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YEMEN TIMES

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Ruling party to name presidential candidate

Will he be Saleh?

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept. 6- The third phase of reshuffling the ruling People's General Congress Party, the biggest political organization in Yemen's political arena, is planned to take place next week. Internal elections of permanent committees are conducted in 18 governorates including the Capital Secretariat. Such procedures will have been done after the ruling party completed the strategy of reshuffling in the electoral centers and districts numbering up to 330 across the country. Aqeel al-Zuhairi, Head of the Organization Unit at the ruling party said they have reached 60% of the process of the replacement of

leaders at the party. 2669 party members have been elected on the level of districts while the vote count is still withheld in five governorates. Concerning the representation of women in the party, al-Zuhairi, member of the PGC General Committee, confirmed the selected leading women numbered 1285 on the level of governorates. Decisions taken by the ruling party to reshuffle its leadership comes amid preparations for the 2006 presidential elections, competing with the opposition parties who plan to have joint efforts in the event. Reliable sources told the Yemen Times the ruling party will name its presidential candidate in coming

November in its seventh conference due to be held in the city of Aden. All the participants in the conference due to be attended by President Saleh, Chairman of the Party will insist on Saleh to come back on his decision and stand in 2006 presidential elections that is his last term under the Yemeni constitution, the sources predicted. Such procedures are thought of as the biggest organizational and democratic event adopted by the ruling party to embody proper democratic principles. The ruling party is attempting to correct its internal situations to race with opposition parties, mainly the Yemeni Congregation Party (Islah) the big rival, for the presidential and local elections.

The Islah Party and its leadership are still studying the President's decision not take part in the coming presidential elections. The President's declaration was welcomed by the Joint Opposition Meeting Parties considering it a distinctive initiative, the first of its kind in the Arab World. Despite the fact the Yemeni Socialist and Nasserite parties have shown desire to select on candidate for all the opposition parties, the Islah party avoids talk on this matter since there is enough time for selecting the eligible presidential candidate. The Islah party, seemingly a big political organization and staunch ally with the Yemeni Socialist party and the other opposition parties, is

still exchanging ideas with the ruling party about the selection of a presidential candidate. By the second half of the current month, the opposition party leaders will have approved the political reforms program to be adopted by their presidential candidate. Disappointment is pervading the Yemeni street as there is no integral role played by the opposition parties who seem to subordinate their interests at the expense of forming a strong opposition to the ruling party. Political analysts hold the view that the Joint Opposition Meeting Parties will fail in taking a unanimous decision for the selection of a single presidential candidate to represent them.



President Saleh

Prosecution accuses Hothi followers of planning to storm military sites and TV premise

5 Sept, Sana'a - YT: In the session for trying the 36 suspects accused of being Alhothi followers and who were accused of planning to carry out destructive attacks in the capital Sana'a. Prosecution disclosed that his cell were also planning to storm some premises such as the First armored brigade, TV premises in addition to planning to assassinate military and political leaders. These accomplices were not carried out because the didn't receive instruction from their leadership in Sana'a. The prosecution also presented a medial report of Ahmed Ali Raishan who was hurt by the attacker on the 29th of march 2005. Arms ceased with suspect Ibrahim Sharafadeen were also shown. Evidences that will convict the first suspect and other four were introduced. They were accused of forming an armed group to hurl grenades on military vehicles. The suspects refused the accusations and shouted the slogan of "Death to America, death to Israel". Advocates of the suspects confirmed



the illegal accusations against their clients and demanded their release. The court postponed this matter till prosecution finishes their evidence of prosecution case. The court allowed the defendant's lawyers to copy the prosecution files. According to UPI Yemen's public prosecutor Monday accused the fol-

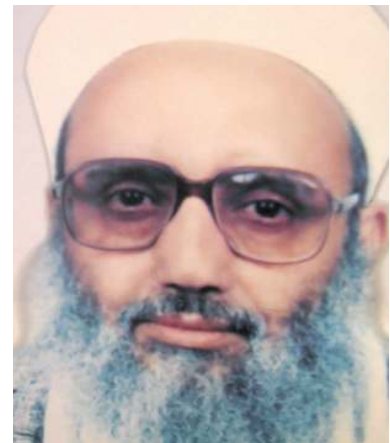
lowers of a slain rebel leader of having conspired to assassinate Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The prosecutor told a special court dealing with cases of terrorism that 36 followers of Hussein Badreddine al-Houthi, who are known as the Sanaa Cell, planned to attack the official television station's building, the headquarters of

Yemeni intelligence in Sanaa in addition to the assassination of senior military and political officials, including President Saleh himself. The prosecutor then produced a list of evidence, including the testimony of prime defendant Ibrahim Sharafeddine, whom he said had confessed the conspiracy.

Yemen demands material evidence from Security Council Committee

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a 3 September- A reliable source in the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign



Al-Moayad

Affairs confirmed that it told the Security Council Committee to present clear evidence before it could take any measures against citizens. The foreign affairs ministry confirmed that it demands that material evidence should be presented by the Security Council's committee against the Yemeni citizens whose names are on their list. The ministry said that they will start taking measures as soon as this evidence is presented. The source said that Yemen abides by the Council's resolution. It highlighted The Yemeni efforts in fighting



Al-Zindani

terrorism. A source said that the Yemeni government participated actively in fighting terrorism. It detained many terrorist, tried them and they received different sentences. The source added that Yemen is ready to take any measures against any of its citizens if he is proofed to be involved in any acts of financing terrorism; however this evidences are presented by the Security Council Committee, or any other friendly or brotherly countries.

Somali immigrants face death in the Red Sea

5 Sept, Sana'a- YT: Yemen has continuously been the transit point and sometimes destination for many immigrants coming from the African horn testing their fate, more than 2,500 people have been reported to attempt immigration in the last three years. More than 250 immigrants have been reported to sail on boats on 30 August from a coastal village some 25 km from northeastern Somalia's port town of Bossaso. Many of whom were women and children heading for Yemen. The security authorities in Beer Ali seized 90 Somalis, who have entered the country waters coming from the African Horn. Security sources said that those persons, including 15 women, were arrested in the last two days while they were illegally trying to enter Yemeni territories. The sources said the seized Somalis had been brought to Maifa'ah camp of refugees before taking them to Kharaz camp in Lahj governorate. There were two boats that were making an illegal crossing from Somalia to Yemen when the 18 smugglers - armed with guns, daggers and clubs - turned on their passengers. Of the immigrants at least 58 people drowned and some 150 others were missing when armed men smuggling would-be immigrants to Yemen in two boats forced them overboard several kilometres from the shore, sources said on Monday. Survivors have been given tents for temporary shelter near the coast and are to be transferred to a

Somali refugee centre. It is unclear what happened to the smugglers. IRIN reported that the acting Somali Consul-General, Husayn Haji Ahmad, said that as of Sunday, 37 people had been found alive. He said the smugglers, out of fear of interception by Yemeni coastguards, had on Friday afternoon forced people - at gunpoint - to jump into the sea some five km from the shore. "Many of those people who jumped did not even know how to swim," Ahmad said. "Local fishermen picked up some of the 35 men and two women, while others swam to the shore." "Some bodies of dead passengers washed up on the beach," he added, and said search and rescue operations by Yemeni authorities were continuing, but "hopes of finding any more survivors are dwindling". On 1 September, the UN Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia, Ghanim Alnajjar, cited trafficking in human beings as one of the common abuses in Somalia. "The lack of coastline monitoring encourages human trafficking, often with fatal consequences for those who seek to leave Somalia for a better life elsewhere, many of whom drown or arrive at their destination only to discover that their hopes for a better life cannot be realised," Alnajjar told a news conference in Nairobi, Kenya following a trip to Somalia.

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Continued on page 3

GTZ seeks to furnish health care to government employees

By NABEEL ALTOITY
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Professor Abulaziz Ben Habtoor, Deputy Minister of Education, discussed the prospect of establishing a comprehensive national health care system for the ministry's employees, with the German (GTZ), health care

group, in accordance with the recent cabinet's resolution.

The mechanism of the application of the system was discussed, considering the experience of other countries. Regional and international experience will be compared to reach the most effective policy for the nation's civil servants.

German-French team to teach magic

SANA'A- Sept. 3- Six German and French magicians are to arrive in Sana'a this week to teach a group of Yemeni students the art of magic, or street craft.

The visiting team is expected to teach the students how to juggle, eat fire, become magicians and performers of the entertaining arts. The course will last for 3 months.

The group is expected to stage a parade starting from the 19th of

September, in addition to joint dance in al-Tahrir Square the second day. On the 24th of September, the introduced activities will shift to the city of Aden.

It is noteworthy the street art which includes elements of circus, theater and music has a long history in Europe and has grown to the form of contemporary art. This kind of art can be performed in streets and is a fusion of both theatre and magic.

AADO promotes Yemen's agriculture, fishery, livestock development

SANA'A- Sept. 4- Solaiman Alawaji, Chairman of Arab Agricultural Development Organization (AADO)- Sana'a Bureau, asserted his organization has a keen interest to cooperate and coordinate with all the Arab countries in the field of livestock protection and the development of fisheries.

"Programs of cooperation between Yemen and the organization are significant for agriculture, livestock and fishery wealth development," Alawaji said.

He signaled out the AADO

together with the Yemeni government would establish land, naval and air quarantines and would also provide them with the required equipment.

These works will grant the Yemeni cadre a number of training courses in Yemen and abroad on the process of observation on the safety of imports entering Yemen.

Chairman of AADO mentioned his organization would sponsor fisheries-related statistics and researches, train the Yemeni fishermen and activate women's role in rural services.

Corpses held in morgue over electronic ID card

SANA'A- Sept. 4- A large number of citizens assembled at the Civic Affairs and Register Authority, part of the Ministry of Interior located in Esser Street, in protest against prolonging procedures related to issuance of electronic ID cards recently approved by the government.

Numerous citizens told the Yemen Times they have three corpses of their

relatives two of whom died in a traffic accident waiting to be put in the Republican Hospital's morgue.

When these citizens went to the hospital to take the corpses of their relatives to bury them, their request were rejected since they have no ID cards. Then they moved to the Civic Affairs and Register Authority to have electronic ID cards but have been delayed by a week due to pro-

cedures related to the issuance of new cards, and moreover the authority was given orders to stop issuing traditional cards that can be obtained within hours.

People rallying at the Civic Affairs and Register Authority vented their anger at the government officials for the maltreatment they receive in public institutions, in addition to prolonging the course of procedures.

Policemen tried for torturing suspect to death

5 Sept, Sana'a - YT: Three members of the Yemeni security forces have gone on trial in absentia, for torturing a terror suspect to death in the south of the country. The two policemen and one security officer are reported to be evading arrest. They are accused of torturing Wadih Shibani to death at a police detention centre in September 1997, while forcing him to confess to being involved in bombings in the Aden area in 1997. A Yemeni court started Monday the trial and the public prosecutor's office in Aden filed charges against the two

police officers and security member of having tortured Wadih Shibani to death, however, the three men are reportedly on the run to avoid facing the charges.

The indictment indicated that the three interrogated Shibani at a police detention center in Aden in September 1997 and used force and physical torture to extract confessions leading to the suspect's death. The indictment was attached to the official report of the forensic doctor about the causes of Shibani's death. In its most recent annual report, the human rights

organisation Amnesty International said they continued to receive reports of torture and ill treatment in Yemen. In June last year, 14 suspects on trial in connection with the bombing of the Limburg, a French oil tanker, in October 2002, said in court that they had been tortured by intelligence officers. One man shouted out in court that some of them had been given electric shocks. Amnesty says the court subsequently ordered an investigation into the allegations, but as of the end of 2004 there had been no further information on the inquiry.

Starting from next year, Branching cancelled and new schools for elites

In a special release to Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulsalam Aljofi, Minister of Education, confirmed that branching in Secondary schools (scientific-literal), will be cancelled starting from the next academic year 2006-2007. This will be in accordance with the new policy of the national strategy for development of secondary education.

The Ministry is now studying this strategy in light of the regional and international changes especially after entry of Yemen into the Educational Arabic Gulf office, with special consideration for our national principals.

The minister pointed out that his ministry will open special schools for the elite, after positive experiences

with the Baihani and Aden secondary schools.

Distinctive students of the basic certificate will join these schools, and other classes for distinctive will be opened in some of the model schools in a number of governorates, until full schools are opened for those talented and elites.

Opposition MPs demand government Interpellation

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of opposition MPs demanded a government interpellation over victims of fuel rise demonstrations and the harassment on journalists. They also demanded interpellation of the government over the big rise in

commodity prices as the rise in the fuel price is disproportionate.

Many MPs said that this government has abandoned its people and has lost touch with reason. They demand the release all those detained in the demonstrations.

Opposition MP Mansour al-zandani from Islah party said that opposition

MPs demanded that a fact finding committee should be formed to investigate on the transgressions against press and journalists. The last of these were the abduction of Al-wasat chief editor, the robbery of Al-nida news paper and Associated press and detention of journalist Khalid Humadi correspondent of the Al-quds news paper.

Next week Fifth Arab Human Rights Course in Sana'a

Sana'a- The Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) will host in Sana'a, the fifth course on International Human rights, in coordination with Conrad Edinawar Establishment.

The course starts on 12-18 September. 35 trainees from different Arab countries will participate in this course. They are from Palestine, Sudan Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon Emirates,

Qatar, Kuwait and Yemen).

Mr. Iz-adeen Al-Asbahi, the Center manager said that the conference will be of vital importance for civil society in the region. He added that the Center organizes gave it a reputation in the Arab region.

The varied topics of the course added to the distinct training staff gave it a special distinction and served as linking point between the

Arab civil community activists.

This course will continue for a week and its agenda will contain information on human rights, international charters and the regional European and American agreements. There are other mechanisms for regional and international protections in addition to the International Penalty Court. There will also be a workshop on International conventions on Children rights and the elim-

Pressman called atheist before judiciary

ADEN- Sept. 5- The accusation of al-Haq Paper's Editor-in-Chief, Ahmad al-Hubeishi, with atheism and going beyond the limits of the Sunna of Prophet Mohamed caused public ire and tension last week.

The accusations were caused by Ahmad al-Hubeishi's criticism of the government and campaign for reform. He uncovered the attempts of corrupt individuals to cheat the public good.

Journalists considered what was published by al-Haq Paper as classed within the frame of fierce campaign launched by corrupt individuals con-

trarily to the calls of HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh for fighting all forms of corruption and holding corrupt individuals accountable for their actions.

In their statement, journalists denounced the attacks on al-Haq which is a leading newspaper supporting the culture of reform and updating initiated by its editor Ahmad al-Hubeishi.

Al-Hubeishi sent a letter to the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate in which he informed officials there of what was published by his paper and urged the council of the syndicate to take

firm procedures against such violations that harm democracy and the press freedom.

The Administrative Staff of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, Aden Branch issued a communiqué in its emergency meeting held on August 24 in which it denounced the attack on al-Hubeishi.

The Administrative Staff insisted on the syndicate to immediately approve the Journalistic Ethic Code, activate its mechanisms and confront the malpractices and the humiliations of pressmen.

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:

There are news that president Saleh will run for the election again. Do you think that he still have the same popularity as before?
Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think that the government will comply with the demands of the trade unions and reconsider the new strategy of wages?

No 63%
Yes 37%
I don't know 0%

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ination of torture.

A number of famous Arab and international trainers from France, Egypt, Algiers, Iraq and Sudan will be working in this course.

New educational satellite channel to be launched

Nabeel Altoity
For Yemen Times

Dr. Abdulsalam Aljofi, Minister of education said that the final preparations for launching a new educational satellite channel are close to completion. This channel will be a positive contribution to educational facilities in Yemen.

The educational channel was conceived in 1995 and has only now become operational, a record feat of bureaucratic efficiency. The channel will contribute to education throughout the region by utilizing expensive technology to reach the impoverished masses.



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME OF
THE UNITED NATIONS (WFP)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The WFP is establishing a pool of pre-selected candidates (Roster) for **FOOD MONITOR** post for its offices in the Republic of Yemen. Interested applicants should deliver their applications along with their detailed CV's in English. This Roster is open to Yemeni nationals, and female candidates are most encouraged.

The responsibilities of the Food Monitor, shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the assistance programme at the local level, in close collaboration with the implementing partners.
- Monitor and review the overall commodity movements such as food deliveries, storage, transport and distribution at the site and verify if the amounts received have been properly recorded, damaged or suspected to be damaged.
- Supervise the efficient distribution of food items at the site and ensure proper distribution of entitlements and verify appropriate entitlements are distributed and provide feedback to Field Officers and others on the distribution.
- Assist in the implementation of the plan of action, review achievement and constraints and provide feedback accordingly.
- In consultation with the Field Officer and implementing partners, encourage women's access to economic skills development and sensitize girls and women on gender issues and gender-focused activities.
- Report periodically to the Field Officer on relevant events regarding food management. Distribution and other related issues.
- Identify any apparent issues in the programme and report them to the appropriate personnel.
- Supervise and train other personnel as appropriate.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

- Secondary School Education, supplemented experience or additional education in education, social services, nutrition, agriculture or other related field.
- Very good knowledge of the local language and English.
- Knowledge of utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet and other software packages.

Experience:

Two years of progressively responsible clerical experience including at least one year in the field of statistics, or another related field.

Result Expected: Organized and precise records; well-analyzed data with minimal supervision.

All applications to be submitted to the WFP Representative in Sana'a not later than **15 September 2005** in closed envelope clearly marked:

(Application for Food Monitor Roster, at the following address: World Food Programme, Sana'a, Villa No. 22 - Nwakhshut St. St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P.O. Box 7181, Republic of Yemen. Tel: 01 214100/101, Fax: 01 205515.

Plans to launch Puppet Theater

SANA'A- Sept. 6- Like other developing societies, children in Yemeni society suffer from maltreatment, violence, a lack of education and other injustices. Such mistreatment is an enormous psychological burden to a developing mind and can severely limit or influence growth and socialization. The suffering is worse for children who live in difficult conditions due to poverty and family disintegration.

Children live in the streets, beg or work in dangerous and unregulated jobs, often illegally.

The social and economic transformation of Yemeni society has left extra burdens and tensions that create an environment suitable for violence changes witnessed in Yemeni society over the last 14 years, particularly after adopting the political reform policy and halting support for categories of limited income, contributed to deteriorating the living standards of population, mainly the poorer families. As a result, several families have become unable to provide social care for children and against children.

Violence against children in Yemen and other forms of maltreatment, either

in or outside their families requires the concerned parties to conduct a study to check domains, reasons and bad effects of the phenomenon. These parties should suggest social policies to restrict the phenomenon and contribute to reinforcing child rights and providing better means for his/her care by parents at home and the society in the outer world.

This project would be implemented by Ibhara Foundation for Childhood and Creativity and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood being the parties concerned with supervision and coordination and responsible for protecting rights of children. This project can be implemented in collaboration with the UNICEF to be the initial step for raising awareness, fighting violence against children as well as enabling children who have been subjected to abuse and exploitation to express themselves and speak directly with the society via theater.

The project account on the ability of theater to directly address the public and create a positive interaction with them. The idea concentrated on the design of simple popular theater to

draw the attention of children and benefit them. Funny was taken into account while designing the Puppet theater and how it will fit the Yemeni environment and the cultural privacy of Yemen. The project will move according to a timetable in the Capital Secretariat and the city of Aden and will display the skit for partners of the last part of the project: al-Amal House for Girls, Safer Childhood Center, Boys Guidance House and Comprehensive Services Center.

Arrangements for the project started in the final month of 2004 and continued up until last August in coordination with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

The project went through the design of 4 wood-made mobile theaters and the procurement of 20 popular puppets to be delivered to the above said four partners of the project after the 8 offers, concerning the display of 4 recorded skits, goes to an end.

The skits will be distributed to partners of the project and a number of schools in different Yemeni governorates in coordination with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

German-French team to teach magic

SANA'A- Sept. 3- Six German and French magicians are to arrive in Sana'a this week to teach a group of Yemeni students the art of magic, or street craft.

The visiting team is expected to teach the students how to juggle, eat fire, become magicians and perform-

ers of the entertaining arts. The course will last for 3 months.

The group is expected to stage a parade starting from the 19th of September, in addition to joint dance in al-Tahrir Square the second day. On the 24th of September, the introduced activities will shift to the city

of Aden.

It is noteworthy the street art which includes elements of circus, theater and music has a long history in Europe and has grown to the form of contemporary art. This kind of art can be performed in streets and is a fusion of both theatre and magic.

Aden University organizes Woman International Conference

ADEN- Sept. 3- Under the auspices of Prof. Yahya Eas'e, Rector of Aden University and in cooperation with the Yemeni Womens Association for Science and Technology, the Womens Center for Research and Training at Yemen university is to organize the International Conference on Woman, Sciences and Development between 11-14th of December.

The event will be staged as part of the 30th anniversary of Aden University.

As many as 60 leading women from the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, India, South Africa and a number of Arab countries will take part in the event.

Rakhsana Mohamed Ismail, coordinator of the conference indicated that the Woman International Conference aims to offer an exchange of scientific and practical experiences between woman participants and strengthen the ties of cooperation between them. It also aims to develop the status and reality of women, discuss their issues and expand the scope of their social participation in different directions and activities.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia exchange historical documents

Sana'a- 5 September- Yemen and Saudi Arabia signed a cooperative program on exchange of experiences in documents and defining sources of documents in both Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

This agreement came as a complement for the agreement that was signed last Year. It will be a basis for the reciprocal exchange of documents between the two Arab states. Researchers, academics and religious leaders in both countries will also make use of this agreement.

Malaysian Kingdom celebrates its national day

SANA'A 31August- The Malaysian embassy in Sana'a celebrated its 40th national day.

H.E. Ambassador Misran Karmain and his wife Hasna received the guests together with the embassy staff.

Government officials and dignitary

Yemeni ladies and gentlemen also attended this celebration on top of them Dr. Rasheed Ba-Raba'a ; Minister of Minerals and Oil. Members of Arabic and foreign diplomatic missions in Yemen also attended this ceremony.

Continued from page 1

Yemen demands material evidence from Security Council Committee

The Yemeni announcement came after the American continuous demand to extradite Sheikh Abdulmajeed Alzandani, Head of Al-Iman University and head of Islah party consultancy council. He is one of the prominent Islamic leaders in Yemen. The Security Council Committee had declared freezing Alzandani balances, following accusations that he is among the list of terror supporters. Yemen rejected these accusations and demanded presentation of material evidences and that he should be tried inside Yemen.

The American demands of extraditing terrorists are increasing tension in their already tense relationship with America. Yemenis think that the Americans don't positively evaluate the Yemeni efforts of fighting terrorism. This reached its peak in the case of the assassination of Al-Harathi, one

of the attackers of USS Cole, when an American plane attacked and killed him.

Yemen considers the American trial for some Yemenis as an intervention in its internal affairs and doesn't help in consolidating bilateral Relations. A clear example is the 75 years imprisonment of Shiekh Al-Moyad in addition to a fine of \$250,000. His aide Mohamed Ziad was also sentenced to 45 year's imprisonment. Yemen complains that its efforts in terror fighting are not appreciated and that assistance from the west has been meager and ineffective.

Yemen's policy in trying terrorists is also attributed to the heavy losses it experienced due to their attacks. Terrorism in Yemen is a major cause of reluctant foreign investment and exacts a high toll on the lives of the nations defense and security personnel.

Thula students promote environmental awareness

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

A young child dies in the arms of his mother after a terrible bout with diarrhea. The cause: parasites contracted from swimming in an unclean cistern and not washing his hands with soap. Another child dies from a fall due to garbage thrown in the street. These were scenes from the performance given by the girls from the Arwa School at the end of their environmental health summer camp in the town of Thula.

Local teachers were given a mini course in hygiene prior to the summer school in which 54 girls participated. The program, funded by USAID/Yemen, was designed to create hygiene awareness through a creative program which included classes on storytelling through comics, theater, song and art/drawing. The students chose the class that best suited their talents. The girls developed their own environmental health messages and related them to their daily lives and their community.



A one day cleaning campaign was part of the Thula Summer School

The August 31st finale brought parents, community members, local council, governorate and district health officials together for a display of the girls' achievements in using various media to convey messages about environmental issues and how their families and communities should approach solutions to these problems.

The audience was amazed by the performances and touched by the clear messages that were aimed at the adults - keep the community clean; wash hands with soap and water; don't swim in dirty water; don't use cistern water for drinking; take responsibility for the environment and for teaching children the importance of hygiene and sanitation. Smiles and clapping emerged when parents saw their girls wearing mustaches, playing fathers and judges. Parents and the community were held responsible for their children's environment-al health related illnesses and accidents.

The boys school, Shahid AlThelaya participated in the closing events by performing a song to welcome the guests and a play depicting the hazard of revenge in traditional Yemen.

The closing events were attended by Ali Hizam, Deputy Governor; Ali Baker, Deputy Governor of the Environmental Health Office; Ahmed AlSadiq, Local Councilor at the Amran Governorate Council; Mohammed Fatime, Thula District Director; Mohammed Qais, Thula General Secretary; General Directors of Thula Governmental Offices; Iman Awad, USAID Health and Population Specialist; Cheri Rassas, Chief of Party of PHRplus; Emtinan Al-Medhwahi, PHRplus Technical Specialist for Environmental Health; Husien Bahroun, Health Educational Advisor; and Dalia Al Eryani, PHRplus Project Officer.

The Summer School activity is part of the Environmental Health Pilot Project funded by USAID and implemented by the PHRplus project in Thula district. The purpose of the Pilot is to identify major environmental health problems in the district and implement community-based solutions to these problems.



Girls conveying environmental health messages through songs



The boys performing their play

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DFID Department for International Development

A full time vacancy is now available in the DFID office, based at the British Embassy, for a Yemeni National to fill the position of:

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The position involves:

- Providing administrative support to Head of Office, Deputy Head of Office and Systems Management Officer.
- Maintaining the DFID office administration and accounting systems.
- Providing assistance/support for DFID (local staff, visitors, and consultants) missions in Yemen (i.e. transport/accommodation arrangements, scheduling appointments/meetings etc.)
- Translation and other support services to the HO and official DFID visitors.

Selection Criteria:

- Ability to work alone/part of a team and under pressure
- Fluent in Arabic and English, both spoken and written
- Computer literate (Word, Excel & Powerpoint)
- Minimum qualification of High School/Secondary education
- 2 years experience in Office Administration

Please send your CV/Resume with a letter of application (maximum 1 page), explaining why YOU would be suitable for the position, by email to: dfid@yemen.net.ye

(Deadline for applications: Monday 19th Sept)

As a member of the DFID staff, all professional activities are expected to be consistent with the following core values: FULFILLING REQUIRED TASKS/RESPONSIBILITIES, WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM, COMMITMENT, INTEGRITY, HONESTY, RESPECT - WITH OPENNESS AND TRUST.

*Stats speaking out***Yemen, the fading democracy**

HAKIM ALMASMARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

Going into the 21st century, Yemen pledged to put itself in the driver's seat on a mission to lead the Arab world to a more democratic way of life. By the early 90's and after the great unity, Yemen was on its way towards historical progress in a short period of time. Political parties were introduced, freedom of speech promised, a constitution based on Islamic values and democracy agreed upon, further guaranteeing a more prosperous future for this long seen suffering nation. Unfortunately and five years later, things changed to the worse, as the country took a U-Turn to the past.

Going back to what made the unity a granted success was the regimes promise to spread democracy; Furthermore, making democracy the cornerstone of the new unified Yemen. More than fifteen years ago, Yemeni's worldwide hailed the unity as an everlasting victory. They realized the importance of democracy as it teaches how to work together in the best interest of the nation. That means cooperation, collaboration, respect for the other, and the willingness to limit one's greed.

In the 1993 elections, the ruling party occupied only 28% of the votes, while Islah, Socialist, and Independent parties each took home at least 17% of the overall votes, making the practice of democracy and multi party participation reach to an extreme. Eventually, and only four years later, things turned bad as four parties boycotted the elections, calling it unfair and undemocratic.

Women's participation in parliament started on a great pace, but gradually decreased. In 1990, women had a total of 8 seats. This number slowly and unnoticeably decreased to two members in 1997. Finally in 2003, only one member was left.

In the same year, the ruling party as well as the socialist party equally divided the 301 seats of parliament between themselves. Four years later, the number of seats occupied by the ruling party topped all opposition with 187. Then in 1997, it dramatically increased to 226 members. Now, and after the 2003 elections, the ruling party occupies the vast majority in parliament holding an unbelievable 250 seats of the possible 301. The reason? Fading democracy.

Since 1978, Yemen has only witnessed the era of one president. This in return, contradicts with what democracy teaches. The Arab world desperately needs democracy, human rights and more than all, an honest government.

In a poll conducted with 650 university students 72% described Yemen as a dictatorship regime, while only 12% admitted that democracy is what really runs the country.

A rare bright side to Yemen's democracy is the increasing number of participation in elections. Even though they realize that their vote cannot decide the outcome of the elections, due to unfairness, many still feel obligated and strive to give their vote willingly. Ironically even Israel's Arabs, whom are considered as 2nd class citizens, enjoy more political rights and freedom than those in Arab nations.

"The efficiency of democracy in Yemen today is exceptionally lower than what we were hoping for 10 years ago", said a local activist. "We were very excited about being the front runner for democracy in the Middle East". Still, and even in such backward situations, life in general, and freedom in specific is more clearly noticed in Yemen than that of neighboring countries.

Going back to the last presidential elections, no real opposing candidate stood in front of President Saleh. The only other candidate running for presidency was awkwardly from the same party as the president. In result, the ruling party was competing with itself

freely and openly.

Numerous parliament members are tribal leaders or wealthy businessmen who have no such understanding and experience in politics, not to mention democracy. Powerful tribes and Sheikhs repeatedly prove that they are the real force in this traditional and conservative country, possessing all sorts of weapons from machine guns to heavy artillery tanks and even warplanes. To such people, democracy is just an illusion and only the strong deserve to rule.

In the last elections, ruling party candidates spent millions of dollars advertising their campaign, while handing out unbelievable bribes to locals who could affect the outcome of the elections. Some bribes went as high as one hundred million Yemeni Rials! Hundreds of free vehicles were given to citizens throughout the country in connection with the advertising campaign. "During election period, democracy in Yemen seems more like hypocrisy", quoted a local activist. "Unfortunately, this is not what we were hoping for Yemen to be like the year of the unity", he added.

Attacks on journalists have sky rocketed to an unpredictable level. Only recently was the Editor in Chief of Al-Wasat newspaper beaten and threatened to death. NGO's continuously receive threats and deal with numerous and false accusations. Human rights violations seen on a daily basis in all fields while they operate with difficulty. Things only seem getting worse.

The President of the Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh, could end up reviving the spirit of democracy in Yemen, while on the other hand granting himself a place in history. His announcement of stepping down from presidency after the next presidential elections was historical, furthermore giving hope to this thirsty country for a chance to see a better tomorrow. Could this finally open the doors of success in this poor, oil rich Middle Eastern country? Only time will tell.

Yemen Times interviews the leader of the Democracy and Justice Party

Mohamed Zain Alsaqaf is the former head of the coordination council of the Yemeni opposition parties and leader of the Rabita Party in Aden.

Mr. Alsaqaf is now head of the newly formed Democracy and Justice Party. According to their manifesto, the party is aiming at building a modern civil state based on the rule of law and greater justice. This is a transcript of a recent interview between Mr. Alsaqaf and the Yemen Times.

Q: What is your evaluation for the importance of the formation of this new Party?

A: We are grateful for the Yemen Times to give a chance to speak to their readers.

It is obvious that the constitution secures free political practice for all, so as a patriotic, civil public party that is undertaking peaceful opposition and derives their principals from public aspiration, we will struggle for modernizing our community and to maintain stability, security and social justice. We will also strive for preserving unity, and secure bases for economic and political reforms, that could guarantee free and honorable living for our people. We will also see to it that these acts contribute to our development in order to cope with the developed world besides deterring violence, extremism and terrorism.

All these factors drove us to form our new party.

Q: At the outset of democracy in 1999, there emerged 22 political parties in addition to the civil society organizations and associations, what new ideas have your party to add to these?

A: Each political party has its own political opinions and approach, but some of the political parties were established prior to unity while others came with unity. Our Democracy and Justice party is declared after unity.



Mohamed Zain Alsaqaf

A: We expect that our membership will constitute all those who believe in justice and democracy, and our party's name reflects our principals. As for the support, we expect it to come from all those good people who believe in this country's development.

Q: Were you met with welcome or criticism from the other parties?

A: We are an existing party in the political arena and it is obvious that we should face some troubles, but our unity will enable us to manage our affairs.

Q: Another party which is called "Hizb Alghad" is also formed and its leader is intending to run the next presidential elections, what is your comment on that?

A: It is a constitutional right warranted to all citizens.

Q: Have you got the same intention to nominate yourself for the next presidential elections?

A: This is not the appropriate time to tell.

Q: What are your party's best methods to apply these principals?

A: This answer came within the answer to your first question.

Q: Do you expect your party declaration to be smooth or would you be faced with objections from the Committee of Party and political organizations affairs?

A: The constitution Guarantees political activity, that is why I expect no complications from this committee.

Q: Have you got anything to add?

A: We are dreaming of a country in which justice and liberty dominate, and hope for prosperity that would place this people in the level of the Gulf people with Oman as an example. Finally I express my heartfelt gratitude to Yemen Times. Until next time.

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Annan expects blame over Iraqi oil program

LONDON (Reuters) - U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday he expected to face blame over the Iraqi oil-for-food program when investigators deliver a report this week, and wished the United Nations had never agreed to run it.

Annan told BBC World Service radio he believed chief investigator Paul Volcker would also criticize others involved in the corruption-tainted \$64 billion program.

"I suspect that there will be lots of criticism (for) myself as chief admin officer, probably something on the 661 committee, the Security Council, the government

of Iraq," he said.

"When it comes to Iraq, on this issue no one is entirely covered in glory."

The now defunct program was designed to ship humanitarian supplies into Iraq while allowing Baghdad to sell limited oil under U.N. economic sanctions.

It was run by the United Nations and overseen by a panel of Security Council member representatives, called the 661 committee after a resolution governing the sanctions.

Volcker, a former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman hired to investigate the program, is due to issue a report of more

than 1,000 pages on Wednesday on the investigation's findings.

Among those expected to face criticism are Annan's son Kojo, accused of using his father's name for personal profit while working for a Swiss firm that won a lucrative contract to inspect goods.

Annan is expected to be cleared of improperly interfering in the contract on his son's behalf, although sources close to the investigation say he will be rebuked for failing to supervise the program properly.

Annan said he wished the U.N. had had nothing to do with the program.

"We have a whole range of activities,

oil-for-food was an extra program we were asked to undertake. Honestly I wish we were never given that program, and I wish the U.N. would never be asked to take that kind of a program again," he said.

The oil-for-food program was designed to lessen the humanitarian impact on Iraqis of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. It gave U.N. officials the power to oversee billions of dollars in trade every year.

The program ran from 1996 until U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq in March 2003 and toppled President Saddam Hussein.

Iraq leader says Saddam "confesses" to killings

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "confessed" to ordering executions and a campaign against Kurds in which thousands of people are said to have been killed, President Jalal Talabani said.

But Talabani did not say whether Saddam had actually admitted to committing any crimes or merely acknowledged that he was head of state and commander in chief of the army at the time of various military operations.

"I met the investigator who questioned Saddam," he told Iraqiya state television in an interview late on Tuesday. "He said he had extracted important confessions from Saddam Hussein and he signed them."

The revelations come amid continuing violence in Iraq overnight and on Wednesday in northern Iraq where U.S. and Iraqi forces are fighting insurgents.

Asked about the confessions, Talabani replied: "About the crimes he committed: he confessed to al-Anfal and the executions," adding that Saddam had said: "The orders were released by me."

Al-Anfal was a campaign against the Kurds between 1986 and 1989 in which over 100,000 people are said to have been killed and many villages destroyed. Talabani is a Kurd.

"Saddam deserves a death sentence 20 times a day because he tried to assassinate me 20 times," he said, recalling his days as a Kurdish rebel leader fighting the Baghdad authorities.

Talabani's comments, on the eve of a visit to the United States, appeared to be part of an orchestrated move by the government to prepare Iraqis for Saddam's execution, expected to be carried out by hanging.

The official government spokesman said at the weekend that Saddam's trial, on a single charge of mass killings in reprisal for a 1982 assassination attempt, would begin on October 19.

He said if Saddam were found guilty in this case, the court could dispense with the need to try him for other crimes — clearing the way for an early execution.

Iraq scrapped the death penalty immediately after the U.S. invasion in March 2003, but has since reintroduced it and executed its first three convicted criminals last week.

trying him and introducing a new constitution in October.

Both moves are likely to prove contentious and risk alienating the Sunni Arab minority from which Saddam derived his support. Sunnis have lost their leading role since the fall of Saddam and fear the new constitution will institutionalize this.

The text was adopted by parliament late last month, but many leading Sunnis vowed to work for its rejection in a referendum due by October 15.

Informal talks between Sunnis and Shi'ites to amend the text to make it palatable to all sides collapsed on Tuesday, and five million copies of the draft adopted by parliament will be printed starting on Thursday for distribution ahead of the vote.

Tensions between Iraq's three main communities have been further strained by the deaths of over 1,000 Shi'ite pilgrims in a stampede at a religious ceremony in Baghdad last week.

Shi'ites blame Sunnis for firing mortars into a crowd and spreading rumors there was a suicide bomber in their midst, causing panic which led to the stampede.

Wednesday marked a week since the tragedy and state television broadcast a minute's silence to commemorate the dead.

Four U.S. security guards died when a bomb hit their sports utility vehicle near the southern city of Basra, where British troops are based, the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

All four worked for a private security firm supporting the Regional U.S. Embassy Office in Basra, it said, adding that no British or U.S. troops were involved in the incident.

In the northern town of Tal Afar, where Iraqi and U.S. troops have battled an insurgency for several days, hospital sources said four civilians were killed and one wounded in a suicide car bomb attack on a checkpoint late on Tuesday.

A further three died and two were wounded in separate security operations in Tal Afar on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Many people have left Tal Afar in the last few days.

In the Kurdish town of Kalar, one protester was killed and 16 wounded in riots over a failure to supply electricity and water, Dr Omar Aziz of Kalar's general hospital said.

Several buildings were set on fire including a children's hospital, a radio station, the fire department and an education ministry building. Seventy protesters were detained.

Restoring family links for people affected by Hurricane Katrina

Geneva (ICRC) - Thousands of people in the United States and elsewhere have lost contact with loved ones following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), working closely with the American Red Cross (ARC), has launched a special webpage to help those seeking to re-establish contact with family members and friends. The service is available for people living in the United States or elsewhere in the

world.

People in the disaster area can register on the webpage to inform their family and friends that they are safe and provide their current contact details, while those looking for loved ones in the disaster area can check

the list for information. They can also register the names of family members and friends, encouraging them to get in touch.

The webpage can be accessed via www.familylinks.icrc.org. French and

Spanish versions of the webpage should be available by 3 September.

The humanitarian service provided by the webpage is open to everyone. However, neither the ICRC nor the ARC nor any other Red Cross or Red Crescent Society is in a position to verify the accuracy of the information posted on the webpage, nor can they be held responsible for the way third parties make use of this information. The ICRC and ARC therefore urge every-

one to use this service responsibly, in

good faith and strictly in accordance with its humanitarian objective.

For more information on how to use the service, members of the public should contact their nearest Red Cross or Red Crescent office.

People who have re-established contact with their family members or friends and therefore wish their names to be removed from the list should

follow the instructions provided on the webpage.

ICRC press release

Government wants biometric data in EU driving licences

Wed Sep 7, 2005 2:10 PM BST STRASBOURG, France (Reuters) - European Union driving licences should include the holder's fingerprints to boost security, EU president Britain said on Wednesday.

The 25-nation bloc has agreed that passports, visas and identity cards issued by EU states should include biometric data. Home Secretary Charles Clarke said the logical next step would be to include them in driving licences. "If we are doing that for passports, for visas, for ID cards, shouldn't we also be doing that for driving licences and I think there is a good logic for that," Clarke told a news conference after

addressing the European Parliament. He acknowledged the timescale for exchanging old licences for new permits with security features would be "enormous".

"(But) it doesn't really matter what the timeframe is. What is important is that there is an end position which the European Union agrees that everybody is then working towards," he said.

Unlike passports, driving licences do not have to be renewed on a regular basis and many drivers across Europe still have old paper licences even though most EU states have introduced new permits, which include photographs.



European Union driving licences should include the holder's fingerprints to boost security, EU president Britain said on Wednesday. File photo shows Prime Minister Blair's demonstration bio-metric passport card. REUTERS

EU must accept some erosion of civil rights: Clarke

STRASBOURG, France (Reuters) - European Union states may have to accept an erosion of some civil liberties if their citizens are to be protected from organised crime and terrorism, EU president Britain told the European Parliament on Wednesday.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke told EU lawmakers the right to life outweighed concerns over invasion of privacy and warned judges in European courts that if they failed to recognise this, the European Convention of Human Rights may need to be changed.

"It seems to me we have to give the same rights to those humans who want to travel without being blown up on an underground train," Clarke earlier told reporters in London.

"If the judges don't understand that message and don't take decisions which reflect where the people of the continent want to be, then the conclusion will be that politicians ... will be saying we have got to have a change in this regime."

Clarke hosts a two-day meeting of justice and home affairs ministers from the 25 EU states on Thursday. They will discuss proposals to log and keep records of telephone calls, email and Internet use to help police track down terrorists.

Ministers will also meet telecommunications industry and law enforcement officials to find a way to reconcile concerns about the cost of the proposed measures, which industry sources in Germany say could run into hundreds of millions of euro.

Since al Qaeda militants attacked the United States in 2001, bombers have



European Union states may have to accept an erosion of some individual civil liberties if their citizens are to be protected from organised crime and terrorist attacks, Home Secretary Charles Clarke said on Wednesday. Clarke is pictured here following a European Parliament justice and home affairs committee in Brussels July 13, 2005. REUTERS

hit transport systems in two European capitals, killing 191 commuters in Madrid last year and 52 in London in July.

"The right not to be blown up"

Clarke's tough stance on human rights drew criticism from the EU assembly's Liberal Democrats and Greens.

"We do not agree ... that the human rights of the victims are more important than the human rights of the terrorists," said Graham Watson, leader of the Liberal Democrats.

"Human rights are indivisible. Freedom and security are not alterna-

tives, they go hand-in-hand ... Much as the public may dislike it, suspected terrorists have rights."

Earlier, Clarke told reporters in London there was an impression the EU was not doing enough to tackle some of its citizens' main concerns over serious organised crime, illegal immigration and terrorism.

He said Britain's presidency would seek to redress the balance between an individual's rights and national security by giving authorities more access to information for intelligence.

Law-enforcement agencies needed surveillance cameras, passports and visas should include internationally consistent biometric data, and phone companies should retain details of all calls made for a year, including unanswered ones.

"I say the doubts about civil liberties of a person who's being photographed on a CCTV camera ... or a person who has made a phone call to another person are small civil liberties in comparison with the overall civil liberty of the right not to be blown up," he said.

Clarke's comments reflect a frustration felt by the government that the rights of suspects and defendants, backed by the courts, were hindering the fight against terrorism and were taking precedence over the rights of ordinary citizens.

"The judges both in my country and in the European Court need to understand that the people of Europe ... will not for a long time accept that action cannot be taken against people who are offering a real threat to our way of life because of human rights considerations," he said.

Katrina could cost 400,000 jobs: CBO

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Hurricane Katrina could cost as many as 400,000 U.S. jobs and slash economic growth by up to 1 percentage point, the Congressional Budget Office said on Wednesday.

While acknowledging estimates of the impact of Katrina are "fraught with uncertainty," CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin said the "evidence to date suggests that overall economic effects will be significant but not overwhelming."

In a preliminary report to lawmakers, the CBO said Katrina could damp-

en real gross domestic product growth in the second half of the year by one-half to 1 percentage point.

It said the storm could reduce employment through the end of this year by about 400,000. Employment for September will decline significantly — from an estimated 150,000 to 500,000 — as a direct consequence of the hurricane, the budget office said.

"Employment will increase in subsequent months, as workers return home and businesses reopen and as reconstruction activity gathers steam," CBO said.

Half the World

By Nisha

The writer apologizes to her readers for not having her column ready this issue because of her traveling. She will continue writing next week.

Saudi forces kill 3 militants in overnight clash

JEDDAH (Reuters) - Saudi forces killed three suspected al Qaeda militants in overnight clashes in the eastern oil city of Dammam as a standoff with police entered its third day on Tuesday.

Security sources said two policemen were also killed in fierce fighting at a besieged house in a Dammam neighbourhood where a number of militants are believed to be hiding.

The deaths raised to five the number of militants killed since the clashes erupted on Sunday. A total of three policemen have also been killed so far.

The U.S. consulate in the nearby city of Dhahran closed on Monday because of security concerns linked to the shootout, the latest flare up in violence linked to supporters of al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in the world's top oil exporter.

Security sources did not give details about the identity of the slain gunmen, but Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television said at least one had been on a list of 36 most wanted fugitives in Saudi Arabia, battling al Qaeda for more than two years.

Saudi television aired footage of the shootout on Monday, showing a heavy exchange of fire that set off at

least one fire. Soldiers were shown firing from rooftops, one of them using a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

More than 90 foreign and Saudi civilians have been killed in the al Qaeda violence aimed at toppling the pro-Western royal family and evicting non-Muslims from the birthplace of Islam.

Last month, Saudi security forces killed al Qaeda's top leader in the country, Saleh al-Awfi — one of a few fugitives remaining on a list of 26 most wanted militants. In June, officials issued a new list of 36 wanted suspects.

Iran 5 years from nuclear arms capability: report

LONDON (Reuters) - Iran, threatened with referral to the U.N. Security Council over its atomic ambitions, is still five years away from developing a nuclear weapons capability, a London-based think tank said on Tuesday.

"We estimate, if everything goes right, if they throw all their effort into solving their problems, they might be able to produce enough weapons-grade uranium for a single nuclear weapon within five years," Gary Samore, editor of a new report, told BBC radio.

Samore, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, added, however, that it was more likely Iran would try to accumulate production capability over a longer period — 10 or 15 years — before deciding whether to acquire weapons.

The IISS's assessment of Iran's weapons programme comes just two

weeks before the U.N. atomic watchdog is due to discuss whether to send the Islamic state to the Security Council, a move which could prompt sanctions.

The United States and European Union suspect Iran wants to use a civilian nuclear programme as cover for arms development, a charge Tehran denies.

Last month, Iran restarted uranium reprocessing work, bringing two years of talks with the EU trio of Britain, France and Germany to the brink of collapse.

The IISS report said it was unlikely Tehran had significant stocks of undeclared nuclear weapons-usable materials, essential for acquiring nuclear arms.

The ability to design and make a nuclear weapon from such material, a second criteria for arms capability, was less easy to assess, it said.

The IISS warned the consequences for international non-proliferation and regional security could be severe if Iran were to acquire a nuclear arms option or weapons.

"At worst, it could lead to a long-term erosion of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as additional countries sought to hedge their bets by acquiring latent nuclear weapons capability under the guise of dual use fuel cycle programmes," it said.

It said Iran's Arab neighbours may react by pursuing nuclear weapons, although technical and political constraints could inhibit the emergence of additional nuclear-armed states in the region for many years.

Britain believes the earliest Iran could develop a nuclear weapons capability would be the end of the decade and the latest U.S. intelligence estimates have put the date at 2015, later than previous forecasts.

Israel should defy US on settlement blocs: minister

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel should build up Jewish settlement blocs in the occupied West Bank in defiance of U.S. misgivings at a move contravening the "road map" to Palestinian statehood, a senior Israeli cabinet minister said on Tuesday.

Education Minister Limor Livnat's remarks appeared to back Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's drive to settle more Jews in the West Bank after quitting the Gaza Strip last month.

"I'll say this clearly: We are a sovereign nation. The great United States is our friend, but there are times when we have to say, even to the United States, that we will act in accordance with our interests," Livnat told Israel Radio.

"We should demand of the Americans that they do not pressure us on this matter," she said. Washington, Israel's closest ally supplying \$2.8 billion in aid each year, .

Palestinians welcomed the Gaza pullout but they are angry at Sharon's insistence Israel hold onto settlements in West Bank lands occupied along with Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war.

ARIEL
Sharon's office said on Monday it had approved 117 new homes for the West Bank settlement of Ariel, the latest project to run counter to the road map's call for a freeze on Israeli construction in occupied land the Palestinians want for a state.

A controversial bid to link a major settlement to Jerusalem was put on hold following U.S. pressure. But Sharon faces pressures in his ruling Likud party to press ahead with settlement building.

Likud hardliners saw his Gaza pullout as a betrayal of Jewish claims on biblical land and a reward



Sharon's office said on Monday it had approved 117 new homes for the West Bank settlement of Ariel, the latest project to run counter to the road map's call for a freeze on Israeli construction in occupied land the Palestinians want for a state. A controversial bid to link a major settlement to Jerusalem was put on hold following U.S. pressure. But Sharon faces pressures in his ruling Likud party to press ahead with settlement building. In this file picture, Sharon opens the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem Sep. 4. REUTERS

for Palestinian violence. His chief party rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, has championed settlement expansion.

Washington hopes the Gaza withdrawal, which Sharon cast as "disengagement" from conflict, will kick-

start talks on implementing a road map stalled by non-compliance by both sides.

Under the plan, Palestinians must crack down on militants spearheading a 4 1/2-year-old revolt against Israel.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Yemen Scholarship Program

Sponsored by
**Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen,
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As a reflection of their friendship and commitment to assist in Yemen's human resource development, Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen, and its Masila Block Partners, Occidental Petroleum and Consolidated Contractors International Ltd. (CCC) are pleased to announce a further 10 scholarships for post secondary study in Calgary, Canada. The Yemen scholarship program was originally initiated to celebrate their 10th anniversary in Yemen. This highly successful initiative received a fourth extension in 2004 to include an additional twenty scholarships (ten scholarships a year over a two year period will be awarded by the Scholarship Steering Committee to deserving post-secondary graduates).

1. The final ten (10) scholarship recipients will commence their respective study programs in September 2006 or September 2007.

2. Post-secondary study programs currently available for this scholarship competition:

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

4 Year Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree Programs

B.Tech - Computer Engineering Technology
B.Tech - Computer Technology

University of Calgary

4 Year Degree Programs

B.Sc - Electrical Engineering
B.Sc - Civil Engineering
B.Sc - Chemical Engineering
B.Sc - Mechanical Engineering
B.Sc - Manufacturing Engineering
B.Sc - General Mathematics
B.A. - Psychology

3. To qualify for a scholarship all applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- Must be a Yemeni citizen presently residing in Yemen
- Aged 17-22 years
- Must have good English language skills
- Minimum of 80% overall average on secondary school certificate
- Committed to undergo up to 400 hours of Yemen based English language training (if necessary)
- Committed to return to Yemen after completion of his/ her studies in Canada
- Submission of all the required documents that are requested in this announcement

Selection Process:

Candidate selection will be based on fulfillment of the above noted requirements, a personal interview and satisfactory performance during the Yemen based English language training sessions. Both the University of Calgary and SAIT will not grant formal admission to their respective institutions until the scholarship recipient achieves a TOEFL score of 220 (computer based exam) or 560 (paper based exam). Applicants who are in a position to sit for the TOEFL/ITP exam are encouraged to do so prior to submitting their applications.

Required Documentation:

- An application form completed in English
- Copy of the secondary school grades or transcript
- Copy of personal ID card or passport
- Six certified passport sized photos .

4. Scholarship application forms can be obtained from the following application distribution/collection centers :

AMIDEAST, Inc
Algiers St., House No. (66)
Sana'a - Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 01-400279/80/81
Contact Person: Mr. Najeeb Al-Sharafi

AMIDEAST, Inc.
Khormaksar
Aden
Tel: 02-232345/236953
Contact Person: Mr. Shakeeb AbdulHamid

Mohamed Ali Othman School:
Near Road Constr. Authority
Taiz,
Tel: 04-223671/2
Contact Person: Ms. Samar Ahmed Moh'd

Hadramout University:
University Campus, Al-Fowah Area
Mukalla, Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 05-360867/8 Ext. 112
Contact Person: Mr. Anwar Khamis Bal'ala

Hodeidah University
Hodeidah
Tel: 03-227500
Contact Person: Mr. AbdulKarim Al-Ward

Or you may download the application from either of the following:

http://www.nexeninc.com/Sustainability/Community/Yemen_Scholarships.asp

or

http://www.amideast.org/whats_new/announcements/nexen.htm

5. Completed application forms and requested documentation must be returned in a sealed envelope to any of the above noted application distribution/collection centers. Failure to comply with any of the information requirements will result in disqualification.

6. The closing date for accepting applications is October 12, 2005. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after that date.

7. The Scholarship Steering Committee acting on behalf of Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen and its Masila Partners, is committed to give all Yemeni scholarship applicants equal, fair and competitive opportunities.

China marks western Xinjiang as main terror threat

BEIJING (Reuters) - Separatists in China's far-flung, predominantly Muslim region of Xinjiang are the main terror threat to the country, killing 160 people and wounding 440 over the past decade, officials were quoted on Tuesday as saying.

Beijing keeps a tight grip on northwestern Xinjiang, which shares a border with Afghanistan, Pakistan, three former Soviet republics, Russia and Mongolia and where ethnic Uighur militants have been struggling for decades to set up an independent state called East Turkestan.

In a veiled criticism of the United States, Zhao Yongchen, deputy director of the anti-terrorism bureau of the Ministry of Public Security, said there should be no double standards when dealing with terrorists.

"Any form of terrorism is hazardous to the international community and no country, party or individual group should adopt double standards based on political or other selfish intentions when dealing with terrorism," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Zhao as saying.

The United States has refused to repatriate Uighur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, concerned they would face persecution if returned to China. They were caught while fighting with the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

Human rights groups have criticized China for using the U.S.-led war on terror as a pretext for an indiscriminate crackdown on Uighurs.

China, which announced last month it was setting up elite police squads in 36 cities to counter the threat of terrorism, has already stepped up security ahead of the 2008 Olympics, acknowledging the Games could make the capital a target.

Indonesia probes air crash as neighborhood mourns

MEDAN, Indonesia (Reuters) - Weeping residents of Indonesia's third-biggest city picked through the charred rubble of their homes on Tuesday, a day after a domestic airliner slammed into a crowded local neighborhood, killing 149 people.

There was still no word on the cause of the crash in Sumatra island's city of Medan, where the morgue at Adam Malik hospital was filled to overflowing, forcing authorities to set up a tent outside to keep a steady rain off rows of corpses.

Police watching over the wreckage of Mandala Airlines flight RI 091 said its black box and flight recorder were found late on Monday night and sent for analysis.

"We will send it overseas for further investigation. At this stage it is too early to conclude the cause," Setyo Rahardjo, head of the national transport safety committee, told Reuters.

The crash, just seconds



member of an Indonesian forensic team walks past the wreckage of a domestic airliner that crashed in a neighbourhood near Medan's airport, Indonesia September 6. REUTERS

after the plane took off from Polonia airport, killed 102 people on board and 47 others on the ground.

Dozens of soldiers were still combing the crash site on Tuesday for human remains.

At the morgue, relatives wept as they sought to locate loved ones for swift burial to comply with Muslim tradition.

Many bodies were burned beyond recognition, making progress slow. An official said 69 bodies had so far been identified.

TV footage showed uniformed airline staff hugging one another and weeping as the bodies of the two pilots and some crew arrived in Jakarta in flag-draped coffins.

Fifteen passengers in the tail section of the Boeing 737-200, including a toddler under the age of two, survived the crash and were being treated in hospital.

Mandala director Asril Tanjung has said the cause of the crash was being investigated, but foul play was highly unlikely.

India says Pakistan will not execute spy: Report

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Pakistan has assured New Delhi it will not execute an Indian convicted of spying and a series of bomb blasts after his death sentence sparked outrage and demonstrations across India, a newspaper reported on Tuesday.

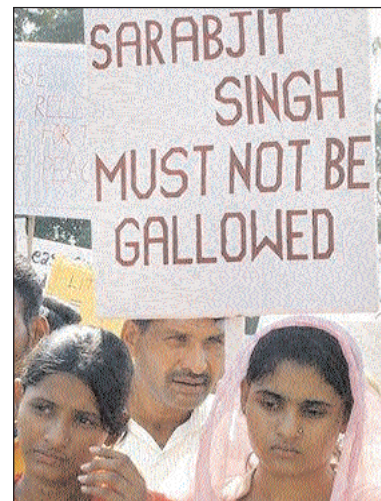
India had been told Singh's case had become an "emotive issue" and the sentence would not be implemented and that Singh may even be granted clemency and freed, The Hindu daily said, quoting anonymous Indian officials.

Pakistani officials were not immediately available for comment. The report comes after the chief witness against Singh recanted and said the Punjabi farmer was innocent.

Singh's wife and some other family members have threatened to commit suicide if he is executed and supporters across India have protested, signed petitions and some have gone on hunger strikes.

Singh's family says he is a poor farmer from a border village who accidentally wandered into Pakistan in 1990.

The controversy comes at a time when India and Pakistan are trying to speed a slow moving peace process.



Family members of Sarabjit Singh, an Indian convicted of spying in Pakistan, hold a placard during a demonstration to appeal for his release in Amritsar Sept. 4. REUTERS

The Indian government has pressed for clemency for Singh ahead of talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in New York this month.

Death sentences are often handed down but rarely carried out in Pakistan.

New Orleans battles back against Katrina flooding

NEW ORLEANS (Reuters) - New Orleans was slowly turning back the floodwaters on Tuesday as engineers closed a major break in levees swamped by Hurricane Katrina — a disaster the mayor says may have killed 10,000 in his city.

Survivors living outside New Orleans got their first look at homes pounded by Katrina, which tore across the U.S. Gulf Coast eight days ago with 140-mph (225 kmh) winds and a huge storm surge, exacting a grim toll

in death and destruction.

More than a million people may have been driven from their homes — many perhaps permanently — with hundreds of thousands of evacuees taking refuge in shelters, hotels and private homes across the country following one of America's worst natural calamities.

The storm devastated New Orleans after protective levees gave way a week ago under the force of Katrina and floodwaters inundated the historic

city.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it plugged a big gap in the levees on Monday and was pumping water out of the city, a task it expects will take up to 80 days.

The Corps was also working to plug another major breach in the levees built to keep out the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain, which nearly surround the city, spokesman John Hall said.

"We are proceeding very gently,"

Hall said of the pumping operation. Engineers want to ensure the water being pumped out does not further damage the levee system and create a new breach.

Rescue teams in New Orleans were going house to house in boats, helicopters and military vehicles seeking people still stranded in their homes by floodwaters.

Police urged survivors who had not gotten out in mass evacuations before and after Katrina to leave the city, a

longtime tourist mecca celebrated for jazz, Mardi Gras and easy living.

"There are no jobs. There are no homes to go to, no hotels to go to, there is absolutely nothing here," Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley said. "We advise people that this city has been destroyed, it has completely been destroyed."

Swollen bodies floated in the streets and authorities worry there may be thousands more dead inside New Orleans homes.



UNDP Project on Strengthening National Human Rights Capacity Terms of Reference

NGO Human Rights Information Centres

Position: NGO Human Rights Information Centres
Project Title: Strengthening National Capacity in Human Rights
Project No.: YEM/03/006/34/A
Budget Line: TBD
Duration:

Background

The UNDP Project for Strengthening National Human Rights Capacity (hereinafter referred to as the Project) aims at strengthening national capacity (both governmental and non-governmental) to promote, protect, and respect human rights in Yemen. The promotion and protection of human rights is a commitment professed by the Government in its Constitution, international obligations and the many organs that have been created for that specific objective. A new Human Rights Ministry has been created to oversee the realization of this objective. The main objectives of the project are:

- To strengthen the national institutional capacity to advance, in a meaningful way, protection and promotion of human rights through fulfillment of international obligations mainstreaming human rights into national development efforts;
- To strengthen the capacity of civil society to enable it to develop its advocacy and networking skills for promoting and defending human rights.

The Human Rights Project has completed a first phase in the development of a comprehensive human rights information centre. Part of the work completed included: procurement of a substantive number of human rights books in Arabic, the development of a comprehensive Human Rights virtual library

and the development of an interactive bilingual website for the Human Rights Ministry. The result of the work surpassed the expectations of the Project's original designers. This is more evident in the requests received for research and access to the existing resources. Additional resources are therefore provided by the Danish Trust Fund in order to allow for greater access to human rights information through civil society organizations and possibly research organization.

Expected results

The creation of a human rights centre with an extensive data base in order to facilitate wider dissemination of human rights materials.

Specific Tasks

Under the supervision of the CTA, the selected human rights NGO will

- Develop a cost-effective human rights information centre with an Internet connection and at least 5 terminals for public access;
- Provide a location and a track record of attracting individuals seeking human rights knowledge;

Proposal content

Consultants are expected to submit a proposal outlining:

- a detailed methodology to be eventually reflected in a work plan for the execution of a contract based on the present TORs;
- demonstrated capacity and plans for attracting and facilitating public access;
- a detailed breakdown of the overall cost (budget) of the entire set of activities based on the lowest and best

values;

- proper way(s) for coordinating with the Ministry of Human Rights; and
- future plans to sustain the information center.

Budget

The estimated budget for the execution of this contract is 15,000 USD. Administrative overhead should not exceed 10% of the overall budget.

Required qualifications

The following qualifications are deemed necessary for the required consultancy:

- A Yemeni human rights NGO with a credible track record;
- Demonstrated capacity to provide human rights information and allow for public access.
- Demonstrated sustainability for both future work of the organization and the activities delivered by it.
- Demonstrated flexibility and coherent methodology suited for cooperation with the Human Rights Ministry.

Deadline for submission of proposals

Interested consultants are expected to submit proposals preferably in English by **12:00, September 14, 2005** to the following address:

Ms. Samira Al-Farah
United Nations Development Programme
Email: samira.alfarah@undp.org
Phone: 00 967 1 448605
Fax: 00 967 1 448841

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Historic Election in Egypt?

Egyptians go to the polls on September 7th to elect a president from among ten contenders, including the incumbent of 24 years, Hosni Mubarak. While few doubt the outcome will be his re-election, many are intensely following the process.

Some 6000 domestic election monitors have been training for the event, while hundreds of foreign reporters are converging on the country this week. Although all the formal trappings of a true electoral contest are in place, important aspects of authenticity are glaringly absent.

Despite promises to the contrary, this is far from a level playing field. Mubarak still commands disproportionate assets: name recognition, a virtual monopoly on state-controlled electronic media and some 85% of the print media. One week before the poll, some opposition candidates have yet to air even one campaign ad on Egyptian television. All members of the presidential election commission are Mubarak appointees, and the new election rules eliminated any independent challengers.

Since the year 2000, Egypt's 8000 judges must supervise and certify election results, by ruling of the High Court. This was a major step toward fairer elections, as the judges' professional union has remained fairly independent over the past half-century of executive power grabs.

So the Mubarak regime has had to use various ploys to neutralize the

judges' union. One was to stretch the definition of 'the judiciary' to include thousands of loyal government employees who have law degrees but no experience on the bench. This boxes in the true judges, for if they protest by boycotting their supervisory duties, the task will fall once more to police from the infamous Ministry of the Interior.

Thus, in the past, the judges' union tended to go along, with predictable results. In the 2000 parliamentary elections, while Mubarak's ruling party received roughly 38% of the popular vote in districts supervised by true judges, that percent somehow jumped to 86% where the quasi-judges were in charge.

This year promises to be very different. In the spring the judges held a nation-wide assembly and resolved that unless the regime granted them full independence, and exclusive oversight of the voting process they would not supervise the upcoming presidential (or parliamentary) races. On September 2nd they made their final demands: allow civil society groups to observe the voting process, stop interfering in the definition of legitimate judges for purposes of the election, and agree that no ballot box will leave the presence of a legitimate judge until its



By SAAD EDDIN IBRAHIM

contents are counted, certified and reported.

Thus far, a standoff looks likely, as the head of the presidential election commission has stated publicly on Egyptian television that he refuses all citizen monitoring of the election process.

Other interesting developments on the eve of the election include a fierce public debate over

whether to vote or to boycott the presidential race. Several opposition parties have called on their members to stay away in protest over restrictive election rules that strongly favor Mubarak. On the other hand, the Muslim Brotherhood, thought to be the single strongest opposition group in Egypt, are urging their followers to cast ballots and vote their conscience but not to give support to any 'despotic, corrupt rulers.' This is a clear if implicit repudiation of Mubarak, the sole ruler for 24 years.

Some 34 civil society organizations are preparing thousands of young Egyptians to monitor the elections despite repeated governmental objections. These groups argue that if the regime is not planning to rig the vote, then domestic as well as foreign observation of the polling process should not be a problem. The regime response is to say that any outside monitoring is an infringement on Egyptian sovereignty,

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By Samer A.

and that domestic monitors are an affront to the integrity of the judges. That argument was quickly undermined when the judges' union announced their support for civil society monitors.

Whether the Mubarak regime is running scared because of the mounting challenges from within and without to hold a free and fair election, or is simply incapable of ridding the party of cheating as a way of life, the present signs do not bode well for next Wednesday's polls. Meanwhile, Egyptians for the first time are experiencing the thrilling taste of defying tyranny, and enjoying some newly-found space for freedom.

Saad Eddin Ibrahim is director of the Ibn Khaldun Center in Cairo.

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World Summit 2005: fight poverty at the core

When the world's leaders gather in New York for the World Summit this month, they will be subjected to a barrage of special pleading and advocacy. But the voice they probably will not hear is the most important one: that of the poor and hungry struggling to raise and feed their families on a parched patch of land in the developing world.

They are among more than 850 million chronically hungry people worldwide. And their plight is what it is really all about.

Can we continue to live with the scandal of great wealth and conspicuous consumption coexisting with misery, malnutrition and early death? Can we really be surprised if such injustice produces a lost generation bent on violence and destruction?

The presidents and prime ministers coming to the Summit will be reviewing progress towards achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals agreed five years ago. The first is the reduction of the incidence of extreme hunger and poverty. It is the critical one, because unless it is achieved, the others will fail too.

Hunger and poverty are inextricably linked: hunger is not only the most obvious manifestation of poverty, but it is also one of its principle causes. There is a vicious spiral at work that condemns millions and millions of our fellow citizens to short, stunted, unfulfilled lives.

The key battleground in the fight to eradicate hunger and poverty is the countryside. After all, three quarters of the 1.1 billion people living on less than a dollar a day live in the rural areas of developing countries and depend on agriculture for their survival. The logic is therefore inescapable: invest in agriculture and rural infrastructure. It is inconceivable that progress can be achieved without renewing the global commitment to agriculture and the rural economies of poor countries.

Yet, over the past 20 years official development assistance going to these sectors in the poorest countries has been cut by more than half, from



By DR. JACQUES DIOUF
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

US\$5.14 billion to US\$2.22 billion. The numbers speak for themselves.

Despite this, more than 30 developing countries, with a total population exceeding 2.2 billion people, have succeeded in reducing the numbers of their undernourished by more than 25 percent. And they all achieved significantly higher growth in agricultural GDP than the developing countries as a whole. Once again, the numbers say it all.

But the success of these countries is threatened by continuing injustices in the world trading system. With industrialized countries supporting their agriculture to the tune of nearly US\$1 billion a day, international commodity prices are driven down and farmers in the poor countries find themselves being undercut in their own markets.

In Hong Kong in December, trade negotiators will try to find some way to address these issues. Will liberalization of agricultural trade in some cases

threaten food security and the alleviation of rural poverty? Will protection of the agricultural sector by poor countries sometimes be justified to ensure food security? And what are the most appropriate policies for ensuring food security while moving towards a more liberal trade regime?

There has been much talk about level playing fields – but there is a long way to go before we achieve such a desirable state.

Meanwhile, we continue to watch on TV and read in newspapers the plight of children dying because of drought in Niger and the Sahel. And after the usual blaming game, we rush in food aid, at huge logistical cost. Then we wait for the next crisis, without addressing the root causes of the problem by building the essential water control systems and rural infrastructures.

The economic cost of doing nothing about hunger is tremendous: if hunger persists at current levels, every year it will cause deaths and disability in developing countries with the related loss of productivity amounting to a staggering US\$50 billion.

The human cost is appalling too; every year without progress costs five million children their lives.

Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Youth future in the balance

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

After 17 years of education and training, what will the outcome be for the students of today? After minds have been armed with science and technology, to what use will their efforts be put? Will we exploit these minds to benefit our society or will they be ignored to become an extra burden?

It's no secret that your education or training doesn't necessarily assure the nature of your employment. A graduate from the faculty of commerce and economics has become a teacher of Islamic education in primary stages. A holder of bachelor degree from the department of English at the faculty of arts has become a seller at a clothes

shop.

But what change is in scales. Where is the gap? Does it lie in the scale or in the owner of the scale? Such questions revolve in the minds of graduates. Which party is responsible for such changes? Why are opportunities limited to those with connections and denied those with potential.

Young people may grow up in a poor environment, dominated by difficulties and suffering. They are found to conduct their ways surpassing any barriers or problems. They find themselves compelled to grasp any job opportunity as a source of income to sustain their families and meet their basic needs even though these opportunities do not fit their training. The main reason behind this is "connection", a phenomenon that is widely spread in our society and gives

an opportunity only for those who already have an access to it.

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

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

There are some who escape this awful conundrum, but the majority do not. Opportunities are limited and usually monopolized by those in power. One is left wondering if education in Yemen was useful to the students or just a one way ticket to dissatisfaction.

"The Benefits of Gossip?"

By NORA MANSOUR

Gossip eliminates depression and strengthens the heart, prolongs the life of women and helps to get closer to other people. Or so claims a British report. Gossiping is a social activity that every one in the Society practices. Researchers Noticed that women gossip more than other members of society.

Also they found that they have a wide net of social relations and mostly they live a healthy life because the gossiping releases their feelings and minimizes tension and rage. Gossippers rarely develop heart diseases, psychological problems, depression and desperation because they share

Their feelings with others and release what is in their minds and souls. They are therefore relaxed.

Gossiping is not always a way to waste time or to make trouble and it may have some highly positive aspects.

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Head office:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

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Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596;
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Taiz Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156
Telefax: +967 (4) 217-157
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Email: ytaiz@y.net.ye
Hodeidah Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Telefax: +967 (3) 206-886

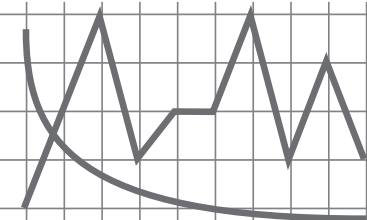
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YT Business



Tourism role in economic development

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite growth of tourist revenues in the past years, nevertheless the contribution of tourism sector to the Yemeni economy is still low if compared to its huge potentials. The sector's contribution did not exceed 20% of the gross domestic product and around 30% of total value of exports, after excluding oil exports. Nonetheless, the importance of the tourist sector emerges also through the job opportunities that it provides and in creating a balance in income between different regions, especially that the areas to where tourists go, could benefit economically and standard of individual income would rise.

Following issuance of the investment law, tourist investments began to grow steadily forming around 18% of total licensed projects and generating 15% of job opportunities. There are still big opportunities for investment in tourism. Studies indicate the availability of projects opportunities in all regions of the country. Such opportunities include the building of 4 and 5-star hotels, renovation of old palaces for lodging, in addition to tourist parks and sea clubs. There are also investment opportunities in tourist health retreats.

Under the general tendency of the state, statements reveal there is private sector interest in tourist field in the areas where there are essential services. But

some investors complain from administrative routine and corruption spread inside institutions concerned with granting licenses. The Yemeni president has recently given directives for founding a unified mechanism for dealing with this aspect by investors and ordered cancellation of duality in dealing with investments and the necessity of heading for investment in productive areas. Yemeni legislations affirm that government establishments have to implement a number of basic services projects related to tourist activity such as roads and airports and to protect seashores, in addition to projects of electricity, and water. The aim is to encourage the Yemeni or the Arab investor or foreign companies for building projects. The government's tourist development plan keeps pace with the private sector activity in tourist investments. It includes conducting tourist survey besides establishment of hotel and tourist institute and implementation of a program for training and rehabilitation. Under growth of tourist activity, job opportunities provided by tourism sector increase, in addition to indirect job opportunities created by tourist sector particularly in the commercial and services activity.

In order to overcome negative regional and international factors and effects on tourism movement towards Yemen, the country needs tourist promotional campaigns to be launched by various government bodies, agencies of the private sector, especially in major tourist markets that export tourists to Yemen.

European countries have occupied the first place in this regard by a rate between 50 to 68% of tourists coming to Yemen, especially Germany, France, Italy, and Britain.

Specialists in this field view that Yemen needs tourist promotion in the following areas:

- Cultural tourism showing interest in history, civilization, historical places, architectural art, in addition to habits and traditions, folkloric arts and handicrafts. These constituents are available in the areas of Sana'a, Adamou valley, Mareb, Hajjah, Beit al-Faqieh, Aden cisterns, Shibam (Kawkaban).
- Seashore tourism that could be founded in many areas of Yemen coasts such as Salif, Khawka, al-Malik valley, al-Ghadeer shore, Abyan shore, Socotra island, Ras Omran, Bir Ali and al-Ghail Gulf and others.
- Mountain tourism as Yemen is known for the height of its mountains and purity of its air. In addition, some of these mountains are covered with green clad and pure and clear water springs flow from them. The most famous of those mountains are Prophet Shuaib Mountain, mountains of Reema and Utmah, Sabr Mountain, Radafan Mountain, Mahweet and Taweelah Mountains.
- Therapeutic tourism which is available in areas of mineral waters frequented by many people for many



decades, especially in the areas of Huwaimi, Lahj, Tibalah, Hadramout, Hot bath, south-east Hudeidah, Dant bath, Ibb, eastern al-Dais, Hadramout, Hamam Ali, Thamar and many other areas.

of tourism, that witnesses much interest in other countries, can be developed in areas of Ramlat al-Sabaatein, Mareb, Old Shabwa, Ataq and Seiyoun.

If tourist promotion for those vital tourist areas scores success, revenues of

tourist sector would have positive return on the Yemeni economy and would participate in solving the problem of unemployment as well as providing the state budgets with hard currencies for which the country needs in developmental and services fields.

China's banking revolution

By David Hale

One of the greatest challenges China must confront before the WTO treaty enters into force in 2007 is to prepare the country's banking system for privatization and competition with foreign banks. The government has established a new agency, Central Hujin Investment Company, to manage and re-capitalize big state-owned banks before they are sold. Hujin has already injected \$60 billion of China's foreign-exchange reserves into the Bank of China, the China Construction Bank, and the Industrial and Commercial Bank. The Agricultural Bank will also require new capital, although the government is not yet preparing it for privatization.

The government's rescue policies appear to be working. During the past two months, Bank of America has announced a \$2.5 billion investment in return for a 9% stake in the China

Construction Bank, and The Singapore-based holding company Temasek paid \$1.4bn for a 5.1% stake in China Construction Bank. The Royal Bank of Scotland is leading an investment group that will invest \$3.1 billion more in the Bank of China, while Goldman Sachs and Germany's Allianz are close to an agreement to acquire a 9.9% stake in the Industrial and Commercial Bank for a similar sum.

The government hopes that these foreign investments will set the stage for the banks to go public on stock exchanges in Hong Kong and elsewhere during 2006, whereas foreign banks are investing with an eye to penetrating the enormous Chinese market. The big three state-owned banks have vast branch networks and employ hundreds of thousands of people. Foreign banks could never hope to achieve such comprehensive coverage without a local partner. They will focus initially on sectors such as credit cards but could develop other joint ventures. HSBC also

announced a major investment in Ping An Insurance, which could set the stage for experiments with Bancassurance in the future.

The Bank of Communications listed on the Hong Kong stock market shortly after the HSBC investment, so it has been able to provide the market with more information than have the banks that are still awaiting privatization. Goldman Sachs is bullish, believing that the bank can record 17% loan growth this year, a 20-basis-point improvement in margins, and significant growth in fee income.

The major concern, however, is evidence of a growing volume of non-performing loans. The Bank of Communications' performance suggests that China's lending boom of 2003 and 2004 could lead to another wave of defaults this year and next. In 2004, the investment share of GDP rose to 45%—one of the highest levels in recorded financial history—as banks financed a huge expansion of property develop-

ment and manufacturing capacity. Now, the largest banks are claiming significant increases in non-performing property loans, while the glut of new industrial capacity implies that some firms may not have adequate profits to service their debts.

Although the Bank of China curtailed its lending growth to only 6% last year because of concerns about credit quality, many new local banks have expanded their lending aggressively, and could now suffer huge losses as the economy slows and firms' solvency weakens.

In these circumstances, privatization will have profound consequences for China's economy. The recent capital-spending boom produced a burst of speculative lending in 2003 and 2004 because the banking system was still state-owned and responsive to political pressure—until the government itself imposed credit controls in April 2004 to prevent a sharp upsurge in non-performing loans.

In the next business cycle, China's

banks will be privately owned for the first time since 1949. They will make loans on the basis of commercial criteria rather than relations with big state-owned companies. They will be less vulnerable to political pressure from local governments to finance development projects. They are likely to place much greater emphasis on consumer lending, especially mortgages and credit cards. With China's mortgage lending equal to only 10% of GDP, compared to 60-70% in the Anglo-Saxon countries, there is huge opportunity for growth.

The transformation in China's banking system, coupled with the recent decision to revalue China's currency, will require major changes in the conduct of monetary policy. Until recently, an exchange-rate peg dominated China's monetary policy, with interest rates unchanged for nine years until October 2004, as the government attempted to manage lending through administrative guidance and credit controls.

In the future, China will have to rely more heavily on interest rates to manage monetary policy, using the price of capital, not political considerations, to influence how firms make investment decisions.

The transformation in China's banking system is complex and difficult because it involves a change in its fundamental nature. However, barring any major economic bumps, the changes will have a positive impact, as capital allocation becomes more efficient. Increased emphasis on household lending should also create a better balance in the economy between capital spending and consumer spending than was possible during the expansion of 2002-2004.

David Hale is a specialist on Chinese banking and founding Chairman of Hale Advisers, LLC and China Online, which provides daily business news on China.

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Sana'a International Trade Fair inaugurated

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a First International Trade Fair organized by the ministry of industry and trade was lately inaugurated at Expo Sana'a Fair under the title of "For Yemeni Economy Integration with World Economy".

Industry and Trade Undersecretary Iqbal Bahadir says Sana'a First International Trade Fair is considered a huge economic activity and very important as it includes a number of Arab and foreign countries seeking for opening new markets for themselves and looking for the possibility of trade exchange with their counterpart Yemeni businessmen. He pointed out that the ministry was working for bringing this Fair to success which has far-fetched goals under the competition experienced in world markets, clarifying that the fair is held at a time Yemen has made big and serious steps in developing its commercial and economic relations with most of world countries.

Marketing Director at Apollo compa-

ny for International Fairs Omar al-Nahmi says this fair gains a great significance due to what it represents of big activities involving a number of world companies and pavilions of Arab and foreign countries. He says the fair which is held for the first time is considered a beginning of a yearly trade and economic activity. He adds that it comes as a product of continued cooperation and coordination between the government and the private sector. He has invited all Yemeni businessmen and industrialists to visit the fair and met their counterparts from participants countries and to think of the possibility of common benefit from mutual organization of trade exchange.

It is to be mentioned that the fair is organized by the ministry of industry and trade in association and coordination with Apollo Company for International Fairs and with support from general federation of chambers of commerce and industry and the chamber of commerce and industry the capital secretariat and Yemeni industrialist society.

Government ascribes it to technical problems

Employees worried for delay of increment payment

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government delay in implementing the national strategy for wages has produced angry reactions among employees. The minister of civil service Hamoud Khalid al-Soufi, on his part, said the mechanism of moving to the first phase of the general structure of wages strategy was going on by a high rate at both central and local authorities. Presently, work is focusing on categorizing all employees of the state in all units of the public civil service and fixing wages scales for all military, security, diplomatic, academic, research, media, and health

positions as well as other jobs.

At the time the employees viewed the delay in spending the increase since July, as an attempt for acting playfully with the increase adopted by the parliament and issued according to a law, the government confirmed its seriousness in expanding the increment with retroactive effect payable as from July. The government also approved implementation of the strategy from the minimum point the law has fixed at 20 thousand riyals.

Mr al-Soufi said also that rules of general movement and implementation of the increment according to the law and directions of the strategy necessitate many technical and procedural works. One cannot move forward without

implementing them, clarifying that there are tasks need speed to finish by units of the civil service as a condition for shifting to the structure. This depends on circulations and instructions issued by the ministry of civil service for the implementation of the strategy and the law. Without that measure, there could not be any moving to the general structure in a manner moving with corruption, failures and illegal situations.

The ministry of civil service is presently preparing for moving to a new employment description structure founded on omission of non-existent employees from payrolls and ending all cases of accrediting, unengaged with work and seconding to other job, vacation without salary, cases of sending on scholarships of

those floundering in performing their job duties or any other cases, from payrolls. In addition, there should be confirmed information that the employee has his own file at the site of his work according to rules of civil service as well as application of the unified system of salaries.

It is expected that the increase in salaries and wages to expended at the end of September after all concerned parties have finished identicalness of the database at each of the civil service unit to the central database and revising financial dues. This is in introduction to move to the general structure defined by documents and legal texts as well as the principles of wages strategy received by administrative public units from the ministry of civil service.

Ibb: Speechless beauty and varied history

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Driving down the snaky Sumara highway, in summer, while its raining, one gets an unparalleled glimpse of the green pearl. Driving along through al-Sahool valley, one feels enchanted by the superb majesty of Ibb garmented in mist, surrounded by terraces and guarded by the proud greenery-covered mountain of Ba'dan. It is no wonder that Ibb is solely entitled to sit on the throne of magnificence among other provinces and gets the title of the "Tourist Capital".

The natural aspect:

This is the pride of the province. Some claim that it rains in Ibb hundred times more than the average of other provinces. This is why it is proverbial for its greenery and dubbed "The Green Province."

It has been famous for its abundant crops and fertile soil. The province contains many valleys such as al-Sahool. Ali bin Zayid, a legendary wiseman whose statements are taken for proverbs and who is not native to Ibb, mentioned al-Sahool in one of his proverbs which says:

If famine you flee
Descend to Sahool bin Najee
If from death you escape
There ain't any harbor

Other valleys are Maitam, Annah, al-Dour, Bana etc. Most of them have streams which irrigate nearby agricultural lands. There are also hot springs, an efficacious method to heal diseases such as rheumatism. These hot baths are found in the districts of al-Udain, and al-Qafr, let alone the renown baths of Damt in al-Radhmah district. visit-

ing the peot-inspiring valleys with waterfalls around you and sparrows twittering on green bushes, one is sure to experience a trance of indescribable relaxation in a paradise-like place.

Historic sites:

However, nature is not the only assets of Ibb. The province of Ibb enjoys a large number of historic sties and tourist attractions. It consists of many districts including Yarim, al-Saddah, Ba'dan, al-Sabrah, Hubaish, al-Udain, al-Qafr, al-Sayani, etc . Ibb has its own characteristic architecture that displays various sorts of arts. This can be seen in houses, palaces, castles, schools, and mosques scattered across the province. The old city of Ibb is a museum by itself. It comprises thirty mosques and schools some of which are eight centuries old. It also contains popular markets with distinguished lifestyle. The old system of irrigation has survived time and is represented in the ditches that bring water and distrib-

ute it to households.

Some 6 kms to the southwest of the province's capital, the town of Jibla is situated. It was founded as a capital for the Medieval Sulaihi State. It was the seat of Queen Arwa from which she controlled a large portion of Yemen. It contains a manifold tourist attractions such as the Sultanate Palace, queen Arwa Museum, and Queen Arwa Mosque.

The mountainous topography of the province provided an ideal secured place for civilizations that throve in ancient times when raids among states were frequent. In the area of Dhafar which is part of Yarim district, the Pre-Islamic Hymiarite State flourished.

Moreover, there are many forts built in mountains overseeing key spots and valleys such as Hab Fort in Ba'dan district which dates back to very old times. The list includes the forts of Ta'kar, Maswar, Jiblah, Madayim, Yareem, Kuhlan (in Radhmah), Dhafar, Rihab, and Sumarah.

There are ancient shrines such as Queen Arwa Mosque in the town of Jiblah, al-Mahdi Mosque in Yareem, and al-Haj Mufadhil Shrine and Ishaq Mosque in al-Sabrah district.

The archeological discoveries in al-Awd where the ruins of an ancient city were unearthed along with a large number of antiquities, artifacts and finds.

Due to insufficient resources and lack of trained archeologists, many sites suffer from damage and others looted or still buried.

Third Tourist Festival:

By virtue of Ibb's tourist significance, the government, though late, has paid attention to the province, planning to nominate it the "Tourism Capital" of Yemen. The Third Annual Tourist Festival was held during August 21-28, 2005. It was inaugurated by governmental officials headed by Vice President and Minister of Culture and Tourism. The festival aimed to introduce the province's cultural heritage and tourist assets. Staged in the old city of Ibb, the festival featured cultural and artistic contests, poetic sessions, art galleries and photo shows at the Art House. A group discussion on Ibb's folklore was held as well.

The festival intended to promote local tourism and exhibited tourist services and facilities as well as agricultural and handicraft products.

In jeopardy:

For all these efforts to come to fruition, experts believe they should be concerted and permanent (not seasonal). A systematic building of the province's infrastructure and capacity is essential including the human resources. The natural advantages

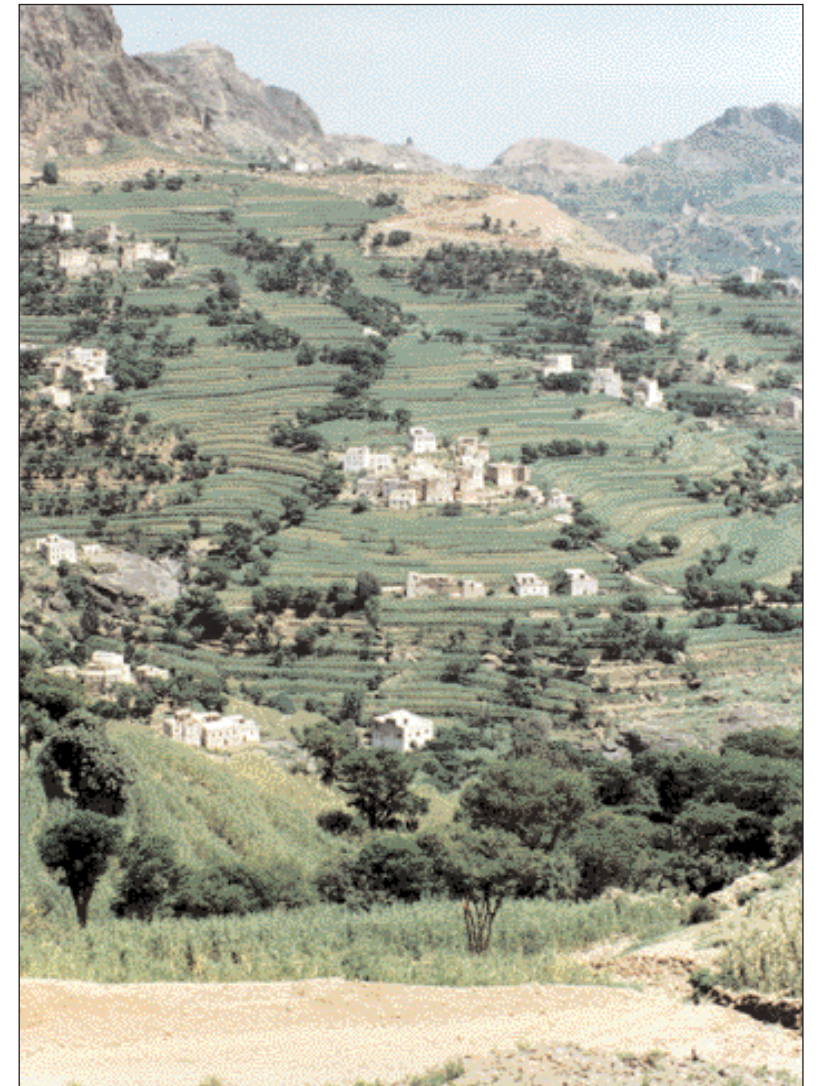
should be protected.

Nowadays one can find that the urban expansion is like a monster consuming the highly fertile land and encroaching on areas which should be saved. The locals in the suburbs

believe that urban expansion is causing damage to the pure nature of the province by blocking and draining water streams, preying on fertile lands, distorting the natural landscape and impacting biodiversity in the province.



A view of the old city of Ibb



Ibb is proverbial for its green landscapes and refreshing climate

Military Museum in Sana'a

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Museums are the repositories of history, the vaults of civilization wherein the pride, traditions and transformations of a culture are stored and displayed. They are sites of education, reflection and testaments to the past.

Site

The military museum lies in the middle of Althahir Square. There lies in its courtyard the first Ottoman canon that entered Yemen.

Historical importance

The museum itself is a historical building. It was built at the end of the 19th century in 1317 h corresponding to 1902, when the Ottomans were

occupying Sana'a.

When it was first built it was meant to be a school for industrial workers. It remained to be a school for sometimes during the Ottoman period of occupation.

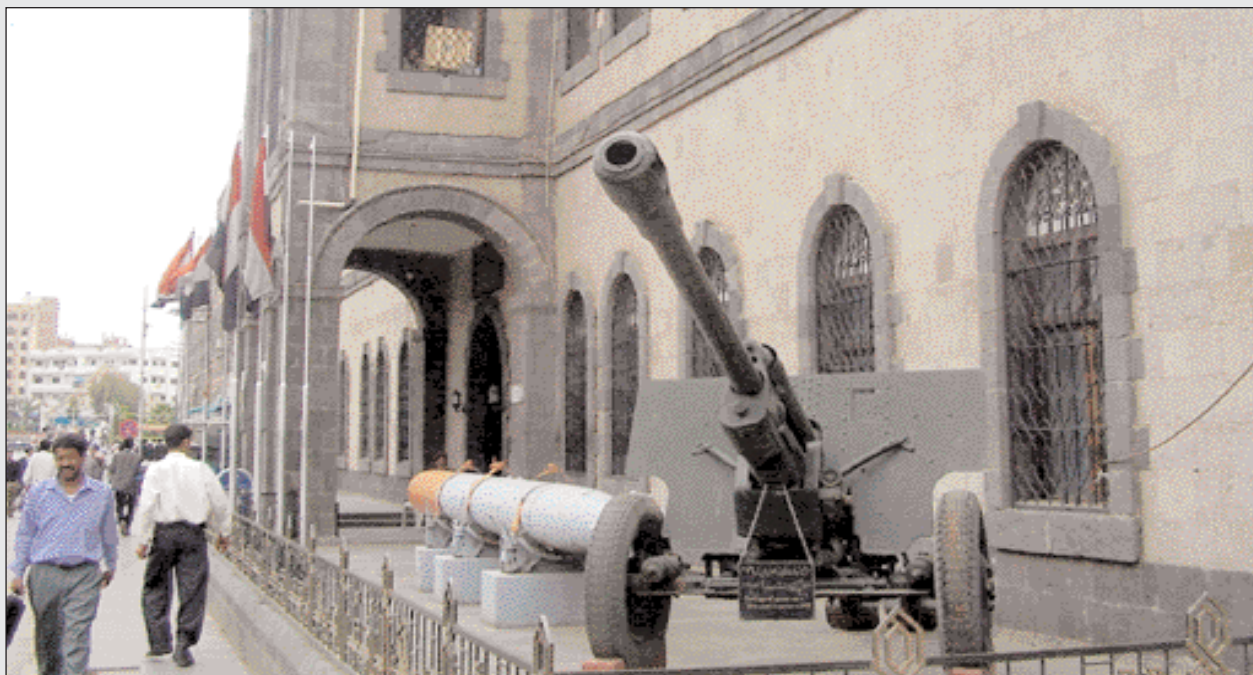
It was changed into a prison for Imam Ahmed Hamedudeen's opponents in 1920. It used to be known as industrial prison.

The building was changed once again into a guesthouse for the Iraqi military mission in 1940.

At the brake out of the revolution in 1962, it was still a guesthouse, and then it was again changed into a building for the ministry of interior and security.

The president changed it into a military museum in 1984.

The museum covers several historical eras, main among them being:



The gate of the Sana'a Military Museum with a weapons lying on the right hand

1. Use of stone weapons by the army.
2. Yemeni Army in old ages (Yemeni civilization era)
3. Yemeni army in the middle ages (before Islam and at the outset of Islam)
4. The Yemeni army in the Ottoman and Imam era.
5. The Yemeni army after the revolution of the 26th of September 1962. The documents, the roles, the patriots and the reasons of the revolution are all documented and regulated in this museum.

There are samples of old weapons which were used in this revolution. They vary from American to Russian and German guns. The museum also contains old cars of former rulers such as that of Imam Ahmed and president Al-Sallal.

Fighting the wrong enemy

BY SALWA YEHIA AL-ERYANI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The mosquitoes in Yemen have a guest. A guest with awareness, intelligence and talent. They call it Boss. It gave them lectures, suggestions, advice, and methods as to how to live a better life in their environment. It also attracted their lazy attention to their enemy (mankind) who comes up with new weapons every short period of time, new weapons which are always more destructive than the ones before. It warned them that man is the most destructive, aggressive enemy. It taught them a creative way to live their lives free and unchained to any fears of being hit to death by a plastic racket or sprayed with a suffocating killing insecticide.

Then at the end of each lecture Boss reminded them that one can't do better than ones best and that being sprayed

to death or hit with a plastic racket is the fate that we all shall meet. Yet a living thing must live a normal life and that a life can't be normal unless it is not imprisoned inside the cells of fears. A mosquito must experience success, health, happiness, freedom and the available amount of safety. Mosquitoes should not be attacked and killed in massacres just because they suck a drop of human blood. So what if they do that? As far as I know, the Boss said, humans are not much harmed nor do they lose anything worth mentioning. Mosquitoes must live and prosper too you know. It is a right for all creatures. Why do humans want to take away this right from us?

These clever lectures led many young mosquitoes to attack humans with more hatred and violence. The boss was then considered as a spiritual symbol. Other mosquitoes began to suck blood for it and bring it until its place. The Boss stopped flying and forgot all about biting. It gained more

weight and became too fat to fly! As a result of these concerted attacks the humans too began to get fed up with the danger. They brought stronger insecticides and electrical rackets to hit the mosquito dead with an instant electric current. After a short period of time the house was empty of all mosquitoes.

Only the Boss was there trying with much effort to hide as it was unable to fly. As time passed it became hungry and couldn't feed itself. No one was there to serve it. The Boss wept. Whose Boss is it if there isn't any mosquito here? All of a sudden the Boss saw beneath it a shadow of a man leaning down on it. The Boss raised its face and found a huge man standing in front of it and raising its arm high with an electric racket in his hand. Oh! It is the fate we will all meet. The Boss was too fat to fly and too heavy to walk. The Boss asked the man with a weak smile how about some negotiations?

Boss said to the man-listen. . give

me a minute to ask you the last question before I die.

I have gone crazy last week because of want? The man replied-Quick! What do you want. My wife has Malaria. We all have swollen red parts all over our bodies. This is all because of you, you dirty insect. Quick what do you want?

- I just wanted to ask you why do you want to kill me?

Oh you dumb creature. I just told you, Malaria and swollen parts on our bodies. We have got enough to struggle in our lives and we do not need any mosquitoes! Quick what do you want?-

Yes, but you are still living and excuse me if I say that you are enjoying your life too. You human beings are earning money, building houses, buying cars, TVs , mobiles. You are also traveling. Your wife is raising your kids. She is buying herself dresses, perfumes, and jewelry. Your kids are playing, watching

cartoons, being educated and when they grow up they are sent abroad to graduate from universities. They eat fruits and meat and sweets. You humans are enjoying your lives. You should not try to deny it because if you do so you will look like someone trying to cover the sun with his palm. So? Our bites are not damaging you THAT much. A drop of blood will not benefit you but it will support us to exist.

-You are harmful! We must all try to destroy your species.

-Honestly I am so astonished. You make me puzzled. Is it possible that you are not aware what so ever that those who harm you and suck your blood to drought are not us mosquitoes but your own mankind. Is it imaginable that you humans who have reached other planets are fighting us mosquitoes and leaving your own fathers and brothers and sons who are definitely stealing you with no trial or even objection? Is it probable that you

really don't notice that those who deserve to be hit with whips of fire and sprayed with acids are your species??? Those who stole your resources and left you begging them for a pinch of what is originally yours? Those who grabbed hope from your hearts. Those who swept patience from your days. Those who forced you to live a life of stress, struggling depression and despair.

Those who suffer indigestion and you are looking for a piece of bread. Those who stole everything and their servants stole the leftovers and asked you to breathe only and be content! I can't see how you don't see and I don't get how you don't get it? How can you manage to live a life against mosquitoes and doing nothing to these wild beasts? I want to cry. Please allow me to do so. I really feel so sorry for you humans. What a pity you are fighting the wrong enemy.

The man was so embarrassed, the mosquito walked out of the room.

Miraculous medicinal uses of Zamzam

By DR. QAZI ABBAS BORHANY
qazishkborhany@hotmail.com
FOR YEMEN TIMES

It was the earnest need of the child that mother of Ismail Nabi ran in search of water in the vicinity of Makkah. Under divine instruction, Jibreel (A.S.), struck the site of the land with his heels, and perpetual source of healing Zamzam was discovered. Zamzam was considered sacred earlier to Islam amongst Jews as well as Christians too. Afterwards, due to the religious bigotry they ignored it. It has simultaneously three abilities, to quench the thirst and removes the feeling of hunger. The next ability of Zamzam, as per traditions, is its numerous and enormous medicinal benefits.

• Rasulullah(S.A.W.A.) used to carry Zamzam in water-bags to Madinah. He used to sprinkle it over the sick and offered them to drink it with the intention of cure, (Al Silsilat al Saheeyah, 883, Qaheerah).

• According to the Hadith literature "Zamzam, is a Barakat, a food that satisfies and a cure for the sick". (1- Abizar, Muslim, 4/1922; 2-. Al Tayaalisi (61)).

• Zamzam is considered to help students in the correct pronunciation of Arabi in non-Arab region.

• It was Abizar who expressed his personal experience to his Lord, Rasulullah(S.A.W.A.), while he questioned about his foodstuff. He



informed: I had spent forty long days with Zamzam. I do not feel any kind of weakness or hunger nor do I become slim." Rasulullah(S.A.W.A.) declared: "Verily, it is blessed, it is food that nourishes." (Muslim, 2473).

• According to the Tradition narrated by Jabir bin Abdullah al Ansari "With whatever (legal) intention one can drink it his wish fulfills". "It is a cure for a numerous diseases by the order of Allah. So you should have the intention of what you want to gain by drinking this water".

• Abbas informed: "Before the dawn of Islam, Zamzam was known as Shabaah (satisfaction). When he drank from Zamzam, he recited this Doa: "O Allah! I ask you for beneficial knowledge, plentiful provision and healing from every disease."

• It is applied to the eyes to brighten the sight.

A Yemeni Shaikh was fond of reading Quraan from a small Mashaf. As he became old he found that he couldn't read easily from that Mashaf because his sight is getting weak. He heard about the Zamzam and its advantages. He came to Haj and drank from Zamzam. His vision improved and he started reading from that small Mashaf easily and without any sight problem. He achieved what he wanted because he was confident of that and had deep faith in.

Yusria Abdel Rahman al Harazi, a Yemeni lady narrated that she was affected by a crimson ulcer, in eye. She had severe headache, which cannot be cured by medicine. She was about to become blind in the affected eye. She consulted famous eye specialist there, who advised her, an injection, which will stop the headache but will dysfunction the affected eye and consequently she will loose the sight. Yusria got frightened but confident of the mercy of Allah. She intended to perform Umrah and begs to Allah to cure her. She came to Makkah and performed Tawaaf and washed her eyes with Zamzam. When she came back to the

hotel, she found that her affected eyes were cured and the crimson ulcer disappeared.

Dr. Faruq Antar, tells his own story. He says: that he had a stone in his ureter and the doctor could not remove or destroy it without operation. But he postponed the operation two times. Meanwhile he performed Umrah and offered Doa to cure him without undergoing operation. He drank Zamzam water and offered two Rakaat. Then he felt a benching in his ureter and hurried up to the toilet and by the grace of Allah he saw the miracle. The stone came out and he was cured without operation. The doctors who were treating Dr. Faruq were surprised for this sacred treatment. ("Scientific Miracles in Islam & Sunnat Nabawiyah" By: Mohammed Kamil Abdel Samad, Beirut).

Layla Al Helw, a Moroccan lady says: "9 years ago, I found out that I had a cancer. I was not a religious so decided to commit suicide, but it was destined that my illness became cause of my emancipation and source of inspiration a lot of people like me. I went to Belgium for advance treatment. Several doctors recommended my husband that removal of my breast is indispensable. I requested the doctors to suggest another medication course. As per suggestion, I followed the treatment and it did not cause any serious side effects, which made me pleased. I Thought; may be the doctors were wrong and I didn't have cancer. However, after about six months, I started losing weight quickly, my color started to change and I had a continuous pain. My Moroccan doctor advised me to go back to Belgium, so I followed advice. Belgian doctors told my husband that the disease has spread all over my body and they have no hope in my case. They said, "You better take your wife back to her home so that she dies peacefully at home!" We went to France for treatment. The

answer was same as the Belgian doctors. Finally, we decided to enter the hospital to remove my breasts through surgery. However, my husband thought of something that we forgot. He suddenly asked me to perform Umrah. I bought a Quraan from Paris and we left for Umrah. I was very happy because it was the first time for me to visit the Kabah. When I entered the Haram and first saw the Kabah, I cried a lot because; I regretted on all my past years I spent, without Salaat. I repented: "O Lord! The doctors were unable to cure me. You have the cure for every disease; all the doors are locked in front of me. I have nothing left to seek except your door, so please, O my Lord! Don't close your door on me." I kept on Doa while I was offering Tawaaf. I asked Allah not to disappoint me or send me back with empty hands.

I went to the scholars there and requested them to guide me to the book of Doa that can be easy to read. They guided me to read as much as I can from the Quraan. They also advised to take a lot of "Tadhalloo" from Zamzam (Tadhalloo is to drink a lot of water until the water reaches your ribs). They also advised me to do Zikar of Allah a lot and recite Salawaat. In Kabah, I felt pleasant peace and relieved. I requested my husband to allow me to stay inside the Haram, which he granted. In Kabah, there were some Misri and Turkish sisters beside me, who saw me crying a lot. They asked me about the reason. I informed them that I have cancer and while found no place for cure I came here with full conviction. They also accompanied me and we spent time in Tawaaf, Ibadat and Tilawat. Upper part of my body was swollen and filled with pus. Those sisters recommended me to pour Zamzam on affected area for cure, but due to the fear of unbearable pain, I did not follow their advice. On the fifth day, my friends insisted that I should pour Zamzam on my upper part of the body

for Shifa, at the beginning I refused, but I felt something forcing me to do it. I slowly started trying to go through the parts, later I forced my hands on my upper part and went through my breasts. Something unbelievable happened. There was no swelling, no blood and no pus. I couldn't believe what I felt. I went through my upper part again, and it was true. I shivered.

I cherished that Allah has full command to do anything what so ever. I asked one of my friends to touch my body with her hand and look for the swelling, she did. And they all spontaneously shouted, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. I ran towards my husband in the hotel. I told him of what happened and he couldn't believe it. Tears rolled down from the eyes of both of us. He said, do you know that the doctors told me! That you shall die within a period of three weeks only? I said, all the fortune is within the Hands and Will of Allah. No one knows what the future is holding for us except for Him. We stayed in the Kabah for one week. I paid thanks to Him for His uncountable Graces. Then we rushed to Masjid al Nabawi and performed Ziyarat. Afterwards we flew to France and meet our doctors. They were surprised and became nearly crazy. "Are you the same person?" They asked me. I was very proud to say, with out any doubt yes and this is my husband. We have returned from the house of Allah. They admitted that mine is a very strange and unbelievable case. They examined me again, and found nothing. I read Sirat al Nabi and cried a lot. I cried regretting all what I have missed in my past life. I missed the love of Allah and His Rasul(S.A.W.A.). I cried for the time I have wasted away. I ask Allah to forgive me, my husband and all Muslims. (Translated from the Arabi: "Those Who Repented To Allah" by: Ibrahim Abdullah Al Hazemy, Morocco).

Medicine Fund bankrupt, \$28 million pledged to fight disease

MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni ministry of Health has recently announced it has received a \$28 million grant from the world Fund for the combat of malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. The grant is one of many others Yemen receives for fighting endemic diseases and assisting infected poor.

Nevertheless, field indicators reveal that cases of the poor infected with such diseases are lacking the simplest necessary humane assistance for the treatment of their cases. Those indicators also reveal that the fund specialized for providing without charge medicines for the endemic diseases and

to supply health institutions with various types of drugs is no longer capable of providing 30% of medicines for the patients. Many patients affirm that the Fund's services have recently retreated and medicines for cancer patients have decomposed inside the stores and have been withdrawn from stores.

The medicines fund suffers from acute shortages in medicines owing to delay in conclusion of contracts concerning medicine importation. Sources at the fund say the fund's dues from the ministry have amounted to one billion riyals and that is the reason why its services have declined. Added to that, the medical establishments have refrained from dealing with the fund because of their quest for material profit. The Yemeni council of ministers has

lately given directives to cancel the medicine fund and replace it with the national program for medicine supply, but that decision has not been realized.

The medicine fund has been, in fact, a gain for the patients suffering from endemic cases, especially the poor who cannot afford buying medicines from their own limited incomes. It is thus supposed to offer support to the fund and maintain its humanitarian services for the citizens.

The essential question is that what was the reason behind the government taking of a decision to abolish services of the fund while it at the same time receives financial and treatment grants and assistance, no one knows their destiny and who benefits from the current situation.

Excessively sleepy? Could be more than poor sleep

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Doctors commonly view excessive daytime sleepiness as a cardinal sign of disturbed or inadequate sleep. But a new study suggests it could also signal depression or even diabetes, regardless of whether an individual doesn't sleep well.

Among a random sample of 16,500 men and women ranging in age from 20 to 100 years old from central Pennsylvania, 8.7 percent had excessive daytime sleepiness.

Researchers, who considered a wide range of possible reasons for why these individuals were excessively sleepy during the daytime, found that excessive daytime sleepiness was more strongly associated with depression and obesity or metabolic factors than with sleep-disordered breathing or sleep disruption.

Depression was by far the most significant risk factor for excessive daytime sleepiness, they report in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

The likelihood of being excessively sleepy during the daytime was more than three times higher in those who reported they were being treated for depression.



Excessive daytime sleeping is associated with depression.

The investigators also observed strong ties between excessive daytime sleepiness and diabetes. Individuals reporting treatment for diabetes were close to two times more likely to report excessive daytime sleepiness than those who were not being treated for diabetes.

Being overweight also increased the likelihood of excessive daytime sleepiness.

Excessive daytime sleepiness was more common in people younger than age 30, a finding that hints at the

presence of unmet sleep needs and depression, and in the over-75 crowd, suggesting increasing medical illness and health problems, they explain.

Smoking also emerged as a risk factor for excessive daytime sleepiness, a link that hasn't been shown before. It could be that smokers use the stimulant effect of nicotine to self-treat their daytime drowsiness, the authors suggest.

Sleep apnea -- brief episodes when breathing stops during sleep -- was not a significant player in excessive daytime sleepiness. This is consistent with prior studies that have reported only weak associations between sleep apnea and excessive daytime sleepiness.

The authors conclude that adults plagued by excessive daytime sleepiness should be thoroughly evaluated for depression and diabetes, regardless of whether or not sleep-disordered breathing is present.



مدارس الملكية أروى الدولية

تعلن

عن فتح باب القبول والتسجيل للعام الجديد
٢٠٠٦/٢٠٠٥ في مدارسها المعتمدة النظم
البريطانية والنظام الوزاري في مراحل
الدراسة المختلفة

تتميز مدارسنا بالتالي:

- قسم خاص للدراسة باللغة العربية
- أساتذة ذوي كفاءة عالية.
- رعاية طبية.
- أنشطة مدرسية تشمل (الكمبيوتر-
الرياضة- الفنون- الآداب).
- مواد إضافية اختيارية نظام (IGCSE)
- تؤهل الطالب لبدء مستقبله العلمي المبكر.

- أبنائكم بأيدي تربية أمينة -

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E-mail: info@queenscollege.edu.ye





England up with the best says Owen

BELFAST (Reuters) - Striker Michael Owen has dismissed claims that England are no match for the best teams in the world after their laboured 1-0 victory over Wales.

A sceptical British media has seized on comments by Wales manager John Toshack after Saturday's World Cup qualifier that England would struggle against the game's top four or five sides.

But Owen, available again after missing the game in Cardiff through suspension, told a news conference on Monday: "We can compete at that level, no problem."

"It's easy to go off for one or two games but, the better the opposition, the better the best players always play. They raise themselves to it."

"We didn't play at our best but we played well. I'm sure if we were 2-0 down from the first leg and playing against them you would have seen more attacking, more goals, more everything."

"If it was Argentina or Brazil, I'm sure we would have played better again."

England, who have another Group Six qualifier against Northern Ireland on Wednesday, have faced criticism since a dismal 4-1 friendly defeat in Denmark last month.

Saturday's win was secured in a rare formation with Wayne Rooney as the lone striker and coach Sven-Goran Eriksson may be tempted to use it again at Windsor Park.

Whether he opts for the more usual 4-4-2 or a variant, Eriksson would probably sacrifice Shaun Wright-Phillips or fellow winger Joe Cole to accommodate Owen's expected return up front.

Whatever the line-up, Owen said it was important for the main striker to have the kind of attacking support Rooney provides at club level with Manchester United.

But he added: "If everyone plays well, I don't think anyone notices the formation when you're interchanging and the movement is good."

"It's when you're not on top of your game that you see bits that need ironing out."

Owen, who has just joined Newcastle United from Real Madrid,



England's Michael Owen smiles during a news conference at the team's hotel in Belfast, Northern Ireland Sep 5. England are due to face Northern Ireland in their World Cup qualifying soccer match on Sep. 7 at Windsor Park in Belfast. REUTERS

declared himself fit for the game despite a lack of competitive football.

England are chasing a victory on Wednesday that will keep the pressure on group leaders Poland, who are two points in front after playing a game more.

English pressure

Once his international duty is over, Owen is clearly relishing his return to the pressure of Premier League football and the media-induced frenzy which surrounds it.

"I wanted to get back to the Premiership - I consider it's my type of league, I'm English and I've played in it all my life," said Owen, who struggled in his season at Real after leaving Liverpool.

"It's great that English football's

like this.

"You go on to the pitch and you know every eye is on you and that if you make one bad pass it's going to be spoken about the next day - because there's that intense pressure."

"Moving out to Spain, you miss a bit of that."

The 25-year-old striker even saw the unrelenting coverage of English football as a source of motivation.

"You wake up every morning, switch on the telly and see the leading goalscorers chart, the next page is the league table and you're permanently driving yourself to do better," he said. "The media obviously add to that pressure and that drive."

"Spain was fantastic, but also a lot more relaxed than here."

Ponting faces clear challenge in final test

LONDON (Reuters) - In the end, all will be decided at The Oval.

England's and Australia's cricketers have been exchanging blows since mid-June but it may take five more days, in the fifth and final test starting on Thursday, for the conclusive punch to be thrown.

Americans, they say, do not understand a game which can eat up five days and still fail to find a winner. Victory for Australia on Monday could mean a 22-day combat concluding in stalemate.

For Ricky Ponting, the challenge could not be clearer: win, or go down in the history books as the captain who lost the Ashes.

For Michael Vaughan's team, there is slightly more room for manoeuvre. A draw will be enough to give England their first victory in the series since 1986-87.

Should they fail, the home side will probably be forgiven, even if a 2-2 scoreline would allow Australia to retain the Ashes.

England had been expected to stretch the world champions but few predicted they would play with such panache, let alone record an outright victory.

Paceman Glenn McGrath had forecast a 5-0 series whitewash for Australia but, with a game to go, England have scored faster, notched up more runs and taken more wickets. They have out-Australia-ed Australia.

The consequences of defeat are likely to be serious for several members of the touring party.

Losing to Bangladesh in the triangular series before the tests was bad enough. Losing the Ashes would be unforgivable.

Mental equilibrium

Ponting's leadership, as well as his mental equilibrium after ranting over England's use of specialist substitute fielders, has already been questioned.

So has the coaching of John Buchanan, while several Australian



against England but this time is averaging 21. Opening batsman Matthew Hayden, despite a timely 150 against Essex on Sunday, has not scored a century for 30 test innings.

Jones's battle

England once worried about the ability of their "pie throwers" to claim 20 Australian wickets in a match but, to date, they have taken 79 out of the available 80.

Had they not lost a day to rain in the third test at Old Trafford, the home team would undoubtedly have taken them all.

England will be unchanged if Jones can convince the selectors he is fit enough after emerging from several sessions in an oxygen chamber.

Otherwise seamer James Anderson, so out of form at the start of the English season, seems to occupy first place in the queue ahead of Paul Collingwood.

To play Collingwood, a batsman who bowls a bit, would smack of conservatism, something that would not sit well with Vaughan's radical young side.

Australia also seem certain to keep change to a minimum. Back-up leg spinner Stuart MacGill had hopes of playing alongside Warne to try to exploit the hard Oval track but he fluffed his lines badly against Essex.

The touring side say the pressure is off them, since they know they must win.

Australia may again stick to the tried and tested, with McGrath's return for Michael Kasprovicz the only permutation.

Whoever plays, they will do so in front of the fullest of houses.

Not since 1983 has the final test of an Ashes contest been 'live'. England's rare victories in recent years have invariably come after the Australians took an unassailable series lead.

Venus and Clijsters set for showdown

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wimbledon champion Venus Williams and fourth seed Kim Clijsters, the tournament favorite, will square off in a highly anticipated quarter-final at the U.S. Open on Tuesday.

Neither player has dropped a set en route to the last eight, with Venus having beaten her sister Serena in the previous round and Belgian Clijsters, who is still looking to win her first grand slam title, losing just 14 games

on her way to the quarter-finals.

Venus has won six of their nine meetings, but Clijsters triumphed in their last clash, in the final at Stanford earlier this summer.

Top seed Maria Sharapova will be making her first quarter-final appearance at Flushing Meadows when she takes on fellow Russian Nadia Petrova, the ninth seed, in Tuesday's other quarter-final.

In the men's event, top seed and defending champion Roger Federer

headlines the action as he takes on German Nicolas Kiefer in the fourth round.

Third seed and former champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia meets Slovakian Dominik Hrbaty, the 15th seed, while 11th seed David Nalbandian of Argentina faces unseeded Italian Davide Sanguinetti.

Two other unseeded players, Spaniard Fernando Verdasco and Finn Jarkko Nieminen face each other in the last fourth-round battle.

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C.Jones, A.Jones power Braves over Mets

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Chipper Jones belted a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning to lead the Atlanta Braves to a 4-2 win over the New York Mets in National League play Monday at Turner Field.

Andruw Jones also homered for the Braves, his league-leading 45th of the season.

The 452-foot homer by Andruw Jones was estimated to be the sixth longest in the history of Turner Field and the longest by a Brave as Atlanta continues to hold a comfortable lead in the N.L. East while the Mets slip further back of a wild card spot.

Carlos Beltran's RBI double in the first put New York in front, but Chipper Jones answered that with a run-scoring double of his own in the bottom of the first.

Andruw Jones's homer came in the fourth to put the Braves ahead, but a sacrifice fly by Ramon Castillo in the top of the eighth again tied the score, setting the stage for Chipper Jones's game-winning shot.

Starter John Thomson went five strong innings for the Braves, allowing one run on four hits, but it was reliever Blaine Boyer (2-1) who got the win, despite blowing the save by allowing the eighth inning run.

Kyle Farnsworth got the final three outs in the ninth for his fourth save, and Jeff Francoeur also had two hits and threw out a runner trying to score from third base from the outfield for the Braves, who had seven hits.

Mets starter Steve Trachsel (1-1) allowed four runs on seven hits in 7 1/3 innings and took the loss. He struck out one and walked two before Roberto Hernandez finished up.

Trachsel said the entire Braves lineup is a dangerous one.

"It's not just Chipper, it's all those



Atlanta Braves catcher Johnny Estrada (L) tags out New York Mets Victor Diaz as he tries to score in the seventh inning in Atlanta, Georgia Sep 5. REUTERS

guys," Trachsel said. "You can never relax against them."

Jose Reyes had two hits and scored a run for the Mets, while Victor Diaz also had two of New York's nine hits.

In Washington, Livan Hernandez pitched a solid eight innings as the Nationals beat the Florida Marlins 5-2.

Hernandez (15-6) allowed two runs on six hits, walking two and striking out four. Marlon Byrd had three hits and drove in three runs for the Nationals.

Jason Vargas (5-3) pitched five innings, allowing one run on seven hits, walking two and striking out four to take the loss. Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer for the Marlins.

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer as the Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs 6-4.

Ray King (4-2) got two out and walked one for the win. Julian Tavarez pitched one inning for his fourth save and Jim Edmonds also homered for the Cardinals.

Roberto Novoa (3-5) allowed three runs on two hits, walking one to take the loss.

In Philadelphia, Lance Berkman hit a three-run homer as the Houston Astros beat the Phillies 4-3.

Andy Pettitte (14-9) pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowing three hits and striking out five for the win. Brad Lidge pitched one inning for his 33rd

save.

Brett Myers (12-7) pitched seven innings, allowing four runs - three earned - on five hits, walking one and striking out six to take the loss.

In Los Angeles, Ray Durham had two hits, scored two runs and stole home as the San Francisco Giants beat the Dodgers 3-1 for their sixth straight victory.

In Cincinnati, Geoff Jenkins had five hits and drove in two runs as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Reds 6-1.

Tommy Ohka (10-7) pitched seven innings, allowing one run on three hits and striking out six for the win. Dana Eveland pitched two innings for his first save.

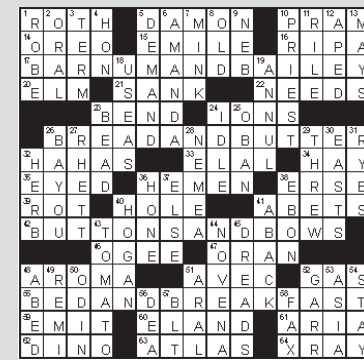
Matt Belisle (3-7) got one out, allowing two runs on three hits and walking one to take the loss. Adam Dunn homered for the Reds.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- ACROSS**
- 1 Douglas and Alexander
 - 6 East - Alto, California
 - 10 Stumblebums
 - 14 Legendary actor Davis
 - 15 Many a Norwegian king
 - 16 Wooden's fab five
 - 17 Certain military camp + magazine
 - 20 Film in which Dustin was Dorothy
 - 21 About 26,000 square miles of Asia
 - 22 Noted Broadway Prince
 - 23 Requirement in some restaurants
 - 24 Artemis' brother + baker's dozen
 - 32 Word with red or on
 - 33 "Just the facts, ..."
 - 34 Dr. with seven faces
 - 35 Type of shot
 - 36 Jack in "Around the World in 80 Days"
 - 37 Satisfy fully
 - 38 Summer games grp.
 - 39 Fen- (controversial diet drug combo)
 - 40 They can be blind
 - 41 Apostles' count + irate husbands
 - 45 Cologne article
 - 46 Santa California
 - 47 Orbital points
 - 51 Sir Walter Scott character
 - 55 "The" + Jack Benny's age + measures
 - 57 1,620 yards, in Old Rome
 - 58 First name among noted architects
 - 59 "... all, folks!"
 - 60 "You're something"
 - 61 Person with a list
 - 62 Chip enhancer

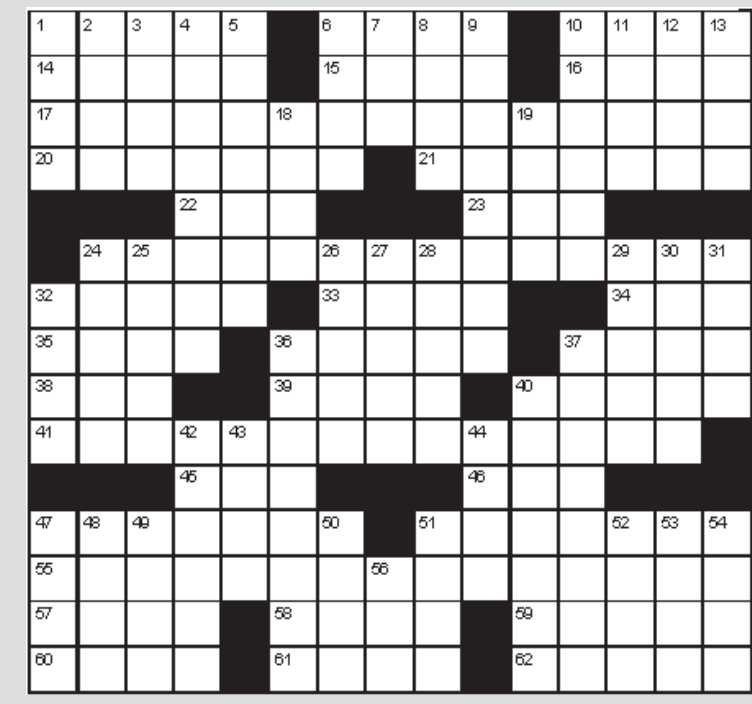
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



- DOWN**
- 1 Leader in home entertainment?
 - 2 Phrase in legalese
 - 3 Aoki of golf
 - 4 Jenkins and McLaughlin comic strip
 - 5 You can smell it in an ocean's breeze
 - 6 Something to strike
 - 7 Pub potable
 - 8 Liquid rock
 - 9 It starts after the fourth quarter
 - 10 Popular shopping venue
 - 11 They're part of a really good deal
 - 12 Beat it
 - 13 Mideast capital
 - 18 Trout's breathing organ
 - 19 Depilatory brand
 - 24 Give permission to
 - 25 Quiet companion
 - 26 College World Series site
 - 27 Series for
 - 28 "The Killing Fields" Oscar winner S. Ngor
 - 29 Tickle pink
 - 30 Worn away
 - 31 Discouraging words
 - 32 "... was in the beginning"
 - 36 Observant
 - 37 Comical witch
 - 40 Hereditary rulers
 - 42 Worse Simon for "Simon Says"
 - 43 Cong
 - 44 Favorable review
 - 47 "Ma! (He's Making Eyes ...)"
 - 48 Punxsutawney celeb
 - 49 Does routine engine maintenance
 - 50 Old dagger
 - 51 Barge (interrupt)
 - 52 What time will do to a wound
 - 53 Chooses
 - 54 She, in Milan
 - 56 Roth plan, for one

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"MOVIE MAKING" by J. R. Richardson



Yemen Times wins 2-1 over Central Security

SANA'A- Sept. 5- The Yemen Times football team defeated its Central Security's counterpart 2-1 in the tournament of private and public institutions sponsored by the Yemeni Football Federation.

Both sides played fast in the two halves of the encounter. The first half ended with Yemen Times team one goal ahead scored by striker Zeyad al-Sanabani.

The second half opened with fast take-and give-passes by the Yemen Times team yielding a second goal by forward Yasser al-Ansi. A few minutes later, the Central Security striker Ammar Zaidan contracted the difference by placing the ball in the net of Yemen Times' goalkeeper.

Player Mohammad al-Sinfi was awarded man of the match by the Yemeni Football Federation in recognition of his effort and distinctive performance throughout the game time.



مسابقة رقم (52) Contest No. (52)

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(1) put each animal with its covering :

Animals → 1-frog - 2- camel - 3- cat - 4-sheep - 5-bird - 6-fish

Coverings → a-hair - b-feathers - c-skin - d-fur - e-scales - f-wool

(2) Complete the following definitions

a- Synonyms are words with meanings.

b- Antonyms are words with meanings.

* إذا اردتم طريق العلم والمعرفة فاستكثروا معنا من الآن

لا تنتظروا حتى يتساقط عليكم الوقت وتضيق بكم الواجبات

تعطي مهج اللغة الانجليزية خلال شهر باسلوب تضمن

لكم التفوق لحماية العام

أرسل حل المسابقة مع البيانات عبر بريدنا الالكتروني:

Ans & Winner contest : 51

1.elbow 2.human

3.end 4.too

5.run 6.admit

7.cruel 8.murber

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Dimension Stone Industry in Yemen

By MICHELLE ANNAND
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Four German specialists in the stone industry from the German Ministry of Technological Cooperation (GTZ) held a workshop on Tuesday, 30th August, at the Ministry of Oil, Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board.

Dr Ismail Al Ganad, the Head of the Board, was the main facilitator, and Dr Rasheed Baraba, The Minister of Oil and Minerals, was present to open the workshop. Eighty participants attended, twenty of them being top players in the stone industry, such as quarry owners, stone producers, and building companies.

The main topic of discussion was in regard to further development of the stone industry in Yemen. The main points ranged from increasing demand, to improving infrastructure and technical training. Currently there is only on the job training and no nationally accredited program.

The four German members of GTZ all presented information at the workshop and discussed their experience over the last fourteen days of their visit to Yemen. They seemed particularly interested in local



Yemen is rich in a variety of stones with different colors used mainly for building houses. YT PHOTO BY MICHELLE ANNAND

geology facts and expressed a wish to visit prospective sites. Before the site is quarried, the geological properties of the stone need to be examined and understood.

Professor Dr Thomas Kimbauer made a presentation on defining the deposit to establish its evaluation. Dr Stefan Bruggerhoff made a presentation in regard to laboratory equipment and facilities in Yemen, and made his recommendations about the equipment, maintenance and education of the staff. The conclusion was that the situation is satisfactory here, but that there is a problem with lack of coordination.

Heinrich Korfmann made his presentation on quarrying technology and stone processing technology, as well as the marketing aspects with respect to global market opportunities. For example, Korfmann stated that the total export of stone products in Yemen in 2003 was \$US 125,000. The worldwide import total in 2003 was 6.3 billion dollars, thus Yemen shares 0.002 % of the world market of stone.

Yemen is very rich in dimensional stone but does not use the opportunities to participate in the global market. This project endeavored to locate the gaps in the Yemeni stone industry in order to overcome them. Some of the gaps are through lack of coordination. Another problem is when dimensional stone is quarried, the methods currently used are drilling and blasting as the means for excavation, and this means approximately 70 - 90 % in loss of production. Technology is absent in Yemen

whereas in Germany state of the art tools are used for these procedures, such as "diamond wire use", for shaping the stone, and the "chainsaw" is used as the stone cutting machine. Germany leads the world in quarrying and stone recovery technology and is frequently copied, says Korfmann.



YT PHOTO BY MICHELLE ANNAND

Yemen needs to be open for discussion and compete in the global market, alongside other big producers of dimensional stone products such as China and India, and also needs to invest in technology to keep costs low. Both China and Yemen share similar labor costs. Here in Yemen the use of dimension and ornamental stone is very widespread with a long and distinguished tradition. Dimension stone products currently used cover a wide range of rock types, including some extraordinarily attractive and very rare rocks. These include blue marble, limestone with distinctive fossils and several multi-colored granites.

Despite the excellent stone deposits, necessary development potential remains still unused. Yemen has not acquired the technologies that can follow international standards today. This concerns all steps of technology; exploration, extraction, processing and trading. The GTZ workshop aimed to analyze Yemen's chances of developing existing technologies and of becoming an internationally competitive producer.



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