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After years of antagonism PGC & YSP get intimate

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept.13- After years of tension and antagonism, the ruling People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), the primary partners in achieving national unity, resumed close relations and intimacy following elections of the YSP's leadership.

The PGC's General Secretariat chaired by President Ali Abdullah Saleh held a meeting on the description of tasks and responsibilities with members of the YSP's Political Office, presided over by Dr. Yasin Sa'eed Numan who was appointed the Parliament Speaker after achieving the national unity in 1990.

Such a meeting was described as positive and it was held in atmosphere of intimacy, transparency and openness on dealing with a number of issues and subjects of concern to both parties.

A source in the YSP mentioned the two parties discussed the issue of the loss of properties prior owned by the YSP but confiscated in 1994 war. The parties reached an agreement on the continuity of dialogue on the restoration of properties.

For his part, Tariq al-Shami, Head of the PGC's Media Unit denied that his party dialogued with the YSP with the objective of giving compensations or fomenting a crisis among the Opposition Joint Meeting Parties, reliable sources said, adding that he also denied that both made any mention of a coalition government.

Al-Shami told the Yemen Times such closeness between the two parties may cause doubt and sensitivity on the part of the other opposition parties, and this closeness is merely part of a series of dialogues the ruling party, under President Saleh, is planning to hold with the opposition parties.

"We care for normalizing relations with the YSP mainly after seeing out-

comes of the YSP's fifth conference that stressed on maintaining the national unity, in addition to the selection of new faces eligible for dialoguing with other parties on different issues", al-Shami stated. "We agreed to form a dialogue committee to meet in every fifteen days and in case the situation urges so, and we in the PGC see that continuing the dialogue will bring about a political vivacity in the country."

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Dr. Ahmad Ubeid Bin Daghr, Head of the YSP's Political Unit and member of the dialogue committee confirmed the idea of holding a dialogue was suggested immediately after the 1994 war, however the several dialogues proceeded on marginal issues.

"Realizing the primary importance of establishing the culture of forgiveness and eliminating malignance, the PGC represented by HE President Saleh called for holding a meeting with the YSP," Dr. Bin Daghr pointed

out.

"The two-party dialogue will help create a suitable environment for discussing issues related to governance, human rights, press freedoms, as well as other freedoms ensured by the Yemeni Constitution."

Considering the PGC the winning party after the 1994 war, the YSP did not accept the fate and bore opposing ideas as expressed more than once by al-Thowri paper, mouthpiece of the party.

The YSP perceives that issues related to the harassment of some of its leading figures and extortion of its properties can be tackled only through dialogue, according to Dr. Daghr.

Regarding concerns expected to be shown by the Islah party, the YSP's staunch ally in the joint meeting, over the dialogue, Dr. Ahmad Bin Daghr said "we are committed to what we agreed on the opposition joint meeting council and hope relations to improve between all the opposition parties."

Participants: Human rights should be interpreted into behavior

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept. 12- Functions of the Arab course on human rights kicked off on Monday and is expected to be finished next Sunday. The course, which was organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC), involved 40 male and female trainees from 12 Arab countries.

The main objective of the course is to discuss a number of important subjects covering training on international human rights conventions and civil, political and economic rights.

In addition, a workshop on the mechanisms of international protection for UN committees, the international system for human rights protection and the International Criminal Court is planned to be staged in the days to come. The workshop is due to discuss the regional accords on human rights such the



One of the trainers giving a speech to participants in the Arab course on human rights.

European and American accords, the African and Arab pacts and woman and child rights.

Ms. Amatalalim al-Soswa, Minister of Human Rights, who inaugurated the

course, confirmed that more attention should be drawn to human rights, mainly in Arab schools and universities, as well as in civil community organizations.

She recommended the Arab governments to be interested in the training programs that provide policemen with means to do their duties in a better way and ensure protection of human rights. The Minister of Human Rights insisted that the Arab world has to cope with development of the contemporary legal intellectualism and show more respect to human rights considering it a task of every responsible Arab citizen. Ms. Al-Soswa expressed her sorrow over the lack of training for people on human rights and stressed that such symposiums are the merely activities for the enhancement of human rights principles and concepts.

Participants in the course laid more emphasis on the expansion of the human rights scope and interpreting it into behavior, practice and culture in the society and not as a merely slogan doomed to expire and vanish.

They confirmed that only such events that pull together individuals from different Arab countries can be able to plant the tree of freedom and ensure protection of human rights in a

continued way. They added these activities would help reinforce human rights principle and concepts, stressing on the importance of a partnership between official institutions and civil community organizations for the purpose of enhancing human rights in real life situation.

Over the last few years, closer attention was paid to issues related to human rights and freedoms by several activists in non-governmental organizations. They view it as an international demand that is necessary to be met to create a kind of social justice and equality in rights and freedoms.

Numerous Arab countries could cope with the international developments on human rights and started to establish human rights ministries and organizations.

In Yemen, the Republican Decree No. 255 of 2003 was issued stipulating the formation of a human rights ministry with main objective of protecting and reinforcing human rights.

Several policies, plans, programs and procedures were suggested for ensuring and consolidating human rights and making the Yemeni legislations cope and harmonize with international human rights conventions and accords.

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Following an assassination attempt on his brother MP accuses authorities of fomenting conflict

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

AL-JAWF – Sept.13- The MP Amin al-Ukaimi, one of the prominent sheikhs in al-Jawf Governorate confirmed to the Yemen Times that his brother Rabe' al-Ukaimi was subjected to an assassination attempt last Sunday while he was on his way to the Governmental Complex in the city.

He said that his brother, who was summoned by officials in al-Jawf governorate to come to the office of the political security for a discussion of the conflicts between al-Shawlan and Hamdan tribes, was appalled when anonymous men open fire on him, 150m away from the Governmental Complex where he was intending to reach for attending the meeting.

Rabe' and his fellow men escaped the shooting of fire unhurt while two tribesmen from Hamdan who masterminded the ambush received bad injuries when al-Ukaimi aides returned fire.

Amin al-Ukaimi believed this would breach the one-year truce reached between the two conflicting tribes under the direct supervision of HE President Saleh. He accused some officials in the governorate of backing Hamdan Tribe to which they belong and demanded implementation of the arbitration reached by the mediation committee and the intensification of troops in the area.

The MP has been detained in a defense ministry prison for two months along with Sheikh Abdulwali al-Ukaimi and another fifteen and five sheikhs from al-Shawlan and Hamdan tribes as hostages.

The two tribes did already sign a truce last Wednesday in a hope of a ceasefire between the two parties who have been facing revenge incidents for over 25 years which have claimed lives of 70 people and injured hundreds on both

sides.

The committee made up of a number of al-Jawf sheikhs made last week arbitration on the case, which it also forwarded to President Saleh who showed his agreement on it and pledged to pay costs of the arbitration. Regarding the case of disputes over land, the President vowed to settle it after the holy month of Ramadan.

On the other hand, some prominent tribal sheikhs urged the President of the Republic to intervene to end the fighting between al-Mahajer Tribe from Nihm and al-Inaz from Arhab that started one month ago. Three people were killed and dozens wounded in the fighting.

The tribal mediation attempts failed to put an end to the fighting between the two parties. The tribal clashes broke out once again after the truce's period of validity came to an end.

Observers of the situation hold the view that tribal conflicts are on the rise and that parties in the government incite such conflicts with the intention of uprooting the tribal community and weakening its military and material strength, particularly after Sa'ada events, backed by some tribes, cost the state heavy losses.

The strategic report released by the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies stated the consecutive Yemeni governments spoiled the Yemeni tribal entity and aimed to marginalize its forces by inciting conflicts within parties and tribal communities.

The consecutive Yemeni governments spawned new sheikhs in some tribes to guarantee their loyalty for the authorities and generate disputes among tribesmen.

The report indicates that marginalizing the role of these tribes and fomenting conflicts between tribesmen will help proliferate the culture of violence and revenge in the Yemeni tribal community.

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Yemen, president of Islamic group in UNESCO

SANAA- Sept. 8- Dr. Hameed Al-Awadi, permanent representative and Ambassador of Yemen in UNESCO was elected as president of the Islamic group in the Islamic Conference recognized by UNESCO. This took place on Wednesday 7.9

Yemen was elected president of the Islamic Group in UNESCO following the recommendation of the Foreign Ministers in the thirty second Islamic Conference in Sana'a on the 28-30 of last June, in their resolution for the first time to form an Islamic group in UNESCO first. This matter will help coordinating Islamic countries' stance over common interests.

Trial of Iraqi suspects delayed

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept. 13- Three Iraqis, suspected of being former Saddam regime intelligence officers, stood trial before the Special Primary penal Court. They are facing charges of forming an armed gang to attack the British and American embassies. Verdict in their case was postponed until next October.

In its session, which was headed by Judge Mohamed Al-ba'dani, the court listened to procedures of both the prosecution and defense. Prosecution displayed a number of evidences, demanding sever measures to be afflicted on the suspects and to confiscate all seized items assuring their involvement in the accusation they were charged with. It added that it had presented

the electric detonators, TNT explosives and the remote controls which were to be used in blowing the two embassies in case Iraq was attacked by Britain and Iraq.

The report of the case seizer, presented to 22 May police station by the zone chief Mohsen Al-salami, was introduced to the court. It constitutes the passports of the first and second suspects Saadi and Zabidi. Another copy of a contract of renting a house for the first suspect, who is now a fugitive, was also presented. A large box containing five bags warped up in a piece of cloth and containing battery operated explosives, ready for use, were caught with the suspects. They were seized by Security forces with the two who were arrested inside the house rented by fugitive Hameed

Al-wadi. According to security authorities the detention was took place just one day a head of the deadline of detonation on 27.3.2003.

Lawyer Abdulaziz Al-samawi, defender of the suspects demanded that his clients should be freed rehabilitated and their families should be allowed to come to Yemen because they suffered on the hands of Iraqi and occupation authorities.

Defense announced that prosecution charges against their clients are groundless. He added that their clients should not be tried on evidences that are randomly inferred from interrogation minutes. Defense insists that the explosives that were found in the house of Ali Rashid Alsaudi, the first suspect, if they proved to be true, have nothing to

do with their clients.

The three suspects, Ahmed Salman daoud Alzabidi, Ahmed muthana and Mohamed Abulrhmam, in addition to the first suspect Ali Rashid Alsaadi, pleaded to the court that they should not be extradited. They said that they were exposed by media, especially after their photos were published through satellites.

As their case was postponed to the 11th of next October the prosecution says that the suspects are officers in the former regime's intelligence owing to their confessions in interrogation minutes, and they came to Yemen disguised as teachers.

Suspects insist that they came to Yemen as teachers in Marib and Mahwait denying all allegations of intelligence.

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:

After years of enmity, the PGC and YSP got intimate. Do you think this intimacy will have an influence on the coming presidential elections?

Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think the Egyptian election was fair?

No 77%
Yes 14%
I don't know 9%

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yementimes.com/#poll
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AP urges authorities to investigate correspondent's assault

SANA'A - Sept. 14- The Associated Press (AP) requested the Yemeni security authorities to investigate the raid on Mr. Al-Haj's office on Wednesday Aug. 24. Mr. Al-Haj and equipment of the AP including a computer, fax machine, video camera and computer disks were all taken away illegally.

The AP sent a letter to the Yemeni Minister of Interior expressing its concern over the harassment of its correspondent and the illegal seizure of equipment from his office.

The letter said, "Mr. Al-Haj has no ties to the U.S. government and the AP is an independent news organization with no links with the

U.S."

Mr. Al-Haj and his family members received threats and his assistant was detained and questioned.

The assault of Ahmad al-Haj, an accredited journalist with a good reputation and known for his fairness and objectivity enraged the AP and other international news agencies.

Joint workshop on WTO entry

SANA'A- Sept.10- Minister of Water and Environment Dr. Mohamed Lutf al-Eriani and Mr. Thomas C. Krajieski, Ambassador of the United States to Yemen launched on Saturday a workshop under the title "Strengthening of National Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities".

The workshop focused on various issues including WTO members' sanitary and phytosanitary rights and duties, benefits of working with the private sector to reach compliance with international standards to better enable to export goods and a review of ways to ensure a viable interagency process is in place.

Mr. Krajieski expressed his hope that the workshop "would serve as a starting point for dialogue between Yemen and the United States in preparations for Yemen's WTO entry and bringing about a positive change in the economic and health sectors in



both countries."

The two-day workshop was organized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Foods and Drugs Administration as

part of a grant extended by the Middle East Partnership Initiative and the U.S. Department of State in cooperation with the concerned parties in the Yemeni government.

Inauguration of Small and Micro Enterprises days for poverty alleviation

SANA'A- Sept. 11- PM Abdulgadir Ba-Jamal inaugurated the functions of the Small and Micro Enterprises days which were organized by the Social fund for Development, In Assabeen park. The function will reflect the productive activities and the role played by the enterprise by supporting productive

families. This will contribute to poverty alleviation in different governorates. The function will go for a week.

An exhibition of the products of the Smaller and micro Enterprises was also opened. It contained a number of samples of the products of the enterprise's societies, supported by the Social Fund

for Development. The fund aims at highlighting the role of these societies in alleviating poverty in addition to arising public and official interest and debates around these enterprises. A number of charitable societies participated interested in the enterprises activities also participated in these functions.

Yemen and Bahrain sign agreement on combating terror

SANA'A- Sept. 13- The governments of Yemen and Bahrain signed an agreement on security cooperation and intelligence sharing in the war on terror.

The agreement aims to increase security cooperation between the two

countries and cover all aspects of cooperation on boomboxing terrorism, organized crime and the extradition of wanted terrorists.

The event comes as part of a series of agreements signed by Yemen and other Gulf countries, among them the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The agreement came after Yemeni officials received hints that cleric Hussein al-Houthi, who was killed by the government troops in September last year, received financial assistances from Bahraini traders.

Human rights training course for police officers

SANA'A-Sept.13- A human rights course for police officers which was held in Sana'a International Hotel will conclude Thursday.

The course which lasted for three days was organized by the Human Rights Center for Information and Training, in cooperation with the Interior and Human Rights ministries, the British embassy, and UNDP. Forty participants joined this course, 17 of these were women.

In his speech, Izzadeen Saed confirmed that the participants should necessarily acquire skills in Human rights. 350 police officers from different governorates have so far been trained in human rights by the center.



Course on health research

SANA'A- Sept. 12- Under the auspices of the minister of health and population, Mr. Mohammed Al-Numi and in cooperation with the Regional office of WHO, the general authority of information and researches at the ministry of health and population concluded last week a 5-day workshop devoted to health systems research.

The workshop aimed at developing the abilities of 25 health program managers and researchers in how to conduct and carry out health system

research.

Dr. Taha Ali AL-Surori, the course coordinator, stated that "Health system have been identified as an important tool to provide researchers with information they can use in decision making processes aimed at improving health care. Therefore, the ultimate goal of the course is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of health system as an integral part of the overall process of the socioeconomic development. This

course tried to build and sustain research capacity to be integrated as a key objective and powerful instrument for all health and development investments."

Dr. Surori revealed that the 5-day workshop came up with a number of recommendations most of which was to give priorities to the problems related to the health system in Yemen as well as the possibility of funding these researches especially by the WHO.

Lawyers Syndicate denounces judge's conduct

SANA'A- Sept. 10- The Lawyers syndicate has published a scathing criticism of the North primary court in the Capital Secretariat. The syndicate described the court as arrogant, unbecoming and its behavior as inappropriate from a judiciary.

A primary example of this behavior, the syndicate cited, was the manhandling of one of its members Mohamed Al-Miswary. As he was in

the judge's office, doing his routine work, the judge ordered his civilian and military aides to force him out of the office.

The syndicate said that it finds no excuse for the ministry of justice's mild attitude towards this judge, in spite of the repeated complaints on his deliberate insults to lawyers.

The lawyers Syndicate in Sana'a reminds of their previous complaints,

which they filed against the same judge before in 11.5.2005.

The syndicate voiced a call to all those concerned with defending the judiciary, to demand the resignation of this judge and his likes and to hold them accountable for their behavior.

The Syndicate said that it is holding fast to its constitutional and legal rights in the face of this judge and those who back him.

Gove's requested budget rejected

SANA'A- Sept.12- The Financial Committee at the Parliament rejected the government's demand for an additional budget, meanwhile the ruling People's General Congress exerts efforts to make some MPs vote for approving the additional allotment that exceeds 40% of the State's general budget.

Abdurrahman Ba Fadhl, a prominent MP and Chairman of the Islah Parliamentary bloc, blamed the government for violating the law which stipulates that any additional allotment should not exceed 5% of the state's general budget, except in emergency cases.

The additional sum demanded by the

government is estimated at 452 billion rials, equal to 53 percent of the State's general budget for the fiscal year 2005.

Abdulkarim Shaiban, a member of the Parliament's Financial Committee mentioned the government spent about 178 billion rials without the approval of the Parliament. 40 billion rials of the sum went to the Ministry of Public Roads and Highways and an unjustifiable sum of 70 billion rials were allotted to the Ministry of Defense.

Shaiban attributed the extravagant public spending to an increase in oil resources, and the government, therefore, estimated the price of oil at 30 dollars per barrel while indicators in 1994 revealed the price ran high to 40

dollars per barrel. He pointed out the government endorsed the general budget with YR180 for one dollar, however the price of dollar exceeds 190 rials.

Shaiban accused the government of corruption, particularly as it allocated a sum of YR billion 223 out of the additional allotments for subsidizing oil products.

"We expected the government to reduce the subsidy on oil derivatives, particularly after approving the dose reforms," he said, adding that the Parliament never got acquainted with the quantities of oil products consumed locally due to the absence of transparency.

24 private schools shut down

SANA'A - Sept. 14- The Education Office in the capital shut down 24 private schools for violations including the non-renewal of licenses and working contrarily to the private education law.

The private education law stipulates that buildings should be in

a frame similar to public schools and not apartments and small houses.

It is worth noting that there are hundreds of private schools scattered in the capital and its suburbs that have no official permissions and use apartments and houses owned by influential

persons. These schools never provide quality education.

Additionally, there are several foreign private schools under renowned names that are established by investors interested in material gains at the expense of offering quality education.

Let's work together for a better Yemen by 2015

FOR YEMEN TIMES

Under the auspices of Her Excellency, Ms. Amatel-Aleem Al-Susowa, the Minister of Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre, launched Sunday, 4 September 2005, a documentary video and posters. These media products aim to increase public awareness about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the means by which they can be achieved in Yemen by 2015. The products were prepared within the framework of UNDP's Advocacy Campaign that is being implemented since February 2005 to strengthen ongoing efforts to achieve the MDGs in Yemen and to ensure their effectiveness and sound implementation. At the launch which brought together a number of distinguished journalists and media representatives from different official and non-official media institutions, the posters were exhibited and the film was screened.

The documentary film provides a general overview of the MDGs at both the international and national levels with a view to increasing understanding among citizens of current development trends in Yemen and elsewhere, emphasizing the need for joint action at the different levels to reach the Goals. On the other hand, the posters portrayed, in a simplified artistic form, the eight MDGs to maximize reaching out to the broader society. The posters skilfully conveyed the message of the advocacy campaign currently being implemented by UNDP under the theme: "Let's work together for a better Yemen by 2015".

At the launch, Her Excellency the

Minister of Human Rights stressed that reaching development goals requires the maximum degree of awareness, commitment and national responsibility to ensure reaching the MDGs by the specified year. She also emphasized the need for making dramatic changes in mentalities and behaviours alike, a goal that can only happen through collaborative efforts. Moreover, she called upon the media to contribute to creating an enabling environment and mobilize support for reaching the MDGs. The Minister of Human Rights regarded UNDP's advocacy campaign as a sincere effort to reflect, in an audio-visual form, the importance of the MDGs in making a way for positive change in existing realities.

From his part, Dr. Mutahar Al-Abbasi, the Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, emphasized the commitment of the Government of Yemen to develop comprehensive plans and programmes geared towards achieving the MDGs in Yemen. Dr. Al-Abbasi also pointed out that achieving the Goals in light of the massive development challenges requires much more human and financial resources, which in turn can only be secured if the eighth MDG related to creating a global partnership for development is fulfilled by the international donor community. The Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation also urged the media sector to play its crucial role in increasing awareness about the MDGs and highlighting the national efforts being exerted to achieve them in Yemen.

Dr. Hashim El-Zein, the Acting UN Resident Coordinator and the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Yemen ascertained that the "United Nations seize all

opportunity to help countries scale up their efforts to reach their development goals at today's world of great complexity and inequality. All concerned UN agencies are exerting their best efforts to improve capacities, physical and institutional infrastructure, as well as to stir dialogue between policy makers and beneficiaries of development programmes to ensure that people's concerns are taken into account by decision and policy makers". He also noted that the UN System's agencies provide—each in its respective area of expertise—financial and technical support to help Yemen reach the Goals by 2015.

Moreover, Ms. Dena Assaf, the Acting Resident Representative of UNDP indicated that the campaign's aim is to "create a forum for dialogue among the different development partners and stakeholders, along with concerned government bodies, to ensure that sound procedures and policies are in place to facilitate reaching the ambitious MDGs within the given timeframe. She also expressed her happiness that the workshops and advocacy events—which have thus far been implemented within the advocacy campaign—have produced a set of valuable recommendations to enhance the role of respective sectors in ensuring the achievement of the MDGs in Yemen. She also commended the initiatives taken by some participants at the aforementioned workshops and events in organizing follow up advocacy events in the regions and within their scope of operations. "This serves UNDP's goal of maximizing outreach to the largest number of development actors and citizens possible in different parts of Yemen", Ms. Assaf concluded.

The advocacy campaign comes in response to the major development

challenges in Yemen and in recognition of the fact that, if current trends persist, Yemen is unlikely to meet all of the MDGs by 2015, with a modest possibility of reaching the two goals related to achieving universal primary education and reducing under-five child mortality. Therefore, the campaign stresses the need for joint action, made possible through effective dialogue. Such dialogue brings hope of reaching courageous and decisive solutions for existing problems, ensuring effective mechanisms and procedures, as well as guaranteeing a culture of participation, transparency and accountability. This also includes monitoring the implementation and learning from past lessons and experiences.

Mr. Khaled A. Ishaq, UNDP Communications Analyst, "This event is to raise awareness among people about the Development Millennium Goals (DMGs) and how to get people understand those goals and how they are related to them and the issue is how to get people understand that these goals are theirs not the government's. This event comes as step forward in terms of implementing the rest of campaign that the UNDP is organizing. Some components of the campaign is to target schools, children and other events to let people discuss with officials. Most of these events have already organized in the past including workshops that have been done with civic society organizations and media that all have the same purpose that is how to promote the theme of this campaign which is "let's work together for better Yemen by 2015"

In conclusion, all speakers lauded the theme of the campaign and urged for adopting this theme, both in form and in substance: "Let's work together for a better Yemen by 2015".

No more playing with funds

FOR YEMEN TIMES

Yemen has received numerous international loans, but a lack of transparency in government policy means there is little to no data on where those funds have gone.

External development assistance, represented both in loans and grants from key donors and development partners (World Bank, EU, The Netherlands, GTZ, The UK, etc.), represents a sizable chunk of the public sector investment program. These funds contribute to health, education, water and environment, civil service reform, social protection, vocational training. In truth, however these funds are not effectively spent. Programs are often reactive, intermittent, not cost effective and subject to gross mismanagement and embezzling.

Needless to say, this situation results in the country's inability to meet critical local and international development goals and targets (i.e. MDGs, health/education for all, etc) and contributes to the perpetuation of poverty. Performance in such areas also directly influences external donors' decision to increase or reduce development assistance to Yemen. Poor performance results in donor fatigue (and frustration) where many donors either shy away from certain sectors or withdraw support altogether since positive results for investments made cannot be demonstrated.

While weak implementation capacity, including the critical issues of ownership and governance are largely responsible for negative results, the donor community also contributes to such results by setting its own priorities, behaving unilaterally, pushing through projects with weak or unsound/irrelevant designs. Donor justification for failures can also be simply attributed to well known and only too familiar buzz words such as "lack of ownership", "corruption", "government bureaucracy" and so on.

In an initiative and in a first step of its kind, the ministry of planning and international cooperation along with UNICEF organized last week a 4-day workshop for monitoring and evaluating the loans that Yemen will receive.

Mr. Hashem Awnallah, Assistant Deputy Minister, Externally Funded Projects programming and Evaluation Sector, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in statement to Yemen Times "Officials who attended the opening day included

Mr. Abdullah Al Shater, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

Although deputies of other key ministries as well as representatives of key development agencies were invited to attend the first half-day presentations and discussions, attendance was not the best, apparently due to the short notice of the invitations as well as the vacation season for many expatriates working in Yemen.

As for other senior govt. representatives, M&E is not well understood and does not yet seem to be high on public sector managers' development agenda."

Mr. Hashem further explained "The roles and importance of international initiatives (MDGs, Transparency Int'l, Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), IDA, EU, etc) and agencies calling for introducing M&E in the development process were also highlighted. The importance of this reference is that some of these organizations' technical reports and recommendations, including the World Bank's (IDA) call for reconsidering aid to developing countries that do not adequately address the issue of monitoring and evaluation and the need to demonstrate accountability and transparency in managing external development assistance."

Representatives of the following ministries (generally 3 each except as specified):

Planning (5), education, health, social affairs, Central Organization for Audit and Control (COCA), an NGO (1 rep.).

Mr. Hashem concluded "This was a phase I technical training workshop where the participants had both theoretical as well as practical training on how to integrate M&E plans into externally funded projects, including how to critically review project proposals, development objectives, indicators, logframes, critical risks, address impact and sustainability, etc.

The trainees were asked to go back to their respective sectors and ministries and promote, (through explaining to their superiors, managers, etc.) and propose appropriate M&E plans to their ongoing development activities. They were also asked to highlight the benefits of introducing M&E to their senior officials (both politically and technically) and to demonstrate that without M&E, the benefit, impact and sustainability of external development funding to Yemen cannot be assured/verified."

As 70 fishermen's cottages were destroyed

Sirah fishermen demand revelation of fire cause

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ADEN- Sept.9- A great fire destroyed more than 70 fishermen cottages, besides loss of other properties amounting to YR 140 millions.

Fire broke out early Friday, in the fishermen residence near Second-hand market in Sirah district in Aden.

A fisherman said that the fire destroyed all their belongings and fishing boats. He said that his personal losses reach a million Yemeni Rials. He requested the authorities to stand to their side and praised security authorities for helping them and containing the fire.

Head of the fishermen's association branch, Mohamed Salim Hadi said that they are following up and their first concern is to keep the site and help the victims, urging criminal investigation authorities to reveal the fire cause.

Mr. Hadi confirmed that they will follow up with concerned local authorities and ministry of fishery for fishermen compensation.

Sirah head of fishermen committee Mr. Abdullah said that they will form a committee from fishermen and committee members to assess fishermen losses and report to the local authorities and the Ministry of Fishery. He also confirmed that they will see to it that

vvv the fishermen will stay in their place.

A follow up committee will also be formed of the representatives of the cooperative association in Aden's branch, the fishermen committee and the victims, Mr. Abdulmoeen Ghalib representative of the Ministry, said. He added that they will follow up with Criminal investigation authorities and the General Director in Sira, to assess the damages and report to the ministry and the association in order to suggest procedures to tackle the matter.

Mr. Awad Hadi, member of the executive fish cooperative association visited the site to meet the victims, evaluate

damages and report to the local authorities. He said that by the time the authorities are reflecting on what measures are to be taken, they will try to find a hurried solution for the homeless.

Rebels Attack Military — Security Comb Sanaa for Suspects

SANAA, May 29 (Ray/Al-Ayyam/Israh Net) — Members of the Zaydi radical movement the Faithful Youth group launched surprising attacks on military posts in Nashur and al-Razamat region in Sadaa on Sunday. No casualties amongst the armed forces were reported but one rebel was killed and three others captured. Meanwhile Sheiks and social figures in Sadaa are planning to send a letter to President Saleh urging him to "order the armed forces in the province to make an end to the rebellion once and for all after the rebels continued their strikes." They also met with Sheikh Shajaa Muhammad bin Shajaa who is leading the negotiations with the rebels and asked him to "announce the failure of the negotiation efforts after al-Huthi and his supporters refused to comply by a presidential pardon." In other news, security forces in the capital Sunday launched a widespread manhunt for seven rebel suspects after one of them was apprehended late Saturday.

Dr Al Tarb attends conference on management and development

SANAA, YT.8 Sept.- Prof. Dr Abdulaziz Al-Tarb has left for Salalah, Oman to attend meetings of the Arab Administrative Development Organization's annual sixth conference to be held there on 10-14 September 2005.

The conference discusses crystallization of an Arab concept for a society of knowledge and process of dissemination and production of knowledge from administrative viewpoint. The conference would be attended by a number Arab ministers and foreign experts.

Dar Al Salam appeals to the Interior Ministry

Sana, September 10 – The Dar Al-Salam Organization has condemned the attack on one of its members, Shadi Mohamed Abdukadir. Shadi belonged to Alkalod village- Taiz Governorate some of whose residents have already been killed, including the Sheikh. Dar Al-Salam, dedicated to peaceful conflict resolution criticized the 'honor killings' for their barbarity and their bypassing of the judicial process.

The organization described this attack as contravening Shariah Law, the Yemeni

Constitution and the laws of human rights. " It is intimidation, degradation and form of indecent assault, aimed at innocent civilians through elusive pretext, and at the presence of the government".

The organization appealed the ministry of Interior to resolve the case and bring the perpetrators to the justice quickly. It also appealed to the civil Society Organization and international community, peace supporters and human rights organizations to condemn the attacks.

Capital of Yemenia Airways to rise

SANAA, 7 Sep.-The Yemeni government has approved a draft law to increase the capital of Yemenia Airways Company to YR 14.7 billion. The cabinet agreed in its weekly meeting on Tuesday to continue partnership with Saudi Arabia to lead the airways.

Saudi Arabia will continue to hold 49% of Yemenia while Yemen will have 51%.

Yemenia was established in July 1978. Since then, a joint Yemeni-Saudi Board of Directors supervises all of its activities.



Bill Helz, Director of YALI, to the YT:

“I think students come to YALI because they know we are the best – that seems very clear.”

By Hakim Almasmari
Yemen Times Staff
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

After five years as Director of the Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI), Bill Helz will depart his position shortly, leaving behind an institute that during the past year has served nearly 20,000 students. Here he is interviewed on how English is affecting Yemen and on the success that YALI has achieved.

Q: Being in Yemen for five years, how important has English become to the Yemeni people?

A: Well, I don't think it's just in Yemen, but in every country...it has become a tool of world communication. Almost all sources, such as on the Internet, are in English. And, to get an education – or a professional job – in many professional fields, such as medicine, engineering and the sciences, you need English. More and more Yemenis have come to realize this truth.

Q: What is the key to the great success that YALI has achieved?

A: YALI has been successful, first, because there is a strong need for English that has been recognized, especially by the younger generation of Yemenis who realize that future jobs may well depend on this. Now, there are many institutes in Yemen that teach English, so why has YALI, specifically, been so successful? I think there are many reasons. We have a system at YALI that encourages the learning process, from beginners to very advanced. We have quality teachers and a quality curriculum and, when we find problems in the learning process, we are

quick to seek solutions to strengthen the program. So, I would say that YALI is never satisfied with what it is, but is always trying to get better, and I think this is one thing that separates us from many of the other institutes who may only be looking to get money are not able to adjust to the needs of their students as they discover that such needs exist.

Q: During your five years as Director of YALI, what has been the most difficult situation you have faced?

A: I'll put this in educational terms. Yes, there are occasional problems with world issues that go back to the U.S. Embassy and security and other things like this, but within what we are able to control inside YALI, I think the most difficult issue has been how to evenly address the language learning skills of our students, who are easily able to learn speaking and listening skills, which is a great strength at YALI, but who are much weaker when it comes to skills like reading and writing. Traditionally, Yemeni students of English have not been strong in these latter skills and through a number of adjustments to our curriculum, we have already made a lot of improvements, especially in reading. Now, with the steps we have taken this year, we hope that the quality of our students' writing will also improve in the future. We are beginning to see some signs of it, but it's a slow process. Our students don't really understand that reading and writing support conversational skills and that they will never be great speakers of English if they don't have the vocabulary – and grammar – they have learned through reading, especially, but also through writing. With grammar usage, written grammar use supports spoken usage greatly. So, the problems we experience

are mainly in finding solutions to the weaknesses our students have. Other than such “professional” problems, I don't have problems. On a personal level, I have greatly enjoyed living in Yemeni culture and I think Yemenis make great students, with their high level of motivation and interest.

Q: Nearly six thousand students in two and a half months is not an easy task to accomplish. How did you do it?

A: Well, it's been for all those reasons I've already mentioned about how YALI is never satisfied with what it is, but is always striving to get better. I think our students recognize this and see the improvements we've made. And, I think students come to YALI because they know we are the best – that seems very clear. If you have any kind of “business” – and if you have a good product and you give good support to that product and to the “customers” who use that product, then you will succeed. In our case, this means that students will come to study. Marketing is a simple thing: have a good product, make sure your “clients” know what is available and when it's available, and make sure that you are consistent in servicing this product. Then, you will be successful.

Q: During Ramadan, student enrollment usually declines. What are your plans to further make YALI more successful during the holy month of Ramadan?

A: While summer is our highest season of the year, Ramadan is our happiest month. This is because we do so many interesting things. We recognize that many of our potential students may not want to work quite as hard during the month of Ramadan, but we also know

that if they stop for one term – or, a full six-week period – they are going to lose some of their English. So, how can we encourage them to continue studying during Ramadan? We do this in two important ways. First, we reduce the tuition. Now, money isn't everything, but it's our way of giving a special bonus to our students to show them that we appreciate them for their patronage at YALI, and for their efforts in learning English. Secondly, and more important than just money – in fact, what is our great gift to our students, or our real Ramadan bonus for students who are registered during the term in which Ramadan occurs – are the many free “mini-courses” we offer. These are short courses of one, two or even three days, from one and a half hours to six hours per course, in which we give more than 300 hours of free courses at all different levels. These courses are designed to work on small points in the language that affect our students' English, such as learning points that may not be addressed completely in the regular curriculum, or other matters in English in which students might be interested, such as learning how to write a résumé in English, learning something about the differences between British and American English, focusing on differences between Arabic and English, such as the [b] and [p] or vowel sounds. So, all of these different courses are good marketing tools, but more importantly, are good educational tools. And, as I have tried to say, good business is good education – and good education is good business. We are willing to give more; we are not a “for profit” organization. So, as long as we have money to spend, we will spend it on our students in finding better ways for them to learn English.

Q: Are there plans to further



Bill Helz

expand YALI for it to become an American university, like the ones spreading throughout the Middle East?

A: Our mandate, through the U.S. State Department, is that we are an English language institute, not a university. I think that YALI has a lot of positive attributes that many universities would do well to emulate, but we are not a full-range university. In terms of expanding YALI with what we do – which is teaching English – we do offer many courses related to other fields, but only to the English of those fields, such as with English for business, English for banking, or English for medicine. In terms of expanding YALI beyond the four buildings off of Baghdad Street, for four and a half years, I have been suggesting that YALI expand to other cities with what we do best, teaching English...opening satellite institutes in other cities, such as Taiz, Mukhalla, Hodeidah, or Aden. And, if this could ever get off the ground, I think this would help serve not just Sana'a, but the whole country of Yemen. The other kind of expansion I would like to see with YALI is to establish a teacher training institute, whereby we would train Yemeni public school English teachers, helping them to teach English better in order to improve the overall quality of

English teaching and learning in public schools.

Q: Many Yemenis are saying that Yemen is turning into an “English society”. What is your opinion?

A: My own opinion – and I'm not an expert on this – is that in any country's development, the key is in keeping those things that make you what you are, such as your religion and core culture, while accepting new ideas that other cultures might have to offer and which don't conflict with your own culture and your cultural values. One of our past students, who is a leader in Yemen, runs a religious institute in which he openly recognizes the importance of such things as computers and English in bringing the world to Yemen and fitting what is good into what already exists. In terms of language, of course I would say, “Never give up your Arabic – it's your native language.” But, it's always good to have another tool, and English is a world tool, as are computers.

Q: Do you have any closing comments?

A: I'm proud of YALI – of our staff and of our students. When I leave, I will miss it a great deal and there will always be a place in my heart for both YALI and Yemen. Thank you.

الحياة صارت أحلى

٣٥ ثوب* في غسلة واحدة

أكبر غسالة بحوضين في العالم

تقدم لكم باناسونيك أكبر غسالة بحوضين في العالم، ذات قدرة هائلة على غسل ١٣ كغ وعصر ٩ كغ بالدوران. وهي تتميز اليوم بمجموعة من الخصائص الجديدة أهمها الغسل بالدوران المتقطع الثلاثي المراحل، ومضخة التصريف التلقائي، والتنعق التلقائي Soakmatic، والدفق المائي الكبير بفضل التناوب الدوراني، وأغطية شفافة.

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Global Campaign Against Poverty (GCAP)

White Band Day II - Wake up to Poverty!

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty is a world-wide alliance committed to making world leaders live up to their promises, and to making a breakthrough on poverty in 2005.

It is an alliance between a range of actors around the common cause of ending poverty: existing coalitions, community groups, trade unions, individuals, religious and faith groups, campaigners and more.

On 10th September, four days before the United Nations Summit, millions of people across the world stood united on the second White Band Day to demand that world leaders Wake-Up to Poverty.

Throughout 2005, groups and individuals will be planning their own local, national and international activities.

On the eve of the summit heads of state and government, marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, world leaders will be forced to confront how little progress has been made towards the Millennium Goals, to which, in 2000, they committed themselves to reaching within 15 years. The goals include the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, universal primary education, gender equality and empowerment for women, reduction of child mortality, improvement in maternal health, combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, as well as ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

GCAP Yemen's National Coalition

On September 10th 2005 and as part of GCAP's activities, the GCAP National Collation in Yemen organized a Discussion Session of Yemen's report to the UN Summit with the purpose of formulating the GCAP's message to the UN Summit. The event took-place at the Women's Studies and Development Centre at Sana'a University, lasted for three hours and attended by more than 50 participants representing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academicians, UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF), media and government officials. The government of Yemen – represented by the Deputy Minister of



Development Plans at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) - presented Yemen's report to UN Summit and the GCAP National Collation presented the role of CSOs to contribute to achieving MDGs. Participants discussed both presentations and articulated recommendations and demands from the international community meeting at the UN Summit and the government of Yemen.

On September 12th 2005 and on the basis of the outcome of the event, representatives of the GCAP National Collation and Oxfam GB met with Ms. Flavia Pansieri, the UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen and forwarded CSOs' letter (Yemeni Civil Society Organizations' "CSOs" Call For Action Against Poverty) to the UN Summit. The GCAP National Collation forwarded

copies of the letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Chairperson of Yemen's team to the UN Summit, MoPIC and the media.

Yemen's report

The report aimed at discussing the government's report to UN Summit in order to ensure it reflects CSOs' stands that emphasized pro-poor and engendered processes to achieve MDGs by 2015. And to articulate CSOs' demands from the Summit and the government.

Dr. Muthar Al-Abbasi, the Deputy Minister of Development Plans at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) presented Yemen's report to the Summit. The presentation focuses on: (i) the progress to attain MDGs so far and, (ii) Yemen's plan to achieve MDGs by 2015. It highlights the

following key points:

- If the current trend continues, Yemen is unlikely to achieve MDGs by 2015 with exception of the targets related to basic education for all and infant mortality.

- Yemen has been selected by the UN Millennium Project as one of eight pilot countries qualified for the project's support to achieve MDG within the specified timeframe.

- With effective participation of all stakeholders and development's partners, the government assessed the needs to achieve MDGs and, subsequently, prepared a long-term plan (2006 – 2015).

- The government decided to align the forthcoming third five-years national plan with the Poverty Reduction Strategy in one document (the Third Five-Years National Plan for Development and Poverty Reduction "TFNPDP; 2006 - 2010"). The plan is under finalization and focuses on: (a) incentives to economic growth, (b) food security, (c) education, (d) health and population, (e) water and environment, (f) infrastructure, (g) good governance, and (h) gender equality.

- The TFNPDP will emphasize and encourage the following mechanisms: (i) partnership with private sector, (ii) partnership with civil society in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan, and (iii) international cooperation focusing on: (i) donors and (ii) meeting donors' requirement of good governance, improved absorption capacity and others.

Mr. Yahya Al-Duba of the GCAP National Collation presented the role of CSOs to contribute to achieving MDGs in Yemen emphasizing that CSOs participated in the preparations of the MDGs' Needs Assessment Country Report and the TFNPDP. They also would contribute to achieving MDGs through participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Their major role should be in monitoring to ensure accountable and transparent implementation of the MDGs-focused plans. Moreover, Mr. Al-Duba emphasized that the government should recognize CSOs as equal partner and, therefore, should create an enabling environment for CSOs

What are the Millennium Development goals?

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 - form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals - world-wide and in most, or even all, individual countries - but only if we break with business as usual.

We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large

businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

**United Nations Secretary-General
Kofi A. Annan**

The Goals

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

- Ensure Government accountability and transparency to aid through adequate monitoring systems.

- Ensure gender needs are met to support Yemeni women in their practical and strategic gender needs.

- To pledge resources to CSOs in Yemen to contribute to achieving MDGs.

CSOs' demanded Yemen's government to

- Recognize civil society as an equal partner in development and poverty reduction.

- Create an enabling environment for civil society to pursue its role in attaining MDGs through effective contribution in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

- To ensure aid is used for the purposes it meant for, reaches the poor in Yemen, spent in transparent and accountable ways.

- Ensure adequate resources to address poverty in rural areas promote gender equality and respond to the priorities of the disadvantaged groups.

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Announcement for Diploma- MSc. Program in IWRM at Water and Environment Centre, Sana'a University

The Graduate studies and Scientific research (GSSR) at Sana'a University (SU) announces the opening of acceptance in Diploma- MSc. Program in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at Water and Environment Centre (WEC-SU). Graduates from the three faculties (Engineering, Agriculture and Science) who would like to apply are requested to submit their applications to the GSSR during the period 28 September 2005.

For enquiries about the IWRM program, please call WEC secretary
(Tel: 464360/ 66/ 67)



Job Vacancies

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

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

GENERAL LEDGER SUPERVISOR- Reference No. 028

Reports to the Head of Operations Accounts, the job holder develops Monthly Financial Ledger Closing Schedule in discussion with the Financial Reporting section and other involved parties for distribution to Company Divisions and reviews, prepares and inputs Journal Vouchers to the Ledger subject to the necessary signatory approvals. The job holder also is responsible for monitoring the section operation to ensure the necessary data is received to input to the General Ledger by the scheduled system closing dates and reviews monthly Accruals before input to Ledger and after production of First Look Report circulated within the Finance Division. He/She is also responsible for reviewing requests for additions and deletions to the Chart of Accounts as per business requirements, in conjunction with the System Administrator. He/She will assist both internal and external Auditors as necessary and develop staff through external training courses and internal mentoring and ensure staff are aware of Safety and Security issues and establishes the need for Safety and Security training commensurate with Finance roles. The successful candidate must have Accounting / Finance degree or professional qualification, at least 6 years general Ledger experience preferably within the Oil and Gas industry, ideally with some international experience.

PAYABLES ACCOUNTANT- Reference No. 029

Reports to the Account Payable Supervisor, the job holder is responsible for registering payments to Vendors on the Payables system, processes manual payments as required and targets any payments which appear on the Aged Accounts Payable listing for priority attention. The job holder also is responsible building working relationships with Company Divisions and third party suppliers as well as assisting both internal and external auditors as necessary in identifying invoices for review and advises Accounts Payable Supervisor when Vendors can be closed out on the Payables system. The successful candidate must have Intermediate business qualification, with Business or Accounting degree preferred and at least 2 years Accounts Payable experience, preferably within the Oil and Gas industry.

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

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

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

Deadline: Thursday, 26 September 2005

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

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

**Company website
WWW.YEMENLNG.COM**

Palestinian leaders demand end to looting in Gaza

NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip (Reuters) - Palestinian leaders demanded a halt to looting on Tuesday after Israel's military withdrawal from Gaza and said Palestinians should start rebuilding in abandoned Jewish settlements.

A day after Israelis left and wild celebrations erupted, Palestinian security forces began to curb movement into former settlements and intercept scavengers to seize booty carried away from ransacked synagogues and greenhouses in the coastal strip.

But chaos reigned along the Gaza-Egypt border for a second day as Palestinians, no longer stymied by an Israeli army buffer zone, scaled walls to stock up on cheap Egyptian cigarettes, livestock and electrical items for use or resale at home.

President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie issued the demands for an end to the looting, reflecting concern that Palestinians should show the world they can establish good governance in Gaza as a proving ground for a future state.

In a televised speech, Abbas said it was vital to establish order for the sake of statehood aspirations in the Gaza Strip and the larger West Bank.

"I tell you, frankly, we have a historical opportunity that hinges on our good performance. Today there is no room for personal agendas," Abbas said in an apparent reference to armed factions rejecting his peacemaking efforts with Israel.

"From today we will not allow armed chaos, the taking of the law into individual hands, or attacks on public property."

Abbas said there were plans to build 3,000 homes in a new town that would be established in place of another settlement, as well as hundreds more houses in the southern Gaza town of Rafah in place of those destroyed during Israeli raids.

At Neve Dekalim, site of what had been Israel's largest settlement in Gaza, Qurie urged people to stop stripping synagogues and greenhouses of building materials and equipment left



Palestinians collect valuables from the burning former Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom in Gaza strip Sep. 12. Palestinians began to clear away a vast swathe of rubble in abandoned Jewish settlements and knocked down remains of a charred synagogue on Tuesday after Israel's withdrawal from Gaza. REUTERS

behind after 38 years of Israeli occupation.

"You won't profit from a pillar, plastic tubing or pieces of wood that you are taking. Protect them because they are yours."

Palestinian security forces act to stop looting

After generally standing by and at times even joining the wild celebrations, Palestinian security forces began controlling entry and exit from settlements and confiscating pilfered items such as piping, roof tiles and window frames.

The Palestinian security commander in south Gaza, Brigadier-General Jamal Kayed, said order was being restored and that uncontrolled travel across the border with Egypt would be halted on Wednesday.

The border anarchy raised questions about Egypt's deal with Israel to maintain security after the pullout, especially against possible arms smuggling to Palestinian militants in Gaza, although there was no sign of that so far.

"What has happened along the border is a very early stage amid general excitement. We can't judge Egypt's performance in such unusual condi-

tions. We trust they will live up to their commitments," said Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner.

The 21 Gaza settlements and four of 120 in the West Bank evacuated last month were the first uprooted on territory that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war and which Palestinians want for a state.

World leaders hailed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's decision over the settlements as a boost for peace-making chances in the Middle East.

But violence continued in the West Bank as Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian during stone-throwing clashes with the army near the town of Hebron, Palestinian medics said.

Israel says peace talks could not resume until Abbas disarms and dismantles militant groups. Hamas leaders said at a rally in Gaza they would never give up their weapons and vowed to continue their struggle against Israel.

Palestinians welcome the pullout but fear Israel is trading Gaza, home to 1.4 million Palestinians, for a permanent hold on larger areas of the occupied West Bank where 245,000 Jewish settlers live in isolation from 2.4 million Arabs.

Bombs, gunmen kill over 100 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - A suicide bomber killed over 80 people in a crowded Shi'ite district of Baghdad on Wednesday, while gunmen killed 17 north of the city and the capital resounded with explosions and gunfire.

The violence came as Iraqi troops, with U.S. support, continued operations against insurgents across the country. Fears of civil war are growing in the run-up to a divisive vote on a new constitution for Iraq's post-Saddam Hussein era.

The suicide bomber blew up an explosives-packed minibus in Kadhimiya, in Baghdad's old town, killing 82 and wounding 163, most of them laborers looking for day jobs, police said.

An Interior Ministry source said the bomber lured the men toward his vehicle with promises of work before detonating the bomb, which contained up to 500 lbs of explosives.

It was one of the single deadliest car bombings Iraq has seen, and came days after around 1,000 people died in the same district in a stampede on a bridge, triggered by fears of a suicide bomber in a crowd during a Shi'ite religious ceremony.

"We gathered and suddenly a car blew up and turned the area into fire and dust and darkness," said Hadi, one of the workers who survived the attack, which happened shortly after sunrise.

Bodies lay in the street beside burned-out cars, witnesses said. Some used wooden carts to haul away the dead.

Iraqi government officials have accused Sunni Arab militants of attacking majority Shi'ites, who were swept to power in January elections boycotted by most Sunnis, in a bid to spark a civil war.

Around two hours later another blast was heard in central Baghdad, and two more car bombs exploded



Wounded Iraqis are treated in hospital following a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad September 14. The casualty toll from a car bombing in Baghdad on Wednesday climbed to at least 80 dead and 120 wounded, police said. The blast killed mostly labourers who had gathered to look for work in the mostly Shi'ite district of Kathimiya, witnesses said. REUTERS

shortly afterwards.

Police said five were killed and 20 wounded in one of the blasts, near the offices of a Shi'ite cleric. There were no details on casualties in the other explosions.

Separately, gunmen dragged 17 people from their homes and killed them just north of Baghdad early on Wednesday, police said.

They said the gunmen had rounded up their victims in the middle of the night and shot them outside their homes in Taji, on the northern outskirts of Baghdad.

Constitution tensions

Iraq has seen a rising level of sectarian violence ahead of a referendum on the constitution due on October 15. The vote has exacerbated tensions between the country's main communities, Shi'ites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds.

Sunnis, who account for 20 percent of the population, have domi-

nated Iraqi politics for decades, under ousted leader Saddam and before, and resent their loss of influence since his removal from power by the U.S. invasion of March 2003.

They fear the constitution will institutionalize their reduced role, by increasing autonomy for southern Shi'ites in line with the broad autonomy enjoyed by Kurds in the north, and by decentralizing control of oil revenues.

The Iraqi army has been fighting Sunni insurgents for days in the northern

town of Tal Afar, near the Syrian border, killing over 200 and capturing several hundred, according to Iraqi government reports.

Late on Tuesday, U.S. aircraft also launched air strikes against targets in Karabila, another town near the Syrian border. The United States and Iraq say insurgents smuggle fighters and arms across the border, which Iraq closed in places on Sunday. Syria denies it.

Tensions have also been running high ahead of the trial of Saddam, still admired by some Sunnis, which is due to start on October 19. He faces trial on a single charge of mass killing in a village in reprisal for an assassination attempt on him in 1982.

If found guilty, Saddam may face the death penalty by hanging. The government has indicated it may not try him for other offences, potentially opening the way to his early execution.

U.S. planes strike near Syria border-medical source

RAMADI, Iraq (Reuters) - U.S. aircraft struck insurgent targets in the Iraqi town of Karabila, near the Syrian border, more than 10 times on Tuesday, a hospital source told Reuters.

"American aircraft have struck the city of Karabila more than 10 times," the source said. A security source added that the Iraqi army also clashed with insurgents at Gumruk, near Karabila, on Tuesday.

The hospital source said families were beginning to leave Karabila after the air strikes and heading for Haditha — where the U.S. military said earlier on Tuesday it had killed four insurgents and captured another in an air strike on a house.

Iraqi troops, with U.S. support, are currently winding up an operation to flush insurgents from the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar.

During that operation, Defense Minister Saadoun Dulaimi warned that assaults were likely to follow on insurgent targets in four other towns in western Iraq, including Qaim —



An Iraqi ambulance and police vehicle near the northern town of Tal Afar during the current military offensive.

which is next to Karabila.

Iraq and the United States complain that arms and fighters are being smuggled across the border with Syria for deployment in cities across Iraq. The Baghdad government closed

the Syrian border in places on Sunday.

The U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, said on Monday that: "Our patience is running out with Syria."

No timetable for US troop withdrawal: Talabani

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said on Tuesday that Iraq will not set a timetable for a withdrawal of U.S. troops, backing away from his published remarks that the United States could withdraw as many as 50,000 troops by the end of the year.

Talabani, speaking at a joint news conference after a meeting with President George W. Bush, said however he hoped that by the end of 2006, Iraqi security forces would be strong enough to start taking over from "many" U.S. troops.

"We will set no timetable for withdrawal, Mr. President. A timetable will help the terrorists, will encourage them that they could defeat the superpower of the world and the Iraqi people," Talabani said in remarks that aligned him with Bush's often-stated view that a timetable for withdrawal would embolden the insurgency in Iraq.

"We hope that by the end of 2006, our security forces are up to the level of taking responsibility from many American troops, with complete agreement with Americans," he said. Talabani had said in an interview published in the Washington Post on Tuesday that the United States could withdraw as many as 50,000 troops from Iraq by the end of the year because there are enough Iraqi forces ready to begin taking control of parts of the country.

Talabani said in the interview he would discuss reductions in U.S. forces during the meeting with Bush and said he thought the United States could pull some troops out immediately.



Iraqi President Jalal Talabani (2nd-R) and President George W. Bush in a news conference in the White House in Washington, September 13. REUTERS

Bush, facing waning support at home for the 2-1/2 year-war in Iraq, has rejected the notion of setting a timetable for a withdrawal, saying only that as Iraqi security forces assume more control, U.S. forces can stand down.

Bush also reiterated strong words against Syria, which the United States accuses of allowing foreign fighters to cross into Iraq, saying Damascus was isolating itself.

"The Syrian leader must understand we take his lack of action seriously. And the government is going to become more and more isolated as a result of two things: one, not being cooperative with the Iraqi government in terms of securing Iraq; and two, not being fully transparent about what they did in

Lebanon," Bush said in answer to a question on Syria.

"And this is a subject of conversation, of course, I'll have with allies in places like New York and on the other times I communicate with our allies: that Syria must be a focus of getting them to change their behavior, particularly as it regards to democracy and trying to prevent democracies from emerging," he said.

Bush will be in New York this week for the U.N. General Assembly session. The U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, said on Monday that "Our patience is running out with Syria. They need to decide: Are they going to be with a successful Iraq or are they going to be an obstacle to the success of Iraq?"

Bush: Iran has right to civilian nuclear program

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President George W. Bush on Tuesday said Iran had a right to a civilian nuclear program if it did not gain expertise or materials to build an atomic weapon.

The United States is concerned that Iran's nuclear program is aimed at producing weapons, and Bush said he would be "speaking candidly about Iran" with Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who are gathering in New York for a United Nations world summit.

Iran says it has every right to develop nuclear technology to generate electricity, while the United States and the European Union want the U.N. Security Council to take up Iran's case after it resumed uranium processing last month.

"They have insisted that they have a civilian nuclear program, and I thought a rational approach to that

would be to allow them to receive enriched uranium from a third party under the guise of international inspections that will enable them to have civilian nuclear power without learning how to make a bomb," Bush said at a press conference with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

The United States last month explicitly accepted for the first time that Iran could develop civilian nuclear programs, backing an EU proposal to allow Tehran to pursue atomic power in exchange for giving up fuel work.

That reflected a gradual shift in U.S. policy because Washington believes the EU offer has enough safeguards to prevent Iran from diverting its civilian work into making nuclear bombs.

"Some of us are wondering why they need civilian nuclear power anyway. They're awash with hydrocarbons," Bush said. "Nevertheless, it's a right of a government to want to have

a civilian nuclear program."

But he said there ought to be guidelines. "And one such guideline would be in such a way that they don't gain the expertise necessary to be able to enrich," Bush said.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, elected in June, will attend this week's U.N. world summit and will make his case to avert referral to the Security Council.

Iran insists its nuclear ambitions are peaceful and has been lobbying Russia, China, India and others to fight against any referral to the Security Council which has the power to impose economic sanctions.

"It is very important for the world to understand that Iran with a nuclear weapon will be incredibly destabilizing," Bush said. "And therefore we must work together to prevent them from having the wherewithal to develop a nuclear weapon."

N.Korea adamant on nuclear power as talks resume

BEIJING (Reuters) - North Korea clung to its right to a civilian nuclear program on Tuesday, a position that has prevented progress in breaking a deadlock over its nuclear ambitions, as crisis talks opened in Beijing.

Delegates to six-party discussions aimed at coaxing Pyongyang to scrap its nuclear weapons programs reconvened in the Chinese capital after a five-week hiatus. Chief delegates met at 0900 GMT.

While the six parties — China, Russia, Japan, the United States and the two Koreas — agree in principle to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, analysts said North Korea and the United States remained far apart on key issues including Pyongyang's insistence on the right to run a civilian nuclear program.

"This right is neither awarded nor needs to be approved by others," North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan was quoted as saying by Xinhua, China's official news agency.

"We have this right, and the more important thing is that we should use this right," Kim said at Pyongyang airport before flying to Beijing.

The United States has demanded that the North dismantle all nuclear programs completely, verifiably and irreversibly, after which it could expect energy aid and security guarantees.

Daniel Pinkston, an expert at the California-based Center for Non-Proliferation Studies, said Pyongyang was unlikely to give ground. "I don't see them budging on this peaceful use issue. It was clever on their part," he said.

North Korea, which has routinely accused the United States of hostility and a lack of trust, has been playing the nuclear card to win diplomatic and economic aid after famines that have killed one million people in the past decade.

Dismantle, then AID

Chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill said little progress had been made in the five weeks since the last session, but added that several discussions with the North Koreans in that time had led to a better understanding of their position.

"I know my delegation is coming here to work. We know pretty precisely what



Kim Gye-gwan, North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister and top negotiator for the six-party nuclear talks, arrives at Beijing airport Sept. 13. Six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programmes reconvene in Beijing on Wednesday after a five-week recess, with Pyongyang and Washington still at an impasse over Pyongyang's demand for a civilian nuclear programme. REUTERS

the issues are. I hope the DPRK delegation has also done some homework," he said. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK, is the North's official name.

"If I were optimistic or pessimistic it really wouldn't make much difference. The fact is, we have to talk to them and see where we are," Hill told reporters.

Chief Japanese delegate Kenichiro Sasae placed the onus for success on Pyongyang, saying it needed to take concrete steps toward ending all nuclear activities.

"Whether the talks will succeed or fail hinges on whether North Korea can actually show its strategic decision to abandon all of its nuclear weapons and other nuclear programs," Sasae told reporters after arriving in Beijing.

Still, Kim Kye-gwan said Pyongyang

aimed for a nuclear-free peninsula through dialogue and pledged the North would take a "sincere attitude" and show "flexibility when necessary."

The crisis erupted in October 2002 after Washington said Pyongyang had admitted to a secret program to enrich uranium, used to make atomic weapons, in violation of a 1994 agreement.

North Korea denied the claim, and responded by throwing out U.N. weapons inspectors at the end of 2002 and withdrawing from the Non-Proliferation Treaty in January 2003. Last February, it said it had nuclear bombs.

The first three rounds of six-party talks ended inconclusively. The fourth round began in late July, after a break of a year, and went into recess after a marathon 13 days.

Some 435,000 still without power after Katrina

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Less than 435,000 electricity customers still lacked power 15 days after Hurricane Katrina pummeled the U.S. Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Mississippi, according to area utilities and the U.S. Department of Energy.

About 344,000 of the homes and businesses in Louisiana, or 31 percent, remained without power, while Mississippi had about 91,000 customers still with no service.

Katrina initially left more than 4.5 million homes and businesses without power when it struck early last week.

Entergy Corp., which restored power to all customers who can receive power in Mississippi, still has about 265,000 customers out in the heavily damaged parishes in and around New Orleans in Louisiana.

Entergy said it still could not estimate how long it will take to restore full service customers, including the refineries downstream of New Orleans, because the timing depends in part, on when the floodwaters recede from its transmission substations.

Southern Co.'s Mississippi Power subsidiary, which released 6,500 workers to assist other companies, has restored power to all customers able to receive power. The company still has about 25,000 customers who are unable to receive power.

Some of the electrical workers helping to restore service in the Gulf Coast have returned home to the Carolinas as Tropical Storm Ophelia bears down on the Carolinas. The storm, which could become a hurricane later today, will likely make landfall in southern North Carolina on

Wednesday.

Oil restoration efforts

Entergy reported it completed work on the transmission lines that provide power to the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port's (LOOP) Fourchon facility, which handles a large share of U.S. oil imports.

The utility noted however that the LOOP still had some structural damage that limited the amount of electricity it could accept forcing the port to rely on generators for part of its power supply.

Entergy also restored power to the ConocoPhillips refinery in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, but like the LOOP, the customer cannot accept the power due to structural damage at the facility.

Entergy is still assessing the repairs needed on transmission facilities connecting the last two refineries in Louisiana that do not have power - Exxon Mobil Corp. in Chalmette and Murphy Oil Corp. in Meraux.

A spokeswoman at the utility could not say when power would be restored to the refineries since some of the transmission facilities serving those plants were still under water.

Even with access to electricity, it could still take the four heavily damaged refineries (three in Louisiana and one in Mississippi) months to resume operations.

Power plants

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission authorized the restart of Entergy's 1,089-megawatt Waterford nuclear power station in Louisiana. Prior to restarting the reactor, however, plant workers are performing some maintenance unrelated to the

hurricane.

The reactor, which is about 30 miles west of New Orleans, shut as a precautionary measure on August 28 as Katrina approached the Louisiana coast.

Entergy has 17 generating units in the New Orleans area fueled by natural gas and/or oil. The company said it has returned 10 of those units to service. Despite the outages, the utility said generating capacity is sufficient to meet demand.

Some of the biggest remaining outages include Entergy's 959 MW Michoud station in Orleans Parish, Louisiana and Southern's 1,047 MW Jack Watson coal-, natural gas- and oil-fired station in Harrison County, Mississippi.

Entergy has not estimated when Michoud would return to service but noted the floodwaters around the plant were receding making the plant partially assessable.

Southern said the hurricane seriously damaged the Watson plant, which will likely remain out of service for six weeks to three months.

One MW can power 800 homes, according to North American averages.

Entergy's subsidiaries own and operate about 30,000 megawatts of generating capacity, market energy commodities and transmit and distribute power to 2.6 million customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Southern's subsidiaries own and operate more than 39,000 MW of generating capacity and provide power to more than 4 million customers in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

Rumsfeld sees broader NATO Afghanistan role

BERLIN (Reuters) - U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld called on Tuesday for a further-broadened NATO role in Afghanistan, including doing more in counter-terrorism activities and fighting narcotics.

Rumsfeld, arriving in Berlin for an informal meeting of NATO defense ministers, also called on alliance allies to drop restrictions on what their troops can do in Afghanistan.

"Over time, it would be nice if NATO developed counter-terrorist capabilities, which don't exist at the present time as a NATO function. They do exist within NATO countries," Rumsfeld told reporters traveling with him.

NATO leads a 10,000-strong International Security and Assistance Force, or ISAF, in Afghanistan. A U.S.-led coalition of roughly 20,000 troops bears the brunt of the fight with Taliban-led insurgents while ISAF concentrates on peacekeeping.

Rumsfeld said NATO's role in Afghanistan had already grown substantially, with the reach of ISAF increasing, and at some point the alliance would have enough troops and experience to take over responsibilities in the toughest parts of the country.

"That leaves the counter-terrorism issue, which one would think for a period the coalition would continue to manage," Rumsfeld said. He did not offer a timetable.

NATO officials have pledged to discuss what the alliance can do in counter-narcotics in the world's largest opium producer. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer has said Afghan authorities must lead the fight, but NATO could do more. Rumsfeld nudged the alliance in that direction too.

"A big issue, of course, is counter-narcotics," Rumsfeld said. "That is a perfectly appropriate thing for NATO



Donald Rumsfeld

to do," he said, noting the drug flow into Russia and Europe.

Such a NATO role must be part of an overall plan by the government that included a criminal justice system to punish people along with crop substitution, he said.

Rumsfeld made a renewed appeal to allies to drop national caveats on what their troops can and cannot do.

Some nations in ISAF have given different mandates to their troops, particularly on rules of engagement. Some, for example, provide only logistical support rather than combat troops.

Rumsfeld did not single out any country, and asked about Germany said, "I don't think I want to

characterize it."

"One of the issues we'll have to wrestle with is the reality that while a number of NATO nations have been reducing the restrictions that they impose on their forces and the caveats they require, some nations have not yet done that," he said.

"And clearly if you're a NATO commander in an area of operations and there are different rules of engagement or different restrictions on national forces, it makes it enormously difficult on the commanders to have the flexibility to function."

U.S. officials cited examples of restrictions such as not being able to pursue enemy forces once they flee a particular province.



Announcement for Diploma & MSc. Program in IWRM at Water and Environment Center, Sana'a University

The Graduate Studies and Scientific Research (GSSR) at Sana'a University (SU) announces the opening of acceptance in Diploma & MSc. Program in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at The Water and Environment Center (WEC-SU). Graduates from the three faculties (Engineering, Agriculture and Sciences) who would like to apply are requested to submit their applications to the GSSR within 15 days from the date of this announcement.

Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINIONWhat makes
an MP quit!

For the first time in many years finally a leader has had enough and decided not succumb to the vicious circle of corruption. The quitting member of parliament has given heart moving statements explaining why he can't continue. "The Yemeni people will never forgive us" says quitting MP Abu Ras in his final statement to speaker of parliament. Is it true that the Yemeni people will not forgive? Perhaps this generation is not fully aware now but certainly the coming generations will not forgive. The concept of parliament is not understood by many in Yemen, including some existing MPs. The parliament is supposed to be a representative of the people and acts in the public's best interest. However, due to corruption, this simple fact becomes a myth. The conflict of interest is one of the most difficult problems the Yemeni system suffers from. For example, government officials being businessmen in the same time creates a dilemma in trade, taxation and even customs regulations.

Coming to the question posed, what makes an MP quit? In a country like Yemen, scandals are not a problem. In fact, they are the norm and if there is any official who is relatively "clean" he is made fun of in his circle. The rise of NGO movement and the increasing consciousness of the people could be an indirect reason for some authority figures taking notice of their actions. The more daring media is becoming continuously a nuisance for some people on top, to the extent that Ba Jamal himself said that Yemeni media has gone "off limit". Could the progress in civil society movements and increasing awareness of people be one of the reasons that encouraged some MPs to "put their foot down" and say enough is enough?

In the latest congression of Civil Society Organizations concerning the Global Campaign Against Poverty, the CSOs presented a number of demands to the government. They demanded recognition of the civil society as an equal partner in development and poverty reduction, creating an enabling environment for civil society to pursue its role in attaining MDGs through effective contribution in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and demanded more transparency and accountability in the distribution of resources. The empowerment of the people and their representatives whether that may be members of parliament or civil society organizations is only an indication that the country is heading towards a more democratic arena, whether the current system likes it or not, the tide is coming.

The Editorial Board



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Bush's Second Gulf Disaster

By Terry Lynn Karl

President Bush has asked that Americans not "play politics" at this moment of terrible national disaster. But asking hard questions of our nation's leaders is exactly what democracy demands when the government's response to Hurricane Katrina is widely viewed as "a national disgrace."

Katrina came with at least two days' warning, but authorities waited to issue an evacuation order. There was no transportation for people without cars or money, facilities to house and care for refugees were insufficient, there were no forces in place to deliver desperately needed supplies or to secure order, and there was nowhere near the number of boats, helicopters, and other craft necessary to rescue the stranded.

Hampered by a National Guard with 40% of its people in Iraq, the pace of getting military personnel to the hardest hit areas was inordinately slow. For four days, there was simply no clear center of command and control. As a result, countless people suffered and died.

Much of this failure is the result of the Bush administration's policies, which effectively eroded the capacities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the government agency primarily responsible for dealing with disasters. Obsessed with the war on terror as well as an ideology of privatizing the functions of government, the administration systematically sapped FEMA's long-term ability to prevent disaster or at least cushion the blows when prevention is not possible.

FEMA was downsized and downgraded from a cabinet position, then placed under the Department of Homeland Security. Its mission of disaster planning and preparation was dropped entirely, and its focus was altered to fight terrorists. Its leadership had no experience in disaster management. The past director was one of Bush's Texas political cronies, and the current director's qualifications include a stint as commissioner for judges and stewards with the International Arabian

Horse Association, where he was asked to resign for "supervision failures."

Since 2001, billions of dollars were shifted from disaster relief to homeland security and the war in Iraq. Key disaster mitigation programs were slashed and federal funding for post-disaster relief was cut in half. The Army Corps of Engineers' budget for levee construction in New Orleans was gutted, including funds specifically aimed at the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project. Preventive measures to protect people and property were not carried out despite FEMA's own conclusion in 2001 that a major hurricane hitting New Orleans was one of the three "likeliest, most catastrophic disasters facing this country."

Believing FEMA to be an "oversized entitlement program" and that the "business of government is not to provide services," Bush's first FEMA director instituted new outsourcing requirements as part of a major privatization effort. This provoked a brain drain as experienced FEMA personnel moved into the private sector.

Privatization also left poorer states and poorer communities especially vulnerable. As money dried up and federal programs were contracted out to private firms at higher rates, only the richest and politically most important states and communities could compete successfully for the scarce federal grants necessary to pay for services.

For example, Florida (with 16 more electoral votes than Louisiana and where the president's brother governs) received its requested funding to protect its wetlands. By contrast, a more needy Louisiana (with its staggering 24% poverty rate) was denied its request for flood-mitigation funds in 2004. With Louisiana's ability to protect itself weakened and the center of disaster relief badly undermined, an inadequate government response and unnecessary destruction were almost inevitable – with the poor paying the price.

But the failure of this administration runs deeper than its chronic and intentional diversion of resources away from the types of policies that keep people

safe from disaster. Despite scientific evidence demonstrating that the increased intensity and frequency of hurricanes is related to climate change, the Bush administration systematically rejects participation in international climate-protection regimes. Rather than continue a ban on wetlands development instituted by previous administrations, the Bush administration overturned it. Because development provoked erosion has brought the Gulf of Mexico 20 miles closer to land than it was in 1965, hurricanes are able to retain more strength, and their winds and waves pack more speed and destructive power.

Similarly, loss of wetlands threatened New Orleans' levees, which were built on the assumption that they would have 40 to 50 miles of protective swamp as buffer between the city and the Gulf of Mexico. Despite every major study showing that a massive coastal restoration program and higher levees were needed to protect New Orleans, the administration permitted federal agencies to stop protecting 20 million acres of wetlands, allowed developers to drain thousands of acres and in 2004 cut funding for holding back the waters of Lake Pontchartrain by more than 80%.

New Orleans is America's canary in the mineshaft. Ideologies of privatization that incapacitate effective government, permitting the privileged to save themselves while leaving the poor clinging to roofs, must now be challenged. This disaster is a chilling reminder of what happens when government fails to protect its citizens, and it is imperative that Americans demand accountability. Officials who did not do their jobs must be dismissed, and elected officials whose policies aggravated the devastation wrought by Katrina must be removed from office. We owe this to the dead and to the survivors.

Terry Lynn Karl is Professor of Political Science at Stanford University.

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Letters to the Editor

A world without hope
Your article "A world without hope" accurately describes the situation in the U.S., but many of your readers might assume that the victims of Katrina will at least be able to get a fresh start financially. Not so. On Oct 17, 05, Mr. Bush's new bankruptcy law will go into effect. This new law makes it nearly impossible for the victims of Katrina to file for bankruptcy. Of course, with only a few weeks to declare bankruptcy before the law takes effect, it is impossible for the victims to file under the old law. All of their homes and their vital papers are gone.

What happens under the new law is that the victims start with less than nothing. And if they can't pay their debts (400,000 jobs lost) they can be imprisoned until someone bails them out. When the new law was written last April, some attempt was made to exclude victims of natural disasters but Mr. Bush and his banker friends overrode this attempt. This means that most victims of Katrina will forever be burdened with a heavy debt which they cannot repay in their lifetimes or their children's lifetimes. If they have not already drowned, Mr. Bush will bleed them to death.

Hard to believe? Take a look:
http://money.cnn.com/2005/09/06/pt/d/bt/katrina_bankruptcy/?section=money_pf

Robert Lindh
lindh@starband.net

Amina

I was wondering if there were any updates regarding Amina Ali Abdulatif's case. The young mother who had been scheduled for execution
<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/ua/jua/appeal/s/amina.shtm>.

Last we heard, her execution was stayed and her case was sent to a special review committee to make a final decision.

Has the special committee reached a decision yet? If not, do we know how long it will be till such a decision is made.

Ahmed
ahmed_alawah@ycrc.ca

Thank you Yemen Times

I always read Yemen Times and enjoy what introduced in this magazine which I consider as essential programs that may be helpful for students who want to get English, especially when the stave of this magazine put place for crossword's. am thanking for all.....

Emad Alduai
algazeera6@hotmail.com

Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fotih

Farewell!

For a long time I thought that the most difficult moments in life are when you bid farewell to the people you love and life changes. But, now I have realized that the most difficult moments are when you lose someone forever and you lose the ability to see them again. The most difficult moments when the hand of fate comes and snatches the most loveable and kind people and you could not do anything but cry.

Hajer was active, helpful and liked by all her colleagues and always facing us with her welcoming smiles. In spite of having to stop teaching her, she kept in contact with me and greeted me wherever she met me. She was one of the few loyal students who kept respecting their teachers.

By chance I met her last Sunday and I did not know that it was the last time I would see her and I did not know that I was exchanging the last words with her. I met her just an hour before her horrific death. Until now I could not digest the idea of her death and she is not alive and we will not meet her any more.

She was studying in an institute of language and that day was heading to there with her friend. Suddenly, she fell down, her body covered with blood. She was shot dead. There were soldiers in front of a well-known building, playing with their guns when a bullet came out and targeted the head of Hajer and no one could save her. In a moment, Hajer's family lost their eldest daughter whom they were waiting for to finish her university and celebrate her success.

The soldiers who are supposed to keep the security and protect the civilians become the ones who break the law and threaten these civilians' lives. Unfortunately, some of our security people can be seen in their vehicles chatting, chewing qat and harassing the girls who come to and fro. What makes the situation worse is the companies that hire those careless security men without testing their behavior and manners.

Many Yemeni people lost their lives because of using and carrying arms.

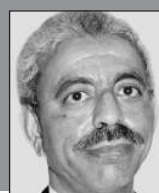
Carrying and owning arms is one of the worst phenomenons that disfigures the image of our country. However, carrying arms and guns does not mean that Yemenis like killing or they are terrorist. Any one visits Yemen and knows its people will definitely realize that fact that Yemenis are so friendly and kind and they like to live in peace and security.

It is very common that Yemenis like to keep arms and guns in their houses and they feel proud of keeping such weapons and they compete to possess the best and newest brands of weapons. Remarkably and apparently, Yemenis tend to use guns whenever there is a ceremony particularly in wedding parties or any happy occasion. They express their happiness by firing in the air. However, this expression of happiness mostly ends and turns into tragedies when they fire in the air some bullets scatter here and there and mistakenly target some innocent people who just come to share in the ceremony. Some people let their children hold the weapons and consequently it ends in death one of the family members.

We repeatedly hear about such incidents in which a one could kill one of his beloved; brother may kill his brother or mother or a husband may kill his wife when he cleans his gun. Having and possessing guns become so dangerous especially with the people who are careless and still so young.

In the last decade the government has spared no efforts to fight and organize arms carrying and emphasize on the importance of having permission to own a gun and since then the phenomenon comparing to the past has started to gradually disappear from the cities and towns centers but most of the Yemen tribal people refuse to unhand their arms.

More efforts should be paid and more awareness campaigns should be organized to stop carrying arms and enjoy life without weapons. Then one can safely and peacefully walk on the streets and stop losing our beloved by mistaken bullets. Farewell Hajer.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

In Yemen, can
reforms reinstate
values? (2/3)

One of the most important elements that one sees in many of the sub-programs in the Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Program (EFARP) discussed in the last Common Sense involve good governance and sound management as key factors that will assure the successful achievement of such programs. Even studies and reports by the relevant government agencies concerned with the implementation of the various components of EFARP never fail in bringing this issue out. Without a doubt, any endeavor that is lacking in sound management techniques is doomed to failure. In addition, the funds expended would not generate their expected returns, not to mention the waste and misuse thereof that is bound to occur under the absence of controls that good governance would entail. This is in fact the problem that has been the overriding dilemma that has boggled most analysts evaluating EFARP.

In May 22, 1990, Yemen was reunited and the two leaderships of what was before that North Yemen (Yemen Arab Republic) and South Yemen (the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) agreed that the new united Yemen was to undertake a comprehensive reform program in governance. The reforms were intended to launch a free democratic Yemen that would have been a model for a modern Arab state and the four years that followed unification saw tangible ramifications that seemed to indicate that Yemen's leadership did indeed mean to put Yemen on a sound course in governance. Thanks to the balance of power that prevailed in that period between the leading political factions in the country, many concrete steps in defining the application of this phenomenal agenda. However, in 1990, the Gulf War (II) erupted as Saddam Hussein's tanks blitzkrieged into Kuwait. Although Yemen's position did not outright condone the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, it was nevertheless considered mesmerizing by many of our neighbors and not viewed as helpful to the Coalition that was organized to get Saddam's tanks out of Kuwait. Many observers at that time suggested that for all practical purposes, Yemen should at least strictly abide by an absolute neutrality position in the battle that was to eventually take place seven months later and not propose any alternatives. Others even suggested that the interests of Yemen would dictate that we go along with the international community and openly condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Kuwait had been a generous supporter of Yemen since the early days of the Revolution and more importantly, a million or so of our people were working in the Gulf States, their remittances home providing important foreign exchange assets for the country. Yemen's position was bound to be detrimental on both counts. With many Yemeni politicians "unofficially" enticing what appeared to be pro-Iraqi sentiments then, the "Gulf states" factor was removed from the configuration of significant factors that made up the Yemeni economy.

The significance of this development should not be underestimated in trying to understand why Yemen's economy suffered a severe economic setback in the 1990s. But prior to that, there were already difficulties brewing, at least in the YAR, with respect to the matter of governance. Over the 1980s, the government was becoming more tightly centralized, while at the same time growing immensely in size. Furthermore nepotism was becoming firmly entrenched as a feature that was bound to lead to more open corruption and abuse of power. All semblance of local authority or decentralized decision making that existed before that were gradually eliminated down to the community level. One of the most successful development efforts, undertaken by the local and sectoral Cooperatives for close to a decade before, was killed with one sweep of genius by the mindless bureaucrats that influenced political decisions in the period. The Ministry of Finance took over the accounts of all the cooperatives and their management was incorporated into the administrative apparatus of the government – a bureaucratic nightmare. This did away with the transparency and accountability that had characterized the formerly successful operation of these cooperatives.

In the early 1980s, the government (again this is in North Yemen) introduced the rigid uniform wage and benefits regime for all the employees of government entities and state enterprises (and to a certain degree the mixed sector enterprises). Within one year of the introduction of this regime, many of the state enterprises, which were before that operating under lucrative incentive-based remuneration schemes, reported their first year of operating losses! With many of these formerly autonomous enterprises also subjected to falling under some ministerial umbrella, their management became more politicized and horrendously more bureaucratic. Their functional utility became futile. In the meantime, laws or decrees were issued that killed what were once effective and attractive laws. The First Investment Law in Yemen was one of the victims of such changes. In the late 1970s, Yemen had what was considered one of the most attractive investment laws in the world. Many investors from overseas flocked to Yemen to find their niche in the national economy and this companies and individuals from the Gulf states such as Saleh Kamil, the Al-Khorafis, Rafiq Al-Hariri (He was still just a businessman in Saudi Arabia then), just to name a few. They invested in such projects as the Sheraton Hotel (Arab Hotels Company), Yemeni-Kuwaiti Real Estate Corporation, etc. Foreign banks, such as Citibank also had branches opened up or joined other foreign and local investors to form new banks (International Bank of Yemen). Thus by the mid-Eighties, this was all history. Citibank for example pulled out, investors stopped coming, as bureaucracy became further entrenched and as corruption became an attractive alternative to beating the uniform wage and salary scale.

With unification, came the hope that all this would be overcome with more flexible legislation put into effect. Indeed that seemed to be true to a certain extent. However our mindless bureaucrats were not to be easily outdone. New legislations were passed by Parliament that in many cases reflected the governance aura envisioned by the Unification Agreement. However these were rendered practically as no more than being symbolic as "executive procedures" for their implementation became the principle regulatory framework in real effect. Needless to say, the latter were drawn up and issued by the Executive Branch which had fine tuned these "procedures" to practically kill the intent and spirit of the original laws and put them at the mercy of the relevant bureaucracy. More follows in the next issue.

UN Reform: the specialized agencies must change too

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO – will soon be celebrating its 60th birthday. It was founded with the aim of ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger. Yet although the world now has abundant food supplies and the private sector has all the capacity needed to ensure the efficient transport and distribution of food within an increasingly free global trading system, there are still 852 million under-nourished people, mainly in developing countries. One in every seven humans still faces a life drastically foreshortened by lack of adequate food from the day of they are born.

The agriculture sector is still called upon to produce more and more crops, meat and fish as well as fibres to meet the ever-growing demands of a swelling world population, expected to grow from six to nine billion over the next 30 years. It must do this in ways that make sustainable use of natural resources, leaving land and water, forests and oceans intact to meet the needs of future generations.

There is no doubt, however, that as one of the oldest UN Specialized Agencies, FAO needs to respond decisively to the situation in which the whole UN system finds itself, facing calls for fundamental

reform. Along with other UN bodies, FAO needs to cut its overheads, speed up its responses, avoid duplication, drop activities which others can do better and strengthen its actions in areas in which it has an acknowledged comparative advantage.

Therefore, steps are now being taken to begin a far-reaching process of reform in FAO. If endorsed by the member countries in November this year, the reforms will adapt it to the fast-moving changes taking place in the wider development cooperation environment. It will thus respond better to the high expectations of developed as well as developing countries.

The need is as strong as ever for an international organization that makes it possible for governments of all nations to come together in a neutral forum to negotiate food and agriculture agreements of global concern. Helping countries apply the food standards generated through cooperation with the World Health Organization to protect consumers is a vital area of concentration. The develop-



BY DR. JACQUES DIOUF
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
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ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

Millennium Development Goals, especially the goal of reducing by half the incidence of hunger by 2015.

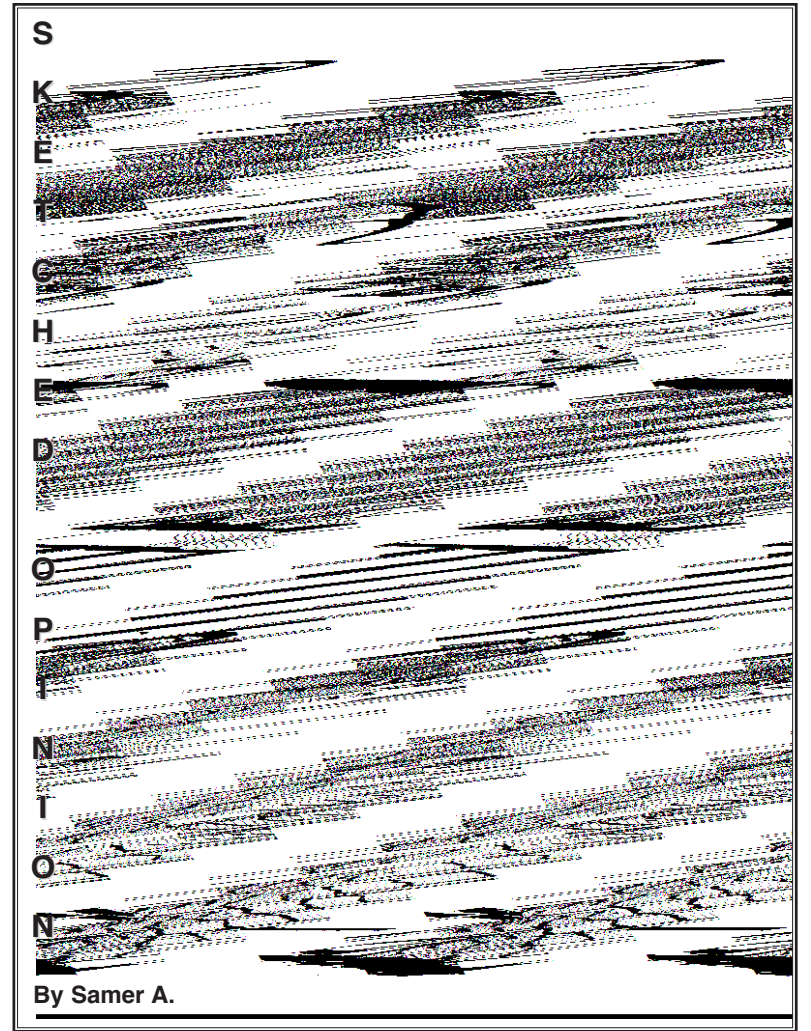
FAO is revisiting its priorities and will reorganize itself to improve its ability to address global problems of tremendous significance to farmers; issues such as migratory pests like locusts, quelea birds and armyworms, which move in great numbers without respect for borders, destroying the crops that fall in their path and leaving millions of hapless farmers deprived of their food supplies and livelihoods. Each year the global economy loses billions of dollars because of crop

and livestock diseases, many of which can be prevented at a relatively low cost.

Increasingly frequent agricultural emergencies have shown the importance of coordinating an effective international response to periodic droughts and floods, hurricanes and tsunamis. Affected countries look to FAO for support in developing national strategies for the rehabilitation of productive capacities to bring back employment and income. There are also serious public concerns about the potentially catastrophic effects of diseases such as Avian Influenza, which has already caused the death of 60 people and the loss of 140 million chickens.

FAO will also be refocusing on capacity building, through increasing its training and institution strengthening activities. It will draw not only on the traditional sources of assistance from the North but also expand its South-South cooperation programme, tapping into the substantial pool of expertise in technical and socio-economic aspects of agriculture that now exists in developing countries.

Change is never easy, but it is essential for FAO to continue to play its part, within a reformed UN system and at a reasonable cost, in ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.



By Samer A.

The rise of Chinese “Sea Power”

BY HIDEAKI KANEDA

In an age of missiles and terrorist threats, many people think that “sea power” is a word and concept from the past. Not in China. Indeed, China is increasingly emphasizing its naval and maritime interests: economic development, territorial management, energy and food security as well as trade. A navy sufficient to promote such activities is being rapidly developed and purchased from abroad (mostly from Russia, the EU when possible).

Many of China's neighbors are alarmed. The United States Defense Department views China's goal as being to build a series of military and diplomatic strategic bases – a so-called “string of pearls” – along the major sea lanes from the South China Sea to the oil rich Middle East.

China seeks not only to secure its energy supplies, but to achieve broader security goals. For example, the Gwadar military port, which China is constructing in southwest Pakistan, is strategically placed to guard the throat of the Persian Gulf, with electronic eavesdropping posts to monitor ships – including war ships – moving through the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Sea.

Similarly, China is building container port facilities at Chittagong in Bangladesh for its naval and merchant fleets, as well as more naval bases and electronic intelligence gathering facilities on islands owned by Myanmar in the Gulf of Bengal. Indeed, China's ties with Myanmar's military dictators look set to turn into a *de facto* military alliance. In nearby Thailand, China has invested \$20 billion in a plan to build a canal across the Kra Isthmus to connect the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Siam, thereby providing an alternate oil import route that avoids the Strait of Malacca.

In the South China Sea, China is developing systems to allow large-scale deployment of naval and air force units by fortifying bases on Hai Nan Island and the southern Chinese coastal area. On the Spratley and Paracel islands – seized from Vietnam and the Philippines respectively – China is building port facilities to moor large surface ships and runways large enough to handle long-range bombers. In effect, China is in the process of building a group of literally unsinkable aircraft carriers in the middle of the South China Sea.

Why is China, usually considered a “continental power,” engaging in this maritime expansion? China dominated Asia in terms of “sea power” until the seventeenth century. Indeed, during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), Admiral Zheng He's “Great Navy” was the world's most powerful. But for the last three centuries, China has had no global maritime strategy, nor has it possessed – or sought to possess – naval forces capable of supporting such a strategy.

Ironically, China's current maritime strategy has its roots in the US, the nation that China appears to perceive as its key strategic rival, namely in the “sea

power” theory developed by Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan at the end of the nineteenth century. In *The Influence of Sea Power upon History*, published in 1890, Mahan argued that maritime power and economic development were deeply intertwined. Only the ability to protect trade and project power by sea could assure the vitality of this nexus.

Mahan identified the conditions that determine “sea power”:

- geographical position and environment;
- territorial capacity, specifically coastline
- population;
- character of people attuned to maritime expeditions;
- character of government eager to embrace “sea power”.

These conditions applied to the US of Mahan's time, and they surely apply to China today. China is already the world's third largest trading nation and rapidly developing its port capacities to manage an ever-increasing volume of trade. Its ship tonnage (excluding fleets that sail under flags of convenience) is the fourth largest in the world. Rapid expansion of ship tonnage is part of China's current Five-Year, and by 2010 its shipbuilding capabilities will likely rival those of Japan and Korea.

However, unlike the US and Britain in the past, China today must turn to overseas bases rather than colonization to enhance its “sea power” – hence its “string of pearls.” Still, China is transforming its coastal navy into an ocean-going navy at a pace far quicker than most experts reckoned possible. By 2010, China is expected to have 70 of the most modern surface vessels, several modern strategic nuclear submarines, and several tens of modernized attack submarines, exceeding the modern forces of both Taiwan's navy and even Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force, at least in quantitative terms.

Moreover, China plans to improve and expand its capabilities for assault landing and joint logistical support, both of which used to be weak points. This will provide China with necessary capabilities to invade, should China's rulers wish, Japan's most remote islands, including the disputed Senkaku Islands, as well as Taiwan. If China's naval growth continues at its current pace, it may have the world's largest naval force by 2020.

All of Asia must wake up to the arrival of Chinese-style aggressive “sea power.” Japan, in particular, must reformulate its national maritime strategy with this in mind. Japan, America and other traditional maritime countries must also once again treat “sea power” in Asia as a key component of their ability to defend their own national interests.

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The hour of Hamas

BY MKHAIMAR ABUSADA

Israel's unilateral withdrawal from all 21 Gaza settlements and four in the West Bank has created a new reality for Palestinians. How the Palestinians choose to respond to these changed circumstances may well determine whether or not they at last achieve an independent state. So this moment may prove to be the Palestinians' greatest opportunity. Or, in the words of Abbas Eban, it may be yet another opportunity to miss an opportunity.

How the Palestinians respond depends largely on how the Palestinian body politic deals with the growing power of Palestinian Islamic movements, which undoubtedly expect a significant share of power in post-withdrawal Gaza. Will armed groups resume their fight against Israel, or will the Palestinian Authority act to defuse or combat the attacks? To what degree are Fatah, the secular movement controlled by Palestine President Abbas, and the Islamist Hamas ready to reach an understanding about how to proceed after the disengagement?

Abbas and other PA officials stress the need for “one regime, one legal system, and political pluralism.” Abbas also wants weapons in only one set of hands – those of the Palestinian Authority. He successfully persuaded Palestinian militants to hold their fire and show Israelis and the world that

dismantling settlements need not involve Israeli-Palestinian violence.

But can he translate this achievement into an extended ceasefire, peaceful elections, and consolidated PA rule in Gaza and the northern West Bank? Failure to do so will lead to yet another defeat for the legitimate Palestinian aim of attaining a viable state.

The difficulty of the task ahead can hardly be overstated. Hamas has launched an intensive media campaign to appropriate the Israeli withdrawal as a victory of its “armed struggle.” The campaign and its themes reflect an internal fight for control of the Gaza Strip and other PA-administered territories, and stresses Hamas' determination not to be disarmed and to continue the “armed struggle” in the West Bank.

Hamas also revealed two “military secrets” during the evacuation. The first is a new missile named Sajil, which has a range of 15 kilometers and can reach more Israeli towns and cities. The second is the “Qassamits,” young women who are engaged in combat training. Hamas timed these revelations with the disengagement to create the impression that its intensifying military strategy had prevailed.

According to one Hamas slogan in the streets of Gaza during the Israeli withdrawal, “Four years of sacrifices weigh more than ten years of negotiations.” Similarly, Mohamed

Deif, the leader of Hamas' military wing, asserted on a recent videotape that the lesson of Gaza is that Israel can be forced out of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Haifa.

All of this is designed to reinforce one point: the Gaza withdrawal belongs to Hamas. A survey published on a Web site associated with Hamas claimed credit for killing 54% of all the Israelis who died as a result of Palestinians' armed struggle, and this body count is Hamas' claim to success.

In these circumstances, who will administer the evacuated areas until elections are held? How will tax revenues be divided between those who claim leadership of the resistance and those who claim exclusive legitimacy to govern?

These are not problems that can await resolution. Someone must decide soon, for example, about the division of the land and the apartments to be built in what is already known as “Khalifa bin Zaid City,” located on a former Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip.

There is no answer yet to any of these questions. Whereas Hamas has demanded establishment of a Palestinian administration to supervise the areas vacated by Israel, Abbas has rejected this, agreeing at most to a “monitoring committee” in which representatives of Hamas will participate. In any case, there will be no “division of areas” until Israel

withdraws completely and the ruins are cleared away. Then the bitter political struggle will begin in advance of the elections.

No matter what happens the day after Israel's final Gaza disengagement, one cannot escape the fact that Hamas' military options have diminished greatly. Construction of the separation wall on the West Bank has made it almost impossible for Hamas fighters to reach Israel proper. In addition, after the reoccupation of the West Bank's cities in April 2002, Israel arrested about 7000 Palestinians who are allegedly associated with Hamas, Fatah, and other Palestinian groups. Continued armed struggle by Hamas will not be easy.

Hamas knows this, and thus is focusing its attention on the Gaza disengagement, seeking to exploit this victory by demanding a share in the post-disengagement order. It has agreed to participate, for the first time, in the election of the Palestinian Legislative Council, which is due in January 2006, and it is expected to win a large number of seats. This would, of course, cement its central role in Palestinian politics – and it would just as surely exacerbate the challenge facing Abbas.

Mkhaimar Abusada is Professor of Political Science at Al-Azhar University-Gaza.

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Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Endless Nightmare

By Fuad Noman
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At the midnights
In my cold bed-room
The hands of ghost weave my black dress
Of Tomorrow's Games
On my empty bookshelf
The candle stands to dance with my soul's flames
Faintly, the wrinkles of walls narrate the ancient tales,
The tales of Love and Peace

Always, before sinking into sleep soundly..

An ill-boding wolf howls and puffs the depressing clouds
To bake my bread

Repeatedly
From South to North
I move restlessly on my feeble bed

In my ears,
The voice of Night releases the long-ing sighs
In my eyes,
The Sea Lion's tears rinse the crystals of Mars!
In my blood,
The seed of Freedom sinks and dies
On my skin,
The colors of my flag vaporize
Between my lips,
The bird of Faithful words flies

The bulky nails of a Nightmare smash the window of my dreams
letting scary snakes pass offering me a poisonous cup
to celebrate and cheer up
With Happy New Dose

You can change

By SARAH KHALID AL-JINDARI
sara_nsn@yahoo.com

In the age between twenty and thirty you can do and make and change many things in this life. You can change things in yourself, in others and trust that you can change yourself from the inside and trust that you can be a greater person than old you and you can be successful if you want, even if you are among people who don't believe in you.

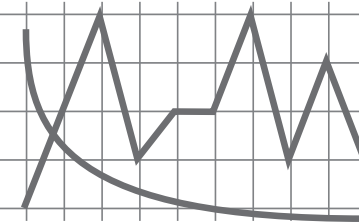
Make plans for what you want and you will achieve what you want. Believe that you can change your thoughts if they are unsuccessful or useless. In addition, you can change your bad habits if you have any. Put in your mind that you can do what you want and you'll do it. Don't say I'll

try. Just say I'll do it even it is difficult.

Don't let your friends, your family or your parents affect you, don't let them affect your dreams or what you want to be in the future. If your parents who are the closest to you don't believe in you or in what you can do, and they don't trust that you can be a great person even though you have a lot of mistakes, don't let them affect you in what you want to be. Don't let them or anybody else let you down.

Change for yourself first. Then care about who are around you. Change for your future. You still have the time to change- to make a big change in your life and yourself. You have the time to be better than old you. Trust your abilities and you'll be successful. Change for yourself not for others.

YT Business



Reality of small & medium enterprises in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Most of small industry projects in Yemen are concentrated in the capital secretariat and the government of Ibb. Survey studies indicate that the number of small enterprises and professions amounts to 32298 businesses at a rate of 98% of the total number of industrial businesses. There are around 53388 workers working in those enterprises and represent 48% of the total workers in the industrial sector and this aspect of activity seizes 25% of the value of the sector of conversion industry, 32% of added value and 21% of total wages.

The minister of industry and trade Dr Khalid Sheikh stresses the importance of the role played by projects of small enterprises in the development of the national economy and they constitute a significant vital process in accommodation and employment of a large number of workforce as well as their contribution to alleviation of the level of poverty in the society.

Dr Sheikh adds that the present stage is considered new for the activation of the industrial sector, both of small and medium projects, saying there is a

necessity for the enhancement of effective participation by the private sector to contribute to the comprehensive developmental process.

The minister points out to the government program and what it has contained of obligations for the development of the sector of small businesses through working out an executive plan to increase the number of those project, raising their productive capacity, treating problems hindering their growth and improving of its products.

Donors believe that Yemen needs at least one million small enterprises in order to absorb surplus of labour estimated at by 5 million people.

Advisors in the German project for encouragement of small enterprises say almost all the donors are trying to associate their assistance for Yemen with the strategy of poverty alleviation. Thus, seven million and 700 thousand euros has been allocated for helping Yemen in developing the private sector to be capable of creating new job opportunities for the youth.

For three years, the Yemeni government has been endeavoring to implement something like a campaign for fighting poverty aimed at creating new job opportunities through the

launching of individual initiatives protected by system of lending small projects that have economic feasibility.

A young man just returned from abroad says in order to avoid the situation he is leading he has to carry out one of three options, either to migrate once again, which is difficult at the time being, as he claims, to get a job or to have my own work, saying that is a complicated question and he could not find support or finance for it, despite his having skills in tailoring woman clothes.

He says the whole question needs funding to start work, buying cloth and finding assistant workers. He adds that he has been without work for three years and could not obtain ensured sources of income although the government has adopted a strategy for combating poverty and supporting small projects.

Government sources say the wide gap between the genuine rate of economic growth and population growth and deterioration of economic indicators; have led to the existence of a condition like "emergent economic status".

While the national program for economic reforms has achieved successes in the aspect of economic stability, the official sources, nevertheless admit that the program has failed to stop the increasing number of

the poor or the mitigation of side effects of reforms on various segments of the society. Estimating statistics reveal that around 35% of the 20 million people are now poor, compared to 42% in the mid of the nineties and this could be compared to the actual government pledges that may not be achieved in the same accuracy or success.

The managing director of human resources at the fund for financing small industries and projects Hisham al-Hakimi believes the acute shortage in qualified manpower in this sector is mainly attributed to inconvenience of the system of vocational and technological training education to requirements of this sector, added to that the absence of the role of civil society organizations, weakness of research and development and mainly the disconnection between research and scientific parties and those industries especially pertaining industrialization and marketing.

The official adds there is also the weakness in development of the traditional managing and centralization in taking daily decisions inside the small enterprises that is concentrated in the hands of the owner manager, who mostly not posses experiences to qualify him to play that role.

The professional in silver smith Ahmed al-Faqih says he was optimistic about policies of lending that some funds supervise but those expectations did not take effect when we applied to get loans. We discovered that we have been in a vicious circle. Conditions for having a loan stipulate that we have to be in possession of a project and then to apply to a loan for expansion. With those terms, we discovered that there are no positive indicators in the foreseeable future.

The World Bank sees that expansion ion the field of small and medium enterprises is still low due to the need of the society and the nation al economy for this kind of activities that would not require additional expenses at the level of infrastructure projects. Indicators published by the fund for financing small enterprises and projects that he fund has given loans to about 904 projects with an amount of more than one billion and 147 million riyals in addition to loans in dollars amounting to 700 thousand. The fund which being supported by the UN Development Program and the Dutch government since its foundation in 1991 has expected that its projects would contribute to employment of around 6934 workers, among them about one

thousand women.

While indicators reveal a growth in the number of loans, they also reflect a disturbance in geographical distribution of the financed projects, this situation imposes on the fund the following of a better policy of distribution in its endeavor for taking part in the realization of the process of the aspired for economic development.

According to the fund sources there are examples of a very small projects that seem to be more successful, and they are scoring success in more than one objective, including empowerment of women and the youth in running private projects and marketing products that lead in consequence to improve standard of living of thousands of the poor.

Specialists in this field confirm that the condition of the small enterprises necessitates government technical support to develop this sector. That can be done through preparation of programs to strengthen small projects ability to create work opportunities and those programs should offer guidance to owners of those projects as well as organization of some training courses for personnel of this sector especially for the youth capable of running successfully private projects.

Turkey invest in Aden Free Zone

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen exerts efforts for attracting investors, especially from Arab and Islamic countries. In this regard a Turkish company has announced that it would build a factory for cabins, fiberglass and caravan houses in the Free Zone in Aden. The factory is scheduled to be open beginning of next year. The person in charge of the Turkish and French pavilion at Sana'a International fair Mohammed Saleh al-Ansi revealed that the Group of Ali al-Yemeni and Bros. succeeded in attracting the company and work with it as partner to establish the project after finalizing the project's study and its economic feasibility in the Yemeni market. He has affirmed that he Yemeni market has become encouraging for investment especially after the unity, pointing out that the Yemeni Group is representative of French and Turkish companies and agent of large Turkish companies Istiqbal company for house and office furniture, Hali company for carpets and others. He has told press reporters that his company has sought for opening channels with the Turkish economy to encourage investment in Yemen in a bid to connect the Yemeni economy with the Turkish and world economy.

The Yemeni-Turkish joint committee had discussed in its meetings in Turkey recently aspects of enhancing Yemeni-Turkish relations in he area of investment and abolishing the taxation duality, consolidation of cooperation in professional, technical, civil aviation and means of expanding an developing bilateral relations and establishment of an investment company composed of Yemeni and Turkish businessmen.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni vice-president Abdrabu Mansour Hadi has urged the Iranian companies taking part in the Sana'a International Fair to open trade offices in Yemen and expand its trading activities and connections with Yemeni industrial and trading establishments. That came during the vice-president's visit last Sunday to the Iranian pavilion at the Fair. There are 21 Iranian companies participating in the event, exhibiting their medical products, cars and heavy vehicles spare parts, petrochemical products, engines, household appliances, furniture, school shoes and other various products. The Yemeni vice-president has also met a number of heads of Iranian companies and businessmen and explained to them the level of facilities available for them in Yemen, in addition to taking the advantage to open commercial offices for their companies from which they and the Yemeni market could benefit.

*Private sector engaged in,*

Yemen efforts to join the WTO

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is currently preparing replies to explanations sent by the WTO member states and work is underway to reply to the additional questions that Sana'a has received. Yemen is also preparing papers for the upcoming meeting with the organization to make ready the papers of accession. This would be followed by the important phase pertaining to negotiating individually with each country that has asked to negotiate with Yemen.

The ministry of industry and trade has called on Yemeni businessmen to actively participate in preparation of Yemen's economic structure required

for joining the WTO. Yemeni businessmen are requested to take initiatives producing benefit for the country and making the state as supportive to that, particularly regarding the establishment of industries in the field of food that would lessen the gap in the balance of import, which it is more than 50%. The ministry is keen on establishing partnership between the government and the private sector in the process of preparing for negotiation and the process of negotiation itself because engagement in the economic decision of the country has become the responsibility of all and all political decisions in the developed world are built on the economic decisions.

69% of Yemen's exports depend on oil and this in itself is a disadvantage,

whereas 50% of imports are almost food-related though there is ability to producing and manufacturing them domestically. This situation imposes the joining of all efforts for facing this disorder. Head of the communication and coordination bureau with the WTO Najib Hamim says the steps and procedures the Yemen has taken since 1998 up until now for the purpose of joining the WTO were accompanied by dialogue between the government and the private sector. In this regard, the government has taken into consideration that the private sector should be an indispensable partner in the whole process. That has been realized in the past years and at this time their opinions are listened to and they are involved in working out necessary

papers and offers for the completion of the joining process.

Until a short while the Yemeni economic policy has been dependent on encouraging the private and public sectors in the area of industrial investment and that was reflected on employment of the public sector of around 53% of big industry labour, particularly in the areas of textiles, cement and oil refinery, while its share is largely getting reduced in small and medium enterprises. By its future plans, Yemen also works for activating this sector and tackle the problems that impede its development by enhancing the role of the private sector and increasing its activeness so that to perform its role in developing national industries and encouragement of industries depending

on local raw materials. Yemen also works for development of industrial exports to keep pace with requirements of development, increasing rates of exploiting the existing productive energies, improving quality of production beside the establishment of industrial zones in three industrial areas in the triangle of Aden, Lahj, Abyan and the region of Brum in the governorate of Hadramout and crossroads of Hardh-Salif in Hudeidah governorate, in addition to providing all facilities and services in them.

The balance of trade between Yemen and the world has during 2004 achieved a surplus amounting to YR 17 billion, 52 million and 800 thousand scoring an increase of YR 6 billion, 283 million and 400 thousand compared to the year

before.

Statistics of the foreign trade between Yemen and world countries during 2004 have attributed that to rise in exports at a higher rate against imports. Exports in 2004 had witnessed an rise amounted to YR 753 billion, 595 million and 900 thousand while growth in imports for the same period did not exceed 9%. The statistics of external trade have confirmed that there are positive indicators and improvement in their performance despite of regional and international developments that have not been convenient. Exportation and re-exportation have registered an increase amounted to YR 68 billion, 688 million and 200 thousand compared to growth by about 16.9% in the year before.

After over 20 years of restoration

President inaugurates historic landmark of al-Ameriyah

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Saleh inaugurated on Sunday September 11, 2005, the great historic school of al-Ameriah in the city of Radda', Baidha province, amidst a joyful atmosphere at the long waited inaugural. The event was slated for last July but postponed to September to coincide with the celebration of Yemeni Revolution anniversary.

Al-Ameriyah is a finely chiseled architectural piece that was built at the time of Sultan Amer bin Abdul-Wahab bin Dawood bin Taher at the beginning of the 16th Century. Yemeni historians described it as a "great school." It is a three-storeyed building, rectangular in shape. It is 40 meters long and 23 meters in width. The first floor is built of stone while the upper two are made of baked-clay bricks. Erected in the center of the city, the white building with its distinctive construction magnificently contrasts with the simple neighborhood where other buildings pale into insignificance besides its majesty.

It is surmounted by six domes and has arched gates on different sides and wooden windows. The domes are coated with plaster-like material and are colorfully embroidered from within.

Islamic monument:

Al-Ameriyah is a historic school that has a self-contained mosque and many halls. It also contains accommodation rooms for students who were living and studying in al-Ameriyah. There are also lecture halls.

Al-Ameriyah is very distinguished by the elaborate and fine decorations in the form of plants and Quranic verses which have been dexterously and artfully depicted. The maintenance of such decorations represented the crux of the restoration effort because they

are old and need much care when handling them. Work on them has not finished yet.

Longtime restoration:

In the book of Salma al-Radhi on Ameriyah, published in English, she mentions that the rehabilitation started in 1982 when its insides and vicinity were cleaned as there was midden of garbage as high as three meters in some places. The next year, the so-called Dhamar Quake happened. Neighboring buildings were affected by it except for al-Ameriyah which withstood and survived the fatal destructive earthquake. It did not even crack.

Dr. Yosuf Abdullah still remembers when he visited Ameriyah for the first time.

In 1972, "It had nothing remarkable except for the prayer place and the remainder of the its wall beauty as well as the color of its decorations."

A visitor to al-Ameriyah in its current state will be surprised by the admirable local and international efforts which saved a very valuable Islamic monument.

Al-Ameriyah is a unique archeological building exhibiting superb architecture and exquisite decorative elements. It juxtaposes the common and exotic. "It is a priceless pearl that radiates luminousness and greatness" as Dr. Yosuf describes it.

More maintenance required:

Although the bulk of the mission has been accomplished, the restoration is still going on because some aspects of the School need to be rehabilitated. They include the restoration of internal bathrooms with decorations inside them, maintenance of moats, completing the woodwork of the western gate, documenting the decorations engraved on domes in the prayer place and clean-



Al-Ameriyah after restoration

SABA

ing the doors.

Another important thing is training staff to take care of this historic site in the future and organizing tourist trips to it.

Commendable efforts of Dr. al-Radhi:

The founding stone of Ameriyah was laid under the name of Sultan in August 1504. Dr. Salma al-Radhi who launched and implemented the project suggests that the construction of al-Ameriyah took five years.

"It took 23 years from us to reconstruct it into its previous state," she told an Irish Times reporter in July.

Salma al-Radhi is an Iraqi archeologist who obtained her PhD from the universities of Columbia and Amsterdam. She came to Ameriyah 25 years ago when she was involved in a Dutch technical assistance program to help establish a national museum in Sana'a. she could convince the

doing his work inside.

Dr. Salma al-Radi was representing the Dutch side and Yahya al-Nusairi represented the Yemeni side. They started thinking how to restore the problem of qadhadh, which is a white-cement like material that Yemeni bricklayers were using in construction. It was used to cover old buildings, binding the structure, forming water-resistant layer and giving the vivid white color to the buildings. Qadhadh dates as back as the time of the construction of Marib Dam. The qadhadh making spread from Yemen to the Roman Empire and India.

By the time of restoring al-Ameriyah, the formula of making qadhadh had been forgotten. But eventually, the craftsmen involved in the project could prepare it and use it for refurbishing al-Ameriyah.

"As qadhadh has withstood five centuries, we hope the qadhadh we have prepared will last for another five centuries," She told the Irish Times reporter. "The workers who built al-Ameriyah put in all their craftsmanship. It is a testimony of their art."

Al-Ameriyah was the last achievement of the Tahiri Dynasty, a state that enforced law, paved roads, expanded trade and improved agriculture.

The funding of the School came from the Yemeni and Dutch governments. The Kingdom of Netherlands and Italy agreed to restore some 600 square meters of beautiful colorful decoration-covered area while The Sana'a-based American Institute for Yemeni Studies provided administrative assistance.

The overall cost of the project is estimated at 3.5 million USD and now al-Ameriyah has been nominated as a candidate for the honorary award of Agha Khan, 2007.

After salvaging al-Ameriyah, Dr. Salma al-Radhi along with her team are planning to restore a Yemeni mosque.

MP decree promulgates cultural sanctuaries

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

By virtue of a Prime Minister decree, seven areas in the capital city of Sana'a have been given the title of cultural reserves. Bir al-Azab and al-Rawdhah zones, and the villages of al-Qabil, Hadda, Sana', Attan, and Bait Baus have been put on the list of cultural and historic sanctuaries. The decree recommended the authorities concerned to impose in these areas the regulations enforced in other historic sites such as the Old City of Sana'a and preserve their invaluable contents. The decree urged the competent governmental departments to display the merits of these places so that they qualify for the World Heritage list.

Recently, a Yemeni-Italian team has conducted a field survey for gleaning data on the historic buildings in Bir al-Azab and al-Rawdhah districts which are deemed as a natural extension of the Old City of Sana'a, although not within its wall. The project is implemented by 18 students from the universities of Sana'a and Firara. The project preludes the construction of a unit for conserving the buildings and facilities of the Old City of Sana'a. It is jointly financed by the Historic Cities Conservation Authority and the UNESCO.

On the other hand, a specialized team of architects have wrapped up the documentation of some 3000 old buildings in Sana'a as part of the first stage of the field survey on buildings and spaces in the city, implemented by the Authority in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Center. About ten thousand buildings are to be covered by this survey.

French pressmen promote Yemeni tourism

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A group of ten French pressmen, representing different media outlets, have recently arrived in Yemen on a one-week visit. Invited by the Tourism Promotion Board (TPB) an affiliate of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the pressmen are planning to conduct a promotional campaign in France by featuring the great assets of the Yemeni society.

The program of their stay in Yemen includes trips to many cities and sites around the country including Hajja, Shibam Kawkaban, Haraz mountains, Hodeidah, Zabid, Taiz, etc.

Yemen is mythically famous:

"The name of Yemen is quite famous," said Christophe Pinguet, Editor-in-Chief in Voyage TV. Along with two colleagues of his - Jean Marc Chavet and Vincent Chaffard, he is shooting a one hour documentary that depicts the real face of Yemen which compels "amazement". "We imagine things about Yemen but what we see is far more sublime." He admits that Yemen is a fantastic tourist destination and Yemen is famous around the world because its name is mentioned in mythology but a few people visited it in reality. To boost tourism, he recommends that infrastructure should be provided for but most importantly, Yemen's image in the West should be upgraded.

"Sometimes this image gets tarnished due to what is going on in the area as a whole. Travel alerts are consequently and this affects Yemen's tourism although it is a safe country with friendly people." He cited one of his experiences the couple of days in the Old City of Sana'a that when he was strolling on sightseeing down the street, a Yemeni man invited him to a wedding. "It is hardly found in any other place."

He recommends taking care of trekking and making the utmost use of the present infrastructure, training more staff for tourism to be efficient guides



Christophe Pinguet (center) with his teammates

(Yemen Times photo)

and providers of tourist services and exploiting sea tourism.

He emphasizes what Yemen Times mentioned in this page last issue that Yemen is in need for "cultural tourism rather than mass tourism, because the former does not require much infrastructure but is lucrative."

Mr. Pinguet will interview tourism officials, tourist agents and even French archeologists working in Yemen.

Three months ago, two journalists from Voyage TV came to Yemen to make research in preparation for the documentary and now the three men are here to shoot. Titled "Yemen Destination," the film is expected to narrate ten stories, five minutes each along with commentary, photos and interviews. Some 1.5-2.5 million people are anticipated to view the film in Europe.

In love with Yemen:

Another man on the media group is Sebastien Ledoux who is so enchanted with the Yemeni people that he is going to author a book on the country. "Mainly people are the key thing about Yemen. Friendly, respectful, hospitable.

Yemen is a problem-free country." He reminiscently described his first voyage into Yemen four years ago. "I came from Oman, namely from Salalah, crossing borders on my own car. I traveled down the country passing through Mahra, Hadhramout, Central Yemen, then Sana'a and I left the country via Aden for Africa." His current work will feature Yemen on the French TV.

Daily life on Radio France International:

An Arab-French guy is present among the group. He is doing a radio program specialized in travel. "I like this country which is very special in the Arab World," said Ziad Ma'loof who is a reporter for Radio France International. He will be recording a program on every day life in Yemen accompanied by his Yemeni friend who knows French. "We will roam in the city recording one day in the life of a Yemeni citizen. that will give the audience an idea about how an average native spends his time in Yemen." He intends also to feature miqshamas (gardens) in the Old City of Sana'a which are part of its antique beauty.

مدارس الملكة 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 بأيديكم تربية أمينة -

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تلفون: (٤٤٩٩٩١-٤٤٩٣٦٩)
فاكس: (٤٤٩٩٩٢) ص.ب (١١٥٨٦)

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School starting ...Asthma season

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A study of New York city children health centered exposed that Asthma has doubled over the last decade and become the leading cause of chronic illness among children . Asthma sends hundreds of thousands of children to the emergency room each year.

Asthma is the third most common reason children under age 15 are hospitalized.

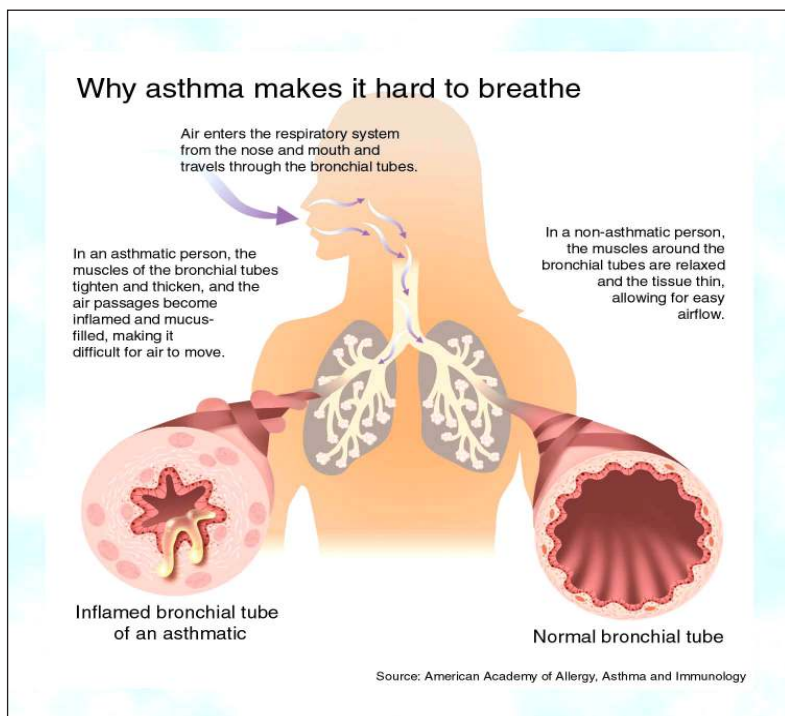
According to the study The start of school is associated with a marked increase in asthma-related visits to the emergency department.

Since rhinoviral respiratory infections are most common at the end of summer and beginning of fall, we speculate that exposure to such viruses in the classroom setting may be responsible for some of the school-related asthma," Dr. Robert A. Silverman, who led the study, told Reuters Health.

Optimizing the preventive regimens of "children with poorly controlled persistent asthma may lessen the fall peak," Silverman added.

Asthma makes it difficult for the child to breathe. This can happen only every now and then, or in more severe cases, every day. Asthma may also last throughout the child's life (a chronic disease), but you can control it through treatment with medication.

Asthma makes it difficult to breathe because it can cause inflammation in your child's bronchial tubes, which carry air to the lungs. The inflammation usually starts slowly, but over time it can make the muscles that line



the bronchial tubes get tight (bronchospasm). This can cause a blocking or narrowing of your child's airways, making it difficult to breathe. This is known as an acute asthma episode (also called an attack, flare-up, or exacerbation).

Acute asthma episodes can happen rarely or often and be mild or severe. Most often, you can take care of symptoms at home by using an asthma action plan, which is a written plan that tells you which medicines you need to use and when you should call a health professional. If you have a severe acute episode, you may need urgent care. These acute asthma

episodes can even cause death, but that is rare.

Even if the child has few acute asthma episodes, he or she will still have inflammation in the airways that needs treatment. If the inflammation is not controlled, asthma could lead to permanent changes in the bronchial tubes, harm the child's lungs, and increase the child's risk of complications, such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

What causes asthma?

Doctors can not find the causes of asthma a. But here are some of the things that can cause the inflammation in your child's airways that can lead to

asthma and acute asthma episodes:

- Asthma may run in families (inherited).

- In some children, immune system cells release chemicals that cause inflammation in response to certain substances (allergens) that cause allergic reactions. Studies show that exposure to allergens such as dust mites, cockroaches, and animal dander may influence asthma's development.¹ Asthma is much more common in people with allergies, though not all those with allergies develop asthma.

Some experts believe there are more cases of asthma because of pollution and less exposure to certain types of bacteria or infections.² As a result, children's immune systems may develop in a way that makes it more likely they will also develop allergies and Symptoms of asthma can be mild or severe. the child may have no symptoms; severe, daily symptoms; or something in between. How often the child has symptoms can also change. Symptoms of asthma may include:

- Wheezing, which is a loud or soft whistling noise that occurs when the bronchial tubes narrow.

- Coughing.
- Chest tightness.
- Shortness of breath, which is rapid, shallow breathing or having a hard time breathing.
- Trouble sleeping.
- Tiring quickly during exercise.

Most children with asthma have symptoms that become worse at night (nocturnal asthma).

If your child has only one or two of these symptoms, it does not necessarily mean he or she has asthma. The more of these symptoms your child

has, the more likely it is that he or she has asthma.

How is asthma diagnosed?

No one test can diagnose asthma. A health professional will diagnose asthma using spirometry, as well as the child's medical history, a physical examination, and laboratory tests.

For children age 5 and older, the spirometry test is the most accurate method to diagnose and rate the severity of asthma. It measures how quickly the child can move air in and out of the lungs and how much air is moved. The test can help your health professional decide whether asthma is causing the child's airflow to decrease and by how much. The test can also show how well the child's lungs work when he or she is not having asthma symptoms and can measure how well his or her lungs respond to treatment with medication. Spirometry is not used with babies and small children. Instead, the health professional usually will listen for wheezing and will ask whether your child wheezes or coughs frequently.

While taking the child's medical history, your health professional will ask about the child's symptoms and when they occur, as well as whether symptoms occur when the child has a viral upper respiratory tract infection (such as a cold) or is exposed to chemicals, pets, cigarette smoke, or other substances. The health professional will listen to the child's chest for wheezing, which indicates a blocked airway, and will look for signs of sinus problems or allergies. However, a physical exam will not find signs of asthma unless the child is having symptoms.

A chest X-ray may be done to see whether another disease is causing the symptoms. Blood tests may find evidence of allergies that could cause asthma episodes. If the health professional thinks the child may have asthma related to allergies, skin testing may be done to identify the allergens.

The child needs routine checkups so your health professional can keep track of the asthma and decide on treatment.

You can treat your child's asthma with medications, especially inhaled corticosteroids, which prevent or control airway inflammation, and beta₂-agonists, which make the airways larger (dilate). You and your child will usually work with your health professional to form a daily treatment plan and an asthma action plan. These plans help you and your child to:

- Control airway inflammation and prevent asthma episodes.
- Identify and treat early symptoms of episodes.

- Avoid things that make symptoms worse, such as cigarette smoke or allergens (triggers).
- Know when emergency help is needed.

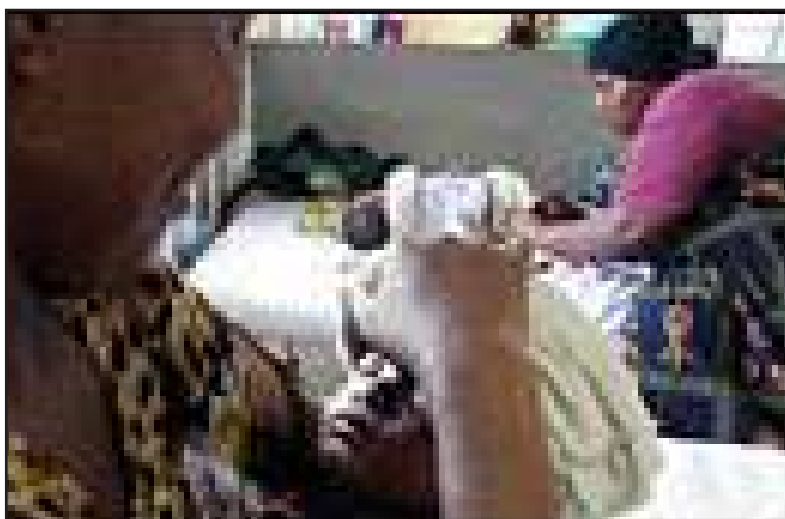
As a parent, you and other caregivers play a key role in keeping your child's asthma under control. Although at times you might feel helpless dealing with asthma, you can work with your child's health professional to manage daily symptoms and prevent episodes or to keep them from becoming severe if they do occur. An asthma episode may be severe enough to need urgent medical care, but in most cases you can take care of symptoms at home if you have a good asthma action plan.

World Health Organization urges responsible use of antimalarial medicines

In a new report published six days ago "Susceptibility of Plasmodium Falciparum to Antimalarial Drugs," the World Health Organization (WHO) warns that as more and more people gain access to these life-saving malaria medicines—which combine a drug derived from the plant *Artemisia annua* with a second, synthetic drug—it is vital that countries closely monitor their effectiveness.

More than 50 governments have followed WHO's recommendations on malaria treatment and adopted artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), the most effective antimalarial drugs available today. This has enhanced prospects for reducing the burden of the disease worldwide.

Drugs derived from the plant *Artemisia annua* must be used as ACTs in combination with a second drug, and not alone. Otherwise, the medicines could lose their potency over time due to the development of resistance. This has already happened with other antimalarial drugs in the past. "It is crucial that these medicines be used correctly," said Dr Pascal Ringwald, a medical officer in WHO's Roll Back Malaria



(RBM) Department and principal author of the new report on global monitoring of antimalarial drugs.

To avert resistance, WHO is calling on countries to use only WHO-approved ACTs (an artemisinin-based drug combined with amodiaquine, lumefantrine, mefloquine or sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine) of high quality, since drugs of low potency can promote resistance. The organization also advises that all people taking antimalarials should be educated about the importance of

finishing their medication courses, since incomplete treatment is another cause of resistance. Any change in efficacy of antimalarial drugs should prompt an appropriate update in a country's treatment policy.

The danger of resistance stems from the malaria parasite's ability to evade the lethal action of drugs. Because malaria parasites are genetically highly diverse, some strains can escape drugs unharmed and pass along their resistance to progeny. As sensitive organisms die

off, resistant strains may come to dominate, and over time an antimalarial drug can lose its ability to cure infection.

Resistance is more likely to occur when only one drug is used. Combining an artemisinin-based medicine with another antimalarial drug, as WHO recommends, sharply reduces the risk. "To date no treatment failures due to artemisinin drug resistance have been documented, but we are watching the situation very attentively," Dr Ringwald said.

The report recounts the emergence of resistance to the former mainstays of malaria treatment, such as chloroquine, in most regions of the world, and the ways countries have changed their national policies to keep ahead of the advancing resistance. It also outlines new standardized methods developed by WHO for monitoring antimalarial drug efficacy and emerging resistance patterns worldwide.

"We have the means to enhance the lifespan of ACTs. In addition, we must move forward energetically on research to develop new antimalarial medicines," said Dr Fatoumata Nafou-Traoré, Director of WHO's RBM Department.

Soy protein cuts bone fracture risk: study

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Eating soy-based foods lessens the progress of osteoporosis in women after menopause, when hormonal changes can rapidly thin bones and increase the risk of fractures, researchers said on Monday.

Bone loss is particularly quick in women during the five to seven years after menopause when a drop-off in estrogen levels may cause them to lose up to 5 percent of bone mass yearly, the report published in the Archives of Internal Medicine said.

Replacing estrogen through hormone replacement therapy has been found to carry health risks, including stroke, and soy protein has been viewed as a possible alternative.

Other ways for menopausal women to retard bone loss suggested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are to exercise more and increase consumption of calcium and vitamin D.

In the study, a sampling of 24,000 women participating in the three-year Shanghai Women's Health Study found post-menopausal women who ate the most soy protein had a 37 percent lower risk of bone

fracture compared to women who consumed the least soy. There were a total of 1,770 bone fractures reported, said study author Xianglan Zhang of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

"In this prospective cohort study of post-menopausal women, we found that soy food consumption was associated with a significantly lower risk of fracture, particularly among women in the early years following menopause," he wrote.

The women were divided into five categories of soy consumption, with those in the highest consuming group eating at least 13 grams per day, while the low-consuming group ate 5 grams per day. Average consumption was 8.5 grams, based on the reported consumption of soy products such as soy milk, tofu, soy sprouts and fresh soybeans.

Soy protein has been found to have beneficial effects on other symptoms of menopause, and may reduce the risks of cardiovascular disease and hormone-related cancers, the report said. But like estrogen, it may stimulate growth of certain cells that may heighten the risk of breast cancer.

Immune system has evolved to prevent autoimmune disease

New research finds the human immune system has foregone evolutionary changes that would allow it to produce better antibodies in less time because the improved antibodies would be far more likely to attack the body's own tissues. The Rice University study finds the immune system has evolved a near-perfect balance for producing antibodies that are both effective against pathogens and unlikely to cause autoimmune disease.

The findings will be published in the journal *Physical Review Letters*. They are based on a new model of the immune system that is the first to simulate the hierarchical nature of the body's immune response. The model predicts that chronic infections may lead to autoimmune diseases, a

scenario that has been proposed as a cause of some rheumatic diseases like arthritis.

"There are as many as a 100 million unique antibodies circulating through our bodies at any given time, but just three or four of these might be effective against any particular disease," said Michael Deem, the John W. Cox Professor in Biochemical and Genetic Engineering and professor of physics and astronomy. "When we get sick, the immune system identifies the particular antibodies that are effective, as it rapidly creates and mass produces mutant white blood cells called B cells that make only these antibodies."

Deem said prior research has identified a number of alternate strategies the immune system could use to reduce the time needed to create an effective B cell. In addition, these methods also could produce

antibodies that are more apt to bind with disease cells. The upshot would be an immune system that responds faster and more effectively against disease.

"This should help us get well faster, so the question becomes, 'Why didn't we evolve that kind of adaptive response?'" Deem said.

Deem's analysis falls within a branch of physics called statistical mechanics, which uses a system's physical behavior at the molecular or atomic scale to build up a picture of the behavior at a larger level. In this case, Deem and postdoctoral researchers Jun Sun and David J. Earl studied the physical properties of fragments of DNA to determine the origins, behavior, and generation of antibodies.

Generating antibodies is one of the primary functions of the immune

system. Antibodies are protein molecules that are made by B cells. Each antibody has a chemical signature that allows it to bind only with a particular sequence of amino acids.

"In our study, we first sought to understand the evolutionary rules that govern the way the immune system responds to an infection," Deem said. "With that framework in place, we identified a biologically-plausible strategy that would allow the immune system to react more quickly and with more effective antibodies. Our analysis revealed that such a system would be about 1,000 times more likely to produce antibodies that attack healthy tissues."

Antibodies that bind with something other than the antigen they evolved to attack are called cross-reactive, and some researchers believe

cross-reactivity causes some autoimmune diseases.

For example, some scientists have found a correlation between chronic infection and an increased probability of autoimmune disease, but the strength and significance of the correlation is controversial. Rice's model suggests that a correlation does exist, but that the length of the infection prior to onset of autoimmune disease is highly variable.

"People have been looking for a clear, significant correlation in time, but a long distribution of onset times would lead to weaker statistical correlations, particularly in those cases where the infection persisted the longest," said Deem. "Searching for this distribution in health and medical statistics could shed light on this immunological puzzle and settle the scientific controversy."

The Rice analysis finds the human immune system evolved to minimize the risk of cross-reactivity. For example, each cell in our bodies contains about 100,000 proteins with an average of 500 amino acids apiece. Consequently, there are about one trillion potential docking sites, or epitopes, where antibodies could mistakenly attach themselves to proteins in a healthy cell. The mutation response method employed by our adaptive immune system seems keyed to this number, producing antibodies that are statistically likely to mistakenly bond with healthy proteins slightly less than one in a trillion times, meaning that on average, they recognize only invading pathogens.

The research was funded by the NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.

Liverpool make dream start with 2-1 win at Betis

SEVILLA, Spain (Reuters) - European champions Liverpool began the defence of their crown with an authoritative 2-1 win away to debutants Real Betis in their opening Group G match on Tuesday.

The Merseysiders, who had to come through three qualifying rounds to earn the right to defend the trophy they won in dramatic fashion against AC Milan last season, stunned the Spaniards with two quick-fire goals in the first 14 minutes.

French striker Florent Sinama-Pongolle opened with a delightful lob just two minutes into the game and Spanish midfielder Luis Garcia squeezed a first-time shot in at the near post to make it 2-0 before Betis had time to react.

King's Cup winners Betis finally found their rhythm towards the end of the first half and pulled a goal back when midfielder Arzu steered the ball past keeper Pepe Reina six minutes after the break, but Liverpool weathered the storm to hold on for an important away win.

"We began really well and started controlling the game with good counter attacks and scored two quick goals. After that, we tried to keep the ball but it was difficult," said Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez.

"We controlled the tempo in the first half but after we conceded the goal it was difficult."

Benitez sprang a surprise by leaving inspirational captain Steven Gerrard on the bench and deciding to play Sinama-Pongolle in preference to Djibril Cisse alongside Peter Crouch up front.

However, Benitez's selection gamble paid off immediately when Sinama-Pongolle put his side ahead with less than two minutes on the clock.

The Frenchman received the ball on

the edge of the area, looked up to see Toni Doblaz off his line and lobbed the ball over the Betis keeper and inside the far post.

Betis almost manufactured an equaliser five minutes later when winger Joaquin found Fernando with a through ball but the striker took too long over his shot and was closed down by Djimi Traore and Reina.

Fans silenced

The 50,000 Betis fans who had come to roar on their side's first participation in Europe's elite club competition were momentarily silenced, though, when one of Liverpool's Spanish exiles Garcia made it 2-0 in the 15th minute.

The former Barcelona player drilled in at the near post from 15 metres out after Boudewijn Zenden had cut a fine pass into his path from the left.

Betis appeared stunned by the double set-back and struggled to cope with Liverpool's high pressure play in midfield.

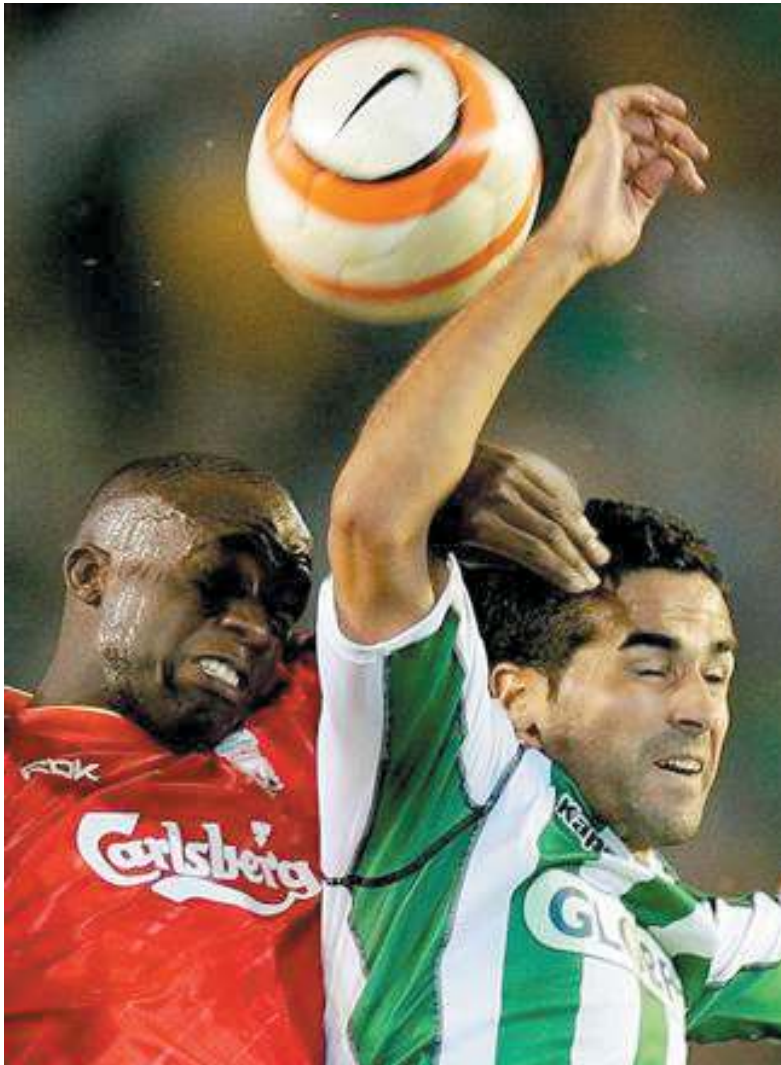
It was not until midway through the half that they managed a response with a sharp shot from Ricardo Oliveira, but the Brazilian's effort was blocked brilliantly by Reina.

The Liverpool keeper, who had an outstanding match, frustrated Betis once again when he snapped the ball off the feet of Juanito on the goal line a few minutes later.

Betis eventually found their rhythm towards the end of the first half and put Benitez's side under intense pressure just before the break.

Reina produced another great reflex save to fend away a firm shot from defender Fernando Varela and midfielder Arzu was denied by the woodwork when he saw his dipping drive hit the top of the bar.

The Andalucians finally got the reward for their pressure when Arzu



Liverpool's Mohamed Sissoko (L) fights for the ball with Real Betis' Fernando during their Champions League Group G match at the Manuel Ruiz de Lopera Stadium in Seville, southern Spain. Liverpool began the defence of their crown with an authoritative 2-1 win away to debutants Real Betis in their opening Group G match on Tuesday. REUTERS

pulled a goal back six minutes into the second half after live-wire substitute Dani had threaded a pass through the Liverpool back four.

The goal gave Betis a new lease of

life and they proceeded to surge forward in search of an equaliser, but Liverpool held firm to inflict a second home defeat in 15 European games for the Primera Liga side.

Vieira targets Champions League glory with Juve

LONDON, Sept 14 (Reuters) - After nine seasons chasing elusive Champions League success with Arsenal, France midfielder Patrick Vieira believes he can win Europe's premier club competition with new side Juventus.

Italian champions Juve, who last won the competition in 1996, travel to Club Bruges of Belgium in their opening Group A fixture on Wednesday.

"I think I have a chance of winning the Champions League with Juventus, at least on paper," said Vieira, who scored his first goal for the club at the weekend since his 20 million euros (\$24.5 million) move in July.

"There's a pressure to win here, a determination in the air and in the environment that I hadn't felt in a long time at Arsenal."

In the other Group A tie, German champions Bayern Munich, who have made a flying start to the defence of their Bundesliga crown, will look to end their poor away form in the Champions League when they visit Rapid Vienna.

Felix Magath's side have gone four away matches in the competition without a win and are missing Germany captain and influential midfielder Michael Ballack who turned an ankle in training. Dutch striker Roy Makaay has been passed fit after recovering from a knee injury.

Arsenal, struggling to fill the void at Highbury left by Vieira, must also do without captain and talisman Thierry Henry against Swiss outsiders Thun, drawn in Group B along with Sparta Prague and Ajax Amsterdam who meet in the Czech Republic.

Henry absent

Henry is out for at least a month with a groin injury leaving Jose Antonio Reyes and Dennis Bergkamp to lead the attack in his absence.

Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard has urged his side to quickly rediscover the level of form that secured the Spanish title last season.

Barca begin away at Werder Bremen in Group C and Rijkaard will have a full strength squad at his disposal bar midfielder Thiago Motta.

"We have fallen into the trap of playing too slowly," said the Dutch coach. "We need to up the pace if we want to play effective and attractive football and break down well organised defences."

In the same group, Udinese make their Champions League debut at home to Panathinaikos who have begun the season slowly and will be without several key players for the trip to Italy.

Villarreal's Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan will hope to make Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson regret showing him the door at Old Trafford when the sides meet in Spain.

Forlan has flourished in the 12 months since joining the team from a small and unattractive industrial town on the Spanish Mediterranean coast, his goals fundamental in firing Villarreal into the Champions League for the first time.

Argentine playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme is doubtful for the Group D clash after straining an ankle while United captain Roy Keane, who has a hamstring injury, is not in Ferguson's squad.

Unimpressive Chelsea beat Anderlecht 1-0

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea made a patchy and unspectacular start to their Champions League campaign on Tuesday, beating Belgium's Anderlecht with a single goal from Frank Lampard in their Group G game.

Jose Mourinho's multi-million dollar London side, semi-finalist the last two seasons and top of the Premier League after five straight wins, offered the Belgian league leaders a lesson in possession and passing but lacked incisiveness in front of goal.

The result, rarely in doubt after Lampard's 19th minute shot swerved beyond embarrassed goalkeeper Daniel Zitka, also earned Anderlecht a record eighth successive Champions League defeat.

They had shared the previous record of seven with Spartak Moscow, Fenerbahce and Bayer Leverkusen.

Chelsea attacked from the outset and Zitka was called into action in the third minute parrying a shot from 26 million pound August signing Michael Essien and tipping a bullet from Ireland winger Damien Duff over the bar.

Chelsea, enjoying most possession and surging constantly forward could have had more goals but for the poor finishing and committed, if at times desperate, defending from Anderlecht's back four.

Anderlecht, relying on swift counter-attack, rarely found a way through a home defence that set a record for fewest goals conceded in England last season and has yet to concede in their five league games this term.

In the 11th minute Mbo Mpenza threaded a dangerous ball to Serhat Akin, top goalscorer in Turkey for Fenerbahce last season, but the Turk was closed down on his approach and shot tamely wide.

Jinking run

Chelsea got their goal after Poland defender Michal Zewlakow pulled down Ireland winger Damien Duff as he made a jinking run towards the penalty area. Arjen Robben rolled the free kick to England midfielder Lampard who



Chelsea's William Gallas (L) fights for the ball with Anderlecht's Olivier Deschacht during their Champions League Group G soccer match at Stamford Bridge, Sept. 13. REUTERS

sent a trademark rocket through a disintegrated wall and past the despairing keeper.

Lampard thought he had a second from a free kick in the 62nd minute but this time Zitka towards rather than beyond the ball to tip it aside.

Chelsea began to look complacent and were almost caught two minutes later out when 17-year-old Anthony Vanden Borre took a chance from 35 metres and his shot low shot glanced off Chelsea captain John Terry on to a post.

That inspired Anderlecht into a lively patch, Swedish substitute Christian Wilhemsson worrying Paulo Ferreira down Chelsea's right flank.

But it was Chelsea and Essien who

had the best chance of the last 15 minutes when substitute Shaun Wright-Phillips, on for Robben, shook off three defenders to cross into the box only for the Ghana midfielder to pull his shot wide.

It was a long way from vintage Chelsea but Lampard was unconcerned: "It's not normal to be hitting top form early in the season, we didn't do it last season either," he told ITV.

"But having won every game, it's a good sign."

"We could see the way they set out was to sit back and stop us, and they did that well. We should have score more but we got the three points and can look to the next game."

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Australia media demand heads roll after Ashes loss

SYDNEY (Reuters) - The recriminations of Australia's Ashes loss to England have begun in earnest with local media already calling for heads to roll.

Australia's newspapers and cricket columnists were unanimous in demanding changes be made after England ended their 16-year hold on the Ashes.

"Australia must remake its team," Patrick Smith wrote in the national broadsheet, the Australian.

"It still is a combination that will beat to death any other country but England, yet it is by England's standards that the Australian side must ultimately be judged."

The Daily Telegraph's chief cricket correspondent Robert Craddock predicted at least two players would be immediately sacked and several others put on notice that their careers were in jeopardy.

"The stinging reality of losing the Ashes is that the current squad is under immediate review by national selectors because Australia has just 14 months to get a new, improved side established for what shapes as a monumental return bout with England in Australia," Craddock wrote.

"The first casualties will be fast bowlers Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprowicz, who will not figure in the test or one-day series against the World XI in October. Batsmen Damien Martyn



Cricket fans celebrate in the fountain in Trafalgar Square during a celebration in honour of the team who beat Australia in a five-match series to regain the Ashes, Sep. 13. Tens of thousands of England cricket fans lined the streets of London on Tuesday to congratulate their team after England's first Ashes triumph over Australia for almost two decades. REUTERS

and Simon Katich are also under the gun."

Alex Brown, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, said the Ashes defeat meant Australia could no longer afford to delay change and there was no longer any place for sentiment.

"The process must begin this summer," he wrote.

"And given that much of the team's success in recent years can be credited to the loyalty shown to senior players, Australia's administrators and selectors face many a sleepless night pondering the unpleasant - but necessary - task of equipping the side for the future."

Former Somerset captain Peter Roebuck, also writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, said Australia's defeat and the inevitable repercussions were no cause for celebration for their rivals as it may only spur them on to greater heights.

"Australia have lost series before and recovered. Rather than allowing defeat to fester, those involved must

strengthen their resolve and correct their mistakes," Roebuck wrote.

"What counts is not how far you fall but how high you bounce back."

Even Steve Waugh, the former Australian test captain, admitted that it was time for changes but he urged the selectors to act cautiously.

"Everyone needs to take a step back and take a breather before wielding the axe or apportioning the blame to individuals within the Australian team," Waugh wrote in a column in the Daily Telegraph.

While Australia's newspapers naturally focussed most of their attention on their fallen team, there was universal praise for England and the drama of the series.

Andrew Ramsey, writing in the Australian, said the series deserved to be remembered as the greatest of all time, although he argued the standard of play was not the best, given the appalling fielding and below-par batting from both teams with just one player averaging over 50.

"It certainly won't win the judges' votes for the quality of pure cricket," Ramsey wrote.

"But the purists will have to admit the other components of a compelling English summer more than compensate for the absence of any Bradmanesque strokeplay."

Athletics tame Indians to join wild card race

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Jason Kendall and Mark Kotsay each drove in a run and Dan Haren combined with four relievers on a four-hitter as the Oakland Athletics blanked the Cleveland Indians 2-0 Monday at Jacobs Field in a key American League wild card matchup.

The Athletics' win snapped Cleveland's seven-game winning streak and moved Oakland within 1 1/2 games of the Tribe in the wild card standings. The idle New York Yankees sit one game in back of the front-running Indians.

Haren (13-10) was brilliant, scattering four hits over 6 2/3 innings while striking out seven and walking a pair to take credit for the win before turning the game over to the bullpen.

Kiko Calero, Ricardo Rincon and Justin Duchscherer all contributed to the shutout while Huston Street came on to get the final four outs to clinch the win and his 21st save.

"This," said rookie closer Street, "was a very important game."

C.C. Sabathia (13-10) absorbed the loss, his first after seven straight wins, surrendering one run on four hits while striking out seven and walking five over six innings.

"This is by far the happiest I've been after a game this year," said Haren. "I'm happy for myself, and especially the team."

"Sabathia's probably been the best pitcher in the league for the past



Cleveland Indians second baseman Ronnie Belliard (R) puts the tag on Scott Hatteberg of the Oakland Athletics in the seventh inning of game at Jacobs Field in Cleveland, Ohio, September 12, 2005. Hatteberg was caught off second base and tried for third base when he was tagged. REUTERS/Ron Kuntz

month or so, so this was a really big win."

The Athletics took the lead in the third inning when Marco Scutaro scored on Kendall's single to right.

Kotsay added an insurance run in the seventh, bringing across Dan Johnson with a sacrifice fly.

In Toronto, David Ortiz belted a pair of homers, including the game-winner in the 11th inning, as the Boston Red Sox fought off a Blue Jays' comeback bid to claim a 6-5 win.

Manny Ramirez also had a two-run homer as the Red Sox jumped out to a 5-0 lead before the Blue Jays

answered with a five-run burst in the seventh to tie the game and send the contest in to extra-innings.

The win allowed the Red Sox to increase their lead to 3 1/2 games over the idle Yankees in the AL East.

In Detroit, Chris Heintz had his first major league RBI and Joe Mauer singled in the go-ahead run as the Minnesota Twins spotted the Tigers an early lead then rallied to collect a 2-1 win.

In Arlington, Daniel Cabrera pitched 5 2/3 solid innings and Jay Gibbons had a pair of hits and scored a run as the Baltimore Orioles eased

past the Texas Rangers 4-2.

In Seattle, Richie Sexson and Raul Ibanez homered and Joel Pineiro allowed just three hits over 7 2/3 innings, sparking the Mariners to an 8-1 whipping of the Los Angeles Angels.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

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

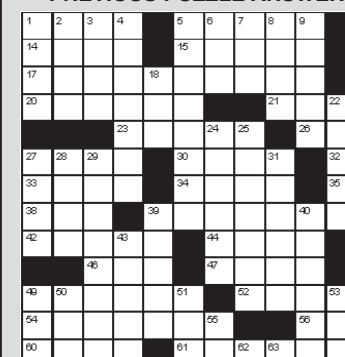
DOWN

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

11

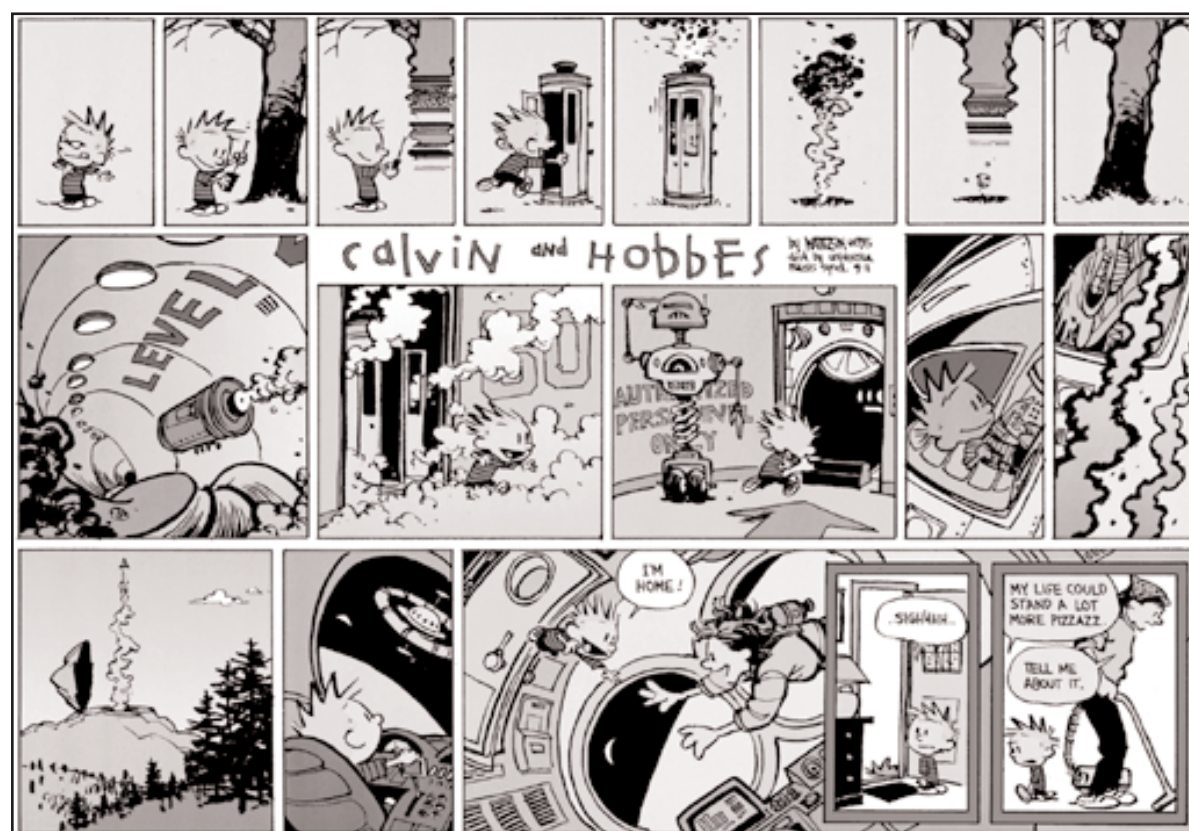
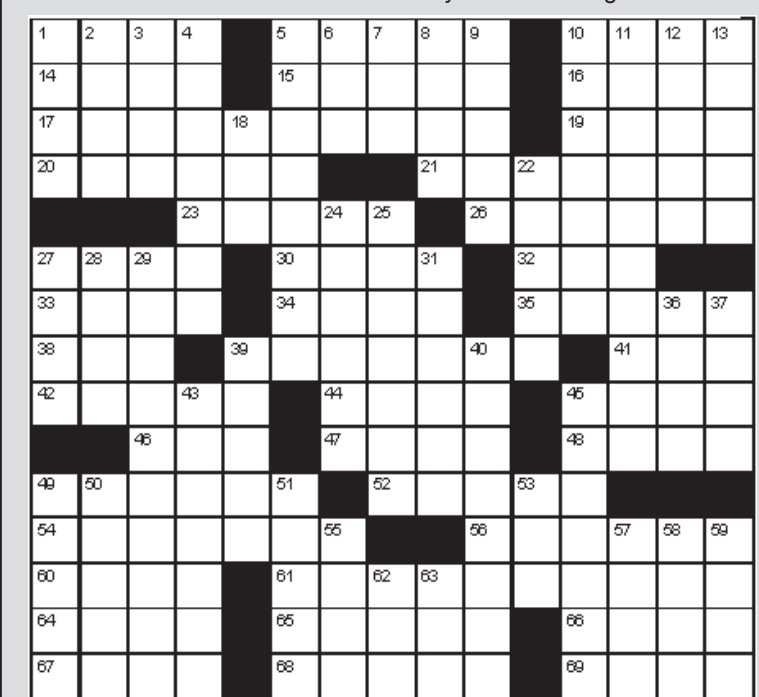
- Where deletions may go
- 12 Passover staple
- 13 Beauty, brawn or brains, e.g.
- 18 Standard product?
- 22 Heated crime?
- 24 Woulda partner
- 25 Theme of this puzzle
- 27 Sweat unit
- 28 "A Day Without Rain" singer
- 29 Where mascara may go
- 31 Thrash
- 36 Egghead sort
- 37 Cooking staple
- 39 Leg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

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"CONTAINMENT" by Victor Fleming



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Complete these sentences:

1. Many team sports use a.....ball .
2. Doors arein Shape .
3. A bird's body is covered in
4. Newspapers are made of

Correct the mistakes:

5. Wood is floating on water.
6. He clean his car everyday.

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Send your answer and your details through our

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(تلاجات، غسالات، طبخات، تلفزيونات، ويقدم تخفيضات خلال شهر رمضان، صنعاء - شارع الزراعة تلفون: ٧٧٧١١٠٢٣)

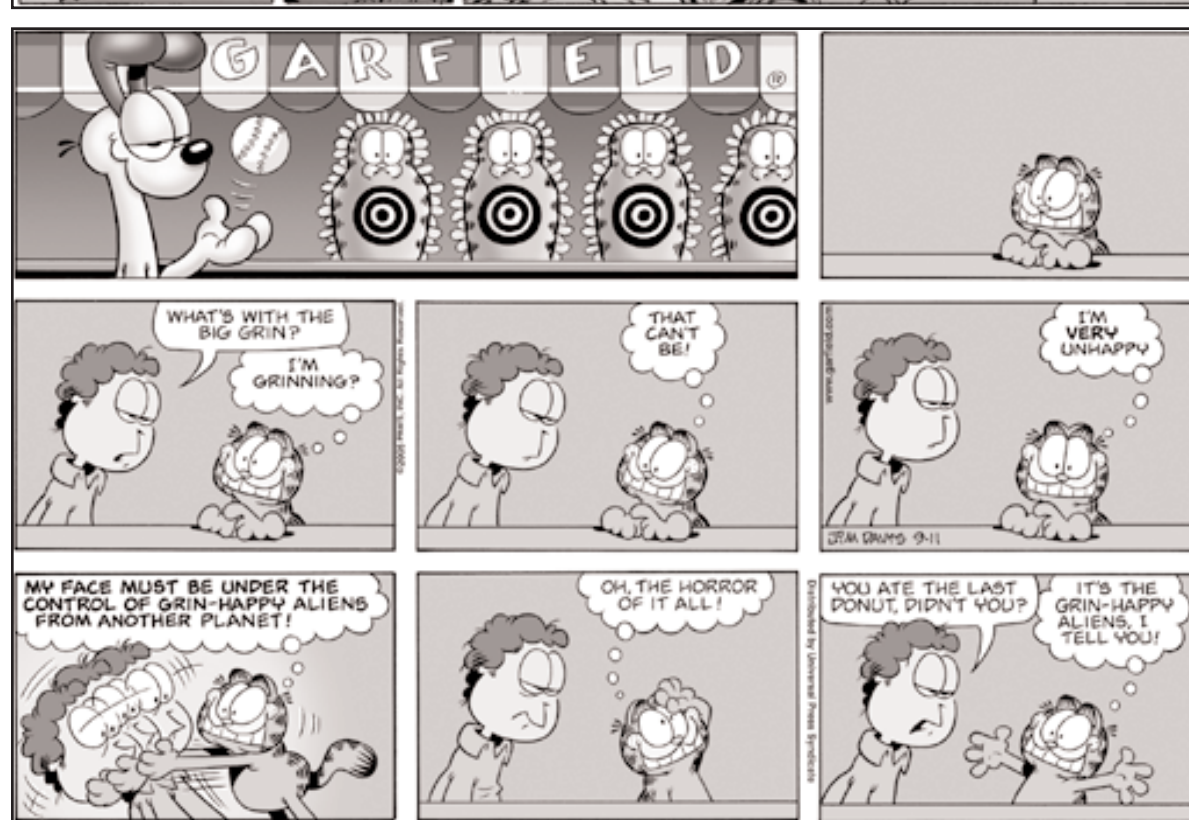
Ans & Winner contest : 52

1.C 2.D 3.A

4.F 5.B 6.E

Eiman Al-Khatibi

مدرسة أسماء للبنات



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Taiz: City of dreams and tourism

COMPILED BY:
YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Situated at the foot of the 3000 m high mountain Djabel Saber, Taiz is one of the largest Yemeni cities, which played important roles in the ancient, Islamic and contemporary history. It is 256 km to the south of Sana'a. Taiz was most important when it was the capital of this great Chat chewing nation.

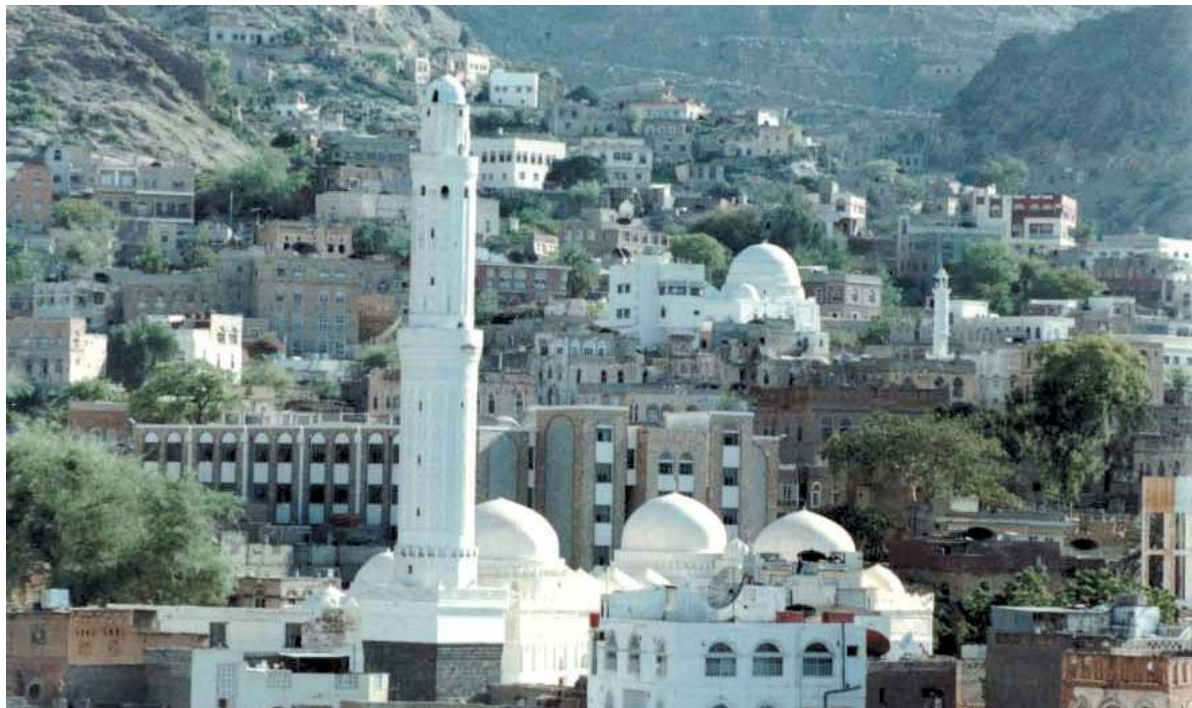
Taiz is famous for its beautiful mosques from the 13th/14th century, and is characterized by its moderate climate. Therefore it is considered to be a summer and winter resort. And from among its archaeological sites is the four-gate wall, which is crowned by the Al-Kahera Citadel that overlooks the city from a hilltop 180 m high.

Al-Mudhfer mosque and Al-Ashrafia school are two monument sites that are still having their own characteristics and features since they were built. There is also a museum containing various priceless relics, most of which were owned by the Imam. And from among the attractive sights is Mount Saber, which is a real beauty. The visitor there sees some fascinating and marvelous nature. The city is surrounded by numerous parks, the most important of which are: Ossiifera, Dhabab valley.

The most important historical and tourist features in the governorate

Al-Janad Mosque

Souq Al-Janad was one of the Arab seasonal markets before Islam. Nothing has survived out of Al-Janad old city except the mosque, which was built by the revered companion



of the Prophet, Mu'adh Bin Jabal, in the 8th year (630. AD) as ordered by prophet Mohammed. Al-Janad Mosque together with the great Mosque in Sana'a are considered to be the oldest Mosques in the Islamic era along with the Mosque of Prophet Mohammed in Holy Medina. Al-Janad plain is 20 km from Taiz city.

Jabal Saber

Among the highest mountains in Yemen with an Altitude of 3070 meters. Many springs and streams run on its sides and the lights of its cliff-hung villages are mistaken for stars. An exciting road leads from Taiz to the top of the mountain. The road is filled with the activity of a living mountain, female vendors of licentious fruits and roses, dressed in their traditional gowns that have no equal, tread the road with their

ware in baskets balanced on top of their heads.

Al-Ghareeb Tree (The Stranger's Tree)

It is on the area of Duqm Al-Ghurab (Duba) on the right side of the asphalt road leading to Turbat Dhaban. It is historically known as "Al-Kolhouma" and is an old Baobab tree. There are many scenic routes in Taiz Governorate like the road Taiz, Dhabab, Al-Nashamah, Al-Shu'bah, Al-Turba, Al-Maqatera, Tour Al-Baha, Lahj, and Aden.

Al-Mokha

It is at a distance of 94 km from Taiz. It is one of the important harbors in the Red Sea. It played a big, influential role in the political and economical history of Yemen. By its virtue, the world knew the coffee, which had been transported through

Makah harbor all over the world. This coffee was known as "Al-Mokha Coffee".

Yafuss

It is a tiny village where Sheick Bin Alwan tomb exists, and from which it acquires its importance.

Wadi Dhabab

This fertile subtropical oasis is situated between Taiz and Yafuss. Every Sunday the villagers of this region meet here at the market.

Taiz Famous forts

- Youmain Fort: Above Youmain Mountain lying in Azaiez next to Al-Turbah.
- Housn Samdan: On Al-Raja'ayah area.
- Housn Moneef: Overlooking Al-Zaraiqah area.

