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Saleh and Abdullah confirm joint coordination

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct.24- President Saleh and King Abdullah the 2nd of Jordan, confirmed their desire for strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. This came in their meeting in Sana'a last Sunday. The two leaders pointed out to the available opportunities for progress of relations in the fields of economy, commerce and exchange of experiences. It also pointed to the prospects of increasing trade exchange between the two countries.

The meeting agreed that the Joint high Yemeni - Jordanian committee will meet at the beginning of next year in Sana'a, to discuss the promotion of all fields of cooperation.

Cooperation in developing transportation was also discussed during the meeting of the two leaders. A committee will be set to establish a sea transport line between the two countries.

It was also agreed to allow the Jordanian Red Sea Company to fish in Yemeni territories.

Concerning the immanent conditions in the Middle East, the two leaders confirmed that the continuation of efforts to incite peace efforts and help Palestinians and Israelis to resume negotiations after pull out from Gaza.

King Abdullah had paid a short 8 hours visit to Yemen during which he held talks with President Saleh. The visit was concluded by closed session of talks between the two leaders.



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British firm invests US\$75 million in Jabali zinc deposit

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa-26 oct. Britain's Zinc Ox Resources announced on Tuesday that its 60% subsidiary company, Jabal Salab, had signed an Exploitation Contract with Yemen's Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board (GSMRB) to mine and process zinc at the Jabali deposit. The Jabali zinc oxide deposit is located 110km north east of Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, and contains a resource, calculated in accordance with the JORC code of 12.6 million tons of ore at a grade of 8.9% zinc, 1.2% lead and 68grams/tons silver.

The Exploitation Contract is subject to the approval of the Cabinet and Parliament, which is expected during the first quarter of 2006. It will then be ratified by the President Ali Abdull Salah and incorporated in law. It sets out the terms under which Jabal Salab can mine and process zinc from the deposit. These include a 20 year lease, a 1.5% net smelter return Royalty, a tax holiday of six years and repayment of past costs incurred by the GSMRB of US\$5million commencing in the fourth year.

The Feasibility Study, which was completed by ZincOx and MDM, a firm of mineral engineers from South Africa, was based on the mining and processing of 800,000 tons per annum of ore at a mined grade of 9.2% zinc over a life of 11 years. There is potential to increase the ore resource as the deposit is open on two sides.

Mining will be by means of an open pit with a waste to ore strip ratio of 2 to

1. The ore will be treated by the LTC process developed by ZincOx and its consultants and piloted, using Jabali ore, at an independent laboratory in Belgium. The plant is expected to recover 77% of the zinc for the production of approximately 70,000 tonnes per annum of high quality zinc oxide, containing more than 99% zinc oxide. The quality of the final product will allow Jabal Salab to sell direct to end users of zinc oxide, thereby benefiting from a premium price.

The capital cost of developing the mine, processing plant, infrastructure and associated facilities is estimated at US\$75.4 million.

Scott Wilson Mining, a UK based firm of mineral consultants has prepared an environmental impact study in accordance with guidelines set down by the World Bank. The report has already been approved by the Yemen Environment Protection Authority, thereby satisfying all environmental permitting requirements.

ZincOx has been approached by various banks with the aim of providing project finance for the development of Jabali. Export credit agency political and commercial risk cover is available for Yemen which will greatly assist the arrangement of finance.

The progress now made with the Exploitation Contract will allow ZincOx to press ahead with its plans for project finance which is the next phase of the project's development. It is expected that financing will be in place during the third quarter of 2006, with construction, which will take 18 months, starting shortly thereafter.

UN Day celebrated

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct. 24- The United Nations agencies operating in the Republic of Yemen held a ceremony Monday on the occasion of the UN Day, which marks the 60th anniversary of the birth of the United Nations.

The event was staged at the Yemeni Cultural Center in the presence of UN Development partners, senior Yemeni government officials, representatives of international and civil community organizations, media personnel and foreign diplomats working in Yemen.

The UN agencies have reasons both to celebrate and to reflect. This is a day to take pride on all the achievements of the UN family in providing safer and better living conditions for hundreds of millions of people, said the message of the UN General Assembly President.

The ceremony opened with a recitation of some verses from the Holy Qur'an, and then a speech by Ms. Flavia Pansieri, the UN Resident Coordinator.

In her speech, Ms. Pansieri said: "this year has seen heated discussions on reform and the necessity of taking substantial actions."

"Five years have passed since the meeting of the world leaders at the International Organization's headquarters and their endorsement of the UN



A view of the children's performance on the occasion of the UN Day. Inset: Ms. Flavia Pansieri, Resident Coordinator of the UN activities in Yemen.

Millennium Declaration. The Secretary General of the International Organization presented last March more comprehensive reports on the issue of reform and the UN's future which are of global concern," Ms. Pansieri went on.

"The UN hosted last month the Millennium Summit that assessed what has been achieved for reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Most of the governments around the world have not fulfilled their promises and this helped expand the gap between the rich and the poor."

She pointed out the current situation of Yemen's progress toward reaching the Millennium Development Goals does not proceed in the required haste and the UN has to support the Government of Yemen

to achieve the sough goals.

"More than once, the Republic of Yemen expressed its commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and now the government works on preparing the third five-year plan for development and poverty alleviation. Through this plan, Yemen designs a strategy for reaching the Millennium Development Goals in the medium extent," she added.

"The UN Development Program will continue its support for the Yemeni government to improve the system of decentralization through training and capacity building in different districts."

The ceremony saw a song by children on the UN and the Millennium Development Goals, and then a speech by

Ahmad Sufan, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

Sufan praised the role played by the UN in many countries all over the world, particularly the least developed ones. He said: "The UN is a real partner in development and I am sure that Yemen will achieve the first Millennium development goal; 'Education for All' in due time."

Included in the event, there is also the announcement of winners of best youth drawings on the work of the UN and the MDGs, the distribution of recognition certificates, the launch of the special edition of the postal stamps on the UN's 60 anniversary and the MDGs, as well as the exhibition of children's drawings and the iftar reception.

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HONDA

Agreement on minerals exploitation signed

SANA'A - Oct. 25- Rituals of signing the first investment agreement on the exploitation of metal minerals in Yemen took place at the Ministry of Oil and Minerals.

The agreement was signed by the General Authority for Geological Surveys and the British Company Zinc Aux and its partners for exploiting the metals of zinc and lead in different parts of the country, where minerals are available.

In a statement to the 26 September net, Ismail al-Junaid, Chairman of the General Authority for Geological Surveys said under the agreement, the company will inaugurate the first project for exploiting minerals in Yemen.

The government of Yemen will be represented by Dr. Ismail al-Junaid, Chairman of the authority while Mr. Mike Foster is the representative of the British company.

Exploded rocket in Saudi

Sana'a 26 oct - An exploded rocket was found in the border province of Najran on Friday. Local Saudi resources said that the rocket that had been fired from the Saudi region "Yam". Whereas Daily al-Watan quoted a security source as saying an explosion, which occurred in the border province of Najran, was caused by a rocket fired from a distance of 25 kilometers (15 miles) inside Yemeni territory. There are conflicting news about the target of the rocket. Some sources said that the rocket aimed security region, whereas other sources said that the rocket targeted arable land called Hriza in Rjla area in Najran.

An investigation was being undertaken by the Saudi and Yemeni authorities to identify the sources of the rocket.

Unmilitary resources exposed to Yemen News website that the military intelligence has found rest of rocket whose features are similar to that rocket had been found in Saudi regions and the investigation is continues to find out the sources of both.

on the other hand, Three Yemenis were killed in an attack launched by a Saudi war plane Tuesday in Midi, Harad district. Press sources affirmed three Yemenis were killed as they were crossing the borders to the Saudi lands. But the Commander of Yemeni Border Guards in Harad denied the veracity of this news. "The situation is quiet on the Yemeni-Saudi borders. No killings and no clashes. Press sources should be accurate when reporting news." Colonel Nasser informed Sahwa net.

Corruption swallows \$5 milliards

SANA'A-Oct.26- Mr. Ali Alwafi, head of the economic circle of Islah party, said that the amounts that were embezzled during 2000-2005 were \$ 5 milliard. Weekly Al-asima newspaper attributed this report to Mr. Alwafi. Alwafi pointed out that the corruption cases escalated to a very high rate during the last four years. The money fraud for this year was about 2 milliards in 2005. It was about one milliard in 2004.

Mr. Alwafi said that the corrup-

tion rate went in a gradual manner since 2003. The public spending rate, which was accompanied by financial transgressions, led to retreat in execution of development projects.

Mr. Ali pointed out that the 5 milliards were enough to cover our external debts which are almost equal to this amount.

The Islah leader expressed his sorrow for the grim state which curbed the ability to achieve a better standard of life for people.

Bird flu feared in Yemen

SANAA, Oct. 24 (UPI) -- Large numbers of chicken perished in south Yemen triggering fears bird flu, reports said Monday.

The Daily al-Ayam reported an unidentified disease is spreading quickly among birds in the province of Kabita, and cats and dogs that ate the dead birds also perished.

The paper said sick chickens

stopped eating and drinking for no obvious reasons, leading to their death.

A government official was quoted as saying the authorities were considering a number of measures to confront a possible outbreak of the bird flu, including banning the import of live and slaughtered birds from countries where bird flu cases were registered.

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A leading multinational service company is seeking to recruit a dynamic Management Accountant for its Sana'a head office, with a university degree in Accounting and three to five years of post qualification work experience in audit or accounting in any of the leading multinational audit firms or multinational organizations.

The following requirements are considered as a minimum:

- Good working knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles
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Interested candidates who believe they fill the requirements should send their complete Resume and a self-written motivation letter to the following email address: leoaussie@gmail.com

Ministry of Telecommunication raises prizes

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 22 - A large number of citizens complained last week of a sharp rises of prizes on calls and internet. When they received the bills for last August and September, they were shocked to find that the cost of local calls had got higher and the cost of the internet had raised from one riyal to 1 1/2 riyals per minute. One riyal per minute is the officially announced cost.

Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Engineer Abdulmalik al-Mu'amlimi, said to the media that he did not know about an increase in the cost of calls and internet and that his ministry did issue any directives concerning this matter.

Director of the General Corporation for Telecommunication, Kamal al-Jabri, confirmed to the media that the price of calls had risen to amend the system of bills in the governates

because of a flaw in the previous system, which caused problems in the price of calls.

According to al-Jabri, the increased prices on local calls and internet is suggested to avoid any loss, as the government of Yemen suffer from big burdens which never exist in other countries, mainly the cost of preventing undesired sites.

Al-Nada weekly quoted Lawyer Mohamed Naji Allaw as saying: "From an ethical perspective, the General Corporation of telecommunications was supposed to announce to subscribers what it was about to carry out. It raised the cost of local calls and the internet by 50%, contrary to what the government promised to offer citizens cheap telecommunication services.

Allaw mentioned that other Arab countries exempted the internet services from previously imposed fees to improve prosperity and

development.

Over the first half of 2005, the number of telephone lines in Yemen grew to 843 thousand and 90 lines in all the Yemeni governates, with an increase of 44 thousand and 954 lines to the number of the previous year.

The Yemen News Agency, Saba, published a report issued by the General Corporation for telecommunications, stating that the number of subscribers to the Internet service offered through the Yemen Net during the first half of the year reached 7599, while the number of subscribers in the pre-paid cards totaled to 9070, pushing to 84 thousand and 352 the overall number of internet subscribers.

By counting the total number of telephone and internet subscribers, one can find there is a 50% rise in the cost of internet and calls, and this will add thousands of riyals to the revenues of the corporation.

Workshop on national strategy for childhood & youth

TAIZ - Oct. 19- Within the framework of the National Conference for Childhood and Youth scheduled to take place next December, a workshop on the national strategy for childhood and youth was held last Wednesday involving all the concerned parties,

local councils and representatives of civil community organizations in this discussion of childhood and youth-related issues.

The event was sponsored by Minister of Youth and Sports, Abdurrahman al-Akwa, Minister of Social Affairs, Abdulkarim al-

Arhabi, and Labor and Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood and other senior government officials.

The officials stressed on the importance of the workshop on governate level and its outcome and recommendations that are due to

serve the national strategy for childhood and youth.

Youth expert Mr. Kamil al-Nabils stressed on the responsibility of supervising the remaining activities of the workshop and suggested the goals and themes upon which the workshop is based.

Yemeni retreat in Press freedom nearly internationally worst

SANA'A - Oct.26- According to the annual report of journalists without borders 2005 in press freedom, Yemen's score retreated to 136 out of 167 of the countries involved in the report. It used to rate 135 in last year record.

This report places Yemen in the category of the worst countries in press freedom in the world. These are the

areas of the Middle East and East Asia.

The report criticized the absence of private media in a number of Arab countries, pointing out that the people of these countries depend on official media for receiving news.

The report that was issued last week listed improvement in press freedom in each of Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq

and Sudan. Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan and UAE, came on top; surpassing Lebanon. The report listed Lebanon as the best among Middle East countries in respecting human rights, in spite of its 50 points retreat following the assassination of journalist Sameer Qaseer last June. This is in addition to the serious injuries of media woman Mei Shidiaq, in the attack she was

subjected to last September.

The international organization said that it categorizes its list according to the sponsorship imposed by the states on their press, in addition to the number of media men arrests. Number of journalists that get killed state monopoly over press establishments and the legal restrictions imposed on press establishments.

Expulsion of illegal immigrants

Sana'a, 24 oct . The Yemeni authorities have ordered to expulse at least 12,000 'illegal immigrants' and 'illegal residents' detained since the beginning of the year. According to (26 September) newspaper, some 600 of them are women and children. the newspaper quoted one

anonymous official as saying that most of them were detained as they tried to "infiltrate" the country via the eastern coast of the Shabwa governorate, the area of Yemen where most illegal immigrants arrive.

At least "11,250 are prisoners of

Somali origin, while 650 are Ethiopian and the other 155 are of other nationalities," the source said. Early in October the Yemeni security forces and coastguard arrested at least 350 illegal immigrants.

Yearly , thousands of Somalis and Ethiopians suffering poverty and

insecurity, including refugees trying to escape persecution and violence, fall prey to unscrupulous traffickers in the hope of reaching Yemen, from where many seek to make their way into Europe. Many of those immigrants are known to have drowned each year.



مجموعة عمل منظمات المجتمع المدني

JOB VACANCY

The Civil Society Organizations' Thematic Working Group (CSOs' TWG) is a national network of CSOs working in the context of implementation and monitoring of national development strategies and plans especially those focusing on poverty reduction. The CSOs' TWG comprises 21 member organizations from different governorates and intends to promote effective partnership between CSOs and the government to fulfill the rights and priorities of the poor.

Title: Executive Manager

Qualification and experience:

- University degree in social science or other related field.
- Extensive working experience with NGOs and familiarity with the opportunities and challenges of CSOs in Yemen.
- Familiarity with poverty and development issues.
- Familiarity with gender issues.

Key competencies:

- Coordination capacity.
- Willing to work with diverse organizations and promote capacity of the different CSOs groups.
- Flexible and open minded, with the ability to accommodate different perspectives and viewpoints.
- Result and task oriented
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and in a team
- Excellent communication, writing, negotiation, and advocacy skills.
- Fluency in Arabic and English

To apply, please send your CV, relevant testimonies and a letter of application to: Chairperson, CSOs' TWG at the below fax and / or email. Applications could also be delivered by hand to the office of the CSOs' TWG at the Statistical Training Centre at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation or to the Executive Office of the Yemeni Women Union behind the Central Bank of Yemen.

Fax: 01-253010

Email: mugeeb@gmail.com



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Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering. Oxfam's program in Yemen has expanded which requires new areas of work with new specialisation. We are looking for dynamic people to work as part of the Oxfam team based in the sub-office in Seiyun, Hadramut.

Job Title: Livelihood Project Officer

Key Competencies and requirements:

- Education to at least University level in economics, social sciences, business studies or related field
- At least 2 years of demonstrable experience in livelihood programs and proven understanding of small business development
- Demonstrable experience in delivery through project management.
- Good representation, negotiation and influencing skills.
- Good organizational skills and ability to achieve results
- Excellent verbal and written Arabic communications skills and good working knowledge in English.
- Ability to work under pressure and be result oriented.
- Commitment to work with vulnerable people including women to help them improve their livelihoods.
- Commitment to promoting gender equality
- Ability to travel frequently to remote areas.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 19th November 2005 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

The Country Programme Manager, Oxfam GB

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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:

Economic experts claimed that corrupt officials embezzled \$5 million of the public money between 2000-2005. Do you think this is true?
Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Opposition politicians believe the planned discussions between Yemen, Jordan and Turkey will lead Yemen to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. Do you think this is true?

Yes 62%
No 28%
I don't know 10%

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yementimes.com/#poll
and have your voice heard

Cases of brutality against street vendors in Yemen

(News-Yemen) Oct 25, Sana'a - When Mohamed Ragheb said he was too naive in believing the official rhetoric about the government's policy in preventing torture and assault against citizens by security and military apparatuses and respecting human rights, he apparently had a point.

When Ragheb saw about 10 police officers violently dragging a 7-year-old street seller in one of the streets of Sana'a, he could not tolerate the inhumane treatment of the child and attempted to interfere to stop the abuse. But just as he was about to do so, Ragheb was threatened by one of the police officers, "You ought to beat the hell out of here or you will get something that won't please you."

But because he didn't obey the policeman's orders and dared to gently suggest to the officers not to beat the child, Ragheb was taken into the police pickup

car and was beaten up severely while on the way to the police station. When he arrived to the Muallimi police station, he underwent another round of beating until most of his body was bruised or injured. He was only released when his father came to the station to apologize for his son's behavior in interfering in policemen's work while on duty.

The medical report that Ragheb holds indicates that he was beaten unconscious by rifle butts, resulting in large scratches on his face, neck and above his left eye. He later started complaining about back and knee pain.

Weeks after the incident, another young man, Yasser Farhan, explained how he was beaten severely at the Alaya police station in Sana'a after his foe paid money to police officers and soldiers in the station to force Farhan and a colleague of his to confess to a crime, which he never committed and which

was proven to be false by the authorities.

Farhan said he was subject to torture and humiliation by the investigation officer, and was taken by two soldiers to the roof of the police station only to be beaten up again. When questioned about those claims, the police officer admitted that Farhan "only received three slaps on the face because he was too philosophical and instigating."

But the nightshift duty officer of the same police station said he could not provide any information because of "superior orders not to talk to non-governmental media".

The police station's chief ridiculed what he called a "media exaggerations" and said "We are in Yemen, not in Iraq's Abu Ghraib's prison", stressing that those policemen accused of torture were sent to a disciplinary council.

Cases of assault and torture in Yemeni official and non-official prisons and

police and judicial centers are frequently reported. A few of those cases make it to the attorney office; among them was the case of Sami Al-Sharjabi, who was severely tortured at the criminal investigation bureau in Taiz. However, after more than a year and half since it was initially brought to the attention of the authorities, it still could not be transferred to the judiciary because of pressure exerted by the Ministry of Interior to prevent prosecution for alleged immunity of security officers according to the 'effective regulations'.

Stories of abuse and torture by security men have gained publicity in Yemen in the last few years as means of corruption enabled rich or powerful individuals to use their money or influence to target certain people for individual vengeance or other motives.

The South East First Instance Court continues to try three security men for

killing street vendor Mujahid Al-Samhi, who was beaten to death after being chased by municipality officers accompanying police security officers. The family of Al-Samhi did not yield to pressure by authorities to resolve the dispute peacefully through a traditional mutual compensation agreement. This was in contrast to a similar case of the murder of street seller Burhan, whose case was closed when his issue was resolved tribally after compensation was paid to his family.

Police forces continue to chase and imprison unlicensed street vendors, who fill the streets of the capital city due to a widening margin of unemployment. This trend is observed even more evidently during the holy month of Ramadan during which vendors seize the opportunity of large masses of shoppers, and run their seasonal business with the risk of being caught, beaten up, imprisoned, or potentially killed.

Governmental reports have continuously denied that the beating up and torturing of prisoners or law violators is a common trend and called those incidents "isolated cases that do not reflect a common government policy." However, this claim was rejected by some academi-

cians in a debate forum held to discuss the 2004 National Human Rights Report. Some participants in the discussion said that the governmental excuse was weak because "low-ranking officers would not have dared [to torture victims] without consent from the top."

This comes in a time Amnesty International had started a campaign entitled "No to torture and abuse in the War on Terror". The campaign is expected to continue until April 2006, when the international pro-human rights organization is expected to release its report on torture and present it to the concerned committee at the United Nations.

The Amnesty International campaign is expected to concentrate on torture cases that have been unveiled and those still secret in six countries: USA, UK, Indonesia, Jordan, Italy, and Yemen.

The organization is drumming up public support for its campaign to pressurize those six countries to respect human rights and end cases of torture. It is also working hard to build a strong public opinion against the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, which it hopes would be closed down for being an illegal prison that resembles 'the gulag of our time'.

Call for Parliamentarians to Deliver Results for Poor

October 24, 2005 Saying that the call for action in the fight against poverty had resonated loud and clear around the world during this year of development, President Paul Wolfowitz on Saturday urged parliamentarians from 90 countries to help their countries deliver results for the poor.

Wolfowitz was addressing the Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB) meeting at the Parliament of Finland in Helsinki.

As World Bank President, I intend to build on the partnerships that the Bank has already established with parliaments around the world, Wolfowitz said.

Their oversight role has an important bearing on the mission to fight poverty.

Across the world, parliamentarians monitor public resources and provide a crucial link between the World Bank and the local communities in both developing and developed countries".

The Bank chief called on legislators to ask tough questions and ensure that pressing development issues are placed on national agendas.

The annual conference, under the theme "Beyond the Year of

Development: What

Now, brought 200 elected representatives face-to-face with Wolfowitz, World Trade Organization Director General Pascal Lamy, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and other development leaders.

The gathering featured workshops on pressing issues such as debt relief, trade, climate change, and aid effectiveness.

Parliamentarians took stock of recent development initiatives and debated a number of key questions. They included: Has the international community succeeded in instilling a sense of urgency in efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, or is it business as usual? What areas require particular attention? What can parliamentarians in collaboration with other development stakeholders now do to cement public support for the fight against poverty.

Set up in 2000, the independent Parliamentary Network on the World Bank gathers nearly 1,000 parliamentarians from 110 countries. The group aims to encourage policy dialogue between legislators and the World Bank and the IMF, and to mobilize parliamentarians in the fight against poverty.

Concessions needed at trade talks

With a few weeks left before the WTO Ministerial Meeting takes place in HongKong, Wolfowitz urged all trading nations to make the necessary concessions.

It may be uncomfortable for governments to step forward and give up subsidies and other barriers to free trade, he said. But that temporary discomfort is nothing compared to the daily discomfort and deprivation of the poorest people of the world. They are counting on us. We must deliver results for them.

That call was echoed by WTO's Lamy in a later session. We are faced with mountains of work and very little time, he told participants in an interactive video conference.

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank urged legislators to scrutinize government positions on trade ahead of Decembers crucial WTO gathering.

Also addressing the conference, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said the Millennium Development Goals were our best hope for humanity.

Speaking via direct video link from

the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, the president said: You could argue all night long about what justice or world

peace means, but no one can argue about the need to reduce maternal death by 75 percent or infant mortality. No one is against universal primary education. No one would be against reducing by 50 percent the number of people living on less than a dollar a day.

Ensuring accountability to reach the MDGs emerged as major theme during the PNoWB conference.

Said Bert Koenders, the Dutch parliamentarian who chairs the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank: As parliamentarians, we need to build the necessary political will. It is our job to hold governments and inter-governmental agencies like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization accountable.

The global development community urgently requires support from parliamentarians, said Ian Goldin, the Bank Vice President for External

Affairs, Communication and UN Affairs. The leadership coupled with the accountability that parliamentarians bring is now needed more than ever.

Syndicates threat of strike

SANA'A- Oct. 26 In a new initiative of its kind, Yemeni syndicates have agreeably stood against the government mechanism in applying the salary-wages law, which has not been ratified yet. According to - Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper, the General Syndicate for oil and chemicals (G.S) demanded that the strategy of applying the law should take job description, and job entitlements into consideration. The Syndicate also demanded the salary minimum amount be raised in a way that matches the workers standard of life. Workers in the oil sectors will

not abandon their rights, syndicate added.

On the other hand, Yemeni Teachers Syndicate (YTS) affirmed that Ba Jammal government is trying to exclude legal allowances included in the Teacher's Law. YTS may resort to go on striking if the legal allowances are excluded.

Meanwhile, Technical Education and Vocational Training Syndicate may resort to strike due to the government ignorance towards workers rights during the application of the salary-wage law.

JOB VACANCY

Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering. Oxfam's program in Yemen has expanded which requires new areas of work with new specialisation. We are looking for dynamic people to work as part of the Oxfam team. The person appointed will be based at the Oxfam sub-office in Seiyun, Hadramout.

Job Title: Livelihood Programme Officer

Key Competencies and requirements:

- At least 3 to 5 years of related mid-level project management experience, preferably with national/international organizations working for women's economic empowerment.
- Sound understanding of development and poverty context in Yemen
- Understanding and program experience in livelihood
- Experience on project/program management
- Knowledge of national policies related to livelihoods and women's access to the market and employment.
- Ability to network and link widely with civil society, government and donors working on women's economic opportunities and employment.
- Commitment to equal opportunities and promotion of gender equality in all aspects of Oxfam's work.
- High degree of personal organization, self-sufficiency and initiative.
- Demonstrable analytical, project appraisal, monitoring, impact assessment and reporting abilities
- Research and training experience
- Excellent communication and writing skills in both English and Arabic.
- Ability to work in a team and independently
- Ability to travel extensively to the field
- Excellent communication and leadership skills.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 19th November 2005 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

The Country Programme Manager, Oxfam GB
P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No.: 01 445 650 Or
Email: habbas@oxfam.org.uk

Oxfam GB is a development, relief, and campaigning organisation dedicated to finding lasting solutions to poverty and suffering around the world. We believe that every human being is entitled to a life of dignity and opportunity; and we work with poor communities, local partners, volunteers, and supporters to help this become a reality.

JOB VACANCY

Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering. Oxfam's program in Yemen has expanded which requires additional program support. We are looking for a dynamic person to work as part of the Oxfam team. The person appointed will be based at the Oxfam sub-office in Seiyun, Hadramout.

Job Title: Finance Officer

Key Competencies and requirements:

- University degree in a finance related subject or professional accounting qualifications.
- Three years experience of financial management in a similar size organisation.
- Ability and experience of using financial software package and use of other IT software in particular Microsoft applications.
- Good communication skills - verbal and written in Arabic and English
- Ability to train and coach others in financial management
- Ability to deal with people at all levels; partners, staff and regional center
- Provides attention to detail, ability to meet deadlines, time manage and deliver results.
- Interest in the work of Oxfam and the programme.
- Willingness and able to travel.
- Willing to locate in Seiyun

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 19th November 2005 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

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Job Title: Campaigns & Policy Officer

Key Competencies and requirements:

- Education in social sciences, economics or related fields
- At least 2 years experience of NGO work preferably in policy and advocacy capacity.
- Experience of program development and a mature understanding of poverty and development issues
- Relevant knowledge, experience and good understanding of development, information, advocacy and campaigning work
- Experience of academic/action research
- Strong in analysis and strategic thinking and ability to present complex information to a wide range of people
- Excellent written and verbal communication (in English and preferably in Arabic) including representation skills, report writing skills and negotiation and influencing skills
- Ability to work within a team and at an individual level
- Ability to promote networking and alliance building among civil society
- Commitment to all aspects of equal opportunity and diversity including promoting gender equality and strong commitment to the aims of Oxfam's work
- Able to travel within Yemen and if necessary outside of Yemen
- Good organizational skills and an ability to work under pressure and to deadlines
- Ability to use IT systems and data bases

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 19th November 2005 and clearly state on your covering letter the job you are applying for. Any covering letter which does not mention the job reference/title will not be considered.

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61-90	6	3
91-100	7	3.5



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Secretary General of Al-Ghad Party to Yemen Times

“We believe that social justice and social liberty can reduce crime.”

Millions of Yemenis are frustrated by existing political organizations and parties. They expected these parties to play their role in carrying out their declared agendas, which are expected to contribute to building a democratic peaceful community based on the peaceful transfer of power through free elections. People dream of broad based civil society tolerant to others, and defending of rights against the continuous abuses they are often subjected to. Moreover, the free media and publishing rights that the parties often promise and call for is a public dream people always long for. People want to see the parties defending them against the starvation policies adopted by the government.

For all these disappointments, and the fact that the present parties are either pro-government or running after their own benefits, the situations necessitated that there should be a party that expresses the people's aspirations for Justice, equal rights and guarantee of education, health and social welfare. It is Al-Ghad party who devoted itself to these ends.

It states in its principals that 'Unfairness leads to poverty and poverty is the source of crime, hatred, violence and denial of freedom. Infringement of rights yields underground activities.'

Lack of official establishments draws a wedge between the regime and the public, and psychological disorders are a result of political suppression.

Discrimination between men and women results in cultural recession and social disorders.

Mohamed Bin Salam from Yemen Times Staff, met Arif Al-Khamiri, Secretary General of Al-Ghad party and filed this reportage.

Q: It is rumored that you intend to form a liberal secular party, what do you say to that?

A: We thank Yemen Times for their distinct attention to national cases.

And now to your question: Al-Ghad party was an early reflection among a number of intellectuals who were con-



Arif Al-Khamiri

cerned with the national issues. A great deal of the structural bases has been completed and will shortly be revised by the constituent body of the party. It will be presented to the party's general assembly as soon as possible. As for the liberal and secular trends of the party, I think this is a premature judgment, which will be refuted by our manifesto. The constitution and the law of Yemeni parties and organizations bind the Al-Ghad party.

Q: Is the Al-Ghad party named after the Egyptian Al-Ghad?

A: Al-Ghad means future and every nation look forward to the future.

Q: Why did your party declaration come at this time in particular, what do you imply?

A: Our country needs more participation to reform disorders. Democracy is an aim that Yemen seeks to achieve and Al-Ghad party is an addition to the political spectrum.

Q: Can you give a brief introduction to the party's politics?

A: We in Al-Ghad party see that the foreign policy should be restructured to pave the way for sustained initiatives. Fish and petroleum revenues should be

invested to create a technology, which can help the community in developing their livestock and fish resources. We want to attract investors through a new three-dimensional development plan that involves the government, civil community and donors. Agricultural cost is to be lowered by mechanizing production means. Energy strategy that reduces petroleum consumption and depends on new energy alternatives such as natural gas, sun, wind hydro electric, and other cheaper sources of energy.

The alienating unfertile areas are to be treated to redistribute population and wealth between densely and thinly populated areas to empower politicians in the local councils in governorates and districts to freely carry out their duties, and to change the civil, charitable rights, and mobilize civil societies into democratic institutions of dialogue that coexist and shun tyranny.

Women are to have political, social and economic rights instead of past legislative oppressions. Parliamentary reforms should be made to give a quota for women so that they will participate in decisions on important issues.

The curative, diagnostic and protective sections need reform. The health cadre should be qualified Yemenis and they should learn how to use modern medical technological tools. The medical policy also needs reform and a list of the most recent medicines and research is to be published.

As for education we do not think that the present branching into liberal and scientific sections is sensible. It is necessary to computerize and enlarge the database and applied sciences that can develop the educational system.

We believe that social justice and social

liberty can reduce crime. There should be awareness of economic, intellectual and cultural rights. These and the economic restructure that we pointed to before will make the security authorities more aware of the citizens' rights.

The above-mentioned will create an economic stability that will be a logical attractor to tourism.

We are aware of the international coexistence in a manner that does not contradict our principals and laws.

Q: In the last fifteen years Yemeni parties have not satisfied the public interest as European parties do. In what way do you think the Al-Ghad party is different?

A: We do not think that our democratic experience is a failure. There are political parties, which we believe is a healthy

sign, though there are some impediments. Europe has its own political environment that could not be compared with ours.

Al-Ghad party is different because we are partners with other parties in both government and opposition. As a party we will study the Yemeni situation and create a civil community that believes in peaceful coexistence.

Q: Many parties complain of the regime's undemocratic behavior towards them, and they think that they are being curbed by their activities. What stance are you going to have towards the ruling party and the other parties?

A: We believe in democratic dialogue to be an alternative to violence and extremism. Concerning the alliances, we are open to them if they are in line with

our aims.

Q: How many members does the Al-Ghad party have so far?

A: We are now interested in founding the party, though we have large number of membership applications.

Q: How do you finance your party?

A: Members contribute and we get unconditional grants in addition to investment.

Q: When will you declare your party public and what obstacles are you facing?

A: There are no obstacles, but we want to be precise with the founding steps, and when we finish we are going to present our outcome to our general assembly in order to retrieve.

Breaking the fast with dates

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Breaking the fast with dates is a Ramadan tradition, as most of its benefits are unique to this particular fast. Breaking one's fast with dates, as well as praying before iftar, are both mentioned in the Hadith literature: "The Messenger of Allah would break his fast with ripe dates before he would pray. If those were not available, he would eat dried dates. If those were not available, he would drink some water."

One of the many physical benefits of breaking the fast with dates is that our body benefits from the date's high level of natural sugars. Sugars travel most quickly to the liver, where they are converted into energy more quickly than any other nutrient. Muslims have an immediate need for this energy when they break their fast, for they need energy to perform their sunset prayers. Ironically, one also needs this energy to consume the iftar meal. When a person eats, the body uses energy to digest the food. Eating large quantities of food immediately after fasting is not healthy for the body, which is in a weakened condition. Eating a date first helps the body start its digestive process and gives it the energy to deal with the secondary, more complex foods, eaten during iftar.

Dates are also high in vitamins A and B6, folic acid, potassium, natural sodium, iron, and magnesium. Thus, eating dates daily during Ramadan is like taking a daily multivitamin. This daily multivitamin can create a stronger and healthier body, one more fit for fasting. Dates also contain large amounts of dietary fiber, which



Dates contain high level of sugar that moves quickly the liver.

can prevent any constipation that might result from eating the traditionally rich foods served during Ramadan. Additionally, dates protect the stomach and intestinal tract from parasites and bacteria, and thus is a good preventative medicine when eating iftar at unfamiliar locations.

Dates also have a special place in Islam. In fact, they were one of the Prophet's (Peace be upon Him) most frequently consumed foods. For this reason, their benefit is most likely spiritual as well as physical. If their benefit were purely physical, one could perhaps consume any fruit high in natural sugars before iftar to gain similar benefits. However, the act of following the Prophet's (Peace be upon Him) tradition is one way of connecting and remembering him, which is spiritually beneficial for Muslims.

One should pray after eating dates and before eating the main meal, because this short break gives the body time to metabolize the dates and

water that have been consumed and to start the body's digestive processes, which have been resting all day. Eating large amounts of food immediately after breaking the fast resembles starting a car and driving it without giving it enough time to warm up. As we know, this can damage the engine's internal mechanics.

The same is true with the body, for jumpstarting the body's digestive processes can shock the entire organ system. In some cases, this shock could be dangerous. In most cases, however, it is simply an unhealthy way to break the fast. The immediate dangers are apparent in the increased need to sleep after the iftar. This sleepy feeling comes about because the body has expended so much energy on the digestive system that it needs to lower its other bodily functions in order to perform its digestive duties properly. Over time, this habit can cause long-term damage to the body.

Habits practiced in Ramadan

Ramadan Cannon:

The first shot of the Ramadan cannon is fired as a sign of fast-breaking time the holy month of Ramadan, inherited from the Turkish army in the early 20th century, this cannon is fired in all major Yemeni cities. There are many tales related to the Ramadan cannon since it is one of the prominent habits practiced in Ramadan before the spread of media, to the extent that the cannon still operates on the mechanism used by the Turkish army over 100 years ago.

In the old days, people at home, in restaurants and mosques used to listen to the sound of the cannon at the time of iftar and sahur. As the time of sunset draws nearer, children in Taiz gather and shout "Oh Ali Hamoud, shoot, shoot." Ali Hamoud is the man who operates the cannon at the time of iftar at the peak of Mountain Saber.

Sanboosa:

What attracts attention in the markets of Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeida is the spread of sanboosa shops, and most of the shops make sanboosa only in the month of Ramadan. There is no particular reason why people demand sanboosa only in Ramadan and queue up in front of the sanboosa shops who prefer commercially produced sanboosa rather than to make them at home. This type of food is typically offered with iftar, and no one can see a banquet in any house or restaurant without sanboosa.

Shafoot:

In addition to the interest of people in sanboosa, a large number of Yemenis care for shafoot which ever exists in every Ramadan banquet. Shafoot is composed of bread and dairy and greens which are added to it after half an hour of the making process. It is an important meal that is eaten by most people all around the republic particularly those living in Sana'a. It is remarkable that the majority of women seize the opportunity during Ramadan to make this meal and sell it in the markets in large quantities due to the huge flow of people to buy it during the daytime.

Signs of changes in Ramadan:

One of the most important aspects in life during the holy month of Ramadan in Yemen is the continuous buying and selling in the capital streets throughout the night. Most shops remain open until sunrise. This is what distinguishes Ramadan in Sana'a as streets remain crowded with people throughout the night, and people stay sleepless over night and then sleep in the morning.

Women in Ramadan:

During the daytime, housewives prepare the meal of iftar, which requires extensive efforts from them as this meal in the Yemeni houses is always varied. There are numerous types of food which families had only during Ramadan such the dishes of Shurba (soup-like liquid substance), shafoot, spaghetti, and greens, in addi-

tion to different types of juice.

Heads of the household care for the provision of different meals and this requires housewives to double their efforts in kitchens to prepare the varied meal of iftar.

In the evening, women are used to go out to the markets to buy clothing for them and their children to take advantage of the Sales and discounts during the month. Some of them go out for sessions with other women in the neighborhood. These sessions are specific to people living in the cities. A large number of women ask for fatawa (religious advice) during Ramadan nights, and this is why there is a remarkable increase in the number of religious programs in the Radio and the television.

One of the people responsible for the preparation of Ramadan programs wondered at the great influx of women asking for fatawa. Some of them are believed to postpone their questions from the beginning of year until the month of Ramadan and then raise them to religious scholars on the occasion.

From the social perspective, domestic problems and quarrels between the husband and his wife exacerbate in Ramadan due to the requirements and needs of this month, particularly if the husband has no work or is of scant income. Family and children needs increase in Ramadan, particularly as people exchange visits and pride themselves in the purchase of expensive articles that can not fit their incomes. And sometimes these quarrels between both spouses lead to the divorce.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

Sony Computer Entertainment Europe Announces Recall of Certain AC Adaptors sold with the slimline PlayStation 2

Sony Computer Entertainment Europe (SCEE) has identified a possible safety concern with certain AC Adaptor units supplied with the new slimline PlayStation2.

Certain AC Adaptors, identified as manufactured between August 2004 and December 2004, and supplied with the black slimline PlayStation 2 models SCPH70002, 70003 and 70004 may overheat and cause an injury hazard to consumers. It is likely that some of these units may have been on sale after this date. No other PlayStation 2 units are affected.

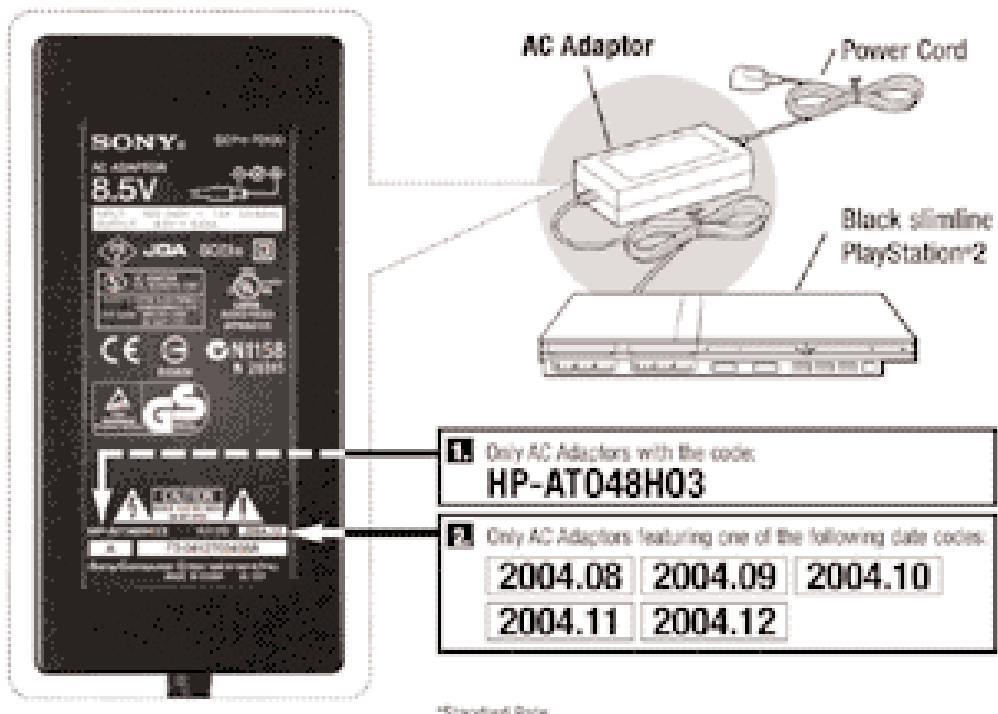
To ensure the quality and safety of PlayStation products for consumers, SCEE has taken the decision to recall all affected AC Adaptors in Europe, Middle East, Africa and Australasia.

Consumers who identify their AC Adaptor from the diagram below as one of those affected, should arrange for a replacement by visiting www.ps2ac.com

Consumers can also contact the dedicated recall Helpline on 01 503 9421. A new AC Adaptor will be provided free of charge. Please do not take your AC Adaptor back to the place of purchase.

As a precautionary measure, and until a replacement is provided, SCEE advises consumers owning one of the AC Adaptors affected by this Notice to unplug the PlayStation 2 from the mains power supply and discontinue use until a replacement AC Adaptor is provided.

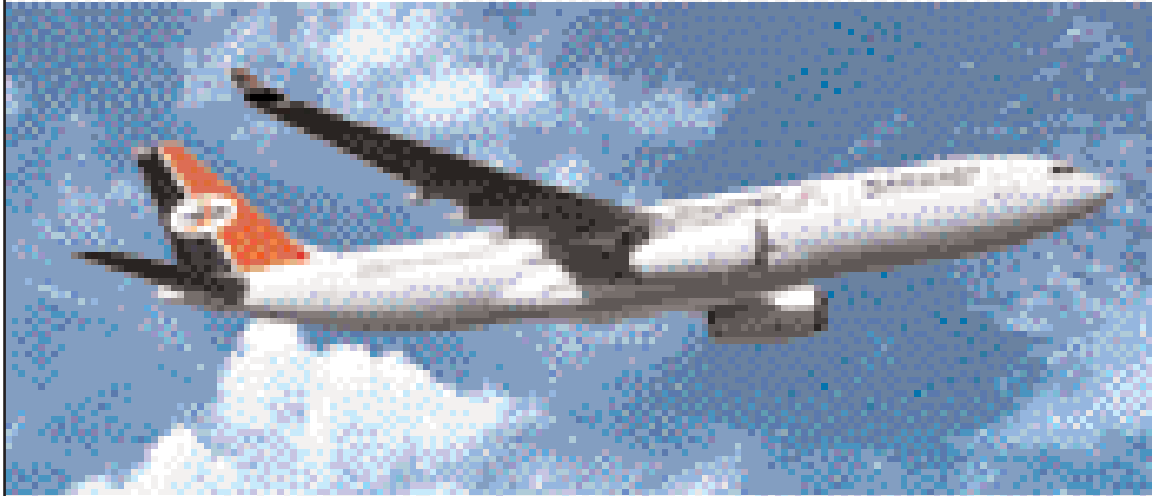
We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused.



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Yemenia winter schedule inaugurated

With 9 flights to Europe



Yemenia Airways (IY) has set up widely important changes in the winter flight schedule which starts as from 30th October, 2005. To this end, a number of flights has been added to set out for different destinations like, for example, daily flights to Cairo, eleven non-stop flights to Dubai, and nine direct flights to Europe. Actually, IY covers 33 external and internal destinations.

Developments as such are carried out within the framework of a plan to extend IY operating network so as to offer remarkable services to passengers. The plan also aims at connecting Yemen with the external world in order to uplift tourism, which in turn contributes to the economy revival and

connection of the Yemeni expatriates with their homeland.

Mr. Abdullah al-Mutareb, Commercial Director, pointed out that such modifications and improvements proved to be effective according to the findings of the scientific marketing study which was carried out by specialized administrations in accordance with directives of Captain Abdul-Khaleq al-Qadi., Chairman of Yemenia.

The manager of the Marketing Department added that operating such airlines is an indication to the company's adherence to fully cover as many destination and air cargo services as possible.

Yemenia Airways (IY) held a press conference last Monday on the occasion of announcing the new winter flight schedule that starts at the beginning of next month. Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutareb, Commercial Director of Yemenia, gave an overall idea about the winter schedule and the role it would play in developing the company.

"The changes we have made to the winter schedule would significantly play a big role at the external and internal levels. The Yemenia fleet includes some of the most technologically advanced airplanes ever manufactured like Boeing 737-800, and Airbus 330-200 and 310-300. Now Yemenia is working hand in hand with seven Arab Carriers to establish an alliance named ARABESK, which includes Yemenia Airways, Saudi Airlines, Gulf Air, Egypt Air, Middle East Air, Royal Jordanian Air, Tunis Air, and Oman Air. With this unique arrangement all the air carriers will be having Code Share Agreements, and the customers will be using one ticket to cover the whole network of the member carriers. Such an alliance is of great significance not because it provides better quality service with greater flexibility to customers, but because it would ensure the success and progress of Arab air carriers. In addition, the alliance would enable IY to extend its flights to China and Thailand. As for the winter schedule; we want to make it clear that almost all the flights are non-stop. For example, there are nine non-stop flights to Europe destinations like Rome, London, Paris, and Marseilles." said Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutareb.

With regards to the company's future plans, Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutareb said, "IY is determined to make its fleet more modern than it is now and provide on-board communication means that enable passengers stay in contact aboard. Buying or renting a cargo aircraft is still under consideration, but I want to announce that Department of Air Cargo will be independent."

In reply to a question about the company's role in promoting tourism, Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutareb said, "Yemenia has been a pioneer as far as tourism is concerned. It has been participating in international exhibitions since 1986. IY has different means of promoting tourism like distributing brochures and stickers. Our efforts of promoting tourism are doubled in some European countries like Germany and Italy due to the increasing number of Europeans arriving Yemen. With the extension of non-stop flights to Europe, tourism will then be our main concern."

As for the negotiations with Turkish airlines, Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutareb said, "we are negotiating with Turkish airlines about Istanbul destination, but we have not met them so far. Once we have a meeting we will announce that."

Domestic flights, on the other hand, were among the topics discussed in the press conference. "Tickets for domestic flights are cheap comparing with those in other countries. Here Yemenia serves its customers more than getting benefit from them. Journalists, for example, get a 60%-discount for external flights." said Mr. Faisal Emran, Manager of Marketing.

Mr. Ameen Alhaimy, assistant Commercial Manager, said, "the present age is markedly the age of alliances and so some Arab Air Carriers have made a hypothetical alliance as to prices coordination and covering markets. Each air carrier in each country has its own relations and features. Yemenia, for example, would pay more attention to eastern African countries while Saudi Airlines would focus on Middle East and Asia."

At the end of the press conference, Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutareb added, "IY is in the course of signing agreements that would enhance the flight services and bring out a remarkable move towards better changes. It also plans to gradually provide online services, where customers will be able to check the ticket prices and book flights via Internet. We will also have international booking systems. Changes such as these are in the agreement that will be signed by the beginning of 2006."



Capt. Abdulkhalek Alkadi



Ameen Alhaimy



Abdullah Al-Mutareb



Faisal Emran

Winter schedule 30 October 2005-25 March 2006

Total aircraft: -

- 2 Aircraft A330-200
- 4 Aircraft A310-300
- 3 Aircraft B737-800

Total destinations: -

- 33 Stations
- 07 local +26 international

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- ROME 2 flights a week
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AFRICA

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- ASMARA 3 flights a week
- DARESSALAM 2 flights a week
- DIJIBOUTI 4 flights a week
- JOHANESBURG 2 flights a week
- KHARTOUM 2 flights a week
- MORN 3 flights a week

GULF & FAR EAST

- ABU DHABI 3 flights a week
- DUBAI 10 flights a week
- BAHRAIN 2 flights a week
- DOHA 5 flights a week
- KUWAIT 2 flights a week
- DHAKA 2 flights a week
- JAKARTA 3 flights a week
- KUALA LUMPUR 2 flights a week
- BOMBAY 4 flights a week

YEMEN AND SAUDI

- JEDDAH 11 flights a week
- RIYADH 3 flights a week
- ADEN 12 flights a week
- AL-GHAIDAH 2 flights a week
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- TAIZ 4 flights a week
- RIYAN 6 flights a week
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- Negotiating and sign agreements to be in all Global Distribution Systems for reservation and sales, whereby Yemenia will be available in all IReservation Systems worldwide including sales.
- Yemenia will be available for reservations through Internet very soon, wherein Pax can make booking directly from the Internet
- Yemenia is also working hand in hand with seven other Arab Carriers to establish an ALIANCE with Arabesk, Yemenia and other Arab Carriers: Saudia Airlines, Gulf Airlines, Egypt Airlines, Middle East Airlines, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Tunis Airlines and Oman Airlines. With this unique arrangement all the carriers will be having code share agreements and the customers will be using one ticket to cover the whole network of the member carriers.
- Future plans: Yemenia Airways is studying the extending prospects of its network to China, Thailand and Turkey.



Two Marines killed in Iraq, death toll now 1,999

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Two U.S. Marines were killed in Iraq when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, the military said on Tuesday, pushing the total U.S. military death toll since the 2003 invasion to 1,999.

A military statement said the Marines died on Friday near the town of Amariya outside Falluja, a focus of the Sunni Arab insurgency against the U.S.-backed Baghdad government.

The statement said the deaths were in addition to two other military personnel, a Marine and a sailor, who were earlier reported killed in the incident.

U.S. military casualties are now just one short of the headline-grabbing



An Iraqi soldier inspects the site of a roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol in Baghdad Oct. 25. REUTERS

2,000 figure — which is expected to spur fresh calls for U.S. President George W. Bush to outline an exit strategy for the conflict in Iraq.

One U.S. soldier, Sergeant Keith Maupin, is listed as missing following his capture in an attack on a supply convoy in April last year. He was shown with armed men in video released by a militant group shortly afterward. His whereabouts are unknown, but a later insurgent video said he had been killed.

Reliable figures for the number of Iraqis killed since the March 2003 U.S.-led invasion are not available but non-governmental organizations estimate at least 25,000 have died.

UK lawmaker rejects new US accusations over Iraq

LONDON (Reuters) - Maverick British lawmaker George Galloway on Tuesday angrily rejected new U.S. accusations that he profited from the U.N. oil-for-food program for Iraq.

The flamboyant parliamentarian, an outspoken opponent of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, challenged Congressmen to charge him with perjury and pledged to fly out to Washington on the next plane to defend himself.

U.S. congressional investigators say they have evidence that Galloway profited from the U.N. program. They also allege he knowingly made false or misleading statements to Congress in May when he denied the charges.

The Senate governmental affairs subcommittee on investigations will hand over its findings in a report to the U.S. Justice Department and to British authorities, said panel chairman Senator Norm Coleman.

Galloway, fiercely denying the charges, said: "I'm demanding that they charge me with contempt and with perjury. I'm demanding it."

"If a Senate committee can go on the international airwaves without putting

this to you, without sending me an advance and accuse me of lying under oath in front of a Senate committee, then I demand they charge me with perjury and I'll be on the next plane to face it," he told BBC Radio.

The report said evidence showed Galloway personally solicited and was granted oil allocations from the Iraqi government for 23 million barrels from 1999 to 2003.

It said Galloway's wife, from whom he is now estranged, received about \$150,000 in connection with the allocations and that a fund he started, the Mariam Appeal, received at least \$446,000.

Galloway has said he launched the Mariam Appeal cancer charity to help a sick Iraqi girl and for medical aid to Iraqi children. The subcommittee has suggested he used the fund to conceal oil payments.

The report also said Saddam Hussein's government got \$1.64 million in illegal "surcharge" payments or kickbacks in connection with oil allocations to Galloway and the Mariam Appeal.

Far from showing the usual deference of witnesses called by Congress,

Galloway used the May hearing as a platform to attack the U.S.-led invasion.

The London member of parliament, ejected from the ruling British Labour Party for his opposition to the war and barbed attacks on British Prime Minister Tony Blair, ridiculed Coleman and rejected as "utterly preposterous" accusations that he profited from the defunct oil-for-food program.

Galloway was questioned as part of the subcommittee's examination of how Iraq's former government used oil to reward politicians, particularly from Russia, France and Britain, under the U.N. program that was meant to protect the Iraqi people from the harsh effects of sanctions on Saddam's government.

Coleman said Galloway had been "anything but straight with the Congress and the American people."

The report, which included copies of banking documents and wire transfers, said that Fawaz Zureikat, a Jordanian businessman and a friend of Galloway's, received money in connection with an oil allocation and transferred "a significant portion of that money" to Galloway's wife and to the Mariam Appeal fund.

Bush says military action against Syria "last resort"

DUBAI (Reuters) - President George W. Bush said military action was a last resort in dealing with Syria and he hoped Damascus would cooperate with a probe into the killing of former Lebanese premier Rafik al-Hariri.

"A military (option) is always the last choice of a president," he told Al Arabiya television in an interview aired on Tuesday when asked about a U.N. investigation that implicated Syrian officials in the killing of Hariri.

"I am hoping that they will cooperate. It (military action) is the last — very last option," he said. "But on the other hand, you know — and I've worked hard for diplomacy and will continue to work the diplomatic angle on this issue."

Reuters obtained a transcript of the Bush interview, conducted in Washington on Monday, from Dubai-based Al Arabiya.

Bush said Syria had to meet a set of demands from the international community, including expelling Palestinian militant groups, preventing insurgents from crossing its borders into Iraq to fight U.S. forces, and ending Syrian interference in Lebanon.

"Nobody wants there to be a confrontation. On the other hand, there must be serious pressure applied," he said.

"In other words, there are some clear demands by the world. And this (U.N.) report, as I say, had serious implications for Syria, and the Syrian government must take the demands of the free world very seriously."

Hariri and 20 others were killed on



Syrians carry pictures of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad during a protest in Damascus Oct. 24. Chanting anti-U.S. Slogans, tens of thousands of Syrians protested on Monday against a U.N. inquiry they say unfairly blames Damascus for the killing of Lebanese former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri. Demonstrators, waving Syrian flags and pictures of President Bashar al-Assad, said Washington instigated the U.N. probe to pile pressure on Syria for its struggle against Israel and opposition to the 2003 invasion of neighbouring Iraq.

February 14 by a bomb in Beirut. The U.N. report by German investigator Detlev Mehlis said the decision to kill Hariri "could not have been taken without the approval of top-ranked Syrian security officials" colluding with counterparts in Lebanon.

Syria has vigorously denied the accusations.

Mehlis is due to brief the U.N. Security Council about the results of his probe on Tuesday.

Diplomats said the United States and France were working on a resolution demanding Syria cooperate with the investigation but may not seek to impose sanctions immediately.

Bush would not be pinned down on what action Washington would take if Syria does not comply.

"I certainly hope that people take a

good look at the Mehlis report ... there's clear implications about Syrians involvement in the death of a foreign leader," he said.

"The United States was willing to help, work with other countries, and we will, to make sure that out of the United Nations comes a clear message."

Asked if the United States would support a call by Hariri's son Saad for an international court to try his father's killers, Bush said the decision lay with the United Nations.

"Well, we want people to be held to account. And I'd be glad to talk to other leaders to determine whether or not that's the best course of action. But certainly, people do need to be held to account. And the first course of action is to go the United Nations," he added.

The Challenge of Balakot

By Pervez Hoodbhoy

Along with a group of faculty, staff and students from my university in Islamabad, I journeyed to Balakot, close to the center of the Kashmir earthquake. This mountainous town, situated on the banks of the Kunhar River, has been destroyed.

There is rubble and the gut-wrenching smell of decaying corpses. The rats have it good; the one I accidentally stepped upon was already fat. If there is a plan to clear the concrete rubble in and around the town, nobody seems to have any clue. But the Balakotis are taking it in their stride – nose masks are everywhere.

But there is good news. We were just one of countless groups of ordinary citizens that were on the move after the enormity of last Saturday's earthquake became apparent. The Mansehra to Balakot road, finally forced open by huge army bulldozers, is now lined with relief trucks bursting with supplies that were donated by people from across the country. This is one of those rare times that I have seen Pakistan's people feel and move together as a nation.

Even the armed bandits who waylay relief supplies – making necessary a guard of soldiers with automatic weapons, standing every few hundred yards – cannot destroy this moment.

Islamic groups from across the country have also arrived. Some

bring relief supplies; others simply harangue those who have lost loved ones and livelihoods, lecturing that their misdeeds brought about this catastrophe. None seem to have an explanation for why God's wrath was especially directed to mosques, madrassas, and schools – all of which collapsed in huge numbers. None say why thousands of the faithful have been buried alive in this sacred month of fasting.

Aid from across the world is making its way towards the destruction, and the US is here too. Double bladed Chinook helicopters, diverted from fighting Al-Qaida in Afghanistan, now fly over the heartland of jihad and the militant training camps in Mansehra to drop food and tents a few miles beyond. Temporarily birds of peace instead of war, they do immensely more to calm angry Islamists than the reams of glossy propaganda put out by the US information services in Pakistan.

Their visibility makes relief choppers terrific propaganda, for good or for worse. This is undoubtedly why the Pakistani government refused an Indian offer to send in helicopters for relief work in and around Muzaffarabad, the flattened capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir. Sadly, in spite of a much celebrated peace process, Pakistan refuses visas to Indian peace groups and activists that seek to help in the relief effort. It is still not too late to open this door and let Pakistanis, Indians and Kashmiris help each other.

The challenges are many. The aid remains too little. There are not

enough tents, blankets, and warm clothes to go around. Hundreds of tent clusters have come up, but thousands of families remain out under the skies, facing rain and hail, and with dread in their hearts. These families have lost everything but the tattered clothes on their backs. Some even lost the land they had lived upon for generations – the top soil simply slid away, leaving behind hard rock and rubble.

Worst of all, aid is not reaching those most affected. Hundreds of destroyed communities are scattered deep in the mountains. We saw helicopters attempt aerial drops; landing is impossible in most places. But people told us that they often miss and the supplies land up thousands of feet or below in deep forests. Distribution is haphazard and uncoordinated, done with little thought.

We saw relief workers throw packets of food and clothes from the top of trucks, causing a riot. Hustlers thrive, the weak watch passively.

The clock is ticking. In two months, the mountains will get their first snowfall and temperatures will plummet below zero. Millions may have been made homeless. Those without shelter will die. Tents will not do.

From a special university fund, we pledged to rebuild the homes of a dozen families. But ten thousand or more families will need homes in the Mansehra-Balakot-Kaghan area alone, not to speak of adjoining Kashmir. The task of saving lives has barely begun.

For me personally, there is a sense

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Iraqi Constitution

By Samer A.

of deja vu. Nearly 31 years ago, on 25th December 1974, a powerful earthquake flattened towns along the Karakorum Highway and killed nearly 10,000 people. I traveled with a university team into the same mountains for similar relief work. Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had made a passionate appeal for funds around the world, had taken a token helicopter trip to the destroyed town of Besham, and then made fantastic promises of relief and rehabilitation.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in relief funds received from abroad mysteriously disappeared. Some well-informed people believe that those funds were used to kick off Pakistan's secret nuclear program.

Will today's government do better? This will only be assured if citizens organize themselves to play a more direct role in relief and rehabilitation for the long term. Civil society groups must now assert themselves. They must demand a voice in planning and implementing

the reconstruction effort and, along with international donors, transparency and public auditing of where aid is spent.

Pervez Hoodbhoy is a Professor at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.

The Right Populism for Poland

Lucjan T. Orlowski

Poland's parliamentary and presidential elections this month saw the death of a left-leaning postcommunist party that mostly dominated the country since 1995. But the demise of the left does not mean that the right has a coherent economic program. For the victorious coalition of the Law and Justice (PiS) party and Civic Platform (PO) is torn between liberal (PO) and populist instincts (PiS).

If PiS's populist slogans become policy, government spending is likely to expand, which will exacerbate Poland's already weak fiscal position and consequently trigger inflationary expectations. Worse, boosting social spending will contribute little to resolving the country's staggering 17.5% rate of unemployment – most of it structural – while any hope of quick euro adoption will be dashed.

What Poland needs most is fiscal discipline and market-oriented reforms, including relaxation of the rigid labor laws that are inhibiting job creation. After all, over the past two decades, the enduring goals of dismantling communism and central planning, as well as joining the European Union, have served as important driving forces of reform. But can the political will for renewed reform be mustered in a government that is half liberal and half populist?

A specific commitment to adopt the euro at the earliest possible date could serve as the same sort of springboard as the push to join the EU in the 1990's. Such a strategic goal would provide justification for prudent fiscal and monetary policies, and, given Poles' desire to consider themselves full Europeans, it would boost political support for such policies. Only such support can bring the government budget deficit, expected to reach 4.4% of GDP in 2005, down to the EU's benchmark of less than 3% of GDP within the next two years.

Moreover, a commitment to pursue euro membership will have positive spillover effects. It will reinforce convergence expectations among financial market participants, which will translate into lower risk premia for investors. Lower risk also will bring inflation expectations down and reduce interest rates, which will in turn speed up the compression of Polish government bond yields to comparable EU levels, increasing financial stability.

While the current yield on 10-year

Polish government bonds of 4.7% appears to be at the edge of meeting the Maastricht long-term interest-rate benchmark, sustainability will depend on the fiscal policy outlook and on the overall credit risk. More stable financial markets and a less volatile exchange rate relative to the euro will bring many advantages. Most importantly, lower exchange-rate risk will boost both domestic and foreign direct investment, thereby helping to alleviate unemployment.

So it is imperative that the new government prepares – in cooperation with the National Bank of Poland (NBP) – a comprehensive program to steer the course of fiscal and monetary policy toward the goal of euro membership.

Although there is no need immediately to announce a specific exchange rate for the zloty at euro entry, such a program must include among its focal points a formula for determining the rate. By developing and disclose to the public a compelling rationale for what will determine the exchange rate when the time comes, the financial markets would then be able to forecast the future reference exchange rate more precisely. This would reduce the potential for speculative currency arbitrage and mitigate exchange-rate risk in the run-up to euro adoption, which would contribute to lower market interest rates, as their level always incorporates the prevalent exchange-rate risk.

There is little doubt among economists that euro membership will bring enduring net benefits to Poland. It will lower transaction costs and increase labor productivity. But it will do so only if serious institutional deficiencies are eliminated. These include legal impediments to labor mobility, reform of a complex tax system beset by excessive rates and porous loopholes, and substandard road infrastructure. Each should be regarded as an urgent matter by the new government, and each, if handled adroitly, could be "sold" to the public as the type of popular reform that people have been demanding.

Poland's new government faces several serious challenges, not the least of which will be to reconcile its liberal and populist tendencies. Only if populism is put at the service of liberal reform will the government achieve lasting benefits.

Lucjan T. Orlowski is a leading Polish economist and Professor of Economics at Sacred Heart University. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.

Cold War Lessons for George W. Bush

BY JOSEPH S. NYE

President Bush recently drew an analogy between the current struggle against violent jihadi terrorism and the Cold War. He is right in one respect: waves of terrorism tend to be generational. Unfortunately, like the Cold War, the current "war on terror" is likely to be a matter of decades, not years.

But Bush missed another lesson implicit in his analogy:

the importance of using the soft power of culture. The Cold War was won by a combination of military power, which deterred Soviet aggression, and the attractive power of Western culture and ideas. When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, hammers and bulldozers, not artillery, brought it down. Unfortunately, Bush has not learned this lesson.

Academic and scientific exchanges during the Cold War played a significant role in enhancing American soft power. While some American skeptics feared that Soviet scientists and KGB agents would steal American technology, they failed to notice that the visitors vacuumed up political ideas alongside scientific secrets. Many of these scientists became leading proponents of human rights and liberalization inside the USSR.

Some 50,000 Soviets – writers, journalists, officials, musicians, dancers, athletes, and academics – visited the United States between

1958 and 1988. Aleksandr Yakovlev was strongly influenced by his studies at Columbia University in 1958. Yakovlev went on to become a Politburo member and key liberalizing influence on Mikhail Gorbachev.

Oleg Kalugin, who became a high KGB official, said in looking back from the vantage point of 1997, "Exchanges were a Trojan Horse for the Soviet Union. They played a tremendous role in the erosion of the Soviet system.... They kept infecting more and more people over the years." Yet today, the Bush administration oversees a cumbersome visa program that has cut the number of such exchanges, particularly with Muslim countries.

Popular culture was also important during the Cold War. Many intellectuals disdain popular culture because of its crude commercialism. But such scorn is misplaced, because popular entertainment often contains subtle images and messages about individualism, consumer choice, and other values that have important political effects.

American films, for example, include sex, violence, and materialism, but that is not the whole story. They also portray American life as open, mobile, individualistic, anti-establishment, pluralist, populist, and free. As the poet Carl Sandburg put it in 1961: "What, Hollywood's more important than Harvard? The answer is, not as clean as Harvard, but nevertheless, further reaching."

The line between information and entertainment has never been as sharp as some intellectuals imagine,

and it is becoming increasingly blurred. Some popular music lyrics can have political effects.

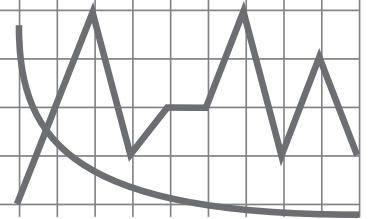
Cultural messages can also be conveyed by the way that sports teams or stars conduct themselves, or in the multiple images purveyed by television or cinema. Pictures often convey values more powerfully than words. Even the consumption of fast food can make an implicit statement. As one Indian family described their visit to McDonald's, it was stepping out for "a slice of America."

Although the Soviet Union restricted and censored Western films, those that made it through had devastating political effects. As one Soviet journalist commented after a restricted showing of films that were critical of American nuclear weapons policies, "They absolutely shocked us.... We began to understand that the same thing would happen to us as to them in a nuclear war."

Soviet audiences watching films with apolitical themes nonetheless learned that people in the West did not have to stand in long lines to purchase food, did not live in communal apartments, and owned their own cars. All of this discredited the negative views promulgated by the Soviet media.

Even rock and roll played a part. As one of Gorbachev's aides later testified, "The Beatles were our quiet way of rejecting 'the system' while conforming to most of its demands." Czech Communist officials sentenced a group of young people to prison in the 1950's for playing tapes of "decadent American music," but their efforts turned out to be counterproductive.

YT Business



Call for merging population issues with education

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A workshop on poverty alleviation strategy and population issues was held at the Center of Population Training and Studies of Sana'a University. The workshop was organized by the follow-up and monitoring unit of the poverty alleviation strategy at the general secretariat of the national council of population in association with the follow-up and monitoring unit of poverty strategy affiliate of the ministry of planning and international cooperation.

Seventy participants from political guidance of the armed forces and security apparatuses discussed over two days a number of subjects concerning poverty in Yemen, population and reproductive health and also role political guidance of the armed forces and security plays in dissemination awareness around the poverty alleviation strategy, the millennium goals and the topics of AIDS and poverty and the woman and poverty.

Deputy Minister of planning and international cooperation Dr Yahya al-Mutawakil reviewed the important policies and programs included in the 2005 national strategy for alleviation of poverty concerning population growth and its relationship with poverty, the ways of tackling that problem and the main results achieved by the national strategy of population and hindrances that faced its

implementation progress.

Another workshop discussed the evaluation of population areas and concepts intended to be introduced into general primary & secondary education curriculums. The workshop was attended by 55 participants representing Yemeni universities and specialists from the center of educational research and development. The workshop aimed to get participants acquainted with the proposed population areas lists and what relevant population concepts in order to explore the extent of their convenience to the society in general and to targeted segments in particular.

In the opening ceremony of the workshop organized by population education project in cooperation with

United Nations Fund for Population the minister of education Dr Abdulsalam al-Jawfi stressed the significance of merging population concepts and terminology with curricula of general education, indicating that there could not be any discourse around population issues unless we have a distinguished educational mechanism to oversee the developments in these issues.

On his part Dr Saleh Nasser al-Soufi, chairman of the Education Research and Development Center, pointed out the policies adopted by the government to treat population issues within the framework of objective understanding of aspects of steady interconnection between population and economic growth.



To stabilize national currency,

The Central Bank pumps \$51 million in circulation

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Central Bank of Yemen has pumped \$51 million into circulation in the Yemeni market as an attempt to preserve the stability of the national currency and prevent manipulation in consumer prices, this measure comes as a part of the bank's continuous and permanent follow-up operation of the local markets' developments in order to interfere suitably should any suspicious capital transactions or flow of currency take place as an attempt to play the market through manipulating the demand and supply of foreign currencies in the domestic market hereby unstabilizing the real worth value of the Yemeni Riyal

Governor of the Central Bank Mr. Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Samawi had affirmed Yemen's central bank's dedication on keeping pace with banking developments, both internal and external as part of the bank's tasks to control liquidity of foreign currency in the national market and preserve stability of the Yemeni Riyal and keeping the national economy stable in spite of fluctuations in the capital market.

While inaugurating two training courses on financial communications among banks, swift letters and role of the Yemeni central bank in the economic, financial, banking and

monetary reform process; Mr. Al-Samawi reviewed with the trainees the success Yemeni banking sector had achieved since the implementation of the program of economic and financial reform at the beginning of 1995. The success is represented by the increasing capital base of commercial banks capitals from three billion riyals to 40 billion riyals and also the increase in reserves of foreign currency of the central bank from \$160 million to \$5.5 billion.

Mr. Al-Samawi considers Yemen's policy in dealing with its external commitments to be comparatively efficient, he pointed out that under his governance the Yemeni banking sector achieved an accumulated increase in operations budget of 8% during the first half of 2005, assets of deposits increased by around 35 billion riyals to reach a total amount of 611 billion riyals and loans and transformations increased by around 29 billion riyals to amount to 212 billion riyals.



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Reflections of Ramadan

Atoms that come alive

Atoms are building blocks of animate organisms as well as inanimate objects. Since atoms are inanimate particles, it is extremely astonishing for them to be the building blocks of living beings. This is an issue evolutionists can never explain.



By HARUN YAHYA
www.harunyahya.com

evolution is to deny that Allah created living beings. This is the scenario evolutionists claim, describing the transformation of inanimate and unconscious atoms into animate organisms, and most significantly, into people with high levels of consciousness and intelligence.

Just as it is impossible to imagine pieces of stone coming together to form living organisms, so is it impossible to imagine inanimate atoms by themselves coming together to form living organisms. Think about a lump of rock and a butterfly; one is inanimate, the other is animate. Yet, when we delve into their essences, we see that both are made up of the same sub-atomic particles.

A living cell is formed by the arrangement of inanimate atoms in a very special creation. Faculties of living cells, such as growth, reproduction and others, are results of perfect creation rather than the properties of molecules. What we find at this point is only Allah's creating the living from the dead:

Allah is He Who splits the seed and kernel. He brings forth the living from the dead, and produces the dead out of the living. That is Allah, so how are you perverted? (Surat al-An'am: 95)

When the theory of evolution was advanced in the middle of the 19th century, scientific research conducted with primitive microscopes had then created the impression that the cell was just a simple lump of matter. In the 20th century, however, the use of advanced technology revealed that the cell has an extremely complex structure that could only have been perfectly created. Most importantly, this research showed that it is absolutely impossible for life to arise spontaneously out of inanimate matter. The source of life is life alone. This fact has been proved experimentally, too. This is a problem evolutionists can never resolve. For this reason, instead of presenting scientific evidence, renowned evolutionary scientists, who are at a great impasse, tell tales which they themselves do not believe either. They put forward totally illogical and unscientific claims that matter has a consciousness, ability and will of its own. Nevertheless, they are eventually forced to confess that the main questions that need to be answered cannot be answered scientifically:

There was once a time before our life, when the Earth was barren and utterly desolate. Our world is now overflowing with life. How did it come about? How, in the absence of life, were carbon-based organic molecules made? How did the first living things arise? How did life evolve to produce beings as elaborate and complex as we, able to explore the mystery of our own origins?

The outstanding evolutionary mystery now is how matter has originated and evolved, why it has taken its present form in the universe and on the earth, and why it is capable of forming itself into complex living sets of molecules.

As the evolutionary scientist above confesses, the basic purpose of the theory of

self into being. While some of the atoms, adequate in number to form the whole universe, formed the stars and the planets, and some others the Earth. Some of the atoms making up the Earth initially formed the land and later on, suddenly decided to form living beings! These atoms first transformed themselves into cells with highly complex structures and then they started speaking and hearing. Subsequently, these atoms transformed into university professors viewing themselves under the electron microscope and claiming that they came into being coincidentally. Some atoms came together to form civil engineers who construct bridges and skyscrapers, while some others came together to manufacture satellites, space crafts. Atoms like carbon, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and iron came together to form, instead of a dark mass, perfect brains of exceptional complexity, the secrets of which have not yet been fully unraveled.

It is possible to prolong this story but let us stop here and see whether unconscious atoms can spontaneously form the DNA molecule. DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid), which is located in the nucleus of the cell, contains the codes carrying the information of all organs and all characteristics of the body. It is a series of nucleotides arranged in a special sequence. A protein is a series of amino acids arranged again in a special sequence. First of all, it is mathematically impossible for either DNA molecules or protein molecules that come in thousands of different types to sort out the appropriate sequences necessary for life by chance. Probabilistic calculations reveal that the probability of even the simplest protein molecules achieving the right sequence by chance is zero. (For more information, see the book *The Evolution Deceit* by Harun Yahya). There is also an important chemical obstacle to the coincidental formation of these molecules. If the relationship between DNA and protein were a result of time, chance, and natural processes, then there would be some sort of chemical tendency towards DNA and protein to react, as acids and bases have a great tendency to react. In that case, if chance had really played a role, sugar, acid, aminophosphoric acid, and a whole host of other natural chemical reactions would occur among any random fragments of DNA and protein and the living beings we see today would not form.

As seen, it is absolutely impossible for DNA and proteins, which can by no means form randomly, to be left uncontrolled to form life following their own formations. Jean Guittou, a contemporary philosopher, addressed this impossibility in his book

titled *Dieu et la Science* (God and Science):

Following which 'coincidence' did certain atoms draw near each other to form the first molecules of amino acids? Again, through which coincidence did these molecules come together to form this extremely complex structure called DNA? I am asking this simple question just like the biological scientist François Jacob did: Who prepared the plans of the first DNA molecule to give the first message that led to the birth of the first living cell?

If one is satisfied with assumptions involving coincidences, these questions – and many others – remain unanswered; this is why, for the last few years, the biologists began to change their views. Top researchers are not satisfied by re-telling Darwin's laws without thinking, parrot-fashion; they put forward new surprising theories. These are theories based on the idea that an organizing principle that is apparently superior to matter is involved in the process.

As Jean Guittou stated, science has reached such a point, that it has been scientifically established that Darwin's theory of evolution has no validity whatsoever. American biologist Michael Behe addresses this in his famous book *Darwin's Black Box*.

Science has made enormous progress in understanding how the chemistry of life works, but the elegance and complexity of biological systems at the molecular level have paralyzed science's attempt to explain their origins. There has been virtually no attempt to account for the origin of specific, complex biomolecular systems, much less any progress. Many scientists have gamely asserted that explanations are already in hand, or will be sooner or later, but no support for such assertions can be found in the professional science literature. More importantly, there are compelling reasons – based on the structure of the systems themselves – to think that a Darwinian explanation for the mechanisms of life will forever prove elusive.

Just as the entire universe, all the living beings were created from nothing. Only Allah, Possessor of infinite power, infinite wisdom and infinite knowledge, has power to do all these:

Your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the Earth in six days and then settled Himself firmly on the Throne. He covers the day with the night, each pursuing the other urgently; and the Sun and Moon and stars are subservient to His command. Both creation and command belong to Him. Blessed be Allah, the Lord of all the worlds. (Surat al-A'raf: 54)

To purchase the works of Harun Yahya, please visit www.bookglobal.net

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From the Kingdom of Sheba, To the kingdom of poverty

HAKIM ALMAMARI
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Yemen has always been known for being home of one of the greatest kingdoms in ancient times, while in the present is touted as a positive example for democracy and change in the Arab world, unfortunately when comparing Yemen's situation to that of the past, you would be surprised to notice that not many improvements have taken during the past twenty years.

Roads, electricity, high-rise buildings, modern enterprises are some of the things we didn't have 20 years ago and are described by locals as a great achievement. However, are these really what describe prosperity in a country? Comparing Yemen's living standard to that of the past, many would consider to return to the old way of living.

It seems like the more modern and developed our country becomes, the more poverty and unemployment become noticeable. This is definitely not what development gives back in return. Many countries strived to produce a positive development strategy, and in return are eating the fruits of their successes, while people in Yemen continue to drown in poverty.

Countries like China, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, and even The Philippines all have witnessed a great improvement in its people's living standard during the past few decades, and came out prosperous after long years of hard work. But unfortunately, when turning our view towards Yemen things are almost the opposite. Even with Yemen's uncountable natural resources, it still ranks as one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.

"Unfortunately every year that passes, Yemen seemingly appears in a more tragic situation than the one it was already through. From the Kingdom of Sheba, to the kingdom of poverty in the present", said Abdul-Nasser Saleh, an 87 year old senior citizen. "What happened to all the promises we were given 15-20 years ago? Our government used us to



A homeless Yemeni citizen sleeping on a street curb with no hope in the future.

support its critical political agenda at that time, while on the other hand gave us nothing in return", he added.

When asking a senior citizen, who managed to live through both eras, you will definitely hear a negative reaction about the current situation. "At least twenty years ago we had food on the table, I was living through my farm. Now a days I'm begging on the streets, you tell me what situation is better" said Mose'd Abdullah, as he walked angered and frustrated.

No, there weren't roads and electricity thirty years ago, but this in no way links with prosperity and a successful government. At that time, these things rarely existed in the eastern part of the world in general.

What really is a fact is that twenty years ago you would rarely find a beggar or families living under the poverty line in this country. People had crops and animals while they lived depending on their livestock, furthermore enjoying a peaceful life. Kindness and equality was spread among all people. The rich and poor were treated the same; every one was an ordinary citizen. Life was as simple and decent as it ever was.

Dating back to the late 1980's, the government promised to spread prosperity throughout the country, while vowed to introduce a unique natural gas project, which will allow the flow of natural gas to reach the houses of citizens without the hassle of going to buy gas

tank. The conclusion? We don't even have appropriate electricity systems or even sewer systems until now, not to mention the natural gas project that we were promised. Basic essentials are still a serious lack in this oil rich Middle Eastern country.

Some unrealistic citizens believe that life is all about living a dream and don't realize that life is always full with unresolved problems, or even the fact that many problems take more than several generations to solve. However, what we are going through is the opposite. How could life be heading backwards after the great accomplishments we had in the past.

Tensions, disagreements, and emotions of this period are far more dangerous than in anytime in the past. People have lost patience and would resort to unlawful solutions to ease their problem.

Transparency International ranks Yemen the 42nd most corrupted country in the world. It also mentions that the gross domestic product (GDP) per citizen in Yemen ranked a whopping 211th of the 226 in total. This reveals that the poverty rate in Yemen tremendously higher than where it was previously in the past, while in the same time unemployment is a crisis that looks more like a growing nightmare.

Could this country return to the great height it once had, or will we continue to sink more? We hope that change is near, otherwise, expect crimes and problems to reach unpredictable levels.

Ramadan Kareem

Will goodness survive after Ramadan?

We are now living through the third part of Ramadan. Fasters and believers as a whole will exert even much serious strenuous efforts to fruitfully make use of the remaining last part of this holy blessed month.



By MOHAMMED AL-HAKIM Hujary@yahoo.com FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

People are more conscious of every moment now. Many will double their efforts in terms of Quraan recitation, interpretation and profound perusals and contemplation on the revealed verses. Others will go to mosques and stay inside them for the rest of the month in what is known as "tikaf." They will, in fact, forget about everything worldly and indulge solely in thinking of Him and His forgiveness and bounties.

Charity will reach almost every needy household and family and charity will be better exercised and embodied.

Lost in a trance:

In one of the Aden mosques last year, I went around looking at night congregations of fasters at one of the well-furnished mosques in al-Mu'alla area where I saw many young people praying and reciting the holy Quraan in a frantically earnest manner that would make you feel that there hardly remains any time to repent and catch the forgiveness and blessings of Allah.

There, I saw people more thirsty, enthusiastic and avid for getting Allah's blessings. I was overwhelmed with

spirituality. It was unspeakable. It gave me the impression that the people who are bound to achieve the Ummah's victory were available in that very place.

As I was staring at their movements, one fainted to the ground out of excessive religious emotions. His medical condition got worse and he was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Crying over the past:

Muslims actually know what Ramadan means and how it is graceful and fruitful. Many will start crying over the departure of this holy month now and will go chanting:

Oh Ramadan;

Month of repentance and forgiveness;
You have deeply impressed us
And dearly enriched our hearts
With faith and goodness;
We dare not say adieu
Nor can we imagine your absence
And departing thus from us
Alas! Our dearest month alas!
May we live until next year to meet anew!

The crops:

I have many times in this paper highlighted the plague infiltrating into the marrow of our society: its being not committed to and serious about change.

In fact, writings, preaching, and directions are clearly posted on the wall of life but the fruits we reap are little if not naught.

After Ramadan:

As the first day of the month following Ramadan shows up, mosques unfortunately would complain of being deserted and ignored by Ramadan worshippers. Some will prove that they were just worshipping Ramadan and not the God of Ramadan. Some others will quit praying at all and return to their old ways.

Just then you can judge. In fact, one can verify the amount of a believer's faith by observing and examining their post-Ramadan acts.

Maybe this is the why behind our decline and not being soon accepted by Allah notwithstanding lots of prayers seeking Allah's support and desirable change.

Those who miss Ramadan most:

During the fasting period, we all feel for one another. The rich are most influenced by these experiences.

However, after Ramadan, things are likely to return to the pre-Ramadan state of affairs: relatives would be abandoned, and the poor would return to the state of suffering and destitution. Yet, some surely will have made use of the holy month.

Why shouldn't be wise and fair enough? Why do we always prove ourselves to be insincere and neglectful?

Why shouldn't be the best nation? Just ponder and write your feedback.

Arabiya Kool بمناسبة الشهر المبارك
مسابقة كثر الجزيرة
مقابلة من
١٠٠٠ دولار جائزة يومية
الجائزة الكبرى سيارة
المشاركة إنتقل الآن على الرقم: ٩٠٠٠ ٩٠٠٠ من الهاتف الثابت
Arabiya Call

Stressed out? Have some cold vegetable soup

November 3, 2004 -- Volunteers who ate vegetables consistently for two weeks as part of a nutrition study showed a significant increase in blood levels of vitamin C and a decrease in key stress molecules associated with health impairment. The findings from this study funded in part by the Agricultural Research Service appear in today's issue of the *Journal of Nutrition*.

The study was conducted by Antonio Martin, a physician specializing in nutrition and inflammatory responses, along with colleagues in academia and medicine. Martin is with the Nutrition and Neurocognition Laboratory at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston, Mass.

The researchers fed 12 healthy volunteers--six men and six women--two bowls (17 ounces, total) of gazpacho every day for two weeks. The antioxidant-rich soup was made from toma-



Vegetable-rich soups such as this vegetable beef barley could boost vitamin C and reduce stress

atoes, cucumbers, green peppers, olive oil, onions and garlic. Blood samples for each volunteer were taken prior to soup consumption and on the seventh and

fourteenth days of the study. Starting on the seventh day, levels of vitamin C in volunteers' blood samples were found to have increased by 27 percent in men and

22 percent in women, and they remained elevated for the rest of the study.

The stress molecules that were measured during the study are secreted by the body as a normal response to stress. But continuous high blood levels of these chemicals increase vulnerability to illness due to inflammation and oxidative stress.

One of the stress molecules measured, uric acid, was reduced by 18 percent in the male volunteers and by 8 percent in the females. High blood levels of uric acid, which causes gout, have been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

Three of the other stress molecules measured were also found to be significantly decreased after soup consumption.

The study is one of the few examining the effects of dietary intervention, rather than supplementation, on circulating levels of antioxidants and inflammatory biomarkers in healthy volunteers.



By Dr. Saleh Al-Habshi
Msc. in Public Health

Public Health Affairs

Climate Change and Health

By DR. SALEH AL-HABSHI
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Climate change (CC) poses a major, and largely unfamiliar, challenge on health. It is one of several concurrent global environmental changes that simultaneously affect human health -- often interactively. To a large extent, public health depends on safe drinking water, sufficient food, secure shelter, and good social conditions. A changing climate is likely to affect all of these conditions. Changes in infectious disease transmission patterns are a likely major consequence of CC. It has a range of complex inter-linkages with health. Humans have known that climatic conditions affect epidemic diseases from long before the role of infectious agents was discovered, late in the nineteenth century. Rainfall can influence the transport and dissemination of infectious agents, while temperature affects their growth and survival. Roman aristocrats retreated to hill resorts each summer to avoid malaria. South Asians learnt early that, in high summer, strongly curried foods were less likely to cause diarrhoea. Today, worldwide, there is an apparent increase in many infectious diseases, including some newly-circulating ones. This reflects the combined impacts of rapid demographic, environmental, social, technological and climatic changes. CC over recent decades has probably already affected some health outcomes. The World Health Organization estimated, in its "World Health Report 2002", that CC was identified to be responsible in 2000 for approximately 2.4% of worldwide diarrhoea, and 6% of malaria in some middle-income countries. Impacts of CC will not be evenly distributed around the world. Some regions are expected to fare worse than others. Small Island States, for example, are amongst the most vulnerable. Many other developing countries are also not prepared for potential environmental impacts, and even less for health-related impacts. The health effects of a rapidly changing climate are likely to be overwhelmingly negative, particularly in the poorest communities. During the twentieth century, world average surface temperature increased by approximately 0.6 °C and approximately two-thirds of that warming has occurred since 1975. The report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 2001 has estimated that the global average temperature will rise by several degrees centigrade during this century. The IPCC states: "Climate change can affect human health directly (e.g., impacts of thermal stress, death/injury in floods and storms) and indirectly through changes in the ranges of disease vectors (e.g., mosquitoes), water-borne pathogens, water quality, air quality, and food availability and quality. Extremes of temperature can kill. In many temperate countries, death rates during the winter season are 10-25% higher than those in the summer. In July 1995, a heat-wave in Chicago, US, caused 514 heat-related deaths (12 per 100,000 population) and 3300 excess emergency admissions. Most of the excess deaths during times of thermal extreme are in persons with preexisting disease, especially cardiovascular and respiratory disease. The very old, the very young and the frail are most susceptible. For each potential impact of CC, certain groups will be particularly vulnerable to disease and injury. The vulnerability of a population depends on factors such as population density, level of economic development, food availability, income level and distribution, local environmental conditions, pre-existing health status, and the quality and availability of public health care. For instance, those most at risk of being harmed by thermal extremes include socially isolated city dwellers, the elderly and the poor.

Populations living at the present margins of malaria and dengue, without effective primary health care, will be the most susceptible if these diseases expand their geographic range in a warmer world. The first detectable changes in human health may be alterations in the geographic range (latitude and altitude) and seasonality of certain infectious diseases -- including vector-borne infections such as malaria and dengue fever, and food-borne infections (e.g. salmonellosis) which peak in the warmer months. Both temperature and surface water have important influences on the insect vectors of vector-borne infectious disease. Of particular importance are vector mosquito species, which spread malaria and viral diseases such as dengue and yellow fever. Mosquitoes need access to stagnant water in order to breed, and the adults need humid conditions for viability. Warmer temperatures enhance vector breeding and reduce the pathogen's maturation period within the vector organism. However, very hot and dry conditions can reduce mosquito survival.

Malaria, today, is mostly confined to tropical and subtropical regions. The disease's sensitivity to climate is illustrated by desert and highland fringe areas where higher temperatures and rainfall may increase transmission of malaria. In areas of unstable malaria in developing countries, populations lack protective immunity and are prone to epidemics when weather conditions facilitate transmission. Many diarrhoeal diseases vary seasonally, suggesting sensitivity to climate. In the tropics diarrhoeal diseases typically peak during the rainy season. Both floods and droughts increase the risk of diarrhoeal diseases. Major causes of diarrhoea linked to heavy rainfall and contaminated water supplies are: cholera, cryptosporidium, E.coli infection, giardia, shigella, typhoid, and viruses such as hepatitis A. Rodents, which proliferate in temperate regions following mild wet winters, act as reservoirs for various diseases. Certain rodent-borne diseases are associated with flooding, including leptospirosis, tularaemia and viral haemorrhagic diseases. The actual health impacts will be strongly influenced by local environmental conditions and socio-economic circumstances, and by the range of social, institutional, technological, and behavioral adaptations taken to reduce the full range of threats to health." Unfortunately CC is projected to increase threats to human health, particularly in lower income populations, predominantly within tropical/subtropical countries. Overall, however, scientists consider that most of the health impacts of CC would be adverse.

In the early 1990s there was little awareness of the health risks posed by global CC. This reflected a general lack of understanding of how the disruption of biophysical and ecological systems might affect the longer-term well-being and health of populations. However the IPCC report underscores that our understanding of the links between climate, climate change and human health has increased considerably over the last ten years. However, there are still many gaps in knowledge about likely future patterns of exposure to climatic-environmental changes, and about the vulnerability and adaptability of physical, ecological and social systems to such CC.

Adaptation and prevention: To make informed decisions about CC, policy-makers will need timely and useful information about the possible consequences of CC, people's perceptions of those consequences, available adaptive and preventive options, and the benefits of slowing the rate of CC.

Adaptive and preventive strategies intended to protect public health will be needed whether or not actions are taken to mitigate CC. Building capacity is an essential preparatory step. Adapting to CC will require more than financial resources, technology, and public health infrastructure. Education, awareness-raising and the creation of legal frameworks, institutions and an environment that enables people to take well-informed, long-term, sustainable decisions are all needed. Many adaptive and preventive measures have benefits beyond those associated with CC. The rebuilding and maintaining of public health infrastructure is often viewed as the "most important, cost-effective and urgently needed" adaptation strategy. This includes public health training, more effective surveillance and emergency response systems, and sustainable prevention and control programs. Adaptations, which enhance a population's coping ability, may protect against current climatic variability as well as against future climatic changes. Such "no-regrets" adaptations may be especially important for less developed countries with little current coping capacity. Highly managed systems, such as agriculture and water resources in developed countries, are thought to be more adaptable than less-managed or natural ecosystems. The main determinants of a community's adaptive capacity are: economic wealth, technology, information and skills, infrastructure, institutions, and equity. Adaptive capacity is also a function of current population health status and pre-existing disease burdens. Collaboration between public and private sectors can enhance adaptive capacity. Wealthy nations are better able to adapt because they have the economic resources to invest, and to offset the costs of adaptation. In general, poverty enhances vulnerability -- and we live in a world in which approximately one-fifth of the world's population lives on less than US\$1 per day. Access to technology in key sectors and settings (e.g., agriculture, water resources, health-care, urban design) is an important determinant of adaptive capacity. Many health-protecting adaptive strategies involve technology -- some of which is well established, some new and still being disseminated, and some still being developed to enhance coping with a changing climate.

Heredity plays big role in heart disease risk factors

Heredity plays a major role in determining the blood lipid profile and heart rate variability of blacks and whites, two major risk factors for coronary artery disease, researchers say.

"There are some interesting ethnic differences in cardiovascular risk factors, including the fact that blacks tend to have higher HDL (high-density lipoprotein) and lower triglycerides, which is an advantage, and we suspect it is due to genetic influences," says Dr. Catherine L. Davis, clinical health psychologist at the Medical College of Georgia.

Coronary artery disease rates in the United States are similar or lower in blacks yet blacks have higher mortality

rates.

Dr. Davis and her colleagues at MCG's Georgia Prevention Institute examined heritability -- the percentage of a variable attributable to genes -- to better understand the influence of genetics and environment on heart health.

Heritability studies were enabled by data MCG is collecting on 500 pairs of twins -- blacks and whites, identical and fraternal -- to determine whether environmental stress is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Identical twins have identical genes and fraternal twins share about 50 percent of their genes, much like normal siblings.

"Any differences between identical twins must be due to the environment," says Dr. Harold Snieder, genetic epidemiologist. "So you can quantify

the part that is due to genetics," he says, noting that heritability provides an aggregate look at the effect of genes, many of which may still be unknown.

Across both races they found that lipid levels, which include so-called good cholesterol, HDL, and bad cholesterol, LDL, as well as triglycerides, are 60 percent to 80 percent determined by genetics.

A separate study found heart rate variability -- the heart's ability to respond to changing demands -- was heritable and equally so, about 70 percent, among young blacks and whites, Dr. Snieder says.

"We also were able to confirm that blacks indeed showed a more favorable pattern of heart rate variability," he says. "If you have a lot of variability, it means your heart is able to cope well

with changing demands. The heart needs to adapt all the time in real life," says Dr. Snieder.

"It's a paradox," Dr. Davis says. "It's the opposite direction you would expect given the disparities in health outcomes."

"We would have expected environmental influences to be more important in blacks," adds Dr. Snieder. "We did not find that."

What they did find they hope will provide new insight and possibly new, more targeted treatment strategies for a cross section of people with heart disease.

"What we are very interested in is how these risk factors for cardiovascular disease develop over time and to what extent the development is influenced by genes and environment," says Dr. Snieder, who plans on gathering longitudinal data on an even larger percentage of the twins he's following.

"Even having these genes doesn't make blacks into long-lived healthy people necessarily," says Dr. Davis. "But maybe that link could help scientists develop medicines that target the protein that gene encodes, to help people who have high triglycerides try to correct them or try to help them raise their HDL."

The lipid study, published in the October issue of *Twin Research and Human Genetics*, included 106 black twins and 106 white twins. The heart rate variability study, published in the October issue of the *American Journal of Cardiology*, looked at 166 adolescents, 104 pairs of twins and 11 individual twins.

A related candidate gene study, published in the October issue of *Ethnicity and Disease*, looked at a handful of genes linked to obesity and implicated in lipid metabolism in mostly unrelated individuals: 413 health adolescents and young adults who were 44 percent black and 53 percent male. Researchers wanted to explore the relationship between these genes and lipid levels -- in general, lipid levels worsen when weight increases -- as well as any racial differences, Dr. Davis says.

They found whites were much more likely to have a variation of the LDL receptor gene that raises triglycerides. A mutation in a second candidate gene, ApoB, seemed to predict total cholesterol but the total varied with body mass index: heavier people were more affected by the gene. Those under age 18 with the same ApoB variant had a higher total cholesterol. The effect of that variant wasn't seen in adults, making researchers suspect its activity might be tied to puberty. Also, a variant of TNF α gene was linked to a lower HDL in men. "Women are known to have higher HDL levels than men," Dr. Davis says. "This gene might be interacting with sex hormones to influence men's HDL levels and make them a bit lower."

Source: Medical College of Georgia

Republic of Yemen

Civil Aviation Meteorology Authority (CAMA)

Sana'a International Airport Development Project, Phase - III

Invitation for Prequalification

1. The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA) invites eligible, qualified Contractors to apply for the prequalification of the construction of the new airfield, infrastructure and ancillary buildings in Sana'a International Airport phase III of the Sana'a International Airport Development Project. The construction works comprise the following:

- New Runway / parallel Taxiway / Rapid Exits / Connecting Taxiways / Navigational Equipment / Electrical Network / All related facilities etc .
- Terminal Building Apron / Aircraft fuel Hydrant System / All related facilities etc.
- New Air Traffic Control Tower Building / Technical Building / Equipment / Electrical network / All related Facilities etc.
- New Sewage / Water Supply System / Storm Water Drainage / All related facilities etc.
- New Electrical stations (11KV / 380V) / All related facilities etc.
- New Radar Building / Equipment / Electrical Network / All related facilities etc.
- New Main Fire Station / Electrical / Plumbing / All related facilities etc.
- Transmitter Tower and Building / Equipment / Electrical network / All related facilities etc.
- Receiver Tower and Building / Equipment / Electrical network / All related facilities etc .
- Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS) Equipment / Electrical Network / All related facilities etc.
- Fire Fighting System / Equipment / Electrical Network / All related facilities etc.
- Elevated Water Tank / All related facilities etc.

2. The Republic of Yemen has received a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance this Project, and will use this loan to cover part of the costs associated with the construction works.

3. Contractors applying for prequalification will be qualified based on their experience in similar Projects of comparable value and size, as well as the personal and Technical capabilities expected to be allocated to the project, in addition to the evaluation of their financial ability. Consistent with the regulations of the Rep. of Yemen / Arab Fund, a margin of preference will be given to Arab Contractors and International Joint ventures if the Arab Contractors form part of them.

4. Interested Contractors who feel competent and capable may obtain Prequalification Documents from Project Implementation unit in Sana'a as of the date of this announcement, at a non-refundable amount of US \$1000 (US Dollars one thousand only) or the equivalent in Yemeni Rials payable to Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA) address given below. The completed sealed documents must reach to the address given below on **15 December 2005 at 10:00 A.M.** The Prequalified Contractors and Joint ventures will be notified to receive the tender documents approximately 50 days after receipt of the applications. Also, Contractor not meeting the required prequalification will be informed.

The Project Manager
Project implementation unit .
Sana'a Int. Airport Development.
Project, Airport Road, Jiraf .
P.O. Box : 25579 - Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Phone : +967 1 327668 / 325314
Fax : +967 1 327667
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Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority
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Blum homer puts White Sox on brink of glory

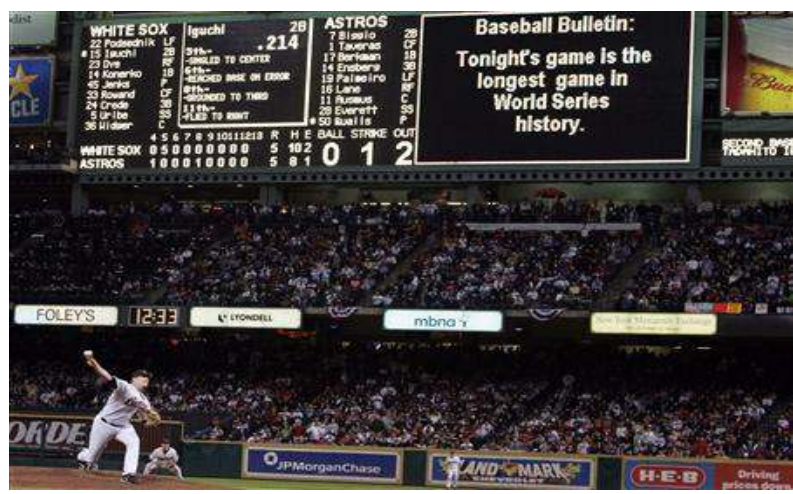
HOUSTON (Reuters) - Geoff Blum homered with two outs in the 14th inning to lead the Chicago White Sox to a 7-5 win over the Houston Astros on Tuesday, giving his team a commanding 3-0 lead in the 2005 World Series.

Blum, who played with Houston in 2002 and 2003, lined an Ezequiel Astacio pitch over the right field fence in his first at-bat in the best-of-seven championship series to leave Chicago one victory away from winning their first title since 1917.

The White Sox trailed 4-0 at one point in the game, but rallied for five runs off Astros ace Roy Oswalt in the fifth to take a 5-4 lead.

The Astros tied it in the eighth on a two-out double by Jason Lane, but repeatedly left runners in scoring position over the following innings to set up Chicago's winning rally off reliever Astacio.

After Blum's homer had made it 6-5, the White Sox scored again when Astacio gave up two infield hits, fol-



Houston Astros pitcher Chad Qualls pitches to the Chicago White Sox in the 13th inning in Game 3 of Major League Baseball's 2005 World Series in Houston, Texas, Oct. 25. The game set a record for the longest in World Series history. REUTERS

lowed by two walks before Wandy Rodriguez came in to get the final out.

Reliever Damaso Marte picked up the win for Chicago.

The 14-inning game tied the World Series record for longest in terms of innings and at five hours and 41 minutes, was the longest ever in terms of time.

Liverpool fail to match billing as Euro champs

LONDON (Reuters) - Liverpool have once again failed to live up to their billing as European champions after being dumped out of the League Cup by second division Crystal Palace.

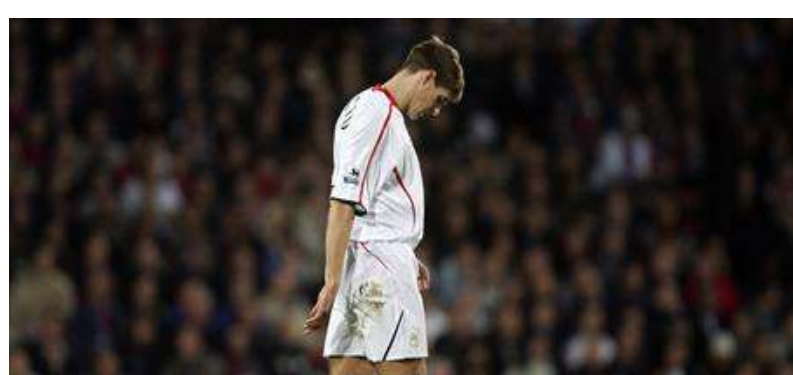
Two wins in eight Premier League games and a 2-1 defeat at Selhurst Park on Tuesday are in stark contrast to the Merseyside club's impressive performances in Europe.

Liverpool are joint top of Champions League Group G along with Chelsea after drawing at home with the English champions and winning on the road at Real Betis and Anderlecht.

Their domestic form is a big concern for Spanish manager Rafael Benitez, however, as they languish in 13th place in the Premier League and the fans are worried Liverpool's foreign legion are only interested in raising their game for Europe.

A 66th-minute goal by Palace's German midfielder Marco Reich left Liverpool, seven-time winners of the League Cup, to rue a host of missed chances in Tuesday's third round defeat.

"I cannot say much," said Benitez. "You can't accuse the players of not working this evening. I cannot fault them for that, and I won't criticise my



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard reacts after Crystal Palace's Dougie Freedman (unseen) scored during their English League Cup third round soccer match at Selhurst Park in London Oct. 25. REUTERS

players if they work hard.

"But we have made some mistakes in defence and that is the reason that we lost. I was disappointed that we did not take the opportunities we had."

Last season Liverpool suffered a shock 1-0 FA Cup defeat by second division Burnley after defender Djimi Traore scored an own goal in their third-round tie.

However, on that occasion Benitez controversially played a virtual reserve lineup and Liverpool did at least reach the League Cup final where they lost 3-2 to Chelsea in Cardiff.

Early onslaught

On Tuesday, their team was packed with internationals including Steven Gerrard, Sami Hyypia, Harry Kewell, Dietmar Hamann, Peter Crouch and Fernando Morientes.

Liverpool withstood an early onslaught before falling behind in the 37th minute when Kewell gave the ball away in midfield and Dougie Freedman headed past goalkeeper Scott Carson.

Gerrard equalised in the 40th minute for Liverpool but Palace, relegated from the Premier League last season, got the winner when Michael

It began on Tuesday night and ended in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The White Sox won the first two games in Chicago on the weekend, before the series moved to Houston's Minute Maid Park where the Astros compiled a 53-28 record during the regular season.

The National League champion Astros are playing in the first World Series in their 44-year history and Tuesday's game was also the first Fall Classic contest in Texas.

Chicago last won a World Series when they beat the New York Giants in 1917 and last appeared in it 46 years ago, when they were defeated by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The two teams play again in Minute Maid Park on Wednesday night, with righthander Brandon Backe pitching for the Astros and Freddy Garcia, who began his career with the Houston organization, taking the mound for Chicago.

Hughes clipped the ball over a packed defence for Reich to volley home.

"We created opportunities but we just couldn't score the second goal," added Benitez. "Palace continued to work hard in the second half and we tried to but it was not easy."

Liverpool's manager called for an improvement in attitude and performance after the weekend league defeat at Fulham and insisted his players responded well in the first half.

"It was not the same as the other day," said Benitez. "We had a better intensity and we started the game well and worked hard until the end. But we cannot change the result now."

Liverpool face promoted West Ham United in the Premier League on Saturday. The fact their opponents are five points clear of them before the visit to Anfield, albeit having played a game more, speaks volumes about Liverpool's poor start.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- Douglas and Alexander
- East Alto, California
- Stumblebums
- Legendary actor
- Many a Norwegian king
- Wooden's fab five
- Certain military camp + magazine
- Film in which Dustin was Dorothy
- About 26,000 square miles of Asia
- Noted Broadway Prince
- Requirement in some restaurants
- Artemis's brother
- baker's dozen
- Word with red or on
- Just the facts,
- Dr. with seven faces
- Type of shot
- Jack in "Around the World in 80 Days"
- Satisfy fully
- Summer games grp.
- Fen- (controversial diet drug combo)
- They can be blind
- Apostles' count + irate husbands
- Cologne article
- Santa California
- Orbital points
- Sir Walter Scott character
- "The" + Jack Benny's age + measures
- 1,620 yards, in Old Home
- First name among noted architects
- "all, folks!"
- "You're something!"
- Person with a list
- Chip enhancer
- Beat it
- Mideast capital
- Trout's breathing organ
- Deportatory brand
- Give permission to
- Quiet companion
- College World Series site
- Spoken for character
- "The" + Jack Benny's age + measures
- 1,620 yards, in Old Home
- First name among noted architects
- "all, folks!"
- "You're something!"
- Person with a list
- Chip enhancer
- Observant
- Comical witch
- Hereditary rulers
- Worse Simon for "Simon Says"
- Cong
- Favorable review
- "Ma! (He's Making Eyes)"
- Punxsutawney celeb
- Does routine engine maintenance
- Old dagger
- Barge (interrupt)
- What time will do to a wound
- Chooses
- She, in Milan
- Roth plan, for one

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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"MOVIE MAKING" by J. R. Richardson

Chelsea offer Charlton no mercy

COBHAM (Reuters) - Charlton Athletic can expect no mercy when they take on League Cup holders Chelsea on Wednesday, according to the Blues' assistant manager Steve Clarke.

While many top clubs will field second-string teams in this week's third round, Clarke made it clear the Premier League champions will be sending out a strong side at every stage of the competition.

"We'll take it as seriously as we did last season," Clarke told reporters on Tuesday. "If there's a trophy there to be won, then we're trying to win it."

"When you've got the squad we've got, you can make changes without significantly weakening the team and, for me personally, without weakening the team at all."

"You can put in like-for-like all across the board and we'll have a strong team out tomorrow night."

Along with Chelsea's strength in depth, Clarke said the team spirit fostered by manager Jose Mourinho throughout the squad would also help drive the club's push for honours.

"The boys who are not in the team on a regular basis know that when they do go in, they don't want to let the other boys down or let the manager down," he said.

"That's a big part of the philosophy of the club."

Though they are nine points adrift of Chelsea, Charlton are second in the table after a remarkable start to the season which included a 2-0 home defeat by the champions.

Despite the odds being stacked in Chelsea's favour, Clarke is not expecting an easy ride at Stamford Bridge.



In this file photo, Chelsea's Frank Lampard kicks the ball into the net as he celebrates team mate Arjen Robben's (unseen) goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Charlton Athletic at The Valley in London Sep. 17. REUTERS

"It's a London derby, it's first v second... and they gave us a difficult game down at The Valley," he said. "We expect another difficult game tomorrow."

The League Cup was the first trophy to be won in Mourinho's debut season and Clarke believes it played a part in their subsequent march to the league title.

"We hadn't won a trophy as a club since 2000. It was a chance for us to put down a marker early in the season -- to say 'we're in the competitions, we're trying to win them -- this is the first one

available to us and we've won it." "It was also good for the confidence of the players to go on and finish the job in the Premier League."

Drogba factor

Chelsea have started the new season where they left off the last, in imperious form.

Clarke highlighted the contribution of Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba, a club record signing from Olympique Marseille for 24 million pounds who failed to win over some of the critics.

This season, he has already scored eight times.

"It was difficult for him," Clarke said. "It was his first season in a new competition, and a new country. People tend to forget that it can take different people time to adjust."

"It was a totally different style of football to what he was used to in France. We were happy with him...but he didn't always get the praise he deserved from people outside the club."

"He's built on that and become even stronger this season."

Clarke said winger Damien Duff was still unavailable after injury and defender Ricardo Carvalho, who suffered concussion during training at the weekend, was unlikely to play against Charlton.

England left back Wayne Bridge, who broke his ankle in February, returns to the squad but it was not said whether he would start the match.

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ABYAN: Key of the buried treasure



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It is located between Aden, Lahaj, Beidha and Shabwa. The northern part is mountainous and the southern part is a coastal plain.

A number of valleys run into this governorate, most prominent of which is Wadi Bana that constitutes Abyan Delta, the most fertile land in Yemen.

This governorate is reputed for the production of cotton, particularly, the long-fiber type sold at the highest prices.

Abyan is characterized by existing of very rare emigrated sea birds' kinds, seeking the food and safety.

Birds like this land cause of its beautiful damp land, water flats, and lakes. There are many kinds of the beautiful birds in Abyan such as the nightingales, penguins, and sea gulls.

Not only had the rare birds characterized Abyan, but also the diversity of handcrafts. The most important of which is the fictile handcrafts that women are working on, in that area.

Then, the jewels manufacturing is coming in the second level of consequence for Abyan people who some of them from coastal part are professional in this craft. Porcelain industry is also one of those handcrafts in the governorate, which considered as small manufactures depend on palms and trees that discharge the colors.

The tourism of the sea is the most important feature of Abyan and that because of its long coastal strip with extent of 280 Km long from Al-Alaam towards Ridaa zone, Ahoar province.

Abyan has the most beautiful natural coasts and sands; and such places like these are so suitable to practicing the fishing tourism, making beach cabins, and building huge touristic villages.

Clearly, we can see that Abyan is a very fertility environment, which has the constituents of naval tourism.

It has an environmental system that fulls of corals, sea herbs, sea creatures, and very distinguished fish for embellishment.

The weather is moderate and the waves are high that allow you to practice a special kind of sport which is the marine skiing.

Abyan Governorate is considered one of the rich governorates with its ancient monuments however; settlements and cemeteries from the bronze and stony ages are appeared in the governorate to give more importance for the place.

Many ancient and historical sites and manuscripts has found in numerous locations in the province like a site from Shebaen period which named Asslan / Al-Dargog.

The Aden Mukalla highway runs through Abyan extending for hundreds of kilometers from Aden in the west Shabwa in the east and through it to Mukalla on the Arabian Sea.

The road passes by many tourist locations, cities and villages along the Arabian Sea in some of its parts and they are:

Zinjibar:

The capital of Abyan governorate, 60 km to the East of Aden, located at Abyan fertile Delta. It is surrounded by orchards and fruit farms.

Ja'ar:

The most famous mountain in

Abyan governorate is Khanfar Mountain, which is one of Ja'ar features. It is a few Kilometers away, and is considered a famous historical fort, from which the Fatimide missionary, Ali Bin Al-Fadhal, emerged; it is also a tourist site overlooking Abyan green delta.

Shouqra:

A coastal city on the Arabia Sea, and an important fishing port with a fish-canning Factory. It is 57 km to the east of Zinjibar with many beautiful beaches.

Modiyya:

It is about 127 km to the northeast of Zinjibar with tall houses built of clay and is located in a fertile plain reputed for growing cotton, tobacco, and fruits.

Al-Hami:

It is 178 km away from Zinjibar in which a hot mineral spring exists.

Al-Mahfad:

The tourists' route then passes by Al-Mahfad, which is a weekly market place for the adjacent villages.

The road proceeds to Naqaabah 273 km from Zinjibar and then divides into two paved branch roads one goes towards Attaq, while the other goes to Habban, then the branches of Bir Ali, on to Mukalla on the Arabian Sea.

Abyan Coast Shore:

It is situated at Khormaksar and considered the longest coast in Aden governorate where you can find sands and rest houses.

You can find also other shore scattered all over the coast of the governorate and in more than one location such as Amran, Fukum and Khaissa shores.



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