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Popular feelings inflamed

Al-Wasat editor abducted, beaten for criticism

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Hundreds of Journalists staged a sit-in Wednesday August 24 at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) and expressed solidarity with Jamal Amer, Editor-in-Chief of al-Wasat weekly who was abducted on the 23rd by a group of armed men in a military vehicle.

The chief editor of the independent newspaper was grabbed and bundled into a military plate-numbered vehicle while returning home after work at the newspaper, taken to an unknown place, beaten and threatened. It is thought this was in relation to his criticism of corruption and corrupt individuals in the government.

"A group of armed men on board a vehicle with a military plate number waited for me near my house; when I arrived, they ordered me to go with them and bundled me rudely into their car", Jamal Amer said in a statement to the Yemen Times. "The attackers blindfolded me, bound my hands and bundled me into another car sometime after moving from the place of the incident."

"I was then taken to an unknown place outside the capital and threatened to be thrown from the peak of a mountain," the victim added. "The merciless assailants hit me badly and fired shots in order to terrorize me"

Amer alleged the abductor's mocked his speech and said they would behead



Yemeni Journalists Syndicate discuss with Jamal Amer (second from left) the development of his case.

him, and put his head in one place and his corpse in another. They told him he was warned to stop criticizing government officials. Specific criticism of nepotism in a report published last week detailed a list of children of officials given scholarships to study abroad allegedly without merit.

Amer mentioned the attackers accused him of receiving material sup-

port from the U.S. and the Kuwaiti embassies and having links to a group of U.S. agents.

The perpetrators told the victim that his newspaper could criticize the government without naming any officials. One of them threatened to cut off his tongue if he dares write against government officials, reliable sources told the Yemen Times.

Al-Wasat Chief Editor said the abductors told him that nobody can help alleviate his suffering and punishment, even officials at the YJS.

Mahboub Ali, Chief of the YJS agreed that what Jamal Amer was subjected to is a barbaric act and indicates that lives of journalists in Yemen is exposed to risk and oppression. Such malpractice, he added, violates the

Yemeni constitution, constitutes obstacles against the profession and raises concern and fear among journalists.

"Any violation of the press breaches the Yemeni press law and contradicts the democratic values pursued in a democratic country," Mahboub Ali was quoted as saying. "We appeal to all the concerned parties and people interested to bear in mind that journalism is not the possession of journalists, rather it is possessed by all the political forces."

The YJS issued a statement urging the Ministry of Interior to hunt for the attackers and bring them to court.

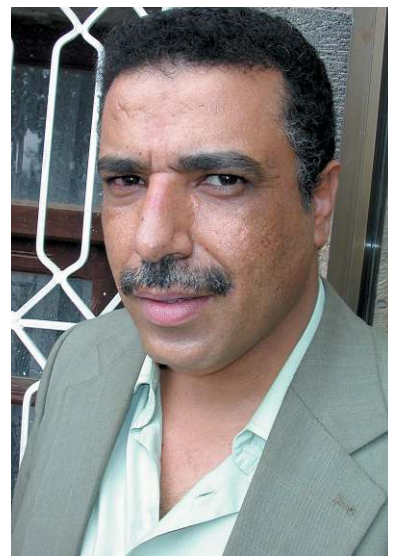
Hamdi al-Bukari, an official at the YJS asserted that a meeting of solidarity with Jamal Amer will be held today to denounce the hassling of journalism and attacks on journalists.

Al-Wasat recently published a series of articles criticizing the government's policies and revealing corruption and money embezzlements at different ministries.

Over the last few months, some Yemeni journalists were attacked, others tried and investigated for their journalistic writings, and some newspapers were shut down by the authorities.

Prior to the attack on Jamal Amer, Haje' al-Jihafi, al-Nihar Chief Editor was injured badly in a booby-trapped envelope machinated and sent to him by some malicious elements, and some of al-Thawrah reporters were attacked while in duty in al-Dhal'e Governorate.

Observers of the situation of Yemeni journalism hold the view that attacks



Jamal Amer looks awed and shocked after his ordeal

and harassments of journalists will have negative effect on the reputation of Yemen before the international human rights organizations.

Numerous human rights organizations and parties interested in the freedom of media have shown concern over the maltreatment of Yemeni journalists.

Observers expect the coming couple of days to see unjust trials against journalists due to lack of understanding on the part of government officials to the role of journalism in raising public awareness.

Economic impacts of lifting subsidy from fuel

By ABDULELAH TAQI

The latest price reforms have resulted in negative and positive outcomes. They are significant because the economy has not fulfilled a significant progress, the government failed to achieve goals of the Second Five-Year Plan and Poverty Reduction Strategy. Those failures have made the "price reforms" the easiest way to prevent from a likely economic collapse if the saved subsidies (US\$ 700m) should be responsibly spent on troubled development sectors such as education and health. So far the government has not substantially activated any other income

pumping sectors. Outcome of the extra budgetary account of YR 188b is still questionable according to the parliament Financial Committee (NewsYemen: 07.26.05). Some legislative reforms have not maintained consistency with the openness-based market and the underway WTO integration-oriented economy (NewsYemen: 07.26.05). The WB people say that having recourse to efficiency, justice and transparency in managing the public resources is significantly consistent with achieving poverty reduction and constant growth. They argue that Yemenis are the poorest in the planet (YObserver: 08.13.2005). They insist that poverty is the most significant challenge and are concerned of the fiscal adjustments without administrative or judicial reforms. A 2002 FAO report said that falling per capita incomes have aggravated further the food insecurity situation of low-income households, where access to food is also constrained by the short-term negative impact of structural adjustment measures. Inefficient and poorly integrated food markets coupled by geographical

isolation are additional factors, which combine to further limit access to food for the poor. In the meantime, Increasing local and international reports are pointing out to the magnitude of corruption and governance low graded indicators in the country.

Petroleum local consumption & subsidies

The local consumption of diesel rose from 553.3 million liters in 1990 to 2753 million in 2004 (PEPA: 2005). Recently, significant development projects have been implemented in Aden and Safir oil refineries which together produce about 130,000 bpd in 2004 (eia: 2004). The Yemen Oil Refining Company estimated it 90,000 - 110,000 bpd from Aden refinery and 10,000 from Safir Refinery. Refineries' products are used to cover the local market needs and for export. Two new refineries have been promoted for the private sector the first, Adhaba-Hadhramout, 50,000 bpd, was approved in 2002 and the second, Ras-Essa-Hodieda, 45,000 bpd, was approved in

Yemen renews calls for extradition of Abu Hamza al-Masri

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Monday August 22 - Yemen has renewed its calls on British authorities to extradite Abu Hamzah al-Masri for trial in a Yemeni court for his alleged involvement in terrorist acts in Yemen, said well-informed sources at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry.

It appears Yemen renewed its calls for the extradition of the terrorist after the British government legislated to expel terrorists or 'those who would incite terrorism' from UK territory.

Yemen, a source informs us, has prepared a file for the British authorities with charges against Abu Hamzah and evidence to prove his involvement in terrorist acts. This includes his support of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, infamous for its' many offensives against



Abu Hamzah al-Masri

tourists and foreign interests. However, the outcome of the extradition appeal will largely depend upon a British assessment of jail conditions in Yemen with specific reference to the use of torture.

Yemen's calls for the extradition of Abu Hamza Al-Masri came just two months after the London bombings and the issuance of new British legislations with respect to expelling terror elements from its territories.

High court approves death and imprisonment penalties against USS Cole attackers

SANA'A- Monday- the High Court approved varied convictions for six of The USS American Cole attackers in Aden in 2000.

The death penalty was given to the attack's master mind; Abdurraheem Al-Nashiri. The second man, Jamal Al-Badawi was convicted on a 15 year sentence. Prior to this, Alnashiri received a death sentence from the primary court. The high court also approved the five-year prison term of the third man, Mamoun Ahmed. The ten-year imprisonment of the fourth man, Fahd Mohamed al-Qasa'a, was also endorsed.

Last September, the death penalty was also issued to both Alnashiri and Jamal Al-badawi, after they were convicted of planning the attack.

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Fifty people killed in latest torrential rains Torrents flood three houses in Haddah, Sana'a

HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA,- Torrents resulting from heavy rainfall in the last few days had caused the break down of a water barrier built on the side of the mountain overlooking Haddah area. Speedy down pouring waters flooded three residential houses in Faj Attan residential area on Haddah Street.

Eyewitnesses told Yemen Times they saw large amounts of water flowing down the mountainside after the collapse of a water barrier on the mountain. Due to their abundance and speed of down flowing waters ran off the course regulating their flow, rushing speedily towards houses in the area, flooded, and caused damage to three of them, including the house of the reporter who has written this news story. The surprise rushing of waters caused panic among those fami-

lies that had to move to other areas.

Contacts were made with the city municipality for offering help to families of those damaged houses but there was no response by the civil defense authorities. Those houses are situated near the residence of the eldest son of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and presidential guard members stationed at the top of the mountain prevented some citizens carrying tools to block the source of flowing waters.

Residents of damaged houses have appealed to the president to give orders to concerned authorities to drain waters threatening their lives and repair streets nearby their houses.

Sources report that toll of victims because of torrential rains downpour last Thursday and Friday reached at fifty dead people especially caused by traffic accidents and cars sliding off the main roads,

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81 cases of dengue fever in Aldhalie

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Eighty-one cases of dengue fever were the toll announced Saturday 20 August to have been discovered in Aldhalie governorate. Source at the ministry said the ministry had dispatched a medical team, headed by Dr. Fuaz Shihab, an expert in the World Health Organization, to investigate into the cases and set a plan for

combating mosquitoes and other insects that transfer the disease.

Yemen Times learnt that malaria is now spreading in remote areas of the governorate. Authorities in the governorate started a two - phase campaign spraying of fumes and mists of pesticides to fight insects that spread diseases. Breeding pools that keep rain water were also filled up with earth.

International conference on yemeni-hadhramis in southeast asia

A 3-day international conference on Yemeni - Hadhramis in South East Asia will be held on 26th August 2005 in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The conference is organized jointly by Department of History and Civilization at the International Islamic University Malaysia and the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Malaysia.

Keynote speech will be delivered by His Excellency Syed Hamid AlBar, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and the Yemen Ambassador to Malaysia. A number of Yemeni, Malaysian and international experts will participate.

Yemen Times will exclusively report about this important venue.

Japan extends support to the olympic committee

A Cultural Grant agreement was signed today at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation by Dr. Yahya Yahya Al mutawakel, Yemeni Vice Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Mr. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan in Sana'a.

By this agreement, the Government of Japan will extend a grant up to six hundred thirty five thousand

USD(\$635,000) to the Yemen Olympic Committee for the procurement of sports equipment. The grant is to contribute to the promotion of women's sports and educational activities in the Republic of Yemen.

Japan has provided cultural grants over the last three years to the National Archive Center, the Cultural Center in Sana'a and the Education Aids Production Center.

Fourth round of combating polio kicked off

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The national campaign for polio combat started Monday and continues until Wed. August 24. The campaign targets 3,800,649 children under the age of five.

The number of workers that participate in the campaign amounts to 340582. Of these, 2,390 are proper health workers. 16,096 are mobile workers, while the numbers of team

supervisors are 3701. There are also 16,069 volunteers. The number of cars that were used was scheduled to be 4365.

The comprehensive national program for vaccination held a press conference for journalists and media representatives, dedicated for the comprehensive polio combat.

They invited journalist and media people to adopt and support this national campaign.

Health officials said that there were a number of difficulties that faced introducing the service properly to all targeted persons. Of these are the geographically scattered areas far away from vaccination centers. Another impeding factor is the small number of females, working in vaccination centers. This creates a problem in vaccinating targeted females against tetanus, because most of the vulnerable females abstain from being vaccinated by males.

A merging Corporate family

SANA'A- Sabafon, the first GSM-service provider in the country has made arrangements for the joint wedding of 20 grooms on August 26th. The wedding, the first of its kind in Yemen's private sector will occur with the aim of enhancing solidarity between company employees.

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar, Chairman of the Board of Directors at the company said the initiative would economize marriage by reducing the often insurmountable cost of a wedding.

He also speculated that a 20-groom joint wedding would deepen company relations by spreading an atmosphere

of love and cooperation among workers.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors gave warm congratulations to the 20 grooms, though it remains to be seen if conflicting work and family life in such a fashion will indeed be a success.

Al-Nukhbah's 2005 Manual for Training and Qualification issued

SANA'A- As part of the issuances of al-Nukhbah for Public Relations and Advertisements, the 2005 Training and Qualifications manual was issued this week.

The manual is a distinguished authority on all the training institutes and centers in Yemen and of particular use to students and those trying to improve themselves.

Led by Mr. Yasser al-Mayasi, a young and enthusiastic team produced this latest manual which includes research and information on computers and the internet. This manual is



intended to raise awareness among young people by informing them of changing technologies such as the computer, internet and opportunities and challenges of learning a foreign language.

In an attempt to transcend class boundaries, Mr. Al-Mayasi has emphasized that the manual will be free. This is the second time the al-Nukhbah's manual has been published. It was issued last year for the first time with great success and contributed to the growth of training and qualifications in the public.

In abnormal sitting

SPC rules on case of 36 Al-Houthi followers

SANA'A- In its hearing held Monday August 24, the Specialist Penal Court (SPC) looked into the case of 36 Al-Houthi followers charged with the formation of an armed band to carry out terrorist operations. 6 of them are fugitives after being accused of being involved in Sana'a's latest bombings.

The session was attended by some defense-advocates, among them Sharaf al-Dharihi and Mohammad al-Akhfash, Sa'eed al-Kushab who defend suspect Abdullah Hussein al-Fakeeh. The session proceeded in the presence of Dr. Mohammad al-Khatib and Nazih al-Emad, defense-advocates of suspect Fuad al-Emad.



At the hearing, the court decided to arrest the 6 fugitives and ordered the father of the female suspect Intisar al-Sayani to bring his daughter to the court. The judge ordered the imprisonment of al-Sayani though he convinced the judge that his daughter is ailing.

The session was attended by people affected by the acts of terror including four Iraqi experts working at the Air Defense Forces who claimed the court to give them compensations, showing a medical report from the Military Hospital on their injuries.

The Iraqi experts received different injuries as terrorists hurled a grenade at the bus they were on board in Hayel

Street to the west of the capital Sana'a.

The hearing proceeded in the presence of some blood relatives including the son of the victim Hassan Ahmad al-Moayed who claimed the court to severely punish the perpetrators.

A number of lawyers who attended the court confirmed that charges attributed to their clients are incorrect and baseless and accused the court of exceeding limits of the law and violating rights of suspects. They demanded the court to rule on the cases of suspects without being influenced by any political viewpoints.

The suspects were tried in an abnormal

court sitting during which they shouted: "we do not acknowledge this court and death is for Israel and the U.S."

The prosecution demanded the court to approve compensations for the properties of people affected by the acts of perpetrators.

The suspects were accused of forming an armed band to commit acts of vandalism and killings and launch offensives on the government facilities. They were also accused of attacking senior government officials and prominent military leaders and storing large quantities of arms and explosives.

Last September, the death penalty was also issued to both Alnashiry and Jamal Al-badawi, after they were convicted of planning the attack.

High court approves death and imprisonment penalties against USS Cole attackers

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Birth pains for justice and democracy party

BY ADEN BUREAU

ADEN- As the Justice and Democracy Party struggles to define itself prominent intellectuals and political leaders are holding discussions. On the agenda; the goals of the new party, its political platform, structure and strategy.

As legal procedures are finalized and constitutional requirements addressed, the party is elaborating on its aims.

Much of this is occurring in the governorate of al-Dhal'e where Mohammad Omar al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Justice and Democracy Party met with opposition

party leaders and media personnel.

Central to the meeting were the steps necessary to the establishment of the party. Of particular concern to Omar al-Saqqaf was the lack of political stability, negative economic growth, security concerns and corruption in the Arab Republic. This he cited as the cause for the decline of foreign invest-

ment and the associated increase in unemployment and poverty.

The Justice and Democracy Party is itself controversial to many in Yemeni society and government, the Chairman of the party said in a statement to the Yemen Times, but was also welcomed by several politicians as a necessary dilution of the political process.

Solution is in the hand of President

400 families live under threat

BY ADEN BUREAU

ADEN- Around 400 families in the al-Tawahi District or Presidency zone lead unstable lives dominated by fear and concern. The anxiety is due to aged housing in which they have been living for about 40 years.

A number of locals in the zone stated a few days ago: "We have lived near the Presidential Palace for 40

years and never felt any harassment by any former officials. After achieving national unity, we were surprised to see that directives were issued by President Saleh ordering us to evacuate our houses in return for compensation." This was in spite of the fact those residents claim to possess authentic ownership documents.

Since they were ordered to desert their houses, they have not been ren-

ovated or repaired and are now destabilized by fissures and cracks.

"Whenever we start rehabilitating our aged houses, the Security guards at the Presidential Palace prevent us from taking any construction articles to our houses, and they confiscate any construction tools they find", one local says.

Residents have raised numerous complaints to Dr. Yahya al-Shuaibi,

Governor of Aden to articulate the danger in which they now lead their lives. Dr. al-Shuaibi toured the zone, though there has been no subsequent progress. Some have even appealed directly to the President to repeal the order denying them the liberty to improve their homes. For now however, residents live in fear for their property and the lives of their loved ones.

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Continued from page 1

Economic impacts of lifting subsidy from fuel

In 2002, ROYG subsidized oil with YR 42 billion, but the figure jumped, spurred by the additional allocations, to YR 102 billion in 2003 and to YR 134 billion in budget 2005. Oil is most unlikely to be smuggled to any GCC or neighboring African country because the new local prices are higher than that in those states, especially that Saudi Arabia, after the death of King Fahd, government reduced the oil rate to equivalent to YR 21 instead of YR 50/liter and increased government employees' salaries. Eritrea and maybe Somalia is the most possible receiver of the Yemeni smuggled oil due to its very expensive oil rates. Local consumption of oil will dramatically drop in the second half of 2005.

Depressing impacts

The negative results will plight the people who are among the poorest in the world. The reforms will impact the cost of agriculture and fishery production and other products due to transport higher ensued costs. Some economists expect prices to rise 20% while others expect it 80% due to the weakness of government control on prices and fragility of the institutional system (NewsYemen: 07.26.05). Economists agree that such impacts are a normal short-term result if other adjustments are forged and economy is stimulated.

MP Abdul-Karim Shaiban refers to the official statistics and said that 1 million farmers funding for 8 million people and 40 thousand fishermen would be affected by those reforms. And subsequent decline in the agriculture and fishing sectors will ensue.

Constructive effects and commitments

The 26-September newspaper said the relevant government bodies have started implementing the presidential instructions putting an end to oil smuggling and monopoly that would save YR 3.7b to the state treasury. President Saleh instructed the government to regulate the usage of petroleum derivatives; he urged to prevent changing petrol-fueled engines of vehicles to gas or diesel fueled ones, earmark the fuel allocations to each province in accordance to the population and agricultural and manufacturing industries in each one, sell oil out to the foreign commercial ships, planes and big foreign companies based on the international rates, and control the goods prices.

A couple of days before the reform was announced, president Saleh had approved three significant reform-driven legislations, Customs Tariff Law, General Sales Tax Law and Wages and Salaries Strategy Law. After the reform had been announced, the government came up with 15 reform-oriented policies that are designed to cushion the reform impacts on the government employees, farmers, fishermen and other segments of the poor. Government committed to expand the social welfare network, support the SFD and Public Works project, continue subsidizing other certain services, support irrigation, apply public spending rationalization program in all fields, reduce expenditures on overseas conferences, and ban government vehicles and furniture purchases.

The state's leaders stressed on the IMF and WB's long recommended comprehensive fiscal strategy which aims at strengthening expenditure control, improve revenues, enhance fiscal transparency, but has not touched on any intentions to dissolve extra budgetary accounts and special oil funds which lead to the creation of a fully-

fledged Treasury Single Account TSA. YR 188 billion in 2004 and YR 130 billion in 2003 were credited to these accounts. Poverty reduction strategy priorities started to be reflected in the national budget and sectoral plans are being implemented. Improving tracking of poverty-related spending and functional classification of expenditures were stressed by the government (IMF: Spring 2005).

The 2004 fiscal deficit was estimated at 4.5% of GDP, about 1% higher than the original budget. The larger than expected deficit was due to higher development spending and larger petroleum subsidy due mainly to higher oil prices and the postponement of the envisaged increase in petroleum prices. The ROYG used, for the first time, macroeconomic indicators and indicative ceilings in the preparation of the 2005 budget, but very little has been done before July 2005 to improve internal expenditure, control mechanisms or to improve budget execution of fiscal reporting (IMF: Spring 2005). In early August 2005, the cabinet approved a draft law reforming the finance management. The draft law targets improving management of the state accounts and mainstreaming the government purchase and tender system (Al-Thawra: 08.09.2005).

MOF has been mandated to design and implement a nationally oriented public spending program. The short-term 1997 cabinet implemented a similar program for a very short time. The new program tends to reduce spending on the diplomatic missions, seminar representations, purchase of vehicles and furniture, and construction of administrative buildings and to channel its allocations to development. MOF decided to increase efforts to generate revenue in order to balance the budget by increasing revenue and limiting expenditure. It has promulgated a ministerial decision to control expenditures. Based on this decision, MOF and MOPIC will decide on priority projects and the least urgent will be delayed while projects of poverty alleviation will be given priority. MOF recommended strict observation on finance management departments in every public institution. No more new institutions will be created and the already existing ones will be continuously evaluated to ensure they fulfill their goals. The privatization law will be put into effect and extra assets of administrative bodies as well as those in the mixed sector will be sold out as stipulated by the law of tender and bid procedures, as well as passing their revenues to the public treasury. Finance management departments of the public sector will be kept under strict supervision. The funds allocated for conferences and overseas missions will be reduced by 50% and those for ROYG officials medical treatment reduced by 25% (Al-Thawra, 08.03.2005).

A good news reported that Prime Minister called off a youth activity in Venezuela with tickets costing about YR 400 million (Al-Wasat: 08.04.2005), but this came a few days prior to a FIFA decision freezing Yemen's international sport participation due to ROYG interventions in sport affairs and financial allocations. The cabinet decided to prevent importing the gas-fueled vehicles, prevent transform engines to gas or diesel instead of gasoline, and to close down the workshops that do this act. Ministry of Industry and Trade established an operation room to control prices and prosecuted about 480 traders for overpricing.

Failures of the reforms

While the government and MOF new commitments promise for improved revenue management and austerity measures, leaders of the ministry are complaining of centralization, "absolutely" neglecting the revenue sector, and huge magnitude of corruption there. The MOF Deputy Minister of Revenues accused the minister of focusing on expenditures, of lacking any vision on the goals of the newly passed laws and lacking any studies on their financial and economic effects, and lacking any plans for budget reform regarding the remaining subsidies. He ruled out any MOF supervision on the customs, tax, public sector or oil management, except for the COCA that practices a limited document-based auditing. He insisted that in 2004 the value of customs exempted on goods reached two thirds of the customs revenues and about YR 500 billion for the last four years (Al-Wasat: 08.17.2005).

The cabinet has amended the parliament-approved salaries strategy and reduced the lowest limit to only YR 15,500 instead of 20,000 and the highest limit to YR 60,000 instead of YR 160,000 (Al-Sahwa net: 08.21.2005), kept the MPs clause in the law as it is; it gives MPs minister grade, ensures their minister-grade salaries for good and gives them all other ministers' financial privileges, about 2000 liters of fuel monthly, 4 air flight tickets yearly, US\$ 5000 medical allowance, housing allowance ..etc. The government announced intentions to implement the strategy on four stages the first to take four years starting from July 2005, while the law states that the strategy is (wholly) in effect and has not mentioned any time plan. The strategy is still unclear and ambiguous according to parliament social affairs committee's recommendations.

As to the judicial sector, Minister of Justice told the opposition Al-Shoura newspaper that during 2004 he has received about 450 illegal mediations letters from Prime Minister, parliament MPs, Sheikhs and dignitaries to interfere in court jobs. The minister added that the judiciary reshuffle of about 668 judges has not taken place so far. He concluded that he is threatened not to be included in the next cabinet "change" due to his "firm stances".

Corruption of oil sector

The parliament member of Financial Committee and economist Abdul-Karim Shaiban denied the YR 215 b subsidies to fuel saying that the citizens' consumption is considerably much less than the government consumption and the "rulers' smuggling". Gasoline is locally produced and, therefore, its cost should be based on the real production and refining costs rather than the international rate. Shaiban said the Yemeni crude oil is exported for much cheaper prices than the world rates and that importing diesel is not monitored, is not based on tenders, diesel exporter to Yemen is unknown and the purchase rate is also unknown. Oil officials gave pretext that Yemeni oil is of less quality than the worlds'. Oil minister promised but up to the moment failed to give any justification. The processes of purchasing diesel are plagued by fraud in vouchers. "Yemen imports diesel from Ethiopia and Switzerland which are not oil producers," Shaiban wondered. He suggested to the government to open competition to the private sector in order the citizen to take advantage of the international oil fluctuating rates and to take into consideration the low individual

income. Shaiban assumes that government carries out corruption in the name of "subsidies costs"; in 2003 (Al-Shoura: 07.14.2003), he made the following calculations based on 2003 rates:

1- Gasoline: \$ 28/barel (crude oil rate) + \$3 to \$5/ton (refining costs) + \$22/ton (transport costs (\$3.1/barel)) at the end, each liter costs YR 35 which was the same rate applied before the recent cabinet decision and which means that there is no subsidies given to gasoline.

2- Diesel: YR 35 (diesel market rate) - YR 17 (diesel rate in Yemen) = YR 18 (the subsidy) X 2 billion liters (local consumption) = YR36 billion (diesel subsidies as in the budget). But the government requested an additional allocation that raised the subsidy to YR 102 billion, so that the different (YR 66 billion) is the share of government corruption.

Impacts on agriculture

About 80,000 diesel-fired water pumps scatter all over Yemen. Each water pump consumes 6 to 7 liters/hour. About 1.116 million landlords possess 1.133 million hectares of which 431 thousand hectares are well-water irrigated (Al-Sahwa net: 08.05.2005).

The agriculture Cooperative Union report reveals that YR 25.8 b to YR 34.5 b is the agriculture sector loss due to the cabinet decision. Based on 2005 prices, costs of spending on machines, labor and power will rise by 180% and direct impacts on irrigation and mechanical systems will incur. The report refers to the 2002 FAO report that the annual consumption of diesel used for irrigation is 1.659 billion liters costing YR 28 billion. Poultry prices rise by 25% (YR 100), egg box by 20% (YR 1000). The union owned 6 livestock farms will lose YR 200 million. And the cost of their potatoes production project will rise by 150% (YR 120 million).

The individual share of water is 120-150 cubic meter/year. 90% of water resources are used up in irrigation. Estimates indicate to annual water deficit at 1 billion cubic meters and that rainfalls cannot replenish the natural

stock and to cover needs in the rural or urban areas where the annual rainfall level is only 250 mm. agriculture is 30% of GDP and provides with about 50% of the workforce. It constitutes a resource of income to two thirds of woman population and contain 85% of woman labor. Qat is 32% of GDP, fruits 20%, and livestock 17% (NY: 07, 2005). Since qat is a cash crop, At growing is not affected by the diesel price surge simply because its price is not regulated. It has a broadly lucrative market and it does not have an external competitor.

Other reforms are essential

The failure of the Second Five-Year Plan and Poverty Reduction Strategy are an indication of incapability to achieve a significant public investment progress. In addition, COCA performance has not improved and the country recorded a lower rank in the Transparency International 2004 report. Budget yearly spends US\$ 92 million on the treasury bills profits and about US\$ 700 million to prevent local currency from depreciation (CBY: 2004). The CBY has not introduced a major policy reform since mid-1990s. Privatization program has not achieved a serious progress since 1998, government remunerated about US\$ 230 million to the ACT former operator due to an inefficiently composed operation contract and other bureaucratic challenges. The country's free zone is not yet under the government spotlight.

The parliament passed the Wages and Salaries Strategy Bill which is designed to cushion impacts of the price reforms on the government employees. The strategy is so complicate and unclear that it does not address significant category of employees. The cabinet made "unconstitutional amendment" to the passed bill; they reduced the wage lowest limit to YR 15,500 and the highest limit to YR 60,000 instead of YR 20,000 and YR 160,000 according to the bill. In the meantime, they kept the privileges the bill gives to the parliament members; MPs are given salaries and other privileges of ministers for good (Al-Ayyam: 07.08.2005).


Conclusion

Authorities introduced positive macroeconomic and policy developments in the context of the 2005 budget. They introduced the GST Law to levy 5% on almost all goods and services. A flexible exchange rate policy, supported by structural reforms, should boost growth in non-oil sectors, streamlining the transition to a multiple revenue resource economy.

The prices surge is a leading force in boosting poverty and inflation which reached 13.3% in 2004. Rational monetary policy should be geared to contain inflationary pressures. Monetary authorities should put price stability under its spotlight especially that macroeconomic stability is at stake.

The IMF underscored the importance of strengthening fiscal adjustment and deepening structural reforms to ensure fiscal sector development, with macroeconomic policies guided by long-term considerations as well as strengthen the non-oil sector. The IMF, WB and other donors frequently noted that fiscal adjustments alone will not be sufficient to achieve long term sustainability. Complementary macroeconomic and structural policies to stimulate growth and diversify the production base, away from oil, is considerably required. (IMF: Spring 2005) Particular attention should be given to sectors with a strong potential cooperative advantage and large job creation prospects, including fisheries, transshipment activities and tourism. The country's LNG, proposed to generate US\$ 17b in 20 years (Al-Sahwa Net: 08.17.2005), is a significant part of solutions to meet the challenges posed by the declining oil sector.

The government should adopt policies that would improve the business environment, including reducing costs of business startups and streamlining procedures to encourage private sector investment. Addressing governance indicators and slumping down corruption should enhance the climate for local and foreign investment. Under all circumstances, if a supplementary budget is to be adopted later in this year, it should be subject to stringent budgetary discipline designed to respond only to unforeseen developments or external shocks.



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How to apply: Interest ed applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sana'a. Tel 755-2050 & Fax No. 303-182, no later than September 7, 2005.

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By NABIL AL-QUBATI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ARKAN CONSULTANCY SERVICES

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Traditions & customs

Shackles enchain women participation in building economy

By ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
eshraqalbodgy@yahoo.com
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Since dawn of history with its first old ages, the whole world has been still thinking to explore different ways, which may support its economic, and progress cycle toward the best.

World countries are until nowadays still running after and panting for realization of economic development, stock exchange, and money markets, and are exerting all of their efforts to acquire non-preceding progress equally in petroleum, banking, and cultural fields.

However, in the course of time all foreign and Arab countries were donating tremendous care for all fields and scopes, which may corroborate their economic development and make them hierarchically arranged according to the economic bases of each country and then name the first country with developed economy, the second in place, or the third, and so forth, pursuant to the downward arrangement.

Any successful civilized nation with strong economy mainly depends on activating its various energies and capacities in all fields, and would render special care for participation of men and women based on parallel standards to achieve a thoroughly measured equation.

That means equal effective participation by both men and women, taking into account diversity of their fields or environments.

And as it is known for many people that any economically successful country cannot ignore or repeal the role of women or can deny them their legal



Colleges female graduates flocks together to apply for jobs offered by Ministry of Education. YEMEN TIMES PHOTO BY BASSAM J. AL-SAQOAF

rights already guaranteed in diverse constitutions.

Those civilized states know that participation of man and woman in the fields of work and at the urbanite and rural levels makes a huge economic revolution supported by rich culture and efforts exerted willingly for the purposes of advancing towards a better future.

Oppositely of all these principles and concepts, in many countries which miss correct economic development in spit possessing of the natural sources and heavy gaseous petroleum wealth, still the ignorance of women, restriction them within the traditions and customs, minimizing work fields and opportunities of women, deprivation of their

teaching rights, and so many other things are the only obsession of many Yemeni masters specially males.

Mostly that we are hearing and seeing by ourselves about all that kind of pressures, which Arabian women generally are suffering off and particularly Yemeni women as an example inside borders of our Yemeni nation.

In case that woman has finished her secondary education and she is lucky to continue her academic teaching, these pressures are represented in choosing of educational scopes for this girl and then in choosing of working fields for the same girl or another after the academic graduated term.

In Yemen, the male masters have their own rights as they are the decisions makers in the Yemeni families to force the woman and limit her in a very small educational or working circumference.

Most of the academic student girls or the employee girls have to choose between the educational sector, medical sector, nursing sector, or staying at home without and doubt. Usually, the male masters of these girls excuse their acts and this limitation by the social traditions and customs, which prevent the women from their rights of legal selection to choose the best and suitable for them, for their needs, and their likes.

It's the traditions and customs, which limit the women in very limited working fields that are in conformity with its disposition and temper more than their femininities and that simply because of its closure upon itself in spite of all those blatant global developments and improvements. Those male masters who defend about the femininity, traditions and customs had forgotten their lofty masculinity when they squeeze their daughters, sisters and wives by all of the heavy and exhausting rural works, which conflict already with their concept of femininity that are drown in their minds till this moment.

We are not seeking for the freedom of the values, morals, principles, and concepts, but we are requesting for coming back wards the Islam religion and holding by its certain exalted principles. Islam which never prevents women from their rights, or freedom of continual teaching or choosing work, and freedom of choosing their economic

participation fields to be side by side to their brothers.

Orthodox Islamic teachings dictated lot of justice, freedom, and never limitation or restriction. It gives the opportunity for the women to work without conditions as it gives for the men in the same time.

Go along with this Islamic flexibility to show that is not the right of male society as our Yemeni society to prevent woman from work and keep them inside the house as a housewife only. However, man has to give her an area for her personal freedom as he needs also. Man has to let her to choose her types of works that she want to do to prove her character and personality, and he has to help her to offer her national duty of participation toward her economic nation.

Not only that, but he should never excuse by traditions and customs which he wants to shackle the woman by it, particularly; that bad and useless ones which keep the society is cultural and economic underdeveloped.

Nevertheless, we have numerous of Yemeni ladies who are very successful in their jobs and universities inside and outside Yemen. And that not only for their patience, abilities or struggle but also for their understanding parents, brothers, and uncles.

Many questions are here and there about the nature of that traditional social view of Yemeni woman, her life style, thinking type, and behaviors pattern. That view which we cannot find its suitable logical explanations, and questions that we cannot find its suitable convincing answers.

Yemeni society as many other Arabic societies, which are still believing that woman had created to be a wife and housewife, they were denying the importance of woman effective economic participation that might consider more important than the role of man himself one day in the future.

Those societies still do not believe on the necessity of participation between the man and the woman whether inside or outside the house. They oppress women rights and their feelings without any humanity, without any conditions or limitations. They are such societies that still do not recognize by rights of women teaching and life; they completely deny the woman existence as a private independent being.

Being Arab and Yemeni societies are holding by Islamic law customs, and are going along with its rules and standards, they should know that this inferiority view of Arabian or Yemeni woman does not coming from Islamic religion at all, they have to recognize that traditional social culture should not mix with laws, rights, and Islam concepts. It should be far away from this pure religion in order to save it from the sheer accused characteristic.

Verily, Arab societies have to keep these all pretenses, traditions, and customs far away from Islam which saved the dignity of woman and their humanity rights from all sides and ages ago.

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٦٠٠,٠٠٠ ريال اسبوعيا

١,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ ريال الجائزة الكبرى

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إهداء

بإذن الله تعالى

Tourist marriage in Yemen

BY NABIL AL-OSAIDI FOR YEMEN TIMES

Rua'a, a seventeen-year-old secondary school student in Ibb, used to be dodged by a new comer from one of the neighboring countries, until he succeeded to convince her to marry him. Then she lost her most precious belonging, her virginity. She said that this man used to follow her in his luxurious car after she goes out of school, until she reaches her home. When she told her family, they decided to beat him. They were surprised to find him knocking at their door, asking her hand in marriage. They didn't believe it, that such a wealthy man would come to propose to their daughter. When they agreed, he flooded the family members with presents. Those presents were only trifles had it not been to the poor nature of her family.

One day he asked her father that his fiancé would accompany him to buy furniture for the new house, but he took her to his flat instead. He raped her there and disappeared, with no return.

Another Yemeni Rua'a was also a victim of the tourist marriage. She has a child of a father that she knows nothing about, since the honeymoon.

She said that, an in-coming man tried to seduce her, but when he didn't succeed in that; he wooed her from her family. He gave them a high dowry and luxurious furniture. They spent a month together in a hired flat, and then he disappeared. A third Rua'a was also deserted by a husband after they spent the honeymoon in one of the border towns.

Adolescents are the most vulnerable

These examples of marriage take place almost every week now. It is the type of marriage that takes place between a wealthy Gulf citizen and a Yemeni girl for a brief period. The basic factors of marriage, such as the dowry, and the family agreement are often observed in these marriages, it lacks the constituents of an ideal marriage that aims at making a family.

Dr. Fuad Hamoud Al-Shibami, a professor at Ibb University conducted a research on this phenomenon. As there

are no exact statistics on this matter, he chose a random sample of about 40 of the victims in Ibb governorate in urban and rural areas. His research is titled, "social and Psychological impact of the tourist marriage". He pointed out that the victims of this sort of marriage are about 38% of those whose ages are (20-24). The second sample constitutes 35% of the victims. Their ages are (15-19). 20% are those who are between (29 years and elder). He mentioned nothing of the other 7%.

As for the sample (15-19) of the victims, the professor said that those summer husbands have a common factor of choosing their preys from among this young sample because of the vigor and vivacity that they possess. They seek the physical enjoyment rather than social, ethical or human responsibilities.

The study divided the summer husbands into two categories. The first one of those is of old age Gulf businessmen who are escaping from the hell of their dominating wives, who often tease them. Their Gulf marriages are often tribal ones that are devoid of any love or respect, according to this study. The second category is

of the Gulf youth, whose intellectual and physical activities were set up due to a number of factors, on top of them the family harassment and sometimes family incoherence, in addition to abundance of wealth and low cultural abilities.

Poor urban girls of the middle classes

The study reveals that 38% of those summer husbands prefer the working women who are in their 20s, because they are mature and often obsessed with the idea of their Prince Charming.

35% of those summer husbands prefer the young ones that they can seduce and tempt. 27% of those are the ones who are fond of the beauty of their victims that is described to them by matchmakers (khatibah), as the researcher said.

As for the residence of the victims of these marriages, the findings indicate that 92.2% of these live in urban areas, while 7.5% of them live in the rural areas.

The indication of this points out that the husbands prefer urban areas, and that the lure of cities often contributes to the seduction of the girls who are always longing for better life.

As for the financial level of the sample, the study reveals that 57.5% of them are from the middle class. There comes after it, with a big gap, the poor families that constitute 30%. The rich families constitute only 12.5%. The researcher assures that poverty is the main reason for this phenomenon that makes the families accept this sort of marriage.

The Illiteracy and disintegration of family

There are other sides that the researcher tackled in his field study. Of these are the tables that reveal the social level of the family. The study shows that the majority of these are the victims of family disintegration. On top of these is the death of one of the parents, which constitutes 25.5%, divorce 17.5%, living with a step-father 7.5%, and father immigration 7.5%. The table also reveals the education level of the parents. It indicates that 57.5% can read and write, 30% are illiterate, 12.5% are those who have basic or secondary school education.

As for the reasons of the marriage; the answers came as follows:

This sort of marriage is not against the religious principals. There come after that the little chances of marriage. High dowries are also among the reasons. Family problems also contribute to this problem. At the end of these reasons comes the ignorance of parents of the aims of this marriage.

Dr. Al-Shibami thinks that the direct reasons according to their importance are characterized by the longing of girls to live in a better standard of living, with the in-coming husbands. Girls also think that this marriage doesn't contradict the Sharia law. Other reasons are; the social pressure, besides the fact that they are sometime deprived of their rights to choose their husbands.

Dr. Shibami pointed out in his study, which was presented in Ibb's university, on the phenomenon of the tourist law, that presents that are given by the rich Gulf husbands is one of the major reasons

Putting an end to the phenomenon

A number of social academicians and legal personalities, who participated in this debate, demanded that this phenomenon should be stopped. They called the civil societies and other bodies to contribute to raising awareness of the community to fight this sort of marriage, which is noticed in number of governorates, especially Ibb.

The recommendations emphasized the role of universities and the research centers on studying the social problems. Among these are the high dowries.

According to last year statistics, the ministry of interior has issued 826 Yemeni men and women agreements to marry foreigners, 657 of these are Yemeni women who married foreigners, 96 of them are Yemeni males who married foreigners. The statistics showed that 576 Yemeni women married Arab men, 37 Yemeni women married Europeans and 27 Americans. 15 of them married Asians and two married Africans.

Physiological, social and psychological influences

The summer marriage has taken other trends that have serious effects, not in the least are those social and psychological ones. Contraction of AIDS is expected, according to media reports, especially that the new comers that carry AIDA have no chance to marry in their communities. The neighboring countries compel their citizens to submit to medical tests that show that they are AIDS-free.

Reports pointed out that the tourist marriage could transfer AIDS, as the government doesn't take any measures to combat this disease.

Half the World

By Nisha



Educating Yemeni girls

With so much of hulla over girls' education where is Yemen headed? My own visits to different parts give me both optimism and causes despair. The concrete structures of the schools impress me but the fact that no special efforts are being made to motivate parents to send their daughters to schools and allow them to complete their education is disheartening. Recently, a colleague mentioned that during her meeting with education officials in a governorate, the officials grumbled that they built schools for girls but all the schools are running into a loss. What they meant was that the investment and regular cost of maintaining those schools is not matched by adequate enrollment and retention of girls in these schools. This is a clear example of schools being built without community consultations and agreements with parents. Community participation in the decision-making related to the location of the school, facilities required in the schools and the sex of the staff pay a key role in a community's willingness to allow their daughters to get an education.

My own visits to a few schools located close to or inside villages demonstrated another side of the story. Village elders and school authorities informed that the demand for seats in schools is far higher than the capacity of these schools. They have developed an interesting strategy to deal with the problem. Every year, they enroll the older girls and reject younger ones. They believe that in this way every girl will have a chance to study, albeit late. The flipside of this strategy is that it reduces the 'learning years' that a girl has. Since a large number of girls are taken off the school by their parents when they reach the age of puberty, these girls have lesser number of years to pursue education.

The experience of the schools located close to or inside villages, however, demonstrates that a few simple steps can improve girls' enrolment. If the reasons behind drop out is analyzed and remedial steps are followed in a comprehensive and integrated way alongside factors that have led to an increased demand for seats in schools, an enormous impact on girls' retention in schools and completion of education can be ensured. Let us look at some of the steps that could be taken up.

Despite the fact that villages in Yemen are small and located far from one-another, the need to open basic and secondary school in disadvantaged and remote areas cannot be emphasized more. The above given examples show that unless schools are located within a distance that communities feel is appropriate a large number of girls in rural areas will continue to miss out education. If the government feels inadequate to build and maintain schools in all areas, it should aid and encourage nongovernmental organization to start bridge schemes, and non-formal education centres to provide quality education to small number of students in the local communities. Such education programmes should be recognized by the public and private sector so that their usefulness is not any less than qualifications acquired in

government institutions.

Girls' education, from basic to secondary level, to become a 'viable option' for parents, must be free. In a society, which does not regard education having any intrinsic value or does not see girls education as having any material value, any cost, whether school fees or the cost of book, stationary, uniform and transportation or hidden costs like those charged for student projects, is bound to be seen as an avoidable drain of family income and can discourage parents from sending their daughter to a school.

These two steps alone will not be sufficient unless all schools have women teachers. These teachers should be trained, motivated and supported not only in teaching but also in organizing community outreach activities so that they can induce girls into education. Often, parents are concerned about sending their daughters to a co-educational school because they fear for their safety and honour. For example, one of my colleagues after a focus group discussion with a community in Seiyun district shared that most parents in this community are reluctant to send their daughters to the school because a male teacher tried to molest a girl student. It is important, therefore, that the schools in participation with communities should put code of conduct for male teachers and students and sanctions in place to stop harassment and abuse of girls.

It would be a good idea to provide some incentives to poor families to motivate them to send their daughters to the school. The incentives could take the form of free food, stipend to pursue basic and secondary education, free transport, a fixed deposit that the girl can receive after she completes secondary education, etc.

Another important issue is that education and vocational training should not be rolled out separately. A step that is needed to convince parents about the usefulness of girls' education is to complement education with market-oriented vocational skills. This will help parents see immediate usefulness of educating their daughters.

Another critical step that is needed, at least, in the initial stage to give a thrust to these efforts is to give job/income generation opportunities to those women who complete their education in the formal sector. This step calls for coordination and collaboration between various agencies, both governmental and nongovernmental. It requires that the donor agencies which support basic and secondary education, vocational training and employment generation programmes should see these three as connected issues and their grant-making policies should reinforce these connections.

To sum up there is a need not only to invest more in girls' education but also to invest effectively. This calls for high level of donor and government commitment to increase investment as well as to strategically reform education curricula and delivery systems. And this commitment must be sustained over a long term to provide free and universal access and other facilitative services, and to achieve balance between education and relevant vocational training in schools.

Youth future in the balance

BY EMAD JAWI & N'AMA AZAZI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

What is the fate? What after spending 17 years in acquisition of knowledge? What after the possession of minds armed with science and information? Shall we exploit these minds to render benefit to our society or shall they be ignored to put extra burden on the society? Can a man employ such a divinely gift bestowed on us by Allah in a better way to attain a specific object?

Youths are perceived to pursue another way. A graduate from the faculty of commerce and economics has become a teacher of Islamic education in primary stages. A holder of bachelor degree from the department of English at the faculty of arts has become a salesman at a clothes shop.

What a change in scales. Where is the gap? Does it lie in the scale or in the

owner of the scale? Such questions revolve in the minds of graduates. Which party is responsible for such changes?

Answers to such questions give gestures to all the social, economic and domestic situations, as well as to the policy that poses an insurmountable challenge to hopes and dreams. Youths may grow up in a poor environment dominated by difficulties and sufferings. They are found to conduct their ways surpassing any barriers or problems. They find themselves compelled to grasp any job opportunity as a source of income to sustain their families and meet their basic needs even though these opportunities do not fit. The main reason behind this is "connection", a phenomenon that is widely spread in our society and gives an opportunity only for those who already have an access to it.

People who have connections can achieve their ambitions at the expense of others who are able and skilled to occupy vacancies. This phenomenon and

other issues are felt daily by every individual while dealing with others in different aspects of life.

But, what about the morrow? Will such a situation remain as a nightmare preoccupying minds of our youth who hold university certificates? We tend to fear our future and what will happen, and become floating between reality of the present and mirage of the future.

This is merely a viewpoint full of questionings by every male and female student in secondary schools who are overwhelmed by fear and anxiety that their dreams and ambitions may become mirage in the future. We do not generalize the situation to all youths in the society. There are several who scored success and followed better ways until attaining their objectives. Prediction seems to be very difficult particularly when it is focused on the future. We hope future to be an illumination through which a post-graduate sees the path to successful ambition.



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يرجى إرسال المؤهلات المطلوبة على فاكس ٠١-٤٦٧٨٣٥
((علماً أن الراتب مجزي))

Iraq assembly gets charter draft, Sunnis irate

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq's Shi'ite-led government on Tuesday ruled out any major change to a draft constitution that parliament looks set to pass this week in the teeth of minority Sunni objections that it could ignite civil war.

"The draft that was submitted is approximately the draft that will be implemented," government spokesman Laith Kubba said after parliament received the text before a midnight deadline. The assembly put off a vote for three days to let tempers cool.

The Shi'ite head of the parliamentary drafting committee again made clear he did not intend to reopen contentious clauses such as those on autonomous "federal" regions which Arab Sunnis say discriminate against them and could break up the state.

Humam Hamoudi said the Sunni negotiators brought in from outside parliament were not representative and that the assembly should now submit the draft to a referendum.

Sunni leaders, who largely shunned a January election that gave Shi'ites and Kurds control of parliament, said they were mobilizing support for a "no" vote in the October referendum.

U.S. diplomats, under pressure from Washington to keep Iraqi negotiators to a timetable laid down under American supervision last year, say they will go on working for a consensus that can



Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, right, greets Humam Hamoudi, head of the constitution drafting committee in Baghdad, Monday, Aug. 22. In another dramatic last-minute standoff, Iraqi leaders late Monday put off a vote on a draft constitution, adjourning Parliament at a midnight deadline in a bid for more time to try. Reuters

draw the once-dominant Sunnis away from violent opposition.

But one participant in the talks said a comprehensive deal would require a Sunni change of heart. "The only possible change now is that the Sunnis become convinced of federalism," said Jalal al-Din al-Sagheer, a Shi'ite cleric on the drafting team.

Shi'ites and Kurds said they might offer minor concessions, but were ready to use their parliamentary muscle

to push through the draft.

Spectre of civil war

"If it passes, there will be an uprising in the streets," Sunni negotiator Saleh al-Mutlak said after the brief sitting.

"We will campaign ... to tell both Sunnis and Shi'ites to reject the constitution, which has elements that will lead to the break-up of Iraq and civil war," Soha Allawi, another Sunni on the drafting committee, told Reuters.

Iraq Qaeda claims rocket attack in Jordan port

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iraq's al Qaeda said on Tuesday it was behind a failed rocket attack on U.S. Navy ships in Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba, according to an Internet statement.

The group, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said those who carried out the strike last Friday had fled to safety.

"Your brothers in the al Qaeda Organization in Iraq have been planning the Aqaba raid for a while," the group said in a statement posted on an Islamist Internet site it often uses.

"The rockets were fired at their targets -- a group of ships belonging to the crusader American forces -- in Aqaba and Eliat.

"We would like to tell you that we delayed claiming this attack so that our brothers could complete their withdrawal ... and they returned safely to their base."

Jordan has blamed the strike on an Iraq-based group which some officials said was linked to Zarqawi. Three rockets fired from a warehouse missed the U.S. warships but killed a Jordanian soldier and struck the Israeli port of Eliat.

Jordanian state television said on Monday three attackers had escaped across the border into Iraq after the strike but that police had arrested a Syrian who is accused of helping them.

The attack was the most serious on U.S. interests in staunchly pro-Western Jordan since the killing of a U.S. diplomat in Amman in 2002.

Zarqawi, whose group is waging a battle against U.S. and foreign forces in Iraq, has vowed to punish Jordan's rulers for "aiding the treacherous enemy America."

Israel evicts settlers from two West Bank enclaves

SANUR/HOMESH, West Bank (Reuters) - Israeli forces smashed their way into two West Bank settlements on Tuesday and dragged away ultrarightist Jews dug in for a last stand against evacuation after failing to foil a pullout from occupied Gaza.

Police stormed a citadel and synagogues in the Sanur and Homesh enclaves that had been fortified by radicals, drawing a hail of bottles, light bulbs, paint, ketchup, eggs and cooking oil as they began extracting diehard settlers.

Some were plucked from a synagogue roof in the scoop of one of the bulldozers that had rammed through barriers of burning tires and rubbish at the gates to Sanur and neighboring Homesh.

Palestinians want Israel to leave all of the West Bank and Gaza but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has sworn to

keep the biggest Jewish settlements in the West Bank, where some 230,000 settlers live among 2.4 million Palestinians.

Ultrarightists want to make the withdrawal from a pocket of the northern West Bank more painful than the generally smooth evacuation from Gaza, completed on Monday, to deter Israel from ever again ceding Jewish enclaves in occupied territory.

Sharon's U.S.-backed "disengagement plan" marks the first uprooting of settlers from land captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and which Palestinians want for a future state. Diplomats hope the pullout will revive Middle East peace talks.

In the face of threatened violent resistance in barricaded redoubts, security forces dispensed with extended negotiations used in Gaza and moved swiftly on radicals

hunkered down in three synagogues, a seminary, an old citadel and private homes.

The young ultranationalists had streamed into the two enclaves from other West Bank settlements to bolster a few dozen remaining residents holding out against evacuation.

"You cannot force us out of the land of Israel," one settler mother screamed at soldiers arriving at her door.

After brief attempts to coax out occupants, police equipped with riot batons and shields broke easily into houses and used saws, pile-drivers and sledgehammers to batter their way into two fortified synagogues and a yeshiva (Jewish seminary).

They found praying youths prone on the floor, arms entwined, and wrestled to separate them and haul them out to buses.

Libya says to be taken off U.S. terrorism list

TRIPOLI (Reuters) - Libya expects the United States to remove it from Washington's list of sponsors of terrorism this year to seal their rapprochement after Tripoli abandoned a program of prohibited weapons, the Libyan leader's son said.

"Lifting Libya from this list will take place at the end of this year after a series of steps from both sides," Saif al-Islam Gaddafi told reporters late on Monday.

He did not elaborate on what steps would be taken but said the two countries would exchange ambassadors for the first time in more

than three decades, likely in the next few days.

A State Department spokesman said on Monday Libya still had work to do before resuming full diplomatic ties with Washington and being removed from the terrorism list, and declined to say whether there were plans to open a U.S. embassy in Tripoli soon.

Washington strengthened its diplomatic representation in Tripoli after President George W. Bush formally ended the U.S. trade embargo on Libya in September last year to reward it for giving up its weapons of mass destruction program, but left in

place some sanctions related to terrorism.

Libya's presence on the terrorism list bars it from receiving U.S. arms exports, controls sales of items with military and civilian uses, limits U.S. aid and requires Washington to vote against loans from international financial institutions.

In a sign Tripoli is trying to improve its human rights record and image abroad, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's influential son Saif said over the weekend that Libya planned to free 131 political prisoners over the next few days.

الجمهورية اليمنية

وزارة المالية

مصلحة الجمارك

مشروع أنظمة فحص الحاويات / الناقلات بالأشعة السينية

دعوة شركات استشارية عالمية

١- تعلن مصلحة الجمارك بأنها قد تعاقدت على شراء وتوريد وتركيب ثمانية أنظمة لفحص الحاويات والمركبات بالأشعة السينية: إثنان منهما متنقلان (mobile) (نوع THSCAN MT1213LT) وستة ثابتة - قابلة للنقل (relocatable) (نوع THSCAN MB1215HS)

وبهذه المناسبة تدعو مصلحة الجمارك والشركات والمكاتب الإستشارية العالمية المتخصصة التي لديها الرغبة والقدرة على القيام بأعمال وخدمات استشارية للمشروع بتقديم خطاب لمصلحة الجمارك بذلك؛ وعلى الشركات الإستشارية تقديم كافة المؤيدات والبيانات التي تؤكد أن لديهم الخبرة للقيام بالخدمات الإستشارية المطلوبة.

٢- ستتم إجراءات المناقصة واختيار الشركة الإستشارية للمشروع طبقاً للإجراءات المنظمة لذلك والمحددة في قانون المناقصات اليمني .

٣- يجب تسليم الخطابات باللغة الإنجليزية بتقديم خطى إلى العنوان المحدد أدناه وتسليمها لإدارة المشروع خلال اسبوعين من تاريخ هذا الإعلان .

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Yemen Customs Authority Headquarters

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Sana'a

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email: fmalban@yahoo.com

Far right struggles to make mark in German election

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany's divided far-right parties thought unity would bring success, but they are unlikely to make their mark in September's general election as the hard left wins over many of the frustrated voters they once wooed.

A year after making headlines for winning seats in two eastern state assemblies, the National Democratic Party (NPD) and German People's Union (DPU) have made few waves despite ending decades of hostility and forming an alliance.

By targeting protest voters angered at Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's labor reforms, they believed their combined might would earn them seats in parliament after a wretched showing in 2002, when no far-right party won even 1 percent of the vote.

A year on, only the new Left Party has managed to tap into lingering voter dissatisfaction over high unemployment and may have dented the right's chances even further by flirting with far-right rhetoric ahead of the election scheduled for September 18.



"It's hard to establish how many potential right-wing voters may have moved to the left, but the Left Party has consciously targeted them," said Manfred Guellner, director of the Forsa polling institute.

Left Party leader Oskar Lafontaine, a

former Schroeder ally and finance minister, was accused of stirring racism by calling foreign workers "Fremdarbeiter" -- a term used by the Nazis to describe slave laborers.

He later appealed to far-right voters to switch camps and vote for the Left Party. Itself an alliance of former communists and disaffected Social Democrats (SPD), the new party has firmly established itself as the party of protest, notably in the east where voters are far more fickle than in the west.

"The far right has struggled to find a theme to mobilize voters, while the Left Party has become the focus for the frustrated," said Oskar Niedermayer, a political scientist at Berlin's Free University.

No charismatic leader

Even the NPD acknowledges the left may have stolen some of its thunder.

"What Lafontaine says is partly right in relation to issues such as Turkish EU entry and foreign workers. He knows what the voters want to hear," said NPD spokesman Klaus Beier.

China, Japan to discuss North Korea nuclear crisis

BEIJING (Reuters) - Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei will visit Japan this week to discuss North Korea's nuclear crisis ahead of a new round of talks aimed at dismantling the reclusive state's weapons program, state media said on Tuesday.

Wu, head of China's negotiating team at the talks that also involve Japan, the two Koreas, the United States and Russia, was to leave on Tuesday and will meet Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Nishida Tsuneo before he returns on Friday, the report said.

"Wu will also talk with Sasae Kenichiro, Japan's chief negotiator to

the six-party talks, on the next stage of the fourth round of six-party talks," Xinhua news agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan as saying.

North Korea's nuclear crisis erupted in October 2002, when U.S. officials accused Pyongyang of pursuing a clandestine weapons program, prompting the North to expel nuclear inspectors and withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Earlier this year, Pyongyang announced it had nuclear weapons and has demanded that Washington provide aid, security guarantees and diplomatic recognition in return for scrapping them.

After a gap of more than a year, the six countries met in Beijing in July and August for talks that ended only with a decision to reconvene during the week of August 29.

In the interim, the parties have been engaging in a flurry of bilateral meetings about North Korea.

Cui Tiankai, director of the Asian Affairs Department at China's foreign ministry and a member of its negotiating team, is expected in Washington this week to meet the top U.S. negotiator, Christopher Hill.

Chinese officials, including Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, met South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon earlier this month.

Bush defending his Iraq war policy

BOISE, Idaho - Iraq war policy in the face of anti-war opposition and slumping approval ratings, says pulling out before the mission is complete would dishonor the memory of all the Americans who fought and died in pursuit of freedom.

"A policy of retreat and isolation will not bring us safety," Bush said Monday in a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention in Salt Lake City. Repeatedly citing the Sept. 11 attacks, he said, "The only way to defend our citizens where we live is to go after the terrorists where they live."

Bush noted the U.S. military death toll more than 2,000 killed in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

"Each of these men and women left grieving families and loved ones back home. Each of these heroes left a legacy that will allow generations of their fellow Americans to enjoy the blessings of liberty. And each of these Americans have brought the hope of freedom to millions who have not known it," Bush said, as if speaking to Cindy Sheehan, the California anti-war activist whose son Casey was killed in Iraq.

"We owe them something. We will finish the task that they gave their lives for ... by staying on the offensive against the terrorists, and building strong allies in Afghanistan and Iraq that will help us win and fight -- fight and win the war on terror."

Recent polls have shown growing public dissatisfaction with the president's handling of the war in Iraq in the face of a persistent insurgency and the mounting U.S. death toll. An AP-Ipsos poll taken earlier this month showed that the percentage of Americans who approve of Bush's handling of Iraq -- a number that had been hovering in the low- to mid-40s most of the year dipped to 38 percent.

Some lawmakers from both parties are urging Bush to set a timetable for withdrawal, or at least lay out a strategy for leaving.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., who last week called for a Dec. 31, 2006, timetable for completing the mission, criticized Bush's speech as "more of the same sloganeering."

"We need the president to be clear about the remaining U.S. military mission in Iraq, and we need a target date," Feingold said in a statement.

Monday's speech was the first of two Bush will deliver this week in an effort to build support for the conflict by reaffirming his commitment to help Iraq transition from tyranny to democracy and urging the public's patience with his policy. The second speech comes Wednesday when he speaks to military families in Nampa, Idaho.

After Monday's speech, Bush and his wife, Laura, flew to Donnelly, Idaho,

where he was to spend Tuesday out of public view at the Tamarack Resort in the mountains 100 miles north of Boise.

Several demonstrations against U.S. involvement in Iraq were planned to coincide with Bush's visit. They included a lunchtime rally Tuesday at a park across from the Idaho Statehouse, where members of the Idaho Peace Coalition were to dedicate 1,866 white-cross memorials one for every U.S. soldier who has died in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

Bush spoke Monday hours before the Iraqi parliament failed to meet its second deadline for approving a draft constitution. Bush applauded their efforts and praised as courageous steps the Israeli government has taken by removing settlements in the Gaza and parts of the northern

West Bank. Bush said both would lead to greater stability in the Middle East, and more security for America.

The White House released a statement later that said in part: "The progress made over the past week has been impressive, with consensus reached on most provisions through debate, dialogue and compromise. This is the essence of democracy, which is difficult and often slow, but leads to durable agreements, brokered by representatives that reflect the interests and values of free people."

Hong Kong people despair over China food scares

HONG KONG (Reuters) - First, it was a deadly bacteria in pigs, then it was a suspected cancer-causing chemical in fish. Now people in Hong Kong are wondering what's left to eat.

"There are just fewer and fewer things left to buy in the market. I've stopped buying fish because we have children in the family," said Madam Loke, an office worker. "But it's hard to go without pork. I just make sure I cook it thoroughly."

In the last month, Hong Kong has reeled from a string of scares over food from China, including pork, eels and fish.

They come after years of warnings from environmental groups about excessive pesticide levels in vegetables from China, and worries about eating poultry

since an outbreak of bird flu in Hong Kong killed six people in 1997.

While Hong Kong residents despair, experts are demanding that authorities in both Hong Kong and China implement and enforce tough quality controls.

China owes not just Hong Kong, but the rest of the world a responsibility as it has become a major food exporter, they said.

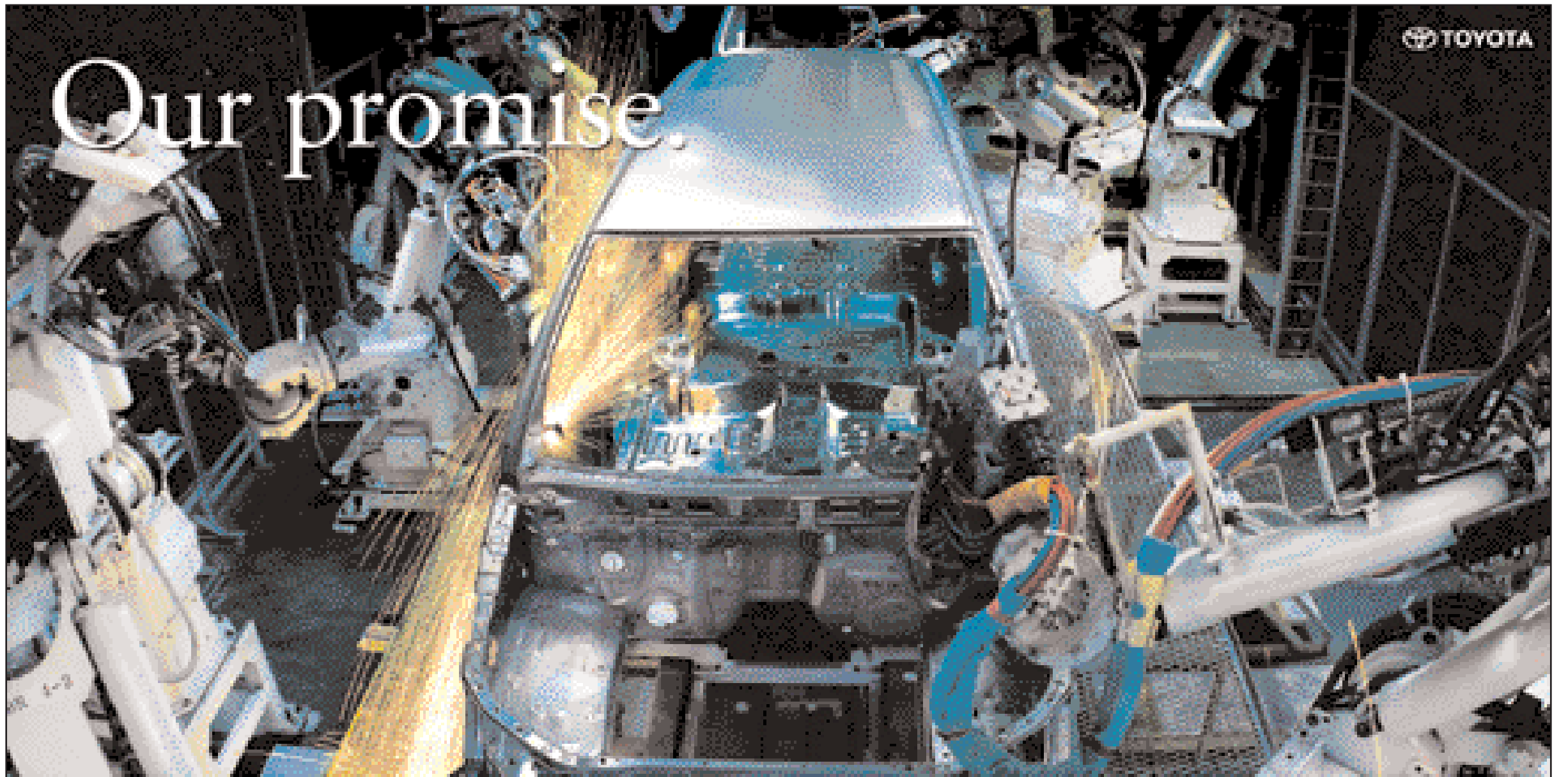
"Compared to many other food exporting nations, regulations in China are just not good enough," said Chu Hon-keung of the conservation group Friends of the Earth.

"For money, producers cut corners and use banned substances at the expense of public health. The stuff they produce is

not food, but curses for future generations in Hong Kong and the rest of the world, especially with globalization," Chu said.

In the last month, many Hong Kong residents have avoided pork after an outbreak of a pig-borne disease in mainland China which has killed nearly 40 people. Ten people in Hong Kong have also been infected with the disease this year.

In the last week, government scientists have discovered a suspected cancer-causing chemical, malachite green, in most of the eels and some freshwater fish imported from China. The chemical, used to fight infections in fish and as a dye for clothes, has been banned by many countries, including China.



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Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

A federation or unitary state?

Recent developments and stumbling blocks in the drafting of Iraq's constitution hold enormous implications not only for that nation, but the region as a whole. The federalist movement in Iraq, whereby the state would be divided into 5 or 6 autonomous states, is in itself intriguing. The term federalism implies a system of government in which power is constitutionally divided between a central authority and constituent political units (like states or provinces). The two levels of government are interdependent, and share sovereignty.

Many arguments for federalism have traditionally been put in terms of promoting various forms of liberty in the form of non-domination, immunity and equal opportunity. In a complex cultural mosaic such as Iraq where a single ethnic minority dominated with such draconian brutality, decentralization is an unavoidably attractive concept for many. In theory, Federal constitutions diffuse central authority by assuring regions the autonomy to make decisions. Rather than attempting representation as most republics do, federalism is the politics of decentralization. Federal constitutions allocate powers to regional units and ensure integration by requiring the participation of various sub units in the central political process. Regions check central authority and regions check each other. It is a form of government designed to protect minorities. Federalism also encourages an inclusive political process as individuals are empowered at both local and therefore federal levels.

At times, such decentralization may be antithetical to the notion of state, especially when the state is not predicated on a nation, but rather a political construction. Simmering regional tensions in countries as established as Spain, for example continue to cause factionalism and disunity in the national vision. This is because the power that sub-units wield in federations often restricts or violates majority rule, in ways that merit careful scrutiny. Federal political orders typically influence individuals' political influence by skewing their voting weight in favor of citizens of small sub-units, or by granting sub-unit representatives veto rights on central decisions. Minorities thus leverage more control than their population would be entitled if all individuals were entitled to uniform political agency. On the whole, Federalism is prone to factionalism, regional manipulation and if sufficiently stressed, disintegration. This is precisely because federalism constitutionalizes power along ethnic fault lines instead of centralizing national authority.

Coming back to Iraq, tension spilled on to the streets earlier this month with mass demonstrations when thousands of supporters of Moqtada al-Sadr, marched in Baghdad in opposition to plans for a more federal state. "No to division" ran the slogan on the posters protesters held as they marched chanting "yes to unity".

Editors and Arab political commentators were concerned by the trend to Federalism. "Federalism is the new stick that is being used to beat Arab nationalism" wrote Mr. Zaid Al-Ali of the Egyptian well known newspaper al-Ahram.

"It is far from clear that a majority of Iraqis are in favour of a federal model of government. Kurdish politicians and a majority of the Kurdish population of Iraq favour maintaining their current degree of autonomy. However, there is no reason why the situation as it currently stands cannot continue... However, considering the history of foreign involvement in Iraq and in the region, it would be naive to assume that the invading armies that have decimated the country do not have an outcome they would prefer over others. It would be equally naive to assume that the drive towards federalism is independent from Western hostility towards Arab nationalism." He commented. The validity of such a viewpoint is questionable however, as Arab Nationalism has not been a coherent political force since Nasser and even if revived would not represent the interests or identity of either the Kurdish North or heavily Shia south. It does seem a very strange time to evoke such an outmoded and partisan ideology.

On the other hand David L. Phillips of the Financial Times wrote last week that "Most Iraqis agree that the system of government should be republican, federal, democratic and pluralistic. They agree on the need for a separation of powers with checks and balances. Many also agree that the best way to balance competing demands for democracy and unity is through a federal structure that assigns specific authorities to the central government - such as national defense, fiscal policy and foreign affairs - while decentralizing power to regional and local governments."

It seems everyone has a vision for what the "new Iraq" should be, except perhaps, those to whom it will matter most, the people themselves. Even when they were organized to march in the streets chanting for national unity most of the demonstrators did not have a clear idea about what they were opposing. Indeed, would a centralized government actually alter the political allegiance of so many Iraqis, loyal to their own tribes, factions and ethnicities first and the government last if at all? And what would be the regional implications of a federalist Iraq? Would other countries with critical internal imbalances such as Yemen be affected? And could the UAE, the only Arab country with a federal government, prove an example of good governance and democracy? Iraq is an anarchic context in which to forge one states political future. More important may be the implications for the region, Arab and otherwise.

The Editorial Board



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

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Will the Rumsfeld Revolution continue?

By STEVEN METZ

America's defense policy is at a crossroads. Since 1997, the United States Congress has required the Department of Defense to undertake a major defense review every four years. The department is currently developing the third such review and will release it later this year. The review promises to be nothing short of a watershed.

The last Quadrennial Defense Review was published a few weeks after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. As a result, it gave only hints of the counterterrorism strategy to come. The 2005 review, by contrast, will represent several years of thinking by the Bush administration, and thus will serve as a key indicator of the future course of American defense policy.

The grand strategy that serves as the foundation for American defense policy has not undergone major change since 2002. Focusing on terrorism, the strate-

gy calls for strengthening the network of international partners seeking to eradicate transnational terrorism, and for direct action against terrorist organizations and their sponsors. Ultimately, it seeks to address what President Bush considers the root causes of terrorism, particularly the absence of open political systems and economic opportunity.

What is changing is the way that US military power is used to implement this grand strategy. There is little doubt that the 2005 Defense Review will formalize the change in focus underway since September 11, 2001. Before that, the American military concentrated on swift victory in a major theater war against another state's military forces. Today, however, the US military is more likely to be used to stabilize and rebuild failed states, assist partners in countering insurgency and terrorism, control nuclear weapons when regimes collapse, or directly eradicate terrorist organizations and their supporters. This requires a different type of force, and one capable of running a marathon rather than a sprint, sustaining major deployments for extended periods.

The global configuration of America's military is also changing. The goal is to keep most of the force stationed at home in the US, with a network of lightly-manned bases abroad that can serve as forward operating locations during a crisis or war. Rather than being miniature Americas, many of these bases will be operated in conjunction with or by the host nation. This will capitalize on the US military's ability to project force around the world quickly, while providing a more flexible and politically palatable way of doing so.

But, beyond the ongoing changes, major strategic questions persist. First, how much conventional war-fighting capability should the US military retain? The goal is to maintain enough to deter aggressors, but not so much that it detracts from other, more likely missions.

Second, what will America's relationship with its traditional allies be? Will formal alliances such as NATO remain the centerpiece of American strategy, or will they be superseded by mission-specific coalitions?

Third, how much should the US continue to invest in advanced, high-tech weapons more appropriate for conven-

tional enemies than for fighting terrorists or insurgents? Systems such as the F/A-22 Raptor aircraft and the Army's Future Combat System are extraordinarily expensive. At a time when deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan are straining the defense budget and much of the military's existing equipment needs repair or replacement, questions arise as to whether such programs are a good investment.

Fourth, what is the appropriate size of the US military? Many defense intellectuals, former military leaders, and politicians believe that America's military, particularly the ground forces, are too small to implement Bush's grand strategy.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, on the other hand, believes the size of the military is adequate if it is re-organized for maximum efficiency. He is also concerned that an increase in the size of the military will diminish funds available for advanced technology and systems. Because Rumsfeld is the primary architect of the upcoming defense review, it is very unlikely to recommend an increase in the size of the force.

The changes underway in American defense policy reflect planning assumptions. The strategy that emerges will be only as strong as these assumptions are accurate.

The upcoming defense review will mandate changes based on events of the past five years, focusing especially on Iraq, Afghanistan, and other aspects of the war on terror. The question is whether future American military missions will replicate those of the past five years.

If not, the US might be preparing for the last war rather than the next one. One hopes that the 2005 Defense Review will address this issue, although it is certain to answer some strategic questions and leave others open to continued debate. In any case, the new review will serve as a roadmap for future US defense policy, thus affecting America's partners and adversaries alike.

Steven Metz is Research Professor and Chairman of the Department of Regional Strategy and Planning at the US Army War College Strategic Studies Institute.

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Letters to the Editor

Regarding Pope Benedict XVI's message to Muslims at the World Youth Day events

I commend Pope Benedict XVI for his message Saturday in Germany calling on Christianity and Islam to work together to end terrorism, which he said represented "the darkness of a new barbarism."

The recent chain of blind violence we are witnessing around the world is the result of scandalous injustices and imbalances that create conditions favoring an uncontrollable explosion of the desire for revenge. When fundamental rights are violated, it is easy to fall prey to temptations of hatred and violence. Nonetheless, we must keep in check our base impulses and together work to build a global culture of solidarity that restores hope in the future to the young.

The Pope said "Terrorism of any kind is a perverse and cruel decision, which shows contempt for the sacred right to life and undermines the very foundation of all civil society...If together we can succeed in eliminating from our hearts any trace of rancor, in resisting every form of intolerance and in opposing every manifestation of violence, we will turn back the wave of cruel fanaticism that endangers the lives of so many people."

Dialogue between Christians and Muslims is a vital necessity for our future. As the Pope stated: "If we can continue to coexist in dialogue, it will send a signal that the theory of a 'clash of cultures' is baseless," adding "The more religious and cultural communities can learn about one another, the more they will realize that there is no reason for hostility."

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Mas Freedom Youth

Over 70 participants packed the Muslim American Society Milwaukee Wisconsin office for a Freedom Foundation Community Empowerment Workshop focusing on experiential training in media, politics, coalition-building and interfaith outreach.

Approximately 80% of those attending were between the ages of 16 and 24. Also attending were Muslim Student Association representatives from universities throughout Wisconsin.

"At MAS Freedom, we are focusing on providing leadership training for young Muslims before they reach high school or college," said MAS Freedom Foundation Executive Director Mahdi Bray. "The goal is to foster a culture of religious and civic involvement that produces young Muslim leaders, who are not only capable of being leaders in their Muslim community, but also leaders in American society."

"We want young Muslims to feel not only that they can be presidents of Muslim Student Associations, but also presidents of their general student body," he said.

"We are training Muslim youth to be headlights and not taillights, and thermostats not thermometers," he added.

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COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

How much security do we really need?

One unusual phenomenon that one notices in Yemen and in many of the so called progressive Arab "revolutionary" states is the awesome reliance on a labyrinth of security apparatus. On the other side of this, one can fairly say that such extensive reliance on all sorts of security machines has neither the security that will make the citizens feel assured that he is indeed in good hands, or in some cases that he can walk the streets at midnight. This has raised the question, how much security do we really need and couldn't all the lavish spending on so many security organs be used better to prevent the social conditions that breed crime or feelings of contempt for the state and eventually insurrection.

A friend of this observer was relating how on the days of the last disturbances that shook all of Yemen on account of the removal of subsidies for oil derivative products knew the case of one of the unfortunate victims of arrest, who was picked up randomly without cause and without due process as he came out of his workplace just when the disturbances were at their peak in the streets of Sana'a. He was surrounded by a mixture of soldiers from the Central Security, General Security, Emergency Police and other forces he does not even know existed. After trying very hard to explain that he had just gotten out of the place where he worked - a workshop near the place where he was apprehended - he was thrown forcefully into a security vehicle (he couldn't identify the vehicle's security apparatus).

He eventually was taken to one of the camps of the Air Defense Forces. There for sixteen days he was subjected to interrogations day and night. Some hours, it would be the general security interrogating. In other hours, it would be political security that is interrogating him, and still in others it would be the military police. If that was not enough, he found himself later to be interrogated by a new security apparatus, he has never heard of before called the Air Police. But wait folks, there is more to come. As a crowning experience to the spate of interrogations he had to go through by all these various security apparatus he finally got the Home Security or National Security interrogators to contend with and the General Prosecution. Thank God for our poor suspect, he was eventually released after 16 days of grueling questioning and God knows what along the way.

Amazingly enough our friend took the matter somewhat lately as far as how he was treated, but his amazement at the number of entities involved in determining his guilt or innocence was clearly obvious.

This vast labyrinth of security organs raises many sensible questions: How do all these organs coordinate with each other? How much has security now taken out of the State budget? How is the performance of all these organs evaluated and how can one appeal against any transgressions of one's rights and to whom does one present an appeal or an objection?

Of course there are many other questions that are not necessarily related to the treatment of suspects. Why do we need so many organs to do the job that in all likelihood one entity can take care of rather sufficiently. Has the political security apparatus proven its inability to oversee political and national security matters that we need so many additional organs with obvious redundancy of tasks and overlap of responsibilities.

On the question of the need of r security organs, there is no question on this observer's mind about the importance of having an organ that deals with national security matters and all modern states have such organs. But the so called "War on Terrorism" have caused some states in the region to get carried away with what may be called as the "security phobia" that the citizens of these states. All security organs in existence in Yemen and in many of the states in the area with a multiple security system will swear that without their existence the national sovereignty of the country will be endangered and the country will turn into an anarchic state. In assessing the situation of the countries that resort to such a multitude of security organs, one is not assured that indeed these states have done away with all forms of crime or civil disturbance. Furthermore, one is not convinced that indeed he "War on Terror" is a primary focus of such organs, since no one has heard of any major success in rooting out any major terrorist cells or for that matter even identifying them. Oh sure, we hear of a few suspects rounded up here and there on the premise that they were found with arms in their homes or having "secret meetings", which in Yemen, for example, would really call for suspicion as to the validity of such claims. For one reason arms are found everywhere in Yemen and in just about every home. On another side, Yemenis are prone to social gatherings that are generally open and democratic and anyone can just walk in to a qat chew session, without the host even recognizing half the attendants (some of whom may also be elements of any of the numerous security organs that oversee public gatherings as well).

If one thinks that would be all concerning security, one should be reminded that many of our social dignitaries and even political bosses have their own "mini security apparatus" that can arrest or hold people incognito for some time in their own cell blocks, where due process is a foreign term and human rights has not entered the vocabulary of most of its owners and personnel. This is not to mention the security apparatus of some of the executive organs like ministries that will sometimes apprehend employees of that entity or people seeking to complete processing a license or other need.

Shouldn't Parliament take a serious hard look at how we manage security affairs and give the public some comfort in the hope that we are not really getting more totalitarian than any of the totalitarian states that reigned supreme during the Cold War?

Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Foth

Romantic nights

In the same month of last year I was in London attending a conference on reproductive and sexual health. It was organized by the International Parenthood for Family Planning Federation and this year the same conference will take place, but in New York City. I won't talk about the conference, but about something related to the whispers of today.

The organizers of the conference held a feast for more seven hundred people in a famous hotel in London. The participants were amazed that the only lights were the thousands of candles around the room. I remember so many amazed faces, and hearing someone beside me remark "Wow, how marvelous, how romantic!"

I was not so amazed, because here in Yemen, we are used to candlelight, but not in such quantity. In Yemen the electricity goes off a number of times a day. So candles light all the houses of Sana'a!

Last week we were in a workshop that was held by the ministry of environment and water and with the cooperation of the Netherlands embassy. When one of the Dutchmen was about to make his presentation, the electricity went off. It was quite embarrassing, especially for the minister of the environment and water and our friends from Netherlands embassy! There was nothing to do, but use the generator.

A romantic sensibility is a necessity in Yemen. We eat by the light of can-

dles. When we work, we are compelled to the romantic light of candles!

The ministry of electricity has a system of cutting power that gives each area a turn. So you know that eventually the electricity will vanish. We are always prepared. But sometimes it cuts the power randomly and these cuts confuse all and destroy all one's work and plans. That power could be cut while you work at the computer or while you're watching the news or favorite program. Housewives complain much more as the electricity is cut while they are washing the clothes and get afraid about the food in the fridge if the cut lasts for long time.

I always see and hear people complain about random electrical cuts that damage their electrical devices! The ministry of electricity should at least warn the poor citizens, to prepare themselves for repeated electrical cuts in order to decrease damage to electrical appliances. People can bear to live and work in the dark, but can't afford the expenses damage to their appliances causes.

Sana'a is the capital and face of Yemen as well as the first step for any visitor. You can imagine the shock that someone gets when he comes to Sana'a at night and see that complete darkness governs the capitals streets and alleys.

When will power cuts end? When will romantic nights give way to reliable nights with light?

Watching the Gazan Fiasco

The shame of it all

By JENNIFER LOEWENSTEIN

A great charade is taking place in front of the world media in the Gaza Strip. It is the staged evacuation of 8000 Jewish settlers from their illegal settlement homes, and it has been carefully designed to create imagery to support Israel's US-backed takeover of the West Bank and cantonization of the Palestinians.

There was never the slightest reason for Israel to send in the army to remove these settlers. The entire operation could have been managed, without the melodrama necessary for a media frenzy, by providing them with a fixed date on which the IDF would withdraw from inside the Gaza Strip. A week before, all the settlers will quietly have left with no TV cameras, no weeping girls, no anguished soldiers, no commentators asking cloying questions of how Jews could remove other Jews from their homes, and no more trauma about their terrible suffering, the world's victims, who therefore have to be helped to kick the Palestinians out of the West Bank.

The settlers will relocate to other parts of Israel and in some cases to other illegal settlements in the West Bank handsomely compensated for their inconvenience. Indeed, each Jewish family leaving the Gaza Strip will receive between \$140,000 and \$400,000 just for the cost of the home they leave behind. But these details are rarely mentioned in the tempest of reporting on the "great confrontation" and "historical moment" brought to us by Sharon and the thieving, murderous settler-culture he helped create.

On ABC's Nightline Monday night, a reporter interviewed a young, sympathetic Israeli woman from the largest Gaza settlement, Neve Dekalim - a girl with sincerity in her voice, holding back tears. She doesn't view the soldiers as her enemy, she says, and doesn't want violence. She will leave even though to do so is causing her great pain. She talked about the tree she planted in front of her home with her brother when she was three; about growing up in the house they were now leaving, the memories, and knowing she could never return; that even if she did, everything she knew

would be gone from the scene. The camera then panned to her elderly parents sitting somberly amid boxed-up goods, surveying the scene, looking forlorn and resigned. Her mother was a kindergarten teacher, we are told. She knew just about all of the children who grew up here near the sea.

In the 5 years of Israel's brutal suppression of the Palestinian uprising against the occupation, I never once saw or heard a segment as long and with as much sentimental, human detail as I did here; never once remember a reporter allowing a sympathetic young Palestinian woman, whose home was just bulldozed and who lost everything she owned, tell of her pain and sorrow, of her memories and her family's memories; never got to listen to her reflect on where she would go now and how she would live. And yet in Gaza alone more than 23,000 people have lost their homes to Israeli bulldozers and bombs since September 2000 -- often at a moment's notice on the grounds that they "threatened Israel's security." The vast majority of the destroyed homes were located too close to an IDF military outpost or illegal settlement to be allowed to continue standing. The victims received no compensation for their losses and had no place waiting for them to relocate. Most ended up in temporary UNRWA tent-cities until they could find shelter elsewhere in the densely overcrowded Strip, a quarter of whose best land was inhabited by the 1% of the population that was Jewish and occupying the land at their expense.

Where were the cameramen in May 2004 in Rafah when refugees twice over lost their homes again in a single night's raid, able to retrieve nothing of what they owned? Where were they when bulldozers and tanks tore up paved streets with steel blades, wrecked the sewage and water pipes, cut electricity lines, and demolished a park and a zoo; when snipers shot two children, a brother and sister, feeding their pigeons on the roof of their home? When the occupying army fired a tank shell into a group of peaceful demonstrators killing 14 of them including two children? Where have they been for the past five years when the summer heat of Rafah makes life so unbearable it is all one can do to

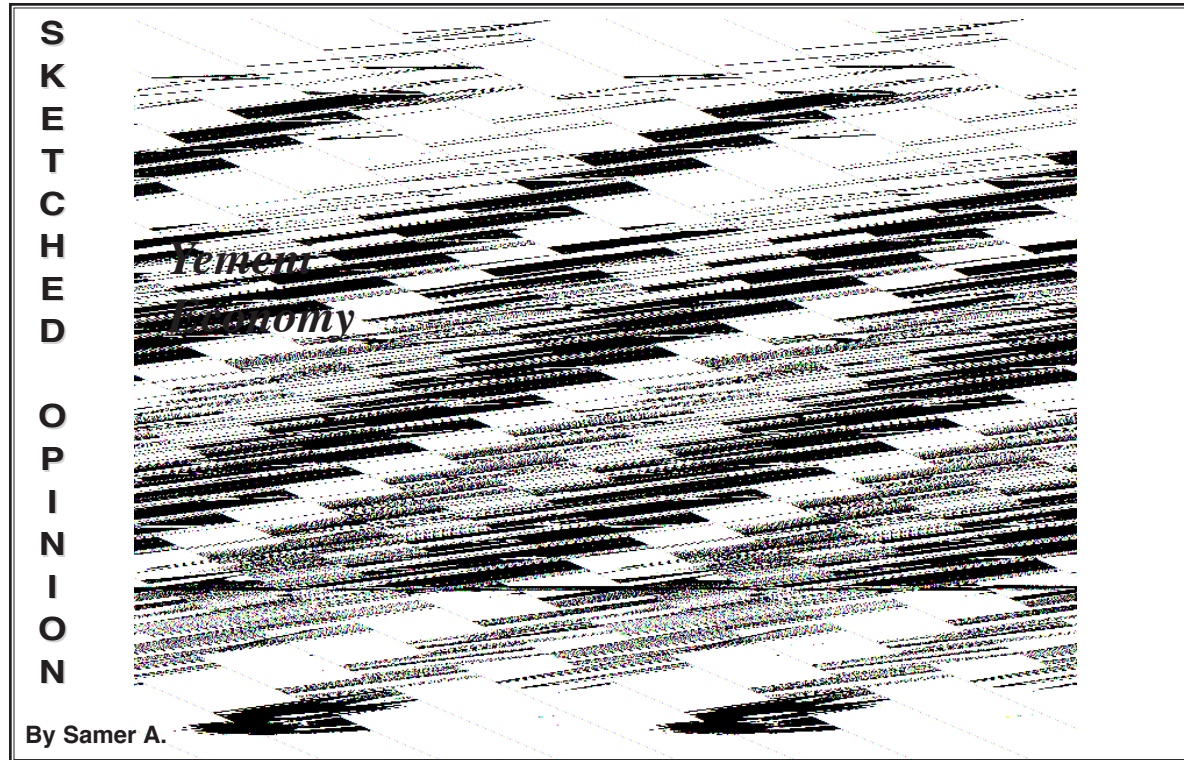
sit quietly in the shade of one's corrugated tin roof -- because s/he is forbidden to go to the sea, ten minutes' walking distance from the city center? Or because if they ventured to the more open spaces they became walking human targets? And when their citizens resisted, where were the accolades and the admiring media to comment on the "pluck," the "will" and "audacity" of these "young people"?

On Tuesday, 16 August, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported that more than 900 journalists from Israel and around the world are covering the events in Gaza, and that hundreds of others are in cities and towns in Israel to cover local reactions. Were there ever that many journalists in one place during the past 5 years to cover the Palestinian Intifada?

Where were the 900 international journalists in April 2002 after the Jenin refugee camp was laid to waste in the matter of a week in a show of pure Israeli hubris and sadism? Where were the 900 international journalists last fall when the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza lay under an Israeli siege and more than 100 civilians were killed? Where were they for five years while the entire physical infrastructure of the Gaza Strip was being destroyed?

Which one of them reported that every crime of the Israeli occupation from home demolitions, targeted assassinations and total closures to the murder of civilians and the wanton destruction of commercial and public property- increased significantly in Gaza after Sharon's "Disengagement" Plan -- that great step toward peace - was announced?

Where are the hundreds of journalists who should be covering the many non-violent protests by Palestinians and Israelis against the Apartheid Wall? Non-violent protesters met with violence and humiliation by Israeli armed forces? Where are the hundreds of journalists who should be reporting on the economic and geographic encirclement of Palestinian East Jerusalem and of the bisection of the West Bank and the subdivision of each region into dozens of isolated mini-prisons? Why aren't we being barraged by outraged reports about the Jewish-only bypass roads? About the hundreds of pointless internal



By Samer A.

checkpoints? About the countless untried executions and maimings? About the torture and abuse of Palestinians in Israeli prisons?

Where were these hundreds of journalists when each of the 680 Palestinian children shot to death by Israeli soldiers over the last 5 years was laid to rest by grief-stricken family members? The shame of it all defies words.

Now instead report after report announces the "end to the 38 year old occupation" of the Gaza Strip, a "turning point for peace" and the news that "it is now illegal for Israelis to live in Gaza." Is this some kind of joke?

Yes, it is "illegal for Israelis to live in the Gaza Strip" as colonizers from another land. It has been illegal for 38 years. (If they wish to move there and live as equals with the Palestinians and not as Israeli citizens they may do so.)

Sharon's unilateral "Disengagement" plan is not ending the occupation of Gaza. The Israelis are not relinquishing control over the Strip. They are retaining control of all land, air and sea borders including the Philadelphi corridor along the Gaza/Egypt border where the Egyptians may be allowed to patrol under Israel's watchful eye and according to Israel's strictest terms. The 1.4 million inhabitants of Gaza remain prisoners in a giant penal colony, despite what their partisan leaders are attempting to claim. The IDF is merely redeploying outside the Gaza Strip, which is

surrounded by electrical and concrete fences, barbed wire, watchtowers, armed guards and motion sensors, and it will retain the authority to invade Gaza on a whim.

Eight thousand Palestinian workers working in Israel for slave wages will soon be banned from returning to work. Another 3,200 Palestinians who worked in the settlements for a sub-minimum-wage have been summarily dismissed without recourse to severance pay or other forms of compensation. Still others will lose their livelihoods when the Israelis move the Gaza Industrial Zone from Erez to somewhere in the Negev desert.

The World Bank reported in December 2004 that both poverty and unemployment will rise following the "Disengagement" even under the best of circumstances because Israel will retain full control over the movement of goods in and out of Gaza, will maintain an enforced separation of the West Bank and Gaza preventing the residents of each from visiting one another, and will draw up separate customs agreements with each zone severing their already shattered economies-- and yet we are forced to listen day in and day out to news about this historic peace initiative, this great turning point in the career of Ariel Sharon, this story of national trauma for the brothers and sisters who have had to carry out the painful orders of their wise and besieged leader.

What will it take to get the truth across

to people? To the young woman of Neve Dekalim who can speak her words without batting an eyelash of embarrassment or shame? As the cameras zoom in on angry settlers poignantly clashing with their "brothers and sisters" in the Israeli army, who will be concerned about their other brothers and sisters in Gaza? When will the Palestinian history of 1948 and 1967, and of each passing day under the violence of dispossession and dehumanization, get a headline in our papers?

I am reminded of an interview I had this summer in Beirut with Hussein Nabulsi of Hizbullah an organization that has had nothing to do with the movement for Palestinian national liberation whatsoever, but one that has become allied with those it sees as the real victims of US and Israeli policies and lies. I remember his tightly shut eyes and his clenched fists as he asked how long Arabs and Muslims were supposed to accept the accusations that they are the victimizers and the terrorists. "It hurts," he said in a whispered ardor. "It hurts so much to watch this injustice every day." And he went on to explain to me why the Americans and the Israelis with their monstrous military arsenals will never be victorious.

Jennifer Loewenstein will be a visiting Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University beginning this fall. She can be reached: amadea311@earthlink.net

Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

The dead heart

By AMMAR ABDULLAH AL-HAWI
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Gaping their way amidst the gloomy darkness of the night, HEARTS of the so-called "Human Beings", almost pale and dull, are still moaning endlessly and crying out painfully for the dazzling light of the day so as to emerge quickly, knock at their ever closed doors and therefore announce the arrival of the expected moment of salvation. It is too hard to breathe in the clean air of true and sincere love; too dim to see in the beautiful world of happiness and joy; and too bitter to have a fresh drink from the sweet fountain of loyalty and faithfulness.

Moreover, a complete absence of any real emotions or genuine feelings shares

their entirely irregular and meaningless pulses, producing a very unmelodious symphony of stillness, of emptiness and lifelessness.

In fact, it is the so cruel HUMAN BODIES that have stolen away purity of emotions and announce of feelings from the poor HEARTS, depriving them completely of the most heavenly bliss of SENSATION, making them absolutely ever unable, rather ever unable to distinguish between blackness and whiteness and between ugliness and loveliness, between falsehood and truthfulness.

The bodies, for those sick hearts, mean no more than a narrow, dark and lonely PRISON room, where there is no any glimmering ray of LOVINGNESS can come in through the iron-made windows to revive their dying spirit; no any open ears to hear to their long, bitter screams; no any empty spaces to echo their deep,

mournful sighs. So aimlessly are now they beating on; and so hopelessly are they marching across the illusive mirage of insensitivity and numbness.

Consequently, the asperity and cruelty of the bodies has left these hearts so broken and frustrated that they can neither truly love or taste the sweetness of LOVE, nor try to share others' feelings or even try to respect their sacredness. DECEPTION is the purest feeling they can humbly afford you; and hurting others is the simplest weapon they are always armed with along their thorn-covered and risky to the far distant dwelling of NOTHINGNESS.

Thus a very unquenchable burning desire to depart the imprisonment of the bodies, and get themselves released from the solid shackles of BODYISM, thereby finally becoming able to enjoy the bright light of reality outside and therefore restore their lost FREEDOM.

The dark man in the kingdom of light

By SUNDUS SALLAM
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Once in the kingdom of light, there was a very dark man... the color of his skin invariably distinguished him from all the rest... somehow he was just too obvious to merge with the rest of the people of the kingdom of the light... most of them don't remember where he really came from.. They just know he is there, and as far as they remember, always has been.

The elderly people in the kingdom say he came from behind the mountains, and since the law of the kingdom gives right of living to anyone regardless of his origin, no one could object to his settling down.. He built a wooden hut near the river, and he started making a living from selling fish, sometimes he carried water for the old ladies who didn't have anyone to serve them too.

He became a constant part of everyone's life in the kingdom, yet he never really became one of the people of the kingdom of the light, mothers used to threaten their children that they would become like him if they did not listen to orders, old men

preached that he became this way because he committed a great sin, and stories never ended about his actual truth. The strange thing is that no one ever dared to ask him much about himself.

The little they knew about him was what he said about himself along with what the old men supposedly remember of his arrival to the kingdom long time ago.

He never minded being the favorite topic of the evenings, at least he seemed that he didn't mind, he would walk by the cafes every evening, singing a particular tune which the kids used to imitate, and give a light nod to the men who sat by watching and gossiping.

Then one day, they never saw him again. Just like he came suddenly, he disappeared suddenly. The old ladies whom he used to help were the first to realize his absence, then the kids of the kingdom, and soon everyone was wondering where he was. Some said he is hiding in his home, some said he was sick. And some said he just left the kingdom.

After one week of his disappearance, a few of the old men decided to check his home and see if he was dead there or something.

When they opened the unlocked door, they could see that all his things were still there, as if he just left for fishing, intending to come back at night. They realized he didn't have any friends who might know what happened to him. And again the ladies and old men of the town made up their versions explaining why, and how he was gone.

Till day no one knows, apparently the women still threaten their children that they would become like the dark man if they disobeyed, although most of the children now never saw him not even once.

But they totally believed that their existed a dark lonely man, who used to hum a particular tune on his way back home in the evenings. And although some truly missed his presence, no one dared to say so, at least not in public. My mom keeps looking in the direction of the mountains every now and then; perhaps, she thinks, he will come back someday.

Perhaps he gave them a meaning for their existence being different. Mom says, if there is no night, you'd never realize the day. I think she is right. But she never told me who actually was the dark one, him, or the rest of the kingdom, I wonder.

In order to BE

By IBRAHIM

For decades, Scientists have been doing researches on how nations (great nations) develop. It is only one result they get every time. Visualize this: A man/woman with positive attitudes and positive ideas who goes in the street and gathers positive people around him/her and they start working together and come up with projects and bright ideas which along with their devotion and hard work can make the greatest change.

Not hard to visualize and absolutely not

hard to be that man/woman. We only need to be positive in order to be a great nation. We have all the factors and resources to be the greatest nation as we have always been. Look at Japan, USA, and Germany; their great will put them at the top. We only need to have faith and to believe that we can be. Blaming and begging the government will never pay off, we -people- have to start the hard work and we shall get the government work with us.

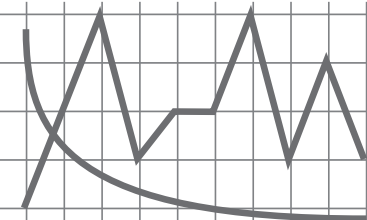
Let's be positive in our attitudes, great nations are in the dark and they

should be isolated there till they change their mentality and negativity.

Again visualize this: a man/woman setting in the dark and handcuffed with negativity and cannot do anything. People are working in the light and making a success life because of their positivity, while he/she cannot make a move because of his/her negativity.

We are at entire person and we should get rid of our negativity and run out of the dark to be successful. It only takes the strong will and faith a long with hard work to be the greatest.

YT Business

Poverty & divorce problems aggravate it

The child labour phenomenon in Yemen

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

There many cases of child labour are aggravating and can be learnt from the children who work in the capital Sana'a or in the Yemeni large cities. This is despite the fact that the government under support from donors is working on investigating into causes and reasons of this phenomenon in an attempt to curb it through program called the strategy of poverty alleviation.

In consequence of many factors, including poverty and rise in cases of divorce in some governorates, the Yemeni society is suffering from worrying phenomena rising to the surface and heralding catastrophic consequences to future of childhood in this country.

An official report on human rights for 2004 has pointed out that the number of children driven to labour market amounts to around 450 thousand children of age categories of 14-16 years representing 9.1% of the Yemeni workforce.

The report has explained that the percentage of females in this phenomenon constitutes 54% out of child workers. Some would perhaps think that this is a universal phenomenon but in reality, Yemen has hit the record in that of the number of working children for various political, economic and social reasons.

A child selling paper tissues packets in streets of the capital Sana'a mentions that after the death of his father the family was forced to carry burdens of daily life and



death of her father her mother preferred not to re-marry and decided to work in selling bread.

She as the eldest among her brothers and sisters has undertaken to take bread for selling in the market to provide for expenses of the family. There are many stories behind children who were forced to go to labour market varying from loss of the father in either death or incapacity and such other reasons.

Field studies on causes behind the

dissemination of this phenomenon mention that economic reasons, such as the increase in poverty rates and rise of unemployment rate among adults are main reasons behind child labour. Some fathers justify work of children for taking part in providing income for the family.

Added to those reasons there is the migration from countryside to cities does aggravate the problem especially that 75% of city inhabitants live in the countryside, which lacks the minimum

degree of essential services such as electricity, water, education, health and the like. Studies confirm that ineffectiveness of laws pertaining to protection of childhood is the factors that led to spread of this negative phenomenon and children deprivation of education.

This condition makes them exposed to dangers and psychological pressures by employers. Such pressures would generate problems difficult to solve in future.

The field studies recommend the necessity of curing those phenomena through creation of a climate suitable for child growth and there should be expansion in social welfare and care. They recommend that the government should adopt policies and mechanisms for fighting poverty based on accurate surveying data on budget of the Yemeni family rather than conducting workshops and seminars for defining the volume of the phenomenon without treating it.

Despite integrating into new communities

Yemeni expatriates maintain identities

BY NABIL AL-OSAIDI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The latest census conducted last December revealed that Yemeni expatriates in Arab and non-Arab countries number up to 1.7 million, however the Ministry of Expatriates' Affairs estimated the number at 5.7 million and all them are Yemenis in origin. 4.5 million Yemeni expatriates live in Indonesia, 100 thousands in India and the same number in Malaysia while 30 thousand Yemenis are equally scattered in Singapore, Brunei, and Comoro Islands

Yemenis amounting up to 700 thousands live in Saudi Arabia, 500 thousands in U.A.E. 25 thousands in Djibouti. Additionally, there are thousands of Yemenis in eastern African countries:

Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and Somalia, in some American countries

mainly the U.S.A. and in Europe, particularly Britain where there are around 22 thousand Yemeni expatriates.

What evokes the question is the extent of cohesion and traditions showing the identities of Yemeni expatriates scattered in different countries.

What distinguishes the Yemeni immigrants in the five continents is that they maintain traditions and relations with their relatives and nation

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Affairs Ibrahim al-Rashid mentioned that Yemeni expatriates still enjoy the traditions of their homeland and the years of immigration never have an effect on their achievements or stability. In any country, one can find that Yemenis behave in the way of being representatives and ambassadors for their country.

In his study on "Images of the Yemeni immigration and expatriation aspects" Ibrahim al-Rashid stated that aspects of cooperation and solidarity pervade the

Yemeni communities in different countries. The study indicates that the Yemeni expatriates suffer from some problems that are attributed to the lack of awareness, low care levels and contact difficulties.

According to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Expatriate's Affairs, the situations and circumstances of Yemeni expatriates differ from one country to another because of either the nature of systems and general circumstances in those countries or the culture of expatriates themselves, and sometimes due to both factors.

Yemeni expatriates in the Gulf countries suffer from the consequences of events and changes the region witnessed over the last few years. Such events and changes led the Arab workforce to be replaced by laborers from Asian countries such as India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, etc.

In addition, some sectors and businesses dispensed with the workforce

and tended to use mechanized business instead, thus causing Yemeni expatriates, mainly in Britain, to live on pensions or very low salaries that cannot meet all their needs due to expensive living.

The situation of Yemeni expatriates in the U.S.A. seems to be different as they face a variety of difficulties and obstacles at work.

At the same, Yemenis in Britain and the U.S.A. endure two hazardous problems, the first of which is that their children often lose their cultural identities and the second is manifested in their being unable to cope with the new life.

The two problems may disappear in the Yemeni communities residing in Indonesia, India, Singapore and Malaysia as they immigrated to those countries in the old times and have become fully integrated in the new societies at the expense of relations with their homeland.

الوطنية للتأمين
AL-WATANIA INSURANCE

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3. An Individual or Group Health Insurance Policy (including family members) to cover specified benefits (including hospitalization) for an annual maximum sum insured of US\$ 7,500, per insured person in the Republic of Yemen and abroad worldwide.
4. An Individual or Group Health Insurance Policy (including family members) to cover specified benefits (including hospitalization) for an annual maximum sum insured of US\$ 3,000 per insured person in the Republic of Yemen only.
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إعتلاك سيارة أحلامك أصبح الآن في متناول يديك...
من شركة لهامة التجارية عبر برنامج القروض التخصيمية بنك اليمن الدولي
بيجو - صنعت لتتبع بقاياها.

شركة لهامة التجارية
العنوان: شارع الفجر، كازين، صنعاء، اليمن
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Husien Al-Mihdhar: A prominent Yemeni lyrical poet

By RADHWAN AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Hussein Abu-Bakr Al-Mihdhar was born in 1930, in the famous Alshihr port in the Arab Gulf.

family which used to lead a life of asceticism. It is not a coincidence that Al-Mihdhar became a poet. He inherited the innate aptitude of poetry. Both his father and mother's grand fathers were famous poets. Mihdhar finished his primary education in (Ribat Al-Shihr), religious schools that used to teach

Arabic language and Islamic monotheism. This was a great chance for him to acquaint himself with the superb Arabic literature. He made his first poem while he was still 12.

At the age of 14 Al-Mihdhar began his early participations in the literal and poetic rural gatherings to which he was strongly attracted. When he reached his 16, all Hadrmout cities were reacting with his poems and songs. Famous Hadrmout singers like Mohamed Juma'a Khan, Saeed Abdulmoneim and others began singing his poems. Shortly after that, AbuBakr Salim Balfaqeh, the then great Aden singer sang his poems. This became a turning point in the reputation of Al-Mindshare as a poet and an inspired composer.

During his life Almihdhar lived in more than one Yemeni city. He also went to the Gulf States as well as Saudi Arabia. He participated in several literal festivals in European cities.

The power of Al-Mihdhar in phrasing his expressions and the creation of emotional meanings captivated the peoples' presentments.

Almihdhar was also reactive with the national and social developments. His songs in this respect will long remain to be the public emblem for the people in their sorrows and pleasures. They greatly symbolize the unforgettable social events that Al-Mihdhar managed to divinize for them.

Al-Mihdhar has four "Divans" or collection of poems, tears of lovers (Domou' Alushaq) issued in 1972, and smiles of lovers (Ibtasamat Alushaq) which was issued in 1978. Many critics inside and outside Yemen wrote a number of works on his poetry. Several books were also written about him. There are about 10 theatrical plays that tackled the conservative traditions of the community through which the national events were

registered.

Al-Mihdhar has a large product of the poetic debates of emulation, which he used to recite in the Hadrami "dan" chants sittings, that he attended since he was 22. He outmatched the greatest popular Hadrmout poets in that. A great number of Al-Mihdhar theatrical poems were written on national occasions or made in competition with other poets. This product is now considered an important element of the cultural history of Hadrmout and Yemen at large.

Al-Mihdhar got married twice and he has a son and three daughters.

He was elected for parliament in the early eighties, and became a member of the supreme body of the first unity parliament in 1990.

He was honored by the president in 1998. He was given the first high medal of Arts and literature.

The Yemeni cultural community mourned the great poet. He was buried in Al-Shahr city near his mother that he loved greatly.

Abdulrahman Al-Milahi, the poet's close youth mate, said he received with anguish his friend's sudden death. He described it as the great loss to all his friends together with his other fans. They used to consider him as a safe haven. They used to enjoy his comic and amusing spirit, as often he gifts them with his new creativity.

Al-Milahi recalls that when they last met Al-Mihdhar told him of his medical diagnosis in Abu Dhabi, "They told me that my heart is ok," he told his friend. Al-Milahi quickly reminded him of one of his poems in which he mentions that his heart is tired of him and they exchanged smiles, however it was their last meeting. He died of fever at ten that night, shortly after he left them.

Al-Milahi spoke of Al-Mihdhar's great love to 'Suoad', a name he used to give to his city of Al-Shahr. He said that he was always home sick, and longing for his city even though he is inside it.

Poet Mohamed Numan Al-Sharjabi expresses his sorrow for the loss of a poet and friend. He described him as the great poet who did all in his power to promote the Yemeni song not only at the local level but at the level of the whole Arab world.

He said that he compares him with the great poets, who have the ability to employ the expressions in a simple manner whose meaning could easily be grasped. He proceeded to say that he also used to possess the power of unbiased judgments.

Playwright Najeeb Mocabil, says that Al-Mihdhar was the ambassador of the Yemeni songs. He managed to dig the Hadrami sweet dialect out of the dictionary, which it would have remained imprisoned in, had it not been for his elite power of resurrection.

Mocabil believes that Al-Mihdhar is an unprecedented modern poetic school of songs. He will remain to be the transparent modern pioneer for poets not only in Yemen, but in the whole Gulf region.

Poet Salim Al-Amiri was also contacted to comment. He spoke about the poet's city Alshahr, which means "the city". He said that it used to be the fifth old Arab market. (Those markets used to be literature and poetic forums, in which people from all over Arabia, annually gather to listen to new poems of the great Arabia poets in the pre Islamic era.) This city inherited the old port of Gina in Beir Ali, which was the only main port in old Hadrmout, at the flourishing age of the old Yemeni civilization. In this city our poet was born in 1930. He spent his youth, middle age and died in it. In more than fifty years in this area, he recorded a huge cultural heritage which spread all over the country and the region. Poet Alamiri continues saying that Almihdhar was the ablest modern poet that was to be known recently in Yemen.

Composer Karamah Mursal, who used to Warble with the Mihdhar poetry said that he enjoyed singing Mihdhar's songs since the sixties of the last century. He expressed his grief

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The History of Yemen (1 of 3)

This is perhaps one of the earliest published books written by a Yemeni scholar giving detailed information on major events in Yemeni history, while at the same time providing interesting insights into various geographical and demographic circumstances in pre-Revolution Yemen.

Needless to say the book was originally written at a time when very little information on Yemen was available in any composite and easily accessible format and most Yemeni sources of information were still in handwritten manuscript format.

The author is a well known Yemeni scholar, who was reared in the traditional educational system of Mosque schools and other religious institutes. He is highly regarded for his research capabilities and the book is inundated with many references, including the works of foreigners.

While there may be some inaccuracies to be found (such as suggesting that the population of Yemen, then was estimated at 15 million people), these are usually based on what would be deemed to be expert opinion, or people relating their own experiences, or observation.

The book also is staunchly nationalistic in outlook with Yemen and Yemenis given high praise. The book does not delve into the obvious deprivations and backwardness of Yemen, as many scholars of the time tended to believe that, sometimes this was the price that Yemen had to pay to maintain its unique religious character and to avoid being corrupted by the evils of modern progressive culture.

Yet the book is considered of significant importance in that it gives the reader a vivid exposure of many of the peculiarities of Yemen, before modernization has had a chance to set foot in the country.

Although the book is titled the "History of Yemen", it is really much more a chronicle of the modern history of Yemen, while it depicts many of the geographical, social and demographic features of the country.

On the other hand, the book incorporates many documents that are of great significance for the history of Yemen in the First Half of the Twentieth Century, as Yemen became an independent state and struggled to affirm its sovereignty and its territorial hold of as much of the country.

This was also the period when Yemen first set out to establish its place among the community of world nations, and the book includes many of the Treaty of Friendships and Cooperation signed with many of the leading powers of the times.

It also gives an interesting depiction of the Yemeni Government, economic and social structure under the rule of Imam Yahya Hamid-Eldin (who ruled from 1904-1948) and gives an interesting account of some of the foreign missions and dignitaries that had a rare outsider's glimpse of Yemen.

The book is rich in its description of

many of the many different Yemeni cities and the tribal affiliation of many of the geographical regions of the country. Many of the significant contents of the book will be given more detailed coverage here, because there is really very little that allows non-Yemeni and specifically non-Arab readers a closer scrutiny of life and events in Yemen.

Although many of us may have become aware of many of the events described in the book, from hearing them from our parents and kin who lived through them, there are very few documented records, in Arabic, let alone in other languages that can provide a close look at this important period in Yemen's history.

Mr. Al-Wasi'y comes from a prominent scholastic family, from the traditional perspective and he has done much in his life to help print many of the significant handwritten books of historical or theological value.

He was an expert on many writings on Yemen and thus was able to refer to many significant references for his information. He was also aware of how much has in fact been produced by non Yemenis, who either have studied or visited the country and written about their findings.

He also shows interesting insight into the first inklings of the international challenges that Yemen had to counter, as the world powers of different decades sought to extend their influence in the area.

The author was also one of the first modern prominent Yemenis to be exposed to culturing and education in other lands.

He completed his traditional education under prominent Yemeni scholars of the time. He then went to the Hejaz and studied under many leading scholars of Mecca who certified his scholastic achievement there.

He then returned to Yemen. Soon afterwards he traveled to Egypt, the Levant (Syria-Lebanon-Jordan-Palestine), Iraq, India and Java (Indonesia) and other countries.

The author notes that he began to work on the book in the month of Rajab 1326 AH (i.e. almost a hundred years ago at the start of the Twentieth Century). He notes that the book is broken into two sections: Yemen from the early history, the advent of Islam up to the current Imamic period of Imam Yahya. The second section deals with the geography and politics of Yemen, which he said are of "great valuable benefits".

However, the significance of its historical coverage is not really noteworthy as it only briefly touches on the historical ancient history of Yemen.

This may be due to the very scanty information, which was available at his time (very few excavations have been undertaken then) and most information is derived from Arab and Yemeni chroniclers, who related what was passed down from previous generations of chroniclers. We delve into more details in the next LC.

for the loss of the poet, with words that he described as falling short of being true to mourn him.

Journalist Aziz al-Tha'alibi, General Secretary of the cultural union of the Yemeni writers, said that he was the last to call the poet following his return from his medical trip to Abu Dhabi. He inquired about his health, and he said he felt that he was tired, and complaining of cold and fever, and he was forced to let him rest. In spite of this the poet gave him excerpts of his new poem, commenting that he didn't expect it to be "a farewell."

The late great thinker Mohamed

Abdulqadir Ba-Matraf, described poet Al-Mihdhar as a man who has been bestowed a heart that is responsive to all humanitarian reactions.

Journalist Mohamed Numan commented saying that Al-Mihdhar was a pillar of poetry in Yemen and the Arab peninsula. Yemen and the Arab nation lost greatly.

Poet Ali Hameed, asserted that Al-Mihdhar was a main tributary for the Yemeni cultural activity. His creativeness left an influence on the whole Arab world and the Gulf region in particular through the dual marvelous works with composer Abu-Bahr Salim Balfiqh.

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Health Insurance : facts & aspirations

By MUJID RADMAN
WATANIA INSURANCE
GENERAL MANAGER
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Health Insurance is an important topic which has recently surfaced as a major subject for discourse by all those employed by both the public and the private sectors companies, corporations, especially individuals concerned with declarations from official public sources talking - from proximity - about the necessity of initiating of compulsory health insurance.

The importance that health insurance portrays in the economies of developing countries encompasses an important drive and conviction for those who possess the power to initiate health insurance program, considering that improvements in the standard of living for citizens demands interest in health care.

"the right of every citizen". Persons enjoying peace of mind are those confident of receiving suitable health care for themselves, their children and family members and are those capable of working and producing. This is why our government has embarked on the task of a study in connection with



Mujid Radman

health insurance for all its citizens.

What is expected from Health Insurance?

- participation in the establishment of a fair and equitable distribution of health services to all citizens irrespective of affiliation to party, place, size, type of corporation or company employed with;
- participation in the establishment of mental, social, and economic stability for all social ranks of laborers

and citizens;

- participation in the improvement of the standard of health services offered to citizens by volume and quality, thus reducing pressure on the free public resources provided by the public health services and the creation of an adequate supplement for the provision of good quality and reasonably priced health services;

- participation in the provision of sufficient financial revenues to fund the health sector to contribute to the reduction of burden on public funds, provided by the government, to corporations and companies or the individuals responsible for providing treatment for those working for them;

- participation in the provision of more job opportunities in the insurance sector within the authorities that provide health services;

- participation in supporting the national economy by the creation of more investment opportunities in the health sector and its various affiliated branches and thus encourage investors to invest in health projects;

- participation in the rise of ratios of health manpower, their families and health entities in compliance with the increasing rate of population;

- interest in preventative health comprehension and concentration on it as a focal point and on early health

care, leading to the elevation of health standards and the de-escalation of disease ratios and decreasing expenditures in the exorbitant costs of treatment;

From the experience of advanced governments like America and Japan that have in recent times resorted to the utility of modern types of health insurance to defray medical costs in reducing the burden on its national budget, it can be implied that regardless of economic strength and absorbing capability, no industrially advanced government has found it wise to continue to fully fund the costs of medical care for its citizens. But since projects like these do not evolve to accomplish success from emptiness, the mere issue of a government decree from an authorized source will not suffice to replace health insurance, inculcate its benefits and exhibit its positivism. It is imperative to emphasize that the realization of these benefits demands the provision of other important factors or building blocks upon which the project can be considered viably successful.

Currently, there is coordination among national insurance companies. A few of these companies has already begun offering health insurance consonant with their experiences and knowledge in this regard.

Hospitals or graveyards

Is there a difference!

HAKIM ALMASMARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
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One of the tragic issues spreading throughout our society, and many fear is an ongoing crisis cloaked in mystery, is the unbearable situation of our medical institutions. Climate of fear settles when speaking about hospitals in Yemen.

Many people risk staying at home and not getting medical attention due to their realization that it's just worthless and unhelpful. In some situations, it causes more damage than good.

Services are limited, and even with the limitation of services, hospital premises are dirty and more like old dingy apartments with many rooms. Appliances are old and shabby and nothing like they are supposed to be. Yemen is doing so badly in the health sector; it ranked 133 of 162 countries in the United Nations Human Development Report, only surpassing countries like Somalia and Djibouti.

No Arab nation is going through the difficulties in the field of medicine that we, in Yemen, are going through. People die daily due to wrong procedures taken at hospitals as well as inhuman acts by some doctors and nurses. The prognosis of the dilemma that we are going through does not look bright for uncountable reasons.

Dr. Adnan Al-Amdi, a Yemeni doctor working abroad said, "Hospitals in Yemen are much unorganized, moral clarity is not seen." Dr. Al-Amdi is a U.S graduate in the field of medicine, whom is currently residing in the United States. He continued, "It's really a great danger, and it's going to need unusual solutions."

A major reason behind this catastrophe is that many Yemeni professionals, including doctors, have left Yemen because of their low income. For instance, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), there are 65 high-profile Yemeni doctors working for some of the biggest hospitals. To see such a high number of professionals leaving their country to seek a future abroad is very sad. What makes the situation even worse is that many of the doctors who left for neighboring countries were handpicked and given special invitations to work there. This



Services are limited, and even with the limitation of services, hospital premises are dirty and more like old dingy apartments with many rooms.

happened because they understood the value of these skilled people. Why did I choose this Arab country as an example? The reason is, if such a small country as UAE has so many Yemeni doctors, I couldn't imagine how many Yemeni professionals would be spread throughout bigger countries around the world.

The crisis of Professional doctors leaving Yemen has an even more dangerous side to it. It gives beginners or just graduated doctors a better chance in wrecking the lives of more patients, leaving them to bear the disaster of the outcome.

"They cut a part of my gums out for no reason," said Ali, a Yemeni citizen living in the United States who came for a visit. "I will not stay quiet, I will take them to court, and I want justice. They don't fear god, no mercy what so ever. We're humans for gods sake not roaches."

Fear of being taken to court is not even a factor for many local doctors. Pointing fingers at the responsible side for this catastrophe is not a hard task, even for a child. All this, is the outcome of many wrong judgments, which are continuously taken by hospitals. It is also the byproduct of the

corruption our government is allowing to pass silently. Governments are supposed to keep all harm away from their people, act as guardians and a protecting shield for their citizens.

Look at government officials or diplomats; you don't hear a high-ranking official receiving medical treatment in Al-Thoura or Al-Jimhour Hospital? For the slightest headache or pain, they feel obligated to travel to Germany or any western country. They understand that it's a bad decision to even think of being treated in their beloved country whose uncountable achievements and accomplishments they themselves always praise. Many of us have terrifying stories that family members or friends have gone through at Yemeni hospitals.

Zabya Abdullah had slight pain in her left eye. She thought coming to Sana'a and receiving medical attention was her only option. When reaching Sana'a, she did not waste any time and went to the doctor for an eye examination. Ten minutes later, the doctor approached her, and with full confidence said, "There is a need to remove your left eye or you will risk losing both eyes due to the strong virus erupting inside of you". Shocked

and angry was my aunt as she walked out of the hospital and returned back to the village. Two month's later, she was fine and with no pain, and more important, no eye taken away.

It is very sad to see the current government working so hard to create leading figures for this society in different fields of learning, by granting scholarships and many other benefits, but on the other hand, can't do enough to keep them to serve their own people.

Solution needs to be implemented immediately if the future of this country is of any concern. Strict procedures must come into practice to secure the health or even the life of poor citizens.

Authorities are trying to uproot the tragedy in some way or another. 52 medical faculties in private universities have been closed down due to their failing to meet the minimum education criteria. When Deputy Minister of Higher Education Ali Qasem was asked for the purpose of the closures he said "the main problem for these universities is that they hire unqualified teaching staffs.

Will things change to the better in the future? Well, we'll just have to wait and see.



By: Dr. Khaled alNsour
For the Yemen Times

Facts of life

What is nicotine?

Nicotine is a naturally occurring liquid alkaloid. An alkaloid is an organic compound made out of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen and sometimes oxygen. These chemicals have potent effects on the human body. For example, many people regularly enjoy the stimulating effects of another alkaloid, caffeine, as they quaff a cup or two of coffee in the morning.

Nicotine normally makes up about 5 percent of a tobacco plant, by weight. Cigarettes contain 8 to 20 milligrams (mg) of nicotine (depending on the brand), but only approximately 1 mg is actually absorbed by your body when you smoke a cigarette.

Effects of Nicotine

Nicotine changes how your brain and your body function. The net results are somewhat of a paradox: Nicotine can both invigorate and relax a smoker, depending on how much and how often they smoke. This biphasic effect is not uncommon. Although the actions of nicotine and ethanol in the body are quite different, you also see dose-dependent effects when you drink alcoholic beverages. Your first drink may loosen your inhibitions and fire you up, but after several drinks, you're usually pretty sedate.

Nicotine and the Body

Nicotine initially causes a rapid release of adrenaline, the "fight-or-flight" hormone. If you've ever jumped in fright at a scary movie or rushed around the office trying to finish a project by your deadline, you may be familiar with adrenaline's effects:

- Rapid heartbeat
- Increased blood pressure
- Rapid, shallow breathing

Adrenaline also tells your body to dump some of its glucose stores into your blood. This makes sense if you remind yourself that the "fight-or-flight" response is meant to help you either defend yourself from a hungry predator or hightail it out of a dangerous situation — running or brawling both require plenty of energy to fuel your muscles.

Nicotine itself may also block the release of the hormone insulin. Insulin tells your cells to take up excess glucose from your blood. This means that nicotine makes people somewhat hyperglycemic, having more sugar than usual in their blood. Some people think that nicotine also curbs their appetite so that they eat less. This hyperglycemia could be one explanation why: Their bodies and brain may see the excess sugar and down-regulate the hormones and other signals that are perceived as hunger.

Nicotine may also increase your basal metabolic rate slightly. This means that you burn more calories than you usually would when you are just sitting around. However, losing weight by smoking doesn't give you any of the health benefits that you'd get if you were losing weight by exercising — it actually does the opposite! Over the long haul, nicotine can increase the level of the "bad" cholesterol, LDL, that damages your arteries. This makes it more likely that you could have a heart attack or a stroke.

Nicotine and the Brain

Your brain is the key player in nicotine's action. Like a computer, your brain processes, stores and uses information. In a computer, information travels in the form of electricity moving through wires; information transfer is a binary process, with switches being either "on" or "off." In your brain, neurons are the cells that transfer and integrate information. Each neuron has thousands of inputs from other neurons throughout the brain. Each of these signals is included in the calculation of whether or not the neuron will pass the signal it receives on to other neurons in the pathway. While signals are conducted through individual neurons as electric current, communication between neurons is mediated by chemical messengers, called neurotransmitters. Neurotransmitters traverse the physical space between two neurons and bind to special protein receptors on the postsynaptic cell. Once bound, these receptors set in motion physiological changes within the neuron that allow it to send the signal on down the line.

Each neurotransmitter has its own specific family of receptors. Nicotine works by docking to a subset of receptors that bind the neurotransmitter acetylcholine. Acetylcholine is the neurotransmitter that (depending on what region of the brain a neuron is in):

- Delivers signals from your brain to your muscles
 - Controls basic functions like your energy level, the beating of your heart and how you breathe
 - Acts as a "traffic cop" overseeing the flow of information in your brain
 - Plays a role in learning and memory
- Like acetylcholine, nicotine leads to a burst of receptor activity. However, unlike acetylcholine, nicotine is not regulated by your body. While neurons typically release small amounts of acetylcholine in a regulated manner, nicotine activates cholinergic neurons (which mainly use acetylcholine to communicate to other

neurons) in many different regions throughout your brain simultaneously. This stimulation leads to:

- Increased release of acetylcholine from the neurons, leading to heightened activity in cholinergic pathways throughout your brain. This cholinergic activity calls your body and brain to action, and this is the wake-up call that many smokers use to re-energize themselves throughout the day. Through these pathways, nicotine improves your reaction time and your ability to pay attention, making you feel like you can work better.

- Stimulation of cholinergic neurons promotes the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the reward pathways of your brain. This neural circuitry is supposed to reinforce behaviors that are essential to your survival, like eating when you're hungry. Stimulating neurons in these areas of the brain brings on pleasant, happy feelings that encourage you to do these things again and again. When drugs like cocaine or nicotine activate the reward pathways, it reinforces your desire to use them again because you feel so at peace and happy afterwards.

- Release of glutamate, a neurotransmitter involved in learning and memory - Glutamate enhances the connections between sets of neurons. These stronger connections may be the physical basis of what we know as memory. When you use nicotine, glutamate may create a memory loop of the good feelings you get and further drive the desire to use nicotine.

Nicotine also increases the level of other neurotransmitters and chemicals that modulate how your brain works. For example, your brain makes more endorphins in response to nicotine. Endorphins are small proteins that are often called the body's natural pain killer. It turns out that the chemical structure of endorphins is very similar to that of heavy-duty synthetic painkillers like morphine. Endorphins can lead to feelings of euphoria also. If you're familiar with the runner's high that kicks in during a rigorous race, you've experienced the "endorphin rush." This outpouring of chemicals gives you a mental edge to finish the race while temporarily masking the nagging pains you might otherwise feel.

Nicotine in the Body

As with most addictive substances, humans have devised a number of ways of delivering nicotine to their bodies. Nicotine readily diffuses through:

- Skin
- Lungs
- Mucous membranes (such as the lining of your nose or your gums)

Nicotine moves right into the small blood vessels that line the tissues listed above. From there, nicotine travels through your bloodstream to the brain, and then is delivered to the rest of your body.

The most common (and the most expedient way) to get nicotine and other drugs into your bloodstream is through inhalation — by smoking it. Your lungs are lined by millions of alveoli, the tiny air sacs where gas exchange occurs. These alveoli provide an enormous surface area — 90 times greater than that of your skin — and thus provide ample access for nicotine and other compounds. Once in your bloodstream, nicotine flows almost immediately to your brain. Although nicotine takes a lot of different actions throughout your body, what it does in the brain is responsible for both the good feelings you get from smoking, as well as the irritability you feel if you try to quit. Within 10 to 15 seconds of inhaling, most smokers are in the throes of nicotine's effects.

Nicotine doesn't stick around your body for too long. It has a half-life of about 60 minutes, meaning that six hours after a cigarette, only about 0.031 mg of the 1 mg of nicotine you inhaled remains in your body.

How does your body get rid of nicotine? Here's the process:

- About 80 percent of nicotine is broken down to cotinine by enzymes in your liver.
- Nicotine is also metabolized in your lungs to cotinine and nicotine oxide.
- Cotinine and other metabolites are excreted in your urine. Cotinine has a 24-hour half-life, so you can test whether or not someone has been smoking in the past day or two by screening his or her urine for cotinine.
- The remaining nicotine is filtered from the blood by your kidneys and excreted in the urine.

Different people metabolize nicotine at different rates. Some people even have a genetic defect in the enzymes in their liver that break down nicotine, whereby the mutant enzyme is much less effective at metabolizing nicotine than the normal variant. If a person has this gene, their blood and brain nicotine levels stay higher for longer after smoking a cigarette. Normally, people keep smoking cigarettes throughout the day to maintain a steady level of nicotine in their bodies. Smokers with this gene usually end up smoking many fewer cigarettes, because they don't constantly need more nicotine.

After knowing all this, do you still want to smoke? Think again!

Liverpool through with upstarts Artmedia and Thun

LONDON (Reuters) - Holders Liverpool and upstarts Artmedia Petržalka of Slovakia and Thun of Switzerland all qualified for the Champions League proper on a night of surprises in the third qualifying round on Tuesday.

Liverpool went through 3-2 on aggregate despite losing 1-0 at home in the second leg of their tie against CSKA Sofia.

Artmedia, making their first appearance in the competition, beat Partizan Belgrade 4-3 on penalties after the two sides failed to score a goal between them over two evenly-fought legs first in Slovakia then Serbia & Montenegro.

They will be joined in the final 32 of European soccer's elite competition by Thun, the tiny Swiss club who were playing amateur football nine years ago.

Thun stunned former European Cup finalists Malmo 3-0 for a 4-0 aggregate win and qualified along with Rapid Vienna, Real Betis, Rosenborg Trondheim, Udinese and Panathinaikos, who overcame a 3-1 first leg deficit against Wisla Krakow of Poland to take the second leg 4-1 after extra time and seal the tie 5-4 on aggregate.

The last eight qualifiers will be decided with completion of the third qualifying round on Wednesday.

First defeat

Liverpool, forced to play in this season's competition from the opening qual-



Liverpool's Fernando Morientes (L) skips a challenge from CSKA Sofia's Valentin Iliev (R) during their UEFA Champions League third qualifying round, second leg soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, August 23.

ify for the Champions League proper for the first time.

Before this season they had only made three fleeting appearances in Europe with limited success.

Thun will also be among exalted company for the first time. The tiny Swiss club whose annual budget is less than Europe's top players earn individually in a season, built on their 1-0 first leg win in Sweden with goals from Bernardi (26th) and Mauro Lustrinelli (40th and 65th) at Berne's Wankdorf Stadium to complete their fairytale ride into the lucrative group stage.

Tenth time

In contrast, Rosenborg Trondheim qualified for the 10th time to make up for a miserable season in Norway where they will soon be deposed as champions after winning the title for the last 13 seasons.

They held off a late surge from Steaua Bucharest to win 3-2 on the night for a 4-3 aggregate success.

Udinese will also be in the competition for the first time after seeing off Sporting Lisbon 3-2 for a 4-2 aggregate win.

Rapid Vienna beat Lokomotiv Moscow 1-0 with a late goal from Jozef Valachovic to secure a 2-1 aggregate success.

ifying round because their Champions League victory last season did not guarantee them direct entry into the competition proper, lost for the first time after five straight wins.

But the setback did not cost them dearly as CSKA could not add to Valentin Iliev's 15th minute strike.

Artmedia, who stunned one-time European champions Celtic 5-4 in the second qualifying round, could not find the net against Partizan until the penalty shootout but they held their nerve to qual-

Wright on target for Yankees in Blue Jays rout

TORONTO (Reuters) - Jaret Wright delivered seven scoreless innings and combined with three relievers on a five-hit shutout to lead the New York Yankees to a 7-0 rout of the slumping Toronto Blue Jays 7-0 at Yankee Stadium on Monday.

Wright (4-2) scattered four hits while striking out five and walking three to notch his second consecutive win since returning from a shoulder injury.

Alan Embree faced one batter while Tanyon Sturtze and Scott Proctor each tossed a scoreless inning of relief to complete the shutout as the Yankees moved into a tie for the lead in the AL wild card

race with the Cleveland Indians and Oakland Athletics.

Hideki Matsui drove in three runs while Alex Rodriguez went three-for-five, including an eighth inning double to reach 100 RBIs on the season.

Leading 2-0, the Yankees broke open a tight contest with a four-run seventh inning, keyed by Matsui's two-run single to right field.

Scott Downs (1-3) took the loss, allowing two runs on six hits over six innings as the Blue Jays absorbed their fourth straight defeat to continue their slide out of wild card contention.

In St Petersburg, Victor Martinez and

Ben Broussard each belted two-run homers in a seven-run seventh inning that powered the streaking Cleveland Indians to 11-4 demolition of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Grady Sizemore also contributed a two-run blast for Cleveland cause, while Coco Crisp and Jhonny Peralta each chipped in with a solo shot as Indians rolled to their fifth consecutive win.

Kevin Millwood (7-10) worked six innings to take credit for the win, allowing four runs on five hits with seven strikeouts and three walks.

Travis Lee had a three-run homer of the Devil Rays.

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Lance armstrong hit by doping allegations

PARIS (Reuters) - Seven-times Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong has denied ever taking performance-enhancing drugs following a report in French newspaper L'Equipe that he had used the blood-boosting drug EPO.

Tour de France executive director Jean-Marie Leblanc said he felt let down by Armstrong after L'Equipe alleged the American had taken the banned drug in 1999, the year he first won the world's greatest cycle race.

Armstrong, who recovered from testicular cancer to become the most successful rider in the Tour's history, has been forced to rebut several doping allegations during his career and he repeated on Tuesday that his sporting successes were 'clean'.

"I will simply restate what I have said many times: I have never taken performance-enhancing drugs," the 33-year-old, who retired in July, said in a statement on his personal website.

L'Equipe, saying it had access to laboratory documents, reported on Tuesday that six of Armstrong's urine samples collected on the 1999 Tour de France showed "indisputable" traces of EPO (erythropoietin).

L'Equipe published what it claimed to be a results sheet from the laboratory which appeared to show six figures revealing traces of EPO. The newspaper also published documents from the French cycling federation showing exactly the same figures under Armstrong's name.

The Chateau-Malabry lab said in a statement that the samples they tested did not have names attached and they could not confirm if any of the samples were Armstrong's.

Test results

The lab said all test results had been sent to WADA, the agency in charge of the fight against doping in world sport, on the condition they did not use them to take disciplinary action.

Despite the lack of proof and Armstrong's denials, cycling officials expressed disappointment.

"I remain cautious and slightly circumspect but this is troubling and I feel



Seven-times Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong has denied ever taking performance-enhancing drugs following a report in French newspaper L'Equipe that he had used the blood-boosting drug EPO in 1999. In this file photo Armstrong stands with hand on heart after winning his seventh Tour de France in Paris, July 24.

disappointment inside me, like many sports lovers must do," Leblanc told French radio station RTL.

Asked if he felt let down by Armstrong, Leblanc said, "Yes."

International Cycling Union (UCI) president Hein Verbruggen told Reuters: "We have to wait and see if this is true."

"Only then will we be able to ask ourselves whether there should be any legal action and whether this is a further blow for cycling."

"I have to say this is not pleasant but, for the moment, it only involves Lance Armstrong and France."

There were no tests to detect EPO, a drug that increases the level of red blood cells and endurance, in 1999.

However, samples from the 1999 Tour were kept and have been recently retested by the specialist anti-doping laboratory in Chateau-Malabry outside Paris.

The World Anti-doping Agency (WADA)-accredited lab, which developed the test to detect EPO, started

retesting last year samples that had been taken between 1998 and 1999 and frozen. The new tests were part of a scientific research programme.

Cancer fight

A spokesman for WADA said the latest research results from the French laboratory had arrived at the Montreal-based organization on Monday.

He said that like the lab, WADA had no means of matching names to the samples and this could be done only by the French cycling federation, the French sports ministry or the UCI.

Despite being in a class of his own in recent years, Armstrong could never win over French fans or journalists. "LA Confidential," a book on his life containing accusations of doping, was published on the eve of the 2004 Tour.

The leader of the U.S. Postal team, which became the Discovery Channel team this year, he lost a Paris court case in 2004 when his request that the controversial book should include his denial of drug-taking was turned down.

"To all the cynics, I'm sorry for you," Armstrong said after his final Tour triumph in July. "I'm sorry you can't believe in miracles. This is a great sporting event and hard work wins it."

Armstrong said in his statement of denial on Tuesday: "Unfortunately, the witch hunt continues and (L'Equipe's) article is nothing short of tabloid journalism."

"The paper even admits in its own article that the science in question here is faulty and that I have no way to defend myself."

"They state: 'There will therefore be no counter-exam nor regulatory prosecutions, in a strict sense, since (the) defendant's rights cannot be respected.'"

The American retired after winning his record seventh Tour de France in July. Before winning his first Tour in 1999, Armstrong won a battle against testicular cancer, undergoing two operations and four bouts of chemotherapy.

Since retiring the Texan has concentrated on supporting the fight against cancer, pressing President Bush to boost spending on research.

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Champions League jigsaw about to be completed

By Mike Collett

LONDON (Reuters) - The final pieces in this season's Champions League jigsaw will fall into place on Wednesday when the six-week long qualification process comes to an end.

Former European champions Manchester United, Ajax Amsterdam and Inter Milan should all seal their places in the final group stage when they play the second legs of their third qualifying round ties.

United should have no problems against Hungarian champions Debrecen after winning 3-0 at Old Trafford two weeks ago, while Ajax should consolidate their home advantage against Brøndby after a 2-2 draw in Denmark.

Inter, 2-0 winners in Ukraine in the first leg should see off the challenge from Shakhtar Donetsk at home.

But there is still plenty to play for when Villarreal meet Everton in Spain and in the matches between Werder

Bremen and Basel, Slavia Prague and Anderlecht, Club Brugge and Valerenga and Rangers and Anorthosis Famagusta.

Neither Villarreal nor Everton have played in the competition proper before and the Spanish side start as favourites after a 2-1 first leg win in England two weeks ago.

If Everton should recover from that defeat and Manchester United win as expected, England will have an unprecedented five teams in the competition this season following Liverpool's successful negotiation of the qualifying process on Tuesday.

Liverpool, the reigning European champions who did not have an automatic right to enter the group stage so had to start qualifying in July, made sure of their place with a 3-2 aggregate success over CSKA Sofia, despite losing 1-0 at home on Tuesday.

The draw for the group stage takes place in Monaco on Thursday at 1600 local time (3:00 p.m. British time).



Real Betis' Fernando Varela (L) challenges Monaco's Lucas Bernardi (R) for the ball in their Champions League third qualifying round, second leg soccer match at Monaco's stade Louis-II August 23. REUTERS

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

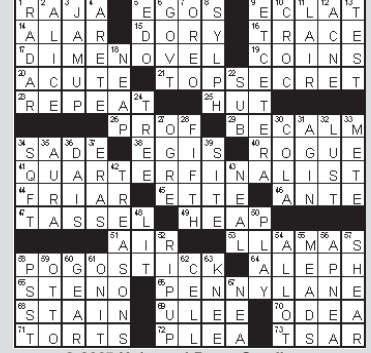
ACROSS
 1 Norwegian ruler
 5 Flotilla
 11 Fast no longer
 14 Decant
 15 Tom Cauty, in a Mark Twain book
 16 It may be concealed cosmetically
 17 Came apart at the seams?
 18 King in Egyptian mythology
 19 Piece of cheesecake?
 20 Spicy side dish
 22 It may be glossed over
 23 PC display unit
 24 Hardly a martinet
 26 Odin's hangout
 31 Morse code sound
 32 Way into a mine
 33 Many millennia
 35 Bellyaches
 39 Plane or rail variety
 40 Ancient depraved city
 42 Sudden transition
 43 Muscle that flexes the trunk
 45 Colon variety
 46 One of a British group
 47 Pt. of SPCA
 49 Like handsaw blades
 51 Lay waste to

55 Threw one's hat in the ring
 56 Start of a drum sound
 57 Salad toppings for Homer?
 63 ... matter of fact ...
 64 Practical joker, e.g.
 65 Farewell, Italian-style
 66 Debussy's "La ..."
 67 Too firm, perhaps
 68 Bride of Lohengrin
 69 Word in a Maugham title
 70 "Praying" insect family
 71 Make an effort to find

12 Recurrently
 13 Provoke
 21 Rosemary's creator
 25 Desserts in Siena?
 26 Improvised accompaniment
 27 Hubbubs
 28 Type opener
 29 British bathrooms
 30 Much of Chile
 34 Unspecified
 36 Silence between notes
 37 Opposite of flushed
 38 Tempted a traffic cop
 41 Reflected

44 This yields molasses
 48 Sun's circle of light
 50 "Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-"
 51 Type of movie
 52 Art student's prop
 53 Gawak
 54 Have a yen for
 58 Noteworthy hotel sign
 59 De Gaulle's one-time hat
 60 Anagram and synonym of evil
 61 The life of Riley
 62 Thoroughly moisten

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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Villarreal expect tough test from battling Everton

MADRID (Reuters) - Villarreal expect to be given a hard time by Everton as the Spanish side defend a 2-1 lead at the Madrigal in the return leg of their Champions League qualifier on Wednesday.

"We know that it is going to be a very tough game and we will need to play even better than we did there," goalkeeper Mariano Barbosa was quoted as saying in sports daily Marca on Tuesday.

"They are a difficult side to control because they play a lot of long balls and get plenty of crosses into the area. It is very hard to deal with them in the air because they have a lot of tall players and they play to that strength.

"(For Everton) it is a question of kill or be killed and we will have to take the same approach because there is so much at stake and we are only a step away from achieving something very important."

Classy goals from Argentine striker Luciano Figueroa and midfielder Josico earned the Spaniards an important away victory in their first ever Champions

League match, but a James Beattie strike kept the Premier League side in the tie.

Last season's leading scorer Diego Forlan believes that Villarreal will be able to book their place in the lucrative group stage of the competition if they can manage to keep Everton at bay in the opening minutes.

"I think the key will be to ensure we don't concede an early goal," said the former Manchester United striker. "We have to be very solid at the back, but that doesn't mean we won't go on the attack."

"We want to win the game because that is the philosophy that the boss has instilled in us. If we just sit back and defend we could pay the price."



Espanyol's Raul Tamudo (C) fights for the ball with Villarreal's Gonzalo Rodriguez (L) and Marcos Senna during their Spanish first division soccer match at El Madrigal stadium March 13. REUTERS

Ex-football star Phillips charged with assault

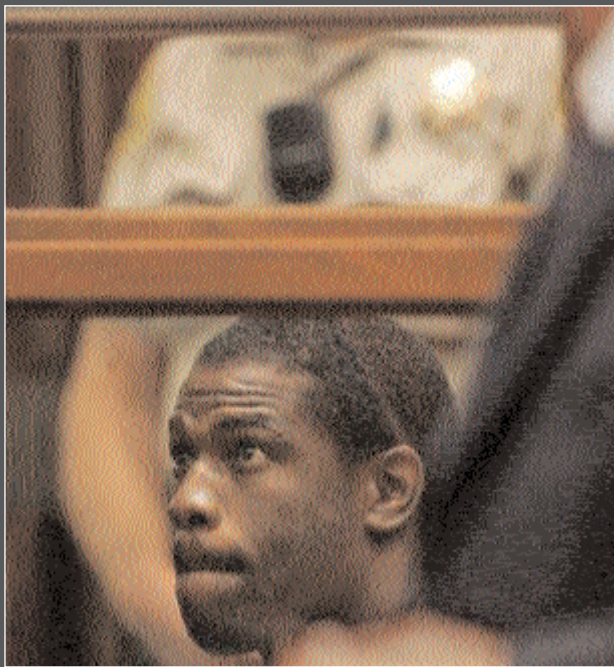
LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Former football star Lawrence Phillips, who was arrested earlier this week for driving his car through a group of men and boys after an argument, was charged with assault on Tuesday.

Phillips, a star running back at the University of Nebraska whose pro career was cut short by run-ins with the law and coaches, faces seven counts of assault with a deadly weapon, two counts of child abuse and one of hit and run, prosecutors said.

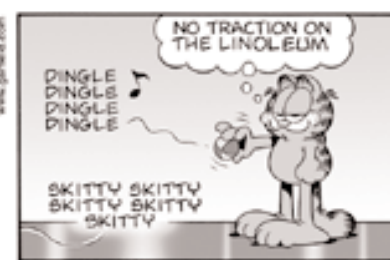
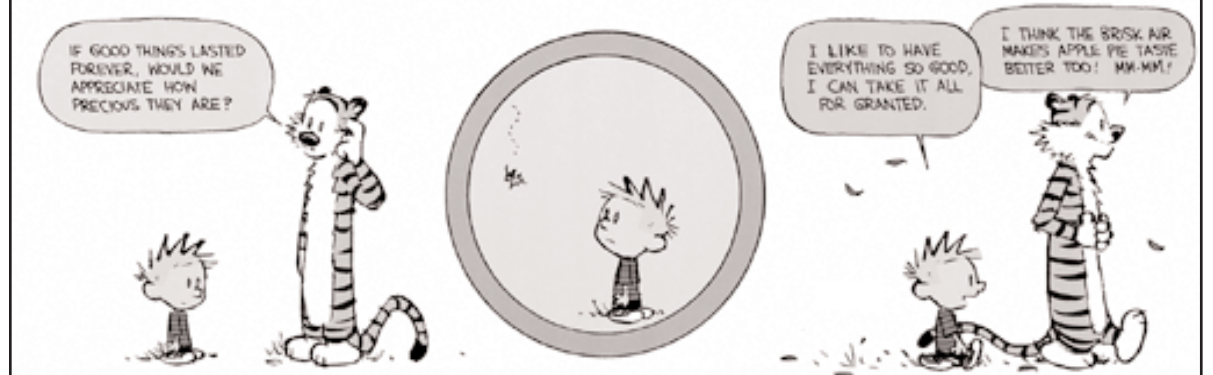
He could face more than 13 years in prison if convicted on all of the charges.

Prosecutors said Phillips, who had been playing pick-up football with a group of boys and men between the ages of 14 and 24, ran his car into three of them after an argument. The three boys were treated for their injuries at a local hospital.

Phillips was dismissed by the Miami Dolphins after he was charged with striking a woman in a nightclub. He was already being sought by police in San Diego when he was arrested in Los Angeles on Sunday.



Former National Football League running back Lawrence Phillips (CQ) appears in court as he is arraigned in Superior Court in the Foltz Criminal Courts Building in Los Angeles August 23. REUTERS



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 3. Ⓛ inish (3) e
 4. Ⓐ lso (3) t
 5. Ⓡ eligious lady (3) n
 6. Ⓢ wn up (5) a
 7. Ⓤ nking (5) c
 8. Ⓕ illing (6) m

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 3.boa 4.letter
 5.echo 6.female
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Yemeni textile Handicraft, art and finance

BY YASSER AL-MAYASY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ymayasi@yahoo.com

Cloth embroidery is an old craft which used to be dominant in most of the Arab world. Though it is now a fading craft in most of these countries.

In Yemen this craft evolved as a necessity. It used to meet their needs in different occasions, then it survived as an inheritance from ancestors and became a source of living for a large number of families.

In spite of the development of textile manufacture, the popular Yemeni textile is still practiced by handicrafts and embroidery makers. It dominates the Yemeni markets, and Yemeni shops are still stuffed with these products.

This handicraft is deep-rooted in Yemeni history. They are still surviving

in spite of the extinction of the social values that it used to represent.

The handicraft of textile in Yemen is one of the popular industries that yields economic outcome. Several families are now dependent on these crafts as their source of living. Each Yemeni region has now its own different sort of textile product that suits social its traditions.

Manufacturers are training their posteriors on the basics of textile embroidery. The objects that those manufacturers use in their variegations depend on their environment that could be extracted from stars, Koranic graphic texts, prayers and sometimes social and national symbols are being variegated.

Strings used in this craft are imported from Iran, but all the other tools which are needed for the different processes are made from the local wood. They also import other tools for embroidery and sewing.



Belief and social beliefs

Popular hand made dressing have a faith back- ground. There is a belief of some families in old Sana'a, that a black and white hand made coat should necessarily be worn by the groom. They believe that this reflects the fertility and aptitude of the groom for future happy life with his bride. This sort of coat is Called "Yalaq"

A bamboo hat which is called "khozaran" should be worn by grooms in the western parts of Yemen, particularly in Tehama. It is ornamented with colored strings that add smartness to the groom's appearance and give an impression of happiness for entering into the new marriage life.

The old men in some parts of Yemen, put a shawl on their shoulders in special religious and social occasions. They are also worn on the heads by some chiefs to show their distinction within the family or the community.

Male dresses vary from one region to another. Most important among these is the "zanah". It is made of silk that is ornamented with golden strings on the edges. The shape of this Zannah differs from one area to another. In Sana'a, it is round in shape and covers the lower part of the man's body up to the feet. It covers the same part of the body in Hadrmout, but has a different name,

"Almi'waz". In other areas it is called "Al-foota". The name Zanah came from the Arabic word "Zinah", which means ornament. As for Al-mi'waz" it also came from another word that means "Awaz" that means need, or the need of man for his dress.

These hand made textiles are now in vogue in the popular Yemeni markets. Ladies dresses have the great share of these. Of these is the bride's dress with flower ornamented front that reflects beauty of nature. There are varieties of cloth for making ladies clothes. Some sorts are used for making robes, dresses, underwear, underpants, which have bottoms colored with wool or silk golden strings.

There is a belief in some Yemeni areas that hand spun clothes, in which holly names of god are dappled, should be worn so that they will protect them from envious eyes and evil spirits. Those dapples are the most marvelous in the couples' clothes.

The handicraft in Yemen constitutes manufacture of carpets and silk furnishings that are ornamented with religious and historical drawings.

The Yemeni hand made dresses which are spread allover Yemen, are responsible for the ununified uniform in Yemen, but they remain to be an economical recourse for many Yemeni families.

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