

Price hike enrages public

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI & YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Thousands of people streamed into the streets of the capital city and other Yemeni main cities on Wednesday July 20 in protest against the price hike implemented by the government on oil derivatives.

Several locals were killed and others injured in the demonstrations that were accompanied by chaos with open fire shooting in al-Dhale' and other cities.

The angry protestors in the capital moved toward the Parliament and the Prime Minister's office protesting against the government policies that worsened the living standards of people.

In Sana'a, the riot, pulling together people from different classes, started from Dar Salm, to the south of the capital, and headed toward the Presidential Palace where all routes leading to it were blocked and manned by security troops. Similar demonstrations accompanied by public chaos and destruction of government and private properties took place at the same time in al-Hasaba and Hayel Streets, north and west of the capital.

The police opened fire in the air and



Marchers distract properties and pull them into the streets

used tear gas to disperse the wrathful protestors who committed acts of vandalism, destroying both public and private properties, mainly in the capital city of Sana'a.

The Arab Insurance Company and Bin Shu'ailan Car Trade Company located near the Presidential Palace were badly damaged along with some tourist hotels and restaurants by the stones of protestors.

In Shumaila, two cars belonging to citizens were burned as teenage protestors set tyres and tubes aflame stopping traffic in the street, fortunately the drivers escaped unhurt.

Several teenage protestors were caught and harshly beaten by the police as they attempted to move towards the Presidential Palace.

Ibrahim al-Umaysi, a taxi driver who left his car and joined the demonstration said that he has been queuing at a petrol station since the government announced price increase of oil derivatives last night. "To avoid the economic collapse alleged by PM, the government should stop giving new expensive cars to officials and influential authorities," Ibrahim added.

Mohammad al-Washali, a wholesaler who didn't open his stores on Wednesday,

said he expected the price hike to be because of tension and public uproar.

The government decided to lift subsidy on oil derivatives on Tuesday July 19 leaving a 100% price increase, justifying their decisions that prices of oil derivatives have been changed all over the world.

The price of diesel rose from YR17 to 45 per liter and similarly the price of kerosene, while petrol's price skyrocketed from YR 35 to 65 per liter. The price of gas rose to YR400 per cylinder instead of YR250.

The government made a number of decisions which include reducing the tariff on basic commodities and appliances, cutting the sales tax, concealing production and consumption taxes, and increasing the number of cases covered under the Social Care System to 200 thousand.

Additionally, the Cabinet started the gradual application of the wages and salary laws for all the civic and military employees, and that YR20 thousand will be the lowest salary at the government's job ladder.

More photos on page 6



PHOTO BY MAHFOUD AL-MAYASI

Inside:

- **Judiciary: Crippled institutions that can't do their work properly** p5
- **Time for change** p9
- **Marashi al-Jawf wavering between security and fear** p11
- **Taking drug safety seriously** p12



Bin Shuailan Car Trade Company badly destructed



Angry protestors set tyres aflame to stop traffic

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Opposition figures skeptic of the President's announcement President's son nomination will be a setback

By HASSAN ALZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The lethal dose grabbed lights from the President's announcement of his abstain to run the next elections, in his famous speech of the 27th anniversary of his term in office. It was the major issue for local, Arabic and foreign media.

In his speech President Saleh requested friends and a brother not to

meddle into Yemen's internal affairs. He warned that any aids should be through the government or the endorsed missions.

The reactions towards this speech varied among Yemeni politicians. Some welcomed it, while others were skeptic. Dr. Mohamed Al-Afandi, Head of the Strategic Center for Studies, said that the President was earnest in his speech when he said, 'I am tired and I'd like to rest.'

But the question remain on whether the president is going to be left alone or is there going to be pressure from those closer to him to run the presidential elections again?

The president's announcement will arouse practical constitutional debates, as the president has made achievements, and he should crown these achievements by supervising the peaceful transfer of power himself.

Continued on page 6

Yemeni tried for being Bin Laden's driver

Prosecutors called him Bin Laden's bodyguard and close affiliate, the defense say he is just a simple man who needed to work. Salim Ahmed Hamdan, 35 years old is a Yemeni man who worked as bin Laden's driver in and worked mostly on bin Laden's Kandahar farm for a \$200-a-month salary because he needed the work —

not out of ideological commitment. A three-judge panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit unanimously upheld President Bush's war powers to create a Military Commission to try Salim Ahmed Hamdan, of Yemen. The Yemeni captive, who has a fourth-grade education, worked as a driver for the al-Qaida

mastermind from 1996 until his capture in 2001. But he denies joining al-Qaida.

Moreover, Judge A. Raymond Randolph wrote in a 22-page decision that, as chief executive and commander in chief, Bush could deny terrorism captives prisoner-of-war status as outlined by the Geneva Conventions.

Continued on page 6

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Petroleum agreement between the Yemeni Government and Austrian Oil Company AWAM

SANA'A
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A new agreement between the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and the Austrian (AWAM) company in Yemen, on exploration and exploitation of the no.2 sector in Ma'abar area in Shabwa Governorate, was signed last week.

Exploration, drilling and production will start in an area of four thousand square kilometers, with a project cost-

ing of \$14 million USD. The agreement was signed by engineer Abdulmalik Allamah, Under secretary of the Ministry of the Ministry, and Mr. Ahmed Abdulgadir Shaie' General Supervisor for Oil and Minerals. Mr. Peter Satinger, General Manager for the Middle East and Australia signed on behalf of AWAM. Mr. Rasheed Ba Rabba'a, Minister of Oil and Minerals was also present at the signing of the agreement.

British Authorities Release Yemeni Nationals

British authorities released several Yemeni expatriates living in London after they were arrested on criminal charges. Minister of Expatriates Abdu Ali al-Qubatti said "the British police stormed a number of houses where Yemeni families reside and arrested a number of people on criminal charges but most of them were freed after interrogations," adding his ministry "is currently coordinating with the Yemeni

embassy in London to follow up their cases." He said Yemenis living in England were not "subjected to attacks or arrests after the London blasts, adding "the Yemeni expatriates in Britain condemned terrorism and took part in the protests that denounced the terror attacks." More than 20 Yemenis living in London were arrested on charges of drug trafficking but sources said "most of them were released."

The first Yemeni conference on Popular poetry reaches its final stanza

SANA'A- The first conference for popular poetry in Yemen is due to conclude today.

The conference was opened last Thursday at the Yemeni Researches and Studies Center by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar, the Parliamentary Speaker.

Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar confirmed that the popular poetry is regularly read and it has an important role in

maintaining social values and morals in society and eliminating the unacceptable behaviors.

Yemeni popular poetry occupies a prestigious position among Yemeni traditions and customs.

For his part, Amin al-Shar'abi, Head of Sanaa Poets Association, delivered a speech in which he pointed out the status of the popular poetry in the souls of all people, educated and uneducated.

Arrest in Sa'ada

The security forces in Sada governorate arrested last week six people who were planning an attack on governmental interests, security source said. The source said that security forces spoiled an attack attempt after

suspicious moves made by the group. It added that security forces chased and captured the gang in Ibn Salman Mosque in Sada. They immediately confessed their plan for attack, source said.

Proposal for Yemeni edition as part of "Indians overseas Encyclopedia"

The Indian Diaspora is the third largest in the world after the British and the Chinese. The Encyclopedia of the Indians Overseas has attracted the support of major sponsors and is seen as an important project by Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the National University of Singapore, a well known centre for research on ethnic groups. Expected to be published at the beginning of 2006, the volume will comprise some 400 pages and will serve as a companion to the Encyclopedia of the Chinese Overseas.

It will be divided between thematic discussion of migration, formation and experience of the Diaspora, and studies of Indian communities in the Diaspora.

Each contribution, generally in form of an essay, covers comprehensively the historical origin of the community, the conditions and specific features of the migration process, their historical experience in the country's social, cultural, educational and economic change, demographic changes, major events in the life of the community, political participation, the contempo-

rary situation and major challenges at the beginning of the 21st century.

With stresses in modern period the Encyclopedia of the Indians Overseas is thought to be a major reference book for policy makers, scholars, researchers and students.

Irena Knehtl has researched and written on the Indian Diaspora in Yemen. She also initiated a proposal for a Yemeni Encyclopedia for which discussions with the National University in Singapore are already under way.

Government spends YR50 million on religious education

By Hassan al-Zaidi
Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A- Sheikh Yahya al-Najjar, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance, confirmed that the Cabinet has offered YR50 million through his ministry to finance religious summer schools.

The support was offered after the government imposed increased monitoring and control over the summer schools that is run by some of the most active religious associations and groups in Yemen.

The summer school, numbering

approximately 350 in the capital alone, teachers students the Holy Quran, Hadith and other teachings of Islam.

Sources mentioned to the Yemen Times that government had requested 3000 teachers from al-Iman University to teach at the religious schools during the summer vacation.

Some sects, including the Zaidia's, are rumored to consider the new government support as an attempt to homogenize religious education in the country and that it is a violation against the human freedom.

The sources added that Mohammad al-Hazmi, an Islah MP refused to sur-

rendered the Quran Memorization Center at al-Rahman Mosque where he works as a preacher.

A Cabinet decision issued previously rejected the autonomy of the Quran memorization centers and religious schools and requested that they should be under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance.

Procedures taken against religious schools have become severe after the recent blood clashes in Sa'ada between the government and supporters of al-Houthi, who had been controlling numerous religious schools in the north province of Sa'ada.

Nabrajah Field Starts Pumping

Norwegian independent DNO announced on Friday the start of production at its Nabrajah field development in Yemen's Block 43.

More than hundred Ethiopians departed

Sanaa, 17 July: Yemen deported earlier this week 122 Ethiopians, who illegally entered the country, to their homeland, sources in Sanaa International Airport stated. It was reported that the Public Authority of Immigration and Passport transported via Yemenia Airlines 122 Ethiopians to Addis Ababa.

The 122 Ethiopians were arrested through security campaigns in several cities of the country searching for illegal residents.

The first well, Nabrajah 2, was brought on stream Jul. 12 at a rate of 5,000 b/d, and three more oil producing wells -- Nabrajah 1, 3 and 4 -- will have been connected by last week. A fifth production well, Nabrajah 7, was due to be drilled into the reservoir over the weekend, and Nabrajah 6 has already been drilled and completed as a water injector.

As previously stated, DNO plans to

raise production capacity to 15,000 b/d by the end of August and, as a result of additional reserves in the Nabrajah field, increase this to 50,000 b/d by the fourth quarter of 2006 (IOD Jul.6.p7).

DNO owns a 56.67% operating interest in the Nabrajah project alongside Oil Search (28.33%) and state-owned Yemen Co. (15%).

At the early production stage, the Nabrajah central processing facilities

will be in testing mode in order to secure a stable and safe build up of production. The results will provide DNO with further reservoir information to optimize its production and development strategy, the company said.

Combined proven and probable oil reserves in the field's Qishn and basement Kohlan structures are estimated at 68 million bbl.

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Journalists pay the cost, subjected to terror Booby-trapped envelope injures al-Nihar Managing Editor

By Yasser al-Mayasi
Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A- Journalist Haj'e al-Jehafi, Managing Editor of al-Nihar Newspaper was badly injured, specifically in his face, on Sunday July 17 when a booby-trapped envelope exploded as it was handed to him. In a statement to the Yemen Times, al-Jehafi mentioned that while he was working in the newspaper at one pm, an anonymous person telephoned him and told him that wanted to publish a complaint in his newspaper. "The anonymous person arrived at the newspaper, handed me an envelope and left immediately," said al-Jehafi. "When I opened the envelope, it exploded, injured me badly and caused me a coma, then I was rushed to the hospital by one of my colleagues and never knew that happened until it was late." Al-Nihar Managing Editor confirmed he has no antagonism with any one, and that publishing-related issues caused him along with his colleagues threats by Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Mansour, a Shura Council member and one of the prominent sheikhs in Ibb Governorate. He added that he along with his colleagues has been subjected to threats

since they published articles criticizing the policy of Sheikh Mansour and the way he treats locals in al-Ja'ashin District. According to al-Jehafi, he never expected terror to develop to the use of arms against journalists in such a horrifying way. He has shown curiosity over such a technique and using it against journalists and insisted on the Yemeni journalists not keep silent but they should strongly denounce such misconducts that harm democracy and the freedom of the press. He further called on journalists to not fear such acts of vandalism and to continue their mission, criticize corruption and disclose the facts, however the circumstances are. The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) issued a statement on the incidence and described it as horrifying, particularly since it was plotted against a journalist. This attack is pondered upon as a dangerous indicator of using violence against journalists and hassling their role reflected in criticizing illegal practices and corruption. The incidence came after a series of threats against Shihab al-Ahdal, al-Nihar's Editor-in-Chief and Haj'e al-Jehafi, Managing Editor of the Newspaper as well as the other staff

members for publishing articles criticizing the illegal practices of sheikhs and influential persons, said the YJS's statement. The YJS notified the Ministry of Interior and the Office of the Attorney General about the series of threats that culminated with such a tragic incidence. Al-Nihar Newspaper filed a complaint to Minister of Interior holding Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Mansour accountable for the assault. The newspaper notified the parties concerned that its staff members received several threats and its managing editor was threatened directly. A statement issued by the Newspaper urged the concerned authorities to take legal measures against the perpetrators and provide protection for journalists. It is worth noting that al-Nihar Newspaper has been tried on a case sued against it by Sheikh Mansour over the publishing of articles criticizing the arbitrary conducts and oppression Sheikh Mansour practices upon his locals. The YJS organized on Wednesday July 20 a sit-in pulling together a large number of journalists to express their denunciation over threats and attacks on al-Nihar staff members.

Middle East Trading Company obtains Quality Certificate

The Intal Quality Certification PVT Ltd Organization, one of the international organizations concerned with quality tests, awarded "the Quality Management System Standard Iso 9001-2000" to the Middle East Trading Company, one of the pioneering companies in the field of marketing and distributing the domestic and imported products.

"The Quality Management System Standard" is one of the significant measures for assessing comprehensive quality systems across the world.

Mr. Wa'el Saeed Director General of the Middle East Trading Company said the company's being conferred this certificate is an evidence of its application of the international quality standards.

Since it was established, the company, he added, has set the systems of quality management among its top priorities, and the company through such achievement asserts its being committed to improving and updating its products, as well as meeting the requirements of obtaining such an international certificate.

"You are the guest of Yemen's tourism" Al-Hashimi Internationa Group launches new branch

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Minister of Culture and Tourism Khalid al-Rowaishan inaugurated a few days ago the new branch of al-Hashimi International Group "You are the guest of Yemen's tourism".

Inaugurating the new branch, al-Rowaishan said: "Today is one of a series of the successful days of tourism Yemen witnesses and hopes the private sector to perform its role in a better way for promoting the Arab tourism in general and the Yemeni one in specific."

Al-Hashimi International Group is a typical example of the tourist activities and it will offer all the required facilities for supporting the private sector in this respect.

Ibrahim Sa'eed Fadhil, Head of World Tourist Services in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia partook in launching the Tourist Office at al-Hashimi International Group "You are the guest of Yemen's tourism"

Mr. Ibrahim Fadhil stressed that al-Hashimi International Group has joint work and activities with some tourist agencies in Saudi Arabia and hoped

such efforts to offer wonderful services in the field of Omrah.

He insisted on the provision of varied service means in the tourist sector, pointing out that Dr. Salim Atteyah, Chairman of al-Hashimi International Group devoted all his time and efforts to serve its nation.

For her part, Ms. Monit Yudo, General Manager of Marketing and Tourism Department at al-Hashimi International Group, signaled out that she and all the employees at the office of "You are the guest of Yemen's tourism" keep on contact with over 400 hundred tourist companies all over the world for coordinating and reciprocating tourist services with Yemen.

Dr. Salim Atteyah, Chairman of al-Hashimi International Group, she added, shouldered the responsibility of the tourist sector and attracting tourists into Yemen. He devoted all his efforts and proved to work for 16 hours a day for promoting the Yemeni tourism.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by a number of officials, businessmen and people interested in tourism.

Vocational training & skills development fund role Should be enhanced

The ministry of technical and vocational education along with Vocational Training & Skills Development Fund (SDF) cooperated with the World Bank held on Wednesday 13 July held a workshop to activate the role of SDF that took place in Saba'a Hotel.

Mr. Abualwahab AL-Akel, deputy minister of technical and vocational education, opened the workshop and said "Today's workshop aims at summarizing the previous experience since the establishment of the Fund in 1995 till today, giving a chance to the ministry to appropriately rebuild the Fund to activate it and enhance its role in developing the technical and vocational education. And this is one of the activities that the ministry wants to integrate it with World Bank new project that we still negotiate with the Bank and we hope to be implanted next year. This is also within the gov-

ernment attempts to have the sufficient funds to implement the national strategy to raise the capacity of the technical and vocational education in Yemen to %15 out of the outputs of the general education."

Eng. Saeed AL-Khulaidi, technical local expert of the national strategy of the technical and vocational education, commented "This workshop comes to enhance the institutional infrastructure for SDF that is considered one of the basic contents of second technical training project that is financed by the World Bank. The workshop aims at coming up with a clear vision for all the parts involving in the SDF. There are a number of papers presented by the ministry, private sector and the World Bank. The general aim is to come up with a unified image to enable SDF to carry out its role that it has been established for that is the participation of the private sector in the process of funding and investing the technical education in Yemen.

AL-Khulaidi further said "There are strategic vision that is prepared by the ministry represents in the national

strategy of technical and vocational education that covers five element dimensions, responding and equal opportunities, conjunction with labor markets, develop the institutional capacities, improve the abilities of training institutions, and funding. In addition there is a long-term program to raise the capacity of the vocational and training education to 15% of the education outputs by 2014.

AL-Khulaidi concluded "The second training project comes as a completion for the first training project that started in 1997 and focused on foundation, structure and preparation in the training establishments in the ministry of technical and vocational education as well as cadre rehabilitation. However, the current project that is being prepared and expected to be launched by the end of 2005 has four contents, enhance the capacities of small establishments, finding specializations in the technical field that meet the labor market. Training the trainers in the training institutions, and the last one that is the aim of today workshop is to improve the institutional infrastructure of SDF".

Graduation party cancelled

Hundreds of Economy and Trade students in Khamer College affiliated to Sana'a University came back yesterday disappointedly after their graduation party was canceled. The cancellation was a result of official curfew that prevents assemblies. This has come as a consequence to declaring the economic price hikes. Fearing that their gathering may be seen as a form of demonstration against the dose, the students were forced to hand their uniforms to the collage department. According to the students the principals were afraid of the reaction of the tribes after the economic crises, therefore for the safety of the students they decided to cancel the party.

Media and human development

The ministry of information along with the ministry of Planning & International Cooperation and World Bank organized on Sunday 17 July a workshop about the developmental media within the concepts of the human development and society partnership.

A number of official and private representatives of media attended the workshop that took place in the media

center. Mr. Hussein Muqbil, the deputy of the ministry of information for technical affairs, pointed out that the means of media have played a key role in rising awareness and tackling the issues of the national strategy for alleviating poverty.

He stressed on the importance that the Yemeni media in all its types should update the current concepts and ideologies of the human development and attempt to create a true and effective partnership among the society to enhance the positive role of the developmental programs and process.

There were three papers presented in the workshop. Dr. Abdallah AL-Zalab, the dean of Mass Media Communication and Qualifying Institute, presented a paper entitled "Developmental media in Yemen within the concepts of the human development and society partnership" and Mr. Mohammed AL-Areqi, Editor in AL-Thowara newspaper, presented a paper "Environmental Media and Sustainable Development" while Mr. Abdualmalik Al-Arashi, deputy of head of Sana'a Radio, introduced a paper "The Role of the Official Media in the Development in Yemen" and Mr. Taha Al-Salehi, the general manager of the planning, researches and information, presented a paper about "Media Relationship with the Development".

Fourth International Car Exhibition launched

By YEMEN TIMES

SANA'A- the Fourth International Car Exhibition was inaugurated last Monday at Sana'a Expo Hall for International Exhibitions with the participation of a number of world car companies.

The exhibition, which featured a great economic phenomenon, was inaugurated by the Yemeni Minister of Transportation.

The government's refusal to reduce custom fees caused a shock on the participating companies. It had its negative impacts on the car companies that hoped to sell considerable quantities of their commodities.

Omar Thabit, Agent of Nissan and Peugeot companies, taking part in the exhibition, confirmed that the non-reduction of custom fees had its negative effects on the participating companies and purchasers as well.

Nissan Company, he added, started to sell its products to individuals and institutions in Yemen, and that the problem experienced in Yemeni is not caused by car trafficking, but by the trafficking of car parts.

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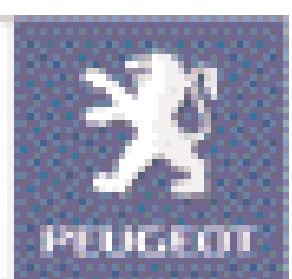
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Judiciary: Crippled institutions that can't do their work properly

YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ

The judiciary's mission is to resolve disputes and establish justice. When this institution fails to do its duty properly, it becomes a means of oppression.

Yemeni judiciary is rotten to the core. People don't trust it, and don't like to resort their cases to it. Why did it reach this miserable state?

We try to shed light on this problem and explore defects and the reform prospects. We spoke to judges, lawyers, and people. Here are their opinions:

Waiting for years

Qartala; a Yemeni lady said that she has been waiting for twelve years now for her verdict to be carried out. The high court had ruled in her case 12 years ago, but her opponent knows people in the judiciary who often disrupt carrying out her case. She thinks that if this verdict is

against a simple person, it would have been carried out long ago.

Karima Al-Ghashm, another lady says that she has been waiting for nine years for her verdict to be carried out. During this period, three heads of high court had been appointed in this post and none of them could carry out her verdict.

Cheating and extortion

We met Hamoud in a corner in the high court. He accused the court secretaries of cheating. They often work as tax collectors. They extort people.

The court secretary said my papers are lost though, I gave him three thousand Yemeni Rials. I complained to his seniors three times but nothing happened.

Lack of trust

Procrastination in ruling the cases or carrying them out lead many people to find other ways for resolving their



Ahmed Aqeel

Ali Salem

problems. A man from the village of Alagios- Shara'b confirmed that he resolved his case in his own way. His brother was murdered. The killer ran to the mountains. "I didn't go to judiciary or any other state institutions because they delay cases, he said. We destroyed the killer's house and chased him to the mountains. Now we are besieging him till we find a way of killing him.

Lawyers : Judiciary is not independent, and it is impartial

Judiciary corruption

The point of view of most of those we have met, confirm that judiciary is corrupted.

Mahmoud Shaif said: Yemeni judiciary is jelly like. Some judges are unconscience. Some of the courts are like commission offices.

Ahmed Aqeel (legal consultant) confirms this by saying that the Yemeni judiciary is rarely fair, because of corruption.

Nabil Al-Mahfadi from Albaidha thinks that the cases in the courts are

not resolved, and if they are resolved, they won't be executed properly.

Ali Salem, (a lawyer) says: resolutions that are not carried out and corrupted judges that are not held accountable. There are people who are beyond the power of law.

Judiciary is not independent

If this is the case in the Yemeni judiciary, how can it be resolved?

Ahmed Abdullah Alshami (lawyer) attributes the judiciary dependence to lack of qualification and training of judges and staffers personnel. The judiciary transfer is also to blame. Some judges are transferred to positions other than their specializations. A commercial judge for instance will be transferred to a penal post, while a traffic judge will be transferred to a commercial one.

Ali Salim also a lawyer agrees that the reason of the disorder is the dependency, because there is no separation between the three powers, as in article (147) of the constitution.

Nahla Al qadasi (lawyer) says that one of the impedances is that some judges don't believe in the woman's ability to be a lawyer. This obstructs our commitments

towards our clients. Also courts locations amid crowded market places, and the narrow court rooms, doesn't give a chance for easy procedure, and leads to tension and psychological unrest that give an impression of unreal procedures.

Bribery became a must

Consultant Ahmed Aqeel : Attributes the judicial disorders to three factors: The corrupt judge inside the judiciary system. He sees the litigant parties as sources of income. There are also corrupt judicial assistants, staffers and secretaries. The litigants also play a role by bribing the judges. Abdul fatah Aqeel (lawyer) has the same point of view. He says: The real flaw in judiciary is in the staffers. They don't follow the right procedures. They trifle with the litigants files for the sake of bribery. The judiciary fees law warrants ten thousand Rials for copying a paper from a file, but the clerks photocopy it for only one thousand. He confirms that the main reason for corruption in the judiciary is the bribery. The reason for its prevalence as he says is the corrupt judge. When the litigants know that there is a corrupt judge, they get scared, not from their opponents but from the judge himself. They bribe him in order to be secured from his harm.

The citizens do not claim their rights

The public and the lawyers accused the administration and court staffers to be the source of corruption because they cheat people. We faced them with these accusations. Here are their responses.

Abdul Salam Shamsan (Taiz appeal court secretary, Personal Status section). He said :

The duty of a court secretary is to prepare a synopsis of the case after the minute of the case is written and signed by the judge or head of the court.

Then the synopsis is handed over to the judge together with the file. The judge will certainly know if there is any fraud, because he compares it with the file. The case's owner can complain to the judge if he finds a fraud in his case. He admitted that there could be fraud, but he blames chiefs (Aqil Alhara), and the security for that, because they don't inform the plaintiff of the time of their cases. The citizens are also responsible for trying to give bribes to some of the weak willed.

Half the World

By Women's National Committee



Gender equality in Yemen: women and education

The Yemen government has made a considerable effort to enhance primary education in the past decade. Both national and donor funds have been invested towards improving access and quality of education through various interventions. In the period between 2000-2005, gender equity in education was actively pursued through the Second Five year plan, 2000-2005, the National Strategy for Improving primary education (part of the Education for All initiative) and through the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction. The National Strategy for Girls Education, 1998, focuses on increasing primary education opportunities for girls and aimed to increase the rate of enrollment to 80% in 2025. Despite these initiatives education of girls in Yemen lags far behind that of boys both in primary as well as secondary education. In the following section we focus on the specific challenges in achieving gender parity in education as per the MDG commitments.

Primary education

To begin with, the rate of the first grade enrollment (6 year olds) has increased very clearly from (49.8%) of the universal enrollment in 2000 to (56.45%) in 2003. The male net enrollment has increased from 41% in 2001 to 61.2% in 2003 while the net female rate of enrollment increased from 24.85% in 2000 to 51.20% in 2003. These steep increases in enrollment has been made possible largely due to the fact that 6-14 age group comprises 40.5% of the total population.

Despite the 3.94% increase in overall primary enrollment gender inequality persist in education. Although, the gender gap in primary enrollment decreased from 37.18 in 90/91 to 24.79 in 2002, the female enrollment rate in the first year of basic education was only 75% of the male enrollment rate in 2002 (refer table 1). Inconsistencies between the Primary Education Strategy which aims at only 90% coverage of girls enrollment in primary education in the 6-14 age group and the MDG objective of 100% is worth mentioning. Moreover, there is no specific mechanism to ensure achievement of this goal.

As is evident there has been an overall increase in primary enrollment in the past few years. It is also quite clear that boys enrollment has benefited much more from the overall thrust to increase primary education while girls primary enrollment continues to lag behind. The gap in female and male intake rate is another good enrollment parity indicator and indicates the extent to which gender equality is being achieved in recent years.

Gross Intake Rate in Primary Education

Both boys and girls intake rates in the past few years have increased in large measure to the emphasis on improving primary school education. Boys are making greater gains from these new opportunities in access to education, while the girls primary intake rate continues to lag behind. The gender parity gap is over 30 percentage points as recent as 2001. If the new resources and opportunities in education are to be equitably distributed, to achieve gender parity in enrollment it would require specific intervention designed to increase girl children primary enrollment intake rates

This is serious cause for concern if the gender equity goals in the MDGs are to be achieved. The main focus of the gender inequality in the MDGs is enrollment parity. 'Gender parity is achieved when the same proportion of girls and boys in the primary and secondary age groups are enrolled in school'. Another important factor to be taken into account is the huge gender gap in the rural areas with female enrollment in cities doing much better (see Annexure 1).

Secondary Education

While fulfilling the gender parity in enrollment in primary education is a top priority, the problem becomes aggravated in post-primary level.

Participation in Secondary

Overall, there are a fewer children that complete primary school and con-

tinue on to secondary or post-primary. More especially for girls, there are far fewer that are able to continue to acquire specific qualifications and skills which will undermine their ability to compete in the labour market. If girls are to maximize on the larger macro-economic growth and employment opportunities in the forthcoming years, a major push in secondary education would be critical in meeting this challenge. The absence of appropriate technical and vocational training accounts for the low rate of females in the technical secondary enrollment with only 407 female students (10% in 2001).

Educational attainment/completion

If girl children do manage to enroll in schools, there is no guarantee that they will complete the education cycle. Drop-out and completion are important aspects or dimensions in assessing the scale of the problem/challenges towards ensuring gender parity in educational achievements. This would assist in designing appropriate policy interventions and programmes to avoid wastage of scarce resources.

Gender inequality gap in completion rate persist both in primary and secondary education as evinced in the figures in the table. The gender gap appears to be more stark in the secondary level than the primary, with less than half of the girls going on to finish Grade 9. We may infer from this, that chances of girls remaining in school diminishes as they make the transition to post-primary and higher up the grades. This is serious cause for concern as Swainson points out 'many of the health and empowerment benefits of education are not unlocked until girls have progressed to secondary level' (A Fair Chance to Girls Education, pg. 17).

Easy access to educational services is perhaps one of the major barriers that prevent girl children from going to schools especially in those governorates where the terrain is difficult and poorly serviced. Families fear for the safety of their daughters - risk of harassment by strangers and difficulty encountered in travel - result in girls being withdrawn from school. The increase in rural drop-out rates among females can be attributed to the absence of gender segregated schools/classes and teachers inability to motivate girls in co-educational schools. 85% of schools in rural areas and 60% in urban being are co-educational schools ignoring this barrier to girl's education.

Presence of female teachers has an important influence in both girl children enrollment in schools as well as retention. Both from the point of view of families feeling more secure with female teachers and their ability to act as role models and motivate girls in the learning process. Currently there are far fewer female teachers than male teachers. The percentage of female teachers in the cities is only 52% of the total number of urban male teachers, while the percentage for rural areas is only 8.6%. The total number of female teachers both in cities and suburbs are a mere 21% of salaried male teachers employed by the Ministry of Education. Gender-neutral recruitment policies and process lead to men outnumbering women at all levels of the education system.

High cost of schooling is a major constraint with families contributing as much as 45% of their income towards education result in their not wishing to send their girl children to school. This is particularly relevant to poor families in rural areas with low incomes. Inability to afford the financial burden of enrolling girls in schools in terms of expenses towards uniforms, fees, travel and other related expenses is a major obstacle in girl children's education. This is also accompanied with a strong son preference.

A final point, the actual number of children who have never attended primary school is distressing - a little short of 50% (male: 46.79% and female: 47.24%). While the variation in gender gap between female and male is not large, this is a major challenge as an estimated 46% of Yemen's population comprises of the young and will be new entrants in the work force. Absence of rural-urban break-up is a major handicap in making an accurate assessment on the scale and nature of the problem.

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Despite some gains, setbacks in a number of key countries, including the United States

Study finds decline in global press freedom

NEW YORK, (Freedom House)—While press freedom registered important gains in some key countries in 2004, notable setbacks occurred in the United States and elsewhere in the Americas, according to a major study released today by Freedom House. Increased restrictions were also detected in parts of Asia, Africa, and the former Soviet Union.

The study, "Freedom of the Press 2005: A Global Survey of Media Independence," revealed that gains outnumbered setbacks, as measured by shifts among the survey's three main categories: Free, Partly Free and Not Free. Improvements took place in countries where new democratic openings have been achieved or are burgeoning, such as in Ukraine and Lebanon. Several countries in the Middle East showed positive trends.

However, the overall level of press freedom worldwide—as measured by global average score—worsened, continuing a three-year downward trend according to the survey. Notable setbacks took place in Pakistan, Kenya, Mexico, Venezuela, and in the world's most powerful democracy, the United States.

While the United States remained one of the strongest performers in the survey, its numerical score declined due to a number of legal cases in which prosecutors sought to compel journalists to reveal sources or turn over notes or other material they had gathered in the course of investigations. Additionally, doubts concerning official influence over media content emerged with the disclosures that several political commentators received grants from federal agencies, and that the Bush administration had significantly increased the practice of distributing government-produced news segments.

"Even in established democracies, press freedom should not be taken for granted," said Freedom House Executive Director Jennifer Windsor. "It must be defended and nurtured."

Data from the report and detailed country narratives are available [HYPERLINK "http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/pressurvey.htm"](http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/pressurvey.htm) online.

The report was released in advance of World Press Freedom Day, on May 3.

The survey, first launched in 1980, assesses the degree of print, broadcast, and Internet freedom in every country in the world. It assigns each country a numerical score from 0 to 100 that determines a category rating of Free, Partly Free, or Not Free. Ratings are determined by examining three broad categories: the legal environment in which media operate, political influences on reporting and access to information, and economic pressures on content and the dissemination of news. The survey analyzes events during the 2004 calendar year.

Global Trends

Out of the 194 countries and territories examined, 75 (39 percent) were rated Free, while 50 (26 percent) were rated Partly Free and 69 (35 percent) were rated Not Free.

According to the survey, five countries improved in category while two declined. In addition to Ukraine and Lebanon, Guatemala and Guinea-Bissau moved from Not Free to Partly Free, while Namibia moved from Partly Free to Free. Only two countries—Pakistan and Kenya—registered a negative category shift in 2004, moving from Partly Free to Not Free.

"The Kenya example serves as a reminder that gains in press freedom can be easily and quickly reversed, especially in countries where democracy has yet to be fully consolidated," said Karin Deutsch Karlekar, the survey's managing editor. "And it is in these countries where a free press is a crucial ingredient for a successful transition to democracy."

Ukraine moved from Not Free to Partly Free after a popular, democratic revolution led to the relaxation of pressures on the media. Lebanon moved from Not Free to Partly Free as a result of increased diversification of private media. Other, subtler gains were noted in the Middle East, in contrast to setbacks in the Americas, Sub-Saharan

Africa, Asia, and the former Soviet Union.

In terms of population, 17 percent of the world's inhabitants live in countries that enjoy a Free press, while 38 percent have a Partly Free press and 45 percent have a Not Free press. This situation represents a decline over the past year, as the percentage of people who live in countries with a Not Free media environment has increased by 2 percent.

"Most of the world's citizens do not live in countries that enjoy vibrant, open, and unrestricted media," said Ms. Windsor. "Therefore, it is critically important that democratic countries remain vigilant in upholding press freedom at home while actively encouraging it abroad."

Regional Trends

Americas: In the Americas, 17 countries (49 percent) were rated Free, 14 (40 percent) were rated Partly Free, and 4 (11 percent) were rated Not Free in 2004. Although just fewer than half the countries in the region have media that remain classified as Free, the percentage of countries whose media are classified as Free has slipped from 60 percent to 49 percent during the past four years.

The year 2004 presented a mixed picture in the Americas. Guatemala improved from Not Free to Partly Free after the inauguration of President Oscar Berger led to an alleviation of media intimidation. Numerical gains were also registered in Haiti following the ouster in February of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's regime.

In addition to the United States, setbacks took place in Argentina, Peru, Mexico—where four journalists were killed in 2004—and Venezuela, where a new media law was passed that mandated large fines for broadcasting various forms of "prohibited" content.

Asia Pacific: The Asia Pacific region exhibited a relatively high level of freedom, with 18 countries (45 percent) rated Free, 7 (17.5 percent) rated Partly Free, and 15 (37.5 percent) rated Not Free. In population terms, the outlook is less positive; only seven percent of Asia's population had access to Free media in 2004, primarily because of Not Free China's large population. Asia is also home to two of the worst rated countries in the world, Burma and North Korea, which have extremely repressive media environments.

Pakistan dropped from Partly Free to Not Free because of increased official harassment of journalists and media outlets, in addition to passage of a bill that increased penalties for defamation. The moves followed other aggressive measures taken over the last two years by military authorities to silence critical or investigative voices in the media. A number of journalists have been pressured to resign from prominent publications, charged with sedition, or arrested and intimidated by intelligence officials while in custody. Conditions also worsened in Nepal, where members of the press continued to be caught in the middle of a brutal civil war between government forces and Maoist insurgents. In Thailand, numerical declines were registered due to defamation lawsuits filed against editors and publishers. Indonesia's score declined because journalists were increasingly subject to civil and criminal libel suits during the year and were prevented from reporting events from the restive province of Aceh, where mobs attacked editorial offices. Positive trends were noted in Afghanistan, where the adoption of a new constitution in January led to increased legal protections for the press and the right to free expression.

Central and Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Union: In Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, 8 countries (30 percent) were classified as Free, 9 (33 percent) as Partly Free, and 10 (37 percent) as Not Free.

The situation for the press in the former Soviet Union remained deeply troubled in 2004. Russia remained in the Not Free category after being downgraded in 2003 in the wake of government consolidation of broadcast media and the use of legislative and financial pressures to restrict critical coverage, particularly on sensitive topics such as the war in Chechnya.

Media in Central Asia remained severely repressed in 2004. However, in a positive development in the former Soviet sphere, Ukraine, which had been downgraded to Not Free in the 2003 survey, reversed course following the November 2004 "Orange Revolution" and was upgraded to Partly Free.

Middle East and North Africa: The Middle East and North Africa region continued to show the lowest region-wide ratings, with 1 country (5 percent)—Israel-rated Free, 2 (11 percent) rated Partly Free, and 16 (84 percent)—including the Israeli-Occupied Territories and Palestinian Authority-rated Not Free.

In addition to Lebanon's upgrade from Not Free to Partly Free, the Middle East in 2004 showed an overall improvement as measured by regional average score. Modest numerical improvements were noted in Egypt, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, as the continued explosive growth of Arab satellite television provided inhabitants of the region with more diverse and unfiltered news. However, negative trends were observed in Yemen, where a crackdown against the media led to the closure of several newspapers and the jailing of a prominent journalist. Backsliding also took place in Iraq, which registered significant numerical gains in 2003. Political instability and escalating violence in 2004 led to the deaths of over two dozen Iraqi and foreign journalists and media workers, while unanswered questions about the power and role of new institutions created to regulate the media also continued to constrain press freedom.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Overall, 8 countries (17 percent) were rated Free, 16 (33 percent) were rated Partly Free, and 24 (50 percent) remain rated Not Free.

The greatest movement in this year's survey took place in Sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya, a country that had been upgraded in 2003 during its democratic transition, returned to the Not Free category following a government crackdown on the tabloid press at the start of 2004. The Kenyan government also failed to liberalize the country's draconian media laws. The passage of restrictive media legislation led to a numerical decline in The Gambia. Negative trends were noted in Cote d'Ivoire, where journalists were subject to increased harassment and intimidation amid escalating tension between government and rebel forces. However, Namibia was upgraded from Partly Free to Free with the decline of abuses against journalists, and Guinea-Bissau was upgraded from Not Free to Partly Free after a change in government led to an easing of conditions for the press. Togo also registered a small numerical improvement during the year after the government passed positive amendments to an extremely restrictive media law.

Western Europe: Western Europe continued to boast the highest level of press freedom worldwide. In 2004, 23 countries (92 percent) were rated Free and 2 (8 percent) were rated Partly Free.

The media environment in most countries remained stable, while Turkey, which is Partly Free, saw a modest numerical improvement during the year. Press freedom in Italy, which was downgraded to Partly Free in 2003, remained constrained by the dominant influence of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's media holdings.

Worst of the Worst

The five worst rated countries in 2004 were Burma, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, and Turkmenistan. In these states, independent media are either nonexistent or barely able to operate. The role of the press is reduced to serving as a mouthpiece for the ruling regime, and citizens' access to unbiased information is severely limited.

Press freedom conditions also remained dire in Belarus, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Sudan, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe, where authoritarian governments used legal pressure, imprisonment, and other forms of harassment to severely curtail the ability of independent media to report freely.

Continued from page 1

Price hike enrages public: photos



President's son nomination will be a setback

There is a great defiance facing the Yemeni political arena, because an opposition candidate to run the next elections is out of the question now.

It is worth mentioning that the president has asked the Yemeni political organizations, including the PGC (his ruling party) to prepare their Young contenders to run this contest. He called for the preparation of the younger generations on the concept of peaceful alternation of power.

An opposition source who prefers not to be disclosed told Yemen Times that the President mentioned in his speech the young leadership; he wonders if this is not an implicit pose to his son Ahmed, who is the commander of the republican guard. He confirmed that the nomination of the president's son will be a great embarrassment for him, a thing that will undermine his bright history.

Yemen has abundant qualified leaders to lead it. The nomination of the president's son signifies that he means to leave the power by will, to his son, and he wants to referee this inheritance while he is alive.

No one thinks that the president will accept this matter in the light of his great achievements he has done for Yemen, which will create a Yemeni Mandela out of him.

An opposition source welcomed the president's announcement, adding that the president is aiming at exposing the opposition's inability to name a candidate that they will consensually back in the next presidential elections. He added that the opposition parties are not apt to any sort of agreement. They didn't, till now even agree on the reform project that they adopted.

The source expected that, the president's announcement is an attempt to distract opposition media from the criticism that they have lately launched against him.

On the other hand a leading figure in the Yemeni Socialist party has doubted the credibility of the president's announcement. Mr. Al-Sarary, media secretary of the socialist party, said that the president's announcement is just an early electoral campaign as a reaction for the strong press criticism in the independent newspapers. Al-

Sarary expected that the president will run the next elections with a shadow contender, as that which happened in the elections of 1999. He said that the president is still monopolizing power. If he decides to leave office, he will hand it over to his son. He continued to say that after 27 years of ruling, it is now time for a change. He called for the president to arrange for a peaceful transfer of power, by preparing for free elections, paving the way for Yemen to enter a new era. Dr. Abdulla Altarab head of the European group for marketing and development has expressed skepticism of what the president said, because the president is not eligible to run any elections after this one, according to the constitution. He thinks it is an ultimatum for political powers to agree on one nominee.

A source in the opposition said the president has responded to demonstrator's demand twice before, when he announced his desire to leave office. They were driven by political parties demanding his return. The lethal dose left no room this time

Yemeni tried for being Bin Laden's driver

The decision was the latest chapter in the 3-year-old legal struggle over presidential powers to detain and sometimes put on trial so-called enemy combatants in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said the court validated a Bush administration distinction "between terrorists and those who legitimately wage war."

Hamdan's lawyers vowed to appeal. Both sides have said they expect the issue to ultimately reach the U.S. Supreme Court. The full 12-member Appeals Court could hear the case first. It was unclear, however, whether the Defense Department would reconvene its so-called Military Commissions in the interim. The defense team protested Friday's decision, saying it "gives the president the raw authority to expand military tribunals without limit, threatening the system of international law and armed conflict worldwide." At issue is the Bush administration's decision to draw up a new formula for Military Commissions that borrows from both World War I and World War II experiences.

Friday's decision overruled U.S. District Court Judge James Robertson, a Navy veteran who was appointed by President Clinton. He ridiculed Bush's war court as providing fewer protections than the Pentagon's own Uniform Code of Military Justice and ruled that the

president cannot unilaterally create commissions or confer a blanket category of enemy combatants on captives. The appeals court replied that, even if Congress has not formally declared war, it has granted the president power to craft a military commission. Friday's decision in the case of Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Yemeni alleged to have been Osama bin Laden's driver, cleared the way for the military commissions to resume. Hamdan was the first to face a military trial in August 2004 after U.S. officials alleged that he helped the al Qaeda leader ferry weapons and flee after the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Hamdan has been charged with murder, terrorism, conspiracy to commit attacks on civilians and civilian objects, and destruction of property by an unprivileged belligerent.

According to a Pentagon news release, military proceedings will also resume against David Hicks, an Australian detainee who has been charged with conspiracy to commit attacks on civilians and civilian objects, attempted murder by an unprivileged belligerent, and aiding the enemy. Pentagon officials have said Hicks trained in Albania in 1999 with the Kosovo Liberation Army and fought for Albanian Muslims. He later converted from Christianity to Islam and in early 2001, attended al

Qaeda terrorist training camps in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon said it normally takes 50 days for an appeals court to issue a mandate that lifts a district court stay, such as in the Hamdan case. The administration might ask for an immediate mandate so commission trials could resume sooner. In addition to Mr. Hamdan and Mr. Hicks, the Pentagon named two detainees as facing trial: Yemeni-born Ali Hamza Ahmad Sulayman al Bahlul and Sudanese Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi. Each is charged with murder and conspiring to launch attacks on civilians.

Mr. Bush has designated eight other Guantanamo detainees for trial, and the Pentagon said charges would be filed. The special Office of Military Commissions at the Pentagon already has filed charges against Mr. Hamdan and Mr. Hicks.

The charges say Mr. Hamdan met bin Laden in 1996 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, the spiritual headquarters of the hard-line Taliban regime. Mr. Hamdan became a bodyguard, driver and dispenser of weapons to al Qaeda members.

In Mr. Hicks' case, the charges say he converted to Islam from Christianity in Australia. He traveled to Afghanistan in early 2001 and attended al Qaeda terrorist training camps. He engaged in combat against U.S. forces before being captured.

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Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINIONWho is it
going to be?

Earlier this week, exactly on Sunday Mr. President gathered a huge group of government officials, diplomats, civil society and NGOs to a session in which he delivered a speech on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of his rule. He narrated the various stages in which his regime had gone through highlighting the achievements especially the Yemeni unity, multiparty system, democracy and human rights. He encouraged true and justified opposition, women's participation and stressed on the need to fight poverty with the help of international community. He called on the international community not to interfere in Yemen's internal affairs. And that if they really want to help Yemen they should do it either through official channels or through authentic civil societies. His final note, which was the point that attracted a lot of side talk was when he declared that he no longer will be running for presidency. He promised that he would do his best to complete the remaining of his time which is a year and two months the best to his ability. He said something interesting, he said: "Why do revolutions take place? They take place because someone stayed in power for too long. It's been 27 years for me and you must have gotten bored of me and I of you. It is time for new blood, for young educated people to replace us as we have grown old and tired."

When he said this, a number of people stood up and emotionally objected to this talk saying that they want him forever. I am sure that those people are not the representative of the whole Yemeni population, but they were a representation of majority of the people attending the speech. Ironically enough, a few days after his speech the long feared price hike was announced. Thousands of people yesterday were on the streets nervous and angry with the doubling of prices, it seems this was the final nail hammered in the Yemeni people's coffin during Mr. Saleh's regime.

Peaceful passing of power is a phenomenon Yemen has never known before. It would be really fascinating to have someone new with new ideas and strategies. Someone who can continue on the current achievements and help the Yemeni economy. It is possible to overcome the current situation, Yemen has so much potential that have been misused and abused because of corruption. If the new man would be able to get rid of corruption, reform the judiciary system and instate justice and equality then everything will be fine. But who will it be? Who is the future hero? Is there anyone ready and qualified enough? Will he be able to make up for the damages? And if so will he be given a chance truly or is this just talk? And if he is given a chance officially will the people cooperate and trust him? What if it is a her?

So many questions came to my mind as I heard Mr. President's speech, it was well said and it felt genuine. Some times too good to be true, and it left me thinking, what a difference there is between talk and real life. And who will calm the burning hearts in the streets.

The Editorial Board



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Oil and politics

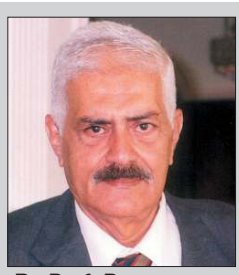
Future of oil in Yemen

When questioning the future

of oil in Yemen, the key question is the accuracy of the figures announced by the Yemeni government in terms of revenues and exports. In response to such doubts the Oil Investment Authority sug-

gests that the World Bank and International Monetary Fund manipulate these figures for their own purposes. If their diplomatic relations with Yemen are good, they say Yemen's reserves are in good order, and if not, they say oil is going to deplete. Being an economist, I put it that Yemen's economy is promising and will further thrive if Yemen is able to market itself well, find at least a partial resolution to the blight of corruption, and overhaul the national economy. Yemen is virgin. Gulf States are saturated. Many foreign and Arab businessmen are expected to rush to our country if we have self-respect and reduce bureaucracy. We should urge businessmen to compete for the welfare of the community. If an organization cannot compete locally, it cannot find any ground outside. With the membership of the World Trade Organization and the Arab Wider Trade Area Agreement, products and services will come to our markets. Citizens will look for the price, quality and brand. A large portion of our industry does not consider those three points. We shouldn't search for ISO with its different grades. There is no point in paying for the right to manufacture certain products without being able to export them. I once reproached Malaysian companies for the low quality products they export to our country. They replied that local importers want them so. We should differentiate between industry and trade.

Coming to oil, we should always remember that this is the master issue and it is highly politicized. For example, we heard in the 50's that Yemen had oil. A British company came but was not allowed to extract it. After independence, an Algerian company came and then an Italian one. It was rumoured there was Soviet pressure because the Italian company of Ajeeb was owned by the Italian Communist Party. Oil was not extracted. On the other hand, we fought with Saudi Arabia over a piece of land in Shabwa province. Technical reports had told the Saudis that the Saudi reserves travel towards this area of Yemen. Thus, with the fact that Saudi Arabia recovers

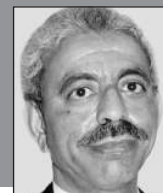


By Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

large quantities of oil, how can we expect that oil in Yemen shall deplete? If we cannot raise the living standard of people, oil should remain underground until the political resolution matures and we become able to make use of oil. The President's statement was based on the reports submitted by the concerned authorities. At the lecture, I argued objectively until I could snatch a confession from the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA) representatives who said that neither in 2009 nor in 2012 oil will have depleted and that Yemen is a growth region. I questioned the existing figures and procured other figures from sources in the European Association. The future is bright and satisfactory provided that the State promotes itself regionally and internationally and reforms its economic, political, administrative and financial policies. Another critical point is the non-oil sector, Yemen is able to displace Turkey in terms of provision of vegetables and fruits for the neighbouring countries provided that we do not try to pluck premature fruits. The Ministry of Agriculture as well as the Agricultural Cooperatives Union should shoulder this duty. The State failed to market them nor was it able to qualify private companies in this sector. In tourism, Yemen has got many advantages, which can yield many times oil revenues. Consider tourist revenues in Tunisia and Morocco. Tourism needs security and suitable accommodation not necessarily five star service. We should train tourist guides and establish companies that provide related services. We should run an intensive campaign underscoring the importance of "Made in Yemen," in order to be able to market our products. Honey and coffee are high quality and luxury products the world over. Yemen's fisheries is a lucrative source of wealth but is in need of regulation. Jordan and Egypt have large demands for fish not to mention Europe. Existing economic councils have to be reconsidered. Those that are ineffective are dispensable. Yemen can make great profits from the fishery and tourism, which need only reorganization. The government should offer facilities to develop these sectors. Moreover, it is not possible to depend on the local resources to rebuild the Yemeni economy. This is why encouraging investment in Yemen is crucial for economic development. Yemen's investment act is one of the best. An

investor in Yemen can be called an adventurer because he enters an unknown market. Pleased with the law, he hastens to do his enterprise but gets obstructed by bureaucracy and corruption under the guise of 'partnership.' Some complained to me that officers modify some submitted studies and present them under other names. This is wrong. Many businessmen showed their readiness to enter the Yemeni market but they want the law to be implemented. We need judicial reform and arbitration councils, the latter can be headed by economists and not judges. These are the concerns of investors. We should begin where others ended and not where they began. The largest number of investors should be involved in development. Consequently, the private sector, what I call business sector, is the maker of development. One of the problems is lack in economic identity. The business sector has to keep away from partisanship (e.g. three brothers join three parties). Their role gets distorted because the government doesn't provide them with the proper atmosphere. Many of the businessmen are not officially businessmen. Hence, how can we speak about 2015 while we do not know what to do in the coming two months? If we do not know what the government wants, how can it be helped? Partnership between the government and the private sector cannot be achieved through a meeting or a statement. If we do not understand partnership well, foreigners will impose it on us as we are rushing for the World Trade Organization. Some say we will get profits if we join the WTO, but I doubt this since we are not yet ready for entry. We will face a blow. Currently, businessmen and businesses move here and there. There appears a gap between the State and one of its parts similar to the "Woman are half of the society" issue. So far, this subject is not adequately studied.

To overcome the current ailments, we must do the following: Boards of public establishments should be summoned. They should be informed that the government adopts the principle of reward and punishment and that the Central Organization for Control and Audit is the authority responsible to monitor their conduct. Then comes the training of staff. What is happening in the successful private establishments should be introduced into the public sector. Most of public service officials feel that the establishments they head are their own property until they die. Therefore, they do whatever they like. Renewal is important. We shouldn't seek to reproduce identical patterns.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

A chance to make
history again

"Did you hear what President Ali Abdullah Saleh said? He is not running for office again in the next Presidential Election" said Jamil to his friends in the qat chew session he frequents at his neighbor's house.

"That was really surprising to everyone I talked today. It is in fact the talk of the town", remarked the owner of the house, as he was still fixing up his regular sitting spot at the comfortable corner facing the two large windows that overlooked his nicely kept garden with a small fountain in the middle.

Jamil wanted to show the significance of the President's declared intentions: "I can tell you one thing, if nothing occurs that would change his mind, Ali Abdullah Saleh would be the first ruler to voluntarily abdicate the leadership of Yemen to another new leader and will not only enter the history books of Yemen, but the entire Arab World would be viewing this as a very important political development. The whole world would be saying that when Yemen says it is embarking on a democratic course, it really means it."

"I must admit, I was very surprised to hear it", said another of the regulars, who comes to the session everyday, even before the host, adding: "I am not sure that the country is really prepared to carry on without Ali Abdullah Saleh at the helms. There are just too many outstanding issues that need to be taken care of and quite frankly, I do not see anyone who can take over and be able to solve them."

"Look Mohammed, why with 20 plus million people in the country, Yemen I am sure can produce several who would be capable of continuing along the path of development and national unity that Ali Abdullah Saleh has led the country to follow. Besides, don't you think the President deserves the right to rest after 27 years of endless effort to lead the country towards stability and economic progress. Besides, he said that he would continue to give counsel to whatever new leadership takes over and he wants to confirm that democracy is not just a cliché word used to polish the rhetoric of the government, but a real fact of life." Jamil saw good sense in the President's decision.

The host, was now feeling more settled: "I think a lot of people would try to get the President to change his mind, either out of fear of the unpredictable future, or because they fear what a change of leadership will mean to them."

Mohammed was ready with an answer: "Look, Ali Abdullah Saleh is human and he has a right to enjoy some care free normal years in his life after having given the best years of his life for his country. Those people would not be able to convince him to change his mind, even if they gave him the most terrible scenarios of the prospects for the future without his leadership. Besides, he is right when he said that it is about time for other young loyal citizens to shoulder the responsibility. After all that is what democracy is all about?"

Jamil then said after lighting a cigarette: "I am sure that the President has taken considerable time to study this decision and he must have consulted with his advisors, supporters and staff before openly saying this to his people, without having sincere intentions of following it through. He must have a clear picture of the implications of such a decision."

"But why do you guys think he announced it so early?" inquired Mohammed, reducing his enthusiasm somewhat. The host was ready with the answer: "I think it only sensible that the President should let the Yemeni people become aware of his intentions in sufficient time to get them to brace for the new era he is envisioning for Yemen. This would allow the political process sufficient time to choose the most capable candidates for the elections and to brace the people for the most important decision they will be making in their life in the next Presidential Elections. This is a big transformation in Yemen's political history and the experience of the President has taught him that sometimes the Yemeni people need time to gear themselves for major political developments. With democracy now well in place, the President wanted to make it clear that it is here to stay, even if it means having to abdicate, when he is at the summit of his power."

"I don't know about you, but I am worried about all those who would try to suggest that the President would be doing this at the expense of all his supporters and that he was going to abandon them to an unpredictable future for them", remarked Mohammed adding: "They might even threaten to disrupt the political process if the President insisted on going through with his decision".

Jamil said: "Look, the President has time and again shown that he knows what is best for the country. He is not about to let himself be influenced by people, who only care about the narrow interests they represent, or who only care for their own political and material well being. This decision is equal to the decision on unification. Many people, even those who were close to him were against the idea, but he pulled it through and for this he had the whole Yemeni people behind him. Besides there is sufficient time for the people and the President to assess the decision and weigh it from all angles. But the most important thing is that we should thank the President for being true to his commitment for a democratic transformation of the country and for his belief that the Yemeni people in the end are capable of making the right decision as to who should lead them."

The host agreed: "The next year and two months will surely show whether the Yemeni people are capable of coming to the right decision as to who should lead them after this Presidential term is over. The most important thing to bear in mind is that the President has thrown the ball into the people's hand. The hope is that they catch it and not let it drop."



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Time for change

BY ADAM TAHA
adam_taha2000@yahoo.com

Terrorism is like the cycle of rain; it starts with the sun (our main source of heat and energy) heating the surface of the earth. Then, water evaporates from the sea and major bodies of water (such as rivers and lakes) and the water becomes vapour. Trees and plants, meanwhile, release oxygen into the atmosphere.

The top layer of water in the ocean is evaporated. Then the water vapour expands and cools as it rises and condenses to form water droplets up in the clouds. The clouds drift through the sky spreading over land and ocean. Water droplets merge with other water droplets and grow in size. As they get bigger, they get too heavy to stay in the cloud and fall to the ground. Hence, what a nation does to another country, so shall its ugliness rise, and forms into its dark cloud and drifts through the sky, but this time, it came to England.

Remember, as the cluster bombs hit Iraq, and the crying of Iraqi children and their mothers were silenced by thunder, and the earth shook, and the darkness came, and the feeling of loneliness eased in, rendering the hearts of the Iraqi people with confusion and bewilderment on why they are being punished for something they didn't do. Our lives changed and the wheel began to turn and somewhere in this world, someone was planning to hijack Islam.

The dust has settled, the blood has dried as the eyes of the world skim passed Occupied Palestine. And now, our

lives changed, and the soil of England is tainted with anger, hate, and ignorance as the media dilutes the truth, nurturing anger, hate instead of asking the right questions.

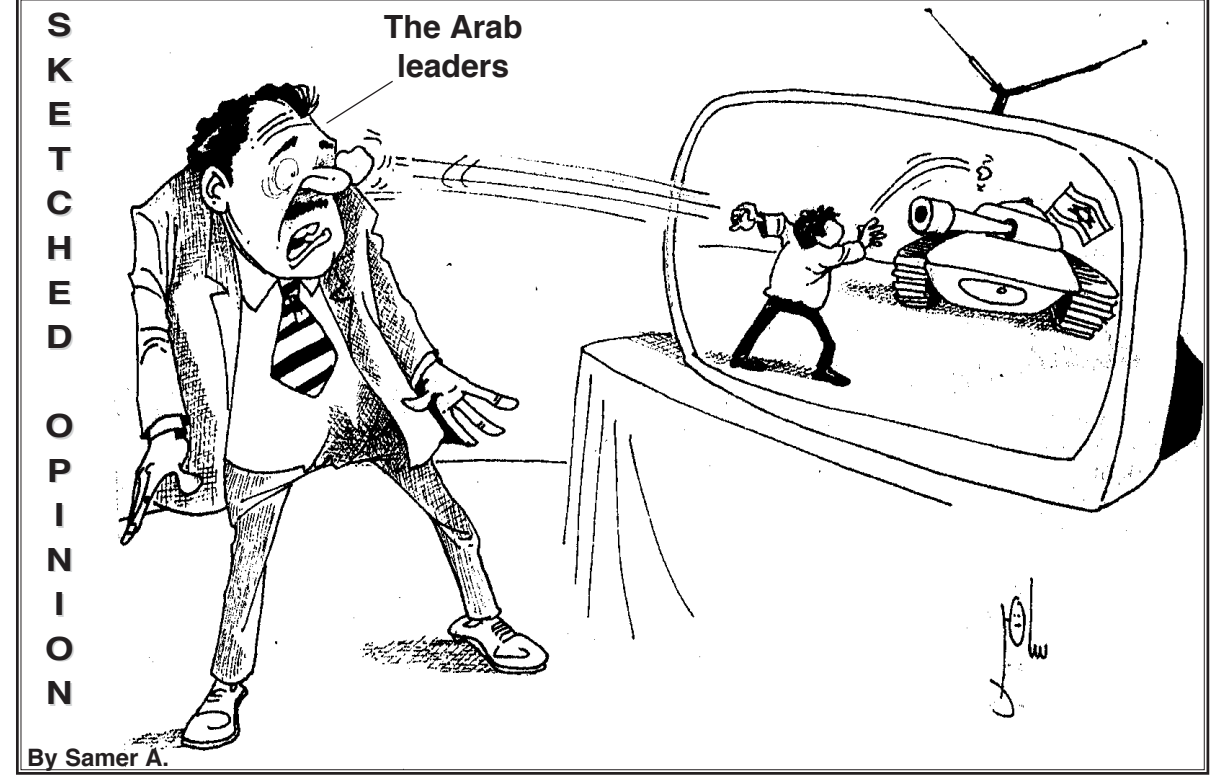
We wake up to a new day, filled with questions, blaming, and the reality that we must change into being proactive to fight against terrorism; not with an apologetic manner, but with a political understanding, that what has happened is because of the foreign policy, the war on Iraq, Occupation Palestine and the ignorance of the few. Our lives have changed and still, the mosques, institutions, committees have not woken up to an understanding that the time has come to educate our youths about the truth on Islam, media, politics and work constantly with them instead of providing them baseless government initiatives that do nothing and renders them to NOT think. If we don't, then someone else will teach them their agenda and motives.

Now, the mosques are being burnt, our youths getting angrier or beaten up to death, and our lives continue to change into a life filled with fear and the questions of 'what's next and why.' Now, we weep again not just as Muslims, but also as a nation; a mother has lost a daughter or a son, or a son and daughter have lost a father or a mother. And a friend holding to the memories of their lost friend and the new business that started with so much struggle has now disappeared under the rubble. So many will take the law in their own hands like angry blind mobs have the intellect the size of a pea. BNP will use this and milk it for all their worth, but what do you expect from ignorant fools who have no respect for the dead.

The foreign policy though many would not like to admit, is now showing what it has created. And still, USA keeps on piling the billions to Israel. We weep as an Israeli Tank kills another American and another Palestinian child is hit with bullets provided by USA as we keep on sending so much money, and not think, the power, the answer lies here, in UK and USA. We can campaign and fight politically but this takes money, leadership and commitment to vision not talk.

We wept as the world wept when we saw the twin towers being hit because we are also human beings. We wept for the children, the women, the firemen, the Policemen and women who died to save another life. We cried for each and every human being and we condemned the attack and marched we did. From all walks of life we marched, to say, "this war isn't the right way." And still, the world wanted us to apologies for something we haven't done. Who then do we blame? USA? UK? Shall we hold all to the foreign policy alone? Evil triumphs when good people do nothing. There is only one to blame now. It is all of us. Whether we are Muslims Christians, Jewish, White, Black, Americans or British. Why? Because we have for too long let those in power get away in making decisions based on lies, on flawed evidences, and have put them there without realising, we haven't finished the job yet, and we CAN take them out.

It is time; we take responsibility because though we are Muslims, we are NOT living in an alien country. This country, called England, America is our country too! We are not just its resident. Though many see these times as darker



times, I see these times that have come as something totally different.

I see it, as a new era, in which, we have so much to learn from each other, and there are pages in which history is yet to be made, and the success for peace can only be attained, when we truly respect the life of every human being not just Muslims, Jews or Christians. It's time we walked the talk and show for real, what peace stands for.

God waits until man or woman dies then He Judges. Why then does mankind have no hesitation to judge and inflict pain on one another? Who are we to do so? It is Time for Change and that change must happen within all of us, no matter of our religion or beliefs.

Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

The agony of fresh graduates

BY MOHAMED. F. IBRAHIM
mohazibrahim@yahoo.co.uk

Readng newspaper job advertisements is a very depressing exercise. The adverts are more about those who want to change employees, rather than those seeking employment. The minimum qualifications are the employers' blatant declaration that they do not want inexperienced graduates in their firms.

Employers must be less rigid and stop demanding unrealistic qualifications from job-seeking graduates. They must decide whether they want to

employ only to maximise profits or to contribute to national development. The prime duty of a company in a developing country is to first distribute labour to deserving citizens before maximising profits.

It is a pity that employers are giving fresh university graduates a raw deal. When an employer requires applicants, they must have more than three or five years job experience, what chance do our unemployed graduates have?

What this boils down to is an arrogant way of declaring that those who graduate but do not work are not qualified to do what they were trained to do. We are surprised that the numerous

groups of labour activists and others campaigning for human rights have never protested against such callous behaviour by employers.

Many will agree that obtaining a university degree is a herculean task. Graduation is the means of certifying that a person has become an expert in what he or she has been learning and is permitted to apply those skills for their individual advancement and national progress. The least the graduates expect is a chance to put their progressive ideas in practice.

The irony of our situation is that while we strive for new ideas and technological advancement, employers

prefer old hands. They are shunning the potential modern technocrats for the old-fashioned veterans. That's why they ask for decades of experience. Shamefully, the labour market is reduced to an exclusive working class where veterans exchange jobs, effectively shutting out new entrants.

The intransigence of employers is perilous. Their only interest is their insatiable appetite and lust to earn as much money as possible, leaving in their wake destruction and disillusionment. Companies should demonstrate compliance to technological advancement by employing fresh graduates!

Is it going to be hard? The people's stares on the street, the parents' calls for their children to avoid the girl with the cloth on her head...etc. It probably would. But you know what? Unlike the ignorant few- or many- I have a scarf covering my hair, not my brains.

Now at least when someone is nice to me, I would know they do it for me and everything that I am: a Yemeni girl with a scarf on, a Guevara picture on her T-shirt, and an attitude!

Being me

BY LAMYA ZAIN
LAMYAZOO@YAHOO.COM

Sitting anxiously on board of Al-Yemenia Airlines, the mixed feelings I had were indescribable; thrilled to have new experiences and obtain knowledge, anxious to see what the future hides, and afraid of leaving home, my country that's torn apart suffering in the silent ruin.

Being one of many who hate flying, after a painful ear-pressure during the first touchdown, I raced towards the window seat during take-off to take a look down at beautiful Rome, but the airplane gave me the wing!

Landing at Frankfurt, my enthusiasm drew a smile on my face even as the German airport personnel with their army-like uniforms frowned at my passport photo and handed it back to me.

The irony of it all is, as there was a Muslim prayer room in that airport, the only scarved Muslim woman gets selected for search and interrogation.

While everyone else was on board the flight heading to Detroit, I was standing by a booth where two Germans sat on long chairs staring at me from behind the glass; probably bullet-proof.

"Do you have any electronic device that could be dismantled to be later reassembled into an explosive device?" "Where was your luggage while you

drove from your house to the airport?" Reading this, I find it ridiculous, but being in that position was absolutely horrifying; I felt so small standing in front of the huge Germans.

It could have been a bit easier hadn't it been my first time to travel on my own towards the unknown, then being stopped by men three times my size with fierce looks and a scary tone. Not just asking me if I had a bomb, but asking me if I "HAD A BOMB." It is really surprising how different the same words could sound, and the affect they could have on you. Doesn't sound pretty, does it?

The last American to get on board before me- and while I was still under the "investigation"- a redneck; cowboy hat et al, yelled with his southern accent: "Why are you not letting this poor little girl on the plane you dirty Nazis!"

Well, you don't hear that everyday, not from a redneck!

Finally on board, I settle down in the uncomfortable seat and fall asleep. I wake up and find out that my scarf had slipped down. I got alarmed at first, and then I started thinking: If I keep it off, I might not be treated as badly when I reach the States; I wanted the easy way out.

I have never had such a conversation with myself, nor have I ever experienced such vulnerability. I have always thought that nothing and no one could ever talk me out of something I believe

in, which probably explains why rarely anybody argues with me about something that aggravates my passion.

Two African-Americans searched me and my luggage after I was selected in Detroit Airport; they couldn't have been nicer. But I would never know if that was just how they are or was it because I wasn't any different than any other woman with no scarf on.

Three days of busy class schedules and the overwhelming amount of work, my mind wasn't at ease. I didn't understand what was wrong, I didn't feel that I was myself; I looked at the mirror and didn't recognize that figure. I felt even smaller than when I was interrogated at Frankfurt airport.

It must be the weather, I thought, fooling myself.

During the US Foreign Policy class at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Cyrus Partovi mentioned something rather controversial about the Arab regimes that the US government supports. My Bahraini friend, Zainab and myself fired back, arguing about it relentlessly. Suddenly it struck me; I was not about to let anyone in that class change my belief of the necessity of freedom for the Arab public, on the other hand, I let a couple of uniformed Germans intimidate me out of one of my strongest beliefs; my scarf.

The next day I went to class with my scarf back on. And let me tell you, I have never felt better nor bigger; this is me, take it or leave it.

Guilty Before Proven Innocent

Nada (voice_oat@yahoo.com)

What do they gain by bombing innocent people leading their normal lives? What point are they trying to prove? As far as I am concerned none. These so called "Islamic groups" who have been taking responsibilities for what happened in London, should be ashamed.

As a Muslim, I am ashamed of myself at what these "Islamic groups" are doing in the name of Islam. It seems like they are caught up in a stream of hate, which has blinded them from Islam's true meaning. Islam does not encourage the killing of the innocent in any way; it's a religion of peace and justice.

Many other Moslems I'm sure, condemn the actions of these "Islamic groups" because they do not represent our beliefs and morals. Committing

Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fotih

Return to innocence!

Once I read a poem in where the poet wished to be a child again even for one night. Some people wish to be given a chance to relive their childhood. Humanbeings always wish for the happy and the joyful days to come back and want to forget the miserable days of their lives.

When I read that poem I realized then that the poet must have lived a happy childhood. I am sure that if that poet had lived in Yemen and in the current conditions that many children are living, she would not ask for that and she would not want to be a child again for even a minute.

Most of the children don't have schools these days and everyday you see them scattered on the streets from morning until evening. Streets, not parks or institutes, embrace our children day and night. You can imagine, dear reader, what wandering in the street aimlessly could bring about and lead to?

The same miserable and gloomy image appears everyday. I feel so sad when I see lovely children sitting in the street playing with mud barefeet and shabby clothes as if they have no parents! The parents enjoy chewing qat and they turn a blind eye to what their children are doing.

Unfortunately, most of the parents are selfish. Some parents prefer to buy a bunch of qat rather than buying a gift, book or toy for their children. How much time do most of the parents spend with their children?

Providing the children with food, water and clothes is not enough. I know they are basic needs, but love, passion and care for their problems are crucial too.

So I really wish that the newlyweds think twice before deciding to have a baby if they are not ready to take responsibility of providing a

good life.

Parents have different attitudes towards childhood. Some parents think that they make sure that they have enough food and they can walk in front of them. How many fathers come back home with the things that their children like? How many fathers prefer to leave the qat sessions and regularly specify a time to talk and sit with their children? How many fathers and mothers know what their children do in the schools and what scores they get and in which classes they are? How many parents know what program and films their children watch on TV? How many parents think and plan for the summer vacation of their children and how they will spend it usefully? Many questions impose themselves. Certainly there are good parents who really care and are concerned about their children, but sorrowfully, few do.

We have heard about the Child Rights Convention, yet it has not found its way to implantation in Yemen and the children have not seen the blessing of that convention. What rights are we talking about? Everyday we see a number of so young children spend their holiday under the scorching sun selling little things on the streets, exposing their lives to danger. Our children have no place other than the dangerous streets and narrow alleys to play and relax. What rights are we talking about when we cannot protect our innocent children and make them an easy prey for harmful vices.

I am not pessimistic but I honestly look forward to seeing actual efforts exerted for children and I want to see the innocent smiles on their faces. I hope that when our children grow up, they will remember their childhood days as the pridiest days and wish to relive these days again.

suicide is against our religion, because our lives are not ours to end and I personally do not see how suicide bombers are considered acceptable to these "Islamic groups" who obviously have their own agenda. They are using Islam as a shield to hind or try to justify their actions.

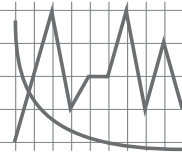
I really do understand Moslem's wrath against the western world for what they have done in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and etc. The western world has watched while hundreds of thousand of innocent people were killed by their military and their allies, but we should not follow their actions. If they have the blood of innocent people on their hands and consciences, we should not do the same mistake: after all we will all die and be judged. A mistake does not solve another mistake it just makes it worst, and as Moslems we should do the right thing no matter what.

Others are judging us, Moslems, for

the actions of these "Islam groups" and those of us living in or traveling to North America and Europe suffer the most because of such events. We are sometimes looked upon with suspicious eyes and treated with caution when traveling. We have become guilty before proven innocent.

Its not the western people who we, Moslems, are angry at, it's their governments actions towards our lands, resources, and innocent, so why let them suffer for the mistakes of their governments. Even though they are considered a "democracy", governments in the western world ignores their people's "voices" when it comes to a war they will benefit from. The western governments are using "Democracy" as a shield to hind or justify their actions and agenda's, they are acting like the "Islamic groups", but they all have a different agenda for us all. Terrorism is a disease that is affecting us all, even those who create it.

YT Business



WB funds fifth fishery project

During his meeting with the WB delegation, Dr. Ali Mohammad Mujawwar Minister of Fisheries discussed the aspects of bilateral cooperation between his Ministry and the WB in the fisheries sector and the means of enhancing it, particularly what is related to funding of the fifth fishery project the Ministry of Fisheries is preparing to implement in collaboration with the European Union.

The project aims to develop the infrastructure of fisheries and improve the fishery exports according to specifications of the international markets, as well as paying more attention to the current fishery research centers and the establishment of new ones.

The government works hard to raise to 4 percent the contribution of the fishery sector to the gross domestic production. This will be done by achieving a 10% annual increase in fishery production to reach to 564 thousand tons by the advent of 2010.

Official reports indicate that the ideal exploitation of fishery wealth will help raise production without affecting the reserve and assert a better management of quality to score a 6% annual increase in the price of fisheries.

The government intends to increase the individual share of fish to 51kg and raise fishery exports to 31 percent per year, that is 150 thousand tons, of \$500 million worth, by the end of 2010.

The government policies concentrate on setting a scientific and economic system for managing and monitoring the fishery resources through assessing and surveying the fishery reserve, particularly the precious species.

Covered by the government policies is the establishment of thorough database and installing modern systems for



collecting and analyzing data, saving them and linking them with relevant activities. Additionally the government policies aim to enhance and develop the system of monitoring and marine inspection, reshuffle the Ministry of Fisheries and its annexes, update legislations, laws and by-laws controlling the fishing activities and train workers in the sector.

The government has the intention to activate the role of marine research centers to help organize the process of fishing and boost fishery-related studies.

The government works on setting a complete strategy to monitor the quality control of fishery products starting with the process of fishing and ending with sales activities at the local and international markets through the establishment of quality control laboratories, by providing equipments and budgets necessary for their operation in the provincial capitals and other coastal cities according to the international standards.

Policies set by the government include the preparation of conditions and quality standards of the fishery products, exporting them and maintaining the fishery facilities in coordination with the General Authority for

Specifications and Standards.

Included in the priorities of the Ministry of Fisheries is boosting the installation of laboratories, treating fish by the cooperative and private sectors, training workers and expanding the scope of sale places.

The government will expend precious efforts to promote and organize the participation of private sector to invest in the areas of production, fish farming and marketing. This is done by preparing the fishery investment map and conducting economical and technical study for the establishment of typical fish farms along the coastline and marketing them for local and foreign investment.

The government steps up efforts to provide the main components of fishery investment and public services and offer 50% of transportation and fish carriage fares. In addition, there is the promotion of local companies to market the fishery products, particularly the establishment of typical markets and well-equipped transportation means according to the international standards.

The fishery exports rose from 12.9 thousand tons in 2000 to 47.6 thousand tons in 2004 and their values grew from \$40 million to \$312 million during the same period of time.



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أرمادا الجديد بحجمه الكبير

لا عجب أن تميز الغالبية لتسمية أرمادا بالطائرة فهو مجهز بثلاث صفوف من المقاعد تتسع لثمانية ركاب، كونسول علوي كبير مجهز بمصابيح وفتحات تهوية منفردة، ومحرك استثنائي سعة ٥,٦ لتر، بشمان أسطوانات وقوة جبارة تبلغ ٣٤٠ حصاناً. أضف إلى ذلك راحة مميزة تكافئ الركاب باسترخاء، لا يضاهي، وبوابة خلفية آلية تسهل تحميل الأمتعة. فهل يوجد أفضل من الاستمتاع بطائرتك الخاصة كل يوم في الأسبوع... وكل أسبوع في السنة؟



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Marashi al-Jawf wavering between security and fear

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Marash district is administratively part of Jawf province situated to the north-west of the country. It is bound by Sa'adah on the north and Humaidat district on the south, Barat Rajouzah and Barat al-Enan on the east, and Harf Sifian (part of Amran province) on the east.

To travel to Barat means to risk difficulties. But with the paved road getting closer to the district, part of the burden is off.

Topography and climate:

The district is some sort of a mountain chain interrupted by a number of plateaux and agricultural valleys such as Maranah, Dahnah, Haijan, and Mathab. The most famous mountain in this area is Tan which stands in the eastern part, Kaish mount in the north-east, Sawdat in the north, and Ashran. The climate can be described as hot in the summer and moderate in winter.

Population and key activities:

According to 2004 Population Census's indicators, the district's population reaches as many as 64,721 people, ranking fourth in the province after Khab, Sha'f and Barat Rajouzah. There is little activity in the area. Unemployment spreads while some

are farmers and others work as shepherds raising camels and goats.

Agriculture can be said to be the main profession. However, locals do not have the capacities to improve their farms. Crops include wheat and vegetables.

Agricultural valleys:

There are several agricultural valleys across this district most important of which are:

- Maranah valley which stretches at the feet of the mountains of Barat al-Enan and Barat Rajouzah from which rainwater runs into this valley. It stretches along the eastern part of the district passing by Maranah and ending at Waghirah area at

Humaidat district.

- Dahnah Valley: It is an agricultural valley starting Ijarah area in Barat al-Enan district passing through Shu'ara and Qalafah districts meeting Sifian valley in Malahat district.
- Haijan and Nahian valleys: They pass through part of Haijan district stretching as far as Rwaish district where they meet with Mathab valley.
- Neel valley: It is one of the agricultural valleys. It starts in Neel hill located at the beginning of Barat al-Enan's mountain chain. This valley passes through the district center.
- Mathab valley: This western valley is one of the famous agricultural valleys in the province. It receives the monsoon rain torrents coming from three provinces - Sana'a, Amran and Sa'adah.

Archeological sites:

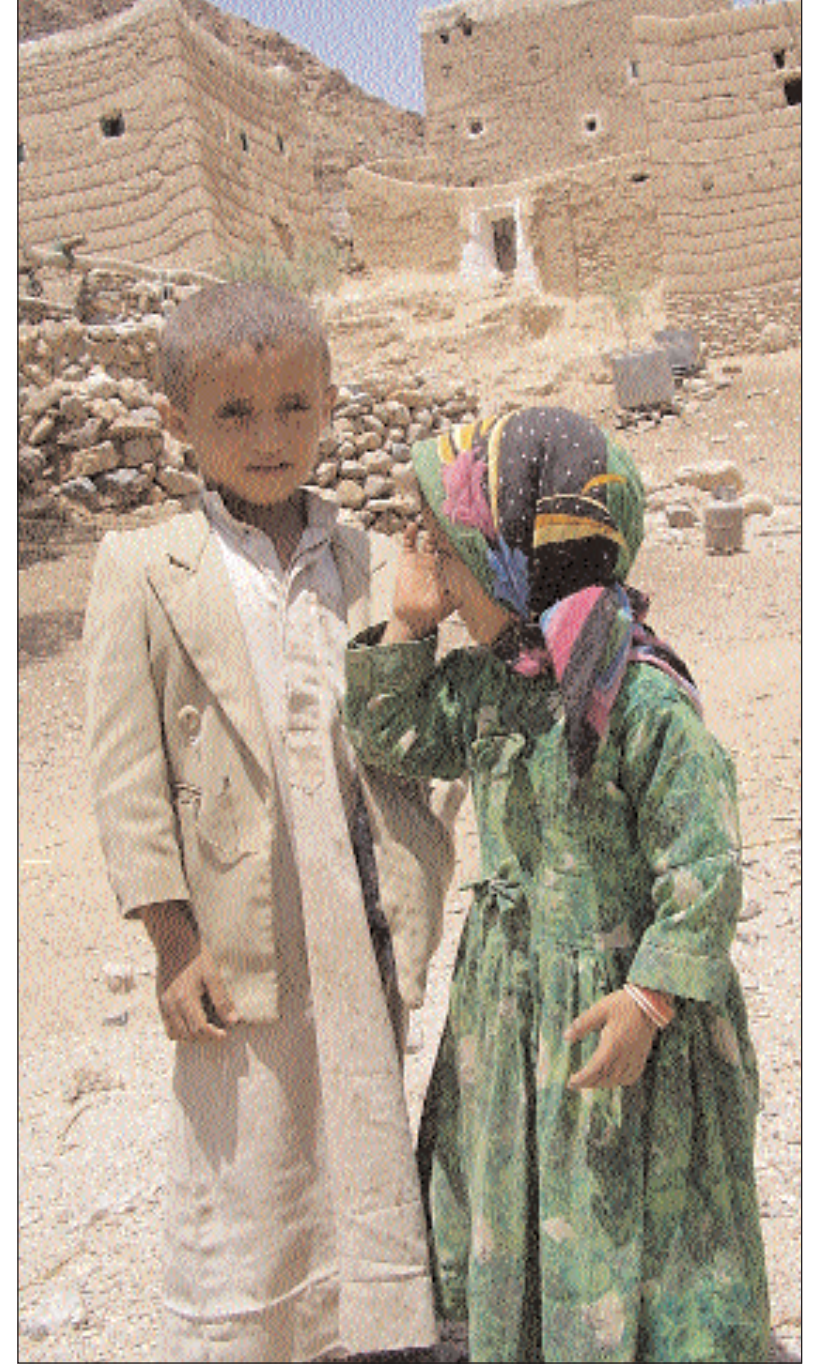
Marash district enjoys a lot of historic cities and sites. Yet, it is not as famous as other Jawf districts. There are ruins in Shaqra' area where there are unearthed ancient archeological remains. There are historic remains also in Daryan district. Forts and citadels from ancient times and Islamic ages scatter across the district, in its center and other villages. There are many old mosques such as Hakami, Marqab and Omar, Shu'ara and Haijan mosques some of which are being degraded while the Ministry of Culture is motionless.

Nature of life:

Life is hard over there. Development requirements in Marash district are scarce. People dwell in clay-brick houses which are very appropriate in desert climates as they absorb high heat. These houses are usually cool in summer and warm in winter. Male residents are always strapped with arms because of revenge that jeopardizes even children. People have their fingers set on triggers ready for action. Revenge threatens the lives of safe generations.

A visitor can see the signs of misery and sadness in the faces of children. They cannot join education because there are no facilities. Even if schools are available, teachers and curricula tend to be absent.

Service projects from US:



ADRA Organization is implementing useful projects in this district in the health and education sectors, funded by the USAID. Although this district is close to Saudi borders and its residents can easily move across borders, there are no vital projects in the area supported fully or partially by the Saudi government. Although some local personalities of distinction get salaries from Saudi Arabia, it seems that only the Americans have succeeded to gain people's respect in this forgotten district by means of development projects.



A typical village in Al-Marashi district

Tehama steals the show in the auto expo

In the recently held Auto Exhibition at the Sana'a Expo Centre, Tehama Trading Company, stole the show by exhibiting the largest Sports Utility Vehicle - NISSAN ARMADA - and by displaying other Nissan Brand vehicles in a Yemeni scenario.

Ignoring the modern gimmicks of showmanship for such exhibitions, Tehama went for a village scene, maintaining Yemeni surroundings. The heavy duty 4x4 station wagons SUPER SAFARI and PATHFINDER were displayed in rocky and rural parking area with the usual items seen thrown around in a village. The double meaning message "TAKE ME WHERE YOU LIKE" for the Pathfinder



brought a smile on everyone's face.

Tehama also focused the front reception area with the display of ARMADA, the largest vehicle available from Nissan range and their banners ROOM FOR EVERYONE captured everyone's attention.

وظائف شاغرة

مؤسسة يمنية رائدة في المجال المصرفي تعلن عن حاجتها إلى :

أولاً : مدير لإدارة التسهيلات ثانياً : مدير لإدارة المراجعة والتفتيش

على أن تتوفر في المتقدم الشروط التالية :

- ١- مؤهل جامعي
- ٢- خبرة في نفس المجال لا تقل عن عشر سنوات
- ٣- إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية كتابةً ونطقاً
- ٤- لا يزيد عمر المتقدم عن ٤٥ سنة

ثالثاً : موظف لقسم الحوالات رابعاً : عدد (٢) موظفين مراجعة

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- ٣- إجادة استخدام الحاسب الآلي
- ٤- إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية كتابةً ونطقاً

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سابعاً : مهندس معماري :

على أن تتوفر في المتقدمين الشروط التالية:

- ١- أن يكون حاصل على بكالوريوس هندسة
- ٢- إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية كتابةً ونطقاً
- ٣- خبرة في نفس المجال لا تقل عن خمس سنوات

فمن يجد في نفسه الرغبة والكفاءة إرسال السيرة الذاتية على ص.ب (١٠٠) صنعاء

Taking drug safety seriously

By Curt D. Furberg

Health hazards – nuclear reactors, guns, and contaminated foods – surround all of us, so governments take an active role in limiting these hazards through regulations, which, in many cases, are very successful. But the situation is far different concerning the safety of prescription drugs. Indeed, as far as protecting the public is concerned, drug safety is the regulator's neglected stepchild.

The magnitude of the problem is huge. In the United States alone, it is estimated that every year up to 100,000 patients die due to serious adverse drug reactions (ADR's). If true, drug-induced death would qualify as the fourth or fifth leading cause of death (depending on which mortality estimates are used). Moreover, the direct annual hospital costs attributable to ADR's run into the billions of dollars, and this does not include all the suffering that ADR's cause that does not lead to hospitalization (or death).

The difficulties in determining cause

and effect must be acknowledged. Whether a patient's death or hospitalization is due to a particular drug, the underlying illness, or a combination of the two can be hard to determine. But this makes drug safety all the more important.

Inherent to drug safety is the fact that all drugs, in addition to their benefits, cause harm in certain patients. Drug approval and use requires a careful weighing of desirable and undesirable effects. These judgments vary, depending on whether they are made by a drug company, which stands to benefit from sales, or a patient at risk of suffering a serious adverse effect.

Incomplete knowledge complicates this assessment. The rush to get new drugs to market often leads to inadequate safety documentation. More than half of all approved drugs produce a serious adverse reaction that is not known at the time of regulatory approval.

For example, when the new class of painkillers called Cox-2 inhibitors was introduced, regulators, physicians, and patients were unaware that these drugs could cause heart attacks and strokes.

Tens of thousands of innocent patients – perhaps more – suffered such ADR's before the first two drugs of this class were withdrawn.

Proper and complete documentation of harmful drug effects is difficult. Spontaneous reporting rates to regulatory agencies are low – approximately 1% – and ongoing monitoring is passive in many countries.

There is also a general reluctance to report unfavorable drug effects. Physicians may feel guilty and fear litigation, drug companies worry about the threat to corporate profits and regulatory agencies must face the question: "Why was the drug approved in the first place?"

It is especially difficult to attribute an adverse reaction to a drug if the medical event is common in the user's age group or in the condition being treated. Because the risk of heart attacks is high in older people, many of whom have arthritic pain requiring treatment with painkillers, it took six years to link Cox-2 inhibitors to a two- to three-fold increase in the risk of heart attacks.

A recent Harris Survey in the US concluded that 60% of adults are either not confident at all or not very confident that drug makers will publicly and in a timely manner disclose data on their products' adverse effects. Their skepticism is hardly groundless: internal documents obtained in recent lawsuits reveal that drug companies often fail to submit critical safety information to regulatory agencies, as required by law, and fail to communicate such information to physicians and patients.

One problem is that the consequences for neglecting drug safety are non-existent or minimal. The time has come to get serious:

- Citizens and government must make drug safety a priority and commit adequate resources to fixing the problems;
- Penalties for drug companies' failure to report and communicate safety information must be increased dramatically if they are to serve as effective deterrents;
- Regulatory agencies need enforcement authority so that stricter rules can be implemented;
- The drug-safety problem must be seen as a systemic failure. It is unfair to blame clinicians for serious ADR's, particularly in the absence of complete safety information. Fixing the problem requires full cooperation from clinicians, but this requires ending their fear of litigation. This approach works well in the airline industry: pilots reporting near misses are not penalized;
- Patients need to be better informed about the risks of prescription drugs and more involved in detection and reporting. Package inserts in fine print are useless;
- Monitoring of ADR's must be more pro-active. This requires more funding, which should come from the main beneficiary of drug sales – the pharmaceutical industry – just as oversight of aviation safety is funded by the airlines.

Above all, the success of any comprehensive effort to improve drug safety hinges upon establishing an independent office of drug safety to advocate, coordinate, and provide direction to the regulatory agenda. Such an office exists in the United Kingdom. Other governments should follow this model in order to fulfill their neglected role as guardian of public health.

Curt D. Furberg, a member of the US FDA Advisory Committee on Drug Safety and Risk Management, worked for 11 years at the US National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and now teaches at Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

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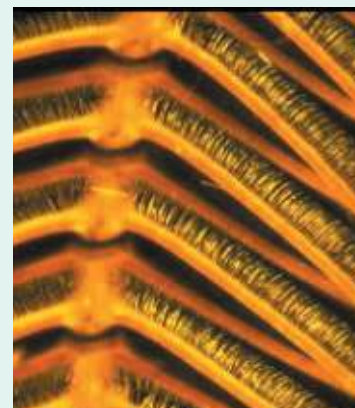
By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Facts of life

Synchronous menstruation

Did you ever know that women living together for a long time tend to have their menstruation around the same time? This is true; women and girls living together for extended periods have synchronized menstruation.

This amazing phenomenon was first described in 1971 by researcher Martha McClintock, now with the University of Chicago. Synchronous menstruation has been observed among mothers, sisters, and daughters who live together, and sometimes among women who simply work together. McClintock tells of seven female lifeguards who started out one summer with widely scattered periods. Three months later they were all menstruating within four days of one another.



A female moth's pheromones caught in a male's antenna [Lund U. Sweden, Peter Valeur]

airborne and waft to another. Receptors in the nose detect the pheromones and the second woman responds by shortening or lengthening her menstrual period. Gradually, over the course of a few months, the periods of all the women living together synchronize in this way.

A study (that determined all this by Martha McClintock and Kathleen Stern) indicates the sweat probably contains two chemicals: one that lengthens menstrual cycles and one that shortens them. The two substances can act together to synchronize the cycles and sometimes to disrupt them.

Men have an effect too
Similar studies show that men's pheromones also affect women's menstrual periods. Women respond to these pheromones by shortening their periods and having them more regularly. This was observed among women who had lengthy cycles pre-marriage and once they got married their menstrual cycles became shorter and regular.

Pheromone research
The odor sense is very important for insects. It is used for finding food, escaping enemies and finding a mate. Odors used to send messages between individuals of the same species are called pheromones.

The class of pheromones most widely explored are the sex pheromones in insects. In most cases it is produced by a female to attract a male of the same species. The first synthesised sex pheromone was bombykol, in 1959. It is used by the silk moth. Today the science know, in more or less detail, the pheromone of more than 400 moth species and a number of other organisms.

The reason behind synchronous menstruation is that women (and men) secrete odorless molecules, called pheromones, in a manner as common as sweating. In fact, the sweat of many mammals contains pheromone chemicals. The molecules from one woman bounce and jiggle their way

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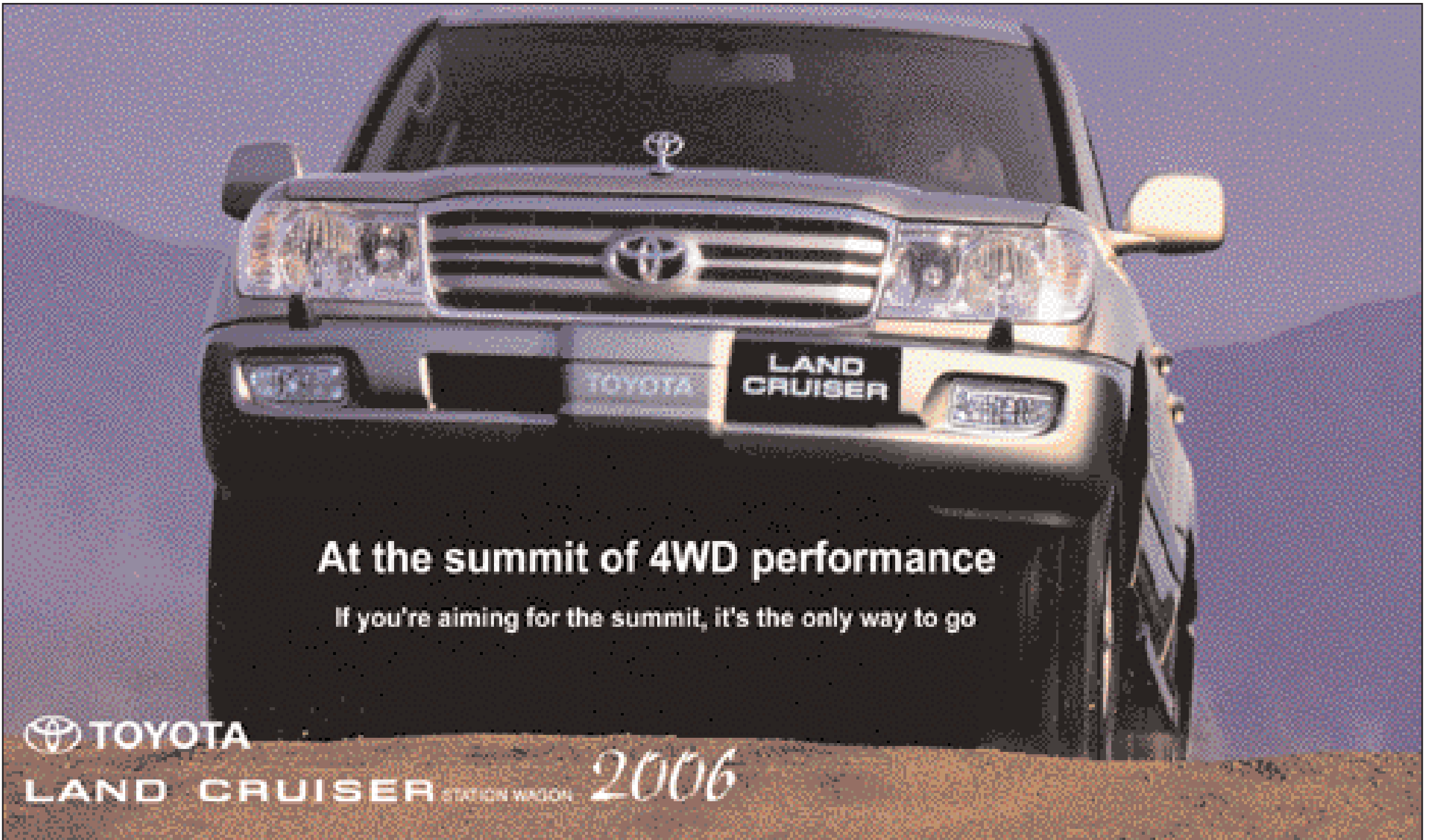
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Rangers push Yankees off top spot with 2-1 win

MONTREAL (Reuters) - Hank Blalock belted a two-run homer as the Texas Rangers edged the New York Yankees 2-1 in Arlington Tuesday, ending the Bronx Bombers' brief stint at the top of the American League East standings.

One day after moving into first place, the Yankees were forced to give way to the Boston Red Sox, who defeated the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The starters for both teams delivered sparkling efforts but neither New York's Mike Mussina or Texas's Chan Ho Park figured in the decision.

Mussina scattered four hits over six shutout innings while Park was nearly as effective, giving up just one run on six hits in 7 1/3 innings of work.

Kameron Loe (4-2) came on in relief of Park to get the final two outs of eighth inning before turning the mound over to Francisco Cordero, who worked the ninth to clinch victory with his 22nd save.

New York broke open the scoreless contest on Robinson Cano's eighth inning RBI single to center, but Blalock responded for Texas in the bottom of the inning with his 19th homer of the season.

In Boston, Manny Ramirez smacked his 25th homer of the season and Curt Schilling earned his first save in 13 years, helping the Red Sox to a 5-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Bronson Arroyo (8-5) took credit for the win allowing two runs on five hits over seven innings, but it was Schilling who clinched the victory, coming on in the ninth to get the final three outs and notch his first save since 1992.

David Ortiz and Jason Varitek each drove in a run and scored once to help the slumping Red Sox pull out of a three-game losing skid.

In Cleveland, Emil Brown clubbed a two-run homer and Zack Greinke tossed seven shutout innings as the Kansas City Royals blanked the Indians 4-0.

Greinke (3-11) was brilliant, scattering four hits while striking out four and walking one to register his second straight win.

Ambiorix Burgos and Mike MacDougal each worked one inning of



Texas Rangers third baseman Hank Blalock (R) celebrates with teammates after hitting a two-run home run against New York Yankees pitcher Wayne Franklin during the eighth inning in Arlington, Texas July 19, 2005. The Rangers defeated the Yankees 2-1. Photo by Jeff Mitchell/Reuters

relief to complete the shutout.

In Toronto, Eric Hinske belted a pair of homeruns as the Blue Jays held on to win a 12-10 slugfest with the Seattle Mariners.

Hinske had a two-run blast in the third, then added another two-run shot in the sixth to push Toronto in front 12-9 after Seattle had pulled within one.

Frank Catalanotto contributed three hits and a pair of RBIs to the cause at the Blue Jays won for just the second time in eight games.

Ted Lilly (8-9) claimed the win, despite giving up five runs on seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Randy Winn, Adrian Beltre and Richie Sexson each had a homerun for the Mariners.

In Chicago, Omar Infante cracked a three-run homer and Jeremy Bonderman provided eight strong innings as the Detroit Tigers mauled the White Sox 7-1.

Bonderman (12-6) was razor sharp on the mound for the Tigers, yielding just one run on three hits with five strikeouts and a pair of walks.

Magglio Ordonez had three hits, scored a pair of runs and added an RBI as the Tigers jumped out to a 3-0 second inning lead then added four more runs in the sixth to put the breaks on Chicago's five-game winning streak.

In Minneapolis, Jacque Jones singled in the winning run in bottom of the ninth inning as the Minnesota Twins trimmed the Baltimore Orioles 4-3.

Leading 3-2, the Orioles let the game slip away Joe Mauer scoring the tying run on a wild pitch by B.J. Ryan setting the stage for Jones, who lined a shot to short scoring Michael Ryan making a winner of Jesse Crain (9-1).

In Anaheim, Rich Harden came within one out of a complete game shutout and Jay Payton had three hits and an RBI, leading the Oakland Athletics to a 3-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels.

Harden (7-4) was dominant, allowing one run on just three striking out eight and walking three in 8 2/3 innings.

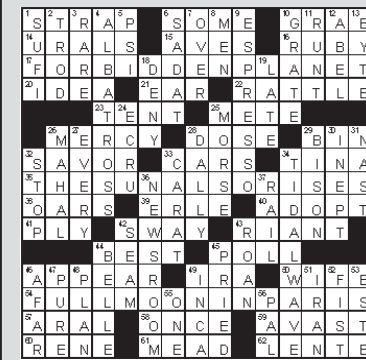
The Oakland righthander had looked poised to collect the complete game shutout until Steve Finley tagged him for a two-out single in the ninth and Bengie Molina brought him home with an RBI single to center.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

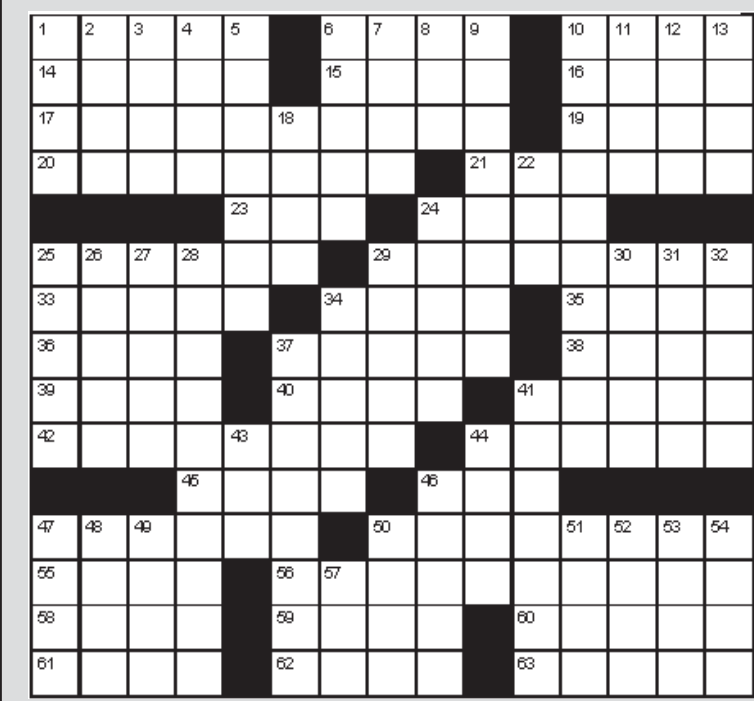
- ACROSS**
- 1 Zero hour, e.g.
 - 6 Son of Noah
 - 10 Asian conqueror
 - 14 Like a NASA module
 - 15 One of The Simpsons
 - 16 Appellation
 - 17 Beyond being uninterested?
 - 19 Rudolph storyteller
 - 20 Wife of Odysseus
 - 21 Common periodical name
 - 23 Caustic liquid
 - 24 Clockmaker
 - 25 Covers
 - 29 Scotch or sugar, e.g.
 - 33 Antler branches
 - 34 Upkeep
 - 35 "September" (Diamond)
 - 36 Social reformer Baker
 - 37 Participated in a rodeo event
 - 38 In the thick of
 - 39 "The Loom of Youth" author Waugh
 - 40 Country that got its current name in 1935
 - 41 It's supportive
 - 42 Lacking historical validity
 - 44 ty
 - 45 Attendant of Dionysus
 - 46 Life sci.
 - 47 Michael Caine's address
 - 48 Subway tunnel art, perhaps
 - 50 Boeing body
 - 55 Admit frankly
 - 56 Sound
 - 58 Borden of condensed milk
 - 59 Sir Geraint's wife
 - 60 Forum garments
 - 61 Pandora's box-ful
 - 62 Word with electrical or red
 - 63 Make a full apology
 - 11 Suffer from
 - 12 "Daniel Boone" actor
 - 13 Nutcracker suite?
 - 18 Eton students
 - 22 Graph ending
 - 24 Storied temptress
 - 25 Select group
 - 26 Cowboy Hall of Famer Bob
 - 27 Cardigan Bay, e.g.
 - 28 Emotional sea-side moments?
 - 29 Concerning the Vatican
 - 30 Type of candle
 - 31 Author Jong
 - 32 Broke off
 - 34 Key feature?
 - 37 Carom off
 - 41 Robert Blake series
 - 43 IX square root
 - 44 Go off target
 - 46 Like blue shoes of song
 - 47 Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, e.g.
 - 48 Elliptical shape
 - 49 Garden material
 - 50 Kickoff preface
 - 51 Spoils of war
 - 52 Jason's vessel
 - 53 FBI guy
 - 54 In _____ (existing)
 - 57 Literary miscellany, e.g.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"SOUNDS LIKE IT" by Ron Halverson



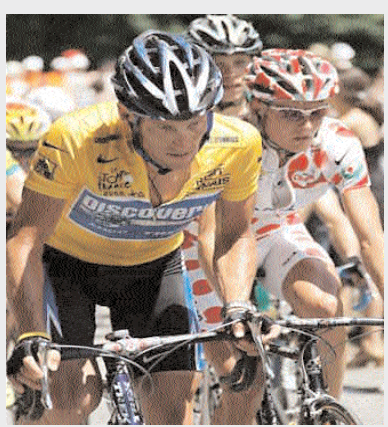
Armstrong to equal Hinault's jersey haul

PAU, France (Reuters) - Four days before he is expected to seal a record seventh Tour de France victory on the Champs Elysees, Lance Armstrong will reach another milestone in Wednesday's 17th stage to from Pau to Revel.

At the end of the 239.5-km run, the longest in this year's race, the American will receive the leader's yellow jersey for the 79th time in his career, equalling five-times Tour champion Bernard Hinault.

Hinault, the last Frenchman to have won the race in 1985, lies second in the all-time list behind Belgian Eddy Merckx, who won 111 yellow jerseys between 1969 and 1977.

Probably unaware of such statistics, the 156 riders left in the bunch will hope for the longest day



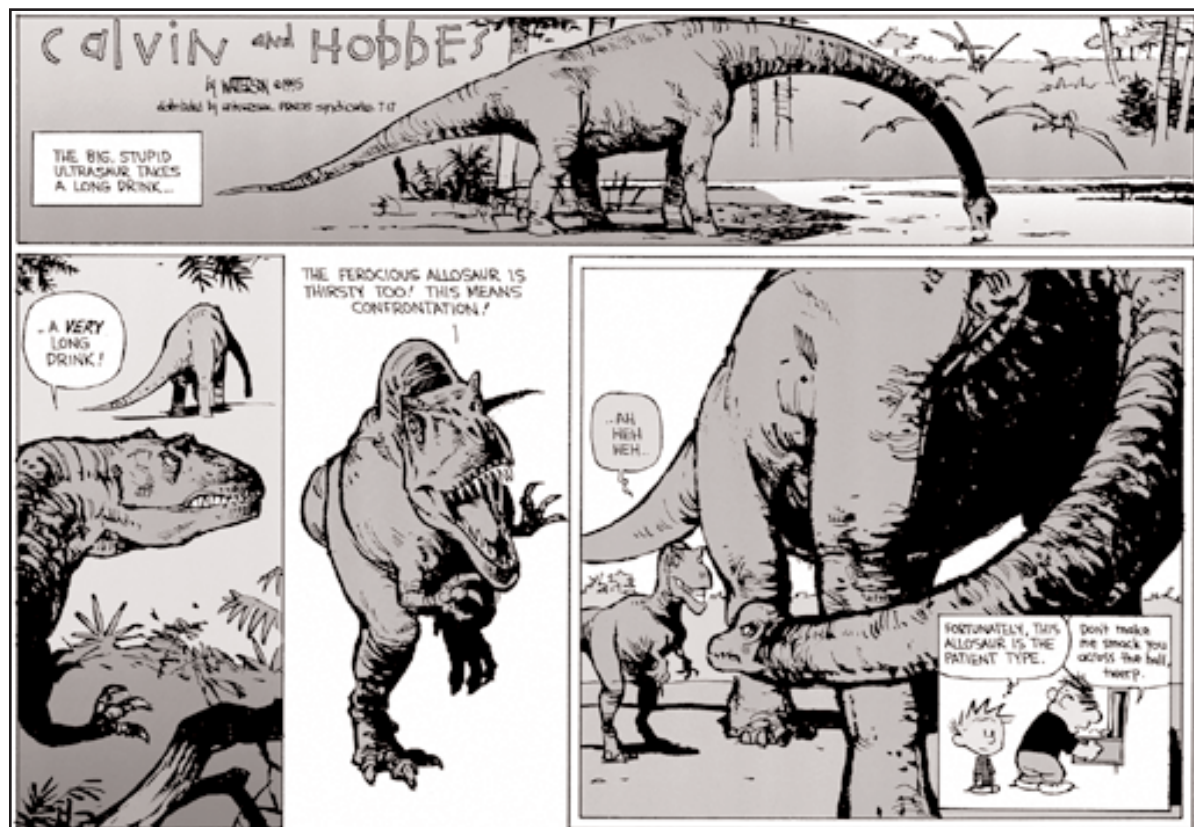
Discovery Channel team rider Lance Armstrong of the U.S. cycles ahead of Rabobank team rider Mickael Rasmussen of Denmark during the 180km (111 miles) 16th stage of the 92nd Tour de France cycling race between Mourenx and Pau, July 19, 2005. Reuters

to coincide with a farewell to arms after a final nervous day in the mountains.

Ironically, the jersey at stake in the stage will most probably be the green one for the Tour's best sprinter, with the flat terrain pointing to a mass sprint finish.

Norway's Thor Hushovd will be hoping to strengthen his current lead in the points classification over Australians Stuart O'Grady and Robbie McEwen. Hushovd is on 164 points, while O'Grady has 150 and McEwen, winner of three stages, 142.

Revel has hosted six Tour stage finishes in the past and the last winner in 2000 was Dutchman Erik Dekker, who is still in the Tour and will be hoping for a repeat win if he can join a breakaway.



مسابقة رقم (48) Contest No. (48)

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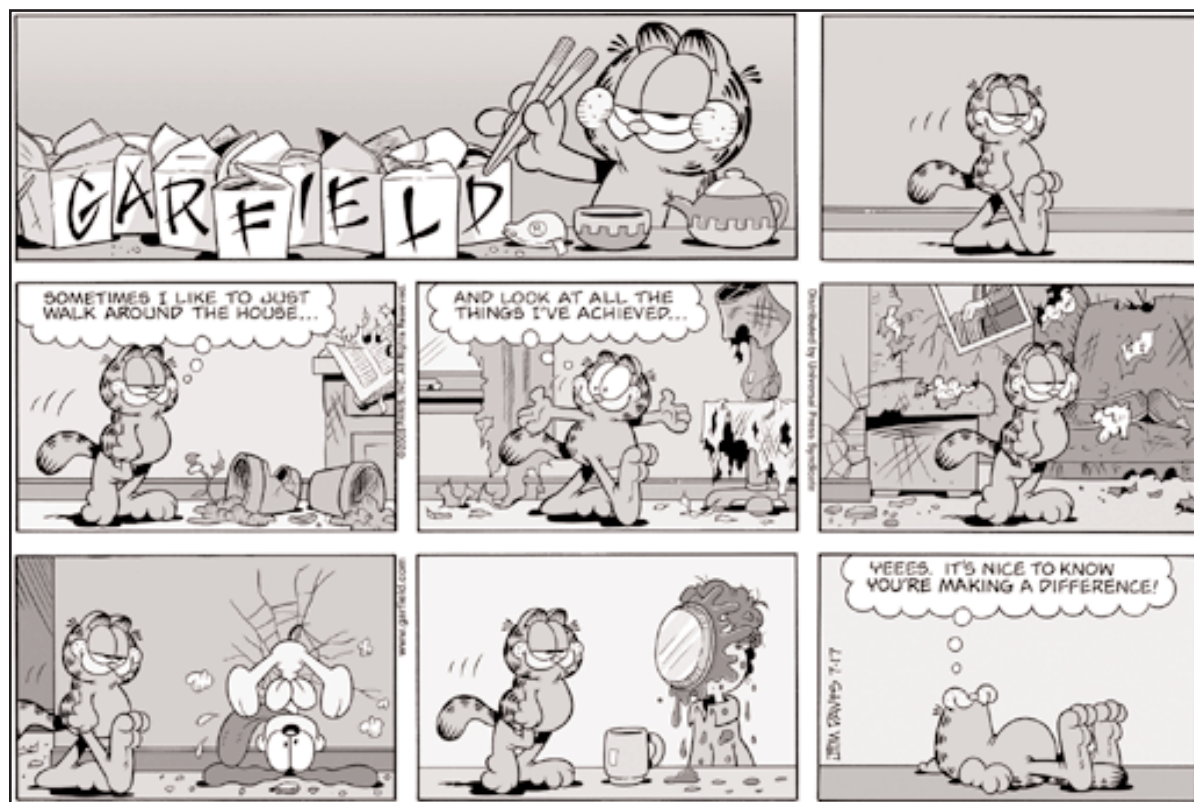
1. Slightly foggy (5)m
2. Take the cover off (6) u
3. Gift (7) p
4. Inexpensive (5) c
5. leaves out (5) o
6. Easy (6) s
7. Set fire to (6) I

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From Korea with love

By RAIDAN AL-SAQQAF

Little we know about South Korea, apart from your Hyundais and Samsungs, Korea is a land of art & science, a place for trade & education, and above all, destination for fascinated minds and minds to be fascinated.

I started my visit to Korea with a number of misconceptions, the first was comparative hostility like that experienced in the west, the second was language and cultural barriers, and the third was in the cost of living.

However, once I arrived at Incheon Airport, I was surprised to experience the great courtesy of airport authorities, starting from the two minutes needed to obtain my entry Visa, all the way into experiencing the city and living the diligent life of the Korean People, their respect to other cultures and nationals exceeds that of our neighbors here in the Arabian peninsula.

Apart from respecting other nationals, their respect for one another is an interesting ethnography to notice, I was impressed with the public-bus driver who drove us from the airport into the city center started the trip with a bow, followed by a welcoming speech to his humble bus promising to make this trip as comfortable as possible, and again welcoming us to the city and wishing us a pleasant stay in Seoul.

The sincere wishes were strong enough for me to love this Korea and



movement at the busy grid of streets which flow transversely through a mixture of architectural genius, that host the driver companies of Korean economy.

Crossing the Hann river to the northern side of the city, I witnessed history that made Seoul what it is today, the classical architect in the back alleys tells you a different, equally interesting story about Seoul, I walked across the back alleys of the older parts of Seoul, only to see presence of history reflected

the Korean people.

Arriving at Seoul, my Camera couldn't stop photographing the artistic nature of the city, an interesting blend of culture, contemporary arts and dynamic

in the absence of the freshness of the southern side of the city, a good chance to test the extent of cultural and linguistic barriers, as I walked into a local store to buy batteries for my

Camera, to find a young lady, I was surprised to hear sweet voice mumbling the cost in English, so I took the challenge further to a street vendor who served some kind of food; he unsuccessfully tried to explain to me what kind of food he was selling, but I appreciated the attempt.

Shopping isn't really a pleasure of mine, however my curiosity led me to browse through their markets, from conventional everyday markets to the up-town shopping malls, whatever your budget may be you will ultimately find a good bargain, especially during discount seasons.

Although my visit to Korea was short, the experience has enriched my understanding the East Asian culture, and falling in love with it.

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