapers from people in Sa'ada are revealing some gross violations of human rights and excessive mass punishment that are not sanctified by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Yemen. We are herewith trying to present some of these eyewitness accounts to our readers, with the hope that they are untrue, but nevertheless may have some credibility. Some of the eyewitnesses are well known for their honesty and objectivity and have no interest in sensationalizing their observations.

We herewith relate what has been told by these witnesses, some of which has been given in the opposition and independent Arab press. Although it was also known to the YT, the YT was reluctant to publicize them before, until we could have stronger faith in the revelations and the eyewitnesses that gave them:

"There were several burned charred corpses found spread throughout the city of Sa'ada after some 30 tribesmen from Bani Abid tribe reportedly launched an attack on Government outposts in the city of Sa'ada itself. When these "rebels" were overwhelmed by the Government security and military forces, they were killed and their bodies were burned or dragged on official and unofficial vehicles around the city." Eyewitness accounts tally 19 bodies burned and no count could be obtained on the dragged bodies.

"Government and security forces would assault villages looking for "Houthi" suspects and demanded that all males are to come out and give themselves up. Because of the excess and harsh treatment of those who are apprehended, all the males vacated the villages, even though most of them have nothing to do with the "Houthis" or the "Faithful Youth" Movement of the late Hussein Badr Eddine Al-Houthi (who was killed by Government forces mid last year, when the "Houthi Rebellion" was declared officially over and done with). In one of these assaults on a village, security forces demanded that all males surrender or else the village would be destroyed. One man came out to report to the security officers that all the men had left and that he was the only one left in the village. He further asked them to allow him to get all the women and children out of the homes, if they intended to destroy the village. The security personnel told the man that the women will have to be thoroughly searched to make sure that there aren't any men disguised among them and to make sure that no weapons were taken. Furthermore, the security personnel degradingly told the man that if they did not find the latter, then they will have a good time with the women (but said in a more vile street-like language). The man, coming from a region where morals and chivalry still are ingrained amongst the people, was furious at the despicable suggestion, took his rifle and shot down six of the security personnel. He was killed and it is not really clear what happened thereafter to the rest of the villagers."

Continued on page 2

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Heavy rains sweep roads

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Heavy rains that fell on different parts of Yemen last week swept and damaged the main highways as well as the newly built ones which connect the main cities.

Due to the heavy rainfall, a child drowned to death in torrential currents in Bani Hishaish District, 70 km east of Sana'a.

Eyewitnesses told the Yemen Times that strong torrents destroyed nearly 30-40 km of a tarmac-covered road connecting Sana'a and Bani Hishaish. The torrents caused some traffic accidents, blocked roads and tore down electrical wires.

In addition, torrents swept away approximately ten pipes and water drains in the Marib-Sana'a highway.

Factors behind such damages can be ascribed to the lack of competence in the process of construction and road designs as well as many other incompetent measures in filling up road bases.

"Granting renders to inexperienced contractors is the main reason behind such ruins, particularly as renders of building supportive walls are usually granted to locals of the areas where roads pass through," one of the contractors specialized in road construction

said. "These people lack the necessary experience and therefore neither supervision nor monitoring by the concerned governmental bodies are seen. Negligence and carelessness resulting in such ruins thought to be a shame upon contractors and the concerned authorities."

Another person noted that mistakes and errors in the designs and constructions of roads are shared by both the government and contractors. Low financial allocations by road construction authorities also make contractors careless about what they do.

All these roads randomly built constitute a major threat against citizens' lives fall as victims from day to day, and what is more miserable is that road construction is financed by debts upon Yemen.

Heavy rains on Tuesday April 27 in Hodeida Governorate led to partial collapse of Wadi Moor's Dam. The collapse of the dam blocked roads and



obstructed traffic on the highway connecting Hodeida and Haradh.

The Hodeida Governor, Mohammad Saleh Shamsan, paid a visit to the affected area and ordered the parties concerned to remove all debris from the road and undertake the necessary repairs.

WHO: Major polio epidemic hits Yemen, 22 infected

GENEVA (Reuters) - A polio epidemic has infected 22 children in Yemen, and the paralyzing virus threatens to spread further, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

The United Nations agency, which reported four cases around the Red Sea port city of al-Hodeidah last week, said 18 more children had contracted the disease in the poor Arab state.

It is the latest setback to the WHO's campaign to wipe out transmission of polio worldwide by year-end. An epidemic that originated in Nigeria has swept across Africa since mid-2003.

"What we are facing now is a major epidemic of polio in Yemen," David Heymann, head of the WHO's polio eradication program, told a news briefing in Geneva. It is not yet known whether there are any fatalities among the victims, who include children from all over Yemen.

"Experts fear that the number of cases will rise in the immediate future," the WHO said in a statement. It said it is investigating other suspected cases, and low immunization rates among Yemeni children could facilitate the outbreak's spread.

The polio virus mainly affects children under the age of five and can

cause irreversible paralysis in a matter of hours. Yemen, which last reported polio in 1996, is the 15th previously polio-free country to be re-infected since mid-2003, including 13 in Africa and Saudi Arabia.

The WHO was awaiting genetic analysis of the virus to determine whether it had come from neighboring Saudi Arabia or Sudan, which have both registered cases in the past year. "We'll probably never be able to know whether the virus came from pilgrimage (to Mecca) or from guest workers...What is important is that the virus is here, and now we have to stop it," Heymann said.

Yemen conducted a mass vaccination campaign in mid-April and further immunization rounds are planned in May and June. A monovalent oral vaccine against type 1 polio, recently licensed by Sanofi-Pasteur, a unit of French drug maker Sanofi-Aventis, is being used in Yemen.

"We are very confident this vaccine will help us end this polio epidemic," Heymann said.

In 2004, polio cases worldwide jumped to 1,267, up from 784 the previous year, the WHO said. The eradication campaign suffered a severe blow in 2003 when Nigeria's Kano

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Although the government declared military operations in Sa'adah were over, guerrilla raids are still going on.

Do you think this policy of the government is on the right track?

Yes
No
I don't know

last edition's question:

Is the Polio outbreak in Hodeidah a real threat to children's lives in Yemen?

It's a normal health issue 75.2%
No threat at all 24.7%

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state banned vaccines because Muslim elders said they were part of a Western plot to spread HIV and infertility. Immunization resumed last July, but the 10-month ban helped the virus reach epidemic proportions on the African continent.

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Continued from page 1

YJS pledges to draft its own press law

President Ali Abdullah Saleh specifically demanded in June 2004 a removal of the clause allowing the imprisonment of journalists.

The situation seemed to improve since then. But, contrary to the hopes of the media community, media harassment mounted and the information ministry shocked the media community with a draft law that is full of restrictions of media freedom, despite the removal of the clause allowing the jail sentence of journalists which was found in the 1990 press law.

Journalists are concerned as they are charged by the Penal Code which range between fines, imprisonment and the death penalty. Mahboob Ali also demanded the removal of such harsh sentences journalists are still to face. "We need the charges of the Penal Code on journalists to be removed too. A journalist can be fined, sentenced to 2 years imprisonment or even death according to the Penal Code. This is more dangerous."

Among the taboos and prohibitions that journalists cannot go beyond is that they cannot "criticize head of the states" as well as "publishing or exchanging anything that directly and personally prejudices monarchs and heads of brotherly and friendly states."

He even demanded that state monopoly over broadcast media should come to an end, living up to the changes in the world, allowing journalists to own a percentage of the state-run newspapers.

The recent draft law is full of other shortcomings that constitute a major hindrance for the press to operate freely, granting more authority to the information ministry, journalists claim. For example, to establish a newspaper/magazine, one has to get a license from the Ministry of Information.

Although the current law No. 25 of 1990 has imposed huge financial burdens involved in starting a paper, the Minister of Information's Decree No. 9 for 1998 states that "for establishing a paper or a magazine, the publisher's capital should amount to YR 2 million for a daily newspaper, YR 700,000 for a Weekly paper, YR 1.2 million for a Weekly magazine and a periodical YR 100,000 for an Advertisement Bulletin." Yet, the new draft law has stipulated that the publisher should have a deposit in a Yemeni bank no less than YR 5 million for an individual and no less than YR 15 million. "Such kind of conditions make it impossible for anybody to start a print media as this draft law puts a condition of 5 years experience. As journalists are poor enough to have such a mount of money and businessmen do not have experience in media, no one will be able to run a newspaper or magazine," Nabeel al-Muhamadi, the YJS legal consultant said.

On his part, Nasr Taha Mustafa, chairman of the state-run Saba News agency also rejected the draft law. "Any journalist who respects himself and his profession can never accept such a draft law which has combined the shortcomings and prohi-

bitions of the 1990 law and other additional restrictions," he said. "This is not the government draft as it has not been yet endorsed by the cabinet." However, other journalists refuted such a claim, holding the government accountable for presenting such a draft which was made by the information ministry. "This is the government's draft. It does not only challenge the freedom of media, but threatens the entire pluralistic system as well as Yemen's commitment to democracy at large," Ahmaed al-Haj, AP reporter said.

The YJS set up a committee to start drafting a press and publication law and present it to the Consultative Council and parliament. "We urge all journalists to take part in the upcoming activities of the YJS, presenting their remarks and notes which we will try to consider while drafting our own law," Hafiz al-Bukary, YJS Secretary General announced while winding up the roundtable.

The Yemen Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajamal earlier said that the draft law should first be sent to the Consultative Council and then debated by the YJS and other NGOs before it is approved off by the cabinet and sent to the parliament. "There is no need for all this big fuss, as it is just a draft, liable to revision and amendments. Why waste time in such a hustle and bustle, rather journalists should contribute to the improvement of the draft law as there is still a chance," Fathia Abdulwas'e, head of legal dept. at information ministry said.

Suswa among top influential Arab figures

By Yemen Times Staff

News Week magazine nominated 43 male and female personalities from the Arab world as people influencing public life in a variety of ways.

Among the nominees is Yemeni Minister of Human Rights Amat al-Aleem al-Suswa who has been doing its best to improve the situation of

Yemeni women. She adopted woman issues in throughout her multi-dimensional career starting with her work as a Sana'a TV announcer, to her position as a first assistant deputy for Ministry and Information and lastly her high-ranking position as the first Arab woman Minister of Human Rights which is still assuming up until the present day.

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Al-Sa'eed prizes announced

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Culture and Science had announced on Thursday April 28 prizes of late Hail Sa'eed at the 8th Round of al-Sa'eed Cultural Festival, 2004.

At the event which was attended by many governmental officials, media people, and NGOs representatives, prizes were distributed to winners.

The Environment and Agriculture prize was presented to Dr. Sallam Ahmed al-Ghouri and Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Jabbar Hassan (in halves). Prize of Literary Creativity was snatched by both Dr. Ali Hassan and Dr. Ibrahim Abdul-Rahman.

Therefore, this year's prizes are shared each by two winners.

Many prizes were withheld including those of medical sciences, economics, and administrative sciences because all submitted research did not fulfill required conditions.

The Prize Trustees issued a number of resolutions introducing new fields into the prize scope such as engineering, technology, archeology, and architecture.

Each prize value was raised from a million to a million and a half.

The prize announcement festival saw the delivery of many speeches which represented the cultural movements and the impact of the prize.

The speeches indicated the importance of prizes as they encourage culture and motivate creative people to excel in various fields of knowledge.



Symposium on human rights in Islam

TAIZ- April 26- A symposium on human rights in Islam was held last Tuesday and was attended by many government dignitaries and distinct personalities.

At the beginning of the symposium, Dr. Fuad al-Banna pointed out that human rights in Islam surpasses those of other religions in a variety of different areas.

Human rights in Islam are more strictly followed by people as they are based on ideology and moral values as well as Islamic jurisprudence. Islam honored man and bestowed on him all blooms and rights regardless of his color, origin and language.

The religion of Islam stressed on human rights more than the rights of

the Creator. This means that religion is not merely worships and rituals to be performed, rather it is a movement and establishment of social relationships.

In addition, one can realize nowadays that more attention is drawn toward human rights issues by civil community organizations, the specialist societies and all the cultural currents, individuals or groups.

The field of human rights starts and does not end at any limit, which are governed by certain rules and principles. It is impossible for any one to exceed the limits of such rules considering it a violation against the rights of others.

The queen of Yemen hospitality completes a timeless journey of excellence

Taj Sheba Hotel, Sana'a celebrates 25 Glorious Years

On 1st May 2005, the Queen of Yemen hospitality - Taj Sheba Hotel, Sana'a completes 25 Glorious Years. Since it opened its doors on 1st May 1980, the Hotel has played a major part in shaping Yemen as a destination both for tourist and business travellers. Located in the heart of the business and shopping center in Sana'a, the Taj Sheba Hotel offers tranquil relaxation, spacious comfort and impeccable services. The Taj Sheba is a Taj Business Hotel, part of the Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces, one of South Asia's largest and finest group of hotels.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Malvinder Narang, the first General Manager of the Taj Sheba Hotel, now back in Sana'a, said "It is indeed a great honour and very proud moment for all of us to be a part of Taj Sheba on its silver anniversary. The Taj Sheba has left an indelible mark on the hospitality industry. It has been witness to and played host to some of the city's greatest and most memorable events and personalities. The Taj Sheba has been through exciting times in the years gone by to consolidate its market leadership and we look forward to taking the Hotel to even greater heights in the years to come."

It is not just the bricks and beautiful kamaria's that make the Taj Sheba so unique. It has a beautiful soul and a spirit of service that illuminates it further. To hundreds of guests from all over the world, the Taj Sheba is more than a hotel, it is a "home away from home" having gently and affectionately touched the lives of so many people ranging from Heads of States, commercial travelers and tourists over the past 25 years.

Over the years, the Taj Sheba has undergone major refurbishments to remain 'Sana'a's Finest and Yemen's Best Business Address'. With 25 years of experience in delighting guests, the Hotel is all geared to transform itself yet

again to continue to offer its guests the legendary Taj hospitality.

Commenting on the future plans for the Hotel, Mr. Narang, said, "A hotel has to constantly rediscover itself to maintain its market leadership and the Taj Sheba will undergo upgradation this year as well as to continue to dominate the market place. This is in keeping with the new spirit of change being rolled out across the Taj Business Hotels."

The Taj Business Hotels are undergoing a spirit of change. Recognizing the changing needs and lifestyles of its guests, the Taj Business Hotels are rolling out an enhanced product offered throughout its hotels. Extensive research has been conducted across the country to understand the needs of guests and help create a product offering that will set the benchmark for business hotels in India, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the Middle East.

On the completion of its 25 years, the Taj Sheba Hotel, Sana'a sports a rejuvenated look, ready to begin a graceful journey towards its next era in hospitality.

About Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces

Established in 1903, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is one of South Asia's largest and finest group of hotels, comprising of 56 hotels in 37 locations across India with an additional 14 international hotels in the Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, UK, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Africa and the Middle East. From world-renowned landmarks to modern business hotels, idyllic beach resorts to authentic Rajput palaces, each Taj hotel offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury. The Taj, a symbol of Indian hospitality, has recently completed the centenary of its landmark hotel, The Taj Mahal Palace and Tower, Mumbai. Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is part of the Tata Group, India's premier business house.

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Continued Yemeni participation in 39th IATEFL International Conference and Exhibition

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH

The 39th International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL) was held this year on 5-9 April 2005 and took place at Kent University, Cardiff.

The annual conference is best known for its friendly and relaxed atmosphere, where ELT professionals from over 70 countries, including Yemen, are able to network, discuss and socialize for four days.

The conference has tackled and discussed a number of interesting topics in Business English, computers and ELT

management. English for specific purposes, English as a second language, global issues, learner independence, Literature, media and cultural studies, pronunciation, research, teacher development, teacher trainers and educators, testing, evaluation, assessments and young learners.

Dr. Taha Ahmed AL-Fotih, the head of English at Dhamar University, represented Yemen and presented a paper entitled "Acquisition of the English Articles by Arabic Speaking Students"

Dr. AL-Fotih expressed his happiness in participating for the second time in the IATEFL conference and benefited a lot from the presented subjects.

He further thanked the new leadership

of Dhamar University represented by Mr. Ahmed AL-Hadhrani, the Rector of Dhamar University, for the support of the university and to the university staff in participating abroad and push them to exchange experiences with others.

It is worth mentioning that last year's conference that was held in Liverpool was widely agreed that it had a real buzz to it. This was due to the quality of the plenary and other presentations and to a venue of character, which attracted polarized feedback of both a positive and less positive nature. There were a number of innovations, including a Local Committee whose work made an immense contribution to the conference.



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Mass grave with up to 1,500 bodies found in Iraq

NEAR SAMAWA, Iraq, April 30 (Reuters) - Investigators have uncovered a mass grave in southern Iraq containing as many as 1,500 bodies, most of them thought to be Kurds forcibly removed from their homes in the late 1980s.

The site, near the town of Samawa, about 300 km (180 miles) south of Baghdad, consists of 18 shallow trenches dug by earth-moving vehicles into hard limestone rock.

Most of the victims were women and children who were apparently lined up in front of the pits and shot with AK-47 assault rifles, according to a U.S. investigator.

Around 110 bodies have been excavated from the site so far, nearly two thirds of them children and teenagers.

They are being forensically examined and evidence gathered will be used to build cases against Saddam Hussein and his top deputies for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

The site appears to have been carefully chosen and was well concealed, factors prosecutors believe will convince a court of the systematic nature of the crime.

Many of the victims were wearing clothing that is traditionally Kurdish, and even specific to certain villages. They were wrapped in multiple layers, suggesting they knew they were being moved somewhere, investigators said.

The site was first identified early last year by the U.S. Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, but proper examination did not begin until early this month and finished on April 24.

A reporter was taken to visit the site with Iraq's minister of human rights,



Human skulls and clothes are seen at a mass grave discovered in al-Samawa desert at Muthanna province, 270 km south of Baghdad, April 25. Photo taken April 25. REUTERS

an Iraqi judge and international experts.

It is one of around 300 suspected mass graves that have been discovered around Iraq since Saddam was overthrown.

Some contain as few as a dozen bodies, while others, including one near the southern city of Basra, contain several thousand.

In the area around Samawa, a largely Shi'ite Muslim town where Saddam cracked down against locals after an uprising in 1991, 27 suspected grave sites have been found.

An official from the Regime Crimes Liaison Office, a U.S. body working

with Iraqi authorities to build evidence of crimes committed by the former government, said the Kurds were probably moved south during the Anfal campaigns of 1987-88.

During that period, Saddam and his top lieutenants oversaw the rounding up and forced removal of hundreds of thousands of Kurds from towns and villages across northern Iraq.

Saddam's armies crushed Kurdish opposition throughout the region and are accused of gassing residents of Halabja, near the Iranian border, killing more than 5,000 people.

The excavation of grave sites at this point is focused on gathering evidence

for trials against former Iraqi leaders due to begin this year.

Precise identification of victims, including DNA analysis, is not expected to happen for some time.

Bakhtiar Amin, Iraq's outgoing human rights minister, who is a Kurd, said Iraqi authorities needed to set up some sort of fund for the victims of Saddam's rule.

He suggested that five percent of oil revenues be allocated for compensation.

"Compassion is not sufficient," he said. "Something tangible needs to be done for the victims of Saddam's regime."

Iran says may resume nuclear work as talks fail

TEHRAN, April 30 (Reuters) - Iran may decide to resume some sensitive nuclear fuel work next week after it failed to reach an agreement with the European Union over the future of its disputed nuclear programme, Tehran's chief nuclear negotiator said on Saturday.

The move sets up a summer crisis in Iran's long-running nuclear dispute with the West and is likely to lead to heightened U.S. pressure to send its case to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanction.

"Iran will decide whether to resume its uranium enrichment programme this week in Tehran," the official IRNA news agency quoted Hassan Rohani as saying.

"Iran is unlikely to start enriching uranium at Natanz, but some activities might be resumed next week at Isfahan's Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) complex."

Iran froze all uranium fuel work, including activities at Isfahan and Natanz, last November as part of an agreement with the EU's big three powers Britain, Germany and France.

The EU trio and Iran failed to reach a final agreement on Iran's nuclear programme at new talks in London on Friday night but agreed to continue the negotiations at a later date.

The EU trio has warned Tehran it will back U.S. calls for Iran's nuclear case to be sent to the Security Council.

By stopping short of resuming the actual enrichment of uranium, a process that can be used to make bomb grade fuel, Iran hopes to avoid such a showdown, a senior EU diplomat in Tehran said.

"They're calculating that just resuming work at Isfahan will be enough to show its strength and anger to us but not enough for us to send its case to the Security Council," he said.

The Isfahan facility is designed to convert raw uranium into a gas which can be injected into centrifuges at Natanz for enrichment.

Iran denies accusations that it is seeking atomic arms and says it only plans to use nuclear technology to generate electricity.

Two Algerian soldiers killed in bomb attack-reports

ALGIERS, April 30 (Reuters) - Two Algerian soldiers were killed when a home-made bomb planted by Islamic militants exploded in an area east of the capital Algiers known for rebel activity, newspapers *Liberte* and *El Watan* said on Saturday.

Thursday night's attack in Sidi Daoud in the Boumerdes province, some 80 km (50 miles) east of Algiers, is the latest violence to hamper efforts to end a conflict that has cost up to 200,000 lives and \$30 billion in damages since 1992.

The authorities have launched a

search for the assailants.

The Interior Ministry was not immediately available for comment.

Attacks in Boumerdes have escalated in recent months as die-hard rebels try to scupper a general amnesty expected to be offered later this year to militants and security forces members involved in the conflict.

The violence was triggered by the cancellation of legislative elections a now-banned Islamic party was set to win in 1992.

Violence has sharply fallen in recent years.

Cairo bomb kills 1 Egyptian, injures 4 foreigners

CAIRO, April 30 (Reuters) - A bomb killed an Egyptian man and injured three Egyptians and four foreign tourists near Egypt's most popular museum in central Cairo on Saturday, security sources said.

The injured foreigners were two Israelis, an Italian woman and a man who was either Swedish or Russian, the sources added.

The sources initially identified the dead man as the bomber but they said later that someone might have thrown a bomb from a nearby bridge over the Nile.

The dead man's head was blown apart by the blast. His body lay on its back in a pool of blood under the bridge, apparently intact and wearing a light blue shirt and dark trousers.

Police gathered together pieces of his head and laid newspaper on the street to soak up the blood.

The sources identified him as Ihab Yousri Mustafa from the town of Saft, about 60 km (35 miles) south of Cairo.

On Friday a Cairo newspaper said police were looking for a man called Ihab Yousri Yassin in connection with an April 7 bombing which killed three



An ambulance is seen in the area where a bomb exploded in Cairo April 30. REUTERS

foreign tourists in a Cairo bazaar.

Hoda Eid, a woman who was in the area at the time of the blast, said: "I heard a big explosion. It felt like the bridge was collapsing."

"There was a lot of smoke and pieces of the body flew all over the place," a taxi driver witness added.

The Egyptian Museum is the country's main museum with antiquities from the time of the Pharaohs and a

popular tourist destination. But the bomb was behind the back of the museum, away from the entrance.

Security forces cordoned off the area round the site of the explosion and ushered away onlookers.

Police kept traffic away from nearby Tahrir Square, the site of the well protected main entrance to the museum, and checked the bags of pedestrians in the area.

Six U.S. soldiers killed by bombs in Iraq

BAGHDAD, April 30 (Reuters) - Six U.S. soldiers have been killed in bomb attacks in Iraq in the past two days, the U.S. military said on Saturday.

Four soldiers were killed and two wounded by an improvised explosive device on Thursday in Tal Afar, about 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

A vehicle-borne bomb killed two U.S. soldiers on Friday near Diyara, west of Baghdad, it said. The soldiers belonged to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Tal Afar, west of Iraq's third-largest city Mosul, not far from the border with Syria, has been the site of persistent insurgent violence over the past five months.

The U.S. military believes insurgents have entered Iraq from Syria and built a stronghold in the area.



U.S. soldiers arrive at a scene of a suicide car bomb in Baghdad April 30. Two U.S. soldiers were killed by a vehicle-borne bomb near the Iraqi town of Diyarah, the U.S. military said in a statement on Saturday. REUTERS

town. There is also heavy militant activity in Mosul.

The deaths raise the number of U.S. troops killed in combat in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in

March 2003 to 1,204.

Forty-four U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq in April, a sharp decline since January, when the death toll was 107.

Turkey urges Iraq's neighbours to back new govt

ISTANBUL, April 30 (Reuters) - Turkey urged Iraq's other neighbours on Saturday to support the new government in Baghdad in order to promote stability and keep the country together.

The call was echoed by Iraq's foreign minister at a meeting in Istanbul of ministers and officials from nine countries.

"The national harmony, peace and stability of Iraq is not just a matter for the Iraqis but all of us," Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told delegates from across the region.

"The transition administration in Iraq will have a really great burden on its back," he said.

"It is the duty of the international community to support the achievement of peace and stability within the national unity of Iraq."

Ankara has been particularly anxious that communal divisions in Iraq following the overthrow of



Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan (L) and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari (R) are seen during their meeting in Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul April 30. REUTERS

Saddam Hussein do not cause a split that might leave an independent Kurdish state on Turkey's border, neighbouring Turkey's own big Kurdish population.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told reporters: "We will hold them to their words. We expect more assistance."

"Our neighbours can help, can be more constructive. They can be more positive to extend general aid and assistance in many fields to us," he said on the sidelines of the meeting.

The eighth such meeting of its kind in the past two years took place two days after Iraqis formed a first democratically elected government in half a century following three months of deadlock that have undermined resistance to a Sunni insurgency.

Representatives from Iraq's six immediate neighbours Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and

Syria as well as from Egypt and Bahrain took part.

Sunni Muslim-ruled Arab states have some concerns about the rise to power of Iraq's Shi'ite Arab majority and non-Arab Kurds at the expense of once dominant Sunnis.

Non-Arab Shi'ite Iran says it wants an end to violence in its big western neighbour.

"It is very important that this meeting was held right after the formation of the Iraqi government because it is important for the protection of the whole region," Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said.

Turkey's Erdogan said he wanted to see the United Nations in a more active and visible role in Iraq in the coming months as well as more involvement by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the European Union and the Arab League.

Blast at Turkish resort injures 5 police officers

ISTANBUL, April 30 (Reuters) - Five police officers were injured on Saturday in an explosion as they investigated a suspicious package at a tourist resort in western Turkey, state-run Anatolian news agency reported.

The blast occurred in the Aegean resort town of Kusadasi next to a statue of modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the agency said.

It had earlier said one officer had been killed, but it subsequently quoted the local governor as saying nobody had died and that one policeman had lost an arm in the blast.

The five officers were taken to hospital.

Police were trying to set up a security cordon after a report of a suspicious package in front of the statue when the explosion happened.

Local police set up control points at the road exits from Kusadasi following the incident.



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Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

No comment

It was time for parliamentary elections – not in Yemen, the candidates had well in advance made their campaigning plans and had started implementing. They knew that their only choice was through persuading the people to vote for them. They worked through public speeches, advertisements on TV, radio, banners in the streets, visits to the universities and other public assemblies chanting their missions as to why he should be elected.

When the multinational company that was based in any where else but Yemen saw the competition growing and felt that it wanted to enhance its image, it launched its publicity campaign. Leaflets about the company were distributed on the streets, it arranged for a press conference to brag about its achievements and conducted a charity exhibition in which the media – of course – was a number one guest.

An international organization working in development outside Yemen realized that development has to go hand in hand with awareness. So it created an agenda for awareness in which it promoted healthy practices and tried through seminars and workshops to install ownership of the development program among the target groups. It printed small educational booklets and distributed them in the schools and health centers and then conducted a research to see the impact it had created through using the media in its awareness campaign.

The Ministry of Education of X country – definitely not Yemen – has launched a new project that promotes girls' education. It bought spaces in every popular newspaper, TV show and radio programs and worked through the mosque preachers to advocate for the cause. High officials gave encouraging press statements and the educational system authorities were interviewed more than once in the papers to talk about this project.

All the efforts went in vain trying to hide the scandal of a high official in X – non Yemeni – government from the media. However, the media was alert and did not miss the signs. It embarked on the issue and the official found his name on all newspapers in the front page. It was like a storm and skies were falling to earth on his head until two weeks later he shot himself in his grand villa. He was found clutching a newspaper in his hands that had openly exposed his bad deeds.

The media sure is strong, you can never underestimate its power and you have to always consider its impact. It's the guardian angels of the people, the watch dog for their resources and the haunting ghost of the government, any government but not that of Yemen.

Editor



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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From revolution to reform address

By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

It seems that the Arab discourse has completely got rid of the slogan of revolution. A few years ago, any notion took slogans as a way to express itself. Writings heralding revolution accumulated: political revolution which turns authority's conduct topsy-turvy; cultural revolution which opens the door of modernism; literary revolution which annihilates aesthetic forms, etc. Every decision or achievement was labeled "revolution" even the simplest ones, yet, other things did really revolt. Much of the change happened gradually under of the influence of the world surrounding us. Many things were imposed despite resistance to change. The word "reform" remained for one century dubious and illicit, whoever picked it up was accused of evasion from radical change. The harvest of revolutions was meager but the word "revolution" imposed itself on all people and opened an unclosed door to competition.

Suddenly, the slogan of revolution disappeared and the word itself became unpleasantly suspicious. Reform replaced it. Everybody was calling for reform and priding oneself on being the first to adopt it. Competition was so fierce among three sides vying each other, each wanting to prove itself the godfather of reform.

The first side is external. It claims it launched the reform process, shaking the thrones of rulers, heartening citizens, and encouraging criticism. Baghdad was not Paris but the allies liberated it and Beirut may be the Arab version of the Ukrainian experience. That may be an irregularity because reform does not require swift and radical change. However, reform has started its course and tomorrow will not be anything like today.

Yet, this reform is blemished with the interests of its foreign supporters. Are these interests in contradiction with the people concerned with reform? Should persuasion come before achievement or should it be the other way round? What would happen if the concerned people discovered they were puppets in the hand of the elite and opinion shapers? What

would be their reaction if they discovered that they were the victims of local players and those who try to protect their interests under the slogan of resistance? What if history writes decades later that they were so enslaved that they gave up their interests and freedom?

The second is the official side which says it does consider reform and is so dedicated to achieving it. But the complexity of the situation and the risk of taking adventure necessitate, and are still necessitating gradual implementation. Public demonstrations, from this side's point of view, are incited by invisible political mind-twisting powers. This side always thinks that religious extremism is present everywhere. Seizing the opportunity that the era of freedom also fights terrorism, this side puts the responsibility for slowness and delay of reform on extremists. Therefore, the new course should take centuries before it grows into the level of any of east European countries, it can be said that east European countries had no religious extremists, dormant cells, jihad against ignorance and fallacy, revival movements, social conservatism, pathologic hatred of feminism, or outdated traditions of harsh suppression. Can then comparison be fair with this difference in conditions? Algeria started reform when east European reform did but the former almost sank in civil war and floundered on a tough course before it restored stability and adopted gradual reform formula.

The third side claims that reform is possible if the initiative is entrusted to the civil community and that religious extremism is a declining phenomenon if people are given the chance to see a fair secure future and overcome obstacles. Reform should not be monopolized. It is no revolution and is gradual in nature.

Gradualness, however, entails making consecutive achievements, introducing initiative-supporting spirit, and allowing all people to contribute. Staying where we are and announcing with no achievement will kill reform in the name of reform, and is a temporary technique to protect interests. Actually, what threatens interests is deterioration of the situation.

However, objectors to the last proposal suspect the maturity of the civil community to face society's challenges. Maybe it is a proposal just to serve the interests of some parties after which it will be laid aside. Do they have real solutions and alternatives or just imported slogans and clichés?

The future of reform of future depends on the interaction between these three parties. It is likely than no one single proposal of them will prevail. Reading the future of reform, one can see two diametrically opposed directions: the pessimistic perusal that the technique to win time and announcing with no achieving will work until the storm is abated and the foreign sides are realized with no great effect on the internal affairs. The civil community would vanish amidst a confrontation with the complicated condition. This would further deepen the gap of backwardness and some decades later our dream would not be to follow the west but to walk on the footsteps of African countries. The optimistic scenario reads as follows: Foreign interests would causally achieve some of the national interests. The time-saving technique would suffer a compulsory retreat from many official stances. The civil community would not achieve all its dreams but would realize as much basic aspirations as those required by a modern community.

Day after day, we are observing this congestion and contest among reform address. Nobody can say for sure that one of the above two scenarios would beat the other. Those who dream about realizing the desired achievements with a miracle, are uttering the word of reform and continue dreaming about revolution. They are the old guards in every Arab capital.

I believe that it is necessary that rulers should reconsider the philosophy of reform and establish governments respected by their people and present the approach to reform, change and free elections. They ought not to rush for foreign aids. Civil community organizations should then act as a consultant and supervisor of those changes. Can this be done as we are approaching elections in many Arab countries?

New law for freeing Yemeni women from unjust laws

By Doa'a Al-Kadry
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Despite of the Yemeni state's care about women in all aspects of life which is recently increasing, there are still a great number of obstacles and hindrances attributed to the nature of the Yemeni male community that does not look at women as a weak and marginalized creature. The Yemeni society is dominated with customs and traditions that distance women from the participation in the social life and following the modern life. The Yemeni community has a backward rural and tribal nature, therefore most of the problems a woman faces are the unjust legislations and laws against her because she is considered as one of the weakened classes that need to be legally protected. Especially in the social aspect: she is subject to violence, power against her and the penal laws come atop the list, particularly those items dealing with woman rights whether she commits misdeeds or misdeeds are committed against her. Of those law items is what is included in Penal and Crimes Law No. (12) of 1994 featuring antifeminism; the legislative source of those items are weak and they do not rely on right judgments of the Islamic Shari'ah. This allowed a wider opportunity for judiciary personal judgments while dealing with cases and this may let the judge fall in the wrong.

According to the official statistics, we noticed that the crimes committed by Yemeni women are generally low since Yemeni women are less integrated with men; besides, her participation in the social life is few. That is, as mentioned earlier, ascribed to the fact that the Yemeni community is principally of rural nature more than being an urban. There are some things that prevent women to work and integrate with men, therefore studying the legal status and its relations to Yemeni women should occupy an outstanding position among the various studies that deal with the issues of Yemeni

women. Hence any study, which has no concern with this topic, has no value in the shadow of the violations of the woman's simplest right.

According to crimes statistics, crimes committed by women are to a great extent lower than those committed by men, especially in the Yemeni society. Even the types of crimes women commit are different in quantity and category from those of men. Crimes committed by women are distinguished with a low rate of violence such as murdering, corporal damages, and kidnapping but instead are crimes of immorality like, adultery, prostitution, blender, intentional and unintentional murdering, theft, alcohol consumption...etc. What is more, Yemeni women, similar to men, are subjected to investigations when committing any crime. This takes place when the concerned authorities take a number of legal procedures aiming to limit her freedom either with detention, imprisonment, investigations or trial. In these steps, she faces specific treatment by those authorities: police officers, prosecution members, and judges. This treatment is usually inhumane and savage when practicing psychological and sexual torture, as well as oral insults. The treatment in such cases should have been humane with a reforming feature and managed by a female staff in order to keep the woman's rights, dignity and humanity. Women in cases who are sentenced to imprisonment should have a reforming prison especially for women and their children under supervision of qualified female staffs.

Women should be subjected to penal treatment that is different in the sense that the implementation of programs of reform and qualification throughout various ways, as mentioned in the Yemeni Law of Organizing Prisons and its executive bylaw. Of the ways are education, discipline, vocational labor, health and religious care that aim at socially reforming and training her.

In terms of the rate of frequent crimes committed by women, adultery comes on the top of the list especially in the main

cities such as Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, and Hodeidah. That is due to poverty and the deteriorated economical status in addition to the family breaking down as well as the weakness in religious and moral values. The spread of temptation means hotels, night clubs, fun cities, prostitution villas and flats. Robbery comes next because of poor living standards especially in the light of the skyrocketing prices and unemployment.

What is strange is that the number of jailed women who committed adultery in the Central Prisons in cities are more than men who committed the same crime. This simply means that the majority of men who committed adultery escape from punishment either because they are not arrested or are not presented to trial. Unlike women who committed the same crime, the man's high social status or perhaps his denial protected him from punishment.

The difference between men and women's crimes in terms of quantity and category is related to the natural psychological and physical difference between them. Women have a weaker fitness, therefore she stays away from greater crimes such as violence, murdering, stabbing, beating, robbery, kidnapping, banditry...etc. which requires specific body strength and readiness.

The difference is ascribed to the social status of men and women and the social role each of them play. Women's social status is represented generally in her educational duties, looking after children and family making her role limited in the society comparing to that of a man, which clearly appears in the Yemeni community. Therefore the average of crimes committed by women (which doesn't exceed 2%) in Yemen is fewer than those of men. This is due to the nature of the Yemeni society and its strict conventions and customs that is considered a hindrance to the wider participation in the social life. Majority of the people, particularly women who live in rural and tribal communities. The role women should play is limited and this justifies the few average of her crimes.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Mesmerizing reports from Sa'ada

The situation in Sa'ada according to the official accounts is supposed to be calm and all can go to sleep, knowing that the Government has restored its full authority and the "dangerous" aged sage (the Scholar Badr Eddine Al-Houthi)

will pose no more trouble for whoever it is that wants to annihilate him. As much as there is skepticism in all these official claims, there is also significant hair raising news that indicates that the events in Sa'ada were far more than a security matter against some bands of youth, who forgot that much of what is in the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen was not for them, but were written in invisible ink. Therefore, should only be read by foreigners, especially the donors. Notwithstanding the disagreeable death of many young men on the Government's side, who carried out their duty valiantly and faithfully, the observer is inclined to believe that the eyewitness reports depict gross manifestations of hate and barbarity. On top of the tendency to unleash mass punishment for the deeds of a few, with many homes and means of livelihood destroyed, not to mention the innocent civilians who lost their lives or limbs in a campaign they may have absolutely nothing to do with in the first place, there were atrocious and inexcusable excesses that call for serious pondering as to where have our values plummeted to. The eyewitness accounts that the Yemen Times was able to collect reveal that the city of Sa'ada may have become an arena for ingrained hatreds to be unleashed in the most savage ways. Accounts of burned and completely charred bodies found here and there in the city [according to one newspaper, even near the generous and humanitarian bastion that the Saudi Arabian Government kindly granted to Yemen (the Al-Salam Hospital)] reflect a heinous disregard for Islamic religious dictates and the high moral nurturing that the people of Sa'ada stubbornly still cling to. Even if we assume that the Government claim that these were "rebels" has some validity, the Yemeni Constitution and Yemeni moral customs and traditions forbid such atrocity and this is further reinforced by Yemen being party to an important international agreement that outlaws cruel and excessive punishment worldwide. There were also reports that some bodies were dragged around behind official vehicles after having been mutilated and shot to death. Again, it should be stressed that there are no official or semi-official verification of these reports, but some of the witnesses were ready to swear the authenticity of such observations and are well known for their credibility by their listeners.

On another note, people who have managed to enter the prisons of Sa'ada depict a grim picture of over crowding and poor facilities, not to mention the absence of legal proceedings or definitive allegations that warrant the arrest of so many people. No one knows the exact number of such prisoners and there is no official source who can give an exact figure. Sometimes, people are held on account of their "wanted" relatives being still not apprehended, and often this is after their homes have been destroyed intentionally and not as "collateral" damage. For more, please revert to the news reports in this issue that gives some more details.

What is really at stake in Sa'ada remains foggy to most observers, although the intensive official and quasi official media has not hidden a latent inquisition being undertaken on behalf of some officials who may see some political gains in succumbing to Salafi factions and helping the latter do away with the Zeidi sect in Sa'ada, which has been able to pose an obstacle to the energetic propagation efforts of these real religious extremists. Whatever the case, it is most important to remember that the people of Sa'ada are Yemenis and are entitled to all the rights of citizenship and protection, even from the abusive power of Government through misguided officials, who are ready to serve their vested interests and arrange their political arithmetic at any cost and void of any sense of responsibility.

It is understandable that the Government may not be pleased at depicting such gross violations of human rights as we hear are occurring in Sa'ada, but it is not easy for the remote observer to discern fact from fiction, when the Government imposes a strict ban on the presence of journalists in the "war zone". Indeed the public is entitled to know all that can be learned about the situation in Sa'ada. Moreover, it is important to be sure that the Constitution of Yemen applies to all Yemenis, Zeidi, Shafi'i or Salafi and any misinterpretation thereto by any officials should be clearly addressed.

For those of our readers who may not have a clear understanding of the situation in Sa'ada, it might be worth mentioning that Sa'ada is where the first Zeidi Imam, Al-Hadi Yahya Bin Al-Hussein established the Hadawi Zeidi sect in Yemen and ruled, or tried to rule, as most of his period was beset with outbreaks of rebellion by tribal chiefs, who were not interested in the establishment of law and order and the institution of justice the Imam saw himself compelled to uphold. The Imam was well known for his piety and honesty and devotion to Islam, without getting absorbed in any excesses, extremisms or deviations to the original Islamic creed as taught and practiced by the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) and his disciples after him. Imam Al-Hadi was called upon to come to Yemen from his original home in Medina (Saudi Arabia) by several delegations of Yemeni dignitaries that were impressed by Al-Hadi's scholastic attainments and exemplary character. At the time (around the Fourth Century AH - 10th Century AD) Yemen was in a chaotic state and petty tribal warfare was prevalent and the Abbasid Caliphate (in Baghdad) could not establish order in the land. Thus, Al-Hadi came to Yemen and gave the Zeidi sect its first real home and official presence.

The people of Sa'ada continue to rever the Imam and his corpse lies in the Al-Hadi Mosque in the Old City of Sa'ada, which Al-Hadi built and has since gone through many extensions and renovations. It is a landmark site in Sa'ada.

The hope is that many of the atrocities heard are untrue, but the fact that they are being circulated unofficially on a wide scale (including through the opposition and independent press) compel the listener to ask, what is the Government going to do about upholding the rights of the people of Sa'ada to be regarded as dignified citizens to say the least?

France says "No" to Chirac, not to Europe

By MELVYN KRAUSS

Most observers agree that a No in the French referendum on May 29 would greatly diminish the standing and influence of French president Jacques Chirac inside both France and Europe. But what many are getting wrong is its likely effect on the European Union.

Voting No on the EU Constitution would not constitute a French No to Europe, as some believe; it would merely be a vote of no confidence in Chirac's presidency. Anything that diminishes Chirac – who has weakened the EU by pushing a protectionist, corporate state model for Europe, and telling the new smaller members to "shut up" when they disagreed with him – must be considered good news for Europe and European integration.

So those desiring a stronger integrated EU should be rooting for a French No, knowing full well that some voting No would be doing the right thing for the wrong reasons.

Even before the May referendum, there have been indications that France's

ability to mold the European Union to its interests has been waning.

Just recently, Romanian president Traian Basescu signed the Treaty to join the European Union. In the period preceding the signing, however, French foreign minister Michel Barnier chastised him for lacking a "European reflex". The reason? Basescu plans to align Romania with Anglo Saxon liberal economic policies, and wants a special relationship with Great Britain and the United States to improve security in the Black Sea region. Rather than buckling to France's will, the Romanian president warned French leaders to stop lecturing his country.

This is Europe's future. Even those with close historical ties to France, like Romania, are standing up to France, because Chirac and his colleagues do not offer them the type of "European reflex" they want and need.

The Netherlands—a traditionally pro-European country—also may vote No on the Constitution in its own referendum (which takes place after the French one)—not only as a protest against the conservative and moralistic policies of the Balkenende government, but as a rejection of a corporatist Europe dominated by

French and German interests.

The corporate state simply has not delivered the goods in continental Europe, and polls are showing voters may take it out on the proposed Constitution.

Certainly the Yes camp is concerned, with some arguing a French No will stall EU enlargement and sink the euro.

"What prospects would there be for constructive talks with Turkey, or progress towards entry of the Balkan states if the French electorate turned its back on the EU?" asks Philip Stephens in *The Financial Times*. True enough. But a "No" will not mean the French electorate has turned its back on Europe. What's at stake is not enlargement, but whether enlargement takes a more corporatist or market-based form.

Wolfgang Munchau of *The Financial Times* thinks French rejection of the EU constitution could sink the euro. "Without the prospect of eventual political union on the basis of some constitutional treaty," writes Munchau, "a single currency was always difficult to justify and it might turn out more difficult to sustain...Without the politics, the euro is not nearly as attractive."



But French rejection of the Constitution does not imply political fragmentation of the EU. If the Constitution is not ratified, the Treaty of Nice becomes the Union's operative document. There is no reason whatsoever why the EU should fall into chaos – and the euro wilt – now under the Treaty of Nice when it did not do so before.

The truth is that not only will the euro survive a No vote; it will prosper. Britain's liberal economic principles are

more conducive to European economic growth and prosperity than France's protectionist, corporate state ones. The market realizes this. With the polls forecasting a No vote, the euro remains strong in the currency markets.

Finally, not only will a French No serve to marginalize Chirac in Europe, but it will also help undermine the Franco-German alliance that has served France, Germany and Europe so badly in recent years. Europe, in fact, might be on

the verge of a major political re-alignment if the French vote No and Tony Blair wins big in the forthcoming UK election. With Chirac down and Blair up, an Anglo Saxon-German alliance might well replace the present Franco-German one. That would be progress indeed.

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Bush's gambling debts

By JEFFREY D. SACHS

George W. Bush's economic policies have been based on an extraordinarily reckless gamble that reflects a political coalition of two major forces: the super-rich and evangelical Christians. As those policies fail, global financial markets are reacting negatively, adding uncertainty to the world economy, and there is little relief in sight, because America is entering a period of prolonged political infighting and stalemate.

The super-rich had one overriding objective in joining the Bush coalition: tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest households. Evangelicals were brought in on the basis of so-called "family values," meaning opposition to abortion and gay marriage, and promises of active government support for religious activities, including direct payments to religious groups for social services that they provide locally and internationally.

The Bush team believed that they would eventually balance the tax cuts for the rich with reductions in government spending, but they never explained this to the public. Instead, for four years they pretended that budget deficits were of little concern. Only after being re-elected did they begin to explain that large bud-

get deficits, caused mainly by lower tax revenues, would require sharp cuts in social security, health care spending, and other areas.

But the majority of Americans, having supported the tax cuts in Bush's first term because it gave them a little extra cash, do not support the attack on basic government services that has followed. This opposition extends to Christian evangelicals voters, who tend to live in working-class and middle-class households that depend on many kinds of government social services. Despite the avowedly "free-market" beliefs of many Christian fundamentalists, as voters they support government-financed pensions, health care, and other public services.

Bush's tax cutting was irresponsible from the start, but became much more so after September 11, 2001. The Bush administration raised military spending sharply as it went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and as it increased spending on national security at home, without ever explaining to the American people how this would be financed. The military-plus-security budget soared by more than 2% of GNP, while tax revenues fell by much more. At the same time, Bush supported expenditure increases for popular items like education and prescription drug benefits, but paid for these services by borrowing the money rather than ensuring

sufficient tax revenues.

No sooner did this strategy pay off with a narrow re-election victory – one that strengthened Republican control of Congress – than the dark realities of Bush's fiscal recklessness started to be recognized. The annual US budget deficit reached 5% of GNP, with an enormous part of the gap financed each year by Asian central banks, which now hold about \$2 trillion in claims against America.

The problem is that Bush's reckless gamble has now built up considerable political momentum. As soon as he was re-elected, Bush started to propose cuts in popular government programs, but his own party is rejecting those cuts. With the Republican-controlled Congress seeking to make the tax cuts for the rich permanent, the world is beginning to realize that America's budget deficits are now entrenched, with no end in sight.

Because America's economy is so large, and the dollar so central to global finance, chronic US budget deficits mean huge global repercussions. The dollar is weakening, as financial markets understand that the US will need to borrow huge sums from abroad for years to come. More ominously, the willingness of foreign central banks to lend to the US also looks likely to end. After all, why should the central banks of China, Japan, South

Korea, and other Asian countries accumulate vast holdings of US Treasury bills if the dollar is likely to lose value in the years ahead?

In a bizarre, but not unexpected way, America is lashing out at others for its problems. Huge tax cuts and rising military spending have fueled an enormous rise in imports, and therefore a yawning trade deficit now accompanies America's weak fiscal position. But US politicians are blaming China and other countries for "unfair trade," even threatening them with sanctions.

This response to homegrown problems plays well with voters, but it is ridiculous and ignorant, especially since the US has been depending on China to help finance the fiscal deficits. In essence, the US is lashing out at its own banker, even as it asks the banker for yet more loans!

When Bush asked for spending cuts at the beginning of the year – including a social security reform that includes cuts in future benefits – world financiers expected that Bush would get his way, or most of it. Little did they appreciate that American voters, having never actually supported spending cuts, would resist.

As that reality sinks in, economic prospects darken. Foreigners will become less enthusiastic about continued lending to the US, weakening the dollar further, forcing up US interest rates, and threaten-

ing to undermine America's stock market and consumer spending.

But as the storm clouds gather in the coming year, the political coalition that put Bush in power will stifle progress in undoing the fiscal mess. Bush's gamble was a loser from the start, generating cost-

ly results – mainly for the US, but for the rest of the world, too – for years to come.

Jeffrey Sachs is Professor of Economics and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

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Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi
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New fashion & being cramped veiling, flirting

During the past week or so I received a letter explaining that women these days exaggerate on how they look to the extent of buying the latest fashion in black outer garments (The Baldo) which is a similarity to a long overcoat but lighter and top-veiling strung-cloth (Nigab, Birqu or Lithma) the latest in fashion now for the so-called Baldo (from French paletot) is called "Zahrat Al Khaleeg" meaning "The Flower of the Gulf". It is of course still black but with a lighter material almost sheer having the cuff of the sleeves wider with webbed like holes all over the cuff making it see-through and attractive.

This apparently has stolen the eyes of most women with its difference and its "new look" making it more open for all to see which makes us think, probably if not certainly women have become tired of being accustomed to the completely black old fashioned unattractive garment that they want some kind of change which makes black garment sales profitable leading to all kind of designs like the French style 18th century Baldo slender at the waist and widening down with a flow covering the feet in addition to wide slender cuffs with sewn beads to make it more attractive and rich, along with a top veil more luring (as many express the new fashion "Nigab"). It is interesting to find that the once upon a time two piece black garment that was produced by the Turks as long skirts with long winged tops called "Sharshaff" and brought to Yemen by the Turks at the time they were occupying Yemen has by time run a revolution leading to its new fashion look today.

However, as most of us know the garment was made to hide the women's feminine look, not to make them a source of attraction to men as is meant in Islam for the protection of women and not otherwise. Are we by this stretching the limits without realizing it or is it a question of profit?

Women, in general think of their own beauty whether inside their homes or outside within the community, without realizing the consequences in overreacting on how they should look, but as we

come to logic we tend to have an answer to all our problems: so long as it is long-sleeved, not tight or figured and not sheer then you're all safe girls. As for the color, there's no beating black.

Feeling cramped:

The City of Sana'a is a crowded place where residences are entitled to a breath of clear fresh air and despite the unique architecture, artistic and diversity in Yemeni homes, we have come to notice the lack of space separating one house from another ignoring the essential fact of having a garden which plays a positive role in the environment as well as in the family itself.

In the Yemeni City, the scarcity of gardens that neighbor homes has declined that many people – especially men favor building houses on top of their gardens leaving no space whatsoever except for the entrance and if anyone capable of more space they'd rather have it a garage instead of a garden. When passing by, one realizes the cramped situation the community looks like, due to the lack of fresh air.

A house-to-house situation lacking privacy that gives an impression that the city itself has become naturally overpopulated which on the contrary is just a lack of sense and consideration towards either others or ourselves. Most Yemenis, still can't grab the fact that having a large or spacious garden is a luxury and a safe haven for their children just as the house is for shelter, the result however is leading their children to play in the streets risking their lives in traffic accidents, and leaving their wives in a stressful mood. After a hard day's work, all are in need of fresh air and a calm scenery but instead do end up in front of the TV sending them to claustrophobia and a nagging mood to go to the park which is unfortunately to some, either expensive or overcrowded.

For Yemeni streets in the city to be somewhat breathtaking, we need more trees and greenery. Think of every home having a garden: the air would be fresher, kids would be safer playing in their own gardens, women would have a place to relax and enjoy while husbands would become free from their wives' stress.

Live long and prosper

By ROBERT J. SHILLER

Living a long time is one of our deepest wishes, and medical and economic progress offers the hope that it will be fulfilled. Some scientists say that the average human lifespan could reach 90 years or more by mid-century. But what if our wish is granted? What good is a longer life if we cannot maintain our standard of living?

The fundamental difficulty in planning for enhanced longevity is that we do not know whether it will really happen. Life expectancy might well be only 80 years by mid-century – about where it is now in advanced countries – if medical progress is disappointing or is offset by new threats or hazards. If we make provisions for long lives that are cut short, we will have wasted huge amounts of precious economic resources. But if we fail to make provisions for lives that are longer, many elderly people will be condemned to poverty.

The whole direction of any country's economy depends on longevity. A huge number of elderly people would mean a lot of people wanting to live in certain locations, seeking certain kinds of living quarters, and consuming certain kinds of services. The types of corporations that will succeed, the buildings that are constructed, and the research and development that will be needed all depend on the demographics of demand.

This is true of the global economy as well. In his 2005 book *The Future for*

Investors, Jeremy Siegel argues that differences across countries in longevity will interact with differences in wealth levels to form a fundamental determinant of economic relations among countries. Trade flows may be driven substantially by longevity: countries expecting a relatively large number of elderly in the future should be running trade surpluses now and deficits later.

Retired people need life annuities – contracts that offer a stable income stream for as long as they live – to insure against the risk of outliving their wealth. If there were no longevity risk – that is, if the probability of dying at each age in the future were reliably known – then pension funds could easily offer life annuities to large numbers of people by investing their assets in bonds of various maturities in order to pay out just the right amount each year.

But pension funds cannot do this, because they risk running out of money if, on average, people turn out to live longer than expected. For people retiring at age 60, the difference between living to 80 and living to 90 is enormous: in the latter case, their pensions would have to pay benefits for 50% longer. As a result, private companies do not offer life annuities at attractive rates, because they cannot be reasonably sure that they can fulfill their promises unless they are significantly overcapitalized.

Fortunately, financial markets are beginning to address longevity risk. In November 2004, the European Investment Bank (EIB), working with the private bank BNP Paribas,

announced that it would issue the world's first long-term longevity bond. The bonds, with a maturity of 25 years, pay out an annual sum of £50 million multiplied by the percentage of the English and Welsh male population aged 65 in 2003 that is still alive in a given year (subject to a slight data lag). For example, if 80% of the men are still alive ten years after issuance, the bonds will pay out £40 million. If only 40% of the men are still alive after twenty years, the bonds will pay out £20 million.

BNP Paribas hoped to place the bonds with UK pension funds, but so far the issue has not been fully subscribed. Most of the likely buyers are slow to make up their minds, since trustees, fund managers, consultants, and employer sponsors must all become comfortable that the new concept is consistent with their fiduciary obligations. Moreover, it is not clear that the EIB can get further help from reinsurers in managing the risks it assumes by issuing such bonds because reinsurers do not yet see how they can fully hedge the risks involved.

The slow launch of longevity bonds ultimately reflects a fundamental question: can we genuinely reduce the impact of longevity risk? If everyone is affected by longevity risk in the same way, then no matter what the price of a longevity bond, everyone should logically want to be on the same side of the contracts – all buyers at one price, all issuers at another. No difference means no market.

But, in fact, we are not all affected by longevity risk in the same way. Life

insurance companies, drug firms, businesses providing services for the elderly, and investors in retirement real estate would all benefit from increased longevity, while defined-benefit pension plans and annuity providers would lose. Less affluent individuals are also more threatened by longevity than those for whom living longer mainly means leaving a smaller inheritance to their children. Indeed, countries with higher birth rates are less exposed to longevity risk in the next half-century or so than countries with low birth rates.

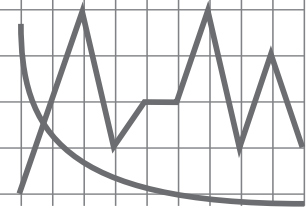
We thus need a large and liquid market for longevity risk so that these different groups can creatively share their risks with each other. In fact, creating such a market is the most important step we can take to address longevity risk, for we could then discover its true price, allowing myriad business decisions involving longevity to be made more efficiently.

There is virtually no history of the price behavior of longevity bonds, so discovering their buyers and sellers, and the prices that clear the market, will take some time. But longevity bonds, while only experimental today, will eventually become vitally important to the world economy.

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YT Business



Graduates face little opportunities & haphazard recruitment

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Graduates frequenting labour market have said the process of haphazard employment, without specifying definite job, at majority of government establishments, is doubling and aggravating their suffering, unemployment and retreat in chances of gaining work opportunities. They have added that that would raise the proportion of employees who do not have specific jobs but the increase in the

volume of surplus labour. Graduates consider the process of recruitment at government institutions as not being carried out according to certain mechanism and taking into consideration the need of this department or that administration based on criteria of civil service. They say such an employment process is conducted according to non-administrative rules and procedures implemented via mediations. This situation leaves some graduates no room to benefit from those opportunities because they are not able to find anyone to assist them in obtaining

jobs. The graduates also believe that the result of haphazard recruitment and not selecting proper elements qualified for jobs of certain specialties, has created surplus labour and caused a state of confusion and non-coordination of work inside the same administration due to non-equation of qualifications of employees working in some government establishments. Meanwhile, the graduates demand from the ministry of civil service and securities to amend some laws and legislations pertaining to employment at

all institutions of the state in a manner to be circulated among all those establishments to be followed in the future. The aim is to keep pace with administrative developments enacted at institutions of other countries, where no officials have the ability to violate laws and authorities granted to him, as is the case in our government departments. Unemployed graduates also demand the ministry to act quickly in beginning to liquidate and settle the question of those elements, which some reports proved are practicing more than one job at more

than one institution and receive two salaries. They add those cases must be ended. There are thousands of graduates from Yemeni and Arab universities looking for jobs with government institutions but have no chance and are always told the hated phrase of "No Vacancies". They query for how long the problem of job duality would remain without proper solution, while university graduates roam the streets in search for a job to no avail. They also emphasize and appeal to the government to go ahead in

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	190.9400	191.2600
Sterling Pound	363.4400	364.0500
Euro	246.8900	247.3100
Saudi Rial	50.9100	51.0000
Kuwaiti Dinar	653.9000	655.0000
UAE Dirhem	51.9900	52.0700
Egyptian Pound	32.9200	32.9800
Bahraini Dinar	506.4900	507.3300
Qatari Rial	52.4800	52.5700
Jordanian Dinar	269.5000	269.9500
Omani Rial	495.9600	496.7900
Swiss Franc	160.1600	160.4300
Swedish Crown	26.9900	27.0300
Japanese Yen	1.8037	1.8067

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

administrative apparatus reforms, as they are a necessity for activation of government machinery performance and eliminate those negative phenomena. Among such measures are the implementation of print and photo draft law on jobs and salaries and the national strategy for wages. All that is with the hope of being able to raise the standard of government services quality and laying down a foundation of values, equality, justice and transparency.

Agriculture sector complains of backwardness of production means

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni farmer has acquired a wide technical knowledge in agriculture of traditional crops but the dealing with new crops, species and modern agricultural technology, such as the use of chemicals, agricultural mechanization and modern ways of irrigation are still limited among most farmers. This dealing is very important for increasing productivity to meet increasing needs of the people.

Agricultural sector in Yemen constitutes the major cornerstone for the national economy. Agriculture has gained a noticeable progress during the recent decades as a result of attention the state has given especially in providing three essential services, i.e. agricultural education, agricultural research and agricultural guidance.

Guidance work is among the most important factors aimed at making the required changes for the development of agricultural process in all its fields and preparation of agricultural work through the farmer's acceptance of new ideas and modern ways for raising productivity in quantity as well as quality. Therefore there must be a provision of specialized graduates in agricultural guidance capable of educating and communicating information as well as training farmers on the application of technically suitable techniques which are economically feasible for them.

A modern study in this regard mentions that the Yemeni farmer possesses high experience in many agricultural systems and traditional agricultural ways that are characterized by low productivity which today are not able to cope with the continued increase in the population that has amounted to 19.7

million people with a growth rate of 3.02%, which is deemed as the highest rate in the world.

This necessarily means an increase for the need to secure local sources of food through increasing agricultural production. The study added that the Yemeni farmer was in need of learning modern agricultural ways and technology and how to deal with them. These include chemical substances (insecticides and fertilizers), and agricultural mechanisation as well as solving problems faced by farmers and improving their living circumstances.

For Yemen's circumstances, importance of agricultural guidance, is increasing as agriculture is still traditional. Thus, the agricultural guidance function and efficiency of its apparatuses are among the important and major factors for the creation of agricultural development process and to develop agricultural work in order to increase production in quantity and quality.

This would not only help to raise the farmer's productivity, improving his living standards and the life of his family, but would also lead to a realisation of higher rates of self-sufficiency and food security, especially of strategic crops and commodities.

It would also realise some surplus in self-production so that to raise the volume of the country's exports and its share of hard currency. It also helps improve the country's process of good exchange and external trade as well as its ability to compete under the policy of free international market. Therefore, the importance of agricultural guidance can be summarized in the following points

- agricultural guidance is a developmental action and with its comprehensive, continued efforts it would realise agricultural and

- rural development,
- transfer of modern agricultural technologies to farmers and rural families that adopt them,
- training farmers and dissemination of agricultural awareness, conveying relevant recommendations to farmers according to their social, economic and environmental circumstances,
- raising the economic standard of farmers, especially the poor among them, in areas depending on rain, through engaging them in working out guidance, development programs and plans that help them solve their problems and needs,
- spread of awareness among farmers to adopt the gradual transfer from traditional agricultural ways to modern ones.

The study has also made it clear that agricultural guidance has during the few past decades achieved important accomplishments. During the eighties its achievements were tangible as some highly productive improved agricultural species were launched, especially following the issuance of the President's decree of preventing the importation of fruits and vegetables in 1984 in order to diversify crops and expand areas of lands used for plantation of fruits and vegetables. Thus the country has realised self-sufficiency and began to export the surplus to neighbouring countries.

Agricultural guidance has also presented many kinds of agricultural developed technologies and ways for agriculture such as modern scientific inputs and means, spread of improved species and informing farmers on the use of fertilisers and ways of fighting diseases. As a result, there has been an increase in production of area units of some other crops through publication of results of agricultural researches and encouragement of farmers to plant improved species and adoption of bases of modern agriculture.

Against all that, the agricultural guidance achieved during the past few decades:

- polarization of increasing numbers of human elements qualified for work in agricultural guidance,
- the establishment and distribution of 321 guidance centers, in addition to centers for offering other services such as nurseries and training centers,
- providing requisites for work such as equipment, apparatuses and means of transport,
- accumulation of scientific experiences with those working in the field of agricultural guidance,
- expansion of geographical ranges, fields of agricultural as well as animal and development work,
- development of a national strategy for agricultural guidance,
- development of links of connection and coordination with researches and farmers.

Exports from Aden container port increase

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The container port and platforms of Aden Oil Refinery has witnessed during the first quarter of this year an increasing commercial movement compared to the same period of last year. This is represented in the increase of exports and movement in commercial and tourist ships by a standard rate amounted to 120% in comparison with the same period of last year 2004.

A statistics issued by customs of the free zone in Aden mentioned that the total of exports value of fish and other products amounted to one billion and 282 million riyals, at an increase of YR 704 million from that of last year.

The statistics also mentioned that exports of frozen habbar fish and ban-jans habbar amounted to two thousand and 750 hundred kg at a total value of 78 million and 764 thousand riyals. That quantity was exported to France, America, Japan, South Korea, China and Greece. On the other hand the volume of coffee exports amounted to one thousand 590 kg at a total value of 51 million and 627 thousand riyals. In addition, 476 thousand boxes of various perfumes were exported to countries such as Qatar, the Emirates, Algeria and Italy at a value of 29 million and 833 thousand riyals.

The six main wharfs of Aden oil refinery had at the same period seen the unloading of about one million, 435 thousand and 691 hundred tons of different local and foreign oil products. Statistics of marketing, production and production administration of the refinery show that it had marketed at the same period more than 997 thousand and 195 hundred metric tons of oil products including petrol, diesel, and kerosene and liquefied gas to Yemeni local markets. The statistics also said customs of the free zone in Aden achieved a customs revenues amounted to two billion, 943 million and 690 thousand riyals at an increase of 374 million riyals in comparison with the same period last year.

Container port in Aden received during the first quarter of this year 74 container ships of various nationalities arriving from neighbouring ports as well as world ports which unloaded around 57 thousand and 256 hundred containers of different sizes.

Indicators clarify that the proportion of increase in exports and imports achieved by the free zone customs in Aden in the first quarter of this year comes as a result of the commercial activity the port is seeing at present. Especially regarding exportation of Yemeni products, movement of containers and those containers of transit.

Project on counting talents of the expatriates sector

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sources at the ministry of expatriates affairs have said that the ministry has taken practical steps to implement a project defining talents and creativity among sons of the Yemeni expatriates.

The sources also say that the ministry has addressed the Yemeni embassies and leaders of the Yemeni communities in a number of countries to register all the innovators and the talented in all literary, artistic and scientific fields.

The ministry has also opened a website on the internet to register

names of the creative people from Yemen's sons in all countries of the world, pointing that the ministry is seeking to incorporate the Yemeni talents inside Yemeni circles, activities inside the country and to build bridges of communication between the creative in any field with inside sides of specialty.

They added that the project aims at adopting the talented and offering them support as well as engaging the youth of Yemeni communities in programs and plans directed to their counterparts inside the country. As well as to obtain privileges, affirming that Yemeni communities are full of creative and talented minds.

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The Queen of Sheba (5/5)

TRANSLATED AND ANNOTATED BY
DAVID BEN-ABRAHAM
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Summary of part 1 -4:

King Solomon checks his army of creatures of all kinds and does not see the hoopoe bird, he threatens to punish it for not being present in the parade, when the bird 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 to the King in Jerusalem. When she meets him there he amazes her with the powers that God has bestowed on him. She duels with him in an intelligent conversation. She asks him many riddles and he answers them all, the last one she asks: "seven are departing. Nine are entering in. two are giving drink, but only one is drinking. What are they?" and he answers:

Part V:

"The seven whom you have spoken of as departing are the seven days of a woman's separation from her husband when she is unclean by reason of her natural purgation. Yet, while she enters her nine months of pregnancy, the seven days of uncleanness are not to be

found with her, since she remains clean for that entire duration of time. Thus, the seven being departed, the nine come in. Whilst the two whom you have said are giving drink, these are the two breasts giving milk to the newborn infant. However, the only one actually drinking from those breasts is the baby himself!"

Again, she asked the king: "This thing, at first, goes upon four. Then it goes upon two. At last, it goes upon three. What is it?"

The king replied: "When a child is born, he first crawls upon four. When he learns to walk, he walks upon twain. When the child becomes old, and is waxen in years, he is helped by the cane - hence, he goes upon three."

The queen, realizing the wisdom with which King Solomon had been endowed by his God, left off asking him riddles, and so sought answers to those long-standing questions which she had long ago asked herself in her own land, but could find no answers. When the queen had heard these matters, she was satisfied and made note of the things.

Now when King Solomon had entertained her a great while, and had given her gifts to take back into her own country, and had shown her his house, and the great feats of engineering used by him in constructing the house of the forest of Lebanon, as well the splen-

dour of his table and the orderly manner of his attendants and their fine apparel, as also the ascent he would make use of when going up unto the Temple of GOD, with its impregnable walls, she resolved to ask him one last question, saying:

"My lord and Sovereign, at thy behest I have come unto thee, traversing both land and sea, and taking the entire Government along with me, to hear this thy wisdom. And, indeed, it was but a small report that I heard in my own land concerning thee, until I came here to see and hear it for myself. Thy wisdom far exceeded that which was told to me by my servants.

And even then, I could not believe it until I had seen it! Happy are the men who serve thee, and blest is the God who delightest in thee to make thee a king of his people! Art thou then the Messiah who is wont to come into the world?"

Answered the king: "Let not thy countenance be distraught, O fair queen, that God hath chosen to impart wisdom unto his subjects. For he is the God who made heaven and earth, and we are his people. Is it not then commensurable with his excellence to make me a king of his people? Yet, even so, I am not he whom thou seekest."

So, she went away into her own land, leaving behind her a great reputation for one who sought after virtue.

About the writer:

(David Ben-Abraham has been fascinated over the subject of the Queen of Sheba, ever since his tour of Yemen in 1979, where allegedly the queen had her origins. An avid reader of ancient Arabian histories, and one who has had recourse to ancient books of Jewish lore, he has combined his knowledge of both fields to help him build this short-story.

Many of the scenes described herein are found in, both, ancient Arabic and Aramaic sources. For instance, the Qu'ran (in the 27th chapter known as "Surat al-Namal," or The Ant) specifically mentions the hoopoe bird (Arabic: "hud-hud"), while so does the Second Aramaic translation of the book of Esther, which is read by the Jews. The bird, as the story goes, was sent with a message to the Queen of Sheba from King Solomon.

The Qu'ran (*ibid.*) also mentions the glass floor used by King Solomon, and which was mistaken by the queen for water. David Ben-Abraham makes his living as a freelance writer and translator of, both, biblical and exegetical literature, translating such works into English which were heretofore unknown to most English readers.

His style is unique, preferring an archaic style over the contemporary, and has a complete command of the King's English.)

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The nine Imams of jurisprudence (3/4)

What is interesting to notice is that many of these Imams lived in and around the same period of time and many of them got to meet and exchange ideas. This is notwithstanding the fact that their followers may have developed disagreements amongst them, which their "founders" did not really harbor against each other.

Malik Ibn Anas

The Fourth Imam, is slightly different from the previous Imams discussed in that he did not concern himself very much with the politics of his time, but focused on getting people to understand their religion, without falling into misconceptions or the effects of emotional affinity. He was the youngest son of a fairly successful merchant in Medina (The City of the Prophet) and almost never left the city, except for a trip Mecca for the pilgrimage. He believed that Medina was the community that reflected the best of the religious life as the Prophet Mohammed lived in the city and there gave his prescription for the way the Moslem community should live and interact together, with the highest degree of moral consciousness. It was also the capital of the Moslem State under the Orthodox Caliphs and thus was far from the worldly Levant, Persia and Egypt and the new territories, East and West of that that had so much to offer in inherited dogmas and philosophies. The people and the scholars of Medina tried to keep their minds out of possible corruptions that could distort the religion of the Quran. After thirty years of study under various leading scholars in the Prophet's Mosque, Malik set up his own colloquium to teach after all the leading scholars in the Mosque had accredited him. He lived in splendor from his salary, which then the Moslem State was granted to scholars and teachers, primarily by the advice of Malik Ibn Anas. He was also the recipient of gifts from many of his prominent colleagues. He had no scorn for enjoying the amenities and luxuries of life as long as they were out of honest earnings. He also learned a lot from Ja'afar Al-Sadiq (see last Monday's Literary Corner) and respected his asterism and devotion to worship. He also was influenced by the rationalization that was used by Ja'afar to come out with rulings on matters that were not dealt with in the Quran or the Traditions. Some of his colleagues and students protested Malik's quiet about the deviations of the rulers. He was not actually quiet, but always gave them advise in a manner that would not raise their anger and almost always confidentially. He figured it was better to try to straighten out misconceptions by rulers and their advisors in a way that would not raise their anger or in front of people who may corrupt his intentions. His book "Al-Mawta" was an important legal and jurisdictional reference. He viewed the public interest to have precedence over personal interest, even if the latter had a textual reference to support it and the former did not.

Imam Allaith Ibn Sa'ad

Allaith was born in 93 AH (around 715 AD). He was the son of a wealthy man. He was also a non-Arab and a descendent of an original Egyptian family. Yet, he was able to overcome some of the discrimination and learn from the justice of the pious Caliph Omar Ibn Abdul-Aziz that Islam indeed can be practiced as a social redeemer to mankind. It is said that during the rule of Omar that there were no people that the alms could be distributed to, because there was no corruption in government and no one was allowed to hoard or rob any public revenues or funds. He taught that those who exaggerated in the literal translation of legal texts (Quran or traditions) are mistaken because they do not understand the full implications of those text. He also was against those who said that opinions may be derived that do not necessarily agree to text. He said that reasoning should be based on legal text, but the implications of the text simply have to be understood in all their context. This would require a strong background in the Arabic language and how the Arabic word can be made to stand for different meanings. Thus there was no need to deviate from the texts. When his father passed away, he had to return to his Egyptian village to manage his father's large estate. Because of some of the discriminatory attitude of some of the officials who looked down upon "converts" and non-Arabs, the Governor of the province for some reason destroyed the house of Allaith. Allaith would build it again quietly and then the Governor would destroy it. He then was guided by a dream to utter the Quranic verse: "We want to grant favor to those who were oppressed in the world, and make them the leaders and make them the inheritors (i.e., the meek shall inherit the Earth). The Governor was flabbergasted and ceased his oppression of Allaith, and died just a few days later. This story spread far and wide and made Allaith popular and revered. Allaith sought to learn all the scholasticism that he could in his days. He would go to the place whenever he heard of a famous scholar there and absorb his knowledge. He also spread his own teachings in this manner. He was very generous. A poor woman came to seek a pound of honey as medicine for her ailing son. He ordered his scribe to give her 100 pounds. The latter said she only wants a pound. He said she asked according to her means, while we give her according to our means! A Governor of Egypt went to destroy the Churches of the Copts. Allaith wrote to the Caliph in Baghdad demanding the dismissal of the Governor for his violation of religious dictates on treatment of non-Moslems. The Caliph dismissed the Governor. Allaith then demanded that the new Governor rebuild all the churches destroyed and to build new churches anytime the Copts asked for them. The Prophet decreed: Be kind to the Copts! was his reasoning. It is no surprise that many of the Coptic churches in Egypt were actually built by Moslem rulers. He lived to the age of eighty two and thousands came to his funeral.

Honor crimes are still crimes



BY HAMOOD AL-HASHIMI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

There are many crimes committed against woman under the excuse of cultural values such as defending pride and honor of the man. Yet the word honor is a very generic term that is understood differently by different people and basically depending on the convenience of the person taking the action. Honor crimes are a universal phenomenon although magnitude and extent vary from one culture and one community to the other.

Doubt

The spark of such crimes is generally ignited by doubt. Men of Arabian countries and others with similar nature such as Turkey could be easily driven by suspicion caused by misconduct of the victim or unjustified behavior in the eyes of the man; who is the father, husband, brother or even son.

In India and Pakistan, the tribe or the clan is considers itself the defender and



protector of the tribes honor and pride. Usually murder takes place because of disobedience or breaking tribal rules or simply by rejecting a marriage proposal which the tribe has decided upon according to the convention, or because the insistence of the girl to marry a per-

son that they have refused.

In the west, for example in Italia, and Brazil, the criminal can be the husband or the boyfriend. These crimes are known by "emotional crimes" or "jealousy murders". The husband murders his wife or girl friend out of jealousy or suspicion. In Brazil, besides the former reason, the husband could kill his wife, or girlfriend if she breaks up the relation. Men in such situations feel abandoned and rejected and this hurts their ego and degrades their social position.

The phrase "honor crimes" caused a heated debate arguing that by adding the word honor, the impact of word crime becomes softer to the ears and this may mislead judgment and the criminal could be sympathized with and even worse: justified. Moreover, the word honor has no particular meaning in most languages and the concept could be bent and modified easily according to convenience.

Laws are man made solutions designed to organize social life and relationships among people living in the same community. Notwithstanding that, laws fail to overcome the many of the social misconducts especially the unpredictable behaviors which on the long run leads to having the misconduct becoming the norm or the convention.

When examining the Egyptian criminal laws for example, there is no such thing as honor crimes. All the murders are seen through the law in the same category and with the same eyes. Nevertheless, it is the judges who have the authority to convict a criminal who may see one murderer different than the other according to motives and circumstances of the crime. Judges tend to sympathize with the criminal of honor

crimes and hence rule the mildest punishment there is and generally one that does not exceed one year of withheld imprisonment, and this only applies to the male suspect and not the female.

In Lebanon, the situation is slightly different. The law does not distinguish between man and woman. If one killed the other because of treason, he or she can benefit from this attitude and get away with simple punishments. Human rights activist there are lobbying against this rule in order to protect the right of life.

Jordanian laws have clearly specified the term "honor crimes" in the article number 34 of the criminal law states that the male killer is acquitted of the punishment, if he suddenly discovers his wife or one of his female relatives in an act of adultery and then commits the crime. If the man commits the murder based on his doubts only and not first hand witnessing then the punishment is commuted. Not only that, in article number 98 of the same law if the killer fails to prove the element of surprise the killer can confess to losing control because of anger or excitement which lead to wrong judgment and hence the crime. And then he gets away with the mildest punishment.

In India and Pakistan, the tribe rarely turns to the law. They have their own laws, which they depend on for their ruling and they don't allow government's authority to intervene in their issues. That makes the situation more complex, since many murders are registered and considered suicide. Mostly they ask children or adults of the family to commit those murders to get commuting because of being underage, if the crime was convicted.

Die Deutsche Botschaft Sana'a sucht für den Zeitraum 01.06. bis 30.09.2005 eine

Aushilfskraft in der Konsularabteilung (Halbtagsstelle)

Bewerberinnen und Bewerber sollten über folgende Qualifikationen und Erfahrungen verfügen¹:

- Perfekte Arabischkenntnisse;
- Gute Deutschkenntnisse (mündlich und schriftlich);
- Gute Englischkenntnisse erwünscht (mündlich und schriftlich);
- PC-Kenntnisse;
- Hochschulabschluss oder Berufserfahrung;

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bis zum 10. Mai 2005 an:

Deutsche Botschaft; Postfach 41, Sana'a
Zu Hdn. Herrn Peter Speyrer

Nur Bewerberinnen und Bewerber, die in die engere Vorauswahl kommen, werden von uns benachrichtigt.

¹ Neben fachlichen auch persönliche Anforderungen wie Fähigkeit zur Teamarbeit, Belastbarkeit, Freude am Umgang mit Besuchern etc.

Sickle cell anemia

COMPILED BY: NADIA AL-SAKKAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disease. It affects the red blood cells. Normal red blood cells are smooth and round like doughnuts. They move easily through blood vessels to carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Sickle cell anemia occurs when an abnormal form of hemoglobin (HbS) is produced. HbS molecules tend to clump together, making red blood cells sticky, stiff, and more fragile, and causing them to form into a curved, sickle shape. Red blood cells containing HbS can go back and forth between being shaped normally and being sickle shaped until they eventually become sickle shaped permanently. Instead of moving through the bloodstream easily, these sickle cells can clog blood vessels and deprive the body's tissues and organs of the oxygen they need to stay healthy. This can cause pain, damage, and a low blood count or anemia.

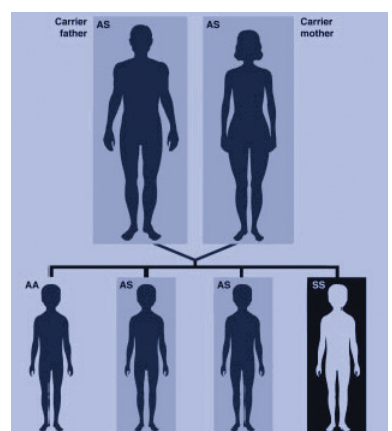
Anemia is a shortage of red blood cells in your blood. In sickle cell anemia, this shortage of red blood cells occurs because sickle cells do not last very long. It is hard for your body to make new red blood cells fast enough to keep up. Normal red blood cells last about 120 days in the bloodstream. Sickle cells die after only about 10 to 20 days.

Sickle cell anemia occurs when a person inherits two abnormal genes (one from each parent) that cause their red blood cells to change shape. Instead of being flexible and round, these cells are more rigid and curved in the shape of the farm tool known as a sickle - that's where the disease gets its name. The shape is similar to a crescent moon.

The sickle cell genes tell the body to make the variant hemoglobin that results in deformed red blood cells. Hemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen to all parts of the body.

Children who inherit sickle cell genes from both parents will have sickle cell anemia. Children who inherit the sickle cell gene from only one parent will not have the disease. They will have sickle cell trait. See image 2.

Sickle cell anemia affects millions of people throughout the world. Sickle cell anemia is common in people whose families come from:



If each parent carries one sickle hemoglobin gene (S) and one normal gene (A), with each pregnancy, there is a 25 percent chance of the child's inheriting two SS genes and having sickle cell anemia; Source: US dept of Health and Human Services

- Parts of Africa (the region south of the Sahara Desert)
- Spanish-speaking areas like South America, Cuba, and Central America
- Saudi Arabia
- India
- Mediterranean countries, such as Turkey, Greece, and Italy.

The signs and symptoms of sickle cell anemia are different in each person. Some people have mild symptoms. Others have very severe symptoms and are often hospitalized for treatment. People with sickle cell anemia can also experience complications from blood circulation and infection-fighting problems. These include a higher risk of certain infections and stroke as well as a condition called acute chest syndrome, which is caused by infection or trapped red blood cells in the lungs.

Signs and Symptoms

People with sickle cell anemia may have bouts of pain in the chest, stomach, arms, legs, or other parts of the body. This is caused by sickle cells blocking blood flow through the blood vessels. Feeling tired and having trouble fighting infections are also common among teens with sickle cell anemia, and they may grow more slowly and reach puberty later than other teens.

Periods of pain are commonly referred to as crises, which vary in their severity, how often they happen, and how long they last. Whereas one person may have only one sickle cell crisis a year, another may experience crises more often. Crises may be brief, or may last hours, days, or even weeks. Symptoms can develop in any body organ or tissue and include aching arms, legs, hips, and shoulders. When people with sickle cell disease get acute chest syndrome, they may have severe chest and abdominal pain, fever, cough, and trouble breathing.

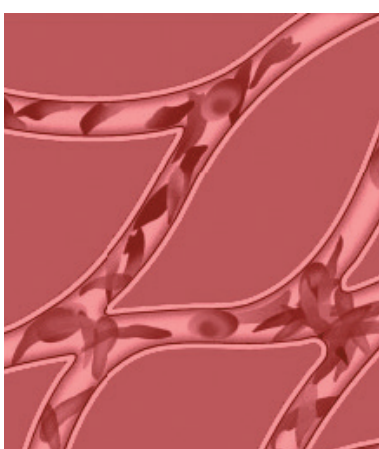
The most common symptoms or signs are related to: Anemia, pain when sickle-shaped red blood cells block the flow of blood to an organ, and other more specific symptoms.

The general symptoms or signs of anemia are: Fatigue (feeling very tired), Paleness, Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice), Shortness of breath.

Pain is the symptom of sickle cell anemia that most people are familiar with. It occurs in both children and adults. Pain results from blocked blood and oxygen. Painful events or crises may occur in any body organ or joint. Some patients have painful crises less than once a year. Others may have as many as 15 or even more crises in a year. The pain can be acute (sudden), chronic (long lasting), or a mixture of the two. Acute pain is the most common type of pain. It is sudden pain that can range from a mild ache to very severe pain. The pain usually lasts from hours to a few days. With complications or poor treatment, the pain can last for weeks. Chronic pain usually lasts 3 to 6 months or longer. Chronic pain can be hard to bear and mentally draining. This can severely limit daily activities.

Diagnosis and treatment

To diagnose sickle cell anemia, doctors use a blood test called hemoglobin electrophoresis to look for HbS in a person's blood. Screening tests can show if the newborn infant has sickle cell anemia or carries the sickle cell trait. Early diagnosis of sickle cell anemia is very important so



The sickle-shaped red blood cells tend to get stuck in narrow blood vessels, blocking the flow of blood. Source: US dept of Health and Human Services

that children who have sickle cell anemia can get proper treatment.

If the first test shows that the sickle hemoglobin is present, a second blood test is done to confirm the diagnosis. These tests also tell whether the child carries the sickle cell trait.

It is also possible to identify sickle cell anemia before birth. This is done by getting a sample of amniotic fluid or tissue taken from the placenta. This test can be done as early as the first few months of pregnancy.

There is no cure for sickle cell anemia,

and it is possible for some people to die from the disease (although most young people with sickle cell anemia don't die). Although there is no cure (other than bone marrow transplantation) for sickle cell anemia, doctors know a great deal about how to treat it. Doctors can provide treatments that help prevent complications from the disease, though. Folic acid, a vitamin that helps the body produce new red blood cells, is often prescribed for teens with sickle cell anemia. Pain medications help relieve the symptoms of crises. And kids and teens who have sickle cell disease often take penicillin or other antibiotics to help fight infections.

Teens with sickle cell anemia may need to get transfusions of healthy red blood cells to help carry oxygen to the tissues of their bodies more effectively.

Scientists are constantly researching ways to help people with sickle cell anemia. Several recent drugs on the market, such as hydroxyurea, have helped reduce painful crises and episodes of acute chest syndrome in adults with the condition. These drugs have also decreased the need for hospitalization. Scientists are also testing these and other drugs to see if they work for kids and teens. In rare cases, people with severe sickle cell anemia may be given a bone marrow transplant to help them produce healthy hemoglobin.

The goal of treatment is to relieve pain, prevent infections, and control complications if they occur. The treatments include Medications, Blood transfusions, Specific

treatment for complications.

Painful crises are the leading cause of emergency room visits and hospitalizations. The usual treatment for acute pain crises is giving pain-killing medications and increasing fluids.

Infection is a major complication of sickle cell anemia. In fact, pneumonia is the leading cause of death in children with the disease. Other infections common in persons with the disease include meningitis, influenza, and hepatitis.

If a child with sickle cell anemia shows early signs of an infection, such as fever, it is very important to get treatment right away. Adults with sickle cell anemia should also have a flu shot every year. They should also be vaccinated for pneumonia.

Blood transfusions are used to treat

worsening anemia and sickle cell complications. A sudden fall in the patient's blood count resulting from infection or spleen enlargement is a common reason for a transfusion. Some, but not all, patients need transfusions to prevent life-threatening events such as stroke or pneumonia.

New Treatments

Today, research studies on sickle cell anemia are looking at new medications, bone marrow transplants, and gene therapy. The hope is that these studies can provide new treatments and find a possible cure for sickle cell anemia. Researchers are also looking at finding a way to predict the severity of the disease.

Humanitarian Call

These three girls aged, 19, 13 and 8 are suffering from Sickle Cell Anemia. If you can do anything to help ease their suffering call the Yemen Times. 268661 or send an email to editor@yementimes.com



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إكس إل - ٧

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Sheraton celebrates the Champions Week

The spirit of the Sheraton Hotels has been highlighted again through the Champions Week organised by Sheraton Sana'a Hotel & Sheraton Gold Mohur Aden between 9th and 14th of April 2005. The sales teams of both hotels carried out a series of complimentary visits to their prestigious clients and asserted the

good relations between them and the hotels.

During the Sales blitz Mr. Tony Goubran - General Manager (4th from the right) has given his full support to both teams (Sheraton Sana'a Hotel & Sheraton Gold Mohur) in their missions in attaining excellence in client relations.

CHAMPIONS WEEK

FROM 9TH TO 14TH APRIL 2005

فندق شيراتون صنعاء
Sheraton Sana'a HOTEL

فندق ومنتجع شيراتون جولد مهور
Sheraton Gold Mohur HOTEL & RESORT - ADEN

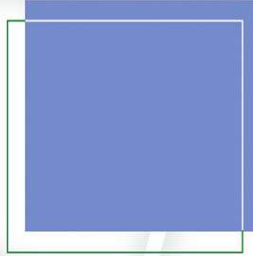
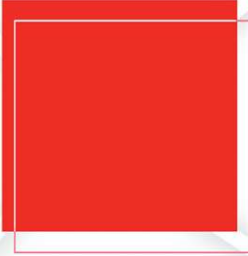
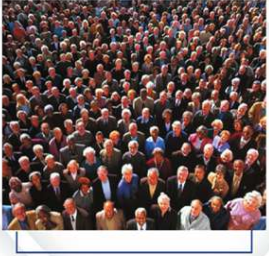
SHERATON HOTEL'S IN YEMEN

STRENGTH IN RELATION



يسرنا ان نعلن بان لدينا مبنى كبير للإيجار يتكون من طابقين وملحق ومساحته ٣٥٢٠ متر مربع ويقع في منطقة جنوب فندق رماده حده على مقربة من السفارة اليابانية ويطل على شارع ٢٤ من الجنوب وشارع ١٢ من الشمال فعلى الراغبين في إستئجار المبنى الإتصال بنا على الأرقام التالية
٧٣٧٠٦٨٠٨ - ٧١٢٧٦٣٧٢ ، ٣٢٤٠٥١ - ٣٣٤٠٩٩ صنعاء

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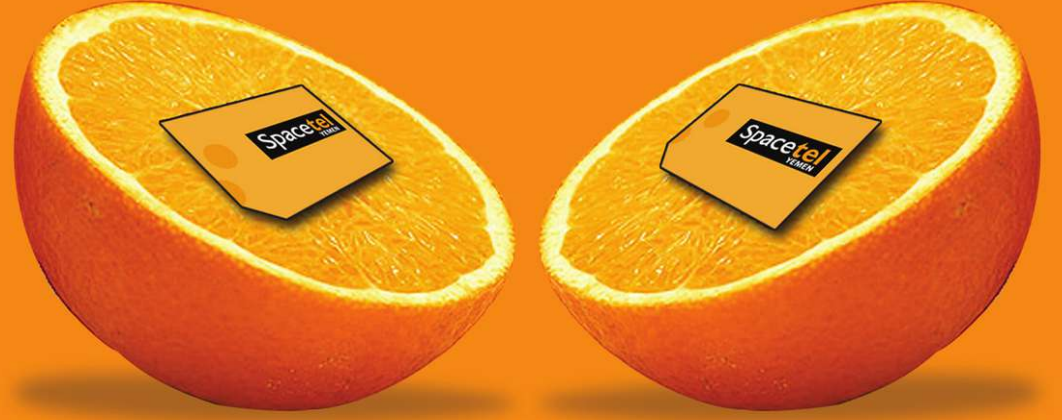
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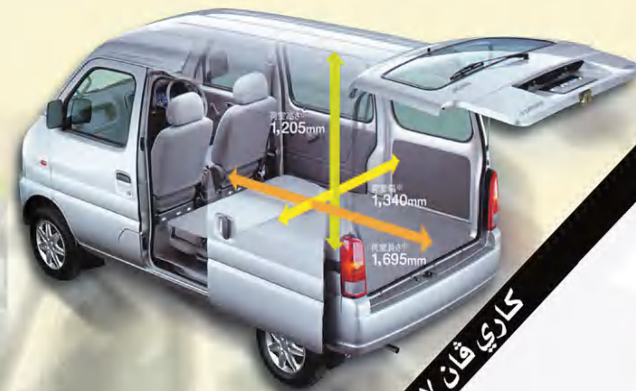


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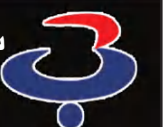


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Give me a theatre, I'll give you an intellectual community

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

Creativity and success sometimes require a variety of prerequisites that include struggle and consistent exhaustion, which makes a person feel that he is in confrontation with the entire world and the whole society. But the belief in the significance of the goal makes him or her consider tiredness comfort when success is achieved.

Stories of struggle and success are galore though each one may differ from the other in its aims, but all of them share the same point, which is the self effort and personal struggle which its beginning always difficult.

Many geniuses died of hunger in order to create their glory and success; they suffered from harsh circumstances yet, they didn't withdraw to achieve their noble goals which are beneficial for all human beings.

In third world countries, ways of creating glory are very difficult and unachievable, especially when we know the many and different obstacles under the frame of having increasing averages of unemployment, lack of labor opportunities and the increase in educational outcome that doesn't meet the markets requirements. Therefore, the cultural projects and encouraging creative people of the intellects



Many officials who are responsible for developing culture don't estimate the value of theatres and its significance in treating the various issues. Scene of the play 'whom we try?'

are not available in these severe conditions.

Last week, when we decided to watch a cultural play by the young intellectual Fekri Qasem in the Cultural Center in Taiz, the real tragedy took place when the theatre band aimed to make an anatomy for the cultural backwardness in general, and the theater in particular which is now breathing its last sigh. The play entitled 'whom we try?' was a success though performed with personal efforts of some of Taiz schools' students in addition to some young volunteers who are fond of the theatre that is deprived of care.

Those youth and small children who performed this play were insistent on success regardless of the negligence given to creative people and creativity itself in their community.

Their play reflected sufferings of intellects and actors who are not able to perform their works, as long as all people escape from them and refuse to offer a helping hand. Though the show was free, only a few people attended it, yet the playwright confirmed his happiness and content with the few people who came willingly with their families to watch his play, as it indicated the beginning of a love for theatre. He is happy that the official authorities didn't interact with him.

Fekri was talking about not encouraging creative people with a great taste of bitterness. He as well as his colleagues, knocked at the governmental and non-governmental doors asking for help in order to stage the play and received few facilities at last.

Fekri's play, "Whom we try?" proved the honest sufferings of creative people and what theatre faces in Yemen. They exposed the obstacles that made the Yemeni theatre die and with no simple activities at school theatres which became neglected as well.

Actors and creative people suffer today

from disappointment and distrust; are chased by failure.

Many officials who are responsible for developing culture don't estimate the value of theatres and its significance in treating the various issues, especially those which are concerned with raising awareness. They also targeted the idea of dealing with the attrition of school students from schools, and so many issues via the effective theatre. Today the theatre is being rebuilt.

أرباح الذهب فقط

كيفية المشاركة في المسابقة

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١- إستبدال غطاء واحد فقط ١٥ كجم محتوم عليه علامة من أقرب مركز إستبدال وحصل علي هديتك الفورية (حافضة طعام كبيرة أو صحن ملامين كبير وكذا لك قسيمة للسحب النهائي)

٢- إستبدال غطاء واحد فقط ٦,٥ كجم محتوم عليه علامة من أقرب مركز إستبدال وحصل علي هديتك الفورية (حافضة طعام متوسطة صافي أو طبق ملامين صغير وكذا لك قسيمة للسحب النهائي)

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