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President accuses opposition regarding Sa'ada and opposition party gets invaded

Saleh: Foreign forces behind Sa'ada clashes

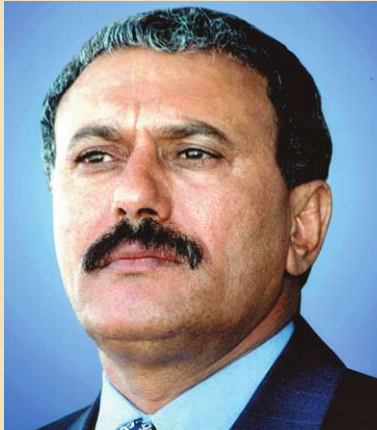
By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, May 14- HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh met on Saturday with some ministers, MPs and Shura Council members, and in the meeting the government disclosed documents of the conspiracy carried out by al-Houthi who received external support with the aim to coup against the regime.

President Saleh blamed al-Haq and the Popular Forces Unionist parties for inciting conflicts and battles in Sa'ada that started in 2004 up until 2005 with the intention to coup against the republican regime.

He accused the two parties of forming militias and armed military wings. That was confirmed by documents and publications predicting a revolution against the republican regime. He stated that Hussein al-Houthi and his father are not a threat but there are conspiracies plotted from outside the country.

The President stressed that he issued an amnesty after Marran events in which cleric Hussein al-Houthi was killed and that he delivered YR 2 million to the sons of Hussein al-Houthi when they came to stay in Sana'a after the death of their father. He approved delivering YR 200 thousand on a monthly basis to



President Saleh

around one hundred of al-Houthi family members.

He called on religious scholars (Ulema) to go to prisons to persuade al-Houthi followers to be good citizens so as to be released upon pledges from their sheikhs. He denied suspension of salaries of teachers working in Sa'ada. However some of them were transferred to different parts of Yemen, which is a one unified country. He emphasized that necessary procedures were taken in Sa'ada to maintain the national unity.

Dr. Rashad al-Alilmi Minister of Interior indicated that the "Faithful Youth", affiliated to slain Hussein al-Houthi, is an armed organization whose cells were formed in 1984 with the aim to promote the regime of imamate and devastate the achievements of September 26 Revolution.

According to the Minister of Interior, the "Faithful Youth" took a number of steps to implement their plans through infiltration into government institutions and the ruling People's General Congress Party and that battles that erupted in Marran and al-Rizmat left 525 deaths and 2780 wounded. The death tolls and injuries included military and security troops, volunteers who backed the government and innocent civilians.

The Minister underscored that after exterminating past and recent rebellions in Sa'ada, insurgents still have a plan to draw battles to the provincial capital of Sa'ada and then to Sana'a to shake national security.

He confirmed the security apparatuses disclosed a coup plan prepared by al-Houthi with the malicious intention to show his entire dominance over government facilities in the capital.

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Abdurrahim Mohsen jailed for alleged charge

By MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, May 12- Abdurrahim Mohsen, an opposition journalist was captured by three armed men and landed Thursday afternoon in the Criminal Investigation Bureau's prison over alleged charges of traffic violations, al-Thawrah daily mentioned in its Friday's issue.

Abdurrahim narrated the story of his capture to Yemen Times by saying: "While I was driving my car at 5 pm last Thursday in al-Asbahi zone to take part in a condolence service at the house of a friend of mine, three armed men came suddenly and took me to the Criminal Investigation Bureau's prison with no reason except that they are given instructions to capture me."

He added that his captors attempted to invent charges that are groundless and far from reality against him, and they threw a wine bottle into his car and



Abdurrahim Mohsen

accused him of being a drunkard.

Meanwhile, officials at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) strongly denounced the malpractices of the security authorities, the illegal imprisonment of journalist Abdurrahim and the fabricated charges they raised against the victim.

Hafidh al-Bakari, YJS Secretary General, told the Yemen Times: "The

way in which Abdurrahim Mohsen was captured was illegal and scandalous, particularly as it was done against a personality of an effective opinion."

For his part, lawyer Jamal al-Ja'abi condemned such practices by police and considered them to be to the contrary of the human values morals. He further said: "Charges filed against Abdurrahim Mohsen are 100% fabricated. Even if he committed traffic violations, only traffic men has the right to fine him. He should not have been arrested by armed people in civilian uniform who drove his car and took him to the CIB."

Before this, Abdurrahim was kidnapped twice and jailed for nearly 75 days in the Political Security's prison over political charges.

A large number of journalists have held a sit-in since last Sunday at the head-office of the YJS in protest against illegal measures and attacks on journalists by security apparatuses.

Police blocks student march

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, May 14- Thousands of Sana'a university students streamed to the streets in protest against the strike of teachers that has been lasting for a more than two months now.

The angry marchers moved from Sana'a University toward the Presidential Palace, but the demonstration turned into confrontations with more than 1500 security forces who were located at the assembly points so as to stop the students from demonstrating. Students were subject to arbitrary attacks and beating by policemen.

The General Union of Yemeni Students (GUYS), organizer of the demonstration, accused the security squads of using arms to disperse protesters and arresting tens of activists.

The statement issued by the Union confirmed that policemen conducted arbitrary and indecent inspections on male and female students.

It added that the demonstration aimed

to put an end to the strike that curbed student's progress and express solidarity with Abdurrahman al-Mauz'e, head of GUYS, Faculty of Dentistry, whose study was suspended for one year for writing a press article last year. Other students said that they are protesting against the disrespectful treatment their teachers are receiving saying that there is no respect for academics in this country.

On the other hand, the National Authority for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) denounced such illegal practices by security forces, which hindered the pace of the demonstration and prevented different media means from covering the event. It also strongly denounced beating and attacking students who are struggling for their rights.

HOOD condemned the arbitrary procedures imposed on Abdurrahman al-Mauz'e concerning his 1-year suspension for writing journalistic articles one year ago.

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Policeman killed in Taiz

Taiz, YT- Policeman Muadh Ali Saif al-Shar'abi, 20, was killed last week in the zone of Taiz Airport.

The victim was a recruit at Taiz Police Department and was shot dead with a bullet lodging to his head, and his corpse was thrown near the Airport Market. The suitcase was filed against anonymous person.

Sources in Taiz mentioned the security authorities conducted thorough investigation and arrested Ahmad Mohammad al-Dhahbani for being suspected of the murder.

Security authorities are still investigating the case to explore the real motives leading to the murder of the soldier.

Court jails suspects of child trafficking

Hajjah, YT- the Preliminary Court sentenced last week 6 suspects of child trafficking to one year in jail. The 6 suspects were charged with trafficking children from Yemen into the neighboring countries.

The verdict issued by the court also stipulated that the 17 seized children who are aged between 7 and 15 years must be handed over to their families after the concerned parties took commitments from the families to not allow their children to leave their homes.

The phenomenon of child trafficking has been of a great concern over the last few days in Yemen, as it sets the government and civil community

organizations interested in child issues in a critical situation.

Rare scores showed that over 30 thousand children were trafficked through the Yemeni borders into neighboring countries in 2003.

Other field studies conducted by the Yemeni Center for Social Studies and Work Research, which is part of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and under of the supervision of the UNICEF expected the number of children trafficked during 2004 to reach 39 thousand.

The majority of victims were trafficked into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through border areas, most important of which is Haradh.

UNCR calls for international help for Yemen

The United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees Affairs in Yemen UNHCR has called the international community to support Yemen to face the mounting influx of African refugees. Abdul-Maleek Aboud, a spokesman for the organization said in remarks published by the almotamar.net website on Thursday that Yemen

receives between 12,000 to 14,000 Somali refugees every year. "In the name of the commission, we ask the international community to offer all kinds of aid to help Yemen to overcome this problem," Aboud said.

He made clear that the UNHCR was also suffering from budgetary shortages, saying that the Yemeni

government was shouldering a big burden in that regard in spite of the economic difficulties the country encounters.

He added that Yemen allows those refugees to enter its territory because of their humanitarian situation, saying that Yemen is good example for other world in its help for refugees.

Heavy rains claim 5 lives

Abyan, YT- Heavy rains ensued by strong torrents led to the death of 4 people and one lost.

An official source at Abyan Governorate told the Yemen Times that heavy rains falling on different districts of the governorate over the past few

days left damage to some farms owned by locals.

He mentioned 4 people were killed in Sabah District and their corpses were found, while search is going on to find the fifth victim that is still missing.

He pointed out the big benefit of

dams that protected a number of districts from such catastrophes caused by rains, as well as the benefit of water stored by dams located in the town of Ahwar. These dams supply plantations and crops with large quantities of water.

Lone female rebel to be tried

Trial of female rebel Ms. Intisar al-Sayyani who was arrested for involvement in plotting for sabotage acts in Sana'a last week, will be facing trial with male complicit when security investigations wrap up

investigations into her case. Al-Sayyani was arrested when authorities stormed an apartment a couple of days ago in Habra, Sana'a, where she and a number of other men were present and seized incitement

leaflets and grenades. According to 26th Sept.net Al-Sayyani was released on bail by the public prosecutor.

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:

Is the case against Abdulraheem Muhsin made up or is it a fair case?

- Made up
- Fair case
- Exaggerated
- I don't know

last edition's question:

Is government's decision to close down religious schools and institutes intended to fight terrorism or an act to limit religious freedom?

An arbitrary to please USA	34%
For the state to gain more control over Islamic groups	26%
Anti terrorism act	25%
Limiting religious freedom	9%
I don't know	6%

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- English language skills.

Applicants must also be Yemeni citizens currently residing and working in Yemen.

Excellent applicants holding bachelor's degrees in any field of study are welcome to apply. Interested individuals should visit AMIDEAST offices for information about studying in the U.S.

To obtain application forms and to receive further details, please visit or contact AMIDEAST at:

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Complete application submissions must include:

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2,000 illegal immigrants arrest in Shabwa

Approximately 2,000 sneakers and illegal residents in coastal areas were arrested during last month by Yemeni coast guards and security forces. According to Saba News Agency 1,900 of them were Somalis, including 520 women and a child, and 90 from Ethiopia and Tanzania, and 90 per cent of them were captured in Shabwah.

Sneakers captured in the last four months approximated 8,900, among them 7,500 Somalis.



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Announcement

The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood
Child Development Project
Project Coordination Unit (PCU) advertise the following post for one year:

Administrative Assistant :

Key Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Provide administrative and secretarial support to the project manager and PCU staff including verbal and written communication, documentation and archiving.
- Ensure highly quality and appropriateness of outgoing correspondence, communications and other related documents / paperwork.
- Maintains general office files.
- Schedule appointments of the project manger and PCU staff .
- Write the minutes of meetings of PCU meetings or other meetings as required by the Manager.

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Closing Date: **2 weeks from the advertising.**

Interested applicants must be Yemeni nationality.

Only people in the short list will be contacted for interview.

Labor, trafficking and violence are their enemies Children draw their concerns

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- May 8- A good number of children, males and females, gathered together on Sunday, May 8, at al-Sab'een Park to show people their concerns and hardships.

The event was organized by Shawtheb Foundation for Children (SFC) and sponsored by the UNICEF Child Fund the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

The event was attended by a host of officials including Jalal Faqirah, Deputy Ministry of Education for the Training Sector, Nour Ba Abbad, Deputy Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor for Care Sector, Mr. Nasim al-Rahman, UNICEF Communication Officer and representatives of the civil community organizations and donors.

At the beginning of the activity, speeches were delivered all of which

underscored the importance of giving children their rights and the risk of maltreating them. Mr. Nasim al-Rahman said it was significant that people rally for the sake of children because "children have no political party to have their voices heard." He revealed shocking figures about child labor in Yemen. "There are over 400 child laborers in Yemen and over 13 million in the Arab world."

Mrs. Maryam Ibrahim, SFC Executive Manager, mentioned that unless we pay attention to children, they would end up as misanthropists.

Then many kids from different social categories including the marginalized and the disabled gave vent to their feelings and perception of violence against them in the world.

In a free discussion between them and a specialist, they expressed their views on violence and child trafficking.

"Violence against children is like what



A handicapped child drawing at the event

is happening in Palestine," one child said. "Child trafficking is to be outside your home and, while your parents are chewing qat, somebody comes and abducts you," another said.

Later, many kids got involved in a workshop making and coloring drawings. "I could not have imagined their inge-

nity in drawing. I am really surprised at the cuteness of their ideas," Mrs. Maryam pointed out.

Children as well as their parents were active and responsive at the initiative which involved many sides such as the Miriad Society, Girl Orphanage, al-Rahmah Orphanage, public schools, street children and the physically handicapped. Everyone contributed their own point of view and parents and attendants were happy.

A next step of this initiative comprises field visits to the provinces of Hodeidah, Hajja, Mahweet and Aden to record statements of trafficked children regarding their experience. The compiled data is to be published in a book.

International Automobile Exhibition at Expo Sana'a

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The automobile market in Yemen has been remarkably thriving in recent days. This has encouraged Apollo Company to organize the 2005 Automobile Exhibition during July 17-22, 2005.

Mr. Omar al-Nihmi, Marketing Manager of the organizing company, said in a statement that the Exhibition was held in 1999-2001 but it did not include automobile shows because of the special conditions of the region at

that time.

He added, "The Exhibition is now complete and promising because of many reasons: the government's banning importation second-hand cars and encouraging modern cars coming through Yemen-based appointed agents. Moreover, there are new companies coming into the Yemeni market which made the competition to please the customer grow fiercer. This is locally. However on the international level, the reason is that many international car manufacturers have announced to

reduce their interests on modern cars in order to open new marketing lines in most of the world's countries."

He further explained: "Yemen is considered a consumer of all car brands. Our company has received many reservations from many car, tyres, and lubricants companies who are interested in participating in this event."

He concluded his statement saying that many companies are still sending their applications to reserve spaces for them at the Exhibition.

Continued from page 1

Saleh: Foreign forces behind Sa'ada clashes

Dr. al-Alimi mentioned that large quantities of machine guns and explosives were seized along with elements who carried out assassination attempts against some political figures and military and security commanders, in addition to demolishing service institutions and facilities. Those elements, who formed 7 terrorist cells, hurled a number of grenades in different places of the capital leaving 26 injured.

The report reviewed by the Cabinet showed that the direct and indirect economic losses exceeded YR 52 billion and that Sa'ada events defamed the reputation of Yemen in the eyes of regional and international investors.

The report reviewed the efforts exerted by the government to eradicate rebellion in Marran. It rehabilitated 22 schools in Haidan and built ten other schools in Marran, in addition to the rehabilitation of electricity, telecommunication and other public service facilities.

According to the report, 532 is the number

of houses affected by the operations while there are many other houses that are still uncounted for which the government had to pay YR 510 million in compensation to civilians.

It is worth mentioning that on the same day of the report premises of the Popular Forces Unionist party in the capital city was overtaken by the security guard and around 50 people of his tribe. They even took head of Shoura council Mr. Rashad Salim as a hostage. Such an act is a direct display of the rule of power over civil means of a democratic state and requires immediate response from the state to ensure its control over the country. Simultaneously it hinders Yemen's reputation more than ever before and raises questions regarding multi-political party system. The two political parties mentioned are not of the strongest in the political arena and relating their work to Sa'ada conflict raises more questions than answers



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Project Coordination Unit (PCU) advertise the following post for one year 2005:

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- Any other tasks as required by the PFO.

Qualifications:

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- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in accounting or auditing.
- A good knowledge of and ability to use the generally accepted accounting principles.
- The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project financial statements and other reports as needed by the CDP's management.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

Those who are interested to apply, please send a copy of your CV along with copies of your certificates to the following address:

Project Manager
Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood
P.O Box: 16939 - Sana'a ROY

Closing Date: 2 weeks from the advertising.

Interested applicants must be Yemeni nationality.

Only people in the short list will be contacted for interview.

HOMSA Annual Charity Bazar**Spectacular Spectacular!!**

BY: EMNA AL-HAIDARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The bazar took place from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Seven hours of continuous delight, learning and socializing. What was this bazar about? Simply compassion, empathy and positive energy directed towards a noble cause by Heads of Missions Spouses Association known as HOMSA. HOMSA organized the Annual Charity Bazar last Thursday at the Police Officers Club under theme "Working for Charity" the annual bazar was inaugurated by Dr. Abu Baker Abdullah Al-Qirby and was attended by a large number of diplomats, and interested people.

Twenty seven missions participated in the bazar, in addition to the local associations active in charity.

Mrs. Susan Ahmed Egyptian's ambassador wife and head of HOMSA this year mentioned that this is the 7th bazar for HOMSA and it is the second activity for this year. Worth mentioning is that this is



the first time for HOMSA's bazar to be inaugurated by Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr-Abu Baker Al-Kerbi. Revenue of this year's charity will be dedicated to two projects: "Hope in their hands" a project that supports the poor Yemeni families headed by women through marketing their handicraft works inside and outside Yemen, and restoring a primary

school in Al-Ahjar in Kawkaban.

Mrs. Patricia Gifford the British ambassador's wife indicated that the bazar gets better and better with expanded activities and all efforts were well organized and cooperated to the success of the charity. Indian ambassador's wife and the team from the Indian embassy contributed with many Indian handicrafts



in the bazar. And Mr. Aref Ali mentioned that Indian embassy participate in HOMSA for the second time and that the embassy gives scholarship grants every year to students studying abroad also in terms of helping the Yemeni society.

Mrs. Dala Palestinian's ambassador's wife indicated that this is the first time for Palestinian embassy to participate in

HOMSA's bazaar. She said that they generally coordinate with AS-Saleh and Al-Rahma association, and they are happy to have taken this additional step. Mrs. Anita Ireland ambassador's wife talked about her pleasant feeling being in the bazaar and her delight with the success of the event and that it gets better and better with time. She added that Yemenis are

cooperative and have a soft corner for charity activities.

Other organizations and agencies were present also such as UNDP. UNDP representative mentioned that the UN agency regularly conducts charity events such as a female workshop to employ women, fund raising for cancer centers, donation to orphans, and supporting al-Sabeen hospital with some equipments.

Mrs. Balqees HOMSA's coordinator, explained about the several activities of the Association, such as a charity lunch earlier this year.

On a final note, I would like to thank HOMSA for doing so much for Yemen. In deed it is a pleasant initiative and shows concern for humanity. I loved being there, and it was an occasion where I saw people of many nationalities and language coming together for one purpose. I heard many different languages and it was amusing to see the various customs and cultures. We met with many diplomatic personalities and they were very kind and supportive. I wish them all the luck and hope that such event is repeated often.




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S.Y.I

Maharaja Food Festival May 2005

It's our pleasure to inform our customers and well wishers that Maharaja Indian Restaurant is celebrating its first anniversary on **May the 20th, 2005**. On this occasion we wish to thank all for their continued patronage extended to us.

In connection with this, a food festival is being organized, commencing from **19th Thursday to 27th Friday** with wide variety of Chinese, North Indian and Kerala cuisine at an incredibly affordable price at Maharaja Indian Restaurant.

Date	Cuisine	Price
19 May	Biriyani Fest	YER 400
20 May	Kerala Sadhya	YER 400
21 May	Dosa Fest	YER 300
22 May	Indian	YER 600
23 May	Chinese	YER 600
24 May	North Indian	YER 600
25 May	Biriyani Fest	YER 400
26 May	Chinese	YER 600
27 May	Indian	YER 600



- Food coupons are available at Maharaja Indian Restaurant or call 561414/561415 for advance booking
- Buffet starts at 11 AM till 11 PM
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Dierickx Isabelle, a tourist guide in Yemen to the Yemen Times:

Seeing Yemen through foreign eyes!

INTERVIEWED BY NADIA AL-SAQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Isabelle, is an architect from Belgium. Since she came to Yemen in 1995 she has fallen in love with Yemen and decided to play the mediator role between her people and Yemen and hence acted as a tour guide for many European tourists. She has been to Yemen over 16 times since 1995, and today she is doing a research for the VRT preparing a documentary on daily life in Yemen.

Q: Why Yemen in the first place?

A: To tell you the truth I never knew that a country called Yemen existed before my attention was drawn to it by my friends who were interested in Yemen in 1992. Since I am an architect, from the pictures I saw, this country was like a dream land because of its beautiful architecture and styles of buildings. They invited me to come with them to Yemen at that time, and since I was very curious about this country, I started to search in books and maps, and was very interested to visit Yemen, however, I was only able to do so three years later.

Q: What was your first impression when you came?

A: My friends had told me about the country and its people so you can say I was given an early warning. It's hard to explain my feelings now after all those years but what I remember was the striking feeling that I had gone back centuries in time. It was like living in the past, but today so many things have changed. That time I noticed how dirty the streets were in the city, however, the rural areas were clean and healthy. It is the opposite today, the cities are much cleaner and all the dirt has moved to the villages, which is very sad. When we traveled around Yemen we got to taste the food and see many places. We liked the food and I am so used to it today. The thing that I loved most about Yemen and many other foreigners agree with me, is the hospitality and friendliness of the people.

Q: Did you find the Yemeni dressing style strange to your eyes?

A: I found it was very strange that women wore black all over. I noticed that during the past ten years the number of women who covered their



Isabel in Manakha-Haraz

“Eastern anger towards the west without discrimination is equally harmful as the accusations of the west to the Muslim world as being terrorists. There has to be a balance and the people of both sides should put more effort to understand each other.”

faces and wear black has increased. I don't mind it, and I keep telling the others not to be judgmental and I don't think that this dressing is a barrier against women working or participating in outdoor activities. I don't think it is a sign of suppression the same way I don't think the Jambia (dagger worn by Yemeni men around the waist) is a sign of violence. It's cultural. But I do have a problem with the guns and rifles many Yemeni men carry around. I think it is dangerous and sometimes stupid because it could lead to hurting people. In many of the tours we take around Yemen, the driver or the tour guide wants to impress us by showing how well he can aim and shoots at some target, but I dislike it and I ask them to stop. I think in 1995 weapons were spread much more in the country than they are today, and that is definitely progress.

Q: Was Yemen anything like

what you have read about in western media?

A: Actually there is a lot of misjudgments and misconceptions. Most of the information the west has on Yemen is outdated and misleading. However I can't say much about the political news or writings because there are things about Yemen that I still don't know about and they may be right. Yet overall I think Yemen deserves better publicity than it gets. Once I wrote a four page letter to a newspaper in Belgium that had written about Yemen and stated facts that were no longer true, asking them to update their sources. There used to be things written about kidnappings that used to happen in the last century and I thought they were true, they say Yemen is not a safe place to visit. I found out that it is all right to visit Yemen in some places but not in others, I know that there are areas I should not go to.

The number of the redline places have decreased these days, for example, I couldn't go to al-Jawf in 1995 but I can today.

Q: What is the impression that people in Europe have about Yemen?

A: I can't tell you about all the people there, but many of them whom I met were shocked when I told them I want to go to Yemen. They thought I was crazy, but when I come back I show them pictures and tell them stories and they change their point of view to some extent, but there are those who don't want to change their conceptions no matter what you tell them. Yemen has changed through the years and I am sure the attitude towards Yemen will also change with more communication.

However, I want to say something about how Yemenis perceive the west. They think that whatever they see on TV and in movies applies to everyone, especially with regards to social relations and sexual affairs. That is not true, we have our social traditions and we are conservative to an extent and is not like how it is portrayed in the media. Of course this is variable between America and Europe and also among European countries but still there is misleading information. Politically, we are not always portrayed through the news and the Eastern anger towards the west without discrimination as equally harmful as the accusations of the west to the Muslim world as being terrorists. There has to be a balance and the people of both sides should put more effort to understand each other.

Q: What do you love most about Yemen?

A: The nature. It combines between all geographical terrains in the world; there is the sea and the desert, the mountains and the valleys all in one country. Also some times you find all seasons of the year in the same day. It is really exotic. I love tracking in the mountains, and Yemen provides the best tracking environment and has excellent mountains.

Q: Have you seen change since you first came in 1995?

A: Definitely, there have been changes in the infrastructure, and many new buildings have been constructed in the last 10 years. The capital city has become cleaner but unfortunately the suburbs are dirtier.

I saw that the number of women wearing veils have increased while the number of men carrying guns have decreased. The numbers of schools in the countryside has increased tremendously and I wonder if education has also improved. But goods are much more expensive today than they were 10 years ago and the people are poorer. They are relatively more depressed today because of the economic factors especially with the latest news of price hikes.

Q: What is your future vision of the country?

A: I am very concerned about the unemployment especially among the youth. I have seen that more schools and educational establishments are there but what happens to the graduates once they complete their education? It is very dangerous for the youth to be idle with the increasing economic and social pressures. There is so much potential in this country but the Yemenis must understand that they have to work for their country in order to improve the conditions. I think that Qat is one

of the main reasons why Yemenis are not able to advance as quickly as they could. Democracy in Yemen is very recent, it won its freedom around 1962 and 1963, so, it is still struggling, but my fear is that the efforts made by the people are not sufficient to improve their lives. For example you go to a bank in Belgium and the people are working very hard and very busy all the time, here I saw people in the bank coming late, playing cards on the computer or chatting together and not doing their work. Another thing is that the mentality here is very typical and although people are changing because of exposure, the change is slow.

Economy of this country will not improve unless focus is shifted from the oil sector to the non-oil sector such as tourism, agriculture and fishery. There is so much potential to grow. Good management and efficient strategies and action plans should be sufficient to achieve the desired objectives. People have to be open for change and ready for it to happen.

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Country Reports on Terrorism

RELEASED BY THE OFFICE OF THE
COORDINATOR FOR
COUNTERTERRORISM

Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs)

Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) are foreign organizations that are designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended. FTO designations play a critical role in our fight against terrorism and are an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities and pressuring groups to get out of the terrorism business.

Identification

The Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism in the State Department (S/CT) continually monitors the activities of terrorist groups active around the world to identify potential targets for designation. When reviewing potential targets, S/CT looks not only at the actual terrorist attacks that a group has carried out, but also at whether the group has engaged in planning and preparations for possible future acts of terrorism or retains

the capability and intent to carry out such acts.

Designation

Once a target is identified, S/CT prepares a detailed "administrative record," which is a compilation of information, typically including both classified and open sources information, demonstrating that the statutory criteria for designation have been satisfied. If the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, decides to make the designation, Congress is notified of the Secretary's intent to designate the organization and given seven days to review the designation, as the INA requires. Upon the expiration of the seven-day waiting period and in the absence of Congressional action to block the designation, notice of the designation is published in the *Federal Register*, at which point the designation takes effect. By law an organization designated as an FTO may seek judicial review of the designation in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit not later than 30 days after the designation is published

in the *Federal Register*.

Until recently the INA provided that FTOs must be redesignated every two years or the designation would lapse. Under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), however, the redesignation requirement was replaced by certain review and revocation procedures. IRTPA provides that an FTO may file a petition for revocation 2 years after its designation date (or in the case of redesignated FTOs, its most recent redesignation date) or 2 years after the determination date on its most recent petition for revocation. In order to provide a basis for revocation, the petitioning FTO must provide evidence that the circumstances forming the basis for the designation are sufficiently different as to warrant revocation. If no such review has been conducted during a five year period with respect to a designation, then the Secretary of State is required to review the designation to determine whether revocation would be appropriate. In addition, the Secretary of State may at any time revoke a designation upon a finding that the circumstances forming the basis for the designation have changed

in such a manner as to warrant revocation, or that the national security of the United States warrants a revocation. The same procedural requirements apply to revocations made by the Secretary of State as apply to designations. A designation may be revoked by an Act of Congress, or set aside by a Court order.

Legal Criteria for Designation under Section 219 of the INA as amended

1. It must be a *foreign organization*.
2. The organization must *engage in terrorist activity*, as defined in section 212 (a)(3)(B) of the INA (8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)),* or *terrorism*, as defined in section 140(d)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. § 2656f(d)(2)),** or *retain the capability and intent to engage in terrorist activity or terrorism*.
3. The organization's terrorist activity or terrorism must threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security (national defense, foreign relations, or the economic interests) of the United States.

Legal Ramifications of Designation

1. It is unlawful for a person in the United States or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to knowingly provide "material support or resources" to a designated FTO. (The term "material support or resources" is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2339A(b)(1) as "any property, tangible or intangible, or service, including currency or monetary instruments or financial securities, financial services, lodging, training, expert advice or assistance, safe-houses, false documentation or identification, communications equipment, facilities, weapons, lethal substances, explosives, personnel (1 or more individuals who maybe or include oneself), and transportation, except medicine or religious materials." 18 U.S.C. § 2339A(b)(2) provides that for these purposes "the term 'training' means instruction or teaching designed to impart a specific skill, as opposed to general knowledge." 18 U.S.C. § 2339A(b)(3) further provides that for these purposes the term 'expert advice or assistance' means advice or assistance derived from scientific, technical or other specialized knowledge."

2. Representatives and members of a

designated FTO, if they are aliens, are inadmissible to and, in certain circumstances, removable from the United States (see 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182 (a)(3)(B)(i)(IV)-(V), 1227 (a)(1)(A)).

3. Any U.S. financial institution that becomes aware that it has possession of or control over funds in which a designated FTO or its agent has an interest must retain possession of or control over the funds and report the funds to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

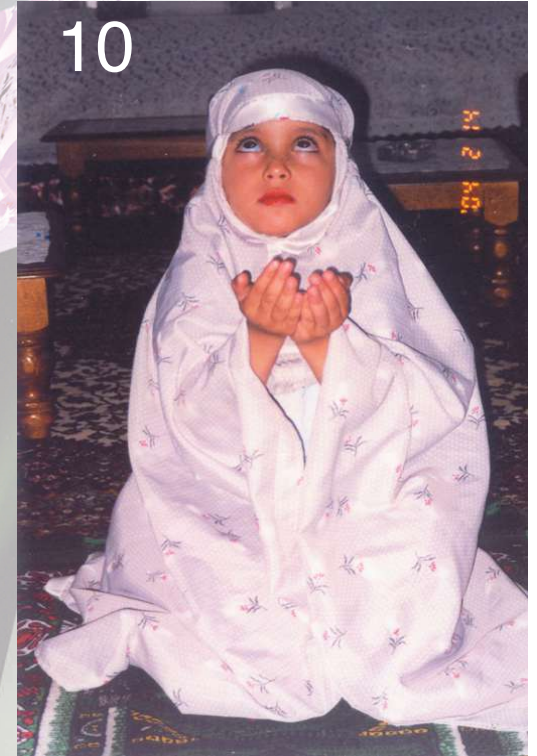
Other Effects of Designation

1. Supports our efforts to curb terrorism financing and to encourage other nations to do the same.
2. Stigmatizes and isolates designated terrorist organizations internationally.
3. Deters donations or contributions to and economic transactions with named organizations.
4. Heightens public awareness and knowledge of terrorist organizations.
5. Signals to other governments our concern about named organizations.

To be continued next issue



مسابقة أجمل صورة أسماء الفائزين



رقم الجائزة	اسم الفائز	رقم الصورة	الجائزة
١	؟	؟	سيارة، مقدمة من: صحيفة يمن تايمز، مؤسسة الحارثي التجارية، شركة CCC
٢	؟	؟	جهاز كمبيوتر NEC شاشة مسطحة + طابعة + إسكان. مقدم من الشركة اليمنية للتجارة والإنشاءات المحدودة TOSHIBA
٣	؟	؟	جهاز كمبيوتر NEC شاشة عادية + طابعة + إسكان مقدم من الشركة اليمنية للتجارة والإنشاءات المحدودة TOSHIBA
٤	وفاء ميخوت شاهر الحباري	١٤٤٦	طباخة جليم غاز خمس شعل مذهب فول سفتي، مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
٥	عبد الرحمن أحمد علي قايد	٤٤٧	ثلاجة بابين بخار ٢٠١ لتر بخار مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
٦	إشراق نعمان محسن محمد	٧٨١	ثلاجة بابين بخار ٢٠١ لتر بخار مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
٧	زيد علي علي عقيدة	٥٦	كناسة إيطالي ٣٠٠ وات ديلونجي DeLonghi مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
٨	نعمان عبد الله حيدر الأصبحي	٣٠٠	كناسة إيطالي ١٣٠٠ وات ديلونجي DeLonghi مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
٩	وداد عوض محد باضوار	٥٨	كناسة إيطالي ١٣٠٠ وات ديلونجي DeLonghi مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
١٠	هناء محمد حمود السنحاني	٩٣١	عصارة قفص زجاج ديلونجي DeLonghi مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
١١	محمد سعيد نعمان العبسي	٣٩	تلفون الكاتل، مقدم من مؤسسة مام
١٢	أسماء أحمد صالح العبيدي	١٣٩	تلفون الكاتل، مقدم من مؤسسة مام
١٣	خالد طارق فازع الحمادي	٩١٢	تلفون الكاتل، مقدم من مؤسسة مام
١٤	مكرد محمد مكرد السروري	٢٨٧	تلفون الكاتل، مقدم من مؤسسة مام
١٥	علي عبد الصمد محمد	٥٠٩	تلفون الكاتل، مقدم من شركة مام

إحرصوا على متابعة عدد يوم
الإثنين القادم لمعرفة الفائزين
بالجوائز الثلاث الأولى
بالإضافة إلى موعد
تسليم الجوائز





Nine U.S. troops, 100 rebels killed in Iraq assault

BAGHDAD, May 14 (Reuters) - Nine American troops have been killed in an offensive against insurgents and militants in Iraq's most rebellious province, the U.S. military said on Saturday.

Four of those were killed on Wednesday when their assault amphibian vehicle hit an explosive device, the military said.

Backed by aircraft, U.S. Marines, sailors and soldiers launched Operation Matador one week ago in a bid to root out insurgents and militants from the western Anbar province.

The U.S. military estimated about 100 guerrillas were killed in the assault.

Based mostly in Anbar, insurgents have stepped up suicide bombings and other attacks since Iraq announced its new government on April 28, killing more than 400 people.

The Anbar offensive is focused on an area near the Euphrates north and west of the town of Qaim, close to the Syrian border, which Iraqi officials say is used by insurgents to cross over into Iraq and carry out attacks.



Protesters hold an anti-U.S. demonstration in the western Iraqi town of Ramadi May 12, 2005. The demonstration was called to protest an attack by a U.S. military helicopter which injured several civilians, witnesses said. Picture taken May 12. REUTERS

Damascus denies Iraqi accusations that it allows guerrillas to enter Iraq from its border.

Marines launched several air strikes on targets on Friday, including a "terrorist" safe house, the military said.

A second air raid targeted insurgents manning a vehicle checkpoint.

The U.S. military said Marines in Qaim witnessed clashes between rival guerrilla groups.

That could not be independently confirmed. But officials in Anbar say militant followers of al Qaeda's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, have been clashing with tribal groups.

Lebanon speaker rejects Christian demands on poll law

BEIRUT, May 14 (Reuters) - With two weeks left until the start of general elections, Lebanon's parliament speaker said on Saturday it was too late to change electoral rules Christians complain will favour Muslims at the ballot box.

"After the elections have been called parliament takes on a caretaker role.

For me, any amendment to the law or new election law falls outside this," said Nabih Berri, a Shi'ite Muslim with close ties to Syria, who is well-served by the existing law.

"The results are coming soon, how can we go back and ruin the whole process from start to finish?"

Lebanon's anti-Syrian opposition is unravelling along sectarian lines as the first polls without a direct Syrian presence for 33 years approach. Christian leaders, opposed to Syria, have slammed the existing electoral law, designed in 2000 to help Syria's allies win seats in a house they now dominate.

With Syria ending its 29-year military and intelligence presence last month, even some Christian loyalists have turned against the law, which carves the country into a mixture of smaller and larger electoral districts.

Influential Christian bishops say the law puts their community at a disadvantage in large voting areas dominated by Muslims and want small constituencies they say are fairer.

Some Christian politicians have suggested polls be delayed so a new law can be adopted.

Prime Minister Najib Mikati vowed



An opposition member delivers a speech to Wael Abou Faour (L) and Walid Eido during an opposition members' meeting held in Beirut May 12. REUTERS

on Friday that the polls would go ahead on time under the 2000 law, but tried to allay Christian concerns by suggesting some constituencies be amended.

But Berri said carving the country up into small districts contravened the Taif Accord that ended the 1975-1990 civil war.

The Taif Accord divides parliament's 128 seats in half between Muslims and Christians but stipulates large constituencies.

"It will not advance Lebanon at all but will only give us 19 sectarian states or statelets," Berri told reporters after declaring two joint lists with Shi'ite

Hizbollah for the south. "If the 2000 law is sick then the small districts are death."

The registration deadline for the first round of elections in Beirut passed at midnight on Friday, with 51 candidates signed up to contest 19 seats.

The anti-Syrian opposition is almost certain to sweep polls in the capital on May 29, on a ticket led by Saad al-Hariri.

It was the Feb. 14 assassination of his father, former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, which prompted the anti-Syrian protests and intense world pressure that finally forced Syria to go.

Some Christian politicians, who lacked the parliamentary weight to reject the 2000 law, have even raised the possibility of a Christian boycott unless the rules are changed.

Even President Emile Lahoud, a Maronite loyal to Syria, opposes the law and urged Berri to call a parliament session to discuss other possible formulations.

But Berri, whose joint ticket with Hizbollah guerrillas is likely to win all 23 seats in the south, has refused to allow a vote on any other law.

More than 20 election observers arrived in Lebanon on Saturday, amid world pressure to hold the elections on time.

On Friday, chief European Union observer Jose Salafranca landed in Lebanon, where he will head a 100-strong team.

Nine rebels killed in southeast Turkey: officials

TUNCELI, Turkey, May 14 (Reuters) - Turkish soldiers killed nine Kurdish rebels, two of them women, in an anti-rebel operation involving some 10,000 troops in eastern Turkey overnight, military officials said on Saturday.

"Nine terrorists were killed last night in the village of Yaylagunu ... in Tunceli province," one official told Reuters.

The troops, backed up by helicopters, have been combing a wide, mountainous region for rebels for the past five days.

Three soldiers were killed and four

wounded on Friday in the nearby province of Bingol in an ambush by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas.

The operation has coincided with a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in the French city of Strasbourg which said the 1999 treason trial of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan was unfair.

Thursday's verdict puts pressure on Turkey to retry Ocalan, who was jailed for life for leading a separatist revolt in

which more than 30,000 people were killed.

The PKK launched its armed campaign for an ethnic homeland in southeast Turkey in 1984. The violence dwindled after Ocalan's capture but the number of clashes has increased since the group called off a unilateral ceasefire last June.

Local officials in Tunceli told Reuters troops had captured a large cache of rebel weapons and explosive materials during their latest operation.

Iran's former TV chief registers presidency bid

TEHRAN, May 14 (Reuters) - The official conservative candidate in Iran's presidential race registered for the June 17 election on Saturday, but polls suggest he trails a powerful former president and a popular ex-chief of police.

Ali Larijani, 51, among the last candidates to sign up, is a close adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He stepped down as head of state radio and television last year, where reformists accused him of bias against them and excessive religious programming.

"We should not go backwards, we should look forwards and build the future with fresh young faces," he said, in clear reference to 70-year-old former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who currently leads the polls.

Larijani has condemned Iran's concessions in nuclear talks with the European Union as "trading a pearl for a candy bar". Iran last year suspended making atomic fuel in a bid to reassure the world it was not seeking nuclear warheads.

Rafsanjani, on the other hand, is viewed by political analysts as the sort of pragmatic conservative who could favour striking a permanent settlement on nuclear energy.

Tehran says its nuclear work is purely to meet soaring electricity demand.

According to the latest polls, Larijani also lags behind Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, a moderate conservative and former chief-of-police who gained a following among the young by telling his forces not to interfere in people's private lives.



Ali Larijani, former Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) waves to journalists before registering as a presidential candidate at the Interior Ministry in Tehran May 14. REUTERS

Saturday was the final day for registration. One hour before the Interior Ministry shut its doors to aspiring presidents, state media said 770 Iranians had thrown their hats into the ring. But most will be barred from standing.

Iraqi-born Larijani hails from a major political clan. A group of hardline parties had nominated him as the "official" candidate to prevent a split in the conservative vote.

But the strategy failed and many conservatives decided to go it alone.

Goodbye Khatami

Despite the risk of splitting the vote, conservatives are still tipped to regain the presidency in the oil-rich Islamic state owing to widespread disappointment with liberal President Mohammad Khatami's failure to drive through reforms.

Other politicians who signed up included Ebrahim Yazdi, a leading dis-

sident who argues that state and religion should be kept separate. He wore a tie — a pro-western statement that annoys officials.

Yazdi was a liberal politician who was Iran's foreign minister directly after the 1979 Islamic revolution. However, he and his allies were quickly pushed aside by hardliners.

Yazdi's candidacy is likely to be blocked by the 12-man Guardian Council, Iran's constitutional watchdog.

The council is also likely to block the candidacy of a 19-year-old boy who turned up to register wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a picture of the South American revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Other presidential hopefuls include former commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Guard Mohsen Rezaei and mayor of Tehran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, both from the conservative camp.

Iraq bomb kills US soldier, 8 Iraqis shot in clash

BAGHDAD, May 14 (Reuters) - A car bomb killed a U.S. soldier in Iraq and U.S. troops shot dead eight Iraqis, including five civilians, during an attack on a patrol, the American military said.

The soldier was killed and four others were wounded when a car bomb exploded on Friday near their patrol near Baiji, about 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement.

At least 1,238 U.S. military and Pentagon personnel have been killed in

action in Iraq through Friday since the start of the 2003 invasion, according to Pentagon figures.

U.S. troops killed three insurgents who fired on their convoy after trying to ram it on Friday in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, the military said.

The soldiers then opened fire on two cars that approached the patrol and appeared to be hostile, killing five civilians, the military said. The incident is under investigation.

Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation
Support to Program Development, Oversight and Coordination (SUPDOC) YEM/ 02/004.
Aid Harmonization & Alignment Unit

Employment Opportunities

- 1- Program Assistants (2 posts- Male & Female)
- 2- Bilingual Secretary (1 post- Female)

The project (Aid Harmonization & Alignment Unit , UNDP funded) announces the above 3 immediate vacancy posts being available at the unit in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Sana'a .

Qualifications required for the Program Assistants:

- 1- Have at least five years of relevant experience in international cooperation and development aid
- 2- Past, preferably with international agency.
- 3- Maintain inter-personal and inter-communication skills.
- 4- Maintain excellent command of verbal and written professional Arabic and English.
- 5- Commit to team work and team spirit, discipline and work in multi-cultural environment.
- 6- Have flexibility to absorb ad hoc tasks and work under pressure.
- 7- Have computer aptitude and proficiency with Internet including ability to retrieve information from various sources.

Duties & responsibilities:

- 1- Provide primarily assistance to the implementation of the Unit's work program dealing with donor aid harmonization and alignment and donor relations and aid policy including some specialized support, I.E. database management, editorial support, etc.
- 2- Independently prepare correspondence and working documents and proofread materials using proper grammar, punctuation and style in Arabic and English.
- 3- Use computer applications for processing and formatting variety of texts including charts, graphs and spreadsheets.
- 4- Coordinate schedules and assist in preparation of events and activities.
- 5- Interact with different clients including government officials, external organizations and internal institutional units.

Qualifications required for the Bilingual Secretary:

- 1- University certificate and secretarial diploma in related field
- 2- Excellent working knowledge of English and Arabic
- 3- Competent in using computer and relevant supporting software
- 4- At least 3 years experience in handling administrative works
- 5- Creativity, enthusiasm, a friendly personality, and ability to work under pressure will be valued characteristics.

Duties & responsibilities:

- 1- All administrative assistant tasks needed for more efficient management by the unit team
- 2- Secretarial tasks including devising and maintaining a computerized system of record keeping and communications.
- 3- Experience in operating and keeping office and telecommunications equipments
- 4- Co-ordination of management work of the unit team
- 5- Assistance in liaison with Government, NGOs and international organizations and projects.
- 6- Assist in translating (A/E).
- 7- Any other duties assigned from the head of unit and the on text of secretarial and unit management.

Interested applicants should submit their applications specifying the post accompanied by the CV and supporting documentations and certificates within two weeks from the date of this advertisement to the following address:

Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation
Poverty Monitoring Central Unit
C/O Administrative Assistant
Fax:01-250606
P.O. Box: 175.Hurriyat St.
R.O.Y, Sana'a.

Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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



OUR OPINION

Seeing Yemen through foreign eyes

Obtaining an objective point of view about ones country is quite hard especially if day to day life keeps you busy struggling to survive. What's very interesting is to hear opinions about your country and where it is heading from someone who is relatively detached and defiantly not living here. Yemenis abroad are a good source of information especially that they combine between both cultures, as they understand Yemen, and in the same time avail experience from modern systems and progress mechanisms in developed countries. Another good source is foreigners who visit Yemen regularly like once every two or three years and therefore are able to notice the difference.

One common comment I often hear is that Yemeni people have become more frustrated and depressed. That prices have gone up dramatically and that there are many more cars and people than were a few years ago. A very interesting comment that I heard recently was that Yemenis today spend much more time watching TV than they used to.

If only there is some authority whose responsibility to gather those comments, analyze them and study their causes. To predict and forecast future of the generations and take action in advance. This is called planning ahead, something that is not in the vocabulary of the Yemeni people and is defiantly not in the agenda of the authorities. In advanced countries where the governments care for its people, there are certain institutions that nurture talents through carefully selecting youth and training them to take responsibility in the future. Building the second and third lines from the generations to come, because tomorrow has to be prepared for, as tomorrow needs no more of people today. Unfortunately there is no second or third lines in Yemen and the current and future generations are living in worse conditions than their parents'. In fact the youth today have trouble in their identity and in knowing their goals in life. This gives a chance to manipulate their minds by internal politics or external cultures leaving the Yemeni society fragile and vulnerable.

There needs to be an awakening through civil means so as to rescue what could be rescued of the youth. Build their capacities and prepare them for the future and to take charge of the country in the coming phases and to know what they are doing when they take charge. If we don't prepare this nation for what is coming it will take us off guard and it would be very ugly. No one can stop time from progressing but you one be ready when it's time for change.

Editor



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

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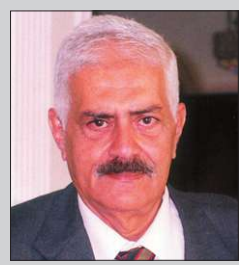
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Difficult equation

Avoiding devastation by peaceful power transfer

What can we expect from a region whose government suppresses public liberties, administratively cancels citizenships and practices political blackmailing. Their elections reproduce ruling elite.



By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

The recent report on Arab World's development, focusing this time on freedom, has presented a view on facts of governance and life in the Arab area. It has no defect but it's not clearly prescribing a potion to escape our predicament and dilemma. Such a solution could not have been by putting the full responsibility on the governments or the public. However, following diagnosis, the elites can set up the "salvation" agendas to avert the looming devastation. This depends on a difficult equation revolving around peaceful and thorough transfers of power. The following are the most important freedom-related topics set forth by the report:

- Partial reform is no longer sufficient however wide it is. Indeed, it has become impossible.
- Politically, managing human development has the severest effect on the rising opportunities.
- Continued Israeli occupation, Iraq's occupation and strong terrorism trends have dire consequences on human development in the Arab World.
- Israel has kept on violating freedom, public and personal liberties of the Palestinians. It has accelerated its policy to demolish houses and bulldozing properties.
- Under occupation and poor state of security in Iraq, Iraqi lives have been subject to death. Thousands of Iraqis, most of whom are civilians, are arrested, tortured, inhumanely and immorally treated. That flagrantly violated Geneva Conventions.
- Some of the reforms are real and promising but all of them do not address

the liberty-suppressing atmosphere.

- The Arab area which is the worst in terms of dealing with journalists was described by Reporters Sans Borders' Report as "The Second Largest Prison in the World."
- Freedom, especially the freedom of expression and creation are facing many forms of oppression in most Arab states.
- Elections did not serve their purpose as a way for participation and power transfer. They reproduced the same ruling classes in most cases.
- The most atrocious measure against citizenship is the possibility to cancel an Arab national's citizenship. Some Arab legislatures tend to adopt such an administrative measure. Qatar has recently cancelled the citizenship of some 6 thousand nationals because of tribal and inter-Arab disputes.
- Women in general complain of lack of equality with men and discrimination against them in law and in reality.
- The respondents in the freedom survey showed a relatively higher level of personal liberty and relatively appreciated their enjoyment of public liberties especially those pertaining to good governance.
- Until recently, international forces turned a blind eye to human rights violations in the Arab World as long as the concerned countries do not threaten their interests (oil and Israeli security).
- The issue of freedom is not backed by Arab political movements with broad public bases that struggle for its sake.
- Of the essential tenets of Islam, which are absent in today's world, are the establishment of good governance and achievement of justice and equality as well as ensuring freedom, nation's right to appoint and dismiss rulers, and all private and public rights of non-Muslims.
- Constitutions authorize ordinary legislations to regulate freedom and rights.

Most often, ordinary legislations tend to restrict rights and sometimes confiscate them under the pretext of regulation.

- Regulating the freedom of expression, the Arab legislators prefer security and public interest to the values of freedom, plurality, democracy and human rights.
- Taking into account the fact that the allotments for the judicial system is in the hand of the Executive Authority which intervenes in appointing judges, moving them, and dismissing them as well as the moral and financial privileges given to judges, all this undermines the autonomy of the judiciary in the Arab World.
- The common feature among the regimes is the concentration of power in the tip of the executive pyramid.
- There is what we may call the legitimacy of Arab blackmailing. Governments consider themselves the last defense line against the surge of extremist totalitarianism, chaos and State's collapse.
- Political parties are marginalized and the political process is not trusted.
- Presence of structural faults which can not be removed only through radical reforms of basic structure.
- Prolonging the current situation (development deficiency along with internal tyranny and external invasion) may lead up to a wider social conflict in the Arab World.
- The way to avert the looming devastation is the peaceful transfer of power through a historical process taken up by reform-supporters inside and outside the government. This should be aimed at enhancing freedom, rights and reforming constitutions and legislations related to the practice of political rights. The principle of equality in citizenship should be applied to all elements composing the social fabric in the country. This is the difficult equation as might be seen by anyone realizing the fact and desiring to reform things.

The above were the headlines of the crisis; do we have the solutions to them?

United Yemen: A Recent History (2)

By IBRAHIM HASAN MOHAMMED

After the South Yemeni civil war of January 1986, the economic situation deteriorated, and the changes in Moscow also left their impact; so voices began to rise arguing for political and economical relax and policies.

Hawks within the military and security system opposed any change. The party leadership have by far left behind the mid-level leadership and cadres, to the extent that the party organization in a country-side community issued an internal document condemning the Secretary General of the Soviet Union, Gorbachov, as a revisionist and a traitor of Marxism, calling for a high position against him.

While the ideology fanatics were following developments at Moscow stage unaware of the internal economic strains facing the country, the Politburo was watching the up-coming disaster. The anti-reform faction within the Politburo party was weak and had limited influence.

In North Yemen the conditions weren't better; the Islamists and conservative tribal sheikhs were watching cheerfully the breakdown of the Soviet Union and some other Socialist countries, they continued to consider the regime in the South as even more Marxist than Moscow.

In North Yemen, although the economy was relatively better, the situation had its own weaknesses such as corruption

and fragility. Despite this, Sana'a was capable of developing initiatives towards while the later confined itself to receiving only.

The first meeting between Ali Abdulla Saleh and his counterpart in Aden, Ali Salem al Bydh took place at Taiz, April 1988, and was followed by a second in the following month in Sana'a. It was clear that Al Bydh was somewhat uneasy after a wide range of the party cadres, especially in the military, became aware of the internal difficulties in general, especially on the economic side...There were indicators of a looming brewing crisis similar to that of 13th January 1986.

I remember that Fadhil Mohsen Abdulla, who was then heading the Economic Department at the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Party was very agonized because of the unawareness about the looming crisis and ideologist outbidding arguments which were no more justified. He said that he will stay at his home in case any internal fighting erupted. Fadhil was one of the main minds behind economical reforms since 1987.

At the same time there were reports of movements by Islamists and their allies who were against any unity with the 'infidel south'. The security forces seized several water-tank trailers full of explosives in Sana'a. President Saleh felt that an armed Islamist opposition is organizing itself, and might take the form of armed conflict.

The only option for President Saleh and his counterpart Al Bydh was to speed

up moves towards unity; each of them had his fears and enough internal justifications for 'burning the phases' and jumping forward in order to avoid any bloody breakdown in the two parts of Yemen. In addition to that the international factors were favorable towards unity.

Moscow had in 1988 advised Aden firmly during the visit by the Deputy Secretary General of the Party of South Yemen that unity with the north was inevitable. Moscow by then had its own cracks, and South Yemen was no more within its agenda, nor was it able to continue providing its support as before.

On the other hand, President Saleh had secured the approval of the U.S.A. as a move of containment of communism in this part of the Arabia. In addition to that a pro-Sana'a Arab President endorsed unity with the South. It was reported that his advice was: "Unite with them, then accuse them".

The moves towards unity were accelerated: Several meetings were held at Sana'a, Aden and Ebb. President Saleh was disposed towards a gradual unity that starts with the merge of Defense, Interior Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Education, Information and Public Works. In Aden, Al Bydh was with full and direct merger, supported by Salem Saleh Moh'd and Mohammed Saeed Abdulla (Mohsen), while others such as Haider al Attas, Yassin Saeed Noa'man and Saeed Saleh weren't more towards gradual unity.

(To be continued)



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Thank you, Mr. President, but... Is it really over?

One cannot say how appreciative the observer is to hear that there are signs that the uncalled for war in the deprived Governorate of Sa'ada is coming to an end. Yet, with Mr. Al-Houthi having so many children and the military brass in the area and the Governor of Sa'ada being so trigger happy, we hope that with the quietly mentioned pardon, the President of the Republic has kindly taken the time to issue for the Scholar Badr-Aldin Al-Houthi, those trigger happy merchants of war can sit back and enjoy their take from two ugly moments in the tested history of modern Yemen.

We believe that the revered Scholar Badr-Aldin Al-Houthi was sincere in his candid letter to HE the President declaring that he and his followers had absolutely no intention of creating any insurrection and that there has been a deliberate attempt to create havoc in the region, so some of the evil interests in the land can carry out the kind of adventures that will fill their coffers or serve some evil renditions of Islam for which Mr. Al-Houthi was able to hold back from spreading its poisonous venom in the innocent land of Sa'ada, and to corrupt its highly moral communities, who are steadfast in their moral convictions and their simple but dignified understanding of Islam that sees the religion of Islam as a religion of peace and high morals.

This observer has discussed the Sa'ada problem with a number of enlightened officials and non-officials, with a fairly proper understanding of the Yemeni situation. There is a strong consensus among all these loyal but conscientious dignitaries that indeed the Governor of Sa'ada and whoever he is trying to serve to advance his political arithmetic could have acted more responsibly and patiently in handling the issues involved in the Houthi crisis, in both of its renditions. Moreover, the Government should have noticed that executive authority in Sa'ada was lacking a sense of national responsibility and accordingly should have sought an alternative to "letting things work out" or else "see where all this will lead to". To put it bluntly, the Governor of Sa'ada has over exceeded his authority by declaring war on the constituency he was supposed to serve and give them a sense of feeling that someone in the Government House of Sa'ada really cares about them and does not want to see their bodies burned and dragged around to emphasize an ugly aura of hatred that hangs over the Governor's mansion in Sa'ada. Really, the people of Sa'ada did not deserve such amassment of military hardware and sectarian hatred, which was inflamed to serve the venomous evil intentions of a few politicians, who are failures in their capacity to serve their country in the proper dignified manner expected of officials. Maybe the Government should also exercise a higher degree of selectivity when deciding to assign the high officials that are responsible for the welfare of whole regions in the country. Such people ought to be better qualified than just to respond to political inclinations that may serve a narrow interest for awhile, while the national interest is thrown out the window.

What happened in Sana'a was unforgivable by any means, because of the ugly spillover that filtered down to as far as Yarim and threatened to ignite a sectarian strife that Yemen could do well without, when considering the pathetic economic state of the nation and the awesome deficiencies in the management of just about every facet of the country's affairs.

There is still a lot more required than just a pardon for the unfortunate Mr. Houthi, who has lost half his offspring and remarkably still managed to maintain his high scholarly stature and not get on the brink of insanity after so much undeserved suffering. There are thousands of Yemenis imprisoned by their very own government which is supposed to uphold their right to be free to worship Allah as they see fit and in the manner they have been doing for over a thousand years. It was not from Sa'ada that the attackers of the USS Cole or the World Trade Center came from. On the contrary, the people of Sa'ada with their puritan and innocent renditions of Islam would be the first to denounce and abhor such ugly renditions of Islam, if we are to believe that those behind these unfortunate incidents had anything to do with Islam or were serving the interests of Islam. These prisoners are also due a pardon and a chance to live in peace with their families, especially as they have not been charged with anything that deserves all the mayhem that evolved out of the ugly war in Sa'ada Governorate.

The observer is also saddened by the fact that many young innocent soldiers and security personnel lost their lives, while carrying out their duty. The officials who mismanaged the Sa'ada affair are responsible somewhat for their unfortunate deaths and injuries as well and they deserve to be remembered and compensated accordingly. The people of Sa'ada have no grudges against them whatsoever, for the people of Sa'ada are truly a God fearing people, who are guided by conscientiousness and high morals and know that our boys in Sa'ada had no intentions to harm them, but orders are orders!

If one thing is to be learned from the sad events of the last year or so in our deprived northern Governorate of Sa'ada, it is that the officials in the Governorate of Sa'ada have not learned that the world has truly taken a different course than whatever it is they were envisaging in their minds. The world is seeking to expand the chance of people to become free to plot out their destinies and look at the Heavens in their own perceptive ways. We cannot let the evil die hard in our society continue to spread their hate filled convictions amongst our peace loving and proud people, who cherish nothing more than to worship God in their own peaceful ways.

Letters to the Editors

Comment on Editorial "The Patriot"

The thing to remember about The Patriot and Braveheart is that they are inaccurate - facts are more important than braveness or love for one's country. Realism wins over nationalism any day. Otherwise, keep up the good work Yemen Times!

Stephen Bailey
sbailey@worldgroup.co.uk

Information about Yemen needed

I am very much impressed with the Yemen Times and its reviews. I am an independent documentary film maker and researcher in cultural subjects from India. My documentaries are nationally and internationally acclaimed.

The main reason for writing this letter is to get sup-

port and advice for my research project about Yemen. It is noticed that a Muslim folklore of Kerala is the result of migration of Sanyeds of Yemen in the past era. Certain family names of Yemen are still existing here. We have 5000 and above Arabi malayalam literature/a hybrid literary form/ a combination of Arabic scripts and malayalam language. All the writ-

ers in the emerging stage were Yemianis. I hope to visit your country and collect materials to support my research. If any one is interested in my theme or has information that could help me, please send me an email thanking you in return.

M A Rahman
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Yemen Press Review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress (GPC), 9 May 2005.

Main headlines

- GPC General Committee tackles many topics related to the GPC action plan at national and organizational levels
- GPC's deputy chairman of parliamentary bloc: Amending the parliament bill, not targeting sheikh Al-Ahmar
- In coincidence with unity celebrations, great vital projects to be opened, inauguration of others in Hadramout
- Yemen-Germany governmental consultations concluded
- A plan for re-distribution of Yemeni embassies on economic basis
- "Al-Mithaq" newspaper declares its solidarity with press and media men exposed to attacks in Taiz and Dhalie
- Yemen religious scholars' society refutes allegations of Najaf and Qom Hawzas

The newspaper's editorial says terror that targeted individuals from the society is a desperate act annexed to terror of ideas that claim abandonment of all sorts of discrimination and form of relations among individuals in a society. It is a terrorist act springing from the same source and feeding from longing for ages of darkness.

The GPC that has concluded the lessons of history and its facts that some try to envelop, overlook and resort to falsehood, confirms the fact that Yemen is a unique and distinguished entity in its political heritage. This heritage has taught us that blind fanaticism produces nothing but evil. We have deep faith in that and accept the other providing its commitment to national constants, and respect to constitutional establishments

that guarantee their rights for all societies. Even that erroneous and fanatic segment is guaranteed the rights. That segment has been working to undermine the constitutional establishments and to turn against the national constants in a flagrant challenge to the people represented by the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October. Those two revolutions have provided security, stability, to live in peace and guaranteed their rights. However, they refused to coexist in peace with others because of their ossified mentality.

Ash-Shumou weekly, 7 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Masonry conveys al-Houthi's distress call to Najaf Hawza
- Groups from insurgency militia seized in the capital carrying Fatwas of Qom and Najaf
- Politicians warn against terrorist operations targeting politicians in authority and opposition
- In pursuit of mastermind of the Nairobi and Darussalam blasts, CIA and Marines land in Maideh area overlooking the Gulf of Aden

Columnist Mohammed Sallama says the American occupation of Iraq is a real beginning of a new type of colonization concentrating on humiliation of people, silence and suppression. This old new occupation is a beginning of controlling resources of the world especially after the collapse of the socialist system, emergence of the European Union and the existence of oppressive regimes in some Arab countries. Those countries manifest their allegiance to the west through making their resources serviceable first and their territories as information and military bases with

direct logistic services support under an American umbrella unauthorized by the international organisation.

The decline that happened to Arab regimes at present and the so-called fighting terror operations have given a great pretext for the ambitious states to think seriously in reconsidering the spread of sovereignty and the return to the colonialist past. The story of weapons of mass destruction appeared as an American lie and began to take a new turn for the control over world resources even if it would cost billions of dollars.

The events of September 11 represented a great excuse to hit hideouts of terror in Afghanistan, Sudan and the occupation of Iraq while threatening Syria and Iran. Those events and what followed them have disclosed the actual face of the American terrorism that has always been a major supporter for Israel. The American future policy is to focus on burning the infrastructure of any country it occupies and the call for its reconstruction of a special sort, dividing the gains among those who support it.

Attariq weekly, 10 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Torrential rains sweep 3 citizens and a mosque in Abyan
- Prosecution discloses information on an organisation called the general organisation of unity detachments
- Increase in polio cases reaching a total of 60
- A lawsuit changes constitutionality of sales tax law
- Traffic accidents kill 10 thousand people in the last five years
- Continuous outages of electricity in Shabwa
- Italy offers one million and 300 thousand euros to support health in Yemen.

The writer Hassan Bin Hassaynoun says much has been written about corruption and the corrupt in Yemen. This is allowed in Yemeni norms, constitution and laws. However, the prohibited and most dangerous in the Yemeni dictionary and norm is mentioning any of the corrupt, whether he was high ranking or ordinary because it is considered a kind of label.

There is full freedom in talking and writing about corruption in official and non-official press so that people can express their ideas and deflate souls of accumulations to avoid explosion. The regime boasts of permitting such talk and writings showing that there is a freedom of the press that can criticize to talk about corruption and other issues. In other words, there is a unique and special form of democracy in the Arab region. To name the corrupt is the crime and woes onto him who dare to write in black and white about the corrupt. The writer queries by asking who is responsible for corruption at a time when all talk about it starts from the top of the pyramid to the last journalist, but none of them wants to approach it and capture it red-handed to be punished. The fact is that the enemy of corruption is not ambiguous or unknown. We all know it with all its specifications and features but we deal with it with leniency and respect.



Al-Tagamou weekly, organ of the Yemen Unionist Congregation Party, 9 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Renewal and extension for Hunt Company rejected
- Sales tax law squanders citizens' rights and grants authorities to officials
- More than 20 Yemeni journalists stage sit-in
- Prince Abdullah's Euro-American tour and heated messages carried to Damascus

The newspaper published on its front page a statement by the International Committee for Journalists Protection. The statement of the committee described the climate of press in Yemen as contradictory between what the authority claims and what it practices on the ground. It said Yemeni journalists are forced to practice self-monitoring of their writings, criticizing the authority's strong control over radio and TV stations and not granting licenses for establishing other private radio and TV stations. The committee also says, in its annual report on the world day of freedom of press, president Ali Abdullah Saleh has promised the

removal of the criminal description of press violations, but nevertheless after three months of his declaration, a court judgment of a one-year imprisonment was issued against a journalist because he had published articles not in favour with the way the president had dealt with the armed insurgency and his newspaper was suspended for six months. The report has added that that is the contradicting climate under which Yemeni journalists are practicing their profession. The authorities say they want to develop freedom of press but at the same time they issue a severe law against press as a weapon threatening journalists who disturb them.

He reported review samples of violations against Yemeni journalists, among which the verdicts of preventing journalist Saeed Thabit from working in press for six months and imprisonment of journalist Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani for one year.

It added that after the case of al-Khaiwani many journalists said they felt they were forced to practice self-monitoring on their writings and press correspondents said they were taking very cautious stands to not directly criticize the overages of tribal tensions, as they would attract undesirable interest by officials. The government also practices certain pressures on journalists such as being contacted by security members to convince them not to cover certain issues.

The gangs of central america

By José Miguel Cruz

Central America's presidents recently met in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to devise a united policy to deal with the region's rampaging street gangs. Honduran President Ricardo Maduro, himself elected on a campaign slogan of Zero Tolerance, summed up their collective wisdom: "The gangs have internationalized and we are going to respond with force, with a strong hand."

The problem of juvenile gangs in Central America is not new. In El Salvador, the gangs became an issue at the end of the 1980's; in Guatemala and Honduras, the gangs appeared in the first half of the 1990's. Since then, their membership has multiplied.

Most explanations of the gangs' growth focus on two causes: the prolonged civil wars that savaged Central America during the 1980's, and America's deportation policies. These theories, however, fail to reflect local realities. Honduras, the country with the most serious gang problem, never had a civil war. Nicaragua and Mexico, which receive many deportees from the United States, have never had the number of gang members seen in El Salvador and Guatemala.

There is no denying that the region's civil wars and American deportations aggravate the gang crisis, but the fundamental reasons young men and women join gangs can be found in domestic social conditions. Gang members emerge out of dysfunctional and violent families, the historic and systematic socioeconomic marginalization of the region's poor, and a culture of aggression. Gangs flourish because weak institutions fail to guarantee and respect the fundamental rights of children and young people.

True, such conditions exist through-

out Latin America, but elsewhere they do not have the same potency. Not even in Nicaragua, which shares many of the characteristics of the other countries of the region, have gangs become dedicated to killing and terrorizing the population in the way that they do in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and now in Chiapas, Mexico.

Part of the problem lies in how Central American governments confront the phenomena. For many years, officials simply ignored the emerging gang problem. They were more interested in the process of political transition and putting in place the Washington Consensus. As a result, they disregarded social problems and devoted their energies to reforming their political and economic systems. Far from strengthening social institutions, this lack of attention weakened them.

Sheltered by indifference, the gangs grew. Officials saw increased crime as the natural cost of war, and many predicted that as young members matured, the gangs would disappear.

This hasn't happened, and officials now acknowledge that they have a huge problem on their hands. But it wasn't increasing homicide rates that made officials pay attention; it was the realization that the violence hurt the region's image abroad and made it difficult to attract foreign investment.

The response of the countries involved has been fragmented and repressive. Plans with names like "Strong Hand" in El Salvador, "The Broom" in Guatemala, and "Blue Liberty" in Honduras have been created to deal with the problem, but all ignore prevention, overlook the social roots of the phenomena, and concentrate on applying force.

Instead of articulating policies to return fundamental rights to the region's young people, Central American governments are preparing to

wage war against gangs in the name of national security. Such policies yield substantial political benefits: they help to win elections and attract the admiration and favor of the Bush administration. Officials from America's FBI and Department of Homeland Security have visited Central America to share experiences in combating gangs.

Still, this war on gangs, like the so-called war on drugs, is only making matters worse. The gangs are now more organized in El Salvador because the authorities confine many of them in separate jails according to their specific group. This gives each gang an opportunity to recruit new members among prison inmates, elect national leaders, and establish lines of authority and decision-making that are respected by all.

In Honduras, the gangs are more connected with organized crime, because the policy of cleaning the streets has pushed many gang members to align with drug traffickers for protection. And now the gangs appear to be invading southern Mexico, because Central America's repressive policies have sent many gang members running north.

Internationalizing the "strong hand" model across the region will incite the gangs to spread to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which have so far been successful in preventing gang violence. If we continue to ignore the social conditions that create gangs, their numbers will grow.

But the outlook for a new, sensible policy is not promising. At the end of the summit of Central American presidents, El Salvador's President Antonio Saca talked about a regional prevention plan. Unfortunately, no one paid much attention to his idea.

José Miguel Cruz is a researcher at the University of Central America in El Salvador.

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By Yahya Al-Olfi
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Reflections

Why I want to puke?

UK's Gaffe in Hosting Burros and Yemen's Nuclear Bomb

British Blunder:

First, I would like to declare that I am a normal Yemeni citizen voicing my true opinion. I learnt my English through the British Council in the early eighties through British teachers such as Tim Mckintosh and many others whom I have forgotten and was later taught English Literature in Sana'a University by British lecturers such as Nicholas Linfield and Neil Bratton whom I owe a lot in mastering English as I do today. I look forward to a democratic Yemen where all Yemenis are equal and are judged by their qualifications and not their roots, sects or tribes. That I receive nothing from any one but do express my true ideas and conscience freely.

I am speaking within the allowed margin of freedom of speech and have never been harassed despite having criticized many negative aspects, but at the same time I cannot deny transgressions on the part of the government, if any, against others. I am feeling calm and have never pretended anything other than what I think is right. I have always had the idea that the British are careful in all they do, except if they want to be sinister. BBC, in an idiotic approach to the events of Yemen, called the events of Sadaah an attack against Zaidis, which can be solely assumed either sinister, naive or idiotic on the part of the British.

The British can be forgiven for this misunderstanding because they either have idiotic spies or are continuing the old time propaganda, which they used to consume when occupying South Yemen in that they invigorated provincial Yemenite entities on the expense of Yemen's national identity.

Thank goodness that the southerners themselves ALONE kicked out the British and replaced the colonialist name "South Arabia" with "South Yemen"! If the British are intelligent enough NOWADAYS, they should know that the population of Aden under their occupation in the past were and are still northerners. Those speaking English in South Yemen apart from Yemenized Somalis and Indians are northerners namely from the Taiz region, Ibb and Al-Bayda. The unappreciative "Alhassani" and his followers come from the poorest area in Yemen, that offers the national economy nothing, but is the most consuming with its

children holding key positions in the current government more than any other region. In fact, Abyan region is totally dependent on the water coming from my own region in Ibb Province. A Yemeni proverb goes as follows: "Beware of the evil of that whom you have aided and fed". He is unfit and unauthorized to speak about virtually anything except going to the loo.

Yemenis in Britain are also northerners who had entered Britain through the British colonialist entities, which were established in the south. Hence, I stress that it is only natural for Britain to recognize reality and deal with Yemen as "One United Yemen"; otherwise, it shall absolutely and without the least doubt be a wretched loser due to paying no attention to the realities on the ground including its cultural impact.

Hosting Burros & why I want to puke?

Reading the literature of the so-called TAJ Movement, which claims freedom for south Yemen, I could not resist vomiting as these miserable living things do not know anything about Yemen's history at all. They themselves are ignorant criminals who ought to be tried for the thousands of people killed in the South. The president of Yemen is guilty because he offered them refuge in 1986 and is still feeding them on the expense of the people. Such people have no constituency in Yemen and are part of our backwardness. They reflect nothing because they are nothing but a load of crap. I call upon our government to submit their files to the Interpol in order to try them for their crimes against humanity. It was an idiotic step to appoint the abject ambassador in Damascus where his warlord master still lives.

It should be remembered, that Southern revolutionaries kicked Britain out and replaced the British name "South Arabia" with the name South Yemen, in line with logic and real history. It must be remembered that southerners alone were the moving force towards the reunification of Yemen in 1990 and did establish a Military front named "The National Front" for the liberation of North Yemen from Tribal and Saudi hegemony. The said front until 1982 controlled almost half of North Yemen and many were killed due to that intervention with mines are still abundant killing animals and humans alike.

Once more, it was Ali Salem Al-

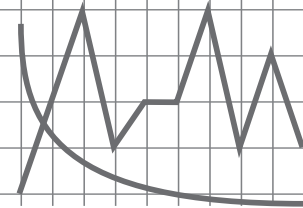
Beedh, the Socialist Party Secretary General, a southerner himself, who insisted and called for an immediate unconditional merger despite hesitation by the northern president at the time and the current president of the two united Yemens whose names were replaced following reunification by the new name " Republic of Yemen" as suggested by Blair's buddy Kadafi. The destiny of nations is not a game relying on the whimsical interests of individuals such as the war criminal Alhasani and his pitiable TAJ clique.

Yemen's Nuclear Bomb:

What makes me laugh is the fact that some of our southern politicians say about themselves that they are cultivated and illuminated and that their northern counterparts are less educated and ignorant! This has been proven as a wrong evocation, because the way they acted during the civil war of 1994 gave us the evidence that they are imbeciles and could not realize the realities on the ground, for before signing Amman accord the majority of Northern Yemenis were behind the Socialist Party more than the southerners who were already fed up with YSP i.e. Yemen Socialist Party. However, instead of meeting the aspirations of the people as a whole, they acted against them and opted for whimsical self-centered interests; simply they wanted to separate Yemen again.

Ironically, the late Jarallah Omar advised the Politburo that the Unity of Yemen is similar to a practical nuclear bomb and that whoever stands against it shall eventually be a loser if not annihilated, but they did not heed his advice nor did they value him in his life except following his shocking assassination. Again, this same opinion of late Jarallah Omar is still valid today, and this in fact what made Saleh win the battle all along. To conclude, I do not expect that Yemen's leadership has the stomach to adopt real democracy such as Indonesia, India or Israel without real assertive help and assistance from USA and Yemen's old colonial power the UK if they are indeed for democracy, although I still have my doubts concerning their real intentions namely when other more qualified Arab states are still until this day, behind Yemen. As we know Yemenis tend to follow their Arab brethren namely Egypt and Kuwait not to take the initiative themselves.

YT Business



Lighthouses on Yemeni coasts and islands

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is scheduled that the State Authority of Sea Affairs would present to the international sea organizations results of a study on surveys concerning the building of lighthouses on Yemeni coasts and islands. The aim of the surveys is to be a prelude for the installation of modern lighthouses for the organisation of international

navigation movement there and at a time when the Yemeni government is planning to build a sea platform for Yemeni coast guards on the island of Myoun, in the south of the Red Sea, in order to facilitate their security tasks.

The surveys were conducted by a delegate of the international sea organisation to Yemen during his recent one-week field visit to the Red Sea area and Aden Gulf. His work with specialists of the State Authority of Sea Affairs, included a report of

full assessments of the situation of the old lighthouses in the area as well as islands and coasts that it is imperative to be supplied with lighthouses. By sending an expert in sea lighthouses to Yemen, the international sea organisation intended to offer Yemen technical assistance in the area of building lighthouses and regulation of international navigation movement in the region.

Sources at the State Authority of Sea Affairs mentioned that

conducting the survey, the first of its kind, would help Yemen improve safety of sea navigation in Yemen especially since Yemen has a coast of more than 2300 km long and overlooks important straits serving international navigation. The sources made it clear that results of the surveys included the building of modern lighthouses on Yemeni islands in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The establishment of a center for transmitting navigation

information to ships sailing in the area and centers operating according to latest systems to help ships in defining their sites in the sea, pointing out that the Authority has put those projects as part of its third five-year plan of 2006-2010.

It is also scheduled that work for the building of a sea platform for the coast guard police in the island of Myoun south of the Red Sea would begin soon. A source at the Coast Guard Authority has clarified that the

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.3500	191.5900
Sterling Pound	356.9500	357.4000
Euro	244.2500	244.5600
Saudi Rial	51.0200	51.0900
Kuwaiti Dinar	655.1700	656.0000
UAE Dirhem	52.1000	52.1600
Egyptian Pound	32.9800	33.0300
Bahraini Dinar	507.5500	508.1900
Qatari Rial	52.5900	52.6600
Jordanian Dinar	270.1000	270.4400
Omani Rial	497.0200	497.6400
Swiss Franc	158.0600	158.2600
Swedish Crown	26.5200	26.5600
Japanese Yen	1.8027	1.8050

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

platform would be implemented with funding by the French government as part of its support for Yemeni Coast Guard. The source added that the French support would also include providing a transport and supplies ship to the Authority, indicating that the ship would be used for transporting various kinds of supplies to Coast Guard personnel during their implementation of their tasks.

Symposium on,

Pesticides law & agricultural quarantine

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Participants in a symposium on "Reality of plant protection in Yemen and future strategies" called at the conclusion of their meetings lately on the ministry of agriculture to amend and activate the law of pesticides and agricultural quarantine, and to activate the work of the committee for registering pesticides. The participants also called on the ministry to work for finalizing the building and supplying of plant and agricultural products quarantine stations at customs areas and posts in order to guarantee curbing of dangers resulting from influx of plants and agricultural products into Yemen.

Recommendations of the symposium have urged the agriculture ministry to work towards building a center for breeding and reproduction of antibiotic agents used in fighting plant epidemics as well as establishment of the Yemeni society for preservation of plants and preparation for holding a similar symposium every two years. The symposium also called on the ministry and research centers at the agriculture faculties to adopt the integrated administration of plant epidemics and to introduce a special curriculum on plant quarantine to be taught among



various text subjects to students of agriculture faculties at Yemeni Universities.

The three-day symposium organized by the ministry of agriculture in collaboration with Sana'a University and participation of a number of experts in botany, discussed 50 working papers dealing with reality and problems of plants and the future vision of tackling problems the agriculture sector suffers, as well as a diagnosis of the current situation of plant epidemics and their damages caused to economic crops. The aim was to draw up a clear vision on the condition of pesticides on the local market and the degree of their effectiveness. The aim was also to come out with an active national strategy to be adopted and to rationalize the use of pesticides and to guarantee coordination and integration with all academic and relevant research sides to guarantee application of the set up policies properly.

The participants in the symposium have also asked the ministry of agriculture to carry out an intensive program conducting a nationwide survey of plant epidemics in coordination with the public authority of plant protection and departments of the same specialty at agriculture faculties of Yemeni universities as well as the general authority for agricultural research.

Renovation of Taiz water networks

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The city of Taiz suffers from shortages in water and is continuously threatened by torrents resulting from rainfall as the city is situated on mountainous slopes in which great quantities of rainfall torrents flow annually. Thus within the upcoming weeks, work would start for the implementation of a project on renovation of water networks that would reduce loss in water and a sewage project in the city at a cost estimated at \$55 million. Local sources clarified that the implementation of the project came after five companies had been successful bidders of the tender and those compa-

nies would work together. The sources also said there was a technical study on the third stage of a project for the protection of Taiz city against torrents. The cost of the project is estimated at \$65 million, in addition to a study concerning the airport of Taiz for which the preliminary agreement on the project has been granted by the ministry of planning and international cooperation. The sources also indicated that the governorate of Taiz has received half of the World Bank's funding amounts allotted to Yemen while the remainder of governorates has gained the other half of those financings. This is attributed to difficulties in implementing projects in Taiz due to its difficult terrains and geographical nature.

Yemeni-Saudi economic trade relations to expand

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A symposium recently held in the city of Aden has recommended the necessity of developing and enhancing the economic and trade relations with Saudi Arabia given that both Yemen and Saudi Arabia constitute powerful economic forces due to large populations. This gives a spacious area for trade exchange especially for industrialized products and goods in the two countries.

The symposium also praised the volume of the two countries trade exchange that amounted to YR 61 billion in this year with a possibility to

increase and reach higher levels in the foreseeable future.

Taking part in the symposium was Mr Yousuf Abdullah al-Awhali, senior industrial specialist in the Saudi exports program at the Saudi Fund for Development.

Mr al-Awhali reviewed goals of the program and its role in developing economic and trade relations as well as extending the area of exports of both countries' various products. The aim of that, added Mr al-Awhali, was to realize financial stability through meeting Saudi and Yemeni exporters' and importers' needs and offering them various kinds of facilities and services according to the program's principles.

Why Wolfensohn Mattered

By JOSEPH STIGLITZ

At the end of this month, James Wolfensohn's ten-year tenure as President of the World Bank comes to an end. Though much remains to be accomplished and consolidated, his achievements as leader of the international development community are noteworthy and provide a strong foundation upon which to build.

Perhaps Wolfensohn's most important contribution was to clarify the Bank's mission – to promote growth and eradicate poverty in the developing world – while recognizing the massive scale of that task and the inadequacy of previous approaches.

At one time, it was thought that since developing countries had less capital than more developed countries, merely supplying more capital would solve their problems. Indeed, this view provided part of the rationale for the World Bank: if a shortage of funds was the problem, clearly a Bank would have to be a key part of the solution.

In the 1980's, there was a switch from projects to policies – structural adjustments, involving trade liberalization, pri-

vatization, and macroeconomic stabilization (typically focusing on prices rather than employment or output.) But these policies proved neither necessary nor sufficient for growth; the countries of East Asia, which followed different policies, achieved faster growth and were far more successful in poverty reduction.

Under Wolfensohn's leadership, the Bank began to look for multifaceted strategies, framed by what he called a Comprehensive Development Framework. Many of the links were obvious, but had been given insufficient attention. Improved rural productivity or better market access would do little good if roads and harbors were lacking. In a malaria-infested country, mosquito eradication programs can boost production and even increase effective land usage, as acres that were almost uninhabitable become livable. The returns from education, too, can be increased, if more individuals live longer because of better health care.

The Bank began to recognize that developing countries differed from more developed countries not just in their lack of resources; there was also a knowledge gap. This was particularly important as the world moved into what we call the

"knowledge economy." Among the success stories were India and East Asia, which invested heavily not just in primary education, but also in secondary and tertiary education, and especially in technology and science. This represented a major change in the Bank's approach to education, which previously focused on primary schooling.

Wolfensohn's campaign against corruption also represented a major change in thinking, a shift from *downsizing* the state to *improving* the State. Failed states, it was now acknowledged, were no less an impediment to development than were overbearing states. The Bank's 1997 *World Development Report* reflected this new attempt at finding a balanced role for the state, and showed an understanding of the limitations both of markets and government.

Under Wolfensohn, the Bank repeatedly stood up to the United States, where both the Clinton and Bush administrations might have preferred a more pliant President. When then US Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers tried to change the Bank's Decennial report on poverty – to downgrade concerns about insecurity and empowerment and to focus more nar-

rowly on income – the Bank prevailed. When the US tried to suppress the Bank's call for a more balanced intellectual property regime – one more consonant with the interests of developing countries – the Bank prevailed yet again.

Both the Bush administration and the EU would undoubtedly have preferred less criticism of their trade regimes, which have such adverse effects on developing countries. It would have been helpful for Bush if the World Bank quietly accepted proposals to finance debt relief for the poorest countries by depleting its reserves, thereby making poor countries pay for the poorest by reducing the Bank's lending capacity. But it would have been wrong, and the Bank again stood up for the interests of the developing world.

Changing the relationship between the Bank and the countries seeking its help was no less of an achievement. In the past, the Bank was seen as a purveyor of neoliberal orthodoxy – an approach to development whose credibility had weakened by the time Wolfensohn arrived, and whose standing has eroded further since. That orthodoxy often went hand in hand with the national, corporate, and financial interests of the

advanced industrial countries, or so it was perceived.

Worse, the Bank typically demanded myriad conditions in return for assistance, an approach that undermined democratic processes and domestic ownership of policies, thereby enervating their effectiveness. When Bank research showed that conditionality did not work, the Bank under Wolfensohn moved away from it.

The Bank began to realize that on many key issues there were legitimate disagreements among economists about the right course of action. Democracy requires active debate about economic policies, not the suppression of discussion or the delegation of decision-making to experts, whether domestic or foreign. The Bank's attempt to open the debate was not well received, by either the US Treasury or the IMF, but its influence was undeniable. The Fund, too, began to reduce conditionality, and eventually it began to question the desirability of capital market liberalization, which previously had been central to its agenda.

Gradually the Bank came to be perceived, at least in many quarters, as a partner in the joint quest for growth and

poverty reduction, not an adversary attempting to promote a Western economic agenda or ideology. Wolfensohn meant it when he said that he wanted to put the country in the driver's seat, though not everyone within the Bank was as enthusiastic about this (or some of his other) initiatives.

James Wolfensohn presided over the World Bank at a time of enormous change, tumult, and opportunity, an era marked by the end of the Cold War, the postcommunist transition to market economies, and the East Asian – and then global – financial crises. His commitment to those in the developing world has been contagious. He has left an impressive legacy for his successor to take up.

Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, is Professor of Economics at Columbia University and was Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Clinton and Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the World Bank. His most recent book is The Roaring Nineties: A New History of the World's Most Prosperous Decade.

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Who is it? A story to be told — (3/4)

By SALWA YEHA AL-ERYAN
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The next morning I hired men to come and put barbed, thorny wires around my fence. I was watching the men work with great pleasure and gratitude. I'll see tonight how this thief, who thinks he is extraordinary, will enter my garden.

The Third Night

That night I felt safe. Safety feels fantastic when you feel it after suffering dangers or risks. I was so tranquil I heard from my neighbor, the leader's house, music and loud voices and laughter mixed with giggles. Another dinner of his! I looked from the bedroom window and saw people entering the house. Some were definitely men. Some were definitely women but dressed up as men too. The final result was that men only were entering the leader's house. I'll see tonight how this thief, who thinks he is extraordinary, will enter my garden.

This leader has no worries except making parties. This is another soiree of his! That careless man who is neither responsible nor aware of his duty. He is not concerned about our safety and actually he doesn't even know whether we exist or not. I hate him! Now that I feel safe and sound I am going to prepare for myself a nice dinner and eat it in front of the TV. It will be my humble celebration. Suddenly a noise of a door opened widely and violently and slammed on the wall was heard. I jumped from my seat.

I stacked my back to the wall. I was so scared I began seeing the watch on the wall two. The vase with one yellow flower saw it with a bunch of flowers inside it. I was not fine. I felt my courage running away from me in all directions like deer escaping from a wild hungry lion. I tried to roughen my

voice and yelled "Who is it?" My voice sounded so peculiar I assumed the thief would peep and ask me what I was saying? Yet, it seems it scared him because I heard his footsteps run away exactly like the previous times.

I bet he thought someone was strangling me and he doesn't want to interfere in a murder so he chose to run away. Well it was good enough. What is this that is happening to me? Why didn't the barbed wires rip him to pieces? Is this thief I am dealing with some kind of magician, ghost or an evil spirit. I honestly don't know. I also give up. That night I remember that I just slide down and slept where I was on the floor. The next morning I woke up changed my clothes and went to meet this stupid leader.

The thief has reached his limits in causing me trouble and a telephone call to the leader will no longer do any good. I want to see him and this time I will make it a point to make him see how my life has become such a pain. I don't enjoy anything anymore nor do I have fun in my house. I don't even sleep safely. I arrived at the leader's house. His guards were here and there but all drunk. Those who were conscious and were walking were making two steps forward and one backwards. I was astonished. Drunk? The guards' drunk? Has shame disappeared from these people's manners? Drunk? In the morning? I rang the bell and asked to see the leader. Who is honestly not leading us to anything or anywhere other than hell. I was allowed to enter and wait inside. I felt as if being punished for coming. He came in after about an hour and with out any welcoming words he sat down and said, "I have looked for the sheriff of Policemen but couldn't find him. I shall order a man to look for him and when he finds him he'll tell him to be always fully prepared for any phone calls." I smiled. A smile means a lot.

He looked funny. He imagined himself a peacock spreading its colored

feathers. Imagining that they are feathers of wealth and authority. As to me I saw him nothing but a cockroach thrown on it's back. The smile supplied me with patience. I said "Sir, the thief entered my house yesterday regardless the barbed wires. I have no clue as to how he did that. It seems I am suffering an unusual, supernatural thief. Until now things are tolerable. Yet I won't hide my fears. Really, I feel that next time he will come in and stand in front of me face to face. The imagination makes me shriek. Sir, I repeat I am alone. I have no one to save me or protect my belongings if he enters."

I demand that you make a guard at my door to make me feel safe. You might say who does she think she is? Yet sir, I repeat please, please." I heard my voice pleading and felt sorry for myself, started weeping. The leader answered, "all right." I raised my face, asked, "All right what?" I imagined he meant that he would put a guard at my door. He replied, "Barbed wires was a good idea." I said, "No, it did no good, sir." He thought for a while then whispered, "I will tell you from where I got my barbed wires. Go and buy like them. Yours are probably very cheap!" I interrupted him "Why do you have barbed wires? You have got human beings and some times an army protecting you so why do you need wires? And by the way my wires are not only cheap but they are free I found them in a street thrown on the floor because the nearby house has built an extremely high wall and doesn't need them anymore."

He asked with shown pride "What do you mean what for? I have precious belongings and furniture I have to protect. Look at that ivory. It belonged to the largest elephant in all Africa. It is precious." I sighed.... Then I said "Ok sir, now what about me?" He replied quickly "I will discuss your problem with the sheriff. I promise I will." I felt I lost hope. I mumbled, "Really?", and went out.

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Anemia in Yemen

By: DR MUNA YEHIA AL-ZALAB
AL-JUMHORI EDUCATIONAL HOSPITAL
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

One of the most common health diagnoses of Yemeni patients is anemia, whether acquired or inherited. In general, there are several causes of this disease as will be explained further, however the focus of this report is what makes anemia a common disease among Yemeni people and Yemeni women in particular.

Anemias are a diverse group of disorders that have in common a reduction in the amount of circulation of hemoglobin or erythrocytes, resulting in a decrease of the amount of oxygen reaching the tissues of the body. Normal hemoglobin levels are different for men (14-18g/dl) while for women it is around (12-16 g/dl). When a person is anemic, then the level of hemoglobin falls much below these normal levels.

Of all types of anemia, the most common type in Yemen is the malnutrition anemia or what is known as the Iron Deficiency Anemia (see figure). From the name it is obvious that this type is mainly caused when the person is underfed or suffers from loss of blood that was not compensated for such as women during delivery or children living below the food poverty line, which unfortunately exceeds more than 40% of the total number of children in Yemen. It is also caused by deficiency of vitamin B12 and folate also anemia is associated with protein malnutrition and scurvy. Other causes for this disease could be due to infection, renal failure, liver diseases, or there is hemolytic anemia, which is caused by corpuscular defect or abnormal hemolytic mechanism.

Symptoms and signs:

The main symptoms include tiredness, lassitude and weakness. Angina of effort, faintness, headache, pallor skin, conjunctiva, nail bed...etc

Anemia is diagnosed through reviewing the history of the patient, physical examination of some features on the nails, skin, abdomen, CNS, urine and blood. And the treatment of this disease is directed to the underlying cause as



Malnutrition - a direct cause of Anemia

well as general medications.

In Yemen there is the morbidity among women is higher than that compared to men. Gender roles and responsibilities render women more vulnerable with 25% of poor women suffering from malnutrition. Women's excess work burden in terms of both household work and productive employment increases women's vulnerability to poor health. Not only that, but also infants are dangerously subjected to this disease and are vulnerable to its consequences including underweight and stunting. Pregnant and breastfeeding women are most likely to be anemic especially with the prevalence of lack of awareness and domination of a male culture that sometimes leads to sacrificing women's health and nutritious meals for the male members of the families in some areas. Another significant factor that increases the possibility of Anemia among women is the lack or shortage of health facilities with regards to reproductive health. Postnatal care is only available to 25% of the women in the republic according to statistics 2002 which means that 75% of the Yemeni women who may suffer from bleeding because of reproductive issues may not be provided with adequate medical care, and sometimes even with the availability of the health care, the provision of the service is questionable.

In general, many of the Anemia cases in Yemen are directly linked to other diseases especially Malaria especially in the coastal and warm areas. It could be also linked to liver diseases, kidney failure, cancers, ulcer and digestive system parasites and worms such as tapeworm,

and these types are infection diseases and people living in shabby and unhealthy environments where there are no sanitation and clean water services are more subjected than others to contamination. However, there are genetic causes for certain types of Anemia such as sickle cell anemia or hemolytic anemia as well as glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase. And these are because of certain genes carried by the parents and hence the possibility of carrying the disease increases because of the traditions that encourage marrying the first cousin or next to kin. Because of ignorance and lack of awareness a generation of anemic children could be caused and negatively impact the society over a longer term through increase of the economic burden.

It is worth mentioning when talking about this particular aspect of this type of disease is that the Islamic religion encourages and calls on potential grooms and brides to try as much as possible to marry into healthy families because this would lead to healthier generations and hence a healthier future for the community as a whole. However, such knowledge is not spread enough for the Yemeni people to learn and hence they stick to harmful traditional practices. This is why media should play an important role in advocating for a healthier society, starting from pre marital medical checkups then prenatal and postnatal care and mother and child care as well as trying to change the views and attitude that discriminate against women in nutrition or against children's rights to happy and healthy childhood.

A cause for 60% of all the cardiovascular disease in children and young adults:

Rheumatic Fever

COMPILED BY:
AMAL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD), which is considered a major health problem in developing countries is a consequence of rheumatic fever (RF), once common as Acute Inflammatory Disease. This fever (RF) is characterized by fever and pain, tenderness, redness, and swelling of the joints. According to WHO reports, RF is a preventable disease yet, it is still present in many parts of the world and particularly in developing countries of Africa, Asia, India, South America and Australia. It affects yearly a total of 15 million individuals all over the world.

Socio-Economic Burden of Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease

According to WHO's reports that socioeconomic and environmental factors play an indirect, but important, role in the magnitude and severity of RF/RHD. Factors such as a shortage of resources for providing quality health care, inadequate expertise of health-care providers, and a low level of awareness of the disease in the community can all impact the expression of the disease in populations.

On the other hand RF/RHD has a very deleterious effect on the socioeconomic status of every country with this health problem. In many developing countries, and our region is one of these, RF/RHD accounts for up to 60% of all the cardiovascular disease in children and young adults and it passively affects the national productivity. In addition many school-aged patients drop out of school due to RHD.

Moreover, large percentage of RHD children are physically handicapped, they are not regular at school, some have limitation in their social life and may not get an occupation easily. This will lead to loss of manpower and source of income to their families.

It is well known that the burden of RF/RHD on the socio-economic status of any country in the region includes

the following items:

Thus the burden of managing RF/RHD puts additional pressure on the economies of these countries, which are already complaining of low national product and low national income. The already added burden of the disease is similar to a continuous blood loss to an already anemic person.

We can not ignore in this issue adding to the burden on health systems of developing countries are the costs of outside referrals that are often required during the course of treatment.

Prevention of Rheumatic Fever

Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (RF/RHD) are considered a major cause of morbidity and mortality in most developing countries. In some of these countries it is responsible for about one-third of deaths from cardiovascular diseases.

Rheumatic fever prevention and rheumatic heart disease control programs are cost-effective and inexpensive. Their designation, implementation and extension in the community are essential and an important objective to be achieved.

Both primary and secondary prevention of RF and RHD have been proved to be safe, feasible, and effective in both developed and developing countries. The overall goal of a national programs should be to reduce morbidity, disabilities and mortality from RF and RHD.

An approach to the problem of RF must be guided by a plan which coordinate medical and non-medical community leaders for mass primary prevention, providing care for high-risk group of susceptible children and for checking the accuracy of secondary prevention.

The objective of screening children of rheumatic families will involve physicians, families and the community in the preventive programs.

Prevention programs

There should be a strong commitment at policy-maker level, particularly in the ministries of health and education. A national advisory committee (National Organization for RF Prevention and Control of RHD in each



Stenosis of the mitral valve caused by rheumatic fever

country of the Region) should be formed, with broad representation from all stakeholders, including representatives from a wide spectrum of professional organizations (e.g. cardiologists, pediatricians, family physicians, internal medicine specialists, epidemiologists and nurses).

Program implementation should be stepwise. For example, start in one or more defined areas to test whether the methods and procedures are appropriate for the local situation (phase I) and then gradually extend the program to provincial (phase II), and then national coverage (phase III). A microbiology laboratory is essential with intermediate and peripheral level branches.

There is lack of emphasis given to this issue in many countries and globally. It will be necessary to make this problem a higher priority for ministries of health and official agencies.

More attention must be given to optimizing diagnosis and therapy of streptococcal infections, education of the general population, of school children and medical and public health professionals is required.

New approaches are needed to identify risky groups of children who are vulnerable to get the diseases. Moreover, new methods are needed to discover and apply genetic markers for disease susceptibility.

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- Network Competitive Analysis.
- Support important network projects in Yemen.

Requirements:

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- More than 2 years experience of network research and development, system architecture design, product management, or standardization. Or more than 2 years experience in marketing (or related job), such as market strategy planning, solution design, and competitive analysis.

- Fluent English. Presentation skill is preferred.

- Good at Computer systems.

Position ID: ST03344 Technical Service Engineer (4 Vacancies)

Location: Yemen branch

Main responsibilities:

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- Ensure the technical targets of products are successfully met.
- Responsible for installing and support of Network Products.

Requirements:

- Over 3 years working experience in telecommunications company is

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- Goal-oriented with good interpersonal and communication skills, good at information gathering and a very good team player.

- Bachelors Degree or above in Telecommunications, Computer Science, Electronics or related technical fields.

- Willing to take long-term business trips

- Fluent English is required.

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- Project planning of implementation, TI rollout, budget, equipment procurement and human resources;

- Ensure project deliverables quality;

- Ensure project payments and invoicing, project receivables and billings;

- Ensure project and cost control in place;

- Work collaboratively with Account Manager and Marketing Management to develop strategies and specific approaches to identify sales opportunities;

- Aggressively participate and contribute as key person of the PM Office to provide project management consultation and training to junior staff.

Requirements:

- Master / Bachelor degree in Engineering or equivalent;

- Extensive project management experiences in Telecom industry, with minimum of 3 years project management experience would be desirable;

- Full knowledge and applied experiences of professional project management methodologies is a must;

- An international professional recognized PM certificate, such as PMI, would be desirable, but not mandatory;

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- Good client management and relation Management skills;

- Good Knowledge of civil work;

- Excellent interpersonal communication skills;

- Proficiency in English;

Qualified candidate should e-mail their CV to Yemen_office@126.com no later than 16th June 2005. Please Specify the position you applied for. Only Those candidates meeting requirements shall apply, and acknowledge will be sent to those short listed candidates meeting requirements.

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Language testing: Different facets and parameters

Many Students all over complain about exams and their results. Both teachers and students pass comments on exam papers: not valid, unreliable, not objective, deals with one part of the curriculum, etc. The university of Sana'a for this formed a team this semester to check the university exams of the first term of 2004-2005. The University of Science and Technology held a series of workshops with the help of Professor Mahmoud Aukasjha, a visiting professor from Cairo who is an expert in measurement and testing. I participated in this activity and being a member of the team of experts entrusted with the task of evaluating the exams of Sana'a University, I thought it worthwhile to discuss this topic and share ideas with a wider readership to initiate a healthy dialogue and create awareness about the issues involved in test construction, in the context of approaching exams.

The word *test* makes learners nervous; teachers do not feel happy either. But can we measure the progress of learners without a test? Not only is learners' achievement checked through the mechanism of testing, but also life at large is full of situations where we have to choose among alternatives and make a decision: choosing a life partner, a major at the university, a job, a place to stay, a friend, a political party, the way to dress, speak, eat, etc. Job interviews, as a form of test, are to select new employees. To admit new entrants to join the Department of English, one cannot do without tests. What does a test actually seek to do?

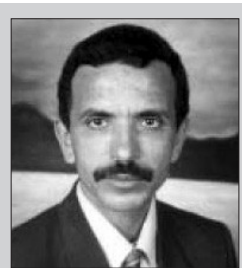
Test measures the ability, knowledge, or performance of a candidate. Test methods in EFL situation vary from alternative response item (yes, no), fixed response item or closed-ended response (as choose a, b, c, or d), to free response item or open-ended response, etc. These tests examine the English language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing and sub-skills like pronunciation, intonation, stress, accuracy, fluency literary appreciation, grammar, vocabulary and so on.

Since exams go hand in hand with any learning process, it is normal that students who take a course have to appear for a test. Preliminary tests help to place candidates in a certain level or diagnose their shortcomings to overcome them or think of remedial teaching. From time to time teachers need to

evaluate what was covered to see the progress of learning. Performance of candidates is measured periodically by formative tests that are indispensable for successful learning. At the end of the course, teachers need to take a decision about the level of attainment of learners. Summative evaluation is crucial here to culminate the achievement and measure the gains. Students' evaluation assists evaluating the whole program: input, and processing and output. Evaluation of this sort is possible if it makes use of varied types of tests such as progress, achievement, proficiency, placement, aptitude, diagnostic tests and so on.

But does it mean a pen-and-paper test is the only means of evaluating EFL learners? What about interview, observation cards (as questionnaires on Likert scale or the extended technique of Thurstone), portfolio, progress reports, research projects or reports by students goals table, checklists, etc.? Unfortunately, teachers, many a time, are oblivious of measurements like these ones. For this, traditional testers rely heavily on pen-and-paper tests that dominate the educational arena.

But why all this fuss about testing? A test item is the first building block in the whole national education. In evaluating the academic curricula, grades in a teacher's book means a lot for the national progress, sometimes more than a standardised test as GRE or TOFEL. Some voices now demand some kind of standardized comprehensive test to check an output that attains the minimum requirement on international standards. But this is not the need of the hour. What is needed now is to better the teachers' exams to obtain a precise measurement so as to ensure the quality of education. Assessment of education takes off from the departure point of such exams. Program evaluation or curriculum development is a failure unless it takes into account testing as its base. If such an importance is assigned to testing, one wonders what to test: knowledge, cognitive skills, practical skills, transferable skills or all? Since testing is the means to take a decision, test constructors differ in their opinions about what to test: linguistic compe-



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tence or performance. A test designer thinks of a range of levels of knowledge (e.g. memory, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, or evaluation) when constructing a test. Other factors that are equally significant are things like comprehensiveness, variety, test format, test organization, validity, reliability, objectivity and proper layout. Other characteristics such as authenticity, interactivity, impact, and practicality of the test are some of the very necessary test requirements.

Since the learner is going to be encapsulated in one number (i.e. mark), test designers are compelled to be fair and objective in issuing their resolutions that have the potential to spell the future of a test-taker. An exam should not only elicit knowledge but it should add something new to the learning process.

How can we check that exams are doing what they are supposed to do? Mark registers or mark sheets reveal discrepancies. The entry point then is the control sheet with its frequency tables, percentages of failures and correlation among all courses. A telling evaluation is not possible without taking a sample of the learners' scripts to check the answer sheets and compare it with the attained grades. Examples of the learners' assignments, research projects, portfolio, disclose the exact level of the exam takers and the processing of input in a program. This is to reveal what happens in terms of processing to find out if the test matches the minimum requirements or not. Evaluating exam means assessing the educational system and reporting its pros and cons. Curriculum (intended, implemented or attained) is seen in the light of exams evaluation. The type of achievement tells clearly whether the intended curriculum has been achieved or the attained curriculum is something totally different. To judge the reliability of exams accurately one needs to bear in mind some criteria.

An important criterion of exams is variety of questions to measure the level of students and gains so as to measure up the notational level of the expected outcomes. Variety of exams provides valuable feedback on the match or mismatch with the intended curriculum that was chalked out by the

educational planners and policy makers. Accuracy of tests is of paramount importance to screen the implemented curriculum and find out the exact attained curriculum. Comprehensiveness of exam is a feature that shows what the teacher has covered in his teaching. Since a test is a sort of document that reflects the level of the teacher and the level of students, it is bound to have some face validity to tell that it measures certain prescribed levels of knowledge. Test constructors, in terms of content, need to strike a balance between performance, skill, knowledge, and mastery of rules.

Major types of exams

An essay-type exam is easy to prepare but difficult to mark. They help to gauge the students' higher levels of thinking: analyzing, organizing and discussing ideas. But its problems are many. It takes a lot of time to correct them with no objectivity. Marks may be influenced to a great extent by the subjective impression of the examiner. It is difficult to cover all goals of the course. This type of exam can be improved by carefully delimiting the aim of the question. The phrasing of the question can pinpoint exactly what is required; examples are:

1. Compare Blake's *London* with Wordsworth's *London* from the point of time and place in the two poems;
2. Give the reasons that led Pip in *Great Expectations* to believe that Miss Havisham was his benefactor;
3. By looking at the invocation in *Paradise Lost*, differentiate between the fall of Man in Christianity and Islam by referring to the story of Satan, Adam and Eve.

Essay-type questions can be improved also by deciding the level of knowledge that the question measures. Questions that require long answers need to be avoided. Prior thinking about the time, model answer, rules of marking minimize flaws in these exams. Avoiding optional questions is what many test developers stress to expose testees to the same experience to be fair in evaluation.

The second type that is commonly used is the objective exam with all its varieties: multiple choice, true/false, filling in the blanks, matching, rearrangement, etc. This type is known for being easy to correct. It is objective in terms of marking. Its validity and reliability tends to be higher than the

A letter to the teachers of English: 85 How to avoid copying in the examinations? (2)

Dear Fellow teachers,

The reasons given in the last letter, except the first one, are related to those involved in the education system. The lessons included in the courses in our schools and colleges are found irrelevant by most of our students. Who is responsible? The syllabus makers for the schools and the teachers for the colleges.



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Why don't we change them to suit the needs of the students? The Ministry of Education, with a lot of interest in the students, updates the school syllabus periodically; hence the new syllabus, introduced in the 1990s. But is the new syllabus suitable to the needs of the learners of English in schools? I understand that the present English Course, English Course for Yemen, was piloted in the 1980s before it was introduced in the country. Yet most of the teachers who use this Course at present, according to several surveys, feel uneasy over the Course and find it rather unsuitable to their students.

As most of the teachers of English in schools are not happy with the new Course, it is important that the Ministry conducts a survey with the help of their Inspectorates to see if the teachers are really unhappy with the new Course and if they are, what problems they face with the Course and how to solve them. I am aware that there were one or two Workshops conducted by the Ministry of Education to familiarize the teachers with the new Course but they have not served the purpose, I understand. Unless a serious step is taken by the Ministry to solve the problems caused by the new Course, teachers of English will continue to find it difficult to make English teaching interesting to the students; the less-interested students will continue to use the easy ways to pass the exams and

copying will perpetuate in the schools.

The problem in the colleges are not much different from the ones the school students face, but the solution is easier to find in the colleges, as the courses are designed and taught by the teachers in the colleges; if they develop a positive attitude toward learners and their needs, they can easily tune the courses to make the students develop interest

in the courses. The students in turn will develop interest in the course they study and wean themselves away from copying in the exams. But how does one change the attitude of the so-called experts in the colleges?

The problems of examinations have been discussed in my earlier letters on testing and evaluation. The recent thinking is to consider assessment as a source of learning; 'test to learn' is a new slogan in the field of evaluation. But some of our question papers continue to be a measure of punishment to the students; some of us find pleasure in making the examinations a dangerous mystery to the students in order to keep them under a constant threat; or, alternatively, some of us give in and make the examinations a treat to the 'memory machines'. It is necessary that we realize that examinations are one of the ways of assessing the performance of our students; we should make them as student-friendly as possible, at the same time a device to assess the real abilities of the students. This alone will make our students give up the evil practice of copying. As long as our examinations are 'a Pandora's box' and 'a Damocles' sword', we can never wean our students away from copying. Let's resolve that we make our examinations student-friendly and enjoyable.

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

essay-type questions. It is more comprehensive and it allows for different levels of knowledge at the same time. Its minus points are that it takes a lot of time to prepare; some testees may guess and get marks and some find it easy to cheat. In addition to its cost sometimes, it does not allow for learners to expose their ability of writing, organizing ideas to show their opinions.

To sum up, there is no ideal way in language testing but a combination of both essay-type and objective test is more effective and more practical. Such a method allows for variety,

comprehensiveness and the ability to measure all levels of knowledge in addition to some abilities of organizing ideas, expressing one's views that become clear in writing, for instance. Internal assessment may include some other measurements as observations cards, interviews, and portfolios as well as research projects. Talking together both in-term and end-term exams give a fair idea about the testee for teachers, course developers, curriculum designers, and program evaluators. This is what gives importance to language testing as an important area of research nowadays.

Poetry Corner

The ancient mariner - 2005

The Ancient Mariner—
That's how he has embedded
An image of himself in
my psyche.
He fits Coleridge's archetypal
type exactly.
Once he sets his eye on
you
You're under a spell.
Gifted with the glib of the
gab
He bulldozes his poor listeners
As a person humble and
soft though.



DR. ARUNACHALAM
ASSOC PROF OF ENGLISH
HADRAMOUT UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY, SEIYUN

The only Yemeni I've had the fortune
(?)
Of knowing (half-knowing) who speaks
English like as it should be.

Twisting his mouth, poor mouth,
Sliding the jaw to the right
Twirling the lips, biting the upper,
He lisps his words with an accent
That is heavily American.
Hassan Al Aidaross in full suit
Will humble the English and
the Americans as well.

The Ancient Mariner called me
In my mobile a Thursday forenoon
While I was in my shower.
Said, "Can I drop in?"
"Why not? By all means," said I.

Never thought he would ring my door
bell
At such a short notice that I was just

Stepping out of my shower
as a just born.

Hurried he me into my
safari suit
Hurled me into a taxi he
came by
And held the door open
for my
Royal Highness (!) at a
Yemeni
Wedding around noon.

Supposedly the wedding
of a
Rich and noted family of
his small town.
Uninvited but escorted in
Full honours (I cheat myself).

The bride's father was called.
Though caught unawares, with all
humility (!?)
He hugged me, clicking a kiss
Once on my left and twice on my right,
"Salaam Alaikkum."
"Wa Alaikkum Assalaam."

Hassan, the bride's father, and
Hassan, our Ancient mariner,
Presented me to an assortment
Of local tribal chieftains:
Some looking formidable
In traditional dress, head-gear,
Totting AK-47s, Zambias, etc.
Some with daggers in their eyes
Quizzical about what warranted
The presence of a non-Muslim,
Non-Arab fry in the midst of a

Yemeni wedding gathering.

It didn't take much time
The ice thawed (not in the heat of the
climate)
Momentarily (momentously, for me).
Every face beamed with warmth,
Friendliness, affection and welcome.

Tshai Ahmer did the rounds
In conjunction with pleasantries
And concerned enquiries about
This alien's life in Seiyoon.

A short while hence, there was
Music in the air—the traditional
Yemeni music of small hand-held
Drums and miniature flutes.
Electrified, the young and old
Alike scurried to a shamiana
Especially put up in the open.

Dancing was in full swing;
At measured pace,
Like the Greek chorus,
Moving forth and back,
Back and forth,
Left to right, right to left
Swinging the hips,
Throwing the arms up in the air—
Gently, gently, all too gently
To the accompaniment of music.
Young and old held the groom
By his hands to his left and right
Swung him forth and back and side-
ways too.
What met your eye in the dance, song
and music
Was the unbelievable: THERE WERE

WOMEN—
TWO—one may be forty, another, may
be fifty—
Aidaross lied to me: one twenty, the
other forty.

He was unhappy, a little angry too:
Women in the company of men,
That too, dancing?! "Anti-Islam, anti-
Arab."
I consoled: "Times are changing...
People and customs in tune with the
times."

He looked sad, pensive,
Contemplative... Just for a while.
I couldn't believe. A change.
All too suddenly came over that man.
Himself he forgot. Entered the fray
Holding a 500 atop drawing the current
Along the forehead of the column of
dancers
And showered it on the woman—
The twenty (I'm sure she was forty).

On and on, it went on.
Suddenly some chaps held me by my
arms
And pulled me into the gentle whirl
And made a participant of me, too.

Around two o'clock the scene shifted to
the
Inner hall where only the male music
party
Played the music to the accompaniment
of
Dancing — you won't believe,

The tribal chieftains — all very old,
glum,
And serious looking — made ritual
moves,
Squatting, rising, swirling, swaying
—ever
So gently and dignifiedly —
There must be some meaning behind
These ritual movements. I couldn't
make out.

I was lost like Wordsworth
On the Scottish Highland.
Will anyone tell me what it all meant?
Time for much-awaited luncheon came
With large circular tin aluminium plates
With mounds of biriyani,
big, big chops of tender lamb.
Fruit and tshai. Haya Khalla.
What a feast! A feast to chew
And chew in memory for long.
Lip-smacking and mouth-watering.
Al Hamdulillah.

Crowds and crowds poured in
In the evening. Cars, cars, pick-ups
Of all brands and sorts, the highway
Was spilling automobiles.
The open maidan, fully carpeted
To cover the dusty, sandy earth
Was swelling with
Swarms and swarms of guests.

The groom — a hefty, well-built,
Amiable, genial, jovial guy —
Was found going rounds
Greeting, welcoming one and all.

At nine in the evening started again

Singing and dancing. This time
It is a professional orchestra
Brought especially from Mukalla:
A rich industrialist, you see,
Loved and well-respected in his locale.

Amidst fire-works, the melody wafted
Around filling the spacious void.
The audience began swinging heads
And tapping feet.
When it all ended? I didn't stay long.

The next day, my dear, sorry, our dear
Ancient Mariner, our English speaking
Yemeni, told me that the wedding
Was solemnized around two in the
morning
With the bride and the groom guided
into
The nuptial chamber by the kin.

The veil of male-female separation
And the curtain of customs
Curtained me off many an aspect
Of a Yemeni marriage.
And I know it is improper
And impudent to try to pierce
The black veil that shrouds in mystery
Many aspects of Yemeni life.

It's a way of life
Cherished aeons since.
Let past traditions hold sway
Even amidst modernity!
Long live the Yemenies!
Long live their culture!
Long live their warmth for foreigners!

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AIDS orphans in sub-Saharan Africa: a looming threat to future generations

While the tragedy of the HIV/AIDS epidemic has been drawing increased media attention, one the most troubling aspects of it – the long-term impact on African societies of some 11 million AIDS orphans in sub-Saharan Africa – has been featured less often.

There are more than 34 million orphans in the region today and some 11 million of them are orphaned by AIDS. Eight out of every 10 children in the world whose parents have died of AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa. During the last decade, the proportion of children who are orphaned as a result of AIDS rose from 3.5% to 32% and will continue to increase exponentially as the disease spreads unchecked. As a result, the disease is in effect making orphans of a whole generation of children, jeopardizing their health, their rights, their well-being and sometimes their very survival, not to mention the overall development prospects of their countries.

The AIDS epidemic contributes to deepening poverty in many communities, since the burden of caring for the vast majority of orphans falls on already overstretched extended



families; women or grandparents with the most meagre resources. Such households are expected to earn 31% less than other households. Without a real safety net, street life is the recourse for many orphans, who often suffer from poor health, trauma and psychological distress, making them more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

The overall situation has reached alarming proportions also because women have moved from the

"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...

periphery to the epicentre of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Averaging over 55% of all people living with HIV/AIDS, girls and women are disproportionately affected. Meanwhile, constraints on their access to education and treatment, coupled with their inability to find paid employment, are causing rural households often headed by women to slide further into poverty.

With AIDS-ravaged economies starting to crumble, urgent national strategies are needed to strengthen governmental, community and family capacities and to redouble international cooperation to reverse the tide of this global calamity. "We're all struggling to find a viable response, and there are, of course, some superb projects and initiatives in all countries but we can't seem to take them to scale," says Stephen Lewis, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. "In the mean time, millions of children live traumatized, unstable lives, robbed not just of their parents, but of their childhoods and futures."

What is often overlooked is the ripple effect the epidemic will have on future governance, social structures and growth of the worst hit countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Dramatically high mortality rates will result in the depletion of much of the labour force, both in urban and rural

areas, with the losses having a profound impact on the very foundations of economies and state administration. Undoubtedly, sub-Saharan Africa is not alone in facing this challenge – several countries in Asia are beginning to feel the early impact of the "lost generation" of children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS. With the toll of AIDS orphans threatening to reach 25 million by the year 2010, this problem should remain at the centre of attention of all concerned – governments, the public and the media – to stem the spread of this scourge.

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

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