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Clashes between Yemeni police and Somalis

Somali refugees in Yemen are living in bad conditions, their demands are not fulfilled and their voice is not heard. Recently, they have staged a sit-in outside commissioner for refugees in Sana'a, requesting a durable solution to their plight. As police tried to disperse refugees, clashes erupted when the refugees decided to stay and defend themselves, leaving unforgettable bloody scene



Some of the refugees assembling outside the UNHCR.

PHOTO BY ABDULALIM AL-SHAR'ABI

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, Dec. 17— Four Somali refugees and one child were killed during clashes on Saturday with Yemeni security forces that rushed to break up a sit-in outside the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the capital Sana'a. Five others were also hurt, one of them died in the hospital. Police detained 25 others.

Four policemen were badly injured while trying to disperse the refugees. Anti-riot police also moved in to control groups of refugees who attacked officers. Police forces first used water

hoses and sticks to break up the sit-in, and then they resorted to using arms. A source in the Ministry of Interior stated that the clashes took place outside the UNHCR in Sana'a between Somali refugees assembling there and security forces that tried to disperse them at the request of the UNHCR.

The source stated that groups of Somali refugees have conducted a sit-in outside the UNHCR Sana'a office for more than a month. They repeatedly attacked and prevented the employees from working. They asked for settlement in a third country, namely the United States. Consequently, the UNHCR closed its Sana'a office.

Continued on page 3

The invisible ones, now on focus

By: Amel al-Ariqi

As the world presses ahead with the strategies, initiatives and financing needed to realize the vision of the Millennium Declaration, it must not allow the children most in need of care and protection – the excluded and the invisible – to be forgotten. This was the main theme of the 2006 program launched by UNICEF around the world. With the launching of the annual "State of the World's Children Report 2006" (SOWCR 2006) in Taj Sheba yesterday the issue of invisible and excluded children was highlighted. This event was conducted under the patronage of Minister of Human Rights Ms. Amat Alaleem Alsoswa and attended a large audience of media people, children's parliament and activists. Ms. Flavia Pansieri Country UN representative attended the opening remarks as well.

"This is a very important issue that



The national launch of "State of the World's Children Report 2006".

concerns everyone especially the journalists, this is why we wanted to make it a media launch. There is a change from the five regular themes UNICEF

usually works on which are HIV/AIDS, girls' education, nutrition, child labor and early childhood development, to including one more critical issue. This time the report highlights

the millions of children who have not been the beneficiaries of past gains, the ones who are excluded or invisible." Naseem-Ur-Rehman, Chief Communication & Information explained in the welcome address.

The report is a sweeping assessment of the world's most vulnerable children, whose rights to a safe and healthy childhood are exceptionally difficult to protect. These children are growing up beyond the reach of development campaigns and are often invisible in everything from public debate and legislation, to statistics and news stories. Without focused attention, millions of children will remain trapped and forgotten in childhoods of neglect and abuse, with devastating consequences for their long-term well-being and the development of nations. The report argues that any society with an interest in the welfare of its children and its own future must not allow this to happen.

Continued on page 3

PGC seventh assembly concludes, insists on Saleh

The seventh general assembly of the PGC wrapped up, clinging to Saleh's nomination. The president demands an extraordinary party conference to announce their candidate.

By: Ridwan Al-Saqqaf

ADEN, Dec. 18 – The People's General Conference Party concluded its seventh general assembly December 17. 5,200 delegates attended the assembly, 800 of who were women, announcing their final statement and recommendations.

President Saleh, head of the ruling party, presided over the sessions, including the final one. The president addressed the final session, congratulating the Yemeni nation on the conference's success. He assured improved Yemeni living standards as the core issue of the PGC agenda. He called on the PGC to be tolerant and abide by the law and the constitution regarding peaceful exchange of power. He advised party members to shun intrigues and observe elections as a means of obtaining presidential, parliamentary or local posts. He assured that if a candidate proved to be competent for power, the PGC wouldn't hesitate handing it over to the ruling party.

Continued on page 3

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In Yemen

Washington Post publishes series on Yemen

In cooperation with the National Democratic Institute of the United States, the Washington Post is publishing a series on Yemen entitled, "Exporting Democracy." The three articles are entitled, "A call from the sheikhs," "A Place called Al-Jawf," and "The President's concerns."

Part one of the series is high quality and reflects a positive story about Yemen and its example of democratic development in the region. It also praises the United States' role in the Yemeni democratic process, providing a much-needed public relations boost for American foreign policy in the Middle East.

Author David Finkel, a renowned staff writer for the Post, has investigated key stories such as the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, the war on Iraq and now, U.S. ideals and Yemeni reality. His unique writing style is highly appealing and involves readers in the story, a skill profoundly exhibited in this series, which is available at the Washington Post's website, accompanied by photographs and video.

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Seminar on promoting school health

SANA'A, Dec. 17 – The meeting on the Regional Consultation on Health Promoting Schools in the Eastern Mediterranean Region concluded its meeting in Sana'a last Wednesday. Regional experts on health and education took part in the seminar, in addition to regional and international participants. The seminar confirmed the importance of cooperation, coordination and partnership of the parties interested in promoting school health, assuring the necessity for involving establishments, individuals and different civil society organization in order to build the national network for school health, and thereafter pursue launching the regional network on school health. The participants also confirmed the developing partnerships between the health and educational sectors in the region; they concentrated on providing necessary human, technical and material sources.

School health promotion plans were first established in Europe at the beginning of the eighties, particularly in Britain where there was a consideration of organizations with the involvement of schools in planning and execution of health activities. The great success of the project in Britain stimulated other European countries



to join; 27 countries joined the network by the early nineties where it used to be called the European network for Promoting school health.

In the Arab World

The European success example was met with admiration in the Arab world, especially in The Gulf region, where it was implemented in selected schools in gulf countries. Other countries that started implementing this project were Jordan, Tunisia, Algiers and Lebanon.

Many organizations are supporting

this project. Among these are the World Health Organization (WHO), UNESCO, European Union and other organizations. UNESCO is making an annual contest called "school health promoting contest."

In Yemen

The project started in Yemen with a fund from the WHO in ten schools. They are distributed in the five governorates of the secretariat, Ibb, Taiz, Aden and Al-Mahwait. In the future, the project will be expanded to involve other schools.

Primakov: Russia enhances economic ties with Yemen

SANA'A, Dec.17—Mr. Yevgeny Primakov, Chairman of the Industry and Trade Chambers Union in Russia, described his visit to Yemen as successful since it led to signing two agreements for the establishment of Businessmen Council in both countries, as well as enhancing cooperation between industry and trade chambers in Russia and Yemen.

In a press conference held last Thursday, Mr. Primakov pointed out that during his meeting with officials from Yemeni government, the General Union of Industry and Trade Chambers (GUITC) and President of the Republic, they discussed means of strengthening trade exchange between the two brotherly countries.

Primakov and the Yemeni officials also discussed the prospect of establishing joint ventures investments between Yemen and Russia, indicating that the Russian businessmen are paying increased attention to the Aden Free Zone and there are plans for cooperation and investment particularly in the fields of energy, water ditches and dams, and also supplying Yemen with heavy and light equipment for infrastructural and business projects.

The Russian official mentioned that an agreement was reached with the Yemeni GUITC for exchanging lists of offers on investments available in both countries. He also praised the role of the Russian-Arab Businessmen Council in consolidating and improving trade ties between the Arab countries and Russia since it was established.

Primakov said that his visit to Yemen was a success, and its fruit is the establishment of a Russian-Yemeni businessmen council, which will work on enhancing cooperation between businessmen in Yemen and Russia and facilitate trade exchange. "My visit is successful and serves joint economic cooperation", Primakov exclaimed.

With respect to his assessment of the Yemeni-Russian economic ties, Primakov said: "Yemen and Russia enjoy old and historic ties, particularly in the economic areas, and these ties experience continuing growth and remarkable improvement. There are Yemeni businessmen who visit Russia, and vice versa, such contact is one of the positive aspects that work on the formation of economic ties and trade exchange between both countries."

When asked by the Yemen Times about the role he played with the former



Primakov

Iraqi regime prior to the Anglo-Saxon invasion of Iraq, Primakov replied: "three months prior to the US military operations in Iraq, I went to the U.S. and met with the U.S. Vice President Cheney and Ms. Condoleezza Rice. We held discussions with the aim to stop the U.S.-led war against Iraq, but from those discussions I understand that an earlier decision has been taken by the U.S. to start the military operations in Iraq, Russia, some European countries and China exerted extensive efforts to convince the U.S.A. not to attack Iraq but all the attempts have gone in awry," he said.

"Just few weeks before the U.S. attack on Iraq, Russia expended high efforts to persuade the U.S. to stop its war against Iraq, and that a letter was sent from the Russian President Vladimir Putin to Saddam Hussein to persuade him resign from his post as the President of Iraq and allow the Iraqi Parliament to elect a new president for Iraq. Sorrowfully, Saddam did not respond and my task came to an end with achieving any success."

Regarding his historic interests in the Arab region, Primakov said he authored three books about the biography of Jamal Abdunnasser, July Revolution and the effects of September 11 events on the Arab region. He said he also has a new book, which is under press.

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:

Do you think the UNHCR office in Sana'a would respond positively to demands of Somali refugees staging a sit-in outside UNHCR office for more than a month?

Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think that the victims, whose dead bodies were found recently in Aden, date back to the 1986 civil war or the 1994 civil war?

1986	42%
1994	36%
I don't know	22%

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

Yevgeny Primakov has been famous for being the biggest friend of Arabs in Russia and a remarkable political personality in both regions. For two years, he was as the President of the former Soviet Union's Supreme Council, and later on became a member in the Presidential Council, as well as a member in the Nationalist Security Council. Prior to his appointment as the Russian Foreign Minister, he was appointed the manager of foreign intelligence organization.

In the reign of President Yalstin, Primakov occupied the post of Prime Minister, and prior to that he was one of the prominent journalists renowned for their interest in the Arab issues.

Currently, Primakov holds the post of an Advisor to the Russian President for Trade and Economic Affairs, Chairman of Moscow's Trade and Industry Chamber, as well as the Chairman of the Arab-Russian Businessmen Council.

WB approves \$ 25 million credit to develop fisheries

SANA'A, Dec. 15—The World Bank (WB) approved last Friday a US\$25 million loan to the Government of Yemen in order to improve fisheries and marine wealth management and conservation in Yemen, which is the second most important source of export revenues for Yemen amounting to US\$210 million in 2004.

The fisheries and marine wealth have become a major source of employment and income for some of the poorest population in Yemen who currently inhabit the coastal rural areas. Therefore, the sustainable development of the fisheries sector is playing an important role in Yemen's poverty reduction strategy: "The project will have a wide ranging beneficial impact in Yemen and will allow artisan fishermen to derive increased incomes through better fish handling, quality and marketing. The improved quality of fish will also promote local health safety

and allow Yemen to sustain its fresh fish exports" commented Mr. Trayambkeshwar Sinha, Project Task Team Leader.

To manage fisheries resources in a sustainable manner, Yemen needs sophisticated planning information and research, and clear fisheries management plans for effective fishing monitoring, control, surveillance. In addition, infrastructure and institutional capacity needs to be strengthened to foster the growth of a modern fisheries sector capable of producing and regularly supplying good quality fish to foreign and local markets.

In response to these challenges, the Government of Yemen is working in partnership with donors and the WB in implementing the Fisheries Sector Development Strategy which focuses on improving fisheries sector management and infrastructure.

In its first year, the Fisheries

Management and Conservation Project will be launched in all coastal Governorates along the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden coast. The project will improve support to artisan fishermen through improved fish landing and auction facilities. Ice plants for improved fish preservation will also be provided. The project will also help the Ministry of Fisheries undertake more effective fisheries research, resource management planning, and fish landing regulation activities for sustainable management and conservation of fisheries resources.

"The improved management of fisheries sector will allow Yemen to sustain and conserve its rich fisheries resource for the benefit of its future generations" Sinha added.

The Credit for the Fisheries Resource Management and Conservation Project has a maturity of 40 years, including a 10-year grace period.

Arab-European Dialogue participants:

Media creates gap between civilizations

ADEN, Dec.17—When the media covers events, it indirectly depicts, whether intentionally or unintentionally, a particular image of others to its audience. Therefore, media plays a critical role in any civilized dialogue. This was the central idea stressed in a December 13-14 seminar in Aden entitled, "Media Role in Arab-European Dialogue," organized by the German Embassy and the Sana'a office of the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES).

Participants, all Yemeni and German media experts and intellectuals, discussed media's responsibility in understanding and misunderstanding others. Main topics included depicting the European image in Arab media and the Arab image in European media, covering events from their perspectives and creating realistic images of each other. Aden Governor, Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi, opened the seminar saying that holding this seminar in Aden was significant, as Aden is home to the oldest radio station and the oldest newspaper in the Arabian Peninsula.

According to participants, there is a western media stereotype of Arabs that does not reflect the reality of the Arab world. Sammer Abu Al-Fooh, reporter for Die Welt in Cairo, said western media tends to generalize facts and as a result, many Europeans form a particular image and perception of the Arab world. This perception is not always real, as the Arab world is regionally, politically and culturally diverse. She added that when western media handles subjects like women's rights, Islam and terrorism, most Arabs do not welcome such coverage as it reflects a general view of a particular community, giving the impression that the whole Arab world is undergoing the same problems. She referred to an incident in Alexandria, in which a Muslim group demonstrated against a play they claimed was anti-Islamic. Muslim and Christian groups clashed during demonstrations. Western media coverage of the event gave the impression that all



Side of the participants of the "Media role in Arab-European Dialogue" seminar

Muslims were attacking Christians.

However, Al-Fooh affirmed that many western media are distinguished for their neutrality. She insisted she has never been asked to cover an event in a particular way. Referring to some foreign media's neutrality, she said many Arabs prefer to follow news (particularly war or disaster news) from foreign media, especially those using Arabic language.

A reporter for Der Spiegel in Cairo admitted there is insufficient coverage of the Arab world in western media. He linked such insufficiency to difficulties reporters face, which prevent them from conveying the whole truth.

Lack of sources in providing information, depending on official media under governmental monitoring, ignorance of Arabic language, lack of knowledge of Arabic life, culture and history and inability to get visas are some difficulties that face foreign reporters in the Arab world, forcing them to make narrow general coverage.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqi, master of political science at the University of Sana'a, said the Arab man has been depicted in European books, stories, movies and curriculum as a "narrow-minded, undeveloped, barbarian, lustful, lazy, rich man." There are many historical and political factors, such as European occupation of the Arab world and the Arab-Israeli conflict, that lead to this stereotype of the Arab man in the European's mind. Al-Faqi accused

European media of racism, as it portrays the Arab man stereotype as a "terrorist, illegal immigrant, killer, kidnapper and unemployed". That is, Arabs or Muslims are considered a threat to the western community. According to Al-Faqi, this attitude toward Arabs dramatically increased after the September 11, 2001 attacks, intensifying immediately after the Madrid and London bombings. Abdulwahab Al-Ansi agrees with Al-Faqi, adding that European media promotes such stereotypes because it is under Zionist control. Dr. Wadiya Al-Azazi, lecturer in the College of Information, said that many European mass media outlets are owned by Zionist lobbies which share in forming the negative image of Arabs in Europe.

However, Khaled Abdullah Al-Mahdi, reporter for DBA in Yemen, disagrees with this opinion. "The bias of western media against Arabs can be unintentional. Mass media in the west tend to cover exciting events and affairs, so they tend to deal with women's issues, violence, human rights, absence of democracy and corruption in Arab regions," he said. Al-Mahdi said western mass media constantly focus on problems in the Arab world that block development and this is what distorts the Arab image in the west.

Saeed Thabet, reporter for Al-Quds Press, revealed that the European image in the Arab's mind also is not good. Europeans are characterized as greedy,

violent, racist and having no values. According to Thabet, this stereotype is a result of inherited fear of Europe, which previously occupied the Arab world. This stereotype also has been promoted by western entertainment (TV, movies, internet), which unintentionally markets such images.

Despite the positive attitude of many European countries such as France and Germany toward the war against Iraq, many Arabs cannot ignore European attitudes toward the Palestinian cause, women and the hijab and immigration. These issues cannot erase the European stereotype in the Arab mind and this reflects in Arab media coverage, which continues enhancing such images. However, Thabet also referred to the attraction and impression Arabs feel toward European development saying, "Arab feelings toward Europe are a mixture of fear and attraction."

Hamud Munser, reporter for the Arabia Channel and French Press Agency (AFP), compared western and Arab media noting, "There is a huge gap between the two."

According to Munser, most Arab mass media are controlled by their governments. Journalists cannot reach sources to get information. They face accusations of treason and cannot protect themselves from measures against them. Munser said most Yemeni journalists lack proper writing skills. "Most of them write their own opinions in news items," he said, whereas western mass media, although mostly owned by investment companies, has great technical means that enable them to affect the audience.

Jurgen Bachmann, head of the German Information Center in Cairo, and Larissa Bender, deputy editor-in-chief of Qantara website, reviewed their efforts to build dialogue between the Arab and European worlds.

At the end of the seminar, participants agreed that dialogue is a good means to reflect reality and build positive relationship with others.



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Continued from page 1

Clashes between Yemeni police and Somalis

The source added that a delegation of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva visited Sana'a and tried to negotiate with the assembled refugees. However, the refugees rejected to negotiate with them, demanding their deportation either to the USA or Canada, a demand the UNHCR and government cannot fulfill.

Due to their recurrent insistence to be deported and stubborn stance not to negotiate, the UNHCR office asked the Yemeni authorities to disperse the refugees or the office would close. Accordingly, security authorities decided to break up the assembling refugees after attacking police forces.

For more than a month, about 500 refugees, along with their families, have been expressing their demands for improving their current legal, economic and social living conditions, as well as, their forsaken human rights. They complain that they have been badly treated and still they have not received their financial allocations. Some of them reported to the Yemen Times that "with the help of police officers, some Yemeni nationals who look like Somalis managed to get aids from the commissioner for refugees in Yemen, while real Somali refugees have not received any aid." Amab Hussein, a mother with four children,

said to the Yemen Times that her children are starving and may die of frost. Others say officials in the commission office never listen to the refugees' demands.

On the other hand, the UNHCR office in Sana'a refused on Saturday to allow the Yemen Times reporter to meet officials in the office to ask them about the reasons behind the sit-in. Yemen Times reporter Adel Al-Haddad was arrested for one hour by security forces while covering the clash between the police and the Somali refugees. Police forcibly snatched his digital camera and deleted pictures illustrating the clashes between police-

men and Somalis.

During the 1991 Somali Civil War, many Somalis fled to neighboring countries like Yemen. Here, Somalis live in refugee camps, cities and villages begging with their children who, as a result, are uneducated. They survive by begging, washing cars, shoe shiners, porters and becoming housemaids and prostitutes. Their earnings from these menial jobs pay mostly for food and house rent. There are approximately 50,000 registered Somali refugees in Yemen, while officials here in Yemen estimate the number of refugees and illegal immigrants to be around 70,000.

PGC seventh assembly concludes, insists on Saleh

The president confirmed that he will carry out all the conference's recommendations, which were as follows:

The conference reviewed national commitment to a democratic future, realized in presidential and local elections next September. Due to the importance of these elections in deeply rooting the democratic process in Yemen, the conference requests the president to go back on his decision not to run in these elections.

The conference insists that responsibility necessitates the president to lead the nation in this decisive trend in Yemeni history. He is apt to lead the institutions of law, order and the democratic process.

The seventh assembly directs the PGC Permanent Committee to consider the following:

1- The president's endeavor to express the goals of the Yemeni September and October revolutions achieving the unity, which became a basis for democracy.

2- The PGC Permanent Committee is to bear in mind the president's refined leadership qualities, which enable him to have a deep vision that makes him unbiased when facing corruption.

3- The president's efforts exerted in fighting backwardness and his interaction with all Yemeni people.

The conference reviewed continuing

financial, judicial and human rights reforms and empowerment of women. The conference recommended the expansion of legislative power by reconsidering the structure of the Consultative Council. It also recommends developing the electoral system to guarantee general, presidential and local elections. It also recognizes the role of civil society organizations as well as political parties and organizations.

The assembly praises the success of local councils in enlarging public participation and achieving decentralization. They pledge to develop it by inserting necessary amendments for it to become law. This will be realized by giving them the right to prepare their budgets and execute their development plans.

The assembly confirms the continued fight against financial and administrative corruption. It recommended promoting the principal of clean leadership and transparency in all administrative processes. It recommended forming an independent national authority for fighting corruption and issuing a corruption law, protecting public property and activating the law indicting corrupt personalities.

The tender law should be amended to appoint an independent board to make the state's purchases.

In judiciary reform, the strategy to

develop and modernize the judiciary is to be carried out to achieve the following:

- Amend judiciary law to promote judiciary independence.
- Promote judiciary inspection by merging inspection authorities in the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney.
- Empower trade courts.
- Prepare a training program for judges.
- Form a professional judiciary council for judiciary affairs.
- Form specialized administrative courts.
- Issue administrative regulations to simplify procedures.
- Issue procedural and administrative regulations.
- Form an official mechanism to communicating the court's skills to the public.
- Use computers in the courts.

Regarding the issue of human rights, the assembly confirmed the promotion of its partnership with the civil societies and human rights organization working in Yemen. It confirms the improvement of education curriculum and textbooks contents. The PGC confirms the freedom of expression, publication, distribution and freedom of ownership and guarantees these liberties and their protection according to the constitution.

Regarding women's development, it

set policies to develop women's participation in the representative bodies and allocate 15 percent of seats for women. Women are to be given an opportunity to occupy ministerial, diplomatic and key posts and also should be represented on the election committee. Laws should continually be revised to remove all negative forms of discrimination and violence against woman. Establishments enabling women to develop their skills should also be promoted.

The invisible ones, now on focus

UNICEF representative Dr. Ramesh Shrestha presented the overview of the SOWCR 2006. The report is available online at the UNICEF website and will be reported in details in the Yemen Times next issue. In her keynote Ms. Amat Alaleem Alsoswa, Minister of Human Rights, explained that the children are half of the present and all the future and it hurts to see the current conditions they are going through in Yemen, especially with the available resources. She urged all present to come together and promote this cause emphasizing on the role of media. Speaking about media Ms. Nadia al-Sakkaf Editor in Chief of the Yemen Times mentioned in her talk that media's role is to throw light on the dark places of our society and children are part of our society. She stressed that there is no excuse for ignoring this issue any further, by the media or others. The challenges and response for invisible and exploited children were highlighted by Dr. Nafisa Al-Jaifi, Head of Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood and then followed by remarks by Mr. Hussain Basaleem, Deputy Minister Information. Concluding was the keynote about the children's perspective on "Invisible and Exploited Children" by Ms. Shima, Children Parliament Representative.

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LE III [E] ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. MILITARY LIAISON SECTION BRITISH EMBASSY SANA'A

The British Embassy is recruiting an Administrative Assistant /personal Assistant to work with the Military Liaison officer. An expatriate British Citizen who has recently left the United Kingdom would be preferable, although other nationalities who have recently resided in the United Kingdom will be considered.

Duties will be:

Monitoring and accounting for project expenditure. Initiating and tracking official correspondence. Assisting in internal stockchecks and audits. Diarykeeping. Organization and facilitation of travel within and outside the Region. Other administrative tasks.

Essential skills / attributes:

Fluency written and spoken English. Strong numeracy skills. High Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel. Preparedness to occasionally work outside normal working hours. Ability to work in high pressured environment - a good sense of humour. Ability to self-drive in Sana'a.

Desireable skills / attributes:

Knowledge of Arabic. Knowledge of others software packages [e.g. Access].

إعلان عن تقديم عروض خاص بشركات النظافة

١. يعلن مكتب المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين بصنعاء، اليمن لشركات النظافة التقدم بعروض خاصة لتقديم خدمات النظافة لمبنى مكتب المفوضية الكائن في شارع رقم ٣٨، منزل رقم ٢، المتفرع من شارع الجزائر، صنعاء - اليمن.

٢. ينبغي أن تتضمن العروض/ العطاءات الآتي:

- قدرة الشركة المتقدمة على تقديم خدمات النظافة المناسبة لمبنى مكتب المفوضية ومعدات.
- أن تكون الخدمات المقدمة جيدة من الناحية النوعية.
- الإشارة بوضوح إلى المعدات التي سيتم استخدامها لأغراض النظافة.
- إتخاذ التدابير اللازمة بما يمكن الموظفين من تأدية مهامهم على نحو فعال.
- إتخاذ التدابير اللازمة أثناء تمتع الموظفين بأجازاتهم السنوية أو الإجازات المرضية.
- ضمان توفير الترتيبات المتعلقة بموظفي شركة النظافة في كل ما يتعلق بقوانين العمل المحلية.
- توفير العدد الكافي من عمال النظافة للقيام بعملهم على النحو المطلوب.
- ذكر الراتب الشهري لكل موظف في شركة النظافة وبحسب الدرجة التي يشغلها.
- ذكر الراتب السنوي لكل موظف.
- ذكر الاتعاب الإدارية.
- تدريب العاملين من حيث (المهارات والخبرات واللغات إلخ).
- الأضرار الناتجة بسبب الإهمال أو الاعمال الشريفة أو سوء السلوك.
- ذكر أسماء من يمكن الرجوع إليهم وقت الحاجة.
- ذكر المعلومات الضرورية الأخرى.

٣. معلومات خاصة بمقدمي العطاءات:

- أن يكون العرض سارياً المفعول للفترة من ١ يناير وحتى ٣١ ديسمبر ٢٠٠٦.
- سيتم السماح لكافة مقدمي العروض/ العطاءات بزيارة مبنى مكتب المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين وذلك أثناء ساعات الدوام الرسمية.
- يرجى الإتصال بمكتب المفوضية على هاتف رقم ٩٦٧١٤٦٩٧٧١/٢/٣.
- ضمان أن تقوم الشركة المتقدمة بتعيين اشخاص للعمل لدى مكتب المفوضية ويأمن مؤهلين، وصادقين ومن ذوي الأمانة وعملين.
- علماً بأن مكتب المفوضية سيوقع بطلب استبدالهم فوراً عند الحاجة.
- في ما يتعلق بساعات الدوام لدى مكتب المفوضية، فهي على النحو التالي:
- من يوم الأحد وحتى يوم الأربعاء: من الساعة ٠٨:٣٠ صباحاً وحتى الساعة ٠٤:٣٠ عصراً.
- يوم الخميس: من الساعة ٠٨:٣٠ صباحاً وحتى الساعة ٣ عصراً.
- على الشركات المتقدمة التأكد مسبقاً من أن العاملين الذين سيتم تعيينهم بأنهم مسجلين في صندوق الضمان الإجتماعي نسبة إلى أن مكتب المفوضية لن يكون مسؤولاً عن أي إصابة أو حادثة قد تقع أثناء تأدية عمال النظافة لمهامهم.
- يحتفظ مكتب المفوضية بحق قبول كامل أو جزء من العروض/ العطاءات المقدمة. كما أن أقل عرض/ عطاء، لن يكون ملزماً للمفوضية بقبوله إذا كان المكتب غير مقتنع بالعروض/ العطاء المقدم.
- آخر موعد لتلقي العروض/ العطاءات هو يوم ٢٠ ديسمبر ٢٠٠٥ في تمام الساعة الرابعة والنصف عصراً. ولن يقبل أي عرض/ عطاء يقدم بعد هذا التاريخ.

٤. طرق الدفع: سيتم دفع المبلغ المتفق عليه على أساس شهري وبحسب ما ينص عليه العقد المبرم بين الطرفين.

٥. تقديم العروض/ العطاءات:

يرجى إرسال العروض/ العطاءات في ظروف مختومة إلى العنوان التالي: العروض/ العطاءات الخاصة بخدمات النظافة.

مكتب المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين في اليمن.

شارع رقم ٣٨، منزل رقم ٢ المتفرع من شارع الجزائر، صنعاء - اليمن.

للحصول على معلومات إضافية، يرجى الإتصال بالسيد/ عبده جمعه هابيماننا ، الضابط الإداري.

٦. صلاحية العروض/ العطاءات المقدمة: ينبغي أن تكون العروض/ العطاءات المقدمة سارية المفعول حتى تاريخ ٣١ ديسمبر ٢٠٠٥ وهي الفترة التي سيتم إبرام العقد خلالها.

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نيوهوريزن اكبر مراكز تدريب كمبيوتر وتقنية معلومات في العالم

“We came to know from historical events that violence begets violence,” said Al-Houthi

Unfortunately, the Yemeni authorities have been entangled in the Houthi crisis since the middle of last year. Everyone is looking after his own benefits, regardless of the peoples' blood that is being shed.

Although they know very well that the planes, tanks, missiles and all destructive weapons which are being used, will not exterminate extremism, but furthermore, escalate it. Moreover, it could probably create an underground movement out of it. They also know that law and not violence is capable to re-establish social order again.

We wish that the authority will be credible enough to find a fair solution that takes the Houthi crisis from the confrontation to the law field and replace the bloodshed, death and destruction of property and public facilities to peace and justice. In an effort to resolve the problem, we contacted Yahia Badriddeen Al-Houthi brother of late Hussien Al-Houthi, founder of the (Believing Youth) who was killed by government forces last September. Yahia is an MP of the ruling party. Now he is living in Germany. He agreed to hold an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times. Now to the details:

Q1: What is your opinion of the conflicts that are going on in Saada between the authorities and the Believing Youth (Al-Shabab Al-Mum'en)?

A: The authorities' practice in Saada and other governorates are a violation to Sharia, constitution, international laws, charters, and conventions. It is against Humanitarian ethics. Many reliable sources and lawyers described it as genocide and a crime against humanity. Here is a study from an international lawyer:

Yemeni authorities had violated the basic rights of the Houthi groups. It is considered by the international community to be serious violations. The crimes are categorized as follows: genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture and terror crimes.

According to these criteria, the actions committed against the Houthies are considered to be a genocide, this is according to articles that are contained in convention of 1948, of the genocide combat and their punishments, especially articles (b) and (c), which describe genocide as all actions that are meant for destroying totally or partially an ethnic or religious group.

The eviction, exile or displacement are considered genocide if they aim at total or partial destruction, for a human group. The Cairo declaration of April 1992 confirms that eviction and displacement are genocide crimes. In short, all that happened in Saada, according to international agreements and conventions, in addition to specialized court martial is a crime against humanity, committed against the Houthis.

Q2: Why, in your opinion, did the government choose this time in particular to resume escalation of the crisis in Saada?

A: I have no clear idea of the motivation of the timing of the authorities for the offensive against Al-Khafji on 28 November 2005. The preparations for this offensive took place two weeks before it started. However, what I noticed is that it is synchronized with the Saddam's trial, which the media began broadcasting. I thought perhaps by starting this war,



Yahia Badriddeen Al-Houthi

they want to achieve two things: First, to turn away the attention from a trial of a tyrant whom they have stood to his side for a long time. This happened during his war with Iran and when he invaded Kuwait. In 1990, the

The authorities' practices in Saada are a violation to Sharia, constitution, international laws, charters, and conventions.

authorities mobilized the people to go to the streets in most Yemeni cities, demanding Saddam to attack the neighboring countries with chemical weapons. This was followed by the firing of the Saudis to the Yemeni workers who were misguided by their authorities to demonstrate in favor of Saddam inside Saudi Arabia. This happened while he was attacking Riyadh with missiles.

Secondly: This timing could be a cipher for the Yemenis in Iraq, with their fighting mates, to escalate their insurgency during the trial, so as to terrorize the judges, the witnesses and the investigators. This is aimed at preventing a death penalty and to deprive the Iraqi people of the enjoyment of this historical event. And by the way, many Arab countries are exerting efforts to undermine the process of change in Iraq so that it would not extend into their own countries. They do this even if it is on the expense of the stability and peace of the Iraqi people, if this could contribute to the continuity of their regimes. I noticed this at the Al-Quds conference in Sana'a, in which Some Iraqis praised the Yemenis fighting in Iraq. More over, they thanked them, to prompt them to volunteer and lead the same violent track in which their colleagues have killed hundreds of Iraqis in the streets, mosques and markets.

Q 3: In your view, what is behind the search for presumed terrorists?

A: If the authorities claim that they are looking for terrorists in Saada then this is untrue. It is an indication of the unrest of the government because of the terrorism issue. The terrorists are in Sana'a and not in Saada. They should first extradite those who are wanted by international courts and then look for other terrorists. If the authorities are

honest, why did they attack our people in the market places and villages? Why don't they give them photos, of those terrorists, and ask them for help? Surely, they would cooperate, to avoid the catastrophe that is incurred on them by those terrorists.

However, things are not as the government claims. It is only an escapist attempt to escape from its terror liabilities, to avoid handing over regional leaders. This explains why the war against

us, in Saada, is escalated by the time the president returned from America. He faced the demands for handing terrorists. He tries to create confrontations with others to convince the American administration, but the Americans know what is happening. They also know such games, which are like tat of the fox that ate the sheep and threw the bones beside the sleeping wolf to hold him accountable for stealing the sheep. I also do not think that they are ignorant of the fact that the Yemeni fighters in Iraq have a connection with the Yemeni authorities. They know that they have facilitated their travel to Iraq. The committee for dialogue that is headed by Hitar is one of his escapist devices. They were convinced by this

committee to go to Iraq.

I rightfully say that the authorities asked our followers to go to Iraq before and during the war. The pressure on them is due to their refusal to go there. I am ready to prove that in an appropriate time. If the authorities and the terrorists have any matters to settle with Americans in Iraq, our followers have nothing to do with that. The ones who have taken the American dollars should bear their responsibilities. As for the Afghani Arabs, they are under protection of the authorities. They are in the army, and they fought in Maran and some were killed there.

I believe that the Americans will not forgive its humiliation and the strikes against its people. They do not believe our authorities, but now they are playing with them the game of hide and seek. They will also not forgive those who send fighters to Iraq. Although most of the death toll is among Iraqi people, the Americans will not tolerate being defeated. The repentance attempts of visiting America will be fruitless because America knows that it is a preservative measure and it is not true as long as they did not hand over

I rightfully say that the authorities asked our followers to go to Iraq before and during the war.

The timing of the escalation in Saada could be a cipher for the Yemenis in Iraq, with their fighting mates, to escalate their insurgency during the trial of Saddam.

Q 4: Why are some lobby centers trying to undermine the presidents amnesty that he announced last September, what benefits will they gain?

A: Some of these lobbies are involved in terror. Others represent the environment that spawns terror. Those are the warlords, who benefit from war and the end of war means an end to their trade. It would have been a privilege if the President kept his word, on the resolution he announced on 25 September 2005. He would have saved his prestige among the international leaders. It was aired in all languages by all news agencies. It will be for the good of the Yemeni people, and all the wars that they

fought were only sources for damage, poverty and diseases.

Q5: What in your opinion is the way out of your crisis with the Authorities?

A: If the President was keen to resolve the Saada crisis, it would have been an easy matter, but as I said before, we will say what is true if our point of view is being asked.

Q6: What is to become of the ideological call, which was founded by late Sheikh Hussein Bedriddeen Al-Houthi? Will it continue or is it going to diminish, as it is the case with some political ideologies?

A: My brother's ideology is bound by its substantiality and its ability to convince people. This will be left to time.

Q7: How is your father cleric Bedriddeen Al-Houthi's health? Is he in a safe place?

A: He is in a good health, and he is not in need of hospitals. Many of his followers are around him and ready to protect him, while he is moving from one country to another.

Q8: What questions were you expecting and was not asked?

A: My question is that why did not the partisan and independent media tackle our case and bring it to the public so that they could know our oppression. Why do not they criticize the authority, like the brave Al-Khaiwany?

Q9: Any last comment?
A: It is contained in my previous answers, with compliments.

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After vote, Iraqis hope bloodshed will end

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - After a peaceful election, Iraqis hope their next government will end nearly three years of bloodshed, but rebels and U.S. commanders said on Friday the insurgency was far from finished.

In a sign that some militants will fight on regardless of Thursday's parliamentary poll, three mortar rounds landed near the Interior Ministry in Baghdad. Police said no one was hurt.

Election officials counted and recounted at least 10 million ballots as Iraqis celebrated an election in which many rebellious Sunni Arabs participated for the first time since the fall of Saddam Hussein, pushing turnout to around 70 percent.

Cities were quiet on the final day of a security lockdown that has sealed borders, banned traffic and put tens of thousands of police and soldiers on the streets.

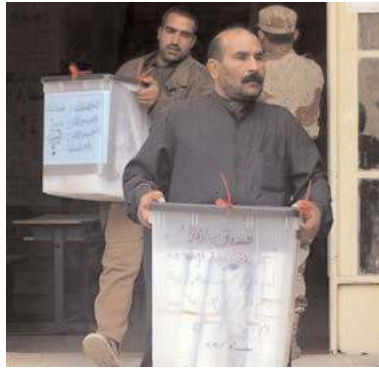
Preliminary results may take several days and a final tally is not expected before a further two weeks.

Insurgents launched few attacks on election day, but some of them said they had only refrained to allow Sunni Arabs to vote.

"This period of elections is a period of truce, but that does not mean we will stop our military activities," said a man calling himself Abu Qutada, a member of the Islamic Army in Iraq, which includes former Baathists loyal to Saddam Hussein.

U.S. commanders also said they had no illusions that peace would break out after the election.

"The insurgency is not over," Brigadier General Don Alston, chief of communications for U.S. forces in Iraq, told Reuters.



Iraqi election officials carry boxes with ballots to deliver them for general counting in central Baghdad Dec. 16. REUTERS

"Zarqawi is still out there and levels of violence will increase," he said, referring to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, leader of al Qaeda in Iraq.

The U.S. military said Iraq had issued an arrest warrant for Mullah Halgurd al-Khabir, who it said was believed responsible for the 2003 bombing of the United Nations Baghdad headquarters, which killed 22 people including envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello.

It said Khabir was a leader of the insurgent group Army of Ansar al-Sunna with historical ties to Zarqawi.

Army Gen. George Casey, the U.S. commander in Iraq, said the number of U.S. troops in the country should return to a pre-election "baseline" by the end of January or early February. Numbers were boosted to bolster security for the vote.

With voting seen as closer than in the last election on January 30, which many Sunni Arabs boycotted, top politicians

kept a low profile, waiting to see what hand the voters had dealt them before opening coalition negotiations that may last months.

The major test is whether violent differences among ethnic and sectarian groups, all of which are heavily armed, can be resolved inside the new four-year representative parliament.

"I'm sure the negotiations will be tough," said Salaam Ali, a 35-year-old Shi'ite shopkeeper on the unusually calm streets of central Baghdad.

"We hope the elections will bring all Iraqis together -- Shi'ites, Sunnis and others," he said.

Shi'ite alliance

The ruling United Iraqi Alliance, a Shi'ite Islamist bloc, is widely expected to remain the biggest group, a forecast supported by a Reuters straw poll of more than 500 voters.

The electoral commission said it believed 10-11 million of Iraq's 15 million eligible voters cast their ballots.

"We'll need a couple of days to know a precise number, electoral commissioner Farid Ayar told Reuters, cautioning Iraqis not to expect a definitive tally until early January.

The commission is expecting to face dozens of complaints from parties feeling cheated by irregularities in the vote. All will need to be investigated, perhaps delaying the final result.

The Reuters poll indicated the Shi'ite alliance was still dominant in the south and its Kurdish allies in the north. There also seemed to be strong support for former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a Shi'ite

who heads a secular, cross-sectarian slate.

"He's a strong man and has the ability to tackle difficult issues," said Kamal Abdulathim, 35, who voted for Allawi in the mixed Shi'ite-Sunni city of Baquba in central Iraq.

It may take over two weeks to allocate the 275 seats in the parliament, which must then elect a president and two deputies. They will ask the biggest bloc in parliament to name a prime minister, who must win a simple majority in the assembly.

"The Iraqi political parties will be looking for their best deal ... but it's going to take time," one Western diplomat said. "I do not expect this to be a rapid process."

Among the more taxing challenges facing the government will be amending the new constitution, pushed through parliament and ratified by an October referendum despite fierce opposition from Sunni Arabs, who have been promised it will be reviewed.

They complain the charter's emphasis on regional autonomy could give too much power and control of Iraq's vast oil reserves to Kurds in the north and Shi'ites in the south.

The United States hopes the vote will allow it gradually to withdraw its 155,000 troops. So do most Iraqis, surveys show.

An Iranian leader described the election in former foe Iraq as "a victory" that would hasten the departure of U.S. troops.

"We knew from the beginning that the Americans would drown in a quagmire in Iraq and that is what happened," former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told worshippers at prayers in Tehran.

EU condemns Iran president for Holocaust denial

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Union leaders on Saturday condemned Iran's president for denying the Holocaust, and warned Tehran the chance of a diplomatic solution on its disputed nuclear programme would not last forever.

The 25 EU heads of state and government said of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statement that the Nazi mass extermination of Jews was a myth: "These comments are wholly unacceptable and have no place in civilised political debate."

They also voiced grave concern at Iran's failure to remove suspicions about its nuclear intentions, saying in a statement: "The window of opportunity will not remain open indefinitely."

Ahmadinejad, a former Revolutionary Guardsman who was elected president in June, in October called Israel a "tumour" which must be "wiped off the map", provoking a diplomatic storm and stoking fears about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Last week he first aired his doubts about the veracity of the Holocaust, in which six million Jews were killed by Nazi Germany. His comments drew rebuke from the world over.

The tough language on Iran was part of a wider statement on the Middle East issued early on Saturday after a marathon summit which ended



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks to a gathering of Iranians in Zahedan, 699 miles southeast of Tehran, Dec. 14. REUTERS

in an agreement on the EU's long-term budget.

The leaders said Iran's resumption of the conversion of uranium ore, a precursor to making enriched fuel that can be used for power stations or weapons, only added to profound EU concerns about Iran's intentions.

The EU would keep its diplomatic options under review and calibrate its approach "given provocative political moves by Iran since May", they said.

Sudanese refugee repatriation starts from Kenya

NAIROBI (Reuters) - The United Nations repatriated scores of southern Sudanese refugees from neighboring Kenya on Saturday at the start of a program offering hundreds of thousands of war exiles the chance to go home.

With a peace deal enabling the five million Sudanese displaced abroad or internally to consider going back, U.N. officials say the voluntary returns could turn into one of the biggest refugee operations the world has seen.

A first group of 147 refugees from Kakuma camp in north-western Kenya were being taken by air and road to three destinations in the southern Sudanese states of Jongley and Eastern Equatoria on Saturday morning, U.N. officials said.

Some 71,000 Sudanese refugees live at Kakuma.

"We plan to give returnees basic household goods to help them survive at home, as well as two weeks' worth of food to last until the U.N.'s World Food program is able to distribute a

larger supply to the returnees in January," the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement.

Conflicts in the west, east and south of Africa's largest nation over the last two decades sent some 700,000 refugees fleeing to neighboring countries and displaced another four million Sudanese internally.

But with a January peace deal at least solving the largest and longest-running of those conflicts in the south, UNHCR says the time is right for

refugees to start returning.

Many already home, dangers lurk

About a quarter of a million Sudanese have already gone back under their own steam. But they are finding it tough to revive their communities in a vast region impoverished by conflict and chronically underdeveloped.

"Some refugees have gone home on their own without waiting for our assistance, but many are taking a

more cautious approach," UNHCR said. "The long-neglected area either never had sufficient services, or saw its elementary infrastructure destroyed by decades of war."

Although the devastating two-decade north-south conflict is over, some militia still roam and Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels hiding in southern Sudan launch sporadic attacks. That means some areas are still off-limits for repatriation.

The U.N. World Food program (WFP) hailed Saturday's return as the

start of potentially "one of the most important refugee returns in history". WFP Kenya Country Director Tesema Negash said it was a long-term project the world must not forget about.

"This first group is a hope for the future for all Sudanese refugees and internally displaced people," he said.

"But the problems caused by 21 years of civil war are not going to disappear overnight. Bringing all the Sudanese home will take a long time and needs the international community's support."



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Announcement

Chamber of Commerce And Industry - Taiz

with cooperation(IFC) Establishment that related to world bank announce of lunching training program -2006

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Job Vacancies

Head of Public Relations - Reference No. 37

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The company headquarters are in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will participate in the development and management of the project.

Candidates applying for this post must be Yemeni Nationals fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic.

Reporting directly to the General Manager, the Head of Public Relations will have a wide-ranging and challenging remit within Yemen LNG Company.

Duties will include the development of the company's relationships with government authorities, community representatives, media, NGOs etc. and the presentation of a true and accurate account of company activities, business ethics, challenges and strategies to all stakeholders.

Working with partner external relations personnel and with PR consultancies, the job holder will manage local social and promotional events and will supervise the preparation of company publications and materials such as website information, newsletters and audio-visual material.

The incumbent will assist management and staff to act as ambassadors of the company and to communicate its strategy accurately and consistently in support of long-term corporate objectives. He or she will also work with HR staff to develop and review company internal communication strategies and assist with the communication of information between management and staff.

Candidate should hold a degree in Public Affairs studies (or similar) and should have a minimum 10 years' experience in Public Relations and Communications. The ideal candidate will be a highly capable and autonomous individual with excellent interpersonal skills and extensive contacts within industry, local and national government and the media.

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

The Human Resources Department

Yemen LNG Company

P.O. Box 15347

Sana'a, Yemen

Candidates may apply by e-mail to: HR@YEMENLNG.COM.YE

Closing Date: 5th January, 2006

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG.

WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

هل تعلم؟؟؟

- ❖ أنها صممت خصيصاً لليمن .
- ❖ أنها مزودة بجهاز معوض للأسجيه للمناطق الجبلية في الجمهورية اليمنية .
- ❖ أنها مجهزة بأسبرنجات وكمادات إضافية لتحمل أكثر فأكثر .
- ❖ أن الكابينة مصفحة لحماية السائق .
- ❖ أنها مرتفعة أكثر عن الأرض .



شاحنة ميتسويشي فوزو كانتر (الأميرة)



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شاحنة ميتسويشي فوزو حجم كبير



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حسب الطلب

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قلاب ميتسويشي للأعمال الشاقة



مؤسسة عذبان التجارية



Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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


**OUR
OPINION**

The fragile banking sector

The long arm of the law has been replaced in Yemen with the longer arm of corruption. Since the core of all corruption is power, it would not be surprising that the power of money is sought after the most in today's life. What happened recently to one of Yemen's commercial banks "Al-Watani Bank" is tragic, but definitely not surprising. According to the officials in the Central Bank of Yemen, they saw it coming: "We raised the concern many months ago. We pointed the issue to the governor and we know he has raised the issue further. We don't really know at which level but it was blocked by some people at the top." A Banker friend told me last Thursday.

The collapse of one bank is not where the catastrophe ends; it is rather where it starts. Many clients have started losing their confidence in the banking and monetary sector in Yemen, and people have been withdrawing their money from the banks frantically.

Yemen Times will be publishing an investigative report on this issue soon. "I'd rather keep my money under my mattress and know it is there, rather than keep it in the bank and lose it", was the common justification clients gave as they withdrew all their money. And while current investors are looking behind their shoulder in concern, new investors who were interested in Yemen are thinking again: It does not stop here. Many of the current banks' managers in Yemen have been expressing their concern at how the image the banking sector has deteriorated to the extent that the local banks will lose their credibility on the international and regional level; it is obvious that the strength of monetary work is dependent on the networking and outreach. This means that loss of credibility would greatly affect the success of the domestic banking sector in Yemen.

It is ironic how the government calls for reform and claims to encourage investment on one hand, and literary takes measures to destroy any potential for investment on the other. Transparency in money transactions in Yemen is a myth. And the short arms of the law are handicapped that it can do nothing but clap in applause when requested. The president's call last year for reform from within was a bull's eye de-facto and it gave the impression that the Yemeni government knew where the problem lies and is working on fixing it. However, since then things are only getting worse. The changes in the structure of the ruling party announced post the conference do not show much promise either. If reform is to take place from within, shouldn't the people "within" be reformed first?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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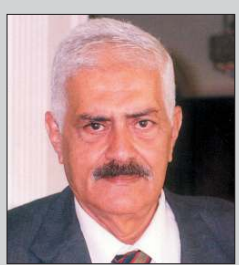
Syria versus the Security Council

It had been a surprising for the UN Security Council to adopt unanimously draft resolution 1636 which call on Syria to fully cooperate with Mehlis committee and stipulates possibility of taking other measures against it if it did not abide by it. All the 15-member states of the Security Council, including Algeria, the only Arab member, approved the resolution. The move came as recognition by all members of the articles stipulated in the resolution, which are exact replica of the articles mentioned in Mehlis report. Articles of Mehlis report are based on supposition that Syria is accused of involvement in assassination of al-Hariri and non-cooperation with Mehlis committee. The logic dictates investigation into factual evidence leading to the actual perpetrator, instead of accusing Syria at random and pursuant to presumptions whose correctness was not yet proved.

The UN Security Council ministerial meeting was similar to an American investigation panel held with concocted intention aimed at harming Syria and to influence its stands versus issues affecting the present and the future of the region. The Security Council has changed into an arena to practice public bullying. All appeared to be serving as vehicle for the United States and the

international organization has been rendered to obedient tools of Bush administration. The Security Council has been converted into a platform to condemn and acquit anyone America wants. Thus it is not surprising that America has resolved firmly to besiege Syria and to slit its neck.

The resolution was not translation of justice rather than translation of the American will. That was obvious in Rice's poisonous speech and statements when she accused Syria of terror and lies and that sanctions were the sole means to force it obey the international will. The truth is there is no longer international will but American will that effaced features of everything and dominated the United Nations Organization and its Security Council that is should have respected international peace and law. The United Nations would have better retired after it has become so weak instead of becoming a plaything in the hands of America. It is strange for the Security Council to deal with what was mentioned in Mehlis' report as if it is a sacred incontrovertible text although Mehlis was criticized even by his own country as well as jurists and judges from more than one country because of his report that is full of mistakes and



By: Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

unverified suppositions. The Syrian foreign minister Frouq al-Sharie was right when he expressed his astonishment for the Security Council adoption of resolution 1636 under the chapter 7 of the UN charter whereas it did nothing towards stands taken by Israel. He reminded all by the massacre of Qanah of 1996 in which Israel killed more than one-hundred Lebanese people and then the international community did not budge and no committee was formed to investigate into that unsightly crime. He also recalled the incident of the horrible explosion that killed the representative of the United Nations in Iraq in 2003. At that time the Council had just sufficed itself with issuing a mere statement. The Syrian minister also reminded the Council members of Israel's crime in Jenin refugee camp in 2003 where more than 400 Palestinians were killed. Israel at that time refused to receive the international investigation committee and all had obeyed it and America that always grants Israel acquittal deeds. It has become certain that whatever America does in this regard is to harm Syria rather than showing grief over al-Hariri.

When would the Arabs and Muslims understand that America wants to get rid of them and on the other hand fights the Islam? The sole Arab representative at the Security Council should have rejected the resolution and registered his reservation or at least boycott that meeting.

Mass graves pave the way for national reconciliation

By: Fadhli Ali Abdullah
Human Rights Advocate

Mass graves have recently been discovered at the area of Sawlaban, Khor Maksar of Aden governorate. Since mass graves are spread in all governorates of Yemen (both in the northern and the southern parts as a result of armed conflicts) in past periods and at present, this matter dictates on us to call on all political forces to start an effort for national frankness in prelude to national reconciliation in the country.

In order to accomplish this process there must be the participation of neutral international committees to dig those graves, determine the date of the remains, and then define the responsibility for the event. Tackling the issue of victims and agreement with their families on settlement would be within the

framework of the comprehensive national frankness and reconciliation, similar to what happened in many countries in the world.

The international law gives the families of the victims the right to trying those who caused bloodshed of those people, if no settlement has been reached between the two concerned parties. According to my knowledge, families of the victims remained for long time searching for the destiny of their sons and relatives. A number of those victims' families had contacted human rights organizations and submitted files of the missing persons to the UNHCR. Moreover, this issue is still open at the United Nations. In order to close the file there must be an announcement on the beginning of a stage of national reconciliation and openness. Locations of mass graves have to be spotted and to confirm the date of victims' death by neutral international committees. It is

only then when this issue will be settled with the families of the victims; who suffered a lot in northern and southern Yemen during periods of political conflicts.

This is a call for national reconciliation and a beginning of a new era where facts are to be disclosed, suitable solutions for comprehensive national reconciliation are submitted and reformation of the political, economic and social disorder resulting from those political conflicts, the latest of which was the conflict of the 1994 war. In my opinion, this is the solution for all those who want to build a country free from rancor and old vengeance in a sincere national sense, and not for the sake of political biddings.

The political forces in the country, both in power and in opposition, have to understand that such crimes are not to be faded away with passage of time. They will instead keep pursuing their perpetrators.

Letters to the Editor

Corrupt Judiciary

Judiciary has been ineffective in many parts of the globe and it has no inverse relationship with economic prosperity of any domain of nationality. Law does not attempt to describe what actually happens but prescribes certain rules and regulations. Legality as a benchmark of any land would standardize the dealings with disputes but it could never inculcate the discipline among people. The fact that Yemen is ranked 132 in the transparency index and considered a corrupt country is indeed an eye-opener and we must jointly work to eradicate the root cause of the problem, which leads to this phenomenon.

Nevertheless, government and statutory bodies have to play a vital role in reform for a better future of the nation. Perhaps it is easier to criticize the system rather than making a genuine personal contribution to improve the situation. Yemen is a nation which has

been underprivileged vis-à-vis other Middle Eastern countries, despite the fact that it has abundant natural resources and good potential for manpower. This is all subject to effective planning and judicious use of sacred resources and, needless to say, effective implementation and control mechanisms for allocation of peripheral development in every sector of economy. The world is looking at Yemen for a bright future and a transformed nation. There is no one but the people of the land of Queen Sheba who will make this happen in reality.

Ipbal Azim
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Dubai, UAE

Article on Yemeni coffee

I would like to thank Mahyoub Al-Kamali for his article on Yemeni coffee. For me, it is a source of pride when you enter the most recognized coffee chain in the world, Starbucks, and you notice a type of coffee deriving its

name from a region in Yemen. Mocha Sanaani coffee is the most expensive brand. It saddens me, though, to see that in the country where coffee originated (Yemen), the coffee plant is becoming extinct. More alarming is the fact that coffee is being replaced by the harmful plant qat.

Dubai
dubian@yahoo.com

Rule of Juntas

In various third world countries and as part of the Cold War, successive U.S. administrations have supported the Juntas. It is unfortunate to see that such models of state unruliness still exist in Yemen. At the back door of oil production, Yemen is geographically situated in a boiling and sensitive part of the world. Rule of Juntas breeds corrupted judicial systems. If the system fails in courts of law, then everything fails. Everything, I wish for a regime change with a judicial system manned by judges, lawyers and person-

nel from outside Yemeni society. There is no hope for Yemen to rise with a pervasively corrupt judicial society, judges and lawyers. It is time for the house of Yemen to get rid of the cockroaches.

Fuad Abdul Aziz Al-Sakkaf
fuadals@adco.ae

Motorcycle ban

I have just finished reading your article about the motorcycle ban that was enforced by the government and I was totally in shock.

What do these poor people have to go through to have a decent life? The government is taking away their only way of surviving, while at the same time, no providing any substitution for them to be able to make a living. For Allah's sake, the president, as he claimed, would not run for presidency again, so why not leave a good impression and let these people live their lives without any troubles?

Abdulhamed Al-Sharay
junior_4life2005@yahoo.com



COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The misery of human destiny

It seems as time goes on, human beings are getting further and further away from having really much control over their destinies. This is even more so, in the Third World of "developing countries", where it seems that the only hope for most people is will they be able to find enough to eat, or survive any conflict that might be brewed up by all these various forces that have come to take control of people's lives and the course of human events, that will engulf their already tested existence, beset by an ongoing stream of challenges. Yes, it seems that even for the best of people, who can manage to go through the early stages of life and prepare themselves for a career that will sustain them, or a livelihood that will help provide the essentials of life, it seems that they really have no control over their destinies. Surely, they are unable to guarantee that whatever they have achieved can be guaranteed to remain sustainable for any length of time. The world is getting more complex every day and with rapid communications moving information across thousands of miles in relatively minuscule time frames, people cannot help become affected by events that can turn what may appear to be a hopeful existence into an eventual demise of anything that can be considered as good in life. On top of some of the fantastic natural calamities that are now bringing death and destruction to large agglomerations of people, such as the Tsunami of late last year and Hurricane Katrina has shown that nature is unable to differentiate between the rich and the poor or between the powerful and the meek. Surely, nature must be telling us something when whole regions are obliterated by a sudden earthquake that can transfer the somewhat tranquil existence of an already impoverished people of one region, into a horrific nightmare of having to spend the cold and unmerciful winters of the Central Asian Highlands in the barren lands without shelter, as is the case in Pakistan and Kashmir. As if that was not enough, the ground again shook last week with another Earthquake. But such tragic consequences of the force of nature are now receiving secondary attention in the world, as the power brokers of the world find their own ways of making the misery they bring to the world capture the headlines of newspapers, with explosions that shake the hustle and bustle of modern urban life. For close to a decade and a half, Lebanon has managed to achieve a relatively quiet climate for the Lebanese to come out of the miseries that a "civil war" has filled the gentle green hills and valleys of the Lebanese landscape with. It almost seemed that Lebanon was going to show the world that it is possible for a multi ethnic profusion of culture to coexist in peace. But alas, when one of the architects of that temporary solace became a victim of one of those mysterious explosions that defy all normal explanations, Lebanon again becomes drawn into a new era of intrigue and regional pull and push, with strong international juice brought in to heighten the tension for the observer. Rafiq Al-Hariri's explosion was only the start of a series of mind boggling horrific blasts that take away the lives and flesh of their victims and leave an aura of mystery and fear that the end is far from being near. The next victim can be anyone: a Minister of State, a member of Parliament, a cleric, a journalist, etc. It is not what you do that counts anymore, it is what role you play by your death to set the grounds for others to implant their influence, so that they can control the destinies of those who might have found great comfort in your deeds or found hope in the words you wrote. No matter. People are not moved by what people can eloquently express anymore, because the evil forces that are working hard to control the destiny of mankind are doing all they can to dictate their views of all that is happening in this world to suit their own whims.

A lot of fanfare was made of the opening of the Rafah Crossing in Gaza, as if the dark days of Israeli occupation have been all of a sudden turned into a masterful media campaign of the wonders that politicians can produce. However, many of the open eyed observers from the maverick reporting of many a "mainstream" newspaper have shown, the truth will always reveal a reality that politicians have managed to shield themselves away from as they marvel at their staged mini-scenes of bliss for their successful achievements. For the people of Gaza, in general the opening of the Crossing at Rafah will hardly dent all the misery of an occupier, who still controls the air, sea and land roads that lead to or come out of Rafah. What is worse that the new authority that will man the abandoned posts of the former harsh occupier, will be no medium for hope for the residents. The opening of Rafah Crossing was just a nice show of ceremonial glorifications for those who claimed themselves success in bringing the Israelis to be replaced by sometimes even harsher Palestinian or Egyptian authorities, who have never believed that public service really means that: serving the public. Public service nowadays is no more than an ego trip. These authorities are not finding it easy to explain why Palestinians need a Palestinian visa to leave Gaza to be able to see their long separated relatives on the Egyptian side of the border.

This brings us back to the farce that politics has become in our region, as Presidents and Kings continue to explain the great achievements they have made for their people, when statistics still tell you that more than half of the population of the land are at the poverty line or very close to it while they and their kin are living in luxurious elegance, all paid for by the funds that could have been used to improve the lives of thousands of people. A region rich in the resource that can bring the entire Western economy to kneel, if used assiduously, as a political tool, or prudently as a source of investment to upgrade the lives of all the people of the land, yet half of its population will end up looking for the way to bring full nourishment to their malnourished kids for the day, let alone for the year.

Humanity is also progressing on the freedom trail. Journalists are being targeted everywhere, if they start to get on the nerves of all those who have brought so much misery to their own people and to people of other lands. They will be blasted to pieces, beaten around street corners, spend months or weeks in terrible prisons, just so the few people, who thrive on the misery of the masses can have their field day in the warm beaches of the country, without some nosy reporters poking their cameras at them as they applaud their great achievements and set the grounds for bringing more misery in the future to the majority, who have lost control of their destiny.

Yemen Press Review

Review by: Mohammed Khidhr

Most of Yemeni local newspapers, whether state-owned or opposition, have this week devoted many of its articles and editorial to tackle the convening of the ruling party General People's Congress. For this reason this edition of the "Press Review" would focus mainly on articles and analyses dealing with this event to give the reader a picture on various points of view on this subject.

Al-Wasat weekly, 14 Dec.2005.

Main headlines

- GPC 7th conference, radical resolutions and conflicts on more influence
- GPC program closer to government program addressing outside rather than inside
- Mass graves discovered in Aden, Yemeni Human Rights Watch warns against accusing political adversaries
- Al-Hakimi: Ruling regime oppressive clad with democracy
- Due to government failure in indicators of performance, World Bank cuts 34% of support for Yemen
- Hizam Almas relates to court details of his attempt to assassinate former American ambassador to Yemen
- Medical Profession Union intends to sue hospital directors

The newspaper editor in chief says in his article on holding the General People's Congress conference that the conference is held under real changeables both outside and inside Yemen. This situation dictates on a party that has been ruling the country, possesses parliamentary majority and leads the government to come out with decisions compatible with the volume of its presence and power. Primary indicators on winning the leading positions in the GPC may be something positive but the regrettable thing is that the conflict is confined to among tribal influential members whereas the intellectuals have disappeared because of their inability to compete with them.

It is strange for a party claiming to more than two million members and has around six thousand representatives while it is lacking of alternatives from whom to choose those who can attain the posts of the secretary general, his assistants and the general leadership.

Al-Balagh weekly, 13 Dec.2005.

Main headlines

- GPC Assistant Secretary-General: The people coined the constitution, the JMP draft of reforms just a bid
- Constitutional and legal violations

in trial of Dailami and Muftah - Journalists Syndicate calls for providing better circumstances for the journalists

Editor in chief of Al-Balagh newspaper discusses what would the GPC general conference come out with of decisions and recommendations. He says eyes are turned towards the GPC conference waiting for what it would take of decisions, and confirms that the decisions would be the main determinant of the political, economic and social life in the upcoming stage.

The writer says there are tangible political congestions, normal difference between partners of the political action, namely the ruling party and opposition parties. There is an economic congestion represented by poverty and unemployment and there is a social congestion resulting from calls for divisions.

All hope that the conference would act according to its responsibility and its agenda to be clear and frank away from hypocrisy and hypocrites.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 13 Dec.2005.

Main headlines

- Tribal confrontations in Amran
 - Saudi gang rob Yemenis in Riyadh
 - NUO welcomes the Iraqi national initiative to end occupation
 - Gulf summit would not discuss Yemen accession to the GCC
 - Unidentified persons rob a business shop in Sana'a
 - Arrest and intimidation of journalists, order of newspapers closure
 - Child brutally tortured in Mahweet
- Columnist Ahmed Saeed writes in his article saying as the GPC ruling party is holding its conference we ask it to ponder for long the solution included in the JMP project to encounter corruption. More than once leaderships of the GPC have demanded to provide them with evidence on presence of corruption. But now they can no longer demand for that because the GPC government has repeatedly offered evidence on the presence and spread of corruption. We have not witnessed that any of such issues published in newspapers to be dealt with and the corrupt have been held accountable or stood trial. Anyway we ask no more than there should be accountability of the corrupt in dependence on reports of the government in this regard. How can the ruling party

confront the corruption at a time it strands in such a negative way even towards what its government is doing? How would the party confront corruption and put an end to it and place its government apparatuses at healthy climates to be able to properly play their role in serving the people?

As-Sahwa weekly, 15 Dec.2005.

Main headlines

- The World Bank reduces its assistance to Yemen by 34%
- In the Arab European dialogue symposium, Al-Ansi stresses the importance of dialogue, accuses dictatorships and Zionist media of marring the Arabs image
- Presidential elections a factor for realization of the JMP initiative
- JMP initiative demands full independence of the central bank
- Yemen's fresh endeavors to join the GCC

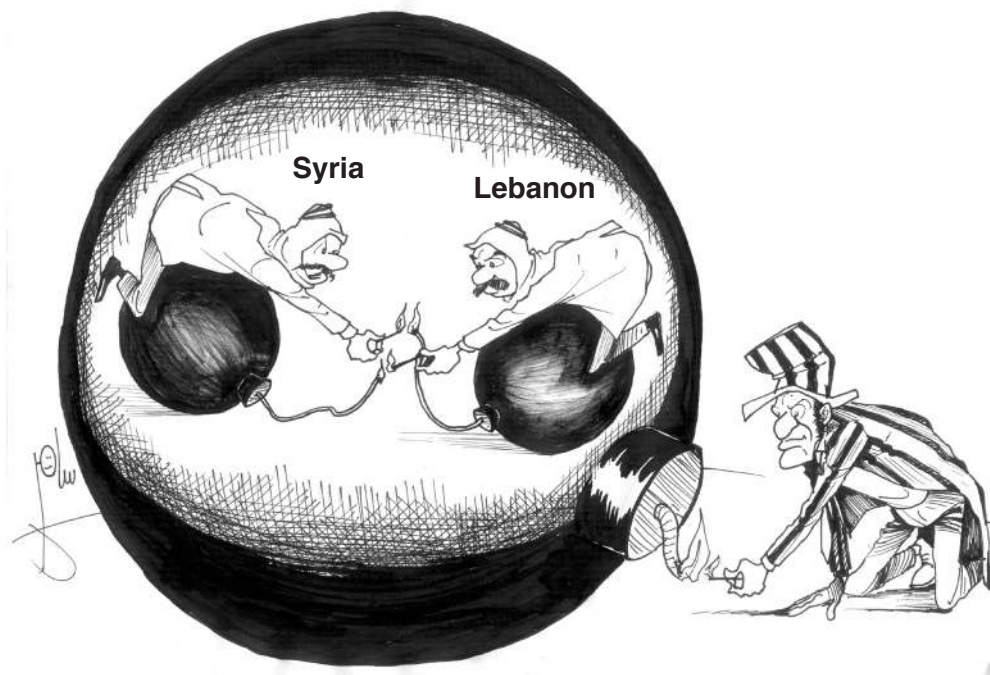
Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes on the American secret prisons wondering how much those admirers have shown their admiration of what the west has attained of freedom, respect for human rights and his dignity. That glitter very soon faded at the first test. America has disclosed its reality after the events of September 2001 and abandoned its principles and values. It has confiscated freedoms and violated human rights and gave itself the right to create havoc on earth by depending on its power and away from ethics, freedoms and ideals by violating international conventions and human norms.

America did the same against those who it suspects in pursuing them and founded a large network of secret prisons in Europe and many other areas of the world. There in those prisons there are no laws and detainees are brutally tortured and treated as animals. They are punished without certain charges and have no right to defend themselves and their families do not know their whereabouts. America does not feel embarrassment in violating human rights as long as that is done outside its territories.

What happens today proves that the bright picture the west was keen to draw about itself was nothing but deceit and trick. The racist vision by which it considers others is the governing criterion of its behavior and that is an indication

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of its collapse.

Annas weekly, 12 Dec.2005.

Main headlines

- Aburas and Bajammal compete for GPC general secretariat
- Opinion poll reveals 53% of Yemenis support president Saleh for third tenure
- Discovery of a mass grave recalls events of January 1986
- Restriction against press continues, Repression reaches Al-Jazeera channel reporters in Sana'a
- Motorcyclist volunteers to commit suicide in defense of his colleagues' interests
- Political fears from committees of fighting corruption to be a tool for stealing assistance

Columnist Ali Al-Jaradi says in his article a number of opposition leaders tarry in presenting themselves as alternative to the governance as a simple expression of one of the meanings of opposition. Nevertheless, they play fast and loose in gaining consent of the ruling party and offer themselves as a bridge between the two parties under claim of rationality. For instance what is the avail of some members of opposition commenting on the GPC media campaign against the opposition initiative that the initiative is put for dialogue with the GPC? It is supposed that the initiative is submitted for dialogue with political parties, social and independent personalities and civil society organizations as it is a political vision alternative to that of the ruling party which has been proved as failure from the opposition point of view.

The GPC possesses a majority in the parliament and a political program according to which it had won confidence of the people. From my standpoint there should not be a diversion of the GPC from carrying out its program

or sharing perceptions with the sides of the political system, the authority and opposition. That would pose danger to the core of the peaceful transfer of powering future and return all to the square of congruity. This situation may be too late now after 15 years of democracy. Let's go ahead in an attempt to consolidate it in practice and conduct.

Attariq weekly, 13 Dec.2005.

Main headlines

- 26 YSP leaders oppose the JMP initiative
- Oil trade union responds to minister's letter & threaten by all-out strike
- GPC holds its 7th conference in Aden
- Political reform project heralds schism inside the YSP

- Chairman of Lahj chamber of commerce and industry optimist that result of the GPC conference in support for investment
- Symposium in Aden on national action and future horizons

Attariq editorial says the city of Aden hosts the GPC 7th conference and hopes that the conference would come out with decisions that enhance the democratic experience, mainly the conference's adoption of broad lines for political reforms that President Ali Abdullah Saleh had defined in his latest address in Taiz. In his address the president had mentioned about partial elections of the Shoura Council as well as election of governors of governorates and districts.

The editorial mentions that its focusing on the call for political reforms springs from the realization of the Yemeni reality. This reality requires from the higher political leadership to play the major role in effecting the reforms.



SILVER LINING
By: Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

PGC Conference: Testing Regime's Credibility to Reform

It is interesting to see political parties running their conferences, a good signal of democracy and public participation. Last week, it was the turn of the General Peoples' Congress (GPC). People are expecting serious decisions concerning many issues including the democratic transformation Yemen has been experiencing since the re-unification in 1990. Since then, we have walked some good steps towards democratization which the international community praised. This praise was due to the fact we have been moving ahead compared to the neighboring countries. The political regime in Yemen was using this applause not to improve but to show off before the others. These steps should have been accompanied with serious steps to crack down corruption, enforcing the rule of law and tackling many other loopholes in economy. Unfortunately, this has not taken place. The economy is facing hard times; corruption has expanded and become a pervasive problem, inviting international community concerns. With the war on terror, security has prioritized all other issues and helped boosting the power of the regime rather than helped in establishing a real state of rule and order.

With these developments, the regime has felt that the security issue, mainly for the US, is a primary job in Yemen and that the rest of the world can close their eyes to abuses of human rights, press freedom...etc. This has really raised the concerns of politicians and journalists who have felt they might be the escape goat of the international game of interests and priorities ruled out by politics and interests rather than ethical commitments. But, it seems that the international community interest in the democratic drive is still there, despite the variations of the levels of interests.

I agree with Nabeel Khoury that the international community is impatiently waiting for courageous decisions from the 7th conference of the ruling party.

Yes, there must serious actions taken to address corruption and other forms of lawlessness and chaos. President Saleh committed his party to continue reform process and crackdown on corruption and terror. The problem is that when officials criticize corruption or other ordeals, these problems exacerbate and become rather pervasive.

Now, there is no time to play around and try to mislead the people. There is no time for nice speeches which never turn into practice. The situation is very much worsening and actions should be taken to stop the collapse. Change is becoming indispensable and a must that can not be avoided or postponed. The ruling party acknowledges the urgency to reform and change. The opposition presented in their initiative a concrete account of the problems and what should be done. This can bring them together to think of how to come out of the impasse we are approaching.

However, as Saleh has rejected the opposition initiative and said it does not matter to his party or political leadership. He even said they should address the citizens and gain their support. This is the game of politics. But, there should be a fair play in the competition between the two sides. We have seen that there has been live coverage for the GPC conference for hours in the state-run media while the opposition parties get just some minutes in the news for their general conferences. That is to say, equal opportunities should be given to all the political parties to play fairly and competitively because with this imbalance real democratic building and progress can not take place. The culture of power which accepts democracy in form and in legislation and rejects it in practice should be ended.

By and large, the ruling party's conference can and must be an opportunity to start a real reform not only in terms of economy and fight on corruption but also in all other political aspects. The decisions taken by the conference are a real test to the regime's credibility and willingness to change.

The China Question

By: Hideaki Kaneda

President Bush's recent visit to Asia made little news - by design. But that's because Bush didn't begin to address the issue that is looming ever larger in the region: the changing face of security in Asia in view of China's growing economic and military might.

This summer, for example, China and Russia conducted their first-ever grand-scale joint military exercise. This was followed by Russian news reports that China, Russia, and India would conduct trilateral military exercises, named "Indira 2005," on the same scale before the end of this year.

In the past, such a combination of countries was almost unthinkable, and these exercises cannot be explained away as simple "one-off" affairs with little resonance. Instead, they reflect China's long-term strategic goal of establishing hegemony across Asia.

One tool of this ambition is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), under which the Sino-Russian exercises took place. Established in June 2001, the SCO includes China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The SCO's original purpose was to mitigate tensions on the borders of China and the Central Asian countries after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the arrival of the United States military with the war in Afghanistan.

China regards the SCO as a stage for broadening its influence over a vast region, ranging from the Asia-Pacific to Southwest Asia, the Middle East, East Africa, and the Indian Ocean. Indeed, its members include about 45% of the world's population, and 28% of the landmass ranging across the Eurasian continent.

China's active leadership of the SCO has resulted in policies that it favors. Gradually, the SCO shifted its focus to fighting Islamic radicals. Nowadays, however, the SCO is often used as a forum to campaign against supposed American unilateralism and to provide a united front - especially between China and Russia - against the US with respect to security and arms-reduction issues in the region. This includes joint anti-terror training and demands to reduce US forces in the region, particularly from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The SCO provides China not only with a platform to confront the existing US-led alliance in the Asia-Pacific region, but is increasingly being used to prevent the formation of a US-led network to restrain China's advance. Ultimately, it is feared that the SCO could develop into a military alliance similar to the Warsaw Pact of the Cold War era, with an embryonic "Great China Union" at its core.

But China's regional diplomacy goes far beyond the SCO. It seizes every opportunity that comes its way, including the Six Party Talks on North

Korea's nuclear ambitions, to emphasize its centrality to the settlement of any and all Asian issues. Moreover, it continues to build its "string of pearls" of military bases at every key point on maritime transportation routes along the "arc of instability" from the Middle East to China's coast.

No one seems to know how to respond to China's diplomatic and military muscle flexing in Asia, for the extent of China's ambitions remains utterly unclear. But, while everyone else ponders China's motives, its government is acting. Indeed, the UK's premier security think tank, the Institute for International Strategic Studies, recently warned that, while the world focuses on the fight against international terrorism and the unfolding events in the Middle East, China is rapidly expanding its influence from Asia to Africa.

The "pearls" in Africa include Sudan, Angola, Algeria, Gabon, Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Djibouti, Mali, Central Africa, Liberia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In each country, China is nurturing special military and commercial relations intended to promote loyalty to Chinese interests.

As in Asia, there is a pattern at work: growing Chinese influence begets increased support for Chinese policies. Of course, it's a two-way street. Whenever complaints come up in the

United Nations' Human Rights Committee, China can count on the support of many African countries that have their own human rights problems. Even the selection of Beijing as the site of the 2008 Olympics benefited from "African votes." And China has publicly stated that it will back African nations in potential disputes at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international organizations.

Similarly, many African states now seem to be leaning heavily toward China in its dispute with Taiwan. When Japan's government tried to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, few African countries backed its bid, despite receiving economic aid for decades.

China likes to boast of its "peaceful rise." But the rise of Bismarck's Germany at the end of the nineteenth century was also peaceful - for a while. The question is not whether China rises to great-power status peacefully, but whether it intends to remain peaceful when it gets there. Just as the world confronted the "German Question" 125 years ago, it is now confronting the "China Question." We need a better answer this time.

Hideaki Kaneda, Retired Vice Admiral of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, is currently Director of the Okazaki Institute.
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Booming Fisheries industry in Yemen

By Yasser al-Mayassi

Yemen possesses a long coastal stripe extending for over 2500 km, with regional waters that are found to be rich in rare species of marine life which have an unmatched demand in the global market; therefore, the marine wealth of Yemen has the potential to be a major resource of national revenue with good employment opportunities should this wealth be exploited in a much-needed systemic and efficient approach.

For many years, the Yemeni fish wealth has been suffering from problems such as fishery pirates from other countries who enter the Yemeni regional waters in order to illegally fish and thus plunder this Yemeni wealth in addition to the damage they inflict on marine life and rare species.

However, interest has begun around the protection of national marine wealth to render it as a significant source of national income: cooperative societies have been formed for fishermen who have begun exporting fish and other marine life to overseas markets especially European, some investors have also built factories for fish canning in Hadramout.

Correspondingly, the World Bank (WB) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) have realized that the Yemeni marine wealth is indeed a vital sector in



Fishermen collecting their catch in the Southern coasts of Yemen

need of development; Indeed, The WTO has offered Yemen a \$400 thousand financial grant to support research and development in fish and marine life products for exportation, the research project would continue for two years and aims at developing fish production, good quality, and also support the Yemeni society of fish exporters. The support also includes supporting the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Wealth with regards to preparing studies and research related to development of fisheries industry in the country.

This grant constitutes the fifth project funded by the WB and the WTO with regards to development of the fisheries industry, the recent projects on the issue included a project for sea monitoring and

inspection at a cost amounted to three million US\$.

Because of these projects, the number of fishermen reached at 65 thousands compared to 25 thousands in 1990, providing over 2890 new job opportunities annually, varying from fishermen to retailers and marketers of marine life products, it is estimated that the total of workers in fisheries and marine life and related industries reach 1.7 million people. Factories of fishing boats have reached eight, in addition to workshops specialised in manufacturing wood boats. Each factory production capacity is between 500 to 1000 boats in the governorates of Mahra, Hadramout and Aden.

The Yemeni-Saudi coordination committee continues in 2006

The Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council preparatory committee is to resume its negotiations through a number of scheduled meetings throughout the first quarter of 2006 to discuss its cooperation agenda and draft agreements and memoranda of understanding to be signed by mid 2006 in Sana'a, the meetings would discuss a number of topics related to enhancement of security, economic and social relationships between the two neighboring countries.

These meetings were co-chaired by the Yemeni Premier Abdulqader Bajammal and the Saudi crown prince and minister of defense, prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz.

So far, eleven agreements and memoranda of understanding had been signed by the conclusion of the 16th session of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council held in Riyadh late in 2004, the latest of which was a loan of SR 75 million for funding the expansion project of the Social Fund for Development, and also grant of SR 50 million for providing supplies and

operation costs of Aden Public Hospital.

Other previous memoranda includes an executive cooperation program in youth and sports, an executive program for postal cooperation, a memorandum of understanding on petroleum and minerals cooperation, an agreement of the transport of passenger and goods overland, an agreement on sea freight cooperation, an agreement on agricultural collaboration, in addition to several other agreements and memoranda in various areas of cooperation that are of mutual interest between the two countries.

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Prof. Gabriele Weck to the Yemen Times:

“If you don’t know enough about your own culture and architecture, you might land up losing it.”

Interview by: Johanne Ihle
Johanneihle@hotmail.com

“During my college years...”, Professor Gabriele Weck started saying, “...studying engineering was not a typical option for females. We were very few girls studying in the Collage of the Architecture and many of our teachers did not approve of us studying in this discipline. I remember clearly one day one of the professors sarcastically told us: “Why are you here? You will eventually get married and stay at home”. Years passed by, and I have become a successful architect. In fact, a few years after graduating I was in charge of a university project. One day, this very professor had to come to me, to my office so that I sign some papers for him. He did not recognize me, but I did him. And I thought to myself: “How the tables have turned!”



Professor Gabriele Weck

Have you met any women architects in Yemen? What do you think of professional women in Yemen?

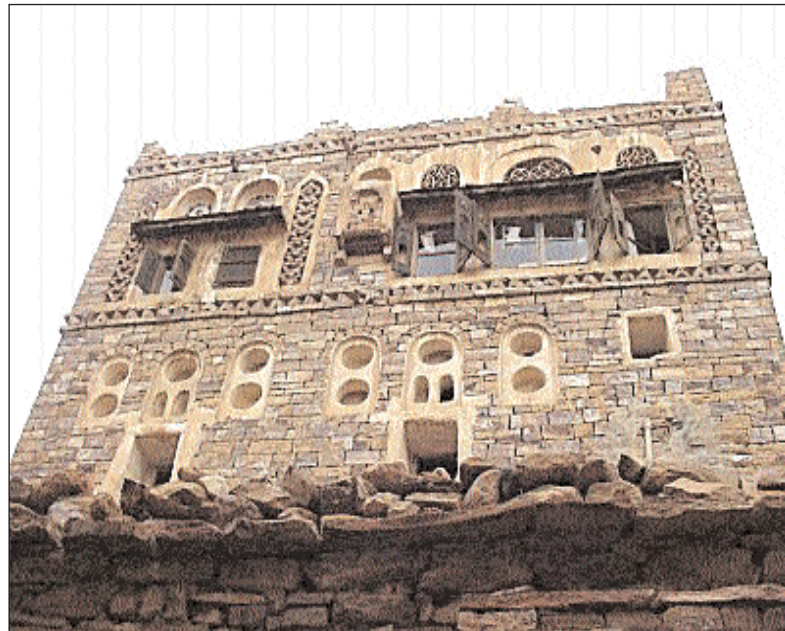
I have met only a few female architects at the university. I would like to get to know more of them, especially those with practical experience in real life. I know that as yet, Yemeni females have not had their equal chance to practice but I hope with time they will. During my studies in the early seventies, the intake for the batch was 30% girls but only 10% graduated. Today the German women are well educated and participate in all domains of life and I think Yemeni women are heading that direction as well. About professional women in Yemen, as much as I have

recently in the last half of the 20th century. It is very important for the Yemeni people, especially the architects to know as much as they can about the own culture. The danger of becoming overwhelmed by the western influence is too strong, if you don't know enough about your own culture and architecture, you might land up losing it.

My impression of the Yemeni architecture in general is that the old houses are very well built. They are made of solid construction from a time where natural handicrafts were appreciated. Earlier generations knew a lot about architecture and how to use the proper materials at that time. Today many houses are built of concrete. It is not a natural material for this area, and it means that the houses are too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer. The money is spent on imported concrete instead of natural temperature conditioning materials. Bricks can

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Yemeni stone building old style

seen till now, the women are much more precise, much more determined, effective, practical and brilliant.

Are there any similarities between the Yemeni architecture and the German one? What is your impression about the Yemeni culture or Yemeni society?

You will always find some similarities in the architecture, but the culture is quite different. The European architecture was based on the Greek and Roman styles at its early stages. Then came the Gothic, Renaissance, Barrack, Classic, Historian and the Modern architecture influence. Yemen's architecture was much more constant as it has started changing just

allow air ventilation through the pores and ensure that the climate in the house is moderate. I have noticed that it is either well educated people or people aware of the Yemeni culture that still build in the old way.

In the old part of the city you can notice how people have built continuously on top of their house whenever they could afford it. You can easily tell the old bricks from the new.

I think it is good that Old Sana'a is under the protection of UNESCO. That means that no one is allowed to build or reconstruct anything without consulting one of UNESCO's offices. At least theoretically ...

Does your study also cover the impact of the Islamic view on women in the architecture of the mosques?

No. I was not allowed to enter the mosques, but I know that there are mosques where women can visit, as long as they stay in the back. I have seen some sketches of mosques for both genders, and as far as I know there are no remarkable differences in the structure itself. Women (and men) who do not go to the mosque do not generally have a special place in their home for praying. There are no mosques for women only.

If there is anything you would say to the Yemeni young women what would you say?

Build up your own mind. Analyse the things you are confronted with. Be strong and have confidence in yourself.

Growing up in Munich, Prof. Gabriele Weck opted for studying architecture because it combined the logical thinking of the mathematics and the creative art of design. She went to the Technical University of Munich, college of engineering in 1973. For six years after graduating in 1978 she worked as an architect and established her own private office for architecture services in partnership with another female architect. Later she became the first lady to be an assistant professor at the Technical University of Munich. After six years of working at the university, she moved to the brick-industry working as a functionary for five years.

Dr. Weck has come to Yemen earlier this month for a six-week research on Yemeni architecture. During her stay, Yemen Times had the privilege of meeting with her and having this interview.

What is your research about in general? And why did you choose Yemen as a part of your research?

My research's overall theme is about the social influence in architecture especially in relation to women's culture in the Islamic world. I believe there is a very close relation between the social values and the typical construction in a country. I think that the country's culture is reflected on the design of buildings and I want to include houses and flats in Sana'a in my research. I'm not only interested in the historical view but also in modern construction. I am interested in doing this research in Yemen (especially in Sana'a) because I had the chance to visit this country several times before as a tourist and I knew it would be a rich environment with so much to discover. My visits to Yemen have made me impressed with the culture and architecture of this country.

Through my research I have discovered that some common characterize of Yemeni houses in old Sana'a are designed to protect women from being seen.

The differences between the Muslim and the Christian worlds are getting bigger and bigger these days. I think everyone should do what they can to communicate across the borders and bridge differences to reach mutual understanding and recognition. I think the German students should have the opportunity to experience this culture and its unique architecture. I have to work with foreign relations at my own university, and I would like to establish an exchange program with Sana'a University, through which students from both countries could learn and exchange experiences. This is also because I do not think that the architects' conditions here are good enough. I have thought about how we could develop a curriculum together with Sana'a University or that I could somehow provide a model for teaching. In my opinion, female architects here have no opportunities. Their best chances to get a job is to work at the University. Yet without practical experience in the architectural field, you do not become a professor. I think women's possibilities are very limited here, and I sometimes feel sorry for them.

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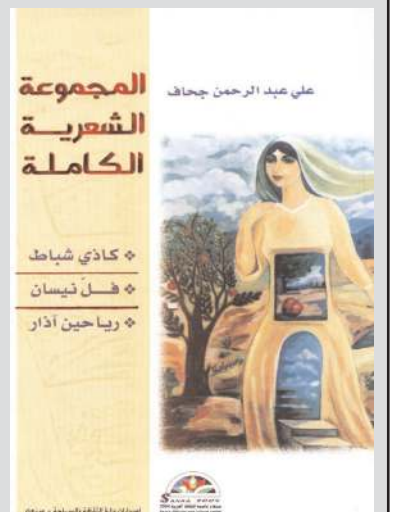
Yemeni windows, also known as Mashrabia

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam ²
Translated by Edward FitzGerald

**Dreaming when dawn's left hand was in the sky
I heard a voice within the tavern cry,
“Awake, my little ones, and fill the cup
“Before life's liquor in its cup be dry”**

Literary Corner By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah
The Full Poetic Collection (1/4)

Author: Ali Abdul-Rahman Jahhaf
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Year Published: 2004



The late literary and political personality Ahmed Al-Shami was not to be outdone, when he read the Egyptian literary genius Taha Hussein and Mahmoud Abbass Al-Aqqad discuss the past history of Arabic literature and not cite the insurmountable contributions of Yemeni literature. He responded with a long dissertation on the subject, to which both the latter acknowledged as indeed a shortcoming they overlooked.

Yemeni literature basically centers on poetic output and theological material that spans the long history of Yemen. On the poetic side, one can find great literary works that are broken down into two classifications: The classical mode and the local Humainy mode. The classical mode is that which fully complies with the linguistic and grammatical structure of the Arabic tongue, which is easily understandable throughout the Arab World.

Most of the scholars of Yemen enjoy versatility in both kinds of poetry, but the amount of output is further multiplied by the contributions of those who may not have necessarily gone through the grind mill of traditional or formal education of any sort. Much of Yemeni song-writing also comes from the Humainy mode, as well as national patriotic songs that appeal to the grass roots significantly. Also, a lot of political commentary would fall into this. Many of the current great contributors of Humainy poetry include Mohammed Al-Mansour, Abdullah Hashim Al-Qibsi, Abbass Al-Muta'a and many others. The first one is noted for being able to put down the many local expressions into an anthology of poems that depict the spoken idioms and expressions of the people of Sana'a, Dhamar and other areas. Humainy poetry is also noted for its highly vocal political commentary, much of it composed into songs that are widely circulated among the grass roots population on cassette tapes, recorded with or without the approval of the Ministry of Culture. Among these are the songs of Mohammed "Abu Nassar", Mohammed Murshid Najee and others.

The author of the work under discussion here recently passed away and is well known for his versatility in both the classical tongue and local Humainy content. It should be noted that the Humainy poetry is well structured, rhythmic and easily memorized by the general population, even if they were unable to learn to read and write.

The book under discussion spans some forty years of poetic output and includes impressions of both rural and urban life in Yemen, in both pre and post Revolutionary times (before and after 1962).

The book is anthology of poems written by the author in both the classical and traditional local dialects of Yemen. It comprises several love poems, nationalistic and patriotic songs, general impressions of Yemeni rural life, especially of the Tihama area, Hajjah area and around the periphery of

Sana'a. The book also contains impressions of the author of other lands beyond the borders of Yemen and even includes a mix of Arabic and English usage that the author manages to bring together in a satire of Yemeni and English verbosity, which is structurally difficult to achieve.

In addition the anthology contains poetry of advice to his children, the political amalgamations of the country as well as general impressions made to his friends and his love about the situation in the country over the span of his life, including early impressions about Yemeni unification.

The book itself is a collection of several previous publications, which include purely Humainy poems and purely classical poems. Each section is prefaced by a leading literary personality, who has known the author well or has a good knowledge of the author's history and/or literary style. These include Abdul-Salam Abbass Al-Wajeeh, Alwan Mahdi Al-Gailani, Ahmed Naji Ahmed

We will devote each issue to a discussion of a particular section as they were written in different time frames and under different circumstances.

The author did not fail to express his strong deeply rooted Shiite convictions and praise for many notable Shiite martyrs, including the originator of the Zeidi sect and political antagonist to repression, Zeid Bin Ali, who is mercilessly executed by the Umayyad in the Second Century after the Migration of the Prophet Mohammed to Medina. In addition the poems go beyond the borders in highlighting the martyrdom of the son of Hussein Nasrullah of Hezabolah, who is killed by the Israelis at the age of 19. In the latter the author showed his disdain at the way the Israelis were glorifying themselves in this achievement.

The author's simple outlook towards life in general is clearly evident throughout the book's collection and his praise of the simplicity of rural life in Yemen is not to be missed, noting how much moral gratification should be realized in the outlook that Yemenis have shown even in their simple farming life. The hardships of life in Yemen are also given good coverage throughout the anthology.

We will delve into the details of this magnificent writer in the following four issues, looking at his impressions in different fields.

Exclusive breastfeeding: A chance for survival

The lives of almost six million infants could be saved every year if for the first six months of life they were exclusively breastfed immediately within half an hour of birth. That means nothing but breast milk—no solids, no other liquids, not even water, as recommended by UNICEF and WHO. The lives of almost six million infants could be saved every year if for the first six months of life they were exclusively breastfed immediately within half an hour of birth. That means nothing but breast milk—no solids, no other liquids, not even water, as recommended by UNICEF and WHO. In the first two months of life, an infant who is not exclusively breastfed is up to 25 times more likely to die from diarrhoea and four times more likely to die from pneumonia than a non-breastfed baby. Exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) also minimizes an infant's exposure to potentially unsafe food or water. Breastfeeding is the initial source of vital micronutrients, as well as providing overall sound nutrition and good health. The immune factors, growth factors, and other protective factors in mother's milk cannot be found anywhere else in nature.



By: Dr. Saleh Al-Habshi
Master of Public Health

EBF rates below 25%, with 14 countries at 10% or less. In only 15 countries are 50% or more of the infants exclusively breastfed. The Middle East and North Africa region has yet to engage in more resolute action to ensure that infants are breastfed between 0-6 months of age, although notable achievements by countries like Syria and Egypt have reached more than 50% of EBF at their national levels.

In Yemen EBF rate reached 24.5 (1997). Such figure is considered low. High illiteracy rates, social attitudes and lack of family support are considered the most common constraints. More efforts should be done to scale up action in this issue by investing new updated approaches recommended by UNICEF and WHO. Empowerment of women by increasing female primary school enrollment is required, as well as disseminating awareness among Yemeni population will help attaining the objective to adopt this strategy.

Comparably EBF rates increased by 10% over the past decade in the region and improvements were also noted in complementary feeding and in continued breastfeeding for the second year of life. However, the lack of continued support and irregular monitoring of the process have led to a recent decline in breastfeeding and in the number of hospitals promoting the practice.

It's not always easy for a mother to breastfeed. The pressure of family responsibilities, restrictions in the workplace, and social expectations can, and often do, interfere with a mother's preference to exclusively breastfeed her children. Women must be supported by husbands, communities, healthcare systems, and grandparents when considering what is best - and they must be supported to succeed once a choice is made.

Promoting policies and systems that improve health skills and support communities in educating mothers about the benefits of breastfeeding and creating an environment that will enable mothers to make the best possible choices in feeding their infants and young children should be the top priority of concerned national programmes in countries with low EBF rates. Protecting the rights of women and girls, delivering proper nutrition messages and educating the general public, particularly child care providers on the absolute benefits of breastfeeding are key interventions. UNICEF works with partners, governments and communities to protect and promote breastfeeding by supporting national infant-feeding legislation, improving

even four years of schooling. Breastfeeding is critical to efforts to combat hunger and promote child survival as well as progress towards the Millennium Development Goal: to reduce child mortality by 2015. "Exclusive breastfeeding is one of the most powerful tools we have to combat child hunger and death," said UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman. Currently, about 39% of infants worldwide are exclusively breastfed during the first six months of life. Data from 69 developing countries, including new estimates from 40 countries show that half of them have


ante- and post-natal care and boosting resources for new mothers at the community-level. Protecting breastfeeding during emergencies is also a major UNICEF priority, when poor feeding practices can allow diseases to claim lives with frightening speed.

Calling on governments to promote and protect early and EBF, UNICEF and WHO have jointly launched the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. The strategy calls for a dramatic increase in the number of infants who are exclusively breastfed. The strategy is an invaluable roadmap for governments to create supportive environments where women can make informed choices about feeding their children. The strategy also highlights the issue of optimal feeding of the millions of children who are born to HIV-infected women each year. While about 10-20 percent are born already infected, there is an additional risk of HIV transmission through breastfeeding - estimated to be between 5 percent and 20 percent. This risk needs to be balanced against the increased risk of morbidity and mortality when infants are not breastfed. All HIV-infected mothers should receive information



about the risks and benefits of various options and guidance in choosing the most suitable option. In addition to

stressing the link between the health and nutritional status of mothers and children, the strategy addresses the


challenges of feeding in exceptionally difficult circumstances, such as natural or man-made emergencies.

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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions: (82)
'Love you' wishes (IV)

Love is life. Love is trust. Love is that unfulfilling anchorage that stands by the pair of lovers in "hours of weariness and sensations sweet"

- Love means so many things... It means trusting myself with someone who has seen me at my worst and loves me anyway... It means teasing each other and laughing at inside jokes that nobody but us understand... It means feeling safe enough to talk about anything and having the patience to work out disagreements... It means counting on someone who sympathizes when I've had a bad day, who worries about me when I'm gone too long, and always welcomes me with open arms... Love means so many things... because to me love is you.
- Honey! I'm so much in love with you. I can gaze at the night for hours; I can sit and count the stars; I can marvel at nature's beauty for hours because it's one of those times when in heart, in mind, in body, in soul I'm with you, so much at peace with myself, so much at peace with the world around. Love you honey!
- Your love is a gift I cherish. Love is a bond so beautiful, that's evergreen in every season... It's our companionship, that's worth a treasure for me... It's our togetherness that makes each moment a celebration. Together we've faced both the good and bad times of life—celebrating joys in favorable moments and holding each other's hand tightly in unfavorable ones... Darling, it feels great to say that with every hour of our union, I find reasons to love you more.
- Sweetheart! When I pause at each happy memory we've left behind in the photographs of our early years, they surely make me smile... And it's still that the same warm smile I wear each time I look at you — the one that said it then as now "I'll love you all life through..." Of course, we're somewhat older now, but at once I recognize, the charming green, the handsome character, the laughing, twinkling eyes, the arms that still hold me just as tight, the hands that still clasp mine with the same right...
- Darling! Such is the magic of your love... When you walk along the roads that lead to me while trampling under your feet the dry autumn leaves, what you leave behind is "spring", a season of love.
- You know you're in love... When every happiness rests in being with some one... Just like the way it has been for us... My love.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- I won't be able to meet you next week. I will stay in London for a few days.
- Can I borrow your camera? I'll be giving it back to you tomorrow.
- I promise I call you as soon as I get home.
- I am not able to believe she's 50. She looks much younger than that.
- After the trees have been cut back, we can see more of the garden from the sitting room.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- When I saw the vase, I knew it was exactly what I had been looking for.
- When I grow up I'm going to be an engineer.
- Take your umbrella; it's going to rain. Note: The modal 'will' is not used to predict, on the basis of some external evidence, that something will happen soon.
- The world's supply of oil will soon run out.
- Put your coat on before you go out.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Equal in value, amount, meaning.
- Having a double or doubtful meaning.
- Period in history, starting from a particular time or event.
- Destroy or put an end to.
- Short journey to take or get something.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- A thing or person that shows a set of qualities: **epitome** (n)
- An important event which seems to begin a whole new period: **epoch** (n)
- An imaginary line drawn round the world halfway between its most northern and southern points: **equator** (n)
- A triangle whose all 3 sides are equal: **equilateral** (adj)

(B) Words commonly confused

Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

- damage, demurrage
- rewarding, dewarding
- shirt, skirt
- prolixity, propensity
- ring, wring

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- ocular** (adj) (of, for, by, the eyes): The witness claimed ocular proof of the murder.
visual (adj) (connected with or having an effect on the sense of sight): Painting and dancing are visual arts.
- sever** (vt) (break): The rope severed under the strain.
severe (adj) (rigorous, violent): I have a severe headache.
serious (adj) (important because of possible danger): The current international law and order scenario looks serious.
- wrong** (adj) (not morally right; unjust): You are wrong to disobey your father.
wrongful (adj) (unlawful): All the workers protested against the wrongful dismissal of their colleague.
- electric** (adj) (produced by electricity): I have an electric room heater.
electronic (adj) (connected with any apparatus that works by electronics): He deals in electronic goods.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(I) Synonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one given at the top

- replenish**
a. to spread around b. to fulfill
c. to indulge
d. to provide a new supply for
- eke**
a. to dilute b. to supplement
c. to coax d. to irritate
- vie**
a. to convert b. to stimulate
c. to strive for superiority d. to surpass
- flagrant**
a. widely scattered b. poisonous
c. scandalous d. absurd
- disparate**
a. radically different b. discouraged
c. reckless d. stingy

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Word Synonym

- plead beg for
- sobriety quality of self control
- transgressor law breaker
- fling throw
- heresy strong belief

(ii) Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given at the top

- asceticism**
a. gambler b. austere
c. sinister d. debauchery
- famish**
a. famous b. pure
c. devouring d. mistake
- chastity**
a. injustice b. grossness
c. discourage d. enlighten

(iii) Allegiance

- accuse b. confer
c. violation d. puny

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Word Antonym

- disconsolate cheerful
- predilection aversion
- wholesome injurious
- remorseless penitent
- extraneous relevant

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. advisable b. advicable
c. adviseable d. adiseable
- a. accomodation b. accomodation
c. accomodation d. acomodation
- a. addimition b. admission
c. admition d. admision
- a. adress b. address
c. adres d. adras
- a. adulteration b. adalteration
c. adottration d. adealtration

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- blasphemous
- iniquitous
- cassette
- pedagogue
- reminiscent

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- be a load/weight off one's mind
- have a brainwave
- take the line of least resistance

4. be taken with (someone/something)

5. draw a veil over

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- above board** (open and honest, without hiding anything): His dealings are open and above board.
- not to have a penny to one's name** (to be extremely poor): After undergoing an expensive medical treatment, he doesn't have a penny to his name.
- on the cards** (very likely to happen): The employees were delighted when they heard that a pay hike is on the cards.
- bite the bullet** (to deal as bravely as possible with something that is unpleasant but unavoidable): He didn't want to be transferred from his present post, but when the boss insisted he had to bite the bullet.
- bury the hatchet** (to agree to stop quarreling or fighting and be friends again): The brothers were constantly quarreling, but when the father died, they buried the hatchet.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Rewrite these sentences without changing the meaning, using the verb given in brackets

- When I was in hospital, they let us have visitors every day. (allow)
- The police officers forced him to sign the confession. (make)
- She said she thought I ought to complain to the police. (advise)
- 'Don't swim in the sea — it's dangerous,' the fisherman told us. (warn)
- I know my brother would be happy if I went on holiday with him. (want)

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- Both New York and Tokyo are important financial centers.
- Louis Pasteur as well as Alexander Fleming made important medical discoveries.
- Both whales and tigers are in danger of extinction.
- Napoleon as well as Hitler did not succeed in conquering Russia.
- Pythagoras studies geometry. Euclid studied geometry, too.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

101: PROFIT FROM GOOD ADVICE REQUIRES MORE WISDOM THAN TO GIVE IT

Suggested answers to the previous topic

100: SWEET ARE THE USES OF ADVERSITY

Adversity means unfavorable circumstances. When a person faces a set of hostile circumstances, he banks upon his inner resources to meet the challenge confronting him. This results in drawing out the best reserve which hitherto fore was latent or dormant in him. That's why it is rightly said, "When the going gets tough, the tough gets going." A man faced with adversity banks upon the blessings of the Immanent will, the Cause of all causes and prays to the Almighty to give him strength to tide over the sea of troubles and by opposing end them. Thus adversity becomes an acid test for him in the battle of life teaching him precious lessons about life and its realities, leading to self realization and self-actualization. Beaumont and Fletcher rightly observe: 'Calamity is man's true touchstone.' Byron, the celebrated Romantic poet comments: 'Adversity is the first path to truth.' Avon is right when he says: "Adversity introduces a man to himself." Similarly the Old Testament mentions: 'If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.' Seneca, the Greek philosopher, puts it succinctly in the following words: 'Gold is tried by fire, brave men by adversity.' He again remarks: 'Great men rejoice in adversity just as brave soldiers triumph in war.' As Franklin K. Lane puts it: 'The brave sight in all this world is a man fighting against odds.' As a dark cloud has a silver lining, so also adversity has a positive role to play in an individual's life, making him stronger and bolder as a brave warrior in the great drama of existence. In contrast, a person who is born with a silver spoon in his mouth and is surrounded by favorable circumstances, mistakenly takes life to be a cake walk, a bed of roses and is easily daunted by approaching vicissitudes of life. In the ultimate analysis, adversity that seems tough at the outset, turns but to be a great teacher. Paradoxical though it may sound, the fruits of adversity are sweet indeed.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"It is those who believe and mix not their beliefs with wrong — that are (truly) in security, for they are on (right) guidance."
S6:A82

VI. Food for Thought

"A good laugh is sunshine in a house."

—Thackeray

Japanese Professor enthralls the students in Taiz

Professor Yoriko Meguro from Sophia University, Tokyo is currently on a visit to Yemen. She specializes in Sociology and has conducted extensive research in the area of Women Studies (Gender Studies). She has received several national and international awards in recognition of her work. As part of her visit to this country she delivered two talks to university students, one at Sana'a and other at Taiz. Here is a report of her second talk at Taiz University on 14 December 2005. The talk was entitled 'Japan's Approach to Development and Gender Equality.'



Dr. S. Mohanraj
Faculty of Education
Taiz University, Taiz

Dr Meguro approached the topic of Development and Gender Equality from a historical perspective. The War battered Japan adopted two strategies for recovery and development. They were democratization and industrialization. Both these had an impact on the role women had to play in the future of Japan.

Democratization

The process of democratization which began in the year 1945 focused on emancipation of women and as a first step granted suffrage to them which was hitherto denied to them. Further, women were allowed to contest election and a record number of 39 women were returned in the elections held in April 1946. This has been statistically the highest women's representation to date.

The second major step was to provide education to women. The objective of this measure was to saturate the society with 'wise mothers' who could 'raise good citizens'. This was one way women could serve the nation. By 1945 plans to universalize education were mooted, and every citizen in Japan would be entitled to free education at primary and middle school levels. This obviously included women.

The education so imparted had its own spin offs. The girls who now had education were more liberated and chose to postpone their marriages. They also exercised their right in choosing suitable marriage partners thus making marriage more sound and ideological. This brought about a change in the course of nation's progress. The delayed marriage put a check on the growing population and sadly also reduced the fertility rate among women. It was drastically reduced and stood at 1.32 conceptions per women in her life time. Another significant social change that came up as a result of this was establishment of nuclear families. Nuclear families also contributed to adoption of family planning measures including opting for abortions which were legalized.

The other spin off was seeing more women in the work force. Generally these women were young and single to begin with. Gradually, the scenario changed and married women also became part of the work force. Though the process of democratization aimed at providing equal opportunities to women, there was discrimination seen in the wages paid to women workers and the attitude employers bore towards them. This phenomenon which was true till recently has been put an end to.

Industrialization

Industrialization which was the second strategy of development aimed at economic growth. To help the industry function smoothly, Japanese Management System was developed. Each company had its own labour union — and the workers had a sense of dedication and commitment towards the company they were working for. Changing jobs was unheard of, and people were employed for life in companies. This sense of commitment was reciprocated by providing social security — and workers were identified with their companies. This sense of belonging helped boost the production and in turn the national economy.

The companies were interested in the welfare of their employees and organized campaigns for the wives of employees. The objective of such campaigns was to educate them about health, hygiene and family planning. Awareness was created among them to raise children properly, provide them with good education and also manage the finances of the family wisely.

Role of women and Gender Policies

The traditional Japanese society

viewed woman as a housebound person — somebody carved out to look after the family and the needs of the children. But with democratization and industrialization housewives were forced to go into the labour market to supplement the family income. Because of the traditional mindset, women were discriminated against, and paid lower wages. They were given less importance on job (for e.g. not consulted when decisions had to be taken) and terminated from jobs when they attained motherhood. Career minded women had to wage battles against social norms and the pressures of the family.

There was another reason which forced women to join the workforce. This was an offshoot of industrialization. Traditionally, Japan was an agrarian society with 80% of the labour force employed in this sector. But with industrialization, there was a forced migration from rural areas into urban areas thus dealing a hard blow to the agriculture sector. In a few years the percentage came down to nearly 70% a substantial decrease. The family income from industry which seemed handsome was just sufficient to support the nuclear families. In other words the process of industrialization gave fillip to the already changing basic unit of social structure — the family.

The Government of Japan and the society at large brought in a large number of reforms to provide equal status to women, and also protect them. Here is a list of major events that changed the status of women:

- 1950 — A law was enacted to prohibit prostitution.
- 1975 — First conference on Women Empowerment was held.
- 1980 — A Convention to remove discrimination of all types against women was organized.
- 1980 — Patrilineal families were changed to bilineal families. Further laws were enacted to ensure citizenship was granted to a child born of wedlock of one of the Japanese parents. Hitherto such citizenship rights were granted to only those children whose father was a Japanese national.
- 1985 — A convention was organized to recruit people for jobs without discrimination of sex. However, no penal code existed and hence employers continued to practice such discrimination. In the year 1997 a law was passed against such practice and became effective only in 1999.
- 2000 — A law was passed to punish people treating women badly. NGOs took up the cases of battered wives and girls who were molested and sexually harassed. Several ex-husbands and ex-boy friends were brought to justice because of the pressure exerted by the NGOs.

Japan in the Global Scenario

At the initiative of Japan, UNDP today has a wing on WID (Women in Development). WID works for mainstreaming gender perspective in all fields at all stages. (i.e. discrimination against employment and promotions) Today, because of this initiative, 50% of all women above the age of 15 years are employed. The percentage of senior women in the workforce has also increased. Women are today seen in politics, high profile executive positions and on Boards that are responsible for decision making. This has provided a visibility to women. In spite of all these reforms there is a nagging bitter after taste left behind — women's wages are still just 68% of their male counterpart. This has made the economic independence for women a far cry. Hopefully this lacuna will be a thing of the past in the near future.

Ms Arwa of the Department of English welcomed the gathering and Dr Meguro's talk was facetiously interpreted into Arabic by Dr Intelq of the Department of English, Sana'a University. The meeting concluded with a question answer session. The meeting was attended by over 700 students and luminaries of the university. Dr Wahbiya Moharram, Dean, Language Centre Taiz University coordinated the visit of Prof. Meguro. His Excellency the Ambassador from Japan to Yemen wore his position lightly and sat among the audience.

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Sana'a Gardens: Enjoyment or Waste of Money?

By: Adel Al-Haddad

Gardens and amusement parks are significant rudiments showing nature's beauty, environment and modern city life. Visiting gardens, especially on weekends, to spend time under shade trees and watch innocent children play happily in a green environment with fragrant flowers, is one of a citizen's rights that should be exercised in our capital. Our children have the full right to play and relax according to the Constitution and International Children's Rights. Sana'a lacks well-qualified public gardens and amusement parks. In this regard, there are many gardens and parks, but most are not used and not qualified for public use; whereas, the old city of Sana'a is a good example of how an ideal capital should look - full of good gardens which also produce daily vegetables and some fruits.

Children like an ideal place for playing, shouting and amusement. How nice when one observes happiness on children's faces as they amuse themselves! As mentioned above, there are very few qualified gardens. In this article, we take Al-Sab'een Garden as an example:

Ali Al-Harsh, the General Administration for Gardens, says, "Al-Sab'een Garden is the best park in



A big part of the park is not planted nor used

Sana'a." Al-Sab'een Garden lies in the southern suburb of Sana'a and has a total area of approximately 391,000 square meters. Private business and investment sectors, such as Al-Sab'een Garden Amusement Park, Pizza Hut and Fun City, rent many parts of Al-Sab'een Garden. In this regard, the following are accounts of citizens and children the Yemen Times interviewed, in which they express their opinions and impressions, noting pros and cons of the park's facilities:

Eight-year-old student Arwa Yahya Saleh said, "I am coming here for the first time with my classmates for play-

ing and fun. I would like to use all the games in the park, but I don't have enough money for that."

Army officer Ali Zaher said, "The garden is nice, but it needs a lot of improvement and development. There are few trees; we cannot find a good place to sit down and eat some fast food." He noted the garden's size is not big enough, "if we compare it with other countries' gardens." As a result, "We can use all the games here in only one hour," he added. Zaher said prices are too high and in some countries, games like these are free of charge and if there are any charges, they are very

low. He also hoped garden staff would wear uniforms so customers can recognize them.

Eight-year-old student Yousef Mohammed Al-Gaml said, "I like to come every day, but some games scare me. Really, I am not used to them."

Nesreen Al-Goufi, teacher at Al-Nama Modern School, said, "I bring my students here to amuse themselves. What a pity the cost of the games is expensive for average Yemeni people. Thus, most fathers of the students cannot afford such prices. Moreover, the park is not very clean and fast food is not hygienic. In addition, some of the games are too old and others are broken, as you see."

Ali Al-Hababi, an employee in the Ministry of Finance, said, "I can say the garden is nice, but we cannot use some games until other users are finished. Additionally, the time specified for each game is too short while we pay the high charge for them. For instance, if some fathers have many kids, they cannot afford to use all the games." He also pointed out that some facilities are not well maintained; for example, the chairs parents use to wait for their kids are broken.

As the capital city, Sana'a should have many ideal gardens in which its residents, in particular its children, can spend a nice time and at least be worth the money they spend for it.



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Artist Belqacem makes a round-the-world trip from Sana'a

Amar Ben Belqacem, a Tunisian-French painter, is doing a round-the-world trip featuring his works with Sana'a being the starting point. The trip includes Berlin, Germany, in March, 2006, where he will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Tunisian National Day. Then, he will travel to Paris, in particular to the UNESCO Palace in April where a significant exposure of colors organized by the permanent delegation of Tunisia at UNESCO will take place in France. After that, his gallery will be shown in Tunis, his homeland, in May. The trip will cover also Washington and other countries that "welcome and appreciate the modern Tunisian art" as he said during his gallery which was inaugurated on Wednesday Dec 14, 2005, at the French Cultural Center (Henry De Monfried Center). The Paris-based artist has procured with him fifteen paintings which are now on display.

Amar is a plastic artist who belongs to abstractionism. All his paintings have vivid colors.

Describing his work he said: "My paintings are a scream for peace; an invitation for singing, love and adoration. They are very quiet. They do not call for violence or hatred but for love and peace. Each of them is like a song that invites people to dance."

He expressed his happiness to be in Yemen in his first visit to "this magical country" which he used to hear about. "For me, Yemen is the twentieth country to have galleries in. Others include Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Belgium, France, and Tunis," he added.



Amar Ben Belqacem next to his favorite painting.

Amar Belqasim was the youngest plastic artist in Tunisia. He started picking up the brush when he was just ten years old and set up the first gallery when he was eleven.

"I always liked plastic arts and vivid colors which permeate into the soul soothing it and relieving the inner tension. For this purpose, I chose right from my childhood to become a plastic artist. When I was ten, I set off on my journey as an artist. My parents encouraged me. So, I have a 16-year-old experience in color art."

Concerning the artists who influenced him, he pointed to late Ali bin Salim, a Tunisian plastic art celebrity. There were also international painters, French and Swiss.

"These artists gave me the appetite to apply the principles of art and visit the various world countries to display my works," he described. "They influenced me in terms of color. I use vivid, eye-catching colors such as orange which I see in my garden, green which I see in tree leaves and yellow which I see in the sun."

I am a poet:

Amar Belqacem considers himself to be a poet but of a different type. "I am a poet," he said. "My poetry, however, is written in color and not words. My paintings are visual songs. My works are inspired by the twittering of sparrows and the fascinating sceneries, which I have viewed during my travels around the world. Yemen's nature is very inspiring too. These are the necessary elements which are specific to Yemen. Most importantly, there is the amenity of the Yemeni people."

He has met some Yemeni artists and will meet others. He realized that the Yemeni plastic artists "produce creative works of real value. They also have the aptitude to create more."

During his current visit to Yemen, which will extend until Dec 23, he will be speaking to student of plastic art schools in dif-

ferent areas such as Hodeidah and Dhamar.

Art is my life:

"Art is my life," replied Amar when asked about the importance of art for him. "I adore plastic arts because they are my life. It is very important for me to put intimate colors on white paper."

In his childhood in Tunisia, he used to stay in a house near the sea with a garden full of flowers. That refined his aesthetic sense. In Paris, he lived in Fountainplaeu, a place near the forest. "That allowed me to keep my communion with the natural surroundings which are vital for art production. You can perceive that there is green in all my paintings; green is everywhere because green is life. I need peace and my art is an invitation for peace, love and friendship."

On his part, Alain Joly, the Director of the French Cultural Center described the event as "a great occasion." The Director said that it is significant because the artist is a Frenchman who is also from North Africa. "French culture is not only coming from the roots of France but also from all around the world specifically from Tunisia, a country with the second largest community in France."

He revealed that more events will be organized in the future involving more artists and also dancers. "Urban dancers from foreign countries will perform and of course Yemeni traditional dancers."

Organized by the Embassy of Tunisia along with the French Cultural Center, the gallery was inaugurated by the Tunisian Ambassador to Yemen. The exhibition was also attended by the Egyptian Ambassador, artists, writers and interested people.

After the inauguration of the gallery, there was a show of "The Silence of Palaces," a Tunisian movie which delineates the story of a low-class girl who wanted to be a singer.

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