

When journalists stripped of protection

Hundreds of journalists declare solidarity with Rahma Hujaira

YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 25 May, YT— Hundreds of Yemeni journalists on Wednesday 25 May held a solidarity gathering at



Rahma Hujaira

headquarters of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to express their support for and protest against the unjust campaign the journalist Ms Rahma Hujaira had come under. The campaign was triggered because of what a new newspaper, whose political orientation is not known, called "al-Bilad", had published in its first issue on Tuesday 24 May. The above-mentioned newspaper had published on its back page a host of unseemly accusations against honor and conduct of the journalist Hujaira, chairwoman of Yemeni Female Media Forum. The journalists gathered at the headquarters of the YJS have emphasized their rejection and denunciation of

those means targeting bearers of free and honest pens, confirming their limitless solidarity with journalist Hujaira. The protesting journalists have also conducted discussions, mainly focused on issuing a solidarity statement in which they stressed their refusal of all that the newspaper had published against journalist Hujaira and her husband journalist Hafidh al-Bukari, secretary-general of the YJS. The statement affirmed that what had been published against the colleagues of press profession was because of their stances in solidarity with and defense of journalists exposed to pursuing campaigns.



Continued on page 3 Journalists at YJS express their resentment by burning copies of al-Bilad newspaper. YT photo by Y. al-Mayasi

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Another signal of the government's poor performance

IMF: Yemen's economy not looking good

BY WALID AL-SAQQAF
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

WASHINGTON – Yemen may face economic catastrophe in the long-run if the government's economic performance does not improve, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In its annual economic assessment, the IMF warned the Yemeni government of long-term challenges if it continues to ignore or delay serious urgently needed reforms. The IMF said Yemen's economy is at a crucial crossroads and if the government does not adjust its policy, "long-term fiscal and external positions would be unsustainable."

According to the reputable economic organization, the year 2004 witnessed one of the worst performances in economic development. It is a year marked with significant slowdown in economic growth with a per capita GDP growth of -0.4, a high fiscal deficit of more than 3%, and most important of all, a declining oil production by a record margin of -5.9%. This indicated 'diminishing recovery from aging large oil fields and absence of significant new discoveries.'

The IMF warned that the government's over-dependence on oil production, as the major source of income, carries with it long-term risks and implications. Income from oil production constitutes about 60% of the government's annual budget. Meanwhile, the IMF joined the Yemeni public in expressing concern about the 2004 surge in prices and attributed this increase to the government's 'expansionary fiscal and monetary policies'. Besides the need to tighten monetary policy, the IMF recommended that the government

protect the poor by 'strengthening social protection mechanisms' and improve public expenditure management and tax customs administration.

However, the IMF also urged the government to start lifting petroleum subsidy, something that the government had been delaying time after time because of an anticipated inevitable result of skyrocketing prices of almost all goods, consequently leading to more suffering of the poor, particularly as the government has not prepared any means to 'strengthen social protection' for the poor as suggested by the IMF. The organization also called for the reduction in the wage bill through retrenchment rather than a wage freeze, and called for the immediate implementation of the revised General Sales Tax.

The need to address the thriving phenomenon of corruption has also been noted by the IMF, which viewed the current investment environment as lacking significant improvements to enable private businesses to operate with high profit and help drive the economy forward.

To avoid long-term trouble, the government should focus on structural reforms and the development of non-oil income sources, the IMF suggested.

The annual report is the last of a series of economic reports assessing Yemen's economic performance, which has been viewed negatively by both the World Bank and IMF in the last few years.

Yemen remains one of the least developed countries in the world and ranked 149 out of 177 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index (2004). With an extremely low per capita GDP of US\$460, recent economic setbacks are

expected to lower this further and increase the rate of people living in poverty, which currently stands just below 50%. Yemen's unemployment rate, standing at a strong 40% is also expected to rise and alarming economic indicators have been looming in the country for the last few years despite several pledges and promises of the government to improve the economy and living standards of the public.

Amnesty International appeals to President Saleh

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Amnesty International Organisation, Legal Aid Centre on 20 May 2005 sent a letter of appeal to the President of Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh requesting him to commute the death sentence against Fatma Hussein al-Badi, 42. Fatma Hussein al-Badi and her brother Abdullah were sentenced to death on February 17, 2001 by the Preliminary Court for murdering her husband Hamoud Ali al-Jalal. Both Fatma and her brother Abdullah were arrested on 13 July 2000 on charge of murdering the husband Hamoud Ali al-Jalal and then were sentenced to death. The Amnesty International statement added, "The two challenged the decision in the Court of Appeals which upheld the sentence against them on 12 August 2002. They then appealed to the Supreme Court. The case was examined by the

persona division of the Supreme Court which upheld the decision against Abdullah but decided on 10 September 2003 to reduce the sentence against Fatma to four years imprisonment." It says, "The case was then sent to the President who ratified the sentence against her brother Abdullah but decided to resend her case to the Supreme Court following complaints from the victim's family that the case had not been dealt with properly. Her brother Abdullah was executed on 2 May. According to her lawyer, the General Assembly of the Supreme Court reviewed the case and decided to reinstate the death sentence against Fatma. Fatma could be executed at any time if the President Aki Abdullah Saleh decides to ratify the death sentence against her, the Amnesty International statement said.

International urged all concerned parties to send as quickly as possible appeals to the president of Yemen to commute the death sentence against Fatma Hussein al-Badi, which would lead to her release as she has already served a longer sentence than the one passed by the Supreme Court.

The Amnesty International statement has also brought forth a background information mentioning, "Amnesty International has longstanding concerns about the use of death penalty in Yemen, particularly as death sentences are often passed after proceedings which fall short of international standards for fair trial. While Amnesty International recognizes the right and responsibility of governments to bring to justice those suspected of recognizably criminal offences, it is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases as an ultimate violation of the right to life.

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More attention to women rights needed

ADEN- YT- On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Yemen's National Day and for the sake of having equal female citizens, the Women's Forum for Research and Studies (WFRT) organizes its fifth meeting in cooperation with the Canadian Program for Developing Personal Efforts.

The meeting will be held at the Mercure Hotel on Tuesday May 24 under the slogan "Women's Symbolic Court" with the aim to discuss women issues and issue the verdict and statement of women rights.

Around 40 woman activists from Sana'a, Aden and Taiz, as well as representatives from civil community organizations and media personnel are due to attend the meeting.

The meeting is expected to come out with a statement claiming women rights from the Yemeni legislature and executive.

Mrs. Suad al-Qadasi declared: "We have been accustomed to holding such an annual meeting on the occasion of the World Women Day since 2001, but this year, we want it to coincide with

the 15th anniversary of the Yemeni Reunification, marked after 15 years of development and prosperity."

She added, "We want the 15th anniversary of Yemen's National Day to be an occasion for women movement, enabling them to claim their liberty and rights from the concerned organizations."

The work mechanism in this meeting is totally new, and is used for the first time in Yemen. It is planned to recommend the issuance of verdicts and statements on women rights.

Chinese companies to upgrade Aden Refinery

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A statistical bulletin released by the Marketing and Production Department of Aden Refinery revealed that several Chinese companies specialized in the oil industry have agreed in principle to start modernizing the oil production systems of Aden Refinery.

The bulletin said that the agreement was obtained upon the visit of a technical team from Aden Refinery to the Chinese Capital of Beijing last May. They met with a number of officials in Chinese companies specialized in modernizing and developing the oil industry and raising the productive capacity. They agreed to upgrade the Aden Refinery and establish a new

production Unit.

The Yemeni technical team is currently preparing a technical study required by the Chinese companies in the light of which work will start on ameliorating the Refinery with all its branches and productive units so as to be able to raise the productive capacity and push forward the oil industry activity.

Sudan's Information Minister:

U.S. Congress has influence on UN decisions against Sudan

BY MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mr. Abdulbasit Saidrat, Sudanese Minister of Information and Telecommunications said there are some groups of rightwing Christians and Zionist lobbies in the United States who hate the current regime in Sudan for being a Muslim one, and accused Israel of standing behind all that happens in his country.

The Sudanese official confirmed in a press conference held last Monday at the Saba News Agency, that late UN decisions on Darfur are faulty, pouring oil on fire to make the situation more inflammable.

He mentioned seven decisions were issued on Darfur, three of which during a week time and that the

Darfur issue was internationalized, and he blamed the U.S. Congress for having its influence upon UN decisions against his country.

Mr. Abdulbasit Saidrat pointed out that the Darfur issue is about to be tackled, stressing that his government dialogued with rebels who compelled Sudanese citizens to leave their homeland and paved the way for foreign organizations to enter Sudan. The issue of Darfur, an area with a population of 5 million Muslims, led to a flagrant violation by the Arab and international media.

With respect to the issue of South Sudan, the minister said the unity of north and south parts of Sudan should be achieved voluntarily and it is the right of citizens living in South Sudan, forming 6 out of 26 states, to

determine their fate.

Mr. Abdulbasit Saidrat noted an agreement was reached in Kenya to set the temporary constitution to be valid for 6 years, and two of the most important issues "state and religion and fate determination" were solved, pointing out the agreement reached with the Popular Movement in the south of Sudan on Jan. 9 put an end to the civil war.

Regarding the Yemeni-Sudanese relationships, he said the two countries enjoy strong ties in different areas.

Talking about Sana'a Congregation that includes Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia. He confirmed that such congregation aims to enhance the trade and economic profits among the three countries.

Regional and international bids for Container Terminal's operation

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ministry of Transportation is currently studying the bids of three regional and international companies for operating and managing the Container Terminal of Aden Free Zone before presenting them to the Cabinet early June, 2005 to select the best bid.

As many as nine regional and international companies applied for the tender announced by the Ministry of Transportation last year. Six of them did not fulfill the conditions and requirements stipulated by the tender and their bids were belated. Three companies fulfilled the conditions and requirements of the contract for operating and managing the Terminal. They are Kuwait and Gulf Bond for Transportation, UAE Dubai Terminal Company and ICTS of Philippine.

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Salem, Deputy Ministry of Transportation for Ports Affairs, said that the bids presented by the three companies are

excellent because they contain good indicators about the number of containers to be handled during the coming years and the financial revenues to be achieved during the operation term.

He said that the tender included three main standards that must be met by the three companies such as the ability of the company to develop and activate its input into the Terminal and its ability and attitude to invest with the government in the coming period. The company also has to be maintaining contacts and relations with international containers freighters.

The Deputy confirmed that the aim behind the conditions is to ensure the increasing activity of the Terminal and help Aden Port restore its international reputation as it is located on an international navigation line and is supposed to employ more people. Another goal is to make use of the strategic position of the Terminal by making it a base for receiving and re-exporting containers and constructing an industrial zone there.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think the Yemeni newspapers are united?
- No each newspaper has its individual interests
- They try but anti-freedom efforts are creating disputes
- Yes, they are
- I don't know

Last edition's question:

Is the state serious about the political reform to ensure the sustainability of the unity in the true sense?

47%

No

34%

It is trying but lacks expertise

19%

Yes

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Workshop on child labor

Hodeida, May 21- A workshop on child labor, organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in coordination with the International Work Organization and the International Program for Fighting Child Labor, was held on Saturday in Hodeida.

The workshop was attended by 35 male and female participants including representatives from government parties, civil community organizations and businessmen, aimed at involving all the parties concerned in eradicating child labor, studying features of the phenomenon and the factors behind its

development.

To open the workshop, Ahmad Hassan al-Hajj, Secretary General of Hodeida Local Council, pointed out the necessity of searching reasons and motives leading children to leave their homes for work.

He stressed on the importance of fighting the phenomenon through the provision of serious alternatives and means to bar the proliferation of child labor.

Al-Hajj reviewed the bad conditions and cases of abuse that children are subjected to at work, singling out the firm stand of the governorate and the local council by

the concerned authorities to put an end to such a phenomenon.

For his part, Mohammad Hajar, General Director of Hodeida's Social Affairs and Labor Office, clarified that the objectives of the workshop sought to be achieved soon.

Mrs. Mona Salim, General Manager of Child Laborers Unit at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, reviewed the program of the workshop that aims at coming up with an entire work plan to restrict the size of children laborers according to the economic activities in every governorate.

Two TV journalism Workshop Concluded in Sana'a

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The US Embassy Public Diplomacy Section, in cooperation with the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), organized two workshops, simultaneously, on TV Journalism and Production For Yemen Satellite TV, March 19-23, and the Yemen Female Media Forum, March 20-22, 2005.

Both workshops were attended by a total of 45 participants from Sana'a TV and the Yemen Female Media Forum and were conducted by Dr. Norman Swan of the University of Tennessee. Dr. Swan has a 30-year

broadcasting experience, broadcast management, broadcast education and research. He has conducted over 100 workshops on radio and TV in 40 countries across Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia.

Closing ceremonies for both workshops were attended by senior Yemeni officials and civil society representatives including the Minister of Human Rights Amat al-Alim al-Soswa, Deputy Minister of Information Ahmed al-Hamati, Chairman of the Kan'an Association for Palestine Yahya Mohammed Saleh, and Director of HOOD Human Rights Organization, Lawyer Mohammed

Naji Allaw.

The workshops addressed various topics including responsibilities of news departments, news research techniques, reporting and identifying topics, developing TV plans, news production and editing, ethics, writing, interviewing and presentation skills.

The workshops were conducted as part of the US Embassy Public Diplomacy Section's efforts to improve the professional level and journalism skills of the participants, promoting the standards of journalism in Yemen and empowering women role in the media.

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Court jails currency forgers

SANA'A, May 23- The Specialist Court issued a verdict on Monday against people suspected of forging different currencies including Saudi riyals and US dollars.

The court sentenced the three suspects Musa al-Jarawi, Mohammad al-Jarawi and Ahmad al-Jarawi to 8 years in prison while suspects Saleh Obeidallah and Taha al-Azazi received 2-year imprisonment terms instead of the four years which was previously issued.

The court sentenced suspect Abdullah al-Mekhlafi, who appealed

the verdict, to four years in jail while Sami al-Jarawi was acquitted.

The suspects were convicted by the court on Oct.14 2004 of forging 1,578,000 Saudi riyals in the denomination of 500, 13,000 Saudi riyals in denomination of 100, in addition to forging 1000 Yemeni riyals in the denomination of 200.

The band was arrested in May 2004 in Taiz along with their electronic devices of modern technology used in the forging process. Large sums of forged local and foreign currencies were also confiscated.

Aden Industrial Zone inaugurated

On the 15th anniversary of Yemen's National Day and under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the foundation stone of the Aden Industrial Zone is to be laid down today.

The foundation stone will be set by Dr. Khalid Sheikh Minister of Industry and Trade and Dr. Yahya al-Shuaibi Governor of Aden in the

presence of a number of officials and businesspersons in the governorate.

It is worth noting that establishing the Industrial Zone in Aden coincides with the attention paid by the political leadership to industry development, taking into account its positive impacts on the economy of the country.

Reviewing childhood laws for Better Future for Children

Under a slogan "For a safer future for children" the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood along with UNICEF held on Tuesday 17 May a workshop to review the laws related to children.

The aim of the workshop was to hear the different points of view of specialists, who work on the field, about the legislative framework in order to provide as much as legislative protection for children in general and the children who live in difficult situations particularly.

The process of reviewing the national laws related to children has passed in various stages. It started by forming a committee of legal people from the specialist bodies with cooperation of experienced national and international legal experts to come up with better visions that fit with the current situation and can provide much more protection and a safer

environment for Yemeni children.

Abdu Mohammed AL-Hakimi, the deputy of minister of social affairs and labor, commented "The aim of the workshop to review the childhood laws and come up with laws that should meet the international conventions that Yemen has ratified as well as unified childhood laws here in Yemen. In fact, we cannot separate the motherhood and childhood as both are two faces for one coin. This workshop is distinguished by calling all those interested in child laws from the different governmental bodies in all governorates of the republic, besides the local and international experts who have continuously spent two months reviewing all laws and conventions related to child. All the views that will be taken by the participants who represent Yemen governorates will take into consideration in issuing the new childhood laws."



Palestinian refugees and rights to return

SANA'A, May 25- The International Conference's preparatory symposium on citizenship rights of Palestinian refugees was concluded on Wednesday.

The 3-day symposium, which was organized by Kana'an Association, discussed a number of subjects and themes on the citizenship rights of Palestinian refugees.

The symposium also discussed various themes including the legal situation of Palestinian refugees according to UN and Arab League decisions, and rights of citizenship according to the international conventions.

The symposium focused on situations of Palestinian refugees in the host country and people displaced in the light of decisions and conventions that organize their homecoming.

A number of high-ranking officials including Mrs. Amatalim al-Soswa, Yemeni Minister of Human Rights took part in the event.

Mrs. al-Soswa said: "We should come together for defending rights of refugees and granting them the right to return home is legal and part of their rights." Mr. Yahya Mohammad Abdullah Saleh Chairman of Kana'an Association confirmed that the situation of Palestinian refugees in Arab countries is difficult and it may be part of a plan to compel the Palestinians to evacuate their homeland in order to be integrated into western societies and deprived of their rights to return home. He stressed that the Palestinian refugees are denied the right of citizenship and therefore different kinds of pressure are practices against them are forcing them to leave their country for Europe and America.

Iranian Ambassador congratulates Yemen

On the 15th anniversary of Re-unification

SANA'A- Meeting with the Yemen Times, the Iranian Ambassador to Yemen Mr. Hussein Kamalian expressed his warmest congratulations to the Yemeni government and people on the 15th anniversary of Yemen's national day.

HE the Iranian Ambassador said: "first of all I would sincerely congratulate the government of Yemen and all the Yemeni people on the 15th anniversary of Yemen's national day, and therefore I would like to confirm the firm stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward supporting the unity of Yemen."

The Yemeni Re-unification gained its importance and reputation on the regional and international levels through the presence of the Yemeni government in different regional and international conferences.

The Islamic Republic of Iran was the first country to felicitate Yemen on the occasion, and it stood by the continuity of Yemen's unity during 1994 war against rebellion.

The visit paid by HE President Saleh to Iran in 2000 and the visit of President Khatami to Yemen both reflects an enhancement of ties between the two Muslim countries.

The Iranian Ambassador pointed out, "the serious politics that are adopted in the two countries is thought to have brought success and prosperity; rather it is the stimulus of making distinctive ties between the two countries."

"The politics adopted by leaders of Yemen and Iran led to enhancing ties between the two countries in politi-



cal, economic, cultural and health areas," the Ambassador added. "We expect such close ties to keep on enhancing with the passage of time."

He indicated the Islamic Republic of Iran is always ready for supporting the Republic of Yemen to achieve its sought goals and fix its unity throughout history.

"We hope the close relationships between the two countries serve the nations of Yemen and Iran" he added.

On the political field, the two governments work on achieving coordination and complementation through the exchange of team visits and extending invitations. Besides, there is a good coordination in the political

areas between senior officials at the regional and international levels as well as on issues that concern both countries.

Additionally, there is the joint political coordination committee that holds periodical meetings to discuss issues of the two countries.

Regarding the cultural cooperation, the Iranian universities care for enrolling Yemeni students in different majors, and in health-related areas, cooperation has been so far mani-

festated in the establishment of new hospitals.

In his final words, the Iranian Ambassador has shown concern over the attempts of some private newspapers to defame the reputation of Iran and implant animosity among Yemenis toward the Iranian people through the publication of fabricated stories.

According to the Iranian Ambassador, such acts never serve interests of the two brotherly nations, and he therefore called on editors and journalists of private newspapers to only circulate what is entirely true and respect morals of the profession.

3 killed, 22 injured the night of 15th anniversary

The city of Taiz witnessed on the night of the 15th anniversary of Yemen's Re-unification the illumination of fire cracks in the sky, particularly in the historic fortress of Qahera.

Locals in different zones in Taiz opened fire to the sky and the falling bullets left 13 people injured who are now being hospitalized.

Women and children realized the risk when they walked up to floors of their houses to watch the shooting of fire in the sky from different places.

The aimless shooting to the air on occasions or other days causes tragic incidents among innocent people.

On the other hand, 3 people were killed and another 9 wounded at the same night in Khor Maksar, Aden, because of shooting of fire in the sky to mark the 15th anniversary of Ymen's National Day.

Official sources told the Yemen Times that Saleh Mansoor, 17, Laith Hussein Thabit, 20, and Mohannad Othman, a child at the age of two, all lost their lives

due to the shooting of fire in the air.

Relatives of the victims have shown grievance and concern over random planning of such activities, specifically as the security authorities in the city of Aden never made any precautionary measures in such events to save lives of people.

It is worth mentioning that a Chinese company has recently exported around 15 containers that arrived at Aden Port loaded with fire cracks for people to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Yemen's National Day.

Continued from page 1

Hundreds of journalists declare solidarity with Rahma Hujaira

The protesting journalists had signed a statement containing a filing of lawsuit against the A-Bilad newspaper and they had gone to office of the general prosecutor to demand that the newspaper and those supporting it should stand trial and the newspaper to be closed. They had also set fire to copies of the newspaper in expression of their vehement protest.

Journalist Ms Rahma Hujaira is one of the best journalists in Yemen in that her topics are usually charac-

terized by excellence and tackle various types of crimes and in many instances, she criticizes the government's negative administrative performances. She, on many occasions, stands in defense of issues of journalists and an active element at several non-governmental organizations and a human rights activist.

She has recently established a forum for Yemeni female journalists, specialized in and concerned with training females working in media instruments to increase and

develop their capabilities of keeping in pace with modern arts of press. Ms Hujaira is one of the Yemeni journalists who captured awards for local and international contributions. For many years, she has been working as correspondent of the Emirates Zahrat al-Khaleej Magazine.

It is expected that the campaign on solidarity with journalist Rahma Hujaira would develop and increase for forming a local and international public opinion.

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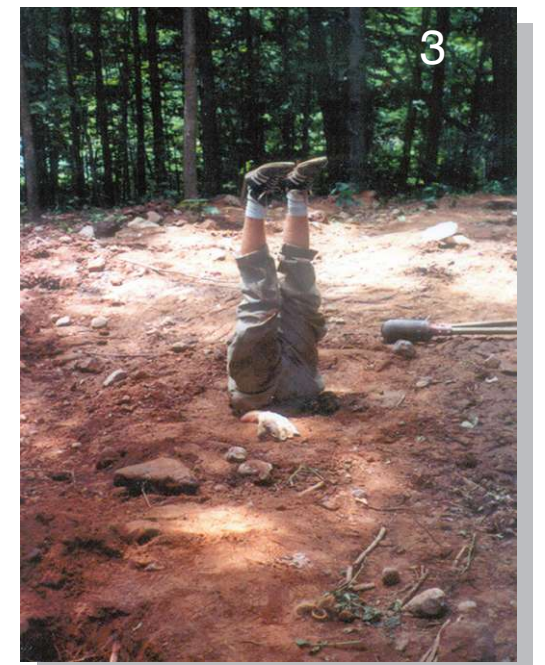
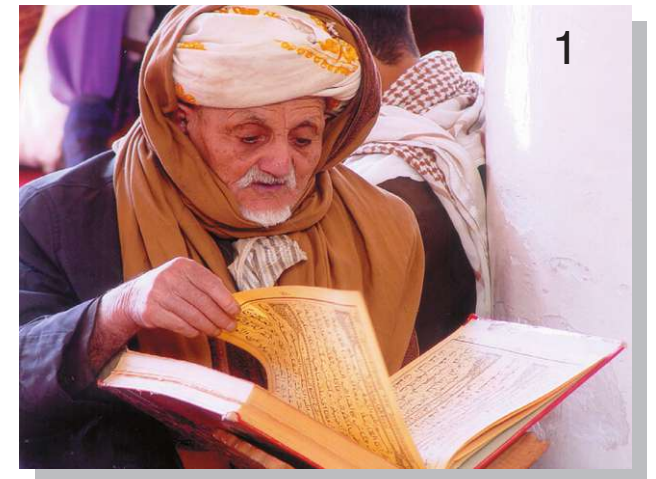
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جهاز كمبيوتر NEC شاشة مسطحة + طابعة + إسكانر مقدم من الشركة اليمنية للتجارة
والإنشاءات المحدودة TOSHIBA
جهاز كمبيوتر ضئله شاشة عادية + طابعة + إسكانر مقدم من الشركة اليمنية للتجارة
والإنشاءات المحدودة TOSHIBA
طباخة جليم غاز خمس شعل مذهب فول سفتي، مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
ثلاجة بابين بخار ٢٠١ لتر بخار مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
ثلاجة بابين بخار ٢٠١ لتر بخار مقدمة من شركة أرتكس التجارية
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١. غريب محمد مجاهد السباغي
٢. زينب مصطفى عبد الكريم الجنيدي
٣. أحمد ناصر حسن عزان
٤. وفاء مبخوت شاهر الحباري
٥. عبد الرحمن أحمد علي قايد
٦. إشراق نعمان محسن محمد
٧. زيد علي علي عقيدة
٨. نعمان عبد الله حيدر الأصبحي
٩. وداد عوض محد باضوار
١٠. هناء محمد حمود السحناني
١١. محمد سعيد نعمان العبسي
١٢. أسماء أحمد صالح العبيدي
١٣. خالد طارق فاذح الحمادي
١٤. مكرد محمد مكرد السوروري
١٥. علي عبد الصمد محمد



- سيتم تسليم الجوائز ابتداء من تاريخ ٢٠٠٥/٦/٣٠ وحتى تاريخ ٢٠٠٥/٦/١٦ وذلك في مبنى الصحيفة في صنعاء.
- لاستلام الجوائز على الأحوه الفائزين إحضار بطاقة إثبات الهوية.
- الفائزون من خارج العاصمة صنعاء يمكنهم التواصل مع أقرب فرع للصحيفة (تعز - عدن - الحديدة) وذلك لتحديد موعد استلام جوائزهم.
- سيتم البدء بتسليم الصور للمشاركين في المسابقة ابتداء من تاريخ ٢٠٠٥/٧/٢

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| ● Albasha Supermarket | ● Alsaifi Exch. | ● Funny Bunny Resturant |
| ● Alfardoos Supermarket | ● Abu Hussien Exch. | ● Maharaja Restaurant |
| ● Alyagoot Minimarket | ● Nissan Flowers | ● Alzakra Stationary |
| ● Almostakbel Supermarket | ● Rushdi Stores | ● Alsegal Stores |
| ● Alshrooq pharmacy | ● 22 May Station | ● Yassin Stores for clothing |
| ● Almaroah Pharmacy | ● Sabrah Center | ● Aldubai Center |
| ● Ibn Hayan Pharmacy | ● Save Way | ● Algarmani Exch. |
| ● Abu Wail Pharmacy | ● White Hand | ● Qasr Attohaf walhadaia |
| ● Middle East Pharmacy | ● Dubai Toys Center | ● Alrefai Jewelry |
| ● Alasriah pharmacy | ● universals Trading & Investment | ● Alawthani Trading Est. |
| ● Mora pharmacy | ● Alganad for fabrics | ● National Stationary |
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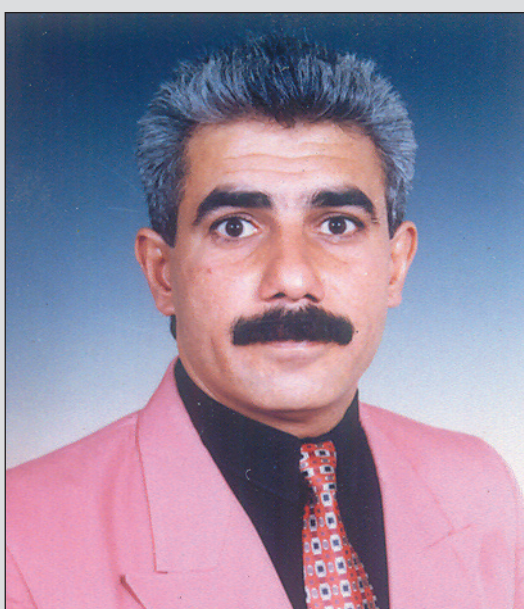
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In protection of environment

Innovated project for garbage disposal

Collecting garbage from cities and town quarters and dumping it in certain sites is one of the most important services offered to inhabitants. It is part of efforts to keep urban areas clean and free from diseases as well as looking neat and beautiful. Authorities worldwide allot large sums of money in their budgets for this service that includes creation of special departments undertaking this task and recruiting workers and employees to run them. This service also requires the supply of special vehicles designed for the purpose of gathering trash and wastes in addition to setting up special containers where people would drop their garbage before being collected by authorities entrusted with the task.



Ehsan Jaber Mehdy al-Khafag

Some countries, and from economic standpoint, have for long time thought of using garbage and waste through recycling for other economic purposes

and benefiting from them for any possible goals to help reduce as much as possible expenses burdens on state budgets. Many countries have built different installations for recycling garbage of different sorts and also for treatment of industrial wastes and sewage waters to be used in other useful purposes that have yielded good amounts of economic returns, providing state budgets with new revenues.

In collateral of this subject, an Iraqi citizen Ehsan Jaber Mehdy al-Khafag, living in Yemen for more than ten years has come out with a project plan related to garbage collection and treatment of wastes to be studied and included in plans and work of municipal authorities undertaking these services.

Yemen Times reporter Yasser al-Mayassy has conducted with him an interview giving full picture and vision of Mr. al-Khafag proposed project. Here is the text of the interview.

Q: Could you give our readers an idea about your identity?

A: My name is Ehsan Jaber Mehdy al-Khafag, an Iraqi national living in Yemen and working as an English teacher in secondary schools.

Q: You say you have a creative idea of a plan regarding garbage and wastes, what is it?

A: In the first place, let me express my gratitude to the Yemen Times Newspaper for granting me this opportunity to talk about my plan and to register it as letters patent exclusively granted to me. This plan is purely and exclusively innovated by me after long observation and thinking about the topic of tackling garbage problems, its effect on environment and how to benefit from it economically. Presenting this plan of mine is also

meant to block the road before anyone could claim this idea and attribute it to him.

Q: Could you please give us a brief account about your project and its implementation plan?

A: Historically, the first sewers were built during the era of Queen Victoria of England in the nineteenth century. An underground network of sewers was built to carry off wastewaters and refuse from houses and industrial sites to places outside residential areas to keep those areas free from wastes and refuse. The aim also was an act for the protection of environment and avoiding diseases that may affect people's health. Since that date none has thought of using such sewers for carrying off garbage and refuse other than liquid wastes. I have therefore

thought of an underground sewage system to carry off garbage through conduits especially constructed for this purpose. I think this project would be useful to countries financially, environmentally and health-wise, for all countries, whether rich or poor.

Q: You have mentioned that your project would have economic, health and environmental benefits, could you elaborate?

A: With pleasure. From the economic point of view, governments and tax payers would save millions of dollars as expenses spent on providing vehicles and containers used for carrying off garbage. Such vehicles need fuel, maintenance and workers recruited for that purpose. In addition, specialized administrations and departments have to be established to

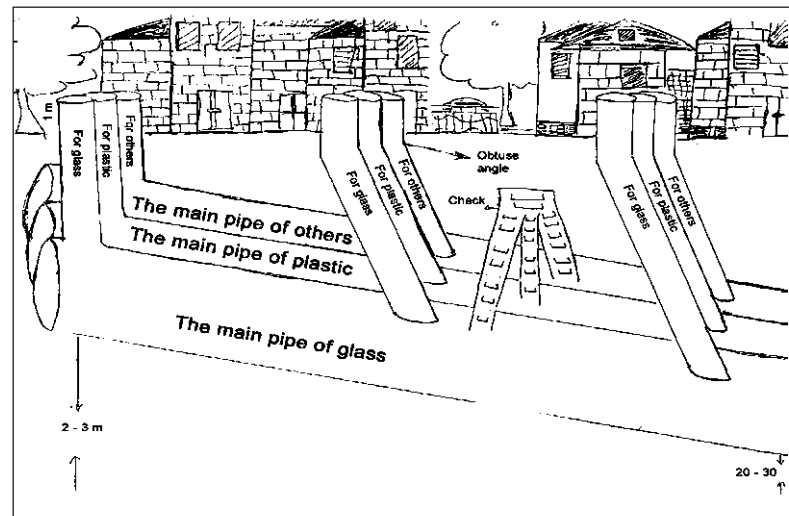
carry out the task. All those expenses and costs could be reduced. From health point of view, carrying off garbage through underground conduits would reduce risks of people exposed to dangers resulting from direct exposure to refuse and prevent disease-communicating insects from direct contact with garbage and consequently communicate germs and microbes causing diseases to people. As for the environmental positive impact, there would be no garbage collecting vehicles and garbage containers placed in cities, towns street corners and residential areas. There would not be such harmful odors emitted from garbage as well as there would be no scenes of garbage containers and garbage vehicles harming the beauty of cities environment. Even garbage dumping sites are not safe and damage attractiveness of cities and towns outskirts in addition to their being breeding places for injurious insects. By connecting conduits carrying off garbage to installations for treatment of garbage, we could avoid such dangers and their consequences.

Q: Do you think this project is workable in Yemen?

A: Definitely. I had discussed the idea earlier with Mr. Muhsin al-Hamadani, former minister of environment in Yemen and he has taken a favorable view of it and encouraged me to go ahead with it.

Q: Did you make any contacts with foreign countries or organizations about this project?

A: I did send an email to the Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, explaining my idea and then received a reply from the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Japan. The Secretariat informed me that my opinion "will serve as reference for future policy planning and administration of the Japanese government. We will collate all opinions received and report them to the Prime Minister Juicier Koizumi as well as transfer them to ministries and agencies



concerned."

Q: Could you explain the technical characteristics of your plan?

A: Rubbish conduits system is made workable in both poor and rich countries. The system project that can be implemented in poor countries for carrying off garbage consists of:

1- A pipe of various lengths according to its distance to the main conduit is fitted vertically at street corners of buildings blocks. The pipe raises 1-1.5 meters above ground level, it is 1-1.5 meters underground and provided with two covers, as shown in diagram (1). The cover (a) moves up and down to prevent bad smells and entering of injurious insects. Cover (b) is 50cm lower to cover (a) fitted with a spring to allow it move down only. The purpose of this cover is also to prevent entrance of insects and germs.

2- The second part of the pipe is slantwise to the vertical part, the length of which depends on its distance from the main underground conduit, and it is meant for allowing garbage to run down to the main conduit. Rubbish slides down to its destination without the need of a pushing factor.

3- The main conduit for carrying off

garbage receiving rubbish from those whose beginning ends are fitted above the ground, is usually wider in diameter than others and also slanting towards the final destination to where the rubbish to be delivered. In case there is difficulty in extending the main pipe a sloping form, the pipe can be built horizontally and equipped with a moving belt to carry garbage to the end of the conduit. The belt could be run with solar system power.

As for rich countries, the conduction system is clarified in the diagram (2). In this system there are three pipes fitted together, each carries off garbage of different sort. For instance one pipe for carrying glass rubbish, another for carrying off plastic rubbish and a third for carrying off other sorts.

I hope this project would be studied by concerned parties in various countries and to be considered as a scientific addition serving protection of environment and preservation of human health as well as its economic benefits.

For further information about the project, please contact on the following email address:
ejmakh@yahoo.co.uk

Woman leaders: apply quota

By HAMOUD AL-HASHIMI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Jazeera Center for Human Rights (JCHR) organized a symposium at the 21st Century Forum of the Yemen Times Establishment for Press and Publication which focused on Yemen after 15 years of democracy. Many Yemeni party representatives took part in the event.

At the beginning of the symposium, Dr. Bilqis Abu Usba', JCHR Director, said that after one and a half decades of Yemen's Reunification, there has been much democratic bustle. According to her, it was a period characterized by political plurality and expansion of NGOs.

Dr. Abu Usba', who is a professor at Sana'a University, further added that enhancing women's role in democracy would result in political and civil motion pushing forward the democratic process and reinforcing the status of the civil society.

Headed by Dr. Abdulaziz al-Shu'aibi, the first session of the symposium commenced with the speech of Yonus Hazza', head of People's General Congress (PGC) Political Circle. He said that Yemen's three electoral experiences (parliamentary, local, presidential) drew the attention of the world. He criticized opposition parties which exploit the voices of the poor and needy to achieve political gains. He pointed out that some opposition parties are still propagating racism and localism that harm the national unity, consciousness of the generation, and the future of the democratic activity in the country.

Mohammed Qahtan, head of Islah's Political Circle, pointed out that democracy lives where society's authority prevails. "Democracy cannot be fostered in a state where the will of the society is overpowered," he said.

He suggested a democratic dialogue between the opposition and the government.

In his speech, Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Qadir, head of Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Political Circle, indicated that Yemen's laws provide for democracy but it is not practiced. According to him, this made citizens distrust the credibility of future orientations.



Dr. Bilqis Abu Usba'

"The last 15 years represent a chance for learning, thinking and reflecting on Yemen's political and democratic future."

He said that the YSP appreciates PGC's initiative he emphasized that it must take a real step to activate the quota system.

Mohammed al-Sabri, head of the Nasserite Public Unionist Organization's Political Circle, asked for reconsidering democracy-related legislatures.

"Democratic activity requires amendments to parties' law to give them a more free movement. The existing law has not been changed since 1990 and so has the Press Law," he explained.

The second session, managed by Dr. Khadeeja al-Haisami, professor of political science at Sana'a University, Dean of the National Institute for Administrative Science, was devoted to women rights and democracy. Many heads of women circles in political parties participated.

Dr. Shafiqah Murshid of the YSP spoke about women's entitlements in the political parties and warned that unless these entitlements are ensured, "we would retreat in terms of democracy."

On the other hand, Dr. Amat al-Razzaq Hummad, PGC, said that quota was resented by the mass of PGC woman members and therefore, quota elicited a response from the civil society and political parties.

Khadeeja al-Khatari, PGC, described quota as a "temporary positive distinction system meant to activate women's role in the society."

She added that there isn't enough time to tackle constitutional amendments. "Society has to allow women to participate. Otherwise, half of the society would be passive."



Third session of discussion

She stated that the PGC has allotted 20% of its seats to women in next local council elections.

Dr. Amatassalam Raja, head of Islah's Women Sector, said, "Islah limited women participation to elections only. This is a sign of backwardness and traditionalism. Islah examined the issue in the light of Sharia but it is controversial among clerics."

Surprisingly, she expressed Islah leaders' approval of women running for the Parliament in the coming elections. She suggested that 30% goes to women, 30% goes to men and the rest 40% set to compete between both sexes.

She said it is not obligatory to follow the opinion of Sheikh Abdul-Majeed al-Zandani, Chairman of Islah Shoura Council, regarding the establishment of a counterpart woman shoura council.

"Since we adopt democracy, he has the right to set forth his opinion," she said.

The third session featured a number of interventions on political reform suggestions forwarded by main participants in the first session.

The first session had contained suggestions centered on political reform, democratic process, functions of political parties, State's function and women's participation in public institutions and decision-making positions.

Dr. Abdul-Majeed al-Mekhlafi classified ruling regimes into a) democratic and stable; b) unstable; and c) totalitarian

He said that high per capita income is a factor of stability for the developed political system.

"Stable income and living standard is reflected on overall stability."

Beginning his speech, Dr. Adel al-Sharjabi suggested changing the title of the symposium into "Yemen after 15 years of seeking democracy." He then expatiated on corruption manifestations that accompany the democratic process in public institutions, opposition parties and NGOs.

Al-Sharjabi concluded his speech with a confession that there is a certain room for democracy in Yemen. Otherwise, "I could not have expressed what I did."

To further democracy, Dr. Fuad al-Salahi suggested institutionalizing State's apparatuses, promoting the freedom of expression, bolstering women's participation in decision-making and exposition to changes.

Dr. Mohammed al-Dhaheri, professor of political science, said that members of the Yemeni society are still in the "social mobilization phase" especially women. He was in favor of enhancing productive organizational and employment capacities.

Sami Ghaleb, Editor-in-Chief of al-Nida Newspaper, called on the YSP to reconsider its views on women.

The YSP is theory is sophisticated but when it comes to practice, it, like other parties, contravenes its tenets."



View of the panel

Bilqis al-Lahbi, social researcher, said there has to be laws for compulsory adult education as a prerequisite to democratic awareness and conduct.

Yemen's women called for forming alliances during elections and urged the people to elect their representatives, not in accordance with their force, but based on the appeal of their programs and visions.

Nabil al-Soufi, Editor of News Website, suggested to opposition parties to stop boasting about their achievements, be close to the people, stop chattering and be concerned with listening.

The concerned parties' elements have to improve the democratic address and organize such symposia at their parties' head-offices."

He highlighted the following points essential to the democratic work:

Relationship of the military and security institution with the democratic transformation should be defined. This institution plays a very important national role.

Partisan organizations in general and the YSP in particular, which tries to reform the whole country while it can't reform its own affairs.

Education and its concepts passed on to generals. Education must be reconsidered and reassessed.

The symposium reached the following conclusions:

- It is necessary to objectively assess the democratic experience with special attention to elections, freedom of expres-

sion, freedom of organization, etc.

- It is important to start a government-opposition dialogue to create mutual understanding on difficulties and challenges facing the country so as to help adopt a comprehensive national reform project.

- Working on the achievement of a national reconciliation based on balance of social forces. This should help achieve strategic goals pursued by the country and help it avoid crises.

- Annual and legal amendments must be done in terms of quota and judicial autonomy and enhancement of women's participation in State's apparatuses.

- Parties, both in the government and opposition, should put into practice their programs pertaining to women's political participation in order for women to occupy a respectable social position.

- Parties should work to boost the culture of democracy based on toleration and the acceptance of the otherness to strengthen local democracy.

- Women, regardless of their political affiliations, should work together and create a public opinion to press on decision-makers and get their rights.

- Citizens should be given access to their political and civil liberties including presidential candidacy and possession of radio and TV stations.

- Working together to change the anti-woman traditional culture through educational curricula and media means.



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Afghans say freeing Italian hostage will take time

KABUL, May 24 (Reuters) - Securing the release of a kidnapped Italian aid worker in Afghanistan will take time, an Interior Ministry official said on Tuesday, more than a week after gunmen snatched her from a Kabul street.

Clementina Cantoni, 32, a worker for the CARE International aid agency, was kidnapped by four armed men who stopped her vehicle on a Kabul street on May 16.

"We are hopeful that she will be released ... it takes time," Lutfullah Mashal said.

He said authorities believed Cantoni was still in Kabul and negotiators were still in contact with the kidnapers.

Mashal said officials had spoken to Cantoni on Saturday and she was fine, but he refused to say what demands the kidnapers were making for her release.

Cantoni's abduction has raised fresh fears among Kabul's 2,000-strong foreign community of Iraq-style kidnappings by anti-government insurgents or criminals.

Officials say that they believe her kidnapers are criminals, not Islamic militants.

A man the government said for a time had abducted the woman has spoken to media several times, giving a baffling series of accounts, demands and threats.



Afghan widow women, who receive micro-finance helps from Care international aid agency, where Italian aid worker Clementina Cantoni worked, hold her posters during a protest against her kidnapping in Kabul May 24.

REUTERS

He told Reuters on Friday he had killed Cantoni but later told others she was fine.

Mashal declined to discuss the kidnapers' identity and referred to the group in contact with the negotiators as "alleged kidnapers".

Officials of the Italian embassy and Care International have declined to comment on efforts to secure Cantoni's release.

Three foreign U.N. election workers were kidnapped in Kabul in October and

held for 27 days before being released unharmed.

Their kidnapers were believed to have been criminals linked to a Taliban splinter faction and officials initially said Cantoni's kidnapers were suspected to belong to the same gang.

On Monday, hundreds of Italians gathered in the centre of Rome to demand Cantoni's release.

But the abduction has so far failed to galvanise Italians in the way that a series of kidnappings in Iraq did.

Australia warns Japan of backlash over whale hunt

CANBERRA/TOKYO, May 24 (Reuters) - Japan risks a worldwide backlash over plans to expand its annual whale hunt, Australia warned on Tuesday in a letter to Japan's prime minister, but Tokyo vowed not to bow to foreign pressure.

The letter upped the ante in a growing furore over reports that Tokyo will nearly double its catch of minke whales and add two new species to its hunt, including the humpback, a popular tourist attraction in Australian waters.

Prime Minister John Howard urged Japan to reconsider its position in a letter to counterpart Junichiro Koizumi, but a Japanese Fisheries Agency official said its whaling is scientific research and Tokyo has no intention of giving in.

"We are conducting our surveys according to science," said Takatori Nagatomo, adding that he did not know the details of Howard's letter.

"It is not commercial whaling. We aren't thinking of changing our whaling plans just due to foreign pressure."

Japan, where whale meat is a delicacy, abandoned commercial whaling in 1986 in line with an international ban, but began hunting whales in what it calls scientific research whaling the next year.

The meat ends up on store shelves and on the tables of gourmet restaurants.

Howard said there was "no basis" for killing whales for scientific research.

"There is clear evidence of the extent of public interest in the continued health and welfare of whales and considerable public concern could be expected, not only in Australia, but across the globe, were whaling to increase," Howard wrote.

The letter risks a diplomatic row with Japan, Australia's biggest export destination, at a time when Australia is pushing for a free trade deal with Tokyo.

Australia ranks fourth as a supplier of imports to Japan and bilateral trade is worth about A\$39 billion (\$30 billion) a year.

Tokyo will submit its expanded whaling plans at an annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in South Korea next month.

Australia is lobbying for international support to knock down the proposal at the meeting.

Australia's embassy in Tokyo is organising a joint protest by anti-whaling nations against Japan.

Migrating whales

Japan and other pro-whaling nations have become increasingly frustrated by what they see as a growing anti-whaling slant to the IWC's annual meetings, especially after the 2004 meeting ended with a

small but significant victory for countries that want to maintain the whaling ban.

Japan blames whales for declining fish catches, saying they consume such vast quantities of fish that they have contributed to a huge drop in fish landings.

Howard's letter comes as the first migrating whales of the southern hemisphere winter were sighted in warm waters off the major Australian cities of Sydney and Melbourne.

More than 2,000 humpback and southern right whales migrate north along Australia's eastern coastline each winter to breeding grounds in warmer waters, before heading south to colder feeding grounds again from September to November.

Howard said the whale migration attracted 1.6 million tourists a year to Australia's coast.

Australian national parks officials said up to four whales an hour passed some popular whale-watching sites.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told Australia's Parliament on Tuesday that Australia would continue to work with anti-whaling nations ahead of the IWC meeting.

"While stock numbers remain under threat, it's clear Japan's whaling programme cannot be described as science," Downer said.

Taiwan says US may rethink arms deal blocked by MPs

TAIPEI, May 24 (Reuters) - Taiwan opposition lawmakers have again blocked a \$15 billion arms budget from being discussed in the current legislative session, sparking worries that Washington may rethink its offer to sell Taiwan submarine-hunting aircraft.

At a parliamentary committee meeting on Tuesday, opposition lawmakers prevented the special arms budget to be included in the legislative agenda, dashing hopes that the bill can be approved before the parliament session ends on May 31.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it was told the United States may change its

mind about selling the island 12 P-3C Orion aircraft, built by Lockheed Martin Corp, if Taipei fails to approve the budget by May.

The government has said the weapons are vital to counter a growing military threat from China and can ensure security for the next 30 years.

Opposition parties, which hold a slim majority in parliament, say the weapons are overpriced and the money can be better spent on domestic problems, such as education and social welfare.

"The Americans have officially notified us that we should give them an affirmative commitment by the end of May,"

said Defence Ministry spokesman Liou Chih-chien.

"If we can't promise to buy, their official words are there would be a great deal of uncertainty."

We figure other countries may have expressed interest in buying the planes," he said by telephone.

After May 31, Taiwan's parliament will not meet again until September.

The arms package, scaled down from \$18 billion, also includes six Patriot anti-missile batteries and eight diesel-electric submarines, in what would be the biggest arms sale to Taiwan in more than a decade.

BBC programmes cancelled as staff strike

LONDON, May 23 (Reuters) - BBC journalists and other employees began a 24-hour strike over job cuts on Monday which seriously disrupted live programming on television and radio.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and two other unions representing technical workers were striking to protest plans by BBC Director General Mark Thompson to cut about 20 percent of its workforce, or about 4,000 jobs.

BBC One's Breakfast programme was running with a basic service and one presenter.

Its flagship "Today" programme on Radio 4 was replaced by a pre-recorded programme on music and BBC 2's

"Newsnight" was expected to be cancelled later on Monday.

BBC News 24 and BBC World switched to recorded news bulletins after midnight although they later resumed some live news broadcasting.

The NUJ said staff for the foreign language service of the World Service had also joined the picket line.

The broadcaster said it regretted the strike action and would do everything it could to produce the best possible service.

"Industrial action will not remove the need for further consultation or the need for the BBC to implement changes which will enable us to put more money into

improved programmes and services," it said in a statement.

The NUJ General Secretary Jeremy Dear called on the BBC to "understand and respond to the anger and concern at job cuts which will undermine quality, threaten the working conditions of staff and devalue the BBC for viewers and listeners".

The NUJ along with the Bectu and AMICUS unions voted on May 12 to authorise four strike days: 24 hours on May 23, 48 hours over May 31 and June 1, and a fourth day without a set date.

They chose to avoid big events like the Wimbledon tennis tournament, televised on the BBC.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the following positions.

1) Programme Analyst ICS 9 (NO-B)

Main Duties:

As the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Theme Group team leader, analyze and monitor the country's socio-economic conditions and trends, maintain relevant information and data, and assess their impact on the programme portfolio; Formulate a disaster management strategy and framework in close consultation with the relevant government institutions and UN agencies; Prepare action plan and set realistic and monitorable benchmarks and indicators for the Disaster Management Programme portfolio, and ensure their incorporation into the results based management tools; Promote awareness and understanding of UNDP's mandate and corporate policies on disaster management, small arms and mine action, advise management on key emerging needs, policy and strategic issues that merit their attention, and

Minimum Qualifications: -

- ∞ Advanced University degree in international relations development, communication and social science or equivalent.
- ∞ Extended experience (5-7) in Programme/Project development and management; specialized experience in disaster management and mine action
- ∞ Excellent knowledge of computer and Internet use including mastery of word processing
- ∞ Good knowledge of both English and Arabic Languages and Excellent drafting and communication skills

2) Service Centre Analyst (ICS9 NO-B)

Main Duties:

Plan and supervise all operations activities relating to conferences and workshop events, equipment procurement, travel, privileges and immunities, immigration procedures, visas, missions, , inventory, transportation and accommodation management and office premises. Analyze all activities to assure timely service provision including liaison with related units within and outside the office; proposes and implements cost savings and cost recovery measures; advises management on the day to day provision of operational support services to partners and clients and

Minimum Qualifications:

- ∞ Advanced University degree in Business Administration/Accounting.
- ∞ In-depth knowledge of the UN Policies and Procedures.
- ∞ Specialized training in Event Management ,Procurement and Travel related issues.
- ∞ Working experience in administration and travel services, full proficiency in customer services
- ∞ Good knowledge of both English and Arabic Languages

3) Finance Assistant ICS5

Main Duties:

Maintain expenditure ledgers and verify, analyze and reconcile various programme expenditure reports. Maintain records, documents and work plans for the monitoring of project implementation. Compile, organize data and information for easy follow-up. Draft correspondence relating to programme, clarify, follow up, an respond to requests for information; Draft presentations and other statistical charts for advocacy purposes, using automated tools and

Minimum Qualifications:

- ∞ University Degree in Accounting/Finance
- ∞ 5-7 years extended specialized experience in financial information management

- ∞ Excellent knowledge of computer and internet use including mastery of word processing and database
- ∞ Good knowledge of both English and Arabic Languages

4) Administrative/Registry Assistant (ICS 5)

Main Duties:

Responsible for the smooth and effective operation of the office communications, records & office transportation and supervises drivers; Organizes events/retreats and logistic services; oversees the handling of all incoming and outgoing mail and pouches, sorting, logging, and filing it as necessary; Responsible for the creation, maintenance, closure and storage of all files in the UNDP Office; Responsible for the office automated registry functions, E-documentation and E-distribution and

Minimum Qualifications:

- ∞ University Degree in Administration or equivalent
- ∞ 5-7 years extended specialized experience in administration
- ∞ Excellent knowledge of computer and internet use including mastery of word processing and database; experience with fax servers, digital scanners and distribution lists
- ∞ Good knowledge of both English and Arabic Languages

For detailed term of reference of the positions above, Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.html> and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to:

Human Resources Unit, UNDP, P.O. Box 551 Sana'a/ Fax: 448841/

E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)

Response will only be made to short listed candidates.

The deadline for receiving applications is 5 June 2005

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Words of Wisdom



The role of ethics is central to establishing acceptable norms and relations among members of the community. Degeneration of values can only lead to more trouble. Even from an economic point of view, high morals are important. I can remember a time when many deals were done on the basis of a hand-shake or a person's word. These days, you cannot depend even on a notarized contract, unless you have the power to make it stick.

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

OUR
OPINIONThe voice
of the youth

Although growing is a natural aspect of life, yet the essence and consequences of time is not well understood by many. Take for instance: generations. A generation could be defined as a particular age group or in other words, it is a bunch of people who live simultaneously and who in a certain time frame would no longer be there. This means that if you were around 60 years or more, it is very much likely that you would be gone in the next 20 years or at least highly inactive. No offence, but we all grow old, however, if you were in your early twenties, it would be very possible that by the next twenty years or so you would be the next CEO of your dream company, rector of your university or even president of your country, who knows?

Fascinating thought, isn't it. If we understood this fact clearly, as a nation, we should plan our strategies depending on the generations who would provide the maximum result. In other words, the people who should be given training and exposure in terms of travel opportunities, attending conferences...etc, should be given to the youngest of the staff. Because they are the ones who will be making the decisions in the future and they need to be prepared for it when the time comes.

Another concept of time that is not well understood by many people is that it can not be stopped. Silly as it may seem, in reality, this silly fact is not understood by millions of people. If you are being ideal at a certain time, or being lazy to take a certain action or hesitant about a certain decision you may as well know and understand that the world around you is not waiting for you to make up your mind. Since everything is moving while you are still stuck in your moment of timelessness the rest of the world has progressed leaving you behind. A tragic fact our beloved Yemen is living in and which many of the Yemeni people don't really understand. Perhaps this is why the Japanese jog in stead of walking or the domination of the American proverb "Time is Money" in the west.

Considering all that... and considering that we must pay more attention to the generations who will be ruling this world in a short time, the Yemen Times has decided to dedicate precious space for the precious youth. The space will be dedicated to young people in Yemen and even outside Yemen to allow them to express their thoughts and to voice their minds. Starting from next month, there will be an exclusive space from the youth, for the youth. We haven't decided on the name of this corner yet, and we would like to receive input from you. If you care about the future, you would care about the youth, just like we do.

Editor



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First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

Reunification:
Honeymoons (4)

As soon as May 24, 1990 was over, the leaders of both pre-unity states knew their own position. The hawks on both sides snatched some 39 ministries and the area-based sharing was convincing. At least, there was no other solution and time was pressing.

The new leadership was able to form new authorities in order to include those who were kept out of the Cabinet. A consultative council was formed consisting of 45 members each of them with the rank of deputy prime minister. Some 31 members in the Parliament and the members of the Permanent Committee and the Central Committee were granted minister rank.

The problem lay in Aden. The (numerous) lesser officers were trying to reorganize their status. Each of them was heading for the new center, Sana'a which many of the employees of Aden had not visited before.

Sharing was a solution for as many as five-level top-ranking officials but it was not justifiable to move secretaries, departmental heads, and even chevrons.



BY IBRAHIM HUSSEIN MOHAMMED

The financial burden grew heavier and later it was evident that the income of minor officers could not meet their immediate needs such as home rentals. It was common to find newcomers from Aden complaining of frequent moving from home to home.

Acclimatization to life seemed difficult to some people. During 91-92, large numbers of people returned to Aden and it was no longer important to share low-level positions. However, the case was different with people who moved from Sana'a to Aden. The moved were largely deputies, assistant deputies, and general managers. They were granted state-owned homes in Aden and all deputies and assistant deputies were given two apartments each at very low fees and later they became owners.

The nature of life in Aden was smoother and less complicated than Sana'a. That lasted from the early months of the Reunification up until mid of 1993.

Concerning the tip of the leading pyramid, some problems started to surface. The southern side of the Presidential

Council would complain of indiscipline and whimsicality in dealing with meetings' agendas and times. Disagreements were initiated over some appointments. The comrades were used to collective leadership. Mr. Ali Salem al-Beedh and his comrade in the Presidential Council Mr. Salem Saleh were manacled to a great extent. The other side was not. Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh had the power to issue binding decisions and did not have to consult with the General Secretariat of the People's General Congress.

From the events of the honeymoons between Saleh and Beedh, we got a scene in which both of them were playing tennis in Taiz. At that moment, Saleh lifted the hand of al-Beedh and said, "This is my partner in achieving the Reunification." He wanted to send a message to al-Beedh's comrades who were grumbling due to practices they considered were establishing the approach of inclusion and persecution.

As the date of the first elections in the Reunification era was approaching, some suggested merging the Yemen Socialist Party with the PGC and others objected to the idea. Preliminary discussions were conducted to make constitutional amendments and elect the President and Vice President. That was the genesis of rage and crisis.

Media terrorism

BY SANKARA SARANAM
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If one were to define terrorism as a violent act (not necessarily physical) breeding fear in an individual or a group of individuals, then it is clear that mainstream media is America's greatest terrorist organization.

Even if one were to limit the definition of terrorism to strictly physical acts, terrorism still requires communication for the terror to infiltrate other minds; and the better the communication technology and infrastructure, the higher the fear proliferation factor. Terrorist acts, like any event, need publicity for them to be worth the trouble to terrorists.

Daily, fear of tyrants, Muslims, blacks, gays, social collapse, technology, end-times, scientific theories, and secularists is spread on the airwaves. Meanwhile, the color-coded threat levels that marked our lives post 9/11 were more terrorizing than anthrax in envelopes.

Does this mean the media should not have covered 9/11? No, but they might have covered it without spreading fear. The problem is that fear sells, and fear pays.

If the media were to cover 9/11 with-

out any amnesia, then the American public might have heard something prosaic like this on 9/11: "After decades of US imperialism and corporate greed supported by our military, a handful of Saudis took matters into their own hands and flew a couple of planes into the Twin Towers. The major oil companies have written it off as just another American business expense, long ago tallied into their accounting as a predictable loss that comes with supporting corrupt Mid-East regimes."

The public would have roared back: "Where were the media for all those decades?!" Of course, the media was covering terrorism - only, everyone else's.

If the media are to cover terrorism, then they must behave like the conscience of America and primarily report American acts of terrorism instead of ignoring them and blowing out of all proportion the acts of others. Not only won't these reportages scare Americans, but by informing Americans they will put a screeching halt to American terrorism, which in turn will not make us a target for acts of terrorism.

Think of it this way. Let's say Jack is very unpopular with his neighbors. They think of him as a greedy and violent hypocrite. If he continually broad-

casts in his mind, i.e. terrorizes himself, with how evil and dangerous his neighbors are and how he is the only hope (by God!) of bringing order to the neighborhood, what are the chances that they will see him in a more favorable light? But if he listens to his neighbors and practices a little self-reflection, he might remember the reasons why they think so poorly of him and then change his ways. The obstacle he faces is that changing his ways will undermine his horrible lifestyle.

Not only do the mainstream media not help the American public remember, but they are doing everything possible to help Americans remember a different past altogether - one that support a war on terror. How ridiculous that sounds when we realize that the war is waged by the media on the American mind! To make matters worse, the media put halos on the leaders of the terrorizing outfit in the federal government and lampoon as a loony traitor anyone who would publicly help Americans remember.

The media is the beast, and it must be starved. The only way to do that is to give the beast no attention. Americans need to stop watching television. In regard to the terrorizing media and how to undermine them, "see no evil" never made more sense.

Letters to the Editor

Concerning opinion of Mr. Olfi on Al-Hassani

Even though Mr. Hassani has bitten the hand that fed him, he holds legitimate gripes with the authorities. The Southern governates, particularly Aden, have been raped by our so called high officials for their own personal benefits. To be honest it sounds like Mr. Olfi sold his soul to the Devil a long time ago.

Hani Al-Shari
ymniking@yahoo.com

The closure of the US Embassy

Recently I received a reply to one of my letters regarding closing the US Embassy in Yemen. The writer indicated that the US Embassy was economically important to

Yemen. The letter was well written and I thanked the writer for his comments. Although it may be true that having a US Embassy in Yemen results in some economic advantage to a few people, in the long period it may result in more bloodshed and very high costs to the people of Yemen. Consider Iraq for example. Look what having a US Embassy there has cost the people. Yes, some Iraqis will become rich from the US presence, but what about the thousands upon thousands who have been killed by US mercenaries? And the many thousands more that will be killed or maimed during the next 20 years while the US occupied that country. The point here is that while the US presence

may be beneficial to a few individuals, it is a very destructive presence to the majority of the Yemeni public.

Another example is Iran. What did the US Embassy in Tehran accomplish? By establishing a dictator friendly to the US it certainly benefited some US companies and a few Iranians, but look what happened... a revolution and a war with Iraq which was actually funded by the US... resulting in hundreds of thousands of Iranian deaths. The list goes on and on. Central and South America, Vietnam, Cambodia... all have suffered under the hands of the American Christian capitalists.

I'd suggest that Yemen restrict the total US pres-

ence to less than a dozen people, and then keep your eye on them 24 hours a day.

Robert Lindh
lindh@starband.net

Press freedom

I found your paper very interesting and I would like to know why doesn't your government want to give the press freedom of speech in Yemen? I am not a Yemeni but I love the country simple because I am a footballer and Yemen where I would like to come and play football. I would like to have a pen pal from Yemen. My hobbies include watching Indian movies and playing football. So if anyone is interested please send me an email. Thanks and God bless you.

Mr Sunday Sydney

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

A reflection of Yemeni
unity in real life

Mohammed Abu Talib

Quite often, when any known dignitary passes away, we see all the papers filled with condolences and regrets (at government or company expense of course), but we never really get the gist of why this person or that person would deserve such sorrow. The truth of the matter is that there are many people who really leave great mark, not on government records, or the obituary pages of newspapers. When these people pass away, one sees the expressions of sorrow and grief spread far and wide and throngs of people rush to the mosque and cemetery to take part in the last rites for the deceased, not because they want to be sure that they were seen in public to express their grief. When literally thousands of people amass to pay their last tributes to a person, who could have easily been awarded top political positions or management status, one asks what did this man do to attract so much feeling of grief and sorrow across all the divisions that make up our society.

Mohammed Ali Abu Talib passed away last Thursday at the age of 64 leaving no great war record, or political achievements or even substantial wealth. Mohammed Ali Abu Talib left with a legacy that remains imprinted in the hearts of all who love him because of so many little things that only matter to the eyes of the beholder, but have such a lasting impact. They remain with the beholder long after the passing of the soul. They are etched deep in the heart and the minds of all those who love him and feel in their heart and soul that a very big and important part of their lives has been taken away from them.

Mohammed Ali Abu Talib never rose to the position of prominence that he perhaps rightly deserved, but Mohammed really never really needed a Republican Decree to have his place marked in history or the opening editorial of Al-Thoura Magazine. Mohammed Abu Talib had found his own unique way of getting to the hearts of multitudes of people by his unique character and fair mindedness. He was accorded positions that gave him just enough public exposure that put him in the limelight of the public domain, without having the need for a caravan of guards and accompanying entourage. Even if they had been given to him, Mohammed Abu Talib would have refused such meaningless extravagance. Besides, people of the courage and charisma of Mohammed Abu Talib would have no need of guard escorts. For one thing, people like Mohammed Abu Talib have always recognized that death is an inevitable phenomenon no matter how many divisions you have guarding your sleep at night. If God's will says you are to die by a bullet, then let it be and save the public treasury millions of Riyals, because that bullet would get to you anyway. That is one of the things the observer remembers coming out of the open mind and broad perceptions of Mr. Abu Talib.

Anyone who worked with Mr. Abu Talib, or had a chance to engage with him in his professional capacity cannot forget that wherever Abu Talib worked, things somehow seemed to work out. In meetings, he will give the proper alternatives that could bring about YR millions of savings or help avoid a long drawn out case of arbitration. Even foreigners, who knew Mr. Abu Talib never forget the impressions he left with them, when he came to visit their countries on official visits or when they came here on missions for the agencies they worked. This observer recalls going to greet delegation after delegation of foreign visitors and dignitaries, and their first question would be: Where is Mr. Abu Talib and how is he doing?

Career wise, Mr. Abu Talib, was like most sincere and honest professional civil servants, was bound to confront the challenges of facing arrogance and narrow interests in officialdom. Yet, he stood firm and never let these matters present a major worry for him. With all his political connections, he never even bothered to seek support for his case, because he feared that people would suspect he had a vested interest of some kind if he was so adamant in holding on to a certain position.

Socially, Mr. Abu Talib crossed all the ethnic, religious, sectarian and economic lines. He simply was able to get along with all the different segments that make up our society. He can walk into any qat session and within minutes, he would be the center of attention of all those present. Whether the gathering is of tribesmen and farmers meeting to solve a dispute over land, professionals seeking a solution to a technical problem confronting a project, or merchants seeking to resolve a partnership dispute, Mr. Abu Talib not only took part in the discussions with meaningful suggestions, but gave the meeting a delightful pleasant aura that turned faces of anguish and even anger to faces of relief and satisfaction that indeed life's difficulties can sometimes be cured by a nice joke here and there or a recounting of similar situations with pleasant anecdotes that somehow breaks all the barriers of conflict. Problems can indeed be solved if people just looked at each other with a pleasant attitude and a fervent desire to seek logical and meaningful solutions to the problems at hand. If he became a friend, one can be sure that he meant that friendship to be a brotherhood!

Family wise, Mohammed Abu Talib was the first person to attend any occasion of his relatives from the first day on to the last. Whether it was a wedding or a funeral, he would be there to give the occasion a lasting imprint on the family's social records. He was also a person who believed in the strength of families. When his brother died prematurely of a cancer ailment, he married his brother's wife and took his children and reared them as if they were his own. He also looked after his other deceased brother's children in the same way as a father would. His heart had no limitations for carrying out family obligations and sought to ensure that no evil touched his family, in its extended form. The Abu Talib clan is a big one, but he was the guiding torch to which all in the clan would look to for help in keeping the family free from squabbles and conflict. They will never forget the honesty and commitment to safeguarding the endowment of the Grande Mosque of Rawdha, which was under his trusteeship.

May God bless his soul, and may people look at him as a lasting shining example of the values and traits that we all cherish.

Yemen Press Review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 21 May 2005.

Main headlines

- To take part in celebrations of the 15th national day, Yemen guests arrive in Sana'a and Mukalla
- On Unity Day, opening of 141 projects in Hadramout Fish port, Khor Mukalla and others are main projects
- Human Rights Minister: The unity transferred Yemen worldwide in the fields of democracy and human rights
- PM Bajammal discusses oil cooperation with president of Canadian Nexen Company
- Carrying a message from president Saleh to president Khatami, FM al-Qirbi heads for Tehran
- American ambassador to Yemen: Since establishment of unity, Yemen remains supporter of democratic reform in the region

The newspaper editorial devotes the topic to discussing what Yemeni MP Yahya al-Houthi had said in an interview with an Arab TV satellite channel, mentioning that what he had said disclosed the reality and dimensions of the sedition that his father Badruddin al-Houthi, and before him his slain brother Hussein Badrudin al-Houthi had triggered. That insurgency was founded on fanatic racial vision intended for returning the homeland to eras of darkness of the backward Imamate rule against which the Yemeni people had revolted and toppled. The newspaper editorial elaborated by mentioning that it was not a surprise that a person like al-Houthi and the like to come after more than 43 years of the revolution and the establishment of the republican regime to state that the rule was "usurped" by those who had led the revolutions of 26 September and 14 October and that the rule should be returned to its owners.

The more astonishing thing in al-Houthi's interview is his saying that he had asked the United States to intervene for solving their issue. His father and before him his brother and their

followers had said that the state confrontation with them was because of their enmity to the United States of America and their chanting of slogans calling for death for America. One wonders how that would fit between what al-Houthi who is in Stockholm saying and that of al-Houthi in Mran and Razzamat in Saada, Yemen.



As-Sahwa weekly, 19 May 2005.

Main headlines

- JMP denounces accusations by the authority and targeting its headquarters
- International reports on rule in Yemen,
- Continued deterioration in political stability and government performance
- At backdrop of attacking students, Parliament summons director of Sana'a University security
- In a message described as offense, Hunt Company rejects parliament decision and threatens the government
- Teaching staff Union announces suspension of strike, 40% increment for teaching staff members
- For abolishing medical colleges, private sector universities sue PM Abdulqader Bahamas
- News on al-Houthi rejection of the president's pardon, Yemen religious scholars demand for release of prisoners and treatment of war consequences
- Teeba surgical camp in Taiz carried out 446 surgical operations

Columnist Ahmed Zainal-Miraisi says in his article reforming the situations and preserving accomplishments are more important than celebrations. We forget or maybe feign to forget at every anniversary, whether that of the unity or others, that they are among God's graces, bestowed on us other than other countries that are still torn into pieces up until now.

At the anniversary of this country's unification we have to remember and know that it is important to celebrate and boast before others but the more

important thing is reforming this country in all areas. It is most important to preserve all gains. It is important to reform the economic, political, security and social situations. At the anniversary of the unification, we have to stop plundering properties, wealth and tampering public property, stopping bribery and nepotism and to hold accountable anyone who has a relation to destabilize our economic, living, security and political conditions.

The writer wonders about what to celebrate, saying that the situations have not changed. The wheel of development is running backward, corruption is growing and sprouting day by day, harassments almost touch everything and suppression of freedom, expression of teachers, employees and students are active. Why do we celebrate while the majority of the people are living below the line of poverty, proportion of illiteracy high and the policy of impoverishment is systematic?

Al-Muaarada (Opposition) weekly, organ of the National Council of Opposition, 19 May 2005.

Main headlines

- In the wake of early dialogues on presidential and local elections, Wing of comprehensive change at the GPC refuses any alliance with Islah party
- Secret agreements on illegal money laundering via commercial institutions and companies
- The Yemeni people mark the 15th anniversary of unity
- Nasserite party denounces calls for support from abroad to internal reform - GPC parliamentary bloc protests to hampering parliament council regulation
- In support and supervision of the president, Ruling party adopts national strategy for comprehensive reform
- Change movement inside the Union of People's Forces Party
- Taiz youth celebrate World Youth Day

Writer Sultan al-Maqrami says the



people of Yemen have the right to be happy and celebrate their national day every year. They have the right to hold speech festivals and to extend their festivals abroad. The celebrations are to recall realities and circumstances of any revolutionary event, its background and goals. On 26 September 1962 the Yemeni people revolted against the worst type of monarchy rule humanity has known and built instead of a republican system. Thus, Yemen had dealt a strong blow to forces of invasion and their stooges inside and outside at a time the Arab nation was suffering from the stab of secession and dismantlement of the unity between Egypt and Syria that happened in 1961. Again on the 30th of November 1967, weeks after the June setback of 1967, the people's will scored victory against the British forces and their supporters in Aden when fighters of the liberation army dealt fierce blows to them.

The liberationist, events and unitary steps and took lace successively despite difficulties and aggressive hindrances and conspiracies, but the effective determination and will were able enough to overstep them. The dawn of 22 May 1990 marked a new day for taking revenge and to restore to history the brightness and the return to the logic of unity to the Arab human. Thus, continue the unitary accomplishments accumulating with the daily struggle of the masses that confirm their sticking to the unity as a central goal related to their demands, reality and future.

Afghanistan's drug-friendly environment

By JONATHAN LEDGARD

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai has stepped up international fundraising efforts in recent weeks, seeking a fresh package of military and reconstruction aid from the United States, together with stronger strategic guarantees. But Karzai's relationship with his sponsors has begun to sour, in part owing to charges that his government has failed to stop the resurgence of Afghanistan's huge opium trade.

Underlying the opium trade issue is a security threat of another kind, one overlooked since the US-led invasion toppled the Taliban regime in 2001, despite the grave risk it poses to Afghanistan's long-term stability, and that of the region.

In countries like Afghanistan, where 80% of the population lives on what they grow and many communities live far from any water source, environmental damage can be both economically devastating and politically momentous. That lesson should have been absorbed and understood, not least by American strategists, long before the Taliban's fall.

After all, desertification and deforestation helped fuel the rise, two decades earlier, of the Maoist guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) in Peru. Sendero, which supplemented its income with drug production and timber smuggling, deliberately chose drought-weakened and deforested mountain villages as the stronghold of its insurgency. Similarly, the Maoist insurgency in Nepal, which has claimed 10,000 lives, exploits the desperation of mountain villagers hit by flash floods - the result of deforestation higher up.

No Maoist group could ever gain a toehold in Afghanistan's parched Pashtun south (these were, after all, people who, bare-knuckled, smashed the Soviets). But the Taliban's rapid rise in the 1990's was inextricably linked to the failure of irrigation systems. Villagers whose crops shriveled and whose livestock died in a prolonged drought saw joining the Taliban as an economic opportunity. Had there been more irrigation, the Taliban's gains might have been far less impressive.

The Taliban are now an increasingly spent force, but lack of water reinforced the logic of opium production across its former strongholds in the south. Irrigation has failed or is inadequate in Helmand, Uruzgan, and Kandahar - three of the top five opium-producing provinces - where indebted farmers are hooked by the economics: opium brings in eight times as much cash as wheat and uses less water. Without serious investment in irrigation, including construction of reservoirs to make use of the snowfall in the Hindu Kush, and in new cash crops such as saffron and rose oil, Afghanistan's drift toward narco-statehood will continue, with all the instability that this implies.

Clear-cutting of old growth forests in the mountains bordering Pakistan may prove as problematic. Agriculture there has been damaged by the cutting of walnut, apricot, and mulberry trees for winter fuel, and by a failure to replant poplar, willow, and tamarisk - the trees that hold fragile meadows in

place. These sorts of trees can be restored, given a concerted campaign and investment in nurseries to produce local varieties.

Loss of the ancient cedar, pine, fir, and oak forests on the slopes above is another matter. This year's snowmelt caused landslides and flooding - a warning of more soil erosion and destruction of arable land to come; hundreds died and thousands lost their livelihoods.

Forestry has always been a problem in Afghanistan. In 1960, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization spoke of wasteful logging practices, such as "head-skidding" (in which a log is rolled downhill, ripping up plants and soil). Aerial photographers were called in, and a large budget was set aside. But, in 1976, the FAO admitted in a new plan that forest and watershed management activities had "turned out to be quite limited."

The 1976 plan called for sustainable logging and basic forest-fire control, but war intervened, costing Afghanistan half its forest cover. Up to 60% of the old growth forest in Nangahar, the second largest opium-producing province, may have been cut during the war years. Mujahedin factions and later the Taliban exported stands of fine-grained cedar by the truckload from Nangahar and surrounding provinces to Pakistan, often in return for arms.

Illegal logging continues today, with only ineffectual efforts made to stop it. At the current rate, Afghanistan's old growth forest could vanish within a decade.

The UN acknowledges the problem but is (rightly) unwilling to risk sending forestry experts into a tribal region where American and allied troops venture only in armored convoys. Safety concerns and cost also limit intervention by international conservation organizations.

A new initiative called the Green Corps includes 300 forest rangers charged with stopping illegal logging, and the ministry hopes to boost their numbers within a year. But the initiative is unlikely to have much effect. Illegal logging crews number 200 or more. They have chain saws and trucks. They are armed and work with the backing of drug and emerald smugglers - and often of local officials. The price of plank cedar in Lahore is incentive enough to corrupt, or kill, any Green Corps men brave enough to stand in their way.

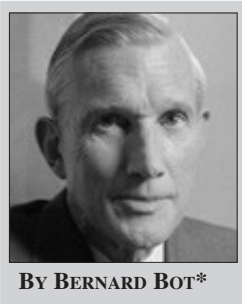
Environmental issues are of paramount importance in marginal countries because their impact on human survival is immediate and direct. The inadequate response to pressing questions of natural resource management, whether of water or trees, merely strengthens the hands of opium dealers and malcontents in what is already the most disaffected and sensitive part of Afghanistan - the clear-cut mountain slopes where intelligence officers believe Osama bin Laden is most likely holed up.

Jonathan Ledgard is working with the Afghan government to establish Ajar, an Alpine wilderness in the western Hindu Kush, as a national park.

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The union and the dragon

This month, China and the European Union mark 30 years of official relations. During that period, changes within China, and in the nature of those relations, have been dramatic. But how will relations evolve over the next thirty years? Will China and the EU be competitors or partners?



By BERNARD BOT*

Many challenges face both China and the EU. The first are economic. China's development in recent years has been magnificent. But speedy growth always incites turbulence, which China will have to minimize and manage. As it integrates into the world economy, it must seek to sustain growth while protecting the environment and reducing poverty and inequality. These are daunting tasks, and China cannot address them alone.

Indeed, sustainable development is a challenge for both China and Europe. After all, by far the most important factor determining whether our children and grandchildren will enjoy secure, healthy, and productive lives is whether the world's natural ecosystems survive the pressures put on them by modern civilization. A recent UN report warned that we have already entered the danger zone. Numerous land and sea ecosystems are in danger of being destroyed forever, with effects that are hard to predict.

One downside to China's rapid growth is its rising demand for energy and the increased CO2 emissions that accompany it. China is quickly turning into one of the world's largest importers of oil and gas. The International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2004 predicts that,

between now and 2030, global demand for energy will rise by roughly 60%, with China and India accounting for nearly two-thirds of that increase.

Huge investments - worth trillions of euros - will be needed to meet global energy requirements. The same report warns that, if we do not change our ways, worldwide CO2 emissions will rise exponentially. So a new phase in international environmental cooperation is needed, with China's active contribution.

Of course, China clearly has a right - like any country - to seek the energy, minerals, and other resources it needs. But a lack of cooperation could result in higher-than-necessary oil and gas prices and perhaps defeat in the battle against climate change. This means that China must treat climate change and intelligent energy use as priorities in its national policies.

Beyond economics, China must reassure others that its awakening will not make the world tremble. Thus, in formulating its policies, China must also sell those policies to a global audience. Most Europeans believe that China wants to be a shaper of - not a challenger to - a balanced world order, a strong United Nations, and an effective multilateral system. But, in a global village, misperceptions can arise all too easily - and can do great damage.

China's important role concerning North Korea's nuclear ambitions is a good example of exercising responsibility for international security and sta-

bility. The international community counts on China to pursue that role with vigor. If necessary, it must use its influence even more assertively to bring Pyongyang back to the negotiating table. Obviously, that solution must be in line with Chinese proposals and interests: a denuclearized Korean peninsula, which has the support of the EU.

Opportunities exist for a constructive Chinese role elsewhere. Having concluded a ten-year energy agreement with Iran, China is in a position to support the EU's efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation, as the Union supports China's efforts concerning North Korea. This is not just about Iran, but also about the threat of a nuclear arms race across the entire Middle East. Chinese interests are served by a Middle East marked by regional cooperation. We count on China's continued support for European and American efforts in making sure that Iran's nuclear program remains limited to purely civilian purposes.

Europe and the world are also watching China's handling of domestic human rights issues. The EU welcomed the inclusion last year of the following clause in the Chinese Constitution: "The government respects and protects the human rights of the people." But it is deeds that matter. At the EU-China Summit, we discussed the Chinese government's plans for ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

One subject China should address is freedom of belief. The obligation of prior registration of religious communities is discriminatory. Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - and the resulting

changes in Chinese laws and practice - would help to secure social and political stability in China, boost dialogue between China and the EU, and increase China's moral authority.

It is time to replace the old cooperation agreement between the Union and China, dating from 1985. Our relationship has evolved from a predominantly economic one into one that includes fighting terrorism, piracy, and organized crime, as well as many other issues. A structured dialogue - including the private sector, which is so intimately involved in China's development - is needed on energy, sustainable development, and the environment. We must see environmental problems and energy scarcity for what they are: threats to mankind as a whole.

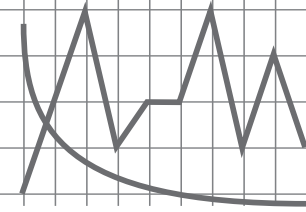
China will undoubtedly find the EU a tough negotiating partner. The EU sets all kinds of conditions for cooperation with other countries. Some issues are non-negotiable, because they are pillars of the European model that we seek to share with the world. These include democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights and the environment, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and the campaign against terrorism.

The EU's political standards are high, but the fruits of cooperation are sweet. If we tackle our common problems together, China and Europe can be instrumental in turning the twenty-first century into a century of hope.

Bernard Bot is Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.9000	192.1500
Sterling Pound	350.7100	351.1600
Euro	240.9100	241.2300
Saudi Rial	51.1700	51.2400
Kuwaiti Dinar	657.1700	658.0300
UAE Dirhem	52.2500	52.3100
Egyptian Pound	33.0900	33.1300
Bahraini Dinar	509.0300	509.7000
Qatari Rial	52.7200	52.7900
Jordanian Dinar	270.8700	271.2300
Omani Rial	498.5100	499.1600
Swiss Franc	155.5800	155.7800
Swedish Crown	26.2600	26.3000
Japanese Yen	1.7742	1.7765

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

How to plan for,

Achieving development objectives, link to human development?

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Is it possible to talk about realization of development goals in Yemen general? Why is there much talk about human development while poverty is increasing in the Yemeni society? How can equality in development be achieved while there are segments of the society that have attained richness through activities practiced on the margin of small investments? Why are indicators of local development receding against the Yemeni government efforts aimed at realizing the millennium development?

To subjugate these questions to define the concept of development we have to go back to the many schools of development of their types and perceptions they are founded on in order to learn and know the successful methods for achieving comprehensive development goals. There are several schools in this area, for instance the progressive development on which spiritual or progress development was

founded that eventually formed the foundation for human development. There are also many types of economic, social, cultural, spiritual and psychological development between two major poles: the natural development and human development, development of resources and development of capabilities. There is also a temporary development for a limited purpose, short-run and long-term sustainable developments. There is a development based on dependence on external funding, planning, supervision and another self-reliant development. There is an autocratic or bureaucratic development and another that depends on popular participation. The question is which type of development is prevalent in the government plans for Yemen?

It is known that those types of developments are not without ideologies, between socialist and capitalist, national and regional and globalization. This also applies to development plans followed in Yemen that are not without mixture of these concepts forming official plans

containing projects supported centrally by the state, by donors from outside and those of a mixture between concepts of means followed for the implementation of those plans. So what types of development are suitable to our society?

Comprehensive development plans should depend on scientific studies to determine the volume of revenues and ways of developing them. With the expecting drop in production of crude oil from 154.4 million barrels in 2004 to 144.56 million barrels in 2005, the oil sector is expected to witness a negative growth while other economic sectors play an essential role in achieving the development targeted for the next year at 4.1%. Hence, there could be some prophecy about indicators of verified growth of development in our country and their reflections on human development. Reduction in the national return means a drop of investment projects, resulting in a decline in levels of income and increasing numbers of the unemployed. The government says it is seeking in this year to limit the

spread of the phenomenon of poverty by continuing to raise the volume of expenditure on projects of infrastructure and social services as well as focusing on the investment program of the social safety net that mainly depends on the element of labour. The endeavour for improving the investment in environment contributes to motivating and pushing the local and foreign sector to invest in productive projects, with the provision of new job opportunities to be expected. In the light of that, a recession in the volume and proportion of unemployment compared to their present levels is expected.

It is obvious that there is deficiency in linking the drop in the level of oil production, its revenues and its negative reflections on labour situations and proportion of unemployment in the market.

While economic expectations reveal that the inflation rate of the gross domestic product of non-oil sectors would decline, it is also expected that the average of inflation this year would also decrease lower than its

level in the years 2003 and 2004 that was recorded at 10.8% and 11% consecutively. Thus, it is expected not to exceed 10%, meaning that the development plans indicate the stay of inflation at a level of 10%, which is a negative average and development plans should be drawn up for ending it.

Expectations indicate that the rate of monetary supply growth for this year would drop from 18% in 2004, to around a lowest of 16% in 2005. This would contribute to the decline in the rate of monetary liquidity growth and receding the average of the overall demand growth that would help limit inflationary pressures during 2005 compared to 2004. Nevertheless, the development plan has not tackled the problem in a radical manner.

Prospects of the balance of payments for the year 2005 indicate that revenues of commodity exports would drop from \$4232 million in 2004 to \$3754 million in 2005, at a negative rate of 11.3%, due to the reduction in local oil production at a time it is expected that imported goods would continue their rise from \$3762

million in 2004 to \$4025 million in 2005 at a growth rate of 7%. This would produce a deficit in the balance of trade and a simple deficit in the current account. The improvement expected in the condition of capitalist and financial account would achieve limited surplus in the balance of payments in 2005 when there is an expectation of a rise in its surplus from 10 million dollars in 2004 to about 208 millions in 2005 as a result of a drop in oil companies remittances paid to abroad due to recession in their revenues.

In the light of what has been mentioned above, it is clear the extent of Yemen's economy depends on the sector of oil and oil revenues, as they are at present considered the essence it depends on to cover its requirements of the foreign currency and significant revenues of the public budget. This matter dictates on the government of Yemen to work on rectifying the course of development plans to correct the situation and realize positive rates of growth at the level of human development.

Possible alternatives for shifting agriculture from qat to food crops

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A study made on fertile arable land in Yemen affirmed that there are alternatives to plantation of the non-nutritious qat tree by supporting the agriculture of revenue yielding and of economic feasibility crops along with expansion in building irrigational water installations and barriers.

The study indicated that qat agriculture was no longer the best source of income as there are alternatives such as growing apples, peaches, oranges, grapes, cereals and bananas that provide farmers profit value correspondent to revenues of qat that grant them better opportunities to change their economic and health conditions to the best.

The study has mentioned that

Yemen needs to support farmers by plucking out qat trees that occupy a spacious area of arable lands and consume quantities of water that can be used for other crops that are economically more useful and healthier for the Yemeni citizens. The study also points out that the growing of qat has a negative effect on most significant crops, especially coffee, which Yemen has been reputed for long years. The Food and Agriculture Organisation indicates that the area of land used for qat agriculture in Yemen is equal to one quarter of irrigated lands. According to that study, owners of fertile land in Yemen, if mone and support was possible for them, they would abandon qat growing and work to change it to fruit and vegetable plantations. The study also confirms that the farmers who plant ed fruits and vegetables instead of qat

have had good revenues, acquiring around one million and 500 thousand riyals last year. The farmers confirm that the fruits they have planted were of high quality, providing their consumers with healthy nutritious benefits. They have grown the fruits and vegetables with good without spraying any harmful chemicals to accelerate their growth and making them bigger in size. Some farmers have resorted to take them instead of qat to entertain themselves during hours of such sessions. The study has made it clear that the qat possesses certain chemical compositions formed from organic compounds. Those substances influence the nerve system as they cause secretion of some chemical materials working on arousing nerve cells that would result in a decrease in a feeling of exhaustion and fatigue. It also increases the abil-

ity to concentrate in the first few hours of chewing qat, but is then followed with a feeling of depression and anxiety.

Financially, the study points out that Yemeni agriculture of fruits and vegetables are of high quality with reasonable prices for the citizens in the Gulf region. Their export is also transported very quickly, therefore they are able to remain fresh and preserve all their necessary nutritious elements. This is unlike some imported fruits that come from remote areas and countries to the Gulf States, losing their nutritious value during the transfer from the countries of origin to the consumer. The study recommends the government to offer support to farmers in order to stop planting qat trees as it is the cause of shunning them from growing what is more useful and better for the citizens.

Oil deposits in rocky layers announced

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The minister of oil and minerals Dr Rashid Barabbaa has stated that the ministry was able to verify the actual oil deposits in the rocky layers in a number of regions of Yemen. He said it is a type of oil deposit only found in few areas of the world such as in Vietnam. The ministry also managed to estimate the high-quality production in those rocks, besides natural gas. Results of studies affirmed that daily gas production of a well could amount to more than five million cubic feet.

The minister also confirmed that the cost of oil operation in Yemen was always considered as one of the factors of attraction to oil and gas investments, which might exceed only one dollar. The minister hinted that the Yemeni company for liquefied natural gas had achieved a progress during the signing of three preliminary contracts for selling gas to Korean and American markets. He added there would be a signing of a final selling agreement in the coming short period. He said the project would realize a big stride in the development of the Yemeni economy, particularly after confirmation of the existence of gas in another basin, other than that of Mareb. That would help the government benefit from it in future especially in distribu-

tion of electric power in large parts of Yemen. The minister also stressed the importance of exerting more efforts and work by companies and organisations for increasing joint production along with giving bigger interest to the preservation of the environment.

Minister Barabbaa has evaluated the efforts exerted by the authority of exploration and production of oil through its staff of Yemeni employees and engineers, foreign staff and contracting companies. On his part, engineer Nabil Saleh al-Kawsi, president of the authority of exploration and production of oil pointed out the important oil discovery in sector 43 that contains a large oil reservoir in the field of Nibrabah, in addition to oil reserve of Kasha and announcing the sector as commercial in April 2004. He said production would start at the end of next June. He also referred to the discovery of oil existence in Khair field sector 10 that led to the increase of production in that sector to more than 32 thousand barrels per day. Mr al-Kawsi has also pointed out to the success scored in completion of exploratory digging works in sector 9 in the three discovered fields of Hasswa, Ruwaidhat and Aqban. The sector would be declared as commercial at the end of this month. Thus, he productive sectors would this year rise from nine sectors to 11 sectors.

Chairman of Aden Free Zone invites investors to contribute to develop the Free Zone

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr Mohammed Hamoud al-Wathn, deputy chair of State Authority of the Free Zones, Chairman of the Free Zone in Aden has invited private sector and national investors to contribute to the second phase developmental projects that include involvement of the commercial storage and industrial zone as well as the tourist one and the aerial shipment village, the city of fairs and services port in accordance with legal rules for involvement of infrastructure projects. Those rules include those of construction, participation, lease and administration.

Mr al-Wathn has affirmed that the board of directors of the state authority for free zones has approved exceptional incentives for pioneering projects of private sector and simplification of procedures pertaining to the implementation of different investment projects. He clarified that the state had worked for carrying out directives of the president of the republic and to translate them on the ground especially regarding preparation of the climate and provision of suitable ground for the start of the free zone activity and accomplish-

ment of the second phase that include the container port and renovation of sites allocated to investment.

Mr al-Wathn also appealed to Yemeni businessmen and expatriates to contribute to those projects and to invest in them in support for the national process of construction and development. It is to be recalled that the free zone has fixed encouraging prices for projects lands that are equipped with services, among which industrial, storage, commercial and services projects. The encouraging prices of each meter of projects supplied with services for each area of 500 square meters reach two dollars for each meter and for areas of lands of more than 50 thousand square meters; the meter price is one dollar and 50 cents. As for storage projects the hire of each meter is two dollars and 30 cents. For industrial projects, each meter is hired for two dollars in a total area of 500 square meters and one dollar and fifty cents to projects areas exceeding 50 thousand square meters. As for storage, commercial and services projects the price of each meter has been fixed at two dollars and 30 cents and those exceeding the area of 50 thousand square meters for one dollar and 70 cents.

In Mukalla Khore, Hadramout

Real estates prices rise

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Investment sources have mentioned that covering celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the unity in Mukalla in Hadramout has resulted in the sudden rise of pieces of land and real estates situated on both sides of Mukalla Khore. The sources indicated that the rise in prices came after the official inauguration of the Khore to which the Arab Sea water rushed to it to pass in the center of the city.

Many investors rushed to buy real estates on both sides of the Khore, which is 1500 meters long and 70 meters wide, in order to build investment and commercial projects. The sources also said that indicator of the rise of business shops on both sides of the Khore registered 40% as a beginning to the rise in prices of lands and estates there.

Many people have expressed their hope that projects of commercial investment on the sides of the Khore to be distributed on various fields without giving priority to hotel projects to other fields.

Mukalla Khore has changed into a tourist area attracting investors to buy plots of land on its sides after waters influx through its course. Before that new development, it was a swamp area full of rain and sewage water. Many of the inhabitants of houses surrounding the Khore have returned to their homes to renovate them and to dwell there or invest them. Earlier they have abandoned he area in escapement from diseases spread on both sides of the depression before the influx of seawater into it. Local councils in Mukalla have on their part exploited the Khore sides to invest in them by opening parks, cafeterias and tourist cafes.

Yemeni Theater: a wish that never came true

BY AMAL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni theater has passed through different phases. However, its flourishing era could be said to be during the 80s and until the beginning of the 90s. At that time there were at least 10 plays displayed in the northern governorates and about 12 plays in the southern. After the 94 crises, the theater has critically relapsed, affected by economic and political circumstances of Yemen at that time. Until now Yemeni drama, in general, and Yemeni theater in particular, are living through a state of depression.

Believing in the important role the theater plays in reflecting people's issues and sufferings, in sending messages to educate and brighten people's lives, Yemen Times tried to investigate what has become of the Yemeni theater today.

The reasons behind the fall

Dr. Omer Abdullah Salah, the general manger of public theater authority said that there are many reasons behind this inactivity, for example, there are not many good scenarios which convey people's daily problems and issues. There are some attempts for drama texts that target high intellectuals and educated people. He added that last year when Sana'a was known as "Arab Culture Capital" many texts were allowed to be performed in many cities during the theatrical activities program. Many of those plays had



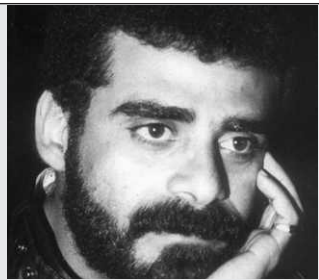
Abdull Al-Hakim Al-Haj



Abdo Rabo Al-Hithmi



Yahia Abraheem



Nabeel Hazam



Dr. Omer Abdullh Salah



Khaled al Behri

solved if there is interest from high level authorities. He added that our performance is currently occasional. We perform on certain occasions like cultural festivals and national celebrations. There is no constant space dedicated for plays and theater entertainment.

Yahia Abrheem- actor, insisted on the need for a constant drama stage, especially after closure of the national theater in Aden, which was a hall at the Information Ministry premises then, used for rehearsals and shows. He added that the theaters at cultural centers are not good for drama or theater plays as there is a need for particular light settings and specific decorations among other issues. The theaters in culture centers acquire the troupes temporary and are not available for long-term performance.

Killing creation... avoiding criticism

When Abdo Rabo Al-Hithmi, playwright, was asked about the lack of objective play texts to attracts audience, he answered that is not correct "Many texts were performed abroad and received admiration and applause

Other plays, according to Al- Behri, are being displayed on many stages like the university stage, culture stage ...etc which criticize many negative aspects in the society.

Abdull Al-Hakim Al-Haj, deputy general manger of the theater authority, said that any criticism must be constructive and aims to solve or reveal problems in society. However destructive criticism that attempts to personal emotions of the writer toward someone is not acceptable.

The private sector

If there is no intention from the government to build a stage or supply a budget for the drama, why is there no financial support from the private sector?

According to Yahia Ahrhim the private sectors are not going to invest its money in field that has been ignored by the government. In other words, business men can not take this risk without encouragement from the government.

Nabeel Hazam mentioned that unfortunately there is no awareness among businessmen "They feel that

They have to seize any chance to show their skills and creations. Therefore they travel around the country, receiving the love of the audience that are longing for the creative work that creates enjoyment and happiness, simultaneously reflecting their issues and sufferings. He remembered when he was in a troupe went to Torba - Taiz governorate, where there was an old damaged and closed stage however the citizens of that town cleaned and rebuild the stage.

Yahia Abraheem, believes in the power of the young actors saying that they keep on working and receiving invitations to act and perform in front of the audience, wherever there was a place. These performances cannot be classified as drama but are simple sketches." We must work to earn our living and satisfy our audience" he said.

Nabeel Hazam disagreed with his colleagues saying that there is kind of humiliation for the actor to wait for occasions or festival in order to get the opportunity to work." We accept to display any work whatever its quality to feed our children and family" he



said.

Who is responsible?

The ignorance and neglect of the government, represented by the cultural ministry, towards theater can not be explained or excused. It's important to support theater and drama plays, because these express the level of civilization and democracy that Yemen has arrived at, showing the ability of discussing our problems and accepting other criticism.

The actors in drama sector should be blamed also for their failure in gather-

ing and organizing themselves. There is no union, no association through which they can ask for their rights and demands. Many issues are discussed but individually and personally.

Theater inactivity is not just a problem. It becomes an issue that needs reconsideration from all the concerned sectors. Therefore it is important to gather all the interested authorities and individuals and begin with a discussion to rediscover the abilities and the means that enhance the Yemeni theater and make the wish for an elite Yemeni drama come true.



been presented for three days at maximum. This indicates another problem that the shows suffer from, where there is no particular stage dedicated for long term plays. The government, according to Dr. Omer, should decide on a budget to support and finance drama movement.

Khaled Al-Bheri , actor and playwright believes that the main obstacle that faces Yemeni theaters is the absences of a stage. "We have qualified Yemeni cadre, technicians and performers, who graduated from academic institutions abroad. We have more than 37 playwrights, and to accommodate all these talents we really need a fixed stage for theatrical performance Continuity of plays reflects the success of the drama work ...no stage, means no continuity, means no success" He said.

Nabeel Hazam, actor and director, sees that the main problem lies in the fact that there is no awareness among governmental authorities regarding the role of art in general and theater in particular. When such awareness exists, it will create a will to support and produce works of art. Other issues such as lack of stages, texts ...etc can be

from the audience as well as critics ... these plays have not had their chance to be displayed in Yemen yet, I don't know why" he said.

He mentioned that many comedies that discuss social, economic and political problems in the society have not been performed because the government can't bear any kind of criticism. Although theater can discuss many issues like extremism, Al -Hothi's case and so on. Theater can be a tool for education.

Nabeel Hazam, emphasized on Al-Hithmi's view saying that he prepared a play called "Al-qashash", which has been reformulated from a Turkish play called "Zoubak ", to suit Yemeni environment. However this work was attacked from some officials that felt the play was pointing fingers at them, while the drama was very simple and didn't mean to criticize any particular person. It meant to reveal some defects and flaws that can be found in any society.

Khaled Al-Behri believes that there is no censoring on dramatic texts. The proof of that a play like "Al-Qlast" for Abdull Krim Al-Razihi which displayed in many governorates and gained the admiration of the audience.


there is no investment in producing art work, whereas many countries such as Egypt, UAE, and US, receive funding and financial support from art manufacturers" He said.

Dr. Omer Salah said that turning to private sector is not the answer. The businessman invests his money in a show that attracts the audience, whatever the quality and the message of the show is. They will become just entertaining plays. This is what happened in Egypt where there are commercial theaters which are not objective, have no messages, no national concerns or intellectual issues to discuss...etc.

Initiatives...pessimism... optimism... sketches

In spite of the difficult situation that faces the drama movement in Yemen, Al-Haj is optimistic since many young actors keep on performing, using the available theater stages. He referred to the initiative of Khaled Al-Rowaishan, Minister of Culture, when he watched the performance of young troupe, in Al-Ahli club, and he ordered to prepare the culture stage for them.

Khaled al Behri, said that the young generation actors do not give up to the difficult circumstances that they live.



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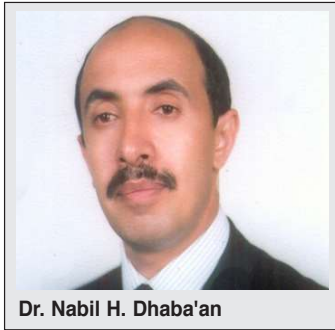


اليمنية YEMENIA



The director of al-Gumhory Educational Hospital to Yemen times

Huge demands and limited resources

BY AMAL MOHAMMED
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr. Nabil H. Dhaba'an

Efficient quality services are a direct result of good management in any institution. Since the health sector is a very important service sector and because it continuously suffers from many difficulties and problems in our country, effective management becomes a crucial issue. Al-Gumhory Educational Hospital is considered as one of the most prominent and largest health institutions in Yemen, as it receives more than a thousand patients daily. The hospital has recently had new management represented by Dr. Nabil H. Dhaba'an. Yemen Times met Dr. Dhaba'an, director of the Al-Gumhory Hospital, and talked about various issues.

As a new director of Al-Gumhory Hospital are you facing administrative defects that may have occurred previously, and how do you deal with such issues?

I am not a new member in the hospital's management. I was the deputy director of Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamidi, the previous director of the hospital. I was also deputy of technical affairs, so I am completely familiar with the hospital's issues, working as a team with Dr. Al-Hamidi and the rest of the staff. I feel that my duties now are an extension and building on to the previous management's plans.

Is there a new strategy that you plan to apply?

Any management should have a strategy and a future plan. Our plan is taking into consideration the hospital's capital and assets, whether the budget or the local support. I have divided my plan to work on four aspects of the medical services of the hospital and these include: patients, staff, structure and equipments, as well as external and public relations.

How do your relations with other sectors and donors help you improve your services?

We have good relations with different sectors, authorities, local councils, donors, governmental and non-governmental organizations. For example we have connections with Taeba Charity, which built Taeba Center for Burns Treatment at al-Gumhory Hospital. It's considered a typical center that works based on consultation with similar centers in Saudi Arabia. Construction of this center costs more than 35,000,000 YR, and the medical equipments and furniture about 400,000\$, consequently we are grateful to the charity.

We have connections with Al-Rahma Institution in Kuwait, which adopted the liver center of the Gumhory Hospital,

since hepatitis diseases are common in Yemen.

There is continuous communication with Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and we appreciate Mr. Ahmed Sofan's support who dedicated the Korean gift of million US dollars for AL-Gumhory hospital. Besides that, we have availed medical Korean equipments such as beds, surgery tables, instruments for intensive care, X-ray equipments...etc. This contribution will improve the health services in the hospital. We will keep in touch with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to finish the part regarding the x-ray project.

We also developed an emergency center E.C in the hospital which offers 24 hours services. It contains 60 beds with intensive care. We are also glad to have received support from the local authority represented by Mr. Ahmed Al-Khwilani, the assistant general secretary.

We have achieved a great progress by establishing the cancer center, which is working in full swing and receives daily from 65 to 70 patients. This center was supplied with the newest medical equipments in the Middle East. We are proud that the staff working in this center is completely Yemeni and this attracts the attention of the foreign visitors. This center is a result of the auspices and care of the President Ali Abdullah Salah, who directed efforts to help the patients who needed to travel aboard and spend a lot of money to recover from cancer. We also thank the Prime Minister Dr. Abdullkader Bajamal who supported this issue.

There is also a speculum surgery service, and defined clinics that need improvement and help of medical consultants to enhance the performance of those clinics. I have to mention that these efforts are a continuation of the efforts of the former management, so I have to thank Dr. Al-Hamidi again who has laid the first foundation for these improvements. Now the hospital owns the trust of the people and keeps on receiving thousands of patients regularly in spite of the small budget of the hospital.

How do you go about your daily routine in managing the hospital and trouble shooting?

I must admit that there are some defects in the system. Problems relating to efficiency and required capacity often occur. But these issues may take place in any service sector especially if your aim is to offer a perfect service where none of your inputs are in any way close to per-

fection. Lately we have established a connection with Al-Thawra hospital, our cooperation is for the sake of the patients. Sometimes we send some of our patients for treatment.

However, we try to predict the risks and potential problems and take precautions in order to prevent them from happening. Some issues can be solved executive and we try to avoid repeating the mistakes in the future, we have a simple team whose job is to deal with issues that occur on daily basis. But we always get stuck at the financial end because of the lack of material or certain financial resources. Our budget, which is just 7000000 YR annually, does not cover many of the essential expenses. I hope the finance ministry and local authorities would realize that the medical services are very expensive and the 1,000,000 YR that is given yearly is not enough for our huge hospital that receives thousands of patients daily like Al-Gumhory. This hospital is the oldest hospital in the region; it has been built since the thirties. Al-Gumhory is the only hospital that is located in the center of the capital city, so our services are offered to the citizens of in the capital and those who come from the other governorates, whether they are civilians or military citizens.

We are optimistic because we feel that attention is being paid to us and that the President Ali Abdullah Salah is interested in promoting and enhancing the health sector in Yemen.

Another problem is the lack of qualified human resources, which we deal with through cooperation with the ministry of health who provides us with qualified staff.

Considering this issue, how do you enhance the quality of the hospital staff?

During his last visit to the hospital, the prime minister discussed this issue and said that there will be efforts to improve the qualification of the medical cadre through implementing of a new health state strategy.

However I have to say that the doctors are the most productive group in the society. They have to study in the university for a long time to graduate and avail this position in the society, they must be ready for any call in their shifts and this exerts physical, and intellectual pressure on them. What we could hope for is that the society and the authorities appreciate their role.

Where do the medical cadre and the staff receive their on-job training?

The training takes place in all the sections of the hospital. That is, the doctors are trained under close monitoring of their supervisors. There are also students of Arab collegueship whose supervisors are heads of sections. In addition, the scientific academy provides doctors, students, and researchers with new data,

studies and Internet facilities. There are training courses for nurses and students who come from other health institutions.

How do you maintain patients' records and do you keep statistics of the various cases?

Yes there is a section that keeps statistics and general data. However there are no registers that keep information about the patients unless the patients have health insurance. These patients mostly work in companies and some sectors that contracted the hospital for health services of their employees.

In my opinion we have to learn from the experience of the other countries such as Egypt, the Gulf countries, Europe and America. Why doesn't the ministry of health and the other concerned authorities form a committee to study and reflect other countries' successful experiences to our system? A law must be decreed to ensure health insurance of the employees in the private sector. I know it's difficult to apply the health insurance 100% for all the citizens, but at least lets make a strategy or a plan to offer health insurance not including the medicine but including surgeries, hospital stay...etc.

How do you assess private hospitals?

Private hospitals are considered a good economic investment. However, 80% of these hospitals do not reach to the minimum standards to be called "hospital". They lack the techniques and equipments, and unfortunately there is no monitoring on the performance of such hospitals. Yet, there are a few hospitals that offer good services to the patients.

Why do you say there is no monitoring authority? Where is the Ministry of Health?

The doctors and pharmacists syndicates must supervise directly on the private hospitals and what is going on in them...particularly regarding issues concerning importing of foreign cadre. Mostly these doctors are less qualified than the Yemeni doctors. But unfortunately the investors try to attract the attention of the patients by using bright titles and names of foreign doctors. There is not much supervision going on and the health authorities should cooperate with doctors' syndicate and form specific committee and prevent licensing of any private center or hospital unless approved by the committee. This committee must be sure about the qualifications, certificates and achievements of those doctors before their coming to Yemen, and the ability of replacing them with the native cadre.

Any last comment?

Thank you for your initiative, and I wish you all the best.

Facts of Life

By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Are bacteria our enemy?



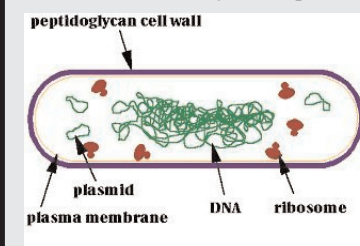
Hearing the word bacteria sets off an alarm bell to many people - including myself once before - thinking they are our enemy! Well, sometimes they are, but are all bacteria harmful? Will life be the same or better without them? Here is a look at those microorganisms.

Bacteria (singular: bacterium) are often the main causes for many animal and human diseases. These are the pathogenic bacteria which are notorious for diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis, and gonorrhoea. However, such disease-causing species are a comparatively tiny fraction of the bacteria as a whole. Certain types of bacteria, such as the actinomycetes, produce antibiotics such as streptomycin and nocardicin; others live symbiotically in the guts of animals (including humans) or elsewhere in their bodies, or on the roots of certain plants, converting nitrogen into a usable form.

The morphology of bacteria is simple. A single bacterium (shown in figure 1) lack nuclei that are found in other organisms. Moreover, their DNA forms a tangle known as a nucleoid, but there is no membrane around the nucleoid, and the DNA is not bound to proteins. This DNA forms loops. Bacteria contains plasmids, or small loops of DNA, that can be transmitted from one cell to another, either in the course of sex (yes, bacteria have sex) or by viruses. This ability to trade genes with all comers makes bacteria amazingly adaptable; beneficial genes, like those for antibiotic resistance, may be spread very rapidly through bacterial populations. It also makes bacteria favorites of molecular biologists and genetic engineers; new genes can be inserted into bacteria with ease.

Bacteria do not contain membrane-bound organelles such as mitochondria or chloroplasts, as in more complicated organisms or animal cells. However, photosynthetic bacteria, such as cyanobacteria, may be filled with tightly packed folds of their outer membrane. The effect of these membranes is to increase the potential surface area on which photosynthesis can take place.

The cell membrane is surrounded by a cell wall in all bacteria except one group, the Mollicutes, which includes pathogens such as the mycoplasmas. The composition of the cell wall varies among species and is an important character for identifying and classifying bacteria. In this figure, the bacterium has a fairly thick cell wall made of peptidoglycan (carbohydrate polymers cross-linked by proteins); such bacteria retain a purple color when stained with a dye known as crystal violet, and are known as Gram-positive (after the Danish bacteriologist who developed this staining procedure). Other bacteria have double cell walls, with a thin inner wall of peptidoglycan and an outer wall of carbohydrates, proteins,



and lipids. Such bacteria do not stain purple with crystal violet and are known as Gram-negative.

(Figure 1; a single bacterium diagram. Courtesy of University of California, Berkeley)

Bacteria are so widespread that it is possible only to make the most general statements about their life history and ecology. They may be found on the tops of mountains, the bottom of the deepest oceans, in the guts of animals, and even in the frozen rocks and ice of Antarctica. One feature that has enabled them to spread so far, and last so long is their ability to go dormant for an extended period.

Most bacteria may be placed into one of three groups based on their response to gaseous oxygen. Aerobic bacteria (thrive in the presence of oxygen and require it for their continued growth and existence), anaerobic bacteria (cannot tolerate gaseous oxygen, such as those bacteria which live in deep underwater sediments) and facultative anaerobes (prefer growing in the presence of oxygen, but can continue to grow without it).

Classified by the source of their energy, bacteria can also fall into two categories: heterotrophs and autotrophs. Heterotrophs derive energy from breaking down complex organic compounds that they must take in from the environment. The other group, the autotrophs, fix carbon dioxide to make their own food source.

The ecosystem, both on land and in the water, depends heavily upon the activity of bacteria. The cycling of nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur is completed by their ceaseless labor.

To realize the importance of these microorganisms think about what would happen if dead and rotting organisms were not decomposed by bacteria? These dead organisms form the organic carbon which would quickly deplete the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere if not for the activity of decomposers. This may not sound too bad to you, but realize that without carbon dioxide, there would be no photosynthesis in plants, and no food. What bacteria do is a decomposition process, that is; the breakdown of these organisms, and the release of nutrients back into the environment.

The cycling of nitrogen is another important activity of bacteria. Plants rely on nitrogen from the soil for their health and growth, and cannot acquire it from the gaseous nitrogen in the atmosphere. The primary way in which nitrogen becomes available to them is through nitrogen fixation by bacteria such as Rhizobium, and by cyanobacteria. These bacteria convert gaseous nitrogen into nitrates or nitrites as part of their metabolism, and the resulting products are released into the environment. Some plants, such as liverworts, cycads, and legumes have taken special advantage of this process by modifying their structure to house the bacteria in their own tissues.

So, after all, bacteria put the tang in the yogurt we eat and the sour in sourdough bread which represents a basic food element in our lives. Bacteria are of such immense importance that we should start giving them our respects rather than our fear!! Have a nice day....

Life puzzle

BY DR. AMRO ADEL JAWI
FACULTY OF HUMAN MEDICINE
ADEN UNIVERSITY

On the 15th of February 2001, humanity achieved the most important and accurate project in its long history, and such achievement is related to the enigma of life and human beings. For the first time in human history, man could turn to know more about himself.

Some scholars called the current era "The Genomic Era" because man's exploration of genomic letters is expected to leave fingerprints in the future of humanity. The main substance in the composition of the human genome is (DNA), which is the cause in the transfer of genetic features from fathers to their children. Some scholars hold the view that the genetic substance consists of protons and not the (DNA) and they did not think of the (DNA) for a single reason, it is that the chemical compound of (DNA) is distinguished by being so simple and therefore it consists of four azotic elements (Cytosine, Thyamine, Guanine and Adenine), in addition to a sugar substance that is extracted from Oxygen and phos-

phor. They believed the genetic substance should be distinctively complex, and this is why they neglected the other substance thought to be of a simple nature till it became apparent for the first time that the nuclear acid (DNA) is the genetic substance. This was invented in 1944 by Oswald T. Avery.

The question to be strongly put here is "how does the genetic information transfer in the cell, and how can it be supplied with the necessary protons that helps the cell grow well? In 1956, two scientists Even and Tijo confirmed the availability of 46 chromosomes in each human cell. This exploration helped in diagnosing the chromosomal diseases. In 1959, the French scientist Gerome Lejeune confirmed that the downs syndrome is ascribable to the existence of 47 chromosomes instead of 46 in the cell of the patient. The chromosomes No.21 is an extra one and means that the patient has three chromosomes with the number 21 while a healthy person has only two chromosomes with the number 21, one is inherited from his father and the other from his mother.

What distinguishes the Genomic Era, from 1997 up until now, is the increasing explorations of the number of genes, par-

ticularly those causing genetically inherited diseases. This contributed to opening a door with its two shelters in the field of medical sciences, the so-called Gene Medicine. This stage started with the cloning of the goat (Dolley) in 1996 by Len Wilmut.

Other developments achieved in the same period on June 26, 2000, is the exploration of the genetic map of man that was followed by the reading of human genome on April 24, 2003. Afterwards, scientists moved on studying genes relevant to diseases and a big share of studies was expected to be conducted on diabetes.

Now scientists are keeping on the study of genes available on the chromosomes No.20 who is believed to have an effective role in the development of some types of diabetes, mainly type two that infects a large number of human beings.

The experiment of the goat "Dolley" is considered the rarest one in the history of medicine, which was conducted through the non-sexual cloning. This experiment aroused questionings about the likelihood of human cloning in the same way.

The experiment was conducted according to the following steps:

(1) Taking some cells from the

breast of goat A that was 6 years old and putting it in nutritional mean. Then researchers hungered these cells through reducing the nutritional elements in the mean with an average of (1:12) of the normal concentration that makes cells in a state of tranquility. In this case, the genes become ready for the process while the cells enter a genomic state able to restore its programming genetically.

(2) An ovum was taken from goat B, its nucleus was extracted and the ovum became a cell containing cytoplasm and free from nucleus.

(3) Nucleus of the breast cell taken from goat A was transplanted in the ovum of goat B that is free from nucleus with the means of electrical merging. The Cytoplasm of the ovum contains some elements that in turn mislead the new nucleus making it feel being a genomic nucleus. It consequently starts to split to transplanted fetus in the uterus of a third goat.

From her we prove that we are on the way to uncover the mask of life puzzle that has made man preoccupied since the beginning of his creation. Hence scientists proved themselves able to comprehend all the vocabulary, rules and shapes that form the genomic language.

Swiss consulate in Yemen inaugurated



SANA'A, May 18- An inaugural ceremony was held Wednesday to mark the inauguration of the Swiss Consulate and the appointment of Mr. Hayel Abdulhaq as an official consular of Switzerland to the Republic of Yemen.

The ceremony was attended by HE Mr. Dominik M. Alder, Ambassador of Switzerland to Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman who resides in Riyadh.

HE the Swiss Ambassador expressed his happiness on the occasion and gratitude to all the Yemeni journalists who



Mr. Hayel Abdulhaq



Mr. Dominik M. Alder

attending the event for media coverage.

He said, "Today is the official day for opening the Swiss

Consulate in Yemen that in turn works for reinforcing relationships between Switzerland and Yemen, particularly in areas of trade and investment.

HE Mr. Dominik M. Alder noted: "though old trade ties between Yemen and Switzerland are, their proportional development has not reached the expected level, as the total of Swiss exports to Yemen never reached the tune of \$35 million.

The Swiss exports to Yemen include electronic devices, drugs and the well-famed Swiss watches.

On the other hand, the volume of Yemeni exports to Switzerland is comparatively small as it accounts for only \$300 thousand, and the majority of exports are fruits and vegetables.

The Swiss Ambassador confirmed the prosperity and rapid progress of ties between the two friendly countries would

help attract great influx of Swiss tourists and different types of investments to Yemen, which is really a nice country.

He mentioned that he has visited Yemen several times and found it similar to Switzerland in terms of topography and weather.

For his part, Mr. Hayel Abdulhaq stressed that he is very happy at the trust of Switzerland on him, and therefore will work harder and harder for activating ties between Yemen and Switzerland through arranging mutual visits of high-ranking officials of both countries.

He added that in coordination with the Swiss Trade Chamber, he will make the necessary arrangements for mutual visits of Swiss and Yemeni businessmen, particularly as Yemen possesses suitable climate that helps attract Swiss investors

Mr. Hayel Abdulhaq confirmed the activation of Yemeni tourism is an important matter, and popularizing Yemen internationally will help attract visitors who in turn may convey a good impression about Yemen to their countries as well as encourage businessmen to invest in Yemen.

He emphasized that in the past the political representation was honorary, but nowadays it is an official representation.



HE the Swiss Ambassador(R) and Mr. Hayel Abdulhaq.



HE the Swiss Ambassador (center) talking with journalists



HE the Swiss Ambassador (R) and Mr. Hayel Abdulhaq standing together with the Yemeni flag in between.



HE the Swiss Ambassador (R) and Mr. Abdulhaq Consul of Switzerland to Yemen standing in front of the Consulate Building.

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Wallace leads Pistons to Game One win over Heat

TORONTO (Reuters) - Rasheed Wallace scored 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds as a solid Detroit Pistons defeated the Heat 90-81 in the opening game of the Eastern Conference finals in Miami on Monday.

Chauncey Billups added 18 points for the defending NBA champions, who got double-digit scoring from all five of their starters in the first of the best-of-seven games series.

Game Two is also in Miami on Wednesday and the Heat will be hoping to bounce back from their first playoff loss this postseason after eight straight victories.

Richard Hamilton added 16 points for the Pistons, while Ben Wallace had 13 points and 13 rebounds as Detroit held the Heat to just one point in the final 4 minutes after nearly squandering a 14-point lead.

"We just wanted it a little bit more," Rasheed Wallace said. "We just play D (defense) and play our

assignments. "We're just trying to prove last year wasn't a fluke."

Tayshaun Prince also contributed 13 points to Detroit's attack, while Antonio McDyess had 10 points off the bench in just 20 minutes to become the sixth Piston into double figures.

Shaquille O'Neal played for the Heat despite a lingering thigh injury that kept him sidelined from games and practices for almost two weeks. He made his first four shots of the game and finished with 20 points in 33 minutes of action.

Eddie Jones led Miami's scoring with 22 points on 9-for-13 shooting, while a disappointing Dwyane Wade could only manage 16 points after shooting just 7-for-25.

The Pistons led 44-43 at the half, pulled ahead by as many as 14 points and held the Heat to just 14 fourth quarter points in a solid defensive effort.



Detroit Pistons' Rasheed Wallace (R) celebrates with teammates including Antonio McDyess (L) after the Pistons took the lead against the Miami Heat in the first half of Game One of the Eastern Conference NBA Finals in Miami May 23, 2005.

Martinez lifts Indians to victory over Twins

TORONTO (Reuters) - Victor Martinez's sacrifice fly in the eighth inning drove in the winning run as the Cleveland Indians edged the Minnesota Twins 2-1 in American League play at Jacobs Field on Monday.

The catcher's liner to center field scored Jhonny Peralta as the Indians won their third straight game in the opener of a four-game series between the bitter Central Division rivals.

It was an uneventful start to the series between the teams, who have had several on-field altercations in the past few seasons.

Major League Baseball issued a written warning to the clubs before the series began to keep their players in line after a benches-clearing incident on May 5.

The warning worked, at least for the first game, played in front of just 13,257 fans on a bitterly cold night in Cleveland.

Arthur Rhodes (3-1) pitched a perfect inning of relief for the win, as five Indians pitchers combined on an eight-hitter.

Starter Scott Elarton pitched 5 1/3 shutout innings, allowing just four hits. Bob Wickman finished up, getting the final three outs in a nervous ninth inning for his 13th save.

Minnesota starter Kyle Lohse (3-3) allowed two runs on seven hits over 7 1/3 innings and took the loss, striking out one and walking two.

Aaron Boone's RBI double in the second inning cashed in the Tribe's other run, as Cleveland made the most of just seven hits.

Michael Cuddyer tied the game with a run-scoring double in the seventh inning for the Twins.

Torii Hunter had two hits for Minnesota.

In the day's other game, rookie Ervin Santana pitched a five-hit shutout as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Chicago White Sox 4-0 in



Cleveland Indians right fielder Casey Blake reaches for ball hit by Torii Hunter of the Minnesota Twins, bouncing off the wall for a double in the ninth inning of game at Jacobs Field in Cleveland, Ohio, May 23. Indians won, 2-1. Reuters

Anaheim. Santana (1-1) picked up his first major league victory in just his second start, striking out seven and walking one in a dominating performance.

The 22-year-old got the better of veteran Jon Garland, handing him his first loss of the season.

Bengie Molina had a solo home run and a run-scoring single while Adam Kennedy had a two-run double for the Angels.

Orlando Cabrera added three hits to the L.A. attack.

Garland (8-1) allowed three runs on 11 hits over seven innings as his 10-game winning streak was snapped.

Garland struck out four and walked one.

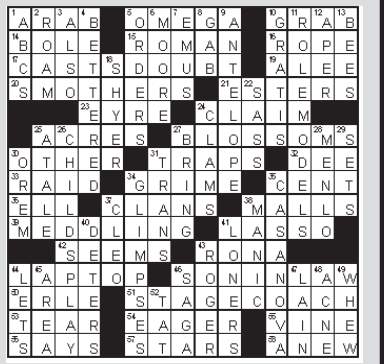
Tadahito Iguchi had two hits for the White Sox.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

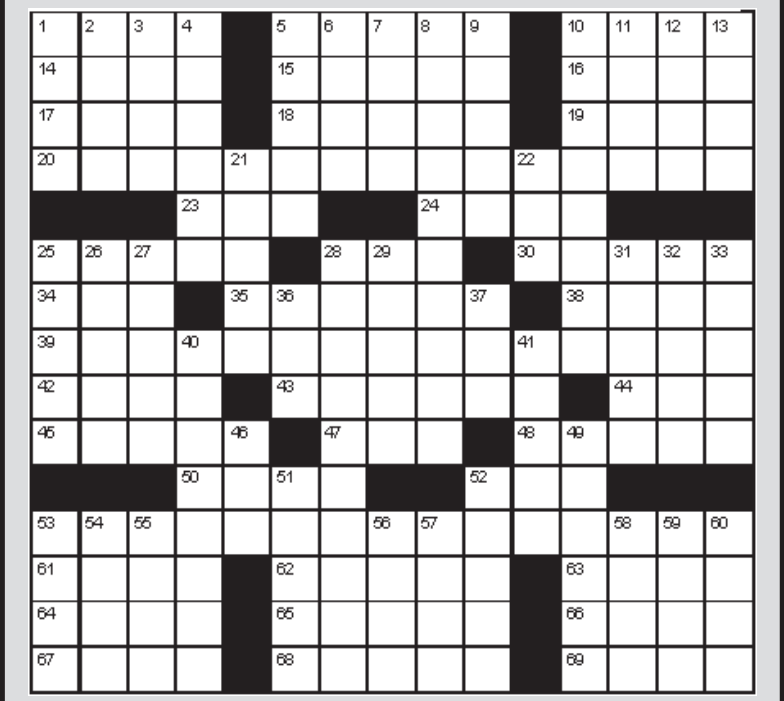
- ACROSS**
- 1 West African talisman
 - 5 Martin or Lawrence
 - 10 Thoracic muscles
 - 14 Apprised of
 - 15 Fighter of school prayer
 - 16 Hun king
 - 17 Van attachment
 - 18 Largest of the Florida Keys
 - 19 Canal of Egypt
 - 20 Motto of a New York newspaper?
 - 23 No alternative?
 - 24 Emulate a frightened horse
 - 25 Straight toppler
 - 28 Canals between Huron and Superior
 - 30 Volcanic material
 - 34 ___ in apple
 - 35 Very poor spirits?
 - 38 Sallie and Fannie
 - 39 Motto of a Baltimore newspaper?
 - 42 Sicilian landmark
 - 43 End of a threat
 - 44 Implement
 - 45 Part of LED
 - 47 Tackle
 - 48 Most superheroes have them
 - 50 Actor Dick Van
 - 52 Verne's lunch?
- DOWN**
- 1 "Purple Haze" singer Hendrix
 - 2 Kind of pricing
 - 3 Folk singer Mitchell
 - 4 Burroughs and Sperry merger offspring
 - 5 Cadenzas, e.g.
 - 6 Easing of tension
 - 7 Tombstone marshal
 - 8 In a robust manner
 - 9 Uneven, as the border of a leaf
 - 10 Smoked beef
 - 11 Personal articles case
 - 12 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
 - 13 Number of shoes?
 - 21 Indra Gandhi's father
 - 22 Scotsman's toppler
 - 25 Ill- (doomed)
 - 26 Actress Christine
 - 27 HOOKS (crate sign)
 - 28 Beginner's package, perhaps
 - 29 Lustful looker
 - 31 Get prepared for a long drive
 - 32 Ed of the Reagan cabinet
 - 33 Mules, hinnies and such
 - 36 Frequent visitor to The Beatles' sessions
 - 37 How- (book types)
 - 40 Downcast
 - 41 Mow again
 - 46 Hurricane hub
 - 49 On the train
 - 51 Australian with a fur coat
 - 52 Grade school incentives
 - 53 Harbor boats
 - 54 Vividly colored fish
 - 55 Clown of renown
 - 56 El ___ (weather phenomenon)
 - 57 Utah Lake city
 - 58 Soft, salted cheese
 - 59 "Kleine Nachtmusik"
 - 60 Many wapti

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"DAILY MOTTO" by Patrick McConville



مسابقة رقم (43) Contest No. (43)

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- Section of a book (7) c
- Take a dip (5) p
- Go against authority (5) r
- In this place (4) h
- Large black bird (4) c
- Encourage (4) u
- Say sorry 9 a

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- Sop
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- eliminate
- odd
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Sam Al-Sharabi

Continued from back page

From victims to re-builders of society

For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls. There are many stories that remain to be told about women from all walks of life who are making a quantum leap from lives in the private sphere to leading the way in reshaping their societies. Between 2000 and 2002, elections were held in 23 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with increases in the number of women parliamentarians in 14 of them. In most cases, significant increases have been achieved through the use of quotas.

At the peak of the crisis in Liberia, women of the Mano River region (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone) came together to form the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET). So powerful was MARWOPNET's voice that it was invited to the ECOWAS-sponsored peace talks on Liberia in Akosombo, Ghana, and later was invited to be one of the signatories to the peace agreement. Now upon their return to Liberia, many of them will run for political office.

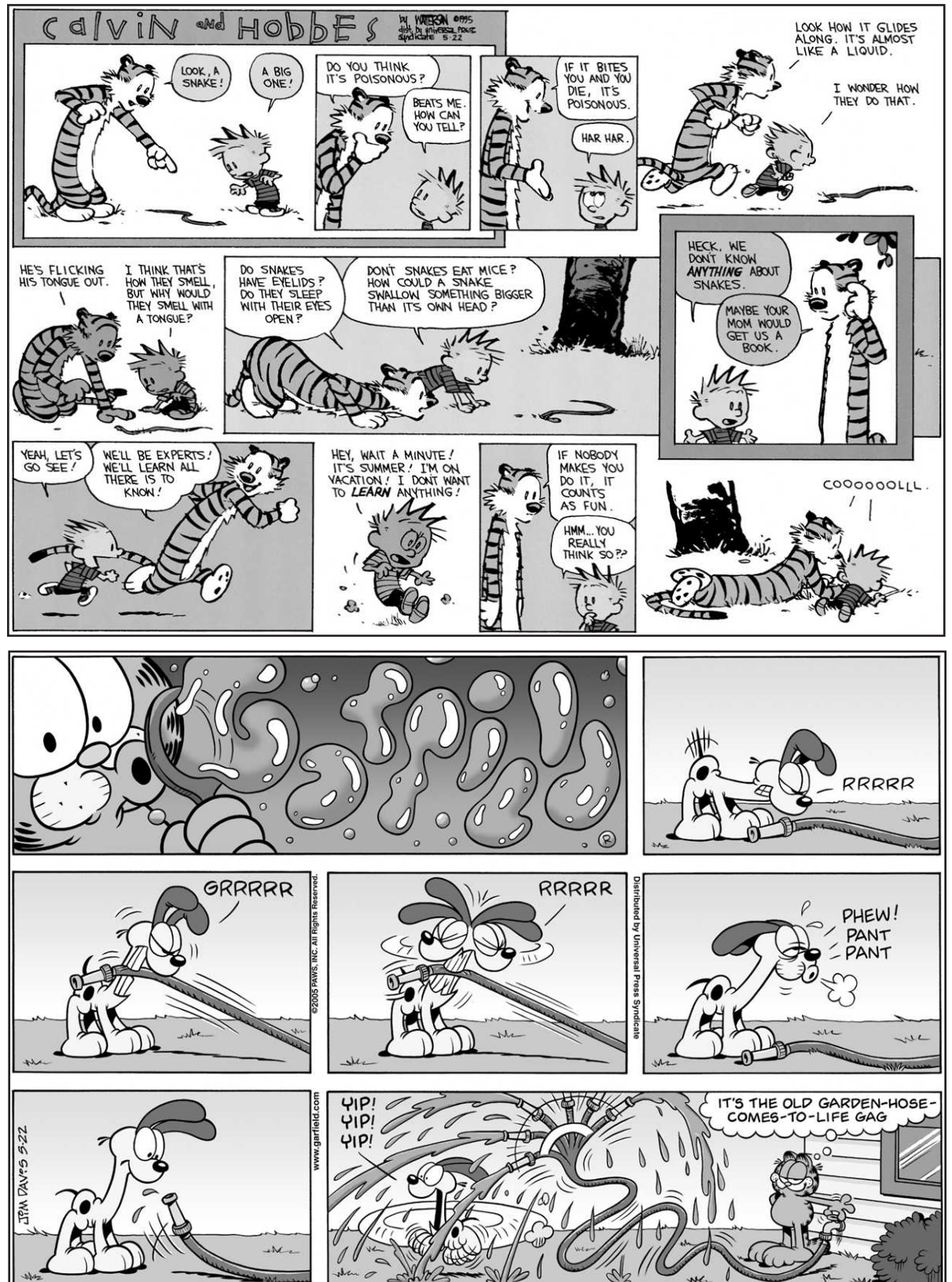
Women as torchbearers of peace are making a difference in hot spots of every region of the world. Palestinian and Israeli women have joined forces and work together as advocates for peace. In Nepal, women who were victims of violence are seeking representation in peace talks between the government and Maoist rebels. Women's Peace Caravans venture into the most treacherous conflict-ridden interiors of Colombia to protest against the civil war and negotiate with the guerrillas. Throwing themselves into peace processes with enormous courage and determination, women in politics, through their often unseen and unsung work, are bringing peace to many troubled countries.

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Women as peacemakers: from victims to re-builders of society

"Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...

— The editor

While the plight of women in war often gets close media attention, what is often overlooked is the vital role played by them in negotiating peace and rebuilding societies. The recent commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide brought renewed focus on one of the many troubling aspects of those events: the deep trauma faced by



Rwandan women who had survived the massacres after suffering indescribable humiliation, violence and sexual abuse. But today, as Rwanda moves gradually towards democracy, a lesser-known story is emerging: the vital role played by former victims in the efforts to build a new society.

In the September 2003 parliamentary elections in Rwanda, women secured 49% of seats in the legislature – the highest number of women parliamentarians anywhere in the world, overtaking Sweden with 45% and way above

the world average of 15%. In May 2003, Rwandans ratified a new constitution allotting 30% of decision-making positions to women, a step inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, the election results went beyond the prescribed quota, an outcome for which Rwandan women lobbied heavily. As the country undergoes a period of reconstruction, women are playing an ever more active role. With a cadre of women parliamentarians

assuming leadership responsibilities, this praiseworthy development will need to be accompanied by sustained measures to promote democracy at all levels.

While too often reporting of women in conflict situations shows them as powerless victims, the reality, often glossed over, is that

in post conflict situations women are in the forefront when it comes to negotiating and building peace. As Secretary-General Kofi Annan has pointed out, "Women, who know the price of conflict so well, are also better equipped than men to prevent or resolve it."

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بالحيويات الزرقاء الفعالة

رقم خدمة العملاء: ٢٤٧٥٥٥ - ٤

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الآن في الأسواق

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