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YEMEN TIMES

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Secondary level results are out:

Ba Jamal: "High school for the bright students will be established next year."

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a - 31st Aug. YT: Secondary level results were announced yesterday for science and literary students around the republic. The overall result revealed that for the fifth year in a row girls proved brighter than boys in grades. The pass percentage reached 77% of the overall students, which is a similar percentage to the intermediate level school results.

In his statement to the press Prime Minister Abdulqadir Bajamal emphasised on the need for drastic change in the education system in order to coup with the international standards. "Education is the key to humanitarian progress, it is the key to the development of our country and therefore we have to implement new systems that would go in line with the era we are living in and do not originate from political concepts or foundations. I don't want our youth to



need to travel abroad in order to seek better education and find themselves not capable of competing with their classmates because they studied in an efficient educational system in Yemen. And this is why we need an urgent strategy that would elevate the level of education with the emphasis on English as an international language for science and communication" Mr. Bajamal commented in his speech at the press conference.

In the conclusion of his speech the

prime minister declared establishing a new school for the bright students next year in the capital city and all governorates. Minister of Education Mr. Abdulsalam al-Jawfi attended the event and in his speech he narrated the various educational projects and programs that were implemented

during the previous academic year 2004/2005 and the future ambitions for the sector. "The Ministry of Education has been able to provide more than 600,000 double desk for students with the assistance of the state and donors as well as print more than 56,000,000 school book for the various stages of school education primary and secondary with a total cost of 7 billion Yemeni Riyals. We provided 5300 school broadcast equipment, and furnished more than

500 school laboratories that cost more than one billion Yemeni Riyals. Simultaneously in the frame of our employment strategy we have replaced about 2029 Arab teachers with Yemeni cadre and distributed 6000 teachers to the various governorates and rural areas around the republic, in addition to hiring 10,100 teachers on contract bases from outside the Ministry as a third batch of teachers." Dr. al-Jawfi, said. He also added that what has been achieved during the previous duration are significant steps as the Ministry send more than 60 million US Dollars in the academic year 2004/2005 for qualifying teachers and the Ministry is expected to avail about 180 million dollars from the donors for the coming year in order to assist in reforming the educational system and implementing new educational strategies which were estimated by the Ministry to cost about 350 million US dollars hoped to be obtained from donor countries.

Houthi follower's trial reveals USA ambassador assassination attempt

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A (YT), 31 Aug. - State Security Court for Terrorism held a session on Monday 28 Aug. for the trial of 36 of Alhouthi followers, accused of Sana'a detonations that happened at a previous time.

Prosecution revealed that 4 of the suspects planned to attack USA embassy when they rented a house near the embassy, a plan that would have undermined the country's security. He disclosed that one of the fugitives was arrested on the 16th of July. The prosecution revealed that the suspects distributed roles among them to attack USA ambassador with anti-armors missiles. The first suspect was responsible for the survey and collection of information about the ambassador's motorcade which consisted of 3 to 4 cars.

The court decided to appoint advocates to defend the fugitive suspects. It also directed the prosecution to cancel the bail of suspect Intisar Alsiani, arrest and bring her to court. Intisar is the woman who are involved in this case.

The court decided a 48- hour solitary confinement on the 4 suspects who are accused of the ambassador's attempted

assassination, for court disturbance and shouting of slogans. The first suspect was to have a week confinement. Another suspect was sent out of the court room for the disturbance he made by saying that the court is unconstitutional.

In the presence of defense, the court listened to the victims in the explosion events. They all demanded compensations for the injuries they suffered in the explosions. Some of them need to be treated abroad.

The suspects' advocates demanded that the prosecution accusations should be dismissed and their clients to be released on bail because their arrest procedures were illegal.

The court directed the prosecution to replicate the defendants' lawyers' allegations. It also directed that the suspects lawyers and families should be allowed to meet their clients. The minutes of the prosecution investigations and court sessions could also be photocopied according to court decision.

The court also ordered a medical report on the suspect Ibrahim Alkibsi and suspect Ibrahim Aldarahi was given a final chance to answer the prosecution's accusations.

International conference on Arab women rights

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, 31 Aug.- Human Rights Minister, Amat Al-Aleem Alsoswa revealed Wednesday that Final plans are ready for holding a conference on the rights of Arab Women to be convened in Sana'a on 26-28 November 2005.

The conference aims at ensuring practical application of the principles and commitments adopted by Sana'a declaration at the conference held in this regard last year. Those principles would help pave the way for free discussions and exchange of views and empowerment of woman to have a chance for participation in public life. The conference would also be a good opportunity for participation of international and regional experiences, in addition to finding an



Due to riots and alleged security concerns

IHI suspends work on Cement Factory

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Amran, Yemen, Aug. 29— Negotiations are ongoing between the Japanese Company IHI, owner of the

Amran Cement Factory and the factory's administration represented by Numan Dowaid, the general manger. IHI suspended its development project on July 23 over security concerns after riots broke out following the lifting of government subsidies on oil products.

The two parties held a meeting last Monday attended by the Japanese Ambassador to Yemen, who viewed the security situation in the area and over-saw discussions of an industrial dispute.

A representative of the company's striking workers said he failed to persuade workers to resume work after their offices were attacked and set ablaze after the riots.



Japanese ambassador (right), the director of factory Numan Duwaid (middle) and Amran governor Taha Hajer (second from right)

At the meeting, Numan Duwaid, General Manager of the factory asserted the claims of workers and the danger of employment in a volatile climate. He said: "What happened is an emergency not only in Amran; the riots took place in most of the Yemeni cities but did last for more than one and half days. We provided security for the company and intensified the size of military troops for protecting the company, its workers and equipment."

"If they have any comment on the security measures, we are ready to reconsider them and meet their demands," he added. "Their letters never included suggestions or complaints on the lack of security measures, and we were shocked to find out the company raising claims for huge sums of money in return for resuming work; a demand that is impossible to be met as we have contracts and agreements with the company that we cannot breach.

According to Duwaid, the company

contravened the law and went to the Cabinet claiming compensations for what they allegedly lost.

Taha Hajer, Governor of Amran told the Japanese Ambassador that security issues would be dealt with by local security forces.

He also claimed rather unconvincingly that "Being the top official in the governorate, I never learned of any clashes or confrontations with the Japanese workers during any events or riots witnessed in the country."

The Japanese Ambassador visited the cement factory site and toured new security installations, encouraging workers to feel secure and continue working.

Nuamn Duwaid told the Yemen Times the company should be held accountable for the days of suspension and the factory's administration is ready to accept negotiation for any legal work within limits of the contract.

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Numbers of diplomats slashed

SANA'A- Aug.29- Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Yemeni Foreign Minister has demonstrated his commitment to reducing the number of Yemeni nationals serving in diplomatic roles around the world.

A number of levels of diplomatic corps will be affected, contributing to a wholesale reduction of numbers. It is not clear yet which levels will see the clearest reduction.

He pointed out that a joint committee from the foreign, finance and civil service ministries had convened to remove around 50% of the active diplomatic workforce.

The foreign minister dilated on his goal by saying that the "number of our diplomatic missions will be decreased

to proportionally fit the role of each Yemeni embassy abroad, signaling out the ministry will discuss the reports prepared by a specialized committee last year with respect to cultural, media and military attachés under new directives to minimize public spending.

"Regarding the job hierarchy at the ministry, necessary procedures are taken for reforming it and upgrading performance of the diplomatic staff," al-Qirbi said. "There is a consultative company, which studies the installation of modern technology to dispense with diplomats."

The move demonstrates a genuine government commitment to labor rationalization and public spending reform.

Mismanagement in technical institutes

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

TAIZ- Aug.30- Ministry of education and technical training field committees reports, in Taiz, disclosed mismanagement in several technical institutes. These irregularities are realized by the violations of the technical institutes to allotted number of students. There are also irregularities in the method of discrimination between applicants. New departments in the institutes were

opened without furnishing the teachers, especially the automobile section. The committees also noticed the weak learning standards in some of the institutes.

This was discussed with Dr. Mansoor Ben Saqa'a Minister of Training and Technical education, with General institutes' managers and their deputies in the Minister's head quarters in the governorate, in a meeting that was mainly held to discuss these reports.

Shareholders clamor for compensation

IBB-Aug. 30- Around seven thousand shareholders of the Al-Munghidh Company appealed to President Saleh and the Parliament Speaker to grant them permission to organize a peaceful demonstration against the companies uncompensated seizure of their shares

The claimants allege that their capital, estimated at around 1.8 billion rials was seized illegally in what essentially amounts to corporate theft.

Al-Munghidh Company is chaired by Anas al-Ahdal, a prominent Islah Party

leader while Sheikh Abdulwahab al-Anis was responsible for compensation.

Some shareholders at the company were accused of backing the kidnapping of a US expert from an oil block in Marib. The victim was held until negotiations with Sheikh al-Ahmar granted the company compensation worth 1.8 billion in exchange for releasing the US expert. In effect, it is alleged that the company offset their loss by seizing investor shares instead of paying from their profits.

WTO in a seminar in MoLT

SANA'A- Aug 29- The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) held a seminar for representatives of business women groups on the steps have been taken towards Yemen's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), in addition to representatives from Women National Committee (WNC) and Yemeni Women Union (YWU). In his presentation Mr. Nageeb Hameem the head of the Communication and Coordination Office in the Ministry of

Industry and Trade (MoIT) mentioned to the preparations stages for the membership of the (WTO) started since 1998 in that term he said that we already completed nearly three quarters of our negotiation process and still one third which is the most difficult, and he added that Yemen got financial and technical support from the European Union executed directly by the German Technical Cooperation Foundation (Gtz). On other hand the

participants raised the inquiries of the advantages and disadvantages that Yemen will gain from accession to the (WTO) and how could we protect the national products towards the regional and international products, and what are the impacts on the customers especially the majority of the limited incomes. Finally the seminar came out to more dissemination for the (WTO), the trade international conventions, and the national efforts in this field.

YALI breaks record

Tops all language institutions

HAKIM ALMASMARI
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SANA'A Aug.30- The Yemeni American Language Institute (YALI) topped this year's list for most English student enrollees during the summer vacation. In the short span of two and a half months, nearly 6000 students enrolled in numerous English classes

at YALI, making it the highest number recorded for foreign language students in the history of Yemen.

On the other hand, The Modern American Language Institute. (MALI) was a distant second place in the standings, followed by The Modern British student enrollees during the summer vacation. In the short span of two and a half months, nearly 6000 students enrolled in numerous English classes

enrollees from a year ago. For the past four years English language students has increased dramatically. Numbers are expected to rise even more by next summer. Nearly 20,000 students are expected to enroll in (YALI) in 2005 alone. It is worth mentioning that (YALI) is the first English language institution in Yemen, and has been serving the Yemeni community for nearly thirty years.

Pilot killed in MIG-21 plane crash

Hodeida, Aug. 30- News just in, a Meg-21 fighter jet has crashed killing the only pilot. Sources told the Yemen Times: " a Meg-21, Russian manufactured and belonging to the 67 Aviation Division west of

Hodeida, crashed last Sunday morning while lieutenant Riyadh Ali Zayed, was in undertaking aeronautical exercises"

Members of the press have claimed that the aircraft was not only

very old and beyond its period of usefulness, but also poorly maintained.

This is the third crash this year, the second of the same model in 2005 and the tenth over a six-year period.

Film on British colonization in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Two Egyptian artists are currently on a visit to Yemen. Ali Badr Khan, film director, and Mahmoud Hamidah, film star, have arrived in Sana'a recently upon an invitation extended by the Ministry of Culture.

They had told the press they are planning to film a movie on the British colonization in the southern part of Yemen,

addressing mainly the period between 1964-1965, which saw fierce resistance operations that paved the way for the 1967 British Evacuation. The film would display how arms were transported from the North to the South by Yemeni resistance elements across borders despite tight security. It would feature the difficulties encountered by the resistance fighters.

The film is expected to be discussed jointly with the Ministry of Culture's offi-

cialists before production commences.

The guests has joined local cultural functions and made a tour of some historic places in the province of Sana'a such as Dar al-Hajar. They were expected to visit the province of Aden and areas where the real events in concern took place. They intend to meet and talk to living revolutionaries to know more about the past situation. Most of the film actors would be Yemeni.

Health sector reforms

Yemeni fellowship emerges

SANA'A- Aug.29- As part of a government initiative for improving the national health sector, the ministry of Health in conjunction with the European Mission held a forum to outline new medical training standards. Health care professional and academics from all over Yemen converged on the symposium to bring the nations hospitals up to international standards.

Dr. Kalid Saeed AL-Aghbari, Secretary general of the Yemeni Medical Council said "A two-day workshop was held to discuss the possibility of establishing Yemeni Fellowship and Yemeni specialization certificate that would be placed the diploma which was a short-period training. The doctors who get these certificates was so short due to the short period, yet, we extend the short-period

training to two years to accommodate the many skills and experience that doctors are supposed to get. Fortunately, the Yemeni council has put the standards and criteria for the new certificates named Yemeni specialization certificate. The certificate of Yemeni Fellowship will be equal to Arab certificate such the Egyptian fellowship, Jordanian fellowship and Royal College fellowship and American Board Fellowship."

About the recommendations of the two-day workshop AL-Aghbari also said "From the full fruitful discussion between the many professors who attended from Aden, Hadramout, Dhamar, Sana'a university and official body from our ministry, all agreed on the importance of those two certificates and the importance of establish and start this training in

Yemen for a number of reasons. The most important ones are the highly experience that candidate get it from Yemen for various reasons. From the financial point, we have a lot of obstacles when we send our candidates to outside especially the shortage of the financial support from our government at the present time. In addition to, the local experience, there is special health problems that we can only find and learn from them in Yemen not from outside. Sure we can get some experience from outside, the specialized experts whom we can bring then to share us in the final assessment of our candidates. In the next academic year that will start in October, the new program and Yemeni fellowship will be implemented. These two certificates will be main certificates in our council and ministry of health."

Child labor persists

By FAHMIA AL FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

SANA'A -Aug 30- The campaign "Limit the Child labor Together" has an uphill battle. Under the leadership of Mr. Abdulkareem AL-Arahabi, the minister of Social Affairs and labor, the labor forces and the child labor unit at the ministry of social affairs and labor held last week the final workshop to review the framework of the national policy that aims to limit the child labor phenomenon. The workshop was held with the cooperation of the International Labor Organization and International Program on the Elimination of Child labor.

Mr. Yaseen Abdo Saeed, undersecretary of labor forces, declared, "This workshop comes to crown eight regional workshops that were organized in eight governorates most affected by child labor. This workshop is a summary of these eight workshops and it aims to finalize and crystallize the results of these previous workshops and discussions about child labor. The workshops showed every governorate had its own child labor phenomenon. For example, in Ibb governorate most of children work in agriculture and are exposed to chemicals and

pesticides while in Hodeidah governorate children mostly work in fishing and are exposed to sea hazards. However, all governorates are suffering from the same negatives of child labor phenomenon. This workshop is held by the ministry of social affairs and labor along with International Labor Organization and International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor to issue a final draft for fighting the child labor in order to introduce it to the donors and have their support to effectively end up this phenomenon."

Ms. Mona Ali Salem, general manger of child labor unit, commented "The child labor unit is doing a number of works specialized in eliminating the child labor phenomenon in Yemen including setting up the programs and plans aimed to eradicate this phenomenon. The aim of the workshop of today is to review the framework of the national policy for eliminating the child labor problem that has been discussed in a number of governorates of the republic and now is to be displayed to concerned and involved bodies in ministries, governmental institutions, local and civic society organizations to issue and ratify it if it is appropriate."

Ms. Mona added, "The child labor unit

is established in 2001. The unit works in three dimensions, offers protection programs, raising awareness and modifies the legislations related to child labor. We approximately have successfully finished the first phase. The total number of the children who have benefited from the protection program is about 2179. We have drawn them from the working in highly-dangerous workplaces to less-hazardous places. However, we with some cooperative families with us and civic society organizations, have managed to draw completely around 132 child from the labor market and enroll them in schools. We have helped a large number of children by reducing the working hours as some children work up to 18 hours a day while the law states only 6 hours is permitted. So some labor owners cooperate with us and we reduce the working hours to 8-7 hours as the beginning to reduce it to 6 hours. There are now some laws to fight the worst forms of child labor that impose a punishment on the labor owners who exploit children who are under 14 years old in working in hazardous places such as with pesticides, cutting stones and quarry work. The punishment varies between jailing for 4-5 years and paying fines that are not less than 20,000 YR."

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

The secondary school results revealed girls distinction for the second year. Are girls more perseverant than boys?

Obviously yes
No, it is just a strike of luck

Last edition's question:

International Human Rights organizations criticized the government for the oppressions that the journalists faced in the few past weeks. Do you expect that there would be unbiased investigation on this matter?

No 81%
Yes 11%
I don't know 8%

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

New batch of American boats

ADEN- Aug.30- The Yemeni Coast Guard will receive a new batch of American boats.

A source in the Coast Guard Authority said that the department of maritime security will receive four modern boats next month, which are a grant from USA government.

The source added that the boats will bolster coast guard surveillance abilities in protecting Yemeni territorial waters. This will help in the combat of smuggling, illegal infiltration and keeping peace in international navigation lines in the Red sea and the Arabian Gulf. Sources say that another 6 bigger Malaysian boats joined the Coast Guard force last month.



Advertisement for Land Acquisition

The World Bank Office in Sana'a is seeking to buy a plot of land in Sana'a with the following specifications:

1. Location: Hadda area, Al-Safiyah, Dhaher Hemiar.
2. Area between 8,000 and 12,000 m² (180-270 libna).
3. Good access to main road and public transportation.

Expression of Interest should also include the following information:

1. Area size (libna or m²).
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3. Price per libna or m².
4. Legal documents of ownership.

Please submit your EOI in sealed envelopes clearly marked "Land Bid" before September 15, 2005 to:

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Hadda, St. No. 40 (off Damascus Road),
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Yemen signs 20 years LNG sale agreement

By HASAN ALZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, Y.T. 30 Aug. - The government of Yemen has approved the development plan for the Yemen LNG liquefied natural gas project. The shareholders in Yemen LNG, for which TOTAL is the leader (42.9%), will build a liquefaction plant in the port of Balhaf on the southern coast of Yemen, around 200 Kilometers from Mukalla. The construction contracts will be awarded in the coming days.

The plant will have two trains with a combined capacity of 6.7 million metric tons a year and will be supplied with gas from block 18 located in the central Marib region, around 180 kilometers east of Sana'a. The gas will be transported to the plant by a 38-inch, 320-kilometers long pipeline.

Yemen LNG has signed three long-term (20years) sale and purchase agreements for the plant's output- one with Suez LNG Trading for 2.5 million metric tons a year, one with one Kogas for 2 million metric tons a year and one with Total Gas & Power Ltd., for 2 mil-



lion metric tons a year.

The Yemen LNG liquefaction plant is scheduled for commissioning in late 2008.

"Yemen LNG is part of Yemen Government plans to develop its gas

resources. This new project will strengthen Yemen presence on the Global Oil and Gas market and will provide a unique opportunity for developing Yemen expertise and bring wealth to the country and its people,"

says Dr. Rasheed Baraba, Minister of Oil and Minerals and Chairman of the Board of YLNG

The Yemen LNG shareholders are the Yemeni government, represented by Yemen Gas Company (23.10%),

TOTAL (42.90%), Hunt Oil Company (18%) and South Korea's Sk Corporation (10%) and Hyundai Corporation (6%). Under the agreement with Kogas, the utility will acquire 6% interest in Yemen LNG in the near future.

Dr. Baraba added that this agreement is a result of the developing political and economic relations with Korea. The project whose first export shipment will be in 2008, will secure a large income of hard currency. It will furnish a sum of 10 million at the con-

struction stage. This is going to support the unemployment curbing strategy.

It is worth mentioning that this agreement was met with great discontent when it was tabled for endorsement by the parliament. The parliament recommended that the government should cater for a reserve for future electric power generation. A large number of MPs think that it is a depletion of resources.

The outcome of this agreement will be about \$17 milliiards within a period of 20 years.

Deputy Russian council leaves Yemen

Last Sunday, the Russian deputy council, Mr. Abakarof, left Yemen after five years. He spoke to Yemen Times about his impressions before leaving Sana'a. He said that he will be missing Yemen greatly after the enjoyable period he spent in such a nice country.

He said that his stayment represents the first five enjoyable years during which he learned a lot.

He continued saying that the 5years and seven months that he spent, made him the oldest official in the embassy. Had it not been for his enjoyment of his stay, he wouldn't have spent all that time.

Mr. Joseph hoped for another return to Yemen because he loved Yemen, its people, land and sea.

He said that there is mutual love that grew between him and the Yemeni



people. This could be realized by the large number of people who came to see him off. "It is the result of the love that I exchanged with Yemeni people during this period", he said.

Joseph said that he is looking forward to the day when he could return to this country. He is hopeful that it would be in a short time.

He concluded by saying "When I first came here I was obsessed by the advice of friends that I will be going to an impossible country. But I adapted myself by the lapse of time and found things contrary to the grim picture drawn by friends. Yemeni people proved to be nice, simple and friendly and things are very different to all that is said about them. He expressed his heartfelt love for the Yemeni people and hoped they will achieve progress and peace.

Continued from page 1

IHI suspends work on Cement Factory

"We still have rights to claim from the company, and in case the suspension from work continues for a longer period of time, we will resort to the judiciary," the Cement Factory Manager pointed out, warning any parties of intervening to tackle the situation. He said negotiations and treatments should proceed within the limits of the contract.

These warnings come after rumors about negotiations between the company and the Cabinet under which the latter grants the former certain amounts of money in exchange for resuming work after the company set its demands for compensations totaling up to 30 million dollars.

Reliable resources confirmed to the Yemen Times that the company asks for compensations amounting up to 13 million dollars for the days of suspension over security concerns. Abdu Saleh Thabet station manager of the expansion project said this is a merely extortion and prolonging of the process and ascertained the latest negotiations with the company yielded positive results in favor of Amran Cement Factory such as paying half the cost of a 10-megawatt electricity transformer.

"The administration of the factory will not surrender to any pressure from any party and the factory will insist on claiming its rights particularly as it contributes considerable revenues to the State's budget," said Duwaid. "We never accept any justifications for violating the international standards and specifications in the selection of locations according to the contracts signed in circumstances that appeared to serve the factory in particular and the public interest in general.

The Cement Factory signed an expansion contract on June 24 with the Japanese Company IHI after the Cabinet approved the tender since the local demand for cement rose by 5.6% every year. The cost of the project was estimated at \$141 million to be taken from revenues of the factory, and the production of the expanded project will start by the advent of the coming year.

The progress in the implementation of metal and mechanical works carried out by the Malaysian Company JEL reached 95%. The achievement rate in the field of electricity implemented by Toshiba was estimated at 50%.

The production capacity of the factory came at 6.3 million tons a year between 1998 and 2002; however this quantity could not meet the rising demand in the local market which helped push the price to 1400 rials per sack. An additional one million tons will be produced each year to meet the growing demand of a booming building sector.

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Sector and Demography Support (HSDS) Project

Announcing Vacancy for the Post of Financial Management Specialist

The Ministry of Public Health & Population (MoPHP) has received a grant from the European Commission (EC) to implement its Health Sector and Demography Support (HSDS) Project, targeting Taiz and Lahj governorates. The project is coordinated centrally by the Health Policy and Technical Support Unit (HPTSU) within the MoPHP, and is implemented by the Governorate Health Offices (GHO) of Taiz and Lahj.

The HSDS project seeks to applicants for the post of "Financial Management Specialist" who will be responsible for fiduciary and financial management as well as auditing of funds utilized by implementing parties. The "Financial Management Specialist" will be based in Sana'a, and will report and be accountable to the Project Coordinator, and will work closely with the GHO's, and other relevant departments of the MoPHP.

The "Financial Management Specialist" will be responsible for the following:


1. Manage all aspects of the project's financial transactions and related arrangements with implementing parties which includes review of requests for funds, facilitation of approved payments, withdrawal applications, follow-up on clearance of advances transferred to recipients of funds, etc.
2. Record, collect, and file supporting documentation, of all financial transactions of the project and ensure that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with EC guidelines, budget, and financial management guidelines.
3. Prepare regular financial statements for the HSDS project to be submitted to the Project Steering Committee, EC, and other bodies.
4. Conduct audit of funds and advances transferred to recipients of HSDS Project funds.
5. Ensure that the project is audited annually according to the requirements of the project.
6. Provide financial and accounting support to the Project Coordinator including verbal and written communication, documentation and archiving, and follow-up on all financial matters with the relevant parties.
7. Act as the focal point for all dialogue on financial matters related to the project.
8. Assist the recipients of HSDS project funds (as may be required) to understand and implement EC and HSDS fiduciary procedures to ensure that disbursement is in accordance with EC and HSDS regulations and guidelines.
9. Assist in procurement performed (such as preparation of bidding documents) by the HSDS project and ensure that procurement and tendering procedures are according to EC and HSDS project regulations and guidelines.
10. Travel to the governorates as may be necessary.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of 5 years of financial management, accounting, and auditing experience.
- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in accounting or audit.
- A good knowledge, and use of the generally accepted financial management, accounting, and audit principles.
- The ability to operate financial management and accounting software, keep updated financial management and accounting records, and books of accounts.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing in Arabic and English.
- Familiarity with EC and government financial procedures and guidelines.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by Wednesday the 14th of September 2005. Interested consultants may obtain further information and the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the post at the address below during official office hours.

Health Sector and Demography Support (HSDS) Programme
Health Policy and Technical Support Unit (HPTSU)
3rd Floor- Ministry of Public Health and Population
P.O. Box 1352 - Sana'a - Republic of Yemen
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT


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Backward developments

One after another

HAKIM ALMASMARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

As we entered the 21st century, many questions arose. One that passed through everyone's mind was, is our country going in the right direction, or not? Observing government officials while giving their lovely speeches, one would definitely say "yes". Unfortunately it's the other way around. People only recently realized the crucial situation they are handling and are starting to prepare for a dark and unstable future.

World observers are noticing a shift in tone in Yemen's political agenda, as they are seemingly heading backward, while in the other hand authorities are not doing enough to prevent this country from future droughts and a possible full pledge catastrophe. A dedicated and honest government is the only solution to guarantee rapid success for the future of this long oppressed nation.

Despite its location in the oil rich Middle East, Yemen is still one of the poorest countries in the world. On going efforts to reduce poverty is usually heard of, but until now, no positive progress has been noticeable. Oil fields are drying out, water resources vanishing, and poverty rates reaching an unbearable sixty percent. Unemployment was running at almost 40 percent two years ago, not to mention the present situation, which could only be worse.

University graduates with no jobs reaching unimaginable numbers, while those who occupy jobs in some situations rarely get \$1 an hour! According to the latest World Bank Report, forty two percent of Yemen's 21 million people live under the U.S \$2 per day. Illiteracy rates are estimated near 50

percent in total, and a whopping 87% among the poor and lower class citizens.

Pledges and promises made are never given the importance they deserve. The government is ruled by a handful of uneducated tribes whom in return don't look for a prosperous future for Yemen. Sales taxes are the newest of our non-stop tragedies, and much more unknown hidden surprises coming.

Picturing Yemen ten years from now, and imagining the outcome of this on going episode, we ask ourselves one question, who is responsible for all these backward developments? Fingers pointing at one another are seen. People trying to desperately convince themselves that there could be hope in the near future. Is a bright future possible? Looking at the current circumstances our country going threw, I don't think so.

Developments, which are essentials of life, are considered by the majority of people, as a great success and a positive step forward. Government authorities are continuously being thanked for sacrifices and promises that have not yet been accomplished. Changes must come from within our mentality. Yemen is heading threw a one way dark passage, which has no way out, but turning back and returning threw the same path. What makes this issue even more horrifying is that most people don't feel responsible for what is happening, and for this they seem to lose hope on having any chance to change the current situations. In order to make a great leap, tremendous efforts must start immediately.

Almost eight percent of people in Yemen experience severe hunger, and cannot afford to buy food for themselves or their families. According to Naila Sabra, the UN World Food Program (WFP) representative for

Yemen, Poverty has dramatically increased during the past two years, as officials are not giving poverty a great concern. She quoted " Most of the funds are being spent on construction and does not reach the poor".

Turning the view to a number of various issues, why are crimes spreading so vastly? Theft cases heard of on a daily basis. According to a recent survey, an estimated 50,000 mobile phones get stolen yearly in Yemen. Adultery noticed like never before, and has turned into a normal issue in our once called conservative society. Temporary marriages on the rise as wealthy Gulf citizens flock the country and marry young innocent girls whom many are under the age of 12. Polio cases reaching the hundreds, while hundreds more suspected to be carrying the deadly disease. I could only imagine what would be the outcome

Looking at the standard of living in other Arab countries and comparing them from were we are now, it's very sad to even compare. The success of the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990 was a sign of commitment to the people, but the bulk of its success vanished as time passed.

Incredibly awkward, authorities somehow manage to overcome any crisis it faces, turning a difficult to survive situation into a convincingly normal issue. I just wish that these great skills, which they possess in politics are used for the benefit of the people, and not the opposite.

People have lost hope for even having a chance for a bright future. The only perception that many citizens are worried about is, will our children's lives be better or worse than ours.

It is not too late for developments. Changes are always on the table and are like a deck of cards waiting to be picked up. God willing, if we follow the right procedures we can come out prosperous in this dangerous fight.



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Incense... the perfume of life

By MARIAM SALEH SAEED

Incense is more than a fragrance, a cure, smoke in temples or an aromatic ritual associated with worship. Incense was used by kings and beggars alike (though not in the same quantity) to mark celebrations or rituals. The smoke created an ambience of atmosphere which created feelings of love, brotherhood and cordiality.

The "loban" gum tree and incense

There are seemingly myriad forms of incense, but the stuff produced from the Loban gum tree is gummy and flows down the bark of a tree like blood from a wound. The incense gum is known for its fragrant smell when it is burnt during religious rituals.

Its main homeland is the central south coastal area of Arabia, especially Hadramout, Socatra Island, Dhafar and the Somali coastal area. The "loban" and "Mor" grow on both sides of Aden bay. The Yemeni incense through times varied from loban to Mor and Sabr.)

Historical review

The patient, single humped camel, played a vital role in introducing this stuff to the rest of the world. Since it was first tamed, it strongly led the efforts of permeating the arid Arabian Desert; this is, of course, due to its unique adaptation to the desert's sweltering heat. This made the camel capable of conveying perfume and incense in trade from south Arabia to the rest of the world along what came to be called the incense route. Hellenic and Roman historians were well aware of incense and the cost of its procurement. Alexander the Great was planning the conquest of South Arabia and the coast of the Red Sea before his death in Babylon.

The incense route is about 3500 kilometers long. It used to connect the Indian Ocean's coast with The Mediterranean, in a trip that takes the caravans about seventy to ninety days. The caravans that took the incense to the Roman Empire used to be about two kilometers in length. They covered from thirty to forty kilometers a day. They carried an annual load of about seven to ten thousand camels of incense. This doesn't show the total product of South Arabia (Yemen). Other amounts were exported to ancient Iraq through the city of (Jarha) in the Arabian Gulf, while other shipments went to India.

Incense is considered to be a holly perfume. It was used in the sacrifice ceremonies in the temples of Babylon, Ninwa in Iraq, in addition to the ancient Egyptians, in the Nile valley who used it in mummification and death ceremonies.

Around the third century BC, The Greeks used the incense in their rituals, and the custom was adopted by the Romans. The writing of the explorers, especially those of the Greeks, mentions the importance of the prosperity of incense in South Arabia, in the centuries before birth of Christ. Some of the chapters of these writings speak of the daily life in the Yemeni Saba'a kingdom. Historians consider the trip of Queen Bilqis to meet King Solomon to be a commercially motivated mission to facilitate the movement of her perfume and incense caravans through Asia Minor and the Palestinian lands. An old Assyrian document mentioned that the incense caravans used to pay customs to other parties that the incense caravans cross their territorial lands. One of the documents mentioned that the ruler of Maru in western Iraq seized a caravan of 200 camels and confiscated its load of iron, cloth, wool and alabaster. That was because of



their reluctance in paying the taxes of coming through these lands.

Other documents mentioned the taxes that the Yemenis used to pay in 7BC to the Assyrians kings (Sergon ii) and (Senharib) in the form of perfumes and gold and jewels. The latest discoveries of the Russian archeological mission, confirmed that incense used to be grown in Southern Arabia. They discovered buried incense in sacks of palm leaves, near the coast of (Gani) port, in Aden Gulf.

The importance of incense is indicated in the historical sources. Of these is the writing of Herodotus in which it is said that the incense tree is guarded by speckled winged snakes, where a number of them are found around each tree.

Roman historian, Polonius Senior, said that Nero ordered all the annual import of incense from Arabia to be burnt during the funeral of his wife Boba.

Polonius also wrote (All the incense that is collected by the priests is carried on camels to Sabota "Shabwa" where one of the city's gates is opened to let the incense caravan in. Diverting the incense caravan away from the city is considered to be a crime. In Sabota one tenth of the load is taken as a tax for their god).

In classical Greece Arabia was known as Arabia Eudemon, or "happy Arabia". The Romans called Arabia, Arabia Felix.

Incense was also an important item at the Islamic era. It used to bestow a sense of refreshments and happiness on meetings.

Tales and legends

Generations in different eras used to tell fables and legends about the incense. There are many legends on the incense and its derivatives. They assume that the incense tree is always found in the middle of a dense jungle. The attainment of this tree requires a great venture, because of the tales that speak of the tall trees that shade it and the big poisonous snakes that often guard it. They say that because these snakes are fond of the fragrance of the incense, they often embrace and guard it. These tales are still being told by

number of purposes. Some of these could be:

- In wedding ceremonies, where the censer carriers often move among invited guests reciting certain verses.

- It is a habit that incense is burnt in a patient's room. There is a belief that the fragrance of the incense drives away evil spirits and takes away enviousness. It also changes the smell of the patient's room. It is also believed to heal wounds and stop bleeding. Incense is also used as a poison antidote.

Incense is still hand-made, and thousands of families, the majority of them women, inherit this craft and keep the secrets of their formulas. The produce is either sold or given as a gift, however many families still make a living out of incense preparation.

Adeni women are the best among incense makers

Aden is unique in incense preparation. It has a historical reputation in producing and marketing this stuff, because of its position as a confluence for east and west going caravans. The historical and geographical position of Aden contributed to that. It is now the site for international incense export and import companies.

Yemeni incense recipe is a secret possessed by some Yemeni women. It is a mixture of perfumes that come from all over the world. It is made up, for instance, of Indian aloes (wood), German and Chinese musk and other perfumes that come from other parts of the world. There are other ingredients including sugar and other Arabian stuffs. The secrets of incense making are almost with most of Adeni women, but there are experts who know the exact constituents and amounts.

Yemen times met Haja Radia Salim-60, who is one of incense experts. She told us that she started this craft forty years ago. She learnt it from her mother and aunt who inherited it from earlier ancestors. She became famous and now she has foreign clients. Mrs. Radia gave a brief description on the costs and constituents of incense recipe.

Incense trade waning

Modern generation's shift to modern products, contributed to the recess in incense markets. A deputy manager in an incense manufacturing company said that there are no factories for incense, but there are some small traditional plants that treat incense. They were established by some companies, but in spite of their preponderance to home made incense, they can not compete internationally. There are now some creams and deodorants that have the incense fragrance.

Nasir Abdul nabi, a merchant whose family has worked in incense making for over a hundred years now, says that the ingredients of incense making are all being imported now. The local constituent that gave Yemen its historical reputation are deteriorating because of drought and economic decline.

There is still hope

In spite of all the difficulties, some companies are planning to revive incense trade and export. This is what is said by the company's deputy manager. He added that they are now exporting large amounts to many countries such as Canada, Britain and East African countries.

A nation's history needs to be preserved, because lessons drawn from history could be of use in the future that is why it is important to take care of a glorious industry that we inherited from our ancestors before it fades out.

Half the World

By Nisha

Women and migration

Arab youth! Well, you were absent and your absence was felt. And pointed out. In case you are wondering, I am talking about the conference, *Arab Youth Strategic for MDGs*, which was held from 22-23 June 2005 by the UNDP and UNDESA in Sana'a. The inauguration was ... as usual - speeches and reiteration of commitments to instil confidence in youth, to give them a right to have a say in their countries' development, and encapsulation of achievements. While all these things were going on, a colleague from a neighbouring country quipped, "Where are you from?" Expected question at a regional conference with participants from the Arab countries as well as other parts of the world. I replied, "Yemen." "Oh! I thought you are from India," he sounded surprised. "Yes, I am an Indian citizen but," before I could complete the sentence, he interjected, "So you are married in Yemen." I was about to say, "bandhu, I am meeting you at a conference that has participants from different parts of the world working in this region with governmental and international organizations. Shouldn't you link my presence in Yemen with work rather than marriage?" But his sincere appearance stopped me. "Oh no, I am working here," I answered. Mercifully the inauguration related preliminaries were short and the plenary on youth, globalization and media started. My colleague was an enthusiastic participant.

While listening to the presentations about how media contributes to globalization and how it is affecting Arab youth, I couldn't stop thinking about my brief conversation with my colleague. I was asking myself if he would have linked my presence in Yemen with marriage if I were a man. Most probably he would not. Women are participating in public life like never before and have come up on their own in different areas yet their identity derived from family relationships holds primacy. A large number of women are globetrotting but majority migrate upon marriage - one of the reasons behind the tendency to link women's presence outside their parental home place to marriage.

This thought motivated me to think about an important aspect of globalization that affects youth, specially young women all over the world - migration. If we do not take into account slavery, bonded labour, trafficking in women, and migration as domestic servants, historically, migration for work has been the preserve of men. Most women from communities other than nomadic were not very mobile. Even when married to expatriate men, culture expected women to stay back in the marital household and take care of the family. Those who migrated supported their husbands by managing households. Even now when there are greater opportunities across borders, cultural and traditional expectations from women force women to choose between marriage and career, especially if the career involves migration.

That means while the number of women in transferable jobs and jobs outside home place is growing, significant barriers and challenges remain and continue to obstruct women's movement in the public space, specially if the concerned public space happens to be outside the boundaries of home place. Traditional stereotypes, unjust work divisions, reproductive functions, and mixing up with men, and overt and

covert discriminatory factors continue to prevent women from entering the mobile public space in large numbers. These discriminatory factors caused and conditioned by the traditional gender relations, prevent women from taking up work involving travel and stay outside home place. These factors support attitudinal barriers leading to marginalization of women from the public space and strengthen the belief that public space should be governed by men. The traditional gender relations are based on the public-private divide and keep women's labour engaged in reproductive and unpaid work within the private sphere to allow men to concentrate on paid work in the public sphere.

The map of the private sphere is under tremendous transformation from being a sphere of unpaid work to an area offering opportunities of paid work. The private sphere, which is usually considered static or immobile, has undergone far-reaching changes to encompass households within and outside the boundaries of home place. Women are a major migrant labour force in this sphere. A large number of women are moving across borders within this private sphere in hope of improving their families' and their own lives. Inequitable growth and distribution of wealth has brought about changes in lifestyle of a large number of household without significantly altering gender relations. So in many financially well to do families instead of family women doing household chores, poor women are being hired to take care of those chores. And since the emphasis is on cheap labour, import and export of women who are willing to migrate due to economic distress has turned the private sphere too into an international commercial space. Poor women in this private commercial space are trying to make best of the situation. Growing physical mobility has helped women gain confidence and it has motivated women to increase the standard of living of their families and improve their lives.

But because this space is private, it remains unrecognized and linked to marriage and family. And as such also a space of growing exploitation of cheap labour. Also, cultural norms continue to look down upon women's migration and it is seen as an outcome of men's failure to provide for the family and their inability to keep women within the boundary. The social disapproval obstructs open discussion about women's migration and difficulties and harassment that women face in the private commercial space. These factors also make women more vulnerable to trafficking.

Migration can have a positive effect women's status. It opens up new possibilities of social, cultural and economic benefits. It helps women acquire new skills, greater confidence and broader worldview. But unless migration is balanced in both public and private spheres, and there are changes in the gender relations, its benefits will remain shadowed by its negative consequences. Given the challenges arising from globalization and increasing unemployment, women's migration is only going to increase. So it is vital that governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities work together to change perceptions about women's role in both spheres. It would help ensure recognition of the realities of women's migration and their presence in and contribution to the public space. This is a prerequisite to ensure women's safety in the private commercial space and greater gender justice in the public space.

Girl's education symposium

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ADEN

The Ministry of Education is augmenting its efforts to expand female education. The push comes in the light of recent information which suggests that unlike most parts of the world, female education is actually falling behind male. Social traditions are blamed for this, because girls are involved in rural micro-economics more than boys. They are responsible for taking care of the live stock and agricultural activities. The ministry's efforts are to increase the number of the enrolment of girls who mostly contented with learning how to write and read. The ministry had recently established a section for this purpose, and it is now setting plans and strategies in coordination with foreign and governmental donations to achieve this end. Many debates and workshops are con-

ducted to raise parents' awareness.

On Sat.27Au, a symposium on rural girl's education was held in Alsaeed Hall. There were 66 participants. They were from educational departments in Taiz, Academicians, professors and representatives of the Japanese (Jica) organization and the Japanese project that are interested in educational processes in Yemen and Taiz in particular. Discussions in concentrated on the methods of how to increase the number of girls that join schools.

Mrs. Fawzia Noman, deputy minister of education, who headed the symposium, raised a number of issues on girl's education. She said that its rate increase in the number of girls is an indicator for their plan's success. She concentrated on parents' awareness, and that efforts should be directed to this important matter.

Dr. Mahdi Ali Abdulsalam, Manger of Taiz educational office spoke of the methods that the Japanese team could

adopt to develop girl education in Taiz governorate. He praised their great efforts in supporting the educational process in Taiz. He pointed out that they built 18 basic schools and participated in improving school environment. This led the educational office in Taiz to establish a special department for the improvement of environment. He said that the Japanese project first phase targeted six districts in Taiz. This will be a great contribute to developing girl's education in rural areas. He explained the efforts and the corporations of the different departments in the governorate together with the school activities that encourage girls to join schools.

Mrs. Jalila Shoja'deen, Manager of the unit of Girls Education in the social fund and Mrs. Aiko Sakurai, Japanese manager of Girls Education project, both spoke of the ways that could be followed to boost the plans and programs of girl's education in Taiz. They

reviewed what is to be presented to these projects. A number of participants demanded that school radio should be taken as a model for developing parent's awareness. They also recommended the integration of efforts to guarantee success in preparing women to play their role in bringing up their kids in the appropriate manner.

The symposium succeeded in giving simple ideas of the plans and programs of the Ministry of Education. It also highlighted the out puts of the Japanese project that aims at helping in achieving the Ministry's aims helped in that is plaid by the indications of the targets of the Ministry. The rate of education between males and females is 70-30, which necessitates the increased efforts and that the parents should be convinced to let their daughters to join school.

The debate was attended by all headmasters in Taiz, educational leaders and the Japanese staff of the project.

Protesters on both sides of Iraq war follow Bush

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, California (Reuters) - President George W. Bush was greeted by Iraq war supporters and protesters on Monday as he interrupted his Texas vacation to promote a new Medicare prescription drug program.

Hundreds of demonstrators for and against the Iraq war staged protests near Rancho Cucamonga, California, where Bush gave comments on Iraq into a Medicare speech to a group of senior citizens.

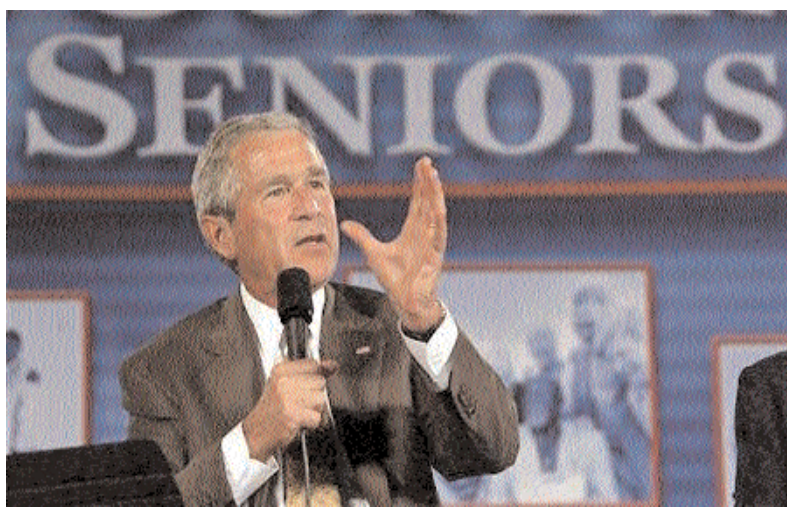
Bush said progress was being made in Iraq despite the ongoing attacks on U.S. and Iraqi security forces and Sunni opposition to the draft constitution.

"Success in Iraq is vital for peace ... and therefore the United States of America and our coalition will continue to work with the Iraqis to build a democracy," Bush said.

Outside the event, Bush backers with signs reading "Support Our President" squared off against critics with signs saying: "A Bush War is a Bad War."

Police separated the two sides, which each numbered about 200 people.

Anti-war protesters camped out near Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, where he has been on a month-long



vacation, announced details for a bus tour across the country that will end in Washington late next month.

Groups supporting Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq last year, said three buses carrying members of military families and anti-war veterans will leave Crawford next week on different routes heading to the U.S. capital.

Sheehan has been camped near the president's ranch seeking a second meeting with Bush and calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Supporters who have gathered there with her plan to take the campaign to other towns and cities along before

converging in Washington late next month to press their message with lawmakers, the sponsoring groups said on their Web site (www.bringthemhomenowtour.org). Sheehan plans to briefly join the bus tour.

Bush met with Sheehan once shortly after her son's death.

With almost 1,900 U.S. troops killed in the Iraq war, Bush's approval rating has fallen to new lows and he is under increasing pressure from critics to finish training a new Iraqi security forces and bring American soldiers home.

Bush has stressed repeatedly that he will not prematurely pull the troops out of Iraq.

Trafficking of women, children on rise worldwide-UN

BEIJING (Reuters) - Human trafficking is on the rise worldwide, with millions of women and children ending up as sex slaves, beggars and mine laborers each year, U.N. officials said on Tuesday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour, speaking at an Asia-Pacific human rights conference in Beijing, called trafficking in humans horrendous.

"By its very nature, it constitutes an acute violation of human rights and reports today suggest that more people are being trafficked than ever before," she said.

The International Labour Organization estimated more than 2 million people were trafficked worldwide every year, the head of the U.N.

children's agency UNICEF said.

"No country or region is immune," UNICEF executive director Ann Veneman said.

"Children are forced into prostitution, begging and soliciting, labor on plantations and in mines, markets, factories and domestic work."

In the Asia-Pacific region, especially in Southeast Asia, the sex trade is a major factor behind the smuggling of people.

Girls from poor villages in Myanmar, Cambodia, the Philippines and elsewhere are lured into cities or neighboring countries and end up at massage parlors or karaoke bars, or are flown as far as Australia, Japan, South Africa and the United States to be kept as slaves in brothels.

Arbour urged countries in the region to ratify international human rights agreements to combat trafficking.

In China, the world's most populous country, trafficking of people is a common practice of gangs that have grown alongside government corruption and widespread poverty, academics say.

The sale of women and children is a nationwide problem, partly a result of stringent central rules on family planning that allow couples to have only one child.

Security was tight on Tuesday outside the Beijing hotel where the symposium is being held, apparently to prevent any disgruntled petitioners from approaching Arbour.

Venezuela softens stance on U.S. ties, drugs

CARACAS, Venezuela (Reuters) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Monday his government would renew cooperation with Washington in the fight against drug trafficking in an effort to improve ties strained by diplomatic squabbling.

Chavez's conciliatory gesture followed weeks of sniping between Venezuela and the United States after the left-wing leader suspended cooperation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and accused its agents of spying.

Addressing reporters after meeting with U.S. activist Rev. Jesse Jackson, Chavez said his government wanted to ease tensions between his government and the administration of President Bush.

"Despite of the differences and the tense relations... we are willing to continue working with the government of Mr. Bush in the fight against drugs," Chavez said with Jackson sitting by his side.

"We have no intention of damaging relations any further on the contrary we want to improve them in politics and in economics."

Relations between the United States and Venezuela, the world's No. 5 oil exporter, have chilled since Chavez came to power in 1998 ushering in social reforms and forging close diplomatic ties with Communist Cuba.

Washington portrays Chavez as a menace to the region, but the former soldier counters that his self-proclaimed revolution is an alternative to failed



U.S. civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Jackson (L) and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez attend a news conference at Miraflores Palace in Caracas, Venezuela Aug 29. Jackson on Sunday rejected U.S. government claims that Chavez is a threat to regional stability and called on both governments to curb escalating rhetoric to resolve their differences. Chavez said on Monday his government would renew cooperation with Washington in the fight against drug trafficking in an effort to improve ties strained by diplomatic squabbling. REUTERS

U.S. polices in South America.

Chavez often accuses the United States of plotting to kill him. Tensions were heightened further last week when conservative U.S. evangelist Pat Robertson called on Washington to assassinate Chavez. Robertson later apologized and U.S. officials called his remarks inappropriate.

Chavez held private talks with Jackson on Monday, during which they discussed Robertson's comments, bilateral relations and initiatives for the poor.

"What we discussed is the need for a

detente in the hostile rhetoric," Jackson told reporters.

After Venezuela suspended ties with the DEA, the United States revoked the U.S. visas of three top Venezuelan military officers, including the National Guard narcotics squad chief, who Washington said were suspected of drug trafficking.

Following Robertson's comments, Venezuelan authorities said they had temporarily suspended permits for foreign missionaries while they tightened regulations on religious groups entering the South American country.

Egyptian intelligence chief meets Abbas, militants

GAZA (Reuters) - Egypt's intelligence chief met Palestinian leaders and militant factions on Monday at the start of a mission to ensure Palestinians in Gaza can cross its borders more freely after Israeli troops quit the territory.

Greater freedom of movement for Gaza's 1.4 million inhabitants is widely seen as key to boosting the economy of the impoverished coastal strip and bolstering public support for moderate President Mahmoud Abbas and peace moves with Israel.

Palestinian officials said following his talks with Abbas and representatives of 13 armed factions, Egypt's Omar Suleiman would pursue a deal

with Israel over the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt.

Suleiman, visiting Gaza a day after a Palestinian suicide bomber critically wounded two guards at a bus station in southern Israel, made no comment to reporters.

Rafah is under tight Israeli security control and its handover to the Palestinian Authority or a third party could open the gates for many Gazans to leave the territory for the first time in years of conflict with the Jewish state.

Israel says its restrictions, mostly condemned internationally, stem from security concerns underscored by militant attacks in a nearly 5-year-old

Palestinian uprising.

Israel has evacuated 8,500 Jewish settlers from the Strip under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "disengagement plan" and says it expects to withdraw its troops from the area by mid-September to end a 38-year-old military presence.

"Regarding the crossing between Gaza and Egypt, there are slight things that should be finalized between Egypt and Israel," Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie, who also attended the talks with Suleiman, told reporters.

Suleiman was due to address the Palestinian parliament in Gaza on Tuesday and hold talks in Israel the next day.

Lebanon arrests three ex-security officials

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanese police arrested three former top Syrian security officials on Tuesday, a security source said, in a move believed to be linked to investigations into the killing of an ex-prime minister.

The source said Jamil al-Sayyed, former chief of the General Security Directorate, Ali Hajj, ex-head of police, and Raymond Azar, ex-head of military intelligence, were arrested in raids at their homes at dawn by police.

It was not immediately clear why the arrests were made but the three men had been blamed by some Lebanese politicians of playing a role in the February 14 killing of ex-prime minister Rafik al-Hariri.

Another source confirmed the arrests of the former security officials

but said former member of parliament Nassir Qandil had not been arrested as reported earlier. Police raided Qandil's home but did not find him, he said.

Several other people were also arrested, the sources said.

They added the chief of the Republican Guard Mustafa Hamdan, the only remaining pro-Syrian security official still in his post after parliamentary elections produced an anti-Syrian majority, was said to be wanted for questioning.

A U.N. team probing the assassination of Hariri is wrapping up its work and its chief, German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis, is expected to report his findings to the Security Council in the next few weeks.

The killing of Hariri, which many in Lebanon blamed on Syria, brought

mass anti-Syrian demonstrations in Beirut. Damascus denied its involvement but bowed to world pressure and pulled out its 14,000 troops from the country in April.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said in an interview published on Sunday Damascus would fully cooperate in the Hariri murder investigation after Mehlis criticized Syria of not cooperating with the inquiry.

The three arrested former officers were in their posts when Hariri was killed. They were blamed for negligence and a role in the attempted cover-up of the murder.

Sayyed, the former head of the most powerful pro-Syrian security organs, resigned one day before Syria ended its military presence in Lebanon in April.

US says air strike kills Iraq al Qaeda fighters

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - The U.S. military said it had killed an al Qaeda militant named Abu Islam and a number of other fighters in air strikes on Karabla close to Qaim on the Syrian border on Tuesday.

"Intelligence leads Coalition forces to believe that Abu Islam and several of his associates were killed in the air strike," a spokeswoman said in Baghdad.

Earlier Arab television station Al Jazeera quoted doctors as saying at least

40 people were killed in an air strike near Qaim.

Al Jazeera said the U.S. forces had struck Qaim at 2:00 a.m. (2200 GMT on Monday). The U.S. spokeswoman said U.S.-led forces had "destroyed another terrorist safe haven" at 8:20 am.

"Two 500 pound precision-guided munitions were expended on each terrorist safe house," she said, adding that the military had "confirmatory information" that Abu Islam was dead. She said she had no precise information on casu-

alties.

Abu Islam is an alias used by several known Islamist militants.

Qaim lies in the Euphrates valley, which U.S. forces say serves as a route into Iraq from Syria for foreign Islamist fighters.

U.S. marines have launched several ground offensives against insurgents in the area in the past four months but residents and local officials say Islamist insurgents remain a significant force in several towns along the river.

Sharon: More West Bank settlements would go for peace

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said on Monday Israel would need to scrap further West Bank settlements under any final peace deal with Palestinians but would never cede its biggest enclaves in the occupied territory.

He was speaking a week after uprooting Jewish settlers from all 21 enclaves in Gaza and four of about 120 in the West Bank to "disengage" from conflict in occupied territory. U.S.-led mediators see the move as a catalyst for future peacemaking.

"Not all the settlements in Judea and Samaria today will remain ... when (we have completed) the last stage of the 'road map'," Sharon said, using biblical names for the West Bank and referring to an internation-

ally-backed peace plan.

Sharon stressed any such decision would only be part of a permanent peace accord, a position that enables him to balance world demands for a viable Palestinian state against a domestic political need to boost his support in the rightist Likud Party.

"Road map" talks are unlikely to start at least until after general elections in Israel and the Palestinian territories due next year.

Sharon did not say how many more settlements might be abandoned. Dov Weisglass, a senior aide to Sharon, has said Israel expected 180,000 of some 245,000 Jewish settlers could remain as part of a final peace deal, with U.S. approval.

Israel removed all 8,500 settlers

from Gaza and 500 from the West Bank this month — the first dismantling of Jewish enclaves from land Palestinians want for a state.

But Sharon repeated in his remarks on Channel 10 television Israel would never give up West Bank settlement blocs where the majority of settlers live among 2.4 million Palestinians.

"These settlements will remain in our hands and will be linked territorially to Israel. These blocs have first rate strategic importance for Israel," he said.

Palestinians have condemned Israel's continued expansion of major West Bank settlements, fearing this will deny them a viable, geographically contiguous state.

47 dead in U.S. air strike in Iraq-hospital source

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - At least 47 people died in two U.S.-led air strikes in the western Iraqi town of Qaim near the Syrian border on Tuesday, a Qaim hospital official told Reuters.

Mohammed al-Aani said 35 people died in one house and another 12 in a strike on a second house.

Earlier, the U.S. military said it had killed an al Qaeda militant named

Abu Islam and a number of other fighters in air strikes on Karabla close to Qaim. The U.S. military gave no details of the total number of casualties.

Japan PM, main rival stress reform as campaign starts

TOKYO (Reuters) - The campaign for an election that will decide the fate of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's government began officially on Tuesday, with frontrunner Koizumi and his main rival each insisting only he could enact real reform.

Koizumi, 63, called the September 11 election after rebels in his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) helped the opposition block bills to privatize the postal system, a vast financial entity including savings and insurance businesses with \$3 trillion in assets.

The silver-haired, telegenic prime minister told a crowd in western Tokyo that he wants to make the election a referendum on privatizing Japan Post, the cornerstone of his reforms.

"Parliament decided that postal privatization wasn't necessary," said a hoarse Koizumi, tieless in a pink shirt and white slacks, while fans took his photo with their mobile phones.

"If we can't do this, how can we carry out other reforms?" Koizumi asked a crowd estimated by police at 6,500 gathered near a train station under a blazing sun.

Banners proclaimed the LDP's slogan "Don't stop reform."

Uniformed police stood guard nearby and elsewhere in the capital police dogs sniffed under cars and around trash cans, a reminder that Japan — which has sent non-combat troops to help rebuild Iraq — is on alert for a possible terrorist attack.

The campaign, in which Koizumi has been cast by media as a feudal lord sending "assassins" to stand as candidates against "traitors" in his party who helped defeat the postal reform bills in parliament, has gripped the public.

Youthful candidates, policy debates and media strategists vying for TV air



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi speaks to voters at Kichijoji railway station in Tokyo to officially launch a dramatic campaign for a general election August 30. Koizumi has said the September 11 election is a referendum on reform. REUTERS

time in this election mark a sharp shift from campaigns once dominated by faction bosses appealing to narrow constituencies with pork-barrel projects and favors.

"It's on TV a lot this time. It's like show-biz news," said college student Yuko Akaho, 20, as she waited with a friend for Koizumi to appear. But Akaho also said she had a

serious reason for backing Koizumi. "The economy is recovering. We need him to continue because next year we have to look for jobs," she said

At least 50 reported dead from Hurricane Katrina

BILOXI, Mississippi (Reuters) - At least 50 people were reported dead in Mississippi while Louisiana officials scrambled on Tuesday to rescue hundreds stranded by high waters after Hurricane Katrina cut a deadly swath through the U.S. Gulf coast.

The killer storm inflicted widespread, catastrophic damage along the coast as it slammed into Louisiana on Monday with 140 mile per hour (224 kph) winds, then swept across Mississippi, Alabama and western Florida.

Throughout the region, shattered buildings sat among flooded streets and fields, broken boats and cars lay strewn about the landscape and debris and toppled trees were everywhere.

Officials told Mississippi newspapers at least 50 people were known dead in that state.

Harrison County Emergency Management spokesman Jim Pollard told the Jackson, Miss., Clarion

Ledger that 30 of them died at a Biloxi apartment complex where they were drowned or crushed by debris.

Most of the deaths appear to have been caused by a massive storm surge that swept in from the sea and as far as a mile

inland in parts of Mississippi.

Others died, officials said, from falling trees and weather-related car wrecks.

"The state has suffered a grievous blow on the coast," Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said.

In many areas, rescuers struggled to reach potential victims because of high water or mountains of debris. In New Orleans, police said many people escaped rising water by climbing into their attics or up on their roofs.

Police said they were using boats to go into flood stricken areas to get those trapped in their homes. Some were plucked from roofs by helicopter.

Head of Iran's atomic program re-appointed

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has re-appointed Gholamreza Aghazadeh as head of the country's nuclear program, state media reported on Tuesday.

Aghazadeh who has led Iran's Atomic Energy Organization since 1997, backed Ahmadinejad's chief rival in June's presidential election,

leading some analysts to predict he would be replaced.

Oil Minister of the OPEC heavy-weight from 1985 to 1997, Aghazadeh is credited with advancing Iran's atomic program — which Tehran insists is purely for peaceful purposes — despite sanctions which forced it to turn to black market suppliers.

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Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR OPINION

Trusting the government

The new salaries strategy that aimed at defining the minimum salaries range for public sector employees has been fluctuating tremendously from one corner to the other, dragging with it the hanging eyes of the Yemeni citizens waiting for God's mercy to land on the Yemeni land. The decline from 20-thousand to 15.5 as the minimum salary for employees has caused many people to lose whatever trust they had in their government. Coupled with the conflicts among financial officials to the extent that some are rejecting the salary raises under the pretext that it was not included in the 2005 annual national budget, ignoring the fact that this budget was increased significantly because of the increase in oil prices worldwide.

Nevertheless, the official media in this context has been launching a wide campaign assuring the public regarding the salary increase and that it would start from next month with financial compensation for a period of two months for July and August when the oil subsidies were lifted causing high increase in the basic commodities.

Radio and TV interviews by officials target the nervous citizens in order to assure them that the government "knows better", that the price hikes are actually in the people's best interest, and that there will be an increase in the salaries to cope with price hikes. Of course, the government knows better, especially that this salary strategy cost the government more than three million US dollars according to sources.

It is thought that the Ministry of Finance will come forward with a proposal to the parliament for the ratification of an increase in the Ministry's budget by 400 billion rials in order to implement this strategy, which is about 50% of the national budget for the republic. Apparently, this new proposal comes after the parliament has approved an increase of 92 billion rials for the same, which was seen by the promise of increasing the maximum scale for salaries went down from eightfold to threefold only.

A very funny story goes around the Yemeni community regarding living conditions as it says there was an atheist person who did not believe in God until that person came to Yemen and saw how Yemenis are surviving with their current conditions. How Yemenis squeeze their income to barley cover their basic needs in addition to the Qat addiction is still a mystery to many. Perhaps the government is relying on the mysterious ways of Yemeni people to survive while planning their feeble economic strategies. Moreover, while many people still doubt there will be any increase in their salaries at the end of September, the comedy at the Ministry of Finance still goes on, confirming only one truth, God is here in Yemen!

The Editorial Board

Can democracy defeat terrorism?

By JOSEPH S. NYE

The Bush administration provided three major rationales for going to war in Iraq. Only one remains at all credible: the need to transform the Middle East through democratization and thereby undercut support for terrorists. But does this argument really have any more basis in reality than the administration's previous claims of an "imminent" threat from weapons of mass destruction or Saddam Hussein's alleged support for al-Qaeda?

With post-invasion inspectors concluding that no WMD stockpiles existed, and intelligence agencies now convinced that the Iraq war's net effect has been to boost al-Qaeda recruitment throughout the Islamic world, the Bush administration is understandably emphasizing the claim about democratization. Indeed, it has become a dominant theme of Bush's second term. As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice put it in a recent speech in Cairo, "Freedom and democracy are the only ideas powerful enough to overcome hatred, division, and violence."

Cynics view this as merely an argument of convenience, one that has gained in prominence only because the other two rationales for the war collapsed. More importantly, skeptics also doubt the validity of the administration's argument linking democracy and reduction of terrorism. After all, British citizens in one of the world's oldest democracies carried out the recent terrorist attacks in London. Similarly, an American citizen carried out the worst terrorist attack in the United States before September 11, 2001.

The skeptics have a point, but they go too far. For one thing, it is still too early to judge the merits of the argument. A full assessment of the Iraq war and its effects

on the Middle East will take a decade or more. Clearly, the January 2005 election there was a positive step for the region. In the last six months, there have been national elections in Lebanon and local elections in Saudi Arabia. Egypt has amended its constitution to allow its presidential election to be contested. Further elections are scheduled in Iraq and the Palestinian Authority. As Walid Jumblatt, the Lebanese Druze leader said, "It's strange for me to say it, but this process of change has started because of the American invasion of Iraq."

Perhaps that outcome shouldn't seem so strange. After all, as the columnist David Brooks recently observed, "If there is one soft power gift that America does possess, it is the tendency to imagine new worlds." In other words, the invasion of Iraq, and the subsequent increase in the rhetoric of democracy in the Middle East, may have changed frames of reference about the status quo.

Democracy, however, is more than just elections. It also requires tolerance of minorities and respect for individual rights, as well as the development of effective institutions for resolving political conflicts in divided societies. If this occurs in Iraq, it may provide some *post hoc* legitimization for the war.

But such an outcome remains in doubt. In the short run, the invasion of Iraq has created an intensifying insurgency and incipient civil war. The presence of foreign troops creates a stimulus for nationalist and jihadist responses. The future of Iraq, not to mention democracy there, remains uncertain at best.

Nevertheless, we can still conclude from the Iraqi experience that while the development of democracy can be aided from outside, it cannot easily be imposed by force. While it is true that Germany and

Japan became democratic after American occupation, it required their total defeat in a devastating war, and a seven-year occupation. Moreover, Germany and Japan were relatively homogeneous societies with some prior experience of democracy. It is hard to see such conditions repeated in today's world.

The Bush administration may be correct in arguing that the extremely high costs and risks of promoting democracy are less than the costs and risks of allowing the authoritarian status quo in the Middle East to persist indefinitely. But democracy is not the only instrument for a transformation that addresses the roots of terrorism. The development of civil societies, economic growth, and openness to the world are equally important. So is employing young men, educating young women, and addressing values of liberty and justice, which means ameliorating the sense of indignity in the region that stems from issues like the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Moreover, democracy alone will not convert the current crop of extremist jihadis to peaceful change. If anything, too rapid a democratic transition may destabilize governments and enhance the extremists' opportunities to wreak havoc.

But, in the longer term, the slow, steady progress of democratization can provide a sense of hope for moderates, creating a plausible vision of a better future — the essence of soft power — that undercuts the message of hate and violence promoted by the extremists. Democratization can surely help remove some of the sources of rage that fuel terrorism, but it is only part of the solution.

Joseph S. Nye is a professor at Harvard University and author of *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Killer bears and inflation

"I tell you, if it was up to me I would just take an AK-47 and hit inflation right in the heart" said Hamoud, as he put down the paper trying to find some good news to talk about.

"Look Hamoud, when was the last time you saw inflation? Can you tell us what it looks like?" asked Faris as he pulled a chair and joined his friends for a juice drink.

Hamoud was ready with the answer: "Faris, did you ever see a dangerous bear that can eat men? That is what inflation is like. It growls and hits your wallet with percentage points, you won't believe. Just think of what the price of meat and other essentials has risen over the last year alone. I bet you that 50% would probably be still a conservative figure."

"But why should meat prices rise? After all, livestock do not depend on diesel and other fuels for nourishment?" Sa'eed asked as he also pulled up a chair to join them.

"Come on Sa'eed, you will never make a great economist by asking silly questions like that. Everything depends on fuel for transport, for running the water pumps, for getting the butcher to the slaughterhouse, etc." Hamoud explained the significance of fuel in getting meat to consumers.

"Why bother to talk about meat? We haven't seen a decent serving of lamb in our lunch rations since the Feast of Sacrifice, when our wealthy neighbor distributed one calf he sacrificed for the neighborhood and another for the poor." Faris was reminiscing some good times in the past.

Hamoud commented: "You are lucky to have that guy in your neighborhood. In our neighborhood all we have are a million kids who knock on your door asking for holiday treats. I wonder where those kids all of a sudden spring up from on the holidays. Speaking of holidays, the religious holiday season is approaching: Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr and the Feast of Sacrifice. Boy, will the next few months need a basketful of Yemeni Riyals. My father the other day was looking for a country that offers asylum to those who want to escape the holiday money crunch."

Faris was taken aback by what Hamoud just said: "Your father was what? Just think, a few years ago, Yemenis had the liberty of packing up their bags and heading for the Gulf states whenever their pockets and hidden money boxes got empty. Nowadays, they have no place to go. It was such an easy going life. When the men left, the families at home never worried about how they are going to enjoy Ramadan delicacies or get new clothing for the holidays."

"My mother is already reconditioning some of the clothes of her older kids to get them ready for the younger ones. As for us, we were told that the outfits bought in the last holiday will just have to do this year. There is no way our father is going to be able to get us any new clothes. The shops aren't offering any credit, and even if they did our parents are already overextended in debt." Sa'eed finally contributed to the conversation.

"What about all the money your father makes as a broker for firewood?" Hamoud asked.

Sa'eed had the answer to that easy: "Firewood? There aren't even any more thorny acacia trees in the country. Besides the propane gas took my father out of that business quite sometime ago. Now he is trying to get a license to sell gas, but unfortunately there are already too many outlets, but very little gas to sell for the small shopkeepers, because profiteers have taken over the gas cylinder business."

Hamoud remarked: Doesn't your father deal in anything but things that burn. Why doesn't he try to sell perfumes or something delicate like that?"

Sa'eed responded somewhat humbly: "My father is a simple man, he wouldn't know where to start to get into the perfume or apparel business. He is now just living of whatever real estate he was able to buy up when a lubna would cost one or two riyals. But even that can't be relied upon anymore, because half of his real estate is subject to contestants seeking to take everything away from him. So half the money he gets from selling the land goes into litigation costs to try to keep what is left."

"Who is taking his land?" asked Faris.

"You wouldn't believe the kind of people he has to deal with. Some of them are military officers. Some others are children of former sharecroppers, who have decided to divide up the land as their inheritance from their father". Still there are others, who have only been in Sana'a for six months and already have land deeds and other documents that state the land to be theirs. They come from all over the country thinking that it is easy to take any real estate you want. All you need are a few armed men and cinder block bricks. They start at sunset and by sunrise the land is already fenced in by the new settlers. You would think that the Palestinians are the only ones who have illegal settler problems?"

"Be careful, there is a Yemeni Jew sitting in the next table, he is going to tell the American Embassy that you are an anti-Semite Sa'eed." Hamoud was joking with Sa'eed.

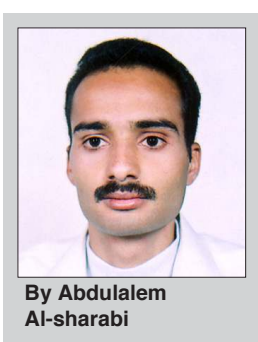
"I am really serious, you wouldn't believe how my father's health and stamina has deteriorated because of all the litigation he has to go through. Sa'eed was trying to show that even if you have some net worth, you are not free of any problems. If that was not enough, he has to deal with cutthroats, who promise him protection, but when they get the money, you never see them again. I have told my father to keep what ever is left to meet the coming holiday season expenses and maybe by the next presidential election inflation will be countered by a more responsible government and people's property will be safeguarded."

Faris wasn't too optimistic: "No my friend, inflation is buddy buddy with our government officials. They never feel it so why should they care about fighting it? Some of them even make fortunes in speculative games and other hedging tools, by using government funds to invest in short term investments and they just cream off the profits. The AK-47 solution seems to be the only viable tool, if only we could be given a hint at what inflation looks like, so we can aim for it when we see it."

Inflation can not be seen. It just growls and crawls upon you and gobbles you up like a big killer bear."

Globalization

With the collapse of the Soviet Union at the end of the eighties the world changed. A new system was born known as "Globalisation". This has been utilized by developed powers in order to change world economies, cultures and political system by establishing a great world system which imposes capitalist theory and emphasizes information channels operated by American companies and businessmen and businessmen of the west.



By Abdulalem Al-sharabi

changing and civil war can result and destroy the country.

In addition to this, they see that the middle class of the society is fringed increasingly.

The civil war which the socialism theory has expected to happen between the three classes of the society (the upper class, the middle class and the lower class) has begun to break out.

The demonstrations opposing the goals of the developed countries to dominate the world increase constantly. The great demonstrations against the " G8 meeting " held in Italy last year and the recent meeting held in Scotland express something of the depth of the divide within the societies of the west caused by globalization.

On the other hand, globalization affects economies through its programs which depend on modern technology. Instead of the single, it uses IT and the nation suffers increasing unemployment motivating young people towards crime and other immoral activities.

General manager of the development fund of the world, Mr. Horst Koehler said that the distribution of the advantages of the globalisation unequally would threaten the political stability of the world and the interconnection of the world as a whole. Koehler's warning includes political a paradox strangely. The financial Corps of the world (Bank of the world and development fund) have contributed to increase the poverty of the world greatly.

Where they have pressured on some countries of the third world in order to follow economic and social reforms obstruct development of their societies. When Indonesia followed the economic reforms imposed by Bank of the world, it has lived economic crisis contributed to change its political system and divide the country

It is worth mentioning, since tens years, mootastic Harvard professor, Samuel Huntington has expected that cultures will clash if globalization is attempted to impose its domination on the other societies of the world.

Pressures of the developed countries on the third world countries would contribute to create observation generations are ready to use weapons in order to fight the economic, the cultural, the social and the political domination of the globalization.

And it will motivate societies to extreme forms of action in an attempt to defend their cultures and way of life.

This conflict has begun between the Arab culture and the culture of the west.

Popular opposition to the American domination of globalisation, in the middle east , Islamic world, some societies of the south America, the societies of the Africa and some societies of Asia emphasize that the future of globalisation leads the world toward a conflict of cultures and threatens to divide the world into many extreme nationalisms. Each of them would look to be the great power of the world.

On the other hand, we should not ignore the positive effects of the globalization however. The increased equality it is bringing about between men and women is considered a positive advance of the globalization. However aspect of equality used in the west is not available for undeveloped countries because it depends on the culture of the west. While undeveloped countries are lacking for a law of equality depending on the society culture. They need to be developed in order to adapt to globalization.

Therefore the developing countries should help out and provide economic and political assistance so that developing societies can cope with the reform, and live with consequences of globalization.

At the same time, developed countries should look to stop the negative consequences and provide assistance to those who suffer.

It is clear that globalization does have some positive aspects to it, where it looks to establish a society and enhance communication and bring peace, but the laws which govern it need to be reviewed and changed. In doing this some of the problems of globalization could be treated.

Letters to the Editor

Yemen is destiny for me
My name is Sameh Taher Al-Amery i am originally from Taiz but born and lived out of Yemen. I always come to Yemen almost every year. I have travelled to many countries in Africa, Europe and now living in Dubai, Yemen is one of the most beautiful countries i have been to not to for get the culture in it and the hospitality makes someone want to always visit this wonderful and never want to get out of it. Yemen has something unique or i might i say everything is unique about

it, it is not as developing as the gulf countries but to me Yemen is the best place. I am proud calling myself a Yemeni and i know one day Yemen will be my end of the journey because Yemen is a destiny for me. Sameh Taher Al-Amery samihataher@hotmail.com

at school I happened upon a book showing photos of the Hadhramaut & was amazed to see skyscrapers, which had been made even before those in America! You must be so proud to have such a rich heritage? And rightly so. Rose Campbell rozzni@hotmail.com

Yemeni cities
I would be nice to read about each City, Town etc... and it's history-interesting facts. I know when I saw an advert one day about Coffee it didn't seem to mention much about Coffee starting off in the Yemen & how they drink it there. When I was

Dear Rose:
Thank you sincerely for your interest, actually we have a new project coming up regarding tourism and history in Yemen. Stay tune and you will be impressed — hopefully! — The editor

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Houses in the Air

By J. BRADFORD DELONG

Over the past six months, attention and worry have shifted from America's enormous trade deficit to its surging property markets and real-estate bubble. At least two of the reasons for high – and rising – home prices in the United States are well understood. What remains highly uncertain, however, is whether an obviously overheating market can be cooled without sending America, and its main trading partners around the world, into an economic tailspin.

The US housing boom is due, first, to low interest rates, which mean that large amounts of money can be borrowed for mortgages with moderate monthly payments. Low interest rates strengthen the ability to pay, and thus boost demand. And, with demand high and housing supply fixed – at least in the short run – prices go up.

Second, the 70-year period that began with the widespread diffusion of the automobile – during which one could get nearly anywhere in a typical metropolitan area in half an hour or less – is over. Before there was widespread automobile ownership, land prices depended on location, and proximity to the central city or to the local railroad station carried a premium.

Now, with serious congestion slowing traffic in major cities to a crawl, the land gradient in housing prices is steep once again. Perhaps this steepening of the location gradient could be delayed for a decade if we were willing to shift to denser residential patterns. We could, for example, tear down San Francisco's row houses and replace them with buildings more like those of New York's Upper West Side. But we aren't willing to do that.

These two factors – low mortgage rates, and the fact that the country has filled up so much that our cars no longer marginalize location costs – go a long way toward explaining the surge in housing prices over the past decade or so. But they don't go all the way.

On top of these two powerful fundamental factors sits a bubble. The bubble is filled by people with money who are buying extra houses because they think home prices will continue to rise, and by people without money who are buying \$400,000 houses in less-fashionable neighborhoods with zero percent down and floating interest rates.

Both groups' demand is inherently ephemeral. When the first group discovers that housing prices don't always go up, they will try to dump their properties. And when the second group discovers that interest rates don't always stay low, many of them will be unable to meet their higher mortgage payments

and will likewise try to dump their properties.

The end of the American housing bubble might not turn out badly. But if it does, it will probably be due to a sharp rise in interest rates. This could happen for two reasons. First, investors, recognizing that the dollar is overvalued and that they are likely to suffer large losses when it returns to its fundamental value, could start selling their Treasury bonds, corporate bonds, and mortgage-backed securities. As the prices of these assets fall, their yields will rise. At some point, the yields on bonds and mortgages will be high enough that investors' appetite for yield will balance their fear of exchange-rate depreciation.

In the corridors around my office, all the economists agree that this factor should have pushed US interest rates up three years ago. But so far it has not. Does this mean that a hurricane could hit world financial markets at any moment? Yes. Or it could also mean that economists' baseline model of the international economy – especially the assumption of "uncovered interest parity," which holds that foreign interest income expressed in the domestic currency should equal the domestic interest rate – is simply wrong.

The second factor that could push US interest rates sharply upward is not fear of a decline in the future value of the

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.

dollar, but the fact of a past decline in its value. The US imports the equivalent of 16% of its GDP. A 40% fall in the value of the dollar – of which half passes through to increased dollar prices of imports – thus implies a 3.2% rise in the overall price level. A Federal Reserve committed to effective price stability will likely raise interest rates rather than allow any year's inflation rate to jump from 3% to 6%.

If there is a sharp spike in interest rates – caused either by capital flight in anticipation of a dollar decline or by tight monetary policy in reaction to a dollar decline comes to pass – we will see how good the Federal Reserve real-

ly is. If interest rates rise too far, then the collapse in housing values will lead to large-scale foreclosures and a collapse in consumption spending as well.

This would mean a depression not just for the US, but for Asia and probably Europe as well, for the US can remain the world's importer of last resort and guarantor of effective demand only as long as its domestic consumption is strong. But if interest rates don't rise far enough, the value of the dollar will spiral downward and US inflation will spiral upward like in the 1970's, setting the stage for the type of extremely painful measures imposed by then Federal Reserve Chairman Paul

Volcker.

In these circumstances, straight is the gait and narrow is the path that the Federal Reserve will have to walk – hardly an enviable position. And yet journalists – not very experienced reporters, to be sure – ask me who is likely to get the "plum job" of Fed Chair next year.

J. Bradford DeLong, Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley, was Assistant US Treasury Secretary during the Clinton administration.

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The EU must start negotiations with Turkey

By Martti Ahtisaari and Albert Rohan

Turkey's people are feeling increasingly disappointed at the widely reported hesitations of some European Union leaders to start accession negotiations on October 3, as was agreed last year. There has always been a segment of Turkish public opinion convinced that their country would never be accepted into Europe, and that every time it came closer to EU membership new obstacles would be erected. Some of us have tried to persuade Turkish friends to have greater trust in the EU, a club of honorable countries that respect their commitments. Whether or not this confidence was well placed will soon be revealed.

On December 17 of last year, the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Turkey this October. Two conditions were put to the Turkish government: a comprehensive legal reform aimed at reinforcing the rule of law and human rights, and approval of the Adaptation Protocol of the Ankara Agreement, which extends the customs union with the EU to all new member states, including the Republic of Cyprus.

Turkey has met these conditions: the legal reform entered into force on June 1, and the Protocol was signed on July 29.

A formal recognition by Turkey of the Republic of Cyprus, including its extension to the Northern part of the island, was not requested as a precondition for starting accession talks. This is a complex matter related to the efforts by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to negotiate a comprehensive settlement leading to reunification of the island.

Last year, both Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot community accepted the Secretary General's proposals, which were, however, rejected by the Greek Cypriot side. There is every reason to expect Annan to resume his good offices soon and to bring the question to a positive conclusion well before Turkey's possible entry into the EU around 2015. The Cyprus issue should therefore not be construed as an obstacle to the start of negotiations.

The same is true of the reported intention of some EU governments to have the so-called "Privileged Partnership" concept explicitly included in the negotiating framework as an alternative to full membership. This proposal was discussed at last December's European Council meeting and rejected, resulting in a

reference to "open-ended negotiations" in the Council's conclusions. That wording – never used in previous enlargement rounds – may have ruffled Turkey's feathers, but it was finally accepted as the type of constructive ambiguity that is so often used in international diplomacy.

It is nonetheless obvious from the very nature of accession negotiations that full membership must be the goal. Without that prospect, no candidate country would go through the painful process of adopting the tens of thousands of rules and regulations contained in the *Acquis Communautaire* (the body of EU law). To ensure that it does, is, after all, the main purpose of accession talks.

Moreover, it is difficult to imagine what advantages could be offered to Turkey in the framework of a "Privileged Partnership" beyond its long-time status as an Associate Member of the EU. The Customs Union concluded ten years ago allows free trade for all but agricultural goods. Turkey is invited to Council meetings, it can participate in various EU programs and in manifestations of the European Common Foreign Policy, and, as a member of NATO, it is a partner in EU-NATO security cooperation. Finally, like all candidate countries, Turkey also receives

financial and technical assistance in support of ongoing reform programs. Short of full membership, there is hardly room for added value in Turkey's relationship with the EU.

Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn has spelt it out with the necessary clarity: "If we stick to what we have ourselves decided at the highest political level in the European Council, as we should, I am reasonably confident that the negotiations shall start on the October 3."

This statement is to the credit of the European Commission, and there is not much to be added, except to emphasize that it is up to EU governments to treat Turkey with the fairness that all candidate countries deserve. To renege on formal decisions and commitments, or to add last-minute obstacles, would make a mockery of the Union's credibility. Negotiations therefore must begin on October 3.

Martti Ahtisaari, Finland's former president, is chairman of the Independent Commission on Turkey. Albert Rohan is a former Director-General of Austria's Foreign Ministry.

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Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fatih

Smoke, smoke everywhere

I was in the bus looking through the window and pondering my next topic when suddenly I was annoyed by the smell of smoke! There were a group of guys smoking and the clouds of smoke were rising like a chimney stack. For a moment I felt I could not breathe and I felt that there was no oxygen any more! With struggle I tried to open the old window of the bus to take a breath of fresh air! I moved my head through the window looking for the fresh air but I was shocked and greatly disappointed when I found more clouds of smoke that exhausted from the bus and many other vehicles on the street! Oh no! smoke inside the bus and smoke outside of the bus! What could I do? I really could not breathe any more and I wanted to cry and asked for oxygen and just a fresh air but I knew that they would not help me in this case. On contrary, they would laugh at me and brand me as a crazy girl! I imagined it was my end and I remember a poem that I read in university days entitled "Water, water everywhere" and I found myself repeating "Smoke, smoke everywhere and I am going to die!" I am not exaggerating but that what I actually felt it then.

I was lucky as the bus started going outside the capital heading outskirts where my residence when I felt some refreshment and the atmosphere was more clearer and just then I took a deep breathe and I wished if I could take some of this fresh air wherever I go especially when I go to the capital.

We live in Sana'a the capital which is a mountainous and highland area where the oxygen becomes less and less! However, we remarkably see that people from the different governorates tend to come, work and live in Sana'a! Sana'a is now more crowded and more populated than any time. The more horrific thing is the increasing number of cars and vehicles whose drivers wander the narrow streets of Sana'a and making daily traffic jam and polluted the environment of Sana'a city with their diesel-produced vehicles and darken the clear blue sky with the exhausts.

Sometimes I wonder how we can keep living in such polluted atmosphere! Once I heard that if Yemen was attacked by the nuclear weapons, Yemeni people would be affected any more as they every day are exposed to the toxic materials and breathe the most fatal gases and they would be accustomed to.

On the other hand, unfortunately, most of Yemeni people have no environmental sense. They always occupy the beautiful places in the city to chew qat and then they throw the branches and remains of qat on the streets portraying a disgusting image. They drink a water or a juice and they throw the bottles wherever they like and they throw the cans and plastic bags without any sense of responsibility.

In the last few years, we have witnessed that there are intensive efforts extended to beautify the capital and it becomes better if we compare it to the past. However, most people irresponsibly deform all the pretty features that the capital may start to have. For instance, unfortunately, some parents ask and depend on their young children to throw the garbage, yet, those children with their small bodies cannot put the garbage in the special place and they throw it on the streets instead. So, one can see the disgusting views of garbage heaps along with the nasty smells that hurt the passersby and distort the beauty of the capital. Sorrowfully, there are many negatives that distort the beautiful image of the capital that cannot be mentioned in this light column.

When will we enjoy a clean environment and when will the clouds of smoke disappear from Sana'a city sky? When the sense of civilized behavior will prevail?

Where is the role of all mass media as well as the educated people in raising awareness about such crucial issues? Every thing get expensive after the new dose and I hope that we can enjoy the cheapest thing God bestow us, the fresh and clean air? Many questions impose themselves and beg answers from the greater public.

Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

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 gather 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 built on positive people.

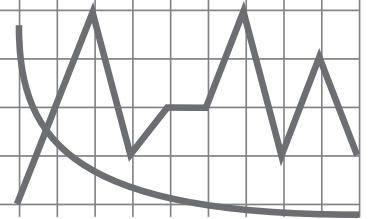
Negative people are in the dark and they should be isolated there till they change their mentality and negativity.

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 all that 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



What does Yemen need to encounter,

Problems of aggravating poverty, unemployment & production weakness?

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite of Yemen's crude oil production amounts to 450 thousand barrels per day, the Yemeni economy is still characterized by limited potentials; human and institutional. This entails deterioration of productivity and consequently low standard of the individual living. It is especially so when we take into consideration that the working individual sustains more than four persons.

Moreover, according to economic criterion Yemen is categorized as the poorest among the Arab countries in the Arab peninsula region.

Although three decades have elapsed since Yemen has begun its modern economic and developmental march, it is still categorized among the 20 least developed and low income countries in the world. According to the latest census Yemen's population amounts to 20 million people so the income per capita from gross national product would be approximately \$247 (less than one dollar a day, which represents around 6.7% of the world average amounting 5, 13 dollars).

Such a situation concerning the individual low income and what it produces in aggravation of poverty problems, deprivation, unemployment

and weakness of productivity, dictates on all to work for mustering all the country's potentials and resources to raise the living standard of the population and realize their hopes and aspirations towards better living and brighter future.

The Yemeni economy depends in the first place on agriculture. Production of agriculture and fish constitutes 25.1% of the gross domestic product, government services 16.1%, extraction industries sector 14.1%, transport, storage and communications sector 15.3%.

The remainder of sectors occupies a secondary place. Of these are the conversion industries, including oil refinery occupying 9.6% then wholesale and retail sale trade 6.8%, financial, real estates and work services 5.7%, building and construction 2.7% and the rest completes the percentage.

A report has been prepared on realization of the goals of the third millennium 1990-2015 to be coinciding with beginning of the implementation of the national strategy of poverty alleviation to form the reference framework for assessment the extent of progress attained in achievement of the objectives and implementation of policies included in the strategy document.

The report clearly indicates that the agenda of Yemeni government and its

partners in development for fighting poverty and creation of job opportunities has economic, social and political aspects. Statements on surveying the family budget point to the large-scale phenomenon of poverty in Yemen.

There are 6.9 million people (about 40.6%) suffering from various types of poverty and around 41.8% of the population is incapable of providing their nutrition requirements and goods. The report also indicates that poverty is mostly concentrating in the countryside, the level of which varies from one governorate to another.

Commitment to combating poverty has been culminated by official efforts in dealing with many issues and challenges with regard to political and institutional building through strengthening ties with all neighboring countries.

It also helped develop a democratic system based on political pluralism and enhancement of local authority system and popular participation. As for the economic and social level, a program for economic reform has been implemented. The program has contributed to realization of economic stability and high proportions of available revenues have been allocated to sectors of education, health and social safety net.

But despite the efforts exerted,

phenomena of poverty are still existent in a number of aspects that are represented by decline in the level of joining elementary education, weakness of preliminary health care services and the difficulty of obtaining safe drinking waters. Therefore, there must be a kind of mobilization of all energies and resources to curb the danger of falling into the poverty circle and have to pursue its roots and causes in the countryside and urban areas. There also must be a work for treating the sharp difference between the two sexes and between the rural and urban areas throughout the country.

According to experts' assessment, the situation requires enhancement of economic reforms, reforming judiciary system and civil service, supporting decentralization trend and improvement of national capabilities in analyzing policies and evaluation and follow-up the implemented programs and projects aimed at alleviating poverty.

Experts confirm that in the coming period, Yemen has to specify the volume of required revenues to achieve goals of the millennium by doubling efforts towards mobilization of required resources and develop potentials at various levels so that Yemen could be able to realize goals of the millennium during the year of 2015.

The case against emergency food aid

By JEFFREY SACHS

Niger's food emergency has reached the world's headlines, but the crisis there is only one part of a much larger disaster. On an extended trip this summer through rural areas of Asia, the Middle East, and Africa on behalf of the United Nations, I visited countless villages afflicted with extreme hunger and struggling to survive against the odds.

The villages that I visited – in Tajikistan, Yemen, Mali, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi, Cambodia, and elsewhere – reflect the condition of hundreds of millions of impoverished people worldwide. Whether caused by drought, exhausted soils, locusts, lack of high-yield seeds, the results were the same: desperation, disease, and death.

Incredibly, the actions of the richest countries – which promised solidarity with the world's poorest people at the G-8 Summit in July – have intensified the hunger crisis. Even today, donor governments' aid efforts are poorly directed. They respond to hunger emergencies such as Niger's with food relief, but fail to help with long-lasting solutions.

The expanding hunger crisis reflects a lethal combination of growing rural populations and inadequate food yields. Rural populations are growing because poor farm households choose to have many children, who work as farmhands and serve as social security for their parents. This intensifies poverty in the next generation, as average farm sizes shrink. Food yields per acre (or hectare) are inadequate because impoverished farm households lack some or all of the four inputs needed for modern and productive agriculture: soil-nutrient replenishment (through organic and chemical fertilizers), irrigation or other water-management techniques, improved seed varieties, and sound agricultural advice.

The problem is especially severe in landlocked countries like Mali, Niger, Rwanda, and Malawi, where high transport costs leave villages isolated from markets, and in regions that depend on rainfall rather than river-based irrigation. Yields, on average, barely support survival, and crop failures are common and deadly, while long-term global climate change, caused mainly by high energy consumption in the rich countries, may be exacerbating the frequency and severity of droughts.

These impoverished villages need financial help to buy vital inputs for farming and to invest in basic infrastructure such as roads and electrification. Instead, donor governments and the World Bank have insisted for years that impoverished countries cut financing to these villages, under the guise of promoting "macroeconomic stability" – a polite way of demanding debt repayment – and reflecting the ideological delusion that the private sector will step in.

Instead, these policies have left hundreds of millions of people even more desperately poor and hungry, and even more vulnerable to drought, pests, and soil depletion. Millions die each year, either of outright starvation or from infectious diseases that their weakened bodies cannot withstand. And still, after

twenty years of preaching that private markets would pick up the slack, these impoverished communities are further away than ever from using improved seeds, fertilizers, and small-scale water management technologies.

The irony is that donors then respond with very expensive emergency food aid, which typically proves to be too little and too late. A shipment of an equivalent dollar amount of fertilizer and improved seeds from, say, the United States to Africa would yield perhaps five times more food. But donors have not yet implemented this obvious and basic lesson.

Malawi today is an urgent case in point. Because of rural impoverishment and a drought earlier this year, dire hunger afflicts millions of people. Donors are rallying for food aid, but they are resisting the obvious need to help the poorest million farmers (and their four million dependents) get soil nutrients and improved seeds in time for the planting season this autumn.

The cost of sending such help would be around \$50 million, and the benefits would be \$200 million to \$300 million in increased food production next year (and hence less needed in emergency food aid). Moreover, Malawi has a proven track record of sharply higher food yields when impoverished farmers are helped with inputs. Yet donors continue shipping expensive food aid while ignoring Malawi's desperate need to grow more food.

Over the longer term, increased food yields could be turned into sustained economic growth. First, rural households would be encouraged to have fewer children, and to invest more in each child's health and education. Child survival rates would rise, reinforcing lower fertility rates. At the same time, increased educational opportunities for girls and women, and low-cost contraceptives provided by family-planning services, would empower them to marry later and have fewer children.

Second, and simultaneously, donors should help impoverished countries to invest in roads, ports, rural electricity, and diversified production (both agricultural and non-agricultural), in order to promote higher productivity and alternative livelihoods in the longer term. Villages currently trapped in hunger and subsistence agriculture would become commercial centers for food processing and exports, and even for rural industry and services supported by electrification, mobile phones, and other improved technologies.

This is a year of both widespread hunger and solemn promises by the rich countries. But emergency food aid is not enough. Impoverished communities in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia are ripe for a "green revolution," based on modern scientific techniques for managing soils, water, and seed varieties. Donors should lend their support by backing long-term solutions aimed at increasing food production, slowing population growth, and mitigating long-term global climate change.

Jeffrey Sachs is Professor of Economics and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

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Yemen's oil exports score YR 4.390 billion

Storage capacity at Nashtoun oil terminal to be expanded

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Turnover of the Yemeni exports of fish, desserts, perfumes and honey shipped via the Aden Seaport and container port amounted during the past seven months to YR 4 billion, 390 million and 389 thousand.

Statistical sources for the Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry said those exports were dispatched to more than 80 Arab and foreign countries.

On the other hand, the Yemeni Petroleum Company is currently undertaking the implementation of a number of investment and public services projects in the governorate of

Muhra. Among those projects is one for expanding the storage capacity of the oil installation at the Nashtoun oil terminal, and another project of a station for supplying airplanes at Ghaidha airport and to equip it with various necessary equipment for supplying planes.

The cost of the project of rehabilitation of oil installations at Nashtoun oil terminal amounts to one million and 480 thousand dollars while the project of the station for supplying airplanes it amounts to forty million riyals.

The company is also implementing a station especially for the company's branch in the governorate, containing a center for car maintenance as well as other services like supermarket, building of a mosque and communications center.



European Commission offers 7.5 million euros to,

Support fish wealth and democracy in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The European Commission has allocated seven million and 500 thousand euros in assistance to support two projects in Yemen. The first deals with democracy and development of human rights and the second for the development of the fish wealth. The aid comes as part of the European support strategy for the years 2005 and 2006 aiming at backing the Yemeni government

efforts for poverty alleviation and enhancement of democracy.

The commissioner entrusted with foreign relations at the Commission announced in a statement lately that the first project is aimed at supporting the partnership between the Yemeni government and non-governmental organizations with the objective of encouragement and protection human rights and democracy, adding that the support embodies keenness and interest by the European Commission in encouraging efforts that Yemen is

exerting for the consolidation of democratic successes and respect for human rights and aiding its efforts in fighting terror. The assistance program is part of the existing cooperation between Yemen and the European Union in this respect since 2003.

The European official has made it clear that the second project supported by the European Union concentrates on effecting growth to the fish wealth sector, pointing out that the assistance aims at rising productivity and competitiveness of fishing activity I

Yemen improving quality of production with causing damage to the fish wealth.

She has added that in the framework of this support there would be several measures to be taken to strengthen energies and effort exerted for researches related to curing and preserving fish and modernization of infrastructures and facilities such as platforms for unloading, selling halls, laboratories for quality control and inspection installations for fishermen's products.

Al-Baradouni: A genius immortalized by his legacy

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On Monday, August 29, a ceremony was held to mark the anniversary of the death of a great Yemeni poet, Abdullah al-Baradouni. The occasion, which was celebrated at the Culture House, was attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism Khaled al-Rowaishan, who delivered a speech describing the tremendous literary contribution of the late poet to the Arab library. Organized by the Yemeni Writers' Union, Baradouni Friends Association and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the festival included a number of artistic sections and recitations of Baradouni's verses.

It is time to remember Baradouni:

On the sixth commemoration of the most famous national poet, Abdullah Al-Baradouni, we feel the urge to further explore the world of this giant figure of Yemeni and Arabic literature. Al-Baradouni is a real genius who lived a simple life and, living thus, we did not give him his due. This man of letter neither tasted affection, saw beauty nor got children. He experienced the alienation of the soul and the alienation of happiness, suffering many manacles starting with poverty and ending with blindness. Al-Baradouni's is famous as a poet. However, he is not just that. He excelled in many fields and authored many books. Al-Baradouni was a great prose writer whose production is characterized by smoothness and simplicity. In his last days, he was writing his diaries which were being published in episodes on September Weekly. He wrote one single novel (Uncle Maymoun), which is still on scripts. Al-Baradouni was also a struggler who fought with his words against the tyranny

The poet's profile:

Abdullah Saleh Hassan al-Baradouni was born in 1929 in the village of Baradoun in Dhamar Province. He went blind when he was six after contracting small pox. His parents were farmers and he had a hard childhood. Al-Baradouni studied in Dhamar schools for ten years and then moved to Sana'a and completed his studies at the Sciences House. He was appointed as a teacher at the same school and held positions in the Sana'a Radio after the Revolution.

Al-Baradouni authored ten poetry collections (including "From the Land of Bilqis" (1961), "On the Road of Dawn" (1967), "The City of Tomorrow" (1970), "Smoky Faces in Night's Mirrors" (1977) and six studies (including "A Journey Through Yemeni Poetry, Old and New" (1972), "Yemeni Issues" (1977), "Arts of Yemeni Popular Literature" (1982)) Some of his works have been translated into English and French. He died on August 30, 1999 at the age of 70.

of the ousted imamate and later, with his politically charged writing, criticized mal-practices and represented the voice of the bulk of people.

His blindness, which he did not admit nor succumb to at any moment of his life, did not restrict his poetic talent. Similar to ancient Arab poet Bashar bin Burd, al-Baradouni excelled in his poetry and amazed the audience with the forcefulness of his verse which included profound insights and set forth philosophically provocative questions. Not only that, al-Baradouni was an entire school and a versatile scholar who revolutionized his age and rebelled conventionalism both in thought and in poetics.

Al-qaSIDa:

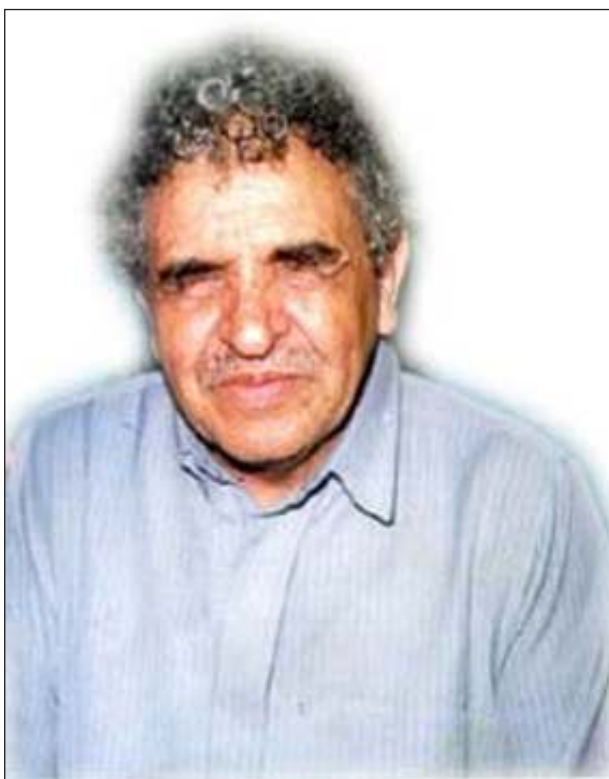
Al-Baradouni is known to be the last of the great Arab classicist. He preserved the shape of Arabic qasida and did not write free verse. He did not disregard any form of poetry provided that it is creative. However, his classicism was distinctive. As Dr. Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh described his poetry, it is a modern perfume in an antique bottle. The modern characteristics of his poetry are manifested in its exposition of contemporary themes and concepts and the innovative manipulation of meter and vocabulary.

Outspoken critic, woman rights advocate:

Al-Baradouni is a veteran poet who lived in pre and post revolution Yemen. Notwithstanding his blindness, Abdullah al-Baradouni stood firmly against the unfairness of the imamate regime and criticized the Imam himself. He was to be thrown into prison. While many people held the monarch in respect, he publicly expressed his disillusion and resentment. He was an advocate of democracy and human rights as well. At the beginning of his life, he used to earn his living by acting on behalf of divorced and abused women before courts. In an interview with Al-Arabi Magazine, conducted by Ali al-Muqri, al-Baradouni mentioned that when the patriarch of a rich family died, females were grudging by their brothers who refused to give them their shares in inheritance because that would mean letting out the family's money into the hands of strangers (the husbands of women). Al-Baradouni would take up such cases and act as an attorney.

A first-class poet:

Al-Baradouni received many honors on different occasions. He received the Award of Abu Tammam Festival in Iraq;



Yemeni poet Abdullah al-Baradouni

Fourth Jarash Festival's Award, al-Uwais Award; and Literature and Arts Award in Sana'a. He used the money awards in bringing out his usually bulky publications at affordable prices.

Not until the early 70s of the last century, al-Baradouni was unknown by the Arab literary community. In his debut appearance at al-Marbad Festival (Abu Tammam Festival) in 1971, he was clad in Yemeni traditional clothes that would disenchant that sort of gathering. However, his opening the festival with the jaw-dropping poem of "Abu Tammam and the Arabism of Today" captivated the audience. It marked their discovery of a brilliant poet from South Arabia. From then on, Al-Baradouni drew much attention and many literary criticism focused on his works.

Al-Baradouni and irony:

Al-Baradouni was famous for his caustic irony. Reading his poetry, one can feel his irony-shrouded grief over the grievances of the "Age Sans Identity." Dr. Waleed Mushawah states that irony is the "four cardinal directions of al-Baradouni's poetic geography. His irony is perceptible even in his description, his amore, his satire, and his praise." He concludes that al-Baradouni is "a high laughter" and "a painful melancholy. He is a weeping that resembles laughter or a laughter steeped in weeping." From his "End of Death" comes the following stanza:

*I find no kinship with anything;
The world is alien, the times estranged-
As if I came in an age to soon or too late.
Or perhaps in an interim*

Al-Baradouni utilized his poetry as a stick with which he groped in the darkness of life. One of his most quoted lines is "All this is my country, and in it there is everything except myself and my country."

He really proved himself to be "the man who can see in the blind time," as he astutely read the past, present and future."

International conference on Hadramis in Southeast Asia

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An international conference was held from August 27-28, 2005, in the Malaysian Capital, Kuala Lumpur. A large congregation of scholars, researchers, historians, and thinkers - from Yemen, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Emirates, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA, Netherlands, and Australia, partook in the conference. Titled "The Arab Hadramis in Southeast Asia: Identity Maintenance or Assimilation?", the conference was organized by the Department of History and Civilization at the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (IIUM) under the auspices of the Yemeni Embassy to Malaysia and was inaugurated by Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sayed Hamid al-Bar who said he is

"proud to be one of the Yemeni-Malaysian Hadramis."

Many papers were submitted to the conference tackling a variety of topics related to Hadrami identity. The conference aimed at bringing together scholars and researchers from different parts of the world and from several disciplines to exchange views on the Arab-Hadrami immigration into Southeast Asia and highlight its current impact on the country of origin and the host countries.

It is noteworthy that the first Arab presence in Southeast Asia coincided with the advent of Islam in the region and the recognition of the early Arab Yemeni Hadrami immigrants as ideal representatives of Islam and great bearers of Muslim civilization. This universal recognition facilitated the process of their interaction with the indigenous upper class and involvement in various socio-economic and

political activities that included trade, da'wa (call into Islam), Islamic education, diplomacy and local politics.

In some cases, Yemeni Hadramis inherited power and founded dynasties that claimed an Arab descent during the pre-colonial period.

In the colonial era, a few of them collaborated with the colonial forces and others joined various forms of resistance to colonial rule, working shoulder to shoulder with their hosts towards the independence of their new home countries in Southeast Asia. During the postcolonial period, they continued to have a socio-political and economic role in their host society, but that role became, to a considerable extent, a function of the political system of the nations they lived in.

Similar conferences had been held in London (1995), Leiden (1997) and Cairo (2003).



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The project offices will be based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now preparing to recruit the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

IST HELPDESK COORDINATOR - Reference No. 022

Reports to the IST Manager, the job holder is responsible for responding to all IST users requests for assistance. He/She has a target of resolving 70% of users' problems on the initial call. The post requires the development and maintenance of system for tracking user calls and the eventual solution. The job holder will produce regular analytical reports that can be used for identifying areas for improvement to facilities or services. He/She will monitor the consumption of IST consumable materials; publish documentation to assist the users of IST facilities and services, maintain an electronic department filing system and manage the file access permissions on this system. The ideal candidate will hold university degree on IT and must have previous work experience on the field. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call. He/She must have sufficient IT and Telecoms knowledge to either resolve the problem or to route it to the appropriate specialized support. The job holder should be proficient in particular in common office applications and must be able to use them to produce regular reports. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a. The successful candidate will have a University degree (B.Sc) in Engineering or Computer Science and 2-4 years experience on Windows NT System Administration.

IST NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR - Reference No. 023

Reports to the IST Manager, the job holder is responsible for backing up the servers on a daily basis and storing the back up tapes in a safe place designated by the IST Manager. The job holder will develop a tape tracking system to ensure that data can be recovered quickly when required. He/She will be responsible for creation / deletion / management of Network accounts, distribution of authorized software via GPO's and ensuring accurate inventories of such software. Also, administration of SQL database servers, monitor disc space usage and establish quotas for the most efficient use of network server disc space and services on a continuous basis to ensure rapid restoration in the event of a failure of services using MS Operations Manager (MOM). The ideal candidate will hold university degree on IT and must have previous work experience on the field. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of MS Windows 2003 Server including Active Directory, MS Exchange 2003 Mail server, MS SQL Server 2000, MS Windows Server Update Services (WSUS), Veritas Backup Exec 10 for Windows servers and Linear Tape Open (LTO) devices, Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM), Symantec Anti Virus Enterprise edition and ISA Server 2004. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems. He/She must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with suppliers. The successful candidate will have a University degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Engineering or Computer Science and minimum 3-5 years experience on Windows NT System Administration.

IST SECURITY PLANNING AND COORDINATOR (Two Post)-Reference No. 024 and 025

Reports to the IST Manager, the job holder is responsible for establishing and maintaining IS Security Procedures including, establishment and maintenance of a Yemen LNG Information Systems Security Policy, establishment of contingency planning (Disaster recovery) plan and periodic testing of plan, review and audit of Network administrator's privileges. The job holder will review and audit Firewall Policies, review of NTFS file access permissions, audit of Operating Systems and Anti Virus updates and review the performance and quality of IST infrastructure facilities and propose upgrade or evolution options. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of MS Windows 2003 Server including Active Directory, MS Exchange 2003 Mail server, MS SQL Server 2000, MS Windows Server Update Services (WSUS), Veritas Backup Exec 10 for Windows servers and Linear Tape Open (LTO) devices, Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM), Symantec Anti Virus Enterprise edition and ISA Server 2004. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with other IST specialists. They must be able to influence and negotiate in order to achieve optimum and practical solutions and be consistent in their approach especially on matters of IS security. The successful candidate will have a University degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Engineering or Computer Science and minimum of 5 years experience on Telecoms Engineering or MS Windows Server Administration

IST TELECOM ENGINEER - Reference No. 026

Reports to the IST Manager, the job holder is responsible for responding to all IST Users requests and monitoring the international leased circuits (Main Links and VSAT back up links) between Yemen LNG offices in Sana'a, Project offices in Paris and Operational base at Balhaf. Provision of availability figures compared with Service Level Agreements. The job holder is responsible for ensuring the continuous operation of PABX, Pstn Lines, ISDN lines, mobile Telephone systems including GSM, internet Access lines, VPN encrypted links, videoconferencing systems, VHF/ UHF marine and aeronautical radio systems, vehicle tracking systems, multiplexors, Routers, Firewalls in the YNLG LAN / Wan, administration of Internet Access Firewalls. He/She will also be responsible for liaison with Government agencies on the provision and maintenance of frequency licenses, design, implement and maintain local area cabling from IST equipment rooms up to and including office outlets. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following technologies: optical Fiber Transmission Systems, Very Small Aperture Satellite Transmission Systems (VSAT), Microwave, VHF, UHF and HF radio systems, ALCATEL OmniPCX PBX, VPN encryption, videoconferencing, dynamic routing protocols (RIP or OSPF), Cisco Catalyst 2950, 3750, 2651XM, Cisco Router 2600 series, Cisco PIX Firewall. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call and must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers. He/She must be able to ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have a University degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Telecommunications or Electronic Engineering and minimum of 5 years experience on Telecommunication Operations.

IST USER SUPPORT ENGINEER - Reference No. 027

Reports to the IST Manager and is responsible for installing and supervising external services with the installation of personal computers (PC's) and or peripheral devices for Yemen LNG users and ensures that inventories of such equipment are kept fully up to date at all times. The job holder is also responsible for maintaining or supervising external services with the maintenance of personal computers (PC's) and or peripheral devices for Yemen LNG users, installation of software on PC's when software is not distributed by GPO, ensures that inventories of such software are kept fully up to date at all times. He/She will provide support of common office software, technical systems software, business applications software e.g. IDEA's, development of Web pages publishing software. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following common office software such as Windows XP Professional & IE 6.0, MS Office 2003 Inc Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Outlook, MS Visio 2003, MS Project 2003 and Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express. In addition, the job holder should have a good knowledge of technical systems software such as Adobe Illustrator, AutoCAD 2002, Corel draw, Aldus PageMaker, Photoshop Software. The job holder should have a good knowledge of Web Page design and associated software and must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call. He/She must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers and ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have university degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Computer Science and minimum of 5 years experience on Information Systems user's support.

All applicants for these positions must be fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs.

Applicants should send their CV with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post to:

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

Deadline: Thursday, 22 September 2005

Candidates applying from outside Yemen may apply by e-mail to: HR@YEMENLNG.COM.YE

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG. Please do not send your CV more than once and do not telephone the company to discuss your application

Company website
WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

Pharmaceutical confusion in Yemen

By Dr. MOHAMED ALSHAQA'A

Of the factors contributing to a sound and coherent health system, access to medicine is essential. Yemen's system of pharmaceutical distribution is notoriously bad, with irresponsible prescriptions, weak diagnosis and low volumes of affordable medicine. Some have blamed an unregulated private sector for over prescription and profiteering, but the essential issues facing the medical world today are as follows.

- 1- Scarcity in essential medicines and equipments
- 2- Lack of medical legislation.
- 3- A weak pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.
- 4- Lack of standard measures or medicine registration
- 5- Importation of unnecessary medicines
- 6- Lack of legal medicine distribution control
- 7- Smuggling
- 8- Marketing of internationally prohibited medicines or medicines that have been withdrawn from circulation in international markets.
- 9- Some doctors prescribe improper medicines.
- 10- Some pharmacies issue the wrong medicines
- 11- Incorrect use of medicines by some patients
- 12- Wrong self-medication
- 13- Lack of follow up of quality
- 14- Lack of monitoring of harmful side effects of medicines
- 15- Unethical merchandising of medicines



Shortage in basic medicines and supplies

Hospitals suffer from insufficient stocks of basic medicines because of weak medical supplying, planning, and funds. Medical equipment is often stolen, broken or old. This shortage is clear at a large scale in rural areas.

Lack of medical legislations

Up to now there are no serious medical legislations to regulate the process of, distribution, import or the prescription of medicines. There is also no real governmental control on agents, distributors, physicians and pharmacies.

Impuissance of national medicine manufacture

Local medicine manufacture cannot compete with corresponding

international products. It receives no official support while some local medicines have lost their credibility.

Import of unnecessary medicines

The private sector benefits from importing unsafe, inessential and unnecessary medicines that are merchandised and marketed by different means.

Uncontrolled medicine distribution

The aim of Planned medicine distribution is to meet the public health needs. Distribution of medicines through the agents and pharmacies should take in consideration the population density, the distance and transport factor.

Governmental medicines are distributed by the central stores to government clinics without the least consideration of real need. Storing conditions are subjected to the sun,

the rain and theft.

There is no control over the private sector, which distributes medicines through pharmacies. Though the private sector is far more efficient than public sector in distribution, it is mainly motivated by gain. Sometimes doubtful and dangerous medicines are being distributed.

Smuggling of medicines

Medicines of doubted quality, origin, and expiry date are smuggled into the country through illegal channels. They pose serious threat on peoples' health. They exposed to heat, moisture and light during their transport into the country.

Marketing medicines that are banned or withdrawn from circulation in international markets:

Banned medicines or that are withdrawn from circulation in international markets, are also distributed endangering many lives of the Yemeni public. Examples of these are the analgine and lomitol.

Improper medicine prescription by physicians

Some physicians exaggerate in prescribing medicines that contain needless medicaments. Others prescribe medicines which are not the right ones or are not consistent with the diagnosis.

At other times unsafe medicines are prescribed for minor cases, either in consent to the patient's desire or out of the idea that the more the better.

At other times some physicians prescribe medicines without diagnosis when their clinics are crowded.

The improper prescription of medicines is the main reason for acquired iatrogeny to some medicines.

Brain regions link asthma and emotions

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Psychological stress has been shown to have an effect on asthma flare-ups, and now the brain regions that appear to be responsible for this interaction have been identified, according to US researchers.

As reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Richard J. Davidson, from the

University of Wisconsin at Madison, and colleagues used functional MRI - that is, MRI scans that show activity as well as anatomical structures -- to determine the brain regions linking emotions with asthma flare-ups.

In the study, six patients with mild asthma were exposed to ragweed or dust-mite extracts. The subjects were shown three different categories of

words: asthma-related (e.g., "wheeze"), non-asthma negative ("loneliness") or neutral ("curtains").

Two brain regions, the anterior cingulate cortex and insula, showed increased activity when the asthma-related words were heard compared with the other types. Moreover, this enhanced activity was specifically linked to physiologic signals from the

ragweed and dust-mite extracts.

"In individuals with asthma and other stress-related conditions, these brain regions may be hyperresponsive to disease-specific emotional and ... physiologic signals," which may contribute to problems that worsen the asthma, such as inflammation, the researchers conclude.

Low-dose insulin doesn't affect kids' growth

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Data from a diabetes prevention trial show that low-dose insulin treatment has no apparent effect on body weight or physical development in adolescents and children who are at increased risk of developing diabetes type 1.

"The role of insulin in body weight regulation has been the subject of much debate," senior investigator Dr. David S. Ludwig told Reuters Health.

"Some experts argue that insulin acts in the brain to decrease hunger and food intake. Others propose that insulin acts in the periphery to promote fat deposition."

To look into this question further, Ludwig of Children's Hospital Boston and colleagues analyzed data from a trial of low-dose insulin aimed at preventing the development of type 1 diabetes in those at risk.

As reported in the medical journal

Diabetes Care, the team focused on 55 young subjects who underwent insulin therapy and 45 who were just closely monitored. At the start of the study, the participants ranged in age from 4 to almost 19 years.

Over the course of two years, there were no differences between the groups in physical development. In particular, there were no differences in average weight, body mass index or height between children on low-dose

insulin and those who were untreated.

Ludwig concluded: "The results of our study indicate that insulin at low doses in children causes neither weight gain nor weight loss, possibly because central and peripheral actions are closely counter-balanced."

He added that further research is needed "to determine whether insulin, or agents that block insulin action, could play a role in body weight management."

Aspirin use desirable before heart surgery: study

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Taking aspirin before heart bypass surgery may help patients recover and survive better, researchers said on Monday.

They said their study, published in the journal Circulation, should reassure surgeons who have advised patients to avoid taking aspirin in the days before surgery because they feared it could cause bleeding.

"Aspirin reduces clotting of the blood,

so it can help prevent a heart attack or stroke by making it less likely a clot will form and block an already narrowed artery," said Dr. Scott Wright, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, who led the study.

"However, many surgeons who are concerned about excessive bleeding due to inadequate clotting have advised their patients to stop taking aspirin in the days before their operation. We designed this

study to provide guidance on whether continuing aspirin therapy in the days before surgery is beneficial or risky."

They studied 1,636 patients getting heart bypass surgery in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

They found that 1.7 percent of those patients who took aspirin in the five days before surgery died in the hospital afterwards, compared to 4.4 percent of those who did not.

Those who took aspirin did not have a greater risk of excessive internal bleeding, Wright's team found.

"The study further confirms aspirin's benefits for patients with known cardiovascular disease. It also shows there is no increased risk of bleeding, which eliminates the main reason why physicians and surgeons would ask patients to discontinue aspirin therapy," Wright said.



By: Dr. Mohamed Alshaqa'a
For the Yemen Times

Facts of life

Smile, an everlasting smile!

The medical profession is currently quite tickled by the concept of Laughter medicine. Fascinating new research seems to be endorsing the ancient wisdom that laughter, happiness and a joyful heart are jolly good medicines! It is of common knowledge that happiness leads to good health. The close link between psychological and physical health is clearly manifested in the impact of mood on health. Many researches and health studies proved that laughter has a healing effect on patients. People are advised to smile rather than frown and that "laughter is the best medicine".

While much research has focused on the impacts of negative psychological states, such as stress, on physical health, relatively little research has examined the effects of positive psychological states. Imagine the following scene: you are down to your last nerve, your muscles are cooked, your hair is clenched, you have lock-jaw, you can breathe in but you don't feel much like breathing in, your heart beats only when it can find the time, and your head is auditioning for a part in High Anxiety!

That you feel the Universe quite simply doesn't want to involve you in its plans. Your doctor reaches for the pill pad, writes something, rips the sheet from the pad, and hands you a prescription ... for laughter!

Internal Aerobics

There is an old saying, "Your day goes the way the corners of your mouth turn"! Medical research has measured extensively the movements we make whenever we smile and laugh, not just on our face but through our entire body. The research concludes that it is possible for all 400 muscles of the body to move during laughter - thus laughter has been playfully labelled by some as a form of 'internal aerobics'. A joyful belly-laugh can exercise thoroughly the muscles, nerves and organs of the main torso. If you were able to sustain a belly-laugh for one full hour, you could laugh off as many as 500 calories! Why not try it one full hour of transcendental chuckling to improve your fitness levels! Medical research also shows that whenever we laugh we release a wave of chemicals through the body including the endorphin hormone, which is also released during healthy exercise. Endorphins ('of morphine') are the body's natural pain-relaxant - they stimulate feelings of well-being, joy and 'high'. Enough laughter will produce enough endorphins to guarantee a 'high-impact' internal aerobic work-out!

More muscles to smile?

It takes one more muscle to smile than to frown, according to plastic surgeon David H. Song, MD, FACS, assistant professor at the University of Chicago Hospitals. Newspapers around the globe assure us, "Frowning takes more muscles than smiling," 13 to smile, 33 to frown - The Washington Post, 10 to smile, 100 to frown - The New York Times, 4 to smile, 64 to frown - The Hindu. An urban myth?

Only Cecil's "The Straight Dope" got an expert (Dr. Song) to go through the motions. A genuine smile takes two muscles to crinkle the eyes, two to pull up the lip corners and nose, two to elevate the mouth angle, and two to pull the mouth corners sideways. Total smile: 12.

On the other hand, a frown needs two muscles to pull down the lips and wrinkles in the lower face, three to furrow the brow, one to purse the lips, one to depress the lower lip, and two to pull the mouth corners down. Total frown: 11.

A fake smile, however, only takes two muscles. We detect the fake because "the eyes aren't smiling."

Happy Cells

Perhaps the most exciting medical research on laughter is in the field of 'psycho-neuroimmunology' which looks at the effect of the mind on the brain and on the immune system. This research

shows that whereas suppressed anger or feelings of intense hatred or frustration, for instance, disturbs the natural, healthy functioning of the immune system, laughter, joy and happiness have been found to help boost the immune system.

The repeated research experiments of Dr Lee Berk at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, CA, shows that laughter, happiness and joy "inspire" the immune system to create white "T" cells, commonly called "happy cells", which help to prevent infection. The philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche hit upon the idea of joyful immunity when he wrote, "Contentment preserves one even from catching cold. Has a woman who knew that she was well dressed ever caught a cold? - No, not even when she had scarcely a rag to her back!"

Laughter 'boosts blood vessels'

Researchers from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore compared the effects of watching funny and stressful films. Stress caused blood flow to slow by around 35%, but laughter increased it by around 22%, they told the American



College of Cardiology. UK heart experts said there was increasing interest in the idea that positive emotions benefited health. The US team studied 20 healthy, non-smoking volunteers, with an average age of 33.

They watched either a segment of a film which would cause mental stress, such as the opening part of Saving Private Ryan, or a segment of a film which would make them laugh, such as King Pin. At least 48 hours later, they were shown a film which would cause the opposite effect to the first. Before watching each film, the volunteers fasted overnight and were tested to see how well blood vessels in the brachial artery in the arm responded to a sudden increase in blood flow, in a test called a flow-mediated vasodilation. Volunteers watched a 15-minute segment of the film while lying down in a temperature-controlled room. After the film was shown, their blood vessels were tested again.

'Laughing cuts heart risk'

No difference was seen in blood vessel dilation between the two groups before they watched the films. But brachial artery flow was reduced in 14 of the 20 volunteers following the film clips that caused mental stress. In contrast, beneficial blood vessel relaxation, or vasodilation, was increased in 19 of the 20 volunteers after they watched the film segments that generated laughter.

The researchers suggested laughter caused the tissue that forms the inner lining of blood vessels, the endothelium, to expand in order to increase blood flow.

The endothelium is known to have a powerful effect on blood vessel tone and regulates blood flow, adjusts coagulation and blood thickening, and secretes chemicals and other substances in response to wounds, infections or irritation.

It also plays an important role in the development of cardiovascular disease.

Impairment of the function of the lining of blood vessels is an early sign of cardiovascular problems.

A's extend winning streak with Baltimore rout

TORONTO (Reuters) - Nick Swisher and Mark Ellis belted home runs to key a five-run 12th inning as the Oakland Athletics downed Baltimore Orioles 10-5 at Camden Yards on Monday, stretching their winning run to six games.

Dan Johnson clubbed a three-run homer and Jay Payton added a two-run shot as the Athletics moved one game clear of the idle Los Angeles Angels at the top of the American League West standings.

The Athletics will meet the Angels in a three game showdown starting on Tuesday that could go a long way to deciding the division standings.

Oakland scored all their runs with the long ball, Payton giving the Athletics a 2-0 first inning lead with his two-run, two-out blast to deep left.

Baltimore scored three runs in the fifth to ease in front 3-2 but the Athletics answered with three of their own in the top of the sixth on Johnson's

two-out three run homer to regain control.

A sixth inning solo home run from Jay Gibbons and an RBI double by B.J. Surhoff in the seventh pulled the Orioles level at 5-5, sending the game into extra-innings.

Swisher sparked Oakland's 12th-inning rally with his 17th a homer of the season — a two-run shot — while Ellis followed with a three-run blast.

Kiko Calero (3-1) pitched two innings of relief to take credit for the win, while Jorge Julio (3-4) was tagged with the loss after surrendering five runs — four earned — on four hits in just one inning of work.

The four-game sweep was the first for Oakland in Baltimore since the A's moved from Kansas City in 1968.

In Boston, David Ortiz belted a pair of solo homers and Johnny Damon added a solo shot powering the Red Sox to a 10-6 win over the Tampa Bay Devil



Oakland Athletics batter Dan Johnson follows the flight of his three-run home run off Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Erik Bedard in the sixth inning of their game at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland Aug. 29. The home run was the 12th of the season for Johnson. REUTERS

Rays.

Earlier in the day, the Red Sox learned they would be without David Wells for six games after the veteran pitcher was suspended for six contests for making contact with two umpires during a game with the Toronto Blue Jays in July.

After learning his appeal had been rejected Wells, launched a stinging attack on MLB commissioner Bud Selig but the Red Sox refused to be distracted, brushing past the Devil Rays to stay 1 games in front of the New York Yankees in the AL East.

Matt Clement (12-3) tossed five sharp innings to pick up the win, allowing just one run on three hits while striking out three and walking a pair.

"It was a satisfying win to us," Clement said.

"We just have to keep playing well."

The Red Sox starter got plenty of support as Boston pounded out 13 hits with John Olerud contributing three to total along with an RBI and a run scored.

Ortiz and Damon both homered in the first inning to push the Red Sox in front 2-0 before rain swept across Fenway Park during the second, delaying play for nearly two hours.

The delay did little to cool off the Red Sox, who returned to add a run in the bottom of the second and then put the contest out of reach with a four-run burst in the fifth.

Tampa starter Seth McClung (5-8) took the loss allowing a two runs on two hits — both homers — in just one inning of work.

In Seattle, Jason Giambi belted a pair of homers for the second consecutive game and drove in four runs as the New Yankees rallied to beat the Mariners 7-4, their fifth straight win.

Alex Rodriguez also homered for New York, connecting for his league leading 39th of the season in the eighth inning.

In Cleveland, Jhonny Peralta, Coco Crisp and Ben Broussard each drove in a pair of runs as the rampaging Indians rallied past the Detroit Tigers 10-8 for their fourth win in five games.

In Arlington, Mark DeRosa had a solo homer and drove in two runs and Mark Teixeira also had a pair of RBIs as the Texas Rangers eased past the Chicago White Sox 7-5.

In Kansas City, Nick Punto belted a 10th inning two-run double, sending the Minnesota Twins to a 3-1 win over Royals.

Owen agrees to join Newcastle

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) - England striker Michael Owen agreed a four-year contract to join Newcastle United on Tuesday, ending an unhappy year at Real Madrid.

The 25-year-old former European Footballer of the Year will undergo a medical later on Tuesday and is set to complete his move for a club record fee of more than 15 million pounds.



Michael Owen has agreed to join Newcastle United on a four-year contract, the Premier League club said in a statement on Tuesday. REUTERS

"Bringing Michael to St James' Park will rank alongside the signing of Alan Shearer as my proudest moment at Newcastle United," Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd told the club's Web site.

"Newcastle fans love centre forwards and Michael is a fantastic goalscorer. He's someone we would love to build the team around and we hope he can help us bring success to the club."

Owen had also been linked with a return to Liverpool, the club he left last year for eight million pounds when he chose to follow in the footsteps of England captain David Beckham and sign for nine-times European champions Real.

He would have preferred to return to his former club but Liverpool coach Rafa Benitez appeared reluctant to buy him back.

Newcastle asked Real about Owen's availability three weeks ago and stepped up their bid to sign him after a poor start to the season in which they gathered only one point from four matches and failed to score a goal.

With the World Cup beckoning next year, Owen decided that only by moving away from the Bernabeu would he get the games he needed to book his place in the England side alongside Wayne Rooney.

Winning goals

Owen joined Real last August after eight seasons at Liverpool in which he scored 158 goals in 297 matches, helping the Merseysiders win the FA Cup, League Cup and UEFA Cup in 2001

before being named European Footballer of the Year.

Unlike fellow Galacticos Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and Beckham, however, the England striker did not walk straight into the first team and had to settle for a place on the bench early in the season.

Competing with Ronaldo, Raul and Fernando Morientes for a place in the front line, Owen made the most of his opportunities to convince first Jose Antonio Camacho and then his successors Mariano Garcia Remon and Vanderlei Luxemburgo.

He scored vital winning goals against Valencia in the Primera Liga, Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League and Leganes in the Cup but it was not until the latter stages of the season that he was rewarded with a regular starting place.

Owen ended the season with 16 goals in all competitions and provided further evidence of his sharpness with a hat-trick in England's 3-2 win over Colombia during their post-season tour of the United States.

He is now fourth on the all-time England scorers list with 32 goals, 17 behind Bobby Charlton who tops the table with 49 international strikes.

The arrival of Brazilian strikers Robinho and Julio Baptista at Real pushed Owen further down the pecking order.

The Spanish club gave an unequivocal message that he should look for a way out when he was left sitting in the stands while they opened their league campaign at Cadiz on Sunday.

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Australian media call for changes ahead of final test

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Former Australian test players have joined the national media in calling for changes to Ricky Ponting's team for the fifth and final Ashes test against England at the Oval next week.

With Australia needing to win the final match to retain the Ashes after falling 2-1 behind following their three-wicket loss at Trent Bridge, most commentators now believe the time has come to make changes.

Former test batsman Michael Slater has called for the axing of his old opening partner Matthew Hayden.

Hayden has scored just 180 runs in the series at 22.50 and Slater said he should be dropped so Simon Katich can move to the top of the order.

"The time has come for Australia to drop Matthew Hayden," Slater told the Daily Telegraph on Tuesday.

"He's struggled to make runs all series, as he did in 2001 in English conditions and in truth, has been out of form now for 12 months.

Former Australia captain Steve Waugh said Ponting's team only had themselves to blame for their predicament after boasting they would thrash the English 5-0.



Australia's Shane Warne (2nd R) is pictured here celebrating as Australia's captain Ricky Ponting (3rd L) watches England's captain Michael Vaughan (L) who is dismissed having scored no runs during the fourth day of the fourth test of the Ashes cricket series at Trent Bridge in Nottingham Aug 28. REUTERS

"They don't seem to have the hunger normally associated with Australian cricket sides," Waugh told the Daily Telegraph.

"From Australia's point of view, there have been a few injuries, too many statements in the papers leading up to the series.

"Actions speak louder than words and they need to perform on the pitch."

Waugh's sentiments were echoed

throughout most of Australia's newspapers while The Australian's chief cricket writer Malcolm Conn said Ponting's team were also at risk of being branded as bad sports after their outbursts at Trent Bridge.

"Once considered arrogant bullies for their overly aggressive demeanour on the field, the Australians are now in danger of being painted as sore losers," Conn wrote.

Deserved credit

However, not everyone was laying the boot into the Australians.

Former Somerset captain Peter Roebuck, writing for the Sydney Morning Herald, said the team deserved credit for their brave fightback on the fourth day of the fourth test when they almost stole an unlikely victory.

Roebuck also took aim at the performance of umpire Aleem Dar who made a series of critical decisions against the Australians which television replays suggested were incorrect.

"The fourth day was a reminder never to discount the chances of a proud Australian team," Roebuck wrote.

"Had Aleem Dar had even a moderate match they might have pulled it off. Instead he made numerous palpable mistakes and the visitors were the victims each time."

The Australian's columnist Patrick Smith also said it was unwise to write off Ponting's men and urged the selectors not to make changes for the sake of it.

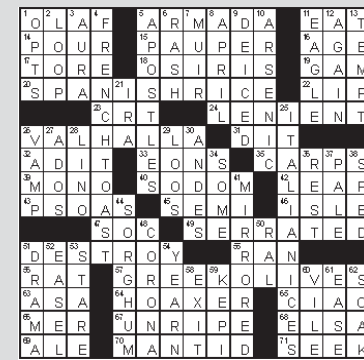
"To change now would be to panic," Smith wrote. "The Australians are not so far off the pace that they cannot catch up."

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

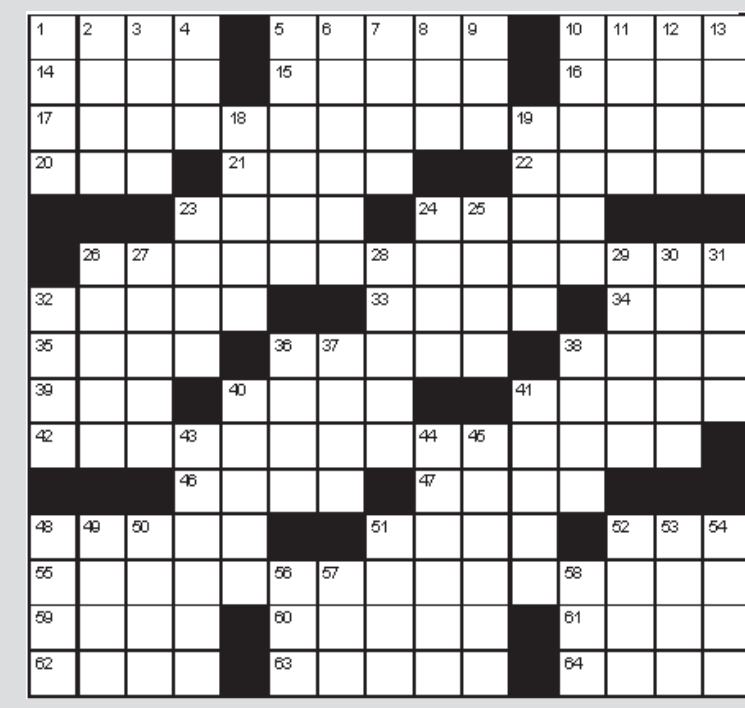
- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 26 Table mates | 47 Mediterranean gulf | rite? rifle? |
| 1 "Goodbye, Columbus" author | 32 Music to a comic's ears | 48 Garlic feature | 24 Not up to anything |
| 5 Pythias's partner | 33 It lands at Ben Gurion | 51 "___ plaisir!" | 25 Firth of Lorn resort |
| 10 Sheffield stroller | 34 Bale fodder | 52 Type of station | 26 Marshy arm |
| 14 Best-selling cookie | 35 Checked out | 55 Travelers' stop, perhaps | 27 Gable role |
| 15 "The Life of ___ Zola" | 36 Herculean types | 59 Give off | 28 Ancient Greek games site |
| 16 Philbin's sidekick | 38 Gael's language | 60 Antelope with twisted horns | 29 Hurler |
| 17 Big top twosome | 39 Decay | 61 Song for Madama Butterfly | 30 Some bridge players |
| 20 Terrorized street of film | 40 Place for an ace | 62 Rat Pack nickname | 31 Food grains |
| 21 Hit bottom | 41 Does the get-away driving, e.g. | 63 Map collection | 32 Cardamom or caraway, e.g. |
| 22 Base negotiating amounts | 42 1948 Oscar-winning song | 64 Bone reading | 36 Make perfect |
| 23 Give way | 46 Double-curved molding | | 37 "Anything ___?" |
| 24 Charged atoms | | | 38 Dark, poetically |

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"BUSY BEES" by Fran & Lou Sabin



Roddick sent packing by unheralded Muller

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A little-known lefthander from Luxembourg destroyed the U.S. Open dream of American Andy Roddick on Tuesday.

Gilles Muller, a 22-year-old playing at Flushing Meadows for the first time, produced the tennis of his life to beat the 2003 champion and fourth seed 7-6 7-6 7-6 in a huge first round upset on Roddick's 23rd birthday.

"I have no idea (how I did it)," said Muller, who beat current world number two Rafael Nadal in the second round at Wimbledon in June.

Representing a nation with a population of less than half a million, Muller brutally exposed the weakness of Roddick's backhand and repelled his 150mph serve with a remarkable 65 outright winners.

It left the American flummoxed, forlorn and dumbfounded in front of an expectant crowd at the Arthur Ashe Court.

"I don't really remember a loss where I've felt this bad afterwards," a dazed Roddick said. "I love playing here."

"I'm a little bit in shock right now to be honest. I've never felt better going into a slam. This has totally blindsided me."

Having trailed 5-2 in the first set, Muller won the respective tiebreaks 7-4, 10-8 and 7-1 against the man with the hardest serve in the sport's history.

In contrast to Roddick, men's top seed Roger Federer picked up where he left off last year, starting his title defense with a ruthless first-round defeat of Czech Ivo Minar.

A year ago, Federer crushed Lleyton Hewitt in the final and the Swiss top seed's 61-minute, 6-1 6-1 6-1 victory over Minar sent out an ominous warning to those who covet his U.S. crown.

Women's second seed Lindsay Davenport, third seed Amelie Mauresmo and French Open champion



Andy Roddick of the United States reacts to a missed point during his match against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg at the U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows, New York, Aug 30. REUTERS

Justine Henin-Hardenne also advanced to the second round without dropping a set.

However, the player Federer beat in last year's semi-finals, Briton Tim Henman, made a painful exit.

Compatriot Greg Rusedski also lost but a third Briton, teenager Andy Murray, progressed despite throwing up on court during his five-set win.

Peak form

Federer had played only one tournament since completing a hat-trick of Wimbledon titles in July but looked in peak form from the start against Minar, lashing forehand winners at will.

"That doesn't happen very often going into slams," said Federer, who will play Frenchman Fabrice Santoro next.

"Usually early on I'm looking for my rhythm. Today it was there straight away. It's a good sign, a good feeling."

World number one Davenport had to work hard for a 6-4 6-4 win over a determined Li Na of China in the first evening session match.

"It was a good first match to get under my belt, she is a very good player," Davenport said.

"I just hope I can get better as the tournament goes on."

Together with Belgian Kim Clijsters, former world number one Mauresmo is the most-gifted women's player still looking for a grand slam title and the Frenchwoman was too strong for Roberta Vinci, beating the Italian 6-3 6-2.

Mauresmo faces a tricky second-round opponent, however, in Bulgarian 16-year-old Sesil Karatantcheva.

Seventh seed Henin-Hardenne ensured there was no repeat of her shock first round exit at Wimbledon in June with an impressive 6-3 6-0 win over Czech Zuzana Ondraskova.

Back injury

Russian sixth seed Elena Dementieva, the runner-up last year, recovered from a slow start to quell another Czech, Lucie Safarova, 7-5 6-3.

Henman, the 12th seed, slumped to a dismal 6-4 6-2 6-2 defeat to Spain's Fernando Verdasco.

The loss means the 30-year-old, who was hampered by a painful back injury, will tumble down the men's rankings because he reached the last four here last year.

"If you're not healthy you can't compete at this level," the disappointed Briton said.

Rusedski, the 28th seed, was beaten in three sets by in-form American James Blake, the winner at New Haven on Sunday.

Murray bravely overcame Romanian Andrei Pavel 6-3 3-6 3-6 6-1 6-4, having vomited apparently from exhaustion early in the fifth set.

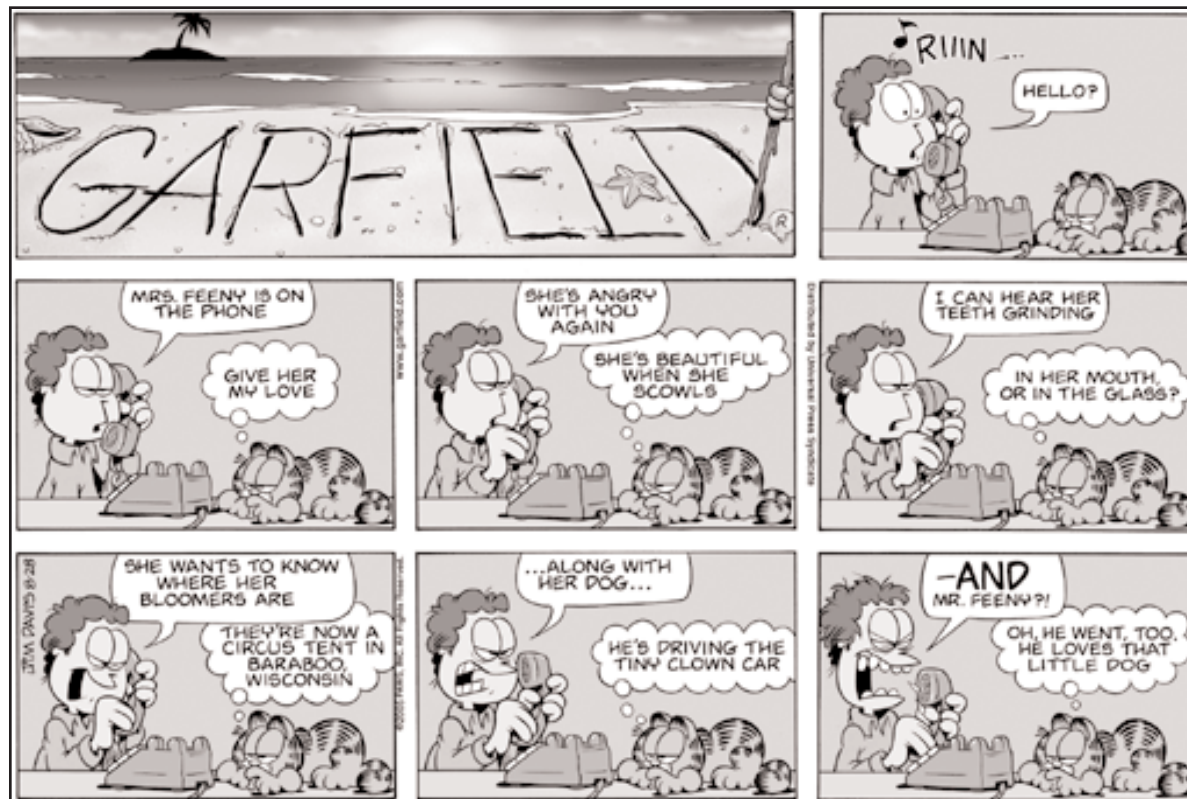
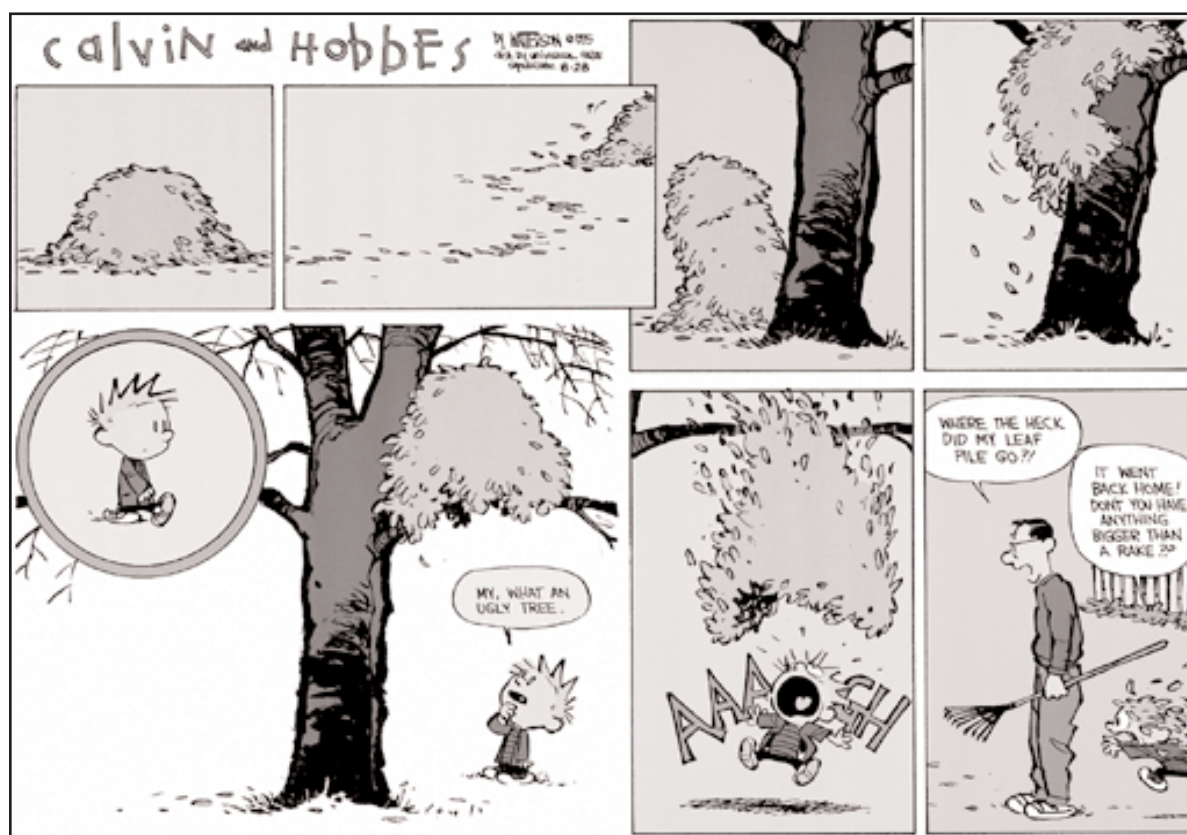
Pavel, ranked 83 places above the 18-year-old, was later penalized a point for swearing at the umpire following an

over-rule. Russian sixth seed Nikolay Davydenko beat Czech Tomas Zib 6-2 6-0 6-4.

Former French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten earned only his third tournament win of 2005 with a four-set victory over American Paul Goldstein, the Brazilian serving 35 aces in the process.

However, another ex-Roland Garros champion Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, seeded 20, lost 7-5 7-5 6-1 to Frenchman Arnaud Clement.

Argentine 11th seed David Nalbandian, the 2003 semi-finalist, came through in three sets against Alex Bogomolov of the U.S.



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Al-Mahweet Governorate

The city of Al-Mahweet is located 118 km. northwest, of the city of Sana'a. The enchanting mountain areas of the Al-Mahweet are unique in God's kingdom. Al-Mahweet is distinctive for its organic layout and natural aesthetic. That is why today and tomorrow, Al-Mahweet will be an attraction for internal and international tourism. This is despite the regions remote location of Al-Mahweet and the absence of many basic infrastructure services.

The look-outs, or, observation spots of the mountains of Al-Mahweet are enchanting and their outline is breathtakingly romantic, especially during the green seasons of cultivation. The majority of the region is elevated and its villages lie between heights and depressions. The sight of its forts is wonderful and its climate is pleasantly moderate while the winter cold but bearable.

Among its famous mosque, is the his-



torical Masiah Mosque. The important crops of the Al-Mahweet mountain terraces are Corn, Millet and all varieties of maize and pumpkin seeds, peanuts, long beans, Peppers (Chili), grapes, and Variety of "Raihana" scanty bushes.

The most important trees are Al-Thirh, and Al-Tunub, which is among the strongest and most durable large trees. They are excellent for carpentry of doors and windows.

From among the important historical villages on the way to Sana'a are Shibam/Kawkaban. It is 36 km away from Sana'a. Shibam, Kawkaban together with Thula Himyarite Capital of the Yafur dynasty until the beginning of Islam (7th / 8th century).



It was the retreat place of the Imams in the 16th century during the First Ottoman Conquest. From the fortress town Kawkaban there is a marvelous open view over the whole surrounding area.

Many tourists enjoy the walks in this mountainous area where they can walk downhill to Shibam, where you can visit a colorful market every Friday.

Al-Taweelah:

Lies at a mid waypoint between Sana'a and Al-Mahweet, and is embraced by an eagle-like mountain. It is surrounded with one of the most beautiful terrace landscapes of the Yemen.

The beautiful houses and forts characterize Al-Taweelah, and a visit to the city's interesting old stone houses and souq is recommended. The important of which are: Asayyid, Shamsan and Al-Abeer.

Castles and forts

Among the castles, which the visitors can pass through and stop in after the Al-Tawila castles, and a variety of others including:

Anfa, Muneif, Al-Ahjal-Bani Habashi, which used to be called in ancient times. Jabal Al-Tay, or, Mount of the Young Goat.

A beautiful location at Al'Ir Mosque, which is suitable for a pleasant rest.

Mountains

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