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Amid calls for political reforms

YSP concludes fifth conference

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is to conclude today the functions of its fifth conference held at 22 May Hall in the presence of around 2000 representatives from different Yemeni governorates. The conference has been lasting for three days discussing important issues.

The inauguration of the conference was attended by different political party leaders including Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein al-Ahmar, Parliament Speaker and Chairman of the Yemeni Congregation Party (Islah) and other political figures from the opposition and the ruling party.

Saleh Obad Moqbil, Secretary

General of the YSP delivered the party's speech in which he reminded attendants of the assassination of Jarrallah Omar, Assistant Secretary-General of the YSP and described the incidence as the ugliest political assassination in the history of Yemen.

He confirmed that Omar's assassination had its effect on the party and is a big catastrophe on the party that has been suffering for a long time. The government's economic policy aims to starve the nation and always misleads its people through the media, said he.

Moqbil emphasized that the recent



riots and violence were caused by the government and that a peaceful demonstration without damaging public properties is the right of every citizen.

He strongly denounced the government's deployment of military and security troops backed up by tanks and vehicles in cities and public roads and said such conducts indicate the use of power to oppress citizens who have been starving and suffering from poverty for a long time due to the unwise policies pursued by the government.

The YSP Secretary-General pointed

out the role of the armed forces is to protect the country from any external invasion and not to oppress citizens and mentioned the price reforms conducted by the government are doomed to failure.

The YSP's discussions covered enhancing the Organizing and Financial Committee and arguing documents of the party: the political report and program, internal system, monitoring and inspection reports, in addition to electing members of the party's central committee.

The YSP's fifth conference was held in the absence of a large number of its leaders who are abroad but were expected to come back to partake in the event.

The conference concentrates on

adopting all the issues related to the current economic situations and working on bringing a unified political line for the party that has not stabilized since 1994's war, which overthrew and exiled its leaders.

Observers hold the view the YSP currently exerts precious efforts to adopt numerous policies, most important of which is the call for reforming the political system, the Re-unification line and returning the YSP to power being a participant in achieving Yemen's Unity.

The YSP's calls for reforming the political system, returning its leading figures who are abroad, reinforcing decentralization, the federal system and the peaceful handover of power, and limiting power of the President

ignited a crisis between the party and the government, which considered such as a conspiracy against it.

Political observers of the Yemeni political scene affirmed that the YSP can not implement its political address since it suffers from several problems and differences in its leadership.

They signaled out that after 1994's war, its leaders became weak and most of them do not have the ability to draw a strong policy to enable the party to occupy a prestigious position in the Yemeni political arena.

Objectors to the YSP's policies ascertain the party endures different problems, its objection to the regime does not originate from within and it wants the two unified parts of the country to be separated.

Arab Press Syndicate denounces journalist assassination attempt

A communiqué from the Arab journalist syndicate denounced the assassination attempt on the life of Al-Nahar's chief editor, with a booby trapped envelope last week. The Arab syndicate requested the Yemeni government to find the plotters and introduce them to justice.

Journalist Hajie' Al-Juhafi was badly injured when he received a booby trapped envelope which exploded to his face when he opened it on the 17th of this month.

Journalist Al-Jihafi had formerly accused, in a number of articles, Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed Masour of Al-Ja'a'shin, the supreme consultant council member, of ill-treating the people in his area.

Jihafi confirmed that there were continuous threats against him and his colleagues in the paper since these articles were published. They didn't expect the situation to reach that horrible level.

The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate had released a communiqué describing

the incident as a use of violence to hush up the journalists when they criticize wrong actions.

Al-Nahar newspaper had complained to the minister of interior before, accusing Sheikh Mansour of engineering the incident, demanding that legal measures should be taken to

arrest the perpetrators, and to protect the Al-Nahar journalists.

Al-Nahar newspaper is being tried now in a case filed against it by Sheikh Mansour, Supreme consultancy council member, on the critical articles that it published against his practices.



Hajie' Al-Juhafi

Hundreds of livestock die in Bani Mattar



PHOTO BY SALEH AL-YAFEE

Hundreds of livestock were reported dead in the area of Bani Mattar in the district of Bait Marit.

The reasons for these deaths were not known.

In a telephone conversation with the Ministry of agriculture, the officials didn't mention numbers and said that their teams went to Bani Mattar. They submitted reports on the incident to the criminal investigation unit, other concerned parties and Bani Matter authorities.

In response to violent riots

Cabinet cuts fuel prices, approves salaries strategy

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- The Yemeni Cabinet on Tuesday July 26, cut the petrol price for consumers from 65 Rials to 60 Rials, while diesel and kerosene were down from 45 Rials per liter to 35 Rials. This was due to the government's decision to lift subsidy on fuel a week ago.

The government modified the prices of these oil derivatives in order to reduce the transportation cost and the price of some commodities affected by cutting fuel subsidy.

On the other hand, the Cabinet approved the jobs, wages and salaries law to improve the living standards of the public sector employees. The law, by virtue of which salaries of government employees rose by 33% minimally and 96% maximally and the annual allowances increased by 1500%, was put into practice and the salary increases will be counted retrospectively from the beginning of July.

The jobs, wages and salaries strategy added commendable increases to the former salary system of the all the civic and military employees, and it will be applied through different phases.



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Al-No'man announces to run for president

SANA'A- In a letter to "Ilaf", a newspaper on the website, the Yemeni political opposition leader Abdullah Ahmad al-No'man declared to run for president in Yemen's coming presidential elections.

Al-No'man has shown his desire to stand in elections after President Ali Abullah Saleh declared ending his stay in power in September 2006.

In his letter, Abdullah al-No'man said: "I think you heard on Sunday July 17 the President Ali Abdullah Saleh addressing officials who came and presented him their heartfelt congratulations on the 27th anniversary of his being in power.

President Saleh took office following the assassinations of Yemen's former President Ibrahim al-Hamdi and his successor Ahmad al-Ghashmi in a conspiracy that has not been identified until now."

Al-No'man's letter adds: "in his address, President Saleh declared his determination to quit power in September 2006, and I via your newspaper (Ilaf) announce my desire to run for president in the presidential elections due in September 2006. I commit myself to behave in the way conducted by Yemen's great revolutionaries including al-No'man, al-Zubairi, al-Eriani and their colleagues".

HOOD denounces government's treatment of protestors

SANA'A- The National Authority for Defending Rights and Freedoms, HOOD expressed its denunciation at the government's treatment of marchers who protested against the sharp rise of fuel prices.

HOOD held the Yemeni government accountable for the bloodiest riots in which several innocent citizens and security troops were killed, and noted the government has never taken enough procedures and precautions to ensure the protection of demonstrators and their rights to express themselves.

HOOD has shown concern that the acts of vandalism and violence which accompanied the demonstrations were ignited by some parties to be a justification for the government's policies

and decisions, as well as to help the government deny citizens their rights to protest against its reforms.

It also expressed sorrow for the illegal use of power by the government parties, dispatching tanks and armored vehicles and deploying troops in the Yemeni cities, a behavior which conveyed a negative image of Yemen and its security and stability.

HOOD urges the Parliament to shoulder the responsibility, form a committee to investigate motives of the chaotic acts that accompanied the riots, call to account those who are responsible, count victims of the riots on both military forces and civilians and assess damages caused to properties.

Supported by IIAE YTS discusses educational problems

Sana'a- July 25- The Yemeni Teachers Syndicate (YTS) conducted a week's session 25/7-1/8/2005, on the educational problems.

Mahdi Al-Harazi, media official in the syndicate revealed that the sessions are devoted to discussing three educational problems: the weak learning abilities, the teachers' weak performance and the low prestige of teachers in the community

These are factual problems that need to be addressed. Their reasons and impacts will be tackled to reach at a remedy plan. This will be in cooperation with the International Islamic Authority for Education (IIAE) an affiliate of the Muslim World league.

The media official continued to say that, several education officials from the governorates will participate in the discussion of these problems. Sixty of The general department from the Ministry of Education will also join in these discussions. These discussions will be evaluated by academics from Yemeni universities and specialists in

the IIAE.

The last session, on 31/7 and 1/8/2005 will be devoted to setting plans for handling these problems, within three years' time. The final results will be submitted to the concerned authorities to make use of.

The media official summed up by saying that this effort comes from the Yemeni teachers Syndicate as contribution to diagnose the educational problems and to find the appropriate solutions for them. The Syndicate conducts such forums to fulfill the aims for which it is formed.

It is worth saying that the discussion sessions have been so far attended by Dr. Hassan Bin Ali Al-Hajaji deputy chairman for educational, economic and administrative affairs, Dr. Abdulrazig Bin Ahmed Dhafr Member of the board of the authority secretariat, Mr. Muhsin Bin Ahamed Ba-abdullah deputy secretary for resources and information and Mr. Rizgullah Bin Gasim Al-Ahmadi, Manager of administration and financial affairs.

Yemenia in Beirut honors travel, tourism and cargo agents

In the presence and sponsorship of captain / Abdulkhliq saleh Al-Qadhi, Chairman of the Yemenia and MP Bahiah Al-Hariri, Lebanese Minister of tourism, the Yemenia office in Beirut, held a party to honor the travel, tourism and cargo agents, the first in Lebanon for 2004.

There were a number of varied artistic sections and other functions. The party was attended by a number of political dignitaries, Diplomats, businessmen, cultural, social and artistic personalities.

During the party gratis tickets to Malaysia, India and South Africa were drawn.

Two Yemeni children win

The High Committee for Child Care in the Arab Republic of Libya had organized a contest in the art of drawing and artistic expression of children, under the name of (Tripoli international contest for child drawings).

The Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood responded to the Libyan invitation. It made a coordinated course through media, by inviting our creative and gifted children from schools, societies and other sectors to join with their drawings. The council had also coordinated for receiving the drawings and sending them to the organizers. The participation of our children in this content was quite honoring to all Yemeni chil-

dren. This is realized through the success of the Yemeni child Bashier Humadi Saad Al-Wusabi, to win the first position, and the golden medal, besides other prizes. The child Bsam Qasim Hassan Al-azizy also won a distinction certificate, in addition to other prizes. Both of the winners are of the special needs children, who are affiliates of the center of child labor combat, in the Capital secretariat.

The center would like to thank all the unsuccessful children who joined in this contest. It wishes them better chances in future contests. It worth mentioning, that many Arab countries had participated with their child drawings in this context.

During summer vacation Current year sees huge influx of expatriates

By NABIL AL-OSAIDY

Informed Sources expected an increase in the number of expatriates through the road inlets, compared with previous years.

The sources attributed this increase to a number of factors. Most important among these is the inauguration of al-Wadia'a inlet in the north of Hadramot Governorate. It is on the boarders with Saudi Arabia. It was opened last year. Long roads were also opened between the Eastern and Northern Governorates. The Ministry of public works rehabilitated roads connecting Al-Maharah Governorate, which is the Eastern gate of

Yemen, with Hadramot, Shabwa and Ma'rib.

Some governorates have witnessed a boom in construction and tourism. On top of these is Hadramot and Al-Mukala in particular, in which the fine celebrations of the last unity anniversary were held. Its huge comiche was also opened on the last 22nd May festival.

A large number of Yemeni expatriates prefer to visit home during summer vacations so that their kids could spend enjoyable times among relatives and friends. They also find a chance to visit historical and tourist sites, in addition to other fine Yemeni places.

Furthermore the, transport between

Yemen and Oman witnessed a prominent activity through Shahn boarder outlet in Al-Maharah.

Formal statistics said that the number of those who entered the country through Shahn during the last five months were more than 7,500 visitors. They were Yemeni expatriates, Arabs and foreigners who come for investment, trade and tourism.

Information from there confirms that most of the visitors are from Hadramot governorate itself. They prefer to come in their own cars from the Gulf States through Shar, because of its relatively short distance in comparison with other roads.

Mass Media for communication Training & Qualifying Institute

New Batch & New Ambitions

Since its establishment in 2000 the Mass Media for Communication Training & Qualifying Institute keeps on giving different training and rehabilitating courses for a huge number of media people. The last batch was around 20 journalists from Saba News Agency who finished on Monday 18 July a 5-day training program on how to use the accurate journalistic language, which took place at Mass Media for Communication Training & Qualifying Institute (MMC-TQI).

Dr. Abdallah Azzalab, the dean of MMCTQI, spoke to Yemen Times about the training course "This training program is held with cooperation of Skills Development Fund, Saba News Agency and MMCTQI for about 20 journalists in the field of journalistic language in Arabic language and aimed at basically developing the journalistic skills in composing a better journalistic works and dealing with the language journalistically, rather than linguistically as well as refreshing the information of the long-period workers. Language is the means and tool of sending the journalistic message and it is the key of any work in media and journalists always need training and refreshment.

The workshop lasted for 5 days and the attendance was remarkable. We have had similar training courses for those

who work at radio and TV in how to use the accurate language during their presentation"

About the job nature of the MMCTQI, "The MMCTQI is a specialized institute and as a result of much pressures and increasing dire need for media training in Yemen, our activities center on the field of media professional training rather than on the associated skills such as computer, internet, Arabic and English languages, media administration and . We give the priorities to the media skills that the journalist daily needs and then the language and the communication come in the second place. There are more than 10,000 people who work in the media, yet, we have one institute with humble finance. A branch in Aden last year was launched but unfortunately it could not carry out any activities and training courses for the media people there as there are not enough funds. So we in MMCTQI actually receive support from different donors such as United Nations, World Bank, British and American embassies and others. Now we along with cooperation of Danish program for Media development have 20 courses and specialists trainers and experts will be brought from abroad. These courses will target the media people in print press, radio and TV. In fact they will be distinguished courses dealing, for instance,

with technical stuff, montage, directing, journalism ethics and administration media institution. The engineers who work in radio and TV for example usually suffer from various problems in dealing with sound devices and its techniques as well as they lack the experience of dealing with digital technology.

The nature of MMCTQI's job is to give short-term courses in training and rehabilitation. Now we have submitted to the ministry of information a project to rebuild the MMCTQI structure as attempt to make it a higher institute through which media people can get diploma by giving courses for 6 months or a year. But the longest course MMCTQI has run is 2 months. The MMCTQI is designed to be highly respected edifice with special qualifications and tasks, but unfortunately, its tasks have been limited. The beneficiaries from the MMCTQI training courses are a lot. Last year the number of beneficiaries reached to more than 400 people and this year the number is about more than 600 ones.

In the end Dr. Azzalab regretfully concluded, "Other problem is that the media people who work in the governorates are deprived from such training and rehabilitation courses. They need more support and more attention to have equal opportunities that their counterparts have here in Sana'a."

Minister of Transportation Says: Price hike shouldn't monopolize

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

After the new decision that the Yemeni Government took last week and brought about all the protests and demonstrations that took place in different governorates, which caused the horrific lose in lives and properties, thus, many merchants and vehicles owners started to exploit the situation and determine their own prices and oppress the poor citizen.

In this regard Eng. Omar AL-Amoudi, the minister of Transportation, revealed on yesterday Sunday 23 July in a press conference that was held in the ministry the new fees of the all the kinds of transportations and vehicles that are used for either for passengers or transferring goods.

During the press conference a ministerial decree was distributed and issued by the ministry of transports, ministry of Oil and Minerals and ministry of Industry and Commerce in which it shows the amount of fees increasing. The decree reveals that there is %38 increasing in the fees of the vehicles that carry basic commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, flour.

The decree also points out that there is only %15 increase in the vehicles that take more than 36 passengers between cities. While the taxies and vehicles that carry less than 36 passengers between cities have to increase their fees to %23.



The decree also reveals all the fees for all the vehicles that are used inside the cities.

AL-Amoudi pointed out that the increase in the fees of transportation is as a result of increasing the price of the diesel and petroleum. "We have made slight increasing in the fees of the transports and we put maximum percentage and the vehicles owners should not go over it, yet, due to the market competition they have the choice to determine the price but below the percentage we have decided. The owners of the vehicles should not get scared or exaggerate the situation. We have removed the taxes on transports so they will keep gaining the same. We have specified the increasing and who is going to violate this increasing will be punished. No one should exploit the situation and in turn the poor citizens. We are ready to

receive any violations and any comments. Price hike reflects on all."

AL-Amoudi further said "Price hike is one of the amendment steps in Yemen and is to amend the national economy which has been suffering much, especially lately. I want to assure that the results of the new decision in increasing the prices are going to benefit all sides and will bring positive results."

The minister assured that the new prices have been implemented in different governorates; yet, some governorates still protest and can not digest the idea of increasing the prices particularly of the basic commodities. The minister assured that there is coordination between the ministry and the governorates through the local councils and the situation will be controlled and the results will show that these amendments will go in the citizen's favor.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think the government's decision to modify fuel prices will gratify the public and lessen their anger vented at the government?

Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think the government will change its latest economic policies?

No
Yes
I don't know

80%
12%
8%

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Summer Celebration In Taiz

Under the slogan "For the sake of a clean environment in our city" Taiz governorate arranged a celebration last Thursday which will continue until the middle of next August. This 2005 Summer Tourism celebration was inaugurated in Taiz with the participation of local organizations, creative organizations, public and private sectors in the governorate. The celebration program will consist of a theatre presentation, songs, seminars and films. In addition to that there is a hosting for creative talents.

There will also be a lot of entertainment, cultural, enlightenment, historical, and religious programs.

The aim of this celebration is to encourage the creative abilities and artistic talents of the youth in the province.

Dar al-Salam Organization denounces UK's terrorist acts

SANA'A- Dar al-Salam Organization on Saturday July 23 strongly denounced the terrorist acts that targeted innocent civilians and security and stability of United Kingdom.

It described such acts as cowardly, inhuman and wild, adding they contradict the teachings of the revealed Books, the constitutions and the traditional values.

"We convey our heartfelt condolences to the government of the UK and to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones in the barbaric acts" said a spokesman on behalf of the High Council of Dar al-Salam.

The organization calls on Islamic scholars and social personalities of distinction to do their best for fighting the extremist ideology born in the minds of terrorists and protect humanity from their evil motives. Muslim scholars are urged to show how compassionate Islam is for human beings irrespective of their roots, colors and religious affiliation, according to the organization.

In addition, Dar al-Salam Organization called on the international community, the Muslim nations and the international organizations to disclose sufferings of the people who received their share of injuries in such acts of terror.

Final outlines for tackling child labor

Five local and international organizations intend to set the final outlines of several projects for fighting child labor in Yemen and holding a discussion with decision-makers on the possible solutions.

Ms Muna Ali Salim, Manager of Child Labor Unit at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor mentioned that her ministry, in coordination with the International Labor Organization (ILO), International Program for

Fighting Child Labor, Central Organization for Statistics, and the National Program for Labor Market Information, will involve a number of Yemeni decision-makers from different parties to verify the findings of a study on child labor.

The study has been conducted for 6 months in 8 Yemeni governorate with the aim of acquainting with the features of each with respect to child labor, its density and the nature of

measures required for tackling the issue.

Ms. Salim indicated the concerned government bodies will offer projects and discuss them with decision-makers according to the operating database. In case these projects are approved, they will be presented to the Cabinet to be endorsed and then forwarded to the donors who fund such projects and implement them in the framework of a specified strategy.

She said the projects of fighting child labor differ in their styles from one governorate to another due to the diversity of activities. Some Yemeni governorate are perceived to send child laborers while others receive them, she confirmed, adding that Hajjah tops the list of the Yemeni governorate in the sense of receiving child laborers whereas al-Mahweet is pondered upon as the largest exporter of child laborers due to its weak economic activities.

Yemen: Another mistake for the International Monetary Fund?

JAD CHAABAN
DAILY STAR

The Yemeni government decided to lift the subsidy on oil derivatives last week, justifying its decision by arguing that prices of oil derivatives have been changed all over the world. The move prompted rioting which continued into the weekend.

The government also made a number of decisions which include reducing the tariffs 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 200,000 individuals. One day after the decision to reduce subsidies on oil products, at least 13 Yemenis died when rioters and security forces clashed in different areas of Yemen.

And this is not the first time. Yemen has a long history of turbulent reforms. In March 1995 gasoline prices increased within the context of economic reforms agreed upon with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. On June 18, 1998, the government announced increases of 40 percent on gasoline, 35 percent on wheat and flour, and 25 percent on cooking gas and the week of ensuing riots and demonstrations against price rises left more than 50 dead. The increases were also a factor in the resignation of Premier Farag Bin Ghanim in April 1998. Earlier phases of the economic package - which aimed ultimately to remove state subsidies on basic goods - have also caused trouble. In October 1998 at least three people died when armed tribesmen blocked major roads on all sides of the capital after the price of diesel went up.

According to an article in the Middle East International in June 1998, the IMF argued at that time that removing the subsidies ought to have little effect on the average consumer because the money was usually creamed off by middle-men. In reality, Yemen had little option but to accept the IMF's demands. In 1994 the country's balance of payments deficit was \$760 million

and revenue was not even enough to cover government employees' salaries. The IMF/World Bank rescue package in 1995 brought new loans of \$500 million, and later \$1.8 billion, plus cancellation of most of Yemen's existing debt (mainly with the former Soviet Union). This package was, as expected, conditioned by a lengthy economic reform agenda that the Yemeni government is still trying to implement.

More recently, on March 14 2005, the Executive Board of the IMF concluded the Article IV consultation with the Republic of Yemen, clearly highlighting the Fund's preference in seeing subsidies on fuel products eliminated:

"(IMF) directors underscored the need for a strong, credible, and comprehensive fiscal strategy, and recommended the implementation, without delay, of critical measures, such as the General Sales Tax, the removal of the petroleum product subsidy, and the reduction in the wage bill through retrenchment rather than a wage freeze." Implicit to these required reforms was a form of hidden conditionality, linking reforms to future financial aid:

"They (the directors) welcomed the authorities' recognition of the challenges ahead and their commitment to undertake the necessary policy response, which is also important for attracting additional donor assistance and foreign investment."

But it seems that the IMF saw the social crisis following these reforms as imminent and recommended policies to tackle it:

"In view of the planned adjustment in petroleum prices, directors underscored the importance of strengthening social-protection mechanisms to mitigate the impact on the poor. They supported policies that would improve the targeting and the coverage of the Social Welfare Fund (SWF), which distributes cash subsidies directly to poor families. They also called for further efforts to protect the most vulnerable groups from the long-term adjustment required for achieving sustainability."

It clearly seems that the government of Yemen's recent decision to strongly reduce the subsidy on oil products comes as a reaction to recent IMF pressure.

In its annual economic assessment, the IMF warned the Yemeni government of long-term challenges if it continues to ignore or delay serious urgently needed reforms. These reforms, as exposed above, clearly focus on reducing public expenditure to decrease a worsening public deficit. But is doubling oil products' prices for poor consumers the right way to do it? Surely curbing public expenditure all round, including military spending, would have been more effective. A quick look at the evolution of the government's expenditure in recent years provides more insight on this point.

The government's wheat and flour subsidy was reduced to zero as of 2000, while the petroleum products subsidy reached, after some fluctuation, a level of 17 percent of total current expenditures. Yet, despite this relatively large figure, this subsidy remains much lower than the level of total defense expenditure. Defense salaries remained constant from 1998 to 2003 (12 to 14 percent), while non-salary defense expenditure increased to a high of 14 percent of total expenditures in 2003.

Total defense spending between 1998 and 2003 kept an almost constant share in total current expenditure (almost a quarter), while the petroleum products subsidy fluctuated during this period but remains in recent years much lower than defense spending.

In light of this data, does removing the petroleum products subsidy constitute a priority in the government's goal to reduce its budget deficit? The answer is clearly no. These products have a widespread consumption, especially for the poor, and rapidly increasing their price will surely deteriorate the tough living conditions of the Yemenis. The reason why nobody talks about curbing defense spending neither in Yemen nor in the IMF, to release more money for development, remains a mystery.

Gulf News: Opposition denies it incited fuel price riots

Leaders of Yemen's political parties have denied government accusations that they instigated the violent riots over fuel prices.

The ruling People's General Congress (PGC) has accused the six main opposition parties of inciting the protests after the parties suspended dialogue and called for the government to reconsider the fuel price rise.

The opposition parties called in a statement obtained by Gulf News, for an "immediate, neutral and fair investigation" into what happened during the violent protests which killed about 40 and injured 475.

Unfair decision

The opposition parties, known as the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), announced the suspension of dialogue until the PGC government retracted its "unfair and unjust" decision.

In a meeting with the Supreme Security Committee on Saturday, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said: "The leadership is studying the issue of the price of diesel to determine what's wrong and what's right."

The Yemeni Socialist Party's (YSP) leading figure, Abdul Gani Abdal Qader told Gulf News "the suspension of dialogue was to express our dissatisfaction with the economic policies which have led to more poverty and hunger. "The

political parties would have organised peaceful demonstrations without any riots or violence had the political arena been wider."

A Nasserite official said it was now time to create dialogue with the President, not with the PGC.

A spokesman for the PGC, Tarek Al Shami, said: "The JMPs are unable to provide alternatives for the interest of the nation. We have taken a decision that will protect the national economy from collapse."

"We need dialogue more than ever before to rescue the economy and for political reform," political analyst and chairman of the Political Development Forum, Ali Saif Hussain, told Gulf News.

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- Yemeni Nationality.
- The applicant must be a Ph.D. holder and wish to conduct further research in his/her field; and submit:
 - A precise and detailed research proposal for a project that requires being in the U.S.
- Fluent in English.

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This fellowship program is for professionals in applied fields. It combines academic training in an American university (non degree program) and field experience, up to nine months. Requirements are:

- International TOEFL score of at least 525.
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- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with an excellent academic record.

For the application forms, please contact the Public Diplomacy Section, telephone # 755-2454.

Deadline for submitting application is: August 20, 2005.



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تعلن المدرسة الكندية الدولية عن بدء التسجيل والقبول للعام الدراسي 2005 - 2006 من التمهيدي إلى الصف الثاني عشر بإدارة ومدرسين كنديين. وكذلك بإعتناء المدرسة وتسجيلها في وزارة التربية الكندية في ولاية إنتريو كأى مدرسة كندية في كندا وشهادتها معتمدة في الجامعات الكندية. كما تعلن عن إستمرار التسجيل والقبول في القسم العربي مع التركيز على اللغة الإنجليزية والفرنسية.



العنوان: حدة - الحي الدبلوماسي - خلف السفارة الإيرانية - تلفون : ٤١٨ ٥١٠ - فاكس : ٤٢٣٣٦٥

Hadda - Diplomatic Quarters - Behind the Iranian Embassy

Tel: 418510 - Fax : 423365

If you love your children, please do not hit them

ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
FOR YEMEN TIMES
eshraqalbodigy@yahoo.com

Love is a natural humanity instinct that we cannot ignore. Here, in this subject we are not trying to study if the parents love their child or not? However, we try to beg the kindness of parents towards the child who may be suffering negative results of this love.

Parents' desire to bring up their little baby to become a man or a woman who are able to behave decorously and politely, comes out from that instinctive love which was born with the birth of the baby itself. Nevertheless, this desire may take other wrong shapes of behavioral upbringing towards the child, such as hitting and screaming.

Many parents don't know the negative results of this incorrect behavioral upbringing, moreover; numerous of them have known its results, but are not able to refrain from using these ways which is dangerous in many ways.

Children are very sensitive; they feel by all adults' feelings and more. From this point, hitting and screaming represent a large insult and scorn of their ideas, sayings, and behaviors; and in addition to that, these bad treatments with children give them a feeling with inferiority complex and reiterated mistakes. A study that had done by a group of researchers at a Mental Health Institute in Singapore, confirms that hitting children exposes them to many behavioral and emotional problems, also shows that children who are not hit by their parents are less subjected to this kind of problems.

Nonetheless, studies that restricted on this theme prove that physical punishment of children does not deter them from making mistakes again and again, but it hurts their feelings and emotions to the extent that child may forget in so many times the reason of his punishment so, they resumes unconsciously to make the same mistake once more.

Another explanation of repeated mistakes by the child, who are punished physically, could be as a verification of his personality or acts. As a result of this, parents cause in uncounted psychological complexes and physical pains and injuries for their children. At the same time, those parents cannot get what they want from their children like good behav-

ior and respect.

Using force, hitting, and violence with kids do breed more violence and that means the only lesson, which will be taken by the kids from their parents during the physical punishment is that tragic rule, which says violence does breed wanted things. In the light of this rule, kids are growing up vehemently, thinking that it is the best way to take what they want. Parents should understand that their child is a susceptible recorder that records every saying, acts, and behaviors, which is around him even if it comes out from parents, or people whom are around too.

Let our behaviors program that a pure humanity mind from the first moment of its birth until death becomes in a stage that he is able to use his own smartness and programs. Lets give ourselves a chance to change our behaviors and reprogram ourselves to control our nerves and minds, to be quieter, and to observe the principle of discussion and comprehension which one may lose gradually as a result of continual life pressure upon the human minds.

To reach a stage that is enough persuasive to abandon of hitting and screaming, which leave many physical and psychological problems for the child; we should suggest some suitable replacements to take the place of negative traditional ways.

Many parents especially in Europe and developed countries had replaced those traditional ways with others, which are more advanced and civilized. The advancement and civilization here does not mean using money or economy in the course of treatment with the infant, however it means the direct dealing with his psychological nature and behaviors by using the principle of punishment and reward.

This principle is effective because it follows the situation of the child and his psychological mode, it punishes the kid by things he hates and rewards him by things he likes. According to this principle, the correct behaviorism upbringing program starts with out screaming or physical punishment which is represented by hitting, slapping, etc.

In case of making mistakes, the deprivation of kids from what they like and applying this principle of punishment by their parents according to the type of mistakes which had been done by the kid, helps him to recognize the mistake grad-

ually unless directly from the first time.

Besides, the correct behaviorism upbringing program makes a child more understanding and cautiousness to what he does in the future, while the reward principle, which represented on giving lovely things to the child after achieving required things from him, which enclosed in particular agreements between the child and his parent, helps him to learn respect of deals and agreements, fulfillment of requests, and capability of patience especially if these agreements have limited time.

In addition to that, it is so useful that parents have to respect those human minds, which live small bodies inside of their children. Parents should try to reply the whole questions that their child asks for, but it so important that parents have to be more intelligent and careful when they start to answer these questions. Simply, to avoid the embarrassment, means that parents have to answer the questions by a simple and clever way, which can help the kid to understand things step by step and without any resorting to lying.

Supposed that parents have to explain things without being asked, the child will find himself that he can understand everything around him easily, and parents will find themselves comfortable. If parents are facing any problem with their kid, it is necessary for them to ask some help from specialists in this field. Kindness and feeling of stability save more of hard working in upbringing the child and feeling safety, and domestic stability makes the child more confident in himself and others, it doesn't create a weak personality that bereaved of sympathy.

Also, the understanding and the harmony that existed between the mother and the father of the children themselves about all family matters are so important for the child to keep his awareness unified and not scattered.

Finally, the aim of this object is that; stopping the incorrect behaviors of education, comprehension of some civilized habits may be absent in lots of families around the world, and finding more practical solutions which have less damages for the children, parents, and communities in the same time is a key. Thus, please do not forget that children are the future generation that will open new entrances of glory, progress, and civilization.

Half the World

By Women's National Committee

Gender equality in Yemen: Women and political participation

Despite considerable progress in the democratic system since Yemen's Unification in 1990, women's political participation continues to remain low. Of the total 7251 representatives in the Parliament and local councils only 38 are women. Women's representation overall comprises only 0.5% in the elected institutions. Gender disparities in women's representation also persists in the government with only 16,200 women and legal institutions with female judges numbering 32. Political participation is fundamental to the process of change and transformation. However, both political parties and civil society organizations instrumental in enhancing women's participation in public spaces and decision-making are governed by traditional political structures and attitudes towards women's participation in political process. We look at some of the issues related to women's participation and underlying causes leading to poor performance in the following section.

Women Candidates in the Parliamentary Elections

Of the total 41 candidates that stood for elections in 1993 of whom 24 were independent only two were able to win a seat in parliament. Traditional attitudes towards women prevent their being able to make headway in democratic political system which continue to perpetuate attitudes of the public-private divide. Women's participation in public office and in decision-making are perceived as not in keeping with their gender roles and responsibilities. Political parties prefer to nominate male candidates rather than women candidates. In 1993, only 17 women were backed by political parties compared to 1998 men who garnered support. In the next elections, instead of women's political participation increasing with greater exposure and experience, there was a decline in women candidates with only 8 women being nominated by political parties and another 9 competing as independent. In 2003, there was a further reduction in women candidates with only eleven women competing, five from political parties and six independent candidates compared to 1396 male candidates. Women appear to have lost faith or interest in the democratic process.

Improvement of women's status and women's political participation is a serious concern with the government. In keeping with this objective two women were nominated to the Shura Council in 2001 out of a total of 111 members. Admittedly, the representation of women is miniscule given the total, but a significant step towards increasing spaces for women's representation in key decision-making bodies. In addition the appointment of a woman Minister of State of Human Rights has meant at least one woman in Parliament of Cabinet rank. Despite these developments if women's participation in political process are to increase in the forthcoming years it would require strong measures from the government to ensure that women are fully involved in participating decisions about their future.

In contrast, women's participation in voting has increased over the years. While only 15% of women registered to vote in the first elections in 1993 this number has increased subsequently to cover 37% in 1997 and more recently 42% women voters in 2003. In spite of this increase in women voters over the years, a large number of women do not have the opportunity to exercise their entitlement.

There are several reasons for women women's low participation in political process. Social norms and practices prevent women from participating fully in decision-making especially in public spaces. Political parties themselves are divided over the issue of women's right to decision-making on the grounds that women should not have authority over men.

High levels of illiteracy and lack of awareness on political process also deter women from claiming their fundamental right to vote. Sharp differences between the major political parties on the issue also deter women from wanting to participate. In the few cases when women overcome these barriers, they are confronted by the reality of male candidates having greater mobility and access to shaping public opinion. Social customs such as qat chewing facilitate male political participation and constrain women. As per the election law, candidates require at least 323 supporters to back them before their candidature to compete in the elections can be accepted. This is a difficult proposition for male candidates themselves and even harder for women candidates to fulfill given prevailing social cultural norms.

Unless proactive steps are taken by the state to redeem the situation, women will continue to remain the invisible half of the population. If women are to champion their interests and fight for their rights, the government would have to take strong measures in terms of affirmative action and go beyond tokenism to reflect gender equality in its political process.

Women and Law

The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen promulgated in 1994 recognises equality between men and women before the law and is enshrined in Article 40 which states 'All citizens are equal in general rights and obligations' before the law. In addition to the equality provision Yemen is also a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW) and signed the Optional Protocol last year. Despite these commitments women in Yemen still experience inequalities both in terms of access to law as well as inconsistencies in the interpretation of the equality principle. Some examples of these are discussed in the following section.

Nationality

Although the Constitution ensures nationality at birth without discrimination based on gender and is consistent with the provisions as per the CEDAW agreement, it is problematic in the cases of Yemeni women married to a foreigner. Citizenship at birth is determined by the nationality of the father, and by this rule children of Yemeni women and foreign father's are not granted Yemeni citizenship. This is not consistent with the equality provision in the constitution. Amendments have been made to citizenship rights to entitle children of Yemeni parents to choose citizenship on attainment of adulthood immaterial of gender of parent. On the other hand minors are automatically included in their father's passport. Women who are estranged or divorced from their husbands face difficulty as a result of this practice. Further, although technically the constitution endorses principle of equality, women are not recognized as autonomous adult individuals. Single women who wish to apply for a passport have to obtain the permission of their guardian namely their father or brother, while married women have to obtain permission from their husbands if they wish to obtain a passport.

Right to Reside

Similar inequalities persist in granting of residence permits to spouses of Yemeni women. While foreign wives of Yemeni men are automatically granted right to remain and reside in Yemen for a period of five years, husbands of Yemeni women are given only a two year residence permit. As per the equality provision the difference in duration is inconsistent and should be five years for both parties regardless of gender.

Guardianship

As per the guardianship rules, mother's are granted automatic guardianship in the event of divorce of their children. Sons may remain under the care of their mother's until the age of 9 years and daughters until the age of 12 years. At the end of this period a child is allowed the choice to decide which parent he or she wishes to remain with. However women's groups have been lobbying to extend the age of guardianship upto 15 years for both sexes so that the child attains a level of maturity before making a decision on who she/he wishes to have as legal guardian.

Miscellaneous

Previously, if a man was found guilty of killing a woman to defend his honor he would have to pay only half the compensation of that which is paid for the death of a man. However effective lobbying from women's groups resulted in this inequality being revoked. As per the amendment the payment or compensation for the death of the individual is the same irrespective of the gender of the victim in question. Despite this small victory, the fact remains that men who kill female members of their family (either wives, sisters, mothers, aunts etc.) on the grounds of finding them guilty of adultery very often go unpunished. These cultural norms and practices in effect make men custodian of women, and any acts on the part of the women that is seen as a violation of this implicit code is met with retribution.

Lobbying by women's groups have met with some measure of success in being able to ensure that registration of children at birth is extended to mother's a male entitlement. To facilitate employment opportunities for women with small children the labor law was amended. As per this provision, day care provisions would have to be made by employers whose institutions employ more than 50% women employees. Also, treatment of pregnant women prisoners also came under review leading to a ban on harsh treatment or deprivation of food which may endanger both the health of the woman and the child.

Other issues that women's groups have strongly been advocating for is ban on female genital mutilation which continues to be practiced in some communities. Female genital mutilation is often performed on little girls under unsanitary conditions and has long lasting health consequences as well as causing irrevocable damage to the female genital organs. Women's groups have long been advocating for a legal ban on FGM except those performed expressly for medical purposes. Violation of this ban it is recommended should be met with punitive measures to deter its continuation.

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House tenants and landlords: An endless torment

TAIZ BUREAU

Moving from one house to another. Evacuate my house, and the tension at the end of each month, with the hushing up of children lest the land lord might get nervous. In this tension the house lessees spend their time.

What are the sufferings of the tenants? What are their claims?

Is there any law that regulates the relationship between the landlord and the lessee? What is the draft law of tenant and landlord that was discussed in the Parliament?

We interviewed some of the tenants, and came out with the following returns.

Early morning visits

Najat Mahmoud 30- an employee: She said: "We have been a tenants for 30 years. We moved to three houses. Our present rent is 15 thousand Rials, which is to be increased at the end of each year and with each governmental increase in prices. There are so many inconveniences from the landlords. The landlord will eventually pay an undesirable visit and invent an altercation at the beginning of each month." She added that they couldn't build their house in the past, and now this hope seems to be receding. She hopes for a law that would regulate the relations between the lessee and the landlord. She also dreams of acceptable apartments, built by the authorities, for investment for ownership.

My kids are really scared

Mohamed Ali Abdul Ghani
I have been a tenant since 1992. I moved to four houses within this period. The eminent one is for ten thousand

a month. There are many vexations. Continuous water and power cut, regular raise of rents and the teasing of the landlord's wife to my wife. As for the kids, I brought them up on fear. They should always be silent, so that they should not enter into any skirmishes with the landlord's kids. When we move to a new home, they spend the first month weeping, because they want to go back to their old house.

Rat holes

Some of the houses are no better than rat holes, but owners still demand high rents.

Ahmed Al-Izi: A truck driver, says that he lives in a hole similar to the hiding place where Saddam was caught. It consists of a room, a kitchen and a bath room. "I live with my wife and three kids in this room. We huddle ourselves in this room at night. The problem is when a guest comes. I have to send my wife to her sister's house to make a place available for our guest. The land lord demands 4500 rials for this grave - like room. If payment is delayed, there would be no water, nor electricity. The landlord starts crying till the neighbors come. We demand law protection and not to be left at the mercy of the landlord.

Courts and loses

Ali Saif Al- uriqi says that apart from the increase in the rents, the landlords, sometimes get the tenants out of their houses with no good reasons. A tenant is supposed to be given ample time to look for a new house. He is to have at least three months, without pay to compensate for the cost of luggage transfer and the auctions they pay for the new house.

The above was a good reason to contact several sides to know their point of

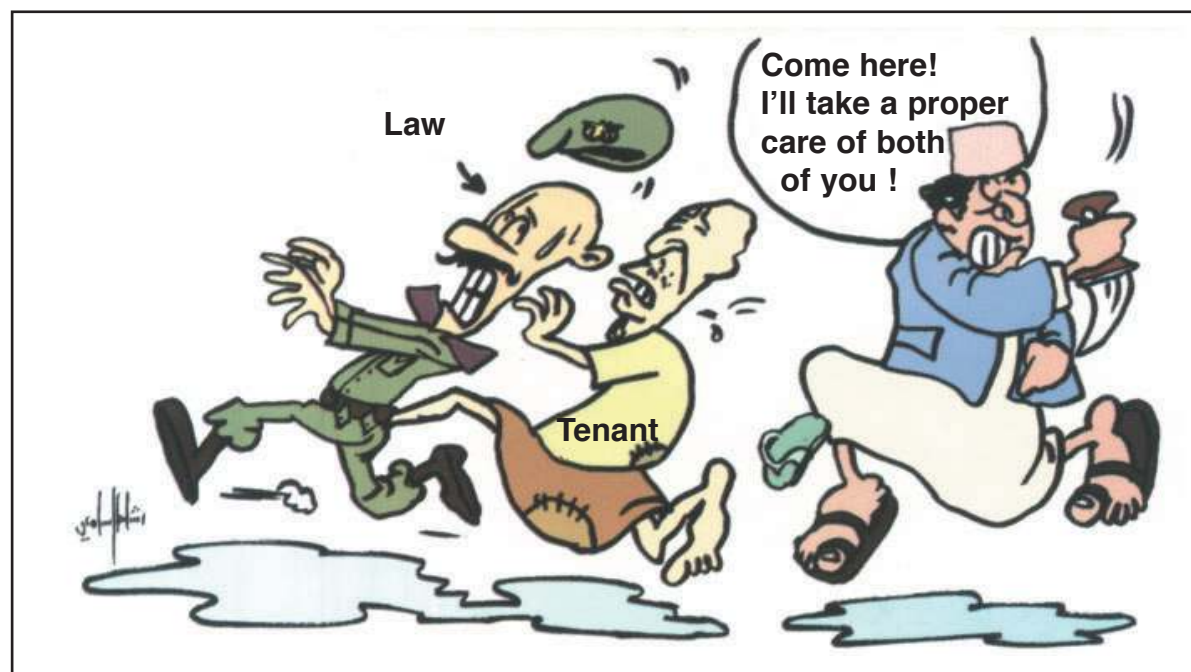
view and their part in coordinating the relation between the lessee and the landlord. Several parts said that it is not within their jurisdiction, so we were to meet Mps/Abdulkreem Shaiban and Sakhr Al-wajeeh. We asked them about the draft law that regulates the relation between the tenant and the landlord. It has been lately discussed in the Parliament. We enquired whether this law will express the tenants' hopes.

A new law that doesn't grant the needs is a futility

MP Abdulkreem Sharaf Shiban said that there was no need to introduce the draft. The subject of the new draft which was discussed, is the relation between the tenant and the landlord. This was tackled in details in the civil law in about 98 articles. These are articles 682 to 780. In addition to that, the civil law was issued only 28 months ago. This won't contribute to the stability of the legislations, which maintains people's interests. Shiban adds, "To present any law, there should be a real need for that law, or other wise it would be a futile effort."

In his comment on the law items, he said, "there are contradictions in this draft. There are restrictions on the rights of individuals to agree on the terms in the contract, and the rights of the landlord in case damage of the property. There are other penalties that the law has imposed on the lessee. The domination spirit is clear in this law.

In case of enactment of some of the items of this law there will be, overlapping of jurisdictions, of administrative bodies. The constitution had empowered these bodies to evaluate the rents, and resolve some disputes. There will also be interference in the affairs of the courts and other sides. Other compli-



cations in resolving renting disputes are also a problem in this draft.

Abiding by the law will preserve rights

MP Shaiban concluded by saying, "Though the law appears to be protecting the tenant's rights, but it will create a problem for both the landlord and the lessee. Such a trend contradicts the constitutions and the legislations." He said, "If there is an insufficiency in the civil law items, those items should be discussed, but in spite of all that, there should be adherence to the law to maintain people's interests and the tenants in particular".

A mysterious law that could be differently construed

MP Sakhr Al- wajeeh said, "the council discussed the draft law, and its tendency was to reject it for the fol-

lowing:

The civil law has covered all the areas of the rent contract. Added to this is the confusion that the new draft law has created a number of complications between the landlord and the lessee, which is not for the good for either of them. This is because each party can interpret the unclear items for their own interests. There are other elastic items in this draft law that make an insurance law out of it, rather than a rent law. An example of these is the item that gives the minister the right, in emergent cases to take on lease, houses that are prepared to let. This will be without permission from the owner. This is of course a transgression over the rights of the citizens. There are other flaws in this law.

MP Alwajeeh adds that the law didn't specify the rent amounts. It created an administration inside the ministry to

determine the amount of rent in case of dispute.

Returned for amelioration

On the general aspects of the law, MP Sakhr said: "The committees of Islamic legislations and services, tried to amend the draft law, but when the law was presented to the council, we found that every item needs to be amended. This compelled the MPs to return the draft to the legislation and services committees for amelioration.

Conclusion

The issue of the tenants remains to be a nightmare to many. This necessitates the efforts of several bodies to contribute to the right solution for this problem, in order to reduce the sufferings of the tenants. This needs finding out a mechanism that would strike a balance between the two parties.

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The final report on the achievements of the Ministry of Information's General Program for Population Information and Communication regarding PDS (yem/02/02) for the year 2004



All these activities are supported by UNFPA

Concerning Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held in the first half of April, 2004, with coordinators from the General Program, the Second Program, Hodeidah Radio, Mukalla Radio, Yemen Space Channel, and May 22nd Channel because they are the outlets responsible for preparing, producing, and broadcasting 55 media activities of the plan totaling 3300 minutes. The Meeting elaborately discussed the positive results in the audio and visual communication channels especially the efficient preparation of messages and programs and the artistic values of directing and presentation. They are issues that got an in-depth discussion so as to enhance the positive results, and avoid the negative ones that accompanied the works of the third year, and for the communication components in the information and resources mobilization to serve the sought goals and fall in line with the ever-increasing concern of the political leadership about the population problem and its negative impact on the overall programs of future economic, cultural, health and social development. The following were reviewed:

- 1-1. Plan components
- 1-2. Plan executive timetables
- 1-3. Issues addressed by the Information Plan
- 1-4. Behavioral or cognitive content of the message
- 1-5. Specifying the targeted classes
- 1-6. Implementation period (see the attached Executive Table No. 2)
- 1-7. Mechanism of keeping in touch with the General Program during the plan implementation.

These are the seven components for the implementation of the plan. Other issues were reviewed such as population and health indicators and whatever relates to the problems. All that helped unify the media discourse regarding the population problem and its various factors as well as the content of the sent messages. Later, all of them were presented as an integrated plan along with an executive timetable to the Operations Director of the General Project at the General Secretariat of the National Population Council before taking the next steps of the plan implementation.

Concerning radio and TV broadcasting

The plan targeted the implementation of some 55 radio and TV activities with a total broadcasting time of 3300 minutes (55 hours). The virtual broadcasting time exceeded the planned one by a percentage of 49% with a total radio and TV broadcasting time of 4950 minutes (82.5 hours) (see Executive Table No. 1).

It is noteworthy that the three TV programs included by the plan were turned into activities to cover the World Population Day held in Taiz at the request of the General Secretariat of the National Population Council. The total time devoted to those programs amounted to 180 minutes, which is the time of the TV activity provided for by the plan besides the news coverage of the said activity, which was not considered part of the TV or radio broadcast.

General Results

The radio program experiment carried out during 2004 has revealed significant, positive results summarized as follows:

3-1- The success of decentralized implementation: Programs were prepared by a variety of people, males and females. On the one hand, this enriched the experiment of the General Program of Information and Population Communication. On the other hand, this provided an opportunity for honest artistic



competition in the field of creating the effective words, and depicting situations, and behaviors. Undoubtedly, this is an extremely positive outcome, which was targeted by the General Program during 2004 as one of the goals of preparing, and producing population messages by provincial media staff (at the decentralized level).

3-2- The same spirit overwhelmed the aspect of artistic production. Directing programs was conducted by different staff. This enriched the programs not only in terms of content but also in artistic form and flavor.

3-3- Most programs were presented by male and female presenters with different programs and dialogues. This further heightened the heat of competition and the artistic contest in the following aspects:

- Preparation
- Presentation
- Production (directing)

3-4- The adequate selection of program guests. Program makers made right selection of guests in terms of specialization, and their population, economic, cultural and health expertise. Their specialization level matched the subjects of the executed programs regarding their knowledge about economic, population, health and vital indicators. That was a very significant artistic result showing clearly the maturity of the experience at the stations commissioned to implement the Fourth Annual Plan at the decentralized level, once again.

Training

The plan aimed to train 106 male and female participants during 2004. The actual number of trainees was 132, exceeding the plan by 24.5%. An introductory meeting was conducted for the staff of the public, private and partisan media at the expense of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, not included by the plan. The meeting was meant to raise awareness on AIDS and the severe social stigma on patients as well as the Islamic stance on it and the effective role of prevention from venereal diseases especially AIDS (see attached Table No. 2)

4-1- Targeted class for training: Staff of public, private and partisan communication channels in the provinces covered by the plan.

4-2- Conditions of participation in the training events:

a- To be of the interested people in the population problem, its news, and its negative impact on the future development programs.

b- Not to have participated in any similar activity of training programs in the

province or the Capital City.

c- To have the desire to tackle population problems, reproductive health, and family planning in the future.

d- To have participated in the Radio or TV Flash Book Course on population problems, reproductive health, family planning, and gender issues. This particular condition applies to the staff of the Specialized Media Course in Aden.

Generally, training covered three categories:

- a. Guidance Meeting
- b. Introductory Meeting
- c. Specialized Media Training

4-3. Goals of the Introductory Meeting

a. Introducing the population problem and its negative impact on future economic, cultural and social development programs.

b. Introducing reproductive health, its service components, and its role in reducing the general fertility rate among women and the annual population growth rate.

c. Introducing woman issues and her role in future development programs

d. Islam and family planning

e. Youth issues and effect on the population problem.

f. The population problem and reproductive health discussed in news stories, news articles, reports, and columns.

g. Unifying the media address and its artistic components regarding family planning techniques.

4-4. Specialized media training

The training included some 12 male and female trainees from the Yemen Space Channel, May 22nd Channel and one participant from the Second Radio Program. This kind of training is specialized in the sense that it targets a class of the media personnel who had been trained one year ago in writing radio and TV texts (flashes). In order to achieve the goal completely, the specialized media training had to be completed in the preliminary and final tests of produced TV messages. This type of training aimed to achieve the following:

a- Field test of media messages including reason explanation and component identification.

b- Concepts of preliminary and final tests of media messages especially evaluation of the media material in its first and final stages and identification of strong and weak points.

c- Field test approaches including its various types (individual, group) and the three components of the test form.

d- General policy of population information and communication in the Ministry of Information especially the following dimensions:

- The sectional dimension of the popu-



Comprehensive and inclusive Table No. (1) for the implementation period of the population communication and information's TV, radio, telephone, and training activities, their total number, broadcasting time, and percentages for the years 1999-2004

No.	Implementation period	Implemented media event	Total number	Percentage in number	Total time/hs	Broadcasting percentage	Participants number	Number of tel. callers
1	2000-2004	Radio and TV: Dialogues Programs Flashes Notices	2151	93% radio 7% TV	532,6	90% radio 10% TV		
2	1999-2004	Training: Symposia, courses, workshops, meetings	36	55.7% men 44.3% women	-	-	729	-
3	2000-2004	Press: News, awareness	1785	66% news 34% awareness	-	-	-	-
4	From December 2, 2002 – July 12, 2003	Hope and Future Line: Knowledge contests	40	60% delivery 12.5% venereal diseases 10% population policy 7.5% Islam and family 5% youth issues 5% gender	45000	100% telephonic	-	1,170,000
		Overall total	4012	100%	45532,6	100%	729	1,170,000

lation problem

- The integrated dimension of treating the problem through media

e- Media channels' strategies and their technical visual and audio characteristics and percentages of their effect on the targeted classes.

f- The communicational, informational and training achievements of the General Program from 1999-2003

g- Mal and female participants' acquisition of the practical (applicable) ability to technically and administratively deal with the targeted class and master the technical manipulation of the first and final tests applied to the class. The technical aspect of the course was divided into two parts: theoretical including the above mentioned subjects, and practical including the selection of a group representing the targeted class in the form of 10 workmen chosen directly at a workers morning gathering to practically administer the final test on three typical produced messages (flashes) before the trainees. That helped highlight administering the test, its methodology and components right before the trainees.

4-5. In final assessment of the specialized media training in Aden and the staff of the introductory meetings on the population problem, reproductive health, family planning, and woman and youth issues and the impact of all that on the success of future economic, cultural, health and social development programs in both Hodeidah and Ibb: A special questionnaire was set up for these training events including the viewpoints of male and female participants about the implemented training events especially the following aspects:

a- How well male and female participants assimilated the programs of the training events.

b- How many training event goals were achieved

c- Male and female participants' final assessment by assigning a percentage for the success of an event (see Table No. 3). Respondents to the questionnaire expressed their great desire for the following:

a- Re-organizing and expanding such meetings and specialized courses involving more new participants from the public, private and partisan media staff. We saw that during the implementation of the training plans for the year 2003 and 2004 especially in Hadhramout, Taiz, Aden, Hodeidah, and Sa'adah.

b- Reinforcing the feedback system of the General Program of Population Information and Communication in the Ministry of Information to monitor the reactions to the introductory, guidance and training events (see attached final reports on those events in Hodeidah, Ibb, Aden).

Characteristics of decentralized training

This type of training is distinguished by two characteristics:

First: Clear vision concerning decentralized training in provinces through the involvement of public, private and partisan media staff in remote provinces in particular. Thus, the participation of the media staff in the provinces came to the front representing a major goal in the meetings. The participation percentage of locals during the implementation of the plan was as follows:

- a. From Hodeidah 89.3%
- b. From Ibb 93%
- c. From Aden 66.7%. This is due to the nature of the specialized media training for the staff of the Yemen Space and May 22nd Channels.

Second: Emphasis to involve the concerned parties to the population problem, reproductive health, family planning, and woman and youth issues and the effect of all that on future development programs. This necessitated entire cooperation and coordination with the said parties by involving them first in preparing the training program and second in the executed training program in the province as staff participants. In the provinces of Hodeidah and Ibb, the following sides worked with us by providing lecturers and participants:

- 1- Local Health and Population Affairs Office.
- 2- Local National Woman Committee.
- 3- Local Endowment Office
- 4- Local Youth and Sports Office
- 5- Local Universities – such as Ibb University where the event was held and attended by its rector Dr. Ahmed Shuja'a al-Din.
- 6- Development programs officials at the local councils – as participants only.

Concerning journalistic investigations

It was planned to publish some 33 press investigations tackling the population and health problem, venereal disease, woman education, etc. on public and private newspapers (al-Jumhouriyah, al-Balagh, Yemen Times, al-Ansar, al-Wohdah, Adhwa'a al-Yemen.). This plan was achieved at 100% for the year 2004.

Concerning news coverage

The General Program for Population Information and Communication in the Ministry of Information covered the following activities:

a- The Population World Day in the city of Taiz where field coverage was conducted for the spectacular festival organized on the occasion. The field planning was conducted directly with the Second Channel to record field interviews with officials from the General Secretariat of the National Population Council and the United Nations Population Fund, and the Ministry of Information's General Program as well as a number of guests and attendants of the festival in the city. The coverage was broadcasted along

with the two programs with a total time of 180 minutes.

b- Visual and audio and written documentation of all radio, TV and press activities broadcasted and published throughout 2004.

We would like also to point out the analysis of the press activities, which total 612 subjects and news story published on official newspapers during 2004. The analysis of the press activities showed the expansion of health education events and subjects during 2004 and a decline in news coverage as follows:

- 1- Awareness subjects number 214 at a percentage of 35%
- 2- News subjects number 398 at a percentage of 65%

This analysis of the press activities published during 2004 clearly shows the soundness of the media methodology adopted by the General Secretariat of the National Population Council as the education events grew and news stories sank. The news activities published in 2000 amounted to 88% but fell in 2004 to as low as 65%; awareness topics, which are the main concern of population communication, grew from 12% in 2000 to 35% in 2004. This is a palpable evidence on the efficiency of the policy of the National Population Council's General Secretariat.

Concerning political support

All media and communication activities were constantly supported by the officials of the Ministry of Information starting with the Minister Hussein Dhaifallah al-Awadhi, who was personally concerned to sponsor the activities. He traveled, when necessary, to inaugurate, conclude and sponsor training activities besides his orders and inter-office memos which ensured that the Ministry's General Program for Population Information and Communication would have efficiency and competence to influence public communication channels. There is also the support of Hussein Omar Ba Saleem, Program's Executive Secretary General, Assistant Deputy Minister. All directly helped make successful implementation of the plan executive programs through visual, audio and written communication channels and according to the plan produced by the General Secretariat of the National Population Council for the year 2004.

Concerning obstacles and disadvantages

The delay of handing over the budget of the first quarter annually until Mid second quarter caused substantial confusion to us (people of the program) and to the public communication channels especially the audio and visual ones since their activities are determined by radio and TV cycles set up each three months. This delay was a real problem, which we hope will not occur during 2005.

This Table No (2) Which deal with the number of activities of media in Radio, T.V, Training , Press, Telephonic, during the years – 1999-2004

No	Media event	Communication channel	2000-2004		Male & female participants 1999-2004	News & awareness 2000-2004	Conversational activities from December 2, 2002 until July 12, 2003		
			Its form	Its number	Number	Number	Messages number	Callers number	Time/hs
1	Radio	First Program Second Program Local Radios	Dialogues Programs Notices From Library*	1091 271* 12 630	8877,5 15307,5 1020 3780				
2	TV	First Channel Second Channel	Programs Flashes Notices	77* 30 40	2820 87 65				
3	Training	General Program for Information	Meeting, discussion group, symposium, course, workshop	-	36*	729			
4	Press	Official & private press	News documentation Awareness documentation	-	-	1177 608			
5	Telephonic	Hope & Future Line	Knowledge contest	-	-	40	1,170,000	45000	
	Overall total	-	-	2151	532,6/h	36	729	1785	40

- Two radio programs were recorded and broadcasted during 2000 with a total broadcasting time of 60 minutes.
- Two TV programs were recorded and broadcasted at the Second Channel in 2000 with a total time of 120 minutes
- 14 courses and symposia were held in 1999 and 2000 from which 323 male and female participants benefited
- "From Libraries" began in 2004 at seven radio stations

Republic of Yemen,
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,
Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project,
Procurement of Localized On-Farm Irrigation Systems
IDA Credit No. 3860-YE Contract Bid No. MGS/05-10

Invitation for Bids

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in the United Nations Development Business, issue no. 639 of September 30, 2004.

2. The Government of Yemen has received a credit No. 3860-Yem from the International Development Association towards the cost of Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurements of Localized On-Farm Irrigation Systems.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation represented by the Project Coordination Unit of the Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project now invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of Pressurized Irrigation Systems consisting of the following Lots:

- Lot A: Drip Irrigation Systems covering 254 hectares;
- Lot B: Bubbler Irrigation Systems covering 40 hectares;
- Lot C: Micro-sprinkler Systems covering 30 hectares;
- Lot D: Small Holders (Bucket Type) Drip System, Quantity 10,000 Units;
- Lot E: Drip Irrigation Systems (Demonstration Farms) covering 17 hectares;
- Lot F: Bubbler Irrigation Systems (Demonstration Farms) covering 10 hectares;
- Lot G: Micro-Sprinkler Systems (Demonstration Farms) covering 10 hectares;
- Lot H: Tools for Installation and Maintenance; and Bidders are allowed to bid for Lots A, E and H, or Lots B, F and H, or Lots C, G and H or Lot D for all Lots (A to H).

4. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Coordination Unit and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.

6. Complete sets of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by the interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 100.00 or an equivalent amount in a free convertible currency for each set of document. The method of payment will be in cashiers check. Prospective Bidders can also receive the Bidding Documents by courier upon payment of extra charges of US\$ 35 for each set of the Document.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 13.00 hrs. on 20th September 2005. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5 % of the bid price valid for 120 days from the bid opening date. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who chose to attend at the address below at 13.00 hrs. on 20th September 2005.

Director of the Project Coordination Unit
Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project,
P.O. Box 18733
Al-Hay Al-Seyasi, Near Djibouti Embassy, Sana'a (Republic of Yemen)
Tel. No. : ++967 1 445315 or 443219
Fax No. : ++967 1 445261
E-mail : GSCP@yemen.net.ye

Republic of Yemen,
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,
Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project,
Procurement of PVC Pipes and Fittings.(Second Consignment)
IDA Credit No. 3860-YE Contract Bid No. MGS/05-15

Invitation for Bids

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business, issue no. 639 of 30 September 2004.

2. The Government of Yemen has received credit No.3860-Yem from the International Development Association toward the cost of Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project , and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for procurement of:

PVC Pipes and Fittings.(Second Consignment)

Diameters: 6", 4" , 3", 2" and 2.5" length 6m.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation represented by the Project Coordination Unit of the Ground Water and Soil Conservation Project now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of PVC Pipes and Fittings .(Second Consignment) Diameters: 6", 4" , 3", 2" and 2.5" length 6m.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from The Project Coordination Unit and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee US\$100 or in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be in cashiers check. Prospective Bidders can receive the Bidding Documents by courier upon payment of extra charges of US\$ 35.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 13.00 hrs. on 28.09.05. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of the bid price valid for 120 days from the bid opening date. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 13.00 hrs. on 28.09.05.

Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project
Director of Project Coordination Unit.
P.O. Box 18733
Al-Hay Al-Seyasi, Near Djibouti Embassy, Sana'a - Republic of Yemen
Tel No. ++ 967-1- 445315 or 443219
Fax No. ++967-1-445261
e-mail GSCP@yemen.net.ye

الجمهورية اليمنية

وزارة الزراعة والري

مشروع الحفاظ على المياه الجوفية والتربة

قرض هيئة التنمية الدولية رقم (٣٨٦٠) يمن

انطلاقاً من حرص الحكومة لتقديم الدعم لمعالجة آثار ارتفاع أسعار مادة الديزل وحفاظاً على المياه تعلن وزارة الزراعة والري ممثلة بمشروع الحفاظ على المياه الجوفية والتربة عن مناقصة رقم ٢٠٠٥/١٠ لتوريد شبكات ري حديث (تنقيط ، رشالخ)

١- حصلت الجمهورية اليمنية على قرض من هيئة التنمية الدولية لمواجهة تكاليف مشروع الحفاظ على المياه الجوفية والتربة وينوي المشروع إنفاق جزء من مخصصات هذا القرض لتغطية المدفوعات المستحقة للمناقصة التالية :

لتوريد شبكات ري حديث (تنقيط ، رشالخ)

المجموعة (أ) : أنظمة الري بالتنقيط

المجموعة (ب) : أنظمة الري الفقاعي

المجموعة (ج) : أنظمة رش مصغر

المجموعة (د) : أنظمة ري يضغط منخفض

المجموعة (هـ) : أنظمة ري بالتنقيط للمزارع النموذجية

المجموعة (و) : أنظمة الري الفقاعي للمزارع النموذجية

المجموعة (ز) : أنظمة ري مصغر للمزارع النموذجية

المجموعة (ح) : معدات لت تركيب وصيانة شبكات الري

يحق للمتناقصين التقدم للمجموعات (أ)،(هـ)،(ح) أو للمجموعات (ب)،(و)،(ج)،(ز)،(ح) أو المجموعة (د) أو لكل المجموعات

٢- سيتم متابعة الأسس والإجراءات السارية للمناقصة العالمية والتقدم للعطاء مفتوح لكل المتناقصين الراغبين والذين تتوفر فيهم الشروط المحددة في إرشادات البنك الدولي بشأن المناقصات تحت قروض البنك الدولي .

٣- تدعو وزارة الزراعة والري ممثلة بوحدة تنسيق مشروع الحفاظ على المياه الجوفية والتربة مقدمي العطاءات المؤهلين التقدم بعطاءاتهم في مظارييف مغلقة ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر لتوريد المواد المطلوبة والمحددة بالفقرة (١) .

٤- يمكن شراء وثائق المناقصات أو الحصول على نسخة بموجب طلب خطي (كتابي) إلى العنوان أدناه مقابل رسوم مبلغ وقدرة ١٠٠ دولار أمريكي غير قابلة للاسترداد أو ما يساويها من أي عملات قابلة للتحويل علماً بأن وثائق المناقصات باللغة الانجليزية.

٥- على المتناقصين تعبئة الوثائق وختمها والتوقيع عليها كما يلتزم استخدام صيغ الضمانات المرفقة بالوثائق وكذلك التأهيل ورسالة العطاء والختم على الشروط والمواصفات وجداول الكميات .

٦- يجب أن تكون العطاءات صالحة لفترة (٩٠) يوم بعد فتح المظاريف ويجب أن يصحب العطاء تأمين بقيمة لا تقل عن ٢.٥% من إجمالي العطاء بعملة العطاء ساري المفعول لمدة ١٢٠ يوم من تاريخ فتح المظاريف ا

٧- سيتم فتح مظارييف العطاءات في مقر إدارة المشروع بحضور المتناقصين أو مندوبيهم في الساعة الواحدة ظهرا في يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ٢٠٠٥.٩.٢٠ م .

مشروع الحفاظ على المياه الجوفية والتربة

وحدة تنسيق المشروع

ص.ب: ١٨٧٣٣ صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية

تليفون : ٤٤٣٢١٩ / ٤٤٥٣١٥

فاكس : ٤٤٥٢٦١

البريد الالكتروني : GSCP@yemen.net.ye

والله ولي التوفيق ...

الجمهورية اليمنية

وزارة الزراعة والري

مشروع الحفاظ على المياه الجوفية والتربة

قرض هيئة التنمية الدولية رقم (٣٨٦٠) يمن

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مشروع الحفاظ على المياه الجوفية والتربة

وحدة تنسيق المشروع

ص.ب: ١٨٧٣٣ صنعاء الجمهورية اليمنية

تليفون : ٤٤٣٢١٩ / ٤٤٥٣١٥

فاكس : ٤٤٥٢٦١

البريد الالكتروني : GSCP@yemen.net.ye

والله ولي التوفيق ...

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
OPINION

Yemen and the international media

Again Yemen has been categorized unsafe for traveling because of the latest demonstrations as the international media lashed on the country with all its might. As much there is no excuse for the violence and destruction that took place, there is also no reason why the international media should aggravate the recent negative situation simultaneously ignoring the positive one that just took place when the president declared not running for presidency again.

It is enough that Yemen as an underdeveloped country has to face its own deficiencies and huge disabilities in all sectors especially politically and economically. And seriously we do not need the international media luxuriously playing with the words, manipulating events so as to suit the perception the majority of the west has of Yemen, practicing selective amnesia with our news.

Yemen has so much to offer and it is highly unfair to ignore the positive aspects of this country and concentrate on the negative issues. The negative publicity affects our economy, tourism and international credibility. The fact that Ali Abdullah Saleh was the very first president of his kind who decides to step down and promote peaceful passing of power did not get much publicity in the international media. It seems that the western media chooses news that sells off, otherwise why else would only the negative aspects of this country get promoted?! Even when the issue of the president was approached its legitimacy was questioned and it was commented on as an early campaign for the coming presidential elections.

However it also seems unfair to condemn the foreign and international media regarding their coverage on Yemen while the Yemeni media itself is not doing much about it. The lack of professionalism and objectivity is one of the main problems facing media in Yemen. The media is mostly politically driven and unfortunately many critical issues are ignored locally because of ignorance or bias. There are many attempts to enhance the role and status of media in Yemen, but like anything else in this country it takes a very long time until something satisfactory is achieved. So while the developed world or say the more advanced media is sympathizing with the democratic attempts and freedom of speech projects in the Yemeni media, they should have looked home and objectively critic their own abilities in fairly tackling international issues first. Yes we have a problem in Yemen but the western media is not doing much to help, and in fact, I think they too have a problem in being objective.

No one can deny the impact of media on a country's reputation. It could significantly enhance the status of a country or simply categorize it as a blacklisted territory. We don't want that to happen to Yemen. Yemen is a beautiful country with potentials and deserves better treatment from both its people and the rest of the world.

The Editorial Board



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

The present's declaration and the price hikes

Bittersweet misery

FROM AL NAS NEWSPAPER
BY ALI AL-JARADI

The president's deceleration of not running for the coming presidential elections was overshadowed throughout the country by the angry protests against the price increased. After twenty seven years of ruling the president's announced was consequently intertwined with matters of life and destiny triggered by the endless fear of a dark future where even fulfilment of the basic human needs are a matter of doubt. Moreover, it was noticeable the variations between the hunger revolution on the 20th of May in 1998 and the recent one on the 20th July 2005. The first was characterised with its tribal influence as it was mainly made of tribal people while the later was mostly lead by a young generation of confused youth angry at everything and looking for an outlet for their fear triggered rage. Probably this explains their outrage at the glass banners on the streets and the cars of wealthy people expressing their deprivation that had been caused regularly by disastrous political, social and economic reform programs.

This generation does not belong to either the state or the opposition and does not believe in the traditional social or political redlines. It is a generation of globalisation, unemployment, and satellite channels. A generation surrounded by popular movements taking the pavements of the luxurious buildings around them as their homes, and walking bear feet on the streets where posh cars are driven. A generation that starves while a minority enjoys the country's resources.

It is a generation of threat against the government, its political parties and social security, driven by blind hunger. These rebels are hungry before they are problem makers, they are unemployed before they are spies and they are lost before they are resentful.

The other face of state

The common assembly parties have signified the other face of the state if not the main one. They have transformed into

social containers and a thrush hole for their trusting followers, a position that could be considered acceptable and responsible in the current situation. I would like to believe that the minds behind the ruling party are pleased at their creation of the multiple parties especially after eliminating religious preachers and school principals. For the deceiving, betraying, unpatriotic opposition hanging on the embassies doors was the very one who calmed the masses and preached patience or at least did not aggravate the situation and remained neutral. Simulations while the discarding intentions of the other – regardless of whom this other is – are elaborating unconscious that they are planning for unstudied irresponsible social revolutions, had they succeeded.

Economic patching:

Official economic experts commented that being satisfied with price reforms is more like giving an aspirin to a cancer patient. Unless these reforms are accompanied with wider economic reform that encourage an investment environment then the disasters are bound to come. On top of the reform list must be political reform without which the economy will remain slave to the various forms of corruption thriving on the flesh and blood of the poor and unemployed. For example, the Yemeni government has 35 ministers of whom five are out of work, while the Japanese government has only 18 ministers and so are the government agents, offices and tribal affairs authorities who are concerned with paying the salaries for the tribal leaders in return for their loyalty.

How much does the Yemeni economy pay for buying and sustaining the legitimacy of the current regime? How much is the price it pays for winning the elections, the price of winning the loyalty of the tribes, the politicians and the journalists? Only the poor pay the price for the silence of all those, and their threat is not a sudden angry revolution, what's worse are the coming manifestations of anger and hatred that will be the real threat to national stability. And though the canons

and bullet sounds have silenced their sudden rage it can't keep them silent for long.

Great men in history

If president Saleh leads a historical turn through enforcing peaceful passing of power he would ensure his place in the list of great men in history such as George Washington, Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Mahateer Mohammed... etc.

As for those who said "NO" to you, Mr. President for the first time in their lives when you declared your decision, they did so only to preserve their benefits and interests putting you and only you at the end responsible for what is happening.

Fake courage, they are only questioning your seriousness while acting in a comic play that does not have any audience except for their own crowd.

If you, Mr. President, went all the way with your decision your image would be transformed to an immortal hero talked about from generation to another. The people would study your history and love you truly for what you have done in a time when Arab rulers passed power over their dead bodies literally! And while you in your position would be the only one who sees the dangers mounting, the dark future and the deceit of those who present themselves to you as friends and well-wishers and run tomorrow.

If you are serious you can resign from the political party and lead a national transformation government made of all the political parties and then lead the elections process towards ensuring accurate and honest elections and peaceful passing of power. Then and only then will you find home in all your people's hearts who will chant "long live Ali".

And only then will you truly feel the greatness of your decision and feel proud when the Yemeni ambassador to Egypt sends you flowers presented from the Egyptian people who stand by you and respect your decision while the chain of hypocrisy exhaust millions in order to arrange for demonstrations demanding that you change your mind and decide not to reserve your place in the book of great men in history.

Bloodshed & suicide due to fuel price increase

Those playing with fire will burn none but themselves.

Nothing is more oppressive than a regime that hinders people's freedom. Never has a Yemeni citizen been subjected to such oppression as he/she is being subjected to now. It makes one wonder whether there is some sort of a local wide conspiracy to destroy our conservative society. Nobody knows exactly, when this bad ongoing situation will be finished. We hate it when our government accepted it. I hated it also when the armed soldiers accepted the killing of dozens of Yemeni poor citizens including children as a matter of course, raised hell over protesters who chanted for expressing their opinions, and made a small noise. I was greatly distressed to hear about those victims who wanted to deliver their voice to the government, nothing else. It is absurd to use random live fire against disarmed people walking in the street. This is hardly likely to be an offender. Yemeni people were shocked by the heightened boom concerns that obliged poor people to lead several demonstrations in some cities of Yemen in protesting at this



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that he was guarding, to the pavement. After, he had chanted using filthy words against the president and condemned the government severely; he tied a cloth on his eyes firmly and dropped himself to the street, and directly died. On Thursday, 21 July at 8:30 Am, in Hodeidah city, Mr. Moseyed about 40 years old, married and a father, could not resist the fear of the soared prices ghost and preferred suicide. Instead of thinking day and night how he would afford meals for his children, he decided to use a new mean of protestation. Mr. Moseyed sacrificed himself to deliver his suffering from the government, hoping that his children may have better life. Two hours later, the second misery started. Fifteen people at least, varied between children, young and old shot by

soldiers. This is because they fired on demonstrators randomly so that most victims were unfortunately out of demonstrators walking on the pavement. One of them, a child was selling his merchandise (ice cream) "This random fire is not produced but from an oppressive regime". Said my friend. In addition to that, this bloody campaign is not inexcusable and irregular. The sky did not fall on the country's collective head. Soldiers committed a blunder during some demonstrations that happened in many cities of Yemen in which soldiers got instructions to use live fire against protesters. The gunshots sound of soldiers is still ringing in our ears and the nauseating smell of blood is still there. They should have first used batons and tears bombs that were never used, to disperse the demonstrators as protesters never pose danger but for expressing their opinions. Thus, they should have avoided this bloodshed. In fact, Yemeni people have been learning bitter lessons from government's promises. Many previous promises to improve the citizens' livelihood were reduced to ash. Because of that, protesters accuse the government of intentionally starving Yemeni people into submission. On the other hand, we are free to do, as we like, however, reason should control all our actions. Nobody is more loyal to his country than a citizen is living in it.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Lets differentiate between right and wrong

One of the major peculiarities that has kept this country in a static state, in terms of finding ways out of the many oddities that confront the Yemeni people is that we tend to forget that there is a right and there is a wrong. This has in fact prevented us from finding solutions to the many problems that seem to have a long span of endurance, way beyond the normal life span that such problems should have. In fact, it seems that many of the problems we face tend to have an unsolvable nature to them, as if they were actually meant to be an inseparable part of our lives. For this reason, we found many people going out on the street a week ago, in an effort to tell the government that, really, they have had enough of enduring problems, many of which require just a little thinking to find their way to solution. To those people, it seemed that our government seemed to want to keep those problems hanging for some reason or another, as if their existence depended on them. The protests last week were really a fiery appeal to the government that life can be better, if the government would only remember that it has to get out of this endless stream of problems we are facing - the government better start differentiating between right and wrong. Needless to say, a lot of people really feel that most of our problems are caused by those in the establishment, who believe that it is normal to have problems. When these problems are obviously inexcusable they will blame them on our past, or on certain elements of the population or on some imaginative external threat that seeks to destroy our national existence. For many years now, the Yemeni people have accepted most of the excuses of the government for the sad plight that many of our people are facing and quite often, the population went along with the excuses. But when the government last week said, "a little more pressure on the population will not hurt, because we have to succumb to the policies dictated by the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank, or else – and this is actually what the official media was telling us all along the tense past week – the economy will deteriorate". The observer is frankly at a loss in trying to figure out to what extent does the government mean when it says our economy will deteriorate. In fact, many sensible people wonder if there is any further deterioration possible than the deterioration we are already in. In all likelihood, the fact that the deterioration of the economy does not touch the ruling establishment and all those on whom it relies on to keep its stranglehold on the people of Yemen, maybe gives them grounds for believing that there is more deterioration hidden. I.e., the deterioration that could possibly hit these officials if they do not listen to the World Bank or the IMF. After all aren't the latter important sources for filling the coffers that they and only they seem to have unlimited access to. The people went out on the street, because they now know that government officials are not affected by such nuisances as inflation, unemployment, poor education and even power outages. They all seem to manage to circumvent all these problems with ease. People are really fed up with seeing government officials traveling and coming back sometimes with container loads of goods and commodities for their own selves, while many of their neighbors can't even afford to go to the city to buy medicine for their ill loved ones. People are fed up seeing government officials or members of the ruling establishment throw wedding feasts that would make Haroun Al-Rashid turn in his grave, while the average citizens must sell half their assets, if they are to get their children married. It is these things that slowly begin to eat at the nerves of the population. All they needed was a spark to set off their anger. Well, the government for once did not fail in providing the people with something they need. Last week, they told the nation that we are going to raise prices, or else the economy will deteriorate. The first question that one heard from so many people was, how could our economy deteriorate when the major source of our economic well being – the oil that is supposed to be the launcher of Yemen's renaissance - is now selling at record high prices? Come to think of it, why can't we have a feel of the oil revenues that are overflowing in the Central Bank vaults waiting to be paid out as gratuities to whoever the government feels it can count on to keep the status quo of ongoing problems that have no resolution? One cannot help but reiterate such statements from the common people in the street as they ride their minibuses staring at the lavish splendor of the villas and castles that government officials have managed to construct with their meager salaries (which give rise to the question, how did they manage to erect such splendor, when any first grader well knows that their salaries would never be able to finance such extravagance? Many also ask, why does the IMF and the World Bank continue to deal with people, many of whom have acquired enough assets to be able to underwrite many of the projects that they suggest for Yemen? The people are fed up with hearing, if we do not carry out the reform program, Yemen will loose favor with the IMF and World Bank. They started to say, let us loose favor with the World Bank or the IMF, what have they done for us anyway? The sky will not fall on Yemen, if the World Bank blacklists our country. Chances are we might be better off, if we stop stooping to the dictates of people who live far away in Washington D.C. thinking they can draw up econometric models to solve every problem in the world. In fact all they ever do is bring misery to the overwhelming majority of the people of the countries that supposedly are being guided by these monster organizations. Just look at the countries that rely on the IMF and the World Bank for their economic well being. They never see any solutions to their economic problems, but rather create new ones, with poorly managed and operated projects that in the end throw millions of dollars away, which must be paid back for generations to come. These are just some of the vibes one picks up in the streets of Sana'a from common folk: carpenters, painters, teachers, small time clerks, people who are beginning to really feel that they can really be better off. They say all our government needs to do is look to many of our own experts to seek solutions to our economic problems, bring government spending under control, and close the pathways to illicit wealth and extravagance by instituting something called accountability and punishment to the plunderers of the national resources and the state treasury. The people are tired of being the ones to have to bear the punishment, while knowing full well that the government measures have never solved any of the problems of the past. The people were saying, we really want to see government officials and members of the ruling establishment live the way we do. Maybe then, they will seriously seek solutions to our problems.

Letters to the Editors

Yemen Times and beloved cameleers

It is quite unspeakable to be away from Yemen Times. Being, even for a mo, not deeply overwhelmed with it's ecstasy of affection, you get withdrawn into anxiety and depression. In fact, I do not only boast the paper and staff here, but the lovely world of YT readers, in particular, as well.

Yemen Times is but a motherland by itself. As a matter of fact, it is a good-

natured heart and mind that is abundant enough to keep and embrace all of our adoring songs! Further, it undertakes our whining injuries and horrible compunctions.

As to me personally, a decade of time might be enough to stand witness to my loyalty and passions towards her. Over a period of time, I have dappled Yemen's aspirations and compunctions on her wings. Throughout those impressive years, I have been terri-

bly interested in indulging into topics pertaining to society, folklore literature and relevant ones, dealt comprehensively or in part. I boast being back to my glorious destiny-to your anxious world that I believe you are still pulsating eagerly in it, aspiring of even more better life.

For Yemen's sake, let's maintain and be together! let's have fruitful enterprises out of our soaring goals in writings and acquaintance

too! let's stand up afresh!

And we should not lose sight of the fact that once we have intellectual and serious high brow people like Nadia- our YT editor-in-chief, we will certainly secure success. To put it another way, once they have been our cameleers, we will hopefully delve deep and wide into the many-faceted distance.

By Mohammad N. Al-Hakimi.
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Russia's Eternal Inflation

By BRIGITTE GRANVILLE

In eternal Russia, nothing changes when it comes to monetary management. Year after year, the Russian Central Bank (RCB) blames the weather, the poor harvest, or other non-monetary factors for its feeble performance in lowering the inflation rate.

Unlike many emerging-market and transition economies in the 1990's, Russia did not abandon a fixed-exchange rate anchor in favor of an inflation-targeting regime as its guide to monetary-policy. As a result, the period since the financial crisis of 1998 has generated serious problems for monetary and exchange-rate policies. Faced with a balance-of-payments surplus – largely thanks to high oil prices – the RCB's 2005 *Monetary Program* fudges: reducing inflation is a priority, but so is exchange-rate targeting in order to support growth.

This "just-do-it" approach works fine in the United States, for example, where the Federal Reserve has established its anti-inflationary credibility. But the RCB's track record since 1992 has done little to stabilize inflation expectations and to persuade businessmen, investors, government officials and ordinary Russians that it is genuinely focused on reining in price growth.

During the early transition years, the lack of an effective monetary-policy framework reflected the challenge of establishing new institutions and regulations, as well as the difficulty of overcoming the legacy of central planning, under which budget and credit financing

were indistinguishable. Sometimes the RCB acted as the government's banker, providing liquidity without considering the financial markets; at other times, it focused on the financial markets, providing liquidity to banks. In both cases, there is no link between inflation and interest rates.

To be sure, the muted impact of inflation on interest rates is not surprising in transition economies, where the mechanisms of monetary-policy transmission and financial intermediation took long periods to put in place and still need reform and regulation. It is inevitably a long road from a starting point where credits are channeled to state-owned enterprises through state-owned banks to an economic environment in which interest rates are a proper indicator of monetary policy. Moreover, Russia's default and devaluation in 1998 undermined the progress that was accomplished – starting in 1996 – in the banking sector and the capital markets in general.

But that excuse has worn thin. In recent years, slowing the pace of real exchange-rate appreciation to shelter domestic producers and employment from import competition seems to have gained clear precedence over disinflation. At the beginning of June, the RCB's governor, Sergei Ignatyev, admitted not only that this year's inflation target would be missed, but also that the RCB is not prepared to pursue inflation targets at the expense of a competitive exchange rate.

This helps explain why the inflation rate, as measured by growth in the annual consumer price index, has remained

stubbornly high. Indeed, for the first time since 1998, the annual inflation rate has been rising this year, rendering the official targets – 7.5%-8.5% in 2005, 6%-7.5% in 2006 and 5%-6.5% in 2007 – little more than lip service.

Of course, many central banks around the world pursue both price stability and growth. But in Russia, there is no trade-off between the two, at least not using the exchange rate. As the IMF's latest annual report on Russia's economy points out, if the RCB continues to restrain the ruble's appreciation for the sake of growth, the result will merely be higher inflation, which implies that the ruble would still strengthen in real terms, thereby *damaging* growth.

Russian macroeconomic performance has greatly improved since the 1998 financial crisis, and this success can be attributed in part to improved monetary policy. But the RCB's lack of resolve in adopting a framework where low inflation is clearly stated as the priority now threatens to undermine what has been achieved.

As a starting point, the RCB should be charged with projecting inflation, formulate policies to stabilize prices, and either implement those policies or explain why it cannot and who could do so. The correct answer to the latter question – as the IMF suggests – may be the Ministry of Finance: the only sure way for Russia to reduce inflation and sustain growth is to maintain a sound fiscal policy.

The reality is the opposite. Rather than using the oil windfall to pay for long-overdue reforms in health care, education, and utilities – and thus helping to

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By Samer A.

ensure the macroeconomic stability needed to sustain rapid long-term growth – President Vladimir Putin has chosen large spending increases for public wages and pensions. As a result, Putin's Russia appears headed for the Latin American model of self-inflicted stagflation.

Brigitte Granville is Professor of International Economics and Economic Policy at the Centre for Business Management, Queen Mary, University of London and was an advisor to the Russian Ministry of Finance for six years.

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Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fotih

Tender hearts

There is a saying of our prophet Mohammed (Peace and Blessings upon him) says that the Yemeni people have the most tender hearts and are the most considerate and passionate people. However, the events of the last week that happened in various Yemeni governorates and as a result of which a number of Yemeni people died, made me remember this saying and ask myself if we really deserve that description. When I ponder about the latest events and realise that a Yemeni could attack and kill a Yemeni under the excuse of venting up for furious feelings against the government, I have a doubt that if we, Yemenis, have tender hearts at all. And find that the prophet saying could have been for other people or another generation of Yemen who lived in another time but certainly not today.

After a forced 4-day stay at home, I went out to streets and the view made me startled and distressed as I saw all the pretty things I used to see everyday deformed and the trees that were beautifying the streets were cut and disappeared. I felt sad about the lack of civilized behavior in the Yemeni society. I felt that Sana'a city along with other cities in Yemen cried for going through all that destructions and disorder and I imagined that cities mourned all the innocent people who fell in that day and they did not commit any fault but they fell a prey for malicious and uncivilized actions.

All the people in the world have a right to demonstrate and protest and we have heard and seen from time to time some demonstrations took place in various countries. But they do not

protest in the way the Yemeni people did last week. The people in those countries march peacefully rising some slogans that express their opinion and let their voices be heard without even smashing a glass. They shout and strike without hurting themselves, without hurting each other, and without destroying their cities. But the protest that happened last week in Yemen can be called the first of its kind and revealed a bad image about the Yemeni people.

When we demolish our beautiful city, smash all the facilities, destroy and loot others' properties, we actually destroy ourselves, destruct the city we live in, the streets that we everyday walk on and moreover distort our image in front of ourselves, our generations and in front of the world.

In fact, the price hike has had a strong impact on all of us and we can realize and expect that more people will live below the poverty line. The government claimed that the decision is a part of reform program and to save the shaky national economy and it will bring about good, positive results that we have not seen any, yet, the situation still gets worse and worse and the public gets more resentful and more aggressive!

Throughout the latest actions everyone realizes that the government and the public were mistaken and dealt with situation wrongfully.

The question I would like to ask is what are the benefits the trouble makers get after their savage actions? Did the smashed streets and destructed city change the government decision?

After all, do we still deserve to be called "Tender hearts"?

Closing Africa's Journalism Deficit

By HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

In the last quarter-century, the state of both governance and the media in Africa have shown encouraging progress. Not only has Africa moved beyond the worst legacies of colonialism, but it has also transcended the rigid constraints of the Cold War. Old dogmas have given way to a new pragmatism – a new freedom to innovate, experiment and find African answers to African challenges.

Africa has learned a lot about democracy in these years, both its fragility and its potential. Governments are increasingly expected to change peacefully, to cooperate regionally, to attract the capable, and to punish the corrupt. And the progress reaches beyond governments. As the Economic Commission for Africa concluded in its recent report: "Civil society and the media have increased their voice and power in the last decade of democratic reforms."

But there is still a long way to go in many areas, particularly the media.

Respect for press freedom grows out of a respect for pluralism as a cornerstone of peace and progress. Pluralism implies a readiness to listen to many voices – whether we agree with them or not – and a willingness to embrace a rich diversity of cultures.

When our diversity divides us, the results can be tragic, as we have seen in Rwanda, the Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and

the Sudan. But when we welcome diversity – and the debate and dissent that goes with it – we sow the seeds of stability and progress.

But there is a second important media-related question today concerning the adequacy of journalistic knowledge in an increasingly complicated world. Africa's leaders appear to have serious misgivings about the depth of that knowledge, and genuine doubts about the breadth of understanding that many journalists bring to difficult issues. Clearly, deeper and broader knowledge will be crucial to the future of African journalism.

The revolution in bioengineering, for example, promises to transform rural societies just as the old industrial engineering once reshaped urban landscapes. Genetic research will transform approaches to personal and public-health problems, including scourges like AIDS and malaria.

Meanwhile, the physical sciences offer new ways to think about the impact of climate change on Africa's food and water supply. New information technologies will transform education throughout Africa, including remote rural areas, even as they re-energize non-industrial economies.

But there is a shortage of journalists who know enough about these subjects to inform African audiences.

To improve matters, we need to increase dialogue and communication among journalists and those they write

about: politicians, civil servants, business people, and religious leaders – in short, the voices of civil society.

On the media side, this ought to mean more rigorous research at the start of the reporting and writing process. Cultivating knowledge is as important as cultivating sources.

But sources can also do more to help. Off-the-record background briefings, for example, are regular and routine in the West, but are relatively rare in Africa. Some journalists have difficulty getting responses even to direct requests. The habit of sharing information is one that Africa needs to hone.

In an ideal world, journalists would be educated in the nuances of the beats they cover. Scientific sophistication, economic acumen, political subtlety, and legal and medical expertise – all these skills should be present in our newsrooms as matter of course.

There are understandable reasons why this ideal has still not been realized. Above all, journalism is not regarded as a noble profession, because too many young Africans, for too long, saw the journalist as a mere propagandist. Moreover, journalism was often dangerous. Between 1985 and 1995, 108 journalists were killed in Africa; the risk, while diminishing, is still real. Finally, most African journalists are paid substantially less than those who enter other professions.

Media owners and managers are also at fault for poor quality. Too often, those

who set the media agenda view it primarily as a business agenda. Too often, the measure of media success is simply financial profit. This often makes for manipulative media that distort and mislead in the pursuit of readers and ratings. Journalism is subordinated to entertainment, and the duty to inform yields to the need to please.

Responsible and relevant reporting is not the priority in that business model. Instead, the power of the press is used to turn traditional value systems on their heads – to make the irrelevant seem essential and the trivial titillating.

The damage that can be done by such distorted journalism is especially severe in Africa, offending African value systems, distracting African energies, and diserving African development. Manipulative journalism is not merely a nuisance here; it can be downright destructive.

Working in partnership with governments, the private sector, and the institutions of civil society, African media can become a source of relevant information, competent comment and insight, and constructive and cooperative social responsibility, even as it remains free, independent, and commercially successful.

His Highness the Aga Khan is the spiritual leader of the world's Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims.

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Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Blackened out consciences

By Nabeel Al-Isdi

It is a pleasure that I am not a member or an executive in the "blackout Ministry", so that I wouldn't be a subject to the taboo curses that are 'aired' by the exasperated consumers, let alone their agony of the aftermath.

I developed a psychotic complex due to the consecutive daily blackouts and the hallucinations of hearing the curses that go off the minute that the electric current goes out. The broken or paralyzed electric

devices that need to go to the fixer or mostly to the nearest dust bin are another story. When I fail to do my personal 'home work' my wife remembers all the broken electrical devices, and demands new ones that won't be broken before three or four blackouts.

Aren't the 'doses' enough for the government? Need it strengthen them by these blackouts to instigate our wives?

Hey, it is a whisper. I strongly believe that the morning session employees of the electricity authority are the selfsame owners of the

workshops that fix the broken electric devices in the evenings.

I'd be fair to those employees. They have their justification in this policy of intermittent black out. They don't want our government to shoulder the burden of looking for loans and donations, to cater for the population boom, all alone. They arrange for us appropriate happy marriage relations so that we could devote ourselves to reproduction. The government would have been smarter if it secured packets of 'Viagra' instead.

Our government is obsessed with

the decrease of unemployment. That is why it concentrates the blackouts, during these exam days to contain the phenomenon of cheating in exams. In this way the cheaters can not prepare any of their scribbled notes. In this way there will be no cheat, and consequently no success and no jobs. The way government solves the unemployment problem ingenious.

So dear readers, Stop cursing when there is a blackout, because if it works, God wouldn't have granted us a government lead by men with blacked out consciences.

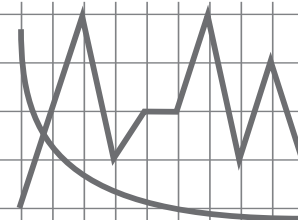
Oh my God! I forgot to say something so bad

At my real ship I stayed to dream how the golden dawn can touch our souls by spiritual light in the next day How Horrible mistake I have made! The journey of love sailed on the frightening Time While The ocean waves were raising up and up The bitter wind destroyed my ship at a miserable end My real ship of dream started to unluckily being sunk Suddenly, The pirates have taken away my golden ring But it was too late when I heard her lips' roar Warning me to be aware!

The fangs have appeared behind My heart to grind

Oh! my ship started to sink and sink And the pirates are happy to dance and sing I heard far off the birds on the verge of tears, as melody tunes of passing away The ship faded out slowly and deeply missed the rays of Yellow Sun Tale And whenever the evil's eyes sent to us its negative waves trying to hide our Love lasting she came with the moon face challenging the evil's eyes that envied our souls even at our end day By: Fuad Noman fn_001@yahoo.com

YT Business



Gov's economic reforms inflame feelings of the poor

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The violent protests witnessed across Yemen a few days ago emphasized that poverty is still having its influence on the Yemeni society, and that the reform dose taken by the government to fill the gap in the deficit of the State's general budget constituted a time bomb and made people vent their anger at the government.

The opposition's keeping away from leading the riots caused violence and vandalism encouraging rioters to throng streets and attack public and private properties.

The government is said to have taken procedures in favor of the poor. "levying a tax on sales is due to yield

positive results to be won by citizens in the economic and social sectors, and that the recent amendments reduced the tax on commodities and services from 10 to 5 percent, said Ahmad Ghalib Taxes Authority Undersecretary. "Cutting sales tax has its positive consequence on the prices of different commodities and services.

Protesters have been facing a wave of price hikes, even on the commodities exempted from customs and taxes and resorted to defend their livelihood, not taking for granted the government work on protecting the domestic products harmed by trafficking activities. The government, in addition, intends to boost the economic activities, create more job opportunities and contribute to restoring the lost fees and taxes because of trafficking. This strategy aims to improve the level of services

offered to people and ensure the basic needs and the vital projects necessary for the process of development.

The Yemeni Society for Consumer Protection (YSCP) expressed its strong denunciation at the government's decision to lift subsidy on oil derivatives: diesel, petrol, kerosene and gas, and this doubled the prices of fuel.

In a press release recently distributed, the YSCP, being a representative and defendant of consumers, stated the government's decision lead to sharp increases in the price of various commodities and therefore beyond control of the parties concerned. Price hikes prevailed the Yemeni markets during the first half of the current year, worsening life of the poor and those of limited income who constitute the majority of Yemen's population.

Raising the price of commodities and services has extorted the consumer three of his/her rights that are ensured by the international conventions and national laws: the right to live safe, the right to obtain the basic needs and the right to express oneself. Having a glance at these rights, the government has to cancel its decision that skyrocketed prices of various commodities.

The YSCP considered justifications shown by the government as objectively unauthentic. It added, based on real life situations, what the government calls "price reforms" being implemented over the last ten years, never helped improve living standards of people. Unfortunately, the government's price reforms contributed to deteriorating the livelihood of citizens both in urban and rural areas.

The YSCP held the government

accountable for the price increases and extra burdens on citizens caused by its decision that removed fuel subsidy.

The national economy with encouraging development can not be achieved with raising the prices of basic commodities, rather it can be done though a better management of the government's apparatuses, in addition to eradicating corruption.

The YSCP denounced violence and vandalism that left several victims and condemned the chaotic acts that accompanied demonstrations prompting the smashing of properties. The barbaric acts and the irresponsible behaviors resulted in heavy losses estimated at millions.

Economic experts described the government's decision to remove fuel subsidy as of no utility from the economic point of view, particularly in the

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	192.4400	192.8000
Sterling Pound	334.3700	335.0000
Euro	232.1600	232.5900
Saudi Rial	51.4500	51.5400
Kuwaiti Dinar	658.8900	660.1300
UAE Dirhem	52.4000	52.5000
Egyptian Pound	33.2700	33.3300
Bahraini Dinar	510.4600	511.4100
Qatari Rial	52.8600	52.9600
Jordanian Dinar	271.7500	272.2600
Omani Rial	499.8600	500.7900
Swiss Franc	148.5400	148.8200
Swedish Crown	24.6500	24.7000
Japanese Yen	1.7223	1.7255

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

shadows of the difficult conditions coupled with economic recession and political and security problems experienced by the country.

Officials sources said the procedures recently taken by the government are partial and there is still a fuel subsidy estimated at YR272 billion (billion and half a billion U.S. dollar)

The sources hold the view the government's decision will help add over \$700 million annually to the State's general budget. They added if the government did not take such a decision, the fuel subsidy will reach \$716 million by the end of the current year and raise the gross domestic production's budget deficit to 13%. According to official sources, Yemen imports 60% of diesel and 9% of petrol to meet the rising demand of the local consumption.

Agriculture Ministry boost coffee plantation

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation works hard on implementing the coffee project in the governorate of Lahj. The project includes a number of components: irrigation, training of workers, nurseries and production, in addition to post-harvest activities and purchasing a big container for the collection and drying up of the product.

The cost of the project, financed by the French Government, totals 186 million Rials. There are several programs due to be implemented by the joint cooperation of the Ministry of



Agriculture and Irrigation and Sana'a University, represented by Genetic Origins Center at the Faculty of Agriculture.

Precious efforts are exerted for importing pesticides to fight insects that harm coffee which are seen in many coffee-plantation farms destroying the coffee trees. The loss of the coffee product caused by insects can be estimated between 30 and 50%.

The coffee project distributed modern irrigation networks to different coffee-plantation areas in Yaf'e District, Lahj Governorate. 7 coffee nurseries, out of an overall number of 18 nurseries, were established with local finance.

Gas crisis haunts people

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The gas crisis cited in the local market caused a lot of trouble to drivers, heads of house-hold and owners of restaurants, despite the fact that Yemen is a major exporter, with large reserves amounting up to 16 trillion metric tons.

Several of drivers whose cars run on gas experience a constant catastrophe for months due to the lack of gas in stations in the capital and the other governorates.

Numerous drivers expressed concern and described the crisis as a catastrophe upon them for a long period of time and no action has been taken by the government to put an end to the crisis.

Abdullah Nasser, a driver, said the crisis has been exacerbated and the government is supposed to put an end to it. When a driver finds gas, he becomes very happy but he loses happiness as the substance is consumed by his car.

A taxi driver Abdussalam Mohammad mentioned in a long row of people at al-Entiaz station in Amran Street that most of the time the station finishes the substance before filling up all the waiting cars.

"Some times, I feel compelled to leave my car at the station until tomorrow to be filled up," he added. "Some drivers resorted to have their cars petrol-operated and were surprised to find them consume more than they did before being changed to run on gas."

A third driver noted that if the government made a small price

subsidy and made gas available at the local market, this would help to avoid the crisis.

For his part, Nief Saleh mentioned that he sometimes resorts to leaving one of his children at the station to wait to fill up their car.

Heads of house-hold and owners of restaurants who use gas for cooking attribute the gas crisis to the unwise distribution of the commodity and demand the government to put end to the crisis.

Taxi and bus drivers stated they feel themselves compelled to give bribery to workers at gas stations in order to have their cars filled up.



Final outlines for tackling child labor

Five local and international organizations intend to set the final outlines of several projects for fighting child labor in Yemen and holding a discussion with decision-makers on the possible solutions.

Ms Muna Ali Salim, Manager of Child Labor Unit at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor mentioned that her ministry, in coordination with the International Labor Organization (ILO), International Program for Fighting Child Labor, Central Organization for Statistics, and the National Program for Labor Market Information, will involve a number of Yemeni decision-makers from different parties to verify the findings of a study on child labor.

The study has been conducted for 6 months in 8 Yemeni governorates with the aim of acquainting with the features of each with respect to child labor, its density and the nature of measures required for tackling the issue.

Ms. Salim indicated the concerned government bodies will offer projects and discuss them with decision-makers according to the operating database. In case these projects are



approved, they will be presented to the Cabinet to be endorsed and then forwarded to the donors who fund such projects and implement them in the framework of a specified strategy. She said the projects of fighting

child labor differ in their styles from one governorate to another due to the diversity of activities. Some Yemeni governorates are perceived to send child laborers while others receive them, she confirmed, adding that

Hajjah tops the list of the Yemeni governorates in the sense of receiving child laborers whereas al-Mahweet is pondered upon as the largest exporter of child laborers due to its weak economic activities.

Oil sales rose by 36.07%

Yemeni crude oil sales rose by 36.07 during January-May 2005 compared to 1.65% declination in the value of the sold quantities during the same period of the previous year.

The Yemeni government's overall share of oil exports during January-May 2005 reached 23.82 million

barrels in a value of 1.079 billion compared with 24.22 million barrels worth of 793 million dollars during the same period the year earlier.

A recent government report indicated that the price of the Yemeni oil rose to 45.31 dollars per barrel between January and May 2005 compared to 32.75 dollars per barrel during the same period of the previous year.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands A Jewel In The Indian Ocean

By IRENA KNEHTL
Email: IREN_KNEHTL@YAHOO.COM
For THE YEMEN TIMES

Surrounded by unbelievably clean Indian Ocean, The Cocos (Keelings) Islands are Australias best kept holiday destination secret. Here a breathtaking beautiful sunset awaits the visitor, kaleidoscope of colors of the lagoons and fringing reef. Rhythmic sound of waves gently lapping perfectly white sandy beach, watching the golden sun slowly sinking into the Indian Ocean.

Imagine yourself swimming with the dolphins or snorkeling with the manta rays. Or taking a trip to one of the many isolated islands when the tides are high.

Or exploring the islands on the bike, or just walk along the beautiful beaches soaking up the spectacular view of the Indian Ocean. This tiny horseshoe shaped jewel of the Indian Ocean is located in the middle of the Indian Ocean, some 2750 km north west of Perth in Australia, 900 km west of south-west of Christmas Island, its closest neighbor, and another island of the Australian Indian Ocean Territories, south of Indonesia and about one-half of the way from Australia to Sri Lanka.

The Cocos experience two main season which tend to overlap. The trade wind season from April/May to September/October and the calmer doldrums season from November through to April.

Rainfall usually visits this sandy atoll in the evenings, bringing yet another glorious sunn day. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are made up of 27 islands formed on two isolated mid oceanic atolls surrounded by an azure



lagoons. The lay in the path of the south-east trade wind, which ensure an extremely mild weather pattern throughout the year.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands has been a unique place for coral atoll research since the days when Charles Darwin visited the atoll in April, 1836. Fringing reefs are converted into barrier reefs and barrier reefs, when encircling islands are thus converted into atolls, he wrote. It was the only coral atoll he had ever visited to support his theory.

Named first "Cocos Eylanden" in a manuscript map drawn by Hessel Gerritsz, they were re named :Cocos (Keelings)" after sighting of the group by Captain William Keeling in 1609 during one of his homeward voyages from Java to England. Although he did not record it in his journals, they remained uninhabited until the 19th century.

The first settlement was established in 1826 on the islands by Alexander Hare. From then on the people of Cocos cleared all the native vegetation to plant coconut trees where they extracted the oil from the coconuts to sell and trade as copra. Declared a part of the British Dominions in 1857, the responsibility for supervision of the island alternated between the government of Ceylon and Singapore.

Eventually in 1978 the government of Australia purchased the majority of the islands from John Cecil Clunies-Ross. The majority of the land was transferred to the Cocos Island Council.

On the 4th April 1984 the Cocos Malay residents voted to become part of Australia. Only two of the islands are inhabited, the Home Island where the majority of indigenous Cocos-Malay people reside and the West Island which houses most of the Australian workers.

Few groups in the world today are as little known or understood as the Cocos Malay inhabitants of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Theirs has been a world sealed off from the outsider by geography, history, politics and language.

Few outsiders have lived among them and very little has been recorded of their cultural practices and tradition. This tiny society has been held together for eight generations by its very isolation, shared economic endeavor, strong family loyalty, a deep commitment to Islam and an unique version of the old "Trading Malay" language of the East Indies.

Today the cornerstone of Cocos Malay society and the focus of each individual life is the religion of Islam. The Cocos people have been described as Muslims since the first settlement. Throughout the year a large number of ceremonies are held at various houses for a wide range of family celebrations.

These include house blessings, welcomes, farewells, boat launchings, remembrances of deceased relatives, circumcisions and other family events. The biggest celebrations of the year for the Cocos Malay people is Hari Raya Puasa, the day that marks the end of the Islamic fasting month of the Holy month of Ramadan.

The first group of settlers brought to the islands by Alexander Hare whose family then owned the Islands, were predominately Malay with number of people of Chinese, Papuan and Indian descent. It is believed the party also comprised a few African individuals. The people came from such places as Bali, Bima, Celebes, Madura, Sumbawa, Timor, Sumatra, Pasir-Kutai, Malacca, Penang, Batavia and Cerebon.

They were described by subsequent



visitors to the islands as Muslims speaking Malay – the trading lingua franc of then East Indies. Despite their disparate origins, the Cocos Malays people achieved an identity of their own within one generation of settlement.

The "Cocos-born" have their own mosques, their own leaders and their own ceremonies.

Today, the Malay dialect spoken by the Cocos- Malay people is an unsophisticated oral language. It contains words that reflect diverse origins of these people and their history of sporadic contacts with outsiders.

The two staples off the Cocos Malay

diet are fish and rice. Most of Cocos fish are fried, although some are boiled and some curried. Rice is not grown on Cocos and has always been imported and it is still felt that no day should pass without at least one good meal of fish and rice.

The Cocos Malays people have shown a remarkable flair for accepting new cultural elemtns in their relatively short social history and blending them with tradition of their own.

Getting to the Island

Sunday and Friday from Perth International airport, from Australia. Unlike most holidays island destinations the Cocos (Keelings)

Islands do not have huge resorts, shopping centers, restaurants, gift shops or organized activities.

Tourism is uncomplicated and simplistic which enhances it beauty and the islands uniqueness. West Island is ideal to explore by bike and travels along palm fringed roads and tracks and take in the natural beauty of the island and enjoy the peace and tranquility of this unspoiled tropical paradise.

Surrounded by the unbelievably clean Indian Ocean, the Cocos (Keeling) are a haven for water based activities. Renowned for its diverse marine life of beautiful fish, corals, reef shark, huge wrasse and parrotfish.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands in brief

Total area 14 sq km land

Two main islands the West Island and Home Island

Population: 633

Economy: Coconut are the sole cash crop. Copra and fresh coconuts are the major export earners. Small local gardens and fishing contribute to the food supply.

Climate: Pleasant, modified by southeast trade winds for about nine months of the year, moderate rainfall

Fresh water resources are limited to rainwater and accumulations in natural underground reservoirs

Throughout the tsunami disaster Yemen Times kept direct contact with the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the neighboring Christmas Island. Due to high coral reefs protecting both Islands, they were not affected by the tsunami. This article is fulfilling a promise given to the Cocos Islanders then that we will write about them.

Continued from Back Page

Unassuming Poet Mohammed Noaman Al-Hakimi to Yemen Times:

“The incipient phase of loftiness with which I was withdrawn into a conscious instant and deeply felt human sensation told me: YOU ARE A POET!”

Who are the people behind Mr. Hakimi today?

I am indebted to lots of people who encouraged me: YT; Canadian author Larry Frolick; Sameer Al-Yusofi; Ammar Al-buthaigi and Yemen's literary figure Abdul-Rahman Bakar; my aunt Jaeaher too.

What was the turning point of your

life that told you who you are?

The incipient phase of loftiness with which I was withdrawn into a conscious instant and deeply felt human sensation told me “ You are a poet”!

Henceforward I started dueling into the world of poetry in both English and Arabic. I can say that my best piece in English was “Winter and

compunction”, and in Arabic “Iftinan”, “lafahat”, and “bawabat Al- Shagan”;

Winter and Compunction

Completely adrift,
We're made for surrender
Made to bow low,
To a lower pretender
Yielding up everything we've been given
Living with the long odds of being forgiven.

Is it easy to be a published poet in Yemen?

I managed to publish my book anyhow. Being a member of literary men union made it quite easy. However, I have two unpublished ones. I need many years again to wait for my turn now. I know many good poets who are worth. Still they cannot publish even in newspapers. More so, you would not be able to find my book in bookstores because the distribution and coverage was not good.

Although at some points of my life I was acknowledged through many rewards in local participation. But frankly speaking the literature and artistic rewards in Yemen do not come with great financial value, if you know what I mean. Authors and literary persons are suffering a lot. You know

this and all Yemenis know this too.

Why then be a poet?

My dear, we need poetry for the sake of poetry itself. I hope in the future I get the chance to prove my worth in the field of my choice, and develop into a poet of national stature.

My poetry is distinguished by spontaneous feelings and deeply felt human values. Some foreigners were impressed by the quality of my creative imagination. K.M.Tiwary- Indian professor of English wrote: “ Mohammad's Al-Hakimi's intuitive understanding of the overall expressive resources of the Arabic language is deep and mature. The images in his poems are fresh and striking, the rhythm of his verses is full of colloquial verve, and his lexical choices are sensitive and off the beaten track”. Some other critics had different impressions such as that by Dr. Abdul-Hamid Al-Husam, who studied my and showed me my mistakes.

However, I do respect the other impressions and take pride in them. Mr. Abdul-Rahman Bakar who introduced my publication mentioned earlier said that I am a renewed poet, as for me I only write and others can comment.

بأسمى الشكر والامتنان لثقة ائمة القلم العربي في اليمن

رائد علي عبده أنعم

بمناسبة دخوله الخمس السنوي

فألف ألف مبروك

(المشور):

صالح محمد دبله أنعم - رئيسي محمد دبله الواحد أنعم

أيوب محمد الكاظمي أنعم - رئيسي محمد الكاظمي أنعم - وشيخ الأستاذ

وكافة من في مؤسسة محمد دبله أنعم الثقافية

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its project “National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA)/Environment”

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- Prepare detailed terms of reference (TOR) for all project inputs and activities.
- Prepare quarterly reports of project progress, and short reports on each activity and input.
- Oversee printing, copying and distribution of project reports.
- Prepare documentation for all national meetings, workshops, consultations etc.
- Provide necessary support to project experts and subcontracted firm to prepare draft report selecting priorities for in-depth analysis.
- Provide necessary support to project experts and subcontracted firm to prepare NCSA Strategy and Action Plan.
- Identify concerned national partners and institutions related with the project, and their related responsibilities.
- Make contacts with concerned stakeholders, as appropriate.
- Identify national and, where appropriate, regional experts who can support the project activities and...

Qualification

- Post-graduate degree in a field related to environmental management, development management or capacity development.
- At least 10 years experience in implementing projects and programmes focussing on the environment and at least 5 years experience working with international partners and on internationally supported projects.
- Demonstrated project management skills, such as:
 - Able to foster involvement of all concerned stakeholders.
 - Able to design and supervise inputs and activities, such as workshops, surveys, for example through the preparation of work plans and TORs etc.
 - Demonstrated ability to prepare progress reports, financial request.
- Working knowledge of English and ...

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at:
<http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

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

Cauterization between efficacy and sorcery

Cauterization is considered one of the most popular ways of treating chronic diseases. It dates back to ancient times in history, some say to the time of old Greek and Pharaoh civilizations. This method has survived through ages reaching us despite medical advancement. Some people think that cauterization or what we locally call "misam" can treat many chronic diseases incurable by modern medicine including psychological disorders such as symptoms of trauma for which cauterization is commonly used, and physiological diseases which require surgical intervention. This investigation tries to shed light on cauterization, whether it is useful and the opinion of Islamic Sharia of it.

YR 2500 for a misam

First we met with Jamal Ahmed Sa'eed, 23 years old, who told us about the misam on his back and the disease he suffers.

"I went over to the city of Aden for treatment at renown Mus'abain," he started. "I held pain as well as hope. I had been suffering for long from hemorrhoids. Many people advised me to go that person assuring me that I would heal soon instead of undergoing a surgery."

He continued, "I don't deny that the misam has scarred my back and gives me severe pain from time to time, yet I feel I am far better as far as hemorrhoid is concerned."

"How much does the man get?" I asked. He answered that it depends on the financial status of a patient. "Some pay one thousand. Others five thousand. However I gave him YR2500."

I served as a mouse for my father's experiment:

While Jamal claimed he benefited



A last resort for curing an ailment: a cauterized back

from the misam, Abdul-Hamid Mufarih, 40, says that the whole matter is nothing but psychological and that people tend to believe they are recovering. He gave a first-hand example, "When I was seven, my father was the one responsible for making misams in the village," he narrated. "I suffered at that time from some skin disease. It spreads all over my body including my nose. My father sets a misam at the back of my neck. My father confesses that these things are part of our inherited traditions and habits which many people hold in respect."

Abdul-Hamid stressed that misams are not always effective. "Only a few patients benefit from them and this may be attributed to psychological factors," he said.

All of them are liars

"I had a bad headache and was advised to take a misam. I was then 12 years old. I took the misam in my village in Wosab district, Dhamar province," thus did Ahmed Mohammed Taher start his story. He kept on remembering his experience,

"The misam marred my forehead but it unfortunately did not cure the illness. Later, some friends of mine gave me another idea. They advised me to have bloodletting which I did. It was a small cut close to the right eyebrow and the headache was gone."

He added, "He who claims treating with fire is a liar and so is the one who claims he recovered by virtue of misams. The practitioners of this method are sorcerers and imposters."

It works...sometimes

61-year-old Ali al-Raimi says he had a misam made below his knee last year to treat a painful nerve. He went to Rahidah town to be treated by someone called Abdul-Wali. However, that did not benefit him. Asked about his belief in cauterization, he answers, "I had no option. A man in need for treatment receives a great deal of advice from his acquaintances all of whom show themselves as well-informed and that they experienced so and so way of treatment. I did not decide to try cauterization only upon the advice of other people."

Sayidah, known as Sharifah

Tackling such an issue, it is necessary to ask the people specializing in this profession on which they depend for income. Others practice it amateurishly and a secondary source of income. We tried to find them and after a tiresome search, a person led us to an old woman. Although she is over sixty, she insisted she is forty. She lives in the old zone in Bab Mosa in the city of Taiz.

"It is doctors who send patients over to us," Sayidah Abdul-Wali, the old cauterization expert, said. She went on, "I started my profession when I was ten. First I used to prescribe ground dry herbs for certain diseases. Later she took up cauterization as a profession."

To strengthen her position, Sayidah quotes the Prophet (PBUH) as saying, "Fire touch cures."

I asked her whether any of her patients ever complained that she was just practicing sorcery, she replied, "That never happened. On the contrary, people are grateful to me and kiss my head and knee."

Everyone according to their means

Another person shyly practices this profession. He is nicknamed "Sayid." He is distinguished from his colleagues by his desire to be far from the spotlight. I tried to provoke him into an interview and taking shoots of him but he politely and modestly declined. He was alone in his home with no clients. I asked him about the number of patients a day. He replied that some days, the number reaches ten and on other days nobody comes. "I don't take money from everyone of them because most of them have difficult circumstances." He doesn't define a specific amount either. "Often, what I get doesn't exceed YR200," he concluded.

Retirement from profession

Noaman Ali Nasser is a very old man. He has abandoned practicing cauterization for many years as well as bloodletting.

"My hands can no longer hold the instrument used in cauterization. Moreover, I have poor eyesight," he said.

Noaman was famous all over Shara'b al-Salam area. At one time, he was the governor of Huryiah market besides his practice of cauterization and bloodletting.

Concerning parts of the body that should be cauterized, he said, "The back of the head. This is used for people who suffers trauma."

He stands in defense of cauterization because it is an efficacious treatment for some diseases. "It is no sorcery," cried he.

Islamic opinion

In order to get a complete picture, we need to know what Islam says about treatment with misams. We asked Sheikh Ali Mohammed Al-imam and preacher of al-Sa'eed Mosque- who said, "Cauterization is one way of treatment. It was known since ancient in history and was passed down from generation to generation. Each civilization has unique ways of medication. The Chinese, for instance, knew acupuncture. Islam came and approved of bloodletting as well as cauterization. The Prophet (PBUH) send a doctor to Ubai ibn Ka'ab who cut off his nerve and cauterized him. Hence, it is lawful to get treatment from cauterization provided there is no other alternative. It should be practiced by professionals and not quacks. If an inexperienced practitioner cauterized causing him/her to die, he should pay the blood money."

Thus, we have discovered that there are many opinions that admit to the usefulness of cauterization. Yet, this may not be the "master method" that treats all diseases. Otherwise, all these branches of modern medicine could not have existed and people would have satisfied themselves with cauterization.



By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Facts of life

A mystery called fingerprints

Every day we see a new case of how the police or security use fingerprints in discovering the identity of suspects and criminals. It is a known fact that every individual has a unique finger print even if skin on fingertips are injured fingerprint grow back to form the same pattern as before.

New skin usually keeps the old pattern. That swirling, looping pattern of ridges and furrows on fingertip skin that forms a fingerprint usually stays with a person for life - from formation in the mother's womb to death. Gangster John Dillinger, who in 1930 drenched his fingertips in acid to remove the ridge patterns, failed miserably. His old pattern reappeared as the tips healed.

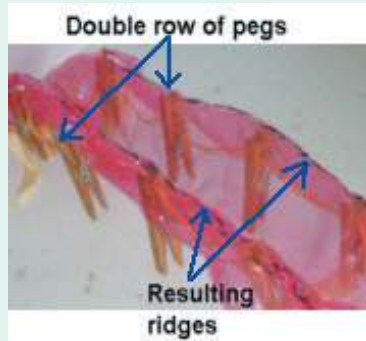
Fingerprint patterns can change, though. To understand how, let's look at the structure of the skin.

The skin - our largest organ - is divided into two parts:

- a thin almost transparent outer skin, called the epidermis. It walls us from the outside world like a protective shield and houses the ridges and furrows that make fingerprints.
- an inner soft-tissue skin (the dermis), which is filled with nerves, glands, and pipes carrying blood and lymph. The dermis also contains a double row of "pegs," called the dermal papillae. These "pegs" anchor the outer skin (with its fingerprints) to the inner skin and they create fingerprints.

The double row of "pegs" in the inner skin pokes up and makes fingerprint ridges in the outer skin.

We can envision how the "pegs" make fingerprint ridges that resist change with the help of some clothespins and pink plastic wrap. Imagine setting out a double row of clothespins as the fingerprint "pegs."



Clothespin rows draped in plastic wrap to illustrate the dermal structure underlying fingerprints. [April Holladay, WonderQuest]

Lay a piece of plastic wrap (outer skin) over the double row, poking it down between the clothespin rows. The plastic wrap hits the clothespin tops and forms two parallel ridges - with a furrow in between - much as the skin "pegs" create fingerprint ridges and furrows. See figure.

When the fingertip outer skin gets injured, new cells replace the old. Like laying a new piece of plastic wrap over the clothespin rows, the ridges and furrows remain unchanged because the skin "peg" rows are unchanged. Scarred skin is denser, thicker, and whiter but the ridge patterns look the same.

Damage the "pegs" (dermal papillae) in the inner skin, however, and you can change the double-row layout and, hence, the ridge pattern. Then and only then, the skin grows back with a new fingerprint pattern.

That's what another gangster, Robert Phillips, tried when he had a plastic surgeon remove the skin - outer and inner - from his fingertips and replace it with skin grafts from his chest. To no avail! The FBI simply used prints from his undamaged second joints to identify him.

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متعة السفر بأسلوب جديد



أرمادا الجديد بحجمه الكبير

لا عجب أن تميل 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، بثمان اسطوانات وقوة جبارة تبلغ ٣٤٠ حصاناً. أضف إلى ذلك راحة مميزة تكافئ الركاب باسترخاء، لا يضاهي، وبوابة خلفية آلية تُسهّل تحميل الأمتعة. فهل يوجد أفضل من الاستمتاع بطائرتك الخاصة كل يوم في الأسبوع... وكل أسبوع في السنة؟



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ARMADA

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شركة تهامة التجارية

Armstrong proves one of sport's great champions

LONDON (Reuters) - Walking away from the sport that has dictated your life while still at the pinnacle is one mark of a great champion.

Overcoming seemingly impossible odds to achieve your goals is another. Dominating a major sport over a period of years is a third.

On each count Lance Armstrong, who began the first day of the rest of his life on Monday after winning a seventh and final Tour de France, succeeded triumphantly.

"To me, just finishing the Tour de France is a demonstration of survival," Armstrong once wrote. "The race is very much like living — except that its consequences are less dire and there's a prize at the end."

"Life is not so neat. I just hope I'll be content when I stop."

Armstrong, 33, underwent two surgical operations and four bouts of chemotherapy in an agonising battle against cancer. His string of successes helped to save the Tour de France after the 1998 doping scandals which threatened to destroy its credibility.

Quitting while still a champion is one of the rarer feats in sport.

Rocky Marciano, whose name evokes a brutal trade where comebacks are as common as knockouts, retired as the undefeated world boxing champion in 1956 after winning all 49 of his professional fights. Runner Herb Elliott was undefeated as a senior over 1,500 metres or its imperial equivalent the mile, climaxing his career with victory



Discovery Channel team rider Lance Armstrong of the U.S. passes the Arc de Triomphe in Paris after winning his seventh Tour de France, July 24. REUTERS

in the 1960 Rome Olympics 1,500 final in world-record time.

The greatest

Boxing and running, two elemental sports, produced the two men commonly regarded as the greatest champions of the 20th century. Both were black Americans who through fate and circumstance helped to influence the history of their times.

Muhammad Ali won the world heavyweight boxing title three times. His fights with Sonny Liston, George Foreman and Joe Frazier were classics. But it was his refusal to be drafted into

the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war which elevated him into a 1960s counter-culture hero.

Jesse Owens was no rebel but his four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics provided the perfect riposte to the repugnant Nazi racist policies.

Baseball slugger Babe Ruth attained worldwide fame for a game played predominantly in the United States while cricketer Don Bradman, who embodied the hopes and dreams of his fellow Australians during the Great Depression of the 1930s, was also renowned internationally.

In the modern era Jack Nicklaus,

with 18 major golf titles, twice Grand Slam tennis champion Rod Laver, soccer's Brazilian maestro Pele and Argentine Formula One driver Juan Manuel Fangio were their sports' leading lights.

More recently Pete Sampras dominated men's tennis while Martina Navratilova has been the greatest women's champion.

Obsessive search

Navratilova redefined her body with strenuous physical exercise which helped to change the face of women's tennis and underpinned a career of unprecedented longevity.

Among present-day champions, Tiger Woods is the closest to Armstrong, accompanied possibly by motor racing's Michael Schumacher.

In his bid to overtake Nicklaus, who birdied his final hole at his final British Open this month, Woods has deliberately reshaped his golf swing, demonstrating the obsessive search for perfection which characterised Armstrong.

Laver himself believes three-times Wimbledon champion Roger Federer could be the best male tennis player of all time.

Comparing different sports is all but impossible. Comparing different eras is fraught with difficulty, as two of Armstrong's predecessors pointed out on Monday.

"We can say that he has been the best cyclist of his generation but we shouldn't make the error of comparing his achievements to other eras as each one is different," said Miguel Indurain.

"You cannot compare," said Bernard Hinault. "The bikes are different. The opponents are different."

The only certainty is that in the context of his times and sport Armstrong was the best with an aura and a reputation which extended well beyond the peloton.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

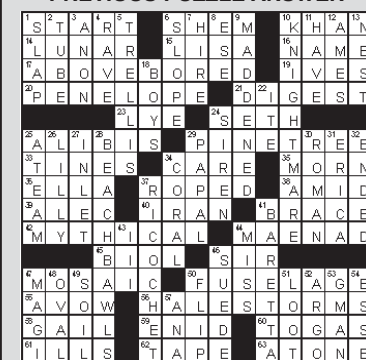
- 1 College Park student, briefly
- 5 Sand containers
- 10 Role for Shirley
- 14 Not to the wind
- 15 Circle around
- 16 Afternoon parties
- 17 Where a Dell may go
- 19 It's in the Bible
- 20 Leachman of "The Last Picture Show"
- 21 Treat, as in therapy
- 23 Middle name of Lenin or Tchaikovsky

- 26 Swimsuit material, perhaps
- 27 Carpaccio base
- 30 Cheep joint?
- 32 Maglie or Mineo
- 33 A deadly sin
- 34 Doozy
- 35 Low bridge bid, informally
- 38 Yeoman's yes
- 39 "Silent Movie" actor Marty
- 41 Loudness unit
- 42 "Inferno" poet
- 44 Reps' rivals
- 45 Million add-on
- 46 The Lord, as introduced to Moses
- 47 War deity

- 48 Take apart
- 49 Disperse
- 52 Colorful talk
- 54 Heavy metal band?
- 56 Words with "my sunshine"
- 60 Metropolitan areas, for short
- 61 Where an Oriole may go
- 64 Achievement
- 65 Old operating room substance
- 66 Fill-in at the office, briefly
- 67 Obscure
- 68 Title documents
- 69 Dog dish filler, perhaps

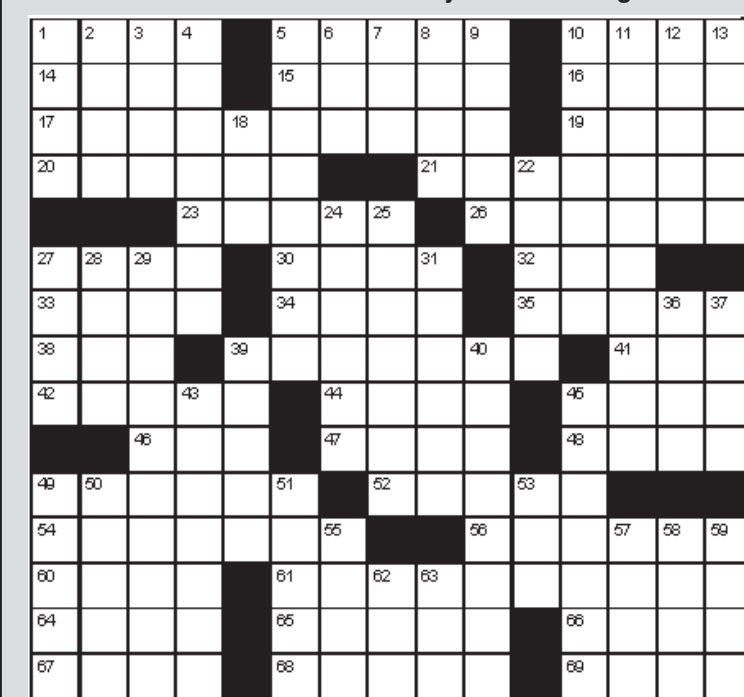
- e.g.
- 11 Where deletions may go
- 12 Passover staple
- 13 Beauty, brawn or brains, e.g.
- 18 Standard product?
- 22 Heated crime?
- 24 Woulda partner
- 25 Theme of this puzzle
- 27 Sweat unit
- 28 "A Day Without Rain" singer
- 29 Where mascara may go
- 31 Thrash
- 36 Egghead sort
- 37 Cooking staple
- 39 Leg bone
- 40 Lode analysts
- 43 Wu-wei adherents
- 45 Masters locale
- 49 Material of no consequence
- 50 Correo (Spanish airmail)
- 51 Words with go or off
- 53 "___ gloom of night ..."
- 55 Tiny Archibald
- 57 Second son
- 58 Catwalk
- 59 National before 2005
- 62 Across-board link
- 63 Rocker Nugent

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"CONTAINMENT" by Victor Fleming



Park scores as Man Utd ease to win in Beijing

BEIJING (Reuters) - Korean Park Ji-sung scored his first goal for the club as Manchester United cruised to a 3-0 pre-season win over Chinese side Beijing Guo'an on Tuesday.

The Premier League side wasted several good opportunities in the first half, striker Ruud van Nistelrooy being the worst culprit, before midfielder Paul Scholes headed a precise cross into the corner of the net in the 40th minute.

Scholes scored again four minutes later when he charged through the middle and smoothly clipped a Van Nistelrooy pass into the net.

United struck again early in the second half when winger Cristiano Ronaldo streaked down the right flank and crossed for midfielder Park to head a simple goal.

Park looked lively throughout the match with his neat passing and aggressive tackling.

"He's a goal scorer. His movement, penetration in the last third of the field is very good," United manager Alex Ferguson told reporters. "I'm very pleased with him."

A nasty challenge on Van



Manchester United's Paul Scholes (C) is congratulated by team mate Park Ji-sung (R) after scoring a goal as Beijing Guo'an's goalkeeper Yang Zhi (L) watches during their friendly soccer match at Workers' Stadium in Beijing July 26. Manchester United will wrap up their Asia Tour in Tokyo with matches against Japanese clubs Kashima Antlers and Urawa Red Diamonds. REUTERS

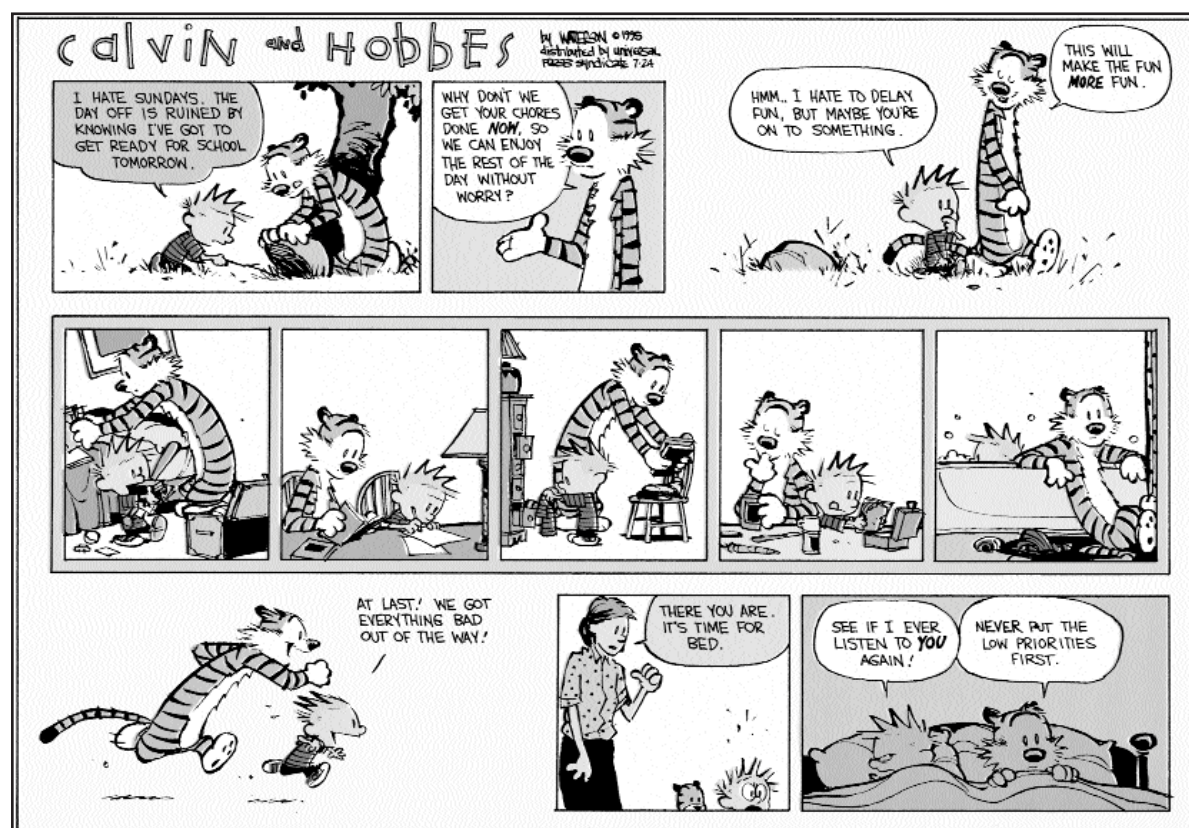
Nistelrooy in the second half was one of several unfriendly moments in the match, in which two Beijing players were carried off and United's Phil Neville and Alan Smith received yellow cards.

"It was competitive," Ferguson said. "I don't think it got out of control. I thought the referee handled it well."

"Tonight was a much more competitive game than in Hong Kong. I'm very satisfied."

United opened their Asian tour with a 2-0 win over Hong Kong on Saturday, and next travel to Tokyo for friendlies against Japanese clubs Kashima Antlers and Urawa Reds.

United's China trip followed a similar money-spinning tour by Real Madrid, who earned a hard-fought 3-2 win over Beijing on Saturday.



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1. Angry stare (5) g

2. Line around the centre of the earth (7) e

3. Flavour (5) t

4. Ancient remains (5) r

5. Rock traveling through space (6) m

6. One third of a school year (4) t

7. Uncooked bread (5) d

8. Knock sharply (3) r

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1.misty 2.unwrap

3.present 4.cheap

5.omits 6.simple

7.ignite

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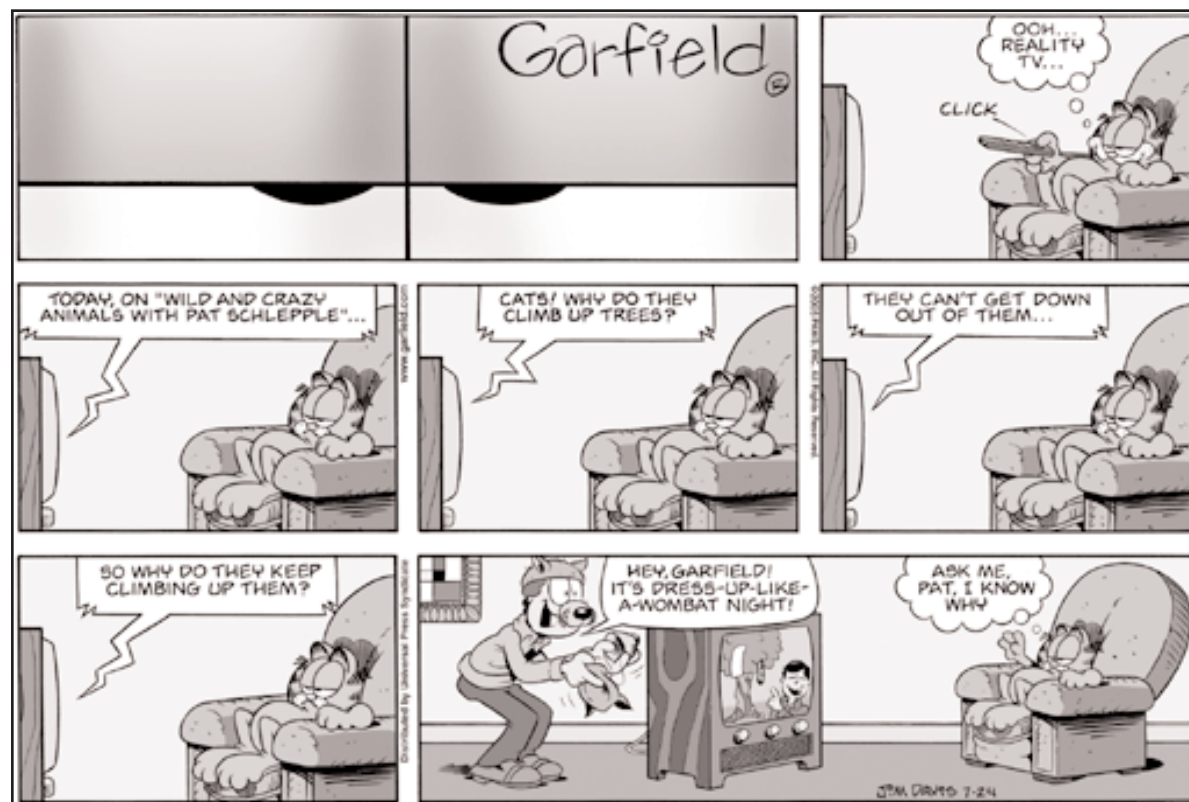
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Unassuming Poet Mohammed Noaman Al-Hakimi to Yemen Times:

“The incipient phase of loftiness with which I was withdrawn into a conscious instant and deeply felt human sensation told me: YOU ARE A POET!”

For his thirty-three years he seems to know much more about humans and human feelings. Expressed in his poetry lines he forcefully takes you through a world of emotions and wonders. The most amazing thing is that he writes poetry in both Arabic

teacher, Mr. Al-Hakimi has mastered this foreign language and published more than 90 poems in both English and Arabic.

He was also chosen by Larry Frolick the Canadian author in his book Ten thousand scorpions – in search of queen Sheba's gold! as a face from the kingdom of Sheba.

King-pins' pitfalls

"That fame has gone to drain
That dawn but shown in vain
They've come to flee at thee
You've come to prove insane!"

Recently Mohammed has published his first poems collection called Bawabat al Shagan, translated: "Gate to curiosity". Nadia al Sakka of the Yemen Times interviewed Mohammed al Hakimi and filled in the following details:

Why Bawabat al Shagan?

Firstly, I boast being interviewed by YT editor Nadia Al-Saqqaf.

Bawabat Al-Shagan is my first published poetic diwan in which I try to seek in darkness faces a firebrand. In fact, it reflects me running within the tears of my homeland. In it, I am flowing with affection as morning, embracing all fields with love. I try my best to flee the blindness legend and catch a more realistic world.

and English.

With his bachelor of English from Sana'a University and years of experience as an English language

Reversion Tunes (Translated)

Here rests my convoy
On pains and a calamity
Of remembrance
And dark revolutionary dreams
About to resolve to attacking
The whole world.
Why is the dream fractured
And the white flag lacks
A home and supporters!
Why should I die of longing

Though enough intimacy's chaff
And friends?!
Here the lyre is playing
Its reversion thirsty tune
And none can hear such sweet
Chanting in my heart,
But you!
Here I shed another tear
Over this darkness' embraces
Teeming with distress
To feel at ease about all

You have chosen a very peculiar cover picturing a woman crawling to a far destination, can you describe why is that so?

I was not involved at all in making the cover and how it was supposed to

be like. However, it means to me that there is something exciting. According to the worn – out Yemeni adage: "Anxiety made the old woman crawl. In fact, I expect to see something good behind the clouds!"

To be continued on page 11.

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