

Despite government's suggestions

Cement crisis goes on unchecked

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- June 6- The Yemeni Parliament summoned on Monday officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade to inquire them about reasons behind the price hike of cement and its disappearance from the local market for about two months.

Skyrocketing prices of cement over the last few weeks hindered works in a number of public and private projects, as the price rose by 100%. This brought to YR 1500 the price of each sack of cement (around US\$10) and caused concern among citizens and traders.

Despite the government's declaration to set a number of solutions to the skyrocketing prices of cement, the crisis is still going on.

The government represented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade announced it has taken several procedures to control the crisis.

It confirmed the cement crisis was caused by the rapid growth of construction the country witnesses, and

this led to a deficit in meeting all demands of the local market that consumes the local cement production while 60% of cement supply is imported from abroad.

The government tended to justify such a price hike saying the crisis is not only experienced in Yemen but also in other Arab and foreign countries.

Some of the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, halted the export of cement to Yemen because of the rising demand for cement in their local markets, and this flared up the crisis in Yemen.

The government ascertained it conducted negotiations with a number of cement exporters including European countries to fight monopoly of the product and eradicate the crisis.

Large quantities of cement arrived last Monday at Hodeidah Port and the Yemeni Government announced that YR 900 is the new price per sack of cement.

The government stressed that there are some traders who monopolize the product with the aim to raise its price to serve their private interests.

Commercial sources told the Yemen Times that the inflation of cement prices is attributed to the Cement Establishment, the party responsible

for controlling production and sale of cement.

Many traders emphasized that cement price jumped suddenly from YR 750 to 1500 per sack.

According to procedures taken by the government, the cement crisis will be out of place within the coming three years.

The government procedures included an expansion of some production lines in a number of cement factories

including Amran's and Bajil's.

The coming three years are due to see the production of three private cement factories in Hadramout, Lahj and Abyan. These factories are expected to score a surplus in cement production in the country.

It is noteworthy that Yemen currently has three cement factories in the governorates of Amran, Hodeidah and Taiz which can cover only 40% of the local demand.

Cement crisis raises concern and hinders construction all over Yemen.

PHOTO BY AMEEN MAMOON

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Next week's session devoted to final appeals

SPC decides to release suspect on bail

By YASSER MOHAMMED
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- June 7- While trying the 8 suspects accused of plotting to hit western interests in Yemen, the Special Penal Court (SPC) decided on Monday June 6 to release suspect No. 8 Amran al-Faqih on bail due to his deteriorating health.

The decision was rejected by the Prosecution confirming the suspect is in a stable condition according to a medical report, and jailing him will not cause any harm to his health.

During the hearing, the court agreed to listen to the suspects charged with the formation of an armed gang as well as plotting to attack western interests inside and outside Yemen.

Top suspect Anwar al-Jailani commented: "The case is confusing and

there is not enough evidence to bring us before court, and what was presented by the Prosecution is far from reality".

Second suspect Khalid al-Batati was satisfied with what had been said by his defense-advocate who requested that his client be freed on bail.

Third suspect Abdurrahman Bassurrah emphasized the top suspect deceived them by saying that he went to Afghanistan and was trained with militants.

Bassurrah accused al-Jailani of exploiting his sentiments to achieve what he wants including plots to assault the British and Italian embassies and the French Cultural Center. He emphasized that al-Jailani exploited all his money to attain his objects.

Suspect Basurrah denied that he collected information about the French

Cultural Center with the aim to bomb it and drew sketch of the Italian Embassy. He made a confession that he drew a sketch of the British Embassy and when he intended to withdraw, al-Jailani threatened to kill him.

Suspects Mohammad Khaiti and his brother Ahmad Khaiti, Syrian nationals, confessed their involvement with al-Jailani who threatened to kill them both unless they aided him to carry out offenses on western interests. The two brothers requested the court to release them in order to continue their university studies.

Suspect No. 6 Mujahid Mizan said he was not involved in the formation of an armed band, and that he neither took any photos nor planned to carry out assaults against foreign embassies in Yemen. He added that he withdrew from the group and his words have

never changed on several investigation reports.

Abdulaziz al-Samawi, defense-advocate of the top suspect Anwar al-Jailani absented himself from the hearing, which was attended by lawyers of other suspects.

One of the lawyers affirmed that the evidence presented by the Prosecution in the two previous hearings were not relevant to charges of his clients. He signaled out that anyone can have a

computer and it is illogical for the documents presented by the prosecution to be classified among plans of the armed band. He claimed that all these evidences are not true and all his clients should be acquitted.

The eight suspects are also accused of plotting to assassinate Yemeni senior government officials.

The court decided that next week's session will be devoted for final case-related appeals.

Lawsuit against sales tax should not be published, lawyers

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, June 7- The Supreme Court held its session on Tuesday at the Ministry of Justice to discuss the sales tax after appeals were filed against it by industry and trade chambers in the Capital City and other governorates.

At the session, lawyers representing the government urged the court not to publish lawsuits against the sales tax law in media means.

Dr. Hassan Mujalli lawyer of the Chamber of Trade and Industry denounced the demand of government lawyers who requested the court not publish lawsuits against the sales tax law in the media.

He said such a request is a bizzare one and contradicts rights of humanity to knowledge, information and inquiry.

He mentioned it is not wrong to publicize appeals and suits filed against the sales tax law in different media means and confirmed the gov-

ernment media promotes the law and tends to calm down people's agitated viewpoints.

A number of traders in Aden governorate supported the appeal presented against the sales tax law.

The Supreme Court accepted the lawsuit filed by the Chamber of Trade and Industry against the President of the Republic and some senior government officials with respect to the sales tax law due to be put into practice in July.

The lawsuit, containing a number of legal justifications, confirmed there is a violation against the law and the Islamic Sharia, which invalidates the law.

The sales tax law draft the government intends to enforce was heavily criticized and strongly opposed by citizens all over the country. It led up to demonstrations accompanied by chaos and fire shootings which claimed lives of innocent citizens and security troops.

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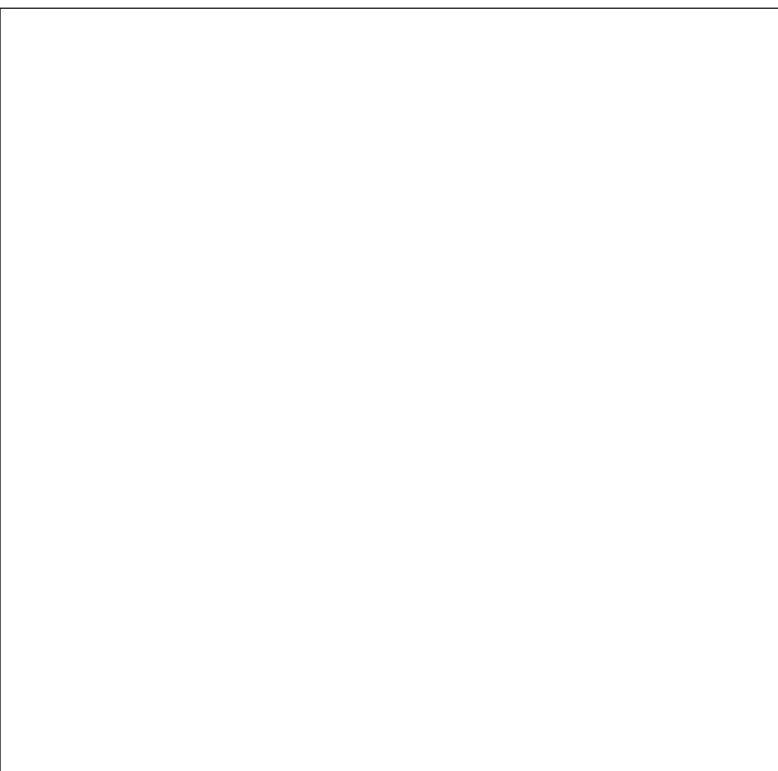


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New Discoveries of Raw Mineral Materials in Amran Governorate

It was announced in Sana'a last week that, a large amount of mineral reserves were discovered in a mine in Sawar, Maswar mine, in Amran Governorate, fifty kilometers north west of the capital Sana'a.

Doctor Rashed Ba-Raba'a, Minister of Petroleum and Minerals, described this discovery to the media as good and

positive. He said this after his inspection to the excavation works that the Canadian (Caltex Mine) is doing in a number of sights since 1996.

The reserve of the raw materials is estimated to be 40 million tons, 2% of it copper and nickel. Its income is expected to be between 500 and milliard dollars.

Arabia Felix: Distinction and success

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The second issue of Arabia Felix (Arabic and English editions) has been brought out. The Magazine aims to promote Yemen's tourism. The Yemen Observer Newspaper held a ceremony last week on the occasion of launching the English website of the magazine: www.arabiafelix.com which features tourist and descriptive articles on Yemen besides the content of the printed magazine. The website is a plausible effort to promote culture, tourism and investment in Yemen and opens a window on human and cultural dialogue between Yemen

and the world.

The Second Edition of Arabia Felix contained interesting journalistic articles and investigations including a feature on original Arab horses and another detecting the trip of a host of French tourists to the Island of Socotra.

Deportation of hundreds of foreigners to their countries

A recourse in the Passports and Immigration Authority, told the media last week that, the number of deportees from Yemen to their countries, in the first quarter this year was 337-, where 264 of them were Arabs, 40 Africans, 32 Asians, and 1 European. The recourse didn't tell the reasons for their deportation and added that about 9 thousand entry visas were accepted,

where 260 of them were Americans and the majority of them were Arabs.

The number of those who reached Yemen was 56 thousand.

In a related issue, 20 thousand Yemenis left the country to work in other countries, whereas 8 thousand Yemenis were deported from Saudi Arabia, according to the passport and Immigration recourse.

Japan Foundation donates books

A Collection of Books about Japan in English as a Donation from the Japan Foundation to the Yemeni- Japanese Friendship Association

Aiming at strengthening mutual understanding between Japan and Yemen, a collection of 150 books about Japan in English is donated today by the Japan Foundation to the Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association.

Mr. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan handed over a list of these books to Haj Mohammed Mubarak Adhban, Chairman of Yemeni- Japanese Friendship Association today at the Association. On this occasion, the Embassy stresses upon the importance of mutual understanding between

different cultures, and hopes that the Japanese language students at the Association would learn more about Japan through these books.

This is the third time the Japan Foundation donated library materials regarding Japan to Yemen. The past donations have been done to Sana'a University and AL-Saeed Foundation for science and culture in Taiz respectively.

Iranian nuclear file negotiator visits Yemen

Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council and nuclear file negotiator in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan al-Rawhani, arrived in Sana'a Wednesday June 8.

Mr. Mohammad Sadiqi Deputy Ambassador of Iran to Sana'a told the Yemen Times the visit of the Iranian official is aimed at discussing the latest developments in the Iranian nuclear file with high-ranking officials of countries in the region including Yemen.

During his visit, al-Rawhani is about to hold discussions with some Yemeni officials on regional and international matters that concern countries in the region.

Court executes two for murdering policemen

SANA'A, June 5- The Specialist Penal Court issued last Sunday a verdict against Abdulhamid Hamid al-Ukaimi, a fugitive, and Hussein Hadi Saleh al-Tam.

Under the verdict, the two were condemned to death for murdering policemen last year while they were in duty in al-Rawdh zone, north of the capital.

While chasing the two robbers who were on board a stolen car, the policemen were shot dead.

The court forced murderers to pay YR 10 million to the Ministry of Interior to compensate for damage of a police vehicle and other equipment.

The verdict stipulated that articles seized be confiscated and suspects condemned for forming an armed band to practice banditry and plunder public transportation means.

5HHV Voice

Yemen Times features 5HDGHUVoice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This HGLWLRQ Question:

As the cement crisis hampers construction activities, the government suggested some solutions to the it. Do you think this solutions will be effective?

Yes
No
I GROWwow

Last HGLWLRQ Question:

Will the application of the sales tax law benefit the government to exploit it in profitable projects?

No 53%
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Mohamed Salim Alzagair and his wife murder case

The South West Primary Court in Sana'a is expected to resume its sitting in the case of Alzagair and his wife, who were murdered on Monday 06/12/04

This Mysterious case in which their daughter Basma, an 18 year old university student is facing trial with the accusation of murdering them

This is a public opinion case, because all who knew Al- Zagair's family are of the opinion that Basma is innocent for the following :

-Basma's well known love for her father , and she is his only spoiled child

-Basma couldn't use fire arms

-Bsama is happy and joyful in her life and likes fun

The mysterious case aroused the doubts of vintage lawyers, who blame the attorney and the security for the legal gaps, though they are all in favor of Basma

he strange reaction of Al-Zagair's family, who seemed to be happy as if they were expecting this matter to seize the bequest, especially Mohammed Salim Al-Zagair, despite his young age, compared to other competitors has succeeded, in spite of his independence on his family unlike the others.

As for Basam, who is the only beneficiary, has stayed for three months in one of Sana'a's hotel, with his Egyptian mother, to be near Basma. They used to visit her three times a week to provide all her needs, contrary to her father's

family.

In spite of the attorney and court's decision to hand Basam over his father's house and office, the attorney has done nothing to prevent the unknown intruders who entered the house, more over it legalized their action by protecting those intruders and deprived the hirer of his legal rights.

The case has been delayed because a petition has been introduced against the criminal court judge by Al-Zagair's family together with their lawyer Abdulaziz Al-Samawi. It stated that he has not ruled from the beginning. The appeal court accepted it though it was not signed .This is contrary to the law. The head of the appeal court has ordered the judge of south court, who apologized for his family relations with the lawyer of Nawal Hassan Osman.

Two months later the head of the appeal court ordered the personal judge to rule in the case.

The two lawyers of Basma expressed their distress of the agreement of the appeal court for accepting the removal of the judge, as they think it is a judicial antecedent that endangers the future of the whole Yemeni Judiciary System. Some think that it is necessary to report to the Inspection Unit against judge Hamoud Al-haradi, head of the appeal court. It is strange that the murderer is still hiding, because the attorney is convinced that the daughter is the real killer. It is clear

to all, that the real murderer is the one who ordered the armed break into the house and office. It is also he, who stopped Basma's monthly bursary . He must be one of Mohamed Salim Alzagair's relatives.

A gratitude to all who showed solidarity and support with Amina Al-tihaif and Fatima Badi.

On behalf of my clients, I thank all those who offered their support to my clients Amina Al- tihaif and Fatima Hussien Badi.. On top of these are:

1-Amnesty International ,in particular Dr. Amri Sherif and Usaz/Jiat

2- All Yemenis in America and Britain, all journalists and Human rights Activists in France, Spain, London, Yemen, and Yemeni newspapers especially Altarig and Yemen Times

I thank them for their noble stance, and I'd like to assure them that I'm still following Al-tihaif's case which is still in the Attorney General's office for further study. I also thank Amnesty International for its appeal for Fatima Hassan Thabit Badi

By the way, Amina is now earning her living in her prison. I gave a present to her son Nasar(a bicycle) and Amina hires the bicycle to the other inmate's children when Nasar leaves it.Of course their inmate mothers pay for the rent of the bicycle. In my next visit I will think of another appropriate present for Amina and Nasar to pass their time in a better way, and with more income.

In a wonderful celebration, Hayel Saeed Anaam Group honors employees

BY IMAD AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU CHIEF

Hayel Saeed Anaam Group of Companies and Partners held its annual celebration in which all the employees ,workers and female workers in thirty three trading, industrial, and service companies in Taiz, Sanaa and Hodeidah provinces. It honored around 189 male and female employees out of a total number of 11760 workers who have been working for Hayel's companies for twenty five years.

At the event, Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Hayel Saeed Group of Companies and Partners, appreciated the precious efforts exerted by the sincere workers and employees for scoring progress and raising production, as well as improving performance.

He pointed out that Hayel Saeed Group paid more attention to its cadres and their competence being the actual and everlasting capital on which the group rely to develop and invest continuously

Officials and workers at the Group bear in mind that the age sees not more than competition of competence and

creativity .

The Chairman of the Board of Directors appreciated sincere efforts of workers and their enthusiasm for work.

He congratulated the group of companies for the new projects and the improvement of performance for which the group was granted a large number of certificates and local, Arab, and international prizes in recognition of its efforts and the services it widely offers.

Sincerity of workers and their competence everyone in his career are often valued by officials at the Group and consumers as well .

Mr. Ahmed Abdulrahman al.Alimi,

Personal Affairs Manager at the company pointed out that workers of different majors were honored and the group pays much attention through the provision of training courses and other activities for its workers, emphasizing the important role the group plays in creating job opportunities for the unemployed and supporting the developing projects in all fields.

The event was attended by Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anaam, Abdulgabar Hayel, Shawqi Ahmed Hayel, Abdullah Abduh Saeed, Ahmed al.Olfi, Taiz Security GM , as well as a number of general managers and workers at Hayel Saeed Anaam Group of Companies

Security Authorities remain Silent, while war continues for four Years between two Tribes

The tribal war between (Bani Omer) of Ibb Governorate , and (Kardan) of Dhamar , which is still continuing for (4)years now. It claimed a great number of lives, and assets.

Last week in Maghreb Ans, in Dhamar Governorate , a woman called (Hailah l- Hatami) and her son were seriously injured .A grenade was thrown at them by members of a rival tribe.

Her two legs were amputated. Her child's leg was also amputated. The wounded woman (Hailah Al- Hatami) says that she is the only who looks

after her twelve kids after the death of her husband in the same war more than a year ago. This war is continuing between these two tribes for four years now . It claimed more than (24) lives and (100) wounded from the two tribes.

This war which is going on since 2003is considered to be one of the fiercest and bloodiest conflict between tribes, that Yemen has ever seen . Light machine guns , and a number of heavy guns are used. The warring parties don't care for human measures and women and children are often targeted in this war. Two thirds of those who are dead

and wounded are women and children, in addition to the other losses of the two tribes.

Four villages had been displaced after their houses had been entirely destroyed. Hundreds of animals died. A large area of fertile land and wadies were destroyed. Their income was estimated to be thirty million Yr according to some of the local inhabitants.

According to those who came from the area the security and judicial authorities in the two Governorates have done nothing to settle this bloody conflict.

The Access Micro- scholarships program

In may 2004, the US Embassy Public Diplomacy Office, Sana'a, launched a US Department of State initiative called, " ACCESS Secondary School English Language Micro-scholarship Program. " At start , the ACCESS program sponsored 45 underprivileged secondary school students from the governorates of Aden and Abyan and also 45 students from the Governorate of Sana' , who are selected through a highly com-

petitive process.

The program, parented and cost-shared with AMIDEAST Yemen and YALI (Yemen American Language Institute), seeks to provide these students (ages 15 to 18), with one year of English Language training. Throughout the year, a multimedia American English Curriculum, an Education USA- supported Library and a computer lab.

ACCESS students also get the opportunity to participate in field trips and other social and voluntary activities. A recent example is when 48 students and staff from AMIDEAST Aden volunteered on the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) lasts April to clean up the Abyan Beach.

In addition to secondary school students, the ACCESS program also provides one year of English language

training to students joining the Youth Exchange and Study(YES) program. YES is a US state Department program that provides secondary school students from the Middle East and North Africa to study Academic year in the United States, where they live with host families, acquire leadership skills and educate Americans about their home countries .

The micro-scholarship program is anticipate to increase the number of students to 200 in Aden and 250 in Sana'a in 2006 due to the grant success it has received since its inception . Thus, with this expansion , funds allocated to this program will jump from US \$ 66.000 in May last year to reach about US\$356.000. This program will therefore make students who mostly represent underserved governorates eligible to benefit from US Department youth exchange programs in the United States.

The overall objective of these programs is to expand communications between people of the United States and partner countries in the interest of promoting mutual understanding and respect.

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Teaching women... Is it important?

BY ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
FOR YEMEN TIMES
eshraqalbodgy@yahoo.com

Depending on the technologies and modern language of this age, we have no permission to ask such a question like this and we know that it's a shame to ask. What I mean to say is that the world completely finished discussing this case years ago and now studies the possibility of life in space, but here in Yemen and a number of Arab countries we are still fighting to make the people understand how much teaching is very necessary for all. If we come back to the west world civilizations, we will observe immediately the differences between the way of life in e.g. Yemen and those countries. The way of life here does not mean the customs, traditions, heritage, cultures, but it means the consciousness of every thing. Those countries have good economic situations, healthy lives, and have excellent technology developments and knowledge; however we haven't reach any of them yet. As a matter of fact, we are facing a strong issue which is teaching women who are the essential part of the society. Some studies say that Yemen and Chad are coming to be in last position of teaching women's rate.

Far away from the other countries and societies, Yemen had another situation that put the community under a great pressure. It was the Imama period which separated Yemeni people from the world and deprived them from learning. Coming back to the women's rights of teaching, we notice that there was no educational level for women in the past like nowadays and that by virtue of the democratic government that was building the schools, institutions and universities in every part of Yemen. Besides that, Yemeni women are still suffering from the deprivation of teaching; the reasons of this tragedy are so deep because of the educational consciousness of the society itself.

If we take the rural areas in Yemen as

an example, we can find so many causes that obstruct the girls to take their rights of learning or continue their teaching which is considered as one of their rights in life. These reasons are: poverty, rural works, separation of treatment between the girls and the boys by their parents or the underestimation of the women's role, religious strictness which is contrary to the Islamic tenets, the location of some schools in the rural areas make the mission hard for the girls to reach their schools, and the toilets of some schools which are not in a good

condition to use and that could be another reason for the parents of these girls to stop them to continue their studies. In this point, we have to remember that in the few last years some of nongovernmental organizations and associations adopted a campaign to build toilets for men and women but it focused on women's toilets.

All the previous reasons prevent a large number of women in rural areas to teach, some of these reasons are together with more causes have deep roles in this case especially in the cities where you can find: early marriage, and fear of some men towards the women superiority in different scopes of life.

By the way, the negativities which become a result of this tragedy are so

horrible and concrete; most of the citizens of the society are suffering these problems without knowing.

To be a civilized society, we have to be more realistic and wise to benefit from the constructive aspects of this issue. Teaching women is necessary for a social structure such like ours, the progress of teaching women in Yemen will be like a rope in the well. I mean, it will be so effective for us to develop ourselves towards the real economic civilization and a perfect social structure.

I do believe the saying "Women are half of the society", but from my point of view I think, there can be no progress at all without women, it means that there is no real progress in any country if it omits the role of women.

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Society shuns men who marry marginalized women

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

Because they loved with real passion and not with temporary whims; because they didn't care about the color and race of their beloved; because they flouted the inherited social conventions, they stood trial and got harsh sentences. Either to revoke their decisions or to live as outcasts in their own merciless community. Their predicament is due to their marrying women from a category we unfairly dubbed as "marginalized," as though this category has come from another planet called the "Black Planet" and not human beings with rights and duties equal to us.

There are many tribesmen (the majority of Yemenis who consider themselves superior to certain categories including the marginalized) who violated traditions and conventions and married girls from the marginalized class. There is a rumor that the World Bank is tempting people with \$15 thousand for every person who will marry from the marginalized so that they get intermingled and homogenous. However, marriage from this class is no new phenomenon. This category has rejected them before they sealed themselves off and resided in their own city with one school. They are hoping for more. For this reason, we conducted this investigation to explore the world of those people who challenged their families and face difficulties in order to marry from the marginalized category. As they say, they do not feel regretful for the decision they made for themselves.

I love her and will never let go of her

First, Abdul-Raqeab Ahmed Mahdi, from the new province of Raimah, described to us his marriage and the obstacles he coped with.

"I was married 22 years ago and have nine children. I was shunned by my relatives who tried to convince me with all means to prevent my marriage because my in-laws were of an inferior status in their eyes. I told them that I would not care and cited the analogy that she was like a gemstone I found by chance. It did not matter where I found her. Yet, they caused trouble to me and confined me for six months. Later, a good man suggested that if both of us were in love with each other, nobody should interfere with the marriage. My father was convinced and I was set free. He prayed to God for a happy life for me and my family."

My father imprisoned and disowned me

The story of Hussein Abdulilah Mohsen is similar to Abdul-Raqeab's. He narrates it: "I am from the area of Janadiah. I have got seven children and live in the Hope City. In the beginning of my life, I went through problems with my father for more than two years. My father imprisoned me because I married the woman I loved only because she was of a different race. I had been a soldier but my father persuaded officials to sack me because I disobeyed him and refused to divorce my wife."

He continued saying, "I did my best to convince my father but it went all in vain. He disowned me and lived in the village. I remained with my wife and children here in Taiz and quit my village visits. However, before his death, my father became satisfied with my choice and the fact that he cannot change the preor-

daind destiny. After the death of my father, I quarreled with my brother over the same issue but he eventually became considerate. Today I have no problems and have a firmer belief that I was right. My children are school graders and I want to put them through their university.

Race against the Central Security

"Instead of looking for marginalized females to win ten thousand dollars, you had better ask about the disadvantages of the Hope City," with these simple words did Shaif Mohammed Aref launch his attack against us as though he was counterattacking a team aiming to shoot a thrilling action movie to amuse the public. He was right, nevertheless, because the rumor that was circulated about the incentive was so tempting that it turned them into a sellable commodity.

I asked him about the difficulties they encounter in the Hope City which was funded by the World Bank. He answered, "When I came to the city it was in a hasty manner. We rushed because people from DIA organization instructed us to move very fast in order to forestall the Central Security who were trying to take the city for their personnel. We had to live in it while it was unsupplied with basic services such as water, electricity and sanitary network despite the contract which states that the Public Works Office shall provide the City with water and electricity not later than three months. Up until now, we have got just electricity while the city is still waterless. We need also a health center."

Hope City with no hope to survive

Concerning the structure of the City itself, Shaif further said that it was not constructed properly. "Some buildings have rifts on them and others are about to collapse at any moment. The City was bungled. It was built on piles of waste and dust. It will hardly avoid destruction if they get drenched by rainwater. It was built on unsound basis. No State's engineers and experts supervise its implementation as though we are not Yemeni nationals."

He deserted Ja'ashin to join his beloved in Taiz

Husn Qaid, a marginalized woman, retold the story of her husband, from al-Ja'ashin area. He was not available when we interviewed his wife.

She said, "He faced a lot of vicissitudes because of his marriage. A long time ago, his family disowned him after they had discovered his marriage."

She describes her love as real and that it was not a whim. "We married out of mutual love and this is what lightened problems and enabled us to overcome difficulties. Our offspring are nine of whom one daughter is already married off and three sons studying at Hope City's school."

She said that her children should learn as best as tribesmen do and even better. "They are no less."

When I asked her to pose for a picture along with her children, she refused to be in the picture.

They distorted facts

During our tour of the Hope City to interview residents, some of them were suspicious about our presence and resented our conducting interviews and taking snapshots. Their stance are understandable. Some of them justified it saying that some journalists provocatively misrepresented facts. I tried to convince them that I was to act as a media to depict their reality and transfer details to the readers without distorting the facts.

Hope City's school a potential solution

We could not ignore the school of the City and pass by it without visiting it. There might be something to report of whatever nature. Something comforting or something painful. We passed through the gate into the small yard where schoolboys assemble in the morning. There was an open-air classroom which also serves as a staff room. The finely drawn murals captured my attention and impressed me as they showed how the marginalized are desirous to learn. There, we met with the school's deputy principal, a Sudanese woman who also teaches English. The meeting also involved other staff members. Kawthar Abdul-Rahman, the deputy, said that she had been teaching in Yemen for 13 years and for two years in the Hope City's school. She gave us details about the school. "We have four classrooms where 82 males and females study coeducationally. All of them are either in Grade 1 or Grade 2. Number of teachers were five, two men and three women."

She said that the school is supported and supervised by the Information and

Training Center for Human Rights which provides all necessary expenses including teacher wages. She added that the Ministry of Education's role is limited only to provision of textbooks. The school was not officially considered among public schools only until last year although it was inaugurated three years ago, according to the deputy principal.

Raising awareness

Mrs. Kawthar commented on the aptitude of the residents and the level of awareness of the parents and their responsibility towards their children's education.

"We face problems dealing with parents. Of course, we have to be patient. Yet, things are progressing. This year is better than last year. Awareness has risen. Interest in education has become greater and even behaviors are improving. If a student is going to be absent, his parent comes to the school and gets a leave for him/her."

She praised the cooperation of the Hope City's residents and their appreciation of the school managements' efforts towards raising the educational level of their children.

Chief Jumai: There are no services

At the end of our tour, we met with Jumai' Abdullah Ghailan, Hope City's chieftain. He spoke about his role in the City.

"I do anything the City requires such as resolving domestic problems and following up procedures in governmental departments. I also report the needs of the City to the competent authorities and receive and usher the engineers and workers who do certain tasks in our City such as repairing cracked houses."

"Our major problem is lack of water. Although we always keep on claiming, our demands have not been answered by the concerned authorities. We are in a sore need for a health center. We get only promises but when they will ever be fulfilled I don't know."

We left the Hope City filled with hope that some light has been shed on this marginalized class. We hope that they will no longer be marginalized nor will they be those people who married marginalized women. They found warm love not with their class but in the hearts of those marginalized women.

Half the World

By Nisha

Trafficking in images: A new form of violence against women

INTRODUCTION:

'Half the World' is a metaphor to remind that women are not just a critical constituency of the world, we are half the human world. We, women, speak the language of the world, but remain unfamiliar with the dialogue for which the language is used. We are at ease with the way we have been embodied but often we have to bear the 'consequences' for being constituted differently from men. The slow steps toward equality between women and men have often treated women with a left-wing affirmative action without addressing the fundamental issues that cause and sustain inequality. Or these steps have taken the shape of a bit of welfare coupled with a right wing reprimand, pressurizing to keep the demands within what decision-makers are ready to dole out. But we, women, have gone past the first tentative steps towards demanding our rights. It is the time, therefore, to give space to our way of looking at life that enhances, broadens and deepens our (women and men's) understanding of women's lives.

Articles in this series will provide that space to raise the issues that affect 'Half the World' with greater confidence, expectations and raise questions for each reader of the Yemen Times to dwell upon and act upon.

As evident from crime reports that frequently appear in the newspapers and magazines, pornographic pictures of women and children are often forcibly taken. But there are also cases where the images are taken in a different environment but put on the internet without permission and with an intent to harm the person in the pictures or to arouse the viewers. The first case is obviously a form of blatant sexual violence. The second type is both an example of sexual violence as well as an example of diversification of the tools of sexual violence. It shows the shift - how images taken in a different mood and environment and therefore not violence could be turned into sexual violence using new information communication technologies. The intention, whether to have fun or to make money are immaterial because in both cases the act results in harm to the person in the pictures.

Another issue that is often raised is whether or not trafficking in images is violence against women. It definitely is. The difference is that trafficking in images can have larger clientele - those who could afford commercial sex as well as those who cannot for whatever reasons. Trafficking in images is a proliferation of the perverse sex business, it makes it possible to reach voyeuristic men at low cost with less dangers to their 'social reputation'.

There is a close link between the issue of trafficking in images and women's rights. In most of the advertising agreements that models sign, usually agencies have clause that pictures could be used in any way the advertising agency wants. Just because this clause is present in the contract that a model signs and agrees to, does not mean that it is not violative of rights or that pictures taken cannot be used in an inappropriate way or for pornographic purposes. For example, about two-three years back, one of the established Hindi cinema actors had to go to the media

and eventually the court against her film director to stop him from using a particular scene to promote the film. The story of the film involved an adolescent boy's infatuation with a woman in late 20s or so. This particular scene involved visual intimacy between the two actors playing these roles. When the actor who played the woman protagonist objected to crash commercial use of this footage, the director (also established and 'respected') retaliated that if she were so prude she shouldn't have done the film and that he is not violating the contract. The media further scandalized the case and focused on the actor's not so conventional lifestyle and her looks in that film and the particular scene. This actor eventually managed to get a court injunction that stopped the director from using that particular scene to sell the film. The entire process suggests that in reality the woman has little control of the images taken of her. It also suggests that in the process to gain control the woman may have to bear further attacks on her rights.

Both trafficking in women and children (particularly girls) and trafficking in images are related. Not just because that often it is trafficked women and children who are used for filming pornographic material but also because both carry the intention of perverse sexual pleasure at the cost of the rights of women and children. But the treatment these two issues have received so far from the society and rights based organizations are very different. There is much recognition of the issue of trafficking in women and children and progress has been made in raising awareness against this form of exploitation. There are also some concrete examples of action against trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation. But the trafficking in images for sexual exploitation has not managed to gain the kind of attention it needs. It remains lost in the contest between individual rights, sexual rights and freedom of media.

Honor crimes in Yemen: between execution and stigma

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In the framework of the Program of Eradicating Violence against Women, supervised by the Arab Sisters Forum for Human Rights, a workshop on "Honor Crimes in Yemen" was organized Thursday May 26.

The workshop aimed to discuss the proliferation of honor crimes in Yemen, the social and economic conditions and the cultural orientations, which lead to committing such crimes and their bad impacts on individuals and families.

Dr. Adel al-Sharjabi, Professor of Sociology at Sana'a University, who presented a current study on honor crimes, has not included any accurate figures of the issue.

He said the society as well as the police in Yemen practice different types of violence against women under the

pretext of honor crimes, calling for reconsidering the legislative structure that makes women owned by her relatives.

He further mentioned that there are many women, who were shot by the police when hunting for a man in the company of a woman, and there are numerous cases of suicides, killings and drowning that require reconsidering the social heritage.

Al-Sharjabi noted: "We don't have enough and accurate information about honor crimes due to the lack of readiness on the part of citizens to discuss honor-related issues."

Despite the existence of several honor crimes in Yemen, habits and traditions and the Yemeni law seem to be sentimental with women.

Lawyer Nabil al-Mohammadi mentioned Article 232 of the penalties law that approved of execution as the penalty for adultery after being accepted by

the husband, the brother or the father. The law appears to be a violation against the Islamic Sharia, the international conventions of human rights and the principles of the Yemeni constitution.

The Law stipulates that if a husband killed his wife along with the one committing adultery with her, he would not be executed but might receive a light punishment: either to be fined to be jailed not more than 6 months.

The legal justification behind this is the state of anger due to be situation by the husband or anyone who will not be able to control his nerves when seeing such a kind of crime.

The husband might be shocked when seeing his wife committing adultery, the murder case was not previously planned, and therefore there is no an interval between adultery and murder.

Articles 274 and 275 of the Penalties Law state 6-month imprisonment for committing adultery while Article 273

of the law defines such a kind of crime as any act necessitating a state of nakedness.

Some legalists held the view that the legal changes come against interests of women and the public property doesn't interfere with the text of the law and that the public and private properties may be used in implementing penalties.

Dr. Fuad al-Salahi says: "We have to pose at the rights and liberties of women, particularly as the domain of the law came into place according to the traditional culture."

"A legislative work is a must to drive us forward regarding women issues and the texts of the law may contradict the teachings of Islam which stipulate the testimony of four eyewitnesses for sentencing the criminal," he added.

For his part, Ali Saleh Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor said there is a remarkable development in the Yemeni law and some of

the texts were amended with respect to honor crimes.

The study on honor crimes, recently conducted, does not cover accurate scores, and it seems to be merely composed of opinions that are far away from the problem. It contained an account of male and female mortality rate, which is absolutely irrelevant from honor crimes.

Crimes of honor in Yemen remain far

away from courts and the media means due to the existence of the traditional culture that still control all the social affairs.

The terrible increase in suicide cases reflects fearing the scandal more than fearing penalties. So an authentic study based on real scores is recommended to diagnose the issue and suggest any possible solutions and remedies.

Dr. Bafadl to Yemen Times:

The government deceives the Council, and the wages strategy is an "April fool"

Although too much achieved but still many primary factors need to be developed. Among which comes first reconsideration of election system, where proportionality is the most convenient for Yemen. Also women quota is a must not less than 10% of parliament seats. Separation of powers, fighting corruption severely and seriously, more freedom for press and syndicates, more care for fighting poverty, jobless people, particularly universities graduates, currency inflation, and independent local governance by election of governors and constituencies managers.

To unveil facts of the matter the Yemen Times met with Dr. Abdulrahman Bafadl and forwarded to him the following questions:

Q: Fifteen years have passed since the Unity. It is also the age of the democratic experience. What success has it achieved, and what are its impacts on the democratic system?

A: I would like to stress an important matter. It is the principles of this nation. They are the constitution, unity and democracy. There is a defect, if we take democracy as an example. Things need to be adjusted. Each election process is always accompanied by fraud, terrorization and sometimes beating. This could be corrected through practice, and we could do all that by abiding by the constitution and the democratic spirit. Even in the west they say democracy is a bad system, but any alternative will be worse. The output of the fifteen years of our democracy could be weak, but the most important thing is its continuation. The European democracy itself didn't come out of the blues. It came through blood, sweat and tears. There were struggles, world wars and even executions. Our democracy isn't satisfactory, but the margin of the practice it gives could be used to correct it.

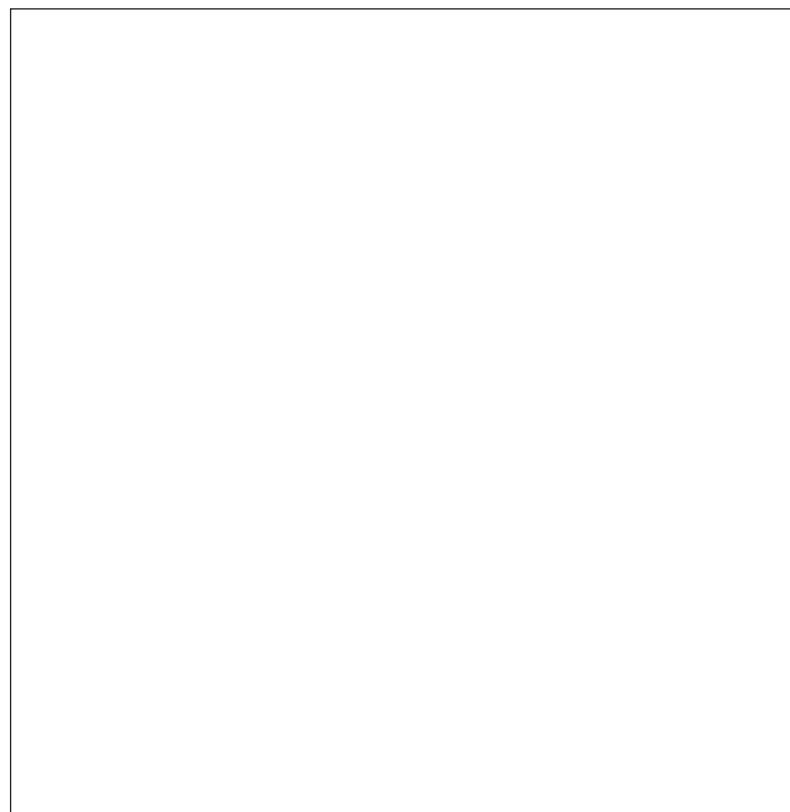
Q: How do you assess the parliamentary experience? Is parliamentary monitoring weak or non-existent?

A: It is sure that it is non-existent at all.

Q: Why is that?

A: If you read the reports of the observation and accounting committee, which is a governmental one, you will be shocked by the financial and administrative corruption. I wish we could do that at the parliament. But where is the defect? Is it in the formation of the council?

Directly after the unity there was equilibrium, there was no absolute majority, and I was a minister then, I used to feel scared when I went to the council, with the full attendance of all 301 members. Everyone would participate and criticize. It was a real parliament. Unfortunately the second parliament was weak and the two that followed were even more so. If things go this way, we will find ourselves at a loss. There should be transparency in the electoral process and there should be international monitoring. The mechanism itself should be changed. The proportionality system is the best. In my constituency, my votes are always higher. If you count all the votes in the 1997 elections, where we were ten, I succeeded with a difference of 500. No doubt the others together have got more votes than me. You tend to cancel their votes in this system, but in the proportional system there are no lost votes. Every party will have his real seats according to proportional number it has attained in the elections. In this mechanism no party will have the absolute majority. We will not be in need to move the army units or topple a certain candidate. The election committee also needs reconsideration. It's now an affiliate of the government. It needs to be independent. It could be part of the parliament, for instance the observation and accounting system would be stronger if it is a part of the parliament. The administrative system would corrupt any system affiliated to it. Things will certainly change if we could apply all these measures, and awareness would be developed. Take the last elec-



Dr. Abdulrahman Bafadl

tions as an example, in the constituencies where there was international sponsoring the results were better than those in the remote areas.

Q: These are long term suggestions, but let's discuss the eminent situation. You owe the weakness of present parliament to its formation and the mechanical majority, but other members owe it to its chairman authority, what is your reaction to that?

A: Away from political intrigue, I feel that Shiekh Abullah, the parliament's speaker is targeted. This can find its explanation in the suggestions of changing the presidential body of the parliament. Two years were suggested. When I asked why, the reason was that they could go astray and there would be a necessity for change. I said: what about you of the seven year term? What if your electors want to change you? Don't you know that we are all disliked at our constituencies? What about the seven years of the presidency, and those from two to four of the local governance councils? When a report is read before the council, there is always an expression of "and the last word is for the council". It is the council who votes not the supreme body. It is up to them, if they want to activate the council they should activate the committees. They rarely meet. If they are really activated, it is in their power to form and topple the government. Now the government and the ministers don't fear the council, and they even defy it. They are of the opinion that "the majority is in the pocket". Ultimately the decision is elsewhere. So where does the defect lie? The real solution is in the participation of all the parties, according to their proportional size.

Q: What is your point of view with respect to the amendments of the regulation- as an Islah Party leader, are you with or against them?

A: We are with the amendments, but we wonder why is the insistence of the every two years change of the supreme body? I suggest that this point is to be applied to Mps, local governance members and the presidential elections not only to the governing body.

Q: Some say the main part of the regulation is to improve the Mps' salaries, which exert an additional burden on the council's budget, how far is that true?

A: I don't care about the members rights. The important matter is the sponsorship the council should practice on the government and ministers. They should stop the now prevailing anarchy. At the end of the fiscal year, there are violations in every ministry. When we try to compare them with the budget, some would say there is no need for discussion. The file will be closed without voting. Even a member may suggest stopping the discussions because the opposition parties want to exploit it.

Q: At the endorsement of the budget the government pledged to carry out a number of recommendations, and now months after the endorsement, what has the government done with its commitments?

A: Nothing! These recommendations are a trick: it is a collaboration with executive body so as to endorse the budget. The recommendations are transferred from one year to another. We always say the excess in the budget is unconstitutional. We remonstrated at the 70billion surplus, then it rose to 110, now it is 189 or 20% of the budget. This is a belittlement of the parliament. If you add all the surplus plus the budget expenditure it will be about seventy trillion (a trillion has 12 dots). The budget has two sides, the expenditure and the investment sides. The investment side is never discussed, because if this happened, it deprive the government of its thin clothing, because every one will know what projects should be carried out during the year. When Bajamal was a minister of economic planning, and I was a minister, he gave this advice. "I advise you brothers not to table it for discussion, because you will be embarrassed by the members, leave it as a closed book". It is strange that he boasts at the end of the year that he has achieved savings in the investment sector. That is because he had spent nothing on the investment. No one can save from investment except our government because it freezes investment.

Q: The Prime Minister said lately he has reduced unemployment and increased foreign currency surplus. What do think of that?

A: I think the prime Minister hasn't a material proof for what he said. A minister I know said his income has dropped by 90%. Because of inflation everything is decreasing. What you buy now for 2 thousand will increase two-fold next year. There is an increase in prices of electricity, telephone and water services. A diplomat told me that we have the highest rate of electricity prices. What development have we achieved if the ex- world Bank representative said on his leaving the country at the parliamentary committee "poverty, and unemployment are terribly increasing in Yemen. The per capita is decreasing, you have no water, where is your reform program?" You can simply prove that what the Prime Minister said has no basis through the public remonstrations that his government faces. The merchants, the private sector, the chamber of commerce have all led demonstrations and demanded his change. They alleged that there is a customs smuggling of 219 milliard. The government knows the smugglers. They say that they are losing while the smugglers are making profit. The merchants joined the people in remonstrations. Now there are a number of strikes, namely university teachers and doctors, added to the unrest among syndicates and journalists. The Prime Minister has no proof in his assertions

of the decrease of unemployment. He is faced with a defiance to prove that through the world Bank. We are a symbol of international corruption. He is true in saying that the foreign currency has increased but what is the use?. The dollar is now 192 against the YR and it could reach 200 due to the intended dose and the customs tax. What is the use of that surplus. It is the merchants who Import not the government while it is supposed that they pay in YR and the central Bank covers in dollars, but it does nothing of that.

Q: Doesn't this increase indicate government success?

A: An unexploited surplus is good for nothing. It should be used to back our rial whose deterioration increases inflation

Q: Some economists say the decrease of dollar against the Euro has costed Yemen a loss of 20% of its reserve, is that true?

A: Unfortunately it is true. It is due to misplanning. The investors are now changing from the dollar to the Euro. The dollar is now suffering a depression of 17%. America has now a deficit of 8 trillion. This is due to its violent policy. America is economically deteriorating, and there is danger for Yemen to deal in the dollar. China, Japan and German, are flourishing. People are sure of the Euro because the European address differs from that of America, because it is peaceful.

Q: The government says that the sales tax is for the good of the people and it has exempted many commodities from the tax. The private sector refuses this tax. What is your view of the sales tax?

A: I wonder when someone says the sales tax is for the good of the people. It would have been logical if the citizen receives it. It has levied a tax of 10 % on the merchants. They will see to it that they gain 20% instead. It will all be a burden on the citizen. Bajamal declares that they want investment in Yemen and on the other hand exposes the merchants; That is a contradiction. The sales tax is not for the good of the citizen. What is good for the citizen to curb corruption and smuggling which will save funds for investment.

Q: On the petroleum issue, the government considers 30\$ a barrel in the budget while it is sold for 45\$. This makes a row in every budget. Why can't the parliament solve this problem?

A: The government doesn't listen to the parliament. When they insisted on 30\$ the parliament made a decision that the difference should go to a special account in the central bank, which should be used only according to consent of the parliament. Every time they use it with extraordinary decisions. The abstinence to make an account and the use of the surplus without the consent of the parliament is an unconstitutional act. The government doesn't fear the parliament. It is proud of despising it. If

we want to call the government for accountant the assembly will say you are opposition and you want to embarrass the government and foment a crisis.

Q: The declarations oil depletion in Yemen has raised concern. How do you evaluate that in Islah party?

A: I met Minister of Oil and Minerals a few days ago. They declared new oil finds. I asked him how could that be while you say that oil will deplete. He told me if we didn't say it, others will. The government now denies that it says petroleum is increasing. I believe you heard of the scandal of sectors 53 and 18. What do you expect of such a government when a corruption like this happens. It boasts of agreements that it couldn't defend. The parliament cancelled these agreements and faced defiance from the company. This means this company is stronger than the parliament. Who is behind it? This will be a great blow to Yemen if the parliament agrees.

Q: How do you assess investment prospects in Yemen. What problems does it face?

A: I make an effort to convince investors to come. We have the best investment laws but any one who comes will run away immediately and it is the administrative environment to blame. The Prime Minister once told a story. He told me. "We held conference in London to boost investment. We started to speak. A man from a Gulf country raised his hand. He said I know investment in Yemen very well I invested there: You meet the President and come out very happy. Then the Prime Minister, The concerned Minister, and you will come out happy all along. Then you meet the Rats and they eat you very happily. The Rats have eaten everything in Yemen.

Q: The International Monetary Fund has recently issued a report on Yemen. The report assured the deterioration of all indicators in Yemen through 96-2004, in additions to declarations made by President of the World Bank about Yemen. This aroused concern among many. What do you say on this assessment in Islah party?

A: The World Bank is too late in issuing his report. It should have been years ago. The prime Minister blames us and says that we participated and we are responsible. Yes we participated, but we withdrew when we saw that things are not going on in the right track. We agreed on a comprehensive program of reform, which will lift people's suffering. It addresses combating unemployment, poverty and the solution of water problem. Now we are experiencing water crisis. They achieved nothing of the program we agreed upon.

Q: The government has lately signed an agreement with the International Contractors to build an electric gas station with a capaci-

ty of 400mega. Would this increase electricity price for the citizens?

A: On the contrary, if they meant it. The problem of the Yemeni gas station is one of the queerest fables. Every year the government speaks about the liquefied gas and nothing is done. We started it at the Al-Attas era before Oman and Qatar. They finished and marketed theirs and we are still lagging. The corruption also is to blame. The right start was that of Faisal Shamlan. He made an international bid in London. Total and Hunt succeeded. Hunt asked for a proof that the gas is Yemeni. We made an agreement with Total and Surface, 75% for Total and 25% for Yemen upon the condition that Total invests and markets. Faisal resigned. They accepted an agreement 180degrees opposite to that. The surprise is that Hunt, Hexon and Hyundai will have 38% and Total 36% and Yemen will have the rest. Total said it won't be responsible for marketing in such conditions. They made this strange deal and Japan is exempted. They accepted Korea instead of Japan that has a tremendous purchase capacity but they accepted Korea. It is because Korea has a branch of Hunt and Hexon. The American company will have the majority of 38%, and Total 36%. Five years have passed and they made an office in Paris asked for Yemeni gas for millions of dollars but it completely failed. The period expired but the government renewed contracts with them without any conditions. Malaysia has presented an offer to buy the gas after signing. It stipulated 30% of the project value and entered as a share holder with its own money. Minister of Planning and International Cooperation said that this is not true. Minister of Oil and Minerals says it is true. Whom are we to believe? We are delayed in the gas project and the corruption also is to blame. If the station is executed, the prices will drop 30%

Q: You accuse the government of doing nothing but the government has tabled the wages strategy. What is your view of the wages strategy? Some say it is for the good of the employees, but others say it is just a delusion.

A: This strategy is an April fool. The proof is that it isn't in the budget. We raised it in the council and then they felt their fault with the terrible dose at hand promising to raise price of diesel up to 800 YR, that is more than 100%. We remonstrated that it is higher than the petrol. The Prime Minister said that there is no problem. "We will raise the price of petrol to 1050 YR". This strategy is a comedy. It will be prepared and studied by technical experts who resorted to form a committee to find an execution mechanism, and then back to the Cabinet. This will take five years. Besides, all the people are not government employees. The increase in the basic salary usually does not exceed 500 to 1000 YR, compared to the skyrocketing prices of the market, and you will find yourself paying more from your own pocket.

Businessman Hail Abdulhaq Obtains The trust of Switzerland and Yemen

By Appointing Him as The First Consul for Switzerland

On Wednesday the 18th of May, in Sana'a, The first formal Swiss consul building was opened in the Republic of Yemen and the famous Yemeni business man Mr. Hail Abdulhaq Bishr was appointed as the first formal consul for Switzerland in Yemen. This took place in a grand celebration-held on that occasion.

The celebration, was attended by a number of guests, among them the media men in our country. speeches were exchanged between his

Excellency the diplomatic representative of Switzerland Mr. Domenic Alder and the formal Swiss consul in Yemen, HE Mr. Hail Abdulhaq Bishr. By this, the diplomatic relations between the two countries witness a development in their representation from the honorary level to formal level.

The Sheikh of journalists in Yemen Mr. Saleh Abdo Aldahan grasps this chance to heartily congratulate his Consul friend Mr. Hail Abdulhaq for obtaining this high honor and trust, and wishing him permanent success.

Bush, Blair say progress on African debt relief

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair said they were close to a deal on Tuesday on a plan that would cancel 100 percent of Africa's debt, while failing to agree on Blair's ambitious proposal to dramatically increase new assistance for Africa.

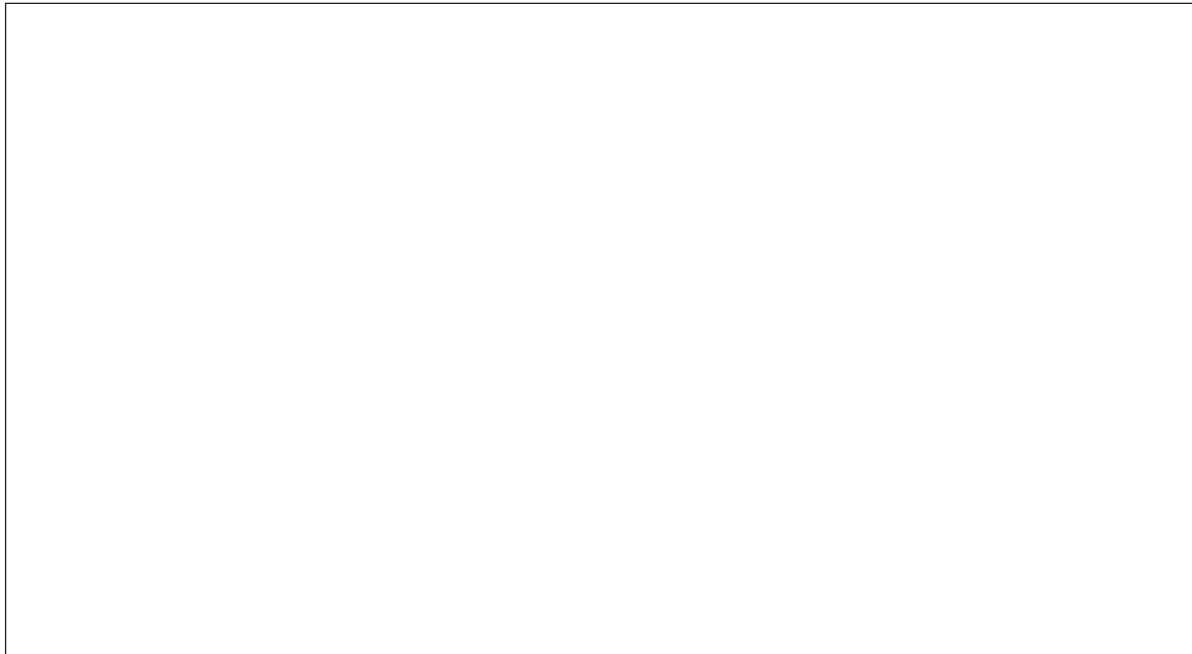
At a news conference after their talks, the two leaders said they hoped to present the plan to leaders at a Group of Eight summit next month in Gleneagles, Scotland.

Both leaders said only those countries who stamped out corruption would benefit. Bush said "highly indebted developing countries that are on the path to reform should not be burdened by mountains of debt."

"I see we've got a fantastic opportunity, presuming that the countries in Africa make the right decisions. Nobody wants to give money to a country that's corrupt, where leaders take money and put it in their pocket," Bush said.

Blair said, "We're well on the way to agreement" on African debt relief and that once the United States and Britain reach a common position, then "we need to get the agreement of others."

The two leaders were not specific, but a senior Bush administration official said it applied to debt held by international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair looks at U.S. President George W. Bush speak at a joint news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington June 7. President Bush and Blair had talks on Tuesday looking to paper over differences over Blair's ambitious plan for Africa with an agreement to help out on famine relief. Reuters

Paying the interest on billions of dollars in debt is cited by experts as a major obstacle to the ability of African governments to spend money for their peoples' education, health care and other social needs.

Blair failed to enlist Bush's support on a proposal to give Africa as much as \$50 billion a year by making long-term

aid commitments that would allow poor countries to raise money on global capital markets.

'Different perspectives'

Blair also got no concession from Bush on his campaign for a global commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming.

Bush said he was investing millions of dollars in climate change research and taking other steps to address the problem.

"We want to know more about it," said Bush, who withdrew the United States from the Kyoto treaty aimed at attacking the problem early in his first term

U.S. may deport Croatian 36 years on for 'terror'

SAN FRANCISCO, June 7 (Reuters) - A federal appeals court on Tuesday cleared the way for the deportation of a Croatian who has been living in the United States for 36 years but was involved in a 1978 hostage-taking.

Bozo Kelava, 62, a Croatian nationalist opposed to the Communist regime of the former Yugoslavia, was granted asylum after coming to the United States in 1969.

In 1978, he and another man took hostages at the West German consulate in Chicago to protest West Germany's plan to deport a Croatian dissident. The two men released the hostages unharmed 10 hours later after they were permitted to speak to the dissident.

Two years later, Kelava, who later set up his own tiling business in California, pleaded guilty to imprisoning a foreign national and was sentenced to prison for 2-1/2 years.

Kelava, now a resident of Belmont, California, applied to become a U.S. citizen three times. Only after his third application in 1999 did the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service briefly rearrest him and try to deport him.

His lawyer, Michael Harwin, said the government, bolstered by changes during the 1990s to U.S. immigration

law, was acting unfairly because two decades had passed since his crime.

On Tuesday, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals backed immigration officials in saying Kelava was ineligible for a waiver to a deportation order because he had "engaged in terrorist activity."

"Bozo Kelava is a person who came here as a refugee who committed a single crime which was a political act in 1978 to save a fellow countryman from what was viewed as certain torture and death at the hands of the communists," Harwin said. "From that time forward (he) lived a completely noble life."

Dan Ragsdale, deputy chief counsel for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Phoenix who worked on the case, said authorities moved against Kelava when he came to their attention. He called the delay "extremely unlikely today" after measures put into force after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"It is certainly appropriate to remove him now," he said. "Given the vast, vast number of people that wish to come to the United States and reside in a peaceful way, I don't feel particularly bad about the time delay."

Defense lawyer Harwin said he would appeal the case.

Second China defector backs Australia spy claims

CANBERRA, June 8 (Reuters) - A second Chinese man has made a bid for political asylum in Australia and backed claims by a defecting Chinese diplomat that Beijing has up to 1,000 spies operating across Australia.

Hao Fengjun told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television late on Tuesday that he had worked for China's security service, known as 610, in the northern port city of Tianjin.

Hao said he travelled to Australia as a tourist in February and then applied for political asylum.

Hao's comments came after Chen

Yonglin, a 37-year-old political affairs consul at China's consulate in Sydney, sought asylum saying spies were hunting him for aiding pro-democracy groups.

Hao said he supported claims made by Chen that Beijing operated a vast spy network in Australia.

"I worked in the police office in the Security Bureau and I believe that what Mr Chen says is true," Hao told Australian Broadcasting Corp.'s Lateline programme through an interpreter.

"As far as I know, they have spies in the consulate, but they also have a

network -- spies they've sent out. Like the National Security Bureau and the Public Security Bureau in China, they send out businessmen and students to overseas countries as spies. They also infiltrate the Falun Gong and other dissident groups."

Falun Gong is an amalgam of religions, meditation and exercises that the Chinese government considers an evil cult.

Hao told Lateline he was currently in Australia on a temporary visa while he waited for his refugee application to be decided by the country's immigration department.

Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone was not immediately available for comment.

NO FEAR

Chen made his bid for political asylum public on Saturday when he told a Sydney rally to mark the anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests that Beijing saw him as a threat because he offered help to democracy groups and Falun Gong.

Chen, who is in hiding with his wife, Jin Ping, 38, and six-year-old daughter, has written to Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer

asking for a rare "territorial asylum visa" and applied for a protection visa through the immigration department.

China's Ambassador to Australia, Madame Fu Ying, on Monday laughed off Chen's claims about a Chinese spy network and fears that he could be kidnapped and sent home. Fu said Chen had no reason to be afraid about returning to China.

A spokeswoman for the Chinese Embassy said on Wednesday no further comment would be made on Hao's claims.

Both Hao and Chen said they would be persecuted by the Chinese

government if they returned home.

"If I go back to China there's no doubt the Communist government will certainly persecute me. They know I have confidential information, some of it top secret, and I'll be severely punished," Hao said.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy told Reuters on Tuesday Chen had also contacted a U.S. consulate in Australia about his situation, but she was unable to comment further. Local media said Chen had asked if he could defect to the United States.

China says vote on UN Council reform too rushed

UNITED NATIONS, June 7 (Reuters) - China said on Tuesday most of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members needed more time to decide on expanding the 15-member body, despite 12 years of debate in the U.N. General Assembly.

The five powers on the council, known as the P-5, whose influence would be diluted in any expansion, have been meeting regularly on the issue, including talks among foreign ministers, with no common position among them. The 191-member General Assembly may vote on the issue in June.

"The feelings among most of the members of the P-5 is that we are being somewhat hurried, being rushed. This is the common position. We need more time to consider," China's ambassador, Wang Guangya, told reporters.

France and Britain support the candidacies of Germany, Japan, India and Brazil as new permanent members in a plan that would expand the council to 25 seats. The four contenders want to put the proposal before the 191-member Assembly this month.

China opposes any seat for Japan, Russia's position is unclear and the United States favors Japan but has not spelled out any formula on how the council should be enlarged.

"We have no position. We support Japan but it needs to be handled judiciously," Anne Patterson, the acting U.S. ambassador, told Reuters.

Other participants in the meeting said no common ground had been reached regarding a plan that would add six permanent seats and four nonpermanent seats. That is the model favored by Germany, Brazil, Japan and India.

France's U.N. ambassador, Jean-Marc de la Sabliere, told reporters his country remained in favor of that

model because "we think the council has to reflect the reality of the international community."

The Security Council, which rules on war and peace, sanctions and peacekeeping operations, still reflects the balance of power at the end of World War Two.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, as part of his major overhaul of the United Nations, is urging members to make a decision this year after a decade of discussion.

The five current permanent members are basically unable to stop any vote in the General Assembly and can only use their veto power afterward when national legislatures have to ratify a change in the U.N. Charter.

Wang said foreign ministers from the five spoke by telephone last Friday and their ambassadors met again on Monday at Britain's mission to the United Nations.

A second plan, favored by Italy, Algeria, Mexico, Canada, Pakistan, South Korea and others, also calls for enlarging the council to 25 members. But that group is against more permanent seats and backs longer terms for nonpermanent members, which now serve two years.

Germany, Japan, Brazil and India want the assembly this month to adopt a framework resolution that would call for six additional permanent seats, including two from Africa, but not fill in the names. That needs to be passed by a two-thirds vote and no one is certain if the four have enough votes.

The second step is another assembly resolution that would fill in the names, also necessary by a two-thirds vote.

The third step would be a change in the U.N. Charter that would have to be approved by two-thirds of national legislatures — and all five current permanent members.

Rumsfeld to sign new defence deal with Norway

STAVANGER, Norway, June 8 (Reuters) - U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld will sign a new agreement with Norway on Wednesday for the United States to carry on siting weapons and other equipment in the country, officials said.

Washington first kept equipment in Norway during the Cold War in case of attack by the Soviet Union, but Norwegian officials say it can now be used to deal with any terrorist attack as well as for peace and humanitarian operations.

On Tuesday, Norwegian Defence Minister Kristin Krohn Devold hosted a dinner party for Rumsfeld on a naval ship.

About 400 people demonstrated in the Norwegian capital Oslo against the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and some 800 protested in Stavanger.

The demonstrators held banners calling Rumsfeld a "war criminal" and demanding he leave the country, Norway's NRK television reported.

"(Rumsfeld is) a modern imperialist," Audun Lysbakken, an opposition Socialist member of parliament, told a group of protesters.

Rumsfeld arrived at his hotel in Stavanger under tight guard.

North Korea nuclear talks may resume in weeks -China

WASHINGTON, June 7 (Reuters) - The United States said on Tuesday North Korea had agreed to return to six-party talks on ending its suspected nuclear weapons programs and China predicted the negotiations would resume in Beijing within weeks.

"I think it will be pretty soon, in the next few weeks," China's ambassador to the United Nations, Wang Guangya, told reporters. "I understand that it will be Beijing."

U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said, "The North Koreans said they would return to the six-party process but did not give us a time certain when they would."

After testifying on Capitol Hill later, the assistant secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, Christopher Hill, said: "They did not give us a date. Until we get a date and get everyone sitting at the table, we do not have a process."

The United States and China have been struggling to lure North Korea back to the talks, which last took place in June 2004 and which also include South Korea, Japan and Russia.

"It is incumbent on each of the participants, particularly China, to make very clear to North Korea that the time has come for it to return to the talks in a way that demonstrates that it is ready to make a strategic choice about its programs," Hill said.

North Korea has confirmed it has some nuclear weapons, as American intelligence analysts have long claimed. Pyongyang also has hinted recently that it might be on the verge of conducting a weapons test, although some Bush administration officials have expressed skepticism.

The signal that North Korea intended to rejoin the talks apparently came during a meeting in New York Monday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said, "From every aspect, this is a positive meeting ... but as to the resolution ... we have no specific information."

Japan thought the meeting indicated progress. "Since talks and contacts are being held in such a manner, this is a step forward," said Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda.

McCormack described the New York contacts as "useful" and suggested North Korea had not set explicit conditions for resuming the talks. "It's always useful to exchange information. The issue of conditions I don't think was mentioned," he said.

"The important thing is that the North Koreans commit to a time to return to the six-party talks and they engage in a constructive manner."

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS?

At the meeting, the North Korean officials reiterated that Pyongyang

supported a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and that the issue could be discussed at the talks, said a State Department official who asked not to be named.

The North Koreans then went on to list familiar grievances they also wanted discussed, such as the United States providing security assurances and dropping what Pyongyang views as its hostile policy.

U.S. officials have said they may take the North Korean nuclear issue to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose sanctions, if Pyongyang refuses to return to the talks.

A senior American defense official said Sunday a decision was likely within weeks, but Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld played down the possibility of a quick decision.

The chances of the United States punishing North Korea with economic or political sanctions likely would be minimal, since China, which opposes sanctions, could veto a U.S. proposal. Pyongyang has said sanctions would be tantamount to a declaration of war.

The Bush administration tried to raise the North Korea nuclear issue in the Security Council in April 2003, but China and Russia objected to Washington's proposal that the council adopt a statement condemning Pyongyang for reviving its nuclear program.

Words of Wisdom

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

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa
(1951 - 1999)

Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINIONQuantity
or quality?

Believe it or not, according to Worldwatch, Sana'a was ranked as the fastest growing city in the WORLD judged by the annual growth index at 33.3% between 1975 and 2000.

The top ten cities next to Sana'a are Karaj in Iran (29.1), Ansan in South Korea (24.2), Rajshahi in Bangladesh (23.5), Neijiang in China (22.1), Riyadh in Saudi Arabia (21.6), Nanchong in China (20.9) again, Dhaka in Bangladesh (19.0) again, Yantai in China (18.8) for the third time, Ulsan in South Korea (17.8) again.

Basically, China, Bangladesh, South Korea, Iran, KSA and Yemen. What is the common factor between all these countries? They are developing countries or at least countries with struggling economy. Although China begs to differ a little especially that they have realised their problem years ago and have taken measures to control the child birth. In fact, during the past years China was successful at decreasing their growth rate; after all they are the number one country with the largest population. But then again, why Yemen and why Sana'a? What's with the Yemeni people storming heads first into a population explosion?? Especially that Sana'a is a city where crucial indicators of water shortage and high pollution have been reported? Let alone the dramatically increasing poverty and continuous deterioration in the living standards? Are the Yemenis thinking that if they increase in numbers they would be preparing better for the future? Perhaps not, the truth is that there is hardly any awareness among Yemeni people regarding family planning. Sometimes religious concepts promote having many children. Actually there is nothing wrong in having many children, providing you are able to present them with the good education, a suitable life style and an adequate attention. All of which are hardly available in the Yemeni society for even as few as one or two children.

The legacy that Yemeni people are leaving behind generation after generation is more than historical monuments, traditional custom or even oil (although by the time they come not much will be left!). It is more than that; Yemenis should understand that their legacy should be focused on human resources. The people are the ones who build nations or ruin them. If care is not given to how the generations are raised, educated and empowered then the future of the country wouldn't be very promising.

Being the capital city of Yemen, Sana'a attracts many Yemenis coming from around the country with various orientations and backgrounds. As these populations mingle together, a focused efficient government strategy should be carried out to help Yemenis organize themselves better, in numbers and in manners. Yemeni people are of the smartest and most intellectual worldwide provided they are given the chance to work in an environment that nurtures their abilities. Security is a vital need for people to excel. When competition for the limited resources increases, people feel less secure and tend to either leave the country looking for better opportunities - causing brain drain, or become aggressive and use unethical means to withhold as much resources as possible - causing corruption. Before worse comes to worse, Yemeni government and people should save this country, and save the future for the generations to come.

Editor



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Unity: The Fighting Stage

The fierce fighting started in Amran, between the two South and North armed brigades in the same camp. It was clear that, this was the preamble of the civil war. It was also clear that, the international and Arabic efforts to contain the crisis were not honest. There were several parts that were pushing towards war. Each of the conflicting parties received pledges that they would have support in case of break out of war.

Sana'a secured the support of her strong ally - America. However Saudi Arabia completely failed to mobilize the Europeans or American to back Aden... There was an intensive diplomatic and political activity in Washington. The war ended, with the a clear victory for the Northerners. The Southern army was in a low morale. Several leaders deserted their units, and they surren-

dered without fighting. The Americans warned the Northerners not to make a long siege of towns and to conclude the war as quickly as possible... and that was what happened.

Sana'a has pledged to Washington to restore natural conditions after war. Some of these pledges were implemented, but others were implemented (in the Yemeni style).

Hours after boarder demarcation between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, M.O.J (a southern opposition movement) declared the stopping of its media activity. Saudi Arabia decreased its financial support to M.o.j to a half, then to a lower level. However it preserved some of the aides in case they are needed in future.

The Southerners have lately realized that they have fought other's war. The

Saudi, Kuwaiti's money was the price. The real objective was to set Yemen back to conditions before May 1990. The Saudis and Kuwaitis could achieve their objective in exhausting the military and economical abilities of Yemen, draw and wedge between the Southerners and Northerners. The impacts of the last one are still reacting.

Sana'a made patient dialogues with most of the Southern leaders, especially those who received convictions of death sentences, imprisonment, and suspended convictions... most of them returned and their economic conditions were settled. They remained away from power. A few were appointed as consultants for the President.

The outside world ignored the 1994 file of war for a while, but its effects are still present inside at one level or another. President Ali Abdullah Saleh wants this file to be closed, but there are some circles that think the military victory over the south, requires continuous price that they should receive all the time.

BY IBRAHIM HUSSEIN
MOHAMMED

The right to respond

Jane Novak not docile

BY JANE NOVAK
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I am responding to the Yemen Times article entitled "Jane Novak a docile student of a monkey monk."

I find the author's derogatory tone toward his fellow Yemenis shocking. I have never seen such blatantly insulting statements expressed so publicly and with such assurance. He says: They are like chameleons, ungrateful like cats and sinister like vipers. I've never seen such words printed even about Americans. I am frankly astounded by this childish phrase to describe another Yemeni, a mentally retarded monkey. What? A what? This kind of abusive name calling about fellow citizens does not enhance pluralism and tolerance as the base of society. While calling for the unity of Yemen, the author denies its underlying principal, the equality of all Yemenis. He says the Houthis are racists and backward. I wonder who is the racist here.

Each article I write has at least twenty footnotes for the editors supporting the facts presented. And this author does not repudiate the concept that there is a slaughter in Sa'ada. Rather he tries to demean me for caring about it. He breaks the shocking news that the Houthis have chanted "Death to America." I have been aware of this all along. Millions of people in the Middle East hate Americans. I do not hate them back.

Because the Houthis are anti-American, should I find it acceptable to bomb the women and children? No. Go arrest a whole village when none of them are fighting? No. Arrest any relative they can find of the guys who are fighting? No.

Arrest anyone in Yemen who talks out about the violence? No.

Furthermore the author has not done his research. The articles about Sa'ada are only the latest in a series of articles I have been writing over the last year for the Western audience about the Yemeni people's shortage of rights. The first eight related to reform and press freedom. The next two dealt with civil rights. The last two focus on religious pluralism. The last version of the article, the one circulating so widely in the US, also references political and civil repression in society.

The last articles focus on the repression, arrests, discrimination, and deaths of one group, but the authors charge that I am biased toward a particular social stratum is incorrect. The targeting by the state seems to come in waves: by group, identity, profession, social position, or political inclination. In highlighting a certain pattern, I am not supporting one group to the exclusion of others. But a coherent expose on all the people who are currently denied their full civil, political or human rights in Yemen would be quite lengthy.

My last article contains quotations from a girl in Sa'ada saying the tank targeted her school and a mother saying she can't go to get food for her kids. I'm grateful I had the opportunity in my life to give that girl and that woman a voice. As an American, I have many rights and protections. I was honored to use them to let that little girl with no rights and no protections speak to millions in the West in her own words.

The charge that I am against a unified Yemen is absurd. That's the only thing I am for, the only thing any outsider can be for. It's up to the Yemeni people, finally

given their proper rights of self-determination, to determine the political landscape. I support only the equal empowerment of all Yemenis, equal rights, equal opportunity, and equal respect. For years, I have publicly applauded Yemen as one Arab country with the good potential to develop a vibrant democracy solely through the efforts of its tremendous reformers. Without any external pressure, there is plenty of pressure coming from the Yemeni people themselves for real reform. I find the Yemeni people quite heroic in this regard.

A reforming regime is in the process of transferring power from an authority figure to the people and their representatives. I do not see the Yemeni people as being increasingly in control the structures of government and the functions of the state. What I do see from my vantage point in the West is a wall of propaganda: that Yemen is a functioning democracy and a reforming state. Also there is the perception that the Yemeni government is a partner in the War on Terror. The question for me is whose partner.

Finally, I was quite amused by the attempt at defaming me. Honestly I laughed for several days straight. The tactic of personal attack does not work in the US or on Americans, especially the phrase, a docile student of a monkey monk. I still cannot type this without laughing. The author said, it is only natural that there are other women who are for predators. There are also other women who are quite against predators.

Jane Novak is an American journalist and political analyst.

Re-envisioning Europe

BY NICOLAS TENZER

Many citizens of France's 24 partners in the European Union, or of states that aspire to enter the EU soon, are angry - indeed, indignant - at France's rejection of the European Union's constitutional treaty. After the Dutch "no," there is fear that distrust of the European project will spread.

The French vote mainly expressed a rejection of our ruling class and deep anxiety about our economic prospects. It was a vote of misery and desertion, an impulse moved by panic as well as anger.

But the size of the "no" vote also reflected the persistent lack of a clear explanation by our politicians of what the EU brings to Europeans in terms of wealth, competitiveness, social welfare and, of course, peace. Too often, our politicians disparage Europe and impute to it evils (like unemployment) that are really the result of domestic insufficiencies.

Like many in France, I do not believe that this thunderbolt means the end of Europe. We can and must react positively, and we can do so by returning to basics and offering to Europe's nations, including the French and the Dutch, new challenges and a new spirit.

First, let us express the undeniable facts about Europe's Union. Above all, Europe means peace. Peace was at the heart of the ambition of Europe's founding fathers. It returned as an animating and unifying force with the collapse of communism and the Balkan wars of a decade ago. Peace is also a living issue today, given global terrorism and Europe's unbreakable alliance with the United States.

It is wrong to pretend that the risk of war

is behind us. If Europe's vigilance breaks down, violent conflict will become a possibility once again. A united Europe can respond to these dangers in ways that no single state can. Moreover, no single state can weigh in on international negotiations and offer solutions to economic rivalries or trade issues that threaten to degenerate into political clashes.

Europe also incarnates democratic values. The Union helped countries in southern Europe overthrow authoritarian regimes in the 1980's, and helped countries in Europe's East become democracies in the 1990's.

Enlargement of the EU is not only an economic duty to be borne by the richest nations; it is also the recognition of a common history and a shared culture. We in the wealthy West do not have the right to abandon this task, and we must welcome in the same community of destiny all democratic countries east to Russia if they fulfill the EU's criteria.

Europe also means prosperity and, for the countries that joined the EU recently or will join shortly, the promise of prosperity. All countries face, to different degrees, economic problems. But there is a model, simultaneously economic and social, that only Europe embodies. The European framework is exacting but necessary. It is as far from being a controlled economy as it is from resembling the libertarian anarchism that many French opponents of the constitutional treaty fear. It is a framework that is based on a discipline and solidarity within and between member states from which no one can be exempt.

To be sure, behind the Union's great schemes lurks another EU, one that is excessively bureaucratic. But it also must be recognized that the EU built its success

on its meticulous processes and ability to regulate economic life for the benefit of all. It was in this way that it radically transformed economies and societies for the better.

Nor can we overlook the banal bargaining of European leaders, the quarrels over budgets, and the rise of national egoisms whenever elections loom. True, such political infighting makes the EU appear as if it is no longer motivated by great and noble ambitions. Even the constitutional treaty, which should have been a clarion call for all Europeans, was allowed to become bogged down in minutia. Indeed, today no European political figure of global stature offers an ambition that resonates.

So our task is to offer Europe a new foundation and a new impulse. We need founding fathers - or mothers - and nations moved by a clear understanding of their interests and a popular enthusiasm for European integration. The road will be long. But we are compelled to be confident that we can move domestic politics to higher considerations.

Europe's academics, senior civil servants, business executives, and trade unionists must work together to build a project that expresses a new frontier for Europe. If we are unable to build a new idea of and for Europe, all that Europe has achieved in the last 50 years will be put at risk.

Nicolas Tenzer, a former director of the Commissariat General du Plan under Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, is president of the Centre d'étude et de réflexion pour l'action politique (CERAP) and director of the journal Le Banquet.

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Why are we different?

If we look at all the states in the Arabian Peninsula, we find there is a great difference in the way we are and the way the rest of the countries are living and managing their affairs. The problem really is not confined to the scarcity of available resources, because of we look at nearby Oman and further up north Jordan, these states still managed to achieve measurable progress, not just materially, but also culturally and socially as well. Granted there are underlying difficulties, such as the size of the population and other factors that give Yemen its unique characteristics and provide for challenges that perhaps the other states are not confronted with. Having said that however, one is still inclined to believe that our approach to development has not been all together that stimulating and does not indicate a goal oriented planning approach. International factors have also not been helpful and perhaps regional forces may have presented drawbacks that prevented Yemen from maximizing many of the comparative advantages Yemen possessed and still possesses to launch the country on a sound course towards development. In retrospect, however, there is a lot more that can be said about our inability to harness the resources available to us and direct them towards enhancing the ability of the people to pursue greater strides in their own welfare and the overall development of the country.

The problem fundamentally rests on a severe reliance on a centralized approach towards managing the political, economic and social affairs of the country and the insistence on holding back any efforts towards loosening the reigns of centralized authority, even after the centralized government has decided to embark on a supposedly ambitious reform program, not to mention the adoption of democracy as an irreversible approach to governance.

However, it is not clear how much conceptual translation of all these wonderful clichés is truly intended to be felt and put in practice beyond their surface appearance in government reports or media channels. For sure, if we can get halfway into the institution of democratic government and empowerment to the relevant government and non-government institutions (local authority and civil society). Furthermore, the most effective approach towards development involves facilitating access to the available resources to the general population and the private sector. Such facilitation will go a long way towards enabling the maximum exploitation of these resources, spreading the benefits to be derived from them to a greater percentage of the population and making them more sustainable. More important enabling the general people to have easy access to such resources, ward off the chances for corruption that is highly encouraged by the overwhelming bureaucratic obstacles that stand in the way of such access.

This does not entail purely the issuance of laws that say that such access is now feasible, and then killing them with "executive procedures" that practically work to maintain an impenetrable status quo, that ensures that our government not relinquish one bit of its stranglehold control on every facet of our lives.

It is a matter of getting government to understand that unless government itself becomes truly cultured in the approaches it is pursuing, all one can say is that it is going to be business as usual.

Our neighbors are not claiming any great strides in democratic achievement or political reform, but they nevertheless did allow for considerable public leeway to enable them to advance their own welfare. With our rhetoric and claims, we should have been better if all these claims could be taken for more than their weight in ink and air.

By Fahmia AL-Fotih

Monsters on the bus

Today's story is whispered by many Yemeni women and they want their whispers to be heard. Fatima is one of those women. She is a university student has to travel on public transport to and from mostly everyday. She naturally is exposed to various harassments along her way. In the beginning she was afraid and was scared when she heard bad words and immoral manners and thought to stay at home. She remembers the first day when she was running to the bus to shelter from the people looks, words and to have a rest after a hard and a long journey in the street. The bus soon became full and was ready to start when she felt a strange movement under her seat. She thought she imagined it but the movements continued. So she looked behind her and saw a young man! She could not do anything but look at him harshly. But he kept his bad movements. She was afraid to shout or scream, as the passengers would not believe her and they would not stand with her. So she stopped the bus and got off hoping to find another bus without any harassment. Nowadays Fatima turns a blind eye for all the kinds of harassments. However it hurts her and affects her emotionally and psychologically.

I was with a group of girls and they all complained about these harassments, as it becomes an annoying phenomenon. Some of them do not respond but few are brave enough to take their shoe and beat those who try to disgrace them and express their ill psychologies. Interestingly, some women keep some sharp tools in their bags and they perfectly use them in the case of being irritated by ill-mannered people. Usra, housewife, remembered that she was in the bus when she felt a hand of someone under her seat, but she took her brooch and planted it in his hand and he shouted painfully and could not bear the pain amidst the laughter of the passengers. He deserved it and more!

Many students like Fatima and housewives like Usra, who used to go shopping and all the women who are forced to use public transport, are exposed to such bad and worse situations. Unfortunately, most of the women prefer to be silent as they are either shy and they do not want to attract people's attention or they do not actually expect having the support of the passengers who mostly blame the girl or the woman. Consequently, this silence and society's indifference to this issue encourage those bad people to keep doing these shameful deeds. However, the question that poses itself is when can this bad phenomenon be stopped. :KDWs the role of the society members who watch such bad people practice wicked movements? The important question is where is the role of the security officials who they themselves sorrowfully practice such harassments?

I do not know what is the point and what are the benefits that those evil people get when they try to make these silly movements behind any girl or woman. What if this girl or woman were his sister, mother or relatives? Do they accept this indecorous behavior for them? Absolutely not! In my opinion, those who practice these rude actions should be punished and be example to others! And this phenomenon should be ended as we live in a Muslim society.

In India there are special buses for women to avoid such harassments and I think it is a good idea to apply it in Yemen.

Stem Cell Obscurantism

By Emma Bonino and Marco Cappato

On May 19, a group of Korean scientists published in the magazine *Science* the results of research that for the first time isolated human embryonic stem cell lines specifically tailored to match the DNA of male and female patients of various ages. The next day, British scientists at Newcastle University announced that they had successfully produced a cloned human embryo using donated eggs and genetic material from stem cells.

Both breakthroughs constitute a stunning advance in stem cell research. Embryonic stem cells are pluripotent, meaning that they have the ability to develop into any type of human tissue. This carries great promise, in particular, for sufferers of spinal cord injuries and diseases. Years of studies, and the passionate pleas of patients worldwide, are finally opening the way to a technique – somatic cell nuclear transfer, also known as “therapeutic cloning” – that may bring about epochal changes for the health of us all.

No less remarkable than the latest discoveries was the timing of their announcement, which came on the eve of a vote in the United States Congress to expand federal funding for research on embryonic stem cells created during in vitro fertilization (but never implant-

ed in a womb). Both announcements also came a month ahead of an Italian referendum – the largest popular consultation on the matter ever held anywhere – that seeks to change a law adopted last year that prohibits both in vitro fertilization and stem cell research.

The debate over therapeutic cloning is, of course, hardly limited to the US and Italy. The UN General Assembly ended a two-year debate on the matter in March 2005 by approving a non-binding declaration that calls upon states to “prohibit all forms of human cloning inasmuch as they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life.” The declaration passed with 84 votes in favor, 34 against, and 37 abstentions.

Last summer, in response to the UN decision, 78 Nobel laureates signed a petition discouraging the adoption of an international ban on human cloning, because “it would condemn hundreds of millions of individuals afflicted by debilitating diseases to a life deprived of hope.” The petition, initiated by Luca Coscioni Association, an NGO devoted to the promotion of the freedom of scientific research, called on governments to reject prohibitions in favor of “rules that protect the right to life and health by ensuring freedom of research, choice, and knowledge.”

There is, of course, widespread consensus against cloning devoted to the

reproduction of human beings, and most of the world has outlawed the technique. So this is not the issue. The Nobelists’ point is that, as far as therapeutic cloning is concerned, rather than attempting global prohibition, it would be much wiser, and possibly more effective, to promote an international regulatory regime through ample legalization of stem cell research.

But, as the UN declaration – and the long debate surrounding its adoption – illustrate, scientific arguments are not at the center of national and international debates, which revolve around questions concerning the beginning of “human life.” As we know, science and religion offer different answers. Some Christian theologians, for example, believe that life begins at conception, while scientists maintain that nerve and brain cells emerge around 14 days after conception. Scientists generally agree that research should be done within that period – and always allowed on spare embryos that will never be implanted.

In such a crucially important debate, the quality of the information offered is paramount, and it is no coincidence that those who oppose stem cell research prefer to avoid a public debate that would force them to confront scientific arguments. They know all too well that whenever a secular and scientific debate has been permitted and encouraged, the general public –

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Pass Word “Securing the releases of some detainees”. As soon as he utter it, run immediately and detain some Palestinians.!!!

By Samer A.

regardless of nationality and religious or political affiliation – has overwhelmingly expressed itself in favor of stem cell research.

We saw a clear example of this last November in California, where 60% of the electorate voted in favor of Proposition 71 on state funding for stem cell research. Similarly, the latest polls in Italy suggest that the overwhelming majority of those who intend to vote are in favor of therapeutic cloning. However, a referendum in Italy requires 50% turnout to validate the outcome. Revealingly, the Vatican, knowing that it cannot win, is currently

campaigning strongly for mass abstention.

More than the advancement of science is at stake here. The Vatican’s stance on the Italian vote is emblematic of a broader threat to the very foundation of modern liberal democracy: the constitutional separation of Church and State.

In an era of growing concern about religious fundamentalism, liberal democratic institutions must reaffirm their role in protecting individual rights for all. And, in order to enable the full enjoyment of our freedoms – be they of worship or scientific research – the

state must reassert its secular nature. We need mechanisms to address violations of moral or religious beliefs, but we cannot place restrictions on individuals’ ability to contribute to the public welfare.

Emma Bonino, member of the Transnational Radical Party and former EU Commissioner, is a Member of the European Parliament; Marco Cappato, former Member of European Parliament, is Secretary of the Luca Coscioni Association.

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We want to be heard, The future leaders of Yemen

Up to now, all we have been hearing are the teachers’ voice or those people on top, but the students’ voice is never heard. As long as our lecturers’ problems last, students, either in private or in public universities, are also involved and have the right to express their attitudes clearly as being affected. In this investigation one is not looking for the wrong or right in the issue rather, representing the students’ and teachers’ attitude towards this situation.

Until recently, students in private universities have been studying peacefully far from governmental problems, until the last official decision was issued aimed at depriving them of being taught by qualified foreign teachers with whom we have started our classes and curriculums with.

That so-called wise, well-reformed decision did nothing but evil as it satisfied nobody. The Yemeni universities with both private and governmental sectors have turned upside down and students are the affected ones. Neither teachers nor students benefited under this administrative decision out of which problems are increasing instead of being solved. Here, though, private-university students are supposed to be far from the domestic governmental problems, but on the contrary are deeply involved and suffering the results! Why? Why shall they stop in the middle of the road? They are merely students seeking their rights in learning. Is it fair to take away the qualified teachers from us all of a sudden and leave us hanging just because of materialistic matters?

As for private universities some urgent procedures have been done to cover and compensate their lost lectures but it was too late for the students to catch up, too late to adjust to a teacher’s new ways and too late to start from zero. However, students in private universities do not have to complain for they are better off than hundreds of students in public universities who will complete their studies in their summer vacation. In fact they are all victims of administrative anarchy beside the governmental obstinacy, with their complaints falling on deaf ears. What will be the end? How will things take its way? Such official laws, even if it was already there but neglected, must

be announced in the beginning of the year so that universities are able to work something out before disrupting the students’ studies.

On the other hand, Yemeni teachers strongly reject such unstudied rules and regulations. Most of them are supporting the strike but very few teachers are against it. Some started to take pity on the students but the majority will still continue and will not give up until they achieve their rights and demands, which are as follows as mentioned in The Yemen Times:

- 1- 40% rise in salaries for the teachers and assistant staff.
- 2- RY 30000 is to be conceder as monthly housing allowance.
- 3- US\$ 3000 for expenses of medical treatment abroad for incurable diseases.
- 4- Specifying a sum of money for each university in order to provide all medicine for the teachers’ staff, their assistance, and their families.

Many professors announced their rejection and disappointment since the above clauses were not signed or written. In his weekly speech to ‘Annas’, Dr. Hassan Aljusha’, the UST dean of the medical college stated that 80% of teachers have other jobs just to be able to afford a decent life for their families. He pointed out that it is none of our business to deprive them of having other sources of income to live.

Last but not least, I would like to remind the decision-makers that we are at their mercy. Situations will not get better by such threatening suppressive ways. There must be other strategies to solve the problem. Where have all the millions which are paid annually to Sana’a University as a support gone to? What happened to the education budget for universities? What are the teachers on strike doing now? Obviously as we all can see, there are no winners here but only losers. Is this the objective and goal of the government? Hopefully this problem will be solved soon so that our studies will not be affected. To destroy us is to destroy the future of Yemen, as we are the future leaders of Yemen.

One of the victimised students:
Suhayla Al-Hebshi
Level 3 Faculty of Arts
English Department
University of Science and Technology

The car race

Recently there was a car race organized at the 70 meters square in Sana’a by a number of companies. The crowd was very excited wanting to see a good show. In Yemen we don’t get much entertainment and I think that such shows are interesting for my friends and me. I remember the last race was in 2001 and it took place in Aden. I liked the way it was set and organized but I was disappointed that they didn’t allow many people to participate. Some girls wanted to participate and the police didn’t let them, maybe because they didn’t register earlier or maybe just because they are girls. The way the contestants drove in the driveway was impressing but what I liked most were the sound effects.. The cars would go zooooom then suddenly turn eerrreeee and almost crash on the crowd.

These people were those who went right next to the drive way and did not stay among the audience, even the police could not control such an excited crowd. When the winners were awarded all the people went near them inside the stage and the security went into clashes with the people so I ran for my life. I don’t think I want to participate in such a race, I would like to see it but I would also like to live, besides I am happy with my cycle.

Mohammed Rashid
9th grade
Tulip school

Youth is burnt

Yesterday, elderly people hoped youth to come back again. Nowadays

Youth hope childhood to come back but what are the difference between these hopes.

Why was youth wished for before and now childhood is wished.

Does the reason exist in the debility to do serious events in our life, or the reason that we can’t live as a youth is because the anxieties of our life have become bigger than before. Is it a problem in our minds?! Or is it that we don’t find any one to help us??

There are many inventive youth that don’t find any one to evaluate their inventions and many successful youths that don’t find the encouragement. They yell but no one listens to them at all.

Do they have to suppress their success and inventions if they don’t find any support?!!

How does a person who has craft or

talent stop developing it for cause!

Are these problems related to youth or are they in general???

And, who are the youths?
The youths who take the standard of the country over, who can construct or destroy families and construct countries by their success, rushing an enthusiasm, but how is this rushing and enthusiasm achieved.

Many youths complain about problems which might be repeated like:

The finical state, unemployment...ect.

So who do you think is responsible?

These days, youths don’t study the section which they like because they always think about what they are going to do and where they are going to. Why isn’t the chance given to them to study what they want not what the reality of life requires. So our aim in life is to do what life imposes and we light the wick or fire by our hands to burn our talent and

invention all of that just to have a life in which we struggle for existence.

Unfortunately, the youth wish they were children not to realize anything around them because innocence is much better than the struggle of life. But a strong youth is one who can prove himself in spite of complications which we face and this is as difficult as reaching the top, but how can we do that?? By trying and not giving up or feeling that you’ll fail and we have to help ourselves then try to construct, reform and prevent what wrong is now. It’s impossible to annihilate the failure by silence; we have to annihilate it by struggle and hard work.

So, don’t burn your youth. Practice your hobbies and improve your skills and you’ll certainly reach the top, because struggle and hardwork pays off with success and excellence without anyone’s help but with depending on Allah and yourself.

Now the question is:
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
BURNING YOUR YOUTH???

Memories of a female football fan

BY LAMYA
LAMYAZOO@YAHOO.COM

“Gooooooooooooooooo aaaa!” Dad and I yelled after the first Iraqi goal in the Australian nets. Shouting made dad cough, he looked very tired, nevertheless; the happiness for the goal was greater than his pain. He gave me a large grin as I sat down beside him on the hospital bed.

We looked at the far corner where the little black-and-white TV was, and even though the transmission was unclear with a bad signal, dad and I – like many others – were very proud of the Iraqi football team that was strong enough to overcome their country’s crisis and give the miserable Iraqi people a reason to smile by playing beautiful football.

It would be typical of me to say that dad and I were never close. I didn’t read his writings and never cared about his political activities. When I came across one of his poems while flipping through some magazines I simply neglected it.

One can pretty much say that the relationship between us was somewhat “formal” ever since I was a kid until last year. Being over-occupied with his job, writ-

ings and the never lasting struggle for human rights, the only free time dad had was when he watches the news, which I didn’t enjoy watching. Therefore, the only time I spent with him was when we’d sometimes watch a movie after dinner.

Add to that the fact that dad wasn’t a typical Arabic father in an all-male community who would interrogate his daughters about their every little action. He gave me unlimited freedom and never asked me where I was going or who I was seeing. And that’s why the shortest conversations between a father and a daughter were those of me and dad’s.

But one day, a year ago from now, dad came into the living room while I was all hype watching the first la liga match.

It was when Al-Jazeera Sport first started transmission. I was happy as can be to finally be able to watch la liga.

“I had no idea you’re a football fan Lamy!” he said with a big puzzled smile.

Ever since, dad and I watched every match together and cheered the neighborhood’s brains out!

We talked about football all the time, and once he gets home he’d ask me: “what’s on JCCS tonight?”

Every Saturday and Sunday night – although it’s not weekend here – we’d get ready to watch la liga matches and dad

would ever skip the night news. We’d sit to watch and dad would shout the unfamiliar names of Spanish players: “Baraja!! Selgado!” and he’d still be yelling the same names the next morning!

There was a furious discussion after every match. Of course we were different in every way. Dad was a big fan of the galacticos while I am a Valencianista. We’d talk for long hours about the mistake that player made, the tackle the referee didn’t count and what should a certain manager do to improve the performance. We talked as if we were two expert football analysts!

Many times I’d jump for joy wearing my orange jersey when they royal nets shake. Many times dad would stand up laughing and yelling when his favorite player scores: “Yeaaaaaaaah Carlos!”

Football got dad and me closer. A beautiful friendship formed even after my boys were crowned champs and dad’s royals settle for fourth last season.

Footy opened the door that’s been locked between us, and we’d share everything until I ended up watching the night news.

A couple of hours after the Iraqi win in Athens, dad was gone. Not to work or write a poem. And I didn’t realize that he wouldn’t come home to ask me about the

scores of the matches ever again.

I sat alone watching Valencia’s first match in la liga’s new season. My boys were winning but I was just sitting there, numb in the jersey he paid for, unable to cheer and yell like I used to. Like la liga isn’t the same, like winning is not worth it without dad’s yelling: “Goal Baraja! Goal!”

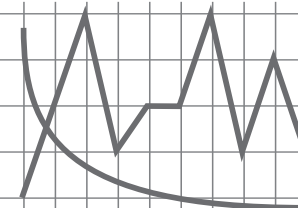
I can’t but imagine how dad would make fun of me if he sees how lame my boys have been playing lately. He’d be so happy with Real Madrid second in the table and say: “Real Madrid= Real Team= Real Stars”.

I never thought I’d miss the words of mockery from a Madrid fan.

For one year I enjoyed being dad’s best buddy. To who do I owe my thanks? Al-Jazeera Sport? Spanish Football Federation? Valencia? Even Real Madrid? I thank them all, for if it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have spent dad’s last hours watching Olympic football with him and I wouldn’t have seen his last smile.

“Dada.. look!” and I pointed at a bottle of Spanish olive oil at the super market. Dad looked at it closely and said loudly: “Selgado!” the burst of laughter made people look at us as if we were lunatics. But we didn’t care and laughed our guts out hysterically!

YT Business



Street cleaners complain of unfair treatment

ABDUSSALAM SHARAF
TAIZ BUREAU

Servant of the people is their master: a famous proverb signifying the importance of work and offering services for others. The value of man will remain deficient till he offers services for others in the society in general and his family members in particular.

The widely spread "Servant of the people is their master" is not confined to a certain group of people or a particular profession, but it will apply in the case of all people who offer services to other members in the society despite material gains.

Differing views:

However different they look, all the social views toward all kinds of professions and works and workers are equal, according to some people while others look down upon a category of workers and their professions.

One social group is found to like and respect the profession of agriculture while another looks down on and dislike it due to a variety of factors stemming from the nature of the society. A third social group is realized to prefer barbery, a profession that is disgusting in the eyes of others because of some social traditions and cultures.

There are some social groups that dislike the profession of cleanliness and considered it as a profession restricted to a particular social category despite the fact that every one gives



Abdulelah Haza

Abdulhakim Saif

Bashir Ahmed

priority to cleanliness and keeping our environment tidy.

The importance of cleanliness is supported by all the human beings, societies, and nations all over the world working hard to keep their environment clean and attain a degree of advancement in the field of cleanliness.

Views about the profession of cleanliness differ due to a variety of factors and it is unaccepted behavior since it is pursued by individuals belonging to the lowest and poorest categories in the society.

How does the Yemeni society look at workers in the career of cleanliness, do individuals have the desire to work as cleaners, and who are the cleaners and how are they treated by others in the society?

Our feelings not considered:

Cleaners express their sadness as they are looked down on by other individuals. "Some owners of houses and shopkeepers look at us being only cleaners and do not consider our feelings though we sweep away everything from their houses and shops. They do not treat us kindly or sympathize with us and do not take into consideration efforts we exert for their sake. In addition, there are many citizens who do not discard rubbish in the waste bins," Sami Sa'eed Qied cried. "Some people sympathize with us and treat us kindly since we work in rotations from 6 in the early morning up till 2 after midnight."

Vision of pathos:

Holding his brush in the street, Ahmad Mohammad Othman, a street cleaner, who felt a bit curious when we followed him to talk with him about

the social view toward street cleaners, pointed out: "Some people cooperate with us by discarding their rubbish in the allocated bins and seem to sympathize with us and respect us while others look down upon our profession."

No attention paid to us:

Sa'eeda Sa'ad commented: "I have been working as a street cleaner for two years from 6 am till noon, and I get YR2000 every ten days out of my monthly salary which is YR6000 that never suffices for my living needs. Citizens do not draw any attention to us."

Another worker said: "We usually work all morning and sometimes in the evening. We are not paid for our overtime work except for our monthly salary that does not exceed YR 9,000."

The social views differ from one person to another; there are some peo-

ple who respect us and value our efforts while others sneer at us. Many shopkeepers, instead of cooperating with us, shout at us and say that we cause dust while sweeping.

Noble profession but....

There are many well-educated people who responded differently. Bashir Ahmad Abduljalil, a shop owner, is of the view that insulting the profession of cleanliness stems from the fact that the majority of street cleaners belong to the poorest categories. These people are marginalized and have their own habits and traditions, and they do not care for organizing their houses and even their bodies, although cleanliness is their career.

Bashir bears in mind that cleanliness is a noble profession and a source of income for sustaining one's family. This profession will keep people away from practicing illegal ways to gain money.

Modest profession

For his part, Abdulmalik Qaied confirmed the society humiliates work in the field of cleanliness, and individuals in general dislike such profession, even street cleaners themselves does not have the will to pursue the profession.

Insulting vision

Abdulelah Hazzah al-Huraibi, the Cultural Officer at al-Dumla'a Charitable Society pointed out the reasons behind the insulting vision toward street cleaners stem from the fact that

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	192.3900	192.6500
Sterling Pound	349.0600	349.5300
Euro	235.2400	235.5600
Saudi Rial	51.3000	51.3700
Kuwaiti Dinar	658.8500	659.7400
UAE Dirhem	52.3800	52.4500
Egyptian Pound	33.1600	33.2000
Bahraini Dinar	510.3000	510.9900
Qatari Rial	52.8700	52.9500
Jordanian Dinar	271.5600	271.9300
Omani Rial	499.7100	500.3900
Swiss Franc	153.5000	153.7100
Swedish Crown	25.7400	25.7700
Japanese Yen	1.7878	1.7902

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

they belong to the marginalized category. These people are not rewarded and kindly treated by the society even though they save no effort for the sake of others. So the different media means should raise awareness among people about the role of street cleaners and their profession is a noble work. "Servant of the people is their master".

988 job opportunities:

Regarding job opportunities offered by the Cleanliness Fund in Taiz and its care for paying workers for their overtime work, allowances and increments, Abdulhakim Saif General Manager of the fund, mentioned there are 821 street cleaners in the governorate of Taiz who work for daily wages, in addition to 26 drivers with a monthly payment of YR 10,800 and 133 supervisors who gain around YR 15,000 per month.

YR 9,054,800 is the total amount of salaries monthly paid to all workers in the sector of cleanliness and around YR 3 million are paid for their overtime works and allotments.

It is impossible for the society to dispense with cleanliness due to the vital importance of the role of workers in the field despite the kind of treatment they receive from others in the society. Lack of awareness about the importance of cleanliness leads to the unfair treatment of cleaners. Why are these hardworking cleaners looked down upon while collecting rubbish from streets to maintain our environment tidy?

Exported to other countries and not found in the local market

Fisheries ignored

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is distinguished from other countries by its long coastal line that reaches 2200 km on the Red and Arab seas and the Indian Ocean. In Yemen's seawater, 600 fish species and marine animals live. The biodiversity of fisheries made Yemen a rich country with such wealth that attracts the international demand.

Regretfully, this wealth is ignored and no benefit is gained from it due to several administrative and legislative problems, as well as the retreat of fishing and marketing activities and the continuity of random fishing. All these problems have their negative impacts on fishermen and the sea environment.

The fishing activity in Yemen relies on two sectors: the traditional handicraft sector and the industrial one. Recent estimates indicate there are around 41323 fishermen who work in the traditional sector and use traditional wood boats. The number of fishermen is expected to reach 70 thousand this year.

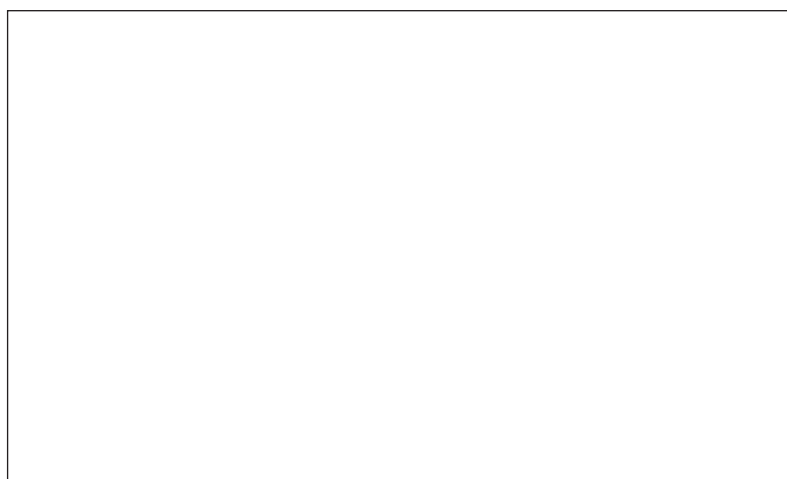
According to scores revealed in 1998, the traditional fish caught amounted up to 108205 tons including salmon, tuna, sardine, and other kinds. With respect to the industrial sector of fishing, there are over 46 local and international companies operating in Arab Sea and most of them are located in the city of Mukalla. The total fish caught of these companies reached 17858 tons in 1998.

These companies have their own ice factories and fish markets. The fish caught is usually frozen at the shore of the sea before being shipped to the Chinese and European markets, as well as some Arab countries.

The traditional caught is usually sold at the local markets.

Large quantities of fresh caught are being exported to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan. Saudi Arabia is considered the big market in terms of importing fish from Yemen.

According to statements of the



Saudi Ambassador to Yemen, Mohammad Bin Mirdas al-Qahtani, the Saudi market receives 100 tons of Yemeni fish a day and the market's share is 43.22% out of the overall Yemeni fish exports. The Yemeni exports to the Gulf markets grow from day to day, and the amount of fish export increased from 52.7 thousand tons in 2002 to 63.6 thousand tons in 2003, bringing to US\$181 million the overall value of exports.

According to recent scores, the total value of fish production came at US\$ 38 million in 2003, with a %72 from 2002 (an average growth of 6.42% between 2001 and 2003)

6 kg is the individual's share

Despite the diversity of fisheries in Yemen and the increase of the export volume, the local consumer cannot get fish easily due to its high prices and poor marketing.

Based on a study conducted researcher Mahyoub Naji al-Faqih, the poor fish marketing in the local international markets by some fishermen gives some parties a chance to monopolize the fish caught in seasons of peak when demand increases. Fishermen suffer from various barriers that hamper their activities, and in some cases a fight may take place between them and other fishing companies.

A Mukalla fishermen, Hussein, said: "We are usually exposed to deliberate

collapse by some trade companies, my boat for instance was targeted by a big ship owned by one of the companies and this compelled me to travel to Sana'a to claim compensation from the Ministry of Fisheries.

Additionally, fishermen are always subjected to piracy by ships of foreign companies belonging to some of the neighboring countries. Abdullah Hibah a Hodeidah fisherman commented: "we are daily fought by the local companies that sometimes devastate our boats. Once I was detained for weeks along with tens of Yemeni fishermen in one of the neighboring countries.

In the absence of sea monitoring on ships of local and international companies, the piracy acts terribly increase, and this in turn leads to collapsing the sector of traditional fishing and the rarity of fish caught in the local markets.

"We are in a country rich with fish and this kind of food is supposed to be one of the main meals in every house in Yemen, but sorrowfully, we can not have fish except on rare occasions and in my own house we have never had any fish since last Ramadan," Fahd al-Yami, a citizen, exclaimed.

Fisheries in Yemen does not seem to witness progress improvement and progress despite confirmations made by the President and the government that significant achievements have been scored in this field.

A new deal for the Lisbon strategy

By NICOLAS TENZER

Whatever happened to the European Union's Lisbon Strategy? Not only is the public almost entirely ignorant of the EU's policy agenda for boosting competitiveness, economic growth, and employment, but this ignorance extends to many intellectuals, academics, CEO's, and even some MP's.

For example, in all of the debates on the EU's constitutional treaty, neither its supporters nor its opponents have so much as mentioned the Lisbon Strategy. It is little wonder, then, that Euroscepticism – in France, the Netherlands, and elsewhere – is on the rise.

Despite the success and popularity of programs like ERASMUS, citizens don't perceive the EU's contribution to superior education or training. Indeed, the last Eurobarometer survey on the Lisbon Strategy found that the European public sees little relation between EU policies and economic competitiveness.

Of course, some laboratories receive EU grants, but without recognizing a specific European mission in research policies. Europe is generally considered more a constraint than a plan, more as an instrument than a vision nourished by a clear and credible idea.

The essential responsibility for this state of affairs lies with Europe's ruling class and policymakers. As a recent assessment by former Dutch prime minister Wim Kok pointed out, the EU's member states generally have not made the Lisbon Strategy a high priority, and they balk at giving the EU the means to pursue more ambitious policies to offset this neglect. It is difficult to ask citizens to be enthusiastic about aims that their leaders ignore.

At bottom, the problem is one of legitimacy. The main targets – jobs, growth, and research – are considered legitimate from the standpoint of fairness when described in general terms. But the concrete policies needed to realize this aim are not, since reforming the welfare state and labor markets means more competition, which scares many citizens.

Legitimacy is even more problematic regarding recognition, which implies a feeling of community and attachment. When we are faced with conflicting choices – burden-sharing through taxation, the organization of the public sector, the status of public employees, etc. – the member states are considered to be the only bodies entitled to decide. In short, when the EU brings subsidies, it receives congratulations; but when it pushes for unpopular reforms, it becomes the scapegoat for political, social, and economic failures.

From an economic point of view, the Lisbon Strategy's aim is to transform Europe into a power able to compete on equal terms with the US today and the great Asian countries. But this aim does not appear to be creating a European identity, as the euro has. Within many states, "power" isn't politically correct. Above all, there is no linkage between national power and European power. If we want Europe to be more legitimate, we must explain how to tie these two dimensions of power.

Aside from ignorance of the Lisbon Strategy among the public and inaction on long-term reforms among the member states, a second problem concerns the lack of acceptance of the virtues of competition – the most effective way to ensure quality, innovation, and low prices for consumers. Competition also puts an end to rent seeking and protection of traditional corporate advantages.

Of course, we must limit the scope of competition: there is no reason, for example, to extend it to taxation. Similarly, while competition will improve the quality of research and education, this does not imply reduced public funding, a lower priority for basic research, or the elimination of scholarships.

Perhaps most importantly, competition is a powerful means to restore democracy and modernize political institutions by compelling policymakers to ensure transparency and accountability. Elites must give up their privileges, and regulations on corporate governance must limit collusion between managers and civil servants or politicians. We must explain to citizens Europe's contribution to pub-

lic ethics, and the democratic virtues of fair competition in economic, political, and social life.

Consider one of the main purposes of the Lisbon Strategy: the organization of research and higher education. It is impossible to change radically the way scholars and research workers are appointed in most member states, and to revise completely the criteria for funding of faculties and laboratories. But the EU can overcome national impediments by developing exemplary universities and research centers that would be properly European, serving as an incentive to quality and reform at the national level. Emulation through excellence is the motor of competitiveness.

A good place to start is an idea supported by French Socialist leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who has proposed that 0.25% of Europe's GDP be dedicated to research and used to create a European Agency for Research. Moreover, Europe must build up tools for strategic analysis, assessment, and forecasting to provoke and nourish public debate. Such think tanks at the European level must remain free and independent, but leaders must learn to pay attention to and integrate their recommendations into the policy-making process.

In many matters pertaining to the Lisbon Strategy, the EU cannot avoid member states' concerns. But as the states won't be able to do everything alone and won't renounce maintaining political control, we must be able to link the Union's policies and those of specific states.

Otherwise, the Lisbon Strategy could merely empower an inefficient bureaucracy, rather than boosting the EU's democratic legitimacy. In short, the Lisbon Strategy could lead Europe to become a real power in the coming decades, or it could fuel further growth of Euroscepticism.

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Yemeni family values slipping...

By SAMEERAH AHMED
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

People say that Yemenis in England are wealthy but there is something many don't realize about what's happening and has been happening for years. I realized this disease occurring at a very young age. As the years went on, though I live in England, and opportunities are plentiful for those who have courage to be entrepreneurs, something is going wrong within our communities today. And it has divided many of us and it has come to such an extent, that this disease is growing faster than one can imagine.

Today, in the 21st century, Yemenis in Yemen may envy Yemenis in England, but I lived in England since the 1970s and they need to really understand that what you see or hear, is not what it seems. Family is breaking up, sisters and brothers, relatives filled with envy. Today, I saw how one Yemeni sister trying to destroy her own brother's business by spreading rumours that he sells bad products when in reality, he is part of a 7 billion dollar business in which, it has the best products in the world and has 50 million clicks a day on their

website in 100 countries and doesn't need to sell a thing. How stupid can someone be to hurt their own brother's business and not realise, they end up looking stupid when people find out what he really does is amazing.

That same brother works in a full time job while he runs the business on the side because he dreams one day to help his four sisters and two brothers, who are blind to even see, that the government system and its pension schemes will not avail them in the future. Nor will it avail their children. So this Yemeni brother works, battles not just struggles within the business world and wins, he has the best products in the world and can get products through wholesales as well as works with the most successful business men in the world, but they are so far away from his world through their own choice. They only live 20 minutes away. Amazing then, how Yemeni families, not all, but many in the Yemeni community do not support each other, really. All their talk about family values is just tale cause check out some of places in Sheffield, like Burngreave, and you see a house full of men eating Qat, wasting money instead of joining this brother in business and do something worth while.

I remember, I sat with this brother in

Sheffield, and he was smiling away and yet, I saw in his eyes that deep sadness and I asked him what's wrong, and he replied:

"I swear, I wish my parents never brought us to England. My sisters have changed, my brothers have changed. So selfish they've become like some people here. I build for them, I struggle for them because I am the eldest and I know, their jobs can take them so far. They cannot see, that families should work together. All I dreamed and worked for is now coming true and I cannot even share it with those I love. I cannot even share it with my own damn, foolish, jealous people."

I listened and stared at his dark blue suit. He has changed so much, growing successfully as the months went by and his attitude always strong, positive but his heart weighs heavy and I wondered how ungrateful his sisters and brothers are. He turned round to say his final words before he was picked up by a silver Lexus;

"There is always a price to pay for success. I knew this from the beginning, but never in my wildest dreams did I ever think my own sisters, brothers, my own blood would spread rumours, lies, and not even support their own brother. It is now that I am so ashamed of being a Yemeni because instead of them put-

ting my head up high, they have disgraced the name 'Yemeni' and the meaning of being 'Muslim' and family."

I suppose, what I am trying to say is, you don't know how beautiful, and amazing Yemen is, and what we once had there. We lose so many talented Yemenis in England who have warm hearts, work to one day give to our ungrateful community in Sheffield but then grow cold inside because they never receive support, and in the end, they turn their back on their community that deserted them. I have a feeling, this brother will not be seen when he grows even more successful.

What on earth happened to family values, supporting each other? It went straight into the trash the day they stepped into England. But it is not the chosen few but the few who choose to keep their dreams alive no matter what families do or what communities do, that will be the future of our community. The rest are cynics, educated derelicts, accountants, I.T administrators, Deveplemnt or finance workers who are full of themselves and with hire purchase of cars, mortgages and a mouthful of Qat. I really see what the brother meant when he said, our people are growing lazy instead of building dreams. I never knew what he meant till now.

Self-activation... and even activation of the whole world (1/2)

By AYYOUB RAMADHAN
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The process of self-activation begins in all its aspects when the Moslem's mind gives birth to the spring of consciousness and the volition of action, becoming like a flowing renewable river which bestows its goodness on one's soul, community and human kind.

Self-activation has four aspects:

- First Aspect:** Self-activation towards Allah
- Second Aspect:** Self-activation towards one's soul
- Third Aspect:** Self-activation towards the nation
- Fourth Aspect:** Self-activation towards the otherness

In this article, we are going to tackle the first two aspects hoping to take up the rest in a next article with Allah's willing.

First Aspect: Self-activation towards Allah:

Having built their own selves, Moslems know who they are. With self-activation, they know what they do. This inquiry flies with two wings: the wing of "what have you done towards your Creator?" and "What have you done towards yourself?"

The talk here is about slaves' actions towards their Creator. When Moslems do well towards their Creator, they will do well towards themselves and if they do well and activate themselves, their actions towards the community and otherness will be an inevitable fruit. This is why self-activation is the key to the whole life, world and universe.

The key to self-activation are soul's deeds towards its Creator. The relation between the person and his/her Creator should have priority with man remembering all day and night who he is dealing with and how to deal. The verses that explain Allah's blessings bestowed on him should always be in his mind recalling: "My mercy has included everything." (al-Araf:156), and "What Allah out of His Mercy doth bestow on mankind there is none can withhold." (Fater:2) and when harmed, reading "Is not Allah enough for His servant? But they try to frighten thee with other (gods) besides Him!" (al-Zumur:36)

Whenever he sees the manifestations of Allah's mercy, his tongue utters: "And in your souls you should see." (Thariyat:21), "Then contemplate (o man!) the memorials of Allah's Mercy! how He gives life to the earth after its death" (Ar-Rum:50)

If he suffers despair, his mind would remember the vastness of Allah's mercy: "Say: "O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! despair not of the Mercy of Allah: for Allah forgives all sins: for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Zumur:53) and suddenly comes to his mind the following Quraanic verse: "When My servants ask thee concerning Me, I am indeed close (to them): I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calleth on Me: let them also, with a will, listen to My call, and believe in Me: that they may walk in the right way." (Bakarah:186). He gets closer and closer and it becomes inevitable that he will work and work and work to approach his Lord and Creator more and more.

When Moslems loves his Creator and Lord, most glorified, he, part and parcel, devotes himself to Allah's worship to seek his satisfaction. Such worship would turn into doing and spending of goodness on whoever comes into the vicinity of this Moslem.

Regarding how we can love our Lord and strengthen our bond with Him, it is neither simple nor difficult at the same time. Approaching Allah has its own delicious burden unknown only to those who have sought it and not enjoyed only by those who reached it.

The programs of love, companionship, and contact are galore with the bless of Allah such as:

1- Thorough adherence to obligatory worships:

No prayer should be missed and no group prayer should be neglected; when dawn prayer comes, you should not be sleeping and fasting has to be performed perfectly; zakah should be done with no stinginess, parsimony or even hesitation. Pilgrimage has its own grand status. Had we known its value, we would have walked to it because it is a meeting with Allah, the most merciful, the most compassionate. We are His guests and tell me who is more generous than Allah towards guests?

2- Favorable worships:

Staying up at night is the school of believers and a communication with the Creator of mankind.

Fasting Mondays, Thursdays and the recommended days is another door to communication with Allah. Prophet, peace be upon him, quotes Allah as saying: "Every act of a Adam's son is his except for fasting which is for me and I will reward it."

Noble Quraan: Allah's words and speech, and the straight way for minds and hearts.

Reemergence and daily verbal prayers: They soften tongue, purify

hearts from blemishes, perfect the incomplete worships and keep constant contact with Allah all the time.

A Moslem should assign a fixed program for him/herself to conform to always. There are many other desirable worships. It is important to devote them faithfully to Allah, and perform them excellently and perfectly.

3- Faithfulness in Dealing and Doing Goodness:

A Moslem is someone whose goodness reaches out to other people and the good dealing is an integral part of his/her faith. Moslems are ordered to behave well towards other people, smile in their faces, be flexible, and display the traits of mercy, prudence, imperturbability, weighing words before uttering them. They are also required not to backbite, eavesdrop and commit other misdeeds.

Moslems are also asked to help the needy, shelter the frightened, do charities in all forms and at any time.

A Moslem do all that out of faith and for the sake of Allah and reinforce contact with Him and not for other things. When a believer does all that with this intention, his/her amount of faithfulness would go up as in the case of obligatory and desirable worships. The faithfulness of worship is entwined with the faithfulness of dealing and no one of them is better than the other.

Second Aspect: Self-activation towards one's soul:

The wing of "What have you done towards your soul" is to join its twin "What have you done towards your Creator?" asking the Moslem: What is your faculties and capabilities that Allah has created in you and how can you make justice to them?

The inevitable inescapable answer will be: by conserving the capabilities and faculties that Allah has endowed me with and using them to call mankind to Allah and serve this religion as a purification for all those blesses.

I protect my mind, body and limbs from every harm. I take no intoxicating materials and engage my mind in harmful or not useful thinking. I do not come close to the dubious and have no week resolution or loss of confidence. I do not neglect any part of my body until it is rusted and gets ill.

I should never let my senses commit mistakes: I avert my sight, and plug my ears when they come to the forbidden or the unnecessary. Tongue is the source of care and damnation. It should be unable to speak any wrong, faithfully eloquent to express the right thing with hands and feet supporting it going in the direction of goodness and inexthaustibly pursuing it. Doing work per-

fectly is a main principle of all that.

Perfection in every task is the slogan of the Moslem and the sign of his presence including the perfection of worship, dealing, household chores and duties towards children, family, community, nation and human kind at large.

I do not stop at this limit but go forward to develop the capabilities the Creator has bestowed on me seeking Allah solely and only and trying to serve and assist Moslems. He who desires to pursue knowledge and research should do his best to reach the status of scientists, explorers and inventors. He who has an inclination towards electronics, computer, geology, law, etc. should work industriously. Those who practice manual professions such as carpenters, blacksmiths, and electricians have an important specialty and should therefore conduct their work perfectly. Those who tends towards sports should build and prepare their bodies efficiently and distinctively.

Traders are no exceptions. They are as the Prophet, peace be upon him, said: "May Allah have mercy on a man who is soft when selling, buying and crediting" (Narrated by Bukhari). As such, the man has achieved the duty required from him, and "Everyone is able to do what they have been created for," as the Prophet, peace be upon him, said.

As it is thus, every one of us is the one able to perfect his own duty aided by Allah, and should be lazy or irresponsible.

Every Moslem should do that in his field of specialization with his body and thought. Nobody should belittle themselves, their abilities, or their efforts. Each has his own role which can not be achieved by anyone else. Here, it is of no importance the size of works and their titles. What is important is the perfection and devotion put into them so that they fulfill their role within the system of succession on Earth which Allah has ordered us to achieve.

There is no room for the ego because man raises and transcends as much as he harmoniously reacts to the interests of the nation and realize that his private interest is going to be achieved through it. When a Moslem moves within the frame of the nation's interests, he increasingly and harmoniously reacts and develops. The contrary happens when man gets egotistical. Pursuing one's own interests and ignoring the public ones freezes the individual and isolates him from the community. The community, consequently, loses its existence and the aim behind its existence and all would be damned.

The standard of good translation

By SAMEER A. HAQ
SENIOR SPECIALIST-OFFICE
OF THE PRIME MINISTER

One can state that a good meaningful translation is the one that carries within it all the concepts and ideas of the original text as well as its structural and cultural features. In this regard, a good understandable translation will convey the meaning of the original text.

The knowledge of grammar in both languages plus the knowledge of vocabulary and idiomatic usage shall make the translator capable of his activity. In general the translator faces translation problems such as linguistic and cultural problems.

The linguistic problems include grammatical lexical ambiguity and vocabulary ambiguity. The cultural problems refer to different situational features. Any translator should have a supremacy over morphology, syntax, textual differences, rhetorical differences, pragmatic factors.

Translation is basically a process of establishing a particular type of correspondence between the source text and the target text. Then in this sense the goal of any translation process is to give what is called a semantic and cultural equivalent in the target text having the same power of the source text and looks natural in the target language as perfect as possible.

Around the middle of the first century, and as part of the role translation had played in the dialogue between nations, as we mentioned in the previous article, Buddhism which was originated in India, started penetrating China by translating its scriptures from Sanskrit into Chinese. The translation till the fifth century was being carried in a very literal manner which made it very hard to understand.

The problem is to realize that translation process is the mechanism of transferring the core of ideas; it is to understand the text from different angles. The solution for translation problems is to concentrate on understanding the

idioms, terminology, vocabulary and linking words in any communication or article or essay.

The ideal translation will be accurate as to meaning and understanding as to the receptor language. Another approach of translation was the literal translation or what we call word for word translation literal translation focuses on form of language and it sometimes misses some of the meaning of those forms. Internet mechanism translation also is not perfect or suits the meanings provided within each context. So it is not depended upon in any meaningful translation. Office Translation in Yemen requires a re-establishment on sound basis as followed in other countries. A good translation must have certain qualities, proficiencies experiences and wide knowledge in almost every branch of knowledge. Office permits for opening offices should depend on certain measurement so as to produce some good translation.

The translator should be accredited and approved by the concerned authorities.

I feel that there are lapses and gaps in the process of translation. The seal of the office is not sufficient to approve good translation. The office is not to be turned into a business only; it should meet all the requirements of the profession. I suggest opening big publishing houses for translation to work as center under supervision of Sanaa University to guide the whole process of translation movement in Yemen.

VACANCY FOR AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

ARD, Inc, an international development organization implementing the USAID-funded Yemen Agriculture Support Program (YASP), has an immediate vacancy for a qualified and experienced agricultural program management specialist on a long-term assignment. The YASP project supports the Yemeni agriculture sector to improve nutrition and household incomes of small farmers in targeted governorates (Amran, Sa'ada, Al-Jawf, Shabwa and Marib).

SCOPE AND TASKS, GENERAL

The agricultural program management specialist, to be based in Sana'a, with frequent travel to the field, will lead YASP non-livestock agriculture component activities. Programs may include production agriculture, design and implementation of activities to improve production, harvesting and marketing of strategic crops such as dates, citrus, grapes, coffee, olives, potatoes, fodder, forage, and vegetables. Other activities may include bee-keeping and agricultural water resources management.

SCOPE AND TASKS, SPECIFIC

- Be principal advisor to YASP on all agricultural issues (excluding livestock) and activities with include but are not limited to: horticultural production, water resources development, farm management, agricultural policy, and restructuring.
- Identify the constraints and weaknesses facing the Yemen agricultural sector in general at the national level and within target governorates for production, post harvest technology and marketing activities of a wide range of horticultural crops and water resource management.
- Plan and manage the implementation of YASP funded activities regarding the agricultural sector. This will include working with different stakeholders including international donors, government agencies and Yemeni private sector organizations.
- Develop scopes of work for international and local consultants to implement programs.
- Review, evaluate, and monitor the implementation of sub-grants/sub-contracts.
- Plan and hold workshops and training programs to carry out program objectives.
- Monitor and report on implementation as required by the project and USAID.
- Carry out related work as required.

Qualifications

- Minimum ten years' work experience preferred in the agriculture sector in Yemen, with experience in horticulture and water resource management in targeted geographic areas desirable.
- Previous relevant experience international donor-funded projects, with experience in implementation planning, budgeting, monitoring/evaluation and technical advising.
- Degree in agriculture, agricultural economics, horticulture or related field required; M.S. degree preferred.
- Fluent spoken and written Arabic and English; strong English report writing skills.
- Excellent computer skills, including Excel, Word and email/internet applications.
- Yemen residency required.

Terms and Conditions

- Competitive salary and benefits package.
- Initial contract of one year, renewable, through September 2007.

For Further Information

Interested and qualified individuals should submit their CVs with a cover letter in English via fax to (Sana'a) 304-121, to PO Box 22522, or via email to recruitment@ardymen.com. Submission by email is preferred.

25% of Yemenis carry virus B and 5% carry virus C Qat the cause of 90% of liver diseases in Yemen

BY AMEL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Liver diseases have become widespread through the whole world. However, the situation exacerbates when a country like Yemen undergoes difficult economic and health circumstances. Dr. Mohammed Salm Numan, professor of liver diseases and digestive system, and the director of the Liver Unit in Al-Gumhory hospital, talked to "Yemen Times" about the current situation of liver diseases in Yemen.

Q: What are the most common liver diseases in Yemen?

A: Liver diseases spread recently in Yemen... and that reflects the environment and the pollution of the environment in the country. Liver diseases are the results of the pollution in nourishment, water...etc. in Yemen, the most common liver diseases in Yemen are the poisoning of liver, viruses B and C that lead to hepatitis, and also the bilharzias.

Q: What are the reasons behind the infection of these diseases in Yemen?

A: There are many reasons, the first and the most important reason for poisoning of the liver are the chemical toxins that are sprayed on fruits, vegetables and qat. I insist on qat because most of the patients, who are between 15- 65 years old are chewing qat.. Qat is responsible of more than 90% of liver diseases in Yemen. Actually when I came back from Egypt four years ago, I checked about 12000 patients, 9000 patients of them are infected by poisoning of liver because of qat. The second reason is the ignorance and carelessness of the media and the individuals about the issue of bilharzias which became so common in Yemen particularly outside the cities.. in villages. It is very widespread between children in schools. Whereas infection with viruses, whether virus B which infects 25%, and virus C that

Dr. Mohammed Salm

infects 5% of the population in Yemen, are because of blood transfusion from a sick person to a non-sick person. The tests in public hospitals or private hospitals are not enough to ensure that the donor dose does not contain any infected disease, dealing with used blades in many barbershops, ignoring to clean medical instruments that are used in operations, particularly the tools that used by the dentists and surgeons. In fact there is negligence in many medical centers and clinics in this field. For instance the dentist may put the medical tool inside a patients mouth, having no time to clean or to sterilize this tool after each patient, so it becomes a virus carrier. Some viruses are transmitted by companionship, so the patient must be careful during his dealing with the member of his family or his society. Also I should mention that this disease infects a pregnant women's baby.

Q: How can we prevent the outbreak of such diseases?

A: The first step is to stop chewing qat, it is time-waste, money-waste, -water-waste...many international reports refer that 60% of water in Yemen goes to qat. Viruses B can be treated by vaccines, which bring protection for life. The vaccination must be 3 doses. Taking 1 or 2 doses are not enough, it's important to take the three doses in their specific time, but if a

person has taken one or two doses then he hasn't taken the third, that means that he took nothing. He must retake the vaccination from the beginning and take the 3 doses.

Virus C has no vaccination. Bilharzia has an effective and available medicine. This medicine was discovered 25 years ago.

Q: How do you describe the role of media in raising medical issues particularly in liver disease issues?

A: Actually there is a big nonfeasance from the media about the subjects that regarding to healthy staff in general, and liver disease in particular. T.V covers only 10% of medical and health programs, 90% are for programs and songs.

Q: What do you think about the private medical clinics or hospitals that specify in treating certain diseases?

A: Let me be honest with you. There are many private medical centers and hospitals in Yemen. There are many signboards in which have been written with bright names of medical counselors or doctors, you can find them in any street. However is all that real? There are many fake centers; many cheat doctors that pretend that they have experience and qualifications to treat patients who have incurable diseases. That due to the absence of monitoring and the exist of bribery. When the medical employers go investigating the situation in some hospital, they buy their silence by money.

The patients are poor... have no idea about the doctors or the hospitals. Feeling pain, going without any investigation because there is no way to investigate about the background of doctors or hospitals and usually fall under the control of people that trade by people souls. So real active monitoring should be existed under the auspices of doctors' syndicate. Health office must count and restrict the medical centers and clinics and investigate on all the licenses that have been given, including functional, medical perform-

ance of the staff.

Q: How does the Ministry of Health consider the outbreak of liver diseases?

A: In fact Ministry of Health is occupied with many different medical issues. However liver diseases should have priority, since it is easy to treat the patient at the first stages, but because there is no interest and awareness of liver diseases symptoms, the patient comes to us with cirrhosis, that means that the liver function is over. Furthermore, every liver patient has cirrhosis needs at least 10,000 to 15,000 YR monthly just for medicine. The patient of virus C can be recovered before he reaches to cirrhosis. But the cost of remedy is about 6000\$ or 7000\$. The rate of recovering in this case arrive to 70%. Now consider that the patient may become unemployed because of his disease. I see some of my patients in the streets begging for money to cover the expenses of their medicine.

Q: So there are negative economic and medical affects of the outbreak of liver diseases, how we can solve such a problem?

A: We need support of good people. Such as Hail Saeed Group, who has a good reputation in helping poor people. Let me give that information, the first liver unit in Taiz was a result of the effort of sheikh Hail Saeed 25 years ago. He was the first who brought sound waves instrument for that unit. We don't want money. We need support. So I suggest constructing a charity or firm that handles the patients' staff. For example as a doctor, I evaluate the case of the patient and according to the patient's case I write a report. The firm can cover expenses of the medicine. If the medicine enters the airport without any customs that will help to decrease the cost of the medicine to 50%. These medicines should be stored in a pharmacy under supervision of qualified honest people. So I invite all the involved people and good businessmen, to help these patients.

Curing hereditary breast cancer

BY THOMAS HELLEDAY

In developed countries, breast cancer affects about one in ten women, and in many of these countries the disease is on the increase. But, whatever the reason (or reasons) for the rise in their occurrence, we also know that between 5% and 10% of breast cancers are due to an inherited defect that affects the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes.

Women carrying a mutated BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene have roughly an 80% risk of developing breast cancer. A mutation in these genes also leads to an increased risk of developing ovarian tumors.

When the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes were discovered more than a decade ago, there were high hopes for novel and targeted therapies. Disappointingly, no new treatments have yet arisen. As a result, many women with a high level of mutated BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes face the tragic choice of having their breasts and ovaries surgically removed to prevent cancer.

Recently, my research group, along with researchers in London, provided some real hope for carriers of mutated BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes. Both research teams describe how the use of a chemical inhibitor can kill tumor cells that have either a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene defect causing hereditary breast cancer. This new treatment

targets only the tumor cells and is unlikely to affect other healthy cells in the body. The discovery could also work to prevent hereditary breast cancer cells from growing into tumors.

The chemical inhibitors used in this treatment target the enzyme polymerase (PARP1), which is normally involved in the repair of DNA single-strand breaks - a common form of spontaneous DNA lesions. Chemical inhibition of the PARP1 protein results in reduced occurrence of these single-strand break repairs.

Unrepaired single-strand breaks are not very toxic to cells. However, these breaks disrupt and damage the DNA when they are copied as DNA replicates. The damage arising when copying the DNA is repaired with recombination, involving the BRCA1 and BRCA2 proteins. But cells with mutated BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes are unable to undergo recombination and are therefore much more sensitive to an increased level of unrepaired single-strand breaks.

The normal cells of women carrying the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations can still recombine, because they retain one functional allele - or alternative form - of the gene. Only those cells losing this remaining functional allele of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene will become tumors. Thus, only the tumor cells will have a non-functional recombination pathway and rely completely on PARP to repair single-

strand breaks before copying the DNA.

In our research, we exploit this requirement to specifically target the BRCA1 or BRCA2-defective cancer cells with inhibitors of PARP. This treatment is unlikely to cause many side effects; prolonged treatments with PARP inhibitors are well tolerated in mice.

We have shown that PARP inhibitors are effective at killing BRCA2-defective breast cancer cells, and that the tumors they cause can fully regress and disappear following treatment with a PARP inhibitor. The next step is to investigate how efficient this treatment is in human patients. We are now initiating clinical trials to determine how efficient these PARP inhibitors are in the treatment of metastasized breast tumors.

But caution is in order. BRCA1 and BRCA2-defective tumors are characterized by a high degree of genetic instability. It is possible that highly metastasized breast tumors might have acquired additional genetic changes causing resistance to treatment with PARP inhibitors. Therefore, we suggest that PARP inhibitors might be more useful in the prophylactic treatment of women carrying the gene responsible for this form of inherited breast cancer.

The reason is simple: cells that have recently lost the functional BRCA1 or BRCA2 allele and that will later grow

into tumors will also be unable to undergo recombination. This means that early cancerous cells should be sensitive to PARP inhibitors. However, unlike fully developed tumors, they are not likely to have acquired many genetic changes and are therefore unlikely to have gained resistance to PARP inhibitors.

Treating women carrying BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations with PARP inhibitors to kill cancer cells before they grow into tumors is a new and hopeful concept in cancer prevention. However, the usefulness of this treatment relies on the fact that PARP1 inhibitors are completely non-toxic to humans. It will also take longer to validate a PARP inhibitor for use as a prophylactic treatment, because the treatment cannot be proven effective in a short time.

Thus, while the use of PARP inhibitors to treat established tumors may be feasible within a few years, we could have to wait at least a decade before a prophylactic treatment for inherited breast cancer is widely available.

Thomas Helleday is a senior lecturer at the University of Sheffield and an Associate Professor at Stockholm University.

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Facts of Life

By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Obesity: Disease of the rich societies

Obesity is more than just being a few pounds overweight. Those who are obese have a much greater strain on their heart and other organs than other people. Obesity is a chronic condition that develops as a result of an interaction between a person's genetic makeup and their environment. How and why obesity occurs are not well understood; however, social, behavioral, cultural, psychological, metabolic, and genetic factors are involved. In fact, there have been studies that obesity could be linked to certain hormones in the body. Among possible hormones involved, leptin which was discovered in 1994, has received the most attention. Heritability studies indicate that genetic factors may be responsible for up to 70% of the variation in people's weight.

Obesity and Energy

Weight gain is dependent on a person's energy intake being greater than energy expenditure. One pound (0.45 kg) is equal to 3,500 calories. Therefore, a person consuming 500 calories more than he or she expends daily will gain 1 lb a week. The quality of life of those suffering from obesity is reduced as well. Obesity makes it very difficult to get the physical exercise needed in order to remain healthy and enjoy your favorite activities.

Risks

Dealing with obesity is very difficult without the help of a physician. Many obese people try to lose weight on their own by trying special diets and exercise routines that usually end in failure. Obesity leads to a greatly increased risk of all of the following:

- Heart attack
- Stroke
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Knee and joint problems
- Various types of cancer
- Premature death

Treating obesity-related disorders costs as much or more than illnesses caused by aging, smoking and problem drinking.

Economic costs

It accounts for 2 percent of the national health expenditure in France and Australia, more than 3 percent in Japan and Portugal and 4 percent in the Netherlands.

A review of research into the economic causes and consequences of obesity presented at the 14th

European Congress on Obesity showed that in 2003 up to \$96.7 billion was spent on obesity problems in the United States. Obesity, which is a risk factor for chronic diseases like diabetes, is calculated using the body mass index (BMI) -- dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters squared.

The costs of dealing with the consequences of obesity rise along with the severity of the disorder. Being overweight or obese increases the odds of suffering from diabetes, cardiovascular disease and osteoarthritis, which are the major reasons for obesity healthcare costs.

An estimated 10-20 percent of men and 10-25 percent of women in European countries are obese.

Along with hefty health costs, obesity is also associated with a greater loss of productivity and increased rates of disability.

Despite the health and economic consequences of obesity, which affects more than 300 million people worldwide including a growing number of children and adolescents, health experts believe it is one of the most neglected public health issues.

Each Daily Soda Increases Obesity Risk 60%

According to Dr. Joseph Mercola Author of the Total Health Program, for every soft drink or sugar-sweetened beverage a child drinks every day, their obesity risk appears to jump 60%. About 65% of adolescent girls and 74% of adolescent boys consume soft drinks daily.

A study conducted in USA and which included over 500 schoolchildren of various ethnic backgrounds who were aged 11 and 12 found that for every can or glass of sugar-sweetened beverage a child drank during the 19-month study, a child's body mass index -- a measure of weight related to height -- and their chance of becoming obese increased 60%.

Sharapova off to flying start in Edgbaston

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - Russian Maria Sharapova made an impressive start to her preparations for the defence of her Wimbledon title with a 6-3 6-0 victory over Luxembourg's Anne Kremer at the Edgbaston tournament on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old defending champion and top seed, who was given a bye in the first round, recovered from an early loss of serve to blow away the world number 94 with some thump-

ing groundstrokes on the lush Edgbaston grass.

World number two Sharapova will face either 16th seed Samantha Stosur or her fellow Australian Evie Dominikovic in the third round.

Beaten in the quarter-finals at the French Open last week, Sharapova suffered a surprise first round loss on Monday in the Edgbaston doubles, which she also won last year with Russian partner Maria Kirilenko.

5VVLDS Maria Sharapova salutes the crowd after beating /HPEUJQ s Anne Kremer in the second round of the Edgbaston grass court championships near Birmingham, Central England, June 7. REUTERS

Paris and London receive glowing reports

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Reuters) - Paris and London have received glowing reports from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) evaluation commission which examined their bids to stage the 2012 Olympics.

The commission released its 123-page report on Monday, one month before the July 6 vote on the Games venue in Singapore, and said the Paris and London bids were of "very high quality".

New York and Madrid had made "high quality" presentations, it said. Moscow was criticised for a lack of detailed planning.

London bookmakers cut London's odds to 11-4 from 3-1. Paris remains strong favourite to stage the Games at 1-4. Beijing will host the 2008 Games.

The commission praised Paris's excellent accommodation proposal, high capacity and quality road and rail transport systems plus its "well-documented and achievable" budget.

London's budget was "well-supported and achievable" and its bid "indicated a high level of planning".

There was a cautionary note regarding London's transport system, however, and the size of the Olympic Park project.

The report said transport demands would be met in London providing "the substantial programme of public transport improvements is fully delivered before 2012".

"We are in good shape to take the battle even harder and further towards our goal," Sebastian Coe, former double Olympic champion and chairman of London's bidding committee, told a news conference in London.

Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoë told a news conference: "We have 30 days left to prove that we deserve the honour to host the Games. And this is what my staff and myself are going to work to."

CONFIDENT MADRID
The commission expressed some reservations about the New York, Madrid and Moscow bids.

For New York the report said "the Olympic Stadium... essential to the hosting of the Games, (was) still in progress at the time of the commission's visit and no guarantees were provided that (it) would be available for the construction of Olympic infrastructure."

Later on Monday, a New York state panel rejected a \$1.9 billion plan to build

a new Manhattan stadium, clouding New York's hope of landing the Olympics.

Madrid was criticised over a lack of hotel rooms close the Games venues. "Madrid may need to use hotels in cities approximately one hour away in order to meet Olympic requirements," the report said.

The Spanish capital, however, was extremely confident of victory, saying it would have won if the evaluation commission had awarded points.

"We are totally convinced that today we are top-ranked of all the cities bidding for the Games," Madrid mayor and bid leader Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon told a news conference.

"Our only regret is that the commission didn't give points rankings to each city as they did last time as we believe we would have come top."

Moscow's summary said "a lack of detailed planning in the candidature file ... made it difficult for the commission to evaluate the project."

"Our task in the next month ... is to convince everyone that we would put on the Games better than anyone else and that we need these Olympics more than others," Moscow bid chief and the city's vice mayor, Valery Shantsev, told reporters.

'Neck and neck'

Monday's report will be sent to the 114 voting members of the IOC, 100 of whom will be eligible to vote.

The evaluation commission staged a whistle-stop tour of London, Madrid, Moscow, New York and Paris in February and March.

The report is intended to be a guide to the voting members and none are obliged to abide by any of its recommendations.

Dan Doctoroff, New York City deputy mayor and NYC2012 founder, said: "We are absolutely delighted by the IOC's Evaluation Commission report today."

Chairman of the London 2012 Olympic bid, BULWLD Sebastian Coe, answers questions during a news conference in Canary Wharf in London, June 6, 2005. The politician and former athlete was GHOLJKWHG the technical evaluation report from the International Olympic Committee on /RQGRQ bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games. REUTERS

"The report makes clear that this race is neck and neck and that New York is firmly in the top tier. The IOC report has made crystal clear that we're in a great position to win in Singapore on July 6, so long as the stadium is approved."

"You can't have a glaring weakness in your most important venue and expect to triumph," Doctoroff told a teleconference.

A unanimous vote by the city's Public Authorities Control Board was required to approve the stadium, which would

have held opening and closing ceremonies plus track and field events.

The stadium was also meant to become home to the National Football League's New York Jets.

"This is an unfortunate day for anyone who believes New York City should continue to build upon its bright past," Jets President Jay Cross said after the stadium plan was rejected.

New York's Olympic bid committee made no immediate comment on the vote.

Pistons down Heat to book return trip to NBA finals

TORONTO (Reuters) - Richard Hamilton scored 22 points and Rasheed Wallace added 20 as the Detroit Pistons recorded an 88-82 Game Seven road victory over the Miami Heat to advance to the National Basketball Association finals on Monday.

The defending NBA champions rallied in the final quarter to take the best-of-seven Eastern Conference finals 4-3, setting up a title showdown against the San Antonio Spurs.

Game One of the best-of-seven finals series in San Antonio on Thursday. The Spurs defeated the Phoenix Suns 4-1 to win the Western Conference title.

Chauncey Billups added 18 points and eight assists for the Pistons, including several clutch free throws in the dying seconds, as Detroit seized control of the game in the final four minutes.

The Pistons became the first Eastern Conference team in 23 years to win a Game Seven on the road as they notched a 10th straight success when needing one victory to clinch a series.

"We never panicked and we had so many guys who stepped up," Detroit coach Larry Brown said.

"A lot of guys stepped up, it was a total team effort. We just beat a great team."

The contest was a tense, close battle throughout the night, but the Pistons showed their playoff experience and poise down the stretch to ease away from the Heat with a 10-3 run in the final one-and-a-half minutes.

Miami led by as many as seven points in the fourth quarter but held their last lead of the game at 79-78 with 1:26 to play before Wallace hit a pair of free throws to put the Pistons in front for good.

"I'm thrilled," Hamilton said. "It's like a dream come true. To get the opportunity to play for my second championship at 27, it's a great feeling."

Wade Struggles

Tayshaun Prince added 13 points and eight rebounds for the Pistons, who outscored the Heat 24-16 in the final quarter.

Detroit PLVWRC Richard Hamilton sits next to the NBA Eastern Conference trophy at a news conference in Miami June 6. Reuters

"I've been proud of this team a lot," Brown said. "We've been through a lot together."

Last year's NBA finals MVP, Billups was also thrilled to get another chance at a title.

"It's what you dream about," he said. "It's an unbelievable experience to know you are the only game of the night."

Shaquille O'Neal led Miami with 27 points and nine rebounds, and Dwyane Wade scored 20 points while playing through a painful rib injury that kept him out of Game Six.

However, the exciting young guard was clearly labouring due to his injury and was held scoreless in the final 15 minutes.

"It was seven games, it went down to the last couple of seconds," Wade said. "They made the plays down the stretch and we didn't."

Wade admitted he was hurting but played down his injury, even though he needed pain-killing injections in order

to play.

"Anybody would have done what I did to play in a Game Seven" he said. It was a heartbreaking loss for the Eastern Conference's number one seed, especially after they held a 3-2 series lead before the Pistons routed them in Game Six.

"I don't think I've ever been more disappointed," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said.

"I'm not disappointed in my players, I'm just extremely disappointed in the result."

"You work all year to get a Game Seven at home and to have a seven-point lead in the fourth quarter and not to be able to get it done ... it's very disappointing."

Udonis Haslem added 13 points and had 10 rebounds for the Heat, while Eddie Jones added 10 points.

Before last season's triumph, Detroit were NBA champions in 1989 and 1990. San Antonio won the title in 1999 and 2003.

Cards past Red Sox in World Series rematch

hits, walking three and striking out eight, to take the loss.

Derek Jeter had two hits for the Yankees, who lost for the eighth time in nine games.

In Denver, Freddy Garcia pitched eight strong innings as the Chicago White Sox beat the Colorado Rockies 9-3.

Garcia (6-3) allowed three runs on two hits and striking out 10. Paul Konerko homered for the White Sox.

Joe Kennedy (3-6) pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowing eight runs on 11 hits, walking four and striking out three to take the loss.

Brad Hawpe homered for the Rockies.

In Los Angeles, Derek Lowe pitched eight strong innings as the Dodgers beat the Detroit Tigers 5-3.

Lowe (5-5) allowed two earned runs on five hits, walking one and striking out five, and Eric Gagne pitched one inning for his sixth save.

Jeff Kent homered and drove in four runs for the Dodgers and Jason Repko also homered.

Jeremy Bonderman (6-4) pitched six innings, allowing five runs on five hits, walking two and striking out five to take the loss.

Nook Logan had two hits for the Tigers.

Chicago Cubs batter Aramis Ramirez hits a solo home run off of the Toronto Blue Jays during the ninth inning of their interleague game in Chicago, June 6.

Reuters

TORONTO (Reuters) - Matt Morris pitched a four-hitter and David Eckstein had three hits and drove in three runs as the Cardinals beat the Boston Red Sox 7-1 in interleague play in St. Louis on Monday.

Morris (7-0) allowed one run while striking out one and walking one in pitching his first complete game of the season as the Cardinals got a small token of revenge after being swept by the Red Sox in last year's World Series.

A sell-out crowd of 50,270, the largest at Busch Stadium in eight years, watched the Cardinals win for the 16th time in their last 18 interleague games.

Coming off surgery on his shoulder in the winter, Morris pitched his 17th career complete game and easily handled the Red Sox, who scored four runs off him in just 4 2/3 innings in the World Series.

The Cardinals scored three runs in the second inning off starter Tim Wakefield and never lost the lead as Morris improved to 11-5 in interleague play.

Yadier Molina added two hits and two RBI for the Cards, while Reggie Sanders had two hits and scored twice.

Wakefield (4-6) went 5 2/3 innings, allowing five runs -- four earned -- on seven hits with three strikeouts and four walks.

Jason Varitek had an RBI single in the second inning for Boston's lone run.

In other interleague games, Miguel Tejada and B.J. Surhoff both homered as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Pirates 4-3 in Pittsburgh.

Jorge Julio (2-1) pitched 1 1/3 innings, striking out two for the win. B.J. Ryan pitched one inning for his 15th save.

Salomon Torres (2-2) got one out, allowing one run on one hit and walking one, to take the loss.

Matt Lawton homered for the Pirates.

In Atlanta, Garret Anderson had two hits and drove in three runs as the Los Angeles Angels rallied past the Braves 4-2.

Brendan Donnelly (3-1) pitched one inning for the win and Francisco Rodriguez pitched one inning for his 11th save.

John Smoltz (4-5) pitched 8 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on 13 hits and striking out five to take the loss.

Adam LaRoche homered and drove in two runs for the Braves.

In Chicago, Reed Johnson hit a three-run homer as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Cubs 4-1.

Gustavo Chacin (6-4) pitched seven innings, allowing five hits, walking one and striking out six for the win. Miguel Batista pitched one inning for his 10th save.

John Koronka (1-1) pitched six innings, allowing four runs on five hits, walking two and striking out five to take the loss.

Aramis Ramirez homered for the Cubs lone run.

In Milwaukee, Doug Davis pitched six solid innings as the Brewers beat the New York Yankees 4-3.

Davis (8-5) allowed three runs on four hits, walking five and striking out eight.

Derrick Turnbow pitched one inning for his ninth save and Jeff Cirillo and Junior Spivey homered for the Brewers.

Randy Johnson (5-5) pitched six innings, allowing four runs on seven

Glazers take seats on Manchester United board

LONDON (Reuters) - Soccer club Manchester United Plc said on Tuesday that Avram Glazer, Bryan Glazer and Joel Glazer had joined the board as non-executive directors following the takeover of the club.

The English Premier League side said in a statement that Roy Gardner had resigned as chairman and Ian Much and Jim O'Neill had resigned as non-executive directors, as expected.

On May 16, U.S. financier Malcolm Glazer said he had raised his stake in Manchester United to over 75 percent, finally gaining full control of the club he battled to acquire for more than two years.

Soccer club Manchester United Plc said on Tuesday that Avram Glazer, Bryan Glazer and Joel Glazer had joined the board as non-executive directors following the takeover of the club. In this photo, Malcolm Glazer, (L) the owner/president of the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers chats with Bruce Allen, the Buccaneers General Manager before a game against the San Francisco 49ers at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, November 21. REUTERS

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ACROSS | 44 Fashions | 12 Oppositionist | 37 Theater award |
| 1 Court zero | 45 Land force | 13 Pull up dan- | 39 Brought in, as a |
| 5 Gather wool, in a | 46 Professional | delions, e.g. | salary |
| way | dancer | 18 Dough additive | 40 Entice |
| 10 Springtime | 48 Indiscretion | 23 Bootlicking | 42 Errand boys, e.g. |
| occurrence | 49 Small bit of | 24 Enthral | 43 Grains at the mill |
| 14 Lasting introduc- | money | 25 Left-winger of | 45 Ethan or Woody |
| tion | 52 Medicinal plant | years past | 46 Millinery invento- |
| 15 Condor/ haven | 53 Schooner travel | 26 See eye to eye | ry |
| 16 Top-notch | expenses? | 27 Ivy League | 47 Hodgepodge |
| 17 Stern stories? | 56 Stadium level | member | 48 Forefather |
| 19 Deserve | 57 Plumed wader | 28 Audible barnyard | 49 Fight memento |
| 20 Sit in judgment | 58 ,W/offered in a | crankiness? | 50 Gumbo ingredi- |
| 21 Irish Republic | hospital | 29 Data | ent |
| 22 Red-hot | 59 Lays down the | 30 Domain | 51 Takes advantage |
| 24 Coastal covering | lawn | 31 Have an inkling | of |
| 25 Ballet bends | 60 Age group | 33 Crowns | 54 Grow up |
| 26 Mother superior | 61 Important histori- | 36 Author W. ____ | 55 Pass with flying |
| 29 Some baseball | cal periods | Maugham | colors |
| players | | | |
| 32 Eighteenth U.S. | DOWN | | |
| president | 1 Took a powder | | |
| 33 Type of violet | 2 Redundant part- | | |
| 34 ,KDWG I tell | ner of "done | | |
| yD' (| ZWK | | |
| 35 Word with show | 3 Selfsame | | |
| or block | 4 Be mistaken | | |
| 36 Gives the axe | 5 Some gown fab- | | |
| 37 Comparison | rics | | |
| word | 6 Got wind of | | |
| 38 Flock member | 7 Superior neigh- | | |
| 39 "Semper ILGHOLV | bor | | |
| for one | 8 Need a nurse | | |
| 40 Wrenches and | 9 Bouncing off the | | |
| such | walls | | |
| 41 Finishing strata- | 10 Feathered com- | | |
| gams | panion | | |
| 43 Full DNA | 11 Farris/ raspy | | |
| sequence | send-off? | | |

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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"SOUND FAMILIAR" by Diane C. Baldwin

Barca deny making an offer for Arsenal's Henry

MADRID, June 7 (Reuters) - Barcelona president Joan Laporta has denied media reports that the Spanish champions have made an offer for Arsenal striker Thierry Henry and are prepared to sell Cameroon international Samuel Eto'o in exchange.

"Barca have not made an offer for Henry," Laporta told a news conference on Tuesday. "It is true that the coaching staff think he is a very good player, but we are happy with the squad we already have."

"We have no intention of getting rid of any of our important players and have no desire to sell Eto'o. I want to make it clear to other clubs that we don't want to sell anyone."

Media in Spain and England had been speculating about a possible player swap involving the two strikers.

Barca have already strengthened their squad by signing Dutch international midfielder Mark van Bommel from PSV Eindhoven and Spanish winger Santi Ezquerro from Athletic Bilbao.

Laporta was also anxious to draw a line under the boardroom squabbles at Barcelona that saw four directors, including vice-president Sandro Rosell, resign last week in protest at the way in which the president was running the club.

"As far as I am concerned the matter is now closed," he said. "The club can move forward and we can now work in a more relaxed manner. The project that we were elected to implement remains the same, it has not changed one bit."

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Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation

"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**

A number of Amazonian groups face extinction as their space to live away from the modern world disappears.

Far from the eyes of the world, some sixty-four indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation in Amazonian Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Bolivia – the Tagaeri, Huaorani, Taromenane, Corubo, Amamhuaca, Mascho, Kineri, Nanti, Nahua and Kugapakori, among others – are condemned to gradual extinction. These tribes remain mysterious, avoiding all contact with strangers and preferring the isolated existence they have maintained for centuries. What little is known about them has been gleaned from other indigenous groups and from chance encounters with developers and rights groups. But what is clear is that their numbers are rapidly dwindling: the Coruba now number only 40; and the number of Mascho speakers is estimated to be between 20 and 100. The Amamhuaca language, it is thought, is spoken only by 720 people: 500 in Peru and 220 in Brazil.

Attempts to learn more about these groups can prove fatal. The last known report of contact with the Tagaeri, the indigenous group with

the strictest self-imposed isolation, was in July 1987, when two missionaries whose attempt to convince the tribe to allow oil extractors to enter their territory led to their deaths. The Tagaeri subsequently abandoned their homes and disappeared deeper into dense forests, demonstrating their rejection of co-existence with the modern world.

Gas and oil companies, loggers, miners and entrepreneurs are viewed by indigenous groups as "ghosts of death" for the toxic legacy they can leave behind and which can poison rivers and forests considered as a source of life for these communities. These indigenous groups have developed their own health care and food gathering systems, but which are fragile and eas-

ily threatened by damage to the ecosystems wherein they live. All too often contact with outsiders results in the transfer of disease, resulting in epidemics since the indigenous peoples have no immunities to what are common and treatable diseases elsewhere.

Governments around the world have increasingly acknowledged the rights of indigenous peoples. In part, this has been the result of a process of empowerment by such groups, who have pressed their demands on governments. In the case of groups living in isolation, preferring to avoid contact with government representatives and other communities, responding to their needs is far more difficult. The Brazilian

Government was among the first to take steps to adopt a policy of creating territorial reserves for people living in voluntary isolation that are "no-go zones" to extractive industries and migrants. Colombia, Ecuador and Peru are also looking at similar action. The challenge facing the impoverished governments of the region is to balance the further exploitation of the riches of the Amazonian belt in the name of development, and the protection of these fragile indigenous groups, and the cultural heritage they represent.

For further information: Mr. John Scott, Social Affairs Officer UN Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Tel: (1 917) 326-5798; E-mail: scott9@un.org.

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