

Poverty is the enemy of humanity

By NADIA AL SAKKAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

While the Great 8 (G8) countries are getting ready for their summit in UK next month, civil society organizations around the world including Yemen are lobbying and campaigning for the cancellation of the poor countries' debts. In Yemen, the civil society thematic working group (SC-TWG) supported by Oxfam-GB and headed by Yemeni Women's Union carried out a campaign yesterday at the Union's premises in which non governmental organizations gathered from around the republic. Wearing white bands around their heads and arms and demanding that Yemen should be given a chance to overcome its poverty. The alliance led by Sisters Arab Forum (SAF) and SC-TWG arranged for gathering around 100,000 signatures from around the country, and a petition that was signed by the president of the TWG Ms. Ramzeya al-Eryani head of the YWU on behalf of all the signatories. The alliance took this petition and signatures and marched to the Embassy of United Kingdom, Yemeni Parliament, Prime Minister's Office and the OIC conference that is taking place concurrently these days.

"What do we want?! We want to be able to live without thinking of heavy debts carried over to the future genera-



Yemeni Women's Union: Yemen should be given a chance to overcome its poverty.

tions. We want to be given a chance to get out from poverty and advance this country. We want our voice to be heard and that Yemen gets a chance just like many of the poor African and Latin American countries. This is why we are campaigning and we will not stop until Yemen gets its fair chance!" Ramzeya al-Eryani said in an enthusiastic talk to

the civil societies gathered yesterday.

The white band Yemen has chosen is in line with the Global Campaign Against Poverty. The logo Yemeni civil society chose was written on the white bands says: "Poverty is the enemy of humanity". Yemeni people have enthusiastically signed the petition remarkably in 15 days 100,000 signatures were

collected from around the country, and still many more to come. "We hope for a better life, we want our voice to be heard and that is why I am here. I came all the way from al-Shahil in Hajja to be part of this movement." Says Abbas alMamari of the Shahil Association in Hajja.

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Sana'a hosts 32nd Round of Organization of Islamic Conference's foreign ministers and challenges of new era



By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The functions of the 32nd Round of the Organization of Islamic Conference's foreign ministers were concluded today in the Capital City of Sana'a with the participation of 42 ministers of whom 35 were foreign ministers. The representatives of 50 Islamic countries discussed how Islamic countries should proceed under the recent global developments. They also reconsidered the OIC's Charter to make it

live up to the current challenges facing the Islamic nation. The Conference, attended by 500 people, discussed pro-tolerance policies and programs as well as OIC reforms, all of which were approved by the last Islamic Conference Summit, held in Turkey.

However, the question that poses itself is whether such Arab and Islamic conferences are of any consequence. Do they really draw the attention of Muslims all over the world? I doubt so. They failed to contrive even simple solutions to the external and internal

problems of their people. Around one million Muslims have been laying great hopes on their governments, which constantly let them down and disappoint them. Their governments are unable to tackle their concerns and protect their rights that are violated in different spots of the world. Muslims' suffering increases as they are branded as "terrorists," and accused of practicing violence against other people who are different from them in religion and culture.

Continued on page 3

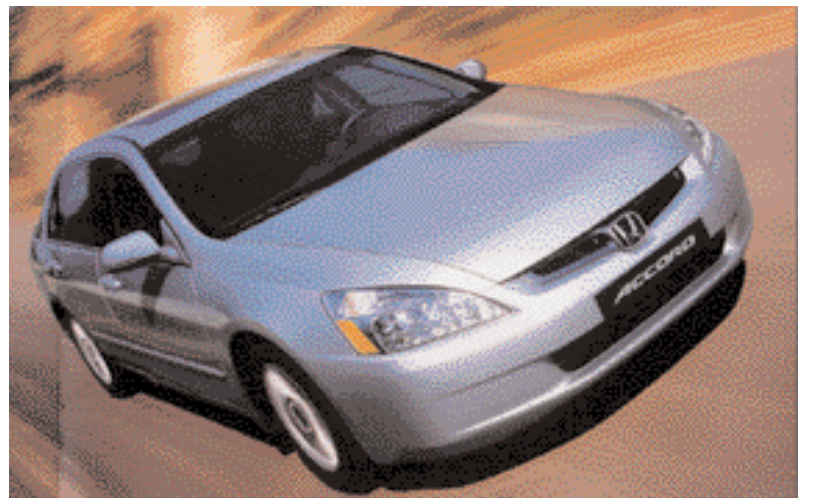


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HONDA

Demonstrations in Aden protesting lack of water

By RIDHWAN AL-SAQQAF
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

Police in Aden has dispersed a number of demonstrators from Mua'la town.

Security and police fired shots in

the air from a machine gun and threw tear gas bombs to disperse demonstrators

Demonstrators have put barricades in the ring road, in protest of water stoppage from their houses for several days.

Continued on page 3



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لجميع مشتركي الصحيفة تخفيض خاص حتى نهاية عام 2005 م عن طريق منحهم كرت تخفيض الـ VIP من شميلة هاري و بموجب قسيمة من الصحيفة، يحضرها المشترك معاً و ان تكون مختومة بختم الصحيفة

Government brings down sales tax to 5%

SANA'A - Due to the wide spread protests against sales tax law no. (19), the last of which is the law suit filed by the Chamber of commerce and Industry, the government has agreed to reduce it. The government was intending to pass this law at the beginning of July 2005, but changed their minds and asked the Parliament last Monday 27/6/2005, to reconsider reducing it to 5% in stead of 15%. The Government exempted cigarettes, weapons, ammunition and explosives. They are to be at the rate of 95%. The qat and international mobile at 15%. Processed gold at a rate of 2%. Jewelleries at the rate of 3%.

The Government suggested the cancellation of all tax exemptions for about 46 items that used to be exempted in 2001.

Mr. Mahfodh Shamakh, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, in a press conference, commented on the decision saying that it is not a solution. He demanded the cancellation of constitutional violations in the law, that levy taxes in several of their items instead of the 5% reduction

Samakh also demanded that the Government should allow the ownership of private satellite channels, which aim at voicing the businessmen views to the public. "The Government run media didn't allow our view point to reach the public. Moreover it tends to mis-represent it, when we objected to the sales tax". Mahfodh has described the sales tax law as mother of plights, which leads to the escape of national capital.

Human Rights Ministry issues 2004's report

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Funded by the UN Development Program, the Ministry of Human Rights, recently reshuffled, issued its national report for the year 2004 on the status of human rights in Yemen.

The report is composed of a number of chapters containing all that has been presented by the State on the political, economical and social rights, citizenship rights and the rights of children and the handicapped.

The report seems to be different from other issuances of the civil soci-

ety organizations and the international committees interested in human rights.

The report has not included all the violations and breaches contradicting human rights as well as the local and the international laws. It included a page beautifying the image of the government and did not touch upon issues and illegal practice reported to the ministry during 2004.

It never made a mention of any solutions suggested for complaints and oppressions practiced against humanity.

The report affirmed that the official

responses for complaints number up to 12 cases with the rate of 0.7%.

It clarified that violations committed by security recruits during 2002 amounted to 54 cases, meanwhile these scores multiply to 54 violation cases a day, according to special sources.

Observers hold the view of the report, issued by an official party, are not comprehensive and hope it to discuss things with transparency, particularly as the Ministry of Human Rights exerted precious efforts for its issuance.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that Islamic conferences will strengthen the position of Islamic countries?
Yes, do
No, I don't

Last edition's question:

Do the mounting set-ins and strikes currently staged by teachers, physicians and journalists pave the way for nation-wide uproar against the government?

Yes 60%
No 40%
I don't know 0%

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

In Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Taiz hall

Training course on communication

Yemen Times, Taiz

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Taiz held a 6-day training course on show, call and communication jointly with EPSP. Around twenty trainers participated in the course, representing the civil association and the chamber employees, Adnan Abdullah

Saleh, the course organizer, responsible for the small Enterprises Development center in the chamber, declared that the course aimed at the participants acquisition of skills enabling them to show their activities with modern techniques and to manage the dialogue, arguments, and practice call and communication systems.

As the opposition rejects

Parliament approves jobs and salaries law

SANA'A- The Parliament approved on Tuesday June 28 the law of jobs and salaries after tense controversies lasting for weeks ordering the government to specify the lowest

salary in the government job ladder by YR 20,000 (\$110).

The parliamentary blocs of the opposition parties including Islah, the Yemeni Socialist Party and the

The opposition and neutral pact in the Parliament, has issued a communiqué denouncing the formal and party press campaign against MP Sultan Al-Samiee.

The communiqué has assured that the campaign is oppressive and dangerous against an MP.

The communiqué also disapproved government's revival of long forgotten cases and the use of them to

blackmail those who oppose its policy.

The Pact also objected to the policy of the Government which accuses its opponents with treason and infidelity. It went on describing this method as contradictory to the democratic procedure which is pursued in Yemen.

The communiqué considered Al-Samiee's article which was published in Al-shora Newspaper, under the title of "A project for reform from within," as not worthy of all that campaign. It is a point of view in a political issue. As a Yemeni citizen, he has used his constitutional and legal rights.

MP Al - Samiee is the representative of constituency (68) for the Socialist party (opposition). He was also an MP after 1993 elections

He is famous for his press articles that criticize the government policies, and sometimes accuses it of corruption.

His last article which triggered the criticism against him was published in Al-shora newspaper, under the title "A project for reform from within," issue no.509, on 15/6/2005. It called the government to do a number of reforms. It was an issue that could be discussed; in stead it aroused the government rage.

Nasserite Party announced their objection to the law of jobs and salaries. They believe that it will deny a big slice of government employees their rights and ignore an important slice in the job hierarchy including judges and university professors.

A statement issued by the opposition parties stressed that the government civic and military employees suspended from work over political reasons will be the first victims, in addition to the retired and the disabled workers.

The opposition accused the government of standing behind severe poverty, unemployment, inflation, financial and administrative corruption and consequent dose reforms.

The statement confirmed the repeated refusal of the government to improve living standards of citizens and its insistence on dose reforms topped by lifting subsidy on diesel, and imposing a 10% sale tax on basic commodities will add more misery to the miserable situations of citizens.

According the to the opposition, the costs of living will be doubled particularly the price of bread and transportation fares. The dose reforms caused fear among people that the unemployment rate and the poverty base may get exacerbated.

The statement issued by the opposition described the law of jobs and salaries as ambiguous and denies a big slice of employees their administrative and technical rights and privileges.

The opposition demanded that YR 35,000 (around \$200) should be the lowest salary at the government job hierarchy.

Opposition at Parliament denounces terrorizing MP

Prosecution shuts down al-Ibhar Newspaper

SANA'A- The press and publication prosecutor closed down Al-ibhar newspaper on Monday (chief editor Abdullah Al-shawafi) after the primary judgment of the court of North Sana'a last March. The sentence was issued after a law suit was filed by Yemenia air ways. The sentence ruled that the newspaper should be suspended for two weeks

and a fine of 5 thousand pounds (30\$) for journalist Mohamed Sha'ab

The Journalists Syndicate denounced the execution of such judgments. A communiqué by the Syndicate of journalists assured that the closure of newspapers is against constitutional principles and democracy, undermining the Yemeni democratic process.

Son of former government official seeks asylum

SANA'A- News shown in different websites over the last few days confirmed that A'ad Mohammad Ali Haitham, son of the former Yemeni Prime Minister and a member of the People's General Congress Permanent Committee made a bid

for political asylum in Canada, the country he visited recently.

According to the website news, Aa'd's applying for political asylum was due to the bad situations experienced by locals of southern governorates since 1994 war.

A'ad Haitham sought political asylum after several prominent Yemeni personalities did the same over the last few years, most of whom are from the southern governorates, due to their economic situations.

20 NGOs collect million signatures to cancel Yemen debts

SANA'A - About 20 NGOs submitted a message to the British embassy containing a million signatures, to hand over to the Group eight summit, which will convene in Scotland. These NGOs are demanding the cancellation of all Yemen foreign debts. They also demanded the increase of unconditional aids to Yemen. The summit will start their meeting next July, on the occasion of poverty eradication

Two weeks ago the NGOs have adopted the collection of a million signatures to urge authorities to cancel Yemen's foreign debts. The NGOs have called themselves (The Alliance of Poverty Eradication). In case these debts are canceled, this alliance aims to turn their outcome, which Yemen would have to pay, to finance the developmental, and infrastructure projects, so as to enhance economy.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions with the project "Electoral Support for the Supreme Commission for election and Referenda".

Post Title: Administrative Assistant

Responsibilities

- Assist the SCER to liaise with the project experts and follow up on project activities.
- Assist in the professional compilation and preparation of background materials, briefing notes for meetings, minutes...etc.
- Provide the SCER chairman with translation and/or interpretation services (English/Arabic) as required.
- Conduct office correspondence, both English and Arabic and keep records of all activities and operations as well as to manage and maintain all office files and archives;
- Provide secretarial and administrative support and receive visitors, local and international delegations.
- Assist the SCER with secretarial and clerical work functions as appropriate, including preparing brochures and pamphlets and making arrangements for seminars, missions...etc.
- Compile and document press clippings and media information related to the project.

Qualification:

- A university degree in the field of administration, English language or any related field.
- A minimum of 3 years demonstrated experience in secretarial work, preferably with an international agency.
- Good communication skills.
- Fluent in English, with demonstrated ability to undertake technical translation and/or interpretation responsibilities.

Interested candidates may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 06th July 2005

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Continued from page 1

Poverty is the enemy of humanity

The world's leading industrial nations struck an historic deal to immediately write off all multilateral debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries, mostly in Africa, amounting to 40 billion dollars (33 billion euros).

If this happened then why not Yemen? This is what Jamala al-baidhani head of al-Tahadi Association for disabled women said. "We can and we will in sha Allah. We must do our best and now that the Great Eight countries are meeting we want to convey our concern to them and let them know that the people of Yemen had had enough of being deprived and poor." She added.

But it's not just that, simultaneously with the demands of cancellation of the debts there is demand for good governance and transparency from the government. Suha Bashireen from SAF attended the earlier meeting in Cairo last May where GCAP campaigning experience has been shared. "We are actually working on two levels: asking that the international world represented by the rich countries "G8" would give Yemen better aid and better financial conditions and wipe off the due debts we also want the Yemeni government to live up to its responsibility and integrate civil society in how the budgeting takes place and what is done with these resources." She said.

Most of Yemenis debts are to the World bank and International Monetary Fund. Despite the billions of dollars of loans and grants given to poor countries per year, their life is not getting better. The poorest countries in the world pay 100\$ dollars a day to the rich creditor countries. It is more than they spend on health. The letter addressed to HE ambassador of United Kingdom in Yemen states that according to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Yemen's total debt in

September 2004 amounted to US \$5.23 billion. And this means that attaining the MDGs and other national objectives are next to impossible.

"The world leaders agreed that the rich countries would dedicate 0.7% of their gross national income for the sake of development in poor countries. But only five or 6 lived to their word and majority of the world leaders simply did not. The GCAP run by civil societies around the world demands and puts pressure on world leaders to take immediate actions towards extreme poverty by ensuring increased unconditional development aid to poor countries, cancellation of debts on poor countries and fair trade. These are the three demands of the campaign and there are three events that we are targeting globally. The G8 summit taking place on the first of July and to which we are sending this letter, the UN MDGs+5 meeting on 10th of September and the WTO ministers summit on the 10th of December this year. If you notice the objective of achieving fair trade is suitable for the later event, while the first two are for the G8 and UN summits and we intend to carry out events on the national level on a calendar we decide that could be for example the national budgeting or five year plan...etc. to promote our cause" Ayman Omar PRSP program manager in Oxfam-GB commented. He added:

"Basically Oxfam Yemen Program is interested in this campaign for two reasons: first that Oxfam international is a key stake holder in the GCAP and hence its regional offices and country programs support this issue and secondly in Yemen our program supports any alliance and empowerment of civil societies especially if the issue in concern is poverty. And seriously speaking it is remarkable how the civil societies came together united in this matter".

Full coverage of the story next issue

Islamic countries and challenges of new era

Due to such allegations, the might of the superpowers is used to terrorize Muslims to weaken and then bully them. Had they been unified, things would have been quite different. Conferences and forgettable ink-on-paper statements cannot disperse the clouds in the Islamic world. The Arab and Islamic governments have many tasks to achieve. They should reassess themselves, and understand their internal and external problems. To gain others' respect, they should first have self-respect and respect their own peoples' volition. The bond between these governments and their people have broken and both sides are going in different directions.

The Islamic nation should discuss its setbacks courageously, fearlessly and with absolute transparency. The governments ought to reconsider the shortcomings in most legislatures governing the relation between the ruler and the ruled. These governments have to reform their systems, believe in their capacities and develop the capacities of their subjects.

The Islamic nation should defend

its tolerant Islamic religion, which is usually misrepresented by some Muslims who give themselves the right to act on behalf of their nation and declare war against others. That reckless and mad act has cast its shadow on Muslims and beset them with allegations of violence and terrorism. Muslims should proclaim to the world that neither terrorism nor violence is part of their religion or creed. Violence and terrorism belong to the convictions of mad and reckless people.

Today, Islamic governments should realize that their peoples are bored with hearing about conferences and meetings where deliberators do not agree even on as simple matters as the agenda or the table talk.

Islamic governments have to realize that their unity cannot be achieved unless peoples stand by their governments in every country. With several failures, Muslims keep on searching for a torch of hope and finding a way out of their crisis. Has the Islamic nation realized how it should proceed?

Demonstrations in Aden protesting lack of water

Yemen Times has met some of the demonstrators, and here is what they said:

One of the demonstrators said that. We didn't have a drop of water for a week now, though this town is the richest in water resources. Isn't electricity cutoff enough? We put barricades on the road so as to be heard by the officials. Our protest is to show our denouncement to the conditions we have come to, though this city is called the digital city. How could that be while we lack water?

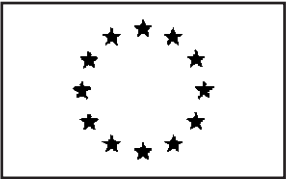
A woman also spoke; she said: We notified the officials in the governorate that we have no water. We know that water authorities refuse to pump water to our houses.

Another demonstrator spoke saying that, the projects that the officials mind are those badly paved roads, planting trees and making fountains, whereas the services are deteriorating. Here is a good example; we didn't have water for days now, in this hell of weather.

Another lady from the demonstrators said: Water doesn't come to us and when it comes it is only drops. Are we in the governorate's capital? It could be any other village.

We request the authorities to solve this problem as quickly as possible. It worth pointing out that, last time when people demonstrated, water came half an hour later. This indicates that there was no water problem.

Vehicle Supply Advertisement for the Support for Administrative Reform (SAR) project in Yemen



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Tender opening session: @ 11:00 am on 27 July 2005 at above address

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Vacancy Announcement

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

1) Post Title: Programme Analyst (Poverty Unit)/ICS-9

Responsibilities Include:

- Identification of areas for support and interventions within the thematic/sectoral areas assigned.
- Design and formulation of country office programme within the area of responsibility, translating UNDP's priorities into local interventions. Coordination of programme implementation with the executing agencies. Introduction of performance indicators/ success criteria, cost recovery, targets and milestones.
- Analysis and research of information on donors, preparation of substantive briefs on possible areas of cooperation, identification of opportunities for initiation of new projects, active contribution to the overall office effort in resource mobilization.
- Identification of sources of information related to policy-driven issues. Identification and synthesis of best practices and lessons learnt directly linked to programme country policy goals and

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree or equivalent in Business Administration, Economics or related field.
- 2 to 3 years of post Master's relevant experience at the national or international level in providing management advisory services, hands-on experience in design, monitoring and evaluation of development projects. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages, experience in handling of web based management systems.
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages.

2) Post Title: Programme Analyst (Governance)/ICS-9

Responsibilities Include:

- Identification of areas for support and interventions within the thematic/sectoral areas assigned.
- Design and formulation of country office programme within the area of responsibility, translating UNDP's priorities into local interventions. Coordination of programme implementation with the executing agencies. Introduction of performance indicators/ success criteria, cost recovery, targets and milestones.
- Analysis and research of information on donors, preparation of substantive briefs on possible areas of cooperation, identification of opportunities for initiation of new projects, active contribution to the overall office effort in resource mobilization.
- Identification of sources of information related to policy-driven issues. Identification and synthesis of best practices and lessons learnt directly linked to programme country policy goals and

Qualification:

- Master's Degree or equivalent in international relations development, communication and social science, Business Administration, or related field.
- 2 to 3 years of post Master's relevant experience at the national or international level in providing management advisory services, hands-on experience in design, monitoring and evaluation of development projects. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages, experience in handling of web based management systems
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3 - 8 July 2005

Unemployment: Epidemic menaces the world

ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
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FOR YEMEN TIMES

There is one thing more dangerous than AIDS, more truculent than Cholera, and faster than SARS. It menaces the world and invades communities with an amazing speed and is the monster that destroys millions of people around the world.

Unemployment; the disease, which we cannot find get rid off on the level of Arabian and European communities, the disease which has been driving millions of youth away through all past, present and future years.

The similarities between unemployment and such ugly diseases like these may seem like an inequitable matter to some of you, but it is completely known that such diseases may kill people and communities or prey upon thousands and millions of them with or without warning; However, unemployment is the only pandemic, which we do not have a specific cure or time for it, and till now we still cannot find its end or its starting point.

In the course of time, this unemployment problem has appeared with the deterioration of national and international economic situations on a level of the industrial economic states and developing countries.

The thing which stimulates the astonishment, is that the employee who is having limited income or more does not always feel by the size of the disaster that the world has faced in this field. However, he is still very sure that he is better than others, who are jobless, and in comparison with unemployed people's conditions and their needs that they are not able to fulfill their families' necessities, they feel as if they are in enviable situation.

Unemployment is a social and economic problem, which is a real disaster and a painful tragedy for many people in the Arab and European societies. In fact, it is an endless tragedy with all negative



results and bad tracks that has been left behind.

One who follows up this unemployment problem would be shocked at the frightful numbers that explain the size of the problem itself which call for wakefulness and determination to find suitable solutions even if it takes a long duration. Recent surveys and studies show that 88 million youth in the 15-24 age category are jobless; they represent 47% of 186 million people around the world who are unemployed in the year of 2003.

With talking to this important category of youth, you would never expect to find a more youthful, powerful, active, and more productivity youth at that age, whereas, the consideration of this category in a circle of unemployment and its bends forms a huge global economic depression.

Through those studies, we notice that unemployment is aggravated directly with the rate of population's growth and reversely with the economic situations of each society.

In spite of the fact that unemployment threatens the Arab societies more than the European countries, many industrial countries that have high economies witness increasing numbers of the unemployed people last years; such as, Germany, the third industrial economic country over the world, France, Japan, U.S.A, and China.

The official statistics in U.S.A indi-

cates an increase that reached up to 9 million unemployed people in 2004. On the other hand, according to the numbers that are given by the Chinese ministry of employment and social insurances, China registered 37.8 millions people who are out of work in the urban areas in China at the end of January 2004.

At this point, we detect the participation of all developing and economic countries in the same trouble but we have perceived that the situation has become worse in communities that have less economic and industrial consciousness.

In the previous decade, the unemployment rates of youth jumped from 7-11%, then to a record number that reached 41.4% in 2003 in more than 100 states. These one hundred countries have a youth category between 15-29 years old that reaches more than 40% of the total number of populace, among these states are Arab countries without any exception.

In the developing Arab countries, unemployment is considered as equal as poverty, which reflects the neediness, hunger, illness, suffering, and beggary. Although there are negative outcomes of unemployment around the world, it is less painful for the unemployed citizens who live in the economic industrial countries which offer enough quantity of healthy and social insurances to them.

What we want to say is that, the whole social insurances are missing in some developing countries where the average

personal income supposedly reaches 380 U.S.\$ while in fact it doesn't reach more than 85 U.S. Dollars only.

As it is known, we mentioned above that unemployment is an universal dilemma, where all countries of the world are suffering from it, and while it focuses in the Arab states, it has become more potent in Yemen where we need more than 4 million job vacancies during the next twenty years. This is in accordance to the increasing growth of the employment agent which reaches more than 4% yearly, which is considered as one of the highest rates around the world.

At the same time, ILO mentioned to the universal rising of the unemployment range, which hits the youth more than any other category, especially young women. In Yemen, according to the employment agent's survey for 1999, women's unemployment rate reached approximately 23.7% while the men's unemployment rate reached 76.3%. It shows a very clear decrease in the rate of Yemeni women's employment despite their number that reached nearly half of the population.

Moreover, the results of this survey shows that the employment's agent concentrates in the rural areas which amounts to about 74.9% of the grand total of employment's agent in Yemen and the remainder which is actually 25.1% for townsmen.

This tragedy pushes us to feel the pale misery that drowns in the faces of the unemployed in our society that suffer throughout but still waiting for a solution sooner or later.

The statistics refers to direct increasing of the foreign employment in these Arab countries, where it was half a million employees in the 1975th, rising to 5.7 million in the 1993rd, and reaching up to 8.8 million in 2002. Whereas using the foreign employment in Arab countries, Yemen is also considered as one of the causes that aggravated unemployment, therefore the best way to solve this problem is to replace the local employment instead of the foreign groups with a percentage not less than 90-95%. In addition to that, training and rehabilitation of the local employees for perfect and increased production in the future will be a great step towards the economic independence, and for that result, the number of worker groups in different fields should be sent abroad in various periods of time in order to collect information and obtain sufficient experience.

About the population's growth and its effects towards the high rates of unemployment especially in a country like Yemen, it is also necessary to decrease the rates of fertility. Despite of the retraction of the population's growth in Yemen in the last few years from 3.7% to 3.5%, it is still one of the highest rates in the world, whereas if the rates remain in the same level, it is expected that the population may rise to more than 43 million during the year of 2025.

Some studies and surveys explain that there is a strong relation between the level of the mothers' education and the rate of fertility. The rate of real fertility of the uneducated mothers reached 6.9%, however the rate of fertility of educated mothers who have basic education only reached 3.2%.

What about the educational outcomes and its graduates, which have accumulated year after year?

The object requires thinking of small projects construction, re-fertilization of the agricultural areas, construction of the barren lands, development and enlargement of the present investment projects for higher capacity, and opening new employment fields by using and activating the new technical and electronic services.

Also, the requirement needs to help young people who are despaired, to think correctly by ideal and suitable ideas to achieve what they are desiring, and support them by money to restart again. The handicrafts and the different sorts of the arts should be encouraged to open modern and wide horizons for these kinds of works.

Offering scholarships to the students gives them required power to rush towards the development of their country and enrich their jobs by the experiences which will be obtain after coming back home.

However, helping the possessors of special needs and annihilation of the beggary by ensuring the social and health insurances that are important for life will be in the benefit of all and will solve the problems that are worse than unemployment.

Half the World

By Women's National Committee

The economic, policy and legal environment for gender equality in Yemen

Economic and social development programmes aimed at improving living condition of the population have been in existence in Yemen since the 1970s. These programmes were successful to a limited extent through development of basic infrastructure, expansion of social services and support to agriculture and industry. The subsequent economic downturn beginning in the 1980s and the shock to the economy in the early 1990s resulted in decline in Gross National Product (GNP) per capita from US\$ 701 to US\$ 318 during the period 1990-1995 (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper PRSP, pg. 1). The Unification of Yemen in 1990 was a step forward in providing political stability despite the challenges met in the form of failed attempts at secession.

The outbreak of the Gulf War was a setback to Yemen's economy with loss of foreign assistance and the repatriation of over million Yemeni workers abroad. A two-year drought in a water scarce agricultural economy, collapse of the USSR a significant aid donor to the South and drop in oil prices further aggravated the situation. Confronted with the macro-economic imbalance the Government of Yemen was left with little choice but enter into an Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Programme (EFARP) in 1995 aimed at revitalizing the economy, increasing employment and incomes.

Seven years after the adoption of the stabilization package the performance has been chequered. Visible reduction in inflation, greater control over fiscal and current account imbalances and stabilization of exchange rate are no mean achievements and can be attributed to the reform. Despite this the Household Budget Survey of 1998 indicates that 17.6% of the population suffer from acute poverty or food poverty, while 41.8% are under the upper poverty line (PRS, pg.xi). Yemen exhibits all the characteristics of a developing country with extremely poor communities and ranks 133 out of 162 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) for 2001. Indebtedness is high amongst the poor, lack of access to schools and health facilities, agriculture extension work and government public services, high birth rates and high unemployment are some of the challenges ahead. Although there are no gender-disaggregated data on the incidence of poverty, if the poor Gender Development Index is any indication, women in Yemen are far worse off than men. These issues will be explored in depth in Section 3 of this paper.

Policy and Legislative Environment for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

The government of Yemen in the past decade, especially post-Beijing has attempted to create a policy environment to enhance women's participation in different spheres of the economy. Some of the key government policies and strategies aimed at addressing women's specific condition and enhancing her participation are mentioned here.

The National Strategy of Women's Development (Gender Strategy) endorsed in May 2003, provides a policy framework to promote gender equality and women's rights. It provides the strategic directions for the WNC to improve women's status in Yemen. The Strategy focuses on: (1) Promoting and endorsing the basic principles of CEDAW and BPPA, with a particular emphasis on reviewing and amending gender discriminatory laws; (2) Gender mainstreaming in all sectors of the PRSP; (3) Increasing women's representation and political participation; and (4) Institutional capacity building for the WNC's staff, focal persons and Head Officers at governorate levels in order to plan, implement and monitor activities in line with the strategy. The strategy also emphasises building partnerships with CSOs and donors to promote the strategy's direction and realization.

Health Sector Reform was launched in 1998 by the Ministry of Health. The HSR provides the framework for primary health care with emphasis on equity, quality, efficiency, effectiveness and accessibility. Reorganisation of the health system through greater decentralization of management and service delivery from central to district forms the core agenda.

National Strategic Framework for the Control and Prevention of HIV/AIDS endorsed by the Cabinet in 2002 recognises equality in allocation of resources between education and health services for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Emphasis is on awareness raising on the issue especially amongst the youth. Mention is made specifically to women's particular needs and their rights to be taken into account fully in drawing up appropriate responses.

Basic Education Strategy Until 1998 the Yemen government had a specific Girls Education Strategy, which was then included in the National Strategy for Development of Basic Education 2003-2015. The girl's education is an important component and looks at changing attitudes towards girls education through curriculum development, recruitment of female teachers and campaigns to pro-

mote girl children's educational opportunities.

Illiteracy and Adult education programme (1998-2020) specifically aimed at overcoming illiteracy among rural women comprising 74% of total illiteracy. A department was created affiliated to the Ministry of Education and until recently was headed by a woman. It targets women in the age group of 10-45 years and girls who drop out of school. Specific focus is on reducing increasing illiteracy in future generations through special programmes for adult education. However, absence of budget allocation and low payment of teachers are major constraint in the effective implementation of this policy.

Central Statistical Organisation started focusing on gender disaggregated statistical data in 1997 and produced its first report in 1999. This report was translated in English and workshops were organized to disseminate information on education, health, laws, employment, women political participation and violence against women. The updated report of 2001 included two other issues namely women and poverty and women and environment.

Justice Sector Reform Project is ongoing and looks at women's access to justices and legal redress. It seeks to examine gender sensitivity in terms of women's ability to use the court systems, access to law, information, legal assistance, support; facilitate attitudinal change in legal officers including judges, lawyers, clerks and other functionaries towards women petitioners.

Women Labour Strategy was formulated for the period between 2001-2011. The main objective of this strategy was to enhance women's participation in the labour market given prevailing economic changes. Emphasis was on increasing women's skill to compete effectively in the labour market through capacity building and training programmes. Focus was also on improving the conditions of work through institutional changes, as well as economic and social protection for women. In addition, raising awareness on resistance to women's labour force participation in recruitment and retention. Key objectives:

- Increase the number of women employees in the private sector
- Provide services to encourage women to engage in micro enterprise and be self-employed
- Support women in both agriculture and fisheries sector
- Remove barriers faced by women with disability in access to employment through appropriate skill training
- Establish a database on women's labour force and link it with the demands of the labour market
- Effective co-ordination to overcome gaps and in data and statistics

National Strategy for Agriculture Advancement and development was formulated in 1999. The main purpose was mobilization of human resources and employment in the rural areas, and included both men and women. In terms of gender perspective it intended to bridge the gender gap in employment through affirmative action for women. It also aimed at building rural women's capacities as socio-economic productive actors in the development process through integrating gender concern in planning and implementation of programmes and projects related to agrarian policies.

Population Policy (2001-2025) has three comprehensive strategies none of which make any explicit mention of gender inequalities. In terms of principles and objectives the policy focuses on the International Conference on Population and Development and the BPPA. Discussions are on the basis of equity, equality and women's empowerment. It points to the lacunae in community involvement and civil society organization in protecting entitlements of marginalized groups particularly women. It recognises discrimination within household and family resulting in subordinate position of women. Acknowledges resistance from some political and religious groups on women's political participation as well as legislative challenges in ensuring the same. The final document of the Population Council talks about bridging the gender gap in education, labour and access to social services and reviewing laws and legislations from women's perspectives.

Major critic is that there is a wide gap between legislative provisions and actual practice in the context of population policies. Policy recommendations do not look at women's specific needs and constraints towards elimination of discrimination against women but make generic recommendations.

International Conventions Yemen is signatory to approximately 60 International

Conventions eleven of which relate to gender equality and women's rights. The Government of Yemen was one of the first Arab countries to ratify the CEDAW in May 1984 without reservation, but post unification it has reserved on Article 29 due to political pressure from conservative groups. It has also signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention which is no small achievement.

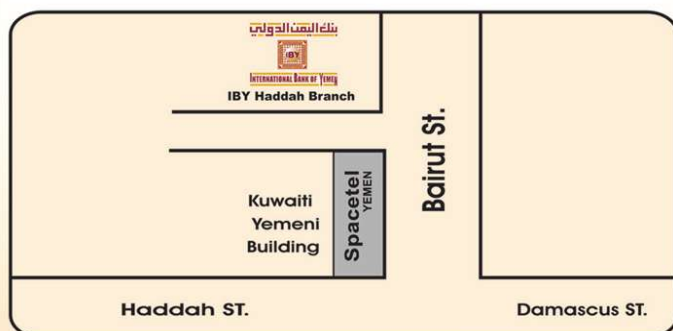


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Dutch Ambassador to YT:

“Yemen’s HR Minister is an active woman and aware of human rights principles”

INTERVIEWED BY IMAD AL-SAQQAF
YT TAIZ BUREAU CHIEF

Human rights issues constitute a major concern and pose an insurmountable challenge, particularly in the third world countries including Yemen, a country where women are denied rights of political representation.

To unveil the facts of human rights situations in the developing countries and the factors hindering progress and prosperity of human rights in Yemen, the Yemen Times met HE Mr. Piet De Klerk, Ambassador of Netherlands to Yemen during his visit to Taiz and forwarded to him the following questions:



Imad Al-Saqqaf (left) with Piet De Klerk

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: My visit to Yemen aims to allow us a chance to conduct discussions and deliberations with the governmental parties and the civil community organizations as well. Besides, we have the intention to listen to different facts about human rights and assess policies of both countries (Yemen and Netherlands) to see whether they have negative or positive attitudes toward human rights.

Q: How do you assess ties between the two countries (Yemen and Netherlands)?

A: Yemen and Holland have bilateral ties based on mutual cooperation, and the Government of Netherlands usually supports Yemen in different areas including education. During my visit, I saw precious efforts exerted for developing human rights in Yemen.

Q: Through your visit to Taiz Central Prison, how do you assess the situations of prisoners?

A: First of all, I found that the central prison is very crowded and the number of prisoners seems to be three-fold the

capacity of the building. The available wards and cells can not accommodate the increasing numbers of prisoners. These situations necessitate increasing the numbers of wards and cells.

We discussed with some prison officials the situation of prisoners and they frankly mentioned all the problems and barriers hindering their attempts to improve prison conditions. They gave us information about judiciary and legislations, but we always say that the economic aspect is closely linked to the progress of humanity. It is impossible to respect human rights principles unless there is a well-developed economy of the country.

Q: The issue of human rights appears to be shared by the third world countries including Yemen; this issue developed in Yemen after the national unity and there is a constitution and effective laws, but what hampers their application and what is the reason behind weakness of civil community organizations?

A: I am very happy at the increasing awareness about human rights issue in Yemen and I think that human rights organizations, mainly the Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC)

which played a positive role in this respect, have to do their best to ensure and protect human rights laws. Generally, the application of human rights laws in any country is still a complicated problem, and despite the fact Yemen enjoys effective human rights laws, their application is still a major challenge. This requires a discussion on how human rights laws can be applied in real-life situations.

Q: Concerning violations against women rights, Yemeni women seem to be denied their rights of political representation, as there is only one female minister in the current government. Additionally, women are deprived of economic empowerment, and there are several violations against the freedom of press, and many refugees from the Horn of Africa jailed without any charges. Have you discussed these subjects with Yemeni Human Rights Minister?

A: A single post for a female minister at the Yemeni government is very important and not a violation against human rights. The absence of women in political representation in Yemen is a matter set for discussion. Providing the protection for

refugees was something agreed upon by the Parliament 15 years ago. Women from the Horn of Africa whom we cited in prison are not refugees but they have been residing in the country for a long time and the refugees’ law is not applied on them.

Q: Woman in Yemen is exposed to other violations such as throwing a woman suspected of adultery in prison and releasing the adulterer. Is it possible to discuss this subject with Human Rights Minister?

A: I am sure the Yemeni Human Rights Minister is an active woman and aware of all the laws and legislations operating in her country. She is also aware of human rights principles. Accordingly her ministry works on eliminating discrimination between men and women, and therefore the concerned organizations should play an integral role in this respect.

Q: We have a human rights ministry, but it appears to be a term without any effective role. For instance there are several human rights issues that are dealt with by the media without any attention paid by the ministry. Does your government offer training for Yemeni journalists on human rights?

A: We have a cooperation program with Yemen and this program is available at the embassy. We discussed how experiences and aids could be offered in this respect, and at the embassy we have a department for complaints, which is ready to offer cooperation and deliberations at any time.

Q: Any final comment?

A: I have come to Taiz to listen to your words as well as to talk with one another. I have come never to be a substitute for the local authority or the governor because some of the issues you forwarded seem to be the prerogative of the local authority. Yemen is your country and it is you who should solve its problems and issues.

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Words of Wisdom



I personally feel that female journalists can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the touch-bearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum - not optimal - conditions. Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951 - 1999) Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINIONMust we wait
until it's too late?

Surprising it is to find the parliament dealing with the weapons issue with such intense after the murder of member of parliament late Mohammed Mujahid Shammar. While everyday there are tens of Yemenis murdered everyday because of weapon carrying around the republic. Was it required such a sad incident for the parliament to start tackling this important issue seriously? How many more lives would it take before weapons are banned in public. Not just this issue, but every thing in Yemen that needs to be changed, when will it become a serious issue given its own space in the parliament's agenda? Isn't the parliament the voice of the people? Shouldn't it argue for the people's best interest in all domains? Or must there be another revolution or turning point incident to bring topics that were on the waiting list to the center of the table?

It is sad how weapons in Yemen lead to many uncaused for casualties, while people in the authority don't mind stocking more and more weapons and creating their own armies as if preparing for another civil war.

The Yemeni people are suffering from many deficiencies in their lives and these times are very tough. Even the basic needs of the people are not met. Health services, education, water and sanitation, electricity and infrastructure are all righteous demands that should be addressed before anything else. And instead of spending money on huge celebrations and undue expenses for high officials this money should have been turned to the best interest of the people.

The president has called for reform and that it comes from within, but when you've got nothing then you've got nothing to lose. And unless the people know that their government is working for them and on their side then they would not feel any loyalty to it or for that matter to the parliament who has not been addressing its needs.

Next month will be full of events and changes. What consequences will the new reforms bring are yet to be seen, here we are holding our breath and betting on the blues and hoping against hope that the people behind the politics know what they are doing and the parliamentarians start acting their roles as representatives of the people not against them.

The Editorial Board



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General observations on new journalism draft law

Law of press and
publication (PART 2)

BY ABDULBARI TAHIR

The draft here explains the obvious in an ambiguous way. More than that, it added restrictions that could be construed in different ways like, (defending the right, justice and the country). Many of the totalitarian regimes consider criticizing the rule or the ruler an aggression. We still remember Nimiry and Sadat's experience. Many of our Arab regimes consider the ruler to be the state and even consider religion, right and just to be the synonyms of the ruler, or even other names for the ruler. The Ministry, (which is celebrating Human Rights) sees to it that by this article, it paves the way for any judge to interpret any writing as against (the right, justice, etc) This sort of articles add more constrictions to journalists' activities, and hold them accountable all the way.

In tackling the function of press, the draft denies its role by saying (It is a means of public supervision on the civic societies, through expressing opinion, criticism. It adds, publishing news and information within the Islamic faith and the constitutional bases. It also adds, the aims and principals of the revolution to deepen Yemeni unity. The draft proceeds adding that, with respect to basic constituents of the community and the rights of the others.

This draft mixes poison with sweet. It copies several restrictions from the restriction article, then distributes them all over other articles, the general principals and the definitions. This is of course to make the sponsorship dominant over each article. This exposes the mentality of the censor. There is a proverb that says Lwhatever is hidden in the heart is disclosed by the countenance or the slips of the tongue). What disclosures has our draft made?

The Human Rights Ministry had denounced these flagrant expression and demanded its withdrawal wherever it occurred. The Human Rights Ministry also demanded the elimination of public censorship on civic associations. The whole article is like a

mine field, filled with restrictions. The constitution has guaranteed the rights and duties and it should be the final reference. The revolution principles should not be made a reference. They are elastic and can be construed in many different ways, because they were set in a time different from our present time. It would be an extra restriction to our present general principals. One finds it strange to add unity and the community principals. Criticizing the practices of the ruler could be interpreted as against unity, though it is a thing that is often happening. As for the criticism of the principals of the community, this is still more strange and hostile. The tribe for instance is the mother of the community, how could its criticism be a crime?

The article forces the press to defend bad traditions. It defines the press as free in carrying out its message. It asks it to respect the truth, and abstain to publish all that contradicts these principals of national responsibility and freedom. It also adds human rights and community values. It stipulates that it should not interfere with its activity outside the constitution and the law.

The phrasing here is very cunning. It introduces freedom (freedom of press) then it confiscates it, when it comes to details. One believes that the draft should respect the truth and leave all other things that undermine it. It is to be noticed that the restrictions in the draft come directly after "freedom" for example, these rhetorical expressions "to abstain from publishing all that contradicts liberty, nation's values .what is the meaning of this nation's values? In Yemen for example, carrying arms is considered to be a sign of manly hood, when it is considered a crime in other countries. Saudi Arabia considers woman veil a sacred duty and the Kuwaiti parliament doesn't allow woman's right in nomination and elections. What is the right that the Yemeni journalism draft speaks of? The general rhetorical expressions like :national responsibility, community value, the basic elements of community; all these are ambushes to undermine liberty. To the draft as it seems, the liberty is the plant and the

community values are the locusts

The comments of the Ministry of Human Rights has clearly indicated that, the expressions of principals of national responsibility and freedom, Human Rights and community values, are all tricky, vague and confusing. It warned that they should not be used without being specifically defined especially in the field of legislation.

This matter is not a matter of expressions, Such expressions turn into a guillotine at judiciary

General Principals

The draft provides that the press has the right to obtain the information from its sources, analyze circulate and publish them.

But the draft takes this right and insists on confiscating it by the expression, " within the law" It also adds the other general expression "to keep the values and community morals". These are general ambiguous expressions that surrounds itself with unlimited dangers

In article four it says "freedom of expression without limit", what a nice expression! It is a right that is granted by all legislation however they are secular or religious. But the suspicious draft does not makes one enjoy it. It stipulates that it should be " except that which is related to the security of the state, the community or the morals and values, as determined by the law"

Are the state, community morals and values, contradicting the liberty and free thinking? It is obvious that these can not be protected without freedom. What is this freedom of the draft that puts cuffs on hands, and how can a journalist know whether an article or a comment is against the state's security or not?

The expression "as determined by the law is a judiciary expression . that makes freedom a disputed matter.

The ministry has blamed the mystical expression that would have the potentiality of being construed differently by different people. It also criticized the usage of values and morals, because they have no fixed values as they differ from time to time and from a community to another.

When terrorism kills youth

Terrorism and counter-terrorism have been the talk of the world. Terrorism is the enemy against which the whole world is facing and trying to alleviate its dire consequences. That fearful specter which wants to turn human civilization into ashes, obliterating and devastating its

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
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achievements. Terrorism is dangerous to both human and religious values creating a chaotic world sometimes under the pretext of religion. However, terrorism is diametrically opposed to religious tenets and values.

Perhaps the story of sad-faced Najla, a 12-year-old girl, is a curt descriptive statement of the ugly face of terrorism which is destitute of all religious values. Najla lost her father who went outside to fetch medicine for her. He was walking along one of Aden's streets when a car bomb explosion killed him.

It would take a long time trying to describe terrorism and what it caused the world and Muslims in particular. However, in this article, we are tackling part of its impact on the Yemeni youth.

The Sept 11 events were a major terrorist crime which distorted human values and ethics. Those attacks had no real justification and had no clear purpose except for destruction. It is a crime which dissatisfied the whole world. The Arab and Islamic nation is the most affected by the attacks. It is by all means a real crime that pleases nobody.

Being youth, we have to understand our reality and discuss the problems which we suffer because of terrorism. We should know the size of joblessness created by terrorism among youth. They are liable to misery. We should know that terrorism has no values

and tenets. We should as well ask, "What have Muslims gained from those attacks which were launched by individuals who represent themselves and their bleak frustrated mad ideas?"

They had lost the language of dialogue with the otherness, not only those who are different in language and thought but even with their fellowmen. It is time to understand the useful lesson from those horrible events. We have the right to know that those operations were fueled by misled youth. The difficult economic circumstances which most of them had were the doorway into their minds. They were victims while their leaders escaped into dark caves searching for life. They escape from death they taught to others. What a paradox?

Let us leave the discussion of those dirty attacks which have given birth to areas of conflict in different areas of the world. They have opened Pandora's Box. Let us objectively examine the effect terrorist acts and their effect on Yemen.

As young men suffering employment and searching for jobs, we have to know that terrorism is our adversary which has driven us into a labyrinth and given us the feeling of despair.

Examples of terrorism are galore but we are trying to review some of them and how they affected our reality.

On October 12, 1998, terrorists bombed destroyer USS Cole at Aden Port. That was neither the first nor the last incident. Later, happened the crime of kidnapping tourists and killing them in Abyan province. The so-called Aden-Abyan Islamic Army emerged led by Abu Hassan al-Mihdhar. Consider these statistics for a while. After these two terrorist incidents, Yemen was set to lose millions of dollars every year. The misery

worsened. Number of tourists coming into Yemen sank. Some 60 thousand tourism contracts were cancelled. Yemen could have made use of their revenues. Thousands of young men employed by the tourism sector in tourist agencies, hotels, and tourist resorts, were sacked. They and their families became unsupported. The cause was the dirty terrorist acts.

The general budget's deficit as well as inflation increased which consequently resulted in less governmental posts. University graduates felt desperate. The international companies which presented to the young people a way out of the severe economic burdens terminated their contracts and move their activity to more stable and safer places. Our country's reputation was defaced by the mad act of those people.

According to official statistics, the commercial balance went down and has never since been fixed.

We conclude that all sectors were damaged by the terrorist operations even ports and long coasts could not employ young men. The number of containers arriving at the Free Zone became less. What added insult to injury was insurance companies' 300% fee rise on vessels calling at Yemeni ports. Therefore, ships were unwilling to visit Yemen which caused a loss of over \$15 million monthly. The sea which used to employ hundreds and thousands of young men can no longer accommodate them. The oil that spilled from tanker Limburg has impaired its beauty and damaged its environment. This terrorist incident sent inland six thousand young people on an open unpaid vacation.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Welcome, brother
Moslems

When the Prophet Mohammed (peace of Allah be upon him) delivered the message faithfully and with all the dedication that a prophet could muster up, he embarked on a mission of universal implications that to this day still represents the ideal international order. With the message of peace that the religion of Islam even enjoins in its name, there can be no comparison to the importance that Islam places on the advancement of human welfare and social cohesion, not just on a regional plane, but throughout the world.

But, regrettably, the Nation of Islam has indeed become the underdog of the world. Rather than standing atop the world, the Moslem world is subject to all the agonies, misery and pitiful transgression by every evil that one can imagine to befall a nation. Paramount in this pitiful situation is the regrettable lack of harmony among the Moslems in the world. This is not only in facing up to the challenges that are brought on by hostile forces of every denomination that confront the Ummah, we have even forgotten how to get our act together and energize our development to become modern nations that can stand up to all forms of social degradation most of the countries in the Moslem World are facing. The most pitiful aspect of this is that as a nation, we have forgotten the universalism and brotherhood that Islam insists is part and parcel of our creed. Thus, there is pain and agony here and there amongst our brothers everywhere. However most of the countries suffice by declaring their vocal condemnation, while at the same time, some countries even succumb to the wishes of the very forces that seek to destroy our being.

We have allowed our religion to become misunderstood even by the very adherents to Islam as we become drawn into a senseless sectarian argument that should have died long ago, had good sense and mutual interest become the driving force behind the policies we as a nation pursue. No, this is not the work of conspiracies, mysterious clandestine operations and myriad mysteries that we seek to cover our own inaptitude to facing the internal roots of self-destruction that are being implanted by our very own brothers, who find pleasure in nurturing this with an avowed mind-boggling diligence that defies explanation.

We have been blessed with the most convincing arguments for advancing the welfare of not just our own brothers, but the entire world, yet we are at a loss at confronting the forces in our midst that seek to turn Islam into a quest for political and social hegemony at the expense of the peace and tranquility of the rest of their respective communities.

So, what should the leaders of the Moslem World do in such a forbidden environ as we live in today? Certainly, they should meet - and meet as often as possible. But, realistically are all these meetings getting us anywhere to meeting all the awesome challenges confronting the nation? Even in these meetings, are the representatives laying out the real hard issues facing the nation: retarded development, hunger, oppression, lack of equity, bad governance, misarranged priorities and misguided extremism. Then, if these are the issues, why aren't these meetings coming out with substantive solutions to these living issues we are witnessing, no matter how hard we try to close our eyes to them.

This observer has had the opportunity to visit many Moslem communities throughout the world and it is indeed refreshing to come back home knowing that at the grass roots level, many leaders will be surprised to learn that there are a lot of common grounds of agreement between Moslems throughout the world. Sadly, these common grounds are not to be seen amongst the leadership of many of the Moslem countries. The logical thing is then that Moslem leaders throughout the world need to come to grips with the reality that they and their constituencies do not see eye to eye in the way the Moslem World is living up to our moral and spiritual commitments to God and to our people. Their constituencies may indeed be closer to what is expected of us as a nation than their leaderships, who have become more enmeshed in the narrow interests that they view as being part and parcel of their existence. Wouldn't their attachment to the guiding spirit of the universalism of Islam be a far more rewarding and uplifting pursuit?

Projects of picturesque islands, estimated at \$500 million and expected to create 7000 jobs, were lost and became unreachable.

We shouldn't forget that exceptional security measures to counteract terrorism consumed a huge budget which should have been used to alleviate unemployment. There are lots and lots of miserable stories about thousands of young men's terrorism-ruined lives.

Having reviewed and scrutinized part of the tragedy, shouldn't we play an ideological role to reject thoughts and cultures which bring nothing but devastation? Young people's interest lies in enlightening their minds, and instilling knowledge, tolerance and ethics in them. They should be immunized to the culture of violence and hatred and should adopt the culture of intimacy, accepting others and their sciences. This is our noble message and bright ideas are the ground of dialogue. Serious thinking of the calamities and crises we are facing makes us realize the seriousness of destruction-generation black ideas. We must know that youth are the victims of the ideas originated in the hell of terrorism. We have to know that awareness and knowledge are the way to reality and not fantasy.

Yemen Press Review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

News Headlines: Most of the weeks issues discussed the sales tax issue and economic reform, and condemning the ministers of health and power:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Al Shumoo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be ware of the people's wrath, and bring the health and power ministers to court - PGC threatens to open old files of the YSP to media - Hunt Oil reimburses foreigners and refuses to treat Yemenis the same - Yemen polio cases amount to 50% of the international cases | <p>world wide</p> <p>Al-Adhwa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government ignored the real cause of the cement crises and monopolies behind the price hike - Amran Univristy established an achievement for five governorates - Alattas previous prime minister to return to Yemen | <p>Al-Mithaq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Al-Qirbi in the press conference on the fourth night of the Islamic Conference: we need a political will for change and reform - Parliament defines minimum wages at 20,000 Riyals - A small committee to accommodate the amendments in the press law |
|--|---|--|

Opinions and editorials:

Most of the editorials discussed the deteriorating status of media in Yemen and that the syndicate is not performing its duties well

Al-Adhwa: The fall of journalism:

On the back page of this week's issue a Column written by a member of parliament of the media committee Mr. Mohammed Nasir al-Hazmi.

He says in his article that although majority of the journalists have maintained their dignity and professional pois some have lost it to their interests and condemned and defamed the president of this country.

He says that people should not accuse their leaders and should give sufficient

respect to power positions.

Al-Mithaq: Smuggling of expired goods who's responsible?

An investigative report by Najib Shuja aldin on the fake brands and that even the agents get rid of the spoiled goods by giving them to street venders to sell.

Asshumoo: YSP and the possibility of normalizing political relations

The political editor in the front page talks about the Yemeni Socialist Party YSP and its fifth general conference and the possible outcomes from this conference.

Predictions is that the outcomes of the conference will change the political map

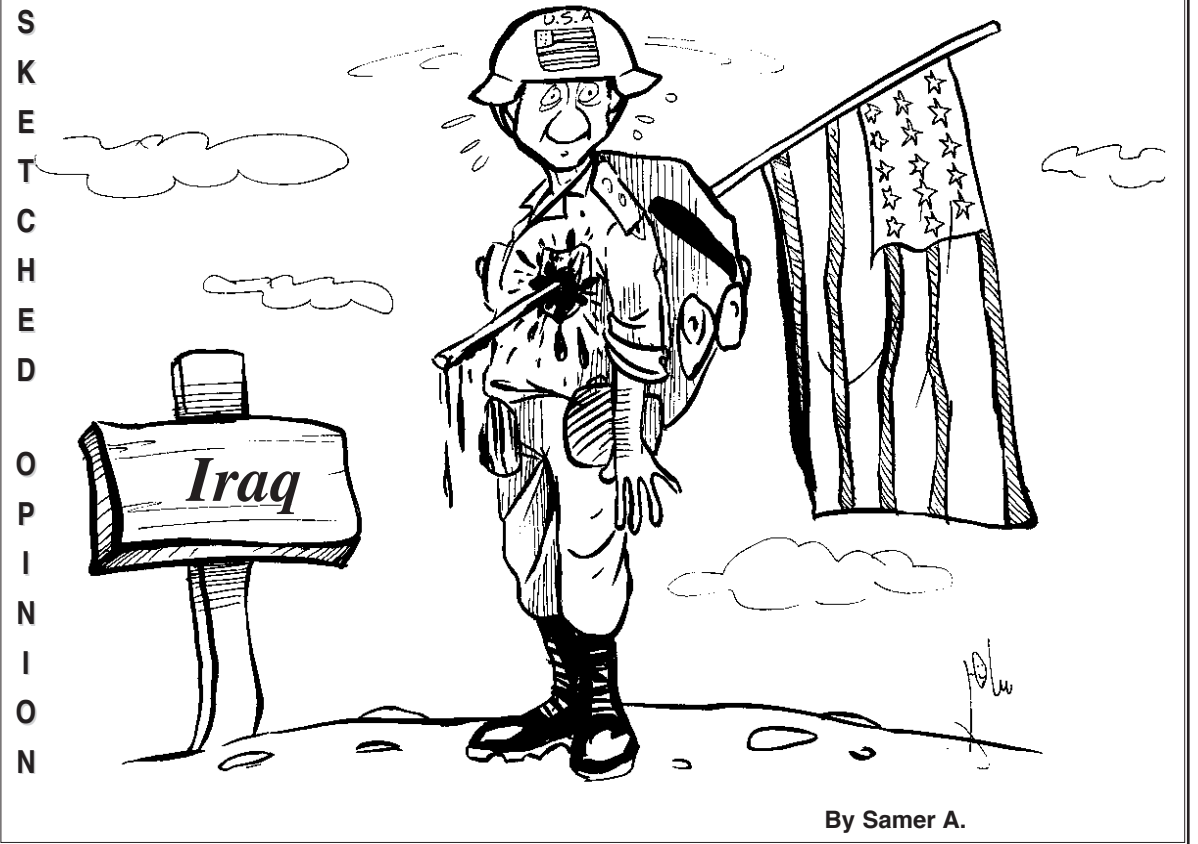
dramatically and will reflect on the political party's future identity.

Alliance against the future:

Safwan al-Fashi in his opinion titled alliance against the future talks about how while countries are celebrating 50 years of continuous electricity supply Yemen is heading the opposite way and ironically describes how it seems that authorities select the worst times in summer or night to cut power and leave the people vulnerable.

Features

Asshumoo: The common assembly parties hiding behind al Islah and the Nasserite



By Samer A.

This report was written by the Asshumoo's research center in which it was revealed that the reform party "Al-Islah" is facing a defaming campaign by some of the mouth pieces of political parties included in the political parties common assembly.

The report endorses Islah's policies and political stands.

The report's main headlines discuss the prospective of the ruling political party coming in line with the opposition.

And describes how the conditions for the opposition's candidate are defined by

the American embassy.

Al-Adhwa:

An interesting feature about Jin and incidents with spirits.

Zionism Imperialism and how it is a risk that threatens to end human kind

A case study of a victim of temporary marriages based on money.

Interviews

Al-Adhwa:

In a phone conversation that was cut suddenly with Ali Salem al-Biedh, recored by Ali al-Asadi, On the side line of this interview it was mentioned that many callers to the newspaper expressed their desire for Salem al-Beidh former vice president.

Al-Mithaq:

Dr. Ahmed M'd al-Asbahi welcomes the guests of the 32nd Islamic Conference for the foreign ministers.

Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

"Just be yourself"

By MUAD ALI DABWAN
E-mail: muad55a@hotmail.com

No matter how much you spend so long as you are sure of the satisfying result. This is what all real knowledge-seekers and noble men search. If they did not get what they have in mind by a particular means they search another. Sometimes, this means is a main factor for their intellectual development and they feel that they cannot do without it. In other words, they sense that they are obliged to carry out all the orders of that main informational source, not because of the right information that they get but for other considerations we will get to know.

The most outstanding example is the student-teacher relationship. The system of teaching in Yemen, and almost in the whole Arab world, falls into two stages: the first stage is the primary-preparatory-secondary-school phase. In this stage we find that the student is no more than an information receiver. He

does not argue with his teachers about anything because he tries to get as many pieces of information as possible. However, there are some students who argue, but not with a logical reason.

Some of them ask questions because they do not understand their essence, and that, of course, is not an argument. Rather, it is a doubt or question that he or she wants to get correctly. An argument is something that you say with full mouth, confirmed heart, convincing speech, and concentrating mind. No one can stand the fire of your speech if you are arguing with the above features.

The second stage starts from joining college upwards. In this stage we find that the student has grown intellectually. His mind is broaden and his understanding is clearer.

He thinks over everything and expresses himself in the best way. He squeezes the idea in his mind, turns it into considerably piercing thought, then brings it fresh into existence in the form of persuading words of magical touch and charming impact on the audience's ears.

He can listen to his professors at college and argue with them convincingly. If he could not convince his professor because that his professor is a dictator, at least he can convince a whole nation, a whole world that is right. This means that, in most cases, such a student can excel his teacher as did Aristotle.

He excelled his teacher, Plato, but the Aristotelian respect to learning and to the teacher pushed him to say: "Plato is dear to me, still dearer the truth". So the truth should be dearer than any thing else to us being real knowledge-seekers, seeking the truth, and truth only.

Unfortunately, Yemeni-college students suffer from suppression of expression. They are creative and there is "one genius person inside them that seeks to come out" but there is no way, because of the professor's suppression. They restrict the student to some hand-out, not all of them, though, and they want the student to copy all that hand-out on the exam papers.

They do not accept anything else out of that handout. In this way, the creative

student finds himself intellectually paralyzed and cannot do but what he is asked to. This is how the creative become uncreative, the rich poor, and the meaningful meaningless.

To sum up, the path of learning is always risky and we find what is good and what is bad, so we have to choose for ourselves what is forever best for us. The effect of our instructors on us should be a short-term one from which we take the good things only so that we can shape our own independent personality.

Also the professors should be humble and allow students to express themselves in their own way for the ships cannot go when they are anchored, and at last, the evaluation is theirs. If not so, then be sure that the student would be no more than a copy of the original and as "the copy falls short of the original", as stated Plato, the student would be a distorted copy of his instructor that is of no avail to the society in which he or she lives, nor can they "trust themselves", the main factor that one needs to be a creative person.

Bread and 911

By Lamya zain
Lamyazoo@yahoo.com

A night out on New Year's in the capital was not simply nice dinner and a drive around the city as I thought. Apparently you never know if the "fun" night has other plans.

Mood wasn't set to celebration to start with. The news of the price-doubling of all goods, oil and taxes has hit a couple of days ago as the parliament decided this is the only possible solution for the 4th over-due dose of the World Bank & IMF debts.

So hey, Yemenis, if you're poor, cheer up! You're about to get even poorer!

Tension was in the air as we drove in the jam. Car pumps on a web of holes in the concrete and aunt curses and shouts of how bad street lights cause her to fix her car for a double price. Like the holes were avoidable.

Long minutes of silence at every red

light. Hundreds of children of all ages rush towards cars trying to sell something. Anything you think of, you could buy at the red light's starting from irons and cooking pots to mobile devices and woolen hats.

I open the window to call one of the kids selling cassettes. The cold breeze enters violently and while both aunts blame me for letting the cold in, I ask the kid in the worn-out T-shirt if he has the latest record of my favorite singer. "Of course!" He pops it up out of his bag with a big smile. I hand him a hundred-Rial bill and quickly roll the window up as other kids gather thinking I'd want to buy things from them too.

We leave the restaurant after the less-than-ordinary dinner and an argument with our impolite waiter and run towards the car seeking some warmth.

Silence among the three of us in the car made me think some music would help. And just as I was working my new cassette in the recorder I looked out the window and saw what left me motionless.

"What's wrong?"

"I don't want to talk about it!"

I reply and put the cassette in my purse.

I've heard about it and even avoided that street especially not to see it and get a heartburn. But there is was, the Porsche dealership where the 2005 models shine under the silver lights of the show room.

Next red light I couldn't look up. I couldn't bear looking at those hungry kids with their bags of goods on their crooked backs and ragged clothes.

Blood rushed into my head as I thought of how these children work all day in the freezing cold only to afford buying bread for their families while others who enjoyed the warmth of their mansions could afford buying the newest model of Porsche 911 without even one minute of hard work.

Sorry kids, but you will only get to take half of that bread home at the end of the day tomorrow.

Congratulations Sir, you can drive

your brand new 911 tomorrow - still on the same puppy roads.

And they say no one knows what tomorrow brings!

I lock myself in my bedroom and find a couple of Panadol tablets and wish I had never decided to get out of my "depression phase" and went out.

Oh beautiful Sana'a, so full of diversity, I feel ashamed that I swallow the words and keep silence like all your people. We have been turning the other cheek for as long as I can remember that it seems we have thousands of them.

I believe we'd be glad to pay back the World Bank & IMF on the expense of our basic necessities if these big debts had provided us with better schools and decent health services instead of sports cars and villas for the hotshots.

But our content comes last. We will pay back anyway. After all, this IS the present we got for 2005!

One goes out for a breath of fresh air and ends up suffocating.. Happy New Year Yemen!

Whispers

By Fahmia AL-Fotih

At least three things!

What are your memories of your school days? Do you remember school as fun, boring, exciting, a time to be with friends?

Everyone has his own memories weather bad or sweet about school. I, myself, started learning my alphabetic under a tree in small village and then I went to school to which I had to walk for long hours to reach the school that was on the top of a mountain. It was hard for child to cross that distance. So I think you agree with me that was not nice and. So I can hardly remember my class or teachers. However, after passing many years and have a look on the educational system and the environment the students study in, the situation is not different and seems pessimistic.

Last month UNICEF organized a trip for the members of Tofolati Forum, whom I belong to, and represent different mass media in Yemen to visit some schools in Sana'a outskirts particularly "Sanhan" district. The main purpose of the visit was to see the locations on which UNICEF intended to build and repair some schools in this district within the program of encouraging girls to enroll to schools as well as to evaluate the real situation of the students live in their schools.

Mr. Nasim AL-Rahman, UNICEF representative, accompanied us and he was asking the students various questions among which one question attracted me and clang in my mind. That question was "Can you list three things that you like about school?" Students were silent for a while when Hussein, one of students answered hesitantly "First I learn to read and write. Second..." Then he stopped thinking about number two and three and he was scratching his head and he couldn't find any more reasons for loving the school. How can Hussein love the school and he could not find the beautiful image he has about school? How can he love the school and he could not find a seat and sit on the ground instead and in a cramped place that look like the prison cell? How can he love the school and could not find his basic needs, no place to

get water or healthy food, no yard or wall gathers him with his friends to play, and no toilets. Moreover, how can he love the school and he sees monster-like teachers who always hold sticks in their hands, horribly shouting at him and treat him as animal? These so-called teachers lack for knowledge and proper teaching style, and they cannot understand the psychology of the young children and how to deal with them appropriately and help them in their first steps. But these teachers are good at giving these little students much homework.

Mohammed, a 6-year student, refuses to go to school every morning. His mother has to take him everyday to the school and waits for him till the end of his class.

Roqia, a student in 3rd grade, told me that she hates her teachers. When I asked her about the reason she angrily said "They cannot explain and make us understand"

Unfortunately, for these reasons and other our children hate the school at the first sight and from the first day.

As we went away from the capital the situation gets worse and worse. The big shock was when we were told to visit another school but what we found could not be called school at all. What we found was a small room on the edge of a mountain and there was partition divided the room into two classes. There was not any indication of existence an appropriate educational environment.

Nadia, 9-year girl, said about the school she dreams of "I want to have the school like the ones I watch on TV. I dream to have my own table and chair and watch the cartoons drawings on the wall of my class. I wish if there was sports I can practice, painting and music lessons."

By these short simple words, Nadia innocently expresses the simple dream all the children have.

Our children are the pillars of tomorrow but today they are deprived and they need all the hands of their society to get together and help them to live and study in an appropriate environment that ensures them all their needs to be good and successful citizens. Let's make their dreams come true and let's make their childhood memories be the sweetest.

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4. You will receive SMS confirming the numbers you sent.
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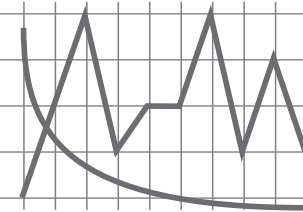
1. Send (Delete) followed by the numbers you wish to discard, leaving a space between each number, then send to 333.
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YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	194.7700	195.1900
Sterling Pound	355.2100	355.9800
Euro	235.5300	236.0300
Saudi Rial	51.9400	52.0500
Kuwaiti Dinar	666.9700	668.4100
UAE Dirhem	53.0300	53.1400
Egyptian Pound	33.5800	33.6500
Bahraini Dinar	516.6200	517.7400
Qatari Rial	53.5000	53.6200
Jordanian Dinar	274.7000	275.2900
Omani Rial	505.9200	507.0100
Swiss Franc	152.6800	153.0100
Swedish Crown	25.0800	25.1300
Japanese Yen	1.7861	1.7899

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Poverty should be development's top priority

BY HAMOUD AL-HASHIMI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Poverty is one of the gross violations of human rights. It is a manifestation of economic deterioration and a major challenge development efforts in the developing communities. poverty is defined as the severe shortage in resources so much that the lowest level of individuals' basic needs is not met.

A poor person is someone who depends on an income below the poverty line. Most relevant studies distinguish between two types of poverty: the first type is called temporary poverty which results from causes such as the nature of the existing political and economic systems where qualified people and highly skilled technicians are not employed because of the systems or because of a budget failure. Such people find themselves in a state of poverty because they don't work but they get out of their poverty as soon as they find a job with an income above poverty line.

The second type is the so-called chronic poverty. It is the commonest in the developing countries including Yemen. It is the result of a trait in the person him/herself or because of a general social characteristic such as illiteracy, low education rate, unskilled workforce, and even poor health. Individuals living in chronic poverty do not have the abilities and capacities to get jobs with sufficient income.

Having got a job, they remain in chronic poverty because the income is below the poverty line. Therefore, economic and social troubles plague



Yemen, overwhelming the majority of the people with incurable cares. Yemen suffers a weak production infrastructure.

It lacks the elements necessary for growth and economic balance. Agricultural lands cover just 10% of the country's area, the real workforce doesn't exceed 21.9 % of the population. There are also the insufficient financial resources as well as the problem of overpopulation which has hampered Yemen's development and created a population crisis from which women particularly are suffering nowadays.

The 4.8% growth rate increased the population to 19.7 million in 2004, that is, 4 million more than the census of 1997. This number may be doubled in eight years. The fertility rate has risen to 7.1% which is a high percentage. This is due to early marriage, polygamy, and high birth rate.

All this has affected the society and women in particular. Women are the poorest class in Yemen, with less authority and independence although they

shoulder many responsibilities. They represent over half of the population (50.4%) and perform on third of the labor most of which is unpaid. Illiteracy spreads among women reaching as high a percentage as 76.3%. women also suffer malnutrition and they are more vulnerable to economic malfunctions that take place in the community.

Statistics show that the population growth rate is 4.7%, inflation rate 75.8%, while the GDP growth rate 2.9%, unemployment reached, according to 1997 census, 9.3%, one third of this rate are women (38,664 women out of 324,618 unemployed persons in Yemen.) the poverty rate is said to be approximately 19%.

All this has impacted the Yemeni citizens especially women. If development is a social, economic, human, cultural phenomenon, it must then be a planned process aimed to affect changes in the social and economic structure of the community by mobilizing and employing all its capabilities to remove the

forms of backwardness and create a fair human life for all society's members. This can be realized through the achievement of the following goals:

Achievement of a comprehensive civilized development for people; eradicating poverty; fair distributing of income; reforming economic structures; limiting economic dependence.

The above is the concept of development in a nutshell. It, however, must not neglect the role of women who are one of the country's economic pillars. The development process should help women get out of poverty and to lead their way towards a bright future unperturbed by the evils of poverty.

Many studies indicate that the negative impacts of poverty are not limited to misery and privation in which the poor live. They warn of the incurably indelible marks left on the mental and physical capabilities of the generation of the future as poverty affects much the children of the poor families.

Poverty does not only contradict the basic social and economic rights to which all individuals should have access. It also contradicts the political rights. Poverty means that an individual cannot get a decent life and also means he/she cannot claim their political rights such as the freedom of expression and political participation because such individuals are in weak economic and social position. They do not have the time to think of their political rights because they are more concerned with their bread.

Poverty is not only a source of social and political tensions. It can be described as the most challenging obstacle to development in Yemen.

Hard times confronting the private sector and civil societies

Specialists said that, the defiance which the private sector faces is not less than those which face the civil society organizations. This comes in the light of the declared government's policy for the involvement of the two sectors in the on going modernization.

The government situation could be described as hesitant – encouraging, to present necessary support for achieving effective partnership between the three factors of the social equation. The specialists think that the Yemeni private sector, like the NGOs faces domestic factors which undermine its partnership in the industrial and economical participation, because of the shortcomings of the public sector, which is obsessed by dealing with private sector with the idea that it is only a source of revenue for real state brokers.

Businessmen say that, their participation in investment according to the investment law which provides facilities and exemptions for local and foreign investors faces bureaucratic obstacles and lacks efficient judiciary procedures in resolving land disputes that arises between investors.

They say that bureaucracy delays their work and compels them to abandon their projects.

Those projects would have contributed to mobilize the economy, and

solve the problem of unemployment, that is prevailing in the labor market. The businessmen accuse the government that it doesn't keep its word with them, in spite of the many assurances that it is going to make efficient partnership with the private sector. The sales tax is the outstanding example according to businessmen.

Those concerned with civil society affairs believe that their situation isn't better than that of the private sector. The declared legislations would lead to retreat in their development.

The formal hesitance in dealing with the civil societies, which sometimes supports and objects at other times undermines the development process of these organizations. This minimizes their part in leading the political modernization in the country.

Civil society activists, affirm that, the intended absence of the civil societies contributes to decrease their role. It limits the prospects of their participation in managing, helping and defending their community rights. If they receive the necessary help, they are expected to face the community development obstructions in the fields of knowledge, production and information. The double standard in dealing with the civil societies, will lead to drawbacks in the social and political structure, and weakens the civil societies' role in economical fields.



JOB VACANCIES

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices will be based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now preparing to recruit the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT SECRETARY – Reference No. 001

YLNG Company will shortly begin a major recruitment programme. We are now looking for a Senior Secretary who has a minimum of five years' experience of the Human Resources role within large international companies. Reporting to the HR Manager, this is post will include the provision of administrative and secretarial assistance to the senior HR staff, the training of the HR secretarial team, the establishment and administration of a departmental filing system (electronic and hard copy) and the co-ordination of responses to job applications. The ability to translate documents into English and Arabic would be a distinct advantage. The successful candidate will be confident, dedicated and efficient and will have extensive experience in liaising with individuals at all levels within external organizations and government departments. This permanent position is based in Sana'a.

CUSTOMS CO-ORDINATOR Reference No. 002

Reporting to the Logistics & General Services Manager, this post involves the rapid and efficient completion of all import and customs formalities required by YLNG. The successful candidate will be qualified to University degree level and will have a minimum of five years' experience of import clearance regulations and transportation activities. The position requires tenacity, strong organizational skills and the ability to prioritise key tasks. A technical background such as an engineering degree would be a distinct advantage. He or she will be capable of deputising for the department manager when required. This permanent position is based in Sana'a.

SECURITY OFFICER Reference No. 003

Reporting to the Security Manager, the successful applicant will be responsible for managing all security assets of the YLNG office, ensuring that they are operating efficiently. The Security Officer will also monitor and direct the office guards and will arrange escorts for staff or VIP visitors. Applicants must have extensive experience of carrying out security assessments of venues such as hotels or locations where social functions are to be held, and must develop excellent relationships within the local security community. The successful candidate will be aware of expatriate housing requirements and will provide expert advice on security related issues, in co-operation with partner company representatives. A minimum of ten year's experience in similar roles is required, ideally gained within an army, police or security service environment. The position is based in Sana'a and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

DOCUMENT CONTROLLER Reference No. 004

Reporting directly to the Services Manager, this post involves the creation, maintenance and updating of document control procedures for large volumes of technical and contractual records. The successful candidate will operate and maintain electronic and manual systems and will be responsible for the receipt, registration, distribution, filing and archiving processes. The role will include the training of all Project personnel in all relevant aspects of the document control system, and liaison with Project staff and contractor personnel at the various project offices and at the Balhaf site. Knowledge of Electronic Data Management Systems (EDMS) – ideally Documentum - and previous experience within multi-national projects would be a distinct advantage. The successful applicant will be seconded to Paris for approximately three months to gain experience of the existing systems. The position is based in Sana'a and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

SITE QUANTITY SURVEYOR Reference No. 005

Reporting to the Site Preparation Superintendent, this post involves the checking and verification of progress by the contractors, in accordance with the scope of work. The role will include progress measurement, the monitoring of change orders, the checking of

contractor invoices against work achieved and the maintenance of complete and accurate records. The successful candidate will be an experienced Quantity Surveyor, educated to University degree level and with a proven track record on major projects. The position is based at the Balhaf site and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

MATERIAL AND LOGISTICS ENGINEER Reference No. 006

Reporting directly to the Project representative in Sana'a, this post involves the provision of a complete personnel and materials logistics service in Sana'a, Balhaf or other locations within Yemen. The job holder will reserve accommodation, flights, clearances and transportation for Project personnel and will ensure that appropriate communications and IT links are available. In addition, the post involves the monitoring of contractor procurement, packing, shipping, storage and Customs processes and the provision of expert guidance where necessary to eliminate delays and ensure that all materials arrive on time and are stored securely. The successful applicant will also be responsible for local purchase, delivery and storage of materials as required. The position is based in Sana'a and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential, and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs. It is the policy of YLNG to give preference to Yemeni nationals.

Interested applicants should send their CV with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post to:-

The Human Resources Department, Yemen LNG Company, P.O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen.

The deadline for all applications is 20 July 2005.

Candidates applying from outside Yemen may apply by e-mail to: hr@yemenlng.com.ye

Company website
www.yemenlng.com

Revenge in Yemen: Between the tribal culture and absence of justice and law



By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

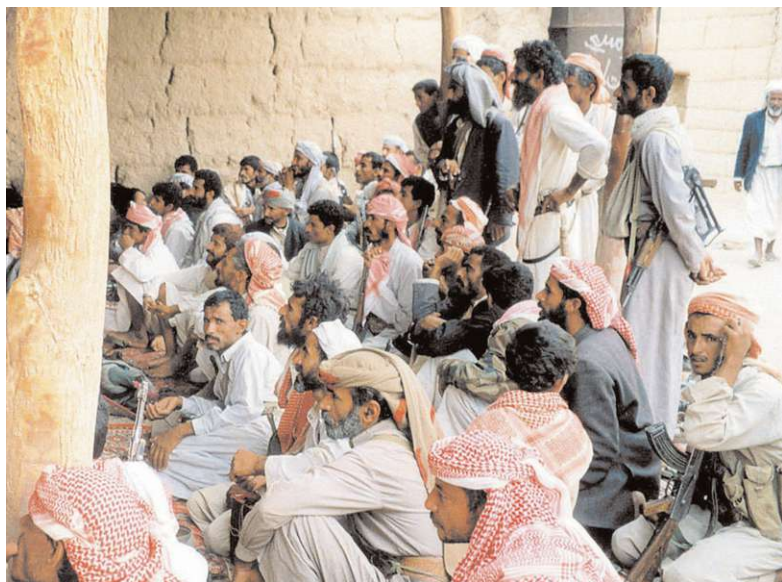
The episodes of revenge and feuds are still being staged in different Yemeni tribes, killing thousands of people most of them whom are innocent. The State is silent and NGOs are not interested in eliminating revenge issues, which find a place in Yemen because of tribal traditional values such as dignity and stigma. What further coaxes the fire of revenge is lawlessness and injustice.

Revenge is initiated by premeditated killing or deaths in tribal fights, that break out from time to time.

As it was said, revenge takes place in retaliation of a previous killing that happened as a culmination of tribal disputes, or it may happen as a response on the part of an individual, group or tribe when they feel they are oppressed or wronged. They ignore the peaceful alternatives and resort to the option of force and violence. Sorrowfully enough, the tribal culture of revenge is blind: the retaliators may kill anyone belonging to their enemy tribe or clan even if they know he is not the killer and that the killer is in custody. Such a culture does not criminalize the murderous act of taking revenge for a relative's blood—brother, father, son, etc.

They violate all conventions and values most primarily the tenets of Islam. The cases of revenge are still taking place in Yemen, most of which are the result of tribal fights across the country from Hadhramout in the south to Sa'adah in the north.

Examining the present reality of Yemen's tribes, one realizes that tribal violence threaten the majority of this big society's members. This violence oversteps the limits of the family, and place of residence. It, however, spreads out to invade cities, public places, roads, markets, schools and even universities in the center of the Capital



City.

Thus, the culture of revenge has expanded personal disagreements into tribal conflicts involving masses of people and killing many lives. A vivid example is what has recently happened in the province of al-Jawf. Some 30 men were shot dead and 27 wounded in one hour for a simple reason of YR 20 thousand.

Revenge, tribal conventions, and law:

Tribal conventions limit the occasions when revenge can operate. These codes also set forth severe punishment for unjustifiable murders as well as revenge during a truce or conciliation. The tribal customs state that a tribe must give up a killer(s) in case there is no justification for the murder.

The absence of law and justice are two major factors behind revenge. Other reasons include the lack of governmental efforts to resolve tribal disputes before they develop into bloodshed or intervene to resolve ongoing fighting. Courts, on the other hand, add insult to injury by delaying the settlement of murder cases. Those who wait for a belated justice get impatient and tend to take their right by themselves.

As tribes have access to arms and means of destruction, under a state of lawlessness and lenient State's controls, innocent people such as women and children pay the price although tribal conventions ensure their safety. The culture of tribe has developed into some sort of social and economic siege struck around the whole members of a tribe.

There is another aspect of the problem related to education. Some students drop out of their school because the school is located in an area where people wants to take revenge. Moreover, revenge disintegrate families and increases the number of divorces.

Figures reveal serious problem:

Referring to the official figures, which quite often are inaccurate in terms of computing the exact number of revenge cases, one can find that revenge victims average 300 persons per year. The total number of deaths over the last two decades exceeded the point of 5000, most of them whom were innocent.

All this happens amidst official and public silence although revenge forms one type of terrorism because it is based on violence and force. It takes killing as a medium for satisfaction and ruining

lives. The daily incidents in Yemeni cities, markets, schools universities and even courts necessitate that we should stand against revenge in Yemen as seriously and determinedly as we fight terrorism. Violence is the same whatever labeled, terrorism or revenge.

The State should do its duty to limit such incidents and help replace the culture of revenge with another fruitful culture through establishing justice, security and stability for the whole society.

NGOs and political parties, mosques and media means should play their role for the same end. The whole society should mobilize its capacities to combat the monster of revenge. It is not enough to call for a general reconciliation as it happened. However, what should be done is multi-fold requiring the consideration of all factors. Reconciliation is the beginning; the end should see revenge razed. But, there are many steps between the beginning and the end.

Continued from back page

Cameroon: Farming in the Dark

The Context

- When average world commodity prices rise, profits tend to go mostly to large trading companies, not to the small-scale farmers. For example, although in 2003 the prices of cocoa and coffee rose 27 per cent, coffee farmers have seen their share of the take from a package of coffee sold off the supermarket shelf fall from 37 per cent in the early 1990s to between 6 and 8 percent in the new millennium. Cocoa producers get about 7 per cent of the supermarket value.
- Another reason poor farmers don't profit from price gyrations on the world market is that they must sell at harvest because they can't afford to stockpile. Any gains go to middlemen and traders.
- Without information on which to base their production, small-scale farmers also have no way to hedge against overproduction. With advance information, they could plant less or attempt to diversify.
- Some agricultural commodity markets are also in disarray as a result of genetically modified strains which disenfranchise poor producers. These strains are now raised in one fourth of the world's cottonfields - up from 2

per cent in 1997. Poor producers and harvesters don't see a penny from most of these crops because they are planted and managed by cartels.

- Like INFOSHARE, several other projects around the world are helping poor people improve their lives. In rural India, the Infothela is a vehicle resembling a rickshaw which uses a pedal generator to keep an onboard computer running, providing free wireless internet access to people in remote villages. Infothela services include: "human ATMS" — microfinance corporation employees travel to villages to disburse loans; on-line futures trading, offering predictability to farmers' sales prices; biometric identification, and remote disbursement of credit to farmers for their warehouse contents. The project is organized by the Indian Institute of Technology.

For further information UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): Olivier Matringe, Economist, Tel: +41 22 917 5774, E-mail: olivier.matringe@unctad.org Mehmet Arda, Head, Commodities Branch, Tel: +41 22 917 5790; E-mail: mehmet.arda@unctad.org

Leaders' and politicians' costumes between 1948-2004

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Cultural Development Programs Foundation (CDPF) is making the necessary arrangements to organize the First National Exhibition of the Yemeni State's Costumes between 1948-2004.

The exhibition will be staged on August 10-30 at the Culture House in Sana'a in cooperation with a number government and private institutions and apparatuses.

The exhibition, which tops activities of the CDPF, aims to study the historical developments of the civil community by analyzing the symbolic meanings of costumes and dresses cited by the Yemeni State from 1948 until 2004.

It also aims at expanding the social and cultural environment that encourages values of forgiveness and self-understanding.

In a statement to al-Thawrah daily, Dr. Ra'wfah Hassan stressed the idea of staging the First National Exhibition of the Yemeni State's Costumes where the CDPF started working two years ago.

The CDPF focused on searching the evidences of leaders' and politicians' costumes, both men and women and attempted to find out the reasons behind the absence of such national costumes at present.

Dr. Ra'wfah Hassan is a university professor and an activist distinguished by her traditional Yemeni dresses.



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.

Ability: Strong interpersonal skills and teamwork skills are essential; ability to work rotating shifts, which includes evening and Thursday work in order to fit into and support YALI's 13 hours per day, 6 days per week of operation.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-9 (to be confirmed by Washington)

Ordinarily Resident: FSN-5

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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The university of Achievers

Cataract surgery in Yemen ...present and future

By Yemen Times staff

Cataract Surgery is usually required to restore full sight to individuals afflicted by cataract, a loss of transparency in the eye's lens. The surgeon cuts into the cornea and snips off a piece of the iris, the round membrane that covers the lens and gives the eye its individual color. After this procedure, called an iridectomy, the natural lens is removed with a small pair of forceps and replaced by a new plastic lens. A fine suture is then used to close the incision in the cornea.

According to the available data about cataract surgery in Yemen, the cataract surgical rate in 1995 was 670 per 1,000,000 population. This rate became 1,000 cataract surgeries per 1,000,000 population in 1999. An ophthalmic situation analysis in 2003 refers to 31,258 cataract surgeries that were done, and reaching a rate of 1600 per 1,000,000 population. However this analysis considers just new cases without considering the backlog of cataract cases.

Intraocular lens implantation in



exposed that there are deficiencies or sometimes absence of ophthalmic doctors and nurses in some governorates like Mareb, Al-Jawf, Al-Mahara. There is one ophthalmologist for 96,000 patients, but this number differs between different governorates.

The analysis mentioned that most eye units (162 eye units) are localized in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz. 86% of cataract surgeries are performed in the following five governorates: Sana'a (25%), Taiz (21%), Hadramout (17%), Aden (12%) and Hodeidah (11%).

Most of this surgeries are formed in private sector eye units. 23% of cataract surgeries are performed in public sector eye units, whereas 68% are performed in private sector eye units and 9% are performed in eye

cataract surgery in Yemen is 71.6%. The highest rate of this surgery was found in Dhamar, Al-Dhala, Sana'a, and Aden. The lowest rate was found in Hajja, Shabwa, Al-Mahweet and Lahj.

Ministry of health, local and international non governmental organizations (NGOs), try to decrease this rate to reach 2500 or 3000 cataract cases in the coming five years. Therefore the last ophthalmic situation analysis referred to human, infrastructural reasons which caused such situations. The analysis

Based on these results the ophthalmic situation analysis strongly recommend many procedures such as:

- Establishing a national evidence based strategy for prevention of blindness and prepare effective plans to apply this strategy.
- Performing Multiple Rapid Assessment for Cataract Coverage Services (RACCS).
- Developing ophthalmic human resources by improving surgical training especially in cataract surgeries and intraocular lens implantations mainly in the governorates that require such services, since the population of these governorates represent 49% of the total population in Yemen.
- Establishing eye units in those governorates with no or deficient eye units.
- Providing necessary equipments for the existing eye units.
- Ensuring cataract surgery quality control via monitoring outcomes of cataract surgeries
- Establishing a data base for primary eye health, preferably to be part of the national health data base.



By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Facts of Life

Ulcers: The myth of stress and spicy food

An ulcer is a sore or hole in the lining of the stomach. Similar to other sores, the top layer of tissue is gone, exposing more sensitive tissues underneath. An ulcer is a break in the lining of the stomach or in the duodenum (the first part of the small intestine). The most common type of ulcers are peptic ulcers — those found in the stomach and the first part of the small intestine. Ulcers cause a gnawing or burning pain in your stomach. However, most people who have stomach pain don't have an ulcer.

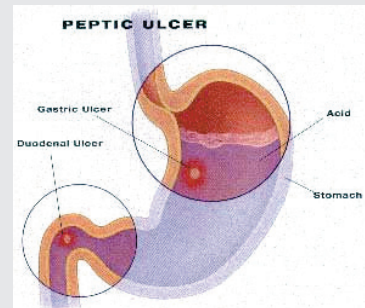
Most people with ulcers just have stomach pain. Some people don't have any symptoms at all. But ulcers may cause other health problems. Sometimes they bleed. If the ulcers become too deep, they can break through the stomach. Ulcers can block food from going through the intestines. This causes nausea, vomiting and weight loss.

Causes and treatment

Doctors used to think ulcers were caused by stress or by eating food with too much acid in it. But this is not true, in fact most stomach ulcers are caused by an infection. The infection is caused by a bacteria (germ) called *Helicobacter pylori*. Ulcers in people who don't have an *H. pylori* infection are usually related to heavy aspirin use, or heavy use of anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen (some brand names: Advil, Nuprin, Motrin). About half of the world's population is infected with *H. pylori*. Especially because some ulcers are attributed to smoking, excess stomach acid, and certain foods and beverages.

A layer of mucus normally protects the stomach from the acid the body releases to digest food. But that layer can be eroded by bacteria or by certain medications. Without its protective layer, the stomach is vulnerable to the acid, and an ulcer may result. About 80 percent of ulcers are caused by the bacteria *Helicobacter (H.) pylori*, according to Dr. Freston. *H. pylori* usually enters the body in childhood. It is carried in stool and can be transmitted through food, water or unwashed hands. *H. pylori* may live in the body for a long time before the bacteria erodes enough of the mucus lining to allow an ulcer to form.

Most anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can cause ulcers because they lower the amount of a chemical called prostaglandin, which essentially ensures there's enough mucus to protect the stomach lining



from the acid. By decreasing prostaglandin, traditional NSAIDs allow acid to penetrate the stomach lining, and the long-term use of these medications may lead to an ulcer.

About 80 percent of patients with ulcers have pain that is centered in the upper part of the abdomen, usually right below the breastbone. However, some ulcer patients don't feel any pain and often don't know they have an ulcer unless they start vomiting blood (from a bleeding ulcer), or passing blood from their rectum or in their stool. (Bloody stool looks black, not red.)

Older people are the least likely to feel pain from an ulcer because as we age we tend to lose sensitivity in our abdomen. And patients on NSAIDs may not feel pain because the drugs decrease all pain, not just pain caused by arthritis, for example.

While patients whose ulcers are caused by *H. pylori* are generally fully healed with medication, it's not yet known whether the bacterial infection can return. For this reason, patients who've been treated for *H. pylori*-related ulcers should see their doctor if their symptoms return.

Ulcers are often easy to diagnose and treat, but that isn't always the case. If *H. pylori* isn't found in a patient with an ulcer, and acid-reducing drugs aren't effective after two to three weeks, surgery may be necessary to cut out the ulcerated part of the stomach or duodenum and reduce acid secretion, says Dr. Ponsky. While surgery generally takes care of the ulcer that wouldn't heal, patients whose ulcers are caused by NSAIDs will have to try alternative pain relievers and get a gastroenterologist's advice on medications to help reduce the acid that accumulates.

Doctors say that smoking does aggravate peptic ulcer disease, regardless of what caused the ulcer, although we don't know why. Relapse rates for both NSAID-related ulcers and those caused by *H. pylori* bacteria are both higher in smokers. And, while stress has never been scientifically linked to peptic ulcers, patients claim their ulcer symptoms often get worse when they are under stress.

Ministry of Water & Environment Winner of the 2005 World Bank Development Prize

By Peer Gatter

With its project proposal for conserving Yemen's scarce water resources by reusing cleansing water from Masjids (Mosques) for irrigation, the Ministry of Water and Environment won the very competitive Development Marketplace Prize of the World Bank for Innovations for Livelihoods in a Sustainable Environment. The US \$ 127,000 project

which was submitted within the Biodiversity theme, was selected among 2,700 proposals, submitted by 136 countries and is one of the 31 proposals which won.

It is the first time that Yemen has won a prize for development work on an international platform. The Deputy Minister for Environment Affairs, Dr. Hussein Al-Guneid, who led the Yemeni delegation to Washington D.C. and received the competitive prize on May 25 and was thus very proud of Yemen's achievement. "Winning this prize", Dr.

Al-Guneid said, "showed that Yemen is among the world's leading countries when it comes to creatively approaching critical development issues. We did work very hard on developing this project".

The project will develop grey-water treatment and distribution facilities to recover grey water from mosques in 3 pilot communities. In doing so, it will increase incomes by adding irrigated land and increasing water availability.

"Considering that there are no less than 75,000 Masjids in Yemen", says Dr.

Al-Guneid, "the potential for saving and reusing water is nearly unlimited".

"We estimated that by successfully reusing grey-water consumed by all these Masjids, a large volume of good quality water which is currently used for green areas in cities and towns can be saved for food production".

To promote social acceptance and to increase understanding of grey-water use and sustainable water management, the project intends to conduct a public awareness campaign and seek the support of religious leaders, sheikhs and government officials. In addition, the Ministry of Water and Environment will disseminate the project experience and results to other communities.

World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn, who handed the prize to Yemen's delegation said: "The Development Marketplace gives us a chance to meet a lot of people who are on the front lines of bringing ideas and understanding that would never be thought of in Washington, London or Paris."

The 2005 Washington, D.C. Marketplace reflects the World Bank's commitment to promote environmental and socially responsible growth. Poor people directly depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and are severely affected by environmental degradation.

Seventy-eight finalists came to Washington for the two-day competition to showcase their unique ideas to bring renewable energy to small communities, reduce air and water pollution, promote sustainable agriculture, and raise environmental awareness. The 31 winners of the World Bank's 2005 Development Marketplace Global Competition walked away with nearly US\$4 million in grants. Their ideas ranged from transforming discarded charcoal dust into low-cost, clean burning fuel briquettes in Kenya to environmentally sound crab fishing in the Philippines.

The Development Marketplace's approach complements the World Bank's broader work by focusing on grassroots initiatives and working directly with local organizations that implement projects on the ground. "I was really inspired by the creativity and passion that goes into these projects. These innovative solutions will hopefully be expanded through not only World Bank projects, but other development-oriented institutions," Warren Evans, World Bank Director of the Environment Sector, said about all of the finalists.

"If all we do is more of the same and we just want to make them bigger, we will miss out on huge opportunities to make the world a better place. The world will be a poorer place if we lose the ability to look at creative individuals and small projects that can actually change the world," said Michael Wright, MacArthur Foundation Area Director for Conservation and Sustainable Development.

Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs Dr. Al-Guneid, when asked

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about the experience said: "It was valuable to learn about new funding options for development projects, on which we can call in the future. In this respect it was very important that we could interact with World Bank staff and other potential donors. But there was much more to this event than that", says Dr. Al-Guneid. "Washington was a real "Marketplace" for knowledge exchange. It gave us an opportunity to better understand the problems faced by other developing countries and learn from their experience. Their problems often resemble the development challenges Yemen is facing and we could thus benefit from learning about creative approaches to addressing these problems at home".

There were 34 judges from different organizations, including National Geographic, USAID, Conservation International, World Conservation Union, the United Nations Environment Program, and the World Bank, as well as previous winners.

The Development Marketplace started in 1998 as an internal Bank competition to fund innovative ideas that were not

picked up through the usual funding system. Over the last seven years it has evolved into a global event that has awarded nearly US\$40 million for 1,000 projects in more than 70 countries through Global Competitions, Country-Level and Regional Development Marketplaces. This year, the Marketplaces' external partners - Global Environment Facility (GEF), the MacArthur Foundation and Conservation International - contributed for the first time to half of this year's award pool.

Very important for the Minister of Water and Environment, Dr. Mohammed Lutf Al-Eryani said that the Ministry's delegation could communicate Yemen's ideas to the world. "We sincerely hope that our approach will also be taken up in other countries around the world. Our model project for saving water and more effectively using it can of course also be adapted to schools and other governmental buildings. When this is achieved as a long term goal, this would be the even greater prize that Yemen will take home from this competition."

Williams grabs five tries in record Lions win

PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand (Reuters) - British and Irish Lions winger Shane Williams pushed himself into second test contention with a blistering five-try performance in his side's record 109-6 victory over Manawatu on Tuesday.

The Welshman also had a hand in several of the other scores as the visitors ran in 17 tries to sweep aside the second division part-timers and obliterate their previous best victory in New Zealand.

With test places up for grabs after coach Clive Woodward's first-choice side were blitzed 21-3 by the All Blacks in Christchurch, Williams did all he could to earn a place for Saturday's match in Wellington.

The 26-year-old used his blistering pace and shimmering footwork to claim a first-half hat-trick, while his fifth try brought the 100 up.

England winger Jason Robinson, who looked rusty in the first test and may be competing for a wing position with Williams, also had cause to celebrate with his first try since January 2, a period of 17 games. His last international try was against Canada in November.

Replacements Ronan O'Gara and Mark Cueto each got two and there were further touchdowns for Martin Corry, Geordan Murphy, Charlie Hodgson, Ollie Smith, Neil Back, Gordon D'Arcy,

and Gareth Cooper.

Hodgson also pushed himself into contention with a composed display with seven conversions to tally 19 points, with O'Gara slotting five.

Scratchy performances

Prior to the game Woodward had urged his side to put the tour back on track after Saturday's depressing defeat, a raft of injuries and criticism from the media for scratchy performances against other provincial teams.

Manawatu had never beaten the Lions in their seven previous encounters and few expected them to seriously challenge the visitors, who finally managed to put together the sort of performance they had been seeking in the previous five weeks.

They led 38-6 at the break before cutting loose in the second half, scoring 71 unanswered points.

The Lions backs ran the ball at every opportunity and scored at a breathtaking speed, with all but original scrumhalf Chris Cusiter scoring at least one try.

Ever time Manawatu turned over the ball the Lions simply rampaged down the field and the hosts had only two penalties by Jonathan Hargreaves to show for their efforts.

The Lions' previous highest score in New Zealand was when the 1959 side beat a combined team from the Nelson

Marlborough region 64-5. The record anywhere came four years ago when the Lions ran in 18 tries in the 116-10 victory over Western Australia.

Williams was one short of the individual try record shared by David Duckham and JJ Williams and was delighted with his contribution.

"Of course I enjoyed myself, it was the last chance to prove a point before the weekend," he told Sky Sports TV.

"I've gone out and played the type of game I wanted to play. I hope that will be enough but if it isn't, it isn't."

Midweek coach Ian McGeechan said: "We couldn't have asked for any more."

"We actually played like a team and there was a lot of unselfish play out there. The statement had to be quite clear - that we knew how to play rugby."

"We've threatened in 20 minute spells in different games but I don't think it would have mattered which opposition we had out there tonight, we would have scored points."

Looking ahead to Saturday, McGeechan said "You can't get away from the set piece. We didn't have a starting point on Saturday."

"If we get the building blocks we can play some rugby and look at tactical plans for pressurising the All Blacks."

"If we don't, we won't get off first base."

مبروك الإمتياز

ياندى

من أعماق قلوبنا نهني ونبارك للطالبة :

ندى محمد عبد الودود طارش

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Miss. Nada Mohammed Abdulwadood Tareh

for being granted second position Bachelor in information technology by a grade of excellent with the honor degree from Aptech Centre and Sikkim Manipal University in India . We wish her all the best in her scientific and practical life .

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Yankees rally past Orioles while Steinbrenner fumes

TORONTO (Reuters) - Bernie Williams delivered the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly as the Yankees responded to another threat from owner George Steinbrenner with a 6-4 win over the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards Monday.

For the second consecutive game, New York rallied from a three-run deficit to claim victory but it is unlikely to appease Steinbrenner, who issued a statement before the game expressing his unhappiness with his high-priced team's performance.

"The thing I like is we continue to fight," Yankee manager Joe Torre said. "These are the wins that build character."

"Struggling the way we have, to have your hard work pay off really helps."

Trailing 4-1, the Yankees struck for three runs with two out in the sixth triggered by Ruben Sierra's RBI single to right, scoring Hideki Matsui.

With the score tied 4-4 in the eighth, Williams lofted a high fly ball to center, bringing in Jorge Posada who had singled to lead off the inning.

Tanyon Sturtz (2-1), who came on in relief of starter Carl Pavano, worked one inning for the win while Mariano Rivera sealed the win with his 17th save.

Steve Kline (2-3) took the loss.

Larry Bigbie had a solo home run for the Orioles, who slumped to a season-high sixth straight defeat.

In Boston, Travis Hafner and Grady



New York Yankees batter Hideki Matsui races down the first base line after hitting a base hit off Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Daniel Cabrera in the second inning of their game at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland June Reuters

high seven-game winning streak with a 7-0 shutout.

Millwood (3-5) was dominant in shutting down the Red Sox, allowing just one base-runner past second.

The right-hander struck out six and walked two in six sparkling innings.

The Indians seized control with a three-run fourth, Ron Belliard lining a drive to third, scoring Hafner and Victor Martinez on Mark Bellhorn's fielding error.

Bronson Arroyo (6-4) was saddled with the loss giving up seven runs -- five earned -- on six hits in 6 2/3 innings of work.

In Minneapolis, Joe Mays tossed eight strong innings and Jacques Jones drove in a run and scored another as the Minnesota Twins eased past the Kansas City Royals 3-1.

Mays (4-3) allowed just one run on six hits, striking out three without a walk to pick up his first win since mid-May.

Zack Greinke (1-9) was tagged with the loss, yielding two runs on four hits in six innings.

David DeJesus ruined the Twins' shutout bid with an eighth inning solo home run for the Royals, who absorbed their seventh straight defeat.

In Arlington, Vladimir Guerrero homered and had two doubles and Bartolo Colon tossed eight solid innings as the Los Angeles Angels crushed the Texas Rangers 13-3, to stretch their season-high winning streak to seven games.

Colon (10-4) allowed three runs on eight hits and struck out five without a walk to collect his eighth straight win over the Rangers.

The Angels pounded out 20 hits, Adam Kennedy contributing a two-run homer and three RBIs while Juan Rivera went four-for-five, including three doubles.

Jeff DaVanon also had three hits and Darin Erstad, Garret Anderson, Maicer Izturis and Chone Figgins two each.

In Tampa Bay, Aubrey Huff belted a three-run homer and Jonny Gomes cracked a solo shot, powering the Devil Rays to a 4-3 win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Hideo Nomo (5-6) tossed seven solid innings to earn the win, giving up a pair of runs on eight hits with three strikeouts and two walks.

Dany Baez came on to get the final four outs to clinch the win and his 13th save.

Sizemore homered and Kevin Millwood scattered three hits over six scoreless innings as the Cleveland Indians snapped the Red Sox season-

Sharapova bristles into semis, Mauresmo glides

LONDON (Reuters) - The decibel level went up a notch at Wimbledon Tuesday as defending champion Maria Sharapova moved ominously into the semi-finals.

After four rounds of gentle sparring, the 18-year-old Russian was given a real battle early on by compatriot Nadia Petrova on Court One before emerging victorious 7-6 6-3.

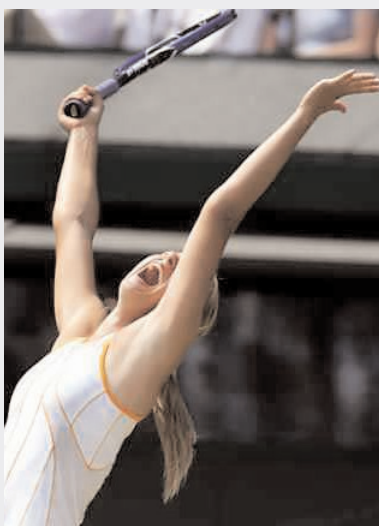
"It was a tough match ... it sends shivers down my body to be in the semi-finals again," she said, after securing a last four showdown with Venus Williams or Mary Pierce.

While second seed Sharapova huffed and puffed and bristled with intensity, Amelie Mauresmo was a study in graceful athleticism, bounding past Russian Anastasia Myskina 6-4 6-3.

The battle-weary Myskina, who had saved match points in the two previous rounds, was no match for Mauresmo's mesmerizing all-court game, losing for the sixth time in seven meetings.

"I really wanted to be aggressive in this match and that's what I did from the first point," said Frenchwoman Mauresmo.

The third seed will meet either top seed Lindsay Davenport or U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in her



Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates winning her women's singles quarter-final match against compatriot Nadia Petrova at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London June 28. Sharapova won 7-6 6-3. Photo Reuters

third semi-final in her last three visits to the All England Club.

Sharapova has become a worldwide brand since her stunning triumph against Serena Williams in last year's

final -- she has even just launched her own perfume.

When she walks out on court, however, the multi-million dollar smile is replaced by the scowl of a streetfighter.

The athletic Petrova, who saved two match points Monday against Czech Kveta Peschke, was not about to be intimidated by the queen of grasscourts.

Five years older than Sharapova she showed scant regard for the world number two's reputation as she match her opponent blow for blow in the first 12 games.

Sharapova thrives on pressure, however, and she found her best tennis of the match in the tiebreak. Shrieking louder with every swiping forehand, she moved into a 6-4 lead.

Petrova refused to blink and saved both set points, but when Sharapova earned another set point she hammered an unstoppable forehand past the eighth seed.

Sharapova hurtled into a 3-0 lead in the second set and although Petrova never let her out of sight she was dealt a cruel blow when trailing 5-3.

Facing a break point Sharapova got lucky with a forehand that rolled off the tape and dropped dead. Another

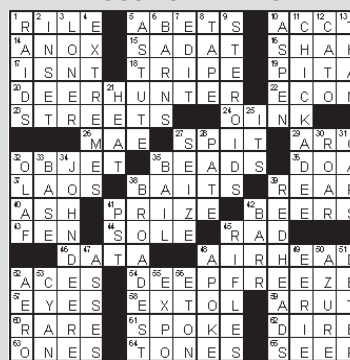
netcord gave her match point and Petrova obliged by wafting a forehand long.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

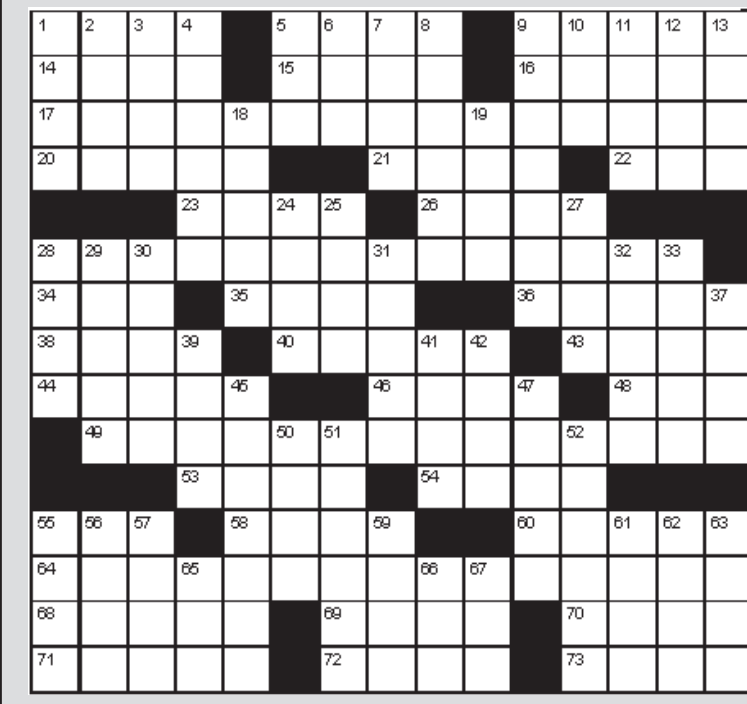
- ACROSS**
- 1 She had a "Tootsie" role
 - 5 Freeze front
 - 9 One who keeps things kosher
 - 14 "Permit Me Voyage" author James
 - 15 Mother of Levi and Judah
 - 16 Sweater synthetic
 - 17 STEP OUT
 - 20 Included afterward
 - 21 He's number one
 - 22 Pursue with passion
 - 23 Biologist's medium
 - 26 Lobster serving
 - 28 STEP IN
 - 34 Words with roll or tear
 - 35 Check for letters?
 - 36 Electric surge
 - 38 Entrance for Clementine's dad
 - 40 Not rinsed, perhaps
 - 43 One type of poll
 - 44 Administered medicine
 - 46 Pistol projectile
 - 48 Hudson Bay prov.
 - 49 STEP UP
 - 53 Luminous topper
 - 54 Warm, in searches
- DOWN**
- 1 Festive fete
 - 2 Made cheddar better
 - 3 Librarian's urging
 - 4 Bring to light
 - 5 Cat fancier from Melmac
 - 6 Word form for "recent"
 - 7 Butler's quarters?
 - 8 "There was no other choice for me!"
 - 9 Co-renters, slangily
 - 10 Extension
 - 11 Squandered, as a lead
 - 12 Chastity, for one
 - 13 Eagerly studying
 - 18 Prize for a mystery
 - 19 Polite contraction
 - 24 Ones of a kind?
- 25 City near Lake Tahoe**
- 27 Bounding gait**
- 28 The recently fired hit it**
- 29 Words with "the line" or "an era" of '97**
- 30 Rupee part**
- 31 Store secretly**
- 32 Watergate figure**
- 33 Barely making (with "out")**
- 37 Kitchen extension?**
- 39 Word in many college names**
- 41 It may be hatched**
- 42 Type of log**
- 45 1996 Greg Kinnear film**
- 47 Candied, in cookery**
- 50 Rickman of "Galaxy Quest"**
- 51 Nicolas Cage film of '97**
- 52 Novel flubs**
- 55 Advantages**
- 56 Polite bloke**
- 57 In midvoyage**
- 59 Cruise stopover, perhaps**
- 61 Shorten to fit, perhaps**
- 62 Parched**
- 63 Place for a knot**
- 65 Setting for "Newhart"**
- 66 Feel unwell**
- 67 Hen's task**

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"WATCH YOUR STEP" by Mark Milhet



Sharapova bristles into semis, Mauresmo glides

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netcord gave her match point and Petrova obliged by wafting a forehand long.

calvin and hobbes

My mom and my dad are not what they seem. Their dull appearance is part of their scheme. I know of their plans. I know their techniques. My parents are outer space alien freaks!

They landed on earth in spaceships humongous. Posing as grownups, they now walk among us. My parents deny this, but I know the truth. They're here to enslave me and spoil my youth.

Early each morning, as the sun rises, Mom and Dad put on their earthling disguises. I know their faces aren't lined - they sag and don't fit.

The earth's gravity makes them sluggish and slow. They say not to run, wherever I go. They live by the clock. They're slaves to routines. They work the year 'round. They're almost machines.

They deny that TV and fried food have much worth. They cannot be human. They're not of this earth. I cannot escape their alien gaze, and they're warping my mind with their alien ways. For sinister plots, this one is a gem. They're bringing me up to turn me into them!

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SHOULD I GO WITH THIS BUNNY TIE THAT SAYS, "I'M CUDDLY"...

THE GOLFER'S TIE THAT SAYS, "I'M ATHLETIC"...

OR THE ANIMAL PRINT THAT SAYS, "I'M WILD"?

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?

THE CLIP-ON THAT SAYS, "I'M A PORK!"

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Cameroon: Farming in the Dark

Poor farmers have little chance of getting a fair price for their produce if they don't know how much markets beyond their villages are willing to pay. The internet is leveling their playing field through schemes such as INFOSHARE, which is giving access to the latest market news to thousands of remote cocoa and coffee farmers in Cameroon.

The Story
Knowledge is power, and lack of knowledge about markets and prices is a key factor in keeping poor farmers around the world "dirt poor." African producers of cocoa and coffee, for example, earn as little as one twelfth of the international market rate for their crops. In the dark over the prices being realized in local as well as world markets, they remain at the mercy of middlemen, traders and corporations. What is true in Africa, is equally true in Asia or Latin America.

community. One example of this new potential is a technical assistance project called INFOSHARE, which is giving commodity producers access to the information they need to negotiate better prices and get their produce into higher-paying markets. Cameroon, with about 900,000 cocoa and coffee small-holders, is testing the system and early interest indicates it will expand into other countries and crop sectors as soon as 2006. Villagers without access to the internet will be able to get this information twice daily from national radio broadcasts and use it to set prices that are both fair and realistic. It is estimated that greater market transparency in Cameroon will enable small-scale farmers to increase their returns by 10 to 15 per cent. INFOSHARE is run by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which has designed this information-sharing database system and has trained government staff in its use. It is part of INFO-



Increasing farmers' access to knowledge of markets and prices has long been a central plank in efforts to break out of the poverty cycle. It is a strategy now given a massive boost by the opportunities new information technology can provide in helping to bring knowledge to even the remotest farming com-

COMM, an UNCTAD internet portal that provides, free-of-charge, pricing, product and market information on some 20 commodity sectors. INFOCOMM is currently being used by 12 to 15 million people worldwide, 60 per cent of them in developing countries.

To be continued on page 11.

"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

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... لسة جمال

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