

Amidst immense opposition

Parliament approves 5% sales tax

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- In its session held Tuesday July 5, the Parliament approved the sales tax law No. 19 for the year 2001 and the amendment of some of its articles after heated debates, which are still going on between the government and the opposition.

The Parliament approved 5% as the sales tax on commodities instead of the 10% proposed previously.

The session witnessed heated controversy leading the parliamentary bloc of Islah, the biggest opposition party, to withdraw from the session in protest against the vote on the sales tax. The other opposition parties showed their objection to the vote.

The opposition parties at the Parliament including Islah, Nasserite and The Yemeni Socialist parties as well as the independent MPs issued a statement confirming their objection to the law drafted by the government represented by the ruling People's



The parliament

General Congress Party.

The statement stressed that the government never suggested any essential amendments to some articles of the law and did not take into consideration the heated debates taking place at the parliament over the sales tax law.

The opposition accused the government of misleading people since the commodities it said were exempted from the sales tax were already exempted at an earlier time.

The opposition said the reinforcement of the sales tax law will leave negative influences on the commodities, and citizens will pay the price for the failing policies adopted by the government and the corruption practiced at the government's institutions.

The sales tax law issued under the Republican Decree No. 19 for the year 2001 is due to be passed on this month. It caused an unprecedented crisis between the government and the opposition and large demonstrations in most of the Yemeni main cities.

The demonstrations were accompanied by chaos and shooting of fire claiming lives of innocent citizens and security troops.

Accusations have been exchanged between the ruling party and the opposition joint meeting parties, and the government blamed the opposition, mainly the Islah Party, for inflaming chaos and uproar.

The opposition parties believe that the political crisis was caused by the government's false policies and the rampant financial and administrative corruption. They hold the view that citizens cannot afford any new economic burdens.

Traders believe that levying the sales tax is a big catastrophe and it will hinder them from achieving progress and success in investment.

On the other hand, the government holds the view that opposing the sales tax exemplifies a tax evasion by traders to maintain their personal interests at the expense of the public ones.

Traders represented by the capital's Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) sued a legal action against some articles of the law to the Supreme Constitutional that has not discussed it yet.

The lawsuit was filed by Dr. Hassan Mujalli, CTI lawyer, against the President of the Republic, the Parliament Speaker, the Prime Minister, Legal Affairs and Finance ministers, and the President of Tax Authority.

The lawsuit was compiled in a book of 160 pages including legal items that invalidate the sales tax law.

Observers of the Yemeni economy declared that there will be a price hike and nationwide chaos unless the government is ready to monitor the market activities. Price hike indicators were vastly realized over the last few days.

Last Tuesday's session was held in the absence of the Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar.

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Yemeni Foreign Ministry denies dispute with Saudi Arabia

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A source in The Yemeni Foreign Ministry denied the credibility of a London based Arabic newspaper about a beginning of a crisis between Yemen and Saudi Arabia

The source assured that the relations between the two neighbor countries are distinct and enjoy special attention from the leaders of the two countries.

The source added that the convenience of the different committees and the exchange of official visits is a good proof. They come in the frame of achieving more coordination and consolidating on the economical, political,

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cal, security and all that concerns the two countries.

Khaled Humadi, the Sana'a correspondent of Al-Quds Al-Arabia, the London based Arabic news paper, had said that there are political strains between Sana'a and Riyadh because of the security matters and war on terror related issues. The continuous Saudi support to the outside Yemeni opposition was also another problem.

AlQuds confirmed that the security issue had pushed the diplomatic

Yemeni Saudi relations to the verge of a dead lock. Cairo has played a role in containing the crisis in its earlier stages but these efforts failed. The paper said that in spite of the Saudi Yemeni reticence on this matter, but it began to leak, especially after Riyadh has welcomed the financial arrangements of the ex- Yemeni ambassador in Syria, Ahmed Alhasani, after he has been denied asylum by Britain. Sana'a considered that an interference in its affairs.



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Mr. Ali Alatas visits Yemen

Mr. Ali Alatas was one of the most prominent figures at the OIC Foreign Minister's conference conducted late last month in Sana'a. He came as a representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and he puts it is delighted to be visiting Yemen again.

Yemen Times seized the opportunity of his visit to Yemen and conducted an interview with him.

See e page 11



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2 killed in tribal attack at a Kholan check point

By HASSAN ALZAIDI

A republican guard soldier and a civilian were killed in Al-kalieb check point in Marib - Kholan road last Monday. A soldier was also injured.

The incident happened when Ahmed Al-sagaf who was waiting at the check point, opened fire on a car belonging to Al-mosama tribe. This tribe has revenge cases with Al-sagaf tribe.

An armed group came down from the car and started opening fire on the check point. Al-sagaf was killed and one of the republican guard soldiers

was injured.

The dispute between the two tribes goes back to the revenge case between Al-sagaf and Al-mosama tribes in Ma'arib.

The republican guard, which has a number of check points in Ma'arib, is now carrying out an arrest campaign among the two tribes.

Tribes' men used lately to wait in the check points to ambush their opponents.

Ma'arib tragic events were a result of an ambush near one of the military check points in Al-jof governorate.

Yemeni expatriate scores 100% in secondary exams

A Yemeni female student, Aisha Omar Sa'eed Bawazir, residing in Saudi Arabia scored 100% in the secondary school examinations, scientific section.

Scoring 100% in each school subject, talented Aisha stood first at the level of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Ministry of Education awarded the scientific creativity certificate to Aisha Bawazir who has studied in the 58th Secondary School in Riyadh.

Besides, she was awarded a certificate of merit by her school in recognition of her regularity and efforts throughout the school year.

Mohammad Taher al-Qurashi, Head of Yemeni Youths Union in Saudi Arabia said the scientific achievement demonstrated by Aisha Bawazir gives honor and pride to all Yemenis inside and outside the country.

He added that Sheikh Mohammad Sa'eed, Head of the Yemeni Community in Saudi Arabia pledged to entirely sponsor the university study of Aisha in any major she wants and in any country.

Al-Qurashi pointed out that a number of Yemeni community members in Saudi Arabia scored high in the secondary school examinations occupying distinctive positions.

Netherlands supports Yemen's water sector

SANA'A- Two cooperation agreements were signed last Saturday at the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation by the governments of Yemen and Netherlands.

Under the agreements, the government of Netherlands offered YR 915 million in support to rural water projects in Yemen. The grant comes as part of the Dutch support to Yemen for the year 2005.

YR455 million out of the total amount was allocated for the projects of rural water and the General

Authority for Human Resources.

The projects, from which around 96,730 people will benefit, are scattered in the governorates of Taiz, Ibb, Abyan, Hodeida and Hajjah. Covered by the grant is equipping a new building annexed to rural water project.

The support allocated for the General Corporation for Water Resources will spend on expanding the network of water surveillance and upgrading the base and the center of water information, as well as conducting studies and plans for water management.

Motorbike cyclists' crisis still going on



SANA'A- Nearly 1000 motorbike cyclists staged a series of protests last week against a government decision preventing them from pursuing their work in the capital.

The decision is due to be put into practice by the beginning of next July under the pretext that motorbikes are one of the causes of traffic accidents and environment pollution.

A large number of cyclists held a

sit-in before the Parliament claiming that such an arbitrary decision should not be applied since it may lead them to suffer insurmountable problems.

They shouted that their motorbikes are the main source of income to sustain their families and that the government bodies cannot bring them any alternative to their source of income, and therefore the application of the decision will compel them to practice robbery.

The angry protestors affirmed they are ready to submit their motorbikes to the government if it provides them with other job opportunities to sustain their families.

A few months ago, a group of motorbike cyclists met the President of the Republic who offered them taxis in installment in exchange for submitting their motorbikes, and this led cyclists to claim implementation of what the President said.

Training press women in preparing developmental letters

Sana'a 3rd July- Yemeni press women symposium organized a workshop for enabling press women to prepare developmental letters. The training will be for 35 press women from different governorates in coordination with UNDP.

Ms Reem Obied, lecturer in women's studies in Dubai will be the trainer in this workshop. Dr. Aballah Al-zalab of the Training Institute said it will continue for four days.

The workshop aims at upgrading the skill of the press women in preparing developmental letters, and to maintain international partnership for the sake of development. It also aims at promoting gender equality.

Mr. Khalid Ishak, communication officer in UNDP confirmed that this workshop aims at finding chances to empower the press women for within their establishment and negotiate this with the formal officials for reinforcement. The press women are to be enlightened with all that is going on

in development locally and internationally.

Ms. Rahama Hujaira, head of the symposium, said that they will be concerned with increasing awareness among the Yemeni press women, of the millennium development aims. It also aims at promoting their part in backing these aims, and to check the present conditions that the Yemeni press women are facing. It also seeks

training chances for the basic capabilities that they need to effectively cover the development issues. A group of Yemeni press women from the governorates, together with government officials from a number of the sectors concerned has also attended

This is the eighth workshop conducted in the symposium since it was established in 2004.

IIO office opened in Sana'a

SANA'A- The Ministry of Expatriates Affairs confirmed that deliberations with the International Immigration Organization (IIO) to open its office in Sana'a are still going on.

The IIO agreed to open its office in Sana'a to follow up the situations and developments of immigration in Yemen.

The IIO's office in Sana'a aims to

activate the role of the organization in Yemen in dealing with immigration-related issues and their negative consequences.

There is a number of social issues cited in Yemen including the return of expatriates and the huge influx of refugees coming from the Horn of Africa that hinder the development process of the country.

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:

The Parliament has recently approved the sales tax. Do you think this will help improve the status of the national economy?

Yes
No

Last edition's question:

It is debatable in many sectors now that a woman should be equal to a man, and there is also a demand that the same blood money paid for a Muslim should be paid for a Jew.

Yes 53%
No 26%
I have no idea 21%

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

Meg 29 crashes in Amran Governorate

Sana'a 3/7/2005- A military Meg 29 Russian plain crashed in Amran, when its rear engine caught on fire, a military source in the ministry of defense said.

The pilot jumped with his parachute after he discovered the fire.

Yemen has said lately that it had bought 14 Meg 29 planes from Russia, to be received in batches this year.

Russia declared two months ago that it had handed eight Meg fighters to Yemen, in accordance with a dual cooperation agreement between the two countries. These planes are said to be insured by Russia.

Germany supports Yemen in Eradicating Polio

The Government of the Federal republic of Germany is committed to do its share in the fight against the spread of dangerous virus infections all over the world. The eradication of polio is one of the main priorities in this effort. Therefore Germany has contributed to the WHO polio eradication Initiative more than US\$4.8 million since 2003, in

addition; it has contributed more than US\$ 25 million through the EU since 1984. For 2005, the German government has pledged another US\$1million for the WHO initiative.

Unlike other countries, Germany has decided to make its contribution towards the world Health Organization without earmarking amounts for certain countries. In this

way, the WHO gets the flexibility it needs to react promptly to new outbreaks. A considerable part of the funding for immunization campaigns recently carried out in Yemen came from German sources. It will remain the common objectives of the Governments of Yemen and Germany to eradicate polio in Yemen and worldwide.

GCT announces 30% reduction in ADSL Service

SANA'A- After three years of installing the Yemen Net Website, the General Corporation for Telecommunications (GCT) announced on Sunday July 3 that it reduced the cost of Yemen Net super service (ADSL) by 30%.

The corporation stressed such a procedure was taken within the framework of

the success achieved by it in the field of telecommunication and website services.

The corporation extended the website service to many areas all over the country. This is expected to help the government and non-government institutions to upgrade their abilities to contribute to activating the process of comprehensive national development.

The installation of the new website is due to promote the use of Internet and spreading the electronic culture among youth.

It's worth noting the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology took a number of decisions for facilitating the Internet subscription and reducing the cost.

Society news

- A computer training course started in Aden on Sunday. 35 children from different phases of education participated in this course. It is organized by the National Aden Bookshop in coordination with Swedish organization for Child care (RADA BANEN Sweden).The course aims at developing youth skills to tackle modern technology.

- The refreshing and training course for mentally retarded; started in Aden on Sunday. It includes the deaf, the disabled and blind in Aden Governorate schools. It is organized by the Alrahma charitable society in coordination with

the Swedish organization for child care.

- The International Health Organization, honored Sunday in Cairo, the two Yemeni artists, Nabel Hizam and Mohamed Aqel, for their distinctive part in the health field. They were given the organization's health shield, for their role in supporting anti smoking campaign, immunization the urge for education.

- The woman forum for study and Training WFRT on Monday the 4th of July participated in making the Federal Center for Human Rights in the Arab World (NAS), which included several

Arab countries in addition to Yemen. The center aims at spreading the Human Rights culture based on law and justice. It also aims at spreading non violence culture.

- Alafief cultural establishment honored the poet Saleh Abdo Aldahan and the writer Saeed Aljeraik for their part in Literature and tradition.

- The training and applied computer system course, started Tuesday in Aden. 14 women participate in this course. It aims at training women in order to obtain computer skills, to prepare development plans.

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UNCHR opens six centers in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A memorandum for understanding was signed Wednesday between the in the Passport and immigration authority building between the Ministry of Interior and the High Commissioner for Refugees, to open six centers for registration of Somali refugees.

The understanding memorandum contains the following points:

1- To open six registration centers in the Passport and Immigration Authority in six Governorates. They are: Sana'a (head quarter) Aden, Taiz, Alhdydah, Hadramot and Shabwa.

2- These centers register all Somali refugees including the new born children, and to issue cards and replacement cards and also the restoration the refugee cards of those who voluntarily wish to return to their countries. It also provides protection for refugees in the Republic of Yemen, and releases those who have been detained for not carrying

their cards, unless they are wanted for penal cases.

3- The UNCHR provides the necessary support for the six registration centers of the memorandum, including the office furniture, computers, copiers, cameras with their printers, web connections in addition to stationery. UNCHR provides the regular incentives for the employees of these centers according to the agreement with the sub committee of the national UNHCR, on the training of the employees that work in these centers, according to the plan that has been agreed upon.

The memorandum was signed on behalf of the Ministry of Interior by major/ Mohamed Abulgadir Alramly; and on behalf of the UNHCR / Adel Yaseen, the representative of UNHCR in The Republic of Yemen. The signature was attended by a number of executives in the Passport and immigration Authority, and the UNHCR executives in Sana'a.

Aden hosts symposium on Investment Promotion

The economical and trade capital, Aden, will host in mid August, a symposium on promotion of trade and investment in Yemen.

The General Authority for free zones is preparing this symposium. It will be attended by a number of Yemeni and Arab businessmen, specialists in invest-

ment and economy, the association of chamber of commerce and industry, in addition to Arab and Yemeni personalities interested in economical and investment activities. The symposium will discuss the investment chances and facilities, available for investors in the Yemeni investment law of the free zone.

Bread making in a Yemeni national study

An economical study for a Yemeni national confirmed that it is possible to add different ratios of {musket} flour in bread making. It is extracted from {Sesaban} trees that are considered to be a pest in agricultural fields.

The study is conducted by Dr. Mohamed Salim Mosali. He is Technical manager and researcher in the food research and post harvest technology center in Aden.. He said that there is a high percent of iron and calcium in the bread that is mixed with 15% Of the musket with wheat flour.

The study went on saying that a num-

ber of countries started a coexistence process with this tree. They make use of their wood as fuel and to make furniture besides other uses. Among these countries is America, Argentina and Peru.

Correction

We would like to clarify that the deadline of the advertisement published in issue 856 (4 July 2005) on page 2, which the first 5 lines of it appears underneath, is inadvertently omitted. The missing deadline for submission of tenders after the extension is 25th of July 2005, 12:00 PM.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Extension of the Tender

Our ref: EUROPEAID/120936/D/S/YE

Ministry of Technical Education & Vocational Training
Strengthening Priority Areas of Vocational Training (SPAVT)

Versailles Suites inaugurated

SANA'A- Minister of Culture and Tourism Khalid al-Rawaishan inaugurated on Saturday July 2 Versailles Suites Hotel. The hotel consists of 9 stories and includes numerous apartments and special luxurious rooms.

The hotel is considered as one of the mod-



ern and technologically equipped hotels and offers distinctive tourist services.

Minister of Culture and Tourism considered this project as one of the significant factors for boosting the Yemeni tourism that witnessed a rapid progress

over the last few years.

He said the government promotes the establishment of such projects that can accommodate large numbers of tourists.

For his part, Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Kotary, General Manager of the Hotel confirmed the hotel is well furnished and offers unparalleled services that help attract tourists. Services offered at the hotel include receiving guests and providing transportation means as well as booking air tickets.

ComputeMe fair inaugurated

SANA'A- Within the series of successive successes of the Yemeni Economic Corporation (YEC), Ahmad al-Kuhlani Secretary General of the Capital inaugurated on Sunday July 3 the first branch of Compute Me Fair, part of the YEC.

The inauguration of the fair comes with the framework of a technological plan that aims to eradicate computer illiteracy and enable all the society members to get computers and laptops.

The YEC takes into consideration the economic capabilities of buyers and offers competitive prices to fit all the social classes.



The YEC imported the CDMA devices and offered them to consumers with reasonable prices.

In addition, special centers were opened for the sake of providing after-sale services.

It is worth noting that the YEC is one of the distinctive corporations belonging to the army and it has achieved so far a series of successes in various areas by virtue of its General Director Brig. Ali Mohammad al-Kuhlani.

The YEC usually offers a variety of different services to the Yemeni army and equips the military institutions with modern facilities.

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Yemeni participation in the International Human Rights Training Program 2005

A place that lives in you once you stop living in it

By SAWSAN AL REFAI
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT,
GIRLS WORLD COMMUNICATION CENTER
MONTREAL CANADA
FOR YEMEN TIMES

It was only a year ago when I was in the same place I am in now, namely Ste-Anne de Bellevue, Montreal, Canada representing Yemeni Human Rights NGOs in the International Human Rights Training Program (IHRT) funded by the Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF).

I am so fortunate to be back, but this year as a co-trainer representing the Middle East Region.

I would like to give a brief idea on the program because I strongly believe it is an opportunity and a once-in-a-life experience that all Yemeni Human rights workers dream of and deserve. IHRT provides a unique opportunity for human rights workers such as myself to deepen their understanding of human rights and of the essential role of human rights education in effecting social change. Through its different sessions and activities that participants are engaged in, it strengthens the capacity of the human rights organizations they represent to undertake human rights

education activities (e.g., training, awareness campaigns, information dissemination, and advocacy). It mainly aims at building a global culture of human rights. Furthermore, IHRT enables participating organizations to undertake more effective human rights education activities. What is unique about this program is that it places a strong emphasis on the transfer of learning and on follow-up activities.

The participatory and interactive nature of the program allows participants to draw on not only the vast knowledge of our instructors but to draw on and benefit from the experiences and opinion of their peers. Participants and facilitators commit themselves to indulge in a process of mutual teaching and learning. The emphasis is on practical application and on the development of strategies for action. I prepared an action plan before I left Canada, and it was implemented soon after my arrival in Yemen. The action plan was to conduct a similar (training of trainers) program for youth utilizing the training methods employed at IHRT alongside my own training methods, which in turn has transformed the my training into a more motivating, humanizing, and ultimately practical process.

IHRT was an important turning point



regarding my perception of human rights issues. I grew to learn that to question the universality of human rights values is not offensive but rather inspiring. Culture is not an obstacle but a tool for HRE. Although the program is primarily aimed at a global audience, it invariably takes us to our cultural roots. One is repeatedly compelled to think, argue, analyze and compare the basics of his/her collective being. It is a chance of a life time to see our culture from beyond, and to be proud if it yet to be able to impartially criticize it.

I gained a better understanding of globalization and was able to convey it to my trainees and colleagues back home. I know now that we may be affected by what others in other countries do, but not necessarily share their same burdens and benefits.

Furthermore, through the open space provided for me as a participant last year and as a co-facilitator this year, I had an opportunity to reflect on and discuss with IHRT colleagues from different countries issues that always has been critical for me as a person who believes that Human Rights and Islam are not incompatible. These discussions emphasized my understanding that religions provide us with basis of tolerance, humility and respect to those we disagree with rather than the contrary.

IHRT was able to bring me closer to

those in the region. I built excellent relations with IHRT alumni from the Middle East and we were successful to establish a network that aims to organize regional Training of Trainers workshops for activists and educators in the Arabic speaking countries of the Middle East in partnership with CHRF.

Now in its 26th year, this annual three-week program brings together over 120 participants from approximately 60 countries. Among which was a group of outstanding who Arab participants joined the new patch of IHRT. Two Yemeni participants are participating in IHRT this year, one of which is Hanan Hobeishi, 26 years old, who is heading the human rights circle in the Green Party, Yemen. She shared with other human rights educators and activists from around the world the major human rights concerns in Yemen, such as violations against women, child, and political rights. IHRT provided her with a universal sense of human rights yet with an awareness of her cultural reality. She says she will conduct training for young females in Yemen using IHRT methodology and approach. Zainab Abdulnabi, 22-year old journalist is the editor of the human rights page in the daily Wasatt Bahraini newspaper. She works for promoting rights of torture victims and all forms of discrimination against religious minorities in Bahrain. IHRT provided her with a better understanding of and new methods for Human Rights education. Zena Taher, 28 years old, represents Amal Association based in Iraq. She works in the field of disabled children rights. She plans to use skills learned in IHRT to conduct a training program for teenage students in Iraq on conflict resolution and peace building.

It is amazing how the Yemeni and Arab group soon after their arrival integrated into the global society of IHRT. Many relations were established among the Arab members and with other participants from other countries. Niamatullah Ibrahim, a 25 year old researcher from Afghanistan said that he has established good relations with the participants from the Middle East region. He said that IHRT was an excellent opportunity to meet Arab participants and discuss with them the human rights situation in the region and its impact on his country. Diversity provided in IHRT, in his opinion, broadened his prospective and will definitely have a positive influence on his human rights work in Afghanistan.

There is a general consensus that the training program, which covered topics that may have been available elsewhere, was designed and implemented in a way that made every minute spent in this place worthwhile. The magic of this program lies not only within the manuals or books...but deep inside the hearts and minds of the people who work on making the dream of many HR educators come true, namely the course coordinators and facilitators.

It is worth mentioning that the broader IHRT alumni network formed of the 128 participants of IHRT 2004 demonstrated great value as a tool of solidarity with one of our Middle East participants, Abdul Hadi AL Khawaja, who was arrested in Bahrain early October. The petitions and letters sent by the IHRT alumni and all the people they have contacted definitely had to do with the Pardon that Hadi was granted shortly after his arrest.

As a Human Rights Educator, I pass through very frustrating moments - and I have had a lot of those. But, from now on, whenever I feel so down, at least there is this memory that I can recall and reflect on, and there are many secret friends whom I can be inspired by.... The moments of dancing, singing, acting, laughing and mourning that we shared have individually planted a seed of hope and persistence in my heart.

If so many persons from around the world were able to overcome all their cultural and ideological differences and have a dialogue of love for humanity, cultural harmony and peace and devotion to a cause of improving the worldwide understanding of essential human rights, then certainly this world will somehow, someday become a better place!

IHRT is a place that starts living in you once you stop living in it!

Half the World

By Women's National Committee



Gender equality in Yemen

Gender inequality is a way of life in the context of Yemen with variations depending on the diverse religious, cultural, social and political tradition that influence it. Under the circumstances a one size fits all approach would be erroneous. Extent of mobility, segregation and educational opportunities are dependent on a number of factors including social and economic. Gender inequalities in access and control over resources persist in all aspects of women's life influencing economic opportunities, access to basic services and decision-making.

In the following section we will examine women's status in different sectors ranging from economy, health, education, political participation and institutional mechanisms in place to promote gender equality. Analysis of these issues will help inform future policy directions that need to be pursued if transformation in real condition of women in Yemen is to be achieved by 2015, so the next generation of Yemeni women have a chance of a better tomorrow.

Women and the Economy

Although right to work is recognized as a basic entitlement of all citizens immaterial of gender, in reality gender disparities in employment prevail. Article 5 of the Labour Code prescribes equality between the sexes in matters of employment, promotion, pay, training, qualifications and social security. Yemen is also signatory to key international conventions on women's rights such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Declaration for Human Rights, the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration.

Moreover, the National Women's Employment Strategy 2001-2011 advocates four strategic objectives designed to promote women's employment, namely:

- *Strategic Objective I:* Increase women's employment opportunities in the labour market in line with economic changes in the country
- *Strategic Objective II:* Enhance women's competitiveness in the labour market through rehabilitation and training
- *Strategic Objective III:* Improve terms and conditions of women's employment through legal coverage that secures economic and social protection to women
- *Strategic Objective IV:* Raise awareness on women's work in Yemen.

The Directorate General for Working Women (DGWW) established in 1998 in the Ministry of Labour, was entrusted with the responsibility of enhancing gender equality, preventing discrimination in the world of work and improving women's employability through appropriate policies, legislation, and interventions. Despite all these measures, Yemen faces a major challenge in overcoming gender inequalities in labour participation and employment.

The female labour force participation rate is low at 21.8% compared to that of men 69.9%. Two-thirds of female employment comprises of unpaid family labour in agriculture. On the other hand male employment is paid and found in public administration, public enterprise or self-employed. Gender disparities in paid employment exist clearly. According to the ILO study on employment trends in Yemen, 62% of female employment is in the unpaid sector compared to 14% in paid employment and 24% self-employed. The small percentage of women in the formal sector are likely to hold public sector jobs in keeping with gender roles such as teachers and nurses. The remainder work in the informal sector or are self-employed.

Agriculture comprises the largest component of female labour with 72% working as unpaid family workers in rural areas. Despite this women's involvement in agriculture work is often unpaid and unrecognized. In the few cases that they engage in wage employment in the agriculture sector they are paid much less than men for the same job. The gender wage gap, women's wages as a percent of men's wages, is 62% across all occupations in Yemen

according to LFS (1999). The gap is lowest in administration (84%), whilst in agriculture it is 75%, and is highest in services and sales (36%). Notions of men as heads of household influence women's access to productive resources and thus in turn her ability to engage in productive enterprise. Ownership of land, capital and other assets is with male members of the households. As discussed earlier on, social and cultural norms limit women's mobility and impact on her access to formal institutions such as banks and markets.

Moreover women's work is often viewed as low skilled, poorly paid and given low status. Discrimination in recruitment of women is not uncommon in the private sector with employers preferring men for the same job. Also gender stereotypes in job categories limit women's opportunities for employment with some sectors perceived as more in keeping with their gender roles and responsibilities such as education and healthcare, while preferring men for technical and often higher paying work.

According to the Second Industrial Survey of 1999, majority is small or medium industry with large being only 1%. 95% of industry is small and concentrated in traditional industries such as the food processing manufacture of textiles, clothing and leather products. The manufacturing sector employs 23,036 women and makes up 17% of female employment in paid work. Women's lack of relevant skills poses a major challenge in employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector. Women lack the resources and capital to venture out on their own and set up small enterprise. In the absence of targeted and easily accessible credit, women are unable to capitalize on the opportunity to set up their own enterprise. A few Non-Governmental organizations such as the Women Economic Empowerment Association (WEEA) have studied the possibility of building a saving scheme and collecting donations to be used for lending purposes. However, these have remained on paper to date pointing to the need for skilled micro-finance advisors and organisations in setting up these arrangements.

In recent years there has been considerable growth in the service sector. Despite this women's participation in the service sector remains low and falls far short of expectations. In terms of gender distribution in employment in service sector, approximately 42% of total service sector employees are owner-workers (and hence micro firms) or unpaid family workers with females constituting 5.9%. Prevalent services are male lead enterprise such as repairs, workshops and restaurants favoring male employment. Support services inclined to recruiting women such as secretarial services, data management and foreign languages are much fewer in comparison.

Prevailing gender division of labour results in women spending much of their time in household activities such as collection of water and fuel, especially in rural areas. Poor infrastructure facilities and absence of basic services further exacerbate the problem. These have far ranging implications both on women's health status and opportunity to engage in productive employment (income generation activities). Yemen's high fertility rate of 5.8 and early marriage further reduce women's opportunities in acquiring skills and training so they can compete in the labour market.

This is compounded by high illiteracy rates of 55% of female population and low skills.

Even when women surmount these challenges and manage to get educated, there is no guarantee that they will get gainful employment. Lack of employment opportunities is particularly noticeable among educated women, a third of whom are involuntarily unemployed. Female enrollment in vocational training is extremely low and plans to increase intake of females to 25,000 by 2025 unrealistic under the circumstance.

Although the law recognizes women's right to work discriminatory practices both within the household and the labour market persist. One such practice is women who wish to work in the public sector require their husband's permission to work. Access to employment opportunities is also hindered by poor infrastructure, notably low access to public transportation.

To be continued next week

الآن، أرسلوا واستلموا أموالكم...

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يونيون للصرافة
هي الآن وكيل معتمد
لويسترن يونيون
في اليمن!

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الممتاز

سر المذاق المتميز



The new all-wheel-drive 911 models: Carrera 4 and Carrera 4S

Even more dynamic road behavior - and 44 millimeters wider

The 911-type Carrera 4 and Carrera 4S all-wheel-drive coupes from Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG in Stuttgart are a further addition to the 911 model family and perpetuate a long and successful tradition. Porsche's legendary 959 model and the first Carrera 4, which dates from 1988, were early evidence of this manufacturer's competence in all-wheel-drive technology.



A striking feature of these new 911 models: they are 44 millimeters wider over the rear fenders. The rear wheels of the Carrera 4 can therefore be fitted with 295/35 ZR 18 tires, and its "bigger brother" with 305/30 ZR 19 tires. Powered by the proven 3.6-liter six-cylinder engine, which has an output of 239 kW (325 bhp), the Carrera 4 accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in 5.1 seconds and has a top speed of 280 kilometers per hour. The 4S model, with a 3.8 liter engine developing 261 kW (355 bhp), can reach 100 km/h in 4.8 seconds and has a top speed of 288 km/h.

new coupes excellently balanced performance on bends until close to the handling limit, absolute straight-line stability up to top speed and improved traction on slippery roads.

The New Carrera 4 and Carrera 4S Coupé

The second new PSM function is activated if the driver depresses the brake pedal quickly but not forcefully. In this situation, the hydraulic pump builds up extra pressure to bring all the wheels into the ABS range and ensure optimal braking.

Porsche Stability Management (PSM) now has two new functions: the brake system is pre-filled ready for a full brake application, thus eliminating the air gap between the pads and the disk and making stopping distances even shorter.

The all-wheel drive system has a multi-disk viscous coupling and transfers between five and 40 percent of the tractive force permanently to the front wheels, giving the two

In its regular setting, Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) offers a sporty but comfortable basic shock absorber setup, but operation of the sport button activates a noticeable firmer mapped setting. In both settings, however, the suspension ratings are matched at all times to the driving style and road conditions. The active shock absorber system is a standard feature on the 911 Carrera 4S and an optional extra on the Carrera 4. On request, both models can also be fitted with sports suspension to lower the body 20 millimeters closer to the ground; this option includes a mechanical rear axle differential lock.



The optional Sport Chrono Plus package is also available for the new all-wheel-drive models. It modifies the engine management characteristics and the control behavior of the PSM and PASM systems.

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Words of Wisdom



One of the main problems in building a modern state in Yemen is that three blocks of our society perceive themselves above accountability. The sooner we see this and address it, the easier it will be to build a meaningful government based on law and order, and modern values.

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

OUR
OPINIONIn memory of Samir
Kassir, and others

Freedom of press in Yemen is rather portrayed quite negatively in the world. It is not a false accusation as it is true to a large extent that press freedom is violated in Yemen and in many other countries in the world. In fact reports indicate a decline in general freedom around the world and especially in the developing world.

In the case of Yemen, the negative publicity takes a larger dimension than the positive one especially with the lack of awareness and strategic thinking of the government. Many times the state attacks journalists or prosecutes them on baseless crimes without any consideration to what affects such actions might have on the reputation of this country and on Yemen's status globally. The World Press Trends 2005 issued by World Association of Newspapers (WAN) describes the various aspects of media in Yemen in various fields. For example a section is dedicated to newspaper launches and closures where it was mentioned the many closures of opposition and independent newspapers such as al-Shura, al-Neda and al-Hurriya among the many other direct violations against journalists. This is not a good image that we would like to convey to the world about Yemen. Such a negative picture only hinders investment and political status of the country.

However, although Yemen is one of the countries going backwards in the matters of freedom, this is a common trend in the Arab world. Just last month on second of June - same day the death of Dr. Abdulaziz al-Sakkaf founder of the Yemen Times - Samir Kassir had been assassinated. Samir Kassir was a Lebanese teacher and journalist for the An Nahar newspaper. He taught at the University of Paris I: Panthéon-Sorbonne. He advocated democracy in Lebanon and was a noted critic of Syria's involvement in that country. He also advocated democracy in Syria. He was assassinated by unknown people using a car bomb and there is widespread speculation in Lebanon that Syrian security forces may have been involved in his death. The Syrian government has denied this.

According to WAN more than 500 journalists have been murdered in the past decade. In 8 cases out of 10, the killers walk free. Seventy-one journalists and other media workers were killed because of their professional activities in 2004, with 23 of them killed in Iraq. The toll was the highest for a single year since 1994, when 73 were killed.

While tens of journalists came to protest against the brutal murder of Samir Kassir held black pens in the air about three weeks ago in Lebanon. Many others remain fearful for their lives in case they write something that would hit on some powerful nerve. Only very few free journalist stay on the case in defense for freedoms and human rights. These journalists are the light for the future and although they are willing to die for their cause, their death will not go in vain, because there are others who will remember.

The Editorial Board



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Yemen and the
national crisis

By QADIRI AHMED HAIDAR

No doubt that the regime of the Arab Yemen Republic, which was reproduced in post war era in 1994, was dreaming of enjoying the monopoly of wealth and power, of gas, petroleum and every thing. This is of course on the expense of their partner in unity making. They achieved this by starting the war, which cost tens of milliards, let alone the lives it claimed. Added to this is the interruption of the course of national unity. It resulted in internal and regional demands. The internal demands are represented by the demands of the radical religious groups on one hand and the armed tribal forces that took part in the war on the other hand. The regional demands are represented by the Eritrean occupation of Yemeni Islands, and the continuous aggression on Yemeni fishermen. The Saudi boarders demand is another example. It is worth while to also to point out to the great power demands that are threatening national sovereignty, where no one knows its limits. What bothers the regime now are the international decisions that stopped the war and which issued Security Council resolutions number 924 and 931, together with the Secretary General's report on the Security Council's resolutions. These resolutions considered the problem as a political issue that should not be resolved through war. The terms of national unity in those resolutions were quite famous, especially after the asylum requests of a number of Southern and Eastern ambassadors who were, in some way or another involved in the

1994 war. The southern, security, army and other personnel in state establishments were dismissed. There was also a destruction of the economical, administrative, and infra structures of the former Southern state. They were privatized for the new lobby, besides the deprivation of the people of the south of power and decision making. The northern deputies and general managers have power over all ministers, whoever these ministers might be as long as they are from the southern governorates. These are true for all state institutions. This deprived the regime of its stability and political coherence. Conditions have reached crisis level, especially that there are now some movements in the UN corridors and the Security Council to reconsider the 1994 war's file, or the so called south unity question. The regime can't present a political solution for this problem. The regime lacks a strategic political vision. This vision would certainly be on the expense of the present political equilibrium, and the interests of those who are in power. One doubts if the government could do that now. There are some reports that the regime has received a message speaking of its failure to carry out the Security Council resolutions concerning the national unity. This matter had upset the regime and made it consider the initiatives and political opinions that speak of national unity, as treasons posing a threat to the country. They are also considered to be secessionists and agents of foreign powers. A good example is that of Mp Sultan Alsmee, and the call to lift his parliamentary immunity, because of the political opinions that he has published on the four territories, and the supreme

council issue.

This regime actually divides the country into four military territories, directed by a military commander who really controls four or five governorates. The Governors are no more than formal officials affiliated to the military commander. If this is the case; why was this row on Alsmee's affair? Isn't local Governance one of the regime's logos? In the same connection the call of Mr. Abdul Salaam Alhokaimi was considered to be a cession call and against the country's constants.

It is quite certain that the present regime is not capable of doing any reforms however limited they might be. It is curbed by the lobbies and power centers. It is now contented with the frame work of democracy as an annunciation for the outside world. It executes all foreign bullies on the expense of political and economical reform.

There are reports that the summit that was held in sharm alshaikh between Ali Abdullah Saleh and Mubarak was an effort to sacrifice all internal reforms, in return of recognition and naturalization with Israel. This is in addition to the security nature of the visit in which the extradition of Abdullah Sallam Naji and others was tackled, because of his writings in "Ilaf site". Egypt is considered to be the mediator for naturalization with Israel, because of its historical relations with Israel. Others think that, the visit of the Mauritanian president to Sana'a is a step in the same direction of that of Sharm Alshaikh. One thinks that these are all futile measures that won't resolve the country's problem; and could lead to more crises, which will endanger the continuation of the regime itself.

Yemeni Election 2006:
A fraud in the making

By JANE NOVAK

Yemen is a country in trouble. Recently ranked the twelfth most unstable nation in the world, ahead of Haiti, Afghanistan, and Rwanda by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Yemen is teetering on failure. Among the top indicators of Yemen's instability are factionalized elites, uneven development and delegitimization of the state. The concentration of power in the executive branch has fostered rampant corruption and widespread human rights abuses, including the imprisonment of young children as retribution. Yemen has slid into a painful anarchy and the only consistent law is the supremacy of the personal interests of the ruling elites. Those acting in the public interest do so at great risk to themselves. The threat to regional stability of a failed Yemen could not be greater.

Carnegie notes that in general, "Elections are almost universally regarded as helpful in reducing conflict. However, if they are rigged, they can be ineffective or even harmful to stability." Presidential elections, scheduled in Yemen for 2006, hold out hope for this battered nation and a generation of Yemeni children. A legitimate Yemeni election may be the linchpin of regional democratization efforts and the battle against extremism. But among numerous other structural distortions in Yemen, a key democratic process, elections in a multiparty system, is dysfunctional.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh ruled former North Yemen from 1978 through its unification with the south in 1990. He has since remained president of united Yemen. The country held its first presidential election in 1998. Saleh won by a margin of 96% against a little-known member of his own party, the General People's Congress (GPC). The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) was not allowed to present a candidate and called the vote a sham. A primary opposition party, Islah, did not run a candi-

date but instead nominated Ali Saleh before his own party did. The five year presidential term was later extended to seven years.

The ruling General People's Congress is not a party of ideology, but rather of opportunity. GPC membership is necessary to gain employment in government, military, and many civil sectors. Businessmen belonging to opposing parties face a risk to their livelihood. A rough comparison may be drawn to the Ba'ath party under Saddam Hussain, another society where power was concentrated in the executive and all governmental benefits and privileges flowed through the ruling party.

In the parliamentary elections of 2003, the GPC secured only 58% of the vote even with this intense pressure on the electorate and the promise of social benefits by GPC candidates. (The GPC was allotted 75% of parliamentary seats.) Electoral legitimacy was further undermined by "political intimidation, underage voting, inappropriate behavior by the security forces and vote-buying," according to the Washington-based National Democratic Institute. This parliament is tasked, along with an appointed Shoura council, with voting on opposition candidates for the 2006 presidential elections. An opposition candidate has to gain approval of his rival's loyalists in order to run.

Another way the Yemeni people are disenfranchised is through a long standing pattern of collusion between the leadership of the ruling GPC and that of a major opposition party, Islah. As noted by Power and Interest News Report, some top Islah leaders have "no interest in disturbing the status quo." Through a series of skillful maneuvers, alternately bribing and intimidating, President Saleh apparently has secured the agreement of Yemen's main opposition party not to oppose him. Islah may again fail to present a presidential candidate.

A third mechanism incapacitating the Yemeni multi-party system is a pattern of attacks on opposition parties. A Socialist parliamentarian, having writ-

ten an article advocating reform, received death threats and faced "government rage" expressed through official media outlets. The leadership of another party, the Popular Forces Union (PFU), has stated the party's calls for reform and its criticisms of civilian deaths in the Sa'ada region prompted a barrage of assaults. The PFU party headquarters was stormed by gunmen. The computers of its newspaper, al-Shoura (Democracy), were confiscated. A PFU political leader was held at gunpoint within the party headquarters for days, another was kidnapped for a week. Others were subject to wildly inflammatory attacks in the official media. The party was accused of having a militia and of not submitting its financial accounts. One of Yemen's oldest parties, its legal status is being challenged.

In a statement, the Socialist Party, having suffered a bombing of its headquarters and other assaults, called the targeting of opposition parties "political terrorism." The attempt to exclude, subvert, defame, or injure opposition voices is part of a larger effort by many self-interested parties to prevent a free and fair election and an authentic Yemeni democracy.

Without a coordinated effort, the upcoming elections in 2006 will be only a show for Western observers who traditionally focus on the ballot box and ignore the ballot. In relation to the natural right of the Yemeni people to choose their leaders, hold their representatives accountable, and to direct the governance of the country, Yemen's next election may not be a victory for democracy but its defeat. All those concerned with the well being of the Yemeni people, the stability of the region, and the advance of democracy need rally to the side of freedom and self-determination while there still is a chance.

Jane Novak (jane.novak@gmail.com) is an American journalist and political analyst. This article first published in the US.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Change in weather and
political arithmetic

It turns out that God Almighty must have had pity on us!" said Ma'atouq, as he was working out the strategy of how he will get from the minibus bus to his rented apartment in Hayel Street with the least amount of dampness on his clothes.

"What did you say Ma'atouq?" said the driver to one of his regular customers, as he was counting the change for some of the disembarking passengers waiting with their hands about 30 cm inside the front right window of the bus.

"Just when everything seems to be going on the downside or in reverse gear, as you guys would say, the Lord Almighty decided that He was going to pour some mercy on this poor downtrodden country of ours. In my lifetime, I haven't seen any rainfall like we are having this year. We hear our parents always talking about the bountiful rainfall they use to get, when there was so much 'innocence, piety, tolerance and goodwill' amongst the people. In their times and their parents' times, they said, Yemen was actually providing aid to the Gulf states by giving them some of the surplus cereals and grains." Ma'atouq pointed out some of the history he learned from his parents.

A newly embarking passenger wanted to quickly get into the conversation: "I am glad it rained before the Government starts to tell us to pray for rain, because every time that happens, the rainfall we get is so scanty, it seems for sure that Someone up there is not keen on anything our government suggests to us about our dealings with the heavens! When it does rain, they then try to suggest that it was their call that brought on the rain. But this year with the government so busy with the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of unification, counting all the extra dough coming out of the high prices of oil, subduing the Houthis and anything and everything that has the faintest streak of Houthism, there is no time to pray for rain - By the way what is Houthism?"

"It is anyone who is too loud about his feelings about Israel and America - come to think of it we really do not know what it is," answered the driver.

Ma'atouq wanted to get away from talk about the Houthis, but couldn't help remarking about the obvious consequences that seem far more worrisome: "Anyway, the government has taken care of them and now is starting to take care of the Non-Houthis in the rest of us! Now, anyone who has any inclination of enjoying democracy will submit only to the democratic principles laid out by the Government and anyone who deviates will be rendered as having Houthi tendencies. Thus, they should think twice about becoming too resilient in opposing the Government. In fact, the Houthi stigma is being used as an excuse to do away with any semblance of political and sectarian pluralism left in our marginal democracy, and to do away with what ever remains of civil society. If you have a genuine religious charity, even if licensed and ordained by the Government, the Government will close it down, on the pretext that it is propagating Houthism. Never mind that you have the religious institutions and charities of the so called strategic allies of the ruling party operating freely without any hindrance and they are the ones more suspect of harboring terrorism. On the contrary, the latter have been given the green light to take over all religious activity in the land and they can storm into any mosque and remove its normal preachers and put their extremist sermon preacher on the platform and their custodians to run and manage the mosques. I am really confused. How can we say we are fighting terrorism, when all of us know that these extremist institutions, that are now enjoying a free hand to impose their dogmatic beliefs on the nation, are the breeding grounds for terrorists and misguided extremists?"

"Are you defending the deviate Houthis?" said another passenger scraping his beard.

Ma'atouq wanted to speak his mind: "I am not defending any Houthi, but I was surprised last Friday, when a bunch of bearded armed extremists stormed into a mosque in our village and physically pushed our regular sermon speaker off the platform and placed a preacher they brought with them, who we have never seen before, in his place. When some people tried to leave in protest, the armed accompaniment blocked the doors not letting anyone leave until our 'new Imam', as the thugs introduced him to the congregation, completed his long speech about the evils of television. When many people went to the nearest police precinct to complain. No action was taken. Now the mosque is theirs and there isn't anything we can do about it. The people in my village never even heard of anything about the Houthis. Then, I decided to leave the village and cut my vacation short and come back to Sana'a shocked at the way this Houthi problem has actually become a silver platter for more extreme renditions of Islam to be imposed on the society with the blessings of the Government. I am worried about the kind of world our children will have to live in. Is Yemen going to be another Taliban state?"

The driver added another note to this sharp turn in the current social developments: "Even in Sana'a, now, some mosques are undergoing the same radical transformation". These people are out to kill any moderate religious inclinations and the Government has shown no desire to interfere in this fearful trend."

Ma'atouq got up pulling out a plastic bag to cover his head from the rain, leaving the bus, while still hanging on to one fervent hope: "Maybe after the Presidential Elections, we might see a different turn of events, just like the pleasant turn in the weather and government policy will no longer have to be dictated by political arithmetic."

Russia's population implosion

BY SERGEI KAPITSA

Years ago, Alexander Solzhenitsyn coined the phrase "preservation of the people," by which he meant Russia's cultural survival. Today, it applies to Russia in a far more literal way.

Although I am a physicist, I began to study demography about 15 years ago, in the belief that the key global problem was not so much the threat of nuclear annihilation as the dynamics of population growth. It was a grim recognition that Russia faces the opposite problem: a rapid decline in population that threatens every aspect of Russian life.

Indeed, just in the last ten years, Russia's population has dropped by 9.5 million, despite the many thousands of Russians returning from former Soviet republics. The birthrate has increased somewhat beginning since 2000, and now stands near 1.5 million a year, but this is 700,000-800,000 below the replacement rate.

Many observers argue that Russians are not having enough children because life is so harsh. But the problem is not so simple. The United States, Europe, Japan, Australia, and Canada have all seen

declining birth rates as well. In Spain, the birthrate of 1.07 per woman is even lower than in Russia.

Russia's uniqueness stems instead from the high rate of early death among males, which is directly attributable to poor diet and high consumption of alcohol and tobacco, and, indirectly, to the stresses caused by the wrenching economic and political changes that began with Gorbachev's *perestroika* 20 years ago. The Soviet demographer Boris Uralnis wrote a famous article entitled "Take Care of the Men," which caused a sensation when it was published around 25 years ago. Uralnis's argument - that men, not women, are the more delicate creatures - is even more relevant now, with family life decaying, half of marriages ending in divorce, and the number of fatherless children rising to record levels.

Here is where the revised meaning of Solzhenitsyn's "preservation of the people" comes in. Solzhenitsyn himself recently suggested that Russia's national idea should be based on Ivan Petrovich Shuvalov's proposal to Empress Elizabeth 250 years ago. "Every move, every law should be assessed in terms of whether it helps to preserve the people," according to Solzhenitsyn. "If not, down with the law."

Solzhenitsyn's suggestion is crude, but right in a fundamental sense. Our public thought is fragmented, and the country's intelligentsia, who are partly responsible for tending to society's values and goals, are behaving in often-destructive ways. The live-for-the-moment mentality of hedonism and greed that they have encouraged is embodied in Moscow's casinos, of which there are more than in the rest of Europe - or, for that matter, Las Vegas.

These values - reflected in the way people dress, how they behave in public, and the language they speak - are not the values of human life. A crime subculture is spreading in Russia, and it is attaining the status of official culture. Where the intelligentsia is not directly complicit, its members have, simply by remaining silent, refused to accept the responsibility that accompanies freedom. By contrast, Solzhenitsyn, Tolstoy, and other writers in Russia's great literary tradition fully understood this responsibility.

The current Russian interpretation of freedom is instead characterized by a narrow, individualistic permissiveness that is incompatible with collective tasks. In other words, Russia's population crisis is one manifestation of a crisis of ideas.

This, of course, raises the broader

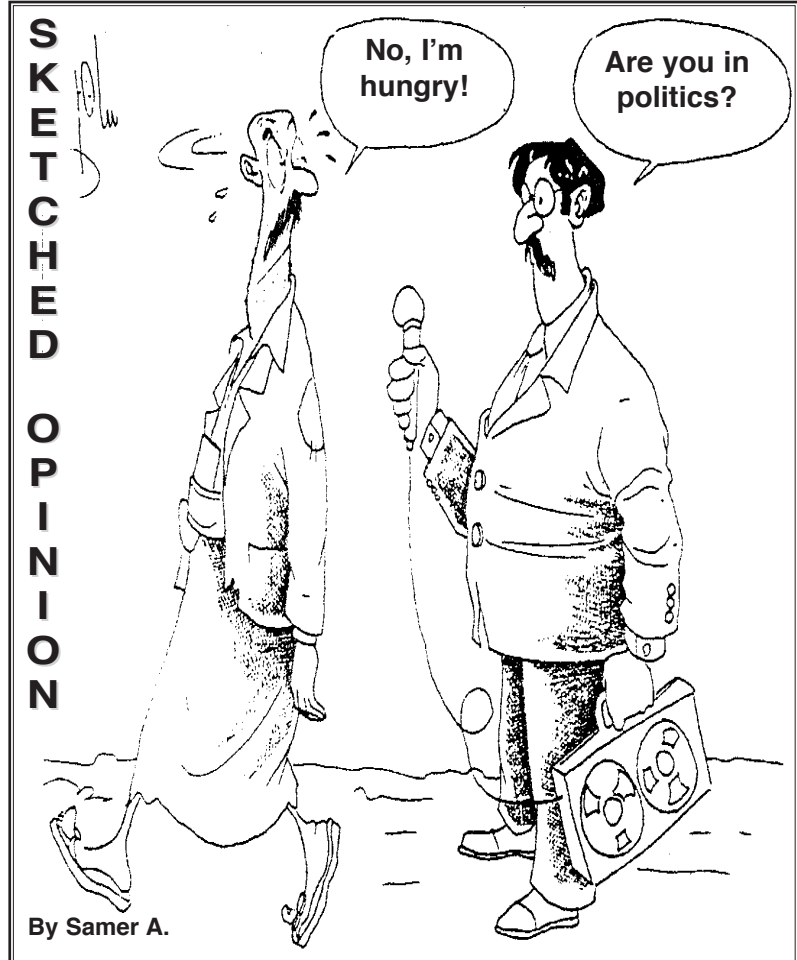
question of whether declining birthrates, in Russia and elsewhere, imply a crisis of the liberal idea of freedom, with its focus on individual rights?

Clearly, liberalism may be a contributing factor, if and where it is primitively understood to entail for the individual no countervailing obligations before society. Clearly, the belief that liberalism is at fault for declining birth rates and dysfunctional families has gained currency in the West, which now produces popular books like Pat Buchanan's *The Death of the West*.

But I think the crisis is deeper, reflecting a lack of awareness of the paths and goals of human development - an ignorance that cannot be reduced to Western-style democracy or liberal ideas. For Russia, the issue is simple because the crisis - which has led to more homeless children than after either the Civil War or World War II - is so stark. "Preservation of the people" requires nothing less than that our men take care of themselves so that they can take proper care of our children.

Sergei Kapitza is Professor, Institute of Physics, Moscow.

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By Samer A.

Mao, the false god

BY SIN-MING SHAW

Should Chairman Mao's huge portrait still hang above the front gate of Tiananmen Square? Should China's ruling party still call itself Communist?

These are not idle questions. Unless and until China's leaders answer both questions with a simple "No" they will continue to have blood on their hands and a tainted legitimacy. Many Chinese do not accept communist rule precisely because the Communist Party denies its past, (and remains) unapologetic about its cruelty.

This is one reason why China has a Taiwan "problem." The Chinese Communists insist that being Chinese means accepting the political reality of a sole Communist sovereign. Indeed, many Taiwanese think that, if being Chinese means accepting all that goes under the name of Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party, they will gladly deny their "Chineseness" than assume some of that shame.

Similarly, while a recent poll found that 70% of Hong Kong's people are proud of being ethnic Chinese, a similar percentage are ashamed of the conduct of the main-

land government. Their message to the government in Beijing is this: you cannot take away our ethnicity but you have soiled our dignity through your barbarism. For Hong Kong, the defining symbol of the Communist government is the killing of students with abandon on June 4, 1989.

Enshrined in the Chinese Communist Party's constitution are the following words: "Mao Zedong, the Party's chief representative, created Mao Zedong Thought, which has been proved correct by practice and based on which the Communist Party developed the basic system of socialism economically, politically, and culturally after the founding of the People's Republic."

But how "correct" was Mao?

In her devastating new book *Mao: The Unknown Story*, Jung Chang (author of the international bestseller *Wild Swans*) exposes startling new details that prove beyond doubt that Mao was a tyrannical, cruel hypocrite whose disregard for human lives and suffering surpassed that of even Stalin and Hitler. Her catalogue of Mao's "correct practice" is numbing in its immorality and bloodthirstiness.

To help finance his communist movement in the 1930's, Mao squeezed poor peasant families with any assets in the

"Red" zone he controlled. Many "counter-revolutionary" families were forced out of their homes to live in buffalo sheds so that their meager assets could be requisitioned.

While hiding out in the caves of Yanan, Mao became a distributor of opium. Contrary to myths that he and his insurgents lived frugally during the Yanan days, they lived well on trading profits.

After the Nationalist government collapsed in 1949, Mao's "New China" emerged. Almost immediately, he launched another campaign to suppress "counter-revolutionaries," berating one province for "being too lenient, not killing enough."

Killing "enemies" was not the sole purpose. Mao wanted to instill obedience by having as many people as possible witness the terror. As he put it in 1951, "Many places don't dare to kill counter-revolutionaries on a grand scale with big publicity. This situation must be changed."

In Beijing millions of inhabitants were ordered to witness some 30,000 sentencing and execution rallies during the early 1950's. Indeed, in 1950 and 1951 an estimated three million people perished by execution, torture, or suicide.

Masses of Chinese were sent to work camps, where prisoners endured harsh

physical labor to "reform" their "bourgeois" habits and thoughts. In any given year, roughly 10 million such "laborers" existed. During Mao's rule, an estimated 27 million died in the camps.

Close to 38 million people died of starvation and overwork during the infamous Great Leap Forward (1958-61) to catch up with the West. Mao's reaction? "With all these projects, half of China may well have to die. If not half, one-third, or one-tenth - 50 million - die...but you can't blame me when people die."

Mao launched the Cultural Revolution (1965-76) to take revenge against those who opposed his mad programs. Millions more died.

Mao also ordered the country to destroy the "Four Olds": old ideas, old culture, old customs, and old habits. As a result, his Red Guards destroyed ancient books, priceless antiques, monuments across the land, and nearly all Buddhist monasteries in Tibet.

In all, it is estimated that more than 70 million people died in the "New China" Mao and the present Communist Party leaders so proudly proclaim as their accomplishment.

When Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka went to China in 1974, he bowed

deeply to the Chairman, apologizing for the suffering that invading Japanese had caused. Mao famously said: "No need to apologize. We should thank you instead. Without your invasion, we Communists would not have won."

What about today's "New New China," with its skyscrapers, modern highways, and unbridled capitalism? The reality is not as gleaming as it first looks. Annual per capita GDP in Shanghai, China's showcase city, remains, at \$3,000, a small fraction of the levels in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Fifty years of communist misrule have left what was once the most advanced city in Asia a distant also-ran.

China's communist rulers must own up to their history and drop Mao and the communist legacy. The country needs a new

constitution - one that enshrines genuine democracy.

China's people have long been ready for this. Maintaining the false label of communism while reviving capitalism and insisting that Mao, for all his mistakes and crimes, was 70% "correct" is the bedrock of the moral corruption that afflicts China today. It is as if the Nazis were still in power, with the current leaders claiming that Hitler was only 30% wrong. China deserves better; it requires better in order to reclaim the glory that was China.

Sin-ming Shaw is a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in New York.

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Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Survival of the fittest

I'm writing regretfully because I don't know where we are going and when we will be done with these interventions.

Can interventions take the place of hard work??!

Is the failed and lazy youth the same like the diligent and successful youth?!

All around us, if you have intervention, you will be given chances to study and work anywhere, whether or not you are lazy or diligent.

Let me speak about colleges, when the youth sit for their entrance examinations, they stay up all night studying hard just to be able to

study the course they like. On the other hand, there are many youth that sit back and relax, knowing that they will be able to enter college with just one phone call, snapping up chances that they don't even deserve.

The education system is sup-

posed to be without any intervention because the diligent youth is the one who can improve his society, not the one who relies on intervention.

I don't mean that I don't use it or study in my college without it, no, I'm looking for it to help me, as studying and attaining a certificate will not help me this time.

At the same time, not any intervention will help you, only the influential ones will be more effective.

Therefore we need to look for influential interventions if we want to achieve our hopes and ambitions.

I really feel sorry about that but only the stronger one stays.

The question is:

DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OUR AMBITION IF WE DON'T HAVE INTERVENTION??

Sayings

- * You don't have to say all you know, but you have to know all you say.
- * Through the prickles of danger, we get the flowers of peace.
- * If you want to make someone happy, don't raise his wealth but try to reduce his desires.
- * In this world, there are only two tragedies: one of them when the person doesn't get what he wants and the another

- when he gets it.
- * Advice: a cheap gift.
- * Desert: the only place that can't be destroyed except by building.
- * Silliness: the attribute of any opinion which is against yours.
- * Consultation: to ask someone to agree about something you've decided.

Selected by social college students

Lost dreams

By S.W

When I was a kid, I had big dreams and I wanted to be on the top as a V.I.P.

Years after years I tried to achieve my ambitions.

When I was in school I was the first in my class. I studied hard to get high marks to be able to study in the college I wanted.

Later on, when I submitted the entrance examination, I was sure that I would pass but to my surprise, they told me that I had failed, I was too upset because I knew that many students had passed and had taken my chances by having inside help.

I tried for another college but failed again, which made me so frustrated.

Then I realized that I would not be able to enter any college without inside help.

After that, I got it and entered college and was surprised to see how different the teachers dealt with the students who was accepted with inside help.

After I graduated, I looked for a job but couldn't find a good one even though I had a good certificate. I soon ended up working as a seller.

I soon realized that I am a very unlucky person.

Whispers

Asheq!

By Fahmia Al-Fotih

Asheq means in Arabic "lover" and that doesn't mean that our whispers today are about love and lovers. However, the one who is whispering today has the title of "Asheq AL-Nnor" that means "The one who loves the light".

Actually, he is a gentleman, smart, ambitious and loveable and has a good sense of humor but he cannot see and you can hardly notice that he is blind as he walks with confidence with his head up. Asheq is now studying English language in an institute and he has successfully passed from one level to another. Everyone is amazed at his confidence and insistence in achieving his goals and everybody wonders at the courage and inner-power that make him pursue his studies in an institute where he is the only one who cannot see.

Anyone who knows Asheq cannot do anything but admire and love him. Sometimes we realize that we are the real blind ones and not him.

Once he told me his story that could be called the beginning of his tragedy when his mother took him to a quack as he had a weakness in one of his eyes. But that quack made it worse and his sight became weaker. However, Asheq entered the school and studied till the third grade when his parents took him to a hospital in Taiz and the surgeon committed a big mistake that led him to lose his sight completely. Suddenly the world turned into entire darkness. He had seen the light and the things, therefore it was hard for him to adapt to his new dark world.

In the last time I sat with him, he told me about his dreams and more about the challenges that special needs people face and the services that they need. He, as all the handicapped people, has been suffering a lot of ill-treatment in the different institutions. Asheq remembered sorrowfully that he was chosen to travel abroad and when he had finished all the traveling procedures, due to favoritism, they told him in the last minute that another one replaced him. Another thing was that he has been waiting for more than 8 months for an electronic dictionary and just last week he told me that he got it ultimately.

Asheq has a dream. He did not want to go back to the village where he can find nobody to understand or support him. He has a small project and dreams to open a telecommunication center. He

went to the Handicapped Fund but found no small projects department and now he is looking for an organization to support him.

Asheq does not blame the Fund as he believes that the Fund is doing well but it needs support and provide it with qualified and specialists' cadre that can deal with and understand the people with special needs.

The people with the special needs perhaps lose one of their senses but this does not affect them negatively or weaken their enthusiasm. You can find them more talented and more creative. All of us know there are remarkable and well-known people that were handicapped, for instance the famous writer Helen Clare was deaf and blind but her publications conquered the world and gave a brilliant example for the handicapped people.

In this regard, I cannot forget the 7th festival for deaf and dumb people in which I really was amazed at what I had seen there. In the big hall of the festival I saw a large number of people but they were not talking, they were just exchanging gestures and signs. The view strongly made me tremble and I felt that I was strange among them and I could not understand anything. At the same time I was very happy that those people could communicate and they were not isolated, yet, they were participating and proved that there was no difference between the handicapped people and the normal ones, and sometimes even better.

Without a word, just signs, the group of deaf and dumb wonderfully performed a number of plays through which they displayed their problems that they face in getting jobs and the maltreatment they receive in the governmental establishments. The group also delivered various messages about a number of issues such as revenge and the bad phenomena in the Yemeni society and how to heal them. The audience could not do anything but applaud strongly.

Asheq hopes that the Fund's services should be expanded to other governorates and to the very deprived special needs people in rural areas all over Yemen. Moreover, he complains about the lack of awareness among the society members about disabled people issues and needs and how to deal appropriately with them.

I also hope that more efforts should be exerted to this sector and provide it with equal opportunities to integrate them with the society and let them effectively take part in building Yemen and its prosperity.

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5. The service will be activated after 24 hrs from the date it was sent on.

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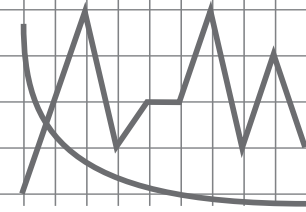
1. Send (Delete) followed by the numbers you wish to discard, leaving a space between each number, then send to 333.
Ex. (Delete) 71xxxxxx 71xxxxxx 71xxxxxx
then send to 333
2. You will receive SMS confirming the numbers you deleted.

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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

Banking sector: Obstacles and solutions

Despite a deterioration in the world economy over the last few years due to several events and variables, Yemen has developed and improved its economy by virtue of the stable political and social situation, the good infrastructure and investment climate that constitutes vital components of the national economy.

In response to directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the government adopted good economic policies with the aim to enhance the economic recovery and follow up a balanced financial and monetary policy, in addition to other policies of savings and investment.

The role of the banking sector has not been confined to the quantitative development through raising the number of financial institutions and developing the size of deposits. Rather, it exceeded this to upgrade the level of payments to cope with the banking and technical developments to reshuffle the banking system and raise its effectiveness through the integration of banking capitals and coordination between difference apparatuses to overcome barriers and investment risks.

We repeatedly emphasize the importance of the banking sector's role in attracting investment and protecting it from any risks to occur. The banking deposits are exposed to risks because of the recurrent financial crisis.

The fruits of implementing the economic and financial reforms and the stability in the national economy all helped activate the private sector and magnified its role in the development process, particularly in the shadow of privatization program.

The last few years witnessed a noticeable increase in the establishment of financial institutions,



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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

including the establishment of the Islamic banks under the law No.21 for the year 1996. The Islamic banks have been perceived to pursue their activities according to the constitution and under the control of the Central Bank of Yemen that tops the hierarchy of the Yemeni Banking System.

Now the Yemeni Banking System is composed of 16 banks and 152 branches in all the Yemeni governorates. The commercial activities of such banks and their branches are seen in manifesting the short-run commercial activities.

The Islamic banks cover a considerable portion of the traditional banking services such as receiving deposits, opening current accounts and providing money transfer. Generally, they take part through the direct investment in the commercial, industrial and agricultural activities, and in funding the trade activities in exchange for interest.

Different studies conducted last year showed a rising demand in the country for banking and development services, as well as raising banking awareness and expanding the scope economic and developmental activities that require an increase in the rate of savings and investments.

Meanwhile, achieving an interest is one of the advantages offered by the competition in providing banking and developmental services. This compelled numerous banks to upgrade and improve the mechanisms of their activities.

Despite expanding the banking system and offering investors multiple benefits in the area of insurance, this will not hinder the occurrence of any risks and there is not risk-free investment. Even employing capitals in the formula of deposits is not an investment free from risks.

I believe that offering insurance on deposits, which appeared in the form of specialized institutions to fulfill certain purposes, will help promote investors to make business in different fields.

Investment in the form of deposits appears free from risks, but the daily circumstances will expose big and famous banks to financial crises. We need not confirm that the indicator of the main risk against developmental accesses and loans offered by banks.

Anyone who observes the day-to-day banking routines holds the view that the size of debts is very heavy compared to the capacities of banks in our societies. Personal influences and considerations are believed to stand behind the heavy debts.

An organized and transparent frame of the banking system is essential to guarantee implementing instructions of the executives (the Central Bank of Yemen) and provide a professional administration of banks. This will help the banking sector to overcome the difficulties and barriers that encounter its activities and weaken its capabilities.

The well-organized and transparent frame of the banking sector will enhance its role in raising the rate of savings and allocating them according to certain goals and priorities.

Mechanisms in the Central Bank of

Yemen should be applied to specify the price of interest on deposits and rate of legal saving according to the development of the economic situations and reinforcement of the monitoring role on the activities of the banking sector including currency exchange.

The good application of mechanisms at the Central Bank of Yemen will help achieve monetary stability. Due to the importance of the capital in protecting money of lenders, the banking system should give more priority to this resource to become one of the most important strategies to avoid any risks facing the banking activities.

The recommended strategies can be as follows:

- 1) Banks should have a well-studied strategy with the aim to distribute loans and the developmental and banking facilities to different economic sectors.
- 2) The banking facilities should be distributed to cover all the economic activities in the sectors of industry, agriculture, trade, fisheries, housing, real estate, shares and many other economic and development activities.
- 3) The banking sector has to adopt a well-studied strategy to assign the types of work and distribute them to different governorates all over Yemen.
- 4) The strategy of distribution and diversity has to be converted to cope with the change of situations and



- 5) Any bank should have a well-documented database of customers that also can cover information about territorial and geographic distribution.
- 6) The Central Bank of Yemen have to

directly intervene in this field to protect banks and provide the necessary information.

- 7) Every bank should have a consultant for personal loans as well another consultant for investment loans to instruct workers about their tasks.

Foodstuffs' prices skyrocket, currency power fluctuates

SANA'A- These days, the Yemeni street experiences an unprecedented increase in the prices of main foodstuffs including sugar, infant milk, dairies, rice, wheat, oil, medicine and other essential commodities.

The inflation wave came in a time when people all over Yemen are waiting for the application of sales tax law by the government, and this is strongly opposed by large number of traders, who hold the view it will magnify the economic recession of the country.

Large numbers of citizens have shown fear and concern over the shocking price hike, saying such a phenomenon implies a dose reform to be passed on.

They feared the government's application of a new dose, mainly as the government intends to lift subsidy on oil derivatives. This will help raise prices of foodstuffs, other basic commodities and transportation fares.

The capital's Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) denounced the campaign waged by the official media against the private sector accusing it of standing behind the price hike.

The CTI said in a statement distributed to different media means last week: "the rising price of foodstuffs is attributed to the increase in the price of oil, sea transportation fares as well as the increase in sea transportation insurance fees.

The CTI said the deterioration of the Yemeni currency against the dollar and the series of reforms implemented by the government caused this inflation. It

expressed concern over this unprecedented inflation and the financial policies adopted by the government and confirmed the private sector will be the first victim to be harmed and affected by the price hike and it is bound to suffer heavy losses.

In the same context, the CTI continues its strong objection to the sales tax due to be passed on this month. It held a variety of activities, the last of which was a press conference last week in which Bashamakh, Chamber of Trade and Industry Chairman confirmed the inflation will destroy the national economy and demanded the government to reconsider the matter.

He warned of tragic consequences since such reforms may cause popular uprisings across the country.

Around 18 commercial and industrial chambers and associations appealed to the President of the Republic to invalidate the unconstitutional texts in the sales tax law as well as to cancel the latest decisions issued by the Central Bank of Yemen and the proposal of investment law amendments that may cause comprehensive economic catastrophe all around the country.

These societies confirmed the economic situations have experienced a recession since 2000 leading to increasing poverty and the unemployment rate. They added such situations will never attract foreign investors to make business in Yemen but it will oblige the national capital to be invested abroad.

The commercial associations pointed out that the private sector employs around 4 million workers while around 800 thousand civic employees have government jobs, costing 70% of the State's general budget.

The private sector constitutes up to 83% of the gross domestic production.

Regarding procedures expected to be taken by the government to stop prices from going high, Mohammad Ahmad Ghalib Deputy Chairman of Tax Authority told the media: "the State depends on the policy of free economy and does not allow any trade activities except what is stipulated by the laws of fighting cheat and monopoly."

He added: "in the shadow of competition, the citizen looks for the cheapest and highest quality commodities, emphasizing the government will not profit from such reforms."

Mr. Ghalib further noted, "I believe that reducing taxes to this minimum will help restrict tax evasion even if the Public Treasure experienced a loss in the short run, and such a reduction is expected to leave a positive effect on the level of the macro economy in the long and short terms."

The Cabinet decided last week to reduce the tariff on different commodities to 5%, and it already brought down the tax sale tariff from 10 to 5%. It also welcomed proposals of the Parliament to raise salaries of government employees, and that YR 20000 will be the lowest salary at the government's job ladder.



Engineers

Yemen Hunt Oil Company is considering hiring a Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Electronic Engineer, Petroleum Engineer and Chemical Engineer to work in our Central Processing Facility near Marib. Successful candidates will work a schedule of 28 days on and have 28 days off.

Minimum Requirements:

- A bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Petroleum Engineering or Chemical Engineering from a recognized and a reputed university.
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If you meet the above requirements, please forward your resume only to:

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Please do not phone us. We will call you for an interview if you are a successful candidate.

Mr. Ali Alatas former prime minister of Indonesia and envoy of the Secretary-General for the September 2005 Summit to the 32nd OIC for Foreign Ministers, in his interview with the Yemen Times:

“We need to know about each other’s potentials and make use of these potentials by pulling our resources together and sharing our experience.”

Mr. Ali Alatas was one of the most prominent figures at the OIC Foreign Minister’s conference conducted late last month in Sana’a. He came as a representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and he puts in his delight to be visiting Yemen again. Mr. Ali Alatas was foreign minister of Indonesia from 1988 to 1997, since becoming Minister for Foreign Affairs in March 1988. Mr. Ali Alatas served three terms under the former Suharto administration and was reappointed by the Habibie administration in May 1998. He is a veteran in the field, going into his twelfth year. Having worked as a diplomat for over 40 years, he has participated in numerous international conferences. His abundant experience serves the Habibie administration’s foreign policy well.

Mr. Ali Alatas plays varied roles in the vexed East Timorese independence-or-autonomy question. Under UN auspices he has negotiated many times with Portugal, the former colonial satrap. All efforts are being used to promote a peaceful resolution.

Visiting VIPs from overseas are greeted with a relaxed and jovial smile. Mr. Ali Alatas has gained the trust of many foreign diplomats.

From 1976 to 1978 Mr. Ali Alatas was stationed at the UN in Geneva. From 1982 to the time he entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was Ambassador to the UN.

After graduating from Indonesia’s Foreign Affairs Academy, Mr. Ali Alatas graduated from University of Indonesia’s law faculty. His family consists of his wife and three daughters. Mr. Ali Alatas is 66 years old.

Nadia al-Sakkaf chief editor of the Yemen Times met with Mr. Alatas and had a very interesting interview.



Nadia al-Sakkaf, chief editor of the Yemen Times, with Mr. Alatas

Q: Minister of foreign affairs from 1988 to 1997, during which two regimes and also close affiliation to the UN. How do you assess the progress Indonesia has gone through politically and economically during your career years?

A: Until 1997/98 Indonesia was making good progress economically and socially. It belonged to the group of south Asian countries, which were at that time called economic tigers because they were making so much economic progress. However, everything changed in 1998 after the Asian crises and the financial economic crises that was concentrated mostly in Thailand, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia. This affected our economy badly and even politically and president Suharto had to resign, where a new, more democratic regime came to power. Since then we had to concentrate on the devastated economy and on very large social and political problems. Now we are coming on the upswing again. We have stabilized our economy with a growth rate of 5.5%. The exports have risen to the 1997/98 level and even more and the GDP today per capita is slightly beyond \$1000.

Simultaneously, we are making a good progress politically as resumed a very active independent policy. As you know we are member of the Asian countries alliance and play an active role in the UN, OIC and non-alliance countries. After some years of looking inwards now we have resumed that active role again and in order to make improvement after the crisis.

Another example of how Indonesia has become very active economically is that we have recently revised the Asian African relations not only as an attempt to revive the glorious days of the 1997 but we are trying to strike a new type of relation between the Asian continent and the African continent. We call this a new partnership and we are highly motivated to enhance this partnership. We often don’t know each other’s potentials. We need to know about each other’s potentials and not only that, but we need to make use of each other’s potentials by pulling our resources together and sharing our experience.. This is the gist of the African-Asian relations and the South South relations.

Q: How did you cope with the Tsunami crisis?

A: Then came tsunami which devastated part of Indonesia, it was a big catastrophe that did not hit only Indonesia, but also Thailand, Sri Lanka, and even as far as Somalia and the African horn. But contrary to what is sometimes described in the press, it only hit two provinces. Indonesia is a very large country and while it took a terrible toll on the people of Achen province, and we are gratified at the international response, it did not destroy our national economy as a whole or the overall situation. So we are trying to get out of the tsunami related economic problems but it has

not affected the overall economy of the country.

Q: How is the “war against terrorism” affecting the Indonesian local stability and peace?

A: We are a very large country with very diverse population of 220 million people inhabiting 17,000 islands, not just one, and we speak many languages, yet thank God, we have only one national language. Can you imagine the complications of this? We have many resources and there are rich provenances where we produce oil, gas, fruit, rubber, and tea ...etc. We have poor regions and rich regions and so we distribute the resources to all and some problems arise because the rich regions are not happy with this distribution. But we are developing and are focusing on getting over the 1998 disaster. In addition to focusing on economy we are also focusing on democratizing, good governance and fighting corruption, which is a very important part of our present government’s plan. We had our first direct presidential elections for the first time in our history, and now we are having the first direct elections of the government in the 32 provinces. We are growing and we hope to become stronger.

Q: Reform of the United Nations, is it a desperate way to save the UN’s status in the world?

A: As you know, this September, there will be a summit for the members states of the United Nations to discuss wide ranging reform and what the secretary general referred as a common response of the international community against the new threats, challenges and problems that we face in the 21st century. Consequently, we need to reform the UN. Apart from facing the old threats in three interconnected fields: economy and development, security, and human rights, we must ensure that the UN, which is the only universal body, is strong and capable. We have to ensure that it reformed and in this context the secretary general has submitted in March this year to all the United Nations member states a report called “in larger freedom” in which he suggested a number of policies for reforming the UN structure and procedures. Heads of governments in September this year will decide on this, and we hope that these are seen in a balanced package because as I said earlier the problems of development security and human rights are interconnected and we can not see each one alone although development by itself is a very important issue and so is security but they can not be seen alone. That is why in the report the secretary-general has commented: “we cannot attain development without security and we cannot attain both without respect for human rights.” Also we cannot tackle this problem by ourselves no matter how strong the country is, and therefore we need the United Nations to be strong and reformed to be able to solve the

crisis. It has to be reformed because in many ways the United Nations is still reflecting the situation immediately after the Second World War. There is no doubt that it achieved tremendous progress, it has achieved great success in fields that are not often written such as health and all, and most of the time the failures are the ones which are highlighted. In the past we had the cold war and the Security Council was almost immobilized by the vetoes and counter vetoes. Today this has changed and I think that now we can take decisions in the Security Council. But still the Security Council is still highly unrepresentative of the real world. We have now 191 members and the majority are developing countries yet no developing country is represented in the Council except China. So we are trying to push the Council to be more representative of the real world to include developing and Islamic countries.

Q: What are the benefits the Islamic world would get from expansion of the Security Council and the representation of the Islamic world?

A: As you may have followed since some time the Islamic countries have noticed that there are no Islamic countries among the permanent member states. So I think now any change in the Security Council should include a Muslim country. There are no speculations of which country would be the one, however we know that there is a need for at least one country to be among the permanent member states of the Security Council.

Having an Islamic country in the Security Council would reflect the world and give more balance; we have one and half billion Muslim people of the total population and many Islamic countries. I don’t think more than one country could be included in the Security Council if any but I think there should be at least one and the discussions are still on going.

Q: Along with participating in the OIC conference for foreign ministers, do you have any message you are carrying from the UN to Yemen?

A: The purpose of my coming here is first of all to represent the Secretary-General who wanted to come himself and deliver a speech on his behalf. In

his paper he talks about the importance of reform proposals, however important, should not distract us from certain urgent tasks, particularly the need to resolve protracted conflicts and ensure that countries in difficult transitions receive all the support and help they need. That is why the United Nations as a member of the Quartet will continue to work for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on full implementation of Security Council resolutions and achieved by full implementation the parties of their Roadmap obligations, and that is why we are heavily engaged in political, security and humanitarian work in Iraq, in Lebanon in Afghanistan, in Sudan and in many countries in West Africa.

Secondly, I come to this conference because many of the foreign ministers member countries are here and I am going to see many of them to talk about the state of affairs now and negotiations and consultations. I will explain to them and hear their views and report them back to the head quarters when I go back in preparation of the summit in September this year.

Q: How do you comment on the situation in the Arab-Islamic Region and the various challenges of the new era?

A: The coming of OIC brought together all countries with Muslim population whether countries of Muslim law and constitutions or countries with a large Muslim population. Indonesia for example is a country with the largest Muslim population and the constitution is not based on the Islamic Sharia’a. Since we came together we have been able to conduct a lot of collations, but still this is not enough considering the economic potential we collectively possess. Among our membership there are very rich countries and we should do more on the economic front. On the political front our voices are often being heard on issues that affect the Islamic Ummah and also on the world issues, because we are an important group of countries with certain common few points of concern like Palestine and Bosnia. It is a good thing that we have this organization but we must not be comfortable with what we have now in terms of its achievements but continuously aspire to achieve more.

Q: Some of the themes of this year’s conference is: promoting the Joint Islamic Action, such as to better project the radiant image of Islam, better serve the causes of the Islamic Ummah and boost Islamic solidarity among the OIC Member States in all fields, many of which are repeated from last year so are we not repeating ourselves? Is this not just talk without implementation?

A: You are very right, but this only shows the demand in terms of power. The world remains very unjustly made up, where military and political powers are not in the hands of the developing world and even concentrated on only few of the developed countries like the United States and Western Europe. It is true that some of the Islamic countries are rich economically but the power of economic decision-making is only in the hands of just a few. Therefore we have to continue struggling and strive to improve ourselves. Conferences like this are just a process. We must not expect to be empowered over night and such conferences are an opportunity to become aware of ourselves, to make the people aware, to make the world aware of our position and then to make changes.

Q: How can the Islamic nations come together economically? Are there any projects promoted by Indonesia?

A: We have been operating with the OIC, and the Islamic Bank for Development IBD. We have been cooperating with many of the OIC countries and like mind countries. We have South South cooperations, and we have smaller cooperations within the OIC as some like-minded countries have come together within the OIC in a smaller group where we think that we can progress faster economically. The D-8 Countries include Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries such as Turkey. The results are then presented to the larger group of the OIC. The idea of cooperation between major Muslim developing countries was mooted by Dr. Necmetin Erbakan, the former Prime Minister of Turkey during a Seminar on “Cooperation in Development”, held in Istanbul in October 1996. The group envisioned cooperation among countries from regions stretching from South East

Asia to Africa. Representatives from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan attended the Seminar. The D-8 was formally established at a Summit of Heads of State/Government in Istanbul held on 15 June 1997. The Istanbul Declaration, adopted by the inaugural Summit envisaged improving developing countries’ position in the world economy, diversifying and creating new opportunities in trade relations, enhancing participation in decision-making at the international level and providing better standards of living to the masses of the member countries, as the objectives of the Group.

Q: What future aspects could you predict about the relation between Yemen and Indonesia, especially that the historical ties are clearly evident in the Indonesian family names such as yours?

A: I think our relationship goes back a long time in history. The warmth and sense of friendship between the two people are very strong, we have the same experiences in life and even similar cultures. Up till now the relationship between Yemen and Indonesia is very good, but it could improve much better economically. Yemen has improved in the recent years very much, it has produced oil, and gas and it is democratizing, it is making good progress socially and economically. We congratulate the Yemeni government for its achievement. I have been here in 1994 and I have noticed the progress since then and this is good. But as I said there is always room for improvement and we must do much more in the economic field than we are doing right now, although of course our relation with Yemen goes beyond the economic relations. Generally speaking the economy between developing countries need to be improved in the sense of South South cooperation need to be constantly improved.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I am glad to be back to Yemen again, and yesterday when we called on the president, he recognized me as I was foreign minister and I have many friends here. Prime Minister Abdulqadir Bajamal is my friend and I have many other friends here in Yemen and I am happy to be back here in this lovely country again.

Growing danger

Last reports show that there are 300,000,000 people infected with Malaria around the world. This number is constantly increasing. Countries that are located in south desert of Africa are the most regions that undergo the pressure of malaria. However that doesn't mean that the countries located in temperate Zone are insusceptible against this disease.

Doctors achieved a huge progress in malaria medicine during the last years, in spite of many medical relapses. By inserting many compounds that are extracted from Chinese plank, they obtained a cure that treated 90% of the patients in only 3 days.

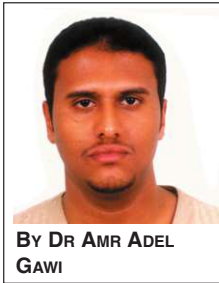
At the same time many governments, organizations, and societies do their best to fight mosquitoes that cause malaria by distributing mosquito nets and insecticide sprays inside houses.

Many doctors believe that the mortality of malaria equals the death rate of AIDS. In economic point of view, the annual economic developing rate in the countries that are infected by Malaria is less 3.1% than others that have no malaria.

Malaria generators

There are four kinds of parasites that cause Malaria. The most dangerous is "plasmodium Falciparum" which is carried by Anopheles. This parasite is inserted into the blood when the anopheles pricks its needle into the human body. The parasite multiplies inside the red cells at which the end burst out new generations of parasites that cause fever, pain, tremor and sometimes death.

The transition cycle is completed when the other mosquito bites an infected person to pick up many parasites. A person may think that he will be immuned against Malaria if he has been infected once, but that is not true. It is right that the illness is less acute to those subjected to these parasites many times. However if



By Dr AMR ADEL GAWI

adults get these parasites, they properly undergo sharp anemia and spasms that lead to constant mental illness and death.

Chloroquine remedy that was discovered in Germany in 1934 was considered the best medicine for malaria for many years. In the seventies of the last century this medicine became a treatment for all kinds of fever. However the malaria parasites could improve its resistance against this remedy. Therefore doctors had to use another remedy called "pyrimethamine sulfadoxin", but again the parasites could improve its resistance after five years. So malaria parasites resisted both remedies, leading to decrease the effort of that attempt to control anopheles, believing that there is way to annihilate malaria completely.

Disease fighting

To achieve this purpose any campaign against malaria must be based on treating the disease and preventing parasite transi-

tion. Many studies proved that the remedies that contain at least one of the compound that are taken out from Sweet wormwood plant can kill malaria parasites. The affective item "Arthemisine" that is existed in this plant is able to reduce the possibilities of resistance of

Protection

Many countries and governments sell and distribute mosquito nets with insecticides against anopheles. These nets work as traps for mosquito that attract to CO2 that escapes through the exhalation of the sleepers. These nets are also distinguished by its weightlessness, thus any one can carry it anywhere. Spraying D.D.T inside buildings and cottages is another affective way but more controversial. This has decreased the death rate to only 140 states and that made many environmental experts to confess the necessity of using D.D.T.



By: Dr. Khaled alNsour For the Yemen Times

Facts of Life

What is sweat?

The average person has 2.6 million sweat glands in their skin! Sweat glands are distributed over the entire body except for the lips, nipples and external genital organs. The sweat gland is in the layer of skin called the dermis along with other "equipment," such as nerve endings, hair follicles and so on. Figure 1 illustrates what's going on:

Basically, the sweat gland is a long, coiled, hollow tube of cells. The coiled part in the dermis is where sweat is produced, and the long portion is a duct that connects the gland to the opening or pore on the skin's outer surface. Nerve cells from the sympathetic nervous system connect to the sweat glands. There are two types of sweat glands:

- Eccrine - the most numerous type that are found all over the body, particularly on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet and forehead
- Apocrine - mostly confined to the

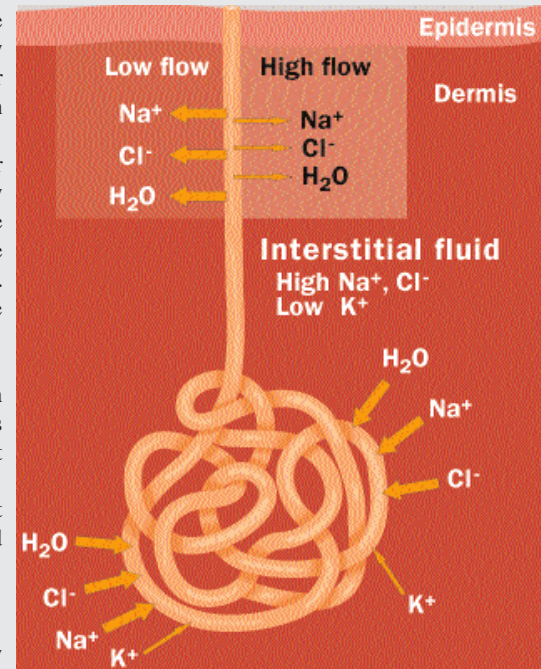
armpits (axilla) and the anal-genital area. They typically end in hair follicles rather than pores.

The two glands differ in size, the age that they become active and the composition of the sweat that they make. Compared to apocrine glands, eccrine glands:

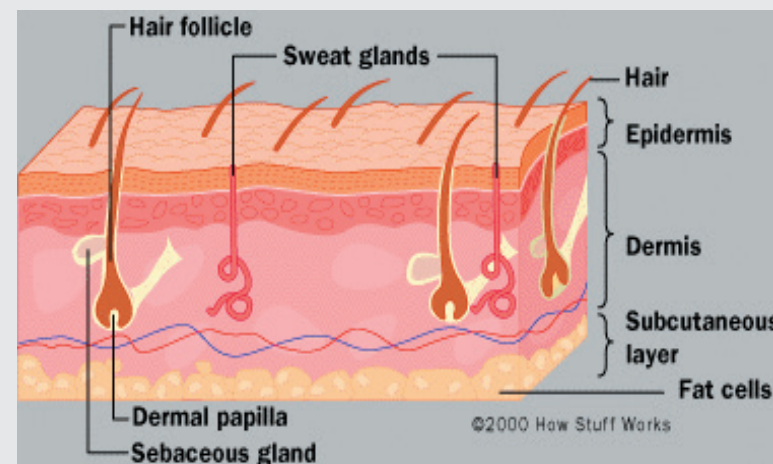
- are smaller
- are active from birth (Apocrine glands become active only at puberty)
- produce a sweat that is free of proteins and fatty acids

How Sweat is Made

We are constantly sweating, even though we may not notice it. Sweating is your body's major way of getting rid of excess body heat, which



Movement of ions and water in making sweat



is produced by metabolism or working muscles. The amount of sweat produced depends upon our states of emotion and physical activity. Sweat can be made in response to nerve stimulation, hot air temperature, and/or exercise. First, let's concentrate on how sweat is made in an eccrine sweat gland. When the sweat gland is stimulated, the cells secrete a fluid (primary secretion) that is similar to plasma -- that is, it is mostly water and it has high concentrations of sodium and chloride and a low concentration of potassium -- but without the proteins and fatty acids that are normally found in plasma. The source of this fluid is the spaces between the cells (interstitial spaces), which get

the fluid from the blood vessels (capillaries) in the dermis. This fluid travels from the coiled portion up through the straight duct (Figure 2). What happens in the straight duct depends upon the rate of sweat production or flow:

- Low sweat production (rest, cool temperature) - Cells in the straight duct reabsorb most of the sodium and chloride from the fluid. This happens because there is enough time for reabsorption. In addition, water is reabsorbed osmotically. So not much sweat reaches the outside. Also, the composition of this sweat is significantly different from the primary secretion. There is not as much sodium and chloride, and there is more potassium.

- High sweat production (exercise, hot temperature) - Cells in the straight portion do not have enough time to reabsorb all of sodium and chloride from the primary secretion. So, a lot of sweat makes it to the surface of the skin and the composition is close to, but not exactly like the primary secretion. The sodium and chloride concentrations are about half as much, and potassium is about 20 percent higher.

Sweat is produced in apocrine sweat glands in the same way. However, the sweat from apocrine glands also contains proteins and fatty acids, which make it thicker and give it a milky or yellowish color. This is why underarm stains in clothing appear yellowish. Sweat itself has no odor, but when bacteria on the skin and hair metabolize the proteins and fatty acids, they produce an unpleasant odor. This is why deodorants and antiperspirants are applied to the underarms instead of the whole body.

The maximum volume of sweat that a person who is not adapted to a hot climate can produce is about one liter per hour. Amazingly, if you move to a hot climate such as the American desert southwest or the tropics, your ability to produce sweat will increase to about two to three liters per hour within about six weeks! This appears to be the maximum amount that you can produce.

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Yankees punish Ryan to rally past Orioles

TORONTO (Reuters) - Bernie Williams hit a two-run single to key a seven-run eighth inning rally, lifting the New York Yankees to a 13-8 win over the Baltimore Orioles in the American League at Yankee Stadium on Monday.

Trailing 8-6 after squandering an early 6-0 advantage, the Yankees pounded B.J. Ryan in the eighth to regain the lead after the Orioles went ahead with three runs in the seventh.

Jason Giambi started the rally with a homer before being hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. Alex Rodriguez also walked with the bases loaded in the inning to force in another run.

New York sent 12 batters to the plate in the inning, with the majority of the damage coming off Ryan.

Gary Sheffield hit a three-run homer for the Yankees and Hideki Matsui also homered for the Yankees, who had 14 hits. Derek Jeter had two hits and scored three runs for New York.

Jason Anderson (1-0), the fourth of five Yankee pitchers, went 1-1/3 innings for the win, allowing one run on one hit. Mariano Rivera pitched the ninth.

Ryan (1-2) was nailed for five runs on three hits in just 2/3 innings, taking the loss, as Baltimore used seven pitchers in the marathon game that took more than four hours to play.

Brian Roberts and Jay Gibbons homered for the Orioles and drove in two runs, as did Luis Matos.

In other games, Travis Hafner hit a pair of home runs and had five RBIs as the Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 9-3 in



New York Yankees' Hideki Matsui (C) and Derek Jeter (R) greet Gary Sheffield as he crosses home plate in the eighth inning during their game against the Baltimore Orioles at Yankee Stadium in New York July 4. Rodriguez and Sheffield scored off of a hit by Bernie Williams to pull ahead of the Orioles 10-8. The New York Yankees scored seven runs in the eighth inning to come from behind and win the game against the Baltimore Orioles 13-8.

the opener of a day/night doubleheader in Cleveland.

Hafner had four of the Tribe's 14 hits and scored three runs. Scott Elarton (5-3) pitched a complete game six-hitter, giving up three runs with six strikeouts and no walks.

Jason Johnson (5-7) allowed seven runs on 11 hits in 3-1/3 innings to take the loss. Rondell White homered and drove in all three Detroit runs.

In the nightcap, Coco Crisp homered

as the Indians beat the Tigers 6-0, completing the sweep.

Jason Davis (4-2) pitched six innings, allowing four hits, walking two and striking out five for the win.

Hafner homered again for the Indians in Game Two, his third round-tripper of the day.

Justin Verlander (0-1) pitched 5 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on seven hits, walking three and striking out four to take the loss.

In Kansas City, Ryan Franklin pitched a complete game six-hitter as

the Seattle Mariners beat the Royals 6-0.

Franklin (4-10) walked one and struck out four, while Raul Ibenez homered for the Mariners.

J.P. Howell (1-3) pitched five innings, allowing six runs on eight hits, walking one and striking out two to take the loss.

In Arlington, Kevin Mench drove in the winning run with a ninth inning single as the Texas Rangers beat the Boston Red Sox 6-5.

Joaquin Benoit (1-0) pitched two innings, allowing one run on two hits, walking one and striking out one for the win.

Keith Foulke (5-5) got one out, allowing two runs on three hits and walking one to take the loss.

Manny Ramirez homered for the Red Sox.

In Anaheim, Juan Castro had two hits and drove in three runs as the Minnesota Twins beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-5.

Carlos Silva (7-3) pitched 6 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on eight hits and striking out six for the win.

Joe Nathan pitched one inning for his 24th save and Jacque Jones homered for the Twins.

John Lackey (6-3) pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowing five runs on eight hits, walking two and striking out six to take the loss. Darin Erstad and Vladimir Guerrero both homered for the Angels.

In Chicago, Jermaine Dye drove in six runs and had a grand slam home run as the White Sox edged the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 10-8.

Juan Uribe had a solo homer and two RBI for Chicago.

Luis Vizcaino (3-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win and Dustin Hermanson pitched a perfect ninth for his 20th save.

Hideo Nomo (5-7) went four innings and took the loss, allowing eight runs on eight hits.

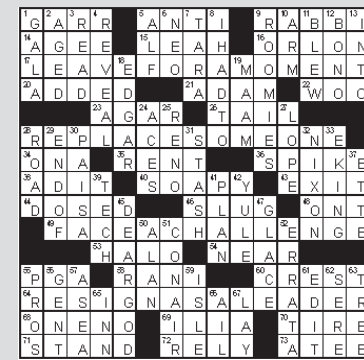
Aubrey Huff homered and had four RBI and Carl Crawford and Nick Green also went deep for Tampa Bay.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

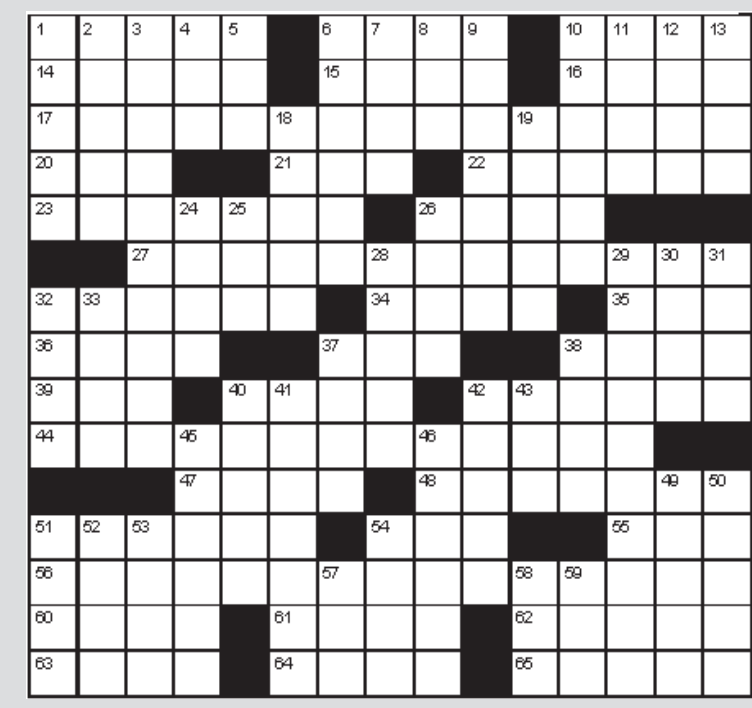
- ACROSS**
- 1 Word with box or maker
 - 6 29th state as of 1846
 - 10 Con game
 - 14 Milo of film and stage
 - 15 Emulate a mouse or beaver
 - 16 Tag along
 - 17 Succumb to frustration
 - 20 With 5-Down, asinine statement?
 - 21 Likewise
 - 22 Singers on the briny
 - 23 Courtwear
 - 26 Folk knowledge
 - 27 "Desperate Housewives," for one
 - 32 Most people, really
 - 34 Shepherd's purse, e.g.
 - 35 Genetic info carrier
 - 36 Biennial vegetable
 - 37 G-man or T-man
 - 38 Rock-'n'-roll middle name
 - 39 Abbreviation after a comma
 - 40 Irish Rose's lover
 - 42 Business practice
 - 44 Major depression out West?
 - 47 "That ___ hay!"
 - 48 Covenant recipient (Gen. 17:9)
 - 51 Hair care concoction
 - 54 "Unaccustomed am..."
 - 55 Year, in Cuba
 - 56 Top-notch
 - 60 Barrie baddie
 - 61 Run without moving
 - 62 Shamu and Keiko, e.g.
 - 63 Trueheart of the comics
 - 64 Tugboat blast
 - 65 Palette pigment
 - 19 Flagged
 - 24 "I smell ___!"
 - 25 Cousins by the dozens, e.g.
 - 26 Served up a whopper
 - 28 Word from a bird
 - 29 Utah senator
 - 30 Erlong
 - 31 Twinge of hunger
 - 32 Support when one shouldn't
 - 33 Son of Adam and Eve
 - 37 Brava manufacturer?
 - 38 "Che gelida manina," e.g.
 - 40 Come to light
 - 41 Charity event
 - 42 Behavioral pattern
 - 43 Mt. Carmel locale, briefly
 - 45 Short cuts
 - 46 Short-legged hound
 - 49 Puts ___ to the ground
 - 50 Code name
 - 51 More than half
 - 52 "You want a piece ___?"
 - 53 Members of the Shoshonean people
 - 54 "Alice's Restaurant" name
 - 57 Swearing-in words
 - 58 Try to win over
 - 59 Jump a gap, as electricity

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"CLEAN AS A WHISTLE" by Louis Hildebrand



Gerrard calls time on Liverpool career

LONDON (Reuters) - Not even the elation and pride of lifting the Champions League trophy on a balmy night in Istanbul could persuade Steven Gerrard to continue his footballing path to greatness at his hometown club.

Months of speculation that the Liverpool captain had outgrown his beloved Anfield, where he started as a trainee in 1998, were confirmed on Tuesday when the England midfielder said he would leave.

The heartbeat of the team finally stopped listening to his heart.

His decision to quit the club that moulded him into one of the finest midfielders in the world just weeks after a stunning European triumph had once seemed inconceivable.

"I've got absolutely no intention of ever going to play at another club," Gerrard stated in April 2002.

He loved the club and the fans loved him.

While Liverpool struggled to hang on



Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, pictured here in a May 19, 2005 file photo, has told the European champions he wants to leave Anfield, the club said on Tuesday.

to the coat tails of Arsenal and Manchester United in the Premier League, Gerrard matured into a player of immense value.

His playmaking, hard-tackling and goalscoring abilities made him an international regular.

United manager Alex Ferguson dubbed him "the most influential midfielder in England", while the emergence of big-spending Chelsea, with Roman Abramovich's millions, brought in another cash-rich admirer.

Walking away

The five-time European champions were close to losing Gerrard to Chelsea 12 months ago, only for the midfielder to change his mind about walking away.

"The last three or four weeks have been really confusing for me. I haven't been really happy with the progression of the club over the last two years and I've made that aware to the media," Gerrard said after pledging his Liverpool future last June.

"And for the first time in my career I have really thought about the possibility of moving on to a different club."

Gerrard's change of heart at the time was widely reported to be down to the appointment of Spaniard Rafael Benitez

in place of former manager Gerard Houllier, and a renewed belief that the fading Anfield club could challenge consistently for trophies.

But just one game into the season Liverpool sold striker Michael Owen to Real Madrid, a move that stunned Gerrard. Like his England team mate, Owen had been seemingly wedded to the club for life.

While Liverpool, without Owen and the injured Djibril Cisse, struggled domestically, their path to an unlikely European triumph months later was being kick-started by their talisman.

Lions scrape to 17-13 win over Auckland

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - The British and Irish Lions squeezed to a 17-13 victory over Auckland in their final mid-week game on Tuesday to clear a little of the gloom hovering over the touring side ahead of Saturday's final test.

After Saturday's record 48-18 series-losing defeat the Lions were desperate to avoid a third successive reverse to Auckland, winners in 1983 and 1993, but had to hang on to achieve it and secure the tour's unbeaten midweek record.

The Lions were leading by a point and hanging on desperately but after home fullback Brent Ward hit the post with a penalty that would have given Auckland the lead, replacement Lions flyhalf Ronan O'Gara was more accurate with his effort three minutes from time to secure the win.

Auckland could still have nicked it in the final minute but replacement fullback Isaia Toe'ava dropped a simple pass with a man outside him.

It was a mistake that summed up much of the game, which was punctuated with basic errors from both sides, while Auckland's terrible lineup hampered their hopes of securing a record seventh victory over the Lions.

Injury concern

Lions flyhalf Charlie Hodgson, who has been one of the few form backs of the tour but still unable to gain a place in the test squad, opened the scoring with a penalty in the fourth minute but then had to leave the field in the 20th after being knocked out in a tackle.

O'Gara came on in his place and slotted two further penalties while winger Mark Cueto's surging run from broken field set up a try for flanker Martyn Williams in the corner to give his side a



Graham Rowntree (L) from the British and Irish Lions is pushed away by Brad Mika from Auckland during the tour match in Auckland July 5, 2005. The All Blacks have an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the bets-of-three tests series against the Lions, after defeating them in Wellington last Saturday.

14-3 lead at the break.

Auckland, who spurned two good early penalty opportunities to go for the try, had only a Ward three-pointer to show for their efforts, although prop John Afoa was close to a try only for the video official to rule that Matt Dawson and Williams had forced their arms underneath the ball.

England lock Ben Kay also cost his side a certain three points and possible seven when he was involved in a scuffle with Sam Tuitupou, which resulted in the penalty in front of the posts being reversed and Kay sporting an instant black eye and being replaced by Brent Cockbain.

Despite the open nature of the second half there was little scoring and Ward's

second penalty just after the break was followed with a well-worked Auckland try to Isa Nacewa after he finished off several phases.

Ward converted to bring it to 14-13 with 18 minutes remaining and Auckland attacked with new vigour.

However, when the fullback missed his tough penalty attempt in the 70th minute, the Lions breathed again before O'Gara sealed it.

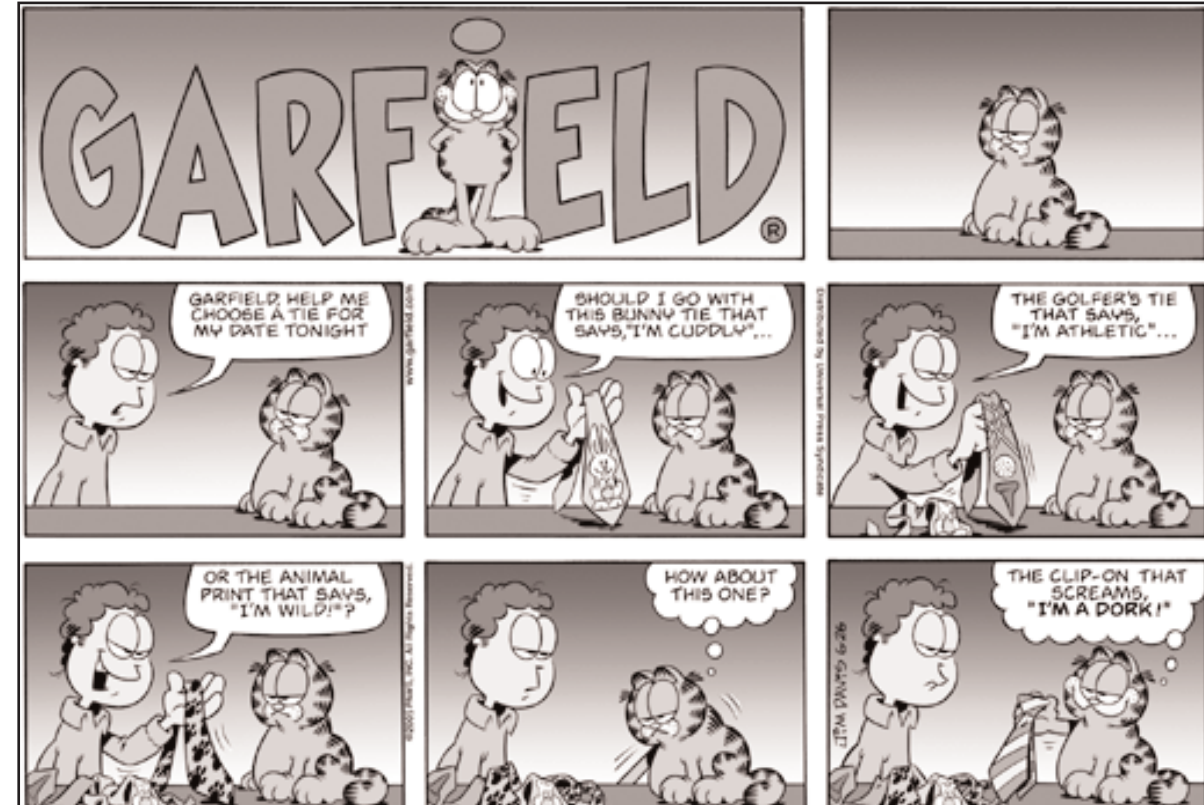
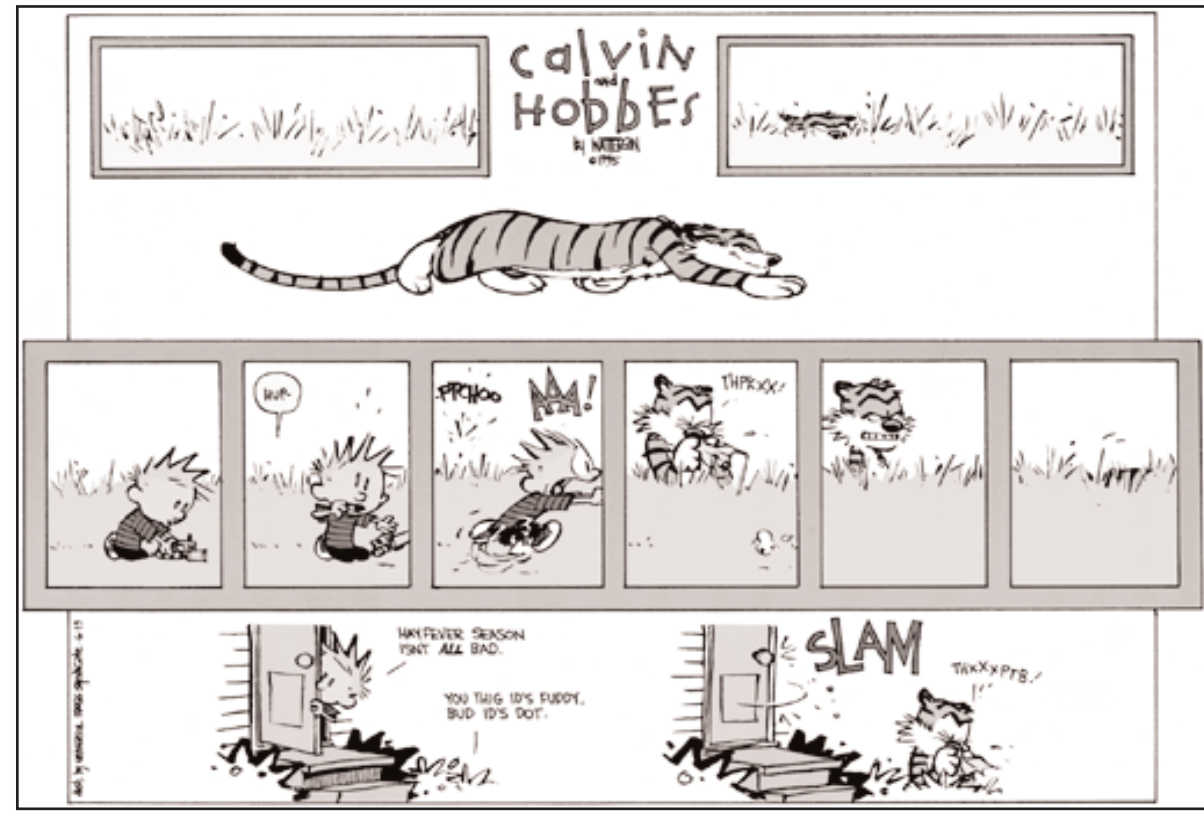
"We are over the moon for the win, not just today's team but the whole squad," captain Gordon Bulloch told Sky Sports TV.

"We were running on empty towards the end so to get a win here at Eden Park was great. With 20 minutes to go we were up against it but just when we needed it we dug deep."

Midweek coach Ian McGeechan, in possibly his last Lions tour after 30 years of involvement as a player and coach, said: "I'm very, very proud. It was a performance full of character, they were intelligent about what they did."

"It was a great team effort against a very good provincial side."

"At a time when perhaps it would have been easy to show it didn't matter we had a performance that showed how much the Lions means to a big group of people and that includes me."



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Behind closed doors: Violence against women

Violence against women and girls is a universal problem of epidemic proportions, but its human cost often remains invisible. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. The abuser is usually someone known to the victim.

much of it is invisible. Police in countries around the world say that many rape victims do not report the crime.

Often, countries reporting the incidence of violence are the ones doing the most to counter it.

In the Dominican Republic, reports indicate that in cases of violence against women, the aggressors



The Story

Violence against women and girls is a universal problem of epidemic proportions, but its human cost often remains invisible. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. The abuser is usually someone known to the victim.

In 2002, the Council of Europe declared violence against women a public health emergency and a major cause of death and disability for women 16 to 44 years of age. A World Bank report estimated that violence against women was as serious a cause of death and incapacity among women of reproductive age as cancer, and a greater cause of ill-health, than traffic accidents and malaria combined. A 2003 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the costs of intimate partner violence in the United States alone exceed \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion in direct medical and health care services and almost \$1.8 billion in productivity losses.

For the most part, the human cost of gender-based violence is invisible. Fear and shame continue to prevent many women from speaking out, and data collected is often insufficient and inconsistent. Even in countries that enjoy relative peace and prosperity, many women are living in a constant state of insecurity.

The Context

Violence against women occurs in all regions and countries and

are partners or former partners of the victims in 40-68 per cent of the cases. In Georgia, it has been reported that 50% of families experience some form of domestic violence. In India, statistics indicate that 14 wives are murdered by their husbands' family every day.

According to a 2002 report by the World Health Organization, studies in Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the US have shown that 40-70 per cent of women who have been murdered were killed by their intimate partners, usually in the context of an abusive relationship. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that in the United Kingdom 40 per cent of female homicide victims are killed by their husbands or boyfriends.

A study in Sweden found that 70 per cent of women had experienced some form of violence or sexual harassment. Statistics from the Netherlands show that about 200,000 women are subjected to violence each year by their intimate partners.

It has been reported that 6 in 10 women in Botswana are victims of domestic violence, while in Moldova, 31 % of girls and young women (ages 16-19) are reported to have experienced sexual violence.

For further information UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Lucinda O'Hanlon, Assistant to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Tel. +41 22 917 9615, E-mail: lohanlon@ohchr.org

"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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