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In a plan to change the political equilibrium **The ruling party leads efforts to force Sheikh Abdullah to leave the Parliament**

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The parliament voted last Saturday 11th June on the act which limits the term of office for its supreme body for two years instead of six. Out of the (301) of its members (202) voted in favor of the decision (4) abstained.

A number of Parliament members expressed their anger for the vote, thinking that they are being targeted by this vote. On top of these is Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar the speaker of the Parliament and Ja'afar Ba-saleh, member of the supreme body who now sit in their homes and boycott the parliament sessions.

Reports, circulated following the vote among the members saying that "a number of the Islah party members

considered the decision as targeting Sheikh Abdullah –the speaker of the parliament, and could lead to political unrest.

Recourses in the General People Congress said that, "If Sheikh Abdallah desires to run the elections for the Supreme body, he will be a general People's Congress candidate. It is rumored that Sheikh Abdullah won't run the supreme body vote. It is attributed to him that he won't weigh himself twice. It is expected that he would prefer sitting in for the time being.

Vote on the membership of the supreme body of the council will take place on the next session, following a presidential decree. If the presidential decree is not issued within thirty days, the decision will take effect pursuant to the constitution.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar

It is indicated that the contest will be warm, as the decision of this act soared the relations between the

People's Congress and the Islah Party

Sources say that Sheikh Abdullah had asked the council to re-debate on the act of limiting the Supreme Body term of office. Only (13) members of the Islah party who represent the tribal wing have voted in favor, whereas the other members (33) who represent The Muslim brotherhood wing didn't sign the reconsideration of the decision. It is an indication of a split in the Islah party.

Press resources said last week "The leadership of The People General Congress has come to a conviction that; for the intended financial reforms to be endorsed, there should be a national agreement between all effective social powers, political forces, and all the parties.

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Economists skeptic of Dubai company operating the Container's Port

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The cabinet accepted in its session, last Thursday, the Dubai International company tender to operate and develop the port. The contest was between it and a number of other international companies. The contest was going into its second round.

The government's decision to accept Dubai's Company has aroused skepticism and wonder among economists.

Economists had assured that none can assess this tender unless the company reveals its commitments towards the project. But, this is the same company that is operating Dubai port, and it is also undertaking to develop Djibouti port, this certainly arouses a matter of contradiction of interests. It won't be for the good of both the ports of Djibouti and Dubai. To invest in the development of Aden port. This depends on the amount of investments this company will invest on the Industrial Area and the Airport.

The sources are asking whether the size of the investments would really develop and propagate Aden port. The

government should publicly disclose these deals. Specially that the government had paid millions of dollar to Yeminvest company to waive its right in this project. This amount should bring in a good output.

It should be pointed out that the companies that had presented their

bids were three. Two of them who were small (Kuwait Gulf company), which is unknown in the field of ports, and another one which is a Philpino company. This indicates that publicity was inadequate for this project, and the bigger companies abstained to respond to the tender for unknown reasons.

Iran has no hand in Sa'ada events, Rawhani

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, June 9- Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan

Rawhani and his delegation left Sana'a last Thursday after a two-day visit to Yemen during which the Sa'ada events and the regional and international developments in the area were discussed.

While talking to the Yemen Times, Hassan Rawhani, the Iranian Nuclear File Negotiator, stressed that his country never backed al-Houthi's insurgency.

He confirmed all the journalistic reports are not true but were influenced by the U.S. lies and allegations that are widely spread in the region.

He said that fomenting any crisis against the regime in Sana'a is bound to harm Iran since both countries (Yemen and Iran) enjoy close bilateral relations and a joint cooperation in security and economic, political and cultural areas.

Continued on page 3

Hassan Rawhani

Calvalley Petroleum finds new oil pool in test at Hiswah-5 appraisal well in Yemen

CALGARY (CP) — Calvalley Petroleum Inc. has found a potentially lucrative new oil pool at its Hiswah-5 horizontal appraisal well in Yemen, the company said Wednesday.

The production test also confirmed the size and potential of the Hiswah Saar oilfield, it added.

The test found the well has an average flow rate of 980 barrels of oil per day, the company said.

The presence of oil is a new and exciting development" in the Hiswah field and the company will be evaluating the extent of the discovery with additional surveys and drilling later this year, it said.

Hiswah-5 is the third of several horizontal appraisal wells planned for the Hiswah field.

On the TSX Venture Exchange, Calvalley's shares (TSXV:CVIA) closed up 15 cents at \$2.90.

Yemen, Saudi cooperation to combat children smuggling

SANAA, June 07 (Nas Press) — Yemen and Saudi authorities have agreed to cooperate against smuggling of Yemeni children across the Saudi border. The Saudi daily al-Wattan said Saudi security authorities "have forged a thorough plan to make and end to human trade smuggling gangs across the border with Yemen and to fight the exploitations of women and children used by begging gangs in nine governorates." Saudi Border Security Commander Colonel Abraham al-Santalli said "the plan is being implemented with cooperation between the Saudi and Yemeni authorities," adding "security cooperation agreements with Yemen stipulate that Saudi authorities hand over Yemeni children who are

found with begging gangs so they can be returned to their parents in Yemen." He stressed "combating the dangers of children and women smuggling gangs is backed up by border security forces," adding "border security arrested 39,868 beggars including women and children in the past 30 days, and 199 smugglers were arrested along with 175 cars and an attempt to smuggle 17,868 bullets, 11 pieces of weapons, 2,500 dynamites, 2,400 primacord used in initiating dynamite explosions was foiled." He disclosed "381 thousand Kg of Qat was confiscated, 40Kg of hashish, and 120 gallons of alcohol, 4609 heads of cattle and 403 thousand types of food were confiscated as well."

Official: 314 Cases of 'Mysterious' Fever, 12 Died in Shabwa

SHABWA, June 06 (al-Ayyam) — Shabwa Deputy Governor Muhammad Abdullah al-Kabsi Sunday announced 12 people died from 'mysterious' fever related illnesses and 314 cases were officially registered in the province, adding "the epidemic is spreading and more cases are infected despite efforts by the ministry of health and local authorities to contain the disease." "Extensive measures

were taken to contain the epidemic and to stop its spreading including chemical spreading and awareness campaigns in the infected areas," he said, adding "we've a medical team helping out doctors in the hospitals." He added the spread of the epidemic is caused by the use of "dirty water in the houses." On what kind of fever it is, he said "we're not sure but it is very similar to dengue fever."

YJS condemns state double 'whammy' in dealing with civil society orgz

SANAA, June 07 (Sahwa Net) — Chairman of the Cultural and Media Commission at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) Ali al-Jaraddi Tuesday said after the meeting of writers and intellectuals with President Saleh and his Prime Minister Abdul Qader BaJammal "this signifies the double standards of the authorities in their dealing with civil society organizations," lamenting "the syndicate has asked for more than once to meet President

Ali Abdullah Saleh to ask him to intervene to resolve the issues of the press but it was never granted." He described President Saleh's instructions to double the budget of the writers union as "double standard shown by the highest authority in dealing with civil society organizations."

He said the journalist syndicate has asked the "government many times for financial aid and to extend a helping hand but in vain."

Yemeni and maidservant murdered in Najran

A Yemeni national residing in Najran, to the south of Saudi Arabia, was murdered along with his Malaysian maidservant in a mysterious condition last week.

The Najran police made clear they were reported by one of the maidservant's relatives that her corpse was

found covered with a piece of cloth inside Yahya's apartment.

Yahya is a Yemeni national residing in a Najran apartment.

The person who presented the report said he found the door of the apartment open and this provoked his suspicion and compelled him to report the police.

A Saudi police officer clarified they found the two corpses of a Malaysian maidservant, at the age of 20, and a Yemeni national in his 50s thrown in the passage of the apartment.

Examining the two corpses, the police discovered the two victims were shot dead on their heads by a pistol.

Jury hears from slain man's daughter

WILMINGTON - Abdulla Mohd Alameri, an ice cream vendor shot to death in July 2001, came to the United States from Yemen because he wanted a good education for his children and a better life, relatives testified Wednesday in Superior Court.

To Alameri, the United States was "the greatest country in the world," his daughter, Sally Alameri, 26, said during the penalty phase of Akbar Hassan-El's trial for her father's killing.

A jury convicted Hassan-El, 24, of first-degree murder last week. Now it must choose to recommend the death penalty or life in prison.

Prosecutors said Hassan-El and Tyrone Guy, 25, shot and killed

Alameri, 50, in his ice cream truck during a robbery attempt.

Sally Alameri said her father had an accounting degree from Oxford University in England.

His wife, Samia Nasser, who could not enter the United States in time for her husband's funeral, testified through a translator that she begged him to return with the children to Yemen.

Sally Alameri said she would not have believed people in the United States could do what was done to her father.

Alameri said he left their Philadelphia home daily at 8:30 a.m. to operate his Jack & Jill truck in Wilmington. He often returned home

well after midnight. Sometimes he arrived home so tired he slept in a chair because he didn't have the strength to climb the stairs.

When Alameri got the call that her father had been killed, her world was shattered.

She quit school to work.

The family received unexpected help from some Wilmington Middle School children who held an ice cream sale and sent them the proceeds.

The jury also heard from members of Hassan-El's family and friends who said the killing was out of character.

Testimony before Judge William C. Carpenter Jr. is expected to continue today.

A communique denouncing attack on journalist Syndicate

Journalists without boarder organization has anxiously followed the news of assault against the journalist syndicate and the closure of their place on Wed. 08/06/2005

The Organization thinks that , this assault wouldn't have taken place had it not been for the intensive activity, the syndicate is adopting nowadays in defending journalists' rights, and freedom of press. The Organization thinks that this is a serious indication that threatens the mere being of journalist's syndicate.

The Organizations warns all those

concerned with human rights and freedom of press to be aware of he this danger, and to read between the lines what this action implies. It also requests the authorities to investigate and punish those responsible.

In a related issue, the Organization appeals to the (YJS), civil community organizations and human rights organizations to continue their pressure, and solidarity in the case of their colleague Rahma and Hafiz, till punishment is carried out, and see to it that they are enumerated.

It also warns the syndicate of the

attempts to weaken their solidarity through the attempt of attack against Mr. Al -Fishani, editor of Al- Billad newspaper, by our colleague Rashida Al -gaily. If this really happened the organization denounces it , and regards it as a wrong behavior that Rashida will bear responsibility for, however her motives might be, and it is for the judiciary to decide on this matter.

The organization appeals to the syndicate not to make of itself a court to try its members on their personal conduct which has nothing to do with their career.

Two Yemenis beheaded for killing Saudi woman

SANAA, June 07 (al-Wattan) — Two Yemeni nationals were beheaded Tuesday for killing a Saudi woman after breaking into her home, the Saudi Arabia Interior Ministry said, adding "Shawqi

bin Ahmed Shemary and Muhammad bin Saleh Yos strangled Asla bent Yehya Esairy after tying her hands and legs." The two broke into Esairy's home to steal her money and possessions. They

were executed in the Rejal Almaa province south-west of the kingdom. The two strangled the woman to death and were beheaded by the sword in a public square. 11:33 AM 6/8/2005

Environment pollutants constitute major issue

People throughout the world mark Environment Day as the fifth of June of every year. On this occasion, international reports on pollutants and smoke and their impacts on the Amazon were presented.

The widely spread pollutants cause several epidemics, among them are cancer and asthma.

A talk was conducted with Ibrahim

Ahmad Sa'eed, Head of the Awareness Unit at the Council of the General Authority for Environment Protection for discussing pollutants and their effects on the human health.

Ibrahim Ahmad Sa'eed said the authority worked on maturing awareness of schoolboys, calling them "Environment bystanders" about the effects of pollutants on the human health.

He added the Cabinet issued a

decision by the end of last May with respect to establishing the administration of the coastal areas so as to control the development process in Aden in specific and in Yemen in general.

Sa'eed noted the decision recommended the formation of 15-member committee, representing the governor, his deputy, public works and roads office and the Aden Free Zone.

He signaled out that Yemen can oblige investors not to spoil the nature of seas, beaches and mountains while implementing their projects though they are important.

Fire claims lives of 2 children, 2 injured

TAIZ- A huge fire broke out a few days ago in the house of Sharaf Mohammad Shamsan located in the Village of al-Qub'e, al-Hejaria District, due to gas leakage.

The incident left two children, under 8 dead while three other were badly injured.

The three injured were rushed to al-Thawrah Hospital and the two corpses were put in the morgue.

5HDGHU Voice

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

This HGLWLRQ Question:

Alliance between president Ali Abdullah Saleh and Sheikh Al-Ahmar used to be strong and deep-rooted until only a short time ago. However, this alliance seems to crumble lately. Do you think this would lead to unrest between the president and the tribal group?

Yes 72%
No 17%
I don't know 11%

Last HGLWLRQ Question:

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

No 72%
Yes 17%
I don't know 11%

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Further German contribution in UNDP Mine Action Program

The Embassy of Germany in the Federal Republic of Germany is proud to announce that the Federal Government of Germany has just made available a contribution up to the total amount of 343.650 US\$ for further implementation of the Mine Detection Dog Operations within the framework of the UNDP Mine Action Program in Yemen.

The money will be used for area reduction, clearance as well as quality assurance in medium mine affected communities in Yemen.

In total, since 2001, the German Government has supported this program with the sum of 3.8 million US\$.

Thunderbolt hits house, leaves 3 dead

Thunder rains heavily fell on Tuesday June 7 on the area of al-Tamr located on the Red Sea, and during the rainfall, a thunderbolt hit the house of Abdullah Sa'eed al-Shawafi, 38, leaving him dead along with his son Bashir and his mother Fatima.

The three victims were then buried immediately after the tragic catastrophe.

It is worth noting that al-Tamr is one of the rare areas where rains fall despite being situated on the seacoast.

Army officers plunder citizen's land

TAIZ, June 4- A number of armed military officers plundered last week a piece of land owned by Ahmad al-Zighriri, one of Taiz locals.

The military officers pointed their guns at Ahmad al-Zighriri and some policemen who came from Security Department of West Taiz and prosecution to calm down the situation.

The plunderers insisted to remain in the land over which there is a dispute between two parties, one of whom resorted to the military troops to defeat the other, defying the State and the law.

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e-mail: dralilm@yahoo.com
Azal Hospital, 60th St., Sana'a

Continued from page 1

The ruling party leads efforts to force Sheikh Abdullah to leave the Parliament

The source disclosed that , there were secret negotiations with the Islah party to form a coalition government. The two parties have primarily agreed on the government with certain conditions for their participation.

Of these conditions, the Islah has demanded seventeen thousand posts for mosque preachers and (scientific institutes) graduates , that were cancelled several years ago in the effort of unification of education . Islah also asked to be given a free cultural and ideological hand in the Governorates of Hajja and Sa'ada and to furnish facilities of the construction of religious schools besides their party activity together with mosques ' forums and charity societies. The People General Congress considered this to be unacceptable. It is considered to be among the extortion policy that he

Islah party adopts.

There is also a connection between the expected convenience of the fifth conference of the socialist party which will be in June , however there are reports that it would be postponed to mid July. Sources expect the formation of a coalition government from the Islah , People Congress and the Socialist party. In the light of the formation of new coalition , The prime minister could be a socialist , owing to foreign pressure

The Mithaq newspaper said in its last Thursday issue :

"Leaders in the Socialist and Islah parties had met and reached a semi deal in which the Islah pledged to settle the matter of the fidelity "fatwa" that was issued by the Islah clerics , on top of them Sheikh al -Zandani ...In that "fatwa" they considered the

socialist party an infidel . Another "fatwa" that was issued by Abdul-Wahab Aldailamy, during the 1994 war, described the war as a war against Atheists and Marxists. He also allowed the civilians to be killed if the fiddles made them as human shields .

It is the same legal opinion (Fatwa) that Al-Zarqawi used in Iraq to kill innocent civilians. It was said that the two parties came to a semi agreement that the Islah Party will apologize for the socialist party on those "fatwas " a thing that the party refuses and demands its cancellation, because of the harm they have suffered due to it, the last being the assassination of Jarallah Omar, The vice Chairman of their party . His assassin said during his trial that he has depended on a previous "fatwa" saying that socialists are Atheists and they should be killed .

The source said that , the deal has not yet been finalized because the Islah side refused pressing their sheikhs al-Zandani and al- Dailami to cancel these "fatwa". The Islah said that it is a private affair of these two sheikhs .It also added that al -Zandani said in one of his press interviews that these "fatwas" became a matter of the past. The Islah side considered this to be enough, and there is no need to issue a new "fatwa". The Sheikhs are no longer abiding by it, and they are ready to attend the general fifth conference of the socialist party if they are invited.

Iran has no hand in Sa'ada events, Rawhani

The Iranian official emphasized that his government is not responsible for statements issued by the Shiite movement in Yemen.

During his last visit to Iran, Yemen's Foreign Minister denied such stories and ascertained that al-Houthi's son did not travel to Iran; which some news mentioned that he went there.

Statements issued by the Shiite movement were based on information about harming holy sites of the Shiite sect that includes as many as 300 million Shiite members throughout the world.

Asked about the involvement of some Twelve Current members in the Sa'ada events, the Iranian nuclear file negotiator replied: "what we have been told by some Yemeni officials appeared to be totally different from what we heard earlier. They have told us what happened in Sa'ada was politically motivated and not occasioned by some religious sects existing in

Yemen."

"What is of great significance in this respect is to free the region from any disputes, particularly as the enemies of Islam want to foment disputes and disunity among Muslims. What is being realized in Iraq and Afghanistan is a clear-cut example as the enemies of Islam usually have their evil plans to raise tension and disputes in these areas," Rawhani commented.

"Nowadays, we in the Muslim world are facing big conspiracies targeting our economies and political regimes."

Regarding matters debated with the Yemeni side, the Iranian official mentioned: "we discussed security agreements that involved several aspects, as well as developing cooperation in the field of fighting terror since we believe that the terrorist groups constitute a major threat in the area."

He pointed out that signing the security agreement by Yemen and Iran is a success and that both countries wit-

nessed distinctive development in their economic ties.

Rawhani said: "we have paid an official visit to Yemen in response to an invitation extended by the Yemeni government, and during the two-day visit, we met with Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister and a number of senior government officials, and conducted with them deliberations on some regional issues."

With respect to the big Middle East project being followed up by the Industrial countries, Rawhani said it is in favor of Israel and the U.S.A. who pretend they enhance democracy in the region.

Concerning Iran's nuclear file, he indicated that discussions on this matter appear to be a bit complicated, pointing out the powerful countries do not want the Muslim ones to possess the advanced technology while Israel already possesses varied arsenals of weapons of mass destruction.

The British in Yemeni Celebrate Their Queen Birthday

The British Embassy has celebrated last Saturday at the ambassadors residence, The Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The celebration was attended by nearly eight hundred persons - Yemenis and foreigners. Among them were a number of ministers, MPs and consultancy council members, in addition to a number of press men .The celebration was also attended by the diplomats in Yemen, and the Representatives of the International Organizations.

UN, USA Want to Know about Weapons in Yemen

SANAA, June 05 (News Net) — In a letter to the Yemeni government, the United Nations and the United States have asked the government for explanations about weapons trafficking in Yemen and the government's efforts to control it. Foreign Ministry Deputy for European and American Affairs Mustaffa Noman said "the geographical location of Yemen near spots of regional conflicts and the war on terror have increasingly made it at the spot of international concern," adding "internal armed conflicts in the past and this location of Yemen have made it a market for weapons." Meanwhile, sources said a government technical commission has put together an official response to the UN and US letter. Yemen has been trying to change its international picture as a hub for weapons smuggling and the United States was planning to announce a boycott on weapons transfers to Yemen last year but changed its mind after Yemen became a key partner to the United States for the war on terror.

UAE team to survey Yemen's endangered species habitat

DUBAI, JUNE 4, 2005 (WAM) - A technical team from the Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency (ERWDA), has started operations to survey flora and fauna in several parts of Yemen. The team targets surveillance of the endangered species' habitats and establishing their breeding areas.

Plateaus of northern and southern Hadramout are homes for abundant wildlife.

Recent reports indicated that extensive poaching of juvenile ibex or wild goats in different parts of Yemen has put them on the verge of extinction.

In brief

President Ali Abdullah Saleh received last week the delegation of the Kuwait and Gulf League company currently on a visit to Yemen.

Russian minister of foreign affairs Sergey Viktorovich Lavron will visit a number of gulf countries and attend ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic conference in Yemen.

Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal received on Saturday a good-wishes message from Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the 15th unification anniversary.

The ministry of local affairs last week signed an agreement with the German Technical Cooperation Association (GTZ) providing for cooperation in the third phase of the equal opportunities program for women in Lahj and Ibb governorates.

Dubai Ports International has won a 35-year concession to operate and develop the Aden and Ma'alla container terminals in Yemen, reported Gulf News. DPI is now the fifth largest port operator in the world with 18 international ports and terminals under its management.

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abd-al-Malik al-Mu'allimi held a meeting with the Dutch ambassador to Yemen and discussed cooperation between the two countries in the field of telecommunication.

Job Opportunities

The Embassy of The United States of America announces for an immediate job opening within its organization. "Administrative Clerk"

The position is located in the Yemen America Language Institute YALI, American Embassy, under the immediate supervision of the Office Manager and the general supervision of the Director of Courses. Employee will provide clerical and administrative duties to the YALI.

Required Qualifications:

Education: Secondary school is required.

Prior Work Experience: One and one-half years of experience (or previous study at YALI) is required.

Language Proficiency: Level IV English (excellent working) level is required.

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How to apply: All Interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sanaa. Yemen, Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than June 25, 2005.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

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Accountant/Administrative Officer

The Yemeni-Danish Partnership Programme, The Technical Advisory Office, is seeking an Accountant/Administrative Officer from 1 August 2005

We encourage applicants of both sexes to apply.

Responsibilities:

- The Accounts & Administrative Officer is responsible for the overall accounting of all office and project funds under the Yemeni-Danish Partnership Programme.
- The Accountant must ensure efficient records of all accounts for several different projects and the office.
- She/he must maintain well-functioning of accounts, cash-flow, and be responsible for administrative duties relating to staff, vehicles, procurement, routine correspondence, filing and any other work relating to finance for the Office.

Accounts Duties:

- Keep separate record of all project accounts, movement and balance.
- Ensure that the cashbook, bankbook and related fund records are maintained correctly and kept updated at all times.
- Check cash balances once a week.
- Ensure compliance with all accepted financial and internal control rules, regulations, procedures, etc.
- Prepare monthly, quarterly/annual financial accounts and reports for all projects and ensure their proper distribution.

- The accountant must be fluent in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- She/he should be able to do all accounting in English, including balance sheet.
- The applicant should have at least 3 years experience working as an accountant for an International Agency.
- Knowledge of Tax, Customs and Financial Yemeni Regulation is an advantage.
- The Accountant should have a solid knowledge to MS Office, particularly EXEL and preferably other bookkeeping systems.

Please send or bring your application and CV before 23 June to

Yemeni - Danish Partnership Programme
 Technical Advisory Office
 Next to Petroleum Company, Close to Canadian School and Dutch Embassy
 Hadda Area, 6DQDD
 Phone: (00967) 1 427 568/9 - ext. 105 for Ms. Fatma Awadh for further information.
 Fax: (00967) 1 414 703

Yemenia Cargo is pleased to announce to the public that its new premises starting from first of June 2005 would be as described the map below and hence the new contact numbers are as follows:

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447569

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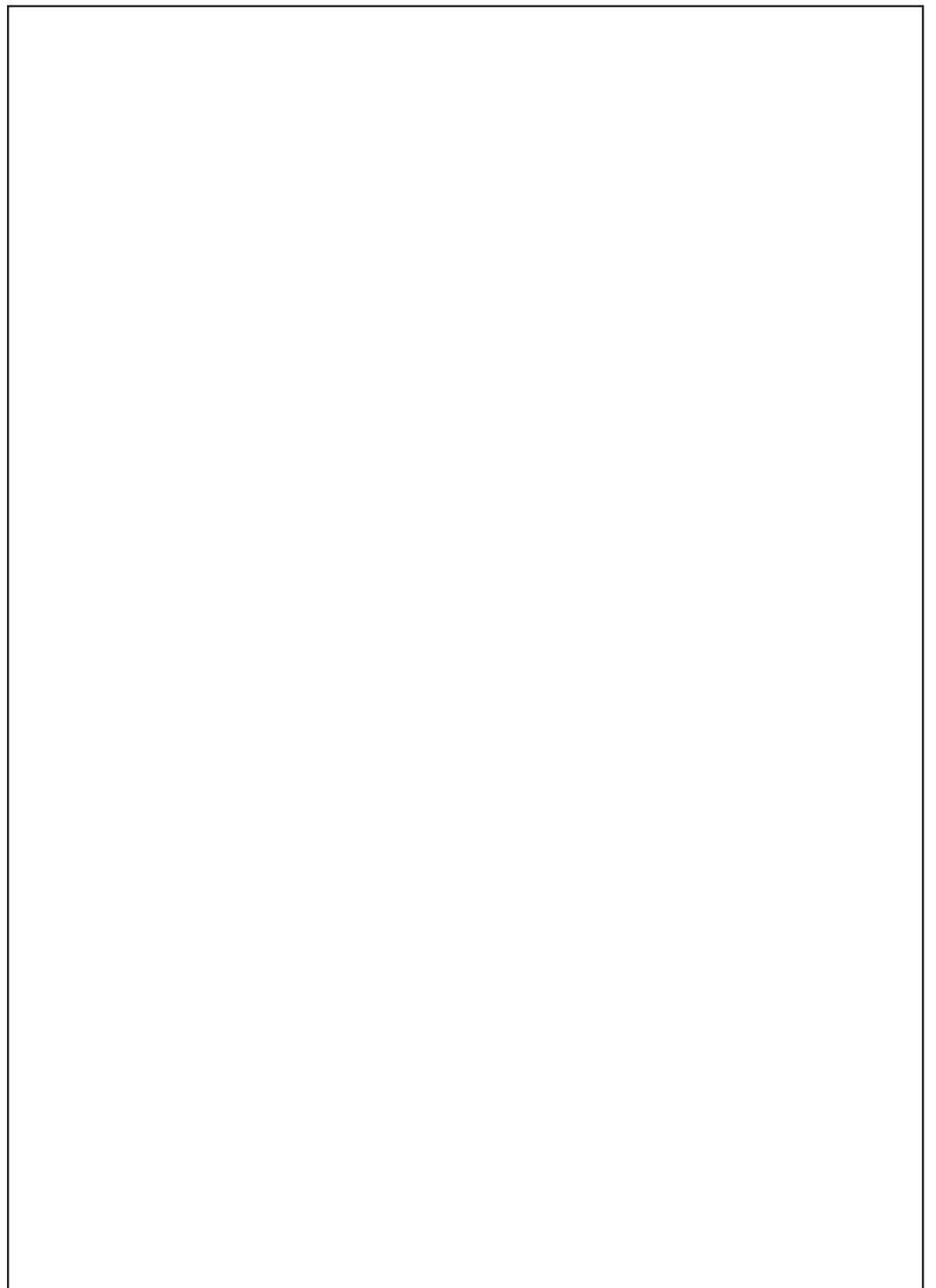
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Hardcore regime supporters split over Iran election

TEHRAN, June 11 (Reuters) - Prayers and politics are inextricably entwined in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the last Friday Prayers session in Tehran before June 17 presidential elections was no exception.

Banners draped inside the Tehran University prayer hall reminded the 6,000 worshippers it was their duty to send a defiant message to Iran's enemies by voting.

"Each vote means death to America," said hardline cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, invoking the chant that has reverberated around prayer meetings since the 1979 Islamic revolution toppled the U.S.-backed Shah.

Those at prayers, the vast majority of them over 40, represent the unshakable hardcore supporters of the system of clerical rule introduced after the revolution.

Analysts say they number between 10 and 25 percent of Iran's 67 million population and deem them a potent electoral force in a vote where turnout is expected to be about 50 percent.

But an electoral field of eight, including two clerics and four former members of Iran's hardline Revolutionary Guards, has split the hardcore vote and boosted the chances of more moderate candidates like former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"The variety of candidates means the vote will be split," said Mohammad Reza Kuchakzadeh, 50, as rival groups flooded out of prayers chanting the names of their favorites and tossing campaign leaflets into the air.

Kuchakzadeh, who works in a car parts factory, said he would vote for former state broadcasting chief Ali Larijani, 48, who is currently fourth in opinion polls well behind front-runner Rafsanjani, 70, the president from 1989 to 1997.

FRESH FACE

"We need a fresh face with new ideas and energy and flexibility. I see such characteristics in Larijani," he said.

Iranians watch a campaign film for former Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting chief and presidential candidate Ali Larijani in a park in north of Tehran June 10. A leading hardline cleric urged Iranians on Friday to turn out in force for presidential elections next week, warning that a low turnout would be a defeat for the Islamic republic. Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati refrained from endorsing any of the eight men vying for the job in June 17 polls, but called on people to defy Iran's "enemies" by ensuring a high turnout.

But he doubted Larijani could win the vote to replace outgoing reformist cleric Mohammad Khatami. "I think the general atmosphere favours Rafsanjani," he said.

Nearby an elderly woman pointed eagerly at a picture of former Tehran Mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a staunch hardliner who has made little impression in polls.

"Rafsanjani's too old, he's not capable," she exclaimed.

Reza Heydari, 55, said he would vote for "someone who can rescue our country from poverty and that is Ahmadinejad".

Like others interviewed, Heydari said the most pressing problems facing Iran

were economic and dismissed the need for greater political and social freedoms which more liberal candidates have promised.

"Iran is already free.

What we need is someone who can lower inflation, cut unemployment and improve welfare," he said.

Hardline commentator Hossein Shariatmadari said last week the four traditional conservative candidates must agree on a single nominee to have any hope of overhauling Rafsanjani.

He suggested locking Larijani, Ahmadinejad, ex-Revolutionary guards chief Mohsen Rezaie and ex-police chief Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in a mosque for 48 hours to settle their dif-

ferences.

Qalibaf, 43, whose slick campaign advertisements feature him in pilot's uniform next to a passenger jet and highlight his piercing blue eyes, is second behind Rafsanjani in the polls.

But despite clear anti-Rafsanjani hints dropped by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in speeches urging voters to elect a young, energetic president, some said Iran should turn to the wily pragmatist again.

"The bazaar has decided to back Larijani," said Mohammad Tajik, 60, who owns a shop in the Tehran bazaar. "But I will vote for Rafsanjani. He has the experience to lead the country."

Syria PM meets Iraqi ministers, says keen on security

DAMASCUS, June 11 (Reuters) - Syrian Prime Minister Najji al-Otari discussed economic cooperation with two Iraqi ministers on Saturday and said Syria was keen to promote the stability and security of its neighbour. U.S. officials have repeatedly accused Syria of not doing enough to prevent militant Islamists from crossing into Iraq to fight its forces. Syria, which opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq, says it is cooperating for Iraq stability.

"The prime minister emphasised Syria's keenness on the security and stability of Iraq and that its future is set in line with its own will and in the framework of its unity both in terms of territory and people," the official news agency said.

The U.S. accusations were among the reasons cited by U.S. President George W. Bush when he imposed unilateral economic sanctions on Syria in May 2004.

Otari's remarks came after a meeting in Damascus with Iraqi Electricity Minister and Mohsen Shalash and Water Resources Minister Abdul Latif Rasheed.

Their visit is the first announced meeting of this level between senior Syrian and Iraqi officials since July 2004 when former caretaker Prime Minister Iyad Allawi visited Damascus to discuss cooperation, especially on security.

The agency said the talks focused on "cooperation between Syria and Iraq and the necessity of developing and

enhancing it in a manner that achieves common interests in economy, development, water and power projects".

Otari said Syria was willing to "support and respond to the needs of the brethren in Iraq and offer all forms of help required for the reconstruction of facilities and services".

Syria's ruling Baath party has instructed the government to work on improving ties with Damascus and support the political process in the troubled Arab state.

Iraq was ruled by a rival wing of Baath until the collapse of the government of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Syrian officials said they were waiting for Iraq to send officials to ink a security cooperation agreement discussed during Allawi's 2004 visit.

Syria complains that the United States and Britain did not deliver on a promise to give the Arab state high technology systems to better monitor the desert border that straddles over around 600 km (375 miles).

Syria plans to increase the level of diplomatic representation in Iraq to an ambassador, maybe after a possible visit to Damascus by Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

It has an interests' office in Baghdad established in the era of Saddam, whose chronic tensions with Damascus led to the closure of missions in the early 1980s.

Gunmen open fire on bus in Iraq, killing 10

BAGHDAD, June 11 (Reuters) - Gunmen opened fire on a bus filled with labourers just south of Baghdad on Saturday, killing 10 people and wounding three, a police official said.

The official said the bus carrying 13 people was travelling from the southern town of Hilla to Baghdad when two cars pulled up on either side and the gunmen attacked.

The attack came after a suicide bomber wearing the uniform of Iraq's high-profile Wolf Brigade police force

killed eight officers and wounded others at the commando units Baghdad headquarters.

Police officials put the total number of dead and injured at close to 20. The bomber, who officers said also carried police identity documents, entered the barracks with other members of the unit reporting for work in the morning.

Insurgents have stepped up attacks since Iraq's new government was formed in late April, killing over 800 people.

U.S. alleges Syria targeting Lebanese leaders

WASHINGTON (Reuters) 11 Jun - President Bush said on Friday he was disturbed by reports of covert Syrian interference in Lebanese affairs and the White House charged that it had information that Damascus had drawn up an assassination hit list targeting Lebanese political leaders.

"Obviously we're going to follow up on these troubling reports, and we expect the Syrian government to follow up on these troubling reports," Bush told reporters.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said afterward that Washington had received information about a "Syrian hit list targeting key Lebanese public figures of various political and religious persuasions, for assassination."

Lebanon's anti-Syrian Druze leader has also alleged that Syrian intelligence officers are running free in the country and warned of more political assassinations ordered by Damascus.

Syrian Expatriates Minister Buthaina Shaaban, who often speaks for the government, countered that Syria had completely withdrawn from Lebanon and denied that Damascus had drawn up an assassination hit list in Lebanon.

"Syria never had a history of hit lists ... I think they should look somewhere else unless they want to use this as a pretext to target Syria without finding any proof," she said.

"The killings in Lebanon are as much dangerous for Syria than they are for Lebanon and therefore it is impossible for Syria to contemplate such a thing," she told CNN, speaking in English.

U.N. officials and diplomats said

anonymity, said the information came from "a variety of credible Lebanese sources.

Suicide bomber attacks Slovak embassy in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, June 11 (Reuters) - A suicide bomber in a pick-up truck blew himself up outside the Slovak embassy in Baghdad on Saturday, wounding four people, police said.

A police official said Iraqi civilians and guards were wounded.

"The suicide bomber was headed towards the embassy but he blew up at a checkpoint next to the building," said the police official.

A Slovak foreign ministry spokesman in Bratislava said some embassy staff were in the building at the time of the attack, but no one was hurt. The explosion damaged the embassy gate, and walls of the building, he said.

The foreign ministry could not say whether the attack was directed specifically against Slovakia as there was a series of attacks in Baghdad at around that time, he added. Slovakia, an ex-communist state which joined the European Union last year, has been a staunch supporter of the U.S.-led military campaign in Iraq.

The central European country of 5.4 million has had 107 army engineers and security personnel deployed in Iraq since July 2003.

Head of Lebanese press syndicate Mohamed Baalbaki holds a flower with photograph of slain anti-Syrian Lebanese journalist Samir Kassir at the site of the assassination in Beirut June 9.

Reuters

Secretary-General Kofi Annan has decided to send a U.N. verification team back to Lebanon to see if Syrian intelligence agents are still in the country.

McClellan said Washington's allegations were based on intelligence "that we have seen."

McClellan said the United States has been receiving Syrian "hit list" reports for some time. He said they "resurfaced" with the killing of anti-Syrian columnist Samir Kassir last week. Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated in February.

A senior Bush administration official, speaking on condition of

أولاً: المسئول الإداري: دوام كامل
الشروط التي يجب توافرها في من يشغل هذه الوظيفة:
مؤهل جامعي
برلاتة هجند سنوا في مجال الإدار والتنسيق
جاللغتيرلعر وبلانجليزية تاونظ ا
الم ارافي اسند الا مبيوتر
التفر ال املعمل
م ارا نالقة ايريراللغتيرلعر وبلانجليزية
ثانياً: مسئول التنسيق والإتصال: دوام كامل
الشروط التي يجب توافرها فيمن يشغل هذه الوظيفة هي:
مؤهل جامعي
برلاتة هجند سنوا في مجال الع العام والإتصال
برفي مجال النو الاجتماعي ايطراً
م ارافي اسند الا مبيوتر
اجاد اللغتيرلعر وبلانجليزية الانترنت
ثالثاً: المحاسب
الشروط الواجب توافرها في من يشغل هذه الوظيفة:
مؤهل جامعي
برفي المحاسبلات هجند سنوا حادد
اسند الا مبيوتر
لغة انجليزيةتوسطة
رأفك هاريري

China calls EU textile deal model for U.S. dispute

BEIJING, June 11 (Reuters) - China's new textile exports deal with the European Union is a "win-win" solution and a model in solving trade disputes, Chinese state media said on Saturday.

After hours of negotiations in Shanghai, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai agreed late on Friday to limit the rise in Chinese exports of textiles and clothing to the EU until the end of 2008, averting the imposition of quotas that could have soured ties.

"(The agreement) has set a new paradigm for settling similar differences in bilateral trade and sent a clear message to the world that dialogue, in lieu of quotas, is the ultimate way towards a satisfactory, win-win solution," Xinhua news agency said in a commentary on its Web site, www.chinaview.cn.

Tensions had been running high for

months between China and the EU over this year's explosive rise in cheap Chinese textile exports. The EU feared the leap in exports threatened its garment industry and jobs.

The United States has expressed similar concerns since the surge of Chinese products was unleashed by the Jan. 1 abolition of a decades-old global system of quotas.

Washington has already slapped temporary restrictions on seven types of Chinese garment and textile products, provoking an angry response from Beijing.

"The deal will hopefully become a major breakthrough in solving the pending textile trade dispute with the United States," Xinhua said.

"The EU's move is in sharp contrast with the US slapping of import limits, an approach that is widely criticised by the international community as

discriminatory and protectionist, undercutting the very principles it is promoting."

Before the agreement was signed, the 25-nation EU was due to also limit shipments of Chinese T-shirts and flax yarn to 7.5 percent over the previous year.

The United States' limits could lead to losses of up to \$2 billion for the Chinese textile industry and "affect up to 400,000 workers", Xinhua said.

China's textiles industry employs 19 million people and is a vital cog in its export-driven economy.

The standoff between the United States and China over textiles is one of two problems that risk souring diplomatic and economic relations between the countries, the other being Beijing's control of the yuan exchange rate, which the United States, and Europe, say is too low for fair trade.

Manila police break up anti-Arroyo protest

MANILA, June 10 (Reuters) - Police used water cannons on Friday to break up a protest by about 3,000 people calling for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to resign over corruption allegations against her, police and witnesses said.

The army is on red alert in Manila for any trouble over the weekend, when the country marks its independence from Spain, as rumours swirl that the political opposition is planning a major rally to call for Arroyo to step down.

Protest leaders said 30 demonstrators were injured on Friday after police used the water cannons to stop the crowd marching on the presidential palace.

Police said they had no knowledge of civilian casualties, but said five police officers were injured by stone-throwing protesters.

A Senate inquiry has heard allegations Arroyo's husband, son and brother-in-law took kickbacks from illegal gam-

bling. This week, audio recordings surfaced that the opposition said bolstered its claims Arroyo cheated in last year's election.

"The president has not violated any law and is not charged with any crime. Those who want her out want to set back fiscal stability and economic security," Arroyo's spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Analysts have said the graft allegations are unlikely to be enough to unseat Arroyo, but could well distract the government from its reform agenda.

The political uncertainty has rattled investors into selling down Philippine stocks and the peso. The currency fell to a four-month low to the dollar on Friday but stocks bounced back by 2 percent after slumping earlier this week.

The opposition has said the audio recordings, which have been played repeatedly this week by radio and television stations, were of Arroyo colluding

with an election commissioner for a bigger margin of victory as votes were being counted.

Arroyo's spokesman said the series of discussions had been doctored from an illegal tap of the president's mobile phone and that the male speaker was a political leader in the south, not an election official.

A former senior intelligence official told a news conference in Manila on Friday that he had the original tapes, which he said were given to him by military intelligence officials who tapped Arroyo's telephone.

"Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, if you love the Philippines which you always say, I am pleading to you to resign," said Samuel Ong, former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Ong was transferred out of the intelligence agency two years ago after falling out with the NBI director.

Words of Wisdom

These days, people routinely, talk about the relationship between sovereignty and human rights. That is because there is a rising level of world intervention against regimes oppressing their people. Basically, what is happening is that the concepts of territorial integrity and political sovereignty are now given second place to human rights considerations.

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

OUR
OPINIONYemeni media
and unfinished
business!

It was quite surprising for me to hear in the news lately that President Bush was concerned because of what the American media reported regarding the Syrian existence in Lebanon. The Syrian-Lebanon case is not our issue here, it is how media is influential in the developed countries to the extent that the president of the United States perceives the news reported by media as a considerably trust worthy source of information. A thought that is almost laughable in a country as Yemen, where everyday there is a new step taken by the government against freedom of media one way or the other.

The existence of free media of all sorts is one of the most important manifestations of true democracy. Print media especially plays an important positive role in development provided it is given the space and the ethics to act constructively and not destructively. What gives media its power and authority is the extent it reflects the concerns of the people and the conscious of the nation, which, unfortunately is not an easy thing to do especially a multi cultural and political country such as Yemen.

Yemen is one of the few countries in the region where media was given – in the past – a relatively wider space to perform. Since the early eighties and with the advent of the nineties the media scene was evolving and maturing. The blossoming of the civil society organizations simultaneously was another push to free media. Globalization is another fact that would have been in favor of the Yemeni media had the people working in this sector were professional and exposed enough.

The fact is that the existence of free media is an indicator of how free a country is. The democratic space and the freedom of speech are patent through what is written in the local newspapers. Newspapers brought to court every now and then and journalists being prosecuted are not good signs. However, credit must be given to the same state that convicted the chief editor of al-Bilad newspaper on grounds of defaming a female journalist in his newspaper. It seems that the state itself is in a loss as to what to do, and the Yemeni media too.

A point worth noting is that while the Yemeni media is engaged in this chaotic struggle to stand their grounds and avail some respect from authorities, they are not aware that they have been distracted by the new consequences from the real issue. This is not the first time this has happened. While defending ourselves and trying to cut loose from the spider web of court cases and verdicts we seem to forget some business left half done...what ever happened to the media law?

The Editorial Board



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Arab Reform: When,
how, and why? (2/2)

Mutual Arab work, inter-Arab relations, and the general scene in the region are too broad to be tackled in this article. However, duty calls us to counteract dangers and stop the policy of delay and self-deception and the misconduct of over 60 years of the Arab League's life.

Pervious Arab summits showed that general Arab system is absent and, if found, is corrupted, weak and decaying. It needs no intelligence to realize the principles of reform which are very basic most important of which is the fair settlement of the Palestinian Cause and, consequently, pacifying the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. Other conditions include the preservation of the Arabic identity, openness to the otherness, solutions to the problems resulting from Iraq occupation, eradication of terrorism and extremism, establishing the system for inter-Arab cooperation in all fields especially economy, catching up with the world of integration and gigantic amalgamations and globalization.

Concerning internally directed reform in every Arab state, the principles and conditions are galore such as:

- Reform is a difficult complicated process that requires awareness on its concepts, importance and implementation mechanisms. The invitation for proper using of Arab media channels is renewed instead of using them to incite sedition and spreading havoc.

- This process should originate inside based on peoples' and leaders' convictions. It should not be imposed from outside as it is happening today. Its principles are not imported and are not imposed by force as it was the case in the past with some Arab states which had imported principles leading up to devastation and disasters claiming a heavy charge on the Arab economy, stability and security.

The positive side of this subject is that most of the recent stances and statements agreed on this principle and rejected the idea of imposing reform from outside. President Bush himself, who was promoting inevitable democracy and reform for his own ends, once said, "We do not intend to impose our democracy on the Arab states. We will cooperate with them to start the steps of reform amidst a belief that we should stop addressing the Arab people through leaders."

Any radical reform should be carried out step by step. The medicine should be given at well-studied intervals. Gradualness is necessary so that the experience does not fail. Therefore, we should take into account the experiences of Lebanon, Algeria, and Jordan and study the implementation means in order

to save the country a faked democracy or give the people democracy controlled by narrow religious, racist, political extremism.

- Such gradualness should take into consideration the specialty of every individual Arab state. What may work with Syria or Lebanon may not work with Saudi Arabia or the

Gulf States and vice versa.

- We should learn from past experiences and the contemporary changes. We have to get rid of the idea that the majority has the right to control the minority. The majority should not dictate to the minority, oppress it by force and tyranny. This is necessary in order to avoid revolutions and uprisings which will bring us back to naught.

- Reform cannot come into existence only when it is based on the sovereignty of the law and respect for human rights and public liberties. This requires conviction, transparency and eradication of corruption.

- If it is not acceptable to impose reform from outside, it is so to impose reform by the higher tier of the hierarchy. All people should be involved in the process especially NGOs including syndicates, labor unions, women, human rights, and environment organizations. Women's participation is vital and necessary in this field because their role was marginalized for centuries.

Doha Fifth Forum for Democracy and Free Trade, which hosted hundreds of thinkers, politicians and pressmen, featured extensive discussion of these principles. Qatar Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani noted that moving towards democracy and free economy cannot be finalized unless it is based on a firm resolution that understands the importance of reform, and therefore we have to struggle for an integrated reform culture. Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamad bin Jasssem bin Jabr stated that two parties must be there: the first is the governmental approval for democracy to grow into shape systematically and gradually, the second is the public will towards this end. Kuwaiti Minister of Energy Sheikh Ahmed al-Fahd al-Ahmed al-Sabbah emphasized the importance of education, and ensuring justice, equality and freedom until we achieve the sought comprehensive development. He confirmed that the democratic community cannot come into existence without women's active role in determining society's fate.

On her part, Dr. Ahedah Tali, professor at the Lebanese University, affirmed the importance of such role. She said, "The major task is on the shoulder of women who face most of the time constraints." She added that women should:

- Have confidence in their capabilities

which are not different from men's.

- Critically examine surrounding customs and traditions.

- Realize its citizenship and participate in national public policy and join various NGOs.

- Contribute to pressure campaigns.

- Practice democracy at home by:

First: Raising children according to the principle of equality and non-discrimination between her sons and daughters maintaining dialogue to resolve problems instead of giving orders. She should give chance to free expression and respecting different opinions.

These are the most basic principles and conditions which can ensure the atmosphere necessary to answer the first questions regarding reform and democracy in the Arab World: How and Why? When and Where? However, I, once again, repeat that we should admit to our past bitter experiences through which the Arab states went and re-evaluate the current stage honestly and objectively far from sensitivities, obsessions and inferiority complex. We should stop the policy of black-out, silencing, mutual belying, and banning controversies, debates and self-criticism.

I conclude this article with the words of a former senior Iraqi official I met a few days ago in an Arab capital's hall. After exchanging compliments and formal talk, I asked him a serious candid question: "Now, after the disgraceful fall of Baghdad, Iraq occupation, and two years of destruction, poverty, homelessness, and displacement of millions of whom you are, don't you regret the conduct of the previous regime? Don't you feel the bitterness and hold yourself and Saddam's regime accountable for what you have done to noble Iraqi people. They do not deserve such a tribulation and you have escaped from the battlefield."

I expected him to react angrily and aggressively and may be insult me as it was the norm with the pillars of the former regime at the times of tyranny and totalitarianism. However, he was frustrated. He lowered his head for a while and answered very quietly and with a hushed voice, "Indeed, I am reassessing, analyzing and sequencing the events that have happened attempting to record them for the coming generations and for history. However, I can assure you that, in principle, that mistakes were many. Not all our experiences were successful. I have a belief that even the royal reign overthrown by 1958 coup, was not bad. It had its own plus and minus points."

Is it possible to generalize the act of regret over the Arab World as a first step towards desired reform? Can we claim the Arab leaders and kings to wisely peruse the internal conditions so as not to wake up when they are no longer in power. It is a hope we would like to achieve as we are seeking reform and change.

What now? More Europe!

By ALVARO DE VASCONCELOS

The rejection of the European Union's Constitution by French and Dutch voters forces us to think well beyond that treaty.

That much is clear from the current debate on the Community budget. The naysayers' victories show that sovereignty-based arguments that oppose any kind of European political union are on the march. Euroskeptics, it seems, are gaining ground everywhere, and a kind of xenophobia is on the rise.

But xenophobia and sovereignty were not the primary impulses that propelled the "no" votes. Above all, the "no" votes in France and Holland – and rising discontent in other member states, such as Germany – are the result of the inability of national governments and the Union to respond effectively to the problems that most concern citizens. Not only anti-Europeans rejected the constitution; far from it.

Many Europeans are, in fact, calling on the EU to act to reduce unemployment and to intervene decisively in the international arena. Many interpreted Europe's internal division over the war in Iraq, with ordinary citizens overwhelmingly opposed to military intervention, as a sign of the Union's weakness.

But the answer to such doubt and dismay is more Europe, not less. The European Council's summit on June 16-17 should give a clear sign that it recognizes this.

Most supporters of the Constitution believe

that it will not only help build a citizens' Europe, but also create better conditions for European economic development, and for the EU to act globally. They are right. It would be imprudent to assume that the French and Dutch "no" votes were not about discontent with Union policies; but that anger was directed against the French and Dutch governments, not Europe itself.

The fact is that citizens in every EU member country are increasingly aware that national policies are determined by decision making at the European level, over which they have little influence. The European Constitution has little to do with this, but referenda are never confined to the actual questions put to voters. Instead, they provide opportunities for citizens to express what they feel about the choices their governments make, particularly within the EU framework.

The 2004 elections for the European Parliament had already shown that the level of discontent with the Union was high. Voters heavily punished almost all national governments. Yet nobody thought that that election had changed the course of Europe.

Above all, the French and Dutch referenda confirmed that politics in the Union is now conducted "on the street," and that it is no longer possible to "construct" Europe at a distance and by stealth. This means that EU governments must respond to popular anxieties and make the Union more transparent and democratic.

This would be a lot easier with the Constitution in place, but there are measures

that can and should be adopted now to make that possible. First, the community budget should be structured so that it has a significant impact on growth and employment (a return to the voluntarism of the Delors Packages, now applied to the Lisbon Strategy).

Second, European governments must show a real commitment to act together. A key opportunity presents itself with the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration to define a common position to support democratic change in the Mediterranean by ceasing to back the political status quo there.

Finally, Council meetings should be open when legislative matters are at stake, so that citizens can know who voted for what and according to which criteria.

All of this can be decided at the next European Council, even before the constitutional problem is resolved. This kind of action is more likely to win back a skeptical citizenry than any information campaign, however well designed.

At the same time, it is necessary to solve the Constitutional deadlock. As already proposed by the Convention, this would mean separating constitutional matters *per se* from Union policy. The real innovations are found in Part I and II of the proposed Constitution, in the definition of the normative and political identity of the Union, its competences, the new institutional balance – including the creation of a European Minister of Foreign Affairs – and, last but not least, the introduction of a Bill of Rights.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

On professional
manners in
journalism

I never thought that newspapers should be turned into battlegrounds for people of differing views to unleash their complexes, biases and ingrained hatreds against what they perceive as their lifelong enemies. Yet, sometimes one cannot help notice that our newspapers have sometimes been profoundly misused to express the misguided notions perceived by some of our immature intellectuals who are still bogged down in ancient stereotyping and rejection of others. I have always wondered if these intellectuals are unable to find a more worthwhile cause that will advance the interests of their people and infuse our culture with enlightenment that will help advance the course of progress and development we wish our country to tread on.

Thus, this observer could not help but wonder why one of our colleagues decided to pursue his own hate agenda, while presumably criticizing the observations of another fellow journalist on the current Yemeni scene. Needless to say, Mr. Yahya Al-Olfi, who has sometimes written some interesting insights into our culture and society, was not truly adhering to sound professional journalistic practice by using derogatory statements against Jane Novak, the American journalist, a few issues back. Ms Novak has contributed many articles to the Yemen Times and lately sought to use her well researched knowledge on Yemen, acquired from her presence here for a couple of years, and from her keen follow up on developments in the country to contribute to the civil and human rights issue in Yemen. There is no argument against the right to differ in opinions or outlooks and what has recently occurred in Sa'ada and other developments that the media, both locally and internationally has been interested in covering about Yemen. But there is absolutely no excuse for using derogatory language in expressing views about fellow journalists, who may differ in their perception of the situation in Yemen, or about the issues that raised such derogatory criticism. For this, I think Jane Novak is due an apology from the YT, for allowing such derogatory language to be used on a good friend of the YT and I take the liberty of expressing the sincere apology for this editorial oversight. I realize that Jane has been allowed the right to respond to the article by Mr. Yahya Al-Olfi against Ms. Novak, but this observer is compelled to express an assurance that the opinions expressed by Mr. Olfi are purely his own and are not shared by the Editors of the Yemen Times. Our professional code entitles Ms Novak to get an official assurance that Ms. Novak continues to be accorded the highest respects by the Yemen Times. We, in the YT, emphasize that we are a forum for differing views to be expressed, but such views should never be allowed to cross the threshold of professional conduct and mutual respect for our colleagues in the field.

We look forward to continue to receive the contributions of Ms. Novak, as well as feedback by other journalists who may not be in agreement with her, but we will definitely take care to ensure that adherence to sound professional behavior and practice are the rule and not the exception.

I will not delve into the issues and points raised by Mr. Olfi, because the astute observer sees no merit in arguing for or against criticism that is based on engrained biases and stereotypes that do not reflect any intellectual maturity or objective assessment of the contents of Ms. Novak's observations.

All one can say is that we, in the Yemen Times, have a respect for different points of views and are ready to stand by those who earnestly believe that they have something worthwhile to point out to the world about the realities of the Yemeni situation. That is what Ms. Novak feels she is doing and we are convinced of the genuineness of her sincerity in this pursuit.

The part that was actually rejected and raises the most concerns among citizens of the member States is in Part III, which focuses on Union policies such as the Common Market, competition policy and the Common Agricultural Policy. So the first and second parts could be ratified without new negotiations and could form the basis for the new Treaty, so that the Treaty of Nice would still apply; and the debate on the European social model would continue.

It is essential to reaffirm the normative essence of the Constitutional Treaty to protect the greatest achievement of the Constitutional Convention. Diversity and inclusiveness, through the integration of European democracies with a common project, remains Europe's great gift to the world. It is what has made Europe an "international public good" to use former Brazilian foreign minister Celso Lafer's felicitous turn of phrase.

Such a Europe is better placed to contribute to a fairer international order than the narrow, bitter Europe the xenophobes have in mind. For Europe to remain a promise for the world, it must thrive as a public good for all its citizens. Europe and Europeans cannot wait for a new treaty to show that the Union is able to fulfill that promise.

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The ethics of “biosecurity”

By MARGARET SOMERVILLE

An ominous new word has crept into the life sciences and biomedical research: “biosecurity.” The term reflects a growing awareness that rapid developments in these fields offer the potential for great benefits, but that the knowledge, tools, and techniques that enable scientific advances also can be misused to cause deliberate harm.

Any effort to address this “dual use” dilemma must ultimately be international, since biotechnology research is a genuinely global enterprise. The international scientific community has a key role to play in ensuring that efforts to manage the risks improve security and strengthen international collaboration to ensure non-maleficent use of scientific advances.

Professor Ronald Atlas of the University of Louisville and I recently presented a proposed Code of Ethics for the Life Sciences in the journal *Science*. Our proposal what we need for a code and for its contents have both met with strongly conflicting views. The scientific community increasingly recognizes that science itself is not a value-free activity and, therefore, the choice of what research

to undertake and how to undertake it must be governed by ethical principles. But there is still a nucleus of scientists who oppose that concept, arguing that there must be no restrictions on the search for new knowledge, and that ethical principles only become relevant in the application of that knowledge.

In our *Science* article, we speculated on scientists’ reasons for holding such a view. But, as we noted, “even those who question the value of a code agree that research in the life sciences, including biodefense research, must be conducted in a safe and ethical manner.” Bodies speaking out publicly about this need include the General Assembly of the World Medical Association, the British Medical Association, the US National Research Council, the British Parliament, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders.

A code of ethics is needed because the power of science to result in harm, if it is not well governed, has grown vastly. Society has entrusted scientists and scientific institutions to show respect for life, in particular human life. Safeguards are needed to ensure fulfillment of that trust, in particular, to ensure that science is not used in the cause of bioterrorism or biowarfare.

A code of ethics offers several benefits. It would underscore the impor-

ance of ethics reviews of proposed scientific research and monitoring of ongoing research, especially research involving humans or animals as subjects. It can also establish a basic presumption of scientific openness and transparency, while allowing for exceptions when there is a real risk that scientific knowledge could be used to cause serious harm. Moreover, a code of ethics could help protect “whistle blowers” who bring ethical breaches to the attention of the relevant authorities or the public. Finally, it could allow for conscientious objection to participation in certain research. In short, a code can help to embed ethics in all aspects of scientific research from its inception.

Although no consensus has yet emerged on a code of ethics, there is wide agreement among scientists that a robust public health system is an essential safeguard against biological threats, whether intentional or unintentional. Security and public health concerns now overlap, whereas traditionally they had been separate areas that elicited different kinds of policy responses. Strengthening the response to naturally occurring infectious diseases or poisoning is needed to protect against the deliberate misuse of science to spread disease or poison. In short, promoting public health, biosafety, and biosecurity, on the one hand, and pro-

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America-delivered Iraqi government

Iraq

By Samer A.

tecting against bioterrorism, on the other, are linked, complementary activities.

But contemplating potential new bioweapons raises deeply worrying possibilities that return us to the problem of how to ensure ethics in scientific research. For instance, “synthetic biology” involves the creation of living material from its DNA components, so that we can re-engineer life in the manner of our choosing. The technology making this possible will most likely become common within the next two years at a substantially reduced cost. Safeguards such as a moratorium on such developments or registering the equipment needed to implement them

should be considered.

There are ancient taboos on the use of “poison or plague” as weapons or for warfare, and doing so has long been stigmatized in many cultures and prohibited by customary international law and international treaties. The taboo is the companion to the sacred: that which we regard as sacred we protect with taboos.

We have lost both concepts in relation to much conduct in our contemporary world, but we urgently need to re-find them in relation to the new possibilities opened up by the life sciences if we are to continue to respect all life, especially human life. The challenge is no less than to prevent the life sciences

from becoming the death sciences. That will require complex, multiple, varied, and integrated responses from a very wide variety of sources at individual, institutional, societal, and global levels.

Above all, it will require integrity, honesty, trust, courage, and sometimes restraint. This is no small order at the level of international relations and cooperation.

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Turkey, Europe and Middle-East security

By BÜLENT ARAS

Many factors contributed to the French and Dutch objections to the proposed EU Constitution. One – usually unstated – factor is a fear of Turkish membership in the Union. That membership drive, however, has already transformed Turkey.

In order to prepare for EU accession, Turkey has undertaken vast and serious legal, political, and economic reforms. Turkey’s bureaucrats, politicians, and citizens united to fulfill the Copenhagen criteria for EU membership and tolerated the pain of the IMF-directed structural-adjustment programs. The looming accession process will be even more painful, but Turkey’s people are firmly resolved to face this challenge.

Turkey’s transformation has already put an end to the Cold War-style security-state apparatus that ruled the country for half a century, and has changed the framework of the country’s domestic and foreign policy. By modernizing and democratizing at home, Turkey’s politicians gained self-confidence in their ability to conduct a successful regional policy. As a result, Turkey’s leaders are now willing to pursue active diplomacy in the Middle East in an effort to minimize problems with neighboring countries.

Of prime importance is the fact that Turkey is emerging as a role model for those across the Middle East who are seeking reform and modernization. This influence does not imply a hegemonic relationship, but rather points to an alternative path for reform and economic development that other primarily Muslim countries might take. The EU is associated with peace, democracy, and economic development, while the Middle East is characterized by instability, authoritarianism, and economic backwardness. Turkey’s reform process shows that the latter is not an unavoidable destiny for the countries of the region.

In this respect, Syria and Iran appreciate Turkey’s EU membership process. They consider a European Turkey an opportunity to develop their own relations with the EU. Turkey also shows that the supposed clash between democracy and security – and, indeed, between democracy and

Islam – can be reconciled. Other Muslim states seem to grasp this: recently, a Turk was chosen for the first time and by a majority vote to be Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Countries.

Turkey’s other major contribution comes through constructive diplomatic engagement in the region. The Turkish government has adopted an active role as a promoter of peace and has reconfigured its policies toward a number of regional problems.

For example, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan broke with tradition by displaying a critical attitude toward Israel’s more hawkish policies in the occupied territories, and did so without severing diplomatic relations with Israel. During a visit of Turkey’s Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul to Israel in early January, there was serious discussion about Turkey assuming a mediating role between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as in future Syrian-Israeli talks.

Turkey, of course, did not join the US-led occupation forces in Iraq, but it has put enormous effort into mobilizing regional support for a stable Iraqi state. Indeed, Turkish policymakers have, on a regular basis, brought the countries bordering Iraq together for discussions about the future of the region. The United Nations Security Council has taken these meetings seriously and has requested further regional cooperation on the Iraqi question.

Turkey’s constructive engagement with the EU creates a sense of trust in the West – among Western leaders at least, if not yet the general population – for its regional initiatives. Yet Turkey is also succeeding in keeping an equal distance between both the EU and the US. For example, Turkey is closer to the EU in its policies toward Iraq and Palestine, yet follows a line similar to that of the US in the Balkans and Cyprus.

In recent history, a variety of regional powers – the Shah’s Iran and Nasser’s Egypt – have arisen in the Middle East. Turkey’s arrival as a regional power is different in that its democratic structures make an active peacemaker, not a local bully.

This is both a necessary and a promising role, for the region needs a local dynamic force pushing for reform, transformation, and peace. Turkey’s experience shows that true security in the region requires internal stability

and social peace. With luck, this model can be exported throughout the Muslim world.

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By Mohammed
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Lack of management or resources?!

The latest festivals run in Hadramaut marking the 15th anniversary of the unification have certainly made me confident that our problem in Yemen is not lack of resources rather than lack of good management of the available resources as well as lack of the will to perform well. Hadramaut turned into a workshop; you could see people everywhere working day and night. It is amazing and everybody who visited Mukala was impressed by the work done.

The work went fine and Mukala was shown in its best shape on the 22nd of May. We also remember how the capital Sana’a was some years ago. Rubbish was everywhere; streets were covered by drains. The Mayor at that time was just relaxing and enjoying the abuse of his position. All people were fed up with him to the extent that they believed that we need a miracle to remove him and bring a new life into the city.

When Ahmed al-Kuhlani came to office, the Capital became completely different. The question for him was not lack of resources but how to be committed and willing to work. Therefore, he found the way easy.

I have become sure that corruption is really the major headache devouring all our resources; it is as the former country manager of the World Bank Robert Hundle described as “a pervasive problem.” I know that we have limited resources. However, those limited resources are not all what matters.

What matters is that we have corrupt crooks who are pocketing our money and are abusing the power they have. If we have honest and accountable people, these limited resources can do a lot and bring about good and fruitful results to the welfare of the suffering people. What is worse is that these resources which are already few are being mismanaged.

We can cite the example of Jordan or Oman. I know some people will say that corruption is a problem throughout all Arab countries. I know that but is not on the same scale as in Yemen. Jordan and Oman know well that they have limited resources but at the same time know how to handle and manage them properly.

I remember once Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf wrote that “thieves can never build nations.” This is completely true as we can build our country if we are honest and professional enough to manage our existing resources. This puts accountability as the main guard and pain killer for this headache. If corrupt officials are held accountable and punished severely, corruption scale can be controlled and the situation might have been completely different.

But, the state of unaccountability and lawlessness has legalized corruption which has become a daily routine that life can not go without. One has to bribe and pay in all government institutions to get things done. You have to pay at the court, traffic, school and wherever you go. This is crazy and unbearable, isn’t it?!

Policies on the run

Who cares about strategies and development policies in this country? Yemen has witnessed serious transitions and events that challenged policies and shaped the present. The people of Yemen think that it is time to do something serious to change the standby mode they are in, but what is that exactly?

Strategies and development plans are important, but they continue to be mocked by the people. The people are willing to bet that policies formulated by the government of whichever nature will not work, cannot work and will fail if they get started. They are only so sure because they have not been a part of the formulation of such policies.

Big broad documents are meaningless to the people, this is not because of the fact that a big percentage of the Yemenis are illiterate and cannot read them, it is because the years have proved that what is written in documents cannot translate easily into a language that the people know: Implementation.

It is also widely known that policies are often formulated by International Donors to fit International standards. Thus, a big part of what is written is shaped by a language that the people cannot understand, and new terms and conditions that overburdens the capacity of the Government to implement them.

In 2003, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation introduced the Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan for Yemen. The document received lots of criticism on both its quality and components from the International Community. Some questioned the importance of the document altogether. The main critique that surrounded the PRSP realised that a big chunk of the public knew nothing about it. Parliament, Ministries, along with the majority of the Civil Society Organisations had little knowledge of what the PRSP is.

To salvage the mistake, more programs were created to raise awareness of these plans, but the more people got aware of it, the less interested they

were. The lack of public participation in these plans has created little ownership and belief on the implementation of those policies. This is not a big surprise given that most of the content of the document was based on what needs to happen in Yemen rather than how it should be done.

The new PRSP will be launched soon, it has been developed on an MDG basis (Millennium Development Goals) and taking into consideration the Government’s National Development Plans. It is prepared in collaboration with all the interested counterparts in an attempt to evade the participation accusation and to make the content more reality based. There have been effective working groups discussing and formulating the content of this document. However, we are yet to see the reaction from the donors and the people.

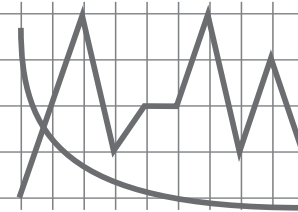
The emphasis on getting these development policies ‘just right’ is not a simple task, but it is a requirement set up by the major donor agencies. One should note that the main driver in igniting these policies, changing them and challenging them has been the International Donor Community in Yemen.

Because of this, donors have remained the sole power in executing, shaping, and questioning these policies. They were the only qualified entity in Yemen with leverage in changing those policies and channelling funds to support them. Civil Society, Parliament and other Ministries have a little role in carefully examining, funding or participating in these policies.

Development Policies are tools for implementing long-term development, but they are not the objective itself. It seems that in Yemen the policies seem to stop at a certain line. There is lots of time and effort spent to produce strategies, time and effort to make them look just right, but little investment in making them work.

The real ownership of such plans is in the hands of those who can make it work. It is about time to start communicating with the people and empowering them to have a role in shaping the future of their country.

YT Business



A Historical Glimpse at

The facts of foreign investments and financing in the Republic of Yemen (Prat 1)

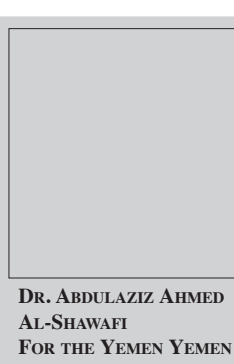
The foreign investment at its outset was connected with the emergence and development of international trade. The emergence of multi national companies, have contributed to the spread and enlargement of its rate. States have made use of the foreign capital –variably, to modernize and develop its productive facilities and other national components, where foreign investment shares in stimulating economic activity due to the financing, technology and production procedures it provides. Also, the practices in management, training and marketing tend to add to the abilities of the hosting economy..... it also creates new jobs and widens the capacity of exports .

The most important restrictions of direct foreign investment are the factors that affect the foreign multi national companies in obtaining successful lucrative processes. Among these factors :

- The size and development of the hosting country (which mainly depends on the holistic performance of economy, specially the development of national income and the real per capita)
- Access to international and regional markets from the country hosting the investment.
- Availability of human recourses, especially the cheap highly skillful labor.
- Technological capabilities and creative abilities.
- Availability of natural recourses and the type of infra structure

Other important restrictions of direct foreign investment are:

- Political stability in the country
- The efficient policies that motivate tendency to industrilization (general and qualitative)
- Trade and the activity of the companies in general, whether local or international, as well as the structural establishments for application.



DR. ABDULAZIZ AHMED
AL-SHAWAFI
FOR THE YEMEN YEMEN

Also the availability of strong bases for long term development, that is to say high rate of domestic savings added to human recourses compatible technological flexible skills, with research centers in all establishments and specializations.

These support the economical bases of the hosting countries. They are considered the important bases that should be taken care of specially in the Arab countries that suffer from the burden of foreign debts, besides the weak infra structures. The process of attracting, maintaining or increasing the influx of direct foreign investments into the hosting country can help in healing up the ailing economy of the hosting countries

However there should be precautions of the influxes of the foreign investments, because of their commendable effects on methods of administration and production, as it enables easy access to foreign financing (loans and aids). Though this is a good thing for enhancing economical activity, it should also be accompanied by an increase in domestic savings to deepen the role of the markets and the increase of the chances of directing the economical recourses internally and externally to productive investments. It is also necessary to take precautionary measures concerning the extreme defects of current accounts to avoid inflation and instability that could result from the large amount of influx of incoming and outgoing foreign capital.

The relation with the multi national companies increased in the Arab countries in the last two decades. Ofcourse this is due to the immense increase in oil production. This led to a big leap in the amount of investments namely in infra structures. These countries depended almost completely on this companies to carry out a great part of the investments owing to the technical abilities these companies possess. This has a

connection with the boom of activity of the consultancy engineering offices and international banks, that have strong ties with these companies. The importance of the Arab area increased because of the large amount of profits these companies have achieved in the area. Added to that is the big capacity of consumption of the Arab markets for the commodities these companies produce. Other attractions for these companies are (natural resources, geographical positions, cheap labor). The exact amount of these investments are not exactly known, but no doubt it is very immense

The experience of the last three decades with these companies was not free from exploitation, and unbalanced chances. There were flaws in the projects and works which they executed. This is because of the technical methods that they followed. These methods ignored the environmental, natural and local labor's skills. It was also noticed that, these companies were insistent to sell ready technologies to Arab countries whose construction, operation and setting in operation depends totally on these companies. This guarantees entire dependence on these companies. It is a regrettable matter that these countries made no efforts of supervision on these companies, unlike many of the other developing countries.

This could have improved the terms of treatment with these companies. This is going to be the subject of our discourse in this study.

The foreign investments used to have a position in Yemen before the unity in 1990. The refinery in Aden has lured British and international investments. It also attracted financial projects, sea transport and trade. The semi socialist regime's measures of nationalizations of 1969 for French, American, Indian, Pakistani and Jordanian transport and trade projects and insurance added to that, the closer of Sues canal. All these led to repulsion of investors from Aden. Since the beginning of the Democratic Socialist republic of south Yemen, the foreign capital contracted.

The organisers began to speak of foreign capital as a recourse for development, a few of the Arabic,

The rate of general debts according to Donors to the Yemen Arab Republic & southern people democratic Yemen Republic during the seventies and eighties

Multi Recourses	Arab Yemen Republic	Southern People Democratic Yemen Republic
International Development Agency	12%	8%
United Nation	1%	2%
Arab and Islamic countries(OPEC)	11%	10%
Mutual recourses	---	---
Arab countries	20%	
NATO &European Countries	2%	12%
Japan	4%	2%
Soviet Union	45%	46%
Other Warsaw Countries	1%	10%
China	3%	9%
Total	99%	99%

Asian and European projects came. Contrary to that, the planners in the northern Arab Republic of Yemen welcomed foreign capital. The liberal Arabian policies attracted foreign capital in limited areas where most of the foreign projects invested their capital in these areas. Up to that time the foreign financing remained to be the recourse for investment capital (loans and aids) in the structure of social, agricultural and social services, where both parts of Yemen were "a basket" in the eyes of donors due to low income. In spite of the different dates of the commencement of foreign financing, the over all model remains the same. (see the table)

The dependence at the beginning was on Britain and the Soviet Union. It is only very late that the Southern Yemen socialist republic began to vary its sources of financing. Before independence Britain used to cover two thirds of the budget, so its withdrawal would lead to the bankruptcy of the new state.

The west and the radical Arabic regimes boycotted the socialist Aden for a decade. The Soviet Union and its

allies like china and the extreme Arab regimes became the major source of aids. The multi national and international agencies of the International development body cooperated with Aden and introduced capital for financing the semi socialist economy of the Southern People Democratic Yemen.

Since the sixties the major powers began their competitions in financing the projects, but the Arabian oil countries were the major donors in the seventies. The International Development Agency has played a major role in the economical policy. The economical aids reached their peak in 1981 but it dropped to half of that in 1985, and less than 100million dollars in 1988. Both of the states then depended on the same list of debtors and donors who became less enthusiastic to finance bigger projects. The aids were confined to limited technical aid programs, by the United Nation or the donors, or those smaller gifts of the rich Gulf countries.

As the basic frames of the projects were the base stone for developmental investment in Yemen, the general

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	192.5400	192.8000
Sterling Pound	353.3100	353.7900
Euro	236.9300	237.2500
Saudi Rial	51.3400	51.4100
Kuwaiti Dinar	659.3400	660.2300
UAE Dirhem	52.4200	52.4900
Egyptian Pound	33.2000	33.2400
Bahraini Dinar	510.7200	511.4100
Qatari Rial	52.9200	52.9900
Jordanian Dinar	271.7800	272.1400
Omani Rial	500.1200	500.7900
Swiss Franc	154.5700	154.7800
Swedish Crown	25.8900	25.9200
Japanese Yen	1.8053	1.8078

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

projects were the subject of the support of the Socialists and others through debts or bilateral projects. China and East Germany made cement, textile milling and bakeries in the Arab Republic of Yemen. The fishery establishment in the South received aid from the Soviet Union and the International Development Agency Denmark and Kuwait.

The International Financing Agency supported the battery factory in Northern Yemen . The dual financing agencies constructed joint projects like the Iraqi – Democratic Yemen fishery, the Soviet – Democratic companies. The Saudi Yemeni Airlines company, the Chinese Yemeni company for engineering and contracting between Arab Republic of Yemen and China. In 1985, the Yemen Arab republic and the South Yemen Arab Democratic Republic of Yemen made a joint tourist company and agreed on joint corporation in the field of fruits, poultry and fishing. The nature of investment in agriculture was low, taking in consideration the low level in private and cooperative investments.

The overall development was the strategy of the western countries to supply the rural regions with roads facilities and social services in addition to model farms and directing projects. The most prominent development projects in Yemen were after the model of the World bank for regional development

Such procedures were introduced in the Northern areas which were the most suitable for cash crops, like the semi equatorial Tehama and the temperate southern high lands. In spite of the slow progress towards construction, the same method was applied to cover from 50% to 70% of the populated areas in Yemen.

The biggest rural integral project for example, is that of Wadi Hadramout of the multi foreign financing, since the seventies. It concentrated on road construction artisan well construction studies, in addition to financing a number of cooperative societies with fertilizers .and pesticides. The second project of the foreign multi financing, which is on going since the sixties, is the Tehama Developing Authority.

Cleaning up economic growth

By JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has promised that the G-8 meeting on July 6-8 at Gleneagles, Scotland, which he will chair, will focus on two of the most important and longstanding global problems—Third-World poverty and global warming.

For a long time, these two issues seemed to be at odds. The developing world understandably does not want to sacrifice its growth for a global public good, especially when the United States, the richest country in the world, seems unwilling to sacrifice even a little of its luxurious life style.

Led by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica, a group of developing countries, a new rainforest coalition has now come forward with an innovative proposal, not only offering to commit to greenhouse-gas limits, but also showing how this can be done in a way that will promote their development.

Developing countries have long provided a vital global public good:

maintaining global environmental assets. Their rainforests are a vast storehouse of biodiversity, and forests are major carbon sinks, reducing the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

I served on the International Panel for Climate Change in the mid-1990's, reviewing the scientific evidence concerning the magnitude of increases in greenhouse gasses and their economic and social consequences. At the time, there was already overwhelming evidence of a serious problem that needed to be addressed, and data since then – concerning, for example, the rapid melting of the polar ice cap – have strongly reinforced this conclusion. About a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions are from land-use change, mainly deforestation, an amount comparable to US emissions from burning fossil fuels (the US is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.)

By maintaining their rainforests, tropical countries provide an invaluable global service, one for which they have so far failed to be compensated. But, especially after the

signing of the Kyoto protocol, we can value at least part of these environmental services: carbon sequestration (that is, if they did not maintain their forests, the level of carbon concentrations in the atmosphere would be enormously higher).

The Kyoto Protocol has generated new markets for trading carbon emissions, such as the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). At current carbon prices, the value of carbon sequestration by tropical rainforests likely equals or exceeds the current level of international aid being provided to developing countries. In effect, the poor are aiding the rich.

Biodiversity and climatic stability are global public goods. The benefits of conservation to the world as a whole far exceed the value of exploitation to a country like Papua New Guinea (PNG). The PNG government would like to do the right thing, to maintain its natural capital for future generations. But officials there believe that that they have currently no choice.

A huge mistake was made (for a

variety of reasons) at Kyoto. While countries can be compensated for planting forests, they cannot be compensated for avoiding deforestation. Countries like PNG would thus be doubly better off if they cut down their ancient hardwood trees and replanted. But this makes no sense economically or socially. These countries should be given incentives to maintain their forests. (There are, as always, technical issues to be resolved, concerning monitoring and measurement, but these can be overcome easily with modern technologies.) At the very least, markets like ETS should credit emissions reductions that result from limiting deforestation.

Without such a program, unfortunately, developing countries have neither the means nor incentives to underwrite conservation. There are some 2.7 billion people in over 60 developing countries that are home to the world's tropical forests. Cutting down the hardwood forests – even when they presently receive just 5% of the final price in, say, New York – is the only way people can make ends

meet.

Some have suggested waiting to address this issue until 2012, when a revised protocol is supposed to come into effect. But, can we wait? At current rates of deforestation, the combined contributions to greenhouse gas concentrations from Brazil and Indonesia alone would offset nearly 80% of the emission reductions gained from the Kyoto protocol.

What is so impressive about the new rainforest initiative is that it comes from the developing countries themselves; it represents their creativity and social commitment. For the first time, developing countries seem willing to undertake the kinds of commitments that Europe, Japan, and the other advanced industrial countries (except the US) have made to avoid what could be a global disaster.

Costa Rica, for example, has already shown that a system of paying for the provision of environmental services (like maintaining natural forests) can work in ways that preserve the environment and boost the economy.

Compensating the developing countries for providing these

environmental services would be one way of substantially increasing aid – and at the same time, providing these countries with the right market incentives. From a global point of view, the best use of these resources is to maintain the forests, which is even possible with managed cutting.

This is an initiative around which all countries can and should rally. In a world divided – between rich countries and the poor, between those focusing on environmental protection and those concentrating on growth – this initiative can unite us all. The G-8 leaders should heed the call.

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

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Presenting... skilled hands designing hearts

By IRENA KNEHTL
FOR THE YEMEE TIMES

Yemen is taking steps to collect and document its traditional heritage, the handcrafts. The Yemeni TV has an on going documentary series on handcrafts in order to preserve the culture they represent. This Yemeni TV documentary series won gold medal at the Cairo Film festival.

In the course of last two years, the Yemeni TV assembled, documented and organized a large collection of traditional crafts into - so far - in 30 documentary films, 5-7 minutes each long. The series has been researched, presented and directed by Samira Abdo Ali. They won Samira and the Yemeni TV gold medal at the Cairo film festival. Parts of the series were also shown on the Egyptian TV during the main evening programme. Samira is Yemens first female Cinema and TV Director holding a Masters degree from the prestigious Moscow Film Academy and a Doctorate due to be completed at Cairo University. She is also one of the finest Yemeni female artists.

Stirring Up Beauty

Yemeni traditional culture produces woven, wooden, leather and metal objects whose beauty sprang from their every day usefulness and the tastes of their makes. The aim here is to preserve some of the most beautiful achievements, which reflect vividly the artistic traditions of Yemen, high technical and esthetic quality in which artwork and artifact are one.

This revival of interest is developing just in time, in order to preserve the culture they represent. They also

represent a vital role in the welfare of the family and a tangible link with the heritage of the Yemeni people. With certain places, regional and tribal identifications, and ultimately with their skilled hands and designing instinct who made them. Of pattern, symbols and colors, their lovingly worked articles. A symbol, unconscious though it may be, of the importance of their lives and the society as whole.

Through various cultures and political systems of the world, the well has served as a universal symbol for that which sustains life and provides a constant, inexhaustible source of nourishment. For the life - force. Like the well, human nature is the same around the world. The passage of time cannot add to its essential dimensions, nor take anything away. Still, just as well can be deepened to produce clearer, cleaner water, so can we enrich our lives by delving deeply in our essential nature.

The text is beautifully narrated by Maha AlBuraihi. The potters, the weavers, the silver smiths, the boat builder of Yemen, glittering strands of super-fine metal thread and elaborate silver patterns. The boat builders at the Yemeni coast now use nail instead of string, their building methods have otherwise changed little since the days the Yemenis dominated the Indian Ocean supreme.

The craftsmanship is the key to recalling and understanding the old ways, and also the key to the future. Well researched, beautifully presented and directed documentary series on Yemeni crafts by Samira Abdo Ali and produced by Yemeni TV, is also an excellent promotion for Yemen. It should be made available to non-Arabic speaking audience and in the book form.

Sana'a endowment lands:

Historical documents, IRUHIDWKHBYWane role

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Introduction:

The Capital City of Sana'a and the Province of Sana'a is one of the areas in which a large portion of endowed lands are located. About two thirds of agricultural land in Sana'a have been endowed for hundreds of years and passed on from fathers to children. But first of all we should know what endowment means: it is to endow a piece of agricultural or service land part of whose income is spent on charitable activities for which the endowment was made. The Zaidi Imamate governance regime was depending on the collection of such endowments and depositing them in the public treasury of Muslims. However, today there is a specific ministry that is concerned with the issues of endowment and guidance.

Although the endowed lands have been blundered and forcefully possessed after the Yemeni Revolution up until the present day, there are certain large stretches of land that are still endowed. Much of these lands are in the custody of citizens who get them for benefit in return of their efforts. The other part of lands' production is levied by the State. Dwelling units also pay annual fees to the Ministry of Endowments.

Types of endowments in Yemen:

Revising endowment registers dating back to hundreds of years ago, one realizes that Yemeni forefathers, even under the reign of Ottomans and Turks, magnificently exemplified social cooperation and solidarity. There is mosque

endowment. The revenues of this type of lands are dedicated to mosques.

Another type of endowment is called "pedigree endowment" which means that certain endowed premises have their revenues dedicated to the offspring of a particular person. This type of endowment could be cancelled through certain legal procedures.

There are also "public endowments" which cannot be dispensed only when required fees are paid. Old people warned of dispensing such lands and endowers used to write in their endowment instruments the following: "May Allah curse the person who sells or buys this endowment." Such documents are still kept at the Ministry of Endowments. This reflects the cultural of social cooperation which prompted the Yemeni people to dedicate their lands for charities.

Other premises were endowed for treating the sick or feeding the poor. Other sorts of endowment was concerned with providing shelter, and taking care of the disabled. People also endowed for the "path", that is, endowing premises whose revenues are to be used to upgrade and maintain roads and paths.

Our fathers took care of animals before the West did. This is found in endowments made for Mecca's doves, and sick animals. This indicates that endowments, even in the past, were concerned with more than worship places.

Sana'a: counting and blundering ended lands:

As I said above, Sana'a is one of the richest provinces in endowment lands. The area of endowed lands, save those

in the Capital City, was estimated at 54 million square meters, most of which are agricultural lands.

Saleh Ali Khamis, Director of Sana'a Endowment Office, said that endowed lands are subject to blunder.

"About 394 endowments with a total area of 6.063 million meters are examined by courts. Some 54,699,423 square meters of endowed lands have been registered. About 10,0350 endowment documents have been sort out, and classified. Of them, 800 documents were kept at the Office and the rest were recovered from other people. About 10,350 endowed premises on registration lists were evicted."

He added that the Office is going to set up a thorough database and statistics about the lands and possessions, and their instruments.

Endowment documents in English and Turkish:

The Ministry of Endowment possesses documents dating back to hundreds of years. Most of them are written in Turkish from the time when the Turks were ruling the northern part of Yemen. There are also other documents written in English as a legacy from the time of the British Colonization. Currently, these documents are being registered and translated.

Endowments and calculating the fifth:

According to the Zaidi sect, one fifth of the revenues from the endowed premises is to be given to the State. This system is the one used with most endowed lands in the province. A custodian of an endowment gives one fifth

to the State and retains the rest as wages in return of their labor. The one fifth is levied by the Endowment Office representative in the village or district. Despite the huge area of endowed lands, the Ministry of Endowment's treasury does not get big revenues. Saleh Khamis says that 2004 endowment revenues reached only YR 19.9 million which is a small figure.

He attributes this to the fact that a considerable portion of the revenues is spent by custodians without referring to the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance or having reference vouchers. "There are mosques with high-profit endowments. We want to know the average revenue of each mosque's endowed premises in order to invest the surplus in covering the expenses of disadvantaged mosques."

Conclusion:

Many endowments are blundered in Sana'a especially in the Capital City. Yet the strong-worded invocations written by endowers on the instruments cursing dispensers of endowments have led some custodians to feel pricks of conscience and admit to the virtual revenues. Sana'a holds a major part of endowments most of which are in the custody of Hashimis (related to the family of Prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him) especially in the Capital Secretariat. It is among the top Islamic cities in the volume of endowed premises which can yield large amounts of revenues to be well invested in endowment-related fields. Of course, the Ministry of Endowment has taken effective steps so far to protect and preserve endowments but there is much to do.

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

Viewpoints and Positions (1/2)

Undoubtedly, Islam has returned to play a pivotal role in the political arena of this region, in particular and to influence the political arenas even outside the Moslem World. Whether one views this as positive or negative depends on many factors, but nevertheless it is an inevitable phenomenon that needs to be analyzed objectively and constructively to determine if indeed there is health and hope in finding religion back into the mainstream of political life in a world that has, for all intents and purposes, thought that religion will take a backseat in the lives of modern civilization. Needless to say the phenomenon has also not altogether disappeared in the bastions of Western Civilization and indeed the leading role player in the international arena has decided to embark on a not so clear religious platform of fundamentalist Christianity triggered by an upsurge in evangelical extremism, the bounds of which have yet to be clearly drawn.

In the Islamic World, the periods of colonialism and imperialism were important determinants in tightening the reigns on religious political activism and the colonialists did all that was possible to prevent any serious political institutionalism of Islam in the areas that succumbed to colonialist rule. Yet, it should never be forgotten that in most of the Islamic "countries", where colonialism prevailed, the movements for independence were almost always triggered by Islamic religious leaders, who still hailed from traditional Islamic thought and culture and it was evident in these movements that Islam was still a very strong mobilizer of mass revolt against evil status quos or exploitative international regimes driven by greedy military industrial complexes and rapidly advancing war machines.

This aura also led to the development of more militant and extreme renditions of Islam that were not necessarily radical or revolutionary, but rather sought to project Islam as a static and even reactionary yearning for the establishment of a crude Islamic order that could not adapt to the rapid changes and developments the human experience has belatedly produced in the material and social sciences. The Taliban Movement in Afghanistan and the extremist Salafi Movements elsewhere are a reflection of this latter trend in its most extreme renditions.

The scholar and Islamic jurisdictional expert, H. E. Mr. Ahmed Yahya Al-Shami may be little known outside of Yemen, but is one of the most enlightened Islamic scholars of Yemen, with a very clear perception as to how religion should take part in the political life of people. He is a product of a wide scope religious academic upbringing that exposed the scholar to many different sectarian renditions of Islam, although he is strongly regarded as a reflection of the Zeidi school of Shiite Islam.

Furthermore, he does not hide his interest in the political role that Islam can constructively play in activating people politically and views political involvement as a prerequisite to sound religious adherence and a responsibility imposed on all faithful Moslems. Yet, he insists that this should not mean the imposition of Islamic political philosophy on the society, relying on the Quranic verse: "Let there be no compulsion in religion; rational consciousness has become clearly distinct from faulty thought" (The Holy Qur'an, Surat Al-Baqara, II/Verse 256). Accordingly, in this excellent book on the collected thoughts, statements and interviews of the author, during the period 1990-1994, one can see how Mr. Al-Shami has conjured up an enlightened political philosophy that sees Islam as a force of reason, not extremism; a philosophy of peace and not violence and radical militarism; social interaction not religious, sectarian or factional strife; and more important, cultural enhancement and not rejection of the strides that humanity has made in the different scientific and social fields.

What prompted the inclusion of this interesting book on enlightened Islamic political activism is the recent apparently uncalled for violence that has erupted in the Northern Governorate of Sa'ada and the mistaken allegations, sometimes officially endorsed, that the Al-Haq Party (or Party of Truth) founded by Mr. Al-Shami is the instigator of the violence there.

Some background information:

Modern religious activism in Yemen started in the Early 1970s, when the fundamentalist Salafi school was allowed to establish "Qur'anic teaching schools" throughout the country. Funded by external Wahhabi and Salafi institutional support, as well as budgeted allocations from the Government budget, this movement rapidly was able to implant roots in many areas of Yemen. Thus by the time of the unification of both the former Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) in May 1990, this movement has developed a strong grass roots base and an equally strong political momentum. However, with the unification of Yemen, came the introduction of democracy, which included the adoption of political pluralism. The Salafi establishment in Yemen, like all the socio-political movements in Yemen openly declared itself a bona fide active political movement that openly sought to have its niche in the political structure that was to evolve in the unified state firmly established. The bountiful resources were there and the many years of nurturing of a grass roots constituency indeed has made the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) a party to be reckoned with. However, the Islamic dogma adopted by the Islah and the various Salafi images it took on (from extreme to relatively cognitive political coexistence, as the political environment would dictate) drove many others to seek religious political associations that presented a distinct alternative to the less transparent political agenda of the Salafi Movement, and to preserve the general tolerant coexistence that has existed in Yemen between the different sects found in the country for centuries. With the opportunity provided by the adoption of political pluralism, other religious inclinations sought to also establish their presence in the political arena. Mr. Al-Shami, a renowned Islamic scholar, with a long record of honest and effective service in the judicial bench had an understanding of this need to introduce a more enlightened rendition of Islamic political thought and thus project Islam as a dynamic political philosophy that can keep pace with the modern strides in civilized social, political and religious interaction in society. With the support of many of the traditional Islamic scholastic informal orders that still managed to have their strong influence within Yemeni society, and which also are recognized, to a certain extent, by the Government as having important political influence, Mr. Al-Shami introduced his political party into the political arena. Within a relatively short period and relying on autonomous local modest financing sources, the Party of Truth was able to develop a strong organizational framework and to entice many young people to seek their religious fulfillment through a different institutional framework than that which was solely provided by the Salafis.

This success was not to be greeted with enthusiasm by the rival Salafi alternative and to a certain degree by the Government, which regards the former as a strategic ally, and the Al-Haq Party was as much as possible marginalized and taken to be as a force that needs to be confined.

Next week, we will go deep into the thoughts of this remarkable religious and political leader and see if indeed the political philosophies of Mr. Al-Shami and his enlightened institutional approach to the political activism deserves the criticism recently directed against it.

Safe motherhood strategy**Is on the way**

BY: FAHMIA AL-FOTIH

The UN report has mentioned that the daily maternal mortality in Yemen is about 1400 ladies among 100,000 while the national report states that only 375 ladies die among 100,000. Despite the contradiction between the two reports the case is very serious and Yemeni women face death everyday. Amidst the absence of precise and accurate statistics about the maternal mortality in Yemen, Yemeni Family Care Association has conducted a project regarding this field.

Funding by the British Community Fund, the Yemeni Family Care Association (YFCA), a member of International Parenthood Planning Federation-Arab region, concluded a workshop on Thursday entitled "Develop strategies to overcome the obstacles that face the safe motherhood and reproductive health" that is within the project of safe motherhood. A team consisting of 21, represented their local areas conducting the study in 21 areas and districts in Amran and Sana'a to find out the obstacles that safe motherhood and reproductive health have been facing.

Dr. Himyar Abdul-Moghni, the project coordinator, talked about the workshop and its importance "We have started this work with a preliminary workshop in which we identified 21 researchers from the areas of the safe motherhood project that is in Sana'a, Amran and parts from the capital secretariat. We have trained this number of researchers to help us carry out a field study in their areas and gather the information directly through which they can find out the main problems and obstacles that mothers face to get the reproductive and medical services. We have started since 25 May. They have collected the information and now we analyze the information aiming to develop a strategy to reach a specific plan to solve these problems. Today we have come up with a clear vision that we have realized that the size of problems are huge and immediately try to find active solutions. The project is applied on sample but if it goes successfully it will be applied and generalized. This project is stated for 5 years and its funding is temporary. However, the project will continue and expand to other areas. The idea of the project is to give a successful example to solve the problems in the safe motherhood field. We have the help of the international expert Ms. Samia Addada who supervised this study.

About the main problems the team found, he said "The project has covered the rural areas that are near to Sana'a City and we found different obstacles. So we are wondering about the problems that could be found in remote areas. Poverty

Dr. Himyar with Ms. Samia head the discussion

is one of the main obstacles that face the Yemeni family as they cannot afford the cost of delivering, reproductive health and transferring the mother to the nearest hospital. Although we talk about areas near the capital, we have found that transportation is not easy besides the lack for first-aid services. The workers in the health field have no protocol or obligation for human rights, particularly towards the patient. Maltreatment is very common in the hospitals and medical centers by the service providers as patients complain from maltreatment, beating and indifference. There are some problems that result from wrong traditional and religious concepts such as the man who doesn't allow his wife to go to the hospital or medical center, as it is against religion or that using family planning is forbidden. The role of the media should be increased in this field and raise awareness among the people about the importance of mothers' health, family planning and other health issues.

Safe motherhood project is one of the means that cares and focuses on reducing the mortalities among mothers and one of our goals are to lessen the number of mortalities among mothers by 10% through the project period and increase the usage of family planning means by 20% as well. We previously carried out a study to know the level of medical services, then we started. We found that illiteracy is very high and the economic level is very weak.

This workshop is one of many activities that YFCA have carried out. We have begun to solve these problems by building 6 medical units in the project areas and repairing and furnishing other 10 units out of the project scope. When there is qualified and furnished center along with midwives, it will help a lot.

We have adopted the national committee for safe motherhood in Yemen which cares about safe motherhood issues as well developing policies and strategies."

Samah Lutf AL-Snani, socialist in the project, commented "Fist, we have chosen the researchers from the rural areas as they can easily and transparently

have contact with the people there without any conservation or fear. Most of the researchers are midwives. We involve men in this study, as safe motherhood issue concerns the man and women equally. We have found that the husband has no understanding for family planning means for false concepts. The results clarified the common impediments that hinder the safe motherhood in rural areas, such as the distance between the village and the medical center, poverty, and lack of awareness about the necessity of hastily giving the medical help for the mother. On contrary, they prefer to use the traditional ways in helping the mother that exposes her life to death rather than going the doctor.

Ms. Samia Addada, international expert, talked about this project "This study was done to basically make community assessments of obstacles to safe motherhood, reproductive health, services and rights. Mainly the strategy was to select community group members from the areas of project and train them on safe motherhood, productive health and train them on data collection. The community group members are responsible for conducting 42 discussions with men and women in their residential villages or districts where they live. 42 focusing discussions were held in addition to interviews with decision-makers and service providers like, maternity clinics, productive health clinics, mobile clinics, and midwives in communities.

This training course is designed to find solutions for the problems that were identified during the data collection and develop strategies to overcome these problems.

The problems mainly centralizes on lack of transportation, distance to the nearest medical center, lack of money, illiteracy and the lack of knowledge on the importance of caring for woman during prenatal care, postnatal care and post abortion care.

The safe motherhood will be able to implement for one year and try to reduce maternal mortality and increase health standards in the project areas at least".

Blood transfusion services**Blood banks and its importance**

BY MONA AL-ZLB

Blood is a vital fluid and referred to as "the river of life". Sometimes blood donation from a healthy person to a sick or wounded person may save the live of this patient or wounded from certain death.

In the past many doctors have attempted many times to transfer blood from one human to another, but those attempts were unsuccessful because of blood incompatibility. With the discovery of the major blood types by the pathologist Karl Landsteiner, and the discovery of the item that prevents blood thrombosis, blood transfusion became routinely successful.

Due to the importance of blood transfusion for patients and the wounded, particularly in war, many governments and authorities are interested in constructing blood banks, where blood is collected, stored and distributed in cases of need. For example blood can be used to save people suffering anemia, bleeding, child-births that involve great loss of blood, and some cases of cancers. Blood derivatives like plasma can be used to recover patients that undergo burns and psychological shocks.

Therefore, blood bank is considered a main part of medical labs. It accomplishes many tasks such as:

- Collecting the blood from donors. Taking in consideration the concept of safety for both the volunteers and the received patients. The donor must be 18 years old and above. The weight is not less than 50 Kg for males, and above 45 Kg for females. The donors must have undergone many tests such as Hb, Pcv.
- The doctor, who supervises the process of blood transfusion, must be informed about the medical history of the donor, since there are temporary objections and lasting objections. The temporary objections includes fever diseases (any person's temperature more than 37 C is refused) and bilharzias. Lasting objections are cancer, hepatitis, AIDS, diabetes, and epilepsy .etc.

- Testing the taken blood for example blood grouping, phesus factors, HBsAG, HCV,VDRL, Malaria.

- Storing the blood for a specific time and separating the blood's components that are platelets, RBC, WBC, Plasma

- Preparing and keeping clotting factors
- Preparing lab reagents

- Preparing some tests for some newborns, pregnant women and tests related to blood groups for crime cases and forensic medicine

- Making exchange compatibility tests on patient's blood and donor's blood.

- Blood bank is considered a healthy center that spread out health awareness and health education between the public.

From a technical point of view, blood banks must acquire management and clinic, rooms specified for the blood donation. These rooms must be supplied with comfortable furniture like chairs, beds, air-conditioner in the summer, and heater in the winter. The donors must be given liquids after donation to repair the losing blood.

The technicians must be qualified enough and have knowledge to deal with any emergency. Beside that, statistics section is very important in any blood bank to provide information and data about the patients and donors that help to achieve studies and searches in this field.

It's difficult to manufacture human blood, volunteers are the only source of supply to blood banks, therefore blood banks must have specific sections to take care of the donors after and before blood transfusion.

Safety and securities are very important through blood transfusion. Therefore blood cannot be transfused after storing for a long term because of

the different interactions in the red cells which lead to the death of the patient.

There are many advantages of blood donation. For example the centers that produce red cells become more active to remedy the losing blood and produce new active red cells and that leads to producing energy to all organs of the body.

Due to the importance of blood transfusion, ministry of health paid attention to the diagnostic lab services and the services of blood transfusion particularly in the Central Medical Lab and Blood Bank. In the beginning of 90s there were huge efforts to insure about blood safety and control the quality of blood transfusion services. In 2000, the first national workshop was held to put strategy to separate blood transfusion services from lab diagnostic lab. That led to issue ministerial sentence to separate blood banks and assigned Dr. Arwa Awan to be general director of blood banks.

In March, 2005, many training courses have been given to the cadres in blood banks.

These courses were held up by Italia that represented European Union. The cadre, which consisted of 12 trainers from Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, and Hodida, were trained to control the quality in blood banks to isolate blood components and deal with medical equipments in this field such as IDgl and ELISA. In this context many blood banks were provided by medical equipments such as blood bank in Al-Gumhory Hospital, to separate blood components and help to apply modern searches and studies.

In spite of that, in Yemen, blood banks are undergoing constant shortage in stored blood. Voluntary donation is rare, the number of volunteers reaches about 24 volunteers yearly in a medical center. Mostly one of relatives of the patient donates by his blood. According to the statistics of the Bank of the Central Lab the blood donors were 3166 donors in 2004. Whereas in the bank of Al-Gumhory Hospital, there were 3212 donors in 2004. In my opinion there is a lack of awareness among the citizens about the importance of blood donation. It is important that the involved authorities arrange national and medical campaigns to enlighten the citizens about the importance of blood donation.

Fight smocking biologically

BY DR. OMER AL GAWAY

Nicotine reaches the brain through cigarette smocking faster than any thing that may enter the body. It's affect is stronger than the affect of cocaine, which satisfies the smoker quickly and control

the doses that he or she needs.

According to that, there are two features in smocking: the quickness and control.

These features promote the addictive effect of nicotine on the brain. Some said "the matter is not related only to the drug but also to the way of taking this drug". The smock of cigarette makes the nicotine reaching the lung alveolus. That is it rises to the brain in seconds without circling in the veins. The nicotine imitates in its function the function of the "ACETYLCHOLINE" since it fuses with the "receptors". In addition it activates sub-group from 'Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors', NACR

Nicotine affect on the brain is the same way of cocaine, opium and AMVITAMINES, to the extent that it becomes difficult to define which drug is more addictive.

Animals can be trained to have nicotine as well as all kind of drugs. Although there is strong possibility that cocaine kills those animals, as the animals that have doses of nicotine may die as well.

However the addiction of smocking is a trap, as soon as a person is trapped, he or she becomes more tenacious of cigarettes. When researchers asked groups of addicts about which drugs they found most difficult to give up, their answer was mostly "nicotine"

Addiction biology

When nicotine arrives to the brain, it quickly creates this cool feeling by activating areas in the brain called "Coordination", besides memory and learning areas.

Nicotine motives NACR in VTA area, from which it is subdivided into stretches that reach the "CLOSTUAL NUCLEUS", the active receptors deliver "Dopamine" which is acetylcholine tided with the feelings of addiction and pleasure. Besides that, nicotine keeps the "dopamine" in its high level by decreasing enzymes like "MONO-AMINO OXYDAIZE B" that fritters dopamine, or by increasing the level of

Dr. Omer Al Gaway

"Natic Oxide" which restrains the process of re-absorbing dopamine. Nicotine affects on other acetylcholine, which activate the response to nicotine and "GAMA AMINO BUTERIC ACID" and "CEROTONINE" which is hormone related to the mood, "Nor-epinephrine" hormones that are related to energy, and "Glutamate" hormones associated with memory.

Besides that, nicotine rises the numbers of NACR, so the brain becomes used to receive nicotine. When a person gives up smoking, he or she will undergo symptoms of nicotine's retreating of the body.

These indications are not considered the only reason for making nicotine an addictive item. There are also neurobiological changes in the long-term. For example the changes because of the transition of "DOPAMINA" which plays a very important role in addiction, and that what is called "reconstruction". It explains the increasing desire of the given up addict to retake the drug after he has taken a small dose.

Anti-nicotine

Smoking vaccines work to produce "antibodies" that insert with nicotine's specific items and prevent them to pass "Blood Brain Barrie" so nicotine can not motive Coordination centers, then no need for smocking.



Campus causerie

A report on the Inter-University Debate and Competition for reciting passages from Shakespeare

On May 17, 2005 the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Sana'a, hosted, on the Old University Campus, the Seventh Annual Inter-University debate and competition for reciting rhetorically powerful passages from Shakespeare and thus kept alive the tradition of Inter-University events that it started about seven years ago. In addition to the host university, four other universities that participated in the competition were: University of Thamar, University of Hodeidah, University of Ibb and University of Taiz. Dr Khalid Tameem, Vice-Rector for Students' Affairs of University of Sana'a, was the chief guest. Dr Mohammed Abdul Aziz Yusr, Dean, Faculty of Arts as well as a large number of teachers and guests also attended the function. The university

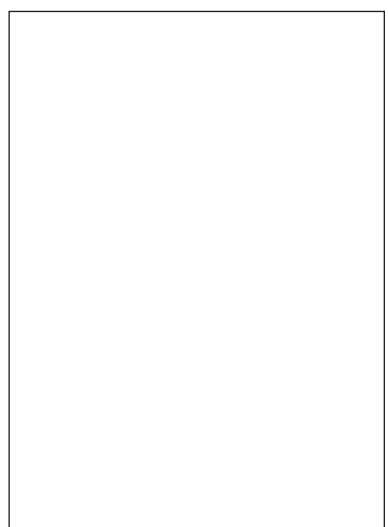
professors who evaluated the performance of the competitors were Dr Avadesh Kumar Sharma, Dr P. A. Abraham, and Dr Azam.

The competition was keenly contested and University of Sana'a got the top honors in both the debate and the competition for reciting passages from Shakespeare. In his address to the guests and the audience, Dr Khalid Tameem appreciated the contribution of the English Department of the Faculty of Arts, and in particular of Dr D. Thakur, for the all-round education of Yemeni students. He pointed out that many generations of students were indebted to Dr Thakur for all that he has done for the teaching of English in Yemen. Dr Mohammed Yusr also lavishly praised Dr Thakur and his colleagues in the Department for their signal services for the qualitative improvement of education in general

and for that of English Language Teaching in particular.

The student that came first in the debate was Ahlam Abdul Raheem al-Silwi, a fourth year student of Sana'a University. The second position was bagged by Talal Ahmed Abdo, a student of Taiz University. Nahla Mohammed Haneiber, a final year student of Sana'a University, came third in the debate.

In the recitation section, Samira Ahmed Saa'ad al-Othary, a fourth year Sana'a University student won the first prize. Ghaliya Kassem Sallam Said, a fourth year Sana'a University student won the second prize. Kadajah Ahmed Ali Hammady from Taiz University won the third prize. It was felt that the students who came first in the debate



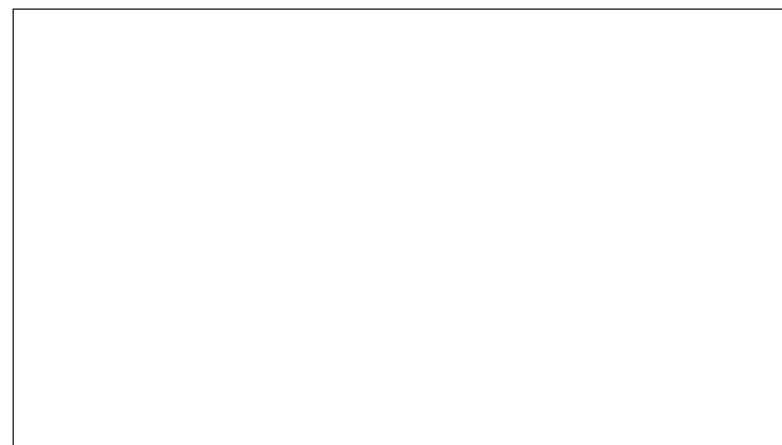
Ahlam Abdulrahim Al-Salwi and Nahla Mohammed Heneiber appreciating Dr. Thakur's efforts for training them, as Dr. Thakur and Dr. Tameem listen in.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Thakur, and Dr. John with the winners: Ahlam, Samira, and Nahla.

Dr Mohammed Abdul Aziz Yusr, Dean; Dr. D. Thakur, Chairman; Dr. Dr Khalid Tameem, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs at the function.

and the recitation competition illustrated world-class excellence.

As during the debate and recitation competition during the last few years, Dr Thakur this year added with great emotion that during his teaching sessions and more so when training students for debate and recitation he has had for years a dream that some day in the near future students trained by him and his colleagues in the Department would make a great name as international writers in English and would speak in the United Nations with so much force, energy, skill and vitality that representatives from all different parts of the world will clap heartily and say that they are wonderful speakers.



Dr. Pramod Prasad and Dr. Damodar Thakur flanked by the winners.

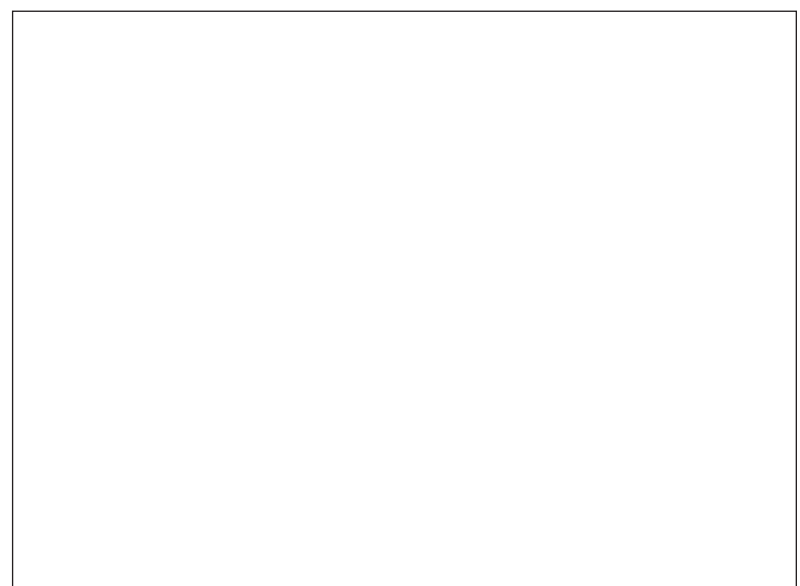
A report on the National Seminar on Shakespeare held on May 24 & 25, 2005 at the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University

Teaching Shakespeare in Universities of Yemen: Principles and perspectives

The first ever two-day national seminar on Shakespeare was organized by the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Sana'a on May 24 and 25, 2005. Shakespeare is and has been taught in departments of English in the Faculties of Arts in all universities in Yemen, and perhaps in all universities in the Arab world. But the University of Sana'a has stolen a march over all other universities in this part of the world in organizing a seminar for a wide discussion on the what, the why and the how of teaching Shakespeare to students hoping to graduate in English Studies. The invitation sent by the Chairman of the Department for reading research papers in the seminar evoked an admirably enthusiastic response and as many as forty-two research papers were read and discussed at this national forum.

The seminar started with the welcome address by Prof D. Thakur, Chairman of the Department. He warmly welcomed honorable guests like Dr Abdul Kareem, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Dr Saleh Ali Bassurah, President of Sana'a University, Dr Ahmed al-Kibsi, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Dr Khalid, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, Dr Abdul Kareem Obeidy, Assistant Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Dr Mohammed Abdul Aziz Yusr, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, as well as teachers in other Departments in the Faculties of Arts, of Languages and of Education.

In his welcome speech, Dr Thakur said that it has now been widely established in literary circles all over the world that Shakespeare is by far the greatest of all dramatists, and so, if one had hypothetically the choice of teaching only one English author, that one English author could only be Shakespeare. He said that Shakespeare's plays had so many epigrammatic, proverbial and rhetorically powerful statements that, even if somebody was involved in speculations in



Dr Saleh Ali Bassurah, President of 6DQDD University and Dr Abdul Kareem, Deputy Minister for Higher Education at the inaugural ceremony

subjects far removed from literature, like Anatomy, Dentistry, Ecology, Mathematics and Economics, he would find a large number of statement which he could use as epigraphs for his research. No other known author in the world was so versatile and so comprehensive. Shakespeare, he said, wrote about four hundred years ago and although one could find out traces of usage, now altogether discarded, Shakespeare was still very modern, not only in his sensibility and in his attitudinal leanings, but also in the use of his language. Shakespeare is the basis of modern English, and no understanding of modern English will ever be complete unless it is based on the deep roots that modern English has in the use of English by Shakespeare. Dr. Thakur added that Shakespeare was worth studying, not only for the superb heights of excellence that we find in his writings from the point of view of artistic creativity, but also from the point of view of how the biography of an author could inspire its readers. Shakespeare's parents were affluent until he was born, but since his birth the economic and social status of the family started

declining, so much so that when Shakespeare was in early teens, his father was obliged, because of economic hardships, to mortgage the property that he had. Shakespeare did not study in a university. There is no evidence in support of the fact that he studied even in a school. It would not be absolutely wrong if one hypothesizes that his lack of education was because of the lack of financial resources in the family. The rumor goes that Shakespeare had to be apprenticed to a butcher in Stratford-on-Avon for the economic support needed for himself and his family. When he started writing, many of his contemporaries said that his English was faulty. Robert Green, a contemporary dramatist, contemptuously described him as "an upstart crow." He tried acting, but was given only a minor role in the play, if at all. In the play *Hamlet*, for example, he had to play, not the role of Hamlet, nor even of Polonius, or of Hamlet's uncle, but that of the ghost of Hamlet's father. In his famous play *The Merchant of Venice*, he had to play the role, not of Shylock, nor even of Antonio or Bassanio. He only played the role of the Duke in that

play. But none of these things succeeded in minimizing his literary creativity. The fire that he had in him burned bright and created light all over the literary world in spite of his adverse circumstances, threatening to quench that fire. Students in the third world can learn, therefore, not only from his writings, but even from his life. Shakespeare's life is the life of an achiever and accomplisher and a winner, and we can learn from him how we can rise to great heights of glory even despite adverse circumstances.

The inaugural session started with Dr Thakur's welcome address and was followed by highly appreciative remarks by Dr Mohammed Abdul Aziz Yusr and, more so, by Dr Saleh Ali Bassurah, President of the University. Dr Saleh Bassurah said that Dr Thakur had served the University for three decades and generations of students have benefited from his teaching and scholarship. He recalled having attended the Inter-University debate and recitation last year and expressed his great happiness about the excellence achieved by the students of Sana'a University.

The business session started with a plenary session given by Dr Thakur on the number symbology in Shakespeare's plays, particularly in his three plays, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* and *Julius Caesar*. He said that the concept of three-ness could be found in Shakespeare, not only in narrative details like the three witches and the three apparitions in *Macbeth*, or Antonio borrowing three thousand ducats for three months and the crown being offered to Julius Caesar three times, and his wife Calpurnia crying three times in her dream. It also expressed itself in triplets at the levels of words, syntax, and rhetoric expressed particularly in the form of image.

After the plenary session the seminar divided itself into three parallel sessions in the mornings, so also in the afternoons. Of the total of forty-two research papers presented, twenty-three were on Shakespeare's literary aspects, four on the problems and principles of

translating Shakespeare into Arabic and twelve on the linguistic aspect of his writing, particularly relating to and focussing on the problems and principles of teaching Shakespeare in a country like Yemen.

The seminar ended with highly appreciative valedictory remarks by

Professors from different Universities, by Professor Mohanraj of the CIEFL, Hyderabad and Professor Anjani Kumar Sinha, former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Delhi University.

A more detailed report on the proceedings of the National Seminar will appear next week.

Teaching of English at school level

Acquiring proficiency in another language besides the mother tongue has become necessary for every one who longs for a good future. Every language contains some rules that need to be mastered if we want to learn it. Obviously, English as a language requires a lot of efforts to internalize its underlying rules.

The act of learning English starts step by step and not at random. We need to study its morphology, phonology, syntax, and semantics in accordance with appropriate principles. Making errors in learning a foreign language is natural. We have to be tolerant of learners' errors and try to remedy them. First and foremost, correct pronunciation of the foreign language sounds are very important. We should try to avoid mispronunciation. As teachers of English, we need to remedy the mistakes of the learners, only after improving our own model of pronunciation. The teacher of English must prepare the les-

sons well at home where he can correct his mistakes by himself. He may look for the correct pronunciation of words in the dictionary instead of experimenting with the same in the class.

The grammar rules are the building blocks of every language. The method of teaching grammar depends on the teacher. He should try to relate the grammatical points in context and not in isolation. It is more useful if the teacher gives some examples from his own and make the learners resort to pattern practice. Teaching English language is not difficult as some persons think. We have to use the most practical principles that contribute to the effective learning of English.

By Mohammed Al-Herdi
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TV: Boon or bane?

The term 'science' implies technical knowledge. In fact, science has made the impossible possible. It is no denying the fact that science plays a key role in the progress of the civilization. Science has made wonderful inventions and has given us things we hadn't expected or even imagined before. Today, we have more leisure than ever before for our entertainment. In fact, public entertainment has become an 'industry'. Let's take television as an example. It plays an important part in the lives of millions of people. However, it is worthwhile for us to consider whether it is a blessing or a curse.

In the first place, television is not only a convenient source of entertainment, but also a comparatively cheap asset for a family. The family needn't queue up for seats at the theatre, opera or ballet, often to discover at the end that the show was dull. But thanks to the TV, all that the members of the family have to do is to switch it on and see plays, films, operas and shows of every kind according to their taste or temperament during their free-time.

Actually, we are so used to watching TV that it significantly controls our lives. Yet it has several shortcomings as well which can't be ignored. One of the inherent problems of TV watching is that the viewer is obliged to be completely passive, in so far as everything is presented to him without any effort on his part. Secondly, television often stuffs the viewers with an overload of information that adversely affects the human brain.

In this context, my sincere advice to the regular TV viewers is that they shouldn't waste their time on frivolous programmes. They shouldn't forget that Time is money. Time is gold. Since life is short, everybody should make the maximum use of his time, and shun wasteful activities like sitting glued to the TV set all day long.

By Ayoub Al-Naqeeb
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Somalia: Steps on a path to fragile peace in a shattered country

Somalia is looking at its best chance for peace in 15 years as the reconciliation process moves into a new and crucial phase and with UN poised to ramp up its humanitarian assistance. But rampant insecurity poses a steep challenge to this endeavour as most international media give the country a wide berth.

The Story
The country that used to dominate coverage a decade ago as a symbol of a collapsed state has been left out of media limelight lately, although the nation is facing a crucial challenge. The ongoing fragile reconciliation process represents Somalis' best hope since the 1990s of rebuilding their nation in peace. At great risk, a fledgling government-in-exile, formed through a national conference involving most of the rival factions, is trying to establish itself in the country from its base in neighboring Kenya. However, rampant insecurity, fueled by arms embargo violations and continued factional violence, poses steep challenges to this endeavour.

The insecurity has also kept the presence of international media to a

minimum at a time when this story needs a bright light from the outside helping to put all parties on notice that the world is watching. Greater media exposure can also help to mobilize humanitarian aid to the country which continues to face drought and famine in addition to the recent deaths and damage to its coastline and fishing villages from the recent Indian Ocean Tsunami. Meanwhile, the United Nations is providing humanitarian and development aid as best it can under the conditions, while preparing a stepped-up political presence that could solidify the reconciliation process and help Somalis establish a working government. The Security Council has welcomed the establishment of the Transitional Federal Government and has urged the international community to lend political and economic support.

The Context

- Somalia is the only country in recent history that has endured such a prolonged period of state collapse.
- During a recent whistle-stop tour of the country, leaders of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) were well-received by

"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**

Somalis, but they dared not even venture into the capital, Mogadishu, still awash with guns and gangs.

- Somalis continue to suffer from intermittent clan conflicts and recurrent droughts. The country is home to 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 800,000 returnees.
- Although recent rains have provided some respite, four consecutive years of drought have led to massive livestock losses. Overall, the drought has resulted in a livelihood crisis, indebtedness and economic stagnation.
- Somalia consistently ranks among the lowest in the world on key indicators of human development, amid high mortality and malnutrition rates.
- According to UN relief officials, top aid priorities include the delivery of assistance in water and sanitation, health and education sectors to the most vulnerable groups, including IDPs, returnees and minorities who represent 20 percent of the population.

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