

Inside:

Report: The positive aspect of Qat

P5

Editorial: Zargawi or not, this is clear terrorism

P8

Opinion: Islam's forsaken renaissance

P9

Business: Economic growth from remittance

P10

Culture: Sound Islamic union should be established

P11

Policewomen: Protection or corruption



YT PHOTO ARCHIVE

By HAKIM ALMASMARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It has become the norm to notice policewomen on active duty in various government organizations and authorities such as airports, immigration and other departments. This norm would've been a hypothetical situation considering the sensitive role of women in this conservative Yemeni society.

However, the mere existence of policewomen is considered a good adjustment for the society, for example in women prisons the role of police-women is a lifesaver, for it has been the home of many sexual harassment that took place through the 1990s. On numerous occasions, female prisoners were brutally raped or harassed by male prison guards. This in result caused many women to leave prison with infants and children, while they were virgins when they first stepped through prison doors. By using police-women on duty, it surely decreases the number of sexual harassment cases in prisons. "This is very important for women in prison and women arrested and interrogated. This would be good for women in any situation where she is uncomfortable and it will be important for her safety", said Ramzia Abbas Al-Eryani, chairwoman of the Yemen women's Union. Also it is clear that women are more understanding with regards to female personal feelings and lifestyles. Another positive sign is in airports, were women could be checked and searched by police-women, not having to go through being touched by men.

But what many fear is that this issue

has a tragic angle to it, as it could open doors for unlawful relationships between men and women working at the police academy. "I walked into prison along with my husband to visit a close relative to find that policewomen were not available in order to undertake the usual security search as they were outside the premises drinking tea and giggling with the policemen: I thought they were sent to work and serve their country here", Said Samia Ali.

Many comments are heard around the abuse of the professional relationship by both male and female police officers. Citizens have started to see and realize the negative side to this: "I virtually saw a policeman helping a policewoman put on her belt. He was holding her from the waist and pressing his body onto hers. I don't see where society could be any safer". Said Wael Ali, who went to visit his brother in prison: "The ironic thing about this is that she was laughing and enjoying it".

There was a recent they call for the equality between men and women working in all fields in the United States; the Pentagon released a report concerning working women in the military saying that males continuously devalue women in uniform and degrade their capabilities, hereby creating an abusive atmosphere towards women. Also, a whopping fifty percent of women in the United States military admitted to have been sexually harassed one way or another. not to mention those who choose to conceal such issues of harassment.

"They are making a big deal out of this issue. The places we need police-

women are very limited", said Mohammed Ali, a Law school graduate. "Having a few hundred police-women would sufficiently cover the need in the whole country". He added.

From a religious point of view, a truly religious society there would be no need for policewomen, but as time changes and women are continuously being degraded and violated regularly, we are ought to have this situation in our society as it is the only solution at hand to end numerous cases of violence against women. Indeed, Policewomen can help women's rights through application of the law and protect them from such indecent men.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, 80% of males convicted of rape or sexual assault in the military or governmental institutions leave with an honorable discharge (meaning the rape conviction does not appear on their record), while only 2-3% are convicted

and punished for the crime. If this is the situation in United States with the respectable laws and strong judiciary system, what chance do policewomen have in Yemen? Is this issue happening to our policewomen but is not being publicly exposed? The numerous rape cases that are regularly heard of at women detention centers and prisons makes you at least anticipate that this could be occurring in our country as well, where victims are scared to stand up for the oppression that they suffer from family backlash or losing respect and dignity in the society.

We as a country must realize that nothing is perfect, but striving for the sake of betterment is what drives prosperity. Real visible solutions must be a priority to end such violence against women for the sake of the people and the country, however, only time will tell if the right steps and correct measures were taken.

Muqbil joined Yemeni opposition in USA

By MOHAMMED AL-JABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Mr. Hamzah Muqbil, advisor of Al-Dhalei governorate, affirmed his intention to seek political asylum to the US government during the President Saleh's visit to Washington last week. He affirmed that his applying for political asylum is due to the spread of corruption and pressure exerted on the opposition in Yemen and the impossibility of living and working with the present regime. "I sought political asylum to the US government

because I was not able to express my views in my country. The regime could not even stand mere critical writings in the press. Some pressmen have been detained and some others tortured." Said Muqbil.

Authority sources, however, affirmed that Hamzah Muqbil was not among the official delegation accompanying President Saleh during his visit. "Such news lack authenticity and aim to create unrest," said the source.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hamzah Muqbil appeared Monday in "From Washington" program broadcast on Al-

Jazeera channel, where he talked about the absence of equal citizenship policy in Yemen.

On the other hand, security authority in Khur Maksar arrested Tuesday the General Director of Chamber of Commerce Mr. Saleh Ali bin Ali. Security authority accused him of adding Hamzah Muqbil to the businessmen delegation accompanying the President during his visit. "I have been a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Lahj since 1998 and that my commercial record is still valid." Said Muqbil.

As accused go into hunger strike

Penal court postpones Alhothi cell case

By HASSAN ALZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Nov. 16 - The First Instance Court, for trying 63 of Alhothi followers held last Monday its first session since the presidential Amnesty. It refused the release request that was presented by suspects. The court supported its refusal by saying that, it did not receive any notification that the suspects are involved in this amnesty. It is worth mentioning that the suspects are accused of forming an armed band to assassinate some military leaders.

The court withdrew its former decision to summon suspect number 35 of Sana'a cell, Intisar alsiani.

them.

The court ordered the prosecution to present a reply on the suspects' claims that they were included by the presidential amnesty.

The suspects' lawyer also claimed that the court procedures are illegal because they contradict the presidential amnesty. The lawyers also requested the court to oblige the prosecution to bring the evidences that it depended on to convict their clients. The court postponed till next Monday.

On the other hand local sources in Saada said that there were armed confrontations in Bani Mu'ath area in Sahar district. They took place between the followers of Sheikh Yahia



Judge Najeeb Algdiri drove suspects Mohamed Altharihi and Mohamed Al-akhfash out of the court room because they disturbed the session by shouting Hothi slogans, protesting that they were put in solitary cells because of the presidential amnesty.

The suspects refused cooperation with the court, alleging that it is illegal. Suspects Mohamed and Fuad Al-imad were brought into the court room and the prosecutor read their confessions, which included conspiring to assassinate the commander of the North West Brigade, Ali Muhsin Al-ahmar. Their lawyer requested the prosecution to present the legal evidences against

Ja'afar and Alhothi followers. 'Al-sahwa net' said according to local sources that, three unidentified persons died in these confrontations. A military campaign of armed vehicles moved last Monday to chase some of Alhothi followers.

In a related issue, 15 of prisoners in Alhothi case continued their hunger strike, in remonstrance of not being released according to the presidential amnesty, and for maltreatment.

Close sources said that Mohamed Bdredeen Alhothi had declared hunger strike in his prison. Sources also said that Dr. Al- Hamran is in a confinement cell in the Security prison.

On the other hand MP Yahia Badredeen Alhothi declared his resignation from the People General Congress Party. He preferred to stay abroad, saying that he will convey the truth about Saada events to the people who used to know it from the official media sources.

He confirmed that his father is in good health, adding that he was frustrated, when he knew that the presidential Amnesty was only a propaganda, because of the European Committee that met in Sana'a last September.

Alhothi case is still presenting a headache for the authorities, as his detained followers refused to sign pledges of not shouting his slogans and not to stir unrest, in return for their release. This led to their release delay according to the presidential pardon.

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Aden refinery to increase refining Production to 5 million tons

Aden – Nov. 10 - Aden refinery is expected to increase its annual production to over 5 million metric tons by the end of 2005. The production will constitute different types of petroleum products that will exceed last year's production rate by one million tons.

An administrative announcement said that the daily production increased to 120 thousand barrels per day comparing to 90 thousand barrels pair day last year. This increase followed the recent maintenance scheme of refining

production units, through which technical maintenance teams have finished their work in the four main anchorages of the refinery port, whose depth is about 15.5 meters resulting in the increased refining capacity.

Aden refinery is one of the oldest refineries in the region. It was built by the British BP company in 1952 and started production in 1954. The Yemeni government acquired ownership of the refinery through a peaceful settlement in 1977.

The Amran highway muggers gang arrested at last

Amran – Nov. 7- Security forces managed to arrest a dangerous gang which used to stop, attack and loot expatriates' cars that come from Saudi Arabia through the Haradh - Hajah – Amran highway.

The gang had recently stopped a car of one of the expatriates, and then taken a sum of a hundred and nineteen thousand Saudi riyals that was with him and ran away with it. They also tore his passport and other documents. Then they also attacked another truck driver and took all his money in addition to a Jambia that costs about YR 5000. The truck driver managed to take

down the gang's car number and could recognize their countenance. He reported the details to the police who carried an investigation that lead to the arrest of four gang members, while another five were on the run, but they have been recognized by the police.

During the investigations the arrested gang members have confessed that they have committed a number of highway robberies during the month of Ramadan, in which they used to carry out their stickups during the early morning hours when most people were asleep except for highway travelers in the relatively empty roads.

Police seizes 68 kgs of Hashish

HAJJAH- Nov. 11- A few days ago Hajjah policemen seized a car loaded with 68 kg of hashish which was on its way to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This quantity is the largest of its kind seized by the Yemeni police before being trafficked into Saudi Arabia.

The car was confiscated along with its load and its driver was taken to prison. While being investigated, the driver confirmed that he has no relation to the trafficking of hashish, but

he agreed with unidentified person to transport a quantity of tobacco to the area of al-Hira, 5 km away from the Saudi border.

Policemen who were patrolling the area strangely stared at the shape of Hashish sacks after having stopped the car for the usual search. The authorities are still conducting the necessary investigations in order to find out the source of Hashish and its recipient in Al-Hira area.

Drawing maps of cultural and historical Protectorates

BY ISMAIL ALI ALGHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Nov. 13- The General Authority for Conservation of historical cities have started to draw maps of a number of cities and areas in the capital secretariat, in order to preserve them as cultural and historical sites. Head of the authority, Dr. Abdulla

Zaid Isa, announced that the maps will specify the areas of Beer Al-azab, Al-qabil village in Wadi Dhahr, Haddah village, Sana' village, Raodhah town, Atan village and Bait Bos village in order to prevent any damage to these areas and preserve their old architecture, the maps will also identify several historical and touristy areas.

General Authority for Historical Cities will open new branches during 2006 in other historical cities, like those of Tareem, Saada, Amran Al-hujurain, Shibam Kokaban and Shiharah, in order to supervise in the carrying-out of preservation projects, remove damages and keep the best architectural appearance for each city and site.

111 entrepreneurial projects implemented in Aden Free Zone

ADEN- Nov. 12- According to sources in the Aden Free Zone Administration, almost 111 entrepreneurial & business projects have been established in the free zone since January 2000.

Most of the projects have been implemented in the areas of services, tourism, storing, housing, trade and

services with a total capital of US\$ 384,379,879, within which industry-related projects topped the list of projects counting for 28 projects at a capital cost of \$ 153 million and 274 thousand.

Nevertheless, there are 7 housing projects at a total cost of over 116 million and 642 thousand US dollars,

10 tourism projects with a cost of 64 million dollars and 14 trade projects at a cost of 15.6 million dollars while 29.1 million dollars is the cost of 10 storing projects, while projects related to services numbered up to 42 at a cost of 5 million, 694 thousand and 727 dollars.

The source clarified that the just said

Yemen to receive free Guantanamo prisoners

SANAA- Nov. 12 - The Yemeni Government said Saturday it was preparing to receive seven Yemeni prisoners who are to be released soon by the U.S. authorities from Guantanamo Bay prison, Cuba.

The defense ministry said in a statement that the U.S. authorities have decided to release seven Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo and to hand

them over to Yemen. It added that local authorities were making arrangement to receive the seven men, who will be questioned by the Yemeni authorities once released to find out if they are suspected of involvement in terrorism activities, and be tried according to Yemeni laws.

It added that diplomatic talks with

the United States were being held regarding the fate of more than 100 Yemeni prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay, where the American forces are holding hundreds of Muslims rounded up after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 on suspicion of terrorism.

Sana'a said that Washington promised to gradually hand over all

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:

Political asylum increased among Yemeni key politicians who seek shelter in the west to demand more political reform. Do you favor this phenomenon?
Yes
No

Last edition's question:

Journalists are always subjected to threats and attacks, the last of which was on the opposition journalist Nabil Subei. Do you think that influential persons and corrupts have a hand in such attacks?

Yes 94%
I don't know 6%
No 0%

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

projects, which were granted to a number of Yemeni investors and investment companies from the brotherly and friendly countries, created around 8190 job opportunities.

European Union supports Human Rights in Yemen

SANA'A- Nov. 16- The European Union will provide Yemeni Minister of Human Rights with 2 million euros to assist the plans of protecting and promoting, human rights and democratization.

Although Yemen is classified as one

of the 49 least developed countries, with close to 50% of the population under absolute poverty line and a pattern of gender differences, it has set a goal for its own transformation in accordance with the Sana'a declaration and the strategic vision of 2025. The European Union is providing a 2 million Euro for the National

Indicative Program(NIP) agreed with Yemen. One of the priorities of the NIP is to strengthen Democracy and political pluralism.

The funding is covering three areas, strengthening the capacity of Yemen's Ministry of Human Rights; developing effective consultation mechanism between human rights and NGO's and

government institutions, and providing technical and financial assistance to NGO's.

EU Has always placed great importance in the protection of political pluralism and democracy in Yemen, and advanced this matter as one of its priorities. EU believes that by working together, Yemen can achieve its goals.

JOB VACANCY ISLAMIC RELIEF Yemen



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Requirements: The successful candidate must be a graduate in development studies or any other social science plus at least 5 years experience as a senior staff member in development and emergency relief management. He/She will have proven experience in obtaining institutional funding and developing linkages with INGO and GO. Skills in financial, time and team management are essential together with working knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Internet applications. Fluency in English (written and spoken) is essential whereas an ability to communicate in Arabic would be advantageous. The successful candidate must be committed and sympathetic to the principles of Islamic Relief, ability to travel, flexible, patient, dynamic, analytical and sensitive to local culture.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 24th November 2005.

Country Representative
Islamic Relief Yemen
P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No: 01-219017 Or
Email: cdir@y.net.ye

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Yemen youth qualify for Asia finals

SANA'A – Nov. 16- Yemeni Youth team managed to qualify for Asia finals by beating Bahrain 4/3 last Tuesday 15.11.

This victory led the Yemeni team to the final Youth tournaments which will be held in the Southern Korean capital Seoul, next September.

The first half of the match ended with the Yemeni team preceding the Bahraini team 1/0, but the Bahrainis managed to get a draw. The Yemeni team scored other two goals, which granted it the 3 points of the match and book their seat in Seoul. This presents the only chance of qualification for the Asian Youth tournaments.

It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni team had acquired its first success last week by beating the Qatari team 2/0.

Yemen participates in human development report

SANA'A - Nov.16 - Dr. Khadija Al-haisami professor of political sciences in Sana'a University, was chosen by UN last week to represent Gulf and Arabia region in preparing the fourth human development report for woman development.

Dr. Khadija will join next week, in Cairo, the third UN meeting which will set the final touches on the human development report in the Arab World. The report will be issued in its final draft at the beginning of next year.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Khadija is a prominent activist in woman rights. She teaches in Sana'a University and she is also the manager of the National Institute for Administration Sciences,

Vacancy

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For a complete description on the above-mentioned position, as well as contact details for application submission, visit our Careers page at www.iata.org

Deadline for submission on: **18 November 2005**

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JOB VACANCY

We're now looking to fill two positions, focusing on Yemen, If your experience matches one of them, we'd like to hear from you

Human Resources Coordinator – Yemen

As an experienced HR professional, you'll be responsible for supporting and advising managers in Oxfam's Yemen office – ensuring that HR policies are put into practice on a daily basis. With excellent people management skills and a creative approach to solving complex HR challenges, you will provide guidance and support on recruitment, induction, and performance management. You will also manage HR and administrative staff.

This is your chance to use your expertise to strengthen the entire Yemen team – and to contribute to Oxfam's ultimate goal of ending poverty and suffering. We are looking for someone who is committed to diversity issues and developing others. English language skills are essential and Arabic is desirable.

Ref: INT1330
Closes 11th December 2005

Campaigns & Policy Co-ordinator - Yemen

You'll be responsible for ensuring Oxfam's campaigns, policy, and advocacy work are achieving strategic goals and delivering lasting change for poor people in Yemen. You'll work closely with the Country Programme Manager, and as a member of the senior management team in the Yemen office, you'll be shaping the overall country strategy.

With proven skills in programme management, you will represent Oxfam in coordination meetings and you'll build links with targeted institutions, decision makers, and donors. You will manage and develop others, whilst also being a good team worker yourself. And we are looking for someone with a good understanding of poverty and development issues.

Ref: INT1332
Closes 11 December 2005

Equality is at the heart of our work and the way we do it, and we seek to gain the benefit of a diverse workforce.

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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 office in Sana'a but will also be responsible for IT functions in the Seiyun sub-office.

Job Title: Information Technology Officer

Key Competencies and requirements:

- High level of competence in support and implementation of computerised systems.
- Up-to-date knowledge and skills on latest developments in the IT systems field.
- Ability to train and support staff on IT.
- Effective liaison experience with external organisations.
- Initiative to take on responsibility and work with minimal supervision.
- An ability to work to deadlines.
- Effective communication skills / good working knowledge in English
- Sensitivity to gender and diversity issues in work practices.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work as member of a team.
- Organisational awareness and understanding of the significance of information technology for management decisions.

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 11th December 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
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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.

Vacancy Announcement



The Yemeni-German Project "Support to the Central Organisation for Control and Auditing (COCA)" (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH) would like to announce the following vacancy:

Local Research and Documentation Specialist (bilingual)

Main Tasks and Responsibilities:

The Local Research and Documentation Specialist facilitates, under supervision of the GTZ project manager, the production of draft reports, guidelines, and other project related documents.

In particular, the Local Research and Documentation Specialist will:

- Identify and produce translations of topic-related sources in Arabic, English and, if applicable, in German.
- Manage the drafting process that expedites relevant technical inputs in coordination with cooperation partners and external expertise.
- Develop information profiles on the principal project-results and impacts.

Education:

- Advanced university degree in finance, public administration, communication science or other project-related fields

Competencies

- Excellent knowledge in spoken and written Arabic and English; additional fluency in German is a major advantage;
- Excellent analytical skills;
- Proven ability to present information in a clear and logical manner both in writing and by other means;
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines;
- Computer literacy.

Experience

- Translations of topic-related sources in Arabic, English (vice-versa) and, if possible, in German;
- Drafting of technical inputs utilizing Arabic, English (vice-versa) and, if applicable, German sources in coordination with cooperation partners.
- Publications
- GTZ-experience or in the international context would be an asset.

In accordance with GTZ-policy, applications from qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged.

Applicants should send their detailed CV (with awards, copies of degrees earned, 3 references and, if applicable, publications) with a short cover letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post and indicating their availability. All applications are to be submitted in a closed envelope clearly marked as the following:

"Application for Local Research and Documentation Specialist"

Director GTZ Office Sana'a

GTZ Office Sana'a

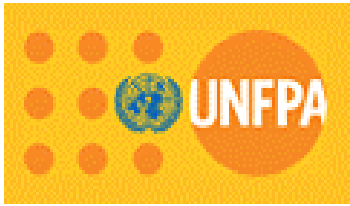
P.O. Box 692

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Final date for submission of applications will be the 30th November 2005.

Short listed applicants will be invited for interviews.

NOTE: APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN YEMEN AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.



The Maternal and Newborn Project (MNH) is pleased to announce the following vacancies:-

1. POST TITLE: National Midwifery Training Component Manager/ MNH Project

CLOSING DATE: 28 November 2005.

DUTY PLACE: Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPH&P), Extensive (50%) travel expected within and outside Yemen.

DURATION: One year initially (project span 4 years)

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: MNH/UNFPA project

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The overall responsibility of the Midwifery Training Component Manager will be to implement the Midwifery training component under the management of the joint UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO Maternal and Newborn Health programme, in close collaboration with MOPHP particularly the RH and Human Resources Development directorates (HRD), High Institute for Health Sciences (HIHS) and other related institutions, with a view to support MOPH&P Midwifery in RH service delivery and to make significant progress towards the Millennium Development Goals particularly goals 4 and 5.

Scope of the work:

- 1- To oversee the development from available sources in country office and partners of a regional maternal health situation analysis focusing on midwifery training curriculum developments and services using performance indicators including, in country and within the region status of development and implementation of the National Midwifery training for Maternal Health, including: costing, financing/resource mobilization, implementation plans/level of implementation; and monitoring and evaluation
- 2- Modifying & upgrading CMW curricula and resource materials based on the current experience;
- 3- Modifying the criteria for CMW selection in consistence with MOPH&P /HRD &RH standards
- 4- Assessing the readiness of directorates and local councils in recruiting CMW, providing training and residence sites and determining CMW "future" employment and site of work.
- 5- To guarantee that adequate, competent and motivated personnel are identified, attracted and retained for the success of the program and for the responsibility and continuity of its lessons and experiences in the future

Direct Tasks will be

1. Manage CM training component inputs, including financial, commodity, equipment and technical assistance inputs. Participate in the project periodic evaluations and represent the project component in relevant national meetings, working groups and panels.
2. Revise/ develop and implement tools in reporting and monitoring on midwifery component implementation to measure progress for MNH project. Report periodically on them to senior management of MOPH and MNH Programme Manager and UNFPA, and foster the inclusion of such tools in the MOPH&P Annual Report
3. Provide reports and as required to MOPH&P HRD ,RH, MNH Programme Manager and UNFPA on different programme activities.
4. Manage implementation of the CM component planned pre-and-in-service training locally and internationally.
5. Ensures receipt, control and distribution of supplies delivered by the project, maintains inventory;
6. Act as reporter for the project related committees in concerning MNH/CM component.
7. Coordinate closely with the Health offices and the program implementation committees to enhance Competence Basic Training standardization
8. Coordinate activities with Governorate midwife focal points and with the Midwifery Association
9. Report directly and perform any other tasks as assigned by MNH Programme Manager in coordination with MOPH

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Integrity, commitment to UNFPA mandate and MNH programme goals, valuing diversity, self-management/emotional intelligence.
- Sound skills in health components management.
- Performance management/developing people. Working in teams and good communication.
- Sensitivity to gender issues and to cultural dimensions.
- Appropriate and transparent decision making
- Analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation/ Knowledge sharing/continuous learning

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Qualified Physician with experience in MCH/FP OR Nurse-Midwife

- Has completed TOT course and/or training management courses (At least one course)
- Has minimum of 5 years experience in MCH/FP services and has 6 years involvement in CMT
- Experience in project management
- Able to carry out on frequent field visit outside to the training sites
- Demonstrated leadership in the field
- Good technical drafting and report/ writing skills and presentation and interpersonal communication skills
- Dedication to UN principles and demonstrated ability to work in harmony with persons of different national and cultural backgrounds
- Given the needs of the communication with different donors and development partners , proficiency in both written and verbal Arabic and English is a must.

HOW TO APPLY

Nationals of Yemen send their CVs to MNH Project /UNFPA Office P.O.Box 7272, Sana'a, Yemen Office: (00967-1) 209003/4 ext. /Fax: (00967-1)209005 or **you may send your application via e-mail to: Jaffer@unfpa.org** with copy to nashwan@unfpa.org

Please indicate post title.

Closing date for applications: **28 November 2005.**

Women are encouraged to apply.

***This is a project-funded post**

2. Post Title: Finance Associate:

Job Description

Project Context

Under the guidance and supervision of the MNH Project Manager, and in close coordination with UNFPA Operational& Financial Manager the Finance Associate provides functional leadership in human resource, administrative and financial systems of the Project Office. He/she supervises clerical staff.

He/she delivers quality services in HR, administration and finance to internal and external clients mastering all relevant rules, guidelines, processes and procedures. He/she takes a client-oriented, results-focused approach to interpreting the rules, procedures and guidelines in service of the project programme, providing support and guidance to the MNOPH&P related departments and maintain UNFPA-Operational and financial procedures and guidance

Results-Oriented Functional Statement

- Adapts processes and procedures, anticipates and manages operational requirements of project inputs under national execution in terms of personnel, sub-contracts, equipment, fellowships, study tours and other programme and project related events to facilitate project delivery.
- Prepares and monitors the administrative budget and ensures financial transactions are in accordance with UNFPA financial rules and procedures. Proposes procedures to improve internal controls and efficiency and responds to audit issues
- Manages the recruitment and selection process applying best practice Human Resources (HR) tools and mechanisms, advises and briefs managers and project personnel on different types of contracting modalities, HR policies and benefits, coordinates the PAR process and advises on performance issues.
- Implements corporate systems and applications in support of finance and human resource management and project operations; creates systems and mechanisms for effective management of project resources required for NEX, and advises and trains project staff in NEX procedures. Maintains continuous and accurate/up-dated flow of information between MNH project MOPH&P, UNFPA country Office
- Reviews procurement requests and initiates procurement procedures for MNH project and project implementation required equipment, supplies and services in a transparent and cost-effective manner; recommends procurement decision. Contributes to the smooth running of the office by ensuring the provision and maintenance of services and supplies following-up processes and maintaining up-to-date inventory and records.
- Reviews and prepares material for common system activities relating to common services and premises, cost recovery, privileges and immunities, entitlement and salary surveys, security etc and represents MNH project in related MOPH&P/inter-agency meetings and working groups when required and/in the absence of project manager
- Supports the monitoring of programme financial performance for all core and non-core resources by providing necessary financial information and analysis, including implementation rate against indicators/results. Detects potential over-under expenditure problems and suggests remedial action.
- Develops tools and mechanisms for effective and efficient

monitoring of programme and project budgets, coordinates compilation of financial data and provides accurate and up-dated financial information to UNFPA Country Office on a continuous basis.

- Interprets financial policies and procedures particularly relating to NEX and provides guidance and training to staff and project managers. Strives to identify ways in which programme financial needs can be met within existing policies.
- Assists in the management of the MNH project budget-by-budget formulation, controlling allotments, monitoring expenditures, and preparing revisions according to the needs of the office.
- Ensures the effective financial recording and reporting system, internal control and audit follow-up and processes financial transactions in an accurate and timely way.

Functional Competencies:

• Business acumen

Independently gathers analyses and interprets data and information from a wide range of sources using appropriate analytical tools and professional standards. Identifies warning signs based on financial analysis, probes for clarification or points of concern and presents findings.

• Client orientation

Establishes effective relationships with internal and external clients, actively supports the interests of the client and researches potential solutions to client needs Organizes and prioritizes work schedule and addresses client needs and deadlines promptly and diplomatically

• Implementing management systems

Maintains information/databases on system design features and develops system components. Makes recommendations relative to work-processing approaches and procedures which would lead to more efficient systems design.

Corporate Competencies:

Values

Integrity/Commitment to mandate

Acts in accordance with UN/UNFPA values and holds himself/herself accountable for actions taken. Demonstrates personal commitment to UNFPA's mandate and to the MOPH&P and organizational vision.

Knowledge sharing/Continuous learning

Takes responsibility for personal learning and career development and actively seeks opportunities to learn through formal and informal means. Learns from others inside and outside the project adopting best practices created by others. Actively produces and disseminates new knowledge.

Valuing diversity

Demonstrates an international outlook, appreciates differences in values and learns from cultural diversity. Takes actions appropriate to the religious and cultural context and shows respect, tact and consideration for cultural differences. Observes and inquires to understand the perspectives of others and continually examines his/her own biases and behaviors.

Managing Relationships

- Working in teams
- Empowerment/Developing people/Performance management.

Job Requirements:

Academic Requirements:

Bachelor's degree in business administration, public administration, finance, information technology, economics or related field is preferable.

Experience:

7 years of relevant experience in the public or private sector.

Languages:

Fluency in oral and written Arabic and English.

Computer skills:

Proficiency in current office software applications.

3. Post Title: Admin Assistant:

The Admin Assistant:

- Reviews incoming electronic/manually communications as well as mail and directs them as necessary ensuring smooth and effective communicating facilities in the office. Establishes an internal reference unit classifying and coding material related to a



number of subject matters and maintains closed office files;

- Prepares correspondence, special reports, evaluations, statistics and justifications as required on general administrative or specialized tasks which may be of a confidential nature within assigned area of responsibility;
- Responsible for opening and closing pouches and receiving/forwarding others pouches. Ensures timely delivery and dispatch any weekly pouches;
- Plans day-to-day work of the unit, assigns duties to the support staff, monitors flow of work, reviews individual workloads and makes adjustments as required in order to provide efficient service and achieve objectives;
- Prepares the unit's work plan and ensures that Performance Appraisal Development (PADs) and mid year review for support staff are completed on time and follow-ups on the implementation of the PAD recommendations;
- Keeps abreast of changes in administrative rules, regulations and procedures and advises senior officials and staff on these changes;
- Participates in discussions of new or revised procedures and practices, interprets and assures the impact of changes and makes recommendations for follow-up action;
- Proposes and implements cost savings and cost recovery measures for support services to partners and clients;
- Monitor the leave record/report of all staff;
- Arranges logistics for conducting internal workshops/training and arranges for hotel reservations, airport pick-ups and other logistic arrangements for incoming and outgoing missions.

We are looking for candidates who have:

- A track record in innovation and marketing of new approaches.
- Integrity, commitment, and respect for diversity.
- Skills to manage relationships communicate and develop people.
- Ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.
- Willingness for in country travel
- fluent in both English and Arabic Languages with computer skills

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a degree in business administration or other administration related. We expect professional experience of 3 to 5 years, responsible clerical and administrative experience, and proficiency in automated systems preferably in administrative management in the public or private sector... Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications.

4. Post Title: Driver

Job Description

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Drives for the manager of the project and other project members and carries out all assignments requested by him/her;
- Responsible for the day to day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs when necessary and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil change, greasing etc.,
- Collects and delivers mail or documents when required
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in an accident;
- Performs any other duties as required

Minimum Qualifications/Competencies:

- Primary education, driver's license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and chauffeur courtesies, skills in minor vehicle repair
- Seven years work experience as a driver; safe driving record
- Knowledge of Arabic and English Languages
- Strives for quality client-centered services (internal/external)
- Participates effectively in a team-based environment, collaborating and cooperating with others
- Plans, prioritizes and produces quality results on time
- Responds flexibly and positively to change through active involvement
- Is motivated & demonstrates a capacity to pursue personal development & learn

Please send your application to:

MNH project/UNFPA, Sana'a, P.O. Box 7272

Deadline for application: 28th of November 2005

Please specify job title

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered and notified.

Emergency operation centre to monitor the avian flue in Yemen

FOR YEMEN TIMES

As the world takes prudent measures to prepare for a major human influenza pandemic "more decisive action must be taken by effected countries, civil society, the private sector and by the international community to stop bird flue in animals," said Samuel Jutzi Director on bird flue in Geneva on 7th November.

"to stop this dangerous and devastating disease requires extraordinary political community, very substantial investments, concerted international cooperation, and severe action at the country level" Jutzi said.

We still have a window of opportunity to stop the disease in animals. The virus has not yet re-assorted or mutated; action is required now. Three no time to lose"

The circulation of the H5N1 virus in domestic poultry is the core problem. "controlling the virus in animals is the only way by which the likelihood of the bird flu virus acquiring human to human transmissibility can be influenced" the

FAO expert said.

More than 3000 animals and human health experts, senior policy-makers, economists and industry representatives are gathering in Geneva to design a strategy to eliminate the virus in animals and prepare for a possible human influenza pandemic.

Bird flu's economic damage

Since 1996, the spread of bird flu has been devastating to several countries in Asia, where over 150 million chickens and ducks have died from the disease or have been culled. The economic impact on affected countries is estimated at much beyond \$ 10 billion; across South-East Asia, the impact of a single large outbreak was estimated in 2004 to result in the reduction of up to 1.5% of GDP, Jutzi said.



Jacques Diouf, FAO Director General

The livelihoods of an estimated 200 million poor small farmers have been heavily affected by the disease.

The concentration of over one billion ducks and geese in Asia, many of which are kept in open systems, has provided an effective breeding ground for the myriad avian influenza viruses circulating in the wild waterfowl pool.

Global investment

A global investment program is needed to stop and reduce the circulation of virus in animals to reduce the risk to humans, Jutzi said "too much emphasis has been given to the stockpiling of antiviral drugs while the battle against bird flu in animals remains seriously underfunded. This is unacceptable" he added.

In order to combat bird flu, countries should strengthen their veterinary services and improve local capacity at the farm and market levels. Practices such as isolating poultry, good farm hygiene, use of effective vaccines, close monitoring, and quick culling have proven to be very successful in bird flu control campaigns, Jutzi said.

FAO also stressed the importance of timely reporting of outbreaks and sharing of epidemiological data and of virus samples. "this is crucial to analyze the characteristics of the viruses in order to understand and control the diseases and prevent human infection. FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) have repeatedly appealed to governments to improve the exchange of viral strains between veterinary and human health scientific communities" Jutzi noted.

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The positive aspect of Qat

By HAKIM ALMASMARI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

Continuous reports always mention the negative aspects of Qat, and the harm that it could cause to the person's health, but what is never mentioned is what good can the Qat leaf has? I totally agree with the majority of people that Qat is virtually destroying our health and family structure, nevertheless, even with all these negative aspects; it still has its positives.

The Qat leaf has been chewed by Africans and Arabs from as far as the early 16th century, but never was it seen as an addiction or a worldwide issue until the end of the 20th century. People chewed Qat under many excuses, some leisure, some as an addiction, and some as a chance to get together with family and friends. Consumers openly claim that it lifts their spirit, sharpens their thinking and increases energy. Comparing Qat to other drugs, which are banned in many foreign countries, Qat seems to have a much less effect than other types of narcotics, and therefore safer.

A known negative aspect of Qat is that it leads to many diseases including mouth and lung cancer. But according to some western Qat chewers in Yemen, Qat in many cases is comparable to a cup or two of espresso (A heavy kind of coffee drunk in the west). Even when comparing Qat to cigarettes, its level of danger is far more less than cigarettes, but on the other hand Qat is banned in many countries, while government officials and presidents around the world are smoking cigarettes. According to global researchers, nearly 5.5 million deaths around the world were caused by smoking cigarettes, while 75% of all smoking-related death was among men, for they are the greater number of smokers.

Most Yemenis chew Qat not for the love of the leaf, but rather for them not having a second option to do during the length of the day. In a survey conducted with 769 people in the capital Sana'a, 78% admitted that they chewed Qat for there is nothing else to do, while only 14% admitted of being addicted to Qat. With the ongoing problems and phenomena in everyday life in Yemen, it is either chew Qat or



commit suicide", said Ali Nagi a frequent Qat chewer. "It makes us forget our terrifying situation which we are forced to deal with in everyday life", he added. Picturing Yemeni's without Qat, I could only imagine the corruption it would face as most people are unemployed, and when people don't have jobs to busy them with, this in turn not only opens the doors of corruption, but those of destruction as well.

Looking at the younger generations point of view, they could be enlisted into two columns. Many busy themselves with Qat after school or work, while others busy themselves flocking local streets chasing after the shadows of women. In this situation Qat chewing is much preferable as it causes less corruption to society. With the unemployment level rising and the financial crisis this country has been witnessing, many prefer to sit at home and indulge in Qat chewing sessions. Jobs are almost impossible to get a hold of, especially for the younger generation. The only available jobs are for street sweeping and garbage picking, and in return only receive \$1 per day in some situations.

"At this age when I work, it is very

difficult to bear the load and pressure put on my shoulders without chewing Qat. In this country, they give you so much work with little in return", said 60-year-old laborer Abdul-Nasser Moun'em. "It keeps us really energized. Look around you, Yemen is mostly made of hard rock buildings, without Qat we would have to live in houses of wood or plastic", he added. Qat does lift the spirit of the people and keep them more active. People usually work in every job opportunity that is available for them. "I dare any nation to produce more hardworking people, for so little in return than in Yemen, and Qat plays a vital role in making that happen", said a carpenter Saleh Ahmed.

Even when mentioning top government officials, President Ali Abdullah Saleh himself, used to chew Qat occasionally until recently. Talking on the world scale, Qat has become massively famous that even in British advertisement; Qat is mentioned in newspaper and magazines ads. Recently Yemen has been promoting Qat as a tourism item to help flourish tourism in this culture rich Middle Eastern Country. Apparently Qat has become famous for

its production of excitement, making people talkative while creating activeness. According to Lewin (1931), in a survey taken with 51 people, 57% of then became excited after they chewed Qat for two hours. Many people agree that Qat works better than most prescriptions to wipe out the sleepiness of the person. In the past it was even used to ease the pain of hunger in poor countries throughout Africa.

No doubt that Qat is a tragic issue both our society and economy are facing, but what is there to do in this poverty spread country where opportunities are only available for the rich and the elite of society. People do not want to chew Qat, for they understand the problems it can bring along to the person, but they also understand that, if they don't chew Qat they will frustrate themselves even more by pondering on the problems of everyday life, furthermore a possibility of losing their minds at a young and tender age, therefore committing suicide or any such dangerous act. Could there be a better leisure time activity in Yemen then Qat? Many would say yes, but to many poor Yemeni citizens, the answer is definitely no.



By Nisha

Half the World



The web of subjugation

"In the course of defending early marriage, you mentioned that women should not be allowed to study beyond a point ..."

"Yes, yes".

"But why not?"

"Women should not be educated beyond basic reading and writing skills. If they are educated further, they can't get married."

"Why?"

"Men don't like to marry women who have secondary or higher education or are more educated than them"

"Why?"

"Such women cross the age of marriage."

"Which is ..."

"15-16 years".

"So low! But men are usually in their 20s when they marry so why can't a man marry someone who has completed her education and is also in that age group"

"Men don't like to marry older women"

"Again, why?"

"Older women are difficult to deal with, they do not adjust easily to the new family, women have small brains so education makes them lose their mind, they forget where they belong, and ... there is higher chance that they may know men other than those from their family ... it is not approved in our culture"

I listened to this while my mind was busy visualizing a young woman being pulled back and down and tied with a rope so that she remains fixed to a particular point. Standing at that point, a man recited: "From darkness of the womb to darkness of the grave is the path that you shall follow".

This conversation with the head of a Local Council took place when we were walking out of the conference room where we debated early marriage as a problematic practice and sought ideas to prevent it. Not all conversations are as stark in explanation as this one. Perhaps, it wasn't in the original language, Arabic. Two of us were conversing with the help of a volunteer interpreter whose English vocabulary was good enough to get the words across but perhaps not so good to communicate subtleties.

Let's take the four arguments that emerge from this conversation:

- Men do not like to marry 'older women' (read older adolescents and women)
- 'Older women' do not easily adapt themselves to the marital family
- Biologically or mentally, women are not capable of much 'reasonable thinking'
- Young girls are preferable because they are less likely to have had encounters with the opposite sex

The pivotal point of the argument is that girls/women's lives must be dictated by the desires of men. The desires of men, minus some exceptional egalitarian men, include paid-unpaid division of labour with the one-sided assignment of unpaid work to women, and continuous

regulation of women's lives through maintenance of repressive fears related to morality. These desires are critical if largely unjust nature of social and family order has to continue. These desires require acceptance and compliance. That is, they can be fulfilled only through objectification and subjugation of women. And what age is better for teaching acceptance of the given order and instilling a sense of biological and social inferiority but when the mind and body are still in a formative stage.

Marriage at a young age not only reduces the range of immediate choices open to them, it also has a long term impact on their ability to have control over their own mobility and lives. The sudden shift from childhood into adulthood through the practice of early marriage takes away the intermediary period of adolescence, which is a crucial stage for acquiring the capabilities and skills for transition into adulthood. Girls who are married early do not get the time or the environment that would encourage them to develop their vocational, creative and intellectual faculties. These girls enter adulthood without having the skills and resources which could help them share a decision-making role in the affairs of the family, community and the state.

Growing up married and secluded from choices, lacking knowledge of ways to have a more equitable and fulfilling life, and denied access to their basic rights except through a male member of family, many young girls cannot even imagine having a life other than the one they are already living. Marriage entails responsibilities which cut down the time a married adolescent girl would have to build social networks that could support her in the time of need and enhance the chances of say she would have in matters affecting her life or help her expand her life choices.

Fulfillment of desires seeking objectification and subjugation is dependent on social mechanisms such as early marriage. Practices like early marriage put girls in the centre of a web woven with ideologies that make them undervalue their own worth compared to men and accept the life dictated by those ideologies as 'natural' or 'destined life of women'.

Despite the devastating impact the ideologies promoting early marriage have on the lives of nearly 50 percent Yemeni girls, early marriage has received scant attention from the lawmakers, policy-makers and those designing and implementing development programmes. There has been virtually no attempt to scrutinize the practice as a violation of adolescent girls' rights to develop human potentials and protection from adult roles. The dominance of the ideologies promoting early marriage is visible in the Yemeni legislation as well, which fails to protect adolescent girls from this practice and does not give them the right to grow up unconstrained so that they could take full, free and informed decision about their lives, in particular marriage.

Business Arbitration Center opened

On 13 November 2005 the "Center for Business Arbitration and Conciliation at Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry" was opened at the Sofitel Taiz. The center was established under the Chamber law and consists of so far 12 Yemeni Chambers, namely: Aden, Al Dalee, Al Baydha, Al Jawf, Dhamar, Mahweet, Mareb, Mukalla, Sadaa, Sana'a, Shebwa and Taiz. The center is based at the Taiz Chamber of Commerce (CCI).

The center was opened by the distinguished Gouverneur of Taiz Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al Hajeri and Mr. Ahmed Hayel Saeed, Chairman of the CCI. They stressed the importance of business arbitration for Yemen and appreciated the cooperation among the Chambers. Further, opening speeches were given by Dr. Stefan Buchwald, Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy, Gabriele Herrmann, Advisor CCI Taiz, Mr. Ahmed Fuad, Judge, Commercial Court Taiz, Mr. Abdul Morgni Al Barakka, Business man and Mr. Mohamed Odaid who spoke on behalf of the Center participants.

The Ambassadors from Italy and the Netherlands attended the event and a large number of business people from Taiz and other Governorates were present, as well as the Chairmen of the CCI Aden, Rada, Sada and representatives of GTZ, SDF and IFC.

The project - which is funded by the German Technical Cooperation GTZ - has started in 2002 by conducting



The panel

some studies on business arbitration and by carrying out 9 short term training courses for representatives of 12 Yemeni Chambers of Commerce. The trainings were focused on skills training on how to deal with disputes professionally but also on some legal training. Last year some participants visited Germany to learn about the arbitration system at German Chambers. Thus the participants received considerable training and as a result the 12 Chambers grouped together to form the center for business arbitration.

Business arbitration and conciliation has a long tradition in Yemen and is - like in many countries - an integrated part at the Chambers of Commerce. Business Arbitration has many advan-

tages, because it is less time consuming and cheaper than calling in the court. Arbitration clauses are part of large numbers of national and international contracts abroad. In many countries arbitration decisions are final and cannot be brought to the court afterwards. In Yemen such awards are widely accepted but not final. As far as international arbitration is concerned, Yemen has not signed yet the "New York UN Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration Awards".

The "Center for Business Arbitration and Conciliation at Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry" was opened under the Chamber law and will offer arbitration as an additional services to its members. The arbitra-

tion rules of the arbitration center are in accordance with the UNCITRAL model law, which is applied widely in the world.

Presently the arbitration center has to fulfill the demands for traditional arbitration and conciliation and the demands for legally based arbitration. If the arbitration center tried to concentrate on traditional arbitration, this organisation would not meet the requirements set by the WTO - of which Yemen is in the process of becoming a member. On the other hand, if the arbitration center only tried to concentrate on modern legally based arbitration, this organisation would deprive itself from many potential clients or would not even be accepted by traditionally oriented regions or branches of business.

In order to promote the private sector, international business and attract investments, it is crucial to focus more on legally based arbitration. This will be the next step and requires more training and efforts to enable all the Governorates to be part of this process. Also it will need more contacts and exposure to arbitration center in the Arab world.



Part of the audience



Iraq rebel groups see benefit, division in poll

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - A month before Iraq's election, rebel guerrilla groups are divided about its merits but many are likely to encourage their sympathizers to vote and pursue their aims through the ballot box — as well as the bullet.

Washington and its allies speak positively of broader participation in the political process; few expect it to put an end to the violence in Iraq, however, and it is likely to increase calls in the new parliament for U.S. troops to go home.

Self-styled spokesmen for shadowy Arab nationalist groups fighting U.S. occupying forces and the Shi'ite Islamist- and Kurdish-led government say the election may also deepen rifts between them and foreign-inspired al Qaeda Islamists, whose aims for violent political change, they say, go far beyond their own.

"None of this involves al Qaeda," said one such figure, an academic from north of Baghdad who uses the cover name Abu Mohammed and claims to speak for a Sunni Arab nationalist insurgent group in the region. "They don't want to get closer to the political process as long as the occupation exists."

Many, though by no means all, in the secular camp now see their boycott of

January's first post-Saddam Hussein election as an error. It gave the Islamists who dominate the votes of the once oppressed Shi'ite majority sweeping control of government and the security forces and of the writing of the constitution.

Their narrow failure to veto the charter in a referendum last month, after rebels observed an informal truce to get out the opposition vote, has weakened the position of the "political wing" of the insurgency, Abu Mohammed said, describing numerous meetings over the past weeks involving a variety of groups.

Yet he expected the "military wing" of those rebels, drawn from Saddam's banned Baath party, tribal groups and other nationalist movements, would not oppose voting in the election.

"The moderates ... have realized they have lost their place in the state, which has made it easy for others to use the state authority against them," said Hazim al-Naimi, professor of politics at Baghdad's Mustansiriya University.

"The views of the leftists, Baathists and nationalists who refused any cooperation with the occupiers have changed," he added. "Hardly any armed group will oppose the coming election, just the Qaeda ones. There might be a conflict between the nationalist groups

and Qaeda for this reason."

Insurgent unity

A spokesman for another insurgent group, made up of Shi'ites opposed to the Shi'ite Islamist-led government, said: "The political process is a complement to the armed resistance."

The man, a tribal dignitary who uses the name Abu Malik, added: "We hope things will be calm enough to let the election go ahead all over Iraq ... We want nationalists to be elected to save what is left of this wounded nation being lost forever."

But he warned: "We will have other strategies if results are forged the way the government did with the constitution."

The precise aims of the insurgents can be hard to pin down, and they vary. Some say they are simply responding to a tribal or national duty to resist occupation, others say their goal is to protect the interests of a minority or, in the case of some Shi'ites, to maintain Arab unity against religious ties to Iran.

U.S. and other diplomats say they have tried to reach out to rebel groups, though insist they will not bargain with gunmen.

"Some of them are out to restore their own domination of Iraq. That's just not going to happen," said one senior

Western official involved in Baghdad's political process. "But there are legitimate aspirations out there that need to be addressed."

Political representation is now key, some insurgent leaders say, to furthering those aims and alliances, with extreme Islamists seen to be becoming a burden: "The Americans tell the world al Qaeda is fighting them in Iraq, but they are hiding the real, nationalist Iraqi resistance," said Abu Malik.

Abu Mohammed, the Sunni, stressed his own ties to Shi'ite groups and a rejection of al Qaeda, which has declared war on ordinary Shi'ites and

calls for a pan-Arab state: "We are different from al Qaeda, more nationalist," he said. "We target only the occupying forces and avoid killing Iraqi civilians."

Professor Naimi said: "The Baathists and other armed groups thought at the beginning a big offensive against the Americans would push them out of Iraq, so they cooperated with al Qaeda."

"But later they ... realized they should integrate with the political process rather than depend on military operations."

Quite which parties will benefit from getting out the vote among those who refused to take part last time is not clear.

Few expect an early end to bloodshed, however.

Abu Malik said he could see the U.S. and current Iraqi authorities looking to bringing insurgent groups into politics but believed it was too early for a "peace process".

"We don't see that the political and military conditions of the resistance in Iraq make such a model possible yet," he said.

In any case, al Qaeda-style groups will not stop, Naimi said: "The extremists will keep fighting because they see their long-term goal is to create God's kingdom on Earth."

Bush begins Asian tour

KYOTO, Japan (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush will seek unity with Asian leaders on North Korea in a tour of the region from Tuesday in which he will also reaffirm the U.S. alliance with Japan and press China for trade concessions.

Bush arrived in Osaka, western Japan, on Tuesday evening and was to head by helicopter to Japan's nearby ancient capital city of Kyoto, where he will hold talks on Wednesday with his close friend and ally, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

His four-nation, week-long tour also includes South Korea, China and Mongolia.

Bush is expected to nudge Koizumi, fresh from a landslide election victory in September, to extend the deployment of Japanese non-combat troops in Iraq.

The two leaders, who share concerns about China's military buildup and North Korea's nuclear arms program, will also sign off on a deal to reduce U.S. troops on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa while boosting cooperation between U.S. and Japanese forces.

Bush, who will join the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit in Pusan, South Korea, on Wednesday, will meet most if not all of the leaders of countries involved in the talks with North Korea — Japan, South Korea, China and Russia.

U.S. national security adviser Stephen Hadley said Bush would seek a unified stance on how to persuade Pyongyang to move ahead on its agreement to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

"We'll want to continue to have a dialogue on that issue to make sure that we continue to see that issue the same way," Hadley told reporters.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, speaking in Pusan, said, "All sides need to cooperate flexibly



President Bush and first Lady Laura Bush wave from the steps of Air Force One upon their arrival at Osaka International Airport, Japan Nov. 15.

shrine visits. "Go ask Europeans how they would feel if a German leader paid homage to the Nazis," Li said.

Bush has said he will urge the countries to try to put the past behind them, just as the United States and Japan did after World War Two.

Stopping in Alaska en route to Asia, Bush tried to battle back from weak approval ratings at home, accusing Democratic critics of the Iraq war of playing politics with the issue and trying to rewrite the past.

In a statement, he also gave a push to the troubled Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks, saying it was "vital to promoting development".

Hadley played down any expectations of a major breakthrough when Bush raises the issue of the U.S.-China trade imbalance during a meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

"It's going to be an issue during this trip, it's going to be an issue after this trip. I don't think you're going to see, you know, headline breakers," Hadley said.

Bush is under pressure at home to take a tough line with Hu on calls for China to liberalize its yuan currency.

U.S. politicians and manufacturers complain that the yuan is seriously undervalued and that this is exacerbating the flood of Chinese imports into the U.S. market.

Hadley suggested there would probably be no deal during the trip on a U.S. push to get Japan to lift its two-year-old ban on imports of American beef, imposed due to worries over mad cow disease. Tokyo has indicated, however, that it may lift the ban by the end of the year.

in order to achieve the shared goal of the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula."

Touching a nerve

Bush will also discuss with Asia-Pacific leaders ways to cope with bird flu if it becomes a human pandemic with the potential to kill millions.

His agenda for Wednesday features a speech laying out the themes for the rest of the trip, including a focus on his push for democratic change around the world — remarks that might touch a nerve in communist China.

Another sensitive issue likely to come up is strained ties between China and Japan over Koizumi's annual visits to Tokyo's Yasukuni shrine for war dead.

China and South Korea see the shrine as a symbol of Japan's past militarism because convicted war criminals are honored there along with Japan's 2.5 million war dead.

In Pusan, China's Li ratcheted up the already-heated rhetoric over the

Iran president makes third attempt to name oilmin

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran's president made a third attempt to appoint an oil minister of his choice on Tuesday, nominating a petrochemicals official for the top cabinet job in the world's fourth biggest crude producer.

Parliament's speaker presented the name of Mohsen Tasalloti in a session broadcast live on state radio. Iranian websites identified Tasalloti as managing director of a special petrochemical trade zone in the southern port of Bandar Imam.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad suffered a sharp setback last week when his second nominee for oil minister withdrew after criticism from lawmakers about his wealth and lack of experience. His first candidate, Ali Saadedlou, was rejected along with three other ministerial picks in August.

Problems in finding an oil minister have added domestic embarrassment to the storm Ahmadinejad caused abroad recently by calling for Israel to be "wiped off the map".

The new president has staked his political reputation on putting his close allies from the conservative religious camp into the Islamic Republic's most prestigious jobs.

A profile delivered to the oil ministry said Tasalloti was born in 1954 and has a degree in architecture. From 1988 to 1999, he was head of construction in the country's petrochemical organization. He was also deputy governor of the central Markazi province, but it was not clear when he held this position.

Lawmaker Nezam Mola-Hoveizeh said Tasalloti would fare better than the previous two candidates.

"His management background in petrochemicals ... shows he is a more capable figure than those introduced before," he told the ISNA students news agency. "His management could get the oil ministry through crises and tough situations."

Mohsen Yahyavi from parliament's energy commission said he had not received enough material on the nominee to pass comment.

Parliamentarians will vote to approve or reject Tasalloti next week. The process will be closely watched abroad as Iran supplies about 2.4 million barrels of crude to world markets each day.

Many foreign firms, such as Royal Dutch Shell, Italy's ENI and France's Total, are also pursuing investment projects in the Islamic Republic.



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2 Sales Representatives for Sanaa' - 1 Male & 1 Female
1 Sales Representative for Huddieda
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- Good communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure
- Team orientation, analytical skills, planning & organizing skills are essential.

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- Ability to work under pressure
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Asia-Pacific states want EU action as summit looms

By Sonya Hepinstall and Martin Nesirky

PUSAN, South Korea (Reuters) - Pacific Rim countries representing close to half of world commerce took aim on Tuesday at European Union reluctance to open markets to agriculture, the main stumbling block ahead of crucial trade talks next month.

The 21 leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in South Korea look set at the end of this week to issue what one official described as a "short sharp statement urging the European Union to move on market access."

"We want to see progress on agriculture," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters after a breakfast meeting of APEC foreign and trade ministers to work on the leaders' statement.

The World Trade Organization meets in December in Hong Kong in the latest in the Doha round of talks that the World Bank says could lift millions out of poverty and trigger global growth. The EU says it cannot make more concessions without others moving on manufactured good and services.

Foreign ministers met on Tuesday afternoon but without U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was delayed in the Middle East where she is trying to broker an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians on Gaza border crossings.

Rice will probably arrive on Wednesday morning, U.S. officials said, in time for one-on-one meetings and to join President George W. Bush on his trip to China.

The week of talks in what started as an economic forum culminates with a leaders' summit on Friday and Saturday in Pusan, South Korea's second city and the world's fifth-largest container port — a symbol of the region's dominant trade role.

Ranging beyond trade

With leaders including U.S. President George W. Bush, Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin present, APEC inevitably ranges beyond trade — from bird flu and terrorism to North Korea's nuclear ambitions and Japan's past.

On bird flu, leaders will discuss how to work together if it becomes a human pandemic with the potential to kill millions. They will pledge to share information as



Hur Nam-sik, the mayor of Pusan, answers a reporter's question during a news conference at a venue of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Pusan, southeast of Seoul, November 15. REUTERS

well as data on outbreaks in migratory birds, according to a draft of their bird flu initiative obtained by Reuters.

Non-APEC member North Korea will loom large, too.

Bush will seek unity with Asian allies on how to persuade Pyongyang to move ahead with its outline agreement to dismantle its nuclear weapons in return for aid, energy and security guarantees, U.S. national security adviser Stephen Hadley told reporters on Air Force One on the way to the region.

"We'll want to continue to have a dialogue on that," he said.

Bush arrives in Kyoto, Japan, later for talks on Wednesday with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, his closest regional ally.

The leaders of all five countries involved in talks with North Korea — China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States — will be in Pusan. North Korea was not invited.

A South Korean official told Reuters that a Yonhap news agency report that ministers might adopt a statement on North Korea was false, because that would probably provoke North Korea.

But he added: "An oral statement from the chair is possible" — referring to words from South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun urging progress in nuclear talks with North Korea.

Earlier, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told reporters: "The proper place to discuss the North Korea nuclear

issue is not here, but Beijing."

Security tight

While Koizumi can expect warm words from Bush, the Japanese leader faces a frostier reception from Roh Moo-hyun and other regional leaders because of his latest visit to a war shrine that critics say glorifies the country's militarist past.

"Japan's leaders should stop doing things that hurt the feelings of the people of China and numerous Asian countries," Li told reporters.

Security is tight in Pusan, especially with an eye on recent violence in Indonesia, Jordan and London. South Korea has some 3,200 troops in Iraq as part of the U.S.-led coalition.

Police are also geared for anti-APEC and anti-Bush protests.

On Tuesday, about 10,000 militant farmers marched through a central business district in Seoul in a precursor to a demonstration of 100,000 people that anti-globalisation groups hoped to bring together in Pusan on Friday.

Tens of thousands of police are on duty across the country and 24 vessels have been deployed off the Pusan coast as part of a three-tiered naval blockade in case of a sea-launched attack.

Defences also include anti-aircraft missile batteries and a team to battle chemical warfare assaults, as well as police and soldiers highly skilled in the Korean martial art of taekwondo.

Rice brokers Gaza border deal

By SUE PLEMING

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice brokered a deal on Gaza border crossings in marathon talks with Israel and the Palestinians on Tuesday, scoring a rare breakthrough in Middle East diplomacy.

Rice, who put her own reputation at stake by investing so personally in the negotiations, had postponed her departure to Asia for an APEC meeting, staying in Jerusalem an extra day until she secured an agreement on opening the Gaza-Egypt border.

Access to Gaza is key to strengthening the impoverished strip's economy and giving a boost to chances for peacemaking following Israel's withdrawal from territory in September after 38 years of occupation.

Bleary-eyed after an almost sleepless night of hard-nosed bargaining, Rice — on her fourth visit to the region this year — praised the deal as a "good step forward". It hands the Palestinians control of a border for the first time.

"This agreement is intended to give the Palestinian people the freedom to move, to trade, to live ordinary lives," she told a news conference in Jerusalem before flying out.

Rice said the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, the strip's gateway to the outside world, should open on November 25 with the presence of European Union security monitors.

Palestinians would also be able to start traveling in bus and truck convoys between Gaza and the occupied West Bank within months, and construction of a Gaza seaport would begin.

Israel had conditioned the opening of Rafah on its ability to monitor goods and people passing through, saying it feared arms smuggling across the bor-



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice speaks to reporters on her arrival in the Radisson hotel in Amman November 14. Reuters

der to Palestinian militants. Palestinians had insisted that Israelis not be at Rafah.

An Israeli Defense Ministry source said a compromise was reached whereby Israeli and Palestinian security officers will man a control room a few kilometers (miles) from Rafah monitoring remote-control cameras at the border crossing.

US pressure

Israel, which has kept control of Gaza's borders, air space and sea lanes since its withdrawal, has been under U.S. pressure to reopen the Rafah crossing, mostly closed since September. Sporadic violence despite a ceasefire has dented peace hopes.

U.S. officials had voiced frustration with what they viewed as the failure of both sides to capitalize on the Gaza withdrawal, the first removal of settlements by Israel from land Palestinians want for a state.

In a sign of tensions, President Mahmoud Abbas, in a speech after the Gaza deal was unveiled, accused Israel of trying to avoid peace talks and incite Palestinian civil war by insisting that militants be disarmed before any negotiations on statehood.

ence to smuggle weapons, wanted to monitor movements via a direct, real-time video feed. Palestinians had objected to that as an impingement on their sovereignty but compromised on a joint monitoring operation.

In her suite overlooking Jerusalem's Old City, Rice met separately with senior Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, constantly amending texts on a laptop computer.

Initially, the Israelis dealt with Rice by phone but later, Do Weisglass, an adviser to Sharon, and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz arrived for talks.

International Middle East envoy James Wolfensohn, who had threatened to quit out of frustration over the impasse, thanked Rice for giving the negotiations the push they needed.

The agreement could give Abbas a boost in January parliamentary elections in the face of a strong challenge from Hamas, a militant Islamic group sworn to Israel's destruction.

Even as it presses its military campaign in Iraq, Washington wants progress in Israeli-Palestinian peace-making, which it sees as vital to spreading democracy in the Middle East and protecting Americans from anti-U.S. Islamic militancy.

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Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen need accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR
OPINIONZarqawi or not,
this is clear
terrorism

What happened in Amman on the 10th of this month is certainly alarming. In spite of the strong intelligence forces, it seems terrorists have finally managed to get away with mass murder. For many years especially since the peace agreement with Israel, Jordan has been a direct target for fundamentalists, and terrorists who aim at disturbing the continuous economic and political progress of that country. While the national security and intelligence forces are aware of this fact, it never occurred for them to think that terrorists would target civilians and that too in such a happy social occasion such as a wedding. I was in Jordan when it happened, and I heard people comment that whatever minimal sympathy al-Qaida could have had among the local people it has lost it. Outraged individuals and groups expressed their dismay "Why not a government office or even a police station?" A person was wondering, "They could have had similar access to any of those and it would have conveyed a clearer message concerning the Jordanian politics and the government directions, but instead to target civilians and ordinary people is really low."

Whether it was al-Zarqawi or not, this is not really the issue. The issue is that now normal life has been threatened. In addition, although desperate efforts are being made to revive the trust in the country's security, one wonders if investment and tourism would be the same. Hotels and government offices are now taking extra security measures at entrances while security forces at the boarders are being more alert and thorough in their daily work. Government media stressed that investment and tourism have not been harmed by the tragedy. In fact, it was reported that two of the hotels started operating again right from the day following explosions. If there is anything learnt from this experience is that you can never be sure enough that you are safe as long as terrorism exists. Moreover, it becomes scarier when it is blind terrorism. Slogans in the streets of Amman highlighted the survival's spirit in the Jordanian people and their trust in and support for their leadership. And this does help unite the people in one stand regardless of their originations and differences. Being a multinational and multiethnic country, Jordan has had its internal problems; however, in times like these the true solidarity of the Jordanian people rises to the challenge. After all, what does not kill you makes you stronger. Our hearts and prayers are sent to all the Jordanian people.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief



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Islam and respect of
woman rights (Part 2/2)

By DR. MANEA H. AL-HAZMI

Respect of woman education rights

Seeking knowledge is obligatory for both men and women as Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him said "Acquiring knowledge is compulsory for every man and woman" (Narrated by Al-Tabarani). Islam puts high emphasis on education because it is the way towards fearing Allah. Qura'n states: "Only those fear Allah, from among his servants, who have knowledge..." (35:28). Qura'n urges all believers, male and female, to ask scholars about things that they do not know in all aspects of life. "so ask the people of message if you do not know" (21:7). Women used to ask the Prophet Muhammad about Islam with no restrictions. For example, Qura'n has a whole chapter (No.58) which was named after a woman who argued with the Prophet about her husband. This chapter starts with the story of this woman: "Certainly has Allah heard the speech of the one who argues with you concerning her husband and direct her complaint to Allah. And Allah hears dialogue; indeed, Allah is listening and seeing" (58:1). A woman is not only permitted to ask scholars directly but also she has the ability to argue even with the Prophet. She does not have to go through her husband or any one of her relatives to ask about her concern.

Islam permits women to tutor both

women and men but with a barrier in the case of men in order to protect her and their hearts from immoral thoughts and temptation. A woman can become a scholar and the best example for that is Aisha, the wife of the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him. She was a scholar and she used to be a reference for Muslims in religious matters. Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him praised her knowledge when he advised Muslims to take half of their religion from her. She is one of the most educated narrators of the statements of the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him.

Women have been involved in critical issues during the Islamic history. For example, the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him and his companions went to Makka to perform pilgrimage but the infidels of Makka stopped them. Then the Prophet made a peace treaty with them and one condition in the treaty is that Muslims should return this year and come back next year to perform the pilgrimage. Then his companions became sad because they had to come back without performing the pilgrimage. The Prophet peace be upon him ordered them to shave their heads and to do their sacrifices. But the companions hesitated in answering the Prophet's call. Then the Prophet peace be upon him complained to his wife and consulted her in the issue, she advised him to lead by example and get his hair shaved and to

do his sacrifices, then his companions would follow him instantly; once the Prophet started all companions followed him.

Respect of woman spiritual rights

A woman is not the glory of man but Muslim men and women are the glory of each other as Qura'n confirms "The believing men and believing women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and establish prayer and give zakah and obey Allah and His messenger..." (9:71). "And their Lord responded to them "Never will I allow to be lost the work of worker among you, whether male or female, you are of one another..." (3:195). Men and women are equal in the praise for Allah and the best of them is the most righteous as Qura'n stated "O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you people and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you..." (49:13). Allah calls both men and women in Qura'n as believers who do good deeds and He gives glad tidings for both righteous men and women according to the best of their actions "...but whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - those will enter paradise, being given provision therein without account." (40:40)

Is central bank independence
all it's xracked up to be?

By JOSEPH STIGLITZ

Alan Greenspan attained an almost iconic status as Governor of the Federal Reserve Board. So, as his term draws to a close and his mantle of infallibility is passed on to his successor, it is worth examining whether his legacy will measure up and what we can expect from the new Fed chief, Ben Bernanke. Few central bank governors have the kind of hagiography lavished upon them, especially in their lifetime, that Greenspan has had. But what makes for a great central bank governor in our modern societies, great institutions or great individuals?

In economics, we seldom have a clearly defined *counterfactual*: Would the economy have performed even better or a little differently if someone else had been at the helm? We can't know, but there is little doubt that those "managing" the economy receive more credit than they deserve, if sometimes less blame.

Many forces behind the boom of the 1990's, including advances in technology, were set in motion before Bill Clinton took office (just as the legacy of President George W. Bush's deficits will be felt long after he leaves). So Greenspan cannot be given credit for the boom. But, while no central bank governor can ensure economic prosperity, mismanagement can cause enormous harm. Many of America's post-World War II recessions were caused by the Fed hiking interest rates too fast and too far.

There is little doubt that Greenspan had great moments, when one could at least imagine a less deft governor doing the "wrong" thing with disastrous consequences. One such moment was the stock market crash of 1987. Perhaps another occurred in 1998, when the Fed lowered interest rates in the face of what appeared to be an impending global financial crisis.

These successes, combined with the 1990's boom and the seeming durability of price stability, reinforced Greenspan's exalted status. But they also led many to forget less successful moments. The Fed failed to avert the economic downturn of 1990, and a reading of Greenspan's testimony to Congress during that period makes

clear that the basic nature of the economy's problems was not well understood.

But the real problem for Greenspan's legacy concerns what happened to the American economy in the last five years, for which he bears heavy responsibility. Greenspan supported the tax cuts of 2001 with the most specious of arguments - that unless something was done about America's soaring fiscal surpluses, the national debt would be totally paid off within, say, ten to fifteen years. According to Greenspan, immediate action needed to be taken to avert this looming disaster, which would impede the Fed's ability to conduct monetary policy!

It says a great deal about the gullibility of financial markets that they took this argument seriously. More accurately, tax cuts were what Wall Street wanted, and financial professionals were willing to accept any argument that served that purpose. Of course, if, say, by 2008 the disappearing national debt really did appear to pose an imminent danger, Congress would have happily obliged in cutting taxes or increasing expenditures.

Greenspan's irresponsible support of that tax cut was critical to its passage. The fault was not only in the magnitude of the tax cut, but also in its design; by directing the cuts at upper-income Americans, it provided little economic stimulus.

But soaring deficits did not return the economy to full employment, so the Fed did what it had to do - cut interest rates. Lower interest rates worked, but not so much because they boosted investment, but because they led households to refinance their mortgages, and fueled a bubble in housing prices.

In short, as Greenspan departs, he leaves behind an American economy burdened with high household and government debt and fragile balance sheets - a legacy that is already contributing to global financial instability.

It is still not clear what led Greenspan to support the tax cut. Was it a massive economic misjudgment, or was he currying favor with the Bush administration? The most likely explanation is a combination of the two, for he and Bush were pursuing the same "starve the beast" political strategy, which calls for tax cuts to be used to

reduce revenues, thereby forcing the public sector to be downsized.

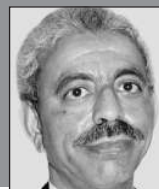
The traditional argument for an independent central bank is that politicians can't be trusted to conduct monetary and macroeconomic policy. Neither, evidently, can central bank governors, at least when they opine in areas outside their immediate responsibility. Greenspan was as enthusiastic for a policy that led to soaring deficits as any politician; but the fig leaf of being "above politics" gave credence to that policy, engendering support from some who otherwise would have questioned its economic wisdom.

This, then, is Greenspan's second legacy: growing doubt about central bank independence. Macroeconomic policy can never be devoid of politics: it involves fundamental trade-offs and affects different groups differently. Unemployment harms workers, while the lower interest rates needed to generate more jobs may lead to higher inflation, which especially harms those with nominal assets whose value is eroded. Such fundamental issues cannot be relegated to technocrats, particularly when those technocrats place the interests of one segment of society above others.

Indeed, Greenspan's political stances were so thinly disguised as professional wisdom that his tenure exposed the dubiousness of the very notion of an independent central bank and a non-partisan central banker. Unfortunately, many countries have committed themselves to precisely this illusion, and it may be a long time before they take heed of Greenspan's most important lesson. Stressing the new Fed chief's "professionalism" may only delay the moment when this lesson is learned again.

Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, is Professor of Economics at Columbia University and was Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Clinton and Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the World Bank. His most recent book is The Roaring Nineties: A New History of the World's Most Prosperous Decade.

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

"Noticeable progress in
Civil Service Reform"

One of the most important elements of the Economic, Financial and Administrative Reform Program, which the Yemeni Government has been implementing since 1995 is the Civil Service Modernization Program. This program has been under implementation since 1999. The program was set up with the help of the World Bank (the Dutch are also in on this) to streamline the public service employment, with a view towards making it smaller and more efficient and to solve the problem of corruption, which has become a wide spread phenomenon that touched almost every sector in Government. With the payroll of those in public service, including the military and security organs reaching some 1,000,000, this represented an awesome burden on the Government Budget. Having said that, it should be noted that the large amounts spent for salaries and wages for public servants did not give individual employees the remuneration that would provide for all the essential needs of subsistence in most cases and most employees suffered from despair and frustration, especially as salaries were not adjusted to meet the dwindling value of the Yemeni Riyal. Furthermore, as time went on, many government entities sought ways to circumvent the uniform pay scale that the government had put in effect since 1983, which is also the year that the Yemeni Riyal started to deteriorate (the exchange rate for the local currency was then US \$ 1 = YR 4.55).

When unification was achieved in 1990, this merged the former civil services of both the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) with that of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) into one payroll. With the Government of the PDRY being the only employer under a formerly strict socialist regime, this inflated the public service payroll significantly. In addition, as a result of the Gulf War a large number of expatriate Yemenis returned from the Gulf states. As a result, the Government went on to add more employees to make up for the inability of the private sector to provide jobs for hundreds of thousands, who all of a sudden became unemployed, in order to reduce the social impact on the rest of the society. This obviously meant that government employment was no longer subject to actual work needs and proper criteria of selection. As a result the civil service had turned into a big, but largely inefficient apparatus, especially as most civil servants were in the low pay strata of the payroll, and could not be assigned to dutiful employment that allowed the Government to provide efficient and effective public services.

Without prejudice to the above, it goes without saying with government salaries and wages mostly insufficient to meet employees' needs for subsistence, let alone produce a dignified standard of living, corruption found its way through all the various sectors of Government. With the absence of transparency and accountability, it was not long before corruption set in and became an acceptable norm in public service.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Civil Service was for sometime no more than an employment office that was primarily engaged in finding jobs for those who sought to enter public service, and there were a lot of these. The labor market was saturated with unemployed manpower, which grew from year to year, as the high birth rate of the population turned thousands of new people to the labor market each year, but the market could not absorb them.

Since the Ministry of civil Service was taken over by Mr. Hamoud Khalid Al-Soufi, the Ministry, with the help of donors, sought to confront all this accumulation of mismanagement of human resources. The Ministry of Civil Service carried out a comprehensive survey of government employees and worked to establish a central data base of all government employees. It also set out to determine the costs of this large number of employees to the Government and determine, how much of this large number is effectively working. This was no easy task.

With the full information known, it was easy to see where the reforms were needed and the requirements for restructuring, if the Government was to optimize the use of the manpower under its employment. However, it was also clear that any reforms in this field were bound to meet with substantial opposition. Many of the entities have over the years acquired their own mandates as to the management of their human resources and thus had their own pay scales and ability to hire and appoint staff as they pleased.

After having identified all the deficiencies that public service was facing, the MCSP then introduced substantive and meaningful steps to reform the civil service. Thus, the creation of the Civil Service Fund to take on the surplus employment and the other ineffective employment such as the double employees and ghost employees. In addition, Biometrics was introduced to control the flow of government employees and to prevent a recurrence of double employment and all the other misuses of government employment.

By 2004, Mr. Al-Soufi and the Civil Service Modernization Project Unit, ably headed by Mr. Nabil Shamsan came out with a well designed law and strategy to deal with the problems of determining employment positions, salaries, wages and benefits. The Salaries, Wages and Employment Law (passed in July 2004) and the Salaries and Wages Strategy, now under consideration by the Government were the culmination of a number of efforts and based on a scientific and practical approach to human resource management. Moreover, despite the obvious increases that the new pay scales introduced by the Law and the strategy entailed, the ongoing restructuring and reengineering phases of the project would work to ensure that the new wages and salaries would not represent an increase in overall payroll costs, since these phases would help to reduce the number of government employees significantly, while at the same time streamline government organs to operate efficiently.

With all the fine work that the MCSP has undertaken in this regard, it would not be surprising that the MCSP would also find a way to introduce accountability so that all those who continue to abuse public service are confronted with the reality that honor and ethical conduct are fundamental to sound human resource management in Government and the real path to successful and efficient Government.

Stop coddling Belarus

By ALDIS KUSKIS

Lenin once said that capitalists were so cynical that they would sell the Soviets the rope with which they would hang them. Lenin and communism have passed away, but that cynical indifference to suffering when profits are involved remains.

Belarus provides a glaring example. The European Parliament has consistently denounced Belarus as Europe's last dictatorship, yet EU member governments continue business as usual with Aleksander Lukashenka, the country's wayward and near lunatic despot.

This is especially true when there is a chance to save or make money. For example, for more than a decade, Germany's police forces, customs service, and even the Bundeswehr have been ordering uniforms from a state-owned factory in the city of Dzhertzinsky, named after the father of the Red Terror and founder of the Soviet KGB, Feliks Dzhertzinsky. Similar examples of such indifferent cynicism abound.

By treating Lukashenka as a favored business partner at the same time that the EU is trying to isolate him as an international pariah, European hypocrisy stands naked. Instead of indirectly propping up Lukashenka's regime through such cozy deals, Europe's governments must begin to act in accordance with what Europe's parliament has long understood: underwriting Lukashenka economically only prolongs his misrule.

So it is now more important than ever that European parliamentarians unite and make their position clear. The European Parliament has, indeed, taken the lead. Since last year it has been enlisting people with historic knowledge and understanding of totalitarian regimes to help guide its response to events in Belarus. This advice helped shape the parliament's strong stance against maintaining unnecessary economic engagement with Lukashenka and his henchmen.

But there are two radically different attitudes regarding Belarus's participation in European activities. On one hand, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has denied Belarusian politicians even informal access to meetings in Strasbourg. The Assembly condemned Lukashenka's usurpation of power when he twisted the constitution to grant himself a virtual lifetime presidency, and it has denounced the disappearance of those Belarussians who have dared to think

differently from the regime.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has also taken a strong stand against the Belarusian dictator. As the *Final Report* of its 2004 mission to observe the Belarusian parliamentary elections clearly stated, the vote "fell significantly short of OSCE commitments." Similarly, the 2004 referendum to eliminate term limits on the presidency "took place with unrestrained Government bias in favor of the referendum," and without "the conditions, particularly freedom of expression and freedom of the media, to ensure that the will of the people serves as the basis of government authority."

But at the same time the OSCE is condemning these anti-democratic practices, its own Parliamentary Assembly maintains full-fledged cooperation with the Belarusian parliament. Indeed, the OSCE treats the Lukashenka-controlled parliament in the same way it does any EU parliament. So real parliaments and sham parliaments are treated as equals. The idea would be laughable if it were not so tragic.

This absurd situation must change. It is the duty of all members of EU national parliaments to reject this affront to their democratic dignity. Only democratic parliaments should sit as equals in Europe's democratic forums. The goal is not to ensure Europe's democratic purity, but to change the nature of Belarus's government. For that to happen, Europe's democratic voice must be heard within Belarus.

That won't be easy. Of the 1,500 different media outlets in Belarus today, only a dozen or so retain any form of independence. Even that small number is likely to diminish, as Lukashenka keeps up political, financial, and legal pressure on them. Indeed, Belarus's last independent daily newspaper recently went out of business.

The European Commission has allocated two million euros to establish an independent radio station for Belarus, which must operate outside of the country because of Lukashenka. Working with the Belarusian association of journalists, this independent media outlet will broadcast from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and perhaps Ukraine.

This meager effort, however, is an insufficient response by Europe's democracies to the full panoply of Lukashenka's dictatorship: his docile courts, brutal jails, and corrupt police. Are a few hours of radio broadcasting really all Europe and the democratic west can muster? If so, Lukashenka

must be laughing aloud.

Parliamentarians across Europe and the West must join their voice together in a well-defined, united and ringing declaration that forces Western leaders to apply real pressure to Europe's last dictator. Such pressure brought results a year ago, with the success of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine. Nothing less than a united position against the despot of Belarus is necessary if Lukashenka – and his Russian backers – are to be forced to change their ways.

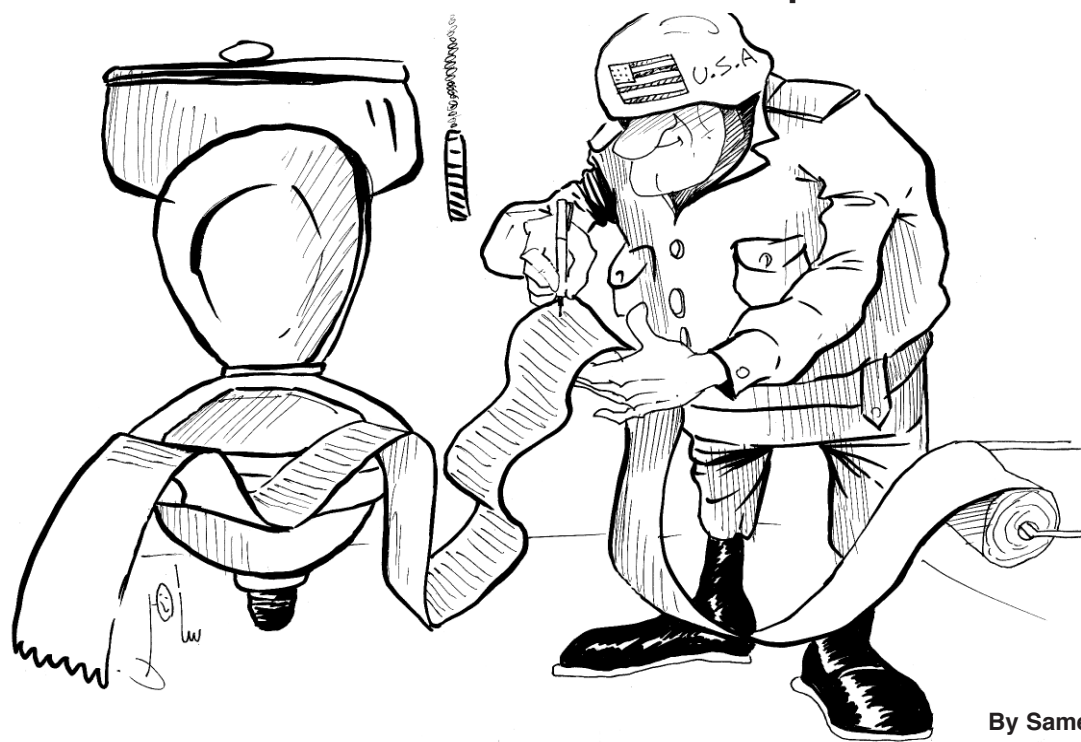
Aldis Kuskis, a Member of the European Parliament from Latvia, is Vice - Chairman of its Delegation for Relations with Belarus.

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Timetable for American pullout from Iraq



By Samer A.

Islam's forsaken renaissance

By MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

Children often play a game where they sit in a circle. One whispers something to his neighbor, who then whispers that information to the next child, and so on, around the circle. By the time the last child whispers the information to the first, it is totally different from what was originally said.

Something like that seems to have happened within Islam. The Prophet of Islam, Muhammad, brought one – and only one – religion. Yet today we have perhaps a thousand religions that all claim to be Islam.

Divided by their different interpretations, Muslims do not play the role they once did in the world; instead, they are weakened and victimized. The Shia/Sunni schism is so deep that each side condemns followers of the other as apostates, *kafir*. The belief that the other's religion is not Islam, and its followers not Muslim, has underpinned internecine wars in which millions have died – and continue to die.

Even among the Sunnis and Shias there are further divisions. The Sunnis have four imams and the Shias have twelve; their teachings all differ. Then there are other divisions, including the Druze, the Alawites, and the Wahabis.

We are also taught by our *ulamas* (religious instructors) that their teachings must not be questioned. Islam is a faith. It must be believed. Logic and reason play no part in it. But what is it that we must believe when each branch of Islam thinks the other one is wrong?

The Koran, after all, is one book, not two or three, or a thousand.

According to the Koran, a Muslim is anyone who bears witness that "there is no God (Allah) but Allah, and that Muhammad is his Rasul (Messenger)." If no other qualification is added, then all those who subscribe to these precepts must be regarded as Muslims. But because we Muslims like to add qualifications that often derive from sources other than the Koran, our religion's unity has been broken.

But perhaps the greatest problem is the progressive isolation of Islamic scholarship – and much of Islamic life – from the rest of the modern world. We live in an age of science in which people can see around corners, hear and see things happening in outer space, and clone animals. And all of these things seem to contradict our belief in the Koran.

This is so because those who interpret the Koran are learned only in religion, in its laws and practices, and thus are usually unable to understand today's scientific miracles. The *fatwas* (legal opinions concerning Islamic law) that they issue appear unreasonable and cannot be accepted by those with scientific knowledge.

One learned religious teacher, for example, refused to believe that a man had landed on the moon. Others assert that the world was created 2,000 years ago. The age of the universe and its size measured in light years – these are things that the purely religiously trained *ulamas* cannot comprehend.

This failure is largely responsible for the sad plight of so many Muslims.

Today's oppression, the killings and the humiliations of Muslims, occurs because we are weak, unlike the Muslims of the past. We can feel victimized and criticize the oppressors, but to stop them we need to look at ourselves. We must change for our own good. We cannot ask our detractors to change, so that Muslims benefit.

So what do we need to do? In the past, Muslims were strong because they were learned. Muhammad's injunction was to read, but the Koran does not say *what* to read. Indeed, there was no "Muslim scholarship" at the time, so to read meant to read whatever was available. The early Muslims read the works of the great Greek scientists, mathematicians, and philosophers. They also studied the works of the Persians, the Indians, and the Chinese.

The result was a flowering of science and mathematics. Muslim scholars added to the body of knowledge and developed new disciplines, such as astronomy, geography, and new branches of mathematics. They introduced numerals, enabling simple and limitless calculations.

But around the fifteenth century, the learned in Islam began to curb scientific study. They began to study religion alone, insisting that only those who study religion – particularly Islamic jurisprudence – gain merit in the afterlife. The result was intellectual regression at the very moment that Europe began embracing scientific and mathematical knowledge.

And so, as Muslims were intellectually regressing, Europeans began their

renaissance, developing improved ways of meeting their needs, including the manufacture of weapons that eventually allowed them to dominate the world.

By contrast, Muslims fatally weakened their ability to defend themselves by neglecting, even rejecting, the study of allegedly secular science and mathematics, and this myopia remains a fundamental source of the oppression suffered by Muslims today. Many Muslims still condemn the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kamal, because he tried to modernize his country. But would Turkey be Muslim today without Atatürk? Mustafa Kamal's clear-sightedness saved Islam in Turkey and saved Turkey for Islam.

Failure to understand and interpret the true and fundamental message of the Koran has brought only misfortune to Muslims. By limiting our reading to religious works and neglecting modern science, we destroyed Islamic civilization and lost our way in the world.

The Koran says that "Allah will not change our unfortunate situation unless we make the effort to change it." Many Muslims continue to ignore this and, instead, merely pray to Allah to save us, to bring back our lost glory. But the Koran is not a talisman to be hung around the neck for protection against evil. Allah helps those who improve their minds.

Mahathir bin Mohamad was Prime Minister of Malaysia from 1981-2003.

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Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Determination; How to be a pioneer

MOHAMMED AL-SANABANI

One day, a man walking slowly in the desert, burnt out from his hopeless efforts of saving his life in this cruel world. He knew it was the end, as the desert seemed endless, and realized that he might just be another person who walked the road less taken. In his belief that these will be his final thoughts, he saw a small round wall in the middle of nowhere, and thought that it's a mirage of fake hope.

As he got closer, he gained more faith that it's true, a well that could save his life from the fangs of thirst. He rushed towards it doubtfully and found that some dreams may come true. He lowered his hands and drank from the satisfying cold and fresh water that he longed for. He sat down, guarded from the merciless sun by the well's gracious shadows. He then fell in a calm nap to relax his tired body.

After he woke up he thought of how this well saved his life, and how he can save other lives by rebuilding some of its broken sites. He dug the well deeper, raised the walls higher and made a lid for the well from dry mud. He thought of populating the place, since

it has water and a close by promising land. He started the first farm and built a small house out of wood and mud bricks. Few weeks passed by, he built a stronger house, improved his land and irrigation and one day he saw a shadow coming by. It was another stranger on a horse, who is seeking refuge from the desert's angry dunes.

The stranger also wanted to settle somewhere where he could be of value, and offered help. Eventually there were two rooms in the small house, a bigger cultivated land and a horse that helped in farming. Gradually, over the next months and years, complete strangers and travelers formed a small bonded society. Everyone shared his resources with others and shared his experience in farming, raising cattle, construction and fabrics. It became a place where the law governing their lives was not regulations that they have set, but their understanding of their responsibility towards their little town, how much can they offer instead of how much they can get. Everyone did not fix his own house or irrigate his own land only; it was indifferent to them as their sense of selflessness was the true

wealth they shared.

One day, that man was under a tree in his garden, happy to see how this place started and where it is right now. Something fell on him from the tree; it was a scorpion, an indicator for misfortune. He was so scared, started rolling over to get away from it and raised his head to see that the town disappeared. He thought it was a nightmare, he dipped his hands in the sand, and there was nothing but the fatal heat of the desert. Knowing that the town was just a dream, he stood up feeling the bitterness of failure and regret, filled his leather bag with water for his coming journey.

He looked back at the well, with the half crumbled wall, saying good bye with his eyes. The man left to continue his journey, his life was ahead, leaving the well to a man who might one day be desperate for water. In a few days, another traveler came by, and the story that happened repeated itself for many years. The well was not surprised, it had everything to offer, but no one was selfless and wise enough to make a station for travelers seeking refuge from their journey. One day, the walls of the well crumbled down, and forev-

er it disappeared in the bitter dunes of the desert. No travelers stopped by, no more thirst will be fulfilled, and worst of all no town will rise. No one was selfless, no one had a vision of starting a town. This was because every traveler thought of himself, how he can get enough water for his own journey.

The best way to lead is to lead by example. All leaders do not only have managerial and speech skills that transcend them over others, they also had visions that they pursued. We learn from this story that if we don't engage in turning our dreams into reality then they will gradually disintegrate. Innovation is not simply an advantage of possessing eminent intelligence; it's also the necessary fusion of the right dose of willpower and organized planning. Every novelty in this world was a result of attention to detail, research, hard work, and most importantly, being persistent in following objectives to reach tangible results. When Thomas Edison failed repeatedly to invent a functional lamp, he said "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." It is true, Winners never quit and quitters never win.

Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fatih

Lost SMS?

A mobile phone is one of the blessings of technology that maybe has become an integral part in our lives, regardless of age, race, language and religion. Anyone can use it for making calls, sending short messages, chatting and shooting some pictures and many other facilities.

Different mobile companies have introduced various amazing communicating services. However, it seems that those companies have been competing to pick consumers' pocket instead of serving them. Through the Eid days, mobile companies financially and psychologically torture their customers.

Those companies impatiently wait for such happy occasions, knowing that people would definitely exchange calls much more than other days, and send many congratulations sms. As a result, these companies actually try to spoil the people happiness and negatively use this technology not in favour of their clients. In spite of the propaganda of mobile companies on serving the people using mobile phones, they sometimes use tricks to gain more profits.

Many people have complained that they had tried hard to call their relatives and beloved one on the first two

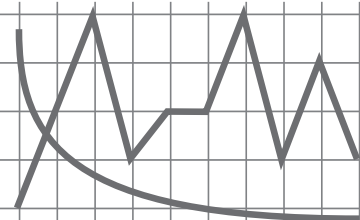
days of Eid, but they were faced with the answering machine quickly replying, "Sorry, due to the big pressure on the network, you cannot call now. Try another time" and alternatively people tried to send a text message but disappointedly the report came back "not delivered". In this case people lose the chance to contact their beloved ones as well as losing their units, credits and lose their money. You can imagine the disappointment the caller had.

I am wondering where all the sms have gone! What is the fate of the lost sms?

These companies have no one to blame. I wish that mobile companies could reconsider their policies and think seriously how to appropriately serve their customers. I wish that those companies would improve their services in a way to adapt to and avoid the pressure put on networks on these occasions.

Finally, I would like to seize this opportunity and through this small column to congratulate all the people on the occasion of Eid AL-Fiter and I hope that everybody has enjoyed it. I also want to thank all the people and friends who congratulated me via email or mobile phones. I also thank those who tried to call and send sms but the mobile networks failed them.

YT Business



Economic growth from remittance

RAIDAN ABDULAZIZ AL-SAQQAF
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

If there is one thing Yemen continues to export throughout its lifetime that would be people. Yemeni immigrants continue to stretch across the globe with an estimation of over 6 million Yemenis abroad, spreading from Southeast Asia, to the United States of America. An example that can illustrate the magnitude of this Yemeni phenomenon was in the forced return of around 800,000 immigrants from neighboring Gulf States at the time of the 2nd gulf war.

Yemen is an exorcist country in the sense that it drives its citizens to migrate to other parts of the world in search of better wages to pay for a better life for their selves and for their families back home, even if it meant illegal migration and having to cross borders risking their very own lives. Usually these illegal immigrant belong to the 10% of the population (around 2 million) who live on as little as

3% of the country's GDP of 16200 million (i.e. 486 million \$US), meaning that each individual of these 2 millions have to survive on approximately 66 cents per day.

Yemeni immigrants are a part of the global movement of poor migrant workers who leave home and travel to richer countries searching for employment. Worldwide it is estimated that the total amount of remittance reaches a staggering two hundred billion dollars a year, out of which Yemen's share is 1,437 million US\$.

One out of every ten people on the planet either sends or receives money from abroad. And unlike all other forms of financial aid that travels into developing countries, remittances go directly to poor people who need it the most, therefore assuming that at half of all remittance sent to Yemen goes to the poorest 10%, this allows each of these 2 million to live on 1.65 US\$ per day, but still not enough.

For remittance receivers, remittances create a safety net that feeds, clothes, and

provides medical attention for impoverished families, putting less obligation on the state to look after the poorest layers of the community and more freedom on the state to engage in any kind of less responsible activity or wasting the country's resources.

Remittances have been around for generations upon generations, however, the government has to be doing a much better job than they have been doing over the past 20 years, it is important to underscore that remittances are not a substitute for sound economic policies that aims at improving the lives of poorest families which do not receive any remittances and have to survive on 66 cents per day.

In addition to that, there is a critical shortage of jobs and a considerable gap between rich and poor. In 2002 the richest 10% of the population consumed 26 % of the country's wealth while the poorest 10% merely survived on 3 %. Therefore success for youngsters from the poorest 10% means either resorting to crime or immigration to bigger cities and wealthier

countries in search of a better life in a different country, leaving their wives, children and families behind, who would, in turn, become dependent on remittance money for mere survival.

Nevertheless, Consider youngsters who resemble half of the population; how can a million impoverished young men and women strive for a better life at all? This, in itself, might explain the drastic increase in crime in Yemen, and several tremendous social impacts such as family dislocations, touristy and temporary marriages, child trafficking and gang-like activities coupled with the rise of organ-

ized crime factions.

There is a pattern in Yemeni worker immigration, for example, the people of Hadhramout have deep routes in Southeast Asia in countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia, while others from Ibb & Taiz have immigrated to the United States of America, in fact, there is a considerable community of Yemeni immigrants in Detroit, Michigan, where good wages allow their remittance to be substantially considerable and make a difference in the lives of their families and communities back home through investments, as over 80% of all investments in

Yemen are done by Yemeni immigrants as an attempt for wealth creation.

The government of Yemen have systematically cried out for Yemeni immigrants to invest back in the country in various sectors, today total investments in Yemen are as little as 1.1% of the economy and factors such as poor governance and corruption continue to discourage Yemeni immigrants even further from investing in Yemen; the country that repelled them and forced them to leave in the first place, indicating the very little trust immigrants have in the current economic policies of the country.

Investment projects in Aden Free Zone

MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Aden oil refinery is expected an increase in its annual production of oil products for this year estimated at more than five million metric tons, with an increase estimated at one million metric tons in comparison with the last year.

A statistic issued by the refinery's management indicated that the average of daily production of oil products has risen to 120 thousand barrels after the completion of maintenance works and operation of two production units, each with a capacity of 75 thousand barrels

per day. The statistic clarified that the technical teams working at the refinery have recently carried out maintenance works in the four platforms of the refinery; each platform is 15 and half meters deep. Maintenance works also included painting, boosting lighting and modernization of the site where local and foreign oil tankers are received. Those tankers' loads weights exceed 130 thousand metric tons. Maintenance also included the development of the two platforms for shipment of liquefied gas amounting to around 4.5 thousand metric tons per day.

On the other hand, the number of projects implemented in the free zone

in Aden until last October amounted to 111 projects in areas of industry, tourism, storage, housing, trade and services at an investment cost amounted to \$384 million, 379 thousand and 879 hundred. A statistic issued by investment services administration at Aden free zone covering the period from January 2000 until October 2005 mentioned that industrial projects came as priority, the number of which reached 28 with a cost of \$153 million and 274 thousand. The statistic also mentioned that housing projects amounted to 7, costing \$116 million, 642 thousand and 701 hundred. Other projects included ten in tourism, 14 trade projects and 10 storage projects.

Development projects worth US\$ 2,825,000 to be implemented

Yemen Times Staff

A committee concerned with carrying out public works project chaired by deputy premier and the minister of planning and international cooperation Ahmed Sofan has approved results of tenders being going certain contractors as an introduction to implementation of a number of projects of water utilities, health and education worth US\$2 million and 825 thousand.

The commission approved implementation of water project of Bab al Mandab in Taiz governorate costing \$1 million and 100 thousand with over ten thousand beneficiaries. And have also approved the contract of the water purification project of Shuwaifa at Khadeer district of Taiz governorate at a cost of \$280 thousand And the project of building Dash Amqir valley dam at Mudiay district barrier in the governorate of Abyan at a cost of \$205 thousand. The project's storage capacity

amounts to 75 thousand cubic meters of rainfall waters.

The commission has also approved a tender on qualification of health centers in the governorate of al-Jawf at a cost of \$464 thousand, refurbishing and supply of a hospital in Rabt at a cost of \$276 thousand and the building of 18-classroom Saba Primary School in the capital secretariat at a cost of \$390 thousand. The commission has also approved monetary compensating of a number of executive contractors who suffered due to the rise of cement and oil prices. The total amount paid in compensation is one million and 300 thousand US dollars.

The commission in charge of the project on public works had earlier endorsed a report by the accounts' auditor of the Dutch grant for the 1st and 2nd phases of the fiscal year of 2004 and endorsed reports by the central apparatus of audit accountants' of the European assistance, OPEC Fund loan, the French assistance and the American assistance for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2004.

The commission's meeting has also listened to a report by the unit in charge of running the project on progress of performance during the period extending from March to September of this year. The report pointed out that there was an announcement about 161 projects in general tenders at a total cost of around \$15.86 millions in addition to 76 projects the tenders of which to be announced in a week's time, costing around US\$ 8.5 million.

Engineer Saeed Abdeh Ahmed, the executive manager of the public works project indicated that the total number of implemented projects since the beginning of 1996 until September of this year amounted to about 1892 projects at a total cost of US\$ 111.60 million. While another 827 projects are planned to be implemented at a forecasted cost of US\$ 71.15, calling the attention that the ministry is paying bigger attention to projects of water barriers and dams in order to encounter the problem of water shortages from which Yemen is suffering.



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex
P.O. Box 551 Sana'a, Yemen
<http://www.undp.org.ye>
Phone: 00 967 1 448605
Fax: 00 967 1 448841

INVITATION TO BID

Invitation to Bid for the stretching, installing and testing of the water pipes in Ressib, Hadhramout in addition to supplying with the required pipes and materials.

Water Resources Management, Community Water Supply and Sanitation in Masila, Hadramout and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites potential suppliers to request a copy if the bidding documents from the undersigned immediately.

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

The deadline for invited suppliers to submit their sealed bids to the UNDP Office in Sana'a is **Wednesday November 30, 2005 at 12:00 P.M.**

SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS:

- The contractor must wage skilful workers to stretch out and install the pipes and execute the contract on time
- To install the parts and define the length of the pipes the contractor must always get the agreement of the engineer.
- Provide necessary pipes to accomplish the work

Invitations to bid and any subsequent contracts will be issued in accordance with the rules and procedures of UNDP.



Job Vacancies

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

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni Nationals fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic.

FINANCIAL REPORTING SUPERVISOR- Reference No. 032

Reports to the Head of Financial Reporting, the job holder assists with the preparation of budgets, closing forecast reports and producing regular expenditure reports against budget for management information and partners. The job holder is responsible for implementing, controlling and maintaining the statutory reporting, management accounting and tax functions. He/She is also responsible for building and follow-up of budgets including allocating budget items, organizing cost and budget structure and implementing a process for sales and production reporting in conjunction with operations accounting team and production division. The successful candidate must have Accounting / Finance degree or professional qualification, 5 to 7 years experience with management reporting and production of final accounts preferably with Oil and Gas industry, ideally with some international experience and will act in accordance with company HSE, Business Ethics Policies and Code of Conduct at all times.

BUDGET AND COST CONTROL SUPERVISOR- Reference No. 033

Reports to the Head of Financial Reporting, the job holder assists with the preparation of cost reports. The job holder is responsible for implementing, controlling and maintaining financial planning, budgeting and corporate cost control systems, production of reports on commitment and costs against budget for management and shareholders and providing advice and assistance on budget and cost control matters to the various departments in the company. He/She will supervise and develop a team of 3 cost controllers through external training courses and internal mentoring. The successful candidate must have Accounting / Finance degree or professional qualification, 5 to 7 years experience in cost control and budgeting area preferably with Oil and Gas industry, ideally with some international experience and will act in accordance with company HSE, Business Ethics Policies and Code of Conduct at all times.

PAYABLES ACCOUNTANT- Reference No. 034

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

Applicants should send their CV in English with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post to:
Human Resources Department
Yemen LNG Company
P.O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen
Candidates may apply by e-mail to: HR@YEMENLNG.COM.YE

Closing Date: 30th November, 2005

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG.
WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

In an online interview

Harun Yahya: Sound Islamic union should be established

BY MOHAMMED AL-HAKIMI
HJARY@YAHOO.COM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Harun Yahya whose columns Yemen Times featured during Ramadan, here answers some questions of importance that shed light on his prolific writing and his readership. He is interviewed by Mohammed al-Hakimi, another Ramadan columnist who wanted to acquaint the readers with more facts about Harun Yahya as an Islamic writer.

Q: Who supports these books and the author?

A: The collective goal in all these studies is to convey the annunciation of the Qur'an to the world and thus to summon people to have faith in Allah. The aim is to urge people to think on vital subjects like the existence and the unity of Allah and the other life and to bring out the pervert applications of the denier systems. Inferentially the ultimate aim is to convey the annunciation of the morality of Islam to wider circles. A versatile study is being carried out with this aim. The books are published in various countries all over the world by lots of different publishers in their native languages. Each publisher undertakes the preparation and publication costs.

I do not have any expectation for financial benefits. As a matter of fact the Word texts of all the books are presented to the service of people for free in the internet website addressed www.harun-yahya.com. This is the most important indicator to show that these studies are solely for the consent of Allah.

Q: Have your published books played any role to support the winning party in your country?

A: Alhamdulillah my writings are read by a big audience in lots of countries in the world. They address to a very wide audience all around Turkey. The docu-

mentary films based on my books are broadcasted in the television all over the country, also the radio studies are broadcasted in hundreds radio stations. Likewise Science and Research Foundation, in which I am the honorary president, has held almost 500 conferences with the headings of "The fact of creation," and "Essence of faith" all over Turkey. Undoubtedly, this is a big study of enlightenment and inshallah have caused the increase in faith in Allah and to fear Allah more and more and to put into practice fastidiously the commands of Allah.

Q: Why aren't you so popular in the Arab World?

A: My works are read in many countries worldwide from India to USA, England to Indonesia, Poland to Bosnia Herzegovina, Spain to Brazil, Malaysia to Italy, France to Bulgaria and Russia with great liking. These works that are translated to English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Urdu, Arabic, Albanian, Russian, Uyghur, Indonesian, Malaysian, Serbian, Japanese, and Chinese are followed by a large reader community abroad. These works that win an extraordinarily appraisal were published in English speaking countries such as England and USA at first place and as consequence they had a very quick recognition in Western Countries at first.

Publication of my books in Arab countries has been started recently. We have signed the necessary agreements with many Arabic publishers. Lately, approxi-



Harun Yahya

mately 10 books have been published in Arabic and they are available in the same website address mentioned above. Translations and publishing preparations of 30-40 books are still continuing. Arabic versions of approximately 25 documentary films that are prepared by use of my books have been completed. Inshallah, in the coming year, many works will be consecutively published in Arabic and readers of the Muslim Arab World will recognize these works closely.

Q: What is your paramount goal?

A: Allah commands all Muslims to work unceasingly in order to invite people to the morals of the Qur'an and spread the Islamic moral to the whole world. In verse 55 of Surat An-Noor, Allah promises that He will make those who have faith successors in the land as He made those before them successors if they worship Him, not associating anything with Him. And this indicates the world domination of the Islamic morality. (Allah knows the best). Being given such good news by our Lord, it is extremely important that all Muslims make their utmost for the realization of such a blessed message (news). Spreading the Qur'anic moral will end the violence and pain that has been continuing in so many places worldwide and provide a permanent peace and security.

Q: Do you adopt particular religious or political values and principles?

A: The only guide of the believers is Qur'an and the sunnah of our Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). One who embraces the Qur'an very tightly and the sunnah is on the straightest way that will lead him to the light. Allah explained everything to Muslims in the Qur'an. He informed us in the Qur'an that our Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is the best model (example) for the believers. Consequently, every moment of a person who has faith – from the smallest detail of his life to this political point of view – is as stated by our Lord in the Qur'an. A person who has sincere faith and obeys the Qur'an is always just – no matter what the condition is – pardoning, merciful, tolerant, honest, patient, modest, moderate, understanding and broad-minded. He only strives to gain the consent and mercy of Allah. The increase of numbers of such people in a community is the only method that will guide the society to advancement.

Q: Which Arab leaders do you believe should step down and why?

A: The Arab society is among the founders of the Islamic civilization. The Islamic civilization enlightened and illuminated the world for centuries. Today, the most important problem that the Arab and the Islamic civilization encounters is division. In order to reconstruct the magnificence, all kinds of diversity and dispute should be eliminated and put aside and a sound Islamic union should be established. Such a union is a must in order to solve problems such as Palestine, Kashmir, and Moro in the favor of Islam. This is equally necessary for the Islamic world to attain the position it deserves in the international politics. Allah commands believers not to separate and to struggle in His Way in ranks like well-built walls. There is one thing that we should not forget: No matter what their language, sect, and ethnical root is, all Muslims are brothers and brothers are obliged to work for the goodness of each other.

“Stranger in her City” gets more attention

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni film directress Khadeeja al-Salami was awarded the first prize in a Beirut international film festival. Her “Stranger in her City” was featured at Beirut's DocuDays film festival at the Medina Theater last week. The arbitration board, which included a group of international actors and film directors, praised the high level of professionalism put into the making of the documentary.

The organizers of the festival decided to screen the Yemeni film on the opening session of the festival due to its significance. A discussion group was held as well, comprising world celebrities to discuss the film.

“A Stranger in her City” broaches the issue of women's rights in the Arab world. The heroine, Najmia, is a 13-year-old Yemeni girl who dares to walk through the magical ancient town of Sana'a refusing to wear the traditional abaya and showing her bare curls in the sunlight. She rejects all negative customs and conventions that might hobble her natural life and daily activity as a girl. She doesn't succumb to society's dictations that deny her the right to play and enjoy herself as other children.

The camera follows her and records her acts in a spontaneous manner as she plays with her mates and wards off the criticism of adolescents and adults in a logical and defiant way.

The film is a challenge to centuries of ancestral patriarchal tradition that

she gets away with.

It is noteworthy that the same film snatched a prize at a film festival in the Netherlands and drew much attention in Geneva Human Rights Film Festival.


Khadeeja al-Salami, who serves also as the director of the Paris-based Yemen Media Center, has been selected to participate in a Washington film festival in mid-December, 2005, which is to be devoted this year to social life in the Middle East.

Khadeeja al-Salami told media that her film will be featured in the one-week festival and will embody complete model of life in Yemen and the status of Yemen therein. Before that she is to participate in another festival in Montreal, Canada at the end of November.

Khadeeja al-Salami is considered to be the only Yemeni film director who dared the world of film industry. She has taken part in many international festivals and received several awards.




Khadeeja al-Salami



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PHRplus/Yemen activities highlighted

BY: MOHAMMED AL-JABRI

SANA'A-Nov. 13 - The Partners for Health Reform plus (PHRplus) held a press conference in Sana'a to highlight the main activities carried out since its establishment. Ms. Cheri Rassas, Chief of Party, gave an overall idea of the PHRplus and its activities in Yemen." The PHRplus has been working since October 2003. We do things at the national level," said Ms Cheri.

PHRplus is the U.S. Agency for International Development's flagship project in health policy and systems strengthening. PHRplus was requested by USAID/Yemen to support its Strategic Plan, which focuses on providing assistance that will lead to visible, high impact results in five governorates – Al Jawf, Amran, Marib, Saada, and Shabwa. In all sectors, USAID's programs focus on improving services and opportunities for women and girls, encouraging community participation and enhancing the quality of health data for planning and management. USAID's Strategic Objective in health is to increase the use of reproductive, maternal, and child health services.

PHRplus expects to achieve results in the following areas:

1. Strengthened decentralized service delivery systems through improved planning, budgeting, and management interventions at the governorate and district levels

2. Strengthened health planning, management, and financing at the national and subnational levels through use of National Health Accounts (NHA), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Health Information Systems (HIS), and manpower planning and training

3. Pilot interventions that focus on environmental issues that impact health

4. Strengthened skills and role of midwives through improved curriculum and establishment of a national association of midwives

Geographic Information System/Health Information Systems:

In collaboration with the MoPHP and Governorate Health Offices, PHRplus conducted an inventory of all health facilities, public and private, in the five target governorates. The purpose of this survey was to collect information needed to establish a reliable database for decisions related to planning and management of health services at the governorate, district and facility levels. The database will link health and demographic information to retrieve



Members of the PHR plus at the press conference.

data by health facility, town or district of interest. The health GIS can be used to identify gaps in health care interesting patterns, trends and outcomes.

Facility level Health Information system: PHRplus is currently implementing polio HIS project in Amran to collect patient encounter data and accurate registry statistics. This information will be used locally for planning purpose, including targeting resources, determining patient accessibility to local facilities and staffing. This polio has been launched in Amran's hospital and all health units throughout the district of Al-A'sha, Houth, and Thula.

Immunization Information

System: PHRplus is collaborating with the MoPHP EPI program to improve information on routine immunizations. The polio project in Amran intends to improve the management and more rational use of vaccines. An annual mini-census helps to better define the target population (children under five, children under one and women of childbearing age). The system includes the registration for women/children not in facility's catchments area, monitoring of utilization and wastage patterns, tracking vaccine balances in all facilities and regular outreach/mobile vaccination activities. The expected result is increased coverage of the target population.

Polio-AlJawf: At the request of the MoPHP, USAID/Yemen conducted a polio campaign in Al-Jawf this year. Of the 471 confirmed cases, two were from Al-Jawf. Previous campaigns in this governorate had been unsuccessful due to tribal conflict and refusals. As a result of the first round, 62,189 children under five received their vaccination in 24,364 households. Total children

vaccinated for the first time in the district of Khab and Ashaf was 4,897 out of the total of 9,754.

Environmental Health: A polio EH project in the district of Thula was initiated with stakeholders to identify locally-based solutions, identify major environmental problems and provide support to communities to implement solutions where possible. A household survey of 271 households in 12 villages revealed the knowledge and practices related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

NHA: National Health Accounts (NHA) has been a collaborative effort supported by USAID, WHO, the EU and the World Bank around the world for the past ten years. This global tool, designed for health sector policymakers and managers, provides a framework for measuring total (public, private and donor) national health expenditure. Its goal is to provide valuable information for improving health system performance at the policy level.

Midwives: With an estimated 5,000 midwives in this country and only half providing services, one of the highest fertility rates in the world (6.2), among the highest maternal and infant mortality rates, and 85% of all deliveries occurring in the home, it is important for Yemeni midwives to have a voice in promoting and strengthening the midwifery profession in Yemen. PHRplus has supported the establishment of a national Midwives Association, which currently has a membership of more than 350 midwives from around the country. The goal is to contribute to improved reproductive health, family planning and child care standards of services in order to reduce mortality and morbidity rates among mothers during pregnancy, labor and pauperism, and for newborns and children under five.

British man 'recovered from HIV'

British newspapers report that Andrew Stimpson, 25 years old, from London, was diagnosed as HIV-positive in 2002 but found to be clear in October 2003.

Mr Stimpson told "News of the World" and the "Mail" newspaper on Sunday, that he became miserable and suicidal after being told he was HIV-positive but remained well and did not require medication. Some 14 months later he was offered another test by doctors, which came back negative.

He sought compensation but has apparently been told there is no case to answer because there was no fault

with

the testing procedure. "I think I'm one of the luckiest people alive," Stimpson said. "There are 34.9 million people with HIV globally and I am just one person who managed to control it, to survive from it and to get rid of it from my body," he added.

Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare Trust have asked to conduct more tests on Mr Stimpson both for his benefit and for other patients. These tests were accurate and they were his, but what we don't know at the moment is why that has happened, and we want him to come back in for more tests," said a spokeswoman. "It is potentially a fantastic thing." HIV

experts say his case could help to reveal more about the disease.

There have been anecdotal accounts before from Africa of people shaking off the HIV virus, but the evidence in this case, as reported in the newspapers, appears to be conclusive.

Aids expert Dr Patrick Dixon, from international Aids group Acet, said the case was "very, very unusual". He added that the case was important because "inside his immune system is perhaps a key that could allow us to develop some kind of vaccine". "You have to be rock-solid sure that both samples came from the same person, no mix-up in the laboratory, no mistakes in the testing, etc.

Socioeconomic factors tied to heart attack outcome

By DAVID DOUGLAS

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Although white men appear to do better than any other group after heart attack, socioeconomic factors and co-existing illnesses — rather than biological differences or preferential treatment — appear to play a significant part in this outcome, researchers report in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Lead investigator Dr. Carlos Iribarren told Reuters Health that "even in the context of a managed care organization — where there's no barriers to seeing doctors and getting prescriptions — African-American male

and female patients and Asian females had a 40 percent increased risk of having a second heart attack compared to the white men."

Iribarren of Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, Oakland, California and colleagues came to these conclusions after following, for up to 8 years, more than 30,000 managed care members who had experienced a heart attack.

In addition, continued Iribarren, "African-American male and female patients had a 50 percent increased risk of dying after suffering a heart attack. However, unlike previous studies on this topic, we were able to find an

explanation for these differences."

The researchers determined that about half of the increased risk was due to socioeconomic factors such as level of income, level of education, marital status and occupation, and the other half was due to chronic conditions, such as diabetes, lung disease or depression, and to differences in medications and surgical procedures.

"The implication of our findings," Iribarren concluded, "is that, at least theoretically, if one could eliminate differences in socioeconomic status and treat everyone equally, there will be no more gender and ethnic disparities after suffering a heart attack

Death in food

PREPARED BY NABEEL HAZ'A

Need for food increased directly as a result of population increase. Rates of Famines and deaths also increased due to dearth in food. As all international and cultural awareness efforts of birth control proved failure, an alternative plan of obtaining food was thought of. Agriculture was given top priority.

Some countries managed to provide their need for food by storing their surplus. It is an old habit that man used to store the surplus for dearth times. Natural methods like salting and drying were adopted. Recently canning was discovered. It is a process of keeping food in sealed containers after sterilizing it. Canning was first used in 1709 when Napoleon Bonaparte asked the famous French baker Neoklezbert to find a method of preserving the food that he would send to his troops.

Preserved food whether be it canned, frozen or salted have a limited expiry period. People should know that the end of the expiry date is followed by a reaction between the package, its contents and the preserving substances. This decreases the value of food stuffs or spoils them. This necessitates certain conditions for keeping food stuffs.

Expiry date

The manufacture and expiry dates are often written on food products. Consumers should be aware that if the expiry date is 15-30 days, the food stuff will start to lose its value. The validity of expiry requires ideal storing conditions according to the food product.

Data of preserved product

Contents of the product and the percentage of the preserving stuffs should be written. Any product that ignores these data is doubted to be cheated.

A question that arises is the impact of preserved food on humans. What are the effects of the food stuffs that fill the markets on our health?

It is an advantage that large amounts of food stuffs are kept for a long time, so that they will be easily purchased at the times when they are needed. An example of that is when there is abundance in potato production, which exceeded consumption and export needs. Preserve operations could be made to keep it for future human use. It is not enough to put the product in packages. Appropriate storing conditions should be followed in storing the stuff.

Disadvantages of preserved food are:

- 1- Commercial and industrial cheat-



ing

- 2- Cheating the perseverant.

- 3- Inconsistency of the package with the preserved stuff.

- 4- Lack of ideal storing conditions.

Al these advantages affect human health and there are many incidents of food poisoning that are attributed to preserved foods.

Globalization of unnatural food

Natural and climatic conditions sometimes force some countries to import food products that are either frozen or preserved. Specifications and standards should be catered for in such conditions. Awareness is to be promoted among consumers in order to make the right choice for their food stuffs.

Role of food laboratories and food surveillance laboratories

The role of the food laboratories is vital. They should not be confined to one area. Laboratories should have facilities for research and testing of canned food in every governorate. These should be affiliated to the central surveillance. They should also be present in all Country air, Sea, and land ports. They should also observe locally processed food. Their work should be continuous and not only to respond when there are complaints. The food surveillance centers are to watch the standards and constituents of local and imported stuffs. Food surveillance laboratories are responsible for follow up and protection of consumers, and for periodical surveillance.

Some could ask what periodical surveillance is. Periodical follow up of the states' ports and the standards specification. It could mean the re-testing of the commodities that are in the markets even if their expiry is valid.

A question poses itself of whether the locally produced food stuffs are being tested before they go to the markets, or whether that is left to be done by their own laboratories? It is well known that

the products are not produced all at one time. Are the tested samples taken from one group or are there periodical tests?

How can consumer be protected?

A number of societies have been established for protecting consumers, but their role is quite limited. The main responsibility of protection is to be undertaken by the government. This could be achieved by the following procedures:

- 1- To establish observation committees for field surveillance and check of canned food stuffs. They should confiscate the expired and illegal ones. They should also take samples of the stuffs for testing them.

- 2- To form surveillance bodies which constitute:

- a- Surveillances laboratories
 - b- Centers for food stuff observations
- 3- Applying the expiry period, by shortening this period. An example of this is the tomato paste which is known to be three years. This is to be reduced to two according to the climatic conditions.
 - 4- Activation of consumer laws and legislations that protect consumers.
 - 5- To fight smuggling by raising the awareness on the bad effects of smuggled commodities.

- 6- Consumers should be aware of watching the data and validity of the products for the good of his own health. This is best achieved by using the natural food. If this is impossible they should be careful that they should not use smuggled, expired or those which are without data.

In spite of all the above mentioned there remains the need for canned food. There are now secured methods for preserving food that will make certain kinds of food available all the year round.

Packages and advertisements of food stuffs are quite attractive, but what are they really hiding behind their attractive appearances and what impacts have they got on our health?

It is obvious that we should be careful.

Bird flu virus is worse than human flu viruses

Scientists might have recognized one of the reasons why the bird flu virus H5N1 is so deadly to humans. A study published this month in the open access journal Respiratory Research reveals that, in human cells, the virus can causes levels of inflammatory proteins more than 10 times higher than the common human flu virus H1N1. This might contribute to the unusual severity of the disease caused by H5N1 in humans, which can escalate into life-threatening pneumonia and acute respiratory distress.

Experts and colleagues from the University of Hong Kong and collaborators in Vietnam, studied the levels of

a subset of the pro-inflammatory proteins called 'cytokines' and 'chemokines', induced by the virus H5N1 in human lung cells, in vitro. The authors compared protein levels induced by strains of the H5N1 virus that had appeared in Hong Kong in 1997 (H5N1/97) and Vietnam in 2004 (H5N1/04), with levels induced by the human flu virus H1N1.

Their results show that H5N1 is a much more potent inducer of pro-inflammatory proteins than H1N1. Twenty-four hours after infection with H5N1/04, the levels of the chemokine IP-10 in bronchial epithelial cells reach 2200 pg/ml, whereas in cells

infected with H1N1 they only reach 200pg/ml. In H5N1/97-infected cells, IP-10 levels reach 1750 pg/ml. Similar results were found for other chemokines and cytokines.

Chemokines and cytokines are the "messengers of the immune system" and are critical in coordinating and regulating the immune response. Altering this balance is likely to lead to an uncontrolled inflammatory response in the lung and probably explains, at least in part, the severe lung inflammation associated with avian flu virus H5N1.

Source: BioMed Central

Low levels of environmental toxins damage health

Four of the most widespread environmental toxins—lead, trihalomethanes (found in drinking water), ionizing radiation from indoor radon gas, and tobacco smoke—can cause serious damage to health even at very low levels, say researchers in the international medical journal PLoS Medicine.

What this means, say the researchers Donald Wigle of the University of Ottawa and Bruce Lanphear of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, is that there are simply no safe levels of exposure to these toxins and they must be "virtually eliminated to protect human health."

Children can suffer brain damage from being exposed to very low levels of lead, they say. Although the US

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend public health or medical action unless the blood lead level of children exceeds 0.48 micromoles/liter, several longitudinal studies of children found inverse relationships between IQ and blood lead levels over a range extending below 0.48 micromoles/liter. These studies found no evidence of a "safe" threshold.

The Canadian government has concluded that the human lifetime cancer risk associated with drinking water containing trihalomethanes at 100 micrograms per liter (the current Canadian trihalomethane drinking water guideline) would be negligible. But recent research showed that there was an excess bladder cancer risk in men exposed to trihalomethanes at levels above one microgram per liter

compared to less exposed men (the excess lifetime risk was about seven per 1000). This excess risk, say Wigle and Lanphear, is "much higher than those usually designated as negligible."

The researchers say that both radon and environmental tobacco smoke can damage health at very low levels. A recent expert committee concluded that the most plausible relationship between ionizing radiation and cancer was a linear relationship with no safe threshold, while studies have shown that even low level exposure to passive smoking can reduce fetal growth.

"The public depends on decision makers, scientists, and regulators to restrict exposure to widespread toxins that have known or suspected serious potential health effects," say Wigle and Lanphear.

Cricket Tournament in Sana'a

During the Eid break, cricket tournament got underway in Sana'a after a gap of almost 6 years. In all 6 teams entered the tournament with participated players from British, Indian, Pakistan and Bangladesh nationalities. This was possible mainly due to sponsorships from Dove Energy Limited, Qatar Airways, Al Wehda Club, Group 4 Securicor, Mega Products, Petrochem Performance Chemicals, Schlumberger and Villa Di Angelo.

First Match

Match was played on the 4th November, Pakistan Club won the toss and elected to bat first. The innings started on a shaky start with opener getting run out quickly. Innings was steadied by brilliant batting from Ethesham (54), Azam (39), Mustafa (21) & Arif (20). Pakistan Club set a target of 185 runs to Dove Energy XI to be achieved in 25 overs.

Dove Energy XI's innings started on a shaky note with fall of early wickets. Some hard hitting by Jomon (29), Vinod (37) and Johnson (22) steadied the innings and made the match quite exciting. Excellent bowling by Pakistan Club restricted the flow of runs and match was won by them by 21 runs. Man of the Match was Ethesham of Pakistan Club



Second Match

On the 5th November, Arabian Cricket Club won the toss and elected to bat first. Start of the innings was a disaster as both openers were out cheaply by the bowling of Vaseem. Innings was rebuilt by excellent and steady stroke play of Aminuddin M (32), Shital Somaiya (25), Amin Butt (22) & Tameez (16). Target of 163 runs was set for Adnan Cricket Club to be achieved in 25 overs.

Adnan Cricket Club also had a shaky start with fall of 3 early wickets. It was left to Nishant (23), Tabreez (14), Nazakath & Vaseem (12) to chase the set target. Match was evenly poised till the 13th over and after the drinks break Arabian bowlers came back and restricted Adnan Club to 107. Man of the

Match was Aminuddin M of Arabian Cricket Club

Third Match

Match was played on the 6th November, Pakistan Club won the toss and elected to bat first. After a shaky start again Adnan (83), Azam (30), Sajid (19) scored freely and set a target of 195 runs for Friends Cricket Club. This is the highest total in the tournament so far by any batting team.

Friends Cricket Club innings started on a positive note. Mohammed (28), Salim (24), Nabil (30), Afsar (21) played excellent shots and were hitting ball all round the park. After the break, middle order collapsed and wickets fell like nine pins. Friends Cricket Club fell short of the target by 46 runs. Man of the Match was awarded to Adnan of Pakistan Club

Fourth Match

On the 11th November, Friends Cricket Club won the toss and elected to bat first. Innings had a steady start with Binu (32), Anthony (31), Nasrol (25), and Mohammed A (22) among the main scorers. Friend's lower order collapsed in the final overs and Vinod became the first bowler in the tournament to get a hatrick.

Chasing a target of 165 runs Dove Energy XI innings was built along runs scored by Johnson (31), Dave Evans (20), Terrance Freese



(15) and Munahar (13). Good bowling from Friends Cricket Club resulted in slowing down the scoring rate and collapse in the lower order resulted in them winning the match by 42 runs. Man of the Match was Binu Chako of Friends

Cricket Club

On conclusion of 4 matches, Pakistan Club and Friends Cricket Club from Group B have made it to the Semifinals. Remaining 2 semifinalists will be decided from the matches to be played on the

18th and 25th November.

Final of the Sana'a International Cricket Trophy will be played on the 9th December 2005 at Al Wehda Foot Club ground in Hadda Madina.



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Kaneria pilots Pakistan to thrilling win

MULTAN, Pakistan (Reuters) - Leg spinner Danish Kaneria took four wickets and fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar three to spur Pakistan to a 22-run win over England on a thrilling final day of the first test on Wednesday.

England, chasing 198 for victory, started the day on 24 for one and were bowled out for 175 half an hour after lunch.

Kaneria turned the tide for Pakistan after the overnight pair of Andrew Strauss (23) and Ian Bell (31) had put on 57 for the second wicket and looked like piloting England to victory.

England lost six wickets for 53 runs before lunch, three of them to Kaneria.

Akhtar, who took six wickets in the match, then broke an obdurate eight-wicket stand of 49 between Geraint Jones and Shaun Udal which had brought England to within 32 runs of a win.

Kaneria finished with 4-64 for the innings and Akhtar 3-49. Paceman Mohammad Sami took the important wickets of Paul Collingwood and Kevin Pietersen.

"It was a very important victory for us," said Multan-born captain Inzamam-ul-Haq. "It was difficult to defend a lead of 197 in the last innings but we decided in the team meeting that we would fight hard."

It was only the fourth defeat for England in 29 tests since October 2003 and followed their Ashes series defeat of world champions Australia.

"It was a close game between two good teams. Still two games to go and we will do things right and try to come back stronger," said England's stand-in captain Marcus Trescothick.

It was Pakistan's first successful defence of a total under 200 since 1993 when they bowled out New Zealand for 93 at Hamilton defending 125 runs.

The next two tests are in Faisalabad and Lahore.

Kaneria turned the tide for Pakistan when he dismissed overnight pair Strauss and Bell in one over. He took three wickets for 14 runs in 20 balls as England lost six wickets before lunch.

In his third over Kaneria had Bell caught behind by Kamran Akmal and four balls later Strauss caught at slip.

In the next over Sami trapped Paul Collingwood (3) with an indipper to leave England on 67 for four.

Killer blow

Kaneria struck a killer blow five overs later when he had Andrew Flintoff caught at deep square leg by Younis Khan.

Kevin Pietersen hit Kaneria for a six and a four and looked comfortable for the first time on tour, but he was out to a poor shot flashing at a wide ball from Sami to be caught behind for 19.

The eighth-wicket pair of Geraint Jones (33) and Shaun Udal (18), playing in his first test, revived the innings from a desperate 117 for seven with a fighting stand of 49 before they were split apart by Akhtar.

Akhtar bowled Jones off an inside edge in his first over after lunch and the England innings lasted for just 10 more balls.

Kaneria bowled Udal round the wicket and in the next over Akhtar had Steve Harmison caught at slip by Younis Khan after he raised the temperature with two fours.



Pakistan's pacer Shoaib Akhtar (R) celebrates with team mate Hasan Raza (L) after the dismissal of England's Ashley Giles on the fifth and final day of the first test in Multan November 16, 2005. REUTERS

Warne in doubt for second test

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Shane Warne is in doubt for Australia's second test against West Indies starting in Hobart on Thursday because of back pain.

Pace bowler Stuart Clark joined the squad on Wednesday as a precaution although he is unlikely to play even if Warne, acclaimed as the greatest spin bowler of all time, were to be ruled out.

A Cricket Australia spokesman told Australian Associated Press that Warne had never suffered back pain before

but received some treatment after experiencing some problems at training.

Australia delayed the announcement of their team until just before Thursday's toss with captain Ricky Ponting telling journalists either leg-spinner Stuart MacGill or left-arm paceman Nathan Bracken would serve as 12th man.

Both would be expected to play if Warne was ruled out.



File photo shows Australia's Shane Warne appealing as team mate Simon Katich watches during the third day of the first test match against the West Indies in Brisbane. REUTERS

Major League, players in accord on steroids

By STEVE GINSBURG

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Major League Baseball and its players' union, under threat of U.S. congressional intervention, agreed on Tuesday to toughen penalties for steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

According to a summary of the agreement, a player would face a 50-game suspension for a first offense, a 100-game suspension for a second and a "lifetime" expulsion for a third, though they could apply for reinstatement after two years.

Baseball's current sanctions are a 10-day suspension for a first offense, 30 days for a second offense, and 60 days for a third.

"This is not only a historic day in baseball but a very meaningful one," Commissioner Bud Selig said.

"While I thought the (current) program was working, there was a much deeper issue — it was the integrity issue. I think today we confronted that. It's a very proud day for baseball."

Members of Congress have accused baseball of failing to crack down on illegal drugs, and last March some of the biggest names in the sport were called to testify before the U.S. House of Representatives Government Reform Committee.

Committee Chairman Tom Davis, a Virginia Republican, said it was "gratifying" to see the deal reached after months of often-contentious talks.

"I am a baseball fan, I always have been. There's been a cloud over the game I love," he said.

"Because of our oversight, and because we've helped elevate public concern about this public health crisis, there's now a glimpse of sunlight."

The new deal calls for a suspension of 60-80 games for a first offense of steroid possession, 120 games to one year for a



Sen. Jim Bunning (R-KY), wearing his Baseball Hall of Fame ring, talks about progress made by the Major League Baseball in dealing with steroids in at the Capitol in Washington November 15. REUTERS

second offense, and a lifetime ban for a third.

Baseball officials said the agreement is to take effect before spring training next year.

"This agreement reaffirms that Major League players are committed to the elimination of performance-enhancing substances and that the system of collective bargaining is responsive and effective in dealing with issues of this type," said Players Association Executive Director Donald Fehr.

Tarnished stars

Baseball's image has been tarnished amid revelations of steroid use by some notable stars and younger players.

Sluggish Rafael Palmeiro, who has collected over 3,000 hits and is approaching 600 home runs during his career, this year became the highest-profile player to test positive for steroids. The Baltimore Orioles first baseman was booed mercilessly at home and on the road and was told by the team after the season he would no longer be a part of it.

A dark cloud of suspicion over steroid use also hovers over superstar Barry Bonds.

Sen. Jim Bunning, a Kentucky Republican and a member of baseball's Hall of Fame, said the accord was announced just hours before the Senate was expected to pass a bill he introduced to crack down on performance-enhancing drugs in professional baseball, football, basketball and hockey.

"I hope now that the other sports leagues take note of baseball's lead and toughen up their own penalties, too," Bunning said.

"But what matters now is whether the agreement is followed as it has been outlined to me, other members of Congress and the public," said Bunning.

The agreement also calls for new testing procedures and penalties for amphetamines, although those sanctions are less severe than those for steroids.

Selig said he met with team doctors and team trainers and was "startled" at their concern over players' use of amphetamines.

"We all know that amphetamines have been around a long time," he said. "It was a very crucial part of the program. I don't think we would have solved this problem if we ignored amphetamines."

(Additional reporting by Tom Ferraro)

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Roll with the punches
- 6 Norwegian monarch
- 10 Starlet's dream
- 14 More in line with reality
- 15 Age blue jeans
- 16 He was terrible
- 17 Half of an ice cream flavor
- 18 End weakly
- 20 Kingsley novel "Two Years"
- 21 Argued for or against
- 23 One way to be wanted
- 24 Covered with hair
- 26 Shiver from fear
- 28 Storklike waders
- 30 Locomotive sounds
- 31 Come to naught
- 33 Ignored a sign at the zoo?
- 36 Floating ice sheet
- 37 Barley bristle
- 38 Woody's boy
- 39 Up to now
- 40 Quit operating permanently
- 44 Sherlock's street
- 45 Small whirlpools
- 46 Defendant (with

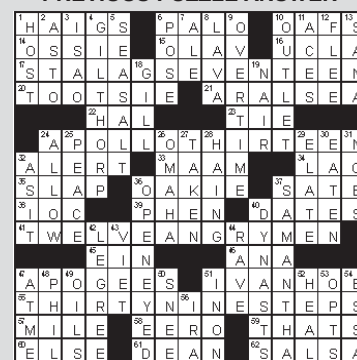
DOWN

- 1 "A Bug's Life" princess
- 2 Regulated item
- 3 Use it to fly with no hands
- 4 Most preferred
- 5 One with instant siblings
- 6 Subject of strike talks
- 7 "... best- plans ..."
- 8 Curved wood dresser
- 9 Cap that originated in Morocco
- 10 Handles liners
- 11 Have nothing to do with
- 12 Moderate purple
- 13 Put in, as into a

log

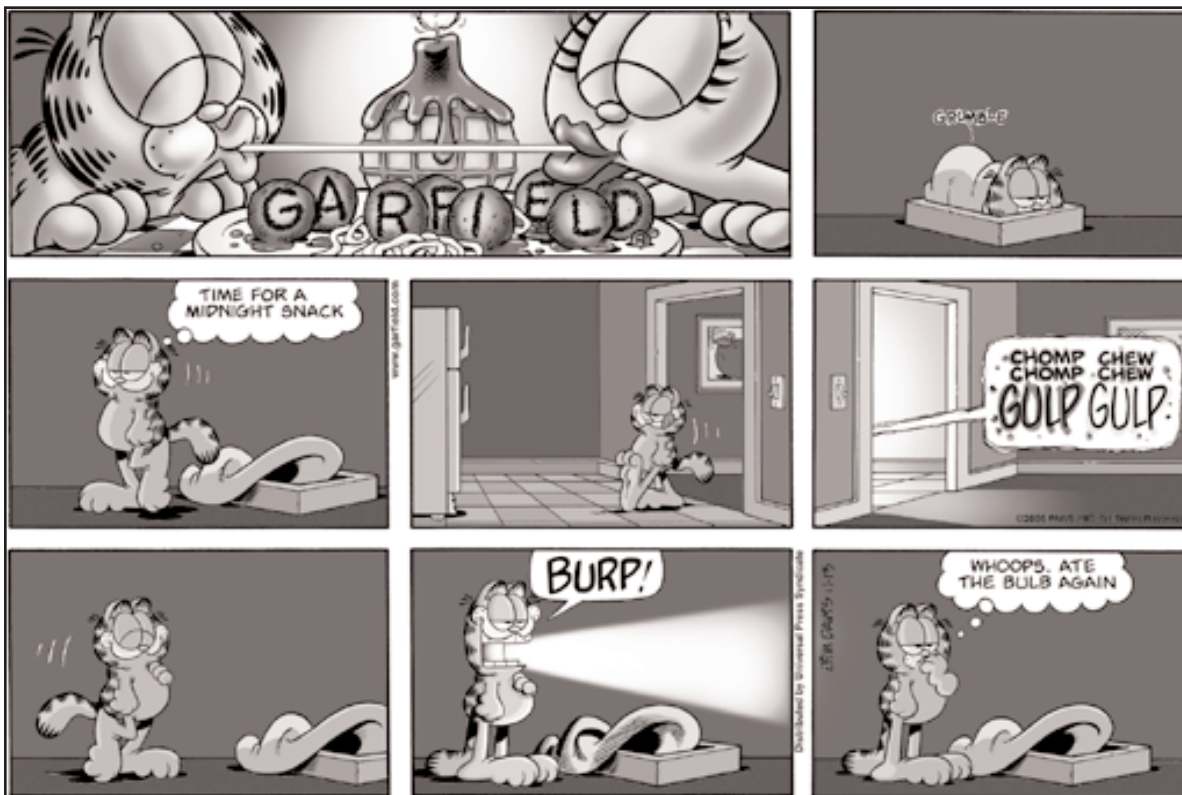
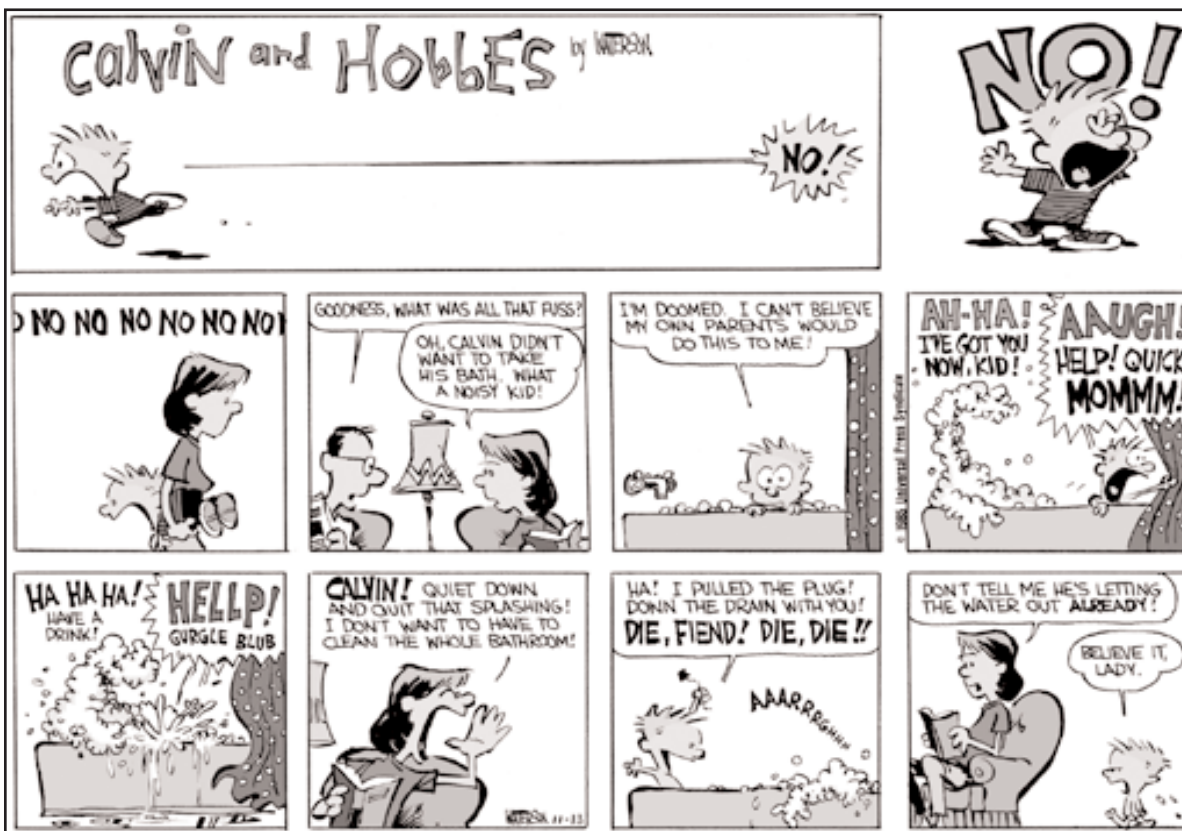
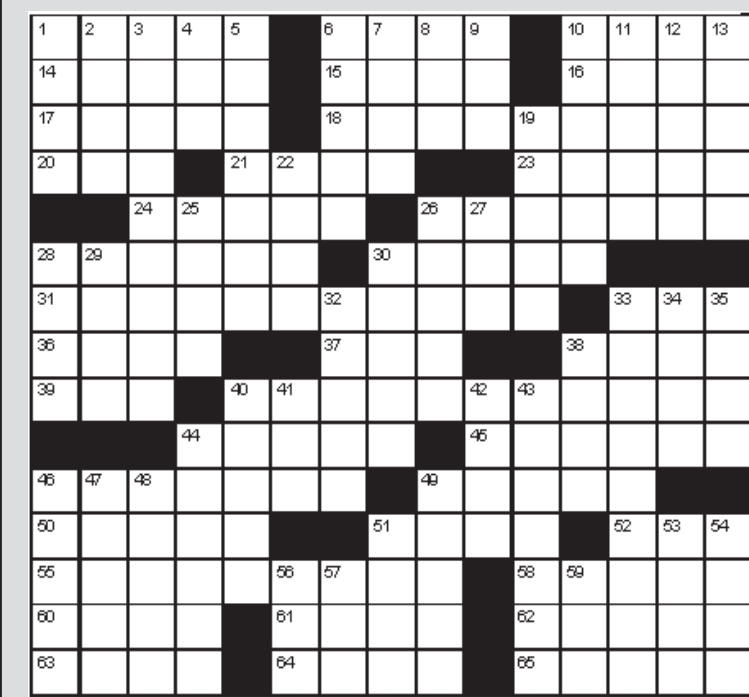
- 19 Gag reflex?
- 22 Mascara milieu
- 25 Skye, for one
- 26 Railroad switch
- 27 Warm squeeze
- 28 Uncertain
- 29 Hay measure
- 30 Shrink in fear
- 32 Designated PG-13, perhaps
- 33 Flying foxes, e.g.
- 34 "What ____ can I say?"
- 35 These can be connected
- 38 Tallies
- 40 Operatic voice
- 41 Mamie's man
- 42 Make sound
- 43 Newspaper issue
- 44 Make a mess of
- 46 Years painfully
- 47 Baked potato garnish
- 48 "You Couldn't Be ____" (Kern song)
- 49 John Lennon
- 51 Sacrum or parietal
- 53 Double-curved molding
- 54 Hankerings
- 56 Brief fight stopper
- 57 Zenith
- 59 Cultural Revolution leader

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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Al-MAHRA: A history narrates itself



COMPILED BY:
YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
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It is 522km away from Mukallah and 1400km to the east Sana'a; linked by the Marib-Shabwa-Mukallah Road. It is situated in the eastern part of Yemen on the Arabian Sea, extending eastwards as far as the international borders with Oman, to the north as far as Al-Ruba Al-Khali Desert (Empty Quarter) and to the west to the Massela valley in Hadhramout. Al-Ghai'dha is the provincial capital city of Al-Mahra.

Topographically, Al-Mahra consists of mountainous region, representing an extension of Oman and Hadhramout Mountains of 400-1000m in elevation above sea level, and valleys, some of which stretch northwards to the Empty Quarter.

The western valleys join Wadi Al-Massela extending to Saihout. Some of the valleys are perennial springs; Al-Mahra also includes spacious areas of fertile arable lands.

It is believed that Al-Mahra is one of the most important natural habitats of the frankincense tree in east Hadhramout, which was used to be of

great importance in the old world. The trading camel caravans were carrying that commodity from Mahra across Hadhramout valley as far as Shabwa and then on the Frankincense famous road as far as Gaza on the Mediterranean.

Al-Mahra was used to have a prominent role in the history of ancient Yemen and was referred to in different inscriptions. During its contemporary history, the Sultans of Al-Toghr Bin Afran ruled it for some periods.

Most of the population of Al-Mahra are engaged in agriculture, cattle raising and fishing as its rich water of the Arabian Sea provides high potential in the domain of fishing. Al-Mahra is famous for its rock lobster and shrimps, which are exported through the port of Nashtoon.

There are many beautiful beaches, stretching from Saihout in the west to Hauf in the east, offering great service to tourists.

The people of Al-Mahra have maintained their Arab traditions and customs that have not been affected by external influences. They speak, in addition to Arabic, a local unwritten language called Mahri, which has its roots in the ancient language of south Arabia.

History of Colonies in AL-Mahra

The history of colonialism of Al-Mahra areas dates back to very old times; many of its colonies dates back to the B.C. periods such as:

- Old Stone Age colonies: this kind of colonies was found in AL-Gaza valley that extends to the Arabian Sea to the west of Al-Ghai'dha.

Some of stone tools, which related to Ashwalean civilization, were found in those settlements as far as some sites that date back to 150.000 years B.C. were also found in the Kasheen and nearer to the Arab Gulf Shores.

- Modern Stone Age colonies: most of its sites were found in the northern desert of Thamoud, Sanaw, and Habroot zone. These sites date back to 2500-6000 years B.C.

In addition, there are many colonies from the Bronze Age, which were found in different sites that some of stony patterns are spread over there. The most important site of which; an area near to the Al-Ghai'dha city.

However, a number of settlements from the Iron Age historical period, and Islamic period are extend in lots of sites in Al-Mahra governorate.

Some Historical Mahri Towns

AL-Mahra has so many historical and tourist places and towns, which every one of them has special

astonishing natural features that attract numerous tourists from everywhere to see the greatness of God and the beauty of nature. Among them are Hauf, Al-Ghai'dha, Habroot, Kasheen, Mana'ar, and Zaboot.



Hauf

Hauf is one of the most beautiful provinces in AL-Mahra and in Yemen, as a whole; the Almighty God gave it a very wonderful nature. It is an engrafted mixture with a magic natural soil of green agriculture, water, trees, birds, and animals.

Hauf has complete natural features that show the sea and dense forests. It is really the most beautiful province in the east of Yemen.

Kasheen

Kasheen city was the first capital of AL-Mahra and Socotra; is very famous, old and highbred. This town is an agricultural area, and an archeological place with a very ancient history and that seems very clear through the existence of the vestigial settlements on its land.

Damqut

It is the oldest zone in AL-Hauf

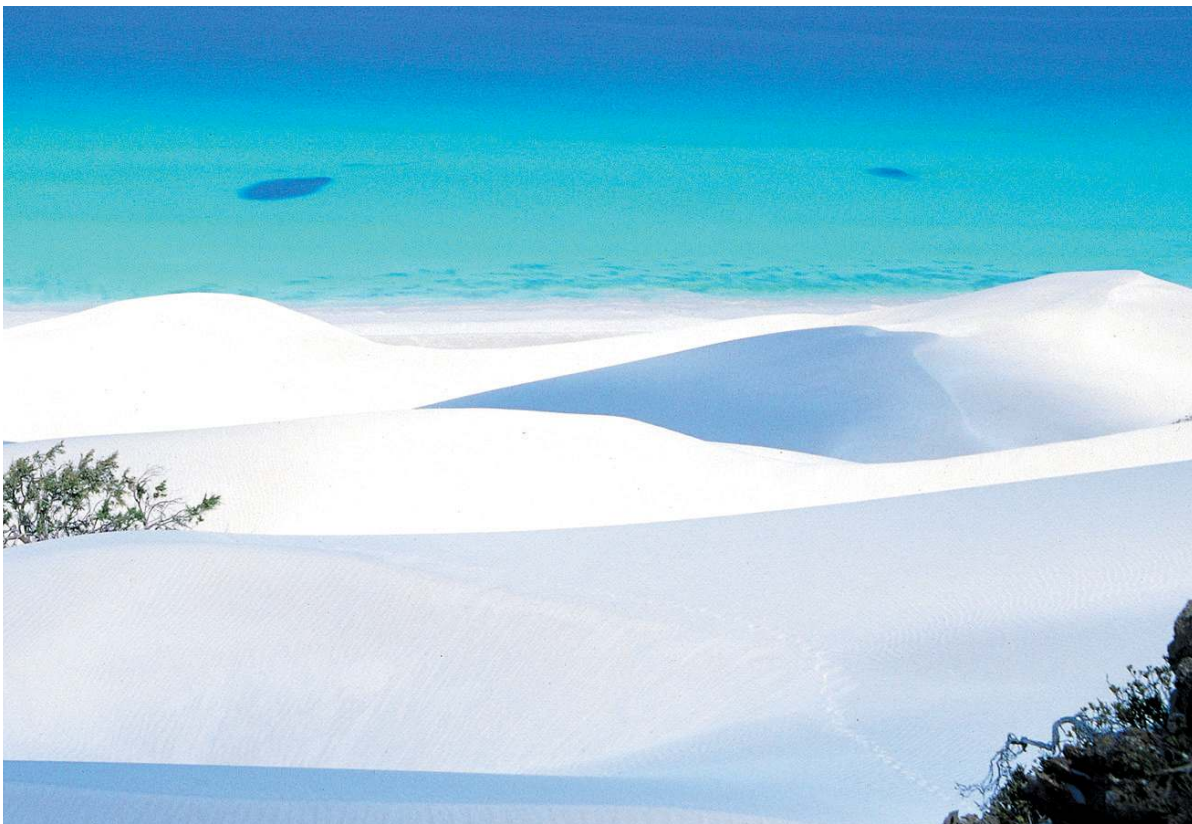
province; passes through two historical periods, the Pre-Islam and Islamic one. It is approximately 94km to the east of Al-Ghai'dha and located between two mountains that lie at the entrance of the Seek valley.

Damqut has a mountain range that contains some of the Sabaen engravings and its land is full of the frankincense trees.

The Mountains in Al-Mahra Governorate

There is a mountainous plateau in Al-Mahra governorate as extension of Oman and Hadhramout mountain chains heights are between 400-1000m above sea level.

Some of these mountains have a number of caves and grottos, which were used for keeping food and quarry in the past ages; others, like Mararah Mountain, have a number of hot springs.



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