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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 Do you think the economic embargo set on the Palestinian Authority will force Hamas to quit power?
 I don't know (13%)
 Yes (29%) No (58%)
 This edition's question:
 As the U.S. Administration demands inspecting the Iman University, do you think multinational students enrolled in the university will face interrogation in case inspection takes place?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Iman University opens doors for inspection

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 10 — Iman University Rector's Office Manager confirmed the authenticity of some media reports that a U.S. delegation will inspect the university.

Ismail Al-Suhaili said to Yemen Times that only the U.S. Ambassador is invited to visit the university and "we never learned about a large U.S. delegation." He stated Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, rector of the university, met with President Saleh in the presence of the U.S. Ambassador who wanted to know more about the university.

President Saleh gave orders to allow the U.S. Envoy to only make a visit to their academic institution.

"We sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry, considered the authorized party, to inform the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a that we welcome their ambassador's visit to the university to clarify any misunderstanding about the university's activities," Al-Suhaili added. "We asked the Foreign Ministry to specify an appointment for the U.S. Ambassador's



Sheikh Al-Zindani.

visit to prove to him that the university is an academic and scientific institution, but until now no response has been shown."

The university rector's office manager neither confirmed nor denied the authenticity of reports that a large U.S. delegation will inspect the university by viewing students' lists, their citizenships

and numbers plus the syllabuses they learn at the university. He said the matter is left to the university leadership to accept or refuse such things.

He pointed out the Iman University leaves its doors open for media and any visits by those who want to know about the university are often welcomed. "Like other Yemeni private universities, syllabuses and courses taught at the university are approved by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The university works in compliance with the Yemeni constitution and law," Al-Suhaili said.

Concluding his speech, Al-Suhaili emphasized media must play an important role in clarifying facts on condition they abide by professionalism regulations and keep away from any partisan or political considerations.

Different media trends reported the U.S. Embassy told Al-Zindani that the U.S. authorities accepted his last March's invitation to send an official delegation to Yemen to visit the Iman University.

Continued on page 2

University Profs indict Civil Service Ministry

By: Mustafa Ragih

SANA'A, May 10 — Hundreds of university professors, referred to pensions by the Civil Service and Insurance Ministry, sued a legal action to the South Capital Court against the ministry's decision, which they termed academic catastrophe.

Dr. Hassan Mujalli, a Professor of Law and Lawyer of university teachers, said "The Civil Service and Insurance Ministry sent a payroll of 600 professors to all Yemeni universities demanding them to be referred to pensions under the pretext they have reached 60 years of age."

The Ministry wanted to apply the job



Professor from Faculty of Law in a meeting.

Minister of Civil Service and Insurance Hamoud Khaled Al-Sofi stated to Yemen Times that his Ministry plans to issue a law permitting employees reaching the retirement age to work for five more years after being approved by the Prime Minister. He noted the additional five years of employment will be approved on the basis of demand and rare specializations necessitating work extension, adding that the Ministry will resort to the law to settle its judicial dispute with university teachers, confirming the latter will lose.

Al-Sofi pointed out that his ministry will implement any law intended to grant universities a special retirement system, otherwise the ministry will resort to the retirement law placed in effect.

and wages law based on one of its articles that stipulates canceling any clause contravening the law, Mujalli added. "The job and wages law stipulates applying the social insurance law in all government bodies excluding the armed forces and universities since they have their own regulations."

According to the social insurance law, the Civil Service and Insurance Ministry is obliged to implement the retirement law concerning universities, which stipulates that university teachers must not be referred to pensions until they reach 60 years of age. It allows university teachers to work for five more years on a contractual basis after retirement in case they have the capability to work.

Continued on page 2

Voter registers reviewed

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, May 8 — The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) reviewed in its last meeting a report concerning results of revising and adjusting voter registers which came to an end last Tuesday.

The report shows that the total number of new registrars reached about 1,280,000 across the republic, while 164,949 people of both sexes changed their voting center. The SCER delegated the technical and planning affairs sector together with legal affairs and referendum sector to gather the final results. This was done according to the minutes and registers raised by field committees and issuing a report to the SCER for ratification.

In addition, the SCER reviewed the registration statistics such as number of the people who had registered previously in 2002, and those thought to be too young to vote based on checking the voters' photos.

The SCER has also delegated heads of specialized sectors to announce those scores, data and legal procedures, in a press conference and through mass

media. The SCER approved of announcing the repeated names in the previous and present voter registers. This is in addition to under-age voters who are supposed to go to the primary committees during insertion and deletion process which begins Tuesday, May 9. They have to cancel their names lest they should be sued. The SCER has called upon political parties and civil organizations concerned with elections to make voters aware of the importance of canceling those names that were illegally enlisted. They should feel responsible for keeping the voter registers free from distortion being the primary base for political rights as the right of nomination, voting and referendum.

For their parts, Participants in Shaikh Al-Ahmer Forum, which is held every Monday and attended by politicians, Journalists and social figures, agreed upon the seriousness of violations and infringements which took place during the edition and revision of voters' register. In a study submitted by Ibrahim Al-Hair, the head of electoral bureau of Islah party, the number of under-age registrars is around 880,000 and this represents the percentage of 11 percent of the total number of voters.

No violations announced in Hadramout

On the other hand, the SCER subcommittees operating in different areas of Hadramout finished the process of voter registers' modification and review without any violations.

Continued on page 2

Ruling party blames opposition for illegal fund-raising

By: Adel Al-Khawliani

SANA'A, May 9 — The General People Congress (GPC) Tuesday charged opposition parties with illegal fund-raising for the upcoming elections under the pretext of supporting Palestinian Authority led by Hamas.

"Leading women affiliating to the Islamist Islah Party and other opposition organizations usually meet other females at schools, hospitals and other places and ask them for money under the cover of supporting Hamas, however, information was leaked that the funds will go to opposition presidential and local candidates in the upcoming polls," a GPC activist said on condition of anonymity.

Almotamar net of the ruling party reported Monday that Women's Sector of the strongest opposition Islah Party launched a fund-raising campaign in female circles to collect money for the party's electoral campaign.

The party's news source quoted well-informed sources as saying the campaign was started in the provinces of Taiz, Aden and Hodeida as a first step by female activists who claimed that the money was aimed at supporting the Hamas-led Palestinian government, which has seen a cessation of international aids.

The ruling party released statements

accusing Islah, one of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), of using women activists only to vote for its candidates, persuade other women to support opposition or collect finance for the same party that allows women to vote but not to take part in elections as candidates. The statements outraged Islah party leaders and activists who accused the ruling party and the regime of adopting wrong policies that lead the country to an unprecedented catastrophe. The Islah party held the regime and the ruling party accountable for the country's ailing economy and bad living standards of people. According to Islah leaders, most of the government's spending goes to the unknown and the government has never fulfilled its promises to improve infrastructure such as electricity, where inhabitants of main cities live for hours with the power off. They said the government's unwise policies and absence of monitoring help corrupt officials to be richer at the expense of ordinary citizens whose living standards goes from bad to worse.

Charges which opposition attributes to government's wrong policies enraged President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who warned against inflaming sentiments over the upcoming presidential elections, in which he has said he will not run.

Continued on page 2

African immigrants forcibly drowned

By: Amel Alariqi

SANA'A, May 9 — At least 39 African immigrants drowned and 212 others are missing after smugglers forced them jump from a boat at gunpoint off Yemen's southern coast, said The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Monday 8 May 2006.

The victims were part of a group of illegal immigrants of 349 Ethiopians and Somalis crossing from Somalia to Yemen on three boats. Most of the dead were Ethiopians, according to UNHCR.

Ninety-eight people made it to the shore, and 39 bodies were found near Belhaf on the southern coast of Yemen on Sunday, UNHCR said in a statement which did not mention any information

on the whereabouts of the remaining people from the boats.

One of the survivors told UNHCR staff in Yemen on Sunday that three smuggling boats carrying some 349 Somalis and Ethiopians had set off from Somalia to Yemen. However, one of the boats developed mechanical problems, but assisted by the smugglers on the other two boats managed to cross the Gulf. Close to the Yemeni shore, the faster two boats rushed ahead in an attempt to avoid the coast guards, and quickly dropped their passengers off. The smugglers on the third boat, however, could not get close to shore. Not wanting to be left behind with a broken boat, they forced all the passengers overboard at gunpoint.

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Twelve Yemenis to return from Aboghraib

SANA'A, May 9 — Official sources disclosed that a security delegation returned from Iraq last week. The delegation was in a work mission that secured the release of 12 detainees in Aboghraib prison.

Al-Wahda newspaper attributed to these sources that the security team discussed with the Iraqi authorities the situation of the Yemenis in the Aboghraib prison and the other detainees in other Iraqi prisons.

The paper added that the visit achieved good results. A deal was reached with the Iraqi authorities to release all Yemenis in Aboghraib



Aboghraib Prison in the war-ravaged country.

prison.

The paper said that there were only 12 detainees in Aboghraib prison who will be handed over to Yemen within the few coming weeks.

An official source spoke on condition of anonymity denying reports that Yemen was handed 12 people who have been jailed in Aboghraib Prison.

The Iraqi Embassy in Sana'a confirmed it never learned about such stories published by Yemeni media.

IFC considers \$200 million to private sector

SANA'A, May 9 — The International Funding Corporation (IFC) held a workshop with the granite, marble and ornamental stone producers and exporters society, at the Movenpick hotel in Sana'a. The Geological Survey Authority also participated, in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Transport, Ministry of Planning and international Cooperation and Aden free zone. The establishment coordinator Saeed Sabra said that IFC was involved with a \$ 16 million share in the period since 2004. He added that the establishment is considering supporting investment projects for the private sector costing \$ 200 million.

The head of granite and marble producers' society, Ahmed Al-shilaif, said, "The Marble and granite sector in



A view of IFC workshop.

Yemen is a neglected one, because there is no support to this wealth whose revenues are considered second to oil."

Shilaif added, "Marbles and stones are found in abundance in Yemen, with varied colors that reach 60 types. They are found with a rate of 80% in each governorate."

Al-Shilaif called for supporting this sector by constructing roads and furnishing outlets for export. He continued to say, "There is no bank in Yemen that finances such projects in Yemen" pointing out that there are sites with billions worth of wealth, waiting to

be extracted.

Shilaif assured at the end of his address that the companies working in Yemen do not cover even 10 % of the local market needs.

Head of the Geological survey authority, Dr. Ismail al-Janad said, "The Marble and granite society should follow up the investors and should present their problems."

Al-Janad confirmed the importance of cooperation between exporters of marble and granite and the government to pave the way for the right procedures, evaluate the situations and keep away from conflicts. He called for consolidating government and private sector efforts, to come out with a joint mechanism for developing this important sector.



Traditional method of extracting marble.

Hadrami drivers more rational

By: Saeed Al-Batati

HADRAMOUT, May 9 — Hadramout witnessed less number of traffic accidents, compared to other Yemeni governorates for the last twelve months, Director General of Traffic Department said.

Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Al-Qudaimi confirmed that despite the fact that Hadramout has the largest area among Yemeni provinces, traffic accidents in this province are the least during 2005-2006.

"Traffic accidents registered from May 2005 until April 2006 numbered 356, including major and minor accidents, compared to 380 accidents during the previous year," Al-Qudaimi added.

This year's accidents killed 58 people, of whom 49 males and 9 females, wounded 358 others, of whom 251 males and 107 females and caused loss of property estimated at 27626000 Yemeni Riyals, according to Director General of Hadramout Traffic Department.

He attributed the decline of accidents in the province to the spread of awareness among locals, pointing out that most of the registered accidents were caused by drivers from other provinces.

Asked about causes of traffic accidents, Al-Qudaimi said indifference on the part of drivers and the use of mobile phones while driving play a great role in causing traffic accidents, coupled with high speed and bad roads.

"Most of traffic accidents occurred on the Sayoun- Mukalla Highway due to risky topography including slopes and highlands," Al-Qudaimi said. He



A damaged car dragged by the traffic vehicle following a road accident.

stressed the highway must be rehabilitated according to traffic regulations and bylaws.

Additionally, the leakage of diesel from old trucks confuses citizens, as the substance is responsible for vehicles slipping and drifting off roads in slopes.

Hadramout Traffic Department organized Tuesday a concluding ceremony of the Sixth Traffic Week coinciding with the Arab Traffic Week from May 4-9. The event was attended by many citizens from throughout the governorate.

On the national level, victims of traffic accidents are on the rise due to multiple factors. According to official scores, 702 people died in traffic accidents over the past four months with a daily average of 6 deaths.

Over the past four months, 1730 traffic accidents, in which 3279 people faced differing injuries and properties estimated at millions of Riyals were damaged.

2005 traffic accidents outnumbered those of the year before, said traffic officials while scores released by General Traffic Department indicated that accidents amounted up to 12869 nationwide during 2005, compared to 12267 accidents in 2004. According to the same scores, 2005 accidents claimed 2510 lives and critically wounded 7030 people, compared to 2249 deaths and 5443 major injuries during 2004.

2005 traffic accidents caused 7318 minor injuries, compared to 8174 during the 2004, the scores revealed, adding that over 135 thousand traffic accidents, killing 26 thousand people and injuring 152 thousand others, have been registered over the past 15 years.

According to concerned parties, break-neck speed, lack of car maintenance and lack of public awareness about traffic regulations and laws, coupled with rough roads and randomly issuing driving licenses are the primary causes of traffic accidents nationwide.

New Anti-polio campaign ends today

SANA'A, May 11 — Today is the last day of the anti-polio campaign launched on Tuesday, May 9. The campaign which targeted two millions and more than seven hundred thousands children under five years old throughout 13 governorates.

"This is a mop-up campaign covering 13 governorates around the Ibb province, 150 km south of the capital, where polio was last detected in February," said World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Yemen Dr. Hashim Al-Zain.

The governorates to be targeted include: Ibb; Abyan; Al-Beidha; Hodidah; Taiz; Thamar; Shabwa; Marib; Dhal'e; Hajja; and the capital province of Sana'a. Some 24,000 health workers and volunteers will be taking part in the campaign.

"The campaign will be carried out from house-to-house" said the Minister of Health and Population Ministry Abdul-Karim Rasea, in a press conference that held on Monday. He confirmed that such campaign is a protective measure to enhance children's immunity to avoid reactivation of the polio virus. He added that low immunization rates among Yemen's children may

facilitate the spread of the virus.

"We will keep on working and launching campaigns until we can stamp polio out of Yemen"

Between April 2005 and February 2006, the Ministry of Health confirmed a total of 474 polio cases, including six fatalities. According to WHO representative, however, subsequent vaccination campaigns have been relatively successful in bringing the epidemic under control.

"Only three cases were detected since October 2005, indicating that the immunization campaigns have been very effective," Al-Zain said.

"In some countries, it takes at least a year to stop the virus, but here we brought it under control in only five months."

Four cases of polio were confirmed in Yemen on 20 April 2005 in Hodidah - the south-western part of the country, on the Red Sea coast. The WHO experts said that The

virus that is responsible for the outbreak is the Wild Virus Type 1, which was imported from Sudan after being introduced there from Nigeria. In May 2005 18 cases were reported in different governorates, suggesting the virus had spread across the country. According to the health organisation, Yemen accounted for 36 percent of the 1,310 polio cases registered worldwide in the first nine months of 2005.



Appeal to President to restore robbed land

SANA'A, May 8 — Two Yemeni nationals sent a letter to Mr. President appealing to him to recover his land seized by an influential person. The brothers approached the Yemen Times to highlight their case, which is one of many of the like taking place in Yemen.

Brothers Hussein and Nagi Abo Sabah sent a letter of petition to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to resolve their dispute with Ahmed Hussein Shumaila, who allegedly seized their 7480 square meters estimated at one

billion riyals.

The letter read, "[We] hope that you will bring back all our rights completely and rapidly."

They accused what the called "land mafia" of which Shumaila is just a cover. "Ahmed Hussein Shumaila is just a façade hiding behind him a powerful mafia which has been accumulating huge wealth by seizing lands owned either by the State or by citizens like us."

The two brothers said that, despite

the interventions of tribal sheiks, the dispute could not be solved because opponent is influential in the State and belongs to the tribe of the President.

They also complained that although the President gave directives to the Presidency Office Manager, the latter made little to end the dispute and address the injustice.

Throughout the letter, they reiterated their belief in the fairness of their case and their hope to find a solution to the problem.

Continued from page 1

Iman University opens doors for inspection

The Iman University was established in 1994 and inaugurated by the President of the Republic. Nearly 6000 male and female students from 52 countries are enrolled in the university at present. The university provides courses based on

Sunni principles and views closer to Wahabi intellect. According to Al-Suhaili, the university does not receive any support from Yemeni government but it gets assistances from local, Arab and Muslim philanthropists

University Profs indict Civil Service Ministry

Mujalli mentioned that most of the countries do not apply a retirement system referring university teachers to pensions at age 60 since the majority of these academics can only obtain the professorship after age 50.

He described the Civil Service Ministry's procedure as "irregular" implying the government wants Yemeni universities to be an affiliate to the executive authority. The procedure makes universities lose their financial, administrative and academic independence.

Mujalli commented that via the procedure, the government wants to get rid of university teachers having opposition

stances that are not in line with the ruling party. He said that work contracts with the retired staff will merely serve those who are loyal to the government even if they attain 80 years of age.

The Minister of Civil Service said the social insurance law excludes the armed forces as they have their own system and pensions fund. He considered the retirement system in universities as a decision that does not exempt universities from being treated under the social insurance law. He indicated that the Supreme Council of Universities (SCU) formed a committee in its recent meeting to suggest solutions for university teachers' demands under the law.

African immigrants forcibly drowned

"The boat was still in deep sea when they were thrown overboard and only those who could swim managed to reach safety," said UNHCR field officer Mohammed Godboudin, in Yemen. "At least 39 people drowned. The bodies were picked up by our staff and buried in a traditional ceremony on the spot."

The 98 survivors are staying at UNHCR's Mayfa'a reception centre for two to three days, until they recuperate and feel ready to continue their journey. They are being provided with meals and medical assistance. The new arrivals also receive temporary registration forms to serve as ID documents to help them at police check points.

Yemen, one of the few countries in the region to have signed the 1951 Refugee Convention, has been generous in receiving refugees. There are currently more than 80,000 registered refugees in Yemen, of which 75,000 are Somalis who have arrived since civil strife began in Somalia in 1991.

These refugees-particular Somalis- are given prima-facie refugee status upon arrival in Yemen. They can choose to stay in Kharaz refugee camp close to Aden, presently home to 8,525 Somalis and some 800 Ethiopians.

Yearly, thousands of Somalis and Ethiopians suffering poverty and insecurity in their homeland, including refugees trying to escape persecution and violence, fall prey to smugglers in the hope of reaching Yemen, from where many seek to make their way into Europe.

Some of these refugees, have set off in little open fishing boats hoping to reach Yemen, from there many want to move on to work illegally in Saudi Arabia or in the Gulf States. As crossing the sea becomes more dangerous with rougher seas and smuggling boats stop sailing due to technical breakdowns, many of those immigrants drown each year.

Despite the dangers, smugglers still find many migrants wanting to immigrate via smuggling.

From September 2005 until April 2006, a total of 241 boats arrived from Somalia in Yemen an average of 30 boats a month. Several hundreds of people died during these trips. Therefore UNHCR repeatedly calls for international efforts to address the problem of smuggling and minimize the number of innocent victims.

UNHCR has been working closely with the authorities in Puntland, in where Bossaso, the chief commercial port and which is considered one of the world's busiest smuggling hubs- to inform people about the dangers of using smugglers to cross the Gulf of Aden. In January, the UN refugee agency also produced a video and radio program to raise awareness among Somalis and Ethiopians of the risks involved in such crossings. At the same time, it has called on donors to support the international community in its efforts to improve protection and assistance to internally displaced persons in Puntland who live in very difficult circumstances

Voter registers reviewed

The subcommittees registered citizens attaining the legal voting age and handed the new voter registers to the SCER Branch in the province immediately after finishing the process, Ahmad Iskandar, Manager of the SCER Branch said.

"Voter registration committees have finished the first phase easily without any violations or threats by parties or people and this reflects awareness of locals in the province," Iskandar added. "We have been pleased by registers turnout in the province."

Ruling party blames opposition for illegal fund-raising

Saleh lashed out at opposition parties, expressing regret that "certain groups are seeking to exacerbate tensions in political circles prior to election fever, and they all have to assume their responsibilities and bear the consequences of their acts." Local newspapers Tuesday quoted Saleh as saying, during a tour of Yemeni provinces, "political forces in the country should coexist and deal with each other judicially to avoid adding more oil on fire."

The exchange of accusations between the ruling party and opposition coincides with a state of confusion on the Yemeni political scene as the September election date draws nearer. The ruling party charged that "the campaign succeeded so far in collecting big amounts of money in addition to precious jewelry donated by Yemeni women under the guise of supporting Hamas Government."

The fund-raising coincided with another type of campaign: that of mosque preachers to mobilize support for the opposition party, "which reached in some instances the point of provoking the people against the GPC in addition to collecting funds under the cover of supporting Hamas," reliable sources said.

Yemeni government last month banned private fund-raising campaigns, restricting them within the framework of the administration in order to organize the process of collecting donations for the Palestinian people through four accounts.

Mossad murdered 530 Iraqi scientists

Numerous reports for many months have stated that with collaboration from American occupation forces, Israel's espionage apparatus, Mossad, slaughtered at least 530 Iraqi scientists and academic professors.

Persistent Israeli hit squads against Iraqi scientists had been active in Iraq since April 2003, but the latest chapter was uncovered on Tuesday, 14 June 2005 by the Palestine Information Center which, citing a report compiled by the United States Department of State and intended for the American President, stated that Israeli and foreign agents sent by Mossad, in cooperation with United States, to Iraq, killed at least 350 Iraqi scientists and more than 200 university professors and academic personalities.

According to the report, which was referred to the U.S. president George W. Bush, Mossad agents had been operating in Iraq with the aim of liquidating Iraqi nuclear and biology scientists, among other scientists, and prominent university professors.

That was after the U.S. failed to persuade those scientists to cooperate with or work for it.

"Israeli commandos had been operating on Iraqi territory for more than a year, the focus of their activities being the assassination of Iraqi scientists and intellectuals. The Zionists resorted to the large-scale assassination campaign after the failure of American efforts that started immediately after the American occupation of Iraq, aimed at attracting a number of Iraqi scientists to cooperate and go to work in the United States." The Palestine Information

Center quoted the report as saying.

"Some Iraqi scientists were forced to work in American research centers; however, the majority of them refused to cooperate in certain fields and fled the U.S. to other countries", it further stated.

The Pentagon agreed with the suggestion of Mossad, which believed that the best way to get rid of those scientists was to "physically eliminate them".

The American security service provided Israel with complete biographies on the Iraqi scientists and academics to facilitate killing them, the report said, adding that the Mossad campaign targeting Iraqi scientists is still underway.

"Plight of Iraqi Academics"

Below is a presentation by Dr Ismail Jalili titled "Plight of Iraqi Academics", in which he details Mossad crimes against the Iraqi scientists.

The presentation was made during Madrid International Conference on the Assassinations of Iraqi Academics on 23-24 April 2006.

Dr. Jalili notes that:

- Many assassination attempts resulted in the death of other family members and escorts which have not been included or referred to in this study.

- Multiple assassination attempts are ongoing.

- Repeated threats to life are made to force people to leave Iraq.

- Considerable numbers of threats to life go unreported.

- In the last week of April 2006, a mass

campaign was reported in Mosul of threats to doctors calling on them to leave Iraq.

- Assassinations of Iraq academics is a new phenomena in Iraq, that never existed prior to April 2003.

- The pattern indicates a sinister campaign and motives.

- The assassinations, kidnaps and threats to life forcing academics and doctors to leave Iraq do not follow any religious or sectarian pattern.

- The only dominant pattern is that the absolute majority of victims are ethnically Arabs.

The presentation affirms the following:

- The defence of Iraqi academics and medical professionals should begin by condemning the illegal war and occupation that created the situation in Iraq where assassinations are endemic and go unpunished.

- Occupying powers and their collaborators are responsible for the protection of the lives of Iraqi civilians and imputable under international law for the failure to do so.

- The assassination of Iraqi academics and health professionals is part of a conscious attempt to prevent Iraq from regaining its just independent and sovereign status.

- Defending Iraqi academics and health professionals is not separate from the necessity of being in solidarity with the Iraqi people and their national anti-occupation movement.

- Iraqis, like all people, have a right to science and education and to enjoy the inalienable rights of freedom of

thought, expression, research and innovation.

- The right of families of assassinated health professionals and academics to have the killing of their loved ones investigated by an independent and competent body, and compensation paid, must be assured in all cases.

Delegates who attended the seminar reaffirmed their commitment to work with determination to raise at all levels the issue of the criminal destruction of Iraq's professional and intellectual wealth.

In particular, delegations committed to:

- Demand that UNESCO act in defence of Iraq's intellectuals and professionals.

- Demand that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights fulfill its duty to protect the lives and human rights of Iraqi doctors and academics, and all Iraqi civilians.

- Spread awareness of the issue of the assassination of Iraqi academics and doctors with the appreciated commitment of Autonomous University.

- Madrid to transmit the key concerns of this campaign to Spanish universities, the International Federation of Universities and the



Assassinations of Iraq academics in Iraq never existed prior to April 2003

Association of Arab Universities of the Arab League.

- Call upon the world's media to understand that the killing of Iraqi academics and health professionals is a result of the occupation, not sectarian civil war.

- Continue working to build an international solidarity campaign linking Iraqi academics in exile and in Iraq with their peers in universities

worldwide.

- Press national and regional parliaments to raise and discuss the criminal destruction of Iraq's intellectual and professional class.

- The undersigned affirm that they will continue to cooperate in their denunciation of the occupation and its numberless crimes and always stand in solidarity with the people of Iraq.

Report by Al-Jazeera

French publishers Gallimard to issue a book Zachariah Moussaoui, My Brother

Reviewed by: Paul Michaud,
Dawn correspondent Paris

Paris, May 8, 2006 - Gallimard, one of Europe's leading publishing houses, has decided to issue the new version of a book - Zachariah Moussaoui, My Brother - originally published in Sept. 2002 by a subsidiary of Gallimard, Editions Denoel, itself an immediate best-seller, about a man whom the U.S. Justice department has persistently attempted to condemn to death, according him a role that Gallimard's book, as well as friends and families of Moussaoui, claim is highly exaggerated.

Deciding to issue the book as part of its Folio collection, Gallimard has chosen to link its reissued version of Zachariah Moussaoui, My Brother to the decision rendered last week by a US federal court at Alexandria, Virginia, to sentence to life imprisonment Mr Moussaoui, alleged to have been the "twentieth man of Sept. 11, 2001," although the book has always insisted that the man is nothing less than a myth maniac,

attempting to turn himself into a martyr for Islam, having - as the book says well - never had anything to do with "planning," as it's alleged, the attacks, Zachariah having since his incarceration five years ago simply changed personality, with his own mother saying, after a recent meeting with him in the United States, that quite simply Zachariah had been drugged and that, as a result, she "no longer recognized her son."

When the book appeared to mark the first anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, it came out in an initial printing of 20,000, a not insignificant number of issues in a country where a good-selling book is issued initially in a printing of 2000 or fewer. The document, which attempted to give the point of view of Zachariah' family on how and why he became involved with Islamic radicalism, went on to be an overnight printing success.

The idea for the book came in late 2001, when Abd Samad Moussaoui says he learnt that Zachariah had been arrested by US authorities who

charged him with taking part in the preparations for September 11, and was, he Claims today immediately "knocked off his feet and remained KO'ed for all of three days." It was only by returning to the teaching job he's held at a French high school the past twelve years that he was able to start "making a return to reality."

He recounts that when he last saw Zachariah in the flesh, in 1995, his younger brother had "fallen under the influence" of Ayman Al-Zawahri, whom he describes as the "right-hand" man of Ussama Bin Laden, as well as being "the person most responsible for thousands of deaths in Egypt and the rest of the Muslim world."

As far as Abd Samad Moussaoui is concerned, it was this man who was the single most important influence on his brother, who at the time of his first contact with Al-Zawahri, probably in London in 1992, was psychologically fragile, having lived through a "catastrophic" family situation, which saw his parents divorce, and himself become subsequently the victim of racism,

economic precarity, and various attempts to exclude the young man from French society.

And, although he himself was suddenly faced with the same situation, Abd Samad's reaction at the time was to take a wholly different direction from his brother and "re-appropriate" the Sunnite Muslim religion into which he was born. As for Zachariah, his path took him in an "entirely opposite direction," says Abd Samad today, towards a "derivation of Wahabism" that Abd Samad accuses of being directed "by people who make use of Hitlerian methods."

"Don't forget," he adds today, "it was those same persons who took the lives of other Muslim who became their first victims," notably Commandant Massoud. "Those people," he notes, "are the enemies of what I consider to be authentic Islam, indeed of all Muslims overall."

What made Abd Samad realise that his brother had taken the "wrong path," he avers, was when Zachariah returned home from London in 1994,

to meet with his brother who had just gotten married. "He started becoming aggressive And intolerant, and sent on to stridently condemn those women who pursued their studies, who went out unaccompanied at night, in a word who wanted to be free. We just didn't recognise him any more."

The principal purpose of his book, notes Abd Samad, is not so much to limn a portrait of his brother, but perhaps more importantly to shed light on this special form of Wahhabism, "an ideology," he says, "that thrives on hatred and openly espouses terrorism. Which is why I

wonder why it is still allowed to openly recruit members?"

As for a solution to the problem, Abd Samad Moussaoui notes philosophically that the solution lies wholly in Islam itself: "Who else is more capable than we Muslim ourselves of removing from these very peculiar Wahhabites the credibility they have taken on in the eyes of many young Muslim revolted by the racism, poverty and living conditions they find in countries throughout the West. If we don't attempt to tackle the problem ourselves, then who in the end will be able to do so in our place?"

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



INVITATION TO BID for Libratory Equipment

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites potential suppliers to request a copy of the bidding documents from the undersigned no later than **May 17th 2006:**

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

The deadline for invited suppliers to submit their sealed bids to the UNDP Office in Sana'a is **31st May 2006 at 12:00 P.M.**

Six Persian Gulf nations discuss Iran nuclear standoff at the meeting

The diplomats in Riyadh said they also would examine instability in Iraq and the situation in the Palestinian territories.

A Gulf Cooperation Council statement said during its "consultative" summit the leaders would tackle recent developments in the region. Council Secretary General Abdel Rahamn al-Attia discussed the agenda with Saudi foreign minister Saudi al-Faisal, but the official Saudi news agency account gave no further details.

Members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a loose military and political alliance, are increasingly

nervous about Iran's disputed nuclear program. Iran is just across the Gulf from council member countries.

In December, during a GCC summit, the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates voiced concern about the Iranian program. Local commentators have also warned the Gulf states against maintaining "silence" over the issue.

"There will be no peace and security in the region without implementing the Gulf and Arab demand to make the whole Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and specially nuclear

weapons," the Saudi newspaper Al Madina said in its Saturday edition.

The summit "represents an important message at a very crucial time whether regarding Iran's crisis with the west over its nuclear file or the situations in Iraq and Palestine," wrote Al Yawm, another Saudi newspaper.

The diplomats said besides Iran's nuclear conflict, the Gulf leaders are expected to review the situation in Iraq after a new leadership has been elected. Some of the Gulf nations, which are predominantly Sunni Muslim, have expressed concern about a Shiite-dominated

government in Baghdad closely tied to Shiite Iran.

They said the leaders also wanted to look for ways to get money to the newly elected Palestinian government after Western powers such as the United States and European Union cut direct funding to the Authority because the Hamas-led refuses to recognize Israel and renounce violence. This has caused widespread hardship in the Palestinian territories where the government is the largest employer. Salaries for March and April have not been paid.

Google Alert



SHAMIL BANK OF YEMEN AND BAHRAIN
(ISLAMIC BANK)
(YEMEN SHAREHOLDING CLOSED COMPANY)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2005
Audited by Mohamed Taha Hamood & Co (Ernst & Young)

BALANCE SHEET As at December 31, 2005	2005 YR	2004 YR
ASSETS		
Cash and reserve balances with Central Bank of Yemen	2,924,868,315	2,449,634,017
Balances with banks and financial institutions	3,709,891,339	4,791,260,058
Investment in Murabaha contracts (net)	5,273,887,472	2,935,740,962
Investment in Mudaraba contracts	43,349,091	---
Investment in Mudaraba contracts (net)	1,337,490,050	---
Ejarah Muntahia Be'tamleek	125,176,324	---
Restricted investments	523,383,058	306,598,468
Investment in land	22,617,775	21,909,830
Investment in associates	200,449,000	136,150,000
Receivables and other assets	493,847,985	672,733,752
Fixed assets	213,564,770	167,079,753
TOTAL ASSETS	14,868,525,179	11,481,106,840
LIABILITIES, INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Customers' current accounts and other deposits	8,157,778,144	6,806,849,569
Balances due to banks and financial institutions	4,990,930	837,955,662
Payables and other liabilities	1,545,194,256	444,948,043
Other provisions	267,887,967	137,849,867
	9,975,851,297	8,227,603,141
UNRESTRICTED INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	1,726,109,670	1,212,383,322
	11,701,960,967	9,439,988,663
RESTRICTED INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	523,383,058	306,598,468
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Share capital	2,672,000,000	2,000,000,000
Statutory reserve	23,666,144	---
Accumulated losses	(52,484,990)	(265,480,291)
	2,643,181,154	1,734,519,709
TOTAL LIABILITIES, INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	14,868,525,179	11,481,106,840
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES		
Letters of Credit, Guarantees And Other Commitments	30,143,526,748	14,298,696,427
STATEMENT OF INCOME Year ended 31 December 2005		
	2005 YR	2004 YR
Revenue from Murabaha contracts	289,456,563	150,047,208
Revenue from other joint investments	89,857,779	---
Less:		
Allocated to unrestricted investment account holders	(118,560,168)	(68,853,841)
Bank share from murabaha revenue	260,754,174	81,193,367
Bank income from own investments	91,475,959	24,046,465
Bank share from unrestricted investment	1,637,427	3,118,009
Fee and commission income	240,427,818	132,426,306
Foreign exchange gain	137,437,005	63,807,864
Other income	2,809,138	59,047,509
	724,541,521	363,639,520
Less:		
Commissions and fees for banking services	5,183,041	8,752,442
Provisions	122,245,221	103,406,624
General and administration expenses	314,475,985	247,223,997
	441,904,247	359,383,063
NET PROFIT	282,637,274	4,256,457
Provision for Zakat	(45,975,829)	(29,091,159)
NET PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	236,661,445	(24,834,702)



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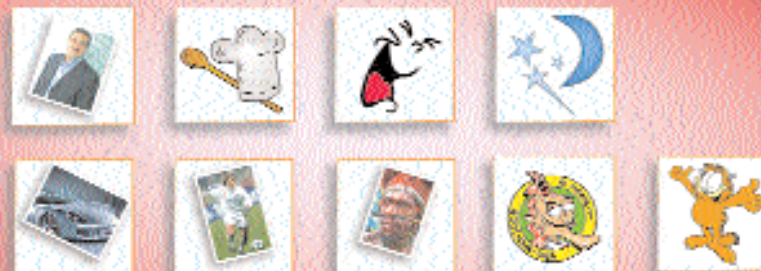
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Cars	CARS	
Sport Magazine	SPORTS	
Garfield Shannel	GARFIELD	
Recipe Channel	RECIPE	
Fashion	FASHION	

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Diet Tips	DIET	For one time order send one of the commands to 6402
Beauty Tips	BEAUTY	
Jokes	JOKES	
Dreams	DREAMS	

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Thoughts on gender equality

In the Yemeni society, women do not enjoy their full rights. For example, their political participation is barely recognized, and in most cases they are viewed as inferior to men.

By: Yemen Times Staff

Ms. Nahla Shuja Addin, a human rights activist, says there are no people who are equal as everyone has his own personality and abilities. Some women in cities and some villages could get their political and economic rights. "But very few women had obtained their rights due to the nature of Yemen with its diverse geography and remote areas, where most women seek rights according to their abilities."

According to Ms. Najla'a Al-Amri, a writer, equality exists when an individual feels to be a respectable human, able to exercise his or her rights. "so far a woman has not reached any level nearing equality between males and females.... In others' view, a woman at present has become more inferior physically, practically and humanly and achieved nothing. Repeated speeches regarding women equality are merely

talk. Still, women are in a very bad status, especially as the majority of women are found in countryside."

Al-Amri, pointed out that a woman can take up responsibility for anything within her abilities. "Males should perform their roles according to their abilities, and so should females. This is equality in my view."

Ms. Muna Talba, Prof. of Quranic Studies at Ain Shams University, shed some light on the equality that women demand. "The equality in question is the equality of education, woman's rights to select a husband, her rights in inheritance and other legal rights that are guaranteed by Islam but hampered by traditions and customs."

In comparison with the Egyptian woman, Talba noted that the Yemeni woman is as clever, learned and well-mannered as the Egyptian woman, and yet still there are big dissimilarities between them. Hopefully, the Yemeni woman would be in a better status, she concluded.



Very often women have to sell bread in markets, an indication to their low income.

Regarding woman's achievements in equality, Ms. Rana Ghanem, head of Information at the Arab Sisters Forum, affirms there is still need to further enhance woman's status. By looking at the applied laws, there are obstacles that do not enable a woman to get the simplest form of her rights, such as political participation and inheritance rights. A Yemeni woman is most notably deprived of inheritance in countryside, Ghanem stated.

The equality, she went on to say, woman seeks and talks about is the equality that ensures equal citizenship rights. "Undoubtedly, there is a crisis in the concept of equality between man and woman: some think equality means deviation from and violation of Islamic religion. But by contemplating the holy verses, one can see that people are born free and equal."

Ms. Basma Shaif thinks that the equality women seek, is to have the right to choose their own futures as well as their husbands. "There is no concept crisis regarding equality but utter refusal to understand the concept of gender

equality. Man tries to give woman as he wants to the extent that he imposes on her his favorite meal. He prides himself on not confessing to woman's ideals as she has incomplete mind and faith. Thus, equality remains a mere sermon and logos that run counter to the reality of life."

Dr. Belqis Abu Osbu', expert of Developmental Sciences at Sana'a University, made it clear that the equality women talk about exists when the woman becomes the man's partner in work, for no development can be achieved without women's participation. "The equality we demand is our rights in education, work, and everything stated in Islam. We do not ask for rights outside the frame of traditions, habits and the Yemeni constitution... these demands would lead us all to equality, but woman should participate greatly for the sake of building development in the society as a whole."

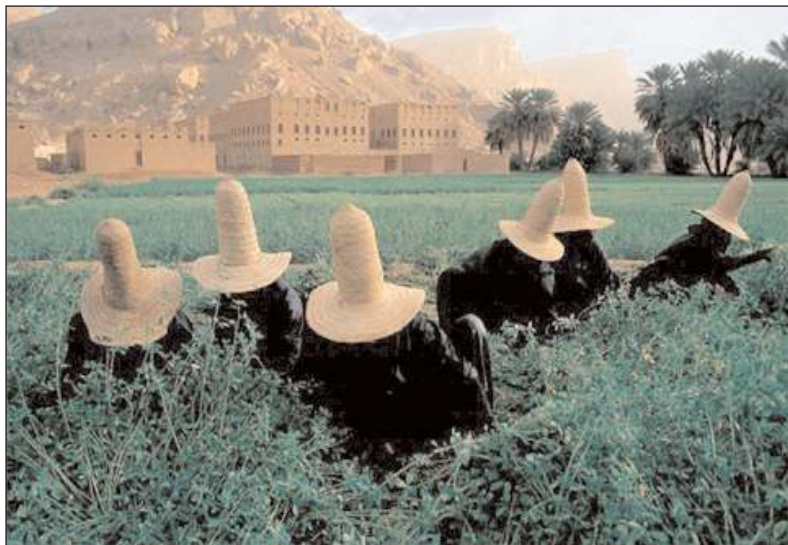
Mr. Izz Addin Al-Asbahi, director of Information & Human Rights Qualification Center, stated that equality required for women should be at the

level of politics, economy, culture, and society. "In Yemen, woman is in need of not only legal equality, but also justice. The society has given woman incomplete right as she is still marginalized as far as political and social participation is concerned. That is why we see that

women had not yet got their full rights at the political and functional level... perhaps what we demand now is to remove injustice against woman, by giving the Yemeni woman positive status and places in all the bodies and community leadership so that she can be equal with man... woman lacks a lot of social, political, and financial support and so she is unable to participate in all aspects of life. Yes, there is equality but not justice because man is distinguished by money, social relations, and leading posts... It entails much effort to change the society's outlook and create widely social concept that enables woman to participate fairly in the daily life."

Dr. Manjiah Al-Sawaihi, expert in Religious Studies at Al-Zaitonah University-Tunisia, said, "The equality woman wants and talks about is the equality in similarities, not difference. That is to say, woman, like man, has the right to involve in politics, economy, education, etc. man and woman are equal in these rights. So long as woman is competitive, she has the right to work and participate. This is the concept of equality in Islam."

Sheikh Hussein Omer of Aden governorate affirms Islam did not discriminate between man and woman with regard to rights and duties. The Almighty God has ordered both of them to worship him equally.



In most villages women work in the farms to help their family members.



It is important for women to participate in the development of the country.



"YLNG Technician Training Scheme End of First Recruitment campaign"

Yemen LNG Company is pleased to announce the end of its 2005-2006 trainee recruitment campaign.

16,000 Yemenis from across the entire country applied for places on this prestigious scheme. 4,800 who met the basic criteria were tested in English and technical knowledge at 7 test centres in Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Hodeidah, Mukalla, Aden and Ataq. From these, 500 were selected for interview, and over 300 have been interviewed already. The first 90 trainees have now begun their training at the new Sana'a Training Centre.

Over 100 additional trainees will be interviewed and selected in the next few months. These candidates will begin their training at the Centre later this year, or early in 2007.

Yemen LNG would like to confirm the following information to all those who applied to the scheme:

- Due to the scale of the response, individual notifications will not be sent out.
- All candidates who were not selected for testing in January 2006 have been unsuccessful on this occasion, but can apply again during future campaigns.
- Candidates who were tested in January 2006 will only be contacted if they are to be selected for interview - there is no need for them to contact Yemen LNG Company to inquire about the status.
- All candidates who wish to be considered for future positions as trainees should concentrate on improving their knowledge of mathematics, chemistry, physics and /or technical subjects, and may re-apply during our future campaigns.

Additional vacancies in Yemen LNG Company are advertised regularly on our website, www.YemenLNG.com.

Yemen LNG would like to take this opportunity to thank all applicants for their participation in this campaign and wishes all candidates every success in their future careers."

What is to be done — now?

By: Robert Burrowes

For at least three millennia before and nearly a century since Vladimir Lenin wrote his book *What Is to Be Done?*, concerned people have continuously asked this question of their politics and political systems. Lenin's question is being asked in Yemen today, increasingly with a sense of urgency. For example, the new program of the coalition of opposition parties, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), asserts that the political crisis facing Yemen requires a major constitutional change, the replacement of the present presidential system with a parliamentary one. (Indeed, a more recent suggestion from a citizen calls for the now discredited presidential system to be discarded in favor of a constitutional monarchy. In mid-March, a symposium held by Women Journalists without Constraints severely criticized the present political regime and called for a peaceful transfer of power—indeed, that was the title of the symposium.)

Why these growing expressions of political concern? It seems that many Yemenis have concluded that Yemen's economy and society are in or close to a serious crisis, and that the regime of President Ali Abdullah Salih and his General People's Congress (GPC) has demonstrated since the late 1990s that it lacks the will and capacity to quickly adopt and implement the major economic and political reforms required to end the growing crisis. Despite some success in the mid-1990s with some of the IMF/World Bank reforms prescribed to address the economic problems that emerged in the early 1990s, the Salih regime since then has failed to do what has to be done—e.g., stop rampant corruption, reform the bureaucracy and establish the rule of law through the courts—in order to attract needed investment, create many jobs, and provide education, medical care and other social services. Those individuals and groups who dominate the regime do not want a modern state and refuse to take the actions that would limit their ability to use the weak state they use for their personal enrichment. Alarmed Yemenis fear that, without major reform now, the crisis will strip the political system and state of support and legitimacy and that Yemen will quickly descend into anarchy (Somalia), civil war (Lebanon) or revolution (Taliban's Afghanistan).

So, what is to be done—now?

Although the call for "a peaceful transfer of power" should remain the long-term goal, this does not seem possible over the short-term. Yemen worsening economic and social crisis—and the political collapse that will follow if major reforms are not soon implemented—will not wait until a peaceful transfer of power becomes a real possibility. The more immediate goal must be one that can be largely realized by, say, 2010, if not sooner.

What should that goal be? It should be the creation and demonstration of a credible opposition to—and possible credible partner of—the current regime, an opposition and possible partner that is formidable, responsible, and committed to the major reforms required to restore the viability of Yemen.

The JMP has been moving in this direction over the past couple of years, and especially in the past few months. This process of forging a formidable opposition—a unified opposition—must continue, but at a faster pace.

The political landscape on which the JMP must demonstrate that it is formidable—and therefore must be taken seriously by the regime—includes the presidential and local council elections this year, in September, and the parliamentary elections in 2009. To a large extent, it will be the performance of the JMP in these elections—and during the months before this year's elections and the more than two years between these elections and the parliamentary ones—that will determine whether the regime can be persuaded or pressured to adopt the needed reforms.

The parties in the JMP should try to select and close ranks behind a credible presidential candidate, but time is running out and this may be beyond capacity of parties that are still learning how to cooperate and act in a unified way. To get a good candidate selected and to wage a good campaign are difficult tasks. Still, the JMP should try.

Whether or not a credible candidate can be found and make a good showing against the likely candidate of the GPC, President Salih, the presidential election should not be allowed to detract from the local council elections which offer the JMP a better chance to do well and to demonstrate that it is becoming a force to be reckoned with in Yemeni politics. In brief, the JMP should focus most attention on the local council elections between now and September.

Why focus on the local council elec-

tions? And how should the JMP approach them? The parties in the JMP—especially Islah and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)—are strong in different parts of the country and in different electoral districts. For example, the YSP still has support in the former South Yemen, support that today would probably be increased there by a protest vote against the ruling party, the GPC. Similarly, Islah has demonstrated surprising support in the cities of the north and in the regions of Taiz, Ibb and the Hadhramawt. A good showing by these parties in their areas of strength would indicate that, indeed, a formidable opposition has emerged—and had to be listened to by the regime.

Islah, the YSP and the other parties in the JMP have to show their new-found strength through what Yemenis call "coordination," the political practice the

major political parties used with some success in all of the parliamentary elections beginning in 1993. (Under "coordination," "Party A" agrees not to put up a candidate in districts where "Party B" is strongest if "Party B" agrees not to run a candidate in districts where "Party A" is strongest.) In the case of the local council elections in 2006, JMP parties must agree among themselves not to run candidates against each other in those electoral districts where the strongest JMP party has a good chance of beating the GPC candidates.

This will greatly test the capacity of the JMP parties to cooperate and trust each other, and the GPC will try its best to induce the JMP parties not to coordinate or to break or cheat on agreements to coordinate. But if the JMP parties can coordinate in the local council elections,

they will be able to maximize JMP success in those elections—and to show just how formidable the opposition is to the president and his party.

There will, of course, be electoral fraud, and this is sure to lessen the JMP's show of strength. Accordingly, the JMP must, in addition to trying to win local council elections, make a big effort to document the fraud in these elections. To this end, it must place emphasis on the number and quality of election monitors, Yemeni and foreign. If fraud is documented in a convincing way, the JMP will be able to say that it won a large number of local council elections despite this record of fraud. (Luckily, after the flagrant fraud in the recent Rayma by-election, the community of international monitors is less likely to close its eyes and judge the elections to be "free and fair.")

The better the JMP does in the presidential, and especially in the local council elections in 2006, the better it will be positioned to begin the long march to a strong, convincing show of strength in the parliamentary elections in 2009. If the 2006 and 2009 elections convincingly demonstrate that the JMP is a credible and formidable opponent—and possible partner—of the present regime, then the likelihood of the adoption of the much-needed reforms will be greatly increased. With that, the chance for the "peaceful transfer of power" in the near future will also be greatly increased.

This is what needs to be done—now.

Prof. Robert Burrowes is lecturer in the Jackson School of International Studies. He is an expert on the Middle East in general and a specialist on Yemen.

Burst out of terrorism in Egypt

Egypt was the first launching station of terrorism in the second half of the 20th century. However, it was not the first launching station only in the Arab world but in the world as a whole.

Despite the fact that terrorism is often unintelligent, cruel, and claims the life of the innocent, it has its special sphere of influence. This is realized in the weak spots in the structure of the community of one country or another in which it managed to cover up itself. As the terrorism phenomenon is found in different places and at all times, it was also found in Egypt. It fed on the Egyptian structure and targeted it in a satanic manner.

Terrorism stayed in Egypt for a long time. It went on quick reproduction among those youth who were misled, through the utilization of their deteriorating state of living.

Egypt acquired a pioneer experience in terror combat by facing and hunting terrorism. Yet Egypt possesses a unique theory in the war against terror. It managed to crack down on Egyptian terrorism by launching significant strikes against its cells in its homeland and refused any compromise with these cells



By: Atif Awad

and their organizations.

Terrorism dominated the Arab region at the end of the eighties and the beginning of the nineties of the last century. It managed to embarrass some of the region's regimes. However, the regimes even went to the extent of making concessions to it and made it an inevitable political and social figure in one country or another in the region. Yet Egypt refused any deals with all terrorists, including those whose hands are not stained with the Egyptian blood. The formal and public Egypt remained in a state of war against terrorism. The security and cultural systems kept on their declared line of war against terror. According to the pioneer Egyptian theory of terror, fighting the security apparatus continued their work in a steady manner. The purely Egyptian theory went on with its funds increasing every year.

Yet the cornerstone of the pioneer Egyptian security theory as I believe, were the following

- To launch strikes on terror prior to their destructive attacks.
- To drain all terror sources however, they are in the Arab region or elsewhere, the concerned bodies are to make sure that there are no Egyptian terrorist cells anywhere in the world after destroying

the inner sleeping cells.

The official and security apparatus continue watching out all the favorable conditions for terror breeding or any form of terror, in the Egyptian soil and among Egyptian youth.

The supreme Egyptian cultural council during the eighties and nineties was one of these means of the Egyptian theory. The re-publication of books was another means, in addition to others. The motivation for honest and intellectuals Egyptian was to keep the Egyptians specialty intact. It is realized in the love and tolerance in the Egyptian community. It is also for the sake of keeping the Egyptian structure which persisted for long eras, despite the difference in creeds. The honest Egyptians at all levels worked for this end. This curbed terrorism in Egypt until it disappeared or it was on its way to disappear.

What is happening now in Egypt and to the Egyptians, such as Sinai bombings, church attacks in Alexandria or the demand of Nubians to separate from Egypt or other similar things are all sorts of terrorism. Sinai bombings are the only forms of terrorism. Terrorism is adopting more than a shape to destroy the joints of the magnificent Egyptian structure. During the previous few years, terrorism has taken more than a shape with same aim, which is to direct a blow to the Egyptian structure and create a collusion

among the Egyptians.

It is futile to ignore this matter until the terrorist strike happens and then start crying over it, and then leave it for time to heal.

Any Egyptian who is not annoyed by the seriousness of these matters that all aim at terrorizing the Egyptians is a real criminal.

The naiveties of the governmental statements that follow each terrorist operation are the most fearful. These official announcements are pitiful, because the unawareness and disrespect to others are often dominant in the official address over what is happening in the beloved Egypt.

There remain the persistent questions that need a bigger space to answer. These questions are, did the September 11 incidents deflect the aim and tactics of the Egyptian security? Did the aims and theories of the neo American conservatives paralyze the effective Egyptian security theory of terror fighting, in Egypt, in order that all the security apparatus should adopt the American one? Did they lose the aim of, 'Egypt the land and the people', leaving terror to break out in its new shapes in Egypt, and which the government knows nothing about?

One hopes that not all these are true.

Atif Awad is an Egyptian journalist and short story writer residing in Yemen.

Letters to the Editor

Impressions of AMIDEAST students on the Yemen Times

A few weeks ago, the Yemen Times received a number of bright Yemeni youth enrolled in the Access program of AMIDEAST, Sana'a branch. They were a delight to meet, and in order to let us know their impressions of the visit they sent us tens of letters.

It was a pleasure reading them all, and we thought we could share a few of them with our readers.

Dear editor

I am so glad to write this thanks letter to tell you all about our impression after our visit to the most famous news paper in Yemen which is written in English.

It was a great happy event when our team leader announced that we will go to Yemen Times news paper's premises. We were very happy because it's a great chance to see that marvelous institute and I want in this letter to offer the thankfulness and gratitude for you—on behalf of my friends for giving us your time, exertion and regard and it was a laurels for us to meet those people who perform that important and noble job.

Actually the words can not express my admiration towards your wise administration and the amazing work that the journalists perform. We realize that all this handwork is just to present the truth and the best to the readers and

to instruct the world of our country and culture.

Ultimately I want to thank you again and I want you to forgive us if we caused you any kind of bothering and be always ahead.

Yours
Elham Al-Shamiri.

Some weeks ago, my teacher Depra decided to take my group on a trip. She wanted to help us to know a lot about journalism, so she took us to the Yemen Times. At the beginning, I wasn't very interested about this trip, but my feeling changed when I reached to the place because the agents who work there was very helpful with us and they wanted to tell us a lot about their jobs. The time was short but the trip was very good. I want to thank Mrs. Nadia Al-Sakkaf and all the agents who respected and helped us.

Now I know there are lots of people who have very good qualities so, if anyone wants to see them, he can go to the Yemen Times.

Thank you
Moneera nasher
Level seven

Dear Yemen Times

I want by a few words to thank you for providing this rich newspaper which

is full of information.

I wish good luck for you and to improve yourself more and more; I mean by improvement to open a lot of branches for Yemen Times in all the governorates not just in Sana'a. That is to give a lot of chances for all the people who are in those cities to let them read these news, and to give them the chance to write about their different opinions.

Also, I want to thank you for your good greeting, although we took time from your expensive time.

Good luck

Yours
Muwadda Al-hady

We propose a vote of thanks to Yemen Times members, especially Mrs. Nadia Al-Sakkaf who allowed us to visit Yemen Times establishment, and show us how does every thing works in order to produce the newspaper.

I would like to thank our guide in this trip Miss. Amel Al-Ariqi, she was very kind and an excellent guide. Actually, I enjoyed this trip and I learned a lot of things about journalism; how do they design journals? And how do they mix the main four colours? And other things. By God's will, I will major in journalism, and I wish I find a job in

Yemen Times when I finish my education.

Finally, I would like to say to Mrs. Nadia Al-Sakkaf that "Thank you very much Mrs. Al-Sakkaf about the letters which you wrote to us, that was very kind of you."

Mohammed Najeab Mohammed
A student At Amidest

Opportunities in life are few and I don't think that everyone had the chance to go to your newspaper. But lucky me I had it and I really want to thank you for this chance that you have given to me, not just me, but for all the students too. I didn't go to a newspaper before yours and I really enjoyed it a lot, even that I didn't stay for a long time, but I knew a lot of things about journalism and how do you make your newspaper and all the steps to produce the issues. I actually came to learn a lot of things I didn't know before and maybe I would not know about them for the rest of my life. I know that I am not interested in journalism itself, but I like to write. What I mean is that I want to be a journalist in the future, I learned that people could have no interest in a lot of things, but that doesn't mean that they don't have to know about it and I was one of them but not any more, because now I think journalism is an

exciting job and I want to know more about it, so maybe I will know more in your newspaper or other newspapers.

At the end I want you to know that I am really grateful for you and all the people who work with you.

Munia Khaled Al-Reaimi
Level 7

It is really an honor for us that our imodest letters will be read by a Newspaper like Yemen Times.

We (Access Students - Amideast) are very happy that we have been given a chance to write for Yemen Times family. So, there are many things we want to thank you for, as English students and Yemeni people in general whether after we visited your newspaper or not.

First of all, after we visited your paper —on Saturday, February 25th, 2006. We realized how you do your job and it's not easy as we thought and it requires a lot of important things especially the responsible, helpful, and hardworking members who met us in every department we visited from the printer man to the editor in chief.

In addition to that it proves the position you get is the prize MEPC lifetime Achievement Award that you won in an official ceremony in Dubai March 6, 2006.

Really you did make us a proud of

that when we saw honored in U.A.E. among tens of competitors around Arabic world. That means a lot of things for us because your honor is our honor as Yemeni people in general.

Finally, stay as you are and do your best, we hope more brightness and development for you.

Thank you Yemen Times, thank you Mrs. Nadia Al-Sakkaf.

Respectfully
Al-Hashedi

Dear Ms Nadia, Editor in Chief

I am writing to you to express my thanks and appreciation for the marvelous time I spent during our last visit to your respectable newspaper, Yemen Times.

It was truly an unforgettable visit. I learned so many useful and meaningful things. Briefly speaking, I learned two lessons. The first one, the volume of work and effort in process of publishing a news paper. The second thing, one idea said "the success does not know something called sexism."

To me it is becoming more and more dominant, just when I know you are the editor of this great organization.

In the conclusion, thank you for every thing.

Yours sincerely
Tarik A.Al -Arhabi

YEMEN TIMES

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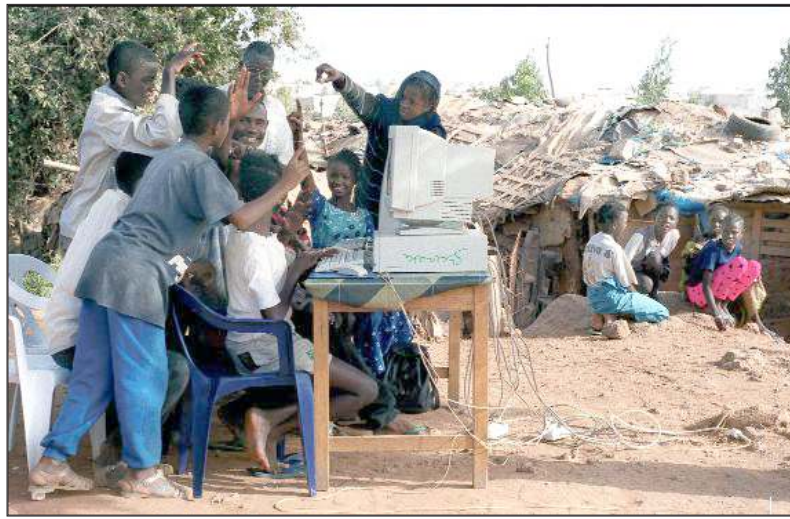
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Education For All

Literacy from past to present (Part-II)

EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (5/9)

When 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.



Technology draws an enthusiastic crowd in an impoverished neighbourhood of Dakar, Senegal.

Part III paints a detailed map of the enormous literacy challenge, focusing on the most vulnerable regions, countries and groups. It also chronicles the remarkable transition of many societies to widespread literacy: 150 years ago, only 10% of the world's adult population was literate, compared with 80% today. How was this achieved and what lessons does it suggest for moving towards universal literacy, essential in today's knowledge societies?

- **Indigenous people and people with disabilities remain on the sidelines**
- **Rethinking literacy statistics: conventional measures underestimate the scale of the literacy challenge**
- **How societies made the transition to widespread literacy: the pivotal role of schooling and the impact of literacy campaigns**

Projections for adult literacy

The wording of the literacy goal is problematic: strictly speaking, a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy is impossible for countries that already have literacy rates above 67%. This Report therefore interprets goal 4 as implying a 50% reduction in illiteracy rates, consistent with the wording of the 1990 Jomtien conference that initiated the EFA movement. For the following analysis, countries with literacy rates above 97% are considered as having achieved universal literacy. No country of the Arab States, South and West Asia, or sub-Saharan Africa is close to this. A distinction was drawn between countries progressing relatively slowly and those moving rapidly towards high literacy. Projections could be run for ninety-two countries, including nineteen that have literacy rates above 97% (most of them in Europe and Central Asia). The results for the remaining seventy-three countries show that: Twenty-three stand a fairly high chance of meeting goal 4, as their already relatively high literacy rates are increasing quickly. Twenty countries, many in Latin America and the Caribbean, are at risk of not meeting the goal, given the current pace of increase in their literacy rates, even though the rates are already quite high. Thirty countries are at serious risk of not achieving the goal by 2015 because their literacy rates are very low and increasing too slowly. Most of these countries are in Africa, but India, Nepal, Pakistan and several Latin American countries are also among the thirty.

Direct measures of literacy: a more accurate picture

The statistics presented so far are almost exclusively based on the indirect assessments of literacy described above under 'How literacy is conventionally measured' (p. 18). Alternative measurement methods seek to give a more nuanced and accurate picture. They incorporate direct assessment and the testing of literacy skills on sliding scales rather than dichotomously, and conceive of literacy as a multidimensional phenomenon, embracing a variety of skill domains. Direct assessments tend to show that conventional evaluation methods often overstate literacy levels. In Morocco, 45% of respondents in a sample reported being literate, but only 33% demonstrated basic competence in literacy. Similar patterns are found in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and the United Republic of Tanzania. Among Ethiopian women with one year of

schooling, 59% were considered literate by household assessments yet only 27% passed a simple reading test. Direct assessments of literacy indicate that the educational threshold at which a national literacy rate of 90% is achieved varies considerably, ranging from four to nine years of schooling, and in most cases reflects the quality of education provided.

Indeed, schooling thresholds for widespread literacy appear to be higher than previously assumed, though the variability of quality makes this hard to assess. The International Adult Literacy Survey, conducted in some twenty developed countries in three phases (1994, 1996 and 1998), was unprecedented in its scale. It measured proficiency in prose, document and quantitative literacy, and compiled socio-economic background information on individuals. The tests used can measure, for example, ability to understand an instruction manual or a news story, to locate information in a job application, and to calculate the amount of interest on a loan. The survey categorized individuals into five literacy levels on a scale from 0 to 500 points, rather than as 'literate' or 'illiterate'. Findings indicated that significant proportions of the adult population possess relatively weak literacy and numeracy skills. Several developing countries are designing literacy surveys to provide more accurate knowledge about literacy. The China Adult Literacy Survey reported the skills levels of various populations in the urban labour force. It singled out areas in which migrants and women are discriminated against in the labour market and identified routes to increasing opportunities for lifelong learning. In Brazil, four surveys have been carried out since 2001 to measure adult literacy levels based on skills testing, with the aim of generating strong public commitment towards literacy. Botswana has conducted two national literacy surveys that constitute a milestone in its effort to provide decision-makers with a reliable database.

Direct assessments tend to show that conventional evaluation methods often overstate literacy levels

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics is designing a direct literacy assessment project, the Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP), aimed at informing policy by providing reliable, comparable estimates of functional literacy and numeracy skills. LAMP pilot projects are being carried out in several developing countries. When fully implemented, LAMP is intended to replace indirect assessment of literacy in censuses or household surveys. Common criticisms of large-scale alternative assessments concern their high cost and a limited sense of 'ownership' by local and national agencies. The time required to conduct such assessments does not always permit governments and decision-makers to respond to literacy needs with timely policies. Clearly, it is nevertheless crucial to improve the measurement of literacy, notably by strengthening the direct assessment of literacy skills and practices, and enhancing related technical capacity. Literacy modules currently under development, which could be incorporated into household surveys carried out in developing countries, would be a valuable tool. More – and more regular – direct assessments are needed to allow countries to make informed policy decisions, but they must be relatively simple, rapid and inexpensive.

Transitions to widespread literacy: how do they happen?

Adult literacy rates, measured conventionally, have been steadily rising in recent decades. Today, more than 80% of the global population over age 15 is reported to possess at least minimal reading and writing skills. This reflects an unprecedented social transformation since the mid-nineteenth century, when only about 10% of the world's adults could read or write. The dramatic increase in adult literacy rates happened despite the quintupling of the world population, from about 1.2 billion in 1850 to over 6.4 billion today.

What drove this transformation? The spread of formal schooling, well-organized literacy campaigns and policies supporting adult learning opportunities have all played influential roles in expanding access to literacy. The broader social context is equally powerful: the motivations to become and remain literate are closely related to the quality of the literate environments found at home, at work and in society. Language policies also had a decisive incidence on the spread of literacy.

Schools are the key factor

The expansion of formal schooling is the single most important factor driving the spread of literacy worldwide over the past two centuries, and especially the past fifty years. Its impact spans historical periods and geography. Schools have been, and continue to be, the place where most people acquire their core literacy skills.

In certain Nordic countries and German principalities, as in Scotland and many North American colonies, the Protestant Reformation encouraged parents in the seventeenth century to teach their children how to read and write. In the eighteenth century, communities in northern Europe established local schools with largely religious curricula. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, systems of compulsory mass schooling were established in Europe, somewhat later in the east than in the west. Nascent states passed compulsory attendance laws. As formal schooling spread and enrolments increased, adult literacy rates also began to rise.

Countries in South and Central America passed compulsory schooling laws in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries but often did not enforce them. In Asia, Africa and the Arab world, various forms of formal education were well established prior to contact with the west. Oriented chiefly towards teaching religion and traditional culture, they were transformed, assimilated or eliminated as missionaries and colonial authorities introduced European school models. In parts of Asia, modernizing regimes adapted European models to local contexts (e.g. in Japan and Korea in the late nineteenth century). Though unequal power relations certainly characterized these contacts, the record suggests that they initiated a process of expanding access to formal schooling. There is convincing evidence that, between 1880 and 1940, the establishment and expansion of formal schooling systems contributed to rising adult literacy levels.

Campaigns for mass literacy and national programmes to promote adult learning

Many countries organized mass, multi-year campaigns to promote literacy, often against a backdrop of nation-building, societal transformation and sometimes decolonization. Socialist/Communist governments were particularly active; by the end of

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By: Samer

the 1919-39 Soviet campaign, an early example, 85% of the population was literate, compared with 30% before. China and Viet Nam organized a series of campaigns from the 1940s to the 1980s that were relatively effective in reaching large segments of the illiterate adult population. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the adult literacy rate almost doubled from an estimated 33% in 1967 to 61% in 1975, alongside the rapid expansion of primary education. That campaign involved recruitment of literacy instructors, distribution of over 1 million pairs of eyeglasses and the printing of huge numbers of books and documents. Ethiopia's national literacy campaign from 1979 to 1983 established some 450,000 literacy centres and reached over 22 million people, of whom over 20 million passed a beginners' literacy test. Non-socialist countries that conducted mass campaigns include Thailand, where the first of several successful literacy campaigns ran from 1942 to 1945, and Brazil, which conducted several large-scale campaigns in the twentieth century alongside the sustained expansion of its public education system.

Shorter campaigns also deserve mention. Often initiated by newly installed

regimes in countries with a principal majority language, they sometimes resulted in significant reductions of illiteracy. Cuba's 1961 campaign, fuelled by social justice concerns, made more than 700,000 people literate in the space of one year. Literacy rates increased from 76% to 96%. In Viet Nam, they rose from 75% to 86% as a result of the 1976-77 campaign, in Nicaragua, from 50% to 77% in the country's 1979-80 drive. Many short campaigns have involved follow-up initiatives to provide adults with con-

Direct assessments tend to show that conventional evaluation methods often overstate literacy levels

tinuing learning opportunities. In other contexts, governments have expanded access to adult learning opportunities, typically to complement and sustain UPE. Such programmes often form part of broader government policies to address multiple development objectives. Projects on a much smaller scale than mass campaigns have been targeted at often excluded segments of the adult population. For example, several

African countries have implemented literacy programmes in local languages to better reach learners. In Peru, several NGOs have adopted a system of literacy education that begins in vernacular Quechua and gradually moves to Spanish. Widespread literacy can never be considered a won cause. Economic decline and political crisis can lead to stagnation in schooling and literacy, even in countries with high education indicators. Prolonged armed conflict can also have dramatic consequences for education systems.

In addition, pockets of illiteracy persist in highly literate and schooled societies. International surveys reveal that even in developed countries where most adults perform well (e.g. Nordic countries), about 10% have skill levels barely above the minimal threshold due to factors such as poverty, low socio-economic status, ill health and disabilities. Adults whose mother tongue is different from the language of instruction also tend to have lower literacy levels. Missed opportunities to acquire sustainable literacy skills during childhood and adolescence can be compounded during adulthood, especially among those with limited employment opportunities.

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Norwegian company announces new oil discovery in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Norwegian Oil Company D.N.O. said it has achieved an oil discovery at Jawdah concession in Yemen. The company has made it clear that the first two oil wells in the area of Jawdah proved the existence of oil with commercial averages. It added in a statement that production tests revealed the presence of an oil layer no less than 23 meters.

On the other hand president Ali Abdullah Saleh gave his directives on the necessity of providing all material and human potentials necessary for enabling Safir National company of exploratory and productive operations to reach the stage of discovery and development of oil fields, in a manner activating operations of exploration and production in block 18 and other oil blocks in service of the national economy and development.

President Saleh has also given directives for building oil storages in the area of Ras Issa to be built by the Yemeni Oil Company and to provide necessary finances by the ministry of oil and minerals.

The directives stressed the necessity of supporting revenues of the Yemeni

Oil Company and rescheduling its debts to government institutions to enable it undertake its responsibilities and implement its development schemes. The directives also stressed the necessity of following up performance of all institutions of the ministry of oil and the companies working at all oil blocks.

The directives emphasize that Yemen possesses promising wealth in oil, gas and minerals, it encourages all investors, and that they would receive all kinds of care and attention as stipulated in the law of investment and the advantages and facilities it grants them.

The president has, during a recent visit to the oil ministry, listened to a report on work progress of Safir Company in management and operation of oil block 18 in Marib after taking over it from the American oil company Hunt that continued managing it for 20 years.

The Safir Oil Company has undertaken management and operation of the oil block 18 for the realization of the national interest and the report indicated to successes it has already achieved in the block especially with the employment of Yemeni specialized cadres that proved their efficiency in shouldering their responsibility in this regard.



Oil shooting up in an oil field.

Representatives of Gulf Funds convene next November

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

The United Kingdom government has accepted to host a donors conference on mustering resources for financing development projects in Yemen. It is scheduled for the conference to be held in London on 22-23 November. The British government has officially informed the Yemeni government its acceptance to host this important conference that is will be under sponsorship of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arabahi says, "The convening of this conference comes under initiative of the GCC states as part of the efforts for qualifying the Yemeni economy in preparation for its incorporation with Gulf economies." He has added that "The conference aims at mobilization of resources and providing funding for the development process in Yemen as well as implementation of the Yemeni five-year plan. The conference also aims at

providing support necessary for the developmental plan aimed at qualifying the Yemeni economy so that to approach the level of the Gulf economies and would facilitate its incorporation with them."

The conference is expected to largely be attended by donor organizations and state representatives, mainly by the GCC states and their regional funds beside states and international organizations including Germany, Holland, Japan, and the United States of America in addition Britain, the host country. It would be also attended by the World Bank, the UN and the European Commission as well as new donors.

In a statement to Yemeni News Agency, Mr Al-Arabahi has said that the acceptance came after the ministry of planning and international cooperation had held last month technical meetings in Riyadh and Sana'a to follow up what had been agreed on in the meeting of the GCC Foreign Ministers and Yemeni Foreign Minister and the expatriates on the 1st of March 2006.

That meeting had discussed measures



for qualifying Yemen for incorporation with the Gulf economies in compliance to decisions taken by the GCC summit in Abu Dhabi and after the discussion of the project that president Ali Abdullah Saleh had presented in this regard. The Minister has further said that the meetings were devoted to discussing and determining Yemen's developmental needs and preparation of a working plan and certain programs and the time ceiling in accordance with

an investment program covering the period from 2006 to 2010, in preparation to presenting that at an international conference of donors whose date has been fixed in November this year. In the second week of this May there will be a joint meeting comprising officials from the Yemeni ministry of planning and the GCC general secretariat, and participation of the World Bank and the British ministry of international development, in addition to members of the joint technical delegation.

The meeting would be devoted to review what the Yemeni Planning Ministry has accomplished concerning necessary documents and studies regarding the holding of the donors conference. The Minister added that the meeting will be preceded by a meeting gathering officials from the planning ministry and officials from the GCC secretariat with officials of regional funds of the GCC. The meeting is to discuss and evaluate the prioritized development projects presented by Yemen, especially pertaining to infrastructure projects which need

funding as part of the measures for qualifying the Yemeni economy for joining the Gulf economies.

Meanwhile, sources at the Yemeni ministry of planning and international cooperation announced that representatives of the Gulf funds, the Arab fund for economic and social development, OPEC fund and Islamic bank for development would hold a series of meetings in Sana'a by the end of this May. The sources said the meetings will study the projects studied by the Yemeni government and discuss the process of financing them according to economic studies. They will also discuss building new projects. The projects proposed to be financed by the Gulf funds focus on those of infrastructure in sectors of roads, education, electricity, water and sewage, dams and transport.

Meeting of the funds comes within the four tracks agreed on in meetings of the Yemeni government and the technical committee, aiming at meeting financing needs for qualifying the Yemeni economy to be incorporated with the Gulf economies.

Studies confirm aggravation of unemployment problem

YR 20 billion to be allocated to create new jobs, development of workers skills and employment of the unemployed.

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

Presidential instructions have been lately issued for the appropriation of YR 20 billion to implement government investment projects generating new opportunities for workers and employment opportunities for the unemployed. That has been announced on the Yemeni celebration of the May Day this year.

The presidential directives include the government's taking of urgent

measures with concerned ministries for the implementation of this great government investment project in coordination with the public and private sectors. This program comes in line with the ruling party's preparation for the presidential and local elections scheduled in September and a feeling by the government of the necessity of tackling the deteriorating workers' situations with the aim of gaining trust of workers who represent a segment of considerable weight in the Yemeni society and being the segment that is most

harmful by the economic reforms implemented in the country since 1995.

Yemen has this year celebrated on International Labor Day, 1st of May amidst suffering of the workers segment from unemployment as well as non-availability of jobs for graduates from government and private universities.

According to studies, the cause of unemployment problem aggravation at the Yemeni labor market is attributed to weakness of the structural construction of the national economy and not developing sources of income and production. Added to that is the weakness of the agricultural sector that is possible to re-habilitate it for the development and accommodation of two thirds of

force capable of working.

The latest statistics indicate that the agricultural sector, despite of the negligence it suffers, now accommodates 52.9% of workforce whereas the other sectors of transport, industry, trade, construction, tourist hotels, financing works and works services accommodate 47.1% of that force.

The third factor is represented by aggravation of recession of government investment spending directed to development projects that could contribute to create job opportunities for the unemployed in the country while the rise in population rate in Yemen contributes in worsening the problems of unemployment. The studies point out that outputs of education con-

tributed to increase in average of unemployment along with the increase in number of government and private universities to 15 and more than 65 faculties and 30 technical institutes.

Thus, the solution for alleviation of the unemployment problem begins with treatment of these problems. Among these solutions is the increase in appropriations of the government investment program. If the presidential directives of operating YR20 billion for creating new jobs is implemented and also the employment of not working labor, this policy will begin to finding some solutions for the problems from which the labor sector is suffering in Yemen and away from electoral propaganda.

Business In Brief

The Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arabahi discussed with Mr Mohammed Al-Kohin, representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the new regional program 207-2011 and the basic agreement according to which the relations of cooperation between Yemen and the FAO is determined. The FAO has in the new regional program allocated an amount of \$ 48 million to support the two sectors of education and health in Yemen.

The Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs and expatriates have formed a committee to study the establishment of a bank for the expatriates in Yemen. That is in implementation of resolutions taken by the two previous related conferences.

The committee has embarked on studying a number of proposals for establishment of the bank and the mechanism of its function inside Yemen. As well as offering loans to the expatriates in the countries where they live, in addition to proportions of the government, expatriates and the private sector shares in founding the bank.

Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulkader Bajammal and the Czech Foreign Minister have recently discussed in Sana'a aspects of the bilateral relations in the upcoming period in various economic, investment, trade, health, tourism and technical and vocational education areas.

The Yemeni Prime Minister pointed out the economic developments Yemen has witnessed and the guaranteed facilities for investors in various sectors as well as investment opportunities available in Yemen before the Czech businessmen and investors. He affirmed that the Czech investors would be granted all necessary facilities.

Preparations are presently underway for holding Sana'a Third International Fair and Al-Araeen Book Fair that is organized by the ministry of culture, during the period of 2-15 September 2006. This Book Fair is part of a series of international fairs annually organized and considered as one of the outstanding cultural activities the ministry is used to hold.

The governor of Hadramout Abdulkader Hilal revealed that a number of strategic projects would be implemented in the governorate in the near future. Among those projects are the new port of Mukalla and a number of factories and investment projects which would boost the progress of development in the governorate and provide new job opportunities contributing to absorb unemployment among the youth.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Khalid Rajeh Al-Sheikh, attended Wednesday the ceremony of rewarding Al-Sharafi Establishment for ready-made houses which received the International Star Award for Quality (Gold Category) 2006 in Paris. Al-Sheikh affirmed that the rewarding is an honor for local industry. "Granting the International Award is an honor for our national industry. For my part, I thank the efforts of Mr. Al-Sharafi for which he was rewarded." Al-Sharafi Establishment was selected out of one hundred companies worldwide that competed to receive the Award.

Al-Sheikh said many local products that have good name outside the country, but they are not well propagated at the local level, which affects the process of distributing them in local markets.

Exchange rate of some currencies

Date: Tuesday, 9/5/2006

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.3300	196.5300
Sterling Pound	365.4800	365.8500
Euro	250.3500	250.6100
Saudi Rial	52.3500	52.4000
Kuwaiti Dinar	671.9000	672.5900
UAE Dirham	53.4500	53.5000
Egyptian Pound	34.1000	34.1300
Japanese Yen	1.765716	1.767515

Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Smoking: The facts

By: Mohammed A. Khoshafah

“NO SMOKING”. This and many other posters like it call and warn people to avoid smoking especially in public institutions. The question however is: do all people follow these rules???

When I see a smoker, cigarette in mouth, on the bus; I change seats. I witness this same scene in the restaurants, cafeterias, taxis, gardens, schools, hospitals, etc. Smoking has become a bad habit- a reality we face in Yemen along with other countries in the world.

Last week, I saw approximately 55 years old walking slowly and out of breath. My impression was that he had run or walked from a far off distance; yet I was surprised when he said, “I have just left my house and these are my first steps to the mosque”. He told me that he smokes cigarette and the pipe “mada’ah” and now very tired. A primary school teacher says “I smoke a lot when I am chewing Qat in the afternoon”. “I

smoke a pack of cigarettes every day”, he added. Ali, a bus-driver says “I began smoking in 1975 when I was fifteen years old, and now I couldn’t stop it”. He adds “I can’t enjoy my chewing without a cigarette”.

I was on another bus when Sadiq, a 24 years old Yemeni man who works in a special firm began to smoke. I request him to stop and he did. Then, I started talking with him about his life journey with cigarettes. By chance, he was sitting beside his father, but I didn’t know that. Both of them smiled at me. Sadiq says “we used to live in Saudi Arabia when I was a child. My father of course is a smoker. One day I saw a pack of cigarettes behind the pillow in my father’s bedroom. I took it and picked one up, lighted it and began smoking. It was just an imitation of my dad and the people who I saw smoking. At that time, I didn’t know the dangers of nicotine, because I was only 8 years old. Suddenly my father entered the room and saw what I was doing. He was very angry with me and he punished me. I didn’t do it again until I was 16. At the time, I was a student in the school and there were some bad

classmates studying with me. They began to give me cigarettes for free and showing me how to smoke. Day after day, I became addicted. When I was 19, I decided to stop it and I did for six months. During this, I always had headache and my chest hurt. The doctor told me that it was better to stop it gradually in order to beat it completely. Then I tried to smoke 3-4 cigarettes every day, but again I became a heavy smoker.”

The fact is smoking in its various types; such as cigarette, mada’ah and sheeshah are practiced every day by many people of different ages. Many workers, teachers, taxi-drivers, students, teenagers, etc are simply addicted. Some women also share in this bad habit with their male counterparts especially middle-aged and older women. Some of these know the hazards of smoking and some don’t know.

According to the British statistics, the smokers in Britain spend about \$ 2000 million on their habit every year. About 100,000 million cigarettes are smoked in Britain every year, an equivalent to approximately 5 cigarettes a day for every man, woman, child and baby in the country. Similar figures can be found in most other countries. In countries where cigarettes are cheaper, the figures are even higher. I don’t know any statistics on Yemeni smokers, but I think that the disaster is bigger as we live in a country in which the degree of illiteracy is higher.

Both active and passive smokers get all the harmful effects from smoking. I mean, the people who breathe in the smoke of the smokers are affected equally to the actual smoker who lives or sits with them in their places of work. Mothers who smoke during pregnancy are exposing their unborn babies to considerable risks. When a pregnant woman smokes, the supply of oxygen to her fetus is drastically reduced. There is evidence of a greater danger of miscarriage or premature birth for smoking mothers. Statistics show that babies born to mothers who smoke are, on average, smaller and lighter than babies of non-smoking mothers.

In Europe, lung cancer is by far the most common form of cancer. 95% of all lung cancer patients are smokers. It has been calculated that one in eight of all smokers will die of lung cancer. The mortality rate directly increases with increased consumption. Smokers are also at greater risk for chronic bronchitis and other dangerous respiratory conditions such as emphysema.

Nicotine in cigarette smoke has an

effect on the heart and blood vessels, and this can lead to severe cardiovascular problem, including coronary, digestive tract and kidney problems. Over all, it is estimated that at least 25% of all smokers will die prematurely from tobacco related diseases. 3,000 people in Britain die every week as a result of their habit.

So, what’s the need for smoking? From this end I advise and request every smoker to give it up. I risk them

to save their lives and their money. People who smoke must have mercy on themselves and on their families who live with them under the same roof. All of us as intelligent members in this society must invite our addicted brothers to give up smoking. Every smoker must remember their spouse and children need fresh air, a clean atmosphere, medical care and good nutrition. All these can’t be fulfilled if the head of the family is pol-

luting the environment and wasting his money. Many smokers and chewers spend money with out caring about the necessary needs of their families.

All of us must say in a loud voice ‘No for smoking –Yes to better health’.

Mohammed A. Khoshafah is an English teacher at the Alameed Institute Ibb city

The three worst men

By: Barkatullah Marwat

There were three men competing to see who was the worst one in the world. The first one attacked a woman, beat her until her teeth fell out and she bled from her nose and ears. He beat her so savagely that she fainted. He turned to the others and said, “I am the worst one of all.”

The second man stepped up to rape her and beat her children & took all she owns, further, until she was worse

than dead. He turned to the others and said, “No one can be worse than me.” The third one stepped up, smiled coldly, and said, “No, I am the worst one even though I just stood by and watched, because this woman is my sister.”

Conclusion:

The woman is Iraq.

The first man is Saddam.

The second is the West.

The third is the Muslim Ummah that stands by and doing nothing.

You are my life

By: Amin Al-slahi

Once all alone.
I was lost in a world of strangers.
No one to trust.
On my own I was lonely.
You suddenly appeared.
It was cloudy before, but now it’s clear.
You take away the fear.

You brought me back to life .
You are the sun.
You make me shine.
Or more like the stars.
That twinkle at night.
You are the moon.
That glows in my heart.
You’re my daytime my nighttime
And my world.
You are my life.

Welcome for her

By: Abdulkarim Ahmed Dida Hagga

Welcome for the first woman
In this world
The woman who talks with
Her smile
The woman who spreads
Light with her face
I see her light before I see her
I smell her scent before
She senses me
Believe me
I live with her love
And I live with my pain
Because I can’t reach her heart
But, when I see her

I always send a big smile
And a beautiful look at her
Because I’m still alive with her love
No one loves her like me
No one is as jealous of her like me,
too !
Really, she’s the most beautiful one
on this world
And I’m a sincere one
With her
I wish I could live with her
And this is my hope
In this life
And I only live for this hope
My God help me
To live with her

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 URL extension
- 4 Drew back
- 9 "Crime doesn't pay," e.g.
- 14 French sea
- 15 Rumor mill
- 16 Port of Italy
- 17 Commotion
- 18 Hunt series
- 20 With distinction
- 22 Born as
- 23 Brief openings?
- 24 Beam for rails
- 29 Changdeok Palace site
- 30 "That's your game, eh?"
- 31 Unwanted name in "Roots"
- 32 Sasquatch and yeti, e.g.
- 36 Hum-dum divider
- 37 Sly
- 40 "Well, ___-de-dah"
- 41 Become very thin
- 42 Far from land
- 44 It's only one until you cross it
- 45 Checkout units
- 49 "Friends" character
- 52 Defoe's castaway
- 53 Crop buster? (Abbr.)
- 54 Steak throwaway

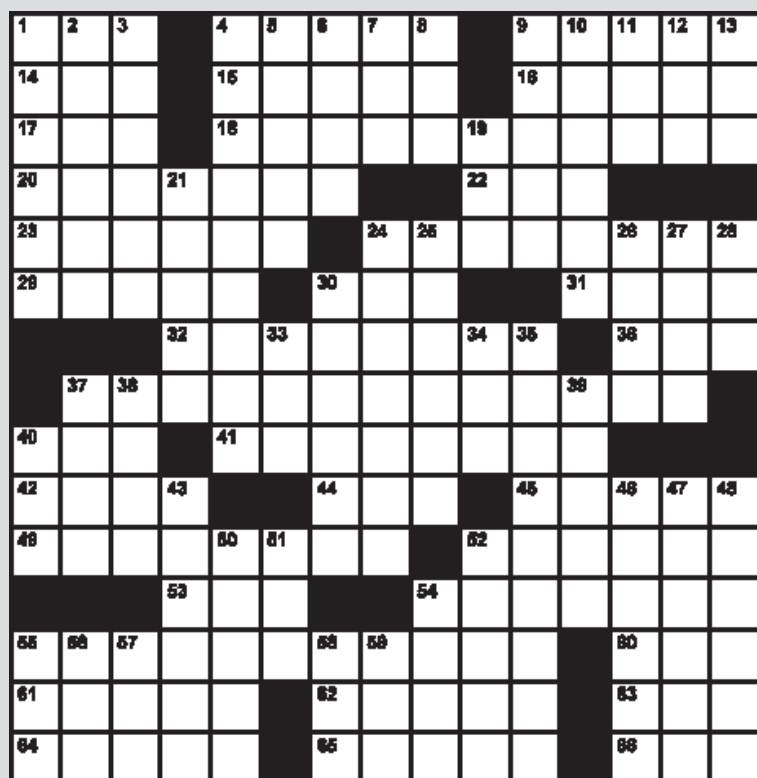
- 55 Saturday morning staple
- 60 Hop start
- 61 Screw-up
- 62 Emerge violently
- 63 Compass direction (Abbr.)
- 64 "In ___ Trust"
- 65 Some compilations
- 66 Massawa port sea

DOWN

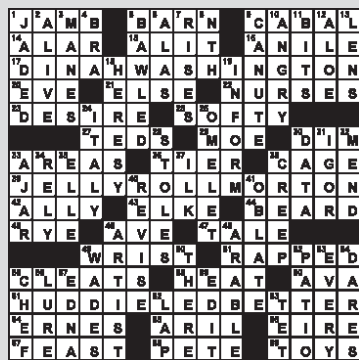
- 1 Some rial spenders
- 2 Made-over
- 3 Isle of Capri attraction
- 4 Represent by a marking, e.g.
- 5 Makes well
- 6 Jones with bones, familiarly
- 7 Greek letter
- 8 Use a brush, in a way
- 9 Symptoms of malaria
- 10 Absolutely loathe
- 11 Undefined amount
- 12 Moo ___ gai pan
- 13 Nice agua
- 19 One of Sean Lennon's middle names
- 21 Autonomous territory of the Netherlands
- 24 Of finer quality

- 25 Greenhorn
- 26 Commotion requiring action?
- 27 Certain wild goat
- 28 Type of patch
- 30 Recently
- 33 A set for "The White Shadow"
- 34 Hyson, for one
- 35 Takeoff experts
- 37 It may be cold or petty
- 38 Poseidon's mother
- 39 Certain unborn young
- 40 Fond Du ___
- 43 Words before a word from our sponsor?
- 46 Bible book
- 47 City industrialized by 50-Down
- 48 Oozed
- 50 Industrialist, John
- 51 Produce eggs
- 52 Crawled cautiously
- 54 Wildebeests
- 55 KFC portion
- 56 Tijuana gold
- 57 Former fort near Monterey
- 58 Business card abbreviation, perhaps
- 59 Tell's home canton

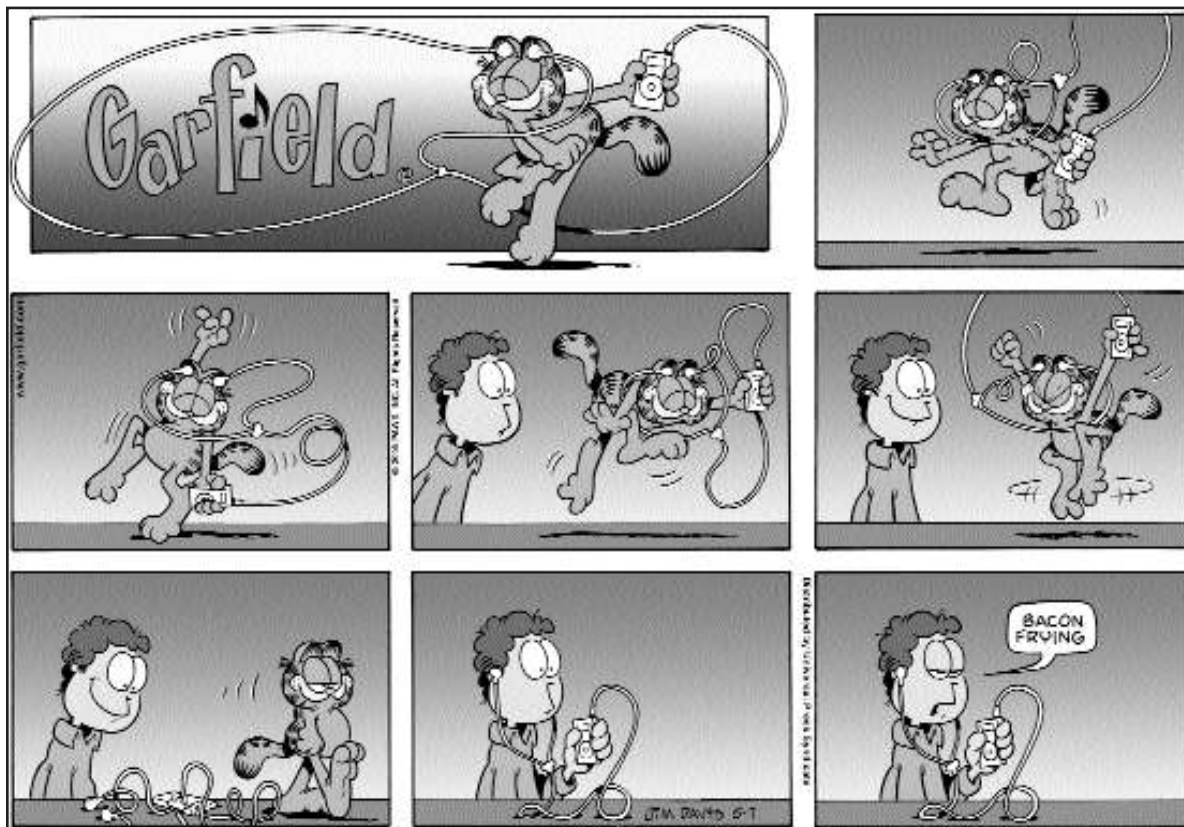
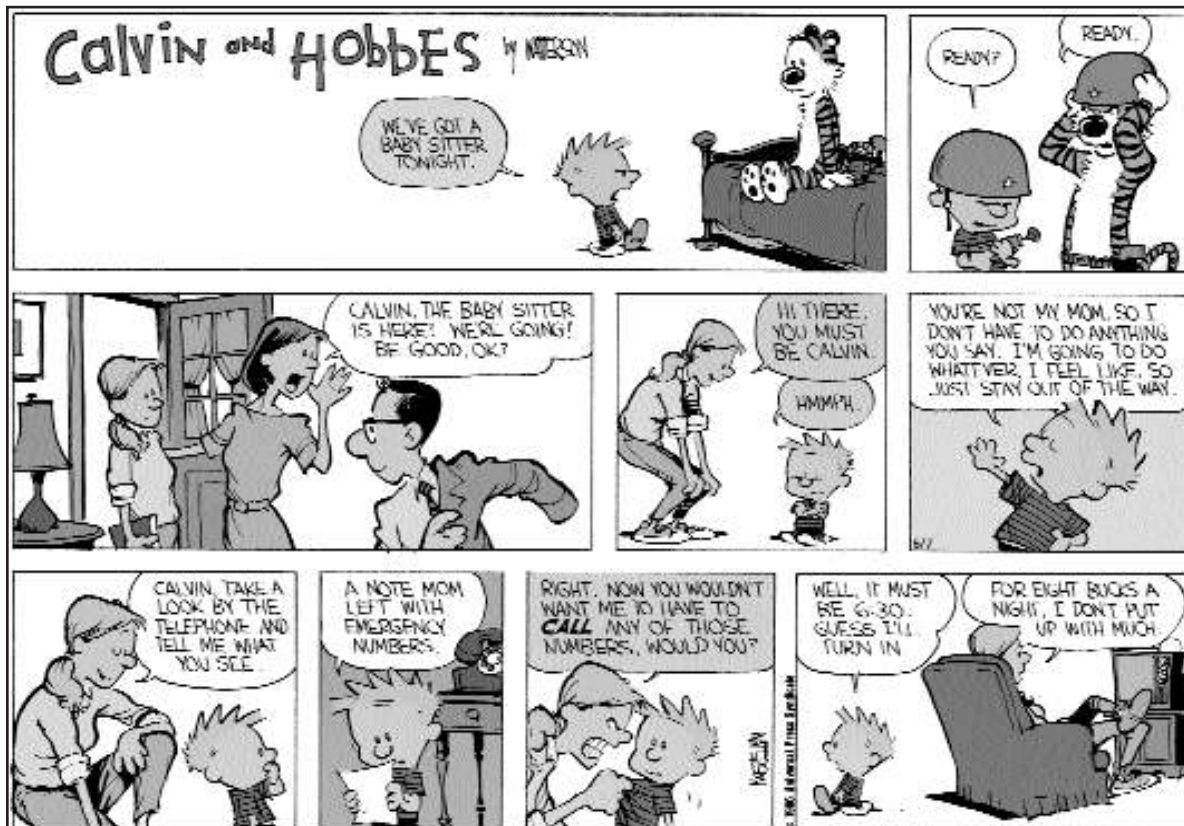
"LOST IT!" by Lane Gutz



PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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VACANCIES

For the execution of the project "Support of Yemen's Accession to the WTO" funded by the European Commission, GTZ International Service (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, International Services) will employ two specialists up to the end of 2008. The posts are described as follows:

1. Legal Translator

Qualifications and Skills:

University degree in English, preferably majoring in translation, and excellent command of English language (speaking and writing) are extremely essential. Must be computer literate with at least 5 years of experience in trade-related translation from Arabic to English and vice versa. Previous experience with an internationally aided project, legal firm, or international company/organisation is a plus. Secretarial skills are also welcomed.

Duties:

- Translation into English of all Accession submissions to WTO Secretariat, including Answers to questions from WTO members;
- Translation of WTO-related materials into Arabic;
- Preparation of draft translations of Yemeni Laws and Legislations;
- Occasionally simultaneous interpretation in Project-related events, including Seminars, Workshops, Presentations, etc.;
- Preparation of correspondences and reports in English; and
- Any other duties related to translation/interpretation from English to Arabic or vice versa.

Description of Work:

The candidate will assist the key experts and short-term

international and local experts in all activities related to trade in agricultural goods (law, economics, policy) covering virtually all related sub-activities of the project. The work will in particular involve research, analysis and editing activities, as well as low-level communications with government agencies and other stakeholders, especially private sector representatives. Focus of the work will be the agriculture-related WTO-Agreements and related tasks stemming from the accession process to WTO. The candidate will prepare briefs and training materials, assist in and supervise translation activities and liaise with various parties. It will be part of the candidate's role to inject a "local perspective" in the various project implementation activities where needed.

2. Expert specialized in target-specific research and the fast and reliable provision of requested background material pertaining to Yemen's WTO accession

- University graduate, ideally with post-graduate degree in MBA, Economics, Foreign Trade, International Law or related field;
- Ideally practical and/or theoretical experience in Yemen's import and/or export trade;
- Proven understanding of Yemen's import/export regime (laws, regulations, policy, economics);
- Understanding of the multilateral trading system of the WTO;
- Proven record of conducting independent research in a short time period;
- Proven record of compiling and aggregating diverse data and their analysis and solidification into a presentable form;
- Ability to investigate multi-layered economic interrelationships and to extract viable policy conclusions from aggregated data and findings;
- Ability to translate the findings into easy-to-read brief-

ings for key government officials;

- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English; and
- Proven excellent research skills in both Arabic and English
- High Level of Self-Organization and Self-Management

Description of Work:

The candidate will assist the PMU-Director and Chief of CCO as well as other Government Officials by providing them with specific ad hoc research results and the presentation of the evaluated findings on an aggregate level. Research activities will cover any topic related to Yemen's accession to WTO, but might also cover interfaces between the accession process and Yemen's involvement in bilateral or regional trade agreements. The work will focus on highly target-oriented research, analysis and the presentation of the results, as well as the tailor-made transmission of findings to Key Government officials. The candidate will also be tasked with the preparation of briefs and training materials.

- Employments will start 1 July 2006 (or earlier), depending on ongoing procedures.
- Yemeni Nationals of suitable qualification are invited to present their application in English prior to 1st June 2006 to:

Coordination and Communication Office with the World Trade Organization/ Project Management Unit, c/o Dr. Achim Seiler, GTZ, P.O. Box 8278, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, Tel.: (01) 561 114 118, Mobile: 733 777 398, Fax: (01) 252456;

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews in early June.

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Khidab in Yemen, how is it done!!

By: Dr. Hanne Schönig
schoenig@owz.uni-halle.de

Yemeni Women's Body Painting (naqsh) with khidab During my field research in the 1990s in Sanaa and Wadi Dahr, the Tihama region and Taiz as well as in Wadi Hadramawt, I learnt much about the ingredients of khidab, which I called gall ink in English, its manufacture and application.

The application

On the occasion of religious and private feasts, especially weddings, Yemeni women and girls use khidab for body-painting. The munaqqasha – in other regions alternatively called kawbara, marrakha, mashita, mu'arriba, mukhanjira, mukaddiya, muqayyina, muzayyina, naqqasha, raddiha, raysa, and in Sanaa of course shari'a, the woman who keeps the bride company during the wedding and performs a number of duties – applies the ink with a large acacia-thorn, a toothpick or any wooden chip or splinter.



A woman is working with several makhadib at the same time.

a position to afford professional painting.

The ingredients

Its main ingredients are as follows: 1- Afs: the gall of an oak tree, which is sold by druggists ('attarin) mainly for medical purposes; 2 - sikka: copper-oxide, especially copper-1-oxide; 3 - Shadhir: dissolved sal ammoniac.

Afs is frequently found among the ingredients of several cosmetic products, but in Yemen it is mainly known and used because of its adstringent property for curing stomach diseases. Gall is also an ingredient of ink which is frequently mentioned in classical Arabic literature.

sikka is called khabatha in other places and is imported from India.

shadhir is sold in the shape of a white bar (there is also a shadhir-powder), called nushadhir in classical Arabic literature on chemistry and alchemy. Together with potash (hutum) it is widely used to blacken henna.

On the production methods of khidab see my more detailed and illustrated article in:
<http://www.hennatirbe.com/articles/khidab.htm>

Substitutes and confusion

Nowadays there are modern substitutes such as the Japanese sibgha, which dries very quickly, though it does not keep for several weeks as khidab does, only for some days. It is a white powder, originally produced to colour the hair, and the instruction



Naqsh on hands with sibga and qatr al-hinna (done by a girl originating from Aden).

leaflet warns that it may cause allergies. It is important to keep it away from coming into contact with the eyes as this may cause blindness.

Especially Western travellers and authors – even female ones – misinterpreted the black painting which they sometimes noticed on women's hands and labelled it as the universally known kuhl or black henna, and some even took the painting for a tattoo!

For more information on this see my publication, where I present detailed information mainly on plants, but also on animal and chemical materials that Yemeni women use to manufacture cosmetics and fumigating products, from akhdarain up to wars:

Hanne Schönig: Schminken, Düfte und Räucherwerk der Jemenitinnen. Lexikon der Substanzen, Textilien und Techniken. Beirut Texts und Studien 91. Würzburg: Ergon 2002.

There are two articles in English by the author, both with illustrations: "Traditional Cosmetics of Women in Yemen. The black dye khidab: Traditional and modern ways of fabrication", in: Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies (London) 26 (1996), 135-144.

"Utensils of traditional cosmetics in Yemen: use and terminology", in:

Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies (London) 29 (1999), 151-157.

Finally I want to use this occasion to thank in public all those women and men, who provided me with precious information and thus enabled me to write the mentioned book – but, who, on account of it being in German, are unable to read it. I have gained a great deal of my scientific knowledge from druggists (attarin), two of whom I want to mention here by name: 'Abdalwahhab al-Khalafi in the suq al-mi'tara in Sanaa and Ahmad Khudafi in the old city of Taizz.



Sikka and Shadhir being ground by Habiba in Wadi Dahr.

As a matter of course this is exclusively a female occupation. - Among the khidab-producers, however, I met a man in Sanaa, who even had a well-equipped separate room in his house for the professional production of many khidab-stones at the same time, which he then sold to the 'attarin in suq al-millh. - In addition, there are talented girls and women in many families, who learned the art of naqsh to perfection and usually decorate the bodies of family members and friends. The design is drawn on the hands, arms, feet and legs, even on the face, chest or the neck. The patterns differ from region to region and are influenced by foreign fashions, especially the Gulf region and Sudan. So in the course of time a preference for floral-ornamental or geometric-abstract designs develops. Accordingly, elderly women prefer to be painted by their peers as these still know traditional patterns, which have gone out of fashion among younger women. They prefer young painters who accept new fashions and are willing to adopt them.

The length of the procedure varies according to which body parts need to be decorated, and the procedure may take up to several hours. The painted body parts are smeared with sesame oil (salit tartar), vaseline (wuzali) or fiks, then flour or baby powder are sprinkled on. Finally they are enveloped with plastic to produce heat, which enhances the effect. As the ink has to dry for several hours, the painting is generally done in the evening and the substance is washed off in the morning.

Body decorating also has a status connotation as only women who do not have to work hard, who can avoid frequent contact with water and of course who have enough money to pay for a costly munaqqasha will be in

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