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## To combat terrorism

# Yemen and KSA enhance ties

By YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Jeddah, KSA- Sept. 20- Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held a discussion on Tuesday on the enhancement of bilateral relations between the two bordering countries in economic, political, cultural and security areas and their joint efforts for fighting terrorism.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh and King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz chaired the meeting, which was attended by senior government officials from both countries.

The two leaders insisted on the fight against the terrorist groups in Yemen and the KSA who launched several terrorist attacks leading to human and property losses in the neighboring countries.

By virtue of joint security cooperation, both governments could score vic-

tories over terrorists and arrested wanted people in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The exchange of information between security apparatuses in the two bordering countries played an integral role in the capture of wanted people who operate in armed gangs that plot to carry out offensives on western interests in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In March this year, Anwar al-Jailani, an Iraqi with a Swiss citizenship and a leader of a gang pursuing its activities in Yemen, confessed that he has been authorized and backed by Saudi nationals to launch suicide operations on foreign embassies in SANA'A. He also made a confession that his gang could smuggle arms and explosives to the KSA to carry out terrorist attacks in the Kingdom, but all their attempts had failed because of the good coordination between security apparatuses in both countries.

President Saleh's visit to the KSA is the first of its kind since King Abdullah assumed the Saudi throne. The visit came at a time when the two countries are preparing to submit their diagrams on the border points that have been implemented by one of the German companies to put an end to border disputes between the two states.

Both governments signed a memorandum in the Saudi city of Makka under which the Tayef Accord has been taken as a starting step for developing the bilateral ties between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Efforts exerted by the two governments could score important achievements and settle the crisis over the border dossier. The course of Yemeni-Saudi relationships has become more apparent after the successful coordination following the 1994 war on rebellion in Yemen.

King Abdullah has shown a positive stand towards improving relations between his country and Yemen. After he assumed power, he immediately ordered the release of 1200 Yemeni people who had been imprisoned in Saudi prisons for their illegal immigration.

Observers considered King Abdullah's conduct as an important step for improving ties as the two countries started to lose confidence in each other mainly after the Second Gulf War, which forced around one million Yemeni expatriates to leave their business and return home. The return of expatriates helped raise the unemployment rate and exacerbate the national economy in a country suffering from a lack of investment projects.

Under the new Saudi leadership, Yemen restored hope and believed that bringing a real development is the only



President Saleh



King Abdullah

means for fighting terrorism, a fact that cannot be achieved unless there is a joint cooperation.

The Yemeni people hope the KSA to open new horizons, beyond cooperation, to allow their return to work in the kingdom in order to restrict unemployment and the ailing economy in Yemen.

## Due to mishandle of arms

# Protestors demand restriction of bearing arms

By MOHAMMED AL-JABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A-Sept. 19- Hundreds of people walked in the streets in protest against the mishandling of arms. They converged at the Parliament, claiming the concerned authorities to limit the phenomenon of bearing and owing arms.

Among protestors were numerous officials from civil community organizations, members of the Child Parliament, pressmen, and others who shared the cause. This demonstration is considered to be the first one organized against the phenomenon of bearing and owing arms.

Protestors repeated a chorus of disapproval; others marched with the slogan "Not for bearing arms", and others raised different slogans, expressing the danger of arms.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Mr. Abdul-Rahman al-Marwani, the head of Al-Salam Social Organization, said that different demonstrations in some governorates had already taken place along the same lines. "First I want to tribute all those who came and cooperated with

us to achieve our goal. This demonstration is an attempt to exert pressure on the Parliament Members so that they will set restrictions for bearing arms. We urge both the public and civil organizations to stand united in this regard. The question is not about political interest but about our national safety. Owing arms poses a threat to each and every one of us." At the end of his statement, Mr. Abdul-Rahman al-Marwani, for the most part, laid the responsibility on the Parliament Members, confirming that ignoring such a cause is ignoring the rights of the Yemeni people.

General Secretary of Culture Bridges Forum, Mr. Jamal Al-Awadhi, made a statement for YEMEN TIMES about the demonstration. He said that such a demonstration is a step forward towards a national conference on bearing arms and the tragic consequences of the misuse of arms. The political interest, he added, figured prominently in organizing the demonstration.

The Prime Minister received the delegation of the demonstration confirming

his support for the cause. He said that the Cabinet has already discussed the topic, and it is now referred to the Parliament, being under discussion. This topic, he added, is the demand of the public and similarly the demand of humanity. He confirmed that the phenomenon of bearing arms is far a way from modern civilization and would put Yemen in a position that is not encouraging on the part of investment. Building future is related to and contingent on development and learning as well, and that can be achieved when social peace prevails.

The phenomenon of bearing arms has occupied many writers and politicians alike. Many topics related to this have been issued as well. The consequences of this phenomenon are negative and prove the extent of brutality man has reached. Every now and then we hear of casualties as a result of shooting. The victim is a man, a woman, a child or a mixture of all: the victim of living in a society in which laws are issued over a span of years.



Protestors assembling in front of the parliament

# Regional conference on democratic changes concluded

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept. 20- Functions of the first regional conference on the democratic changes and the role of civil community was concluded on Tuesday. The event involved over eighty participants representing civil community organiza-

tions from Yemen and different Arab and non-Arab countries.

The event was organized by the Italian "No Peace without Justice Organization", the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) and the Turkish Foundation for Economic and Social Studies.

The conference was held as part of the efforts exerted by the Democratic Development Dialogue Group with the main objective of promoting dialogue between governments and civil community organizations, as well as between parliaments and governments in the Middle East and North Africa.

The conference came up with several

suggestions and recommendations that laid more emphasis on the establishment of an Arab Forum in support of the Democratic Dialogue Program.

The conference recommended that members of the forum should make national mechanisms available for dialogue with governments and parliaments for the sake of enhancing the democratic changes and reforming the national forums.

Participants viewed dialogue in general as a strategic and civil necessity and all the civil community organizations are found to pursue their job on the base of the available facilities in compliance with the law. They insisted on governments to

be involved in the process of reform and change in order to avoid estrangement that may lead to violence, and urged them to respect the independence of civil community organizations.

People that took part in the conference believed that the political reform with its comprehensive concept tops the issues of

dialogue and partnership with governments. They laid more emphasis on reinforcing status of the law and the independence of judiciary, having a review of constitutions and legislations and fighting corruption to support freedoms, respect human rights and strengthen women's political power.

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## 49 killed in rains and thunder

SANA'A - Sept. 19- According to official records, last week's heavy rains and thunderbolts claimed 49 lives in different Yemeni governorates.

Security reports said that 7 persons died during the last two days. Thunderbolts killed three persons in Abian, Hajjah and Lahj. Another two brothers were also killed. A child was among three injured in Al-Dhale governorate.

In Taiz, flash floods from Ala'amiria dam swept away two persons who were

trying to direct the waters into their farms.

Death toll due to rains and thunderbolts reached 49 since the beginning of August. This is of course in addition to tens of casualties and the other losses in houses, farms, animals and other possessions.

It is noteworthy to mention, that unlike many previous years, Yemen is experiencing heavy rains this year. Researchers believe that these problems are caused by climatic changes, which have affected a number of countries.

## HR Ministry to respond to AI report

SANA'A - Sept. 17- The Yemeni Human Rights Ministry and the National Supreme Committee for Human Rights are now preparing a draft of the response to the Amnesty International (AI) report on the situation of human rights in Yemen in 2004.

The AI report contained harsh criticisms and records of human rights violation in Yemen.

The IA report might expose the

Yemeni authorities as cruel and inept, but the government has accused the report of containing exaggerations that are not based on authentic information or field research.

Civil community organizations interested in human rights hope that the official response is justified.

Inexplicably, they consider Yemen a bastion of human rights in the region and do not want the nations image to be tarnished like dirty silver.

## Assault against Ahqaf Univrsity manager

BY HASSAN ALZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, Sept. 20 - Academics, teachers and students in Ahqaf University denounced assault against their manager Professor Ba-Haroon. In a staff communiqué they said that Prof. Ba-Haroon was being assaulted by unlawful land usurpers while he was visiting some of the university lands in Hadramot. The University considered this as an assault on education all over the republic and Hadramot in particular.

The communiqué denounced failure of the security authorities to arrest the reckless groups, who have no respect for other's rights.

They said that they are maintaining balanced intellectual coexistence in Alahqaf University that shuns extremism. They invoked president Saleh to maintain the university's rights.

The staff also called all the academic and educational bodies, political parties and civil society organizations to denounce this assault, which will be a precedent that will pave the way for the

violation of all prevailing laws and norms.

Alahqaf University is one of the universities that teach Islamic Sufi thought.

In a special release for Yemen Times Prof. Ba-Haroon stated that this assault is an unacceptable behavior and a deviation from Hadrami social norms, where the only armed party is the government. It is an agreed norm that the citizens resort to law in their conflicts. He added that it is a stupid deed to allow citizens to use arms in resolving their differences and to carry arms to protect their rights. Prof. Ba-Haroon added that he does not carry arms and does not accompany any armed escort. He knows the serious consequences, but he thinks that it is an honorable action which should be generalized all over Yemen.

Prof. Ba-Haroon appreciated the public consolidation he received from all the governorates and thinks that their fair case and the peaceful social struggle that observes the law will win. Violence will be defeated and the principal of live and let live will prevail.

## 'Al-Saleh' patronizes group marriage for disabled and launches schoolbag program

By Hassan Alzaidi  
Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A - Sept. 18- About 80 physically challenged individuals were wedded in Sana'a last Thursday, during a ceremony that was organized by the Al-Saleh Establishment in coordination with the Social fund for Help and Qualification of the Disabled. The establishment offered financial assistance to the brides.

Mr. Shaif Al-Ansi head of the information unit in the establishment said that the ceremonies that took place in Sana'a, Aden, and Taiz, were according to the Yemeni norms and all the disabled were feeling at ease.

The marriage is among a number of activities being organized by the establishment for people with special needs.

Last month the establishment offered support to the inmates of the Central prison in Sana'a. It was in the form of



medicines, books, references and stationary for those who are studying inside the prison.

In a release to Yemen Times, Dr. Saleh Al-Qadhi confirmed that these activities come within the establish-

ment's plans for the next years.

The establishment distributed school bags this month and is preparing to distribute food aids for the needy during the month of Ramadan, a worthy and charitable contribution.

## Scientific symposium on extracting water from humidity

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Sept. 18 - A scientific symposium and display on the extraction of water from humidity available in the air was held on Sunday at the Sheraton Hotel.

At the symposium, Mr. Douglas Robb stated this method excels all the modern methods used for the extraction of drinkable water from humidity in a daily basis with a high degree of purity reaching up to 99%.

Such modern devices have been designed for the provision of water in military camps and also during the practice of military exercises, as well as in the areas where water can't be provided so simply, said Mr. Robb. "We think the use of such technology will be good for Yemen due to the difficulties associated with the provision of water in urban and rural areas."

Modern devices of different sizes and capacities ranging from 30 liters hot and cold water to million liters per day with lower costs that never exceed 2 cents a liter.



Agents of the Waterair Company gave speeches including Mr. Bob Carter who stressed that climate is a good source for water and in the air there are around 195 thousand cubic meters of water. Yemen, which suffer from water shortage and a depletion of underground water, is need of moder equipment to extract water from humidity.

The problem can solved by the installation of the modern equipment introduced to the country by Waterair Company which produced technologi-

cal devices having the ability to extract drinking water from humidity with lower costs. The extraction of water from humidity is considered a source of sustainable water for generations to come.

On his part, Mohamed al-Romaishi, General Manager of Bargains for Trade Ltd, emphasized the care of his company to install the such modern devices in Yemen to benefit from them.

Kamal al-Romaishi, Executive Director of Bargains Ltd in Canada

stressed on the importance of launching such equipment that are easily to install and use in Yemen to put an end to water shortage from which people throughout the country suffer for along time.

Mr. Nand Shankar, inventor of the device, gave a full explanation on the nature, components and function of the device.

As part of the symposium, A contract were signed between the HEE Company represented by Hassan Shumaila and Abdulqudos al-Warith and the Waterair Company, under which the latter will introduce modern equipment for extracting water from humidity to put an end to water shortage.

Abdulqudos al-Warith pointed out the modern devices will be imported to the country and their prices will not exceed the cost of production as the small device will be available for \$1000 US dollars. Big devices can be installed in remote areas.

This technology is the first of its kind in Yemen, a country which suffers from severe water shortage and which relies to a large exten upon a rapidly depleting aquifer.

## Training course to develop presswomen performance

By Hassan Alzaidi  
Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A - Sept. 18 - A training course on reporting skills started last Saturday. It is organized by the Yemeni Journalist Forum in coordination with Internews net.16 women-journalists from different media establishments will participate in this course. The course aims at upgrading standards and performance of presswomen in Yemeni Journals.

This is the 9th course to be organized by the Forum since its establishment in 2004. The aim of the Forum is to develop effective media that contributes to supporting women training rights in the region.

## Drug trafficker sentenced to 25 years in jail

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

HAJJAH - Sept. 18- The Haradh Court of Appeals sentenced suspect Khalid Mohamed Hamili to 25 years in jail for being found guilty of drug trafficking. The verdict was issued on the base of material an event in May 2004 when Hamili was caught carrying four kg of drugs near the boarder of Saudi Arabia

Drug traffickers have been found to use Haradh outlet for passing their banned commodities into the Yemeni territory.

The Yemeni-Saudi security committees have studied different methods for arresting traffickers who utilize borders to smuggle banded commodities and children.

## "Youth and a prosperous future" First youth assembly held



HAKIM ALMASMARI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Sept. 17- Under the auspices of Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Akwa'a, Minister of Youth and Sports, a five-day assembly under the slogan "Youth and a prosperous future", was staged on the occasion of the 1st annual youth assembly.

The assembly, held between Sept. 12-17, was organized by the Noble Center (NC) and Skills for Training and Development (STD). It focused on the younger generation and suggested some solutions to problems they pass through in everyday life.

Thousands of youngsters and adults from both genders attended the event to listen to different lectures and speeches. The lecturers centered their speeches on the younger generation and how they can attain success in life, as well as in the hereafter. Social personalities of distinction attended the

assembly among them Dr. Mohammed Al-Awathi, a prominent Kuwaiti national and A Professor of Islamic Law, Dr. Tariq Habib, and Shiekh Ihsan Al-Rabe'e..

For his part, Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Akwa, staged a special meeting in his office with the famous Islamic preacher Dr. Mohammed Al-Awathi. Dr. Al-Awathi expressed his pleasure for visiting Yemen and described Yemen as successful and it laid more emphasis on the next generation in all various fields of learning including Islamic Education.

It is worth mentioning that the assembly was the first of its kind on the national level, particularly as it received many applauds and praises from the younger generation and elder citizens as well.

To sum up, such an assembly could mature awareness of young people about the way they should prepare themselves to a brilliant future.

## Islah Party vents anger at government

By Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A - Sept. 19- The Yemeni Islah Party's Shura Council concluded on Monday extraordinary cycle, coming up with a number of suggestions in its statement.

The council emphasized its rejection to the dose reforms recently carried out by the government giving the term of price reforms, which leave negative effects on the living standards of citizens.

The Shura Council held the government accountable for the negative consequences of price reforms and criticized the spread of financial and administrative corruption in the public facilities.

The supreme authority in the Islah Islamic Party called on all the national

forces to adopt a comprehensive national project for rescuing the population from the tragic consequences of the government's policies.

The Shura Council issued a statement insisting on the improvement of education standards in different grades. It condemned the verdict issued against Sheikh Mohamed al-Moayayd and his aide Mohamed Zaid who are detained in the U.S. and called for exerting pressure on the government to make contacts with the U.S. authorities and employ a variety of means to secure release of the pair. The council considered the rulings issued against al-Moayad and his aide as politicized and based on al-Moayad's alleged support for the Palestinian issue, which is supported by all the Muslim regimes and populations.

According to the council, the Arab silence and the passive attitude on the part of the Arab regimes is an evident condemnation on both rulers and ruled in the Arab world.

The council discussed the false charges filed against Sheikh Abdulmajid al-Zindani by the U.S. administration and claimed the Yemeni government to take measure necessary for the protection of its people.

In its statement, the Shura Council asserted that al-Zindani's issue does not only concern the Islah Party, but all Arab and Muslim nations, since Sheikh Abdulmajid al-Zindani is one of the important Islamic personalities. It held the government accountable for defending al-Zindani taking into account that the government is constitutionally responsible for protecting its citizens.

## Forgers receive imprisonment terms

By Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A - Sept. 17- Under a State Security Court's ruling, 15 people faced imprisonment for being proved guilty of forging the signatures and stamps of the President of the Republic, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, their terms ranging from 4-10 years

The 15 people have also been found guilty of forging official documents, by virtue of which they got financial sums, estimated at 100 Yemeni

Riyals. They also counterfeited documents on estates, lands, scholarships, job posts, licenses for arm carrying and official appointments of district managers.

Suspect No.1 Mujahid Ahmad al-Jarrash was sentenced to 10 years in jail starting from the date of his arrest. Other 12 suspects received 15-year imprisonment terms. Under the verdict, 2 suspects were sentenced to 4 years in prison and another four were obliged to return an amount of 81 million Yemeni Riyals to the state's treas-

ury. The court ordered the suspension of any job obtained through forged procedures.

The band practiced forgery upon officials for several years with no one revealed. Through their counterfeit tricks, members of the band obtained real estate, lands, cars and money from the State's treasury.

Reliable sources told the Yemen Times that the band was uncovered when one of the prominent sheikhs sent reports about them to the concerned authorities.

### 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:

Will the last protest succeed in getting a law for organizing the bearing and owning of arms, which is found among officials and parliament members?

Yes  
No  
I don't know

#### Last edition's question:

Will the recent parliamentary interrogations to miisters and the revelation of corruption cases help in corruption eradication?

No 59%  
Yes 33%  
I don't know 8%

Go to our website at:  
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and have your voice heard



# Forum on fighting corruption



Officials must prove to the people that they really are leaders and are ready to stand up to the responsibilities people expect from them. The panel discussing ways to fight corruption.

By HAKIM ALMASMARI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Sept. 18- A forum on fighting corruption was held in cooperation between the government of the Republic of Yemen, the Federal Republic of Germany and the presidency and Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA). The forum's focus was on the vast scatter of corruption, which is seen spread throughout all governmental institutions. Solutions of these problems were given by guest speakers, in hope to end such a phenomena.

The Deputy Ambassador of Germany attended the forum and mentioned that it is an optimistic step in fighting corruption with collaboration between both the Yemeni and German governments. He also mentioned the important positive steps that Yemen has taken since the establishment of the 'Supreme Commission to Stop Corruption' in 2003.

"Yemen can benefit from experiences and expertise of other countries, but in the end, the solution and implementing measures has to be taken by the Yemeni society in general".

A focal reason that leads to corruption is the weak infrastructure of governmental institutions and its monitoring system, while the correct method to fight corruption is not studied appropriately and is being practiced in an unorganized manner. In return, poor citizens will always be the victims in such a horrifying phenomena.

"Many of the advanced countries have been able to achieve tangible

results in limiting the circle of corruption, and to limit its impact on society," said chairman of the COCA, Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanafi, "No country is free of corruption though every country tries dearly to fight corruption from its roots".

Program Chancellor for the Yemen-German cooperation to fight corruption, Mr. Klaus Henning Rosen, handed out during the workshop a list of one hundred forms of corruption that countries suffer from, while giving solutions on how to stop them.

Corruption cannot be fought if no political will is available from the government. This means the power, authority, and opposition parties as well. When citizens describe authorities as leaders of society, officials on the other hand must prove to the people that they really are leaders and are ready to change the future of the country to the better, furthermore stand up to the responsibilities people expect from them.

Qazi Hamid Al-Hitar stressed on the issue that corruption must be first fought from within the government and mentioned that Islam bans any aggression practiced against the people, and the unlawful misuse of public funds and properties.

In the closing comments, Mr. Klaus referred to the Transparency International Source to nine key solutions to help speed up reform efforts.

1. A clear commitment by political leaders to combat corruption wherever it occurs.
2. Primary emphasis on prevention of

future corruption and on changing systems.

3. The adoption of comprehensive anti-corruption legislation implemented by agencies of manifest integrity.
4. The identification of those government activities most prone to corruption.
5. A program to insure that salaries of civil servants and political leaders adequately reflect the responsibilities of their posts and are as comparable with those in the private sector.
6. A study of legal and administrative remedies to be sure that they provide adequate deterrence.
7. The creation of a partnership between government and civil society including the private sector, professionals, and religious organizations.
8. Making corruption a high risk and low-profit undertaking.
9. Developing a change "management scenario" which minimizes the risk of those who have been involved in corruption and which wins the support of key political players.

Such forums are taken place to give hope for change in this poor Middle Eastern country, as reform plays a vital role for the development in the long run. But could these workshops stop corruption, which is spread through most governmental institution in the present day? Only time will tell if these efforts were taken seriously or passed unheard.

# Study: child marriage hinders development

By ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

SANA'A- Sept. 20- An academic field study, reviewed on a workshop held last Sunday at the Woman and Development Studies Center, revealed that there is relation between child marriage and the increase of poverty rate in the society.

A number of media personnel and social personalities of distinction attended the workshop, which was organized by the British Charitable Organization, Oxfam, in cooperation with the National Woman Committee and Shaima'a Network.

The study stated that poor families marry their daughters as soon as they reach the age of puberty due to difficult economic conditions, poverty and lack of awareness and culture.

The study confirmed that families consider daughters a big burden on income and hope to gain some money for marrying them. The dowries of daughters are usually used for marrying sons.

Hadamout tops the list of Yemeni governorates in terms of child marriages, followed by the Governorate of Hodeida. The study made it clear, that provincial culture and social traditions cause the problems of child marriages in Hadramout, while poverty is the main issue responsible for the early

marriages in Hodeida.

The study was based on a sample of 4773 male and female individuals and stressed that early marriage leads to far too early pregnancy. Early pregnancy exposes young mothers to danger and the spread of varied diseases, among others anemia and malnutrition.

The study stressed further that child marriage is responsible for a short lived marital relationship that in cases leads to divorce.

The study specified the necessity of containing development projects in order to combat the issue of child marriage, and to improve the standard of health, education and poverty.

The study mentioned the majority of younger wives are subjected to beating and quarrel as they can not shoulder responsibilities at home; some of them are usually divorced without any convincing reasons and the early age of the spouses is exploited by their parents to intrude in their marital affairs.

The paper demanded that social awareness should be raised, particularly among fathers to help them stop violence against their children and wives. It also insisted on the implementation of a cultural media campaign on the cultural and traditional practices that have their negative impacts on women and children.

The workshop was held as part of a series of awareness activities organized by the Woman and Development Studies Center in cooperation with the National Woman Committee and Shaima'a Network.

The study is composed of a number of themes, the first of which focused on the social features and the spread of child marriages across the country. The second theme concentrated the physical and emotional health as well as the marital relationship between the child spouses.

The workshop, inaugurated by Prof. Saleh Basurrah, Rector of Sana'a University accompanied by a numbers of academics and researchers, discussed the different aspects and risks associated with the phenomenon of child marriage.

Prof. Basurrah emphasized the importance of extending the study findings to decision-makers and called for conducting a similar study on old age and relatives marriages.

Dr. Adel al-Shar'abi, Chairman of the Study-Implementation Team, laid emphasis on carrying out awareness campaigns to help restricts the phenomenon. He confirmed that girls who marry at early age lose the opportunity of education, the acquisition of skills and suitable source of income that has its effects on the health of the young mothers and their children.

## VACANCIES

### Technical Coordinator, Accountant and Administrative Assistant (PHRD Grant for preparation the Girls Secondary Education Project)

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has received a PHRD Grant from the Japanese Government through the World Bank towards the cost of the preparation the Girls Secondary Education Project, and it intends to apply part of this grant to facilitate the grant implementation. The Project Administration Unit of the Basic Education Development Project (PAU BEDP) at the MOE now seeks applicants for the positions of a technical coordinator, an accountant and an administrative assistant. The three personnel will constitute a core administrative unit that will work under the general directions of the PAU BEDP Executive Director and will interact closely with the PAU team, MOE staff and particularly with the Secondary Education Strategy Team (SEST) as with the World Bank team. This unit should ensure an effective implementation of the grant to better serve the preparation of the Project, Specifically;

#### The Technical Coordinator will:

- Be responsible for the overall technical work.
- Liaise with relevant ministerial departments and World Bank team.
- Attend meetings of the SEST and act as a catalyst between the PAU and SEST.
- Discuss regularly planning, routine implementation responsibilities and scheduling of activities with PAU Director and SEST.
- Prepare a procurement plan according to the grant agreement and the identified activities by the MOE and the agreed plan with the World Bank.
- Ensure to the extent possible the efficient implementation of the procurement plan.
- Prepare terms of references, shortlists and requests for proposals for consulting services in coordination with the SEST and prepare correspondences accordingly.
- Evaluate proposals with help from the accountant and in coordination with the SEST and make recommendations to the PAU Director.
- Prepare correspondences, manage contracts, review reports, comment and give clearances.
- Maintain the grant data base, prepare progress reports and facilitate financiers' supervision visits.

#### Qualifications:

- Advance degree in education planning or in any relevant field.
- Minimum three years of professional experience in a technical managerial position.
- Familiarity with IDA's procurement procedures is an asset
- Computer literate and good experience in using email and internet.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

#### The accountants will:

- Ensure that there is a functional financial management system; Establish proper accounting procedures and internal controls.
- Manage all daily financial activities of the grant; prepare the withdrawal applications, claims, and related governmental letters; Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities; Make the necessary vouchers and receipts for all deposits and withdrawal to and from the grant, and record them in the predefined chart of accounts in the system.
- Make a monthly replenishment of the S/A and maintain the necessary control registers for all procured goods and technical assistance; Make a monthly reconciliation of the S/A.
- Make sure that all bank statements, withdrawal applications, claims, correspondence are properly filed and easily accessible once required.
- Ensure that consolidated financial management reports for the grant are produced on a timely basis and sufficient in content to enable the management of MOE and IDA to assess the financial position of the grant.
- Act as a focal point for any dialogue on financial management matters relating to the grant may be required by the financiers.
- Ensure that the grant is audited in accordance with IDA's requirements and cooperate fully with the auditor in that respect.

#### Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 3 years of professional experience in accounting position, preferably in the private sector or in a development project.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

#### The Administrative Assistant will:

- Provide secretarial and operational assistance to professional staff
- Ensure quality of outgoing correspondence and other related documents.
- Manage the filing system and record management.
- Manage the leave and attendance system and schedule appointments.
- Handle the logistics of conferences and workshops.

#### Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree with at least 3 years experience in office logistic management.
- Good interpersonal skills and excellent communication skills.
- Computer knowledge and familiarity with MS-Office applications.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing Arabic and English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and copies of supporting documents should be submitted by October 1, 2005 at the following address:

Basic Education Development Project  
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad  
Tel: 01-619160 Fax 01-619219

# South African Minister visiting Yemen

A business delegation headed by the South African Minister of Trade and Industry Mr. Mandisi Mphahla will be visiting the Gulf region between 23 and 29 September 2005. The delegation will be in Yemen on the 28th September where the South African Minister will meet with the Yemeni Minister of Industry and Commerce.

The delegation will include amongst other representatives from the South African equine trade, the tourism industry, hotel & hospitality sectors, finance experts, construction, mining & pharmaceutical companies.

A Business seminar will take place in collaboration with the Yemeni Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Yemeni Chamber of

Commerce at which the Yemeni business community will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the South African delegation.

At present the balance of trade between South Africa and Yemen is in Yemen's favor. According to the South African Trade Consul in Jeddah, Yemen exports to South Africa amounted to 551,850 million Rands in 2004 up from 202,850 million Rands, imports from South Africa amounted to approximately 106.705 million Rands in 2004. Petroleum products and oil are among Yemen's major exports to South Africa whilst tobacco, wood and wool are imported from South Africa.

South Africa endeavors to promote

its trade with Yemen by reducing the trade balance and accelerating investment into South Africa and Yemen as well as the establishment of Joint Ventures with Yemeni businesses tapping into opportunities in various sectors in Yemen

The Yemeni business community should take into consideration the fact that South Africa is not only the largest economic power on the African continent, it is also the gateway to the Southern Africa Developing community with a potential market of more than 140 million people in 13 countries.

With the high level of South African visits to Yemen, it is expected that stronger trade, investment and tourism ties will be forged.



# Time for the IMF & WB to reconsider their strategy for MDG

ANA ISABEL EIRAS\*  
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Every September, the Board of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meets to discuss their role, work, and strategy to reduce poverty and preserve global financial stability. The discussions this year will center on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Monterrey Consensus to encourage developing countries to increase efforts toward poverty eradication.[1]

Everybody wants a world without extreme poverty, and policies in both rich and poor countries should advance that goal. However, the MDGs proposed at the U.N. Millennium Summit do not work to eradicate extreme poverty. Instead, they focus almost exclusively on redistributing wealth from rich to poor countries—a practice that promotes corruption and inefficiency—as opposed to encouraging poor countries to generate their own wealth.

Most economic development experts and even some government officials recognize that economic growth, not aid, generates wealth and provides resources for countries to develop and that private-sector participation in the economy largely drives economic growth and wealth creation. Therefore, removing obstacles to private-sector efforts—including excessive regulation, corrupt judicial systems, corrupt governments, high taxes, and government participation in the economy—is essential to promoting economic growth and, consequently, to eradicating poverty.

However, removing obstacles is a decision that must be undertaken by individual governments and societies. The World Bank and the IMF can continue to give loans in stages in return for commitments from the recipient to adopt reforms—a policy known as conditionality—but reforms demanded upfront in return for money seldom materialize. In fact, this policy works against the promotion of comprehensive free-market policies. For that reason, the September meetings of the World Bank and the IMF in Washington, D.C., should focus on how to reform these institutions to give the right incentives to countries to open their markets to grow and develop.

The Bush Administration should support reforming these institutions' lending practices, using the recommendations of the congressionally mandated International Financial Institution Advisory Commission (IFIAC, or Melzer Commission) to establish a solid framework for reform. These proposed reforms of the IMF and the World Bank would maximize effectiveness, increase accountability for lending decisions, and limit harmful practices in the developing world.

## A World Without Poverty

At the September 2000 U.N. Millennium Summit, U.N. member states adopted the Millennium Declaration. Eight goals were identified in the Millennium Declaration: eradicating hunger, achieving universal education, empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development. The eighth goal includes commitments by developing countries to adopt sound economic policies and good governance and commitments by developed countries to increase aid, to cooperate in debt forgiveness, and to develop further an open, rule-based trading and financial system. To measure progress toward the eight MDGs, experts from the U.N. Secretariat, IMF, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and World Bank developed a set of targets and indicators.[2] (For a listing of the goals, targets, and indicators, see the Appendix.)

The intention behind these goals is laudable. Most people desire a world without extreme poverty, lawlessness,

hunger, and diseases. The only problem is that the proposed MDGs focus largely on alleviating the symptoms of poverty, not the causes of poverty (e.g., closed markets and no rule of law).

For example, one of the four variables chosen to measure whether a country meets the second MDG goal—"achieve universal primary education"—is the literacy rate of 15–24 year olds. (See Appendix.) First, this measure may say little about the country's ability to develop. For example, according to the U.N. Human Development Indicators, Mongolia (a very poor country) has a literacy rate of 98 percent among adult males,[3] slightly greater than Hong Kong's literacy rate. Yet Hong Kong's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is 59 times greater than Mongolia's. Reading, writing, being healthy, living longer, having untouched forests, and having access to contraceptives are useless to the poor if they lack the economic opportunity to put their skills and assets to work.

Second, while some may argue that measuring the literacy rate or longevity is an indirect way of measuring whether the underlying causes of poverty are being addressed, this is not necessarily true. Some poor or corrupt (or both) countries have high literacy rates (e.g., Mongolia, Argentina, and Cuba), yet large shares of their populations live in poverty.

More to the point, by measuring the eradication of poverty in ways that are not correlated to the causes of poverty, the MDG initiative diverts the world's efforts in the wrong direction. Claiming that reducing poverty is about more reading, fewer diseases, a better environment, and more rights for women will direct the world's resources to aid these activities, which promise little long-term improvement for the poor. Rather than ameliorating poverty's harmful effects, a far better approach would be to focus on eradicating its roots by designing assistance programs that expand the wealth of all people, thereby enabling them to secure a better education, improved health care, a cleaner environment, and greater protection of human rights.

At the same time, by targeting aid at the symptoms of poverty, the MDG approach sends the message to poor countries that they do not need to change their restrictive economic policies that prevent people from growing wealthy. As a result, the money (in the form of aid) only obscures the real problems, perpetuating and even increasing poverty. In this way, the MDGs become only an excuse to support the redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor, which succeeds only in supporting corrupt politicians in poor countries and bureaucrats in Washington while failing to alleviate poverty significantly.

Economic growth is the antidote to poverty, and the keys to economic growth include an independent and effective judiciary, lowering taxes and excessive regulations, eliminating trade barriers, and maximizing accountability to citizens. If the World Bank and the IMF are to play any constructive role in the development process, they must provide the right incentives to poor countries to take the necessary steps to ensure the essentials for economic growth. Aid can still help countries with relatively better policies to cope temporarily with some of the consequences of poverty. However, countries with a weak rule of law, corruption, heavy state economic intervention, and little private-sector participation in the economy do not provide conditions for long-term economic growth. Thus, they will not reduce poverty even if they receive economic assistance.[4]

The Index of Economic Freedom, published annually by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal, provides a framework for visualizing how policy-generated obstacles limit economic growth. Simply put, the Index measures how constrained ordinary people are in engaging in all levels of economic activity—from starting a business to opening a bank account to

using a credit card, from buying groceries to fixing their homes to being able to obtain good health care, from finding a job and buying a car to sending their children to school to counting on sound law enforcement and courts to protect their personal liberties and private property. The fewer obstacles to these activities that exist, the more people can participate in the economy and achieve with their own efforts by working, investing, saving, and consuming. The freer the economy, the more it can expand, putting money in the pockets of millions of people and thus increasing the wealth of the country.

A wealthier country has more resources and greater incentives to invest in education, health care, infrastructure, arts, culture, women's rights, and many other things that it chooses to support. The leaders of the country and society can choose which social issues to address first, whether it is AIDS, child mortality, or literacy. Economic growth gives people the income to decide which development issues to address and in what priority. Universal education may be a priority in Sri Lanka, but AIDS may be a priority in Malawi. When countries generate wealth on their own, the development process is, as it should be, controlled by those who will benefit from it.

From this perspective, the strategy of the MDGs should be to gradually eliminate obstacles to economic growth. For example, using the Index as a guideline, MDG strategies would include:

Trade policy (eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers in both rich and poor countries);

Fiscal burden (reducing taxes and government expenditures);

Government consumption (reducing the amount of business in the government's hands);

Monetary policy (keeping inflation low and money stable);

Banking and finance regulations (reducing regulations that affect the functioning of domestic and foreign private banks and the stock market);

Capital flows and foreign investment regulations (reducing regulations that affect the flow of capital across countries);

Wage and price regulations (eliminating subsidies and freeing prices and wages);

Protection of property and individual rights and enforcement of contracts and laws; and

Reduction of regulations that govern starting a business, including labor and environmental regulations.

As these variables improve, the barriers to private participation in the economy decrease, creating greater opportunities for individuals to make money because working and conducting business become less difficult. People have the same desires, skills, and abilities as they did when they were poor, but the opportunities to employ them become easier to find. As a result, the country becomes increasingly wealthy and developed.

## Whither the World Bank and the IMF?

Ideally, the World Bank, the IMF, and development agencies in general would not exist. Without them, poor countries would need to implement sound policies to grow further and generate income for the people and the government. However, these international institutions are unlikely to disappear, so reforming their lending practices is the next best approach to eradicating poverty. In the upcoming annual meetings, these institutions should discuss how to reform their practices to help countries to grow and develop.

The World Bank. The World Bank should help in a way that gives the poorest countries' leaders incentives to adopt policies that promote economic freedom and strengthen the rule of law. One alternative is to emulate the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), a new U.S. government approach that makes assistance available only to countries that govern justly, invest in their people, and encourage economic freedom. In other words, aid is awarded only to countries

with relatively good policies.

Aid to these countries should be provided in the form of performance-based grants rather than loans. In 2000, the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission proposed a system of performance-based grants for the World Bank. The bank would contract with private-sector businesses, charities, universities, and other appropriate entities to fulfill measurable objectives (e.g., the number of vaccines given to children, the number of children fed at a local village, and the number of patients cared for in a small town). In this way, the bank could exert greater control over a project's execution, monitor results more easily, reduce the opportunities for corruption, and ensure desired outcomes.

Of course, this approach would have the biggest impact only if the World Bank actually stops giving aid to countries that stubbornly cling to policies that impede economic growth and development. The challenge for the World Bank is to draw a hard line, no matter how poor the country, and stop lending where reform goes nowhere. Not only will this provide greater assurance that the assistance will be more effective, but it will also provide incentives for other nations to adopt policies that increase their opportunities for economic growth and development.

The IMF. The IFIAC report also laid out a basis for reforming IMF lending practices. In the report, the commission advised that a reformed IMF would have the unique responsibilities of:

Acting as a quasi-lender of last resort to solvent emerging economies,

Collecting and publishing financial and economic data from member countries and disseminating the data in a timely and uniform manner, and

Providing advice (but not imposing

conditions) relating to economic policy.[5]

The commission also laid out the rules for IMF lending. It advocated a system of preconditions that emerging economies must meet to qualify for an eventual loan. The preconditions include:

Freedom of entry and operation for foreign financial institutions. The purpose of this precondition is to increase portfolio diversification in order to limit corrupt lending by local banks to favored clients and reduce risk.

Adequately capitalized commercial banks. The purpose of this precondition is to "establish market discipline in the domestic financial sector and protect the soundness of financial institutions."

Regular publication of the maturity of outstanding sovereign and guaranteed debt and off-balance-sheet liabilities. The purpose of this precondition is "to encourage prudent behavior, safety and soundness."

Establishment of a sound fiscal policy. The purpose of this precondition is "to assure that IMF resources would not be used to sustain irresponsible budget policies." [6]

These preconditions would reduce both future dependence on loans and the likelihood of future crises because they would create an environment that promotes the efficiencies and benefits of open markets.

The Bush Administration should support the reform of World Bank and IMF lending practices and use the IFIAC report to establish a solid framework for reform. The reforms would maximize their effectiveness, increase accountability for their lending decisions, and limit their current harmful influence (despite their best intentions) in the developing world.

## Conclusion

The upcoming annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF will likely center on the MDGs and the Monterrey Consensus, which aim at eradicating extreme poverty by 2015. However, the MDGs proposed at the U.N. Millennium Summit almost exclusively target the symptoms of poverty instead of its roots, calling for a redistribution of wealth from rich to poor countries in the form of aid—a practice that promotes corruption and does not foster economic growth. Therefore, the overall goal of reducing extreme poverty by 2015 is not likely to be achieved. Aid-supported programs remove the incentives for poor countries to generate their own wealth.

If the World Bank and the IMF are to play any constructive role in achieving this poverty-eradication goal, their lending programs must give the right incentives to the governments of poor countries to promote economic growth as the solution to poverty. Specifically, their programs must encourage poor countries to uphold an independent, effective judiciary, to lower taxes and excessive regulations, to eliminate trade barriers, and to be more accountable to their citizens.

The Bush Administration should support reforming the World Bank and the IMF. The reforms should maximize their effectiveness, increase accountability for their lending decisions, and give incentives to the leaders of poor countries to take the future of their people in their own hands.

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# In Yemen, a degree is just a paper

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When mentioning education, you notice people striving day in and day out, continuously giving all they got only hoping to see prosperity in the end of the journey. Nights pass without sleep, and days without rest for the sake of a better tomorrow. Ten years ago, illiteracy was a crucial issue, which needed to be fought fiercely and immediately. Schools re-opened, the curriculum revised, a better teaching staff introduced, and after continuous non-stop effort, things have changed to the better. Knowledge has finally spread its seeds throughout the nation. People have understood the importance of education and the bright future it promises to bring along. People are really desperate and realize that without a university degree a successful future is virtually put on hold. With all these massive improvements happening. Ironically, there is a tragic side to the issue. Thousand of Yemeni's graduate yearly in different fields of education, undergoing a long stressed four to seven years of their lives striving and studying only to complete and notice that there is no room for them in society. Unemployment is still an ongoing dilemma, which seems more like a mysterious issue in this oil rich Middle Eastern country. World observers warn Yemen of a future financial crisis if political reforms and honest governance does not take place.

"What do they want? They said we needed a degree to have a decent job, O.K, we got the degree, now, where are the jobs we were promised", said Sameera Al-Misbahi, a university graduate. "Is this what I get in return for my hard work, the nights I stayed away from my soft blanket, hoping for a bet-



College graduates: a gloomy future ahead the road

ter future. Everything went to waste", she added.

Many enterprises are owned by a handful of businessmen who see qualifications as a minor issue in the employing process. Graduates these days go through job searching from corner to corner and street-to-street, governmental institutions to private institutions, as they suffer from unemployment. "Why did I go to school, why did I waste seven years of my life? For this, I should of thought twice", said Mohamed Nagi, a graduate in the field of medicine. "This is certainly not what I was hoping for".

In a survey conducted throughout the capital Sana'a, it showed that a nerve wrecking thirty five percent of university graduates are still apparently unemployed, while another twenty percent work in a field other than what they

majored in. Awkwardly, even those who occupy jobs shockingly receive only \$3 per day, which is not even enough for the basic necessities of life. "My neighbor is a laborer and honestly, he gets paid three times more than me. He can't even read and write for god's sake, he never went to school," said Abdul Rahman Al-Haidari, a graduate in the field of engineering. He continued "In Yemen, a degree is just a normal piece of paper with ink scrambled all over it".

If worrying about the future is a tragic issue for students, its unimaginable and really horrifying for what parents go through. After the great unity, many poor families gave all they had to educate their children. Money, health, time were all given only hoping to see their children have a prosperous future in the long run. All sacrifices taken were unlimited and priceless to achieve victory in this valuable cause, furthermore secure a decent future for their children. Loans were taken from friends and relatives to help their children continue their educational trip realizing that one day the debts would be paid off through the success their children will have. "Seven years ago I was fiercely pushing my two sons to enroll in university and graduate", said Amr Fadhel, a 54-year-old senior citizen. "After I saw that nothing was coming back in return, sorry to say, but it's the opposite way around now, I am pushing them away

from entering in any university".

Even in these heart-breaking situations that people are going through, universities are still noticing a growing number in student enrollees, while many students are refused acceptance and forced to go home empty handed. It is very painful to notice that people have woken up from their long years of deep sleep and are finally striving for education, while on the other hand, the government is putting numerous barriers in their way, stopping them from having a more prosperous future. If this dilemma is occurring in the current situation, I can't even imagine what it would be like ten years from now as the population is growing as fast as ever, while the younger generation already acknowledges the importance of education, and plan to do whatever it takes to achieve it. I hope the government can solve this crisis before people start losing hope and turn to unlawful solutions to build a future of any kind.

It's really beautiful seeing that people are not giving up even in such situations, and are willingly trying to create chances by putting the future in their own hands. The least the government can do is offer these hardworking citizens decent jobs, furthermore a chance for prosperity after their long-sufferings and continuous hard work. We'll just have to wait and see what the future has in stake for us.

## Half the World

By Nisha



### Going through death to give birth

Seventeen years old and visiting a doctor for the first time in her life, Amira, married a few months back, finds out that she is pregnant. She remembers that about two years back, the health worker had advised her to take vitamins because the doctor tells her that she is anaemic. Her blood test suggests that her haemoglobin level is as low as 6g/dl. The doctor tells Amira's mother-in-law that she will have to be careful about Amira's food and care, otherwise, Amira and her foetus may not be able to pull through. Amira's mother-in-law is insisting that the doctor should give her daughter-in-law some tablets. But the doctor replies that it may not be good idea because Amira is already suffering from diarrhoea and the medicines used in cases of anaemia have a tendency to cause constipation or diarrhoea may aggravate her condition. Amira is angry. She can't understand why she has to go through this when other girls her age are going to the school, and do not have to worry about anything. The doctor tells her that she is in this situation because she is married and pregnant while her friends may not be. He explains that at 17 she is still growing; her own body requirement of red blood [haemoglobin] is high. Pregnancy at this age means far more increased demand for red blood [haemoglobin] to meet the needs of the foetus. Since her body is producing more blood to meet the needs of the foetus without having enough iron in her food, it is causing wateriness in the blood. "it is like adding water to blood to meet the quantity requirement but it reduces redness in blood and causes all the trouble that she is facing", the doctor explained.

Amira's village falls within the service catchment area of a health centre. The centre is not far from her home. "It is useful for children", says Amira about the centre. Her family did not want her going to the centre when Amira complained of dizziness a couple of times. This centre has no facilities for women's health other than an examination room. Amira did not complain about it, "I don't like to go to the health centre, anyway". But her family took her to the centre when she developed persistent irregular bowel movements. The health worker prescribed her medicines meant for diarrhoea. Amira's mother-in-law patiently listened to her grumbles and cajoled her to take the medicines as prescribed by the health worker. Two days later Amira fainted. Her husband collected his savings and decided to take her to a private hospital in a neighbouring town. Her mother-in-law gathered a few things that may be needed in case they have to hospitalize Amira. She loves Amira. She frequently asked her son to be gentle with Amira and showered extra affection on her thinking she is a delicate girl who is having difficulty adjusting to the married life.

Safia, Amira's mother-in-law is around 40 years old. She is dressed in a black abaya and a black pair of gloves which reflect her family's modest condition. The opening in her naqab for the eyes has lost its shape and is partly covering her left eye. When the doctor was explaining Amira's condition, she could feel a lump in her throat. She couldn't help breaking into loud sobs when Amira's angry voice asked why she has to go through this. Safiah is not convinced with the doctor's explanation. So while the doctor was explaining she interjected many times to tell the doctor as well as Amira that it is women's fate to go through death to give birth. Like many traditional Yemeni women, Safiah believes motherhood

is a holy duty that every woman must perform even if it means risking her life. But she is desperate to protect Amira. Once they came out of the doctor's room, she dragged her son to one side and asked him to pray so that Amira's first child birth goes smoothly. In a slight indirect way, she asked him to give Amira some rest.

"We did what we could do. We are doing what we can do. Allah will save Amira like he saved me", Safia says in a voice, which shows that she is trying to reconcile to the reality of the situation. Amira's husband, a 25 year old brick-maker is Safiah's first live born. She was lucky that her parental family was relatively well-off. She remembers that her father often told her mother to feed her well. But the first pregnancy nearly killed her. She still remembers the long painful labour at the end of which she fainted. When she regained consciousness, her mother told her between cries that her child is with Allah. She remembers taunts and stigma that she had to bear till she gave birth to a son, Amira's husband. In all, she went through 14 pregnancies of which nine survived. Only her youngest son, now eight years old, was born in a hospital. She had to be rushed to the hospital when her water broke but she was unable to push the baby out. These multiple pregnancies have taken a toll on her. She is glad that her husband finally heeded to the doctor's advice to use protection to save her life. She remembers that her stepmother was not so lucky. Barely two-three years older than Safiah, she suffered and finally succumbed to death while giving birth to her first child at home. She was barely 17 or 18 years old. As always safiah mutters a prayer for her stepmother and her thoughts move to one of her three married daughters.

Safia's three daughters were married by the time they reached 17 years of age. Two of them became mothers within first year of their marriages. Safiah's second daughter, Arwa who was married at 16 years of age, could not adjust to the life after marriage. She wanted to finish basic schooling and join the secondary school. Her parents-in-law and husband prohibited her from studying and reprimanded her every time she failed to do any of the household chores. Fatigued and pregnant with her first child, Arwa ran away to her parents' house. She was forced by her father to go back to her husband. A few days later, she had a miscarriage. Her health deteriorated rapidly. There is no government hospital close to her marital village and the cost of treatment in a private hospital was something her husband refused to bear. In a matter of months Arwa was divorced. She has been at her parents' house since then.

I narrated this intergenerational story to highlight how near absence of knowledge of women's health among health centre staff, unavailability of women health workers and doctors, early marriage, lack of knowledge and sensitivity among decision-makers in the family, and many other such reasons take a toll on women's lives. Yemen is one of the countries with the highest rates of maternal deaths during childbirth and infant mortality. In areas where some preventive women's health programmes are available, shortage of women paramedics and doctors and cultural resistance to examination by men, early marriage leading to early pregnancy, scarce resources and many other such reasons practically push women to death. Yemeni women will continue to die unless the government, development organizations and society become sensitive towards women and begin to believe that terrible realities of women's lives can be changed and must be changed.

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# Sharon faces illegal funding allegations

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, scrambling to stay in power after a Gaza pullout that has split his Likud party, faced a new challenge on Tuesday as news media reported allegations of illicit election funding.

Israel's Channel 10 television said Sharon met American Jewish supporters on Sunday at the home of a New York hostess who had required that each attending couple donate \$10,000.

An Israeli newspaper reprinted a letter that it said had been distributed to the participants, suggesting that the money would help Sharon win a forthcoming Likud primary. Israeli laws limit foreign financing of political campaigns.

Sharon's spokesman Raanan Gissin declined comment on the report, which was picked up and splashed across the front pages of three Israeli dailies, and Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert dismissed it.

Sharon was in New York for a United Nations summit where he garnered plaudits for withdrawing Israeli soldiers and settlers from the occupied Gaza Strip, a move diplomats hope could lead to peace talks with Palestinians after five years of fighting.

Many Israeli rightists — including Sharon's top Likud rival, former finance minister Benjamin Netanyahu



Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is seen during his meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan during the 60th General Assembly at the United Nations in New York Sep. 18. Sharon, scrambling to stay in power after a Gaza pullout that has split his Likud party, faced a new challenge on Tuesday as news media reported allegations of illicit election funding. REUTERS

— condemned the pullout, calling it a betrayal of Jewish claims on biblical land and a reward for Palestinian violence.

The schism has prompted speculation that Sharon could bolt Likud and form a more centrist party. The prime minister has vowed to stay on in the party he helped form three decades ago.

#### Letter

Maariv daily reprinted a letter that it said had been sent to those participating in Sunday's meeting with Sharon.

"Sadly, Sharon does not enjoy the financial backing that Netanyahu has garnered over the last several decades from many leaders of the international financial community," it said.

"Therefore we are asking if you might donate a fully tax-deductible contribution of \$10,000 per couple to a ... not-for-profit organization that operates throughout Israel and has been particularly effective at bringing people to the polls."

Israeli media said the maximum permissible contribution to a political candidate by an individual or family is about \$7,800.

# Russia denounces Security Council move on Iran

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denounced as "counter-productive" moves by the United States and the European Union to report Iran's nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council, RIA Novosti news agency said.

The European Union unveiled a resolution on Tuesday calling on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to report the program to the U.N. Security Council, which can impose sanctions against Iran.

"While Iran is cooperating with the IAEA, while it is not enriching uranium and observing a moratorium, while IAEA inspectors are working in the country, it would be counter-productive to report this question to the U.N. Security Council," Lavrov was quoted on Wednesday as saying in a speech in San Francisco.

"It will lead to an unnecessary politicizing of the situation. Iran is not violating its obligations and its actions do not threaten the non-proliferation regime," he said in a speech at Stanford University.

Russia, which has built a \$1 billion nuclear reactor for Iran and sees it as a key ally in the Middle East, is a permanent member of the Council and can use its veto to block any move against Iran.

Russia has long warned against using force to stop Tehran's nuclear program and called for diplomatic ways to settle disagreements.

Iran, which denies wanting nuclear weapons as suspected by Washington and the European Union, has angered the EU by resuming uranium processing work at a plant in Isfahan — a move which led EU officials to threaten the Council referral.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (R) greets the head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Gholamreza Aghazadeh in Moscow Sep. 12. Lavrov denounced as "counter-productive" moves by the United States and the European Union to report Iran's nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council, RIA Novosti agency said. REUTERS

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# Roadside bombs kill 4 US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Four U.S. soldiers have been killed by roadside bombs in Iraq, the U.S. military said on Tuesday, bringing the number of American soldiers killed since the March 2003

invasion of Iraq to 1,906.

"Four Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by improvised explosive devices during two

separate incidents while conducting combat operations September 19 in Ramadi, Iraq," the statement said.

Improvised roadside bombs are the most common killers of U.S. troops in Iraq.



# EU ratchets up pressure on Iran, Russia opposes

VIENNA (Reuters) - The EU turned up the pressure on Iran on Tuesday with a draft resolution reporting Tehran to the U.N. Security Council for violating its international atomic obligations, but diplomats said Russia was strongly opposed.

The draft, obtained by Reuters, asks the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "to report to all members of the Agency and to the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations ... Iran's many failures and breaches of its obligations to comply with its NPT Safeguards Agreement".

The NPT is the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the benchmark arms control pact. The IAEA is required to report breaches of the NPT to the Security Council, which has the power to impose economic sanctions.

"It looks like the draft will be officially submitted to the IAEA board of governors on Wednesday," an EU diplomat said on the sidelines of the 35-nation IAEA board's weeklong meeting.

However, given Russia's opposition to the resolution, it was unclear whether the IAEA board would vote



International Energy Agency (IAEA) weapons inspector Olli Heinonen (R) talks to Iran's delegate to the IAEA Sirus Naseri during an IAEA board of governors meeting in Vienna, Austria Sept. 19. REUTERS

on it this week.

"They (the EU) might just table the resolution but the board would take no action," another diplomat said.

The United States and European Union suspect Iran's nuclear fuel program, which it hid from the IAEA for 18 years, is a front for developing weapons. Tehran denies the charge, saying its program is for the peaceful generation of electricity.

The EU draft, which will probably undergo revisions, makes no mention of sanctions.

It does, however, recommend that the Security Council urge Iran to allow the IAEA to inspect any sites it wants to visit, whether or not Iran is legally bound to do so. It also wants the Council to tell Iran to resume both talks with the EU and a freeze of sensitive nuclear work that Tehran ended last month.

Tehran has refused to grant the IAEA access to a number of sites in the country, including a military complex called Parchin where Washington believes Iran has conducted experiments with high explosives suitable for use in nuclear weapons.

# Afghans count votes, al Qaeda rejects poll "farce"



A Pashtun man labels boxes filled with election ballots at the Kandahar provincial counting centre in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar Sept. 20. REUTERS

KABUL (Reuters) - Counting of ballots from Afghanistan's landmark legislative elections began slowly on Tuesday after international observers praised the vote and al Qaeda's number two condemned it as a farce.

Counting was under way at centres in the provinces of Herat, Bamiyan, Kunduz and Kandahar and was expected to begin in all other provincial count centres during the day.

"We are extremely busy with the intake process of getting the ballot boxes into storage. We definitely plan to have the count start during today in all count centres," said Peter Erben, chief electoral officer of the joint Afghan-U.N. election commission.

"The count will start very slowly today with small count units in all the centres and we'll accelerate tomorrow and the day after by expanding capacity in each of the count centres," he told a briefing.

An EU election observer mission said the polls had been generally well administered and peaceful and marked "a significant step forward for Afghan democratic development".

Donkeys, camels, horses and helicopters have helped fleets of trucks bring ballot boxes from southern deserts and northern mountains to counting

centres after one of the most logistically tricky polls ever staged by the United Nations.

Kabul's count center was a hive of activity with trucks laden with ballot boxes checked by a bomb-sniffing dog before being unloaded by teams of men who stacked the boxes in long lines in huge hangar-like warehouses.

International election workers scurried about barking into walkie-talkies, making sure boxes were put in the right rows.

There was a delay in the eastern province of Nangarhar because of difficulties in bringing ballots from neighbouring Nuristan and Kunar provinces and a rocket attack in the provincial capital, Jalalabad, where the count is to take place, election officials said.

Police said two rockets had hit the city, one striking a government building injuring a guard and another that damaged a house and slightly hurt a child. A spokeswoman at the counting center said they hoped to start the count in the afternoon.

There are 150,000 ballot boxes and the risks were shown when a truck was slightly damaged by a roadside bomb on Sunday. No one was hurt and the boxes it carried were not damaged.

# Rita bears down on Florida Keys

MIAMI (Reuters) - Tropical Storm Rita raced toward the Florida Keys and the Gulf of Mexico with forecasters expecting it to strengthen into a hurricane on Tuesday, three weeks after Hurricane Katrina swamped New Orleans and hammered the U.S. Gulf Coast.

All 80,000 residents were ordered out of the Keys on Monday and Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Alvarez cautioned southern Florida not to dismiss the power of the coming storm.

"Tropical Storm Rita is a serious threat. Do not underestimate this storm," he said. "Stay home. No matter what, we're going to have lousy weather." Schools, many government offices and some businesses were closed on Tuesday.

A Louisiana official warned that

levees in New Orleans, where hundreds died in Katrina's floods, would fail again if the city were smashed by a new storm surge and the city ordered residents to leave. Oil companies only starting to recover from Katrina began to evacuate Gulf oil rigs.

Private forecasters said there was a 40 percent chance that damaging hurricane-force winds would directly affect major Gulf energy production areas.

Rita was expected to become a major hurricane Tuesday with sustained winds of at least 111 mph (178 kph) as it drew strength from warm Gulf waters after passing over or near the Florida Keys on Tuesday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

Forecasters said Rita, the 17th

tropical storm of an exceptionally busy Atlantic hurricane season, would likely reach hurricane strength, with winds of 74 mph (119 kph) or greater, early on Tuesday. Its sustained winds were 70 mph (110 kph).

Rita's center was about 160 miles east-southeast of Key West, Florida, at 5 a.m., on Tuesday and was headed toward the west-northwest at about 15 mph (24 kph), forecasters said. It was expected to continue on this path for the next 24 hours.

The Hurricane Center cautioned that Rita could still veer north to the Miami area, home to 2.3 million people. Miami-Dade County officials urged residents to evacuate mobile homes, barrier islands and flood-prone areas, and long lines formed at gas stations as motorists filled their tanks.

Rita could drench the Keys, a 110-

mile (177-km) island chain, with up to 15 inches of rain and send a wall of seawater up to 9 feet above normal surging over the low-lying islands.

To speed the exodus, both lanes of the two-lane highway connecting the islands to southern Florida were designated northbound. Public buses ferried those who lacked transportation

# Merkel seeks backing as German reform doubts build

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany's Angela Merkel, reeling from a bitterly disappointing election result, was asking her conservatives to back her as parliamentary leader on Tuesday as she geared up for tough talks on forming a government.

Members of her Christian Democrats (CDU) and their sister Christian Social Union (CSU) have rallied around Merkel since she scraped past Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD) in a vote she had been expected to win easily.

They were widely expected to give her a symbolic boost in a meeting at 4 p.m. in Berlin to confirm her leadership of their parliamentary grouping.

But the clock will then begin ticking on Merkel.

The new parliament must convene by October 18 at the latest -- by which time any would-be chancellor would hope to have a coalition in place.

Merkel must either persuade the SPD to drop its demand that Schroeder run Germany and to join a coalition with her at its head; or get the leftist-environmentalist Greens to join her conservatives in an alliance with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), her preferred, reform-minded partners.

## Discussions begin

The CDU will hold discussions



Conservative challenger Angela Merkel, leader of Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), attends a news conference at her party's headquarters in Berlin, Sept. 19. REUTERS

with the SPD on Thursday, after speaking earlier in the day with the FDP, party officials said. The SPD and the Greens -- partners in the outgoing coalition -- will meet on Wednesday.

Failure to secure the chancellery could prompt CDU party barons to turn on Merkel, who has been blamed for an inept, gaffe-prone campaign, and spell her end as a political force.

"She is hoping to reassert her

position on the unruly home front through quick confirmation as parliamentary leader," the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said. "But only as chancellor will she be able to stay at the top of the CDU."

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung, another leading paper, also warned that the knives could come out for Merkel if she failed to rapidly seize control of coalition talks.

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## Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR  
OPINIONDiscipline and the  
future generations

They were barely 9 years old, the three kids carrying school bags probably heavier than their own weight crossed the street managing their way between the traffic. Three happy go lucky with very less concerns - or so it seemed - finding joy in manoeuvring their way between halting cars at the traffic light. When suddenly one of them grabbed the other two to come closer to an open van carrying a huge quantity of vegetables. They quickly snatched whatever they could while the car was waiting for the green light and ran with triumph - they got away with theft.

A similar scene was of a little boy in a supermarket, this time barely 6 years old pick pocketing strangers who were engrossed in a conversation. When confronted with his action his mother who was in the market stormed into the scene in defence of her little boy lashing anger at everyone including the ones her son just robbed.

These kids are only examples of many. The joy they derive in doing wrong is astonishing and more than that saddening. These kids grow up to become the corrupt authority figures running the country. If this is the future generation, then what could one expect of the future?

Investing in the youth is an investment in the future; everyone knows this fact except for the ones who prepare the new generations. During school hours you see children of all ages everywhere around the school but not in the classrooms. How are these generations supposed to get their education outside schools and what kind of discipline they are supposed to learn from the streets?

What is far worse is that there are no role models for these children to follow. Their parents being the first people to push them to learn the twisted ways of life and their schoolteachers hardly display any good morals. Many kids complain that their teachers don't show up in school unless it is payday or else stay in the room chatting with one another leaving the kids emptier than ever.

The responsibility of creating Yemen's future is left in the hands of the people who are worst at doing so. Where did the educated and responsible people go? Either fled the country looking for better opportunities or are struggling to survive under the oppressive system. In all cases the so-called bad people outnumber the good people by far. However, the truth is that we really don't need many people to plan and lead. If a chance is given to those with morals and discipline to take control the whole story would be reversed in no time. My hope resides in the Yemenis living in Yemen and abroad who are still decent and have a strong sense of responsibility and I hope they are given the chance to save this country before it is too late.

The Editorial Board



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The Lack of specifications  
& standards in Yemen

By: ENG. JAMAL AL-ANSI  
al-ahram@y.net.ye

Our country suffers from the lack of any form of specifications and standards. We import from all countries without monitoring for quality of standards. Even those countries or manufacturers that are famous for their high quality products and services tend to downgrade their products when exporting to Yemen; sometimes at the demand of their agents themselves for more profits and competitiveness, knowing that they are not bound to export by any particular criterion and that they wouldn't be liable for any flaws or defects in their products. And this turns our market and country into a haven for all low quality goods and services without the slightest regard whatsoever for health, safety or the environment.

Even some governmental ministries and official departments are not guided

by any means of standards on which they can base their functions, duties or procurements. One day they would purchase in accordance with this standard, the next to another standard.

I was amazed recently to see some right-steered cars running on the streets of the capital city Sana'a with legal number plates on them. One wonders! How could these cars enter the country? And how could they be given those number plates!?

A friend of mine traveled from Sana'a to Taiz and all the way back to Sana'a. During his journey in his car he encountered many traffic signs reading "45M". He couldn't understand what they meant. When he asked me about them, I laughed at him and replied simply that they should be meaning: "speed shouldn't exceed 45 miles an hour." Only to be reminded that we are supposed to follow one metric system; either the kilometer or the mile system, but never together; otherwise the traffic office has to distribute

calculators to every car traveling between Sana'a and Taiz so that drivers can convert from the system specified to the one that came in their cars. I wish those traffic signs "45M" have any meaning other than 45 miles and that my friend and I could be enlightened about it.

Such lack of well-studied unified standards is really depressing. But there seems to be a glimpse of hope coming on the way. Over the past few days we have all noticed in the official newspapers the campaign being launched by the Yemeni Authority for Standards, Measurements, and Quality Control releasing numbers of newly approved and renewed standards and calling on all businesses to comply or else face prosecution. We hope that this campaign is serious this time and enough efforts and resources will be dedicated to this task to free our markets from the rubbish they are filled with and to protect consumers and our economy from being exploited by local and foreign gangs. Amen.

World poverty cannot be reduced  
without the help of business

By GUY SEBBAN

Heads of state and government from around the globe will today assemble at the 2005 World Summit of the United Nations to judge the progress made during the last five years toward the goals of human betterment set by the international community at the 2000 UN Millennium Assembly? The Millennium Development Goals. They will also seek to agree upon the steps that still need to be taken if these goals are to be fully achieved. Particular attention will be given to the all-important goal of reducing the level of poverty by 50 percent by 2015.

## What has all this to do with business?

The essential role of the private sector in this effort has been widely recognized. As UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan emphasized, "It is the absence of broad-based business activity, not its presence, which condemns much of humanity to suffering. Indeed, what is utopian is the notion that poverty can be overcome without the active engagement of business."

Without the economic growth and job creation that result from a vibrant private sector, there can be no sustainable poverty eradication, now the overriding development priority of the world community.

However, the contribution of the business community to the "millennium development process" is heavily dependent on the attitude and actions of government toward it. It can make its full potential contribution only if it can operate in an appropriate public policy framework? in an open market economy and regulatory system that encourages trade, investment and enterprise, respects human dignity and individual freedom, protects property rights and does not tolerate corruption.

The Monterrey Consensus achieved at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002 placed the mobilization of domestic resources in the forefront of its "agreed actions for development". And properly so, with private domestic capital formation being the

largest source of new investment in developing countries.

Three key areas of the domestic legal and regulatory framework have a strong impact on the business environment and warrant particular attention:

- Opening and closing a business. Bureaucratic requirements to start up a business are excessive and time-consuming in many countries and laws and regulations often restrict the ability of enterprises to restructure or shut down.

- Property rights. In many developing countries a large part of land property is not formally registered, limiting accessibility to credit and improved land values, especially for small enterprises and the informal sector.

- Effective enforcement of contracts and protection of creditor rights, supported by a well-functioning, independent court system.

Providing a conducive environment at both the macro and micro levels for domestic private sector growth will also have the important by-product of helping to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and other productive international private capital flows. An enabling domestic environment is essential for both.

Even in these circumstances, for a variety of reasons, private domestic capital formation in the least developed countries (LDCs) and private capital inflows will fall substantially short of the levels required to meet minimum Millennium Development Goals, certainly those of poverty reduction. These countries will continue to need special attention and assistance.

One contribution by the global business community represented by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is through the Investment Advisory Council (IAC), an international forum established under the joint aegis of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and ICC. IAC brings together senior government officials from LDCs and senior businessmen from around the world to examine innovative ideas and projects aimed at encouraging and facilitating foreign investment in them.

Another activity that reflects business'

commitment to development is ICC's work with UNCTAD to produce investment guides for LDCs. The aim is to make selected LDCs better known and more attractive to foreign investors by bringing together two parties with complementary interests: companies that seek new locations and countries that seek new investors. Investment guides have already been published for Uganda, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal and Cambodia; guides for Tanzania, Kenya and East Africa are being released this month. Benin, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, and Madagascar have also requested guides.

Business has a large self-interest in helping achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Business thrives where society thrives. Prosperous companies can contribute effectively to the improvement of social conditions by creating jobs and economic growth, and benefit from higher living standards in the societies where they operate.

From a purely business perspective, societies cannot be mired in poverty if new business opportunities and new markets are to be created. For efficient operation, companies need a healthy and educated workforce. For profitable operation, companies need prosperous consumers.

For all these reasons, business represented by the International Chamber of Commerce has been deeply and constructively engaged in the many UN and other meetings and conferences that have established a global partnership for development and identified its interlinked priorities.

On the occasion of the UN summit, ICC reaffirms the support for the overriding goal of poverty reduction that prevails in the global business community which it represents. It will continue to engage with governments, communities and other stakeholders in pursuit of the UN's development objectives. Its constituents look forward to bringing their vast real world experience to this effort.

Guy Sebban is Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce

## Comment on Jennifer Lowenstein's article

By DON  
dsheliko@comcast.net

I don't think you will publish this letter, because it does not follow your philosophy. I am writing this letter just to point out what a typical Israeli would probably think of Jennifer Lowenstein's article.

Here it goes:  
Jennifer Lowenstein, even though she was born Jewish, is worse than the individual Arab Palestinian suicide bombers that perform their dastardly deeds.

The suicide bombers don't know any better. They are egged on by their leaders and peers to become suicide bombers. Jennifer Lowenstein, however, should know better than to write such a vile, inciteful article. It seems like she is being paid by Iran, Hizbolla, Hamas or Islamic Jihad. If I were a young Palestinian living in Gaza, I also would want to become a suicide bomber after reading her article and not knowing any better. Was the plight of the Palestinians not orders of magnitude worse in one month of the 1970 "Black September" by the King of Jordan, than in the past 5

years, of the Palestinian Intefada, by Israel? Where were the international journalists then? How about the many Arabs killed in Syria by Hafez Assad? How about the Arab insurgents, from Syria and Iran, killing Arab Iraqis in Iraq? Is killing of millions of Arabs by Arabs in the past 25 years (don't forget Muslims killing Muslims in the Iran-Iraq war Saddam killing many Shiites) not worse than the killing of militant Palestinian Arabs by Israelis? If the Israelis are so monstrous and evil to the Palestinians Arabs in Gaza and the West Bank, how come over one million Israeli Arabs are citizens of Israel with a higher living standard than many Palestinian Arabs living Gaza, the West Bank and even in the neighbouring Arab countries? Those countries that never even made their Palestinian Arabs citizens of their countries?

Many more Palestinian Arabs have been killed by militant Palestinian Arabs than Israeli Arabs killed by Israel in the past 5 years. Jennifer Lowenstein should write articles about how to achieve peace in the area, instead of incitement and hate. Houses and Material things can be replaced, Checkpoints can be removed,

prisoners can be released, and even the "wall" can be removed. But tragically the over 3000 Palestinians and over one 1000 Israeli dead cannot be brought back to life.

The Arab countries, in the Middle East, have been lucky to have a strong Israel to protect them from each other. Instead of praising Jennifer Lowenstein, you should praise Sharon for taking the painful step of ethnically cleaning Gaza of all Jews. He did that at the peril to his own life and political career. He is the only Israeli leader that is strong enough to do that, since he really was the one that started and the proponent the settlement movement for 30 years.

Now he will wait before taking any additional painful steps, until Abbas take the first step he is required to take under the Road Map peace plan that he signed. President Bush will support Sharon in that, since he also experienced terrorism, with 9/11 and the terror now caused by the Arab insurgents in Iraq. I am sure Bush wished he had a "wall" around Iraq to protect Iraqis and Americans from the insurgents infiltrating from Syria and Iran.

COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The challenge of  
making ends  
meet in Yemen

"Why must life be an ongoing stream of challenges for us Yemenis, with no easy paths to a more smoother less care free existence, we can map out and hopefully reach a meaningful destiny?" Muhsin asked his fellow employees as he boarded the bus of the newspaper he was working with as they were leaving from the premises.

The receptionist at the paper so no rationale in Muhsin's comment: "Come on, Muhsin, you have got it made, with a double job as a reporter for our employer and a foreign newspaper that is paying you in hard currency. You should be the last person to complain."

"The pay is not as much as you would think, Alia, if that is what you are alluding to, but more important, people like me are now put on the public enemy No. 1 list as suspected traitors for sending out information on Yemen that is supposedly distorting Yemen's global image, as the government claims." Muhsin was not slow with his response to Alia's remark.

"On the contrary, the government should be glad that you are giving the outside world news about Yemen" said one of the news editors, adding: "You are not just giving the negative news developments. I have seen some of your reports in your foreign newspaper and some have been instrumental in arousing positive feedback from readers, who were thirsty for additional information, particularly on the tourism or investment side."

Muhsin elaborated on his dilemma: "This is where the challenge comes in, in this job. The questions they ask sometimes require honest answers that do not please the relevant government authorities involved, like speaking about the security precautions that tourists may be required to take, or the bureaucratic red tape possible investors need to overcome. What is one to do, mislead people and say all is rosy and wonderful, just bring your dollars and leave all second thoughts at home? How can one maintain credibility as such? Besides, before answering such questions, we do refer to the respective government authorities for their comments and note them in the response, as well as other independent views. But before you know it, a letter will come from some entity that I have revealed information that is harmful to the country."

The driver had a comment to make: "Your challenge is still minor. We have the terrible challenge of having to make our diminishing salaries provide us with all our needs. Working for a newspaper in Yemen is not exactly the pathway to wealth and glory as it is, but with the value of our salaries falling day by day, we are literally on the edge of poverty."

Alia came back in the conversation: "My kids have given up asking for such things as 'take us to the amusement park', or even to 'see Grandma in Ibb'."

The driver jokingly said: "They do not need to see Grandma, you will do just fine for her place!"

"Come on now Salim, I am not that old, although admittedly this hard life is really getting to eat up our skins faster than necessary" answered Alia.

"Your voice is also showing age too" said the cashier jokingly.

Now, wait a minute you guys, we are seriously in a very bad situation. By the middle of the month, our salaries have already bid us farewell and we are living on the bread crumbs and leftovers of the first half of the month. We are the lucky ones. I have seen so many people having to resort to turning over the garbage dumps just to see if there is still anything edible, or if a yogurt can will still have some leftovers that the spoon of its owner just forgot to pick at the corners of the can. Those people really make my heart bleed."

The driver came back jokingly: "Alia, some of the people you answer the phone to have pointed out that our receptionist is a heartless lady, by the way she answers the phone."

Yasmine, a proofreader, went to the defense of her fellow gender: "Stop picking up on Alia. She is trying to show how much we all are suffering and the difficulties we are facing in making ends meet, and you guys sarcastically make fun of her."

The cashier asked an interesting question: "Why bother to try to make ends meet, when you can't even get to the beginnings, my friends. About the only ends I can get to meet are the ends of my ribs, which have softened so much from hunger that they now converge!"

"What you need is a good wife to get you some decent meals prepared, instead of eating all that cheap fast food you pick up from street peddlers" remarked Yasmine.

The cashier was ready for that one: "Now there is the challenge of all challenges that is confronting our society. Do you know, you would think that marriage has been outlawed with so many young adults not being able to meet the expenses of betrothal, let alone the marriage ceremonies. Marriage was crossed out of my life a long time ago. In fact I have made it a point to not attend the wedding ceremonies of some of my lucky friends, whose parents manage to scrounge up the money for a bride for their kids. I am already in my thirties and I can't even see even the remotest possibility of getting married."

"Don't look at me", said the driver. I can't get the staff to contribute to your wedding plans whatever they can anymore, because the staff can no longer dish out any assistance for their fellow staff members. Besides if I tried to do so, it will hardly amount to enough money to get you even a Barbie doll for a wife, if some of the staff could come to feel sorry for you and decide to donate a hundred or so riyals."

The first passenger went down off the bus and as he came down, he was met by a gentleman and a policeman beside him. It was the financial manager's landlord waiting to collect his overdue rent. His family was standing outside the building with whatever belongings they could gather as the Landlord had vacated the apartment with the help of the police a little earlier.

"I can bet you none of us can claim to be without any challenges, not even our bosses", said the cashier.



# On Globalization

By MORGAN POTTS

The acceleration of Globalization has defined the 20th century. Yet while the phenomenon surrounds us constantly it is rarely understood. That's symptomatic of the way it affects people and the processes to which we owe its existence. The evolution of global integration has in the past been so oblique that it was often hardly recognized. Today we are heavily globalized, but not necessarily for the reasons we might imagine. Critics of Globalization tend to focus on trade without seeing the spectrum of interchange. Outsourcing, sweatshops and market rationalization are only a single face of an ever more amorphous world where the borders which defined the past are fast dissolving.

Often defined as the global transfer of goods and ideas, Globalization is really as old as the concept of exchange. It is therefore closely associated with trade, however not exclusively as ideas, technologies, religions and people seem to have always been on the move in one way or another. The manner of this cultural and material interaction were contested, renegotiated and re-imagined as people struggled with change and difference. Indeed the exoticism, desirability and expense of the foreign was often inte-

gral to the market culture to which trade routes catered. Since the advent of modernity Globalisation has largely been driven by the West, but the events of the last five to three hundred years should in no way credit the incident with its inception.

Innumerable civilizations have traded, educated, expanded and in a sense 'globalised'. The purpose or aspirations were as varied as imperial ambition, religion, avarice or exploration, but they all served to connect people, markets, goods and ideas. Of course many societies remained extremely introspective. But the xenophobia, fear and introspection of historical moments such as Tokugawa Japan are increasingly difficult to maintain. Today, societies all around the world have never been more overexposed or interconnected.

This interdependence occurs in so many ways it's almost impossible to appreciate. Teenagers in Tehran grow up listening to Guns and Roses and idolizing Metalica. There are now more functioning mosques in London than churches. Technologies such as the internal combustion engine, the watch, computer or telephone, which originated in the Western Hemisphere are used in every country of the earth. Newspapers are published around the world, but due to the internet, their readership is not limited by their distribution. Clothes are manufactured in South East Asia and profitably sold in Europe. Shrimp from the

south Arctic is sold in enormous quantities on the domestic Chinese market. Species of exotic South American moth are used to control pests in the Australian outback. The most common number system, the Hindu Arabic, was used in India, adopted by the west, globalized by colonialism and now drives international commerce. The food we eat, the books we read, the air we breathe, the ideas we accept and the jobs we do are all influenced, if not defined by Globalization.

So why has this occurred? To a large extent, the acceleration of Globalizing forces was made inevitable by modernity. Although goods and ideas could and did flow around the world before the engine the process occurred with less volume and speed. Nonetheless, it occurred and it would be folly to think it didn't.

Think for instance of Islam, an archetype of global interconnectivity. The universalism of Islam coordinates the thoughts and beliefs of people from Western China to Nigeria, New York to Aden. There is diversity, but there is tremendous continuity of thoughts and ideas and all migrate to the epicenter of their faith at least once in their lives.

Another example is South American gold. After the brutal conquest of the Americas almost every ounce of Incan and Aztec gold left South America, was spent by Catholic Spain, traded by merchants in Venice, bought by Seljuks,



exchanged in Safavid Iran and transferred across Mughal India into Han Chinese Imperial coffers. Indeed Yemen and the kingdoms of the Hadramawt profited handsomely by controlling the East-West commerce of the Red Sea by linking greater Asia, the Persian Gulf and the East African Coast to the Mediterranean and Western Europe.

When you consider how successful camel trains, caravels and commerce were at transporting goods, introducing species and infecting people with exotic disease and ideas, imagine for a moment the impact of the internet, air travel or

satellite projected mass media. Modernity really represents an explosion of interconnectivity because of the ability of technology to reach beyond itself, to link people, to move ideas, thoughts, weapons, differences and commonalities around the world at unnatural speeds.

There are consequences to these changes as patterns of consumption, economics and religion are discarded, adopted, magnified and distorted. For many reasons the impacts have often been negative. The quality of life for many societies was higher before the structural realignment that 20th century

Globalization caused. It's hard to imagine the desolation of so many people whose identity and environment have been irreparably changed, leaving them an identity only in history. I'm sure the Native Americans, Australian Aborigines and many other indigenous peoples could tell us more about Globalization than we would be comfortable to hear. Unfortunately, once set in motion, only a cataclysm can derail this human matrix. If anything, it is in our nature. We know from history that you cannot hide from Globalization, it will follow you to the last ends of the earth.

## America's Opposing Futures

By J. BRADFORD DELONG

I recently learned something interesting: American international finance economists and American domestically oriented macroeconomists have very different – indeed, opposing – views of the likely consequences of America's huge current-account deficit. International finance economists see a financial crisis as likely, followed by a painful and perhaps prolonged recession in the United States. Domestically oriented macroeconomists, by contrast, see a forthcoming fall in the value of the dollar not as a crisis, but as an opportunity to accelerate growth.

Domestically oriented macroeconomists look at the situation roughly like this: at some point in the future, foreign central banks will become less willing to continue buying massive amounts of dol-

lar-denominated securities in order to prop up the greenback. When they cease their large-scale dollar-purchase programs, the value of the dollar will fall – and it will fall hard.

But, according to this view, as the dollar's value declines, US exports will become more attractive to foreigners and American employment will rise, with labor re-allocated to the newly-vibrant export sector. It will be like what happened in Britain after it abandoned its exchange-rate peg and allowed the pound to depreciate relative to the Deutschmark, or what happened in the US in the late 1980's, when the dollar depreciated against the pound, the Deutschmark, and – most importantly – the Japanese yen.

International finance economists see a far bleaker future. They see the end of large-scale dollar-purchase programs by

central banks leading not only to a decline in the dollar, but also to a spike in US long-term interest rates, which will curb consumption spending immediately and throttle investment spending after only a short lag.

To be sure, international finance economists also see US exports benefiting as the value of the dollar declines, but the lags in demand are such that the export boost will come a year or two after the decline in consumption and investment spending. Eight to ten million people will have to shift employment from services and construction into exports and import-competing goods, implying that structural unemployment will rise.

Moreover, there may be a financial panic: large financial institutions with short-term liabilities and long-term assets will have a difficult time weathering a large rise in long-term dollar-denominat-

ed interest rates. This mismatch can cause financial stress and bankruptcy just as easily as banks' local-currency assets and dollar liabilities caused stress and bankruptcy in the Mexican and East Asian crises of the 1990's and in the Argentinean crisis of this decade.

When international finance economists sketch this scenario, domestically oriented macroeconomists respond that it sounds like a case of incompetent monetary policy. Why should the Federal Reserve allow long-term interest rates to spike just because other central banks have ceased their dollar-purchase programs? Should not the Fed step in and replace them with its own purchases of long-term US Treasury bonds, thereby keeping long-term interest rates at a level conducive to full employment?

To this, international finance economists respond that the Fed does not have

the power to do so. When forced to choose between full employment and price stability, the international finance economists say that the Fed will choose price stability, because its institutional memory of the 1970's, when inflation ran rampant, remains very strong. Therefore, since a fall in the value of the dollar raises import prices, and thus functions as a negative shock to the supply side of the economy, the Fed will have to raise, not lower, interest rates, and sell, not buy, bonds.

Serious economists whom I respect enormously find themselves taking strong positions on opposite sides of this debate. I'm not wise enough to say which side is right, but I certainly know which side I hope is wrong.

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

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## Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

### Islam is here

PRESENTED BY EQBAL  
EQBALCORP@YEMEN.NET.YE

Islam is peace, Islam is ease,  
Islam's not danger or disease.  
Islam is love and prosperity,  
Islam's not hatred or adversity.

Islam is salvation through repentance.  
Islam has love for all in abundance.  
Islam means no harm or affliction.  
Islam implores you with affection.

Islam is neither maze nor craze.  
Islam is giving Allah all praise.  
Islam is acing through the race.  
Islam will be on everyone's face.

Islam is worshipping only the Creator.  
Islam's not mere numbers on a calculator.

Islam gives you power when you surrender.  
Islam's not a terrorist or for a pre-

tender.  
Islam is patience and perseverance.  
Islam eases your vengeance through tolerance.  
Islam is life for all eternity.  
Islam gives you respect, moreover dignity.

Islam is winning hearts through honesty  
Islam is giving openly in charity  
Islam makes you wholesome and trustworthy  
Islam is in wealth as well as in poverty.

Islam is your shield against all evil.  
Islam is for your soul's retrieval.  
Islam not fundamentalism or fanaticism.  
Islam's not nationalism or racism.

Wake up, people, Islam is here.  
Islam is here, so have no fear

### Happy Rain

By Fuad Noman  
fn\_001@yahoo.com

It falls under the window pane  
Happy Rain, Happy Rain.  
If it sobs or cries  
It never goes in pain  
I heard the peasants singing on fields.  
On farms, Planting seeds

It grows neither harvest nor grain  
So, we Never gain

Just pain plus pain  
Happy Rain, Happy Rain.  
On faces  
In blood

It lets Love beat in heart  
It makes Knowledge broaden in brain  
Happy dreams can't sleep in dirty lane  
Falling down on the ground  
But it lost in vain

Happy Rain  
Happy Rain  
Come again, come again

### Ambitious girls and marriage

By SUHAYLA ALHEBHI  
SUHAYLAI@MAKTOOB.COM

It is observed in the last decade that most ambitious girls are either not married or don't have the desire to. I reached to write this article through the ideas and visions I gathered from the people around me.

Naturally, men are created with the distinct of superiority. Lots of them, especially in Yemen, imprison their wives at home and band them any right of job or further studying. They need a woman who is capable of sharing life with him, a person to whom they can trust, and a simple woman that will bring up their own family to the end of the life without many requirements or demands. This is what man wants.

However the ambitious girls don't want someone who burns them in life and stand a bar between them and their great ambitions. The ambitious girl needs someone who helps her to accomplish what she seeks for.

This kind of girls are either divorced, spinsters, or unwilling to have a couple. The psychological clash and misunderstand happens at homes as followed:

The majorities of this kind of wives don't appreciate man's feeling and keep over showing them their abilities until the man feds up. Or the other way round when the husband step by step encourages the wife for laziness and increases the loads over her shoulders until she feds up of the case and of her life and prefers to live alone and to achieve her hopes.

Both cases are false as they are created as a result of the absence of the ideal visions and moralities of the true meaning of family and life where the couple helps each other and both of them try to succeed the other to achieve a success in their lives. To live for the sake of great work and die for the same porous.

If nowadays' guys understand a great deal of these deep meanings, life would be happy for all. We didn't come here just to have a family and house and that's it. Also men didn't come here just to create their families and to go to their jobs until the brink of death.

Each person has something especial on him, and only by ambition we have to accomplish our rule in life. To leave in the earth useful deeds and great children so the new generation must fulfill what we started until the doomsday.

## Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fotih

### Deserted!

Actually, I feel so sorry every time I happen to be at Sana'a International Airport whenever a hold comparison between it and other airports in some Arab countries or some international airports I used to know in my travels abroad. However, it seems that not only the Sana'a Airport which is suffering. Last year I found myself in Aden Airport in a trip organized by the UNICEF and all of us were surprised to find that Aden Airport is much worse than Sana'a Airport and its condition is more horrible.

One of the persons, not a Yemeni, accompanying us in that trip, commented when he saw the condition at the airport, "It is a deserted airport" and he was completely right. As we looked around us, we could not see anybody there even the employees of the airport, though the time was daytime. In all the airports, one can see that there is a non-stop work, day and night and there is always continuous active movement. In addition, those airports are so big that one feels he is lost. Nevertheless, at our airports, we enter the first door and soon we find that we have reached outside the building. One of my friends is used to complain of the lack of time punctuality at our airport. That used to repeatedly cause her problems.

At first, I did not take her complaints seriously, thinking maybe she was exaggerating in her complaints. Nevertheless, this week I experienced on aspect of her complaints when both of us were obliged to wait at the airport for more than three hours. We tried to pass the dragging time in chatting and talking about various subjects, sometimes we would stand and walk, and sometimes we sat down until we got exhausted of waiting. Even the simplest facilities for travellers and visitors at the airport are not available. For example, places where one can get drinking water. When one feels thirsty, he has to go and buy a bottle of water at the air-

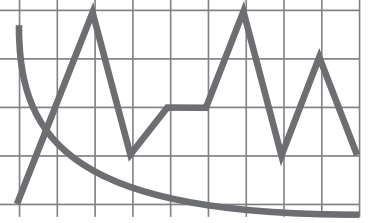
port shops, but in case you one has no money there and then, he has to suffer from his thirst. We have one international airport through which visitors from different countries of the world pass and it is the first place a visitor would arrive at so it should be well-organized in a way to encourage visitors to discover the country and to have a pretty image that could push them to encourage their friends to visit the country and explore its landmarks of beauty too. Unfortunately, these people have passed through different airports but when they arrive at Yemen airport, you can imagine the big disappointment impression drawn on their faces. The government calls for, encourage internal tourism, and attract tourists from all over the world, yet in reality there is nothing encouraging for flourishing tourism. I read many times in official newspapers there are preparations to improve Aden airport and I wonder why these preparations and renovations have not been implemented until now.

As a part of our job as a journalists, we write about the beautiful places and the amazing and distinguished historical towns and cities as well as the cultural and natural heritage Yemen possesses. Beautifully, Some Yemenis either inside or abroad have spared no efforts to promote tourism in their country. However, we do not see the efforts of the government in improving the airports, in either Aden or Sana'a.

We do not see efforts for improving tourist services and providing more facilities. Yemen is very beautiful a country and full of various and incredible tourist resources and attractions. These attractions need capitals to invest in and careful hands to exert serious efforts to develop, especially by the public sector. Tourism is the backbone of many countries and one day Yemen could depend on tourism more than anything else could. So, when will we realize that fact before it is too late and before ours would be considered, as deserted and isolated a country?



# YT Business



## Consultative meeting on combating corruption

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Participants in a consultative meeting recently held in Sana'a on Yemen's efforts for fighting corruption and means of engaging civil society organization in it, have confirmed the importance of forming a national non-governmental committee composed of personalities entertaining uprightness and efficiency. The committee is to be composed of representatives of civil society organizations in order to watch and follow up the application and implementation of the national strategy on combating corruption.

The meeting, organized by the presidency office in cooperation with the central apparatus for auditing and accounting and the German organization GTZ, has stressed the importance of dissemination of the culture of accountability, transparency and enhancement of the role played by the central apparatus for auditing and accounting in a manner empowering it carrying out its tasks according to the law in fighting corruption and development of relations of coordination and integration with relevant parties concerned with protection of the public property as well as linking it to an order guaranteeing integrity of information.

The participants also have indicated the importance of expanding the circle of dialogue between the government and the NGOs to determine the priorities and aspired for goals and to draft them within a frame of common programs on combating all forms and types of corruption. They have recommended the significance of activation of the role of NGOs for following up measures taken by the government on fighting corruption and offering suggestions and perceptions aimed at activating those measures as well as promoting the role of the media and educational institutions in the field of enlightenment on the negative phenomena related to corruption and damage ensued on political, social and economic sides. They stressed the necessity of establishing a legal system for fighting corruption, mainly the completion of a draft law on financial responsibilities and a draft law on affirming the easy flow of information in addition to dependence of the principle of transparency and reformation of shortages in some legislations pertaining to financial and administrative issues.

Chairman of the central apparatus of

auditing and accounting Dr. Abdullah al-Sanafi considered the process of fighting corruption as a common responsibility requiring, in addition to integrity of the state institutions, interaction of the NGOs, pointing to the procedures taken by Yemen in its efforts for elimination of corruption and drying up its origins. According to him, the main of such measures are the formation of the higher commission on considering issues of state property and preparation of a group of integrated tasks and effective arrangements for the protection of public property and combating corruption.

On his part, the deputy of the German ambassador to Sana'a deemed the meeting as a forward step in the direction of cooperation and between Yemen and Germany in this field and preservation of public property. He has singled out that the importance of the meeting lies in participation of NGOs as they are an essential partner in fighting corruption and one of the pillars of popular participation and that would stimulate the society to stand up to the phenomenon of corruption. He has also lauded the Yemeni government's efforts in fighting corruption which is one of the most serious impediments of development in any society.

## Japan offers grants for two projects

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Japanese government is offering two grants to Shibam Fund in the governorate of Hadramout and the Technical Institute for Vocational Training in Seyoun. The two grants are \$ 109 thousand worth. The grants are part of the program of Grants offered to human security projects aimed at

supporting small enterprises in the developing countries.

The embassy of Japan in Yemen says the Shibam fund would use the \$ 75.645 thousand worth aid to buy four trucks for collecting garbage and two motorcycles to be used in supervising works of cleanliness in the city of Shibam in Hadramout governorate. The second \$33.363 worth grant would be allocated for buying equipment necessary for the technical institute for

vocational training in the city of Seyoun in order to support the institute in training its students.

The embassy clarified that the two grants would be given in line with two agreements signed in Sana'a by both Tariq Talib Dhahoum, director of the local council in the city of Shibam and Mahboub Faraj director of the Technical Institute for Vocational Training in Seyoun and for the Japanese government its ambassador to Yemen.

## Yemeni Partner in free zone management, disclosed

By YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Aden Sep. 19 - Deputy Manager of General Corporation for the Free Zones, Dr. Mohamed Mahmoud Al-Wedhn, said that Dubai International Company for Ports, will invest \$370 millions in developing the port's infra structures, according to its contract terms. It will also develop the Aden port tug-boats. A village for air-freight will be built in Aden airport in addition to rehabilitation of free zone and the construction of a dry basin for ship servicing.

In a press release, free zone executives confirmed that Dubai Company is committed to raise the number of con-

tainers to 1.5 millions, within three years of its commencement of work. It is agreed that the agreement will be reconsidered in case of failure to reach at least 80 % of this number.

The press release went on saying that Aden port has got natural characteristics that distinguishes it from other ports in the area. Among these is its position in the international navigation line.

The press release also confirmed that negotiations with the company are proceeding smoothly and bilateral agreements are reached on most of the points that were being discussed. The committee that is undertaking the negotiations said that they are keen to come to a term that will bring about the best advantages.

The release confirmed that the

World Bank as well as the donor countries watched the bid procedures. It worth mentioning that nine international companies were interested in the bid, but only three of them presented their offers. They were from The Philippines, Kuwait and The United Arab Emirates.

Yemen has taken precautionary measure to guarantee the project's success. Partnership agreement is made with the Yemeni investor Abdullah Bogshan who owns most of the company's agreement's shares. It will be registered in Yemen as a Yemeni company that manages the port under Dubai control. Yemen considered this a guarantee of great profit for both Yemenis and others. Recently the company offered licenses for 25 different projects.

## Ceiling systems weaken communications service, harm consumer

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni State Establishment of Communications has introduced a system of "Ceiling and Automatic Service Cut" in order to regulate telephone services of subscribers' consumption allowing them choose the ceiling compatible with them for paying their bills suitable to their financial capacity. The system provides six ceiling levels for consumption bills in addition to VIP SIM CARD. The levels begin from 3000 rials then rises to 7000, 14000, 20000, 50000, and 100000. So the subscriber would receive an alert message for payment when he approaches his chosen ceiling. When the ceiling level is exceeded, he calling service would be cut from the subscriber from three to one week the service would be cut until he pays his payable bill.

However, the subscribers described this system has become impeding the services the establishment is providing and does not help regulate the use of telephone services in a manner compatible with subscribers' different incomes.

One subscriber says requirements of life go in line with a limited budget that would not allow the consumer to choose the ceiling suitable to him especially that the income of many families fluctuates.

Sometimes it improves and sometimes gets lower. Thus the communication service would be only in favor of the rich while the poor would always be threatened of cutting the telephone service whenever the value of the bill reaches three thousand rials as long as they could not pay their bills. Moreover, this system has created a great confusion in providing services to the consumer and severed the service from him sometimes reaches to many months.

Another subscriber says that what the communications establishment says does not have any relation with improving the service but rather aims at seeking quick profits at the expense of others interests and their income. Another citizen says the other problem is in levying sales tax on the telephone bill, which is a funny tax because the telephone subscriber seeks a service to be in communication with his family or others, what does such ordinary consumer sell? If he were owner of communications center a sales tax can be levied on his personal calls. One wonders about the facilities and services the state claimed it would provide for the citizens.

Another consumer in this field wonders about he avail of the ceiling system and ridicules from it saying it is a system confiscating the human rights to having access to telephone facilitates and pay-

ing the bill during a period enabling him to provide his debts during that period without cutting the service.

A communications center owner says after the communications establishment has reduced the costs of subscription to telephone service from 22 thousand rials to 17 thousand rials the consumer has become willing to have a periodical system enabling him to benefit from that drop whereas this system has become hindering the service. He adds the problem is aggravating because of the establishment's decision of canceling the periodical system for paying the bills that stipulated periods of three or two months. As for the new ceiling system it has become tedious because it threatens the consumers of cutting the service may every three months, as it is happening with many subscribers. The other problem is that the establishment has fixed the lowest ceiling for the consumer without waiting for the subscriber to define the new ceiling he wants. He comments on the establishment announcement of its intention to reduce from the beginning of next week until the end of Ramadan month the prices of telephone calls to almost the half, including both fixed and mobile phones, he said it should make that as continuous taking into consideration the levels of income of the people.

### An Arab symposium recommends,

## Upgrading Arab companies administration

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A symposium was held in Sana'a on 18-21 this month on the ideal means for preparing the strategic administrative leader and bridging the gap among Arab companies in this regard. The symposium was organized by the Arab Organization for development in association with the Ministry of Civil Service and Securities. The symposium was attended by eighty Arab officials and experts of the government, private sector, civil society organizations and centers of administrative development.

The symposium had emphasized the necessity of promoting the administrative advancement at Arab companies and factors and variables of distinguished administration, also the characteristics of the strategic leader. It had confirmed the necessity of preparing, formulating, application and follow-up the set up strategy and ways of preparing the strategic leader in the 21 century.

After the analysis of scientific bases and applications on the spot of strategic

administration and bases and criteria of strategic planning as well as preparation of the Arab manager, the participants affirmed the importance of achieving administration excellence through three axes focused on strategic management, management excellence, strategic planning and prerequisites and ways of preparing the strategic leader in this respect.

During the symposium, the minister of civil service and securities Hamoud Khalid al-Soufi had called for consolidation of Arab cooperation in this field, affirming the importance of joining Arab countries efforts and energies as well as mustering their capabilities to encounter the going on changeable in the world and their impact on the developing countries, among them the Arab countries taking into effect their reflections on their political, social, cultural and economic situations.

Mr. al-Soufi pointed out the significance of adopting requirements of the strategic management, technology of modern sciences and contemporary technology needed in the 21 century. He said that included the pinpointing and knowing the aspects of weakness and

strength, adding that would not be attained but by concentrating on the human resources to invest and unleash energies for creativity and individual initiatives with the aim of founding a strategic administration depending on trained human power that is capable of effecting the change.

The symposium recommended the providing of the administrative Arab leader with modern knowledge and possession of skills of strategic administration as a means for improving stances of his administrative apparatuses towards others and the continuous research for excellence for attaining the appeasement of the consumer and keeping him. This should be accompanied by keenness on acquiring his trust and meeting expectations of beneficiaries as well as making the local environment as attracting investment, promoting growth and realizing objectives of development in improving the human living standard and prosperity. The symposium had nevertheless disclosed that Yemen's administrative situation was in need of training, expertise and qualification to catch up with what Arab countries have attained in this field.

### Republic of Yemen

#### Ministry of Public Health and Population Health Sector and Demography Support (HSDS) Project Announcing Vacancy for Two Posts:

1. Taiz Governorate Health Office Senior Executive Secretary
2. Lahj Governorate Health Office Senior Executive Secretary

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

The HSDS project seeks applicants for the two posts of "GHO Senior Executive Secretary", one in Taiz governorate and one in Lahj governorate, who will be responsible for providing the GHO in each of Taiz and Lahj Governorates with long-term professional senior level secretary consultancy services, to follow-up administrative, secretarial, and coordination aspects of the HSDS project. The Taiz GHO Senior Executive Secretary will be based in Taiz and the Lahj GHO Senior Executive Secretary will be based in Lahj. Each GHO Senior Executive Secretary will report and be accountable to the respective GHO General Director. Each "GHO Senior Executive Secretary" will be responsible for:

- Under the supervision of the DG of the GHO, the GHO senior executive secretary will be responsible for following up on administrative aspects/activities of the HSDS project.
- Provide administrative and secretarial support to the DG of the GHO including verbal and written communication/correspondence, documentation, and archiving.
- Organise, arrange, and write meeting minutes of the Governorate Health Office Project Implementation Coordination committee (GHOPICC), and accordingly develop a schedule of action and follow-up on its implementation.
- Track and monitor progress of the activities of the components of the project and provide periodic/annual reports.
- Act as the focal point at the GHO for all dialogue on matters related to the project.
- Provide support to the GHO in handling the logistics of conferences, meetings and workshops, facilitating procedures, and paperwork within the governorates.
- Ensure and follow-up on coordination on all matters related to the HSDS project between relevant parties.
- Carry out field visit to the targeted districts and health facilities as needed.
- Perform any other tasks as required by the DG of the GHO related to the HSDS Project.

#### Qualifications:

- A minimum of bachelor's degree in management, business administration, secretariat, public health, medicine or a related field of study.
- A minimum of five years experience working as an implementation assistant or senior level secretary, preferably in the health sector.
- A minimum of five years experience in office/project management.
- Proficiency with computers, office software, and project management applications.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing in Arabic and English.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by Sunday the 2nd of October 2005. Expressions of Interest must indicate whether the applicant is applying for the post in Taiz or Lahj governorate. Interested candidates may obtain further information and the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the post at the address below during office hours.

Health Sector and Demography Support (HSDS) Programme

Health Policy and Technical Support Unit (HPTSU)

3rd Floor - Ministry of Public Health and Population

P.O. Box 1352 - Sana'a - Republic of Yemen

Tel: +967(1) 220 592, Fax: +967(1) 220 593, Email: [healthpolicy@y.net.ye](mailto:healthpolicy@y.net.ye)



# Dialogue Festival: Gesture of cultural cooperation

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**T**he French Embassy launched the Festival Dialogues events in Sana'a on Sunday Sept 18 at the Great Hall, Sana'a University. Speeches were given on the occasion, explaining the importance of dialogue among cultures. Dr. Saleh Basurrah, Rector of Sana'a University, appreciated the French initiative and revealed bonds of cooperation between Sana'a University and the French Cultural Center. He also announced that a book on the Yemeni civilization will be published collaboration with the French Cultural Center.

The French Ambassador pointed out in his speech the importance of Arab contribution to intercultural dialogue. He referred to great Arab thinkers and philosophers such as Ibn Roshd and Ibn Khaldoun whose works are taught at the Sorbonne.

### Shadow Theater:

A shadow theater play was staged. It is a modern type of art consisted in a screen on the stage with the players hidden behind it. They recited Yemeni and French poetry to the accompaniment of loud music by Abdullatif Ya'qoob, while certain manipulation of light shed from behind and created shapes and images on the screen forming an essential part of the story of the poem. It was an interesting and purposeful show attended by members of the diplomatic corps, French language students and the



German, French and Yemeni street performers showing their art in a parade in the city of Sana'a.

interested audience.

### Street arts:

On the following day, Franco-German street performers made their way down the street from the German House to The French Cultural Center, surrounded by spectators in different ages. They made a spectacular show to the accompaniment of music. Some of the performers were making shows with sticks, others were juggling balls, but the stilt-mounting man drew the bulk of people with his freakish appearance. The spectators were very amused

and many of them took shoots of the performers with their cameras and mobiles.

The repeated show the next day at al-Tahrir, being the city center, al-Tahrir area is very populous, and a huge crowd gathered around the street performers. Children and grown-ups spent good time watching the exotic circus performances.

The troupe will be performing in Aden streets on Sept 24, 2005.

### Other activities:

The Festival included chorals by

Yemeni and French singers in the city of Sana'a. According to Mustafa Imran, French Cultural Center's Public Relations Officer, the Center participate today, Thursday Sept 22, in Damt Tourist Festival, a way to contribute to Yemen's Revolution celebrations.

The French Cultural Center and a photo gallery by Henry De Monfried, will officially be opened on Saturday 24. Henry de Monfried was a French writer who lived in the region and visited Yemen, and the Yemen-based French Cultural Center is named after him.

# Al-Maqaleh's Complete Poetical Works come out

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**S**ANA'A- "Silence is nicer than words," said Dr. Abdulazeez al-Maqaleh at the moment of celebrating the coming out of his complete poetical works. The event took place at the Culture House, Sana'a, in the presence of Minister of Culture and Tourism Khaled al-Rowaihan and a host of men of letters.

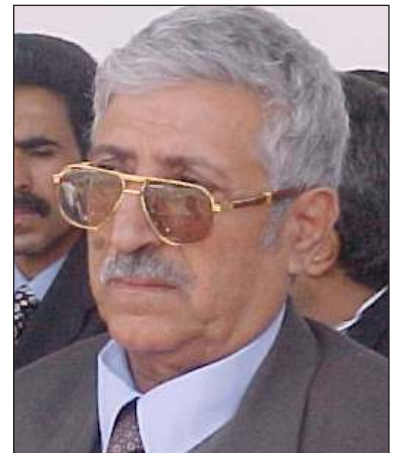
Dr. al-Maqaleh expressed his gratitude to the attendants and embosomed "the good deal of psychological happiness" he experienced. The speakers on the occasion commended the great Yemeni literary figure as "giant and modest."

"He is a tremendous mixture of the springs of culture, enlightenment, change, tranquility, education, tasting, patience and wisdom," said the Minister. "He is father, not only to one generation, but to all generations."

On the other hand, Dr. Hatem al-Sakr, a professor at the Faculty of Mass Communications, took his turn in edifying Dr. Abdulazeez al-Maqaleh. With luscious and sincere words, he said, "The letters of our poet are read in the light of tears" and that "With our [celebrated] poet, poetry stops to be as a means to show oneself or announce artistic innocence." However, poetry in al-Maqaleh's hands is invariably an "inner experience resisting the same fears and challenging the might of frustration and absurdity of life."

### A profile of the poet:

Abdulazeez al-Maqaleh was born in 1937. He is currently the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research. He was formerly a rector of Sana'a University from 1982 to 2001. He is also holding the post of Cultural



Affairs Advisor to the President of the Republic.

Dr. al-Sakr describes him as being among the generation of the sixties. He has published numerous poems and essays on literature, among which are: Marib Speaks (1972), The Alphabet of the Soul (1998) and The Book of Sana'a (2000). He is a modernist poet who writes free verses. Moreover, he is a critic and a professor of Arts and Literature at Sana'a University. He authored studies such as "A Reading of Yemeni Literature", and "The Crisis of the Arabic Poem."

Dr. al-Maqaleh won many awards such as al-Sharegah Award and some of his poetry has been translated into foreign languages.

The following excerpt is from poem 47 of the Book of Sana'a:

The spirit of the city floats  
On the water of years.  
Do not wake her  
Let her moan while her children  
drown.  
Do not light her pale alleys,  
For the streets are still wet  
With the sweet blood of martyrs  
Who died for their homeland  
And turned the pages of life too soon.

# Old Yemeni State of Qataban

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**Q**ataban is one of the ancient Yemeni states which thrive on the bank of Baihan valley on the edge of the Empty Quarter near Hadhramout, Sheba, Ma'een and Awsan. The state was established with natural, climatic, social, economic circumstances similar to those of other Yemeni civilizations. Archeological expeditions have covered a number of sites showing that Sheba, Ma'een, Qataban and Hadhramout are similar in their development stages to a great extent in all aspects.

The studies conducted in Wadi Baihan and Wadi Al Joubah spells the fact that the prosperity of ancient Yemeni kingdoms including the Qatabanite must have taken place during the onset of first millennium BC. Concerning the history of Qataban as per information engraved in inscriptions, the first mention of Qataban occurs in the Sabaean inscription of King Karib-II-Water who is the last Mukarrib and the first to bear the title of king.

Qataban during that period was a vassal of Sheba which enabled it to get rid of the Awsanide control. The inscriptions confirm that Qataban was the only kingdom in the first era whose first king carried the title of Mukarrib as is the case with Sheba for this title conveys religious and

political authority

The Qatabanites paid attention to agriculture as found in their construction of dams, long distance canals using cement-like substance. They drilled wells as well.

From their location on the trade route which is termed and renowned as Ollibanum Route, the Qatabanites achieved large profits. Their land served as a transit point. Then in alliance with Hadhramout Dynasty they were able to extend their domination and influence to the South, as far as the coast of the Arabian Sea and the valley of Joubah, one-day journey from Marib, the capital city of Sheba.

During the third and second century BC Qataban reached the zenith of its prosperity. Qataban paid more attention to the issuance of legislation, laws and regulations and was more orderly with regard to commerce and markets.

Tamna was the capital of Qataban and the biggest Qatabanite city in Wadi Baihan in the center between Shabwa the capitals of Hadhramout and Marib. Tamna'a is on the left bank of Wadi Bihan on the edge of the desert plain.

Some 30 kms from the city was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Qataban, which had flourished during the 4th century BC. It was an important station on the ancient incense road and was a collection point for taxes from the caravans in

return for protection.

The incense caravans, after setting out from Tamna'a had to travel a distance of 1487.5 Mile (2.380km), to reach the final destination, Gaza, on the Mediterranean coast. By then, the caravan would have passed through 65 stations at which the camels would temporarily rest.

Archeological expeditions have unearthed many relics including two bronze lions, Qatabanite law Obelisk, Water canals built out of stone and cemented with substance similar to water resistant cement.

Of the remains are canals extending from Baihan over a distance of 15Miles(25km) dating back to the 5th century BC.

Another old Qatabanite town is Hajar Bin Hameed which is 15km away to the south of Tamna'a on an Oval hill lying at a height of 70 feet from the surface of the valley at the Bifurcate of the ancient Routes and is less in size than Tamna. The establishment of the city is expected to have been between 1100-900BC.

Another monument of the Qatabanite is the Mablakah route. It is a road carved in stone a mountainous route linking Baihan Valley with Hareeb Valley through Mablqah Mount which is 1000 feet (380m) above sea level, the length of the route 3miles (4.8km) in dangerous slopes and the width of the route amounted from 12 to 15 feet paved with stones and protected at the sides by walls.

The mountainous strait of Mablqah was a conjunction point of many routes and paths of Incense/Myrrh and Ollibanum.



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### Qualified applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled in a bachelor's degree program,
- Be able to receive transfer credit in the U.S.,
- Have completed two years of undergraduate study with a "Very Good" or higher grade point average, and
- Have English language skills.

Applicants must also be Yemeni citizens currently enrolled in an undergraduate program in Yemen.

Interested individuals should visit AMIDEAST offices for more information about studying in the U.S. To obtain application forms and to receive further details, please visit or contact AMIDEAST at:

AMIDEAST Sana'a: Algiers St. #66, P.O. Box 15508, Sana'a. Telephone: 01-400-279/80/81- 71416660. Fax: 01-206-942. E-mail: [yemen@amideast.org](mailto:yemen@amideast.org)

AMIDEAST Aden: 162 Miswat St., P.O. Box 6009, Khormaksar, Aden. Tel/Fax: 02-232-345- 7141313 E-mail: [aden@amideast.org](mailto:aden@amideast.org)

### Complete application submissions must include:

1. The PLUS application form, available at AMIDEAST;
2. Contact information, including phone number(s) and mailing addresses;
3. Seven typed essays in English, each 150-200 words
4. An International or ITP TOEFL® score of 450 (scores may not be older than 2 years from date of application);
5. Certified copies in English of undergraduate transcripts and high school certificate;
6. Three letters of recommendation in English from individuals familiar with the applicant's achievements;
7. A copy of your passport or national identification card; and
8. Two recent passport-sized photos.

NOTE: Applicants who do not have a valid Paper-Based TOEFL® score should contact AMIDEAST immediately to arrange for an ITP TOEFL® examination.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT AMIDEAST OFFICES IN SANA'A OR ADEN NO LATER THAN 4 PM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2005.

# 7-km cave discovered in Socotra Island

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**S**ANA'A- A team of Yemeni and foreign archeologists have discovered a cave of over seven kms in depth. The great and interesting discovery is the second of the kind on the Island, the first being discovered one year ago but is less in depth. Both caves are believed to contain many curious secrets about the history of the Isle.

The team intends to make archeological studies in the recently discovered caves which is full of stalactites and stalagmites in addition to waterfalls and water lakes.



The Island of Socotra cherishes a variety of natural assets. It is home to a many species of rare plants and animals. The Island is an ideal place for recreation and environmental tourism. Here is a scenic view of a multitude of dragon tree.



## Compounds found in broccoli, cauliflower, and watercress block lung cancer progression

A family of compounds found in cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli, cauliflower, and watercress, blocked lung cancer progression in both animal studies and in tests with human lung cancer cells, report researchers from Georgetown University Medical Center and the Institute for Cancer Prevention.

They say the results, published in a set of papers in the current issue of *Cancer Research*, suggest that these chemicals - put into a veggie pill of sorts - might some day be used to help current and former smokers ward off development of lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer death in Americans.

"These studies provides significant insight into the mechanisms of lung cancer prevention and suggests ways the process can be slowed down after exposure has already occurred," said the study's principal investigator Fung-Lung Chung, Ph.D., Professor of Oncology in the Lombardi Cancer Center at the Georgetown University Medical Center. He worked with researchers from the Institute for Cancer Prevention, in Valhalla, New York, and with other scientists in



Illinois, Minnesota and New York on the studies.

"We still need to do more research, but it may be that an agent containing these ingredients could, to some degree, help protect people who have developed early lung lesions due to smoking," Chung said. "In any case, we know that eating vegetables is generally good for us, and that some studies have shown they help lower a person's risk of developing cancer."

One of the two new studies being reported was the first to test whether these compounds, derived from naturally occurring isothiocyanates, could have an impact on the stages of cancer development specifically after exposure to cancer-causing elements. To test that, the researchers induced lung tumor development in experimental

mice by exposing them to tobacco carcinogens, and then they fed one group of mice the veggie compounds. They found that, indeed, use of the chemicals resulted in a reduced development of benign (harmless) lung tumors to malignant tumors, compared to mice that did not receive the compound.

Chung cautions, however, that it is difficult to draw any direct comparisons between human consumption of these vegetables and the effects seen in the mice studies. "Because the amount of carcinogens we used to induce tumors was very high, we needed to use a very high dose of isothiocyanates to see any effect," he said. "This animal model will give us data for the potential use of such agents in a human clinical trial."

The second new study looked at the

effect of the same compound on human lung cancer cells, which were forced to grow quickly (as cancer does) because of insertion of a gene known to be involved in cell growth and regulation. The laboratory test showed that the derivative of isothiocyanate significantly pushed the human lung cells to commit "suicide," compared to cells that did not have the gene, suggesting that its use may stop fast growing lung cancer cells from the outset. This study provides some insight into "one of the possible mechanisms of action" by which the compounds may offer some protection against lung cancer development, the researchers said.

These studies were continuation of a 20-year research effort by Chung and his team, much of it conducted while Chung was at the Institute for Cancer Prevention before moving to Georgetown University Medical Center. The body of research they have established on the connection between cruciferous vegetables and lung cancer is one of the most detailed available. Chung earlier identified the isothiocyanates may be responsible for the beneficial effects of these vegetables, and he had shown they were effective in hindering development of lung cancer cells.

## People who exercise regularly experience 25% less muscle and joint pain in their old age

People who exercise regularly experience 25% less muscle and joint pain in their old age than people who are less active. Research published in *Arthritis Research & Therapy* reveals that people who regularly participate in brisk aerobic exercise, such as running, experience less pain than non-runners even though they are more likely to suffer from pain from injuries.

Bonnie Bruce and colleagues from Stanford University, USA, compared the level of pain in a group of runners and a group of community-based individuals who acted as controls.

Participants were followed for 14 years, and were on average in their mid-sixties when the study started. Each year, they completed a questionnaire about their health status, exercise habits and history of injuries. In total, the study included 866 subjects: 492 Runners' Association members and 374 controls.

Bruce et al.'s results show that the greater majority of physically active participants did, on average, between 355 and 2,119 minutes of exercise per week over the course of the study, while controls exercised significantly less. After adjusting for confounding factors such as gender, age, weight and health status the results show that pain

increased in both groups over time. But members of the Runners' Association experienced 25% less musculoskeletal pain than controls. This reduction persisted throughout the study period, until the subjects reached an age of 62 to 76 years.

"Exercise was associated with a substantial and significant reduction in pain even [?] despite the fact that fractures, a significant predictor of pain, were slightly more common among runners", conclude the authors.

More research is needed to investigate the mechanisms that might underlie the effect of exercise on musculoskeletal pain in old age.

## Patients unaware of waist size heart disease risk

LONDON (Reuters) - Patients, and even some doctors, are unaware that abdominal fat and waist circumference are important risk factors for heart disease which kills 17 million people worldwide each year.

An international survey released on Monday showed that only a minority of patients and about 60 percent of doctors know that a bigger waist size raises their odds of having a heart attack.

"Waist circumference is a very important measure for cardiovascular risk," said Professor Sidney Smith, of the Geneva-based World Heart Federation (WHF).

"Measuring waist circumference is an easy, low cost indicator that should be added to measurements of other cardiovascular risk factors such as blood pressure, lipid levels and blood glucose," he added in a statement.

A waist size of 88 centimetres (35 inches) for women and 102 centimetres (40 inches) for men in North America puts them in the high risk category for heart disease.

The figures are slightly lower for people living in Central and Latin America, the Middle East, India and Asia at 80 cm for women and 90 cm for men. In Japan the high risk category is 90 cm for men and 85 for men and 80 cm for women and 94 for men in the rest of the world.

Waist measures differ to take into account physique and lifestyle differences around the world.

About 11,077 people in 27 countries were questioned in the poll to assess their knowledge about cardiovascular disease, one of the biggest killers in the industrialized world.

Smith said the findings show the need for more education to increase awareness. People know that being overweight or obese increase the odds of heart disease and stroke but where the fat is deposited is important.

Being overweight or obese is calculated by using body mass index (BMI) - dividing weight in kilograms by height in metres squared. A BMI of more than 25 is overweight. Above 30 is considered obese.

But weight around the middle, or abdominal obesity, has been shown to be a more accurate indicator because it is also linked to other risk factors for heart disease including high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes and raised blood pressure.

More than half of the patients at risk of heart disease said they have never been informed by their doctors about the link between abdominal fat and raised heart disease risk.

About one in eight men and one in 17 women will die from cardiovascular disease before the age of 65, according to European cardiovascular disease statistics.

## Public Health Affairs

### On the occasion of World Heart Day 2005

With the theme "Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape", and collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations (UN) organizations, the World Heart Federation (WHF) will be celebrating World Heart Day (WHD) on 25 September, 2005, aiming at strengthening the global cardiovascular diseases (CVD) preventive efforts.

CVD represent the major health burden in the industrialized countries and a rapidly growing health problem in developing countries. They affect people in their peak mid-life years, disrupting the future of the families dependent on them and undermining the development of nations by depriving them of workers in their most productive years.

According to WHO estimates 16.7 million people around the globe die of CVD each year. While CVD became the responsible for every third death globally, Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) is already the number one killer in the world, which accounts for 7.22 million deaths. Previously CVD were considered an existing and threatening health problem in developed world as a result of industrialization and technology development. Later on, change in quality of life, strengthening of surveillance systems and analytical studies of CVD risk factors exposed the growing incidence of that problem in developing countries as well. Adopting inactive life style and unhealthy habits by populations in addition to hereditary traits all made most communities more likely to be affected by CVD. Today, men, women and children are at risk. Reports indicate that 80% of CVD burden is in low-and middle-income countries. The increase of CVD began in various times in different countries. In the United States (US), epidemics began in the early 1920s; in the United Kingdom (UK) in the 1930s; in several European countries, still later. And now the developing countries are catching up the threatening danger of CVD. Epidemiological projections suggest that for CHD, the mortality for all developing countries will increase by 120% for women and 137% for men. Predictions for the next two decades include tripling of CHD and stroke mortality in Latin America, the Middle East and even Sub-Saharan Africa, a rate of increase, which exceeds that for any other region, except for Asian and Pacific Islands countries. By contrast, the increase in more-developed nations, largely attributable to an expansion of the population of older people at risk, will range between 30% and 60%. As the leading cause of death out of CVD, the WHO predicts 11.1 million deaths from CHD by 2020 globally.

The magnitude of the problem in Europe is showing an upward trend, CVD account for 4 million deaths annually (49% of all deaths in Europe). A statistical fact sheet from the American Heart Association stated that CVD are more prevalent among men than women in most European countries, with the highest in Finland (835 per 100,000). About 268,000 heart attacks (myocardial infarction) occur annually in the UK. In both developed and developing countries, 40 to 75 percent of all heart attacks victims die before reaching the hospital.

CVD cost the Canadian economy about \$ 18.4 billion annually. Every seven minutes, a Canadian dies of heart disease and stroke. The number of elderly Canadians has been increasing. As a result, the number of deaths due to CHD and stroke increased. This trend is expected to continue for the next 15 years.

Many researches conducted in China and India have shown that the two Asian countries with the highest population density, experience the threatening health and economic burden of CVD. Death rates over there are more than the recorded in the US and UK, which rates once were considered of the highest. A WHO report (2003) stated that CVD are now more prevalent in China and India than all economically developed countries in the world combined.

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region the annual number of CVD deaths is more prominent in countries with higher population. It accounts for 154,338, 103,829, and 81,983 in Pakistan, Egypt and Iran respectively. In Gulf countries, which economically stepped ahead to be considered as developed countries, CVD deaths appear to be high and increasing in a threatening manner. The highest annual number of deaths is the Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia (164,388), while the lowest is in the state of Qatar (238). Taking in consideration the population pyramid of each Gulf country, certainly these figures pose a big health and economic burden, which needs urgent response and intervention.

Efforts done by the UN organizations to support surveillance of disease in Yemen seemed to be fruitful. They led to better provision of information about many health problems including CVD. The alarming annual number of CVD deaths in Yemen (16,217) reported by WHO (2003) requires a planned comprehensive multisectorial approach. The problem of CVD in Yemen should be addressed seriously, so as to alleviate the suffering of population exhausted by other health problems, and put down the economic burden caused by that major health problem.

The etiology of CVD is multifactorial. The main risk factors had been identified by the beginning of the 70's. Economic transition, urbanization, industrialization and globalization brought about lifestyle changes that promoted CVD. These risk factors include tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, excess use of alcohol and psychosocial stress. Some of them lead to diseases and health conditions, which pose another risk for CVD and worsen the condition. For example: physical inactivity and unhealthy diet may lead to the development of obesity, which by itself considered a risk factor for many diseases, from them CVD and Diabetes Mellitus. Diabetic angiopathy (a pathology affecting blood vessels) increases death rates from CHD. Hence the comprehensive meaning of the theme "Healthy Weight, Healthy Shape", chosen for WHD 2005 translates many objectives formulated for CVD prevention.

Smoking is an important CVD risk factor in both men and women. Despite that fact, worldwide trends show more young smokers, especially young women. The consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products and exposure to tobacco smoke are the world's leading preventable cause of death. Age, sex, family history, genetic factors and type of personality are also encountered among CVD risk factors. The presence of risk factors place an individual in a high-risk category for developing CVD. The greater the number of risk factors present, the more likely one is to develop CVD. Some of risk factors are modifiable, others immutable.

Since the etiology of CVD is multifactorial, the approach to prevention should be also multifactorial, aimed to preventing the emergence and spread, controlling or modifying as many risk factors as possible. The aim should be to change the community as a whole, not the individual subjects living in it. A population approach to CVD prevention has been formally outlined by the WHO. It embraces both the systematic practice of screening and education for high risk, where national priorities can afford such practice, and broad public health policy and programs in health promotion of communities. Strategies for CVD preventive practice are now widely available.

The WHD is a program of WHF, which was initiated at a critical stage of the epidemiological transition; WHD is a key advocacy tool of WHF. It has helped to build national capacity, particularly in member foundations and societies in low-and middle-income countries. WHF has assisted professional societies and heart foundations to step up health promotion; disease prevention and control activities at the population level in countries and galvanized their advocacy efforts. National and community partnerships has been created and expanded over time. In several cases, the primary healthcare sector has become engaged and involved. The WHD is more than just a day. It has galvanized the WHF board, members and partners and has enriched them capitalizing on sharing of experience.

This is just the beginning of a long and sustained effort to prevent and control CVD in industrialized and in low-and middle-income countries. In the future WHD must become a permanent fixture on the calendars of the WHF members and UN organizations. Beyond that, each regional and national member must work to place WHD on the government's annual calendar. Once the public and policy makers become actively involved in the prevention and control of CVD worldwide.

## Invitation for Bids

**IFB#30/05 for the Construction of Al Ashmour -Maswar DC and Bait Salah Rural Road**

Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Public Works & Highway  
Rural Access Program  
IDA Credit No.3514 Yem

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, issue no. 626 of Mar16, 2004.
- The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Yemen Rural Access Program and intends to apply part of the part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the Contract for the Construction of Maswar DC and Bait Othaqah - Bait Salah Rural Road. This contract will be jointly financed by the Government of Yemen.
- The Ministry of Public Works and Highways Rural Access Project Central Management Office now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction of Al Ashmour -Maswar District RR (22.33 km) & Bait Salah (8.30km) in Amran Governorate. The construction period is 17 months.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways  
Rural Access Project, Central Management Office (RAPCMO)  
Off 60M Ring Road and Algiers St. Near Sana'a Expo Center  
P.O.Box: 16472;  
Fax: 00967-01-448106  
Tel: 00967 01 448109/104/449422  
Email: rapcmu@y.net.ye  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

- Qualifications requirements include:
  - Average Annual Construction Turnover of twice the project cost
  - Substantial completion of 2 similar nature projects.
  - Availability of liquid assets and/or credit facilities US\$400,000.0.
  - Availability of the construction equipment,
- A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures shall be applied.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee US\$150 or the equivalent in any freely convertible currency, plus the cost of courier for overseas delivery of US\$50. The method of payment will be cashier's check, or direct deposit. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier for overseas delivery.
- Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 11:00 AM, Oct. 19, 2005. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically 11:00 AM, Oct. 19, 2005 in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of US\$70,000.0 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.



# Ronaldinho wins players' award

LONDON (Reuters) - Barcelona's gifted Brazilian midfielder Ronaldinho was elected the first FIFPro world player of the year on Monday from a poll of 38,000 professional players in 40 countries.

The members of the players' world association also voted in a secret ballot to choose the 2004-05 season's best team from a shortlist of 55 top names.

"It's a great honour to receive another one of these big prizes and this one is extra special because it's voted for by my fellow players," said Ronaldinho, who was voted FIFA's Player of the Year in December.

FIFPro president Gordon Taylor said: "There are no greater football critics than the players themselves."

"To be recognised by your fellow professionals from across the world is a unique honour."

"While we respect the many other football awards that are handed out I think it is special to see these results, the very first ballot among the world's players."



Atletico Madrid's Braulio Nobrega (rear, L) and Juan Velasco (R) battle for the ball with Barcelona's Ronaldinho (front L) during their Spanish first division soccer match at the Vicente Calderon stadium Sep. 18. REUTERS

Ronaldinho's Barcelona team mate Samuel Eto'o, one of the strikers in the world team, said: "The important thing is that all the players stick together to fight against bad influences in football."

said: "It's not a problem for me. I can be booed on the pitch and clapped off it. The problem is the kids on the street who are the same colour as me, but if we are united to fight against these things we can make them better."

### World team

Featuring alongside Ronaldinho in midfield in the world team are Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane with French compatriot Claude Makelele and his Chelsea team mate Frank Lampard of England.

AC Milan, last season's Champions League runners-up, provided five players with Brazilian goalkeeper Dida and defenders Cafu, also of Brazil, as well as Italians Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Nesta and Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko, the current European Footballer of the Year.

Cameroon striker Eto'o was chosen to partner Shevchenko up front, while England centre back John Terry made it three for English champions Chelsea.

"To be involved with such illustrious names is a sign of our achievements," Lampard said of the Chelsea trio who inspired their team to the Premier League title. "There's three players in there tonight but there could be more."

Asked which players in the world team he would like to have with him at Barcelona, Ronaldinho said: "The whole of this team's very special, they're great players so it's difficult to choose."

FIFPro, who announced the awards at a ceremony at the BBC broadcasting studios in London, said Manchester United had provided two winners of young player accolades.

England striker Wayne Rooney was chosen by their awards committee and Portugal winger Cristiano Ronaldo voted by fans worldwide.

# Mourinho says has no interest in England job



LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has rejected suggestions he would be interested in managing England and says he is keen to coach his native Portugal before he retires.

Mourinho, who led Chelsea to their first championship title in 50 years last season, said in an interview with Time Out magazine that part of him felt like an Englishman now, hinting that in the future he could do the England job.

"Jose loves living in England. However, any suggestion that he would change his nationality is totally wrong and misleading," a spokesman for Mourinho said in a statement on Tuesday.

"He is a passionate Portuguese citizen and has made it very clear that one day he would like to manage the Portuguese national team. He also totally supports Sven-Goran Eriksson as England manager."

In the Time Out interview, the 42-year-old, who took charge at Chelsea last year after winning the Champions League with Porto, said if he stayed in England for the length of his Chelsea contract, he would feel even more English.

"With six years of loving London and

England I will have something of England and the people in my heart and so I could do it (the England job) in a professional way and also with my heart," he said.

He added he believed the job was really for an English person, however.

Chelsea said Mourinho was unhappy the interview had been used to put pressure on Sweden's Eriksson, who has been heavily criticised following some poor recent performances from the England side.

England lost 1-0 to lowly Northern Ireland and only managed to scrape a 1-0 win over Wales in their World Cup qualifiers earlier this month.

The team were also trounced 4-1 by Denmark in a friendly in Copenhagen in August, their biggest defeat in 25 years. England have since dropped out of the top 10 in FIFA's world rankings.

"Mourinho is unhappy that the context of his interview in Time Out magazine has been used to put more pressure on England's under-fire coach Sven-Goran Eriksson," Chelsea said.

"The Portuguese coach has never had any plans to become a British citizen and stressed his support for Eriksson in the interview."

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# Chelsea boring? Don't make me laugh, says Lampard

LONDON (Reuters) - Midfielder Frank Lampard is amused by criticism of Chelsea as boring and thinks the idea that the English champions might be unbeatable is risible.

Lampard, speaking at the inaugural FIFPro world player of the year awards where he was one of three Chelsea players voted on to a World XI, said he was

unconvinced by critics who said the London club were making English football boring.

"I find it quite funny," the England midfielder said. "We're top of the league and we've yet to lose a game."

"We obviously don't agree with people who say we're boring. We'll just keep on trying to play enjoyable, excit-

ing football and win games.

"If we win the league again and people find that boring, well I'm sorry," added the England midfielder with a grin.

Such has been their commanding form so far this season, bookmakers have started offering odds not only on Chelsea going through the season unbeaten but also on them winning all of their matches.

"We're not invincible, no team is invincible," Lampard said. "And we have to make sure that we don't ever think we are because that would be our downfall."

"We've got to stay very focussed and be aware that we are beatable and could always lose our next game. We have that attitude every week and if we keep that up we should be very successful."

Former Chelsea manager and player Gianluca Vialli agreed with Lampard's caution.

"We all know that the premiership is a very long championship," said the Italian. "Anything can happen. There's going to come a point when the best players and best teams will slow down because they're playing so many competitions."

"But certainly Chelsea look very impressive, particularly as they won the title last year and you would have thought they'd have started more slowly."

"But they've started as if they've still got a point to prove and so far they've been great. It's going to be difficult for Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool ... to keep up with them."

Vialli also said he thought Jose Mourinho's side were far from boring.

"Chelsea are a very entertaining side," said the former Juventus striker. "They combine better than anybody else the fighting spirit, amazing desire to win and high-temp play of English football with the very solid, consistent, defensive play of Italian football."

"This is possibly the best combination, and if you can manage it in England, Italy or France you are likely to win a lot. Mourinho has been brilliant to achieve that."

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# Everton struggling to get season up and running

LONDON (Reuters) - Everton have come down to earth with a bump from the heady heights they reached last season when they won a place in the Champions League qualifying rounds.

A 2-0 defeat by Arsenal on Monday means David Moyes's side have lost four of their first five league games this season and are second from bottom, 15 points adrift of leaders Chelsea.

The Merseysiders' European dream is already in tatters after going out of the Champions League at the first hurdle following a 4-2 aggregate defeat by Spain's Villarreal.

Their consolation prize of a place in the UEFA Cup also looks to be short-lived unless they can somehow overturn a humiliating 5-1 first-leg deficit when they face Dinamo Bucharest at Goodison Park next week.

With morale low, Monday's defeat looked to be a damage limitation exercise from a team keen to avoid another drubbing.

"We won't accept losing tonight but I think that considering the week



we've had, the players stuck at it," said Moyes after the match.

"Two-nil down at half-time, we asked them to show some pride and show what it meant to play for Everton and every one of them stood up for themselves."

The scoreline was certainly an improvement on the 7-0 rout Everton suffered in the corresponding fixture last season — albeit in their penultimate game when they had already sealed the fourth spot guaranteeing a Champions League berth.

"We were embarrassed last season but I don't think we were embarrassed tonight," said striker James McFadden.

### Bad luck

He added: "We tried to apply ourselves in the right manner but in the end we

lost to two set pieces, which is disappointing."

Everton have had their fair share of bad luck with a number of key players out injured.

Striker James Beattie has been hampered by a toe injury, Simon Davies has not played a full game since signing from Tottenham Hotspur in May due to a shin problem and midfielder Lee Carsley is recovering from a ligament injury.

Meanwhile, Australian midfielder Tim Cahill has struggled to find the form that helped the team do so well last year.

Moyes will be desperate to turn things around in their home game against newcomers Wigan on Saturday — a match that might otherwise have been seen as a guaranteed three points.

However, Wigan have so far defied the odds on their first foray into top flight football and will be brimming with confidence after two wins, two losses and a draw have propelled them to 10th place.

# Australian selectors wield the axe

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australia's selectors have wielded the axe after the Ashes series loss to England, dropping Damien Martyn, Jason Gillespie and Michael Kasprovicz from the test squad for next month's challenge series against the Rest of the World.

Gillespie, Kasprovicz and opening batsman Matthew Hayden were also dropped from the one-day squad as Australia start rebuilding towards the 2007 World Cup with one of their biggest shake-ups in years.

Australia's chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said the Ashes loss had accelerated the need for changes to the test side but did not necessarily mean the end of international careers although all the discards are in their 30s.

"Age is not a problem for us providing the contribution is still there," Hohns told reporters.

"There's no doubt part of the charter that we have is preparing for the future and that's always in the back of our mind as well."

Fast bowlers Gillespie and Kasprovicz were dropped during the Ashes. Martyn averaged less than 20 with the bat in the five-match series.

"We considered the performance by Damien in England as not up to the standard we require," Hohns explained.

"We expect that all three players who have not been selected will go back to state cricket and get back to the sort of form they were in 12 months ago."

Another selector, former fast bowler Merv Hughes, said of Martyn: "I don't think he's been made a scapegoat, I think performances in England would suggest a change was needed."



"Players' performances weren't to the standard that we've come to expect and there's been a couple of changes, not wholesale changes."

"All three are in the same boat, it doesn't end their careers, we just certainly hope it gives them a bit of a boost along and a little bit of incentive to do well at domestic cricket to get back in."

Australia won their limited-overs series against England before the Ashes but Hohns said there was no room for complacency with the World Cup less than two years away.

"We have re-jigged the one-day side to what we hope will provide a range of options to take on a formidable World XI side as well as forming the nucleus of the 2007 squad," he said.

"It doesn't mean these players can't come back to play one-day cricket for Australia, but at the same time we are moving forward."

The panel of selectors chose a 13-man squad for the six-day test in Sydney from October 14-19 and a 14-man squad for the three one-day matches at Melbourne's Docklands Stadium on October 5, 7 and 9.

Middle-order batsman Brad Hodge, all rounder Shane Watson and leg spinner Stuart MacGill were added to the test squad while paceman Shaun Tait, left-arm quick Nathan Bracken and all rounder James Hopes were included in the one-day side.

### Brightest prospects

Hodge and MacGill were both in the Ashes squad but did not play. Their chances of playing in Sydney will revolve around Watson, a 24-year-old regarded as one of the brightest prospects in Australian cricket.

"Watson gives the squad added flexibility," Hohns said.

"We can choose to play two spinners if the pitch looks like it will offer them something, or we can play four bowlers with Watson providing a fifth option."

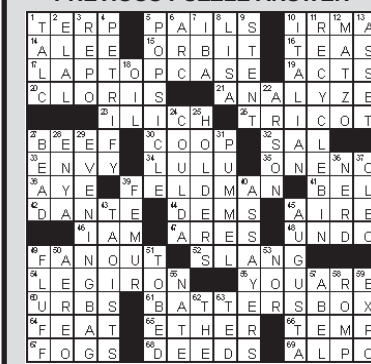
Hopes, 26, made his one-day international debut against New Zealand

## Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

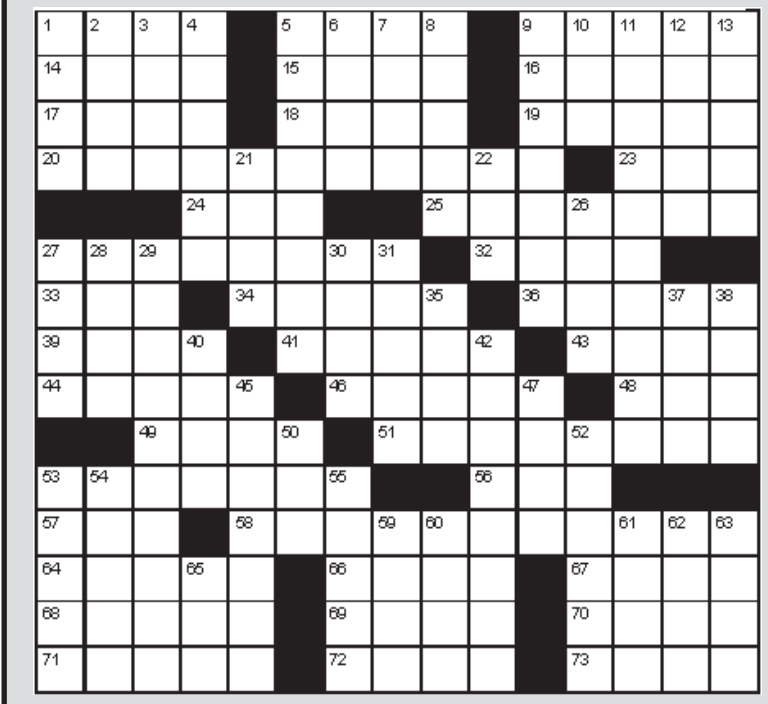
- ACROSS**
- 1 A couple words to Brutus
  - 5 "If I Only \_\_\_ Brain"
  - 9 Some types
  - 14 Ransack
  - 15 Fail to name
  - 16 One old enough to know better
  - 17 New currency on the Continent
  - 18 Flat-topped elevation
  - 19 Neatly smart in appearance
  - 20 Subject of "Signs"
  - 23 Musical note
  - 24 Cyclotron particle
  - 25 The first people to play crosswords
  - 27 Essential nutrient
  - 32 Seal in the juices
  - 33 Like some vbs.
  - 34 Joist and trussom, for two
  - 36 Like a depth finder
  - 39 Radiate
  - 41 Something to let off
  - 43 Actress Ward
  - 44 Titled ladies
  - 46 George of "Just Shoot Me!"
  - 48 Type of cage
  - 49 Honoraria
  - 51 Spokes, e.g.
  - 53 Casual workdays
  - 56 Chess pieces, informally
  - 57 Hang back
  - 58 Fictional, but realistic
  - 64 Soft palate pendant
  - 66 Clue choice
  - 67 Something to turn up your nose at
  - 68 Emerald mineral
  - 69 Three-sided sword
  - 70 Prefix with magnetic or dynamic
  - 71 Ugly weather
  - 72 Habituation at a high altitude
  - 73 Some stay at home
  - 26 New Mexico art colony
  - 27 Contended
  - 28 Flombauer or "La Douce"
  - 29 Sign of fitness
  - 30 King Cole and Turner
  - 31 Arabian chieftain (Var.)
  - 35 Michener genre
  - 37 Rival of Bjorn and Jimmy
  - 38 Dispatched vehicles
  - 40 \_\_\_ off (started a hole)
  - 42 Splurging's necessity
  - 45 It makes the briny briny
  - 47 In a willing manner
  - 50 Wd. fragment
  - 52 Do a longshoreman's job
  - 53 Botches
  - 54 "Piano Concerto for the Left Hand" composer
  - 55 Top of a platter
  - 59 Handle difficulties
  - 60 Pitcher with a big mouth?
  - 61 Result of cogitating
  - 62 President or possibly his car
  - 63 He's in the mood for love
  - 65 Soapmaker's solution

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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### "DON'T GET SNIPPY" by Elizabeth C. Gorski



**لا داعي للتلقائ 11**  
**مجال تخصصي في العلم والعمل**  
 تأسست قبل أكثر من خمسين عام ومنها تحصل على:  
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 - دبلوم سكرتارية وأعمال مكتبية.  
 - دبلوم إدارة أعمال.  
 - دبلوم فندقة وسياحة.  
 - دبلوم أعمال بنكية ومصرفية.  
 - نسطار لهم وقد الهمهم على أفضل شعبة وتخصصه الوظيفة للحسة الأمانة وأهميه في لدهم الحاصل على المركز الأول صرحك التدريب والتأهيل الممثل الوحيد لأكاديمية كليات سانت جيلز في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا

**مسابقة رقم (53) Contest No.**  
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**Complete these sentences:**

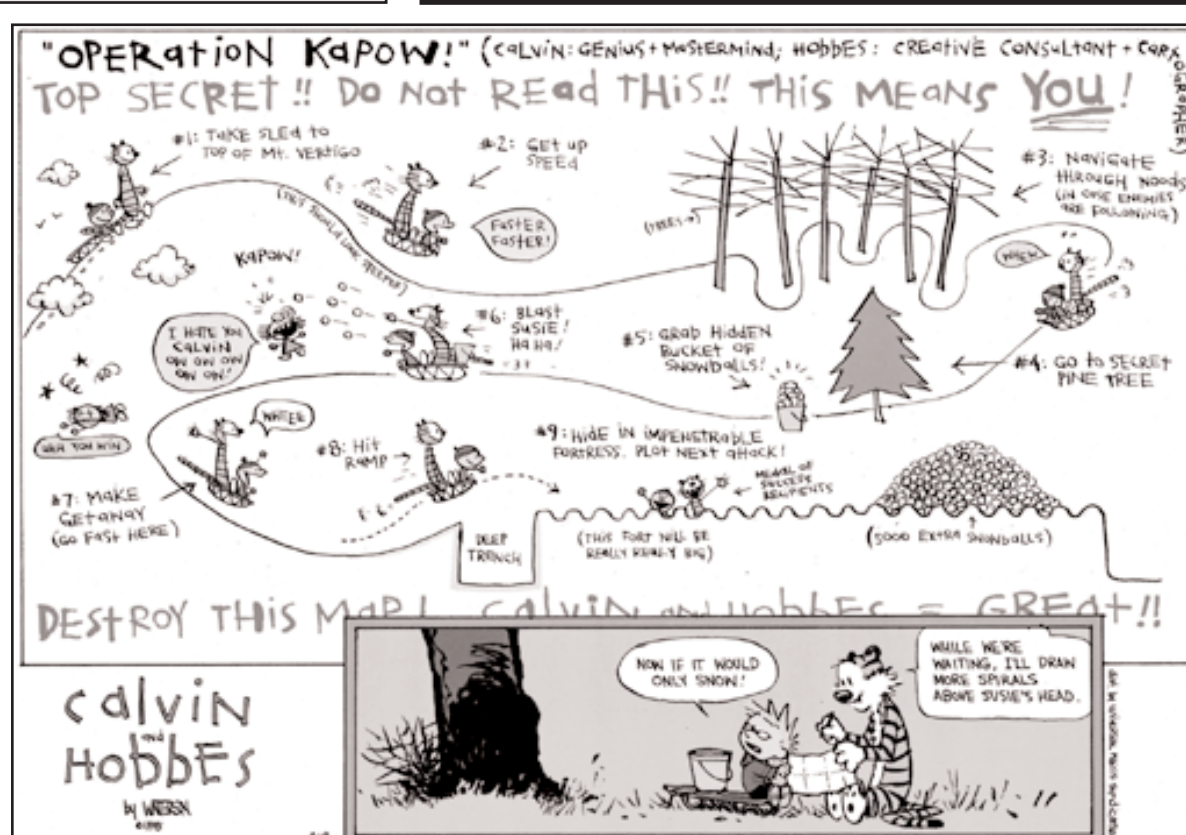
1. Many team sports use a.....ball .
2. Doors are .....in Shape .
3. A bird's body is covered in .....
4. Newspapers are made of .....

**Correct the mistakes:**

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

**Ans & Winner contest : 52**  
 1.C 2.D 3.A  
 4.F 5.B 6.E  
**Eiman Al-Khatibi**  
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## The fortress and steppes of Hajjarah

By MICHELLE ANNAND  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Many visitors have suggested that the majestic spirit of the mountains can be felt more intensely in Haraz than anywhere else in Yemen. Certainly for me I am drawn to this region with great regularity, and find it extremely inspirational as a creative person.

The proud mountain village of Manakha stands at 2200m. At the centre of intensely cultivated, terraced countryside, and benefiting from mountain rains gathered by the western mountains, Manakha is an important market town for villages on the surrounding mountain slopes. From here one can see the small villages and hamlets that lie scattered everywhere between the terraces that extend across

the steepest slopes.

This area is very famous for planting coffee, and this goes back to a long way in history. The people used to have a good income from coffee, which made them able to build such tall buildings and palaces. These days there appears to be as much qat growing here as coffee, as in contemporary Yemen, qat often competes with the vegetable and coffee crops, as it is such a money spinner.

Al-Hajjarah, a spectacular historical city five kilometres west of Manakha, has buildings that are very tall and closely related to each other, and can be easily spotted from a distance. The village dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD, served as an important fortification during the Turkish occupation of Yemen. The original village was divided into two. The Al-Ba'aha quarter was inhabited by Jews until they fled to Israel in the 1950's. Above this is the "Muslim quar-



ter" with its huge gate, ostensibly to shut out invaders and animals

The harmony of Hajjarah's architecture is splendid. A protective fortress, the city is entered through a single entrance with a long, unobstructed stairway leading to the heavy wooden gate. This allowed the only approach to the city to be guarded and defended. Hardly any mountain town in Yemen has ever been overtaken with this system.

Hajjarah was originally constructed as a safe house for dignitaries. Constructed from local sandstone and basalt, later decorated with white gypsum paint, the homes of Hajjarah were windowless on the bottom floors. The solid walls served as a protection against invasion. These lower floors were used for protecting livestock and for grain storage. The upper floors were reserved for the family living quarters. The main living room was typically situated on the top floor. These living rooms usually had many airy windows and were furnished with pillows and low couches. Yemeni homes were designed for comfort and furnished to provide maximum hospitality to friends, family and visitors.

These houses in the region, the tallest having four or five stories, having different levels for different purposes:- more specifically the first floor is for the animals, the second for the coffee, the third floor for the grains, the fourth for food,

and the fifth for chewing qat and wedding ceremonies.

The region is extremely fertile, with sheep and goats grazing on the valley. Farmers plow their terraces behind oxen and children play in and around the irrigation pools.

There is only one funduq in Hajjarah, and it is not difficult to locate as the locals seem to take an active participation in its functioning, and the friendly locals will lead you there directly if you look at all unsure of your whereabouts. This beautiful respite is located atop a high summit, overlooking the green terraces and valleys below. The hotel has wonderful fare, and about a dozen spacious rooms with panoramic views, and a couple of lounges where patrons can either chew qat or listen to live traditional music, and do not be surprised if the dancers ask you to join them in the traditional dances that require grace and stamina. Yemeni dancing has simple steps that take a minute to pick up and a lifetime to master.

Hajjarah is the landscape one might expect to find in a fairy tale. These remote areas are still largely unknown to the Western world, and to mass tourism. They are an ideal classroom for architecture, history, culture and art. This village is often described as simply "breathtaking" and is certainly one of the most striking places I have ever seen.



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