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## Battles continue in Sa'ada

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Government forces, backed with helicopters and tanks, are still pursuing tens of Believing Youth elements, supporters of Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi, who was killed by the military in September of last year, well-informed sources said.

Security and armed forces have control over parts of al-Fard mountains of al-Naq'ah area, to the north of the city of Sa'ada on Yemeni-Saudi borders.

Saudi forces have been lined up on its borders adjacent to areas of clashes, to prevent the infiltration of the elements of the Believing Youth into Saudi lands.

The sources added that a governmental warplane last Tuesday hit two cars carrying a number of Houthis, some of whom were killed in the incident. Sources did not mention the number of casualties.

It is mentioned that a third-rank person called Sheikh al-A'asar, from Hamdan bin Zaid tribe, is spearheading the attacks against governmental facilities and officials, the last of which was that attack against al-Anad checkpoint which resulted in the death of a number of soldiers.

Violent battles involving heavy weapons and helicopters are taking place in al-Naq'ah mountains as well as in Wailah district, between governmental forces and Houthis who are entrenched in mountainous hideouts, according to sources.

State forces are using heavy artillery and helicopters to bomb hideouts of insurgents, tens of whom have been killed. State forces are not able to sweep through hideouts due to harsh topography and fear of being soft targets for insurgents who are hiding in the mountains.

Meanwhile, security and armed forces are still conducting house-to-

house searches and arrests in different places in the province of Sa'ada coinciding with pressure exerted upon tribes to force them to help the military catch suspected Houthi sympathizers.

"From time to time, military forces raid certain areas supported with helicopters and armored vehicles," said Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, son of cleric Badr al-Din al-Houthi who is being chased by the armed and security forces.

In a statement to al-Shura Weekly last week from an undisclosed location, he denied that his father and his brother Hussien, who was slain in Sa'ada last September by the governmental forces, stood against the Authority, the Republic or the President.

"We were astonished at being attacked in the first war because of a slogan chanted by the youth in solidarity with their fellow Moslems in Iraq and Palestine," he added.

"We, as Moslems, are responsible

before Allah and history. This liability is unavoidable. We therefore chose to take up that slogan as a peaceful gesture within the frame of democracy and freedom of expression."

Al-Houthi the son confirmed that his father, who is reported to be ill with asthma, did not pledge to reside in Sana'a when he traveled there three months ago. "During his stay in Sana'a, there were no practical steps to address the aftermaths of the first war despite official promises. This caused my father to return to Sa'ada in a normal manner with no bad intention. He had no choice but to return to his village."

He said that the State refuses to admit that the reason behind the war was the slogan. He asked for a fair solution to their case, and admitted that they are ready to receive mediators who have the power to implement the resolution, provided that they are neutral and did not formerly support the government.

Continued on page 3

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## Nexen says Yemen Block 51 output reaches 20,000 b/d

Yemen's Block 51, which came onstream late last year, is now producing as much as 20,000 b/d of oil from the Bashir al Khair-A field, Phillip Abraham, law and contracts manager for Canadian independent Nexen, said Apr 19.

Moreover, production at the block also known as East Al Hajr should total around 25,000 b/d before year-end, Abraham said during a Baker & McKenzie international energy projects briefing.

The field came online last November. Nexen holds 87.5% of the block and captured about 4,600 b/d net output from it in fourth-quarter 2004.

"The field continues to ramp, and we're still testing wells" there, Kevin Finn, company investor relations vice-president, told Platts. Nexen and government partner Yemen Company have two rigs running at Block 51-one for exploration wells and one for development drilling.

In addition to development wells, the company plans to drill six exploration wells on the block this year, four of which have already been completed, Finn said.

"With the addition of Block 51, particularly...net of royalties, we anticipate our production in Yemen will be fairly constant in the next couple of years," said Finn.

For Nexen, production from Block 51 more than offsets declines at the adjacent Masila Block, or Block 14, to the east. Masila produces roughly 200,000 b/d, or about 101,000 b/d net to Nexen. Production has peaked at Masila, whose output about a year ago was 230,000 b/d total. "Masila is largely a development project, and it's maturing," said Finn. "We're managing it that way."

Historically, Nexen and partners have drilled 60-80 wells on the block per year, but this will drop to 20-40 wells in 2005. Two rigs are on the block, with a third set to be added in a few weeks, said Finn.

# Corpses found in old Taiz mosque

By ZAKARIYA AL-KAMALI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Taiz- May 7- Before one week, the city of Taiz witnessed a very strange incident when some 30 corpses were found in a narrow vault dating tens of years back.

What is more strange was the inhumane position of the corpses which were piled in a disorganized manner and not towards Kibla in accordance with Islamic jurisprudence.

An ad hoc committee from the Endowment and Guidance Office and the Archeology Office was set up to probe into the find and report on it.

Mr. Abdu Mohammed Hassan, Director of Taiz Endowments, commented saying that on the course of maintenance works done to the mosque, the maintenance team was doing their work in a vault where they found corpses numbering over thirty besides a corpse of a dog.

"The scene was utterly disgusting and workers reported that to the Endowment Office. A committee was set up to investigate the matter headed by Sheikh Nasser al-Shaibani, former Minister of Endowment and Guidance, and members from the Endowment and Archeology Offices," he added.



The corpses were taken out and shrouded and their families were contacted to come and bury them after making sure of their identity according to mosque keeper and the Endowment Office. Then a big grave was dug in the mosque yard in which they were buried.

Some people say that the grave of Sheikh al-Baihani is the cause of the problem.

"He is a wali (saint) whom everybody wanted to be buried beside his grave to obtain his bless," said Hassan. This figures as corpses were found a few meters off the grave.

It is said that all corpses are of members of rich families who accepted to

pay any amount of money for their dead to be buried beside the wali. Because the area is limited, it is said that the previous mosque keeper used to take the money and bury the dead person. However, as soon as people had left for home, he used to pull the dead out of the space beside the wali's grave and throw it in the vault. The corpses have accumulated into the recently discovered pile.

Director of Taiz Endowment Office stressed that the scene was too hideous and inhumane, but he did not put the responsibility of dumping the corpses into the vault on the mosque keeper especially that he is no longer alive.

### Readers' Voice

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

#### This edition's question:

Do you think the religious scholars declaration represents all scholars or is it state driven?

- State driven
- All scholars
- Active scholars Suni and Shei'a
- I don't know

#### last edition's question:

Do you think that the Yemeni government is doing well in fighting terrorism?

- No 57%
- Yes 32%
- I don't know 11%

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard!

## Security authorities capture 11 Faithful Youth members Including a lady

September 26 Newspaper, mouth-piece of the army, mentioned in its Thursday's issue May 5 that security forces captured 11 people including a woman, who belong to the Faithful Youth, the organization of cleric Hussein Badraddine al-Houthi who was killed last September by the army.

The 11 people were charged with committing a series of vandalistic acts and terrorist operations in Sana'a.

A military official at the newspaper explained that the arrested people formed a gang and hurled many grenades at military vehicles and other public places in Sana'a leading to the death and wounding of several civilians.

The newspaper added, while their investigation, the security forces

explored that they are some of Badraddine al-Houthi supporters who led the latest rebellion against the government in Sa'ada, north of the country.

It clarified these people were arrested and their grenades were seized along with other weapons inside an apartment taken on lease in one of Sana'a zones. The gang was accused of masterminding and carrying out a series of vandalistic operations against the regime.

The newspaper said the security apparatuses arrested a lady who was living with the gang in the same apartment, and that this lady was exploited in the distribution of leaflets and pamphlets that attack the regime of the state and instigate people to carry out violent acts.

# Yemen demands nuke-free Middle East

Yemen has laid a big stress on the imperative of riding the Middle East from WMD in general and nuke weapons in particular.

The representative of Yemen in the U.N Conference on the fight against nukes in New York, Mustafa Bahrani, said Thursday that freeing the Middle East region from nuclear weapons is

nonsense unless Israel signs the Non-proliferation Treaty and subject its nuclear facilities to international monitoring. "Israel is the only country in the region that is not a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," he pointed. "Promoting this treaty for the global peace must rest with the principles of justice and

equality." Bahrani called for a world shift towards pacifying atomic energy for purposes of energy, water desalination and other such legal purposes. "Yemen presented a number of proposals for tackling the obstacles that face the non-proliferation treaty. The month-long conference began last Monday

## Medicaldelegati on to help in anti-polio drive

According to "Bahrain Tribune", Bahrain will help Yemen combat the spread of polio in that country. The Assistant Undersecretary for Training and Planning in the Ministry of Health, Dr Fawzi Amin, said that he had been in touch with the office of the Secretary-General of the GCC ministers of health and had assured them of Bahrain's full cooperation. He said a concerted immunization drive was also on the cards. He said Yemen had been polio-free since disease surveillance began in 1996 - a genetic investigation continues to determine the origin of the outbreak.

# On occasion of Labor Day Yemenia honor prominent workers

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- YT-The Yemen Airways, Yemenia held last Wednesday a ceremony in which prominent workers received honors on the occasion of the World Labor Day.

The ceremony was held at the hall of maintenance and engineering at the Sana'a International Airport, and was attended by a number of Yemenia employees. The assembly stood before a 310 -Airbus plane that was rehabilitated by some specialist engineers after its service was suspended.

Mohammad al-Arashi general manager of maintenance department talked about the successful achievements scored by the department without the help of foreign experts, but by virtue of national efforts that was exerted according to internationally recognized maintenance standards.

Captain Abdulkhaliq al-Qadhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors at



the Yemenia praised such achievements of local experts, particularly as their efforts spared largesums of money, reaching half the value of the plane, that was about to be paid to foreign experts for maintaining the plane.

He confirmed that the consultation of foreign experts was limited, and that the fleet of Yemenia currently contains six modern planes.

He stated that Yemenia has entered in strong competition with other airways companies supported by the neighboring countries, and that there is an 80% increase in fuel price compared to previous days.

Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Commercial Manager awarded prizes and certificates of merit to prominent workers who numbered up to 183.



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Continued from page 1

### Battles continue in Sa'ada

In the mean time, the governmental forces are still waging raids against different areas in Sa'ada including Al Jaber, to the north. Eyewitnesses reported the security arresting a number of activists suspected of supporting the Believing Youth and that warplanes early last week bombarded areas thought to be gathering places for Houthis such as Wadi al-Far'a and Saroum, on the borders. The Yemeni and Saudi governments have jointly coordinated border guarding.

Night home searches happen on daily basis. Forces stormed last week a number of homes including those of Ahmed al-Zain, Ali al-Mutamiz, and Sheikh Mohammed al-Moayad, who has been imprisoned for about one year in Sa'ada on charges related to the Believing Youth while his son is imprisoned in Sana'a. The forces also stormed the house of Abdul-Hakim al-Dhahyani, director of Dhahian Private Health Center because of him helping a family

of a Houthi. Recent news says that the house of cleric Ahmed al-Qabousi, located in Al Bayan, was searched last Tuesday and that soldiers search houses late at night, looting properties sometimes.

Houthi counterattacks have been accelerated. According to a tribal source, they attacked Sa'ada airport with mortars last week and performed sudden attacks against a number of military stations one of which was in Juma'at Khawlan which resulted in the death of 8 soldiers and another was in Nashour area

but no casualties were reported.

Government forces have not been able to discover the hiding place of cleric Badr al-Din al-Houthi as well as Sheikh Abdullah al-Ruzami who are thought to be hosted and protected by tribes in al-Naq'ah area. The armed forces can't conduct military operations due to high-level of directives. According to sources, further operations would open new fronts with tribes and expand the circle of battles which may incite the dormant tribal differences and set ablaze the whole northern area.

### Yemeni Ulema refute claims of Najaf and Qom Hawzas on Sa'ada developments

The statement added that, "The rebellious in Sa'ada didn't represent the Zaidis and caused the loss of many lives, bloodshed, destroyed a lot of assets and threatened security and stability."

Ulema of Yemen continued "It is appropriate for Ulema of the two Hawzas to concern themselves with the saddening events in Iraq, and to stop the blood-

shed, rather than sympathizing with a fanatic who stirred trouble and rebelled against the constitution, law and public order."

The Ulema of Yemen concluded their statement by asking their counterparts at Najaf and Qom to "seek precision and refrain from getting information from agitating sources".

Both religious Hawzas at Qom and Najaf, issued a statement on what they called 'the oppression of Shia'a in Yemen', claiming they are 'brutal massacres' by the Government [and hinted at what they claimed is a 'sort of genocide of the Shia'a'].

The Hawzas' statement had claimed, "that it is becoming clear that there exists

a 'pact of evil' that extends from Iraq to Yemen, between abhorrent sectoral fanatic forces and several centers of power of the 'ruling regime which share the same doctrine of the extinct regime in Iraq'. "What happened in Yemen during the recent months," it continued, "such as official resolutions, the economic blockade several areas, and the continuous acts of killings, arrests, oppression and chasing, reveal only a part of the concealed picture of reality in Yemen".

The Hawzas' statement warned that, "drastic effects shall result from such 'approaches against Muslims' whether in Yemen or Iraq" and that, "sooner or later, the tide will turn back against the executors of these policies and their supporters". It concluded by calling upon officials to refrain from these 'deviant actions', otherwise, "the magic will turn against the magician".

## Society news

Yemen is to take part in the 3rd meeting for directors of Arab judicial research centers set to be held in Beirut from 10 to 12 May. The meeting would discuss the role of those centers in drafting suitable mechanism to carry out criminal punishments in Arab countries.

The third conference on environment in Taiz recommended in its closure on Thursday the introduction of environment into school curricula. Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Mousa would visit Yemen in the second half of May.

During the visit, Mousa would attend Yemen's celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of Yemeni unity on May 22, 1990.

An Italian trade delegation including several businessmen and politicians are scheduled to visit Yemen on May 11. Yemen's ambassador to Italy Mohammed Saleh al-Hilali discussed here on Friday with Chairman of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce Sarjo Marini programme of the visit of Italian businessmen to Yemen on 22 May.

In Yemen, deputy foreign minister for Arab, Asian and

African affairs Hussein Taher bin Yahya held talks on Tuesday with the ambassador of China to Yemen Gao Yusheng.

The national committee entrusted with negotiating with the World Trade Organization (WTO), discussed on Monday underway efforts to secure Yemen's accession into the world organization.

Sana'a mayor Ahmed al-Kohlani discussed on Monday with the delegation of the General Authority for Gardening in Cairo the bilateral cooperation in developing Yemen's farming industry.



The Embassy of the United States of America announces for immediate jobs opening within its organization.

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\*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-06

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# PEPA announced companies qualified for render

Eng. Nabil al-Qawsi, Chairman of Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA), Head of the Committee of the Second International Render on the seven open blocks (7,34,37, 39, 55, 74 and 75) announced the results of technical and financial evaluation of the companies applying for the render of exploration in the above-mentioned blocks.



Eng. Nabil al-Qawsi

The render was announced on the advent of 2005 and was published in different local, regional and international newspapers, in addition to some internet websites.

As many as 27 world oil companies applied for the render, and after the process of technical and financial evaluation and verification conducted by the committee of renders, as well as the authentication by the Minister of Oil and Minerals, 20 companies have been selected for the render. The seven remaining others have been excluded for not addressing require-

ments of exploration in the above mentioned blocks. The table reveals names and nationalities of the selected companies.

Eng. Nabil al-Qawsi pointed out that the committee currently works for finalizing the

remaining steps of the render-related procedures according to the chronological schedule approved by Minister of Oil and Minerals Dr. Rashid Saleh Barabba.

Eng. Nabil al-Qawsi indicated that the preliminary results of the render, represented in the applying companies, reveal there is a success in international renders on oil blocks. This means accuracy and transparency of procedures followed by the Ministry of Oil and Minerals, represented by the PEPA in the render. These procedures started with the announcement of the render in the international and local readable media means, and allowing competitors enough time during the period of announcement as well as ending procedures taken during the process of testing information.

The new oil explorations, particularly those achieved recently, helped increase demands of world oil companies having the desire to invest in Yemen.

#### Chronological schedule approved by Minister of Oil and Minerals

May 7- June 4, 2005	The assigned period for revealing information about blocks of the render to the applying companies.
June 11, 2005	On this day, a lecture will be delivered at the Sheraton Hotel by Minister of Oil and Minerals in the presence of the competing companies and their representatives. Bid-related documents concerning technical and economical reliabilities will be distributed to be filled in by the companies after being approved and authenticated by Minister of Oil and Minerals.
July 2, 2005	Deadline for qualified companies to submit their bids to be studied and verified by the Committee and then to be forwarded to the minister for authentication.
July 23, 2005	Deadline for announcing the final results of the evaluation process along with the winners.

#### Names and nationalities of the selected companies

Name of company	Nationality
Korean National Oil Company (KNOC)	Korean
ZAAB Group of Companies	Russian
MND Company	Kazakh
OCCEINTAL Company	American
PETRONAS Company	Malaysian
ONGC	Indian
Indian Oil Company Ltd	Indian
OMV Company	Austrian
CNOOC Company	Chinese
PA Resources Company	Swedish
Oil Search Company	Australian
Reliance Company	Indian
ESSAR Company	Indian
Zaver Petroleum Gulf Ltd	Pakistani
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السحب الثاني إب ٣٠ / ٥ / ٢٠٠٥ م - تسليم الجوائز ٦ / ٦ / ٢٠٠٥ م

# Unemployment: a looming specter

By YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Unemployment in Yemen seems to be the most difficult economic problem. Rates of unemployment have been rising dramatically especially in recent years, despite State's annual expectations that unemployment will sink.

It is unfeasible to search for official unemployment figures as they are contradicting each other. Latest governmental statistics show that unemployment has hit the mark of 40%. Yet, economic analysts confirm that actual figures are higher and increasing, especially with the fact that Yemen has plunged into depression and failed to create more jobs.

Today, the unemployed are estimated at 1.6 million. This number is attributed to the 3.5% rate of population growth over the recent years. Some official reports admit that reasons behind unemployment include impotent policies which can't generate job opportunities, as well as lack of coordination with the private sector to help establish mammoth projects which would recruit a large number of workers.

Academic studies and researches have revealed a multiplicity of factors that pushed unemployment upwards into an unprecedented level. One of these factors is the field of specialization in educational institutions, which do not meet the real need of the country. Besides, recommended fields have limited capacity. Universities just accept small numbers and turn away many students because of their limited resources. Therefore, many young people abandon studying and run for bread.

Figures show that some 250 thousand students are currently on the lists of public and private universities. These students cherish worrisome thoughts about their unknown future, fearing to join lines of the unemployed. This is also true for about 4 million students in other different stages of public and private education. Yemeni labor markets receive about 50 thousand university graduates annually, of which 85% have theoretical qualifications and skills unwanted by the market. Because unemployment poses a substantial threat to Yemen's future, Yemen Times conducted this investigation to explore this significant issue.

Dr. Mustafa Nabli, Chief of World Bank Economists in the Middle East and North Africa, who attended the round table conference in Yemen to discuss Yemen's obstacles, confirmed



Dr. Mutahar al-Abbasi



Dr. Ali Qaid



Shawqi Hail Sa'eed

that further challenges lie ahead of countries of the region in coping with unemployment and generating many job opportunities.

He pointed out that Yemen will need more than 4 million jobs during the next 20 years as the workforce is growing rapidly (4% annually), one of the highest rates worldwide.

Therefore, Yemen has to diversify its economy and not depend mainly on oil resources during the coming decade. He added that Yemen has to fight poverty and for that, it has to change its overall development policy and essentially reform economy to be more flexible when dealing with looming challenges.

The private sector should be encouraged to help boost economy, alleviate unemployment. Nabli also recommends comprehensive improvement of education and local workforce skills in order to satisfy the economic needs.

He emphasized that "generating job opportunities and combating corruption is a major hindrance in Yemen, where corruption rate is as high as that of other Arab countries. Corruption in general is detrimental to investment and development and therefore worsens unemployment."

He stressed that the provisions should be made to attract women to the labor market and laws be reconsidered to facilitate women joining the labor market.

Dr. Mutahar al-Abbasi, economist and deputy ministry of planning and international cooperation, said, "Yemeni community since ancient history sought job opportunities in the form of migrations to East Asia and the African Horn as well as Gulf States. The 90's of the last century was the time when unemployment emerged. Repatriation of 1 million expatriates from the Gulf States put the Yemeni market off balance, as it accelerated the growth of workforce at rates surpassing those of population and national economy. The inefficiency of productive sectors particularly agriculture and the disability of other sectors to provide alternative jobs, led to the spread of

unemployment. An increased rate of university education output, which most of the time does not fit in the market is another factor. For the record, during 2000-2004, graduates of public universities only reached 75 thousand of whom 15% were from practical fields and yet they lack many necessary skills for actual work.

"Of the difficulties faced by recruitment agencies trying to employ graduates is their lack of mastery over foreign languages, computers skills, tools manipulation skills and mathematical skills. The government's efforts towards creating jobs can be summarized as follows:

"During 1990-1994, no clear vision was materialized about how to treat economic and social challenges which underlie unemployment because of unreliable indicators about unemployment. By 1995, the government received indicators of an economic crisis. It began working to implement the economic reform program and preparing the five year plans and poverty alleviation strategy which was scheduled to begin in 2001-2006. Those economic strategies intended to encourage economic growth, generate jobs to reduce unemployment, reinforce economic, administrative and monetary reforms, lessen the dependence on oil, develop promising non-oil sectors, enhance partnership with the international community to achieve the millennium goals and strengthen the active role of the private sector."

Dr. Al-Abbasi believes that jobs can be generated in many ways such as attracting expatriate capitals, providing the suitable climate, attracting investments from the Gulf States and other countries, providing the best advantages, promoting investment opportunities, rejuvenating the banking system and encouraging small enterprises. Another helping factor is to expand technical education and vocational training programs for the young workforce.

Dr. Ali Qaid, Economic Professor in Sana'a University, attributed the rising unemployment to many social and economic reasons resulting from local,



Cartsmen seen waiting perpetually for a chance to work.

regional and international transformations.

"The returnees from the Gulf State in the early 90s were the biggest factor behind unemployment. There is also the decline in aids and loans to Yemen besides the difficulties and shortcomings of the Yemeni economy during the first half of the last decade which resulted in the State's inability to provide job opportunities."

"The unbalance in the labor market is yet another reason. Skilled workforces form just a small portion (4.6%) of the overall volume of the workforce and this is why foreign workforce is employed."

Dr. Ali Qaid added, "Sudden freeing of the trade and policies implemented for the sake of getting integrated into the international economy had its strong impact on industry. The unfair competition between national and imported products led to the dwindling production of factories and establishments as they cannot stay the course and win the race. Establishment owners were encumbered with liabilities and were obliged to sack part of their workforce."

Shawqi Hail Sa'eed, Deputy Chairman of the Taiz Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is also of the opinion that the country's inability to create jobs is the reason behind unemployment.

"This is because of economic depression resulting from monetary and financial policies as well as obstacles to investment. The public sector, because of the general trend of the State, no longer employ many numbers of people due to job inflation. All these reasons and others, limit job opportunities and increase unemployment."

He indicated that another reason behind this is less investment and less local production resulting from smuggling and abrupt freedom of the trade which completely or partly did away with some national industries. He warned of the dangerous phenomenon engendered by unemployment such as looting, burglary and ganging.

According to Shawqi Hail, the private sector has been playing a major role in combating this negative phenomenon and is "the main employer of workforce."

The five-year plan depended on the private sector for creating job opportunities. Yet, statistical indicators report a notable retreat in the performance of the national economy including the private sectors in terms of employing workforces which reflect many facts: investment is floundering, investment environment is still riddled with complication, hurdles, and constraints which limit the activity of the private sector. What adds insult to the injury is bureaucracy and bribery.

Today, unemployment has been exacerbating day by day and getting more complicated for a variety of reasons. For example, the unemployed are unable to reach foreign local markets which may employ them because of complex migration procedures; investment as we said is not sufficient in heavy-workforce projects or in productive projects in general. The ever-increasing education output further upsets the balance of workforce and job opportunities and represent a frustrating challenge.

Many economists believe that the solution of Yemen's unemployment should be tackled in many ways along with implementations of government plans and procedures aiming to reduce population growth and students' opting out of school.

Therefore, it is needed to enhance economic growth by fostering sectors that require large number of workers, paying attention to training and qualification. Attracting capitals and investors, boosting small and medium enterprises and broadening their programs so as to incorporate thousands of unemployed youth.

Today all people should understand that to leave unemployment unresolved means more complicated problems in the future which will provide the fertile soil for terrorism and crime. We hope this difficulty would be removed soon.

## Country reports on terrorism

RELEASED BY THE OFFICE OF THE  
COORDINATOR FOR  
COUNTERTERRORISM  
APRIL 27, 2005

Terrorism remains a global threat from which no nation is immune. Despite ongoing improvements in US homeland security, military campaigns against insurgents and terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan, and deepening counterterrorism cooperation among the nations of the world, international terrorism continued to pose a significant threat to the United States and its partners in 2004. The slaughter of hundreds of innocents in the Beslan school, in the commuter trains of Madrid, on a Philippines ferry, and in a Sinai resort proved again that the struggle against terrorism is far from over. Over the long run, the spread of democracy and economic and social reform, sustained and encouraged by the United States and others, should promote political, economic and

social conditions inhospitable to terrorist exploitation. For now, however, the tasks confronting the United States and its partners in the struggle against terrorism remain formidable.

A look back on the events of 2004 in the global war on terrorism reveals the following:

- Casualties
- There were no terrorist attacks in the US homeland.
- Many other countries were hit by terrorist attacks; the most deadly, like Beslan, Madrid, and the Philippines ferry, were committed by local groups, many inspired by or linked to al-Qaeda.
- American deaths due to terrorist attacks were confined to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Egypt and Gaza.
- The overwhelming majority of victims of terrorist attacks were citizens of countries other than the United States. Many victims were Muslims.
- The al-Qaeda Threat
- The primary terrorist threat to the United States in 2004 continued to be

*"The appeal of justice and liberty, in the end, is greater than the appeal of hatred and tyranny in any form."*

President Bush, July 12, 2004

- al-Qaeda, which remained intent on attacking the US homeland as well as US interests abroad.
- The United States and its partners, however, degraded al-Qaeda and its affiliates' leadership abilities and depleted the ranks of their operatives.
- Al-Qaeda, weakened operationally, adapted by spreading its ideology to local groups throughout the world. Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups and locally-based extremists continued to be inspired or assisted by Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders.

### International Cooperation

- The diffusion of the al-Qaeda ideology in many countries makes even more crucial the need for deeper inter-

- national cooperation to defeat emerging violent extremist groups.
- The United States and other donor nations must intensify current efforts to bolster the political will and the intelligence, law enforcement, financial and military capabilities of partner nations to combat terrorism, on their own or with us.
- The United States and its partners must work together to prevent the spread of al-Qaeda ideology and terrorism. The United States and its partners must also continue efforts to defeat non-al-Qaeda terrorist groups, discourage state sponsorship of terrorism, and prevent terrorist access to weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

To be continued next issue...

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للأستاذ  
عليان الكاف  
بمناسبة إرتزاقه مولوده الجديد والتي أسماه  
عبد الله  
فألف مبروك ياأبا عبد الله  
المهنتون: جميع الأهل والأصدقاء في داخل اليمن  
والملكة العربية السعودية وجمهورية مصر العربية  
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

(أفراح آل العوبثاني)  
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بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي  
فألف ألف مبروك  
المهنتون:  
قائد الرفاعي - الشيخ عبد الخالق بن حطيه - محمد الأحمد - عبد المجيد الأحمد - خالد سعيد بن بشير  
محمد صالح بن دهر - محمد العجيلي - خالد العوبثاني - عمر عوض باطرف العوبثاني - سالم سعيد بن بشير  
خالد عوض العوبثاني - أحمد سعيد بن فخطاه - صالح سعيد العوبثاني - عمر سعيد مفتاح - أنور طرابفت  
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

## Lebanese Christian leader Aoun to return from exile

BEIRUT, May 7 (Reuters) - Lebanon's most prominent anti-Syrian Christian opposition leader vowed to return to Beirut from exile on Saturday, one day after a bomb ripped through a Christian port town wounding 28 people.

Former General Michel Aoun told Lebanon's LBC television from Paris that the blast would not stop him flying home on Saturday afternoon, ending more than a decade of exile less than two weeks after the last Syrian soldier left the country.

"We will meet the Lebanese people tomorrow (Saturday) ... Any attempt to intimidate us will fail," he said.

On Friday night, a bomb ripped through a commercial district of the Christian port town of Jounieh north of Beirut, wounding 28 people and damaging shops, houses and a church three weeks before crucial general elections.

Police denied reports a Sri Lankan woman had been killed.

The explosion was the fifth to target Lebanon's Christian heartland since the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, which plunged the country into its worst political crisis since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Aoun will fly from Paris to Beirut along with top aides aboard a chartered flight landing at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT). He would then address a rally in central Beirut, scene of large anti-Syrian rallies in the past three months.

Aoun's defeat at the hands of a Syrian-led assault on his powerbase in and around Beirut on Oct. 13, 1990 marked the end of the Lebanese civil war.

He sought refuge at the French embassy before leaving for exile several months later.

But despite his defeat and absence, the popularity of the 70-year-old Maronite leader did not fade.

He still enjoys support among



Lebanese soldiers inspect the damage on the blast site in the port-city of Jounieh in north Beirut May 7. On Friday night, a bomb ripped through a commercial district of the Christian port town of Jounieh north of Beirut, wounding 28 people and damaging shops, houses and a church three weeks before crucial general elections. REUTERS

many Christians who see in him a leader who is not corrupt and who stood up against Syria and Lebanese militias despite the odds.

Loathers say his military gambles led to the defeat of the Maronites in the civil war.

### Spirit of reconciliation

Aoun told Radio France Internationale that he was returning "in a spirit of reconciliation, of federating all the resources of the nation so we can construct together the Lebanon we've been dreaming about for 15 years".

A court this week suspended an arrest warrant for Aoun after another court dropped charges against him issued in 1990 accusing him of assaulting state security, national unity and the constitution, and embezzling state funds.

Many Maronites say the arrest of Samir Geagea, the Christian former warlord, and the exile of Aoun symbolise the targeting of their community by the Syrian-dominated order

after the war.

Geagea is serving multiple life sentences for political assassinations during the civil war.

Aoun has said members of his Free Patriotic Movement will contest parliamentary elections starting on May 29. He has not said if he would run for parliament but hinted he may seek to become president.

"Let's say I am not a candidate (for the presidency) but if I am chosen I will assume my responsibilities," he told France Internationale.

Parliament met on Saturday to review the rules under which the May 29-June 19 polls would be held after President Emile Lahoud and opposition lawmakers voiced dissatisfaction with the current electoral law, seen to favour pro-Syria candidates.

Syria withdrew its forces last month, ending 29-year military presence in Lebanon, under pressure from the international community and anti-Syrian protests sparked by Hariri's killing, which many Lebanese blame on Damascus.

## Car bomb attack on foreign convoy in Iraq kills 13

BAGHDAD, May 7 (Reuters) - A car bomb exploded at a busy intersection in central Baghdad on Saturday as a foreign security convoy drove past, killing at least nine Iraqis and four foreigners, police and witnesses said.

At least two of the sports utility vehicles in the foreign convoy were ablaze after the blast, and police pulled charred bodies from the wreckage.

One Western man staggered from the scene with blood pouring from his head.

Black smoke billowed into the sky and ambulances converged on the scene, one of the capital's busiest intersections.

Police said at least 35 people were wounded.

Reuters witnesses who were nearby said there were two large explosions, but it was not clear whether the second blast was a car bomb or the fuel tank of a vehicle exploding.

Foreign officials and security contractors move around Baghdad in



An Iraqi National Guard soldier views the damage at the scene of a powerful car bomb in Baghdad May 7. A car bomb exploded at a busy intersection in central Baghdad on Saturday as a foreign security convoy drove past, killing at least nine Iraqis and four foreigners, police said. REUTERS

high-profile convoys of four-wheel-drive sports utility vehicles accompanied by armed guards. They are a frequent target for insurgents, particularly on the dangerous airport

road.

Over the past weeks, insurgent violence has surged in Iraq with a series of suicide bombings, ambushes and bomb blasts.

## Egypt frees 135 Muslim Brothers : security sources

CAIRO, May 7 (Reuters) - Egypt has released 135 members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood detained in a crackdown after nationwide demonstrations, but more than 1,500 are still being held, security sources said on Saturday.

Police released 135 members of the group in El Minya, about 220 km (135 miles) south of Cairo, the sources said.

One source said more than 1,500 were still in detention, including senior Brotherhood member el-Essam Erian and three others who were detained at Erian's flat in Cairo on Friday. Another source said about 1,800 were still being held.

Hundreds of members and supporters of the Brotherhood, which is offi-

cially banned but often tolerated, were rounded up this week after the group staged protests across the country calling for reform. One protester died during the protests.

Such detentions can last just a few hours, but can also be extended to last several weeks or more for questioning.

The Brotherhood and other opposition groups have been calling for change during increasingly frequent demonstrations, including seeking an end to emergency laws in place since 1981 and which give the state wide powers for detention.

Opposition groups have also voiced fears that proposals to amend the constitution to allow for the country's first multi-candidate presidential elections

are being watered down to thwart a serious challenge to President Hosni Mubarak.

The 76-year-old president, who said in February he wanted a presidential poll instead of the current system of a single-candidate referendum, is widely expected to run for a fifth six-year term of office.

A parliamentary committee proposed on Thursday that non-party candidates wishing to stand for president must be endorsed by at least 65 of the 444 elected members of parliament, which is dominated by Mubarak's ruling party.

That, along with other conditions, will make it difficult for independents to stand.

## Australian's Iraq captors set 72-hour deadline

CANBERRA, May 7 (Reuters) - Anguished family of an Australian held hostage by Iraqi militants made a fresh televised plea for his freedom on Saturday after his captors released a second video demanding Canberra start withdrawing troops within 72 hours.

Al Jazeera television broadcast on Friday part of the militants' new tape of Douglas Wood, 63, an engineer who lives in California and is married to an American.

His head was shaven and he looked despondent as he apparently pleaded for his life.

Two masked militants stood by with guns pointed towards the hostage in the video which carried the name of the group - Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Iraq.

"The family is shocked and horrified to hear of this ultimatum from Douglas' captors ... We do not believe Douglas' captivity or this ultimatum will make any difference to the policy of the Australian government," Wood's brother Malcolm said in a televised statement on Saturday to be shown on Al Jazeera.

"Douglas is a warm man of generous heart and spirit. His work is to help the people of Iraq towards a better life.

We respect the people of Iraq, their patriotic spirit and their right to independence."

The Wood family met leaders from Australia's Islamic community on Saturday, who also made a plea to Wood's captors in Arabic which will be televised on Al Jazeera.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer stood firm on Canberra's refusal to give in to the militants holding Wood.

"The important thing is that we don't look as though we're starting to cave in and give in to demands,"



An Iraqi National Guard soldier views the damage at the scene of a powerful car bomb in Baghdad May 7. A car bomb exploded at a busy intersection in central Baghdad on Saturday as a foreign security convoy drove past, killing at least nine Iraqis and four foreigners, police said. REUTERS

he told Australian radio on Saturday.

"If you give in to demands ... more people eventually ... will be taken hostage and further demands made, so it's important we be strong and that, for the government's part, it just continues working at trying to get Douglas out."

### Copy-cat kidnappings

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs tells Australians not to travel to Iraq, but further warned on Saturday that Australians in Iraq could be at risk of copy-cat kidnappings.

Downer has said that Wood may have been kidnapped from his Baghdad apartment up to two days before the first two-minute video was delivered to news agencies in Baghdad on Sunday.

That video showed Wood pleading at gunpoint for Australia, Britain and

the United States to withdraw troops from Iraq.

A new batch of 450 Australian troops are due to arrive in southern Iraq in the coming weeks to provide security and train the Iraqi army.

They will take the total number of Australian troops in and around Iraq to about 1,400.

Opinion polls in May last year showed that nearly two-thirds of Australians believed the war on Iraq was unjustified.

Half of Australians believed it was not worth sending troops to Iraq, while 40 percent backed the conservative government's decision.

Australia angered Spain and the Philippines last year when it accused them of encouraging terrorists by pulling their troops out of Iraq.

The Philippines brought their troops home early to save the life of a Filipino hostage.



### JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN DNO YEMEN AS

DNO Yemen AS, a Norwegian oil company, is currently seeking an experienced Production Engineer for work in its Sana'a office and experienced personnel to work as Assistant Operators in DNO's oilfields in Hadramout, Yemen.

#### Production Engineer

##### Responsibilities

- Manage the gathering and safe keeping of daily production and water injection data.
- Analyze and trend basic production data.
- Monitor the performance of production and water injection wells.
- Prepare completion, workover, production logging, well stimulation programmes and the closeout reports for these activities.
- Manage the safe keeping and updating of well files.
- Evaluate and specify artificial lift requirements including gas lift and electric submersible pumps.
- Analyze artificial lift performance and propose optimization actions.

##### Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required

- A University degree, preferably in Petroleum Engineering.
- Minimum five years experience as a Production Engineer.
- Working knowledge of English and Arabic.
- Experienced user of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and preferably MS Access.

#### Assistant Production Operator

##### The successful candidate(s)

- Will assist the Senior Operator with the day-to-day operation of the wells and facilities and will report to the Site Supervisor.
- Will work a "thirty five days on/thirty five days off" schedule, and will reside in the onsite camp during the work cycle.
- Will receive a competitive salary commensurate with the oil industry standard for Yemen.
- Will be provided transportation between the worksite and home residence during the on/off work cycle.

##### Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required

- Higher technical education (e.g. technical college).
- Minimum of two years experience in oil production operations.
- Good knowledge of written and spoken English.
- Excellent physical health.
- Valid Yemeni driving license.

Qualified candidates should send their CVs and references only to the Administration Manager, DNO Yemen AS, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005 on fax: +967 1 440590. Please specify the position you are applying for. Only those candidates who meet the requirements should apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted candidates meeting the requirements for the position.

Please don't call us. We will call you for an interview if you are a shortlisted candidate.

# Bush hails Latvia's freedom after Soviet rule

RIGA, May 7 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush hailed Latvia's young democracy on Saturday in a visit that has revived tensions over Soviet domination of the Baltic states and antagonised Moscow before celebrations of the 1945 victory over the Nazis.

Vike-Freiberga welcomed Bush as a champion of freedom in awarding him the "Three-Star Order", set up in 1918 to celebrate the founding of the Latvian state. Past winners include French President Jacques Chirac and Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

for the Netherlands and then visit Russia and Georgia.

"The end of World War Two marked the beginning of a painful period for the Baltic states and we must remember that as we look to the future," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters aboard Air Force One before it landed in the Latvian capital on Friday night.

Bush has a difficult diplomatic path to follow on the trip as he seeks to pressure Putin to respect the budding democracies on his border and halt what U.S. officials

call backsliding on democracy within Russia.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov wrote a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to protest at Bush's visits to Latvia and Georgia, U.S. officials said.

Bush will meet all three Baltic leaders on Saturday and give a speech at Riga's Small Guild Hall to commemorate the end of the war "but also talk about what that period meant for the Baltic states", McClellan said.

Writing in Saturday's edition of

French daily Le Figaro, Putin said: "Our Baltic neighbours ... continue to demand some kind of repentance from Russia."

"I think they are trying to attract attention to themselves, to justify a discriminatory and reprehensible policy of their governments towards a large Russian-speaking part of their own population, to mask the shame of past collaboration," he said.

After being annexed by Moscow in 1940, the Baltic states were occupied by German troops in 1941. Many men fought in Waffen SS units against the

Soviet Army and demanded to be treated as patriotic veterans after communism ended in 1991.

And in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" Putin lectured the United States about democracy, saying Russia's elections "might be even more democratic" than the United States.

Putin said that the Russian president was selected through a direct vote, a jab at Bush who won the 2000 presidential election with most of the electoral college votes even though he did not carry the popular vote.



U.S. President George W. Bush (C) and Latvia's President Vaira Vike-Freiberga (R) smile as U.S. First Lady Laura Bush looks on during their arrival in Riga May 6. REUTERS

"It's such a joy to come to the country that loves and values freedom," Bush said after receiving the so-called "Three Star Order" — a cross that is Latvia's highest honour — from President Vaira Vike-Freiberga at Riga's 14th century castle.

Bush will tour the Latvian capital, hold a summit with Baltic leaders and give a speech at the start of a visit to Europe centred on celebrations in Moscow on Monday to mark the end of World War Two in Europe.

The visit has caused concern in Moscow, which has bristled at Bush's reference to a five-decade "occupation" of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union.

The three Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, new members of NATO and the European Union but still wary of neighbouring Russia, want to put pressure on the Kremlin to apologise for Soviet rule.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has in turn accused the Baltic states of trying to cover up past Nazi collaboration.

Bush also praised Vike-Freiberga as a woman "who speaks so clearly about the need for people to be free and the recognition that a free world will lead to peace."

She wrote in an opinion in the Washington Post on Saturday: "Russia would gain immensely by...expressing its genuine regret for the crimes of the Soviet regime."

#### Haunted by past

"Until Russia does so, it will continue to be haunted by the ghosts of its past, and its relations with its immediate neighbours will remain uneasy at best," she wrote.

But she said she would attend the celebrations in Moscow, adding that the victory over the Nazis "should be seen as a victory of democratic values over totalitarianism and tyranny."

Presidents of Lithuania and Estonia will boycott the ceremonies and the president of Georgia will also stay away. Bush will leave Latvia later on Saturday

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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

# Political reform: Our gate to the future (2/2)



By ALI SAIF HASSAN

## Ways to reform the Executive Authority:

I start with the Republic Presidency which lies on top of the Executive Authority. Authorities invested in it are not limited to those bestowed by the Constitution. However, it also enjoys more fundamental authorities for those extracted from the ever-accumulating political, culture and social tradition. Such accumulation is biased towards authority and influence but it disregards liability and accountability. Its stark foible lies in unclear definition of the relationship between the Republic Presidency and the government. Problems have not surfaced yet because both the President and the Prime Minister are from the same party. However, the democratic system will lead to a state where they are from different parties. At that time, the current lack of obvious and accurate definition of the relationship between the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister will result in serious problems. Prior to discussing such relationship, national agreement should be reached to decide upon the best presidential system fitting our situation. Here, I would like to indicate that democratic presidential systems of the world are: the US presidential system, the parliamentary system and French complex system the latter of which our system resembles. The French system, because of its complicated nature, requires a high degree of political awareness as it is the case in France currently. I believe that Yemen needs a less complicated and simpler system and that the parliamentary system best meets our needs as well as political and social reality.

Regardless of the agreed presidential system, basic principles and conditions of acceptably free and competitive elections according to approved international standards should be ensured.

The second layer of the Executive Authority is the government whose major defect is the absence of obvious and clear constitutional provisions to give the party/parties with the majority of parliament seats to form the government. Local authority, however, as a third layer of the Executive Authority has no legal right to executive authorities enough to implement its duties. Add to that, its systems is undemocratic: Chairmen of local executive authorities who are district directors and provincial governors are not elected. They are directly appointed by the President of the Republic.

Today, the Yemeni people are deprived of the right to elect the president of the republic, district directors nor provincial governors. Executive authorities must be completed and citizens should be allowed to elect their direct rulers.

In addition to that above shortcomings, the Executive Authority as a whole suffers a serious fault and obstacles

which is lack of constitutional and legal protection from the influence of each upper layer: authority of the district must be protected from the authority of the province; the latter must be protected from the influence of the central government; the government needs to be protected from the influence of the President of the Republic.

Concerning the Legislative Authority, it currently has what we may call a two-room system but with inconspicuous responsibilities. The first room, which is the Parliament, is almost complete with definite characteristics in terms of assignments and specialties. Nevertheless, the current electoral system and executive practices during elections limit equal and fair chance of all political system's parties to have access to the Parliament and weaken the stance of Ruling Party's members before the Executive Authority.

The other room, which is the Shura Council, is a shapeless immature entity with unclear goals, ends and duties. Besides, its system is undemocratic, as its members are not elected but are appointed directly by the President of the Republic. This requires discussion and agreement regarding its nature and structure.

The Judicial Authority is another matter. We are in a bad need for a constitutional judiciary with perfect provisions and active performance going beyond the present limits of the Supreme Court's Constitutional Circle. Taking into account the current situation of the higher judicial authority, we cannot speak about judicial autonomy which is the most vital constitutional principle in democratic systems. The Supreme Judicial Council is chaired by the President, Head of the Executive Authority. The members of the Council are appointed by virtue of their judicial positions by the President including the Chairman of the Supreme Court and Public Prosecutor. Moreover, the whole members of the Supreme Court are appointed. This requires reconsideration of the structure of the Supreme Judicial Council and all sovereign judicial authorities so that they become autonomous and immune as a fundamental condition for judicial autonomy.

To close the door on women to enter judiciary is not only a flagrant violation of the constitutional provisions that assign men and women equal rights and duties but it also defaces and hobbles the Yemeni system. Since the graduates of the Higher Judicial Institute are the only people qualified to work for the Yemeni judiciary, women should be allowed a chance, equal to men, to join that Institute in order for them to be judges.

With this brief account of the desired political reform in the three Authorities of the State, three central issues of political reform have to be highlighted:

### Women Issue:

In their collective mind, the Yemeni people highly esteem Yemeni women represented by Queen of Sheba, Bilqis, and Queen Arwa. The latter ruled Yemen in Medieval Islamic ages. However, the situation is not the same now. We have

been overpowered by the surrounding culture and women's recent status is lower than that in medieval and ancient ages.

This issue requires a courageous national volition to improve women's current situation by adopting constitutional provisions that criminalize and prohibit discrimination against women as well as a national commitment to granting women adequate and increasing shares in all authorities formed by nomination and giving them an adequate share in elected authorities through an electoral system that helps achieve this end.

### Electoral system:

Real political reform is impossible under the current electoral system which depends on single constituency basis. It is true that we have only recently understood modern political systems but even then nascent democratic communities have developed electoral systems that suit their conditions. Many international organizations specialized in this field are ready and able to assist us in developing an electoral system living up to our reality and ambitions.

Perhaps the dual system based on quota and single constituency is more appropriate for us. Parties may make use of the quota system to support women, political leaders and specialists. Single constituency systems will ensure that remote areas will have their representatives in elected councils.

It is unnatural that the current presidential electoral system considers Yemen as a single constituency not only for harvesting targeted results but also for voting. It is objectionable and unbecoming to cast votes at the presidential elections without voter lists.

Invariably, we will have to acquaint ourselves with specialized international experts so as to make all types of elections acceptably competitive and fair in accordance with international standards and for them to represent voters' resolution and aspirations and become a gateway to the peaceful transfer of power.

### Armed forces and security:

The armed forces and security are socially respectable in Yemen. They held a high position during the previous decades due to the nature of the revolution's legitimacy of the time. However, today, and according to the democratic system based on principles of political plurality and peaceful transfer of power, they need to be relocated within the sovereign political system so that they comply with the conditions of the current political system. This issue also necessitates a political dialogue to reach a national consensus concerning the role and position of the armed forces within the system. They should not intervene in the political issues or competition among parties and should be directly governed by the civil government.

Finally I confirm that the hope to remove the shortcomings and perfect the Yemeni democratic system depends on the harmony and coordination between the national will and international partnership.

## COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

## Should Washington worry about AIPAC? When your best friend spies on you...

When Common Sense cited reports about the Larry Franklin spy case in the US Pentagon, the observer indicated that if it's a case of spying for Israel, you can be sure the American -Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is right there behind it (See CS 777). Thus, it is easy to confirm now that where there is an American snoop case for the benefit of Israel, many of those nice sounding NGO or lobby groups working for and on behalf of Israel will be right there behind the snoops. But in the American Likudnik atmosphere that prevails these days, spying for Israel is not an unhealthy affair in American-Israeli relations: "this case bears little resemblance to more serious espionage cases such as the Jonathon Pollard case. Pollard was "an intelligence analyst for the Navy who pleaded guilty to spying for Israel in the 1980s". That is how the unbiased New York Post sees it. In other words, it is no big deal that Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith, John Bolton and all those other members of the "policy think tank group" at the US Pentagon, who have given this world hell for the past five years and their coziness to Israel pose no serious threat to American interests (To these guys, American interest is farthest from their minds!). Yet, the Bush Administration is raising hell and high water for a few Syrian intelligence personnel in Lebanon. It does not seem to worry the White House that American organizations are actually working against the United States within the highest echelons of Government. In fact to the wonderful media in the US, spy cases like these are not even considered top headline news, but are nicely covered up here and there and then only apologetically reported. In many cases the press will pass a "not guilty verdict", before even the case goes to trial.

Thanks, however, to the relentless pursuits of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Larry Franklin spy case, within the leading citadel of American defense, is actually going to be more serious than the Jonathon Pollard Case. Remember that case of a US Navy Officer spying on behalf of Israel? Let us look at the facts:

1. The Larry Franklin case involves the insidious crime of not only "providing information" to the "best friend" of the United States, but actually providing the directions and pursuits of US foreign policy. We are talking about links to the highest levels of US Government, who the whole world knows have geared US foreign policy to the likings of such gung-ho Likudniks as Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister of Israel and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Finance Minister and former Prime Minister - the rightist of the Israeli right!

2. Everyone, who has an inkling of knowledge about the US Defense Policy Committee working under the Pentagon and indirectly under the Vice President of the United States, Dick Cheney (Douglas Feith and friends) will easily recall the outstanding efforts each of these individuals have exerted on behalf of the Zionist State, long before their highly sensitive appointments to the highest echelons of American Government. Their relationship with AIPAC does not end with the "less serious" Franklin case. AIPAC was found to have a strong relationship with the Pollard case as well, but has easily managed to get away with that. In fact, AIPAC will probably get away with the Franklin case as well, even though the FBI insists that AIPAC was the go between in the Franklin case as well. In other words, AIPAC did all the hard work of coordinating (and financing of course) the heavy intelligence work of the Israeli Mossad within the US Government with a heavy dose of influence peddling that should send warning signals to any loyal Americans that there is something wrong way up there in policy land in the United States Government.

3. It is no secret the great inroads that US (Pro Israel) NGOs have made in advancing the interests of Israel within the US Government, especially under the George W. Bush Administration. What else can be said, when all current foreign policy renditions are guided by the principle that "if it is good for Israel, let us do it!"?

4. If the Larry Franklin case is assessed from an objective point of view, with respect to AIPAC and the workings of the many "interest" peddlers that the Zionist state relies on within the US Government, it is not hard to categorically say that US policy is now underwritten in Tel Aviv rather than in Washington. So, why does the New York Post see this as a "minor case"? In fact AIPAC is just one of the hundreds of US interest peddler groups that are serving the interests of "America's best friend". One might suggest that the US is run by remote control by the International Zionist Establishment and it is time for the US Government to recognize that it has forgotten that America's interests should be dictated by guidelines that do not lead to the death of hundreds of American troops (Remember the WMD scenarios? One can be sure that AIPAC and her sister organizations had a lot to do with it).

The United States is under scrutiny by the international community after its debacle in Iraq and with so much Israeli intrusion into the US Government, engineered by the likes of AIPAC, there simply can be no credibility, sincerity or honesty in any foreign policy renditions coming out of Washington these days.

One should see this as the hopeful opening of investigative work on the operations of all these interest peddlers on behalf of the International Zionist Establishment. But with the way the case is being handled now (Mr. Franklin is actually still working in the Pentagon!), it seems that the US Zionist Establishment is well set in to wiggle out of this one, as it did with the Pollard Case. In that case, at least someone took all the rap for the many intricacies that do not exonerate AIPAC or any of the other "American" principals involved. But in the Franklin case, it is business as usual and with an open heart. Mr. Wolfowitz is now in charge of the World Bank. John Bolton is for all practical purposes in charge of the United Nations. So, the successful engineering of AIPAC has

## OUR OPINION

# The Patriot

There are two movies for Mil Gipson - an American actor - that I can never get enough of: Brave Heart and The Patriot. The reason being is that they are full of braveness, love for the country and standing up for one's rights. It touches everyone's heart to hear the battle cries, they echo within your mind for hours to come, especially the part when he shouts "freedom" at a final scene in Brave Heart.

I am not trying to promote these movies or this actor, although he deserves it. I just want to pause for a second here and reflect on these feelings, because I wonder if we feel them any more.

Recently we were invited to celebrate Koniginedag or ("Queen's day") of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands by HE the ambassador to Yemen. I could defiantly say that the most touching moment of the whole evening was when the national anthem of the Kingdom of the Netherlands was played and when its citizens sang along. It felt so serene and honest.

They were singing from their hearts and to the love of their country. It was a beautiful evening but I returned home sour in my heart thinking, why didn't any of the Yemeni people who were present there - and they were many - give that much credit to their national anthem? They weren't even solemn when it was played. Is it that we don't love our country as much? Or is it that we show our love in different ways? And if it was in different ways then in which ways? This reminds me of what I recently heard about Malaysia and which made me astonished and jealous of the Malaysian people and their commitment to their country.

Whether it is true or not I don't know but apparently when they realized that the regular hours they put every day at work would not be sufficient to achieve the goals set forth by their country leadership, a strategy that was shared with and adopted by the people, they DEMANDED to work two hours more officially. Indeed this is a show of love to their country. I just can't figure how we love ours, because it is not showing very much.

But then again, what makes one patriotic? Isn't it the ease of living and the available facilities and freedoms? If the Yemeni people were more free to live, to speak, to work, to manifest, to object, to travel, if there was protection of rights, properties and dignities.

Maybe then, the Yemeni people could love their country more, work harder for its prosperity and give in return for what this country should have given its people to start with. I long for the time when I used to sing our national anthem as a little child attending school and when Yemen was not just in my heart, it was all my heart! Nevertheless, Vive le Yémen.

Editor

## YEMEN TIMES

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## Letters to the Editors

### A photograph of three women? Be patient and continue dialogue!

In my mind there is one photograph of three Palestine women. My memory is ambiguous. I cannot remember correctly when and where it was seen. The photograph was as follows: Three women were beside the fence. One was an old woman. She expressed the feeling of sorrow in the whole body. She was looking up at the sky and praying something. Tears welled up in her eyes. White clouds were passing over her head.

The second woman beside her was a young lady. The young lady had shouted in a loud voice, shaking fence violently with both hands. Her face was filled with anger. On the top of hill, there was an Israeli tank which set its sight on her. No soldiers was seen. A dead silence has fallen and only her voice seems to have echoed. The fence

divided the tank with her.

The third woman was a little girl. She crouched down and was gazing absorbedly at the ant coming and going through the fence. It seemed that she was too young to understand what has happened to her family.

The explanation of the photograph was such that: An old widow with her two daughters. Her son was killed by Israeli soldier. Their house was once located in the other side of the fence.

I lapsed into an illusion which hears three women's voice.

The old widow is sad toward heavens. The Lord, why you give me such a hard trial? After losing my husband, I brought up the son desperately. He had a good result in his school. He was the son of boast. He was the hope of my family. However, one day he told me that he had a mission given by the person whom he

respected. Several days after, my neighbor told me that one young man performed suicidal-explosion to Israeli troop. He promised his mother that his mission would bring the bright future. However, she has now only the dark future.

The young lady had shouted toward the battle tank. My brother was gentle and wise. He had dignity like my father. She continued shouting and shouting. Return my brother!

The little girl was speaking to the ant. Ant, you can come and go through fence freely. Before this fence was made, I was playing at my house located there and played with my friend here. I don't know why the fence was made. If I were you, ant, I could go to the other side of the fence freely.

Three women could be named like this; Sadness for an old widow, Anger for a young lady and Innocent for a little girl.

Japanese had similar experience during the World War II 60 years ago. Many husbands were killed in the battlefield and many lives were lost by atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Then widows were troubled after the war. But now, Japanese people enjoy peace and safety.

I, as an ordinary citizen in Japan (OCIN-Japan), have no means to save three women. I cannot agree a violent means like oppression by military power or suicidal-explosion terrorism. I can say that peace and safety would be achieved through global dialogue between Ordinary Citizens? between Ordinary Citizen in Palestine (OCIN-Palestine), Ordinary Citizen in Arab Countries (OCIN-Arab), Ordinary Citizen in Asian Countries (OCIN-Asia), Ordinary Citizen in Western Countries (OCIN-West), etc.

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# Reforming Japan's Constitution

By Hideaki Kaneda

“Reform with no sacred cows” was Junichiro Koizumi’s slogan when he became prime minister five years ago, and no cow here is more sacred than our “peace” constitution. So it should be no surprise that, as Koizumi moves toward the end of his second and final term in office, his efforts to reform the constitution to allow Japan more effectively to defend world peace are gathering pace.

In mid-April, the Constitution Review committee of Japan’s House of Representatives issued a final report on the fundamental problems facing Japan’s Constitution and submitted it to the Chair of House of the Diet. Soon the House of Councillors will submit its final report. Moreover, concrete discussions on constitutional reform are underway within both the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (with Koizumi himself in charge) and the opposition Democratic Party.

The private sector and media outlets like the influential Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper have also joined in. The Liberal Democrats aim to have their draft constitutional amendments ready for the 50th anniversary of the party’s founding this November.

Although almost everyone concedes that some amendments to the constitution are necessary, agreement on what needs to be done has been difficult to reach. Indeed, the Liberal Democrats are as divided as everyone else.

In addition to these divisions, there are problems concerning how to amend the

constitution. New legislation will be needed to enable amendments to the constitution, and this will take time and even more debate. Yet the pressure for fundamental change – particularly of Article 9, which putatively pledges that Japan will never maintain armed forces – is such that there is a real chance that these obstacles can and will be overcome. Fundamental change, indeed, is needed as soon as possible, because current interpretations of the constitution have consistently distorted Japan’s security and defense policies.

Across Japan, there is a growing view that some of these policies cannot wait for constitutional amendment. Up to now, issues related to national defense have been regulated by the administrative judgments of the time or by Diet resolutions based on the prevailing interpretation of Article 9. But this ad-hoc approach has been, and remains, a recipe for paralysis.

The myriad rulings that have resulted from this process have left the exercise of national defense without any clear position under the Constitution and impede Japan from exercising its “collective self-defense” rights and treaty obligations with its allies (principally the United States). Tortured reasoning about phrases like “use of force” or “exclusively defense-oriented policy” amounts to an open invitation to confusion, both in the military and to countries in the region. And the so-called “three principles on arms exports” have placed absurd limits on what may be sold or supplied abroad, as even flying boats used for sea rescue have been viewed as banned from export.

Given the current regional security environment – international terrorism tied to local, Asian-based terrorists, various

challenges to the security of vital sea lanes, North Korea’s search for nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, and China’s rapid enhancement of its naval power – Asia today is far less stable and more complex than it was when Japan’s constitution was written.

By revising the country’s National Defense Program Guideline (conventionally called an Outline) last December, Koizumi’s government began the process of clarifying some of these debilitating ambiguities. The Guideline lifted some of the more foolish limits on arms exports by ending the “all-out prohibition policy” maintained since the Miki Administration of 1976.

For example, it clearly determined that the ongoing Japanese-US joint technical research to develop and produce the SM-3 sea-based ballistic missile defense system is an exception. More generally, the government may now review requests for weaponry from friendly governments on a case-by-case basis, according to whether the sale risks instigating or fueling international conflicts.

As a result, the sale or supply of used or new surface combat vessels by the Japan Coast Guard or even Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) to ASEAN countries, say, Malaysia, Indonesia or Singapore, to help them fight maritime terrorism and piracy more effectively will now likely be permitted. Supplying European countries as well as ASEAN countries with JMSDF flying boats for sea rescue, patrol, and fire fighting will also now likely be approved.

These favorable and appropriate actions will allow Japan, for the first time in its postwar history, to meet the interna-

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.

tional community’s requests in a timely way. Yet, without fundamental constitutional reform, Japan’s position in Asia and the world will remain anomalous.

It should be remembered that, after the US, Japan is the largest contributor to the United Nations, and to its peacekeeping budget. Yet its constitution severely constrains its ability to send combat units for the Security Council’s peacekeeping operations. Japan needs to be able to back up the Security Council with men, and hence share the political risk, as well as the cost, of the UN’s efforts to maintain world peace.

Hideaki Kaneda, Retired Vice Admiral of Japan’s Self-Defense Forces, is currently Director of the Okazaki Institute.

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# Coming to grips with history

By Uffe Ellemann-Jensen

May 9th will be the mother of all celebrations in Moscow. The victory over Nazi-Germany 60 years ago will be commemorated and the human sacrifices to this end honored. So far, so good. But some nations will be missing from the party. Two Baltic presidents have decided to stay home, because their hosts are not willing to concede that there is more to the history of WWII’s end than the victory over Hitler. Their peoples had to face half a century of occupation because of a deal struck before the war’s onset by Hitler and Stalin, the so-called Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939 that divided Eastern Europe between Nazi-Germany and the Soviet Union.

I have to admire the third Baltic president – Vaira Vike-Freiberga from Latvia – who decided to go to Moscow, honouring what should be honored, and speaking about what should not be hidden. By doing so she demonstrates the strong position her country has obtained as a member of NATO and the EU, and she will be the one riding the high moral ground.

It is a pity that the Russian leadership of today has chosen not to condemn the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact that damaged the development of the whole Baltic Sea region for so many years – and still is a

source of political pollution threatening to poison relations between neighbors around the Baltic Sea. I find it difficult to accept those who tend to describe the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact as only a measure to build up Soviet national security.

In the Baltic Sea Region we have a particularly difficult history to deal with, if we look at the last 90 years. After the end of WWI and the old order – “Die Welt von Gestern” – the Baltic region saw bloody revolutions, terrible civil wars, fascism, communism, genocide, occupations, oppression, terrorism, deportations – you name it, in our part of the world we have indeed had our share of all the horrors of the modern history. When the Cold War ended, it seemed clever to say that this was “the end of History.” But if we believe that – if we put a lid on history and leave it behind us – we run a risk that history will resurrect itself with all its horrors.

Therefore we must come to terms with history, particularly in the Baltic Sea region, where such a reckoning is a fundamental precondition for building mutual confidence and cooperation. If you want to open “new chapters” in relations between old adversaries, you cannot simply close “old chapters” by denying or suppressing history. Nothing good comes out of doing so – and we have seen enough of that in the past.

For too many years the Baltic Sea was a blind alley on the political map of

Europe – divided by the Iron Curtain. It was not a “Sea of Peace” – as the communist propaganda tried to describe it – it was a Sea of Threats, a sea of insecurity and lost opportunities.

To my country – Denmark – WWII’s end meant a return to freedom and democracy, and we could use the rest of the 20th century to strengthen our freedom, bolstering it with affluence. But to the three Baltic countries the end of WWII led to half a century of occupation and lost opportunities.

We know to day the cause: the secret protocol to the Treaty of Non-aggression between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, signed in 1939 – the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact – defining the spheres of interest of the two dictatorships in eastern Europe which led to the war with Finland, the occupations of the Baltic countries, the assault on and division of Poland, and probably also the occupations of Norway and Denmark. In short, this pact with its exorcism had an enormous impact on the history of our region, right up to this day.

That it why it will continue to haunt us, continue to disturb normal relations between the countries in this region with so many unused potentials, as long as we do not deal with it in a forthright manner. Debating, recognizing, denouncing – whatever... anything but suppressing! You cannot build lasting future relations between countries that have each in their

own way suffered so much, without coming to terms with the past. It was not until 1989 that the existence of this protocol was officially admitted, thanks to the Glasnost-policy of Mikhail Gorbachev. But too many people still have difficulties with acknowledging this pact for what it really was.

Such denial is in no one’s interest. Not in the kind of Europe we still have to build – a Europe where big and small countries are assured that they share the same rights and obligations, where minorities feel safe, where basic human rights are accepted as an inextricable part of our political system, and where neighbors are regarded with respect and expectations, not fear and anxiety.

But it is no surprise that coming to terms with history can be damnably difficult. The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard put his finger on one of the more fundamental problems: “Life must be lived forwards – but can only be understood backwards”.

In order to look forward with confidence, you also have to look back – and understand what went wrong. Every leader in Moscow May 9th should remember this.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen was Denmark’s Foreign Minister for over a decade.

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## Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi  
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### Why are most Yemeni brits northerners?

We all know that the British occupied South Yemen for nearly 130 years. This fact has led some Yemenis to consider themselves responsible for the area which was under the British by legitimizing the transient status of occupation as if it is a deciding factor. Indeed despite the creation of the then supposedly Twenty-Two Sovereign States which used to have their own make-believe armies, customs authorities etc.

The British used to receive the heads of those nonsensical entities with usual honors despite the fact that all of them used to receive British monthly salaries. The British applied here the rule: “Divide & Rule” in addition to “Kodah Method” which is applied in taming wild elephants in India.

Moreover, it was ironic to notice that despite British occupation of South Yemen, the flow of people from north to south and vice-versa at the time went unhindered which was not the case when the southern Yemeni revolutionaries evicted the British and later established the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen as an independent state and later a staunch ally of USSR. After independence, several wars were waged between the pro eastern bloc south and the pro west conservative North. Opportunely, destiny made it possible for both to unite peacefully on 22 May 1990, following the demise of USSR. This introduction was necessary in order to let you know how and why most Yemenis in the UK come from the North.

The South is scarce in population due to its harsh arid desert and semi-desert nature. Hence the bulk of the population there were mostly centered in few mountainous regions such as Yafea and others which were later annexed by the British, e.g. Dhalea which was occupied by the British only for forty years and made an emirate with a population of merely 5000 inhabitants, likewise there were readymade sheikhdoms and Sultanates formed by the British of those days.

The North was at the time occupied by the Turks who following their 1st world war defeat ceded power in 1918 to Shiite Clerics who in their turn avowed to the people their being Zaidi-Sect followers (a currently misrepresented moderate Shiite interpretation). While their clandestine rituals confirm their being all along adherents of the extremist Hadaoist version (a new manifestation of a religious political interpretation innovated by Alhadi Yahya Bin Alhussain) following his control of Yemen. Who was a native of Tabaristan in Northern Iran and divulged it clandestinely and exclusively amongst Yemenis of Persian Stock who are remnant of the prismatic occupation of Yemen and whose family names are still Persian until this day and count 100,000 to 200,000 only.

Now they claim being Arab Nobles i.e. Hashemites which was originally a

pretext to maintain their prestige which was menaced by Maan Bin Zayid, a lieutenant of the Abbaside Caliph who are now unrelated to the Zaidi creed population of the north whom they wilfully try to illicitly represent (e.g. Houthis and his likes). The North was under oppression and extreme backward rule, hence the people were made so destitute.

Aden the city which the British declared as a colony was luckily predominantly inhabited originally by people from a northern Yemeni region named Hujjariya. Later on after the lapse of many years a British wrote a book entitled “Shifting Sands” in which he touched upon this fact and considered it as the reason why Yemen was not separated as a final point.

It is to be noted that the Nomads and rural population flocked later on to the city mostly following British evacuation. Thus, it must be kept in mind that the original dwellers of the Aden colony are from Hujjariya in the North. This is why a rumor goes that the British in 1994, decided not to give citizenship to Aden dwellers because the ones with authentic British documents are northerners, apart from few Indians and Somalis, as other south Yemenis belonged to their respective regional British made entities which were termed “British Protectorates”.

Under the British, Aden was prosperous and was the main link between east and west. Northerners flocked into the city and from there they visited the different Twenty-Two entities where they bought passports and left for Britain to work in steel factories as manual labor or on British Ships as Coal Shovelers.

Most Yemenis in the UK were uneducated and although the British at the start were racist towards Yemenis and aliens in general. Yemenis too, looked down on the British in continuation of the feeling carried from past centuries where Arabs had the upper hand and used to call Europeans in scorn “Children of the Yellow” let alone the defeat of the British King by Saladin and his shameful arrest. Considering themselves being white and Europeans are either pink or yellow, this feeling made them abstain from gaining British citizenship, and only recently did they discerned that they should review their decadent ideas and look at it from a different perspective.

Anyhow, in my opinion the after world war, the British got rid of their self-complacency and the supremacy feeling and are now far more developed than any in their attitude and approach towards other humans and the world in general. To conclude the subject I would like to give you a living example:

“My grandfather entered Britain in 1930/1940s with a passport from Qaaiti Sultanate. My uncle entered Britain with a passport from Dhalea Emirate and my father entered Kuwait with a Passport from Mahra Sultanate while we are natives of Ibb province in northern Yemen.

# A Day of Liberation

By Michael Mertes

When I was seven years old, in 1960, my grandmother Angelica opened my eyes to the meaning of 8 May 1945, the day when Nazi Germany surrendered and World War II ended in Europe. We were spending our summer holidays in Normandy where the liberation of Europe from Nazism had started on D-Day, 6 June 1944. One evening, I listened to my parents and my grandmother talking about the past. I have forgotten the details of their conversation, but I can still hear my grandmother’s sigh of relief when she said “Thank God we lost that war!”

From a child’s perspective, it wasn’t self-evident that losing was a good thing. But of course, my grandmother was right to equate defeat with liberation. The more I have thought about the lesson she taught me 45 years ago, the clearer I have seen another, less obvious dimension in what she said: It is “we” who lost the war. Collectively, the Germans had not been the innocent victims of a small gang of criminal outsiders called “Nazis” – Nazism had been an inside ideology supported by millions of Germans, and every German was liable for its atrocities whether or not he or she had adhered to it individually.

In today’s Germany, an overwhelming majority subscribes to the proposition that 8 May 1945 was a day of liberation – not only for Europe, but also for Germany itself. Compared to public opinion in 1960, that’s certainly an enormous progress. But paradoxically, it may also contain an element of forgetfulness, because it tends to conceal the fact that liberation required a military defeat. To use my grandmother’s parlance, it is not “us” who were the liberators, but “them”.

The way people see the past tells us more about their present attitudes than about the past itself. This is what the term “politics of memory” is meant to indicate. And this is why it doesn’t matter whether the relevant events happened 60 years ago (as World War II), 90 years (as in the case of the Armenian genocide) or even 600 years (such as the battle of Kosovo in 1389). A violent conflict in the past may survive as a war of memories in the present, as can be observed in the current dispute between China and South Korea on one side, and Japan on the other. A war of memories, in turn, may sometimes lead to a violent conflict in the future.

Former perpetrators often try to delegitimize their former victims’ moral superiority by claiming they were victims themselves. Therefore, the 60th anniversary of the firebombing of Dresden by Allied forces on 13 February 1945 has probably been a more crucial moment in

terms of the German “politics of memory” than the 60th anniversary of 8 May 1945 is going to be.

Far-right groups infamously dubbed the attack by which at least 30,000 people were killed “Dresden’s Holocaust of bombs.” Fortunately, their propaganda campaign has been a failure. Although it is true that thousands of the civilians killed in Dresden and other German cities were innocent at an individual level, there can be no doubt it was morally imperative that Germany be defeated collectively.

On the left side of the German political spectrum, the proposition that 8 May 1945 was a day of liberation remains unchallenged. However, it is sometimes repressed that the massive use of force had been necessary to achieve that result. Left-wing pacifism tends to overlook this simple fact. Its slogan “Never again war!” is only half the truth – the other half is “Never again appeasement!” 8 May 1945 was not “zero hour,” as a popular saying in Germany goes. It had an antecedent, that is, a lack of pre-emptive resistance at home and abroad to the threat that built up in Nazi Germany during the 1930’s.

There is yet another lesson to be learned. Yes, 8 May 1945 was a day of liberation to which the Soviet army contributed decisively. But for millions of Central and East Europeans, liberation was followed by Stalin’s oppressive regime.

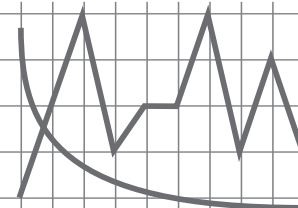
The current war of memories between the Baltic republics and Russia, with regard to the international celebration in Moscow on 9 May this year, reminds Germany of a special historic responsibility. The German-Soviet non-aggression treaty, the so-called Hitler-Stalin pact, concluded in August 1939, had been supplemented by a secret appendix dividing the border states Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania into spheres of interest for the two parties. But excusing Nazi atrocities by pointing to Stalinist crimes is an intellectually and morally unacceptable stratagem. When Chancellor Schröder travels to Moscow for the Red Square celebrations, he should bear in mind Nazi Germany’s contribution to the Baltic tragedy.

On 8 May this year, public speakers will remind us how important it is not to forget. They will stress that if the lessons of history are not learned, history is bound to repeat itself. All this is perfectly true. But personally, I will also remember my grandmother’s sentence “Thank God we lost that war!” Thank God – and thanks to all those brave Allied soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Europe’s liberty.

Michael Mertes was National Security and Foreign Policy Advisor to former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

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# YT Business



*Underway work plan,*

## Would it deliver children from labour?

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Due to difficult living circumstances, many Yemeni families push their children to labour markets to help them secure additional incomes for covering the requirements of life. This explains the reason behind increasing numbers of children engaged in labour markets, especially in the recent years.

Some studies estimate the number of children involved in labour market at about 400 thousands from both genders. A large number of them practice hard jobs in areas of construction, trade, blacksmith and agriculture. Others work on street sidewalks as street vendors, washing cars and such like jobs.

A study including one thousand children prepared by a Swedish organisation concerned with child care working in Yemen, revealed that 42% of children in labour markets work every day for periods ranging between 11 to 17 hours and 40% of them work for 6 to 10 hours a day. This situation is in violation of labour law issued in 1995. The article 45 of the law allows children to work what is defined of professions at a rate not exceeding seven hours a day or 42 hours a week and also prevents employment of children for more than four hours consecutively.

Concerning the jobs practiced by children, the study revealed that 28% of children work as peddlers therefore 25% of them are exposed to diseases resulting from weather changes, while about 7% of them are exposed to contagious diseases and more than 50% are liable to ethical abuses.

Another academic study had estimated the number of children working on the streets at 13 to 15 thousand, selling newspapers, water, household appliances, recording cassettes, fruits and vegetables as well as cleaning cars. The study prepared by Dr Rajih Al-Sheikh, the minister of industry and trade also indicated that 41% of those children sell agricultural and fish products on roads and are exposed to pursuit of municipality men.

Around 30 specialists in the area of childhood representing government ministries and institutions and civil society organisations have discussed at a workshop in Sana'a the national work plan aimed at curbing child labour.

That workshop is considered the first of a series of workshops to be held in eight governorates aimed at ensuring wider participation of various government and people parties concerned with children in order to enrich the national plan on fighting child labour in Yemen.

Participants in the workshop have emphasized importance of role of the state institutions and establishments in fighting this phenomenon and ending the worst forms of child labour. The participants have also agreed on the necessity of knowing the phenomenon with all of its characteristics, geographical concentration and expansion. They have also focused on studying it at sectoral and national level besides the study of other social factors affecting the child labour.

The participants also confirmed the partnership of the ministry of education in preparation and implementation of the national plan for fighting child



labour, as student truancy from schools to labour markets are considered one of the tributaries of the problem of child labour and increase in number of working children.

The participants in the workshop have also deemed the phenomenon of child labour as not only a Yemeni one but also rather many of the developing and even developed countries are suffering from it. Pointing out that poverty is the major feeder of the growing of the phenomenon of child labour in Yemen.

shop would also be held for the donors in order to define funding and its means for the implementation of the national strategy for fighting child labour through projects adopted by the strategy according to recommendations of the workshops.

It is to be indicated that this workshop, organized by the unit of fighting child labour at the ministry of social affairs and labour in collaboration with International Labour Organisation and the International Program for Fighting Child Labour, is considered the first of a series of workshops to be held for the same purpose, i.e. tackling this aggravating phenomenon among the children of Yemen.

The study considered that poverty was the main cause of the child labour phenomenon and it is the reason behind families depriving their children of attending schools or continuing their education because of their families' incapability of bearing the costs of schooling.

The Yemeni government endeavours to curb this phenomenon and protect children against exploitation they are exposed to by employers. The aim is also to protect them against dangerous jobs and the worst forms of labour. The government endeavour is done through drawing a strategy to which all government institutions, civil society organisations and private organisations are contributing to.

That strategy is meant to include all aspects related the phenomenon of child labour and is expected to be easily implemented as it is springing from reality with participation of the society forces.

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.1400	191.4300
Sterling Pound	364.0500	364.6000
Euro	247.7400	248.1100
Saudi Rial	50.9700	51.0400
Kuwaiti Dinar	654.4700	655.4600
UAE Dirhem	52.0400	52.1200
Egyptian Pound	33.0000	33.0600
Bahraini Dinar	507.0200	507.7900
Qatari Rial	52.5100	52.5900
Jordanian Dinar	269.7800	270.1900
Omani Rial	496.4800	497.2300
Swiss Franc	160.3800	160.6200
Swedish Crown	27.0000	27.0400
Japanese Yen	1.8290	1.8318

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

### Encouraging oil findings in Kuhlun

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Canadian petroleum company DNO has announced lately that it has conducted productive tests on oil resources of Kuhlun oil well situated in Ajja-5 well basin. Preliminary results of the well components have disclosed the possibility of drawing 3862 barrel of oil per day and 4.940 thousand cubic feet of natural gas per day, in addition to 1.430 thousand barrels of water, per day.

A statement by the company published on its website mentioned that tests indicated the existence of strong hydrocarbonaceous compounds at a level of 42 meters within the oil reserve of the well. The statement also pointed out that the company had the intention to conduct electronic tests, in addition to the well, to be sure of its reserve oil deposit. The statement also indicated that the first phase of the works for developing oil wells of al-Baraja oil field was expected to be finished by the end of next June and the aim of that phase is to raise present production of the field from 5000 bpd to around 15000 bpd in August.



**To mark the 15<sup>th</sup> National Day of Yemen's Re-unification**

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# Creative thinking (3/3)

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## Coaching for creativity

**M**any organizations use coaching to help their staff acquire new skills or develop existing ones. Understanding the coaching process, shows how you can use it to improve your creative potential, and set yourself goals to work towards.

## What is coaching

Coaching is a useful tool that can help you develop your strength and improve your skills. There are a number of ways that coaching can be carried out, for example, through observation and feedback or through organized session with a personal coach. Coaching sessions, in which the coach provides leadership and a framework for generating creative ideas, are the most suitable method for developing creativity. The coach is able to support and guide the individual being coached (the coachee), and offer advice when necessary. By the end of the sessions, the coachee is also in a position to coach others-such as members of his team.

## Finding a coach

Coaches lead by example. Thus, to be an effective creative thinking coach, the individual must understand how creativity works in practice. He or she must also have a good knowledge of the various techniques that can help develop creative thinking. Find a suitable professional coach and set up a series of coaching sessions. Alternatively, ask a friend to act as your coach. Before you have the first session, think through what you want to achieve during the coaching process. For example, decide that you want to learn how to deal with problems in a more creative way.

## Being coached

During the first session, the coach should take the lead. He or she may ask you questions about your normal thinking processes or your reactions to particular situation. Discussing these

issues will help you pinpoint what you could start to do differently. Allow the coach to prompt you to make suggestions. Then, set yourself achievable weekly targets and draw up an action plan. Agree how these will be monitored and set a date for the next coaching session.

## Stimulating creative thinking

There is a wide range of tools that you can use to stimulate creative thinking processes. They are simple to use and effective in practice. Familiarize yourself with the different creative tools and start to understand how you can apply them.

## Clarifying the outcome

In many situations, your reaction to a problem is instinctive. You may not even think about what outcome you actually require, and the results you finally get are therefore not always what you want. A useful way to approach a problem is to define the outcome before you start the problem-solving journey and then apply your creativity to achieving it. In this way, you will have reference points against which to evaluate your ideas. For example, if your desired outcome is to gain a new customer, focus your creative energies on achieving that

## Using physical activity

Certain types of physical activity can provide the right conditions for creative thinking. This is because, when you exercise, your motor senses are occupied with the basics of keeping your body functioning effectively. This frees the creative part of your mind to explore ideas. Choose a sport that you enjoy and make it a regular part of your routine- take advantage of the time to think.

## Using mind mapping

This process is designed to help you change the way you look at complex problem. When you are faced with a problem, impose it on to a "model" so that you view it in a different way. For example, draw the shape of a tree. Write down the main parts of the problem next to the large branches; note smaller aspects of the issue against the secondary branches, and so on. Once you have separated out the problem in this way, apply your

creativity to each part of the issue, rather than trying to tackle the problem as an unwieldy whole.

## Imposing a condition

When you impose an external condition on a problem, you change the way you look at it. For example, perhaps you want to buy a new house, but you have a budget problem. Instead of asking, "What can I get for my money?" ask, "How can I change my home without spending any money?" This might lead you to think of solutions you had not previously considered, such as re-mortgaging.

## Recognizing the issue

A good solution to the wrong problem only creates more difficulties. Sometimes we get stuck on a problem, but we are not looking at the real issue. The "Five Ways" process helps you get to the root of a situation. When you are faced with a difficulty, ask yourself why it is a problem. Each time you respond to the question, ask "Why?" again, up to five times. This process will help you explore the deeper reasoning behind what you assume to be the problem. It will force you to evaluate your basic assumption and reveal gaps in your thinking. Work to find new insights into seemingly unresolvable problem.

## Changing the way you think

In order to be creative, it is necessary to change the way you think. Learn to let go of your preconceptions. Understand the different ways you can re-programme your mind so that you can see things in different, more productive ways

## Doing things differently

Telling yourself to "do things differently" is simply an internal prompt that can be used to optimize your personal effectiveness. Notice your usual ways of doing things, such as morning routines; traveling to work routines; job routines; problem-solving routines; relationship-management routines. Analyze these patterns in a creative way and think about how you could change them.

Sometimes your mind freezes and you cannot find a solution to a problem. Disengage from the problem and allow your sub-conscious mind to

work on the issue, undisturbed by the conscious search for a solution. Try going for a walk, thinking about something else, or making a cup of coffee use the method that works best for you.

## Deciding to be creative

Not all the situations respond to creative approach. Some are too simple to warrant the time and effort involved. Others need to be reframed first. Understand the decision-making process and how creative thinking techniques can be implemented.

The decision to use creative approach or not depends on the problem. If the problem is simple for example, you are about to cross a busy road, there is no need to be creative, in fact being creative could be counter productive because you need the full power of your logical thinking process to get you safely across the road. However, if you are looking at ways of reducing the number of road fatalities that occur this is an open-ended problem and creative approach will offer you more solutions to consider. Recognize the situations where creative approach would be beneficial.

Once you have identified that an issue is open ended, the next step in the process is to categorize it in and form of a problem statement. Problems can be grouped into three categories: personal, such as illness; professional, such as a career change opportunity; or they can involve the third party, for example, an issue that you want to help someone else to resolve.

**Having categorized the problems define it and rephrase it-this will help you look at it in a different way.**

## Remember:

- 1- Use coaching to help you change your current thinking patterns.
- 2- Ask a colleague you admire for advice on how to improve your creative skills
- 3- Learn to cross the natural barriers in you mind
- 4- Think in terms of results you want to achieve
- 5- Problems are opportunities for change
- 6- Ask yourself why you perceive an issue as a problem
- 7- Question and challenge ideas rather than just accepting them

## Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

# The nine Imams of Jurisprudence 4/4

**T**he discussion of the leading Imams of Islamic jurisprudence gets more interesting as one proceeds, especially with the objective analysis of Abdurrahman Al-Shirqawi, who does not regard some of the differences in the teachings they propagated as sources of conflict, but fruitful judgments on matters where textual stipulation was absent.

Most of these issues were on social issues and other matters that did not have relevance at the time of the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH). On the core of issues in Islam, one truly finds little difference. Now we come to the 2 of the leading Imams. I will concentrate on Imam Al-Shafe'i and Imam Ahmed Bin Hanbal, as the two are credited with major sects of prominence in Islam.

Maybe during the fasting month of Ramadan, we will take a closer look at the last two Imams and each of these 9 Imams and get an idea of the rich moral and legal heritage that Moslem scholars left over the centuries, much of which has regrettably been misinterpreted rather than understood, even by the staunchest followers.

## Imam Al-Shafe'i:

Although never a magistrate himself, he was labeled by the Egyptians as the "Judge of Shari'ah". He was Mohammed Idriss Al-Shafe'i, a descendant of the leading house of the Quriesh Tribe. He was born in Gaza, Palestine.

An orphan at the age of two, his mother took him to Mecca, where they might live off some of the subsidies given to the Qureishis. He was attracted to learning at an early age. Because of his poverty he was unable to buy paper, so he forced himself to memorize all he learned. He learned the Holy Quran by heart by the age of seven.

A perfectionist in speech, he was not pleased with the many corruptions that the Arabic language had begun to show. He then went to live with the tribe of Huthail, which resided near Mecca. Huthail was considered the standard in Arabic speech and Bedouin chivalry. He also learned the art of "knighthood" (i.e., horseback riding, fighting with the weapons of the day, etc. there. He then went to learn from Imam Malik, then the teachings of the other Imams (Abu Haneifah, Ja'afar Al-Sadiq, Alleith Ibn Sa'ad) either from them or their students if they have passed away.

He was trying to discern who had the right course for jurisprudence, those who believed in opinions that were logically and rationally deduced, or those that stuck to textual renditions (Quran and traditions of the Prophet). He found that neither should be the only course by itself.

He was attracted to the opinions of many of the "opinion deducers", while he saw the need also to stick to as much textual interpretation as reasonably can be followed. He also went to Yemen, Iraq and Syria before settling in Egypt in the last five years of his life. At that time scholasticism was being viewed as learning the Quran, the traditions, the jurisprudence of the leading Imams and the Arabic language. Al-Shafe'i, however insisted that scholasticism should also entail knowing the theoretical and practical sciences (medicine, arithmetic, philosophy, physics, etc.). As much as Al-Shafe'i respected the views of others, he was twice the victim of those who did not respect his views.

While in Najran, he noticed the Governor of the Abbasid Caliph

Haroun Al-Rashid was oppressive. He spoke against him in public and told the citizens to resist the Governor. The Governor reported him to Haroun Al-Rashid as leading a rebellion with some others against the Abbasids. When they were taken to the Caliph, of the lot, only Al-Shafe'i escaped with the wisdom of his tongue and the Jurist/Advisor of Haroun Al-Rashid. Then, in Egypt he was attacked by extremist followers of the Imam Malik for differing with their teacher on some matters.

When the Governor of Egypt punished this extremist, the latter's friends attacked al-Shafe'i when he was all alone and beat him to death. He died young at the age of 54 (204 AH).

Imam Ahmed Bin Hanbal: One of the most controversial of all the Imams, for his rigid interpretations of text, yet without undermining the viewpoints of other jurists who disagreed with him.

He was also misunderstood by those who claim to follow his rigid stands on some issues of dogma. He was a student and admirer of Imam Al-Shafe'i. He was born into the life of a poor orphan in Baghdad, Baghdad the capital of the splendor of the Abbasids. Ahmed Ibn Hanbal could not remain quiet and aloof, when he is seeing the Caliphate sanction all that Islam forbids and using public funds to take care of all the loyalists to the Caliph and forget the rest of the society. He was appalled by the extravagance of it all and spoke of the infractions as unacceptable in Islam.

Al-Shirqawi says that Ahmed was transgressed when he was alive and after his death. He was accused of being an extremist for speaking out against the excesses of government and the large gap between the wealthy and the poor. The majority of the poor are in poverty because of the irresponsible and corrupt officials of the state. To Ahmed, this was anathema to Islam.

He was a devoted follower of the traditions of the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH). He went throughout the Islamic World seeking the sources of any of the traditions he learned were being related there. He deplored affluence and felt that any Moslem should live the simple life of the Prophet and his early followers.

He first taught that obedience to the state is mandatory, even if it violates the rights of the citizens. He however said that officials need to be reminded of their responsibilities. But later he changed that view to state that rebellion is warranted if the state has reneged on the social contract. Contrary to the attitude of many of the fundamentalist followers of Imam Ahmed today teach, Imam Ahmed believed that Ali, the Fourth Caliph was the right side in the battle with the Umayyads.

He also admired the wisdom of Ali and referred to him as a precedent in many of his rulings. The age of Imam Ahmed was a disturbing age. Many ideas and philosophies had been adopted here and there. Some dogma acquired political strength. When these politicians tried to impose their beliefs by force, even on the Islamic jurists and scholars, Ahmed refused to condescend. He was imprisoned for 2 \_ years and tortured for refusing to believe in what some of the politicians were imposing on all the other scholars to believe. Ahmed refused.

With the masses behind him and in an uproar because of the tortures he was subjected to, he was finally released. He kept teaching until the age of 77 when he died an advocate of standing up to what you believe, even if it means death!

## Peace singer compels wonder

# Marcel Khalifa sings for Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**S**ANA'A- May 7- "It is amazing" was the statement that I uttered involuntarily at the concert that took place at May 22 Hall in the city of Sana'a on the eve of last Wednesday. The hall resounded with applause and screams of admiration. All had their emotions on the tips of their fingers as Marcel Khalifa went on with his strong voice chanting series of his songs.

Along with his band, Marcel dedicated the opening song to Yemen, "the origin of Arabs." He then performed songs with the accompaniment of modern musical instruments and his favorite "oud". One of the songs was titled "The Nicest Mother" that was dedicated to the mothers of martyrs. With moving words, melody and above all voice, Marcel Khalifa excited the audience with the always quoted enthusiastic anthem "With a straight body I walk...in my hand is an olive branch and my coffin is over my shoulder," which shows the intensity of love for the homeland, sacrifice, and peace as well. The audience, which consisted from people from the social spectrum, were so enthralled that they picked up the verse and overwhelmed the voice of the singer who himself started clapping in ecstasy.

On Saturday, May 7, Marcel Khalifa performed at another concert in the city of Aden for a large audience filling the pits of Aden Stadium.

"I have come to Yemen with love,"



said Marcel Khalifa at the beginning of one of his concerts. He was invited to Yemen by Kana'an Association for Palestine and Yemeni Lebanese Fraternity Association.

"I want to penetrate through the public to preserve memory and maintain solidarity with the defenders against the hammer of deterioration that

attacks our culture," he said at a press conference organized on Tuesday, May 3.

He defined art as "an expression that leads us to admit our identity and understand the lyric better.

"Of my duties is the search for a clean musical sentence. I am committed to the gifts of love which we should

carry and safeguard."

Marcel Khalifa is an outstanding Arab singer who revolutionized typical musical conventions and devised techniques to adapt Arab singing to modern styles combining practical and theoretical creation. His art is full of ideas that sanctify freedom, homeland and love.

As an expressionist, he employs music to create an expressive concept in parallel to the sung lyrics based on invented musical patterns that adapt the lyrical meter to the expressive performance suiting the modern standard Arabic text. He also introduces into his works western musical modes such as jazz using variant rhythmic patterns without impairing the oriental quality.

Khalifa obtained his academic qualifications in music from the National Conservatoire in Beirut. He formed al-Maiadeen Musical Band in 1967, which was famous for revolutionary songs. Khalifa traveled around the globe performing concerts at world-class halls.

Marcel Khalifa produced music for several films and was awarded various merits, medals, and honors from countries including Tunisia, Germany, UAE, Australia, Venezuela, Cuba, Bulgaria and Yemen when he visited Aden in 1979. The most recent honor was his being designated by the UNESCO as a peace singer. It is for the first time that this title is given to an Arab singer.

He is associated in the Arab mind, especially Yemeni, with the Palestinian Cause and resistance against occupation.

# The Ozone Mafia

BY ARNE JERNELOV

Now that the Kyoto Protocol has been ratified, with even Russia belatedly signing on, a threat is emerging against an earlier landmark in international environmental protection – the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol for defending the stratospheric ozone layer. The threat comes from an unlikely source: organized crime.

The reason is simple. To protect the stratospheric ozone layer, international agreements have been reached to ban the use and trade of the ozone-destroying chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's). In order to replace these chemicals with others that are more benign, the equipment in which they are used – like freezers, coolers, and units for foam plastic production – must be substituted for new ones.

But it's much cheaper, although forbidden, to use the old equipment and refill them with CFC's when needed than to buy new machines and use the more environmentally benign but more costly alternatives. As with any ban, a market was thus created – and with it a business opportunity for well organized and environmentally reckless criminals.

Organized crime is constantly on the lookout for such opportunities, and it continues to find them. So it is no surprise that CFC or freon smuggling has developed without much attention, and risks jeopardizing the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

These agreements are hailed as great successes, and annual reports summarizing official statistics are published showing that the use of CFC continues to decrease. The content of chlorine (from decay of CFC's) in the stratosphere has leveled off, and two years ago the ozone hole over the Antarctic was the smallest in decades (and broken up into two). However,



Arne Jernelev

new reports show a thinning of the ozone layer over the Arctic, and last year's Antarctic ozone hole was as large and deep as ever.

There is no way of telling yet whether these represent mere fluctuations in a slow recovery process or a break in the positive trend. Is the volume of illicit CFC trading so large that it is now a factor of real importance? As with illicit drugs, it is difficult to estimate the extent of smuggling operations. A number of extensive catches have been made by national customs agencies, the largest in Japan, in recent years. In most cases, the forbidden CFC's have been labeled as permitted HFC's (hydrogenfluorocarbons), but labels like "spray paint" and "lubricants" also have been used.

Ships and airplanes have been used for transport in this black-market trade. The shipments caught by customs authorities mostly originate from free industrial zones, also called export-processing zones, in China, Vietnam, Thailand, and Egypt.

In most parts of the world, customs agencies are not especially focused on CFC's, and the compounds are not easy to distinguish from HFC's without sophisticated analytical equipment. So it is reasonable to assume that the proportion of the total smuggled volume that is discovered is smaller than for narcotic drugs.

Complicated lines of transport using transit countries are often used. One

such line, which is presumed to be significant, goes from Europe (Spain) via Singapore or Dubai, through India to Nepal or Bangladesh and back again to the market in India.

Some features in the conventions for protecting the ozone layer constitute holes of a legal kind. One is that industrial and developing countries march at different speeds when it comes to phasing out CFC's. This means that what is banned in one country is permitted elsewhere.

Another problem is that there are no restrictions on the sale of old equipment that runs only on the banned substances. For example, freezers that require CFC's can be freely exported from, say, Sweden, where they can no longer legally be refilled when required, to Egypt, where refilling is allowed. The rapid increase of foam plastic production in export processing zones is thought to be based on their purchase of CFC-dependent production units from OECD countries.

So, do such practices constitute a real threat to the conventions for protecting the stratospheric ozone, or are they "only" a factor that will delay the final phase-out of CFC's within years or a decade? If the latter, that is bad enough, but the answer is not self-evident, and the whole question of organized crime and the illegal trade with CFC's demands attention. Customs officials all over the world and fighters of organized crime have a new battle – this time for the environment – on their already busy hands.

Arne Jernelev is Professor of Environmental Biochemistry, an honorary scholar, and former director of the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna, and a UN expert on environmental catastrophes.

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# Care of Environment is Care of Life

BY IMAD AS SAQQAF  
YEMEN TIMES  
TAIZ BUREAU CHIEF

Humanity is facing many environmental problems of changes in the atmosphere due to Mankind's irresponsible behavior, which resulted in the rapid deterioration of the environment and the quality of life.

Against this background, the "Third Conference on Environment and Natural Resources" was inaugurated on Tuesday at Taiz University under the slogan "Paying attention to the Environment and Natural Resources is Necessary for the Present and the Future". Several Arab and foreign scientist are participating in the activities of the occasion in addition to other Yemenis. 130 papers have been presented at the conference, with all of them concentrating on the three main topics of the conference: Environmental Pollution and Health Hazards, Renewable and Non-renewable Resources and the Management of the Environment and Natural Resources.

In a speech at the opening of the conference, Head of Taiz University Prof. Ahmed as Sufi said that "the diverse environmental problems are becoming more severe every day as a result of the nega-



tive effects of modern technological advances and the unlimited control of humanity the natural resources as well as the severe unplanned and sporadic exploitation of Mother Earth. He indicated that "bad planning, and sometimes the lack of any planning, and the low level of awareness are the main factors behind the increase of severeness of environmental problems, hindering development plans and efforts. As Sufi concluded by reconfirming that the continued concern of Taiz University with this issue, which stems, as he said, from its understanding that the awareness of environmental issues is necessary to face and tackle environmental problems. He called for the effectuation of all educational institutions for disseminating public awareness of the environ-

ment. The importance of the Conference stems from the fact that it is one the most important means that provide an opportunity for scientists and researchers from inside and outside Yemen, to meet and exchange their knowledge and experiences. These experiences are very useful for planning a better future, for new productions of environment-friendly ways and techniques and for enhancing the importance of environmental education and information.

It is worth mentioning here that all papers presented at the conference have touched upon these concerns, and that the University of Taiz has adopted to hold the conference every two years as a tradition for the University.

## Egyption teams find "beautiful" 30th Dynasty mummy

Archaeologists discovered what could be the most finely decorated mummy ever found in Egypt, Zahi Hawass, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council for Antiquities said on Tuesday.

An Egyptian archaeological team led by Hawass, digging near the Saqqara pyramids, found the mummy, which dates back to the 30th Dynasty (380-343 BC), last week.

"The sand revealed maybe the most beautiful mummy ever found in

Egypt," Hawass told reporters at the site, 25 km (15 miles) south of Cairo.

"The mummy is so beautiful... The ancient Egyptians probably drew the most beautiful scenes I have ever seen in my life on a mummy," Hawass added.

The 30th Dynasty was followed by Persian rulers who occupied the country for about 15 years before the Macedonian conqueror Alexander the Great took control.

The mummy's covering, which is made of pieces of linen or papyrus glued together, showed the mummy

being prepared by Anubis, an Egyptian god of the dead. Ma'at, goddess of truth, right and order, is shown spreading her wings.

The mummy, whose identity is not known, wears a blue headdress and a gold face mask. Scenes depicting ancient Egyptian afterlife beliefs are painted in many colours.

In February, Australian archaeologists discovered in the same area one of the best preserved ancient Egyptian mummies dating from the 26th Dynasty, about 2,600 years ago.(Reuters)



## إعلان عن فتح باب الترشيح لجوائز المرحوم الحاج هائل سعيد أنعم للعلوم والآداب الدورة العاشرة - ٢٠٠٦م



٥٠٠٠٠٠ ريال) مليون ونصف ريال يعني، كما تقدم مع الجائزة النقدية شهادة ودرع الجائزة للفائزين في حفل إيعاده رئيس مجلس الأمانة ونائبه ويتم الإعلان عنه في وسائل الإعلام المختلفة، كما تستضيف المؤسسة الفائزين عند حضورهم حفل توزيع الجوائز وتحمل تكاليف السفر والإقامة.

المراسلات :  
ترسل الترشيحات على العنوان الآتي :  
مؤسسة السعيد للعلوم والثقافة  
مجلس أمانة جائزة المرحوم  
الحاج / هائل سعيد أنعم للعلوم والآداب  
عناية : مدير عام المؤسسة، أمين عام الجائزة  
تعز - الجمهورية اليمنية  
ص. ب : ٥٩٦٢ - تلفاكس : ٢١٧٣٢٦ - ٤  
البريد الإلكتروني : asaeedaward@y.net.ye

٨ - أربع نسخ من البحث أو الإنتاج المقدم لنيل الجائزة على أن تكون ثلاث نسخ منها غير مدون عليها اسم المرشح.  
٩ - أن يكون الإنتاج المقدم للتفاضل مطبوعاً على برنامج الورد مع إرفاق قرص CD  
١٠ - لا يعاد الإنتاج المقدم إلى مرسله سواء فاز للترشح أو لم يفز.  
١١ - لا تقبل الاعتراضات على قرارات المؤسسة بشأن منح الجائزة.  
١٢ - تقبل الترشيحات لغاية ٢٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٦م كحد أقصى.  
التحكيم :  
يتم عرض الإنتاج المقدم للجائزة على لجان تحكيم من ذوي الاختصاص من الباحثين برتبة أستاذ أو من المشهود لهم بالكفاءة والخبرة الطويلة في مجالهم العلمي والأدبي وموضوعيتهم في التقييم والتحكيم وذلك بواقع ثلاثة أعضاء لكل مجال من مجالات منح الجائزة، وتعتبر قرارات اللجان نهائية بعد اعتمادها من مجلس الأمانة الجوائز.  
تخصص المؤسسة في كل مجال من المجالات المذكورة جائزة مالية بقيمة

ب - الأضافة إلى المعرفة إضافة جديدم.  
ج - اللغة ودقتها.  
د - المصادر التوثيقية والرجعية وحدائتها وعلاقتها بموضوع العمل.  
هـ - مدى إسهام العمل على الواقع اليمني.  
٥ - تقبل المؤسسة طلبات المتقدمين وترشيحات الجامعات والهيئات العلمية والإبداعية القائمة بالبحوث والدراسات العلمية والإبداعية.  
٦ - يجوز للفائزين بإحدى جوائز المرحوم الحاج هائل سعيد أنعم للعلوم والآداب في السابق التقدم للمسابقة في التخصص نفسه أو في تخصص آخر مرة أخرى، وكذا الذين لم يحالفهم الحظ فيسج لهم بدخول المسابقة بشرط أن يقدموا إنتاجاً جديداً غير الإنتاج السابق إضافة إلى توافر الشروط الأخرى.  
٧ - تتضمن مسوغات الترشيح :  
أ - السجل العلمي أو الإبداعي للمرشح.  
ب - نبذة مختصرة من حياته وإنتاجه ومبررات ترشيحه لنيل الجائزة.  
ج - أربع نسخ من كافة الوثائق والعلوم الأخرى المذكورة في النموذج للتوفر لدى الأمانة العامة للجائزة، والذي من الضروري التقيد بتعليمات ملته لتسهيل عمل الحكيمين.

- وسطيية الإسلام ،  
\* جائزة الإبداع الأدبي ،  
- التحول الإجتماعي في اليمن من خلال الأدب القصصي ،  
\* جائزة الهندسة والتكنولوجيا ،  
- تكنولوجيا الاتصالات ودورها في التنمية في اليمن ،  
\* جائزة الأثار والعمارة ،  
- الحفاظ على التراث المعماري اليمني ،  
ضمن الشروط الآتية ،  
١ - للمسابقة مفتوحة لكافة الأساتذة والباحثين والمتخصصين والأدباء الذين قاموا بعمل بحثي علمي متميز أو ذي قيمة إجتماعية ، وإبداع أدبي خلّاق .  
٢ - أن يكون الباحث أو الأديب يمني الجنسية أو عربياً مقبلاً في اليمن .  
٣ - أن لا يكون المتقدم قد نال جائزة عن الإنتاج المقدم من أي جهة أخرى ، وتندرج ضمن هذا رسائل الدبلوم العالي والماستر والدكتوراه .  
٤ - أن تراعى الأصراف الأكاديمية والعلمية في الأعمال البحثية والإبداعية المقدمة للتفاضل ، مع إعطاء أهمية خاصة للنبود التالية :  
أ - الأصالة والتميز أسلوب العرض .

قرر مجلس أمانة جائزة المرحوم الحاج هائل سعيد أنعم للعلوم والآداب فتح باب الترشيح للجائزة للعام ٢٠٠٦م - الدورة العاشرة لكافة الأساتذة والخبراء والباحثين والأدباء والمتخصصين في مجالات العلوم الطبيعية الأساسية والتطبيقية والتكنولوجية والتنمية والإبداعية الأدبية ، وذلك تجسيداً لنهجه وأماثيه في رفعة مجتمعه وتطويره وتخليداً لآثاره الخيرة في كافة مناحي الحياة، وقد قررت مؤسسة السعيد للعلوم والثقافة ومجلس أمانة الجائزة أن تكون موضوعات الجائزة لهذا العام في المجالات والآثار الثمانية التالية :  
\* جائزة العلوم الطبية ،  
- المبيدات الحشرية وتأثيرها على صحة المواطنين في اليمن ،  
\* جائزة العلوم البيئية والزراعية ،  
- مشكلة المياه في اليمن واستراتيجية الحل ،  
\* جائزة العلوم الاقتصادية ،  
- دور التأمين في التنمية الاقتصادية ،  
\* جائزة العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية والتربوية ،  
- الانفجار السكاني في اليمن - المشكلة والحل ،  
\* جائزة العلوم الإسلامية ،

## موضوعات التنافس على الجائزة الدورة التاسعة - ٢٠٠٥م

- جائزة العلوم الطبية : اضطرابات عوز اليود في اليمن - الانتشار والآثار الصحية
- جائزة العلوم البيئية والزراعية : التصنيع والتسويق الزراعي
- جائزة العلوم الاقتصادية : معالجة معوقات التنمية المستدامة في اليمن
- جائزة العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية : دور الدولة والمجتمع في القضاء على ظاهرة الثأر
- جائزة العلوم الإسلامية : أثر الوقف والمبرات في التكافل الاجتماعي
- جائزة الإبداع الأدبي : تاريخ الأدب اليمني في عصر بني رسول
- ملحوظة : ١ - تنطبق كافة الشروط العامة للجائزة والمعتمده في كل الدورات على هذه الدورة .
- ٢ - يعتبر تاريخ ٢٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٥م الموعد الأقصى لقبول الترشيحات .



# Chelsea celebrate with late win over Charlton

LONDON (Reuters) - Premier League champions Chelsea needed a last-minute strike by Claude Makelele to celebrate their first championship in 50 years with a 1-0 win over Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

The relegation battle will go to the final round of matches after Crystal Palace and Southampton drew 2-2, Norwich City beat Birmingham City 1-0 and West Bromwich Albion earned a surprise 1-1 draw at Manchester United.

Chelsea struggled before being awarded a 90th-minute penalty and although Makelele's spot-kick was parried, the former France midfielder knocked in the rebound to score his first goal for the club in their last home game of the season.

Victory and the trophy presentation at Stamford Bridge rounded off a bitter-sweet week for Chelsea, who secured the title last Saturday with a 2-0 win at Bolton Wanderers but were knocked out of the Champions League semi-finals by Liverpool.

"It's fantastic for me, but it's their moment," Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho told Sky Sports News after his players paraded the trophy on a sunlit afternoon.

"I'm proud of everybody and we have to try to repeat it because it's a fantastic feeling," he said.

The day ended with third-placed Manchester United being held to a draw by West Bromwich Albion at Old Trafford.

West Brom striker Robert Earnshaw converted a 62nd-minute penalty to cancel out a first-half free kick by Ryan Giggs and virtually end United's hopes of finishing second.

"It was a terrible give-away," said angry United manager Alex Ferguson. "I think that's it now as far as second place goes. We've dropped too many



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho [2nd R] lifts the English Premier League soccer trophy with Eidur Gudjohnson [L], Frank Lampard [2L] and John Terry [R] after their match against Charlton Athletic at Stamford Bridge in London, May 7, 2005. The match ended 1-0 to Chelsea. Chelsea clinched the Premier League title after winning 2-0 against Bolton Wanderers on April 30, their first top-flight championship title for 50 years. REUTERS

points against the bottom half of the league, that's an embarrassment to the players."

United have 74 points, three behind Arsenal, who can all but guarantee runners-up spot and direct entry into the Champions League group stage by beating Liverpool at Highbury on Sunday.

#### Red cards

Earlier, there was a flurry of red cards and plenty of thrills in the drop zone, where any one of the bottom four clubs could still survive on a dramatic final afternoon next Sunday.

Norwich beat 10-man Birmingham thanks to a Dean Ashton penalty, but their fans could barely celebrate at the final whistle as their team were still in the bottom three.

A few minutes later, Norwich were hoisted clear of the drop zone as a 90th-minute strike by Danny Higginbotham earned Southampton a 2-2 draw in a relegation dogfight at Crystal Palace after a delayed start.

With their final matches to play next weekend, Norwich are 17th on 33 points, Southampton are above Palace on goal difference with 32 points each and West Brom are bottom with 31.

# Alonso thrills fans with focused performance

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Fernando Alonso took another step towards giving his army of fans the first home winner of the Spanish Grand Prix with second place in the first qualifying session on Saturday.

In a very tight group of times Alonso was marginally slower than Toyota's Jarno Trulli, the Italian who is second in the championship standings behind the Spaniard after four races.

"It was a special qualifying session for me, to be competing in front of all the fans and see their support around the lap today," Alonso said.

"The people are so excited here, they are not sleeping in the grandstand, they stand up and wave their flags, it's fantastic."

Thousands of fans from Alonso's home region of Asturias on Spain's north coast have joined the throng at the Circuit de Catalunya for the race in which the championship leader will be looking for a fourth consecutive grand prix victory.

Sunday's race, fifth of the season, has been a 115,000 sellout for weeks and more than 300,000 people are expected to have visited the circuit outside Barcelona by the end of the weekend.

Alonso said that while enjoying the

support he was able to prepare in much the same way as any grand prix.

"Not much (is different), everything's similar to the other grands prix in terms of programme and approaching the weekend," the 23-year-old told reporters.

However, he said he needed to be quick to avoid hordes of autograph seekers and fans looking for a photo in the paddock.

"When I leave the track after the meeting with the engineers I have to run a little bit if I want to arrive in the motor home in the next five minutes but apart from that it's exactly the same approach," he said.

Alonso said he might need to be even quicker in Sunday morning's definitive second qualifying session and was confident it would be possible.

"From a timing point of view tomorrow we will probably have to find a better lap than today," he said.

"We knew the times would be very close today. Tomorrow can be very different, 10 o'clock in the morning we are cold, (it's the) first lap of the day.

"When you pass the corners sometimes there is more grip than I expected so you can be a little quicker."



Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain drives his Renault car during the second day's free practice before the Spanish Grand Prix at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo near Barcelona May 7. REUTERS

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# Improve Your English



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# 271

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

Advertisers try hard to make each advertisement unique. All advertisements more or less conform to a finite set of appeals such as sex appeals, aesthetic appeal, logical appeal, myths of happy appeal. An advertisement is interpreted by pressing into action all the appeals of persuasion.

- 's future: your challenge?
- Reach for the sky. There are some people who share a passion for life. People, who are willing to challenge established boundaries, people who dare to dream — who wish to reach for the sky in one giant leap. If you share any of these qualities, then you're just the one we're looking for.
- Are you check-mating your own career?
- We're looking for the right catalysts for growth.
- Position: Sales Engineer. A tool kit for leveraging career growth.
- Looking for spearheads who can give us the edge.
- We continue to grow... We are the innovators... We deliver the best. Come join the team... Come, feel the difference.
- What others call profession, we call passion.
- And that's how along with careers, we build long term relationships. If — is a passion, not a job with you, ... here's an e-mail address to write to ....
- Sometimes a breath of cool, crisp air can do wonders to your CAREER. Here's your opportunity. (Air conditioning ad)
- Life can be as big as you dream it to be. Looking for a dream job — something that provides both stability and growth. It endeavors to provide a career and not just a job. It's looking for enthusiastic and customer-oriented individuals.
- See beyond the horizon, a great day is waiting for you.
- Transform with trust.
- We have added immense value to our client portfolios.... We'll do the same to your career. — —! Live your dream!
- We are looking for people who can make a big difference in a short time. Essentially they need to be professionals with a 'change-agent' profile, sound technical knowledge, rich quality-experience, passion for success, positive attitude, robust competitiveness, strategic thinking, large appetite for excellence, while ensuring active and synergized team-play.
- We offer attractive remuneration with rare perquisites like empowerment, freedom of operation, healthy and motivating work atmosphere and quick growth opportunities to support your career ambitions.
- We are looking for hungry people because we're launching the most innovative and enticing range of snack food. Because we are hungry for more. And you?
- Inviting you to join our journey for excellence.
- Step out from the shadow into the lime light.
- What's your life's ambition? Bank balance. Proud, smiling family. Gleaming set of four wheels. Home that's your own. Global workspace. Close your eyes and see your ambition. You know you can realize them. You're confident. All you need is to take on the future. Come to — —. Realize them.

## II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Ann knows a lot of vocabularies.
- There is many kind of trees in the world.
- I am studying the English.
- I'm living in United State.
- I need some advices.
- Even though I was sick, but I went to work.

## Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- There are a lot of **information** in that book.
- Oil is a natural resource.
- Lions are wild animals.
- I was late because there was a lot of **traffic**.
- I drank two **glasses of water**.
- Our teacher gives us too **much** homework.

## III. Increase Your Word Power

### (A) How to express it in one word

- Showing the belief that all men are equal.
- The self in relation to the outside world.
- All the people in the country who have the right to vote.
- To excite and surprise greatly.
- A type of poem to show sorrow for the dead.

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- To improve the character of mind: **edify** (vt)
- To prepare from collected material a cinema film, radio performance or recording: **edit** (vt)
- Medicine and medical treatment producing the desired effect **efficacious** (adj)
- The period or action of the forming and developing of flowers on a plant: **efflorescence** (n)
- Strong stream of bright light, as from the sun: **effulgence** (n)

### (B) Words commonly confused

Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

- ecliptic, elliptic, eclectic
- inquest, inquiry
- every, each
- end, finish
- brigand, brigade

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- eerie** (adj) (causing fear because strange): For the young boy it was eerie to walk alone through the forest at night.
- airy** (adj) (having plenty of fresh air): I have rented a nice airy room.
- affluent** (adj) (wealthy): She has been brought up in affluent conditions.
- effluent** (n) (a type of liquid waste that flows out from a factory): Toxic effluent being poured into the river harms marine life.
- adduce** (vt) (put forward as proof): I can't adduce any reasons for his strange behavior.
- educate** (vt) (develop): They educated a well-thought out plan of action to achieve their objective.
- evolve** (vt) (unfold, develop gradually): Scientists are trying to evolve a new method to tackle the global energy crisis.
- involve** (vt) (to cause some one to become connected or concerned): Don't involve yourself in criminal activities.
- affective** (adj) (concerned with attitude and motivation): Affective factors play an important role in learning.
- effective** (adj) (able to bring about a result): The government is taking effective measures to check corruption.
- affect** (vt) (pretend): He affects learning.
- effect** (n) (result, outcome): We suffer from effects of pollution.
- infect** (vt) (fill with disease germs): The village is infected with cholera.

### (C) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- nothing to it
- just around the corner
- turn over a new leaf
- put all one's eggs in one basket
- be upto no good

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

## questions

- make a packet** (to make a great deal of money): He made a packet when he won a lottery.
- a tall order** (something that is very difficult to do): He wanted to complete the difficult task in one day, but he knew it was a tall order.
- hang fire** (to delay or to be delayed): The plan to build a bridge is hanging fire for want of funds.
- rub (someone) up the wrong way** (to annoy someone): He rubbed his boss up the wrong way when he arrogantly argued with him (the boss).
- put the wind up (some one)** (to cause someone to be concerned or anxious): The news about the missing child put the wind up the family.

## IV. Grammar and Composition

### (A) Grammar

Complete the sentences with the words in brackets. Use the passive form, simple present or simple past. Include prepositions where necessary.

- When we got to the post office, It ——. (close)
- My ring ——. gold. (make)
- Your name is Ramzy al-Hamzy. — you — Ali Hamzi? (relate)
- This fruit ——. I think I'd better throw it out. (spoil)
- Tom ——. He's making a fool of himself. (drink)
- Ahmed loves his job. He — his work. (interest)
- What's the matter, little boy? — you —? (lose)

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- The doctor said to me, 'You should lose weight.'
- The doctor advised me to lose weight
- The doctor advised (me) that I should lose weight.
- The doctor suggested my losing weight.
- The doctor recommended loss of weight to me.
- The doctor recommended that I lose weight.
- The doctor suggested that it is good for me to lose weight.

### (B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the maxim  
**95. PERSEVERANCE IS THE HINGE OF ALL VIRTUES**

### The previous week's topic

#### 94. THE CROWN AND GLORY OF LIFE IS CHARACTER

There is a saying: "If wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; but if character is lost, everything is lost." Obviously, character supercedes all other assets such as health or wealth. There can be no second opinion about the fact that a man's most unenviable possession is a sterling moral conduct and a spotless, glittering character which gives him a distinctive stamp of merit, a high pedestal of honor, a lasting halo, and an elevated position in the society. If one's character is lost or polluted, it is well nigh impossible to reverse it or retrieve one's lost glory. Power and position, name and fame, accomplishments and achievements — all pale into insignificance consequent upon a stain in one's character. So, in the ultimate analysis, the real wealth and the true glory of life is nothing but one's strength of character.

## V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"To him belongeth all that dwelleth (or lurketh) in the night and the day. For He is the One who heareth and knoweth all things."  
S6: A13

## VI. Food for Thought

"It's never too late to be what you might have been."  
—George Eliot

# A letter to the teachers of English: 84 How to avoid copying in the examinations? (1)



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

### Dear Fellow teachers,

I believe I am touching on a very sensitive issue in this letter. I know well that I might be offending the feelings of some of my fellow teachers and definitely those of some of my student friends. But I am sure what I am going to say in this and the next letter will be appreciated by those who look at the problem in the right perspective.

I thank Hasan Ba-Udan of Hadramut University, who, in his letter to Yemen Times on 4 April 2005, has shared his displeasure about cheating in the exams by school as well as college students in Yemen. He is not alone in this crusade against this malpractice, which is spreading its tentacles over the schools and college in this country: we must do something to stop it before it swallows up the entire education system.

Sometime ago, the Yemen Times also brought out an elaborate story on copying under the title 'cheating' with interesting interviews with teachers, students from schools, from colleges and psychologists. Though most of the respondents have condemned the evil practice of copying, some of the schoolers have, unfortunately, found copying thrilling and lauded the sinful practice. It is a pity that they have been made to believe that copying is the only way to pass out of school.

Let me first of all look at the problem closely. Why do students copy in the examinations? Firstly, the present world is highly competitive and only those who win survive and some of the students resort to copying in order to win. Secondly, the lessons they are taught in the school and college are not relevant

and useful to their life and so they do not develop necessary interest in learning them. Thirdly, in most of the schools and colleges, the teaching is so dull and boring that students hardly like to learn anything from the teachers. Fourthly, the examinations are designed in such an uninteresting way that students do not benefit from them and show their abilities in answering the examinations; most of them are routine and ceremonial and so students find it easy to get through them copying. Fifthly, the examinations are conducted in most schools and colleges in such a way that even the good students are tempted to attempt copying and most often succeed. Finally, students often feel that the real merit is not valued at all; those who adopt wrong means to pass always get better marks than those who work hard; either the teachers are not careful about their correction of examination answers or there are unwanted pressures on the teacher to pass students who do not deserve a pass.

Some of these reasons sound genuine and some others are not; but this does not justify copying at all. Some of them are solvable problems as they are created by the teachers or policy makers; if suitable solutions are found to these problems, copying can be completely eliminated from our education system. This is the argument I am putting forward in these letters. In fact, these problems and possible solutions have been the theme of many of my letters in the past, not directly though. Nevertheless, I will discuss them again, though some of you may find the repetition boring; bear with me. I will, in the next few letters, discuss each of these reasons in some detail and suggest solution to each of them; you will see that the solutions are not far fetched and with a bit of determination are achievable. Let's achieve them, Insha Allah.

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

## The contributions of the Tigris and Euphrates in the emergence of Iraq



**BY DR. BASHAR**  
**GHAZI ASKAR**  
Basharaskar90  
@hotmail.com

Most ancient world civilizations pivoted round great rivers and water catchments all throughout history. The emergence of the modern Iraq is a case in point

Water sources in Iraq depend mainly on the twin rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. Both rivers spring from the mountains of Turkey where much of its waters fall as snow. The two great rivers flow in well defined valleys and depressions so there is no need for artificial irrigation. The archaeological researches refer to a deep-rooted culture in ancient Iraq or as nominated "Mesopotamia" by the great Greek Historian Homer.

Man lived in northern caves of ancient Iraq some forty thousand years ago. Then man left the caves and settled near the rivers and its tributaries to practice agriculture, domestication of animals and work in pottery. Thus the first primitive communities were formed and shaped round such great rivers according to Homer. This turning shift of man from the mountains to the river catchments moved man from a consuming stage to a producing stage.

In this sense, man started to practice the division of labor and stabilizing the first codes, laws and manners. The inter-

related factors of man, climate, terrain and water resources played a vital role in building and directing man's cultural activities.

The strategic geopolitics of the ancient Mesopotamia as the heart of the universe made it a bridge, linking all parts of the ancient world. Historians agree that ancient Iraqis were the major factor behind the development of civilization in ancient Iraq. The two rivers were the factors that participated in this transition from the primitive age toward civilization. Early agricultural settlements emerged on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates.

Then these two rivers had a basic vital role in man's life in the field of irrigation and transport. The ancient inhabitants of Iraq from the Assyrians, Sumerians, Akkadians and Babylonians lived on these banks or their tributaries. The ancient inhabitants developed a distinctive style and mode of life. It was the ancient Iraqis who invented initial writing and led humanity to the early historical stages around 3000 BC.

Temples had been associated with the development of agricultural and social settlements of man. This development culminated in the invention of pictorial writing. King Hammurab's achievements in laws, administrative and social cultural aspects is of great significance in this context. This great Babylon dynasty eventually became the target of invasions and external dangers. The significance of the old Babylonian period is marked in its location on the Euphrates.

## WONDERWORD

by DAVID JUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: Use the letters in the box to find words. The words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonally, forward, backward, up and down. The letters are then removed from the box, which is then repeated. On the next week's puzzle, you will be asked to find words in the box, which is then repeated.

CELES			
Applaud	Crave	Jump	Peep
Boils	Debility	Legions	Prig
Boke	Deal	Lure	Used
Count	Employee	Lure	Use
Stubbed	Empty	Uranus	Badly
Coin	Over	Locate	Reaching
Countess	Paragon	Leaver	Revered
Over	File	Lids	Reck
Cross	Paraded	Lois	Reid
Couch	Post	Stalwart	Sequel
Cork	Hone	Inconspicuous	Meal
Decimated	Hussy	Blaze	Severer
Daily	Hurd	Muse	Severe
Dark	Hunts	Mips	Severe
Cups	Page	Muse	Sieve
Dovey	Pyrodo	Meal	Sieve
Down	Part	Meal	Sieve
Orbed	Part	Meal	Sieve
Obesity	Justed	Part	Sieve

## FEELING SLEEPY?

Solution: 9 letters

W O R L D L E A R N I N G S A U D I A N I L E  
U S I A M E L E S S B O M B I N G U A I R  
C Y P R I O D A A I N E D I O R A N T Y  
W R I L L A X I E S W S E L F M I Q U A U  
W I P O P T A B L O K W Y I S P R U M S  
T H O Y M A I N D W O L L A R S O F A  
U H A G O N A Y U H N L I S E W E H S E  
R O T E V N T O A U R E S I N F O V O  
S O S A I S T R Y C I D I U S C I U A U  
N O N A U O E N Y E P A N E S E O  
A C I O P S Q E S U T H A O A R S U A L L  
R S I O C E T R I Y S Y E E Y W I O S I S  
P R T W E A E P O S E R S O N O L C E T  
U R S A C U E I O G M C A D R Y L O S K E R  
R Y T T I L S T A N D R N I R O S E U O E  
P N S A B I M K S P K I S G O A N C H I L T  
E N S A B I O S N Y C I O G E A H I L T  
B T F N S I L N E E T R I A W H E U A E  
S S B R O D L E R Y Z A L W G H U Y I S  
W I T O N R Y N I C I O T O Y V A P A G

## Poetry Corner

### Children of war

**By SHAHIDA SAFOON**  
crybaby\_s25@yahoo.co.uk

Innocent children from bombed-up homes  
Weeping, desperate and so alone  
Victims of tyranny, war and greed  
Hoping for the day when they'll finally be freed

From the dark shadows of genocide,  
until it's their time  
Haunted by the question what was their crime?  
The world needs truth and justice, are we aware?

Future plans, childhood dreams?  
Just flown away with the running streams  
Children's lives finished before they've even started,  
How can some of us be so cold hearted!  
Erasing the little ones-for pieces of land  
God made it for us all-what's there to understand?

The years pass by and everything's the same  
Except the murderers getting better at their vicious game  
Still slaughtering millions-including the meek  
Can we just watch and ignore-are we really that weak?  
It's so easy to forget, when the sound of pain isn't heard  
And when the thought of death and dying isn't feared  
The world needs truth and justice, are we aware?  
People are still dying-does anyone care?  
How long will it take, before we can see  
That WE need to make the change,  
OUR efforts are the key  
We can really do it-yes help rid the world of sorrow  
If we start working together today-we can save tomorrow

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## Uganda: Child soldiers at centre of mounting humanitarian crisis

**W**ith an armed rebellion threatening to undermine Uganda's progress to economic development, child soldiers emerge as central figures amid deadly violence and growing humanitarian emergency.

The bustling capital city of Kampala, located in the south, exemplifies Uganda's transformation from a country plagued by economic decay to prosperity. With a revitalized GDP growth of more than 8% over the past three years, Uganda comes across as a compelling story of hope for other African nations. However, an armed insurgency in northern and eastern Uganda has created one of Africa's largest displaced populations.

The 18-year old rebellion of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) against the government has forced over 1.6 million Ugandans - half of them children - to flee to squalid and overcrowded camps in order to escape wanton attacks and killings. The number of internally displaced persons has almost tripled since 2002. Attacks on soft civilian targets continue, carried out by child soldiers much younger than their victims.

The most disturbing aspect of this humanitarian crisis is the fact that this is a war fought by children on children - minors make up almost 90% of the

LRA's soldiers. Some recruits are as young as eight and are inducted through raids on villages. They are brutalized and forced to commit atrocities on fellow abductees and even siblings. Those who attempt to escape are killed. For those living in a state of constant fear, violence becomes a way of life and the psychological trauma is incalculable. Fearing abduction, streams of children, often with mothers in tow, leave their homes every night and walk for hours from surrounding villages to



reach the relative safety of major towns, only to trek their way home in the first light. Some 40,000 "night commuters" sleep under verandas, in schools, hos-

### "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list

focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...

The editor

months. Health facilities barely function as stocks run out and health workers flee to escape LRA attacks.

Even as a peace process makes significant progress in neighbouring Sudan, the peace in Uganda is made tenuous by these developments. The "success story" that Uganda represents in the minds of the world's economic policy makers presents a jarring contrast with the tragedy of conflict in the north and east that shows no signs of abating.

#### For further information:

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pital courtyards or bus depots to evade the snare of the LRA.

Since the rebellion began in the 1980s, some 30,000 children have been abducted to work as child soldiers or porters, or to serve as "wives" of rebels and bear their children. These numbers have soared, with 10,000 children abducted in the past 18 months alone.

Despite the gravity of the humanitarian situation, less than 10% of the \$130 million requested by the humanitarian community for 2004 has been received. In some areas, malnutrition rates as high as 30% have been recorded among children. Fear of rebel attacks badly hit the planting season for 2004, threatening to aggravate the already severe food shortages in the coming

## أربح الذهب فقط

### كيفية المشاركة في المسابقة

اشترى عبوة واحدة ١٥ كجم أو ٦,٥ كجم من منتجات سمون (سمون القسرية أو البنت الرزقاء أو البنت الخضراء)

- ١- إستبدال غطاء واحد فقط ١٥ كجم محتوم عليه علامة من أقرب مركز إستبدال واحصل على 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 واحصل على هديتك الفورية (حافضة طعام متوسطة صافي أو طبق ملامين صغير وكذا لك قسيمة للسحب النهائي)

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السحب الثاني إب ٣٠/٥/٢٠٠٥ تسليم الجوائز ٦/٦/٢٠٠٥

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