

In Ibb, Dhamar and al-Jawf

Tribal confrontations leave dozens killed and wounded

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Armed confrontations broke out by the beginning of the week between tribes from Bani Omar and Gharadhan districts, the first of which is in Ibb Governorate and is 193 km south of Sana'a. The second is administratively affiliated to the governorate of Dhamar and is 100 km south of Sana'a.

The news stated that fierce clashes were renewed last Saturday when some armed tribesmen from Bani Omar made an ambush in the road linking the two districts against a Garadhan car to retaliate the killing of two of their fellows in last week's clashes.

The ambush destroyed a car. It also killed two children and a woman who were inside, others received bad injuries.

30 people have been killed and 100 injured from both sides in the tribal war, which erupted in March 2001 between the two neighboring districts. The crisis is attributed to an old



Arms carrying is a nationwide phenomenon and a primary reason behind tribal clashes.
YEMEN TIMES PHOTO BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI

dispute over agricultural lands and artesian wells compelling the two parties to desert their farms.

The 4-year tribal war, which could not be resolved, has become a complicated problem for thousands of people living in those areas, particularly as the war expanded to cover most of the vil-

lages in the two districts.

The danger increases due to the formation of armed bands used to make ambushes and dominate the public and private properties, and their bad trends developed to target innocent women and children and kill them randomly. A one-year breast-fed infant named

Isamah was killed along with his mother Najah in a car ambush last week.

A number of security troops from Ibb and Dhamar governorates headed this week toward the battleground to settle the fierce tribal clashes, the news confirmed.

Observers stressed the tribal confrontations have been complicated due to being ignored for around four years, and the absence of the government represented by the judiciary is one of the reasons behind the killing of innocent victims.

Observers added despite directives of the President to settle the dispute, officials in both governorates could not succeed to suggest possible solutions, and this led the issue to change into revenge between the two parties.

Activists in revenge combat ascertain that leaving such clashes without a solution for several years eases their extension to different parts of the country and affects the status of the government in the eyes of citizens who may lose hope in the law enforcement.

On the other hand, the governorate of al-Jawf, 170 km east of Sana'a witnessed last Thursday a tribal war between Hamdan and al-Shulan tribes in which the two parties used different kinds of heavy weapons, causing damage to houses and evacuation of several families, however there has been no reports of casualties.

The war is attributed to old revenges between the two tribes that date back 25 years.

Al-Jawf sources told the Yemen Times the war has been stopped after the intervention of the President of the Republic, and Sheikhs of the two tribes.

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- Children at risk, save future generation **p11**
- Who wants to be responsible for a paralyzed child? **p12**

ROYAL درويح ال

انتقل إلى الواقع
انتقل إلى الجودة والجمال

تعد الألفية (2000) نقلة عظيمة في عالم التكنولوجيا. مع تطور أجهزة التلفاز، أصبحت أجهزة التلفاز الحديثة تتميز بجودة عالية في الصورة والصوت، بالإضافة إلى ميزات عديدة تجعلها الخيار الأمثل لكل من يبحث عن جودة عالية في مشاهدة التلفاز.

شركة ال (ROYAL) هي الشركة المتخصصة في تصنيع أجهزة التلفاز عالية الجودة، والتي تتميز بتصاميم حديثة وأداء متميز. نحن نقدم لكم أحدث وأفضل أجهزة التلفاز، التي تلبي احتياجاتكم من حيث الجودة والجمال.

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Joint Meeting Parties accuse government of backing the dissenters

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES

"The guards" who occupied the headquarters of the Joint Meeting Parties last month, have issued a new Al-shura Journal holding the same name. They also made a decision of discharging Abdulkreem Al-khiwani, from the post of chief editor of the paper. They directed a memorandum to the Ministry of Information with these changes. The Ministry has endorsed these changes.

The authorities have approved the so called general Secretariat of the Popular Forces Unionist Party, known as (the Guards), who have formerly occupied the party's headquarters and its paper. They decided to discharge the former general secretariat. They also assigned next September for the assembly of the third general conference of the party. The Yemeni TV has devoted ten

minutes for the news of the discharges and the changes that the Guards have made.

The JMP joint meeting last Monday has denounced the practices that the consultation council was subjected to. They described it as it a provocative act that cancelled a legal party. It cloned this party and tailored it to the desire of a group of the party opponents. Those opponents purport that they represent the consultant council of the party. They have nothing to do with the party.

The JMP have also condemned the formal media campaign that tries to merchandise a forged meeting for these elements.

They denounced in their communiqué this sort of behavior which will undermine the multi party and democratic practice. They urged the authorities to stop these irresponsible practices, and abide by the law and constitution.

Several Political observers considered the closure of Al-shora paper and the change of its chief editor Al-khiwani as an effort to satisfy the authorities' desire. The authorities hold him responsible for backing Sa'ada events. Al-khiwani was released from jail after 8 months. The president had accused his party of being the military wing of Al-haq party of the Zaidi disreect. It was lead by Husien Al-hothi who was killed, and his father who is still hiding with his followers in Sa'ada mountains.

Al-shora paper is the first local paper to open the heated discussions on the presidential affairs (inheritance of governance). Al-shora and the Al-thori (Socialist party) have made columns for some writers to speak about the president and his term of office. This was considered a personal slander rather than a criticism.

Continued on page 3

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Yemen hands suspects to KSA

SANA'A- Yemeni security sources ascertained that the government of Yemen extradited over the last few days 12 Saudi nationals to Saudi Arabia who had been caught on various charges.

An official source at the Saudi Interior Ministry confirmed in a statement published by the Saudi News

Agency that the handover process, which is part of the joint coordination and efforts between the two bordering countries, has been completed.

The Saudi Interior Ministry affirmed that the Saudi government, in the same context, will hand over some fugitives in its lands to Yemen.

Doctors' syndicate continues strike

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni physicians and pharmacists Syndicate threatened that their strike will become a comprehensive walkout if the ministry of health takes any procedures against any members among them. It insisted of its legal and constitutional right of a strike to express their resentment toward the government that didn't keep the promise of raising their wages statement. Dr. Abdulkawi Al-Shamiry, general secretary of the syndicate in the press appealed to president Ali Abdullah Saleh to interfere to put end to this cri-

sis. He added that the victims of this crisis are not just the doctors but also the patients who received bad medical services as a result of reducing the facilities in the hospitals. This statement was a reaction to the circulated note that issued by ministry of health and population that attacked the syndicate describing it as illegal syndicate. Calling all doctors and pharmacists to discontinue their strike for the benefits of the patients.

The physicians, doctors and pharmacists started their strike three weeks ago demanding a special job hierarchy for them in the new wages law.

HIHS celebrates first batch of physiotherapy graduates

SANA'A- The Higher Institute for Health Sciences (HIHS) celebrated the first batch of physiotherapy graduates.

The batch includes 22 male and female students who had come from different Yemeni governorates and have been taught at the Physiotherapy Department that was established by the HIHS in cooperation with the Italian Embassy and the Sana'a-based Italian Organization Movimondo.

To open the ceremony, Dr. Abdulmajid al-Khulaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health and Population delivered a speech in which he stressed on the importance of expanding and supporting physiotherapy in all the Yemeni governorates.

He added the Ministry of Health and



Population heads towards the establishment of a physiotherapy college as part of Sana'a University and an institute for training medical workers.

For his part, Abdulwahab al-Kuhlani, Dean of the HIHS commended the role played by the Italian Embassy and the Sana'a-based Italian Organization Movimondo in supporting Yemen in different sectors including health and education.

Al-Zandani demands

SANA'A- Sheikh Abdulmajid al-Zandani, Chairman of the Islamit Islah Party's Shura Council announced in a statement to the Iman Voice his acceptance of the dialogue between Islamists in Yemen and representatives from U.S. administration.

In his Statement, al-Zandani set three conditions for the dialogue to be a success, the first of which is that the Yemeni government should be fully acquainted with what happens in the dialogue in order not to leave a gap for misunderstanding that may breed accusations of outlandishness leading to confrontations between the government and Yemeni Islamists.

Secondly, the dialogue should be transparent and clear in order not to repeat what happened to Islamists in Sudan who were accused of conspiracy to coup against the regime. According to al-Zandani, when a dialogue features a high degree of transparency and clearness, it will enable nations to get acquainted with the procedures of dialogue particularly with



Sheikh Al-Zandani

the powerful countries interested in occupying other countries and exploiting their wealth. Al-Zandani mentioned if the dialogue is so transparent, it will help the Islamist current maintain its noble status among the Arab nations.

The third condition stipulates consulting the specialized religious scholars on the dialogue in order to explain to people what is good and what is bad and instruct them how to protect their Islamic values and principles.

Sheikh al-Zandani confirmed that these conditions were not formulated by the Islah Party and said he excerpted them from the Holy Quran and the Hadith.

Sheikh Abdulmajid al-Zandani occupies the post of the Iman University Rector and his university is of a Muslim orientation. He is one of the objectors to the U.S. policy and is accused by Washington of supporting terrorism.

The United Nations demanded that his financial activities and assets be frozen and he is wanted to stand trial.

A long time controversy took place over the nature of the Iman Universities activities, but al-Zandani repeatedly claims that his university is ever open, transparent and does not hide any of its activities.

Saleef Port in focus

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

"There are still measures to be taken for the Saleef port to occupy an acceptable place among other ports," Ismail al-Hakami, the Financial port manager said. He continued, "an example of these are, encouragement of both merchants and investors, pavement of roads and reduction of car transport fees copared to those

of Hodieda port. These come on top of the necessary priorities. The navigation equipments are also of vital importance to encourage navigation companies"

Ahmed Albakhar, vice manager of Alsaleef port said, "since it was opened in 2001, the income of the port increased from two hundred thousand dollars to four hundred thousand USD to 800,000USD in 2004, which equals to 30 million Yemeni rials. He added that the imports were 800,000 tons in 2004, where 2500 tons of these were salt.

Alsaleef port is considered to be the deepest in the Red sea. It is thirteen and a half meters deep. This will enable the port to receive ships of 260 meters in length, carrying 65000 tons.

As for the number of ships the port receives now, he said that there are currently no ships, because the ships carrying twenty five thousand tons will be unloaded in ten to fifteen days. This could reach a full month. It will take longer if

the ship's load is 65,000 tons, which is nearly a million and three hundred thousand sacks.

The number of labor force in the port are 400 employees, apart of the port's employees who are fifty.

The workers work on daily payments, without contracts or insurance. This is of course against labor law.

The port has grain Silos of a hundred and twenty thousand tons capacity.

Those silos are now used by Alhabari and Fahim. Albakhar denies that these silos are monopolized for certain people (we invite all investors to come to Saleef port and see for themselves). It is not monopolized for Al-habari and Fahim.

Al-bakhar is boastful of the fact that the port furnishes electricity for to all of Alsaleef region (The coast guards, local council and the camps) for a price of (ten rials per kilo). This doesn't meet the diesel costs, he said. Mohamed Ali, one of the port employees denies this saying that

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think the spread of armed tribal confrontations will compel the government to ban carrying arms?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think that Yemen should have a diplomatic representation in Iraq despite what happened recently to the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq?

- No, the situation there is unstable to start a diplomatic representation **68%**
- Yes, the insurgents in Iraq have nothing to do with Yemenis **28%**
- I don't know **4%**

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

New Yemenia issue

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Issue number 16 of the Yemenia magazine has been issued. The new publication includes important stories and articles. In the editorial, Captain Abdul-Khaleq al-Qadhi, Chairman of Yemenia (Yemen Airways) Board, describes the difficult conditions of the aviation industry and the losses inflicting airlines worldwide which will have reached as high as \$36 billion by 2008. He also tackles the type of partnership between Yemen and Saudi Arabia in the field of aviation.

The issue features a variety of distinctive cultural and tourist articles.

Society news

- Al-Rahmah Foundation for Human Development held an open day in Sana'a on Tuesday July 12 for charitable works and extending help to the needy.
- The Women National committee staged a workshop in Sana'a on Monday July 11 in which it displayed consequences of early marriage. The workshop was carried out by the Woman and Development Studies Center at Sana'a University.
- The Yemeni Women Union inaugurated the campaign of supporting woman's political participation and girls' education in Sana'a on Wednesday July 13 with the aim to enhance the role of Yemeni women in the process of development.
- In cooperation with the French Embassy in Sana'a, the Women Issues Supporting Center inaugurated in Sana'a on Monday July 11 the program of the rural woman and her economic empowerment.
- The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate held a workshop on Wednesday July 13 on the new legislation of journalism in Yemen with the aim to discuss the press and publications law. The event was attended by experts from international organizations interested in journalism and a number of Yemeni journalists.
- A German charitable association is intending to send 12 Yemeni children to Germany this month to receive treatment within its annual program of providing healthcare for Yemeni children.
- The third coordination meeting for the project of reinforcing working women's administrative abilities was held Tuesday July 13 at the Yemeni Women Union in Taiz.
- As part of its activities, the Future Charitable Association conducted fair and free elections last week in which the marginalized people in Yemen elected their new leadership. It is this association, which won the 2005 World Bank Contest.
- A special workshop for maturing the legal awareness of people about human and women rights is due to be held next Saturday in the city of Aden. The workshop will be implemented by the Human Rights Information & Training Center in cooperation with the UN Development Program.

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JW Marriott	Kuala Lumpur	\$ 1225	\$ 845 X 2 \$ 1690	\$ 1930	\$ 1200 X 2 \$ 2400	\$ 105	5star / Deluxe
Berjaya times square	Kuala Lumpur	\$ 1090	\$ 785 X 2 \$ 1570	\$ 1685	\$ 1080 X 2 \$ 2160	\$ 90	5star / Standard Suites
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Announcement for Tender No. 76A/2005 & 78A/2005 Supply of: 11kv Indoor Switchgear & Auxiliary Equipment

Tender No.	Description	Opening Date	Tender fees	Announcement	Finance
76 A/2005	11 kv indoor switchgear and Auxiliary Equipment	25/7/2005	50,000/-R.Y	Second Time	GOVT Intestment program
78 A/2005	11kv indoor switchgear and Auxiliary Equipment	25/7/205	50,000/-R.Y	Second Time	GOVT Investment program

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2. The bid should be submitted along with 2.5% bid bond or payable cheque through any local bank in Yemen and bids must be valid for 120 days from the date of opening the tender.
3. Local bidders must submit valid copies of trade registration, income tax certificate, insurance and zakat certificate and letter of authority from Foreign Companies.
4. The bids should be submitted with the same offer currency valid for 120 days from the closing date of tender.
5. The bids should be entitled the local income tax applied in accordance to the Law of the country.
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9. Bids must be submitted along with invoice of manufacturer.
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PEC will not consider any offer which does not consist of specified conditions above, the bids should be presented in sealed enveloped stamped with red wax not later than 11.00A.M. No offer will be accepted after this time. Offer can also be dispatched by courier to following address.

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تهنئ صحيفه «يمن تايمز» جميع الفائزين بمسابقة أجمل صورة ويسرها أن تعلن بأن موعد تسليم الجوائز سيكون يوم الخميس القادم الموافق ٢١/٧/٢٠٠٥ من الساعة ٩:٠٠ صباحا وحتى ١:٠٠ بعد الظهر. فنرجو من الأخوة:-

١. زينب مصطفى عبدالكريم الجنيدي
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٣. وفاء مبخوت شاهر الحباري
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اعلان

تعلن جامعة صنعاء عن تمديد فترة فتح مظاريف المناقصة الخاصة بإعداد الدراسات والتصاميم الهندسية لكلية الصيدلة والعلوم إلى يوم الاثنين ٢٥/٧/٢٠٠٥م. رسوم الوثائق ثلاثمائة دولار لا ترد.

Continued from page 1

Joint Meeting Parties accuse government of backing the dissenters

Al-oma and Al-thori papers stopped last week when Al-jeel press refused to publish them.

Observers think that latest developments will be an indicator of change in the political arena, especially the political parties. They have affected some of the JMP parties that include the Islamic Islah party.

Almithaq paper (run by the ruling party) has highlighted in its front page's last issue, a report of arms and explosives in Al-shora paper headquarters. The news was attributed to a security source. It was alleged to belong to the former leadership of the party. They are said to be similar to the weapons were used in detonations in the General Secretariat of Sana'a. A police executive in the head

office area denied these reports. He said if there were any weapons they would have found them. He also added that the security men didn't find any explosives.

Al-mithaq paper source said that the armed group who were at the head quarters, smuggled away these weapons when the new chief editor reached there. They couldn't stop them from doing this.

It worth a while to say that the Popular Forces Unionist Party is headed by Ibrahim Al-wazeer who lives in exile since Al-wazeer's family coup against the Imam's regime in the Forties. A prominent figure of the party is Dr. Abdulmalik Alwazeer professor of economical sciences in Sana'a University.

World Population Day celebrated

SANA'A- Under the slogan "equality is strength", a public festival was staged last Monday evening on the occasion of the World Population Day that coincides with the 11th of July every year.

The event was organized by the National Population Council's General Secretariat in cooperation with the UN Population Fund after the formal celebration of the occasion was scheduled to be held in the city of Mukalla.

The festival included a display of a Yemeni film on the issue of the rapid population growth experienced by the country and some of the traditions and concepts born by locals against birth control and family planning.

In addition, there was the performance of a skit entitled "The man inside

the dock" with the aim to raise awareness among attendants about issues associated with early marriage and the misunderstanding of judges in dealing with marital issues.

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Erratum

Yemen Times apologizes for the unintentional mistake in the congratulation message of Yemen LNG Company on the occasion of May 22. Anniversary. Our apology is to all those concerned

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Closing Date: July 28, 2005

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Half the World

By Women's National Committee

Gender equality in Yemen: women and Health

The role of local council members in promoting Reproductive health and family planning

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Recently, Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) organized a workshop for the members of the local councils in Sana'a and Amran governorates. This workshop came within the advocacy campaign for reproductive health and family planning.

Ms. Jamila AL-Sharei, officer programs, gave a brief account about the workshop "one of the YFCA activities is advocacy and to spread awareness about health issues, so today the YFCA organized a meeting for the members of local councils and decision makers in the rural areas that the YFCA works in through the mobile clinics. We have two fully-equipped mobile clinics that move to more than 40 rural areas and introduced various medical services for the mother and child. The YFCA usually holds such activities to get the support of the interested bodies and to understand the health issues and the nature of the YFCA's job.

Today we have around 40 members of local councils and they have been informed about the jobs of the mobile clinics and given an idea about the YECA goals, activities and services as well as about the true meaning of reproductive health and family planning. We have some doctors today to deliver these themes like Dr. Yahya Al-Abhar who will give a lecture about the importance of the reproductive health besides Sheikh Hassan Al-Sheikh who will present a paper about Islam and family planning. After the meeting today, we expect a good coordination between the medical consultants and the local council members that are likely to find out other areas derived from the medical services that YFCA offers."

About other YFCA other activities, she continued "We had previously a similar meeting with the local councils members in Yareem district who had a general idea about the YFCA activities, population issues and reproductive health to cooperate with us and our activities in their district. We have other meetings in other governorates. We had workshops for men

and women in AL-Biada about reproductive health. While we held a 5-workshop for the medical consultants about the sexual-infection diseases HIV/AIDS. We have plans to do similar workshops in other governorates. YFCA targets all the society sector and focuses mainly on youth to prepare some training and programs to raise awareness among them. We cherish to contact all the society members and deliver a true health message."

Sheikh Hassan AL-Sheikh, a lecturer, spoke about the theme of his paper "My lecture today talks about the Islamic view to family planning. The family is the core of any society society. Family planning is needed and it is beneficial for the mother and the child as well. We do not mean family planning to prevent the birth or to specify a number of births for each family. There are cases in which family planning can be applied. For instance if the mother is sick, it is not acceptable to sacrifice her health and life to have a baby. If the mother is still so young or thin, she must delay pregnancy until she is ready. On the other side, the child has to take enough care, enough education and health care, which cannot be achieved if the parents have more than a child. So it is recommended to delay the second birth to let the first child take all his rights for at least 2 years. It is not the matter of how many children you have but the matter of how good, healthy and educated children you have. But the problem is how to deliver these concepts to the people. There are different channels such as mosque preachers and spreading guidance and awareness via the media and all the governmental and non-governmental organizations. Besides, these concepts can be earlier integrated and taught in schools. The government bodies should adopt these crucial issues for having a healthy mother and child and good society."

In the last decade, Yemen has achieved progress in improving health with significant improvement in health indicators especially that of infant and under 5 mortality rates. Programs such as dehydration and diarrhea eradication programs, regular vaccination against deadly diseases campaigns (chicken pox, Diftiria, TB, Children Paralysis) contributed to this success. Despite these gains the overall health status of women and children in Yemen leaves much to be desired. We examine some of the key issues such as infant mortality, maternal mortality, reproductive and sexual health in the following section.

Infant mortality and under five mortality

The mortality phenomenon describes death as an element of population transformation. Yet the rate of its occurrence depends on many factors such as age, gender, occupation and social class. This rate reveals many issues relating to standard of living and the health services provided to the population. The above figures reveal an incremental decrease in death of infants.

From the family health census year 2003, figures show that for children below five years of age the mortality rate reached 99.8 death care for every 1000 live birth, of which 100.3 are males and 99.3 are females yielding a gender gap of 1%.

Considering rural and urban areas, the figures show that 105.2 deaths per 1000 live births in the rural areas while the same in the cities reaches 79.3%. These numbers can be compared to that of 1990 (122 cases) and in 1997 (105 cases). Keeping in mind that the calculation of these numbers depend on many factors such as registration of deaths and the accuracy of recording age and date of deaths. Important point is urban areas are doing much better than rural areas.

Maternal mortality

Yemen is characterized among the countries with high maternity mortality rates, and among the countries with the highest fertility rate of 5.8. And although there has been visible improvement in medical treatment and precautionary health and family health services, yet Yemen is counted among the countries that spend on the health sector the least. There has been improvement in the general and reproductive health indicators during the nineties; however, there remains many health issues that affect the population in general and mothers and children's health in particular.

The family health survey data show that the average of maternity mortality has reached 366 per 100,000 every live birth in 2003. While 22% deliveries are under qualified medical supervision, 77.4% of the deliveries take place at home through traditional means. Of these, 55% did not refer a doctor, while 54.9% did not receive any medical care at all against 41.6% who did receive medical assistance. Women's access to health services is low with more than 35% women not receiving any medical attention as per the family health survey. Only 16% of poor Yemeni women having access to at least one antenatal visit from a trained health provider falling well short of the WHO recommended four visits. Lack of skilled/trained birth attendants deters poor women in accessing health services during pregnancy and childbirth, contributing to high infant and maternal mortality.

Gender gap in female medical personnel with only 28% medical personnel comprising women is a major obstacle in women's access to health care. Of these 25% are physicians, 39% nurses (and midwives), 21% technical staff and 17% administrative

staff (refer Annexure 2 for details). Poor service, poor treatment of women, fear of being treated by male health providers, fear of unfamiliar procedures, costs of transportation and low levels of information exchange between health providers and clients result in poor women's reluctance to access health care even if these exist.

The high morbidity among women compared to men (anaemia, kidney diseases, infectious diseases) is also an important issue of concern. Gender roles and responsibilities render women more vulnerable with 25% of poor women suffering from malnutrition. Women's excess work burden in terms of both household work and productive employment increases women's vulnerability to poor health. Efforts to lower the maternity mortality rates, would have to tackle the issue of access to health care (facilitating reproductive health services) as well as improving women's status in the family and community. Cultural barriers, women's unequal status in terms of reproductive and sexual health, lack of information and access to referral services, low nutrition status, early marriage and repeated child bearing are all contributing factors that need to be taken into account if women's overall health status is to improve in the future.

Reproductive and sexual health

No discussion on gender equality and health would be complete without reference to reproductive and sexual health. This is in keeping with the ICPD consensus where 179 governments agreed that gender inequality influenced health and health care services. Recognition of a need for a life-cycle approach to men and women's health needs was a major achievement. Unless sexual and reproductive health were integrated as part of the primary health care services, it was agreed women's health status would continue to remain low.

Female reproductive health problems include lowering of uterus experienced by 22.1% women, while 11.3% have a problem with urine control and 16.0% have inflammation of the vagina. These are largely ignored and unaddressed. Cancer is considered the main cause of death second to heart and cardiac diseases, with breast and uterus cancer being the most common among women. Breast cancer is generally diagnosed at its late stages, increasing the chances of death and disability. Uterine cancer comprises 51% of female malignant tumors. Cancer of the uterus comprises 8%, followed by ovarian cancer 6% and vaginal cancer 1%.

Also, Yemen's high fertility rate of 5.8 poses a major challenge to women's health with repeated child bearing undermining overall health status. However, prevailing social and cultural norms constrain use of different family planning techniques. Despite this, there has been slow increase in family planning from a mere 10% in 1992 to 22% in 1997 and 23.1% which include traditional forms and modern contraception in 2003. Statistics also show that use of modern contraceptives has increased from 6.1% in 1992, to 10% in 1997 and to 13.3% in 2003. Thus, equality, dignity, access to information and choice are important requirements for building effective health services and for promoting health in the future.

HIV/AIDS

The Ministry of Public Health sought to tackle HIV/AIDS by establishment of a supreme unit to eradicate HIV/AIDS in 1995. The national program for combating HIV/AIDS was drawn up in 1998. The focus was to decrease the percentage of incidence (cases) and limit the disease. Main emphasis was on testing of blood and

awareness campaign targeting 60% of the population.

Periodical reports and statistical data availed from the epidemic centre and the national program for combating AIDS, indicate a continual increase in the incidence and reported cases. In 2003 alone, there were 1379 reported cases, of which 797 are males and 474 females, while 108 cases remain un-identified. Studies conducted between 1998-2000, reveal that the chances of contracting the infection increases among blood donors by seven folds.

Yemen suffers from lack of basic services for safe and secure transmission of blood. These services are still unorganized and centralized and not consistent with approved international standards. Current practices in giving, testing and storing of blood fall far short of the basic safety measures. This renders women particularly vulnerable to disease transmitted through blood (hepatitis B and C, and HIV). Women's reproductive ability heightens her need for safe and accountable health care provisions. Women's vulnerability to transmission during delivery as well as their overall poor health status make this a valid concern. Otherwise she runs the risk of contracting infection through medical facilities that do not take adequate precautions.

If the HIV/AIDS epidemic is to be contained interventions need to address the particular concerns of women. Mother to child transmission poses a major challenge in some parts of Africa where the epidemic is widespread. Culturally sensitive norms that prevent women from discussing issues of sexual health and sexuality are important if HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns are to reach women. Moreover, decision-making on matters related to sex are often made by men, giving women fewer options in taking adequate precautions and safeguards against the disease. Women's role as carers when any member of the family fall ill are particularly relevant in these discussions. This becomes more acute in the case of poor households unable to afford health facilities. In the rare case when women have been identified with HIV/AIDS, she runs the risk of being abandoned by the family due to the taboos associated with the disease.

Health care costs

The majority of healthcare expenditure in Yemen is now funded privately, mostly from out-of-pocket expenditure. In 2001, 65.9% of total health expenditure was accounted for by private expenditure (and 88.7% of this was out-of-pocket expenditure), while the government contributed 34.1% and external funding covered the remaining 3.7%. An estimated 1.66% of households are affected by these high costs annually in 1998. Introduction of user fees has had a detrimental effect on health care especially for poor households. The Oxfam study conducted in collaboration with MoPH&P in 2000 revealed that as many as one in two persons could not afford health care. End result being they had to either forego treatment or encounter indebtedness, getting further enmeshed in poverty. User fees further erode poor women's ability to access and use health facilities and services. Given women's weaker access to resources, income and employment privatization of health is a major setback to improving women's health status. Male health and well-being are given priority especially in circumstances of scarce resources. In view of this future policy interventions that seek to achieve gender equity in health would need to tackle all these issues.

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on behalf of Hayel Saeed Anam Group and Partners

Ali Mohammed Saeed Anam

*Chairman of the Board
of Directors*

Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anam

*Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors
General Manager*

أحر التهناتي وأطيب التبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الأخ / علي عبدالله صالح

والى جميع أبناء الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة حلول الذكرى الحادية عشرة للسابع من يوليو المجيد يوم الاستقلال الوطني لتعميد وحدة الوطن في 1994

مجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

عنكم

علي محمد سعيد أنعم

رئيس مجلس الإدارة

أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة - المدير العام

Lebanon blast kills 2, wounds defence minister

BEIRUT, July 12 (Reuters) - A powerful bomb blast wounded pro-Syrian caretaker Defence Minister Elias Al-Murr and killed two people north of Beirut on Tuesday, security officials said.

The bomb targeted Murr's motorcade in the busy Christian suburb of Antelias. Security officials said 12 people were also wounded in the explosion, audible for several km (miles).

LBC television station said one of Murr's aides was badly wounded in the attack.

Television pictures showed the smouldering wreckage of several cars almost totally destroyed in the blast. Blood stained the street and building facades were ripped off.

It was the latest in a series of bombings and assassinations in Lebanon since the Feb. 14 killing of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in a Beirut car bomb blast.

The latest explosion occurred as Prime Minister-designate Fouad Siniora was trying to form Lebanon's first government since Syrian troops withdrew from the country in April.

Although Murr is regarded as pro-Syrian, his father has forged a political alliance with Michel Aoun, a Christian former general who returned in May after 14 years of forced exile for leading a revolt against the Syrian military presence.

Aoun and his supporters won 21 seats in Lebanon's recent parliamentary election, the first since the Syrian pullout.



Scene of an explosion that targeted the motorcade of caretaker Lebanese Defence Minister Elias al-Murr in Beirut July 12. A powerful car bomb blast wounded Lebanon's pro-Syrian caretaker Al-Murr and killed two people north of Beirut on Tuesday, security officials said. REUTERS

U.N. pressures Ethiopia to accept border decision

ASMARA, July 12 (Reuters) - The United Nations Security Council has urged Ethiopia to accept a binding ruling on its border with Eritrea, the root of an increasingly hostile stalemate between the two foes since a 1998-2000 war.

The two Horn of Africa neighbours, who lost 70,000 people in their border war, have been deadlocked since 2002, when Ethiopia refused to accept an independent boundary commission's awarding of a flashpoint town to Eritrea.

This year, senior U.N. and Eritrean government officials have both warned the stalemate is unsustainable, raising fears of renewed conflict.

"Members of the council note with deep concern the continued lack of progress in the implementation of the final and binding decision ... and urge Ethiopia to accept fully," the Security Council said in a statement issued late on Monday.

Under terms of a 2000 peace agreement that ended the frontier conflict, both sides agreed to accept a "final and binding" decision on where the border should be.

But when the boundary commission awarded the town of Badme to Eritrea in 2002, Ethiopia refused to accept it.

Last year, Ethiopia said it accepted the decision in principle but wanted dialogue with Asmara first.

Eritrea refused, and reiterated its longstanding position that Ethiopia was legally bound to accept the ruling. It has since complained that the international community is doing little to pressure its larger neighbour into compliance.

The Security Council also expressed concern about recent shootings in the 25-km wide, UN-patrolled demilitarised zone that runs along the inside of Eritrea's southern boundary.

Four Ethiopians and one Eritrean militiaman were killed in three separate incidents in April between alleged Ethiopian armed men and Eritrean militiamen, a June U.N. report said.

"(The Security Council members) call on both parties to refrain from any action which may lead to an escalation of the tension," said the report.

It also objected to the "continuing high concentration of troops" in areas next to the demilitarised zone, an apparent reference to Ethiopia's movement of as many as 48,000 troops closer to the border in December.

Possible options to resolve the stalemate in the peace process include, when appropriate, a visit to Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as a meeting of the witnesses to the December 2000 peace agreement signed in Algiers, the U.N. said.

Iran says new president won't change nuclear policy

TEHRAN, July 12 (Reuters) - Iran insisted on Tuesday its nuclear policy would not change when hardline President-Elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad takes office next month. European diplomats have expressed concern that the former Revolutionary Guardsman will adopt a tougher line than outgoing reformist President Mohammad Khatami, whose government has sought to ease Western fears that Tehran is pursuing nuclear weapons.

"Our macro policies are outlined by the Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) and the government is obliged to implement them," Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told ambassadors in Tehran.

"Therefore, some worries about changing those policies are baseless. The new government, like Khatami's government, will follow the same route.

"One of those macro policies is our policy regarding the nuclear issue. Khatami's government has always insisted that the use of peaceful nuclear technology is Iran's obvious right," Kharrazi said.

During the presidential election campaign Ahmadinejad criticised Iranian diplomats for taking a timid stance in nuclear negotiations with the European Union.

Since his landslide election win on June 24 he has said he will continue talks about Iran's nuclear programme with the EU.

But persistent rumours in official circles suggest that once he takes office a new negotiating team will be put in place.



Iran's President-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad smiles from his office in Tehran June 25. President-elect Ahmadinejad on Saturday urged Iranians to put aside their differences after winning a divisive presidential run-off which split the country broadly along class lines. REUTERS

Iran, which denies U.S. accusations that it wants nuclear technology to make bombs, has frozen sensitive work like uranium enrichment while it tries to reach a deal with the EU over its nuclear programme.

Talks between the two sides are due to

resume in August.

"We have no other plan but to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes," Kharrazi said.

"No power can force us to abandon our legitimate, legal and obvious right to use peaceful nuclear technology."

Gunmen assault Palestinian interior minister aide

RAMALLAH, West Bank, July 12 (Reuters) - A senior Palestinian Interior Ministry official was seriously injured in a beating by masked assailants on Tuesday in the latest episode of lawlessness challenging President Mahmoud Abbas.

Ibrahim Salame was driving to work in the West Bank city of Ramallah when three gunmen fired towards his car to force him to stop, a ministry statement said.

The gunmen then severely beat Salame with "sharp objects", it said.

Salame was hospitalised in serious condition and police launched a search for the assailants. "This is outrageous,"

Abbas told reporters. "The security services will take immediate and serious action and will chase after those involved. We will deal with this ... firmly."

The interior ministry said the motive for the attack was not known but was being investigated.

Abbas engineered a ceasefire between Palestinian militants and Israel soon after winning election in January.

But he has struggled to curb armed gangs, often disgruntled young members of his Fatah movement, plaguing Palestinian areas.

Dozens of Fatah gunmen stormed a

government building in Gaza 10 days ago, demanding Abbas make good on a deal to recruit them into the Palestinian security forces.

Abbas's government agreed in June to give hundreds of gunmen from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades jobs in its security forces in a bid to keep them off the streets, officials said at the time.

Abbas is under Israeli and U.S. pressure to reform security forces and disarm gunmen as part of a U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan aimed at a Palestinian state in Israeli-occupied territories.

He has replaced most of his security chiefs.

and some are drug addicts.

Senior city police official Usman Anwar said the killers' only motive appeared to be to harass and spread fear.

"We suspect two people are involved in these killings. One thing has been established: all have been killed by a hammer," he said.

The killing spree began on June 28.

Pakistani police hunt suspected serial killers

LAHORE, July 12 (Reuters) - Pakistani police suspect two people are behind the murders in recent weeks of eight homeless people, all bludgeoned to death with a hammer in the city of Lahore.

Pakistan's second-largest city has about 200,000 homeless people, many of them labourers from the countryside.

Some of the homeless are beggars

Kurdish rebels kidnap Turkish soldier - officials

TUNCELI, Turkey, July 12 (Reuters) - Kurdish separatists have abducted a Turkish soldier for the first time since they revived their campaign against the Ankara government, officials said on Tuesday.

Rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) set up a road block late on Monday in Tunceli province in the troubled southeast, stopping around 60 vehicles to check identity cards and forcing drivers to pay them cash, a military official said.

They abducted a 21-year-old

member of the military police after discovering him in one of the cars, the official said.

The Tunceli governor's office confirmed the kidnapping.

Road blocks and kidnapping were tactics used by the PKK in the 1990s at the height of its campaign to establish an ethnic homeland in the mainly Kurdish southeast. Officials said Monday's incident was the first of its kind since 1998.

The PKK has stepped up attacks since calling off a unilateral ceasefire in

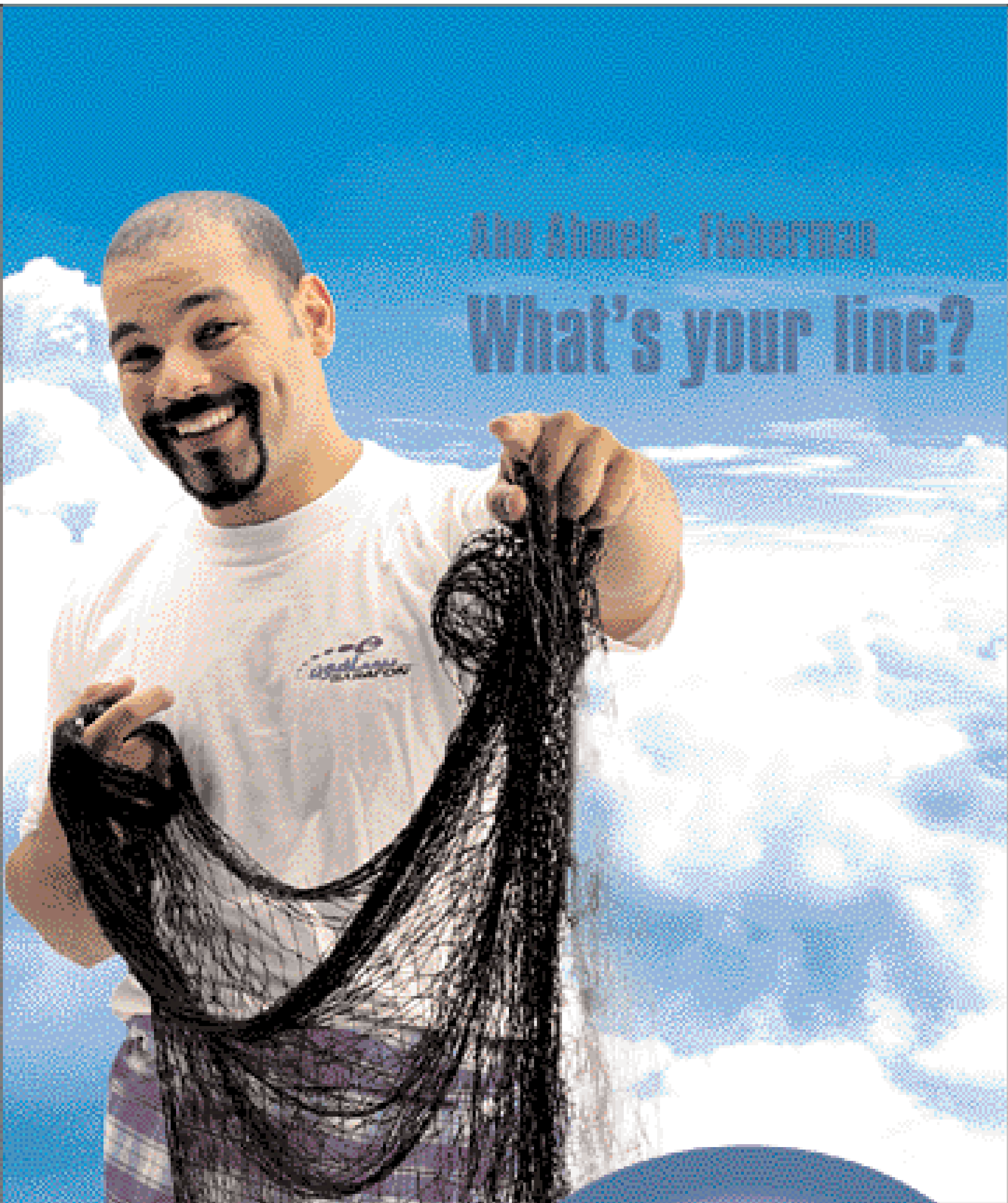
June 2004, saying the state had not met their conditions for the truce.

It has restricted most attacks to military and strategic targets in remote southeastern Turkey.

But another separatist group with links to the PKK claimed responsibility for a bomb attack in a western resort at the weekend that wounded 20 people, including two foreign tourists.

More than 30,000 people, mostly Kurds, have died since 1984, when the PKK took up arms against the Turkish state.

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The end of the beginning of ending poverty

BY JOSEPH STIGLITZ

With President Bush at the table, the "spin masters" who put a victorious gloss on all his actions had little need to lower expectations concerning the outcome of the G-8 meeting in Scotland. Any agreement would be seen as a major achievement. The write-off of multilateral debt for the world's poorest countries – thanks to Britain's leadership – is nonetheless especially welcome.

Agreement by the G-8 to debt relief is a major event, but we should not be fooled by the seeming magnanimity of the gesture: much of the debt would not have been repaid in any case. More debt relief – encompassing more countries and more debt (including bilateral debt) – is needed. But debt relief should be viewed as just a start. As Britain itself has pointed out, developing countries need more assistance and a fairer international trade regime.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the IMF has tried to pour cold water on international enthusiasm for its generosity. New studies, it warns, suggest that aid does not in general lead to faster growth.

This came as a relief for the Bush administration, which claims to have given as much as its "budgetary processes" allow. The world's richest country, which blithely gave its richest citizens a series of tax cuts worth hundreds of billions of dollars, now says that it simply can't afford to spend much more on aid.

Even after the increases in annual assistance promised by Bush at the UN's meeting in Monterey, Mexico, in 2002, the United States is still giving less than

a quarter of its commitment of 0.7% of GDP. Now, the IMF offers the following reassurance: "You may be stingy, you may not be living up to your commitments, but the money probably wouldn't have made much difference anyway."

Of course, not all foreign-aid money is well spent. But the same is true of money spent on, say, national defense. Even if Americans have not been cheated by Defense Department suppliers like Halliburton, it is clear that the money spent in Iraq has not bought the promised peace and security in the Middle East. But no one argues that the US should cut off defense expenditures.

The objective should be to improve the efficiency of government, to make sure that we get the most value for what we spend. In this, surprisingly, there have been marked improvements in recent years. The World Bank, for example, has been allocating more of its money to countries with a proven track record in spending money well. It has been exploring new ways of "delivering" aid, sometimes using state and local governments where that appears more effective.

Similarly, so-called "Social Funds," whereby communities design projects and compete for money, have enhanced participation and "ownership" of development projects. In one village, a bridge was built to connect two neighborhoods separated during the rainy season.

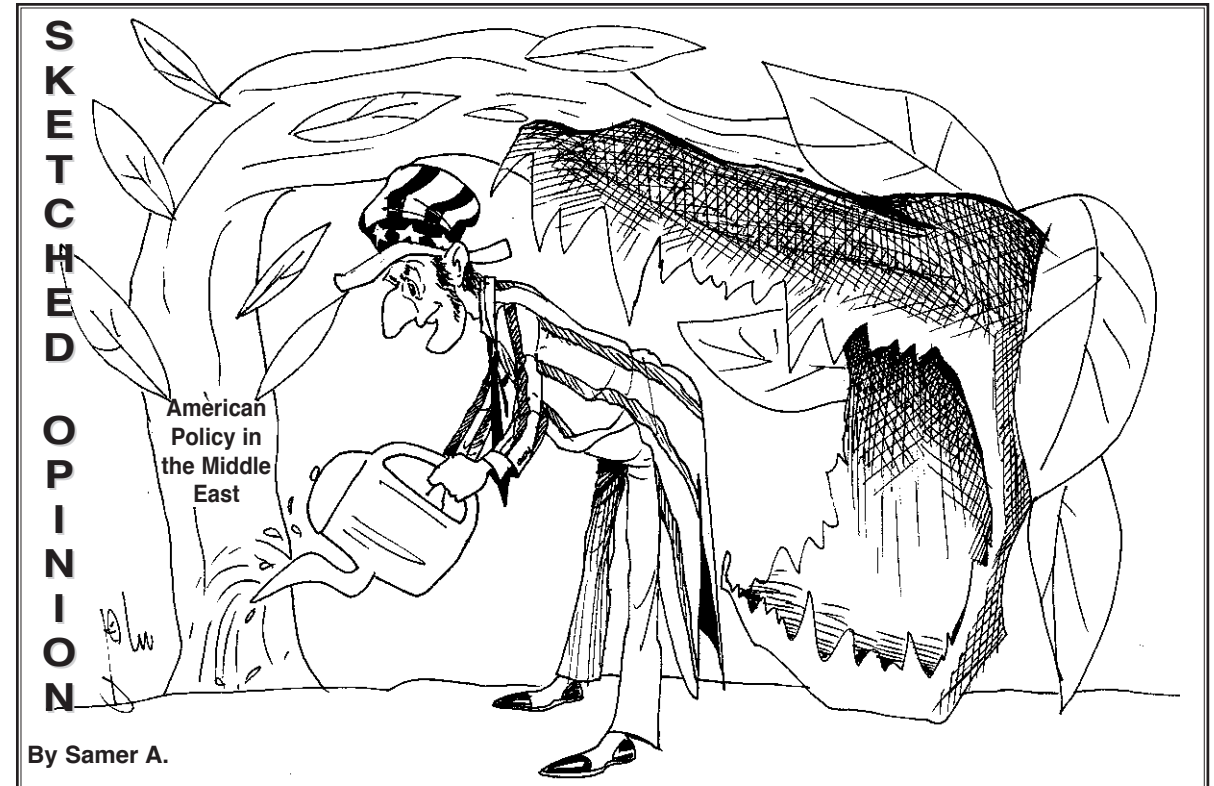
A simple project like this can make an enormous difference to the life of a community. For instance, children who live on one side of the river can now attend school on the other side during the rainy season. Likewise, micro-credit schemes throughout the developing

world have provided finance for the poor to expand their economic enterprise, with repayment rates that are truly impressive.

The IMF warns about "Dutch disease" problems, when an influx of foreign exchange drives up the local currency's exchange rate, making it difficult to create jobs in the export sector or to protect jobs against an onslaught of cheaper foreign imports. On this, the IMF is partly right. Countries need to rely on themselves and mobilize domestic resources (although the IMF frequent insistence on tight monetary and fiscal policies often makes this more difficult.) But there continues to be an enormous need for imported goods – medicines to promote health, technology to reduce the knowledge gap between the developing countries and the rest of the world, and machines to enhance productivity.

In any case, not much weight, in my judgment, should be given to the IMF's statistical studies of the impact of foreign aid on growth, partly because the results do not appear to be very robust. Different studies, with slightly different data sets, different countries, different techniques, and different years yield markedly different results. An earlier set of studies, for instance, showed that aid does make a difference in countries with good governance and sound macro-economic policies.

Equally important, historically much foreign aid was provided not to promote development, but to purchase friendship, especially during the Cold War. When the West gave money to Mobutu, they knew that the funds were going to Swiss bank accounts rather than benefiting the people of Zaire (now Congo). The money worked as intended – not to



By Samer A.

promote development, but to keep Zaire on the side of the West.

Of course, Mobutu's boundless corruption challenges us to be thoughtful about foreign aid, both about how the money is spent and who is responsible for "delivering" assistance. Some governments have demonstrated a better capacity than others for using funds well. In countries where governments are deficient, there are often alternative ways of providing assistance, including NGO's.

Global support for "making poverty history" shows how the issue of Third-World poverty has finally struck a responsive chord. Debt relief is a good beginning. But that is all it is.

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

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Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fotih

An ugly face

War is a small word but its consequences are awful, dreadful and hideous. The world has experienced many, many wars and witnessed numerous conflicts and fighting. Even though the world has known and realized the calamitous results and catastrophic consequences of the war, the countries sorrowfully keeps competition in inventing the most fatal weapons and the most dangerous killing tools. This column is meant to talk about the war and military history of the humanity and has not enough space to recall and remind the reader of all world wars and the black history. But what is obvious is that war-making still runs in the humanity blood.

Since I knew myself I found out that there were wars and there were people who were homeless and many children who lost their parents. In the newspapers I used to read many tragic stories told by the victims of these wars. I was watching TV and the situation was worse and more horrible that it made me tremble, have sleepless nights and soaking my pillow with tears every night. It was really disgusting to see dead bloody bodies with their flesh splattered all around along with cries of their relatives and beloved. I was terrified and scared and I could not imagine that the cruelty and malice could drive humans to kill his own kind, to kill his brother and his sister. We are humans despite religion, race or language. We have the same blood and the same flesh. Many questions and inquiries arised and I could find no answers for them. Why do we kill each other? Why do we cause pain and sorrow for each other? Why do we not live in peace and harmony where love, respect, tolerance and dialogue overrules?

Now I am grown up and matured, yet I still read, hear and watch the same events and could not find satisfying answers for those questions. I could not digest the reasons and causes of the wars that always threaten humanity in general and I could not understand the concepts of the war-makers and weapon designers.

In the past the war was different and it was for brave people. The people

decided a place and they fought face to face and died on the battle field. However, nowadays the war is completely different and you might be sleeping with your children peacefully and suddenly a rocket in a moment could destroy you and your family and all the things you spent years to achieve, destroying all the beautiful and wonderful things you have. Nowadays we can vividly see the ugly face of the war.

Unfortunately, everyday we are compelled to continue watching conflicts and wars along with casualties and sufferings. The most hurting thing is that we don't have the power to do anything to stop such wars. So all we can do is to denounce, demonstrate, protest and keep dreaming that peace will prevail one day.

Everyday we witness such terrorist acts that claim the lives of the innocent in different parts of the world. The last incident happened last week when the world stood astonished at the blasts hitting London City and everyone denounced the brutal and terrorist acts that target the civilians and innocent people. The masterminds for these terrorist actions do not care about the innocent people who are the victims. They do not value the human life at all and they do not know how much tragedies, pain and depression they cause. In my opinion the masterminds do not belong to humanity and they have no heart and conscience to prepare for killing the civilians with cold blood. They do not understand that they are in the wrong place. They do not know that the cities, markets and streets are not the field of war. What have the people in the streets and in underground stations done to have such a painful end? Whatever the purpose, they have no right to take the lives of thousands of innocent people.

Human is human, whether he/she is Muslim, Christian or Jewish. The life of a human is worthy and precious.

I am a civilian and they can take my life if my death will solve and end all the problems and prevent hostility and hatred. If my death brings about good results and will stop all the wars and terrorist actions for the sake of peace and the whole humanity, then take my life! Take it but for a humanitarian purpose.

Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Teachers & Exams

BY SAHAR SHUKRI
Sahar.shukri@gmail.com

After studying for several months, the most anxious time arrives - the final exams - but the exams of the last year in high schools and colleges are most important.

But the question is: which is more important, studying or exams??!

These days, the most important is the exam and to attain marks even without a real scientific success, just a numerical success.

Every teacher has his own point of view in preparing the questions by following the American way, the indirect way or to make a convenient one to the three levels: Excellent, Good and Weak. But what is the right way which teachers have to follow??

The problem isn't that exams are difficult but sometimes they are impossible, that means they can't answer any question. What is the aim of that??

Maybe it is an educational aim or just to frustrate the students who stay up all night studying hard and not be able to answer the questions, then obtaining low marks or even fail.

In my opinion as a student, a good teacher is one who thinks that exams are not the main point, but the information and benefits obtained.

So the aim will be the education not obtaining marks. Hence, exam will not be difficult or impossible because

it isn't the most important. If it is difficult you will hate the subject even if it is interesting or not and you will be sure that you won't be able to understand it or answer the questions and therefore not care for it at all.

The big problem is that some professors and teachers care only for preparing the most difficult exam to show off in front of the teachers and the students, feel great when the others say the exams are too difficult.

Those teachers were students, before did they forget that or are they pretending to have forgotten? Did they suffer these problem and are taking revenge now??!

They always say we were excellent and polite students, sometimes they say the truth and sometimes.....

I can't say that all the teachers are like that, but some of them want to make the students hate education. The teacher has a big role in making a successful generation or the opposite, to make the student love or hate the subject. They have the power to change from negativity to positivity.

I'm not against exams which have hard questions, but I'm against it if all the questions are like that.

Why don't we have a Yemeni way to follow instead of the American one?

The question is: When the average of the students who failed is more than 95%, does this mean that the teacher is good and the students are stupid????!

By: Ayesha Badheeb
ayesha_badib@yahoo.com

A pool of blackness
Is all I see
Wondering eyes
All staring at me

Who is this foreign person?
They wonder
What are they staring at?
I ponder

With a language so different
And a face so foreign
Questioning glances
Are ever so common

In a country so different
And 'civilisation' miles apart
I stand in confusion
Not knowing where to start

Filth and grit
Everywhere
Black thick smoke
Polluting the air

Mountains in the horizon
Towering ever so bold
Crumbling buildings
Centuries old

Rocky desserts
And barren land
Camels and mirages
And every coloured sand

Men with qat in their mouths

Chewing away like goats
Wearing jambiahs
Turbans and coats

Ladies in black
Covered from head to toe
How do they recognise each other
How do they know?

But with a slit for their eyes
Which is all I can see
How ARRRE you?
They come up to ask me

With a smile on my face
We try to communicate
With hands and legs
Whatever it takes

Everyone around
Caring for one another
Embracing each other
Like one's own brother

The warmth of the people
Overcomes it all
Knowing they'll always be there
To pick you up when you fall

Without realising it
I start to care
Even with all the horridness
That I have to bear

The feeling of familiarity
Creeps up behind me
And the country starts to grow on me
Slowly but surely

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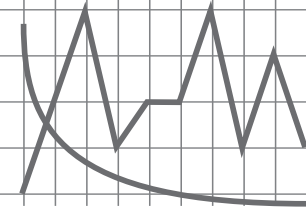
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Saudi Rial	50.9900	51.1200
Kuwaiti Dinar	654.7400	656.3800
UAE Dirhem	52.0600	52.1900
Egyptian Pound	33.0300	33.1100
Bahraini Dinar	507.2100	508.4800
Qatari Rial	52.5500	52.6900
Jordanian Dinar	269.9100	270.5900
Omani Rial	496.6800	497.9300
Swiss Franc	147.6000	147.9700
Swedish Crown	24.2700	24.3300
Japanese Yen	1.7073	1.7116

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

As summer activities multiply

Mukalla prepares to host country's second tourist festival

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

By the advent of July, the summer centers started in most Yemeni mosques and schools, however the movement toward the coastal areas progress slowly due to the deteriorating living standards of families and the price hike in most of the basic commodities, which are believed to hinder the activities of the summer centers.

Meanwhile, Mukalla, the provincial capital of Hadramout is ready to host the country's second tourist festival scheduled to be held between July 14-30. The festival is aimed at exploiting all the facilities of the therapeutic tourism and the natural elements to boost the Yemeni tourism.

The religious activities got intensified numbering up to 1200 and attracting large numbers of learners.

On the other hand, there are several courses organized in the field of small industries, computer and the Internet.

Directed activities:

Sa'eed Hassan, a university student said such centers are equipped with computers and other appliances that serve learners to progress at a good rate in the courses. A learner is in urgent need for exploiting the summer vacation in the required way in order not to experience a state of mental leisure that has its negative effects on the family and the society.

Sa'eed commented that such summer



activities are 100% directed and have their faults as well as some positive points. According to Sa'eed, the Ministry of Youths and Sports should cooperate with Education, Endowments, Culture and Tourism and Information ministries to set some solutions for the summer activities and keep them away from being dominated by political matters.

Abdulkarim Haumash, General Director of the Cultural Activities at the Ministry of Youths and Sports holds the view that this ministry has given a great priority to such centers. These centers provide a convenient shelter for youths who suffer from leisure time during the summer vacation.

Haumash confirmed that these centers enable youths both males and females to develop their capacities and increase their knowledge in various areas, either cultural, social or scientific ones.

For her part, Safa Mohammad al-Raimi, a university student stressed that these centers have become an official cover for the government since their people show their political and religious influences on their activities that target minds of the youths. They are educational activities that make generations deviate from any extremism-related culture.

Qasim al-Sabri, a teacher, said the summer centers should be well organized to feed the minds of youth in a proper way and help them in exploiting their leisure time.

Al-Sabri added: "we hope the official parties to support the summer activities with some profitable educational aids.

He recommends that the civil community organizations should have a hand in these activities in order to add to them some of the positive social features and help them offer a variety of different

activities to make them more inclusive.

The summer centers, mainly the scientific ones seemingly absent due to their big cost, should cover most of the Yemeni governorates. The summer centers have to be well-prepared to offer course on computer, electricity and other scientific specializations.

Eesa Mohammad Abdullah, a student, is of the view that the summer centers should accommodate all the students, males and females and be accompanied by cultural and scientific contests, in addition to the arrangement of training courses on computer, Internet and other scientific majors.

Sometimes, families appear to be the major obstacle as they never motivate their children to join the summer centers due to the persistent need to engage them in other works.

Qais al-Shara'abi, a citizen, said that his economic conditions do not qualify

him to activate minds of his children who live in the capital. He mentioned that if he wants to have a tour along with them in the coastal areas, this will cost him around YR250 thousand, a budget that can not be afforded by him to spend a week time in Hodeida, Mukalla or any other coastal city.

Students males and females believe the variation of the summer centers and their activities may give them a positive notion and increase their scientific acquisition.

Ali al-Sanabani, Director of Youth Care at Sana'a University explain that there are several activities scheduled to be implemented during the summer vacation. Such activities includes as many as 25 students who will receive training in some Arab universities in Egypt, Sudan and Syria in different majors.

These students have been selected in terms of superiority so as to avoid deviation from the goals specified by the Youth Care Management. This participation comes as part of encouraging the scientific creativity. In return, Sana'a University will receive 20 students from different Arab universities to get training in different companies and institutions.

The views taken from students seem to be contradictory and do not signify a feeling of the summer vacations, but the majority of them associate the summer activities to the abilities of their families to fund any field visits.

The country's second tourist festival scheduled to be held during the second half of July is the most distinctive

among the other summer activities in Yemen due to its connection with an important natural feature that is the availability of cold seawater and the unique traditions practiced by locals in the area including the popular meals and sporting activities.

The Preparatory Committee of the Country's Second Tourist Festival decided in its Mukalla meeting chaired by Abdulqader Ali Hilal, Governor of Hadramout and Head of the Festival Program-designing Committee.

The program due to last for around 15 days will include sporting and cultural activities and popular dances. The event will include tourist promotion for the city of Mukalla and some of its attractive sights.

In a statement to Saba News Agency, the Governor of Hadramout declared he expects the festival to achieve a great success following a series of successes scored by the first tourism festival.

Dr. Salim Mubarak al-Awbathani, Head of the festival's Preparatory Committee mentioned that goals of the festival includes acquainting with the facilities of the therapeutic tourism in Mukalla and activating the economic life of the city through attracting visitors and tourists, in addition to recognizing the civilized heritage of Yemen.

The festival also aims to activate the sea sports and sporting medicine through exploiting the therapeutic features of the cold seawater in an area where seawater in summer is the coldest compared to other places in Yemen and the Arab world as well.

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Children at risk, save future generation

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite the Yemeni government's ratification of the Child Law in 2002 as well as the optional protocols regarding children's participation in armed conflicts, child trafficking and abuse for sexual and porno purposes, annexed to the Child Rights Agreement, yet many alarming phenomena have been surfaced in our society threatening the well-being of children such as child smuggling and the increase in street children. Notwithstanding the Children Parliament and other child-oriented official and public activities, many children join the labor market. They are exploited by employers in Yemen. It is really alarming. Perhaps laws and legislatures are not as important for fighting this phenomenon as spreading awareness on children rights and the effects of such phenomena on Yemen's children.

The Yemeni law defines a child as "anybody who has not exceeded 18 years old and did not reach puberty

before that."

Yemeni children and labor market:

It is estimated that the rate of children joining public education is low especially in primary and secondary schools. Studies show that some 42% of age category 6-15 do not join education because the possibility of their joining the labor market may increase in recent years. The 2003 Central Organization for Control and Auditing's Report quoted official sources as saying that number of children working in Yemen reaches 326,608 males and females. The real figure may be higher as there is a lack in statistics.

The study released by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in October 2002 shows that children are taking up various types of labor, easy, difficult and risky. Children represent 9.1% of the total workforce. The percentage of male child laborers was estimated at 48.6% compared to 51.4% females. Although, child labor is on the rise and is far above the estimations of surveys and studies, there are certain factors



that force children to work such as the death of the supporter or the need for helping one's family. There are social and domestic causes such as family disintegration.

Parent's view regarding children is still deficient. They still consider that free time spoils children. Most parents do not possess a culture that fosters children's rights and take into account the risks that might face them. They believe in the old saying "Let child search for his bread."

I found the child in the picture sweating as he was carrying a 25-kgm sack filled with soil every two minutes. His supervisor was a relative of his who said, "Let him toil. Even younger boys are useful."

Child smuggling:

As we are not satisfied with employing our children in streets, farms and markets. They also suffer from being smuggled into the Saudi Arabia to work and beg which has become a prevalent phenomenon. Statistics reveal that 85% of the smuggled children are between 6-12 years, 15% of them are girls. Nevertheless, we have

never heard that any smugglers or traffickers have been tried in public although media has spoken much about this particular phenomenon.

Children involved in major crimes:

Because of the low cultural level of the Yemeni society concerning the education of children and boosting the good qualities in their character, children are liable to fall prey to gangs and deviated individuals. They become instruments in the hands of criminals to perform their immoral and illegal acts. Figures shock us with the fact that 688 juveniles were arrested last year for being involved in major crimes and 522 were involved in misused individuals. They become instruments in the hands of criminals to perform their immoral and illegal acts. Figures shock us with the fact that 688 juveniles were arrested last year for being involved in major crimes and 522 were involved in mihe whole society teaching them about the rights of children. If the situation remains as it is, we should expect a Yemen's generation made up of laborers and deviants.

The People of Saba and the Arim Flood (2/2)

Taken From "Perished Nations"
By Harun Yahya,
Ta-Ha Publishers, United Kingdom,
1999

There was, for Saba, a Sign in their homeland - two Gardens to the right and to the left. "Eat of the Sustenance (provided) by your Lord, and be grateful to Him: a territory fair and happy, and a Lord Oft-Forgiving!" But they turned away (from Allah), and We sent against them the Flood (released) from the dams, and We converted their two garden(rows) into "gardens" producing bitter fruit, and tamarisks, and some few (stunted) Lote-trees.

That was the Requital We gave them because they ungratefully rejected Faith: and never do We give (such

expression of "Sayl al-Arim" describes a flood that came about with the collapse of this barrier. Islamic commentators have resolved the issue of time and place being guided by the terms used in the Qur'an about the flood of Arim.

Mawdudi writes in his commentary: As also used in the expression, Sayl al-Arim, the word "arim" is derived from the word "arimen" used in the Southern Arabic dialect, which means "dam, barrier". In the ruins unearthed in the excavations made in Yemen, this word was seen to be frequently used in this meaning. For example, in the inscriptions which was ordered by Yemen's Habesh monarch, Ebrehe (Abraha), after the restoration of the big Ma'rib wall in 542 and 543 AD, this word was used to mean dam (barrier) time and again. So, the expression of Sayl al-Arim means "a

Him, were in the end punished with such a disaster as this. After the great destruction caused by the flood, the people started to disintegrate. The Sabaeen people started to desert their houses and emigrate to Northern Arabia, Makkah and Syria. (6)

Since the flood took place after the revelation of the Tawrah and the Bible, this event is described only in the Qur'an.

The Qur'an tells us that the Queen of Saba and her people were "worshipping the sun besides Allah" before she followed Sulayman. The information on the inscriptions verify this fact and indicate that they were worshipping the sun and the moon in their temples, one of which is seen above.

On the pillars, there are inscriptions written in the Sabaeen language. The city of Ma'rib, which was once a residence for the Sabaeen people, but is

course of the argument with him: "Dost thou deny Him Who created thee out of dust, then out of a sperm-drop, then fashioned thee into a man? But (I think) for my part that He is Allah, My Lord, and none shall I associate with my Lord. Why didst thou not, as thou wentest into thy garden, say: 'Allah's will (be done)! There is no power but with Allah!' If thou dost see me less than thee in wealth and sons, It may be that my Lord will give me something better than thy garden, and that He will send on thy garden thunderbolts (by way of reckoning) from heaven, making it (but) slippery sand!- Or the water of the garden will run off underground so that thou wilt never be able to find it."

So his fruits (and enjoyment) were

encompassed (with ruin), and he remained twisting and turning his hands over what he had spent on his property, which had (now) tumbled to pieces to its very foundations, and he could only say, "Woe is me! Would I had never ascribed partners to my Lord and Cherisher!" Nor had he numbers to help him against Allah, nor was he able to deliver himself. There, the (only) protection comes from Allah, the True One. He is the Best to reward, and the Best to give success. (Surat al-Kahf: 32-44)

As understood from the verses, the mistake of this garden owner was not to deny the existence of Allah. He does not deny the existence of Allah, on the contrary he supposed that "even if he is brought back to his

Lord" he would certainly find something better in exchange. He held that the state he is in, was due to his own successful efforts.

Actually, this is exactly what associating partners to Allah means: attempting to lay claim to everything that belongs to Allah and losing one's fear of Allah thinking that one has some particular grace of his own, and Allah will somehow "show favour" to one.

This is what the Sabaeen people also did. Their punishment was the same - all of their territory was destroyed - so that they could understand that they were not the ones who were the "owners" of power but that it was only "bestowed" on them.



requital except to such as are ungratefully rejecters. (Surah Saba: 15-17)

As emphasised in the above verses, the Sabaeen people were living in a region noted for its outstanding aesthetic, fruitful ineyards and gardens.

Situated on the trade routes, the country of Saba had quite a high standard of living and was one of the most favoured cities of the time.

In such a country, where standards of living and circumstances were so positive, what the Sabaeen people should have done was to "Eat of the Sustenance (provided) by their Lord, and be grateful to Him" as is said in the verse. Yet, they did not do so. They chose to lay claim to the prosperity they had. They thought that this country belonged to themselves, that it was they who made all these extraordinary circumstances possible. They chose to be arrogant instead of being grateful, and, in the expression of the verse, they "turned away from Allah".

Because they laid claim to all the prosperity they had, they lost it all. As related in the verse, the flood of Arim destroyed everything they had.

In the Qur'an, the punishment sent to the Sabaeen people is named as "Sayl al-Arim" which means the "flood of Arim". This expression used in the Qur'an also tells us the way this disaster occurred. The word "Arim" means dam or barrier. The

flood disaster which occurs after the destruction of a dam."

"We converted their two garden (rows) into gardens producing bitter fruit, and tamarisks, and some few (stunted) Lote-trees" (Surah Saba: 16).

That is, after the collapse of the dam-wall, all the country was inundated by the flood. The canals that had been dug by the Sabaeen people, and the wall that had been constructed by building barriers between the mountains, were destroyed and the irrigation system fell apart. As a result, the territory, which was like a garden before, turned into a jungle. There was no fruit left but the cherry-like fruit of little stumpy trees. (4)

The Christian archaeologist Werner Keller, writer of "The Holy Book Was Right" (Und Die Bible Hat Doch Recht), accepted that the flood of Arim occurred according to the description of the Qur'an and wrote that the existence of such a dam and the destruction of the whole country by its collapse proves that the example given in the Qur'an about the people of the garden was indeed realized. (5)

After the disaster of the Arim flood, the region started to turn into a desert and the Sabaeen people lost their most important source of income with the disappearance of their agricultural lands. The people, who had not heeded the call of Allah to believe in Him and to be grateful to

now only a desolate ruin, undoubtedly is a warning to those who repeat the same mistake as the Sabaeen people. The Sabaeen people were not the only people that were destroyed by a flood. In Surat al-Kahf of the Qur'an, the story of two garden owners is told. One of these men possesses a very imposing and productive garden like those of the Sabaeen people. However, he makes the same mistake as them: turning away from Allah. He thinks that the favour bestowed on him "belongs" to him himself, i.e. he is the cause of it:

Set forth to them the parable of two men: for one of them We provided two gardens of grape-vines and surrounded them with date palms; in between the two We placed corn-fields. Each of those gardens brought forth its produce, and failed not in the least therein: in the midst of them We caused a river to flow.

(Abundant) was the produce this man had. He said to his companion, in the course of a mutual argument: "more wealth have I than you, and more honour and power in (my following of) men." He went into his garden in a state (of mind) unjust to his soul: He said, "I deem not that this will ever perish, Nor do I deem that the Hour (of Judgment) will (ever) come: Even if I am brought back to my Lord, I shall surely find (there) something better in exchange."

His companion said to him, in the



JOB VACANCIES

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All candidates applying for these positions must be Yemeni nationals

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

Candidates applying from outside Yemen may apply by e-mail to hr@yemenlng.com.ye
Deadline: July 28, 2005

Who wants to be responsible for a paralyzed child?

By AMAL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The reappearance of polio created high alert situations at different levels. Ministry of health associated with UNESCO and WHO arranged many fortification campaigns, using financial, human, and technical sources to grantee complete coverage for the whole regions of Yemen.

Dr. Aisha Juman, who was called by the Yemeni government to work with WHO to evaluate the second campaign, enlightened us on this campaign.

Q: Can you tell us the nature of your work in this campaign?

A: I came back to Yemen because of the request that was from the Yemeni government to be a counselor in WHO that works with the ministry of health and population to eradicate polio. It is an emergency mission.

Q: Why do you call it "emergency mission"?

A: Because we know that Yemen was free from polio for many years. It was a surprise and a disappointed to



Dr. Aisha Juman

many of us when we discovered the first case.

Q: How did you prepare for the campaigns?

A: This is the first time Yemen arranged "a house to house campaign" which hasn't been done in the past. I think we were all concerned because we weren't sure how it would be received by the public. We also weren't sure whether or not the workers would be able to knock on the doors of people who may refuse to deal with them. However I was extremely impressed with the reaction of people that took it very seriously. They came early to the centers, from 8am until 6pm.

Q: Can you explain the work of each team in the campaigns?

A: We worked very hard. There were many teams that had different tasks. Teams which belonged to the ministry of health collected the information and data

Dr. Aish Juman was born in 1961 in Rada city. She is married and has a five year old girl. She received her education in Sana'a until high school and traveled to USA to get her doctorate degree. She worked as a lecturer in Sana'a University (1990-1992). She is now working as a head of Environmental Health Section in the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention CDCP in Atlanta.

before the campaign. Teams evaluated the campaign since we had a lot of supervisors who went and assessed the work on the second and third days. There were also five independent monitoring teams that belonged to different governorates municipality, Sana'a, Mahweet, Amran and Marb. They used to go four days before the campaign, two days during the campaign, and two days after the campaign to send us the evaluations. We didn't want to just finish the campaigns, our aim was also to evaluate how the work was done.

We know the nature of our country and how difficult it is to move from area to other. This mission was taken upon "unknown soldiers" namely these teams. I was proud of being Yemeni and part of this community.

Q: According to these assessments how do you describe the success of the campaign?

A: The results that got back to me were very positive. I was quite impressed. The reaction of people exceeded what we had expected.

Q: Minister of health pronounced that Yemen needs more than 90% coverage, did we reach this rate?

A: Usually for polio eradication, we

need fortification coverage of 90% for a country free of polio. Currently there is an outbreak. We had many cases in different regions in Yemen. We are waiting for the final results and I feel confident that we did reach this target.

Q: Are the children who already had doses in the first campaign going to take doses in the second and third campaigns? And what about the children who had polio?

A: The children who already had doses need not any more, because there is no benefit from that. Our object is not to reduce the transmission, our object is to eradicate polio from the country.

Q: What are you going to do to achieve this aim?

A: The polio eradication program globally started in 1988, and in 2003 only six countries in the world had the polio virus. Yemen was free of polio until 1998. I know it is not an easy mission. I think the best thing to do is insure high vaccination coverage. If we have high vaccination coverage, any foreign viruses cannot hurt any one because we already have immunity. We have seen this in Nepal and Bangladesh, two countries that are so close to North India where transmission of polio has been continued. Despite that people keep on commuting between these countries, they never have polio cases. So the major object is to increase the vaccination coverage to insure that children have immunity that enables them to face the virus.

Q: How do you describe the role of media in these campaigns?

A: I have to say that the media has a significant role in these campaigns. I think the media needs to be very careful in circulating rumors about the campaigns and the causes of the outbreak. Journalists need to verify the information and insure its accuracy, checking the internet, asking experts...etc. What is the benefit of scaring people by circulating rumors. Who wants to be responsible for a paralyzed child.

Q: What were the most hurtful rumors that affected the campaign?

B: When I was working in the field doing evaluation, I met some residents who believed that vaccines itself is the cause behind the infection of polio. They heard a lot of rumors where infected children became paralyzed after they had been vaccinated. The truth is that we did a genetic analysis and we found that this virus was engendered in Nigeria and transmitted to our country. So it wasn't the vaccines. In fact the cases that have been discovered hadn't any fortification or vaccination against the polio virus. Some children had taken a dose or two that were not enough to protect them.

The vaccines are modified viruses used to stimulate the resistance in the human body to specific diseases. It dose not cause the disease but rather trigger the body's immune system to build a defense mechanism that continuously guards against the disease.

Some hearsay mentioned that the vaccines are expired and these vaccines lead to death. Actually the expired vaccines cannot be fatal liquid because it becomes like water. Namely it has no affect on the body at all.

Q: How did you deal with such rumors?

A: We tried to convince the people with all the methods. Talking with the people, using media, people have social states in their communities, religious men who talked about this issue and how Islam insists on the duty of the parents to protect their children from diseases.

Q: Do you want to add any thing?

A: Yes. I want to say that the only way to eradicate polio is by vaccination and there is no other medicine. So I address to the mothers and fathers to vaccinate their children.



By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Facts of life

Can you sneeze with your eyes open?

You may wonder why we sneeze in the first place? People sneeze because something is irritating their nose or in some cases, because they've looked at a light.. Some people joke that your eyes will pop out if you sneeze without shutting them. The real reason we are shut-eyed sneezers is because it's a reflex.

A reflex is a natural reaction to a certain cause such as a hit on the knee joint like most doctors do or blinking when there is strong light etc. It's not too difficult to use conditioning techniques to modify reflexes, in the sense of making them stronger or weaker, or easier or harder to evoke. It's much more difficult, and in some cases impossible, to change the reflex itself (add or remove a component). This is particularly true of simple reflexes.

However, a sneeze is a pretty complex reflex. Theoretically it may be possible to use something called instrumental conditioning to modify the reflex.

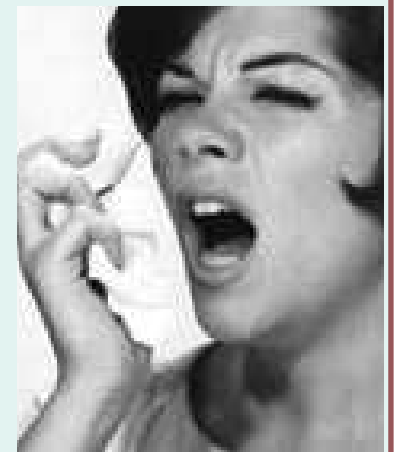
Instrumental conditioning is essentially learning that a particular behavior predicts a particular outcome. Here's an example. Normally, rats don't go around pressing levers. However, if a lever is around, a rat may, for some reason, press it once in awhile. If the rat is hungry, and you give him food every time he presses the lever, pretty soon he'll be pressing the lever alot (at least until he's not hungry anymore). The rat has been instrumentally conditioned to press the lever.

One thing you can do with instrumental conditioning is shape behavior. For example, when the rat was first learning that moving the lever gets him food, you might reward him if he only touches the lever. After he begins touching the lever regularly, you might require him to move it a tiny bit to get food. By changing what the rat has to do to get his reward a bit at a time, eventually you can get the rat to push the lever very far, or maybe

in a particular direction. You have shaped his behavior.

You probably see where this is leading. You might be able to use a similar procedure to shape a sneeze. Although seriously I would not advise this, because being natural is a blessing. But why is the reflex closing our eyes and not doing something else such as raising our hand or something. Doctors say it is a medical mystery but some of them propose that we close our eyes to protect them perhaps from microorganisms and particles flying out as fast as 630 mph from our sneezes. But it could also be simply because a sneeze is a kind of body-wide reflex in which a lot of muscles contract, not just in the nose and throat but also those in the diaphragm, the abdomen, thighs, back, even sphincters, such as bending your body or pulling your hands inwards (which is why some people with stress incontinence may urinate slightly when they sneeze).

Another astonishing reality is that the heart may stop while sneezing for a fraction of a second before resuming its normal rhythm. Doctors say that this is not dangerous, but it's believed that people began saying "God bless you" when a person sneezes because they believed that, in that brief moment, you were between heaven and hell, and, if you were blessed, you'd be saved from damnation.



Third polio campaign targets 4 million children

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Today is the last day of the third fortification campaign against polio.

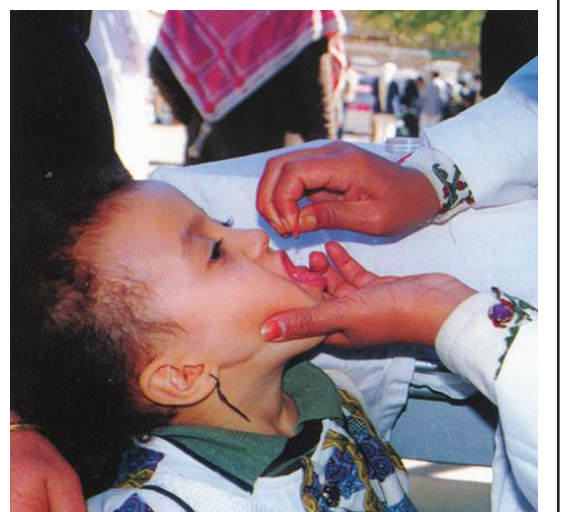
Using the same strategy of the previous campaigns which was "house to house fortification", this campaign aimed 3,800,646 children. To achieve this mission, there were 18000 teams which contained 34582 medical workers and 4365 cars that traveled around the governorates and villages.

Ministry of health and population arranged a press conference that revealed the results of the second campaign. According to Dr. Majed Al-Juneed, deputy of health care section, the results were very good and positive, with a rate exceeding 95%.

Dr. Hasham Zaeen, representative of WHO referred to 326 polio cases that had been discovered. Although

this big number compared with the form number which was about 200 cases, Dr. Zaeen insisted that there has been a development since April, as 326 cases are reflecting form infections that happened before the campaigns.

Dr. Navisa Aljaivi said "it's a child's right to get vaccinated and parents should realize that they are responsible towards







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Paris mayor says London breached rules

PARIS (Reuters) - London's winning bid to stage the 2012 Olympics breached the rules, Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoë said on Monday.

Delanoë, president of the Paris bid, said London had not respected the rule of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) stating that meetings between bid officials and IOC members should be only informal.

"The IOC knows that (Prime Minister) Tony Blair had written to IOC members to offer to meet them," Delanoë told reporters.

Delanoë said that Blair had then met IOC members in his hotel suite in Singapore before Wednesday's vote, in which London scored a narrow victory over Paris.

"Everybody was aware of it and could see it," Delanoë said.

"That's against the rules. I saw people coming out of Blair's suite."

French politicians, media and sports officials cried foul after London snatched the vote, suggesting underhand tactics may have played a part in London's victory in the final vote by 54 votes to 50.

But Prince Albert of Monaco, an IOC member, dismissed the suggestions of foul play.

"It's true it was very close, decided by a few votes, and perhaps it was decided at the last minute. But I don't think there was any irregularity," Albert told France's TF1 television in an interview on Monday evening.

Asked about Delanoë's comments, Albert said: "The president of the IOC himself said there was no particular problem and did not have to take disciplinary action against the London bid chiefs, and I think he was right."

Stadium criticism
Delanoë suggested on Monday that



London's winning bid to stage the 2012 Olympics breached the rules, Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoë said on Monday. In this photo, Delanoë (R) talks to former French Olympic champion Jean-Claude Killy after the announcement of the host city of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in Singapore July 6.

London had also breached the IOC rules by making comments on a rival bid.

"It is stated that a bid should not make comments on another one," he said. "Out of the five bidding cities, which one did not respect that?"

The Paris mayor was apparently referring to comments before the vote by a member of the London team who said the Stade de France in Paris was not built specifically for athletics.

"I don't want to make a big fuss but

there's no reason why I should remain silent," Delanoë said.

"There were certainly weaknesses in our bid but I don't think any of those weaknesses played any role in the final decision."

"There are things we maybe could have done differently but I don't think it would have changed the result."

Delanoë denied having accused London of bribery.

"All I said was that if Paris had used

bribery to win the vote, we would have been reproached for it," he said.

Asked if Paris had been naive by refraining from active lobbying in the final straight, Delanoë said: "We decided to strictly abide by the rules and we don't regret that choice."

Delanoë suggested that the IOC rules left room for interpretation by saying: "The IOC is a subtle organisation."

The Paris mayor said the day of the vote had not been a totally negative experience.

"As we couldn't get that victory we so badly wanted, I decided to make that day a personal victory," he said.

"I stopped smoking."

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bikini part
 - 6 Indefinite amount
 - 10 Be rude at the dinner table
 - 14 Eurasian river and range
 - 15 Birds, to biologists
 - 16 Description of some lips
 - 17 Sci-fi version of "The Tempest"
 - 20 Sneaking suspicion
 - 21 Van Gogh had one later in life
 - 22 Baby's diversion
 - 23 Word with oxygen or pup
 - 25 Apportion (with "out")
 - 26 Clemency
 - 28 Bit of reality?
 - 29 Word with trash or dust
 - 32 Enjoy to the fullest
 - 33 A lot may have lots
 - 34 She asked, "What's love got to do with it?"
 - 35 It features Jake Barnes
 - 38 They move shells
 - 39 Perry's creator
 - 40 One way to become a parent
 - 41 Cloth layer
 - 42 Persuade
 - 43 Beaming
 - 44 Second to none
 - 45 Gallup's method
 - 46 Enter the picture
 - 49 "Rosemary's Baby" author
 - 50 Calpurnia, to Caesar
 - 54 Eric Rohmer film
 - 57 Salty Asian lake
 - 58 Without repetition
 - 59 "Belay there!"
 - 60 Russo in "In the Line of Fire"
 - 61 "Canterbury Tales" drink
 - 62 Festina (make haste slowly)
 - 63 liar's policy
 - 64 Subject to docking?
 - 65 Hosiery shade
 - 66 Dashing fellow
 - 67 Taj
 - 68 More than most
 - 69 Waste time
 - 69 Badlands animal
 - 70 Like Inspector Clouseau
 - 71 Boss Tweed's nemesis
 - 72 What to do "in the name of love"
 - 73 Stone measure
 - 74 Tsunami
 - 75 Gathering place at CNN
 - 76 Marsh bird
 - 77 Junction for a sewer?
 - 78 Bookbinding leather
 - 79 "Beauty and the Beast" character
 - 80 Moved by leverage
 - 81 Many miles from here
 - 82 Without admixtures
 - 83 Try not to be taken by surprise
 - 84 Past Peruvian
 - 85 Caspian country
 - 86 Menacing hand
 - 87 Boiardo supporter
 - 88 Bill in the till
 - 89 Goombah
- DOWN**
- 1 Muslim mystic
 - 2 Walked like a sumo wrestler
 - 3 Hard to come by
 - 4 Impeding burden
 - 5 Inflation meas.
 - 6 Mubarak's predecessor
 - 7 Ham's word?
 - 8 Sign guys look for in a bar?
 - 9 Starbucks order, perhaps
 - 10 Fireplace item
 - 11 Not the pick of the litter
 - 12 First shepherd
 - 13 Computer memory measure
 - 18 One-third of a

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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"SPACE PROGRAM" by Gayle Dean

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Record-breaking Abreu wins Home Run Derby

DETROIT (Reuters) - Bobby Abreu of the Philadelphia Phillies hit a record 41 homers to win the Major League Baseball Home Run Derby Monday, defeating Ivan Rodriguez of the Detroit Tigers in the final.

Representing Venezuela in the international format of this year's derby, Abreu smashed 24 home runs in the first round and dominated the field for most of the night to win in his debut appearance.

"I'm real excited, I feel good," Abreu said moments after Rodriguez flied out, giving him the final round 11-5.

"I was nervous in my first at-bat but I'm just going back with my trophy now and relax."

"I'm tired. It was a beautiful night."

Abreu beat out seven other competitors, with each hitter representing a different country as Major League Baseball used the event to help promote the World Baseball Classic scheduled for next March.

The Phillies slugger showed tremendous power from the start, easing past Miguel Tejada's first round record of 15, set last year in Houston.

His total of 41 also shattered Tejada's



Philadelphia Phillies batter Bobby Abreu, of Venezuela, hits a home run during the first round of the Home Run Derby at the 76th Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Detroit, Michigan, July 11. Abreu hit 24 home runs, breaking the previous record of 16.

overall record of 27 from last year's event.

David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox, representing the Dominican Republic, was runner-up in the first round with 17 home runs.

Carlos Lee of the Milwaukee Brewers, representing Panama, was third with 11 homers and Rodriguez hit seven, representing Puerto Rico, to also advance to the second round.

Hee Seop Choi of the Los Angeles Dodgers (South Korea) and Andruw Jones of the Atlanta Braves (The Netherlands) both hit five, while Mark Teixeira of the Texas Rangers (United States) hit two and Canada's Jason Bay of the Pittsburgh Pirates failed to hit a home run, and were all eliminated.

Rodriguez led the second round with eight and Abreu joined him in the final after hitting six.

Lee (four) and Ortiz (three) were eliminated.

"I just did my best for the fans in Detroit, they're great," Rodriguez said.

The Tigers star was cheered loudly in every at-bat by the hometown crowd at Comerica Park.

مسابقة رقم (47) Contest No. (47)

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2. Take things as
3. Grasp all
4. Ill news travel
5. look before you
6. East or west
7. Silence gives

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- 1.smack
- 2.Legend
- 3.raged
- 4.early
- 5.layer
- 6.hollow
- 7.scrape

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Environment and health: New insights into spread of infectious diseases

Scientists have offered the world another good reason to protect the environment. They have identified a loathsome catalogue of infectious diseases that have revived and thrived in places where natural habitats are altered or degraded by loggers, road and dam builders and urban encroachment.

The Story

The impact of human activity on the environment takes numerous forms, many of them well publicized, but experts seem to have now identified another side effect of this interaction that has direct implications for people's health.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) cautions that the loss of forests, road and dam building, the spread of cities, the clearing of natural habitats for agriculture and mining and the pollution of coastal waters are promoting conditions under which new and old pathogens — bacteria, viruses and micro-organisms causing diseases — can thrive. UNEP notes that intact habitats and landscapes tend to keep infectious agents in check, whereas damaged, altered and degraded ones shift the natural balance, thereby triggering the spread to people of new and existing diseases. UNEP also points to possible linkages with climate change which can alter temperatures to the advantage of carriers such as mosquitoes or stress the environment and alter habitats to such a degree that people migrate as "environmental refugees".

The World Health Organization has noted the appearance of at least 30 new diseases in the last two decades "to threaten the health of hundreds of millions of people."

The Context

A team from Johns Hopkins University in the US found that even a 1 per cent increase in deforestation in Peru increases the number of malaria-bearing mosquitoes by 8 per cent. The study showed that the insects "ran wild" after 30 to 40 per cent of the forest was destroyed. Mosquitoes can transmit more than 100 viruses known to infect



humans, including: dengue fever, yellow fever, and sometimes fatal encephalitis and haemorrhagic fever.

- Rapid, unplanned urbanization has been identified as the major driving force behind an explosion of dengue fever, from less than 1,000 cases per year in the 1950s to a situation in which some 2.5 million people are at risk today.
- The highly pathogenic Nipah virus, which was until recently found only in Asian fruit bats in Indonesia and Malaysia has been tied to forest loss. UNEP's Global Environment Outlook report observes that a combination of forest fires in Sumatra and deforestation in Malaysia forced the bats into closer contact with domestic pigs which gave the virus its chance to spread to pig farmers in the late 1990s.
- A study from gem-mining areas in Sri Lanka has shown that the shallow pits left behind by the miners are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes and epicentres of malaria.
- In the United States, cases of the tick-borne Lyme disease in New York and Connecticut have surged as humans have moved into forested areas where tick-carrying deer thrive.

For further information United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): Eric Falt, Spokesman/Director, Division of Communications and Public Information, Tel: M+254 20 623292, E-mail: eric.falt@unep.org; Nick Nuttall, Head of Media, Tel: +254 20 623084, E-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org; Marion Cheate, Officer in Charge, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, Tel: +254 20 623520, E-mail: marion.cheate@unep.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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