

Yemen being the worst Girls' education in the Arab world: Challenges and difficulties

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

It is without doubt that education is the basis for development and change for any country wishing to develop. Having a special type of education for both sexes will enable the country to get rid of many problems and difficulties. Millions among the young generation, particularly girls, are deprived of education, especially in developing countries, including Arab ones.

As statistics show, this deprivation does not affect girls alone, but the whole society. In some Arab countries, those not having education represent about 23.3 percent of all children between ages 7 and 18, most of whom are females. Statistics also show that approximately 113 million children worldwide do not have any sort of education, most of which are females.

International reports indicate that the



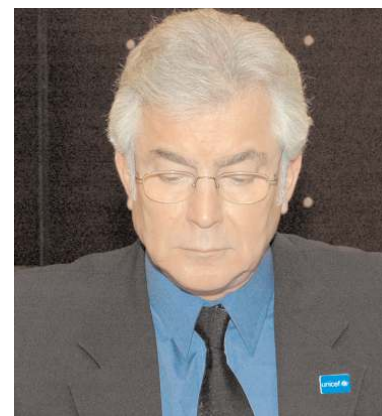
Dr. Malak Zaalouk



Mohammed Anees Salim



Safa'a Faisal



Mohamoud Qabeel



Nassim Al-Rahman

education in the Arab world, aiming to learn enrollment and dropping of school percentages, educational inputs (buildings and premises, curriculums and teachers of both sexes).

Additionally, it focused on recognizing strategies and successful experi-

and Qatar, mentioning numerous success stories in girls' education in these countries and how girls achieved such astonishing successes under difficult circumstances. In Darfur, he found approximately 200 students in one school, 80 percent of which were girls,

percent increase in girls' education and this is a good indicator in this respect. International and government efforts are being exerted, but they are not enough and they do not meet the level of world ambition."

She added, "Djibouti is last regarding girls' education, as girls' enrollment is 30 percent. Yemen is next with 41 percent and then Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Oman respectively. Syria is considered first among Arab countries regarding girls' school dropouts."

For her part, **Dr. Nour Dajani Shehabi, coordinator of the Literacy for All program in UNESCO's regional office**, confirmed, "Arab countries have many things ahead of them in order to reach Literacy for All by 2015. Applying the obligatory education principle requires factors other than children's primary rights, as the Arab world faces increasing student numbers."

She added, "Many Arab countries are committed to international charters and commitments. However, 113 million school age children still are deprived of education and most of them are female."

She also revealed many facts about problems facing Arab world females which hinder them from joining education, such as illiteracy and not joining school, turning to vocational education and few chances to obtain higher education. She mentioned some countries in need of special efforts to boost girls' education, such as in Sudan and Yemen.

According to Shehabi, mass media should do their best to improve women's image in society and get rid of wrong beliefs and concepts causing discrimination against them. Women should be supported in work in order to participate in development and be given more chances to participate in various aspects of life, whether political, developmental and the like. They also should be granted the right of decision making.

Safa'a Faisal, a reporter and girls' education presenter in the BBC's Arabic section, confirmed that the issue of girls' education is associated with many factors. She came to know about such factors via her reporting for the BBC "School for Girls" program telecast for the Middle East and North Africa.

She said, "The most important factor is poverty. Sixty percent of children out of school are girls. There are more than one million girls out of school in Yemen and Sudan." According to Faisal, who has visited many Arab countries, one problem hindering girls' education lies in poverty and absence of awareness regarding girls' education.

Concerned authorities can prevent some problems and complexities by building walls for schools and activating social activities that bind girls to schools. Faisal also criticized some school textbooks which, according to her, draw certain roles for Arab world women to play. Women's roles assigned beforehand not only will affect girls negatively, but also will

give them certain roles to play in society. She identified other problems caused by unsuccessful teachers delivering their lessons, reflected in girls' hating and escaping from school.

Mohammed Anees Salim, ambassador of UNICEF's regional Middle East and North Africa office, expressed another opinion. He affirmed, "Activating girls' education lies in constant efforts to adopt this issue. Media personnel should shoulder the responsibility of girls' awareness and development and they must do their best to elevate girls' education." He asked each to apply this in his own country when returning home within a short six-month period. He also requested they make such issue primary in their media concerns.

field visits to various areas and many success stories have been found despite living under difficult and serious conditions.

Al-Rahman also affirmed that media personnel efforts have contributed much in presenting the girls' education issue. UNICEF has been able to monitor and document many reasons and hurdles preventing girls from education.

Teaching girls will have far-reaching positive effects on women themselves, as well as on society, as they will be less objected to exploitation and mistreatment. Such teaching also will secure a better understanding of social understanding and democracy. For these reasons and many others, UNICEF considers the issue of girls' education among its first priorities in



Part of the forum

Arab world needs more than 450,000 teachers in order to reach the final goal of education for all for the year 2015. Thus, there would be 40 students for each teacher, especially given that millions of Arab children are not enrolled in primary education.

The existence of educated girls will prevent early marriage as well as decrease infant mortality and fertility rates. Additionally, educated mothers will seek to ensure high education levels for their female children and be less objected to exploitation and mistreat-

ences at Arab and international levels and included the United Nations initiative for teaching girls. One forum revealed stunning facts about the decline in girls' education in some countries, particularly Yemen.

The forum provided a good opportunity, as a large number of academic and media personnel and those concerned about the issue gathered there. They shed light on the problem of the decline in girls' education and the reasons for it.

which proves the will and ambition, despite difficulties for girls aspiring to get high grades.

For her part, **Dr. Malak Zaalouk, regional education advisor for the Middle East and North Africa**, affirmed that a conference has been launched several years ago according to the "Education to All" program, with 160 countries participating. The conference aimed to achieve many objectives for grading children's education according to set strategies and plans; unfortunately, they were not applied. Concentration was focused on the educational side, as it is the party responsible for development.

Another initiative was declared and hosted in Dakar, Senegal in 2000, with more than 164 countries participating. This initiative came up with many positive outcomes and was more fruitful than the previous one. More than 13 organizations working under the U.N., including the World Food Program and UNICEF, agreed to accelerate girls' education.

Zaalouk also referred to some of the most successful stories in the Arab world, particularly in some governorates and rural areas in Egypt. "The success of such a trial in teaching girls is attributed to collective efforts by official parties represented in 16 ministries and national and social associations, in addition to the private sector's role. Moreover, many international organizations within the U.N. participated," she noted. She also called upon the government to follow the same policy.

When asked about the current situation in the Middle East and North Africa regarding girls' education, Zaalouk pointed out, "There is a 14

The best investment for the sake of development lies in teaching girls, as education enhances their protection against violence and discrimination.

ment. They also will have an early understanding of social justice, peace and democracy.

Due to the aforementioned reasons, UNICEF has made girls' education among its first strategic planning priorities. UNICEF also sees the importance of unifying and encouraging media efforts in projecting the issue of girls' education, as mass media will play a responsible role in designing general concepts and eradicating the poor image of women.

The second Arab forum on Media and Rights of the Child concluded its sessions in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with the participation of a large number of media personnel interested in the issue, including Yemen. The forum disclosed many facts regarding human rights and girls' edu-

Mohamoud Qabeel ambassador of goodwill to the UNICEF: assured that the best investment for the sake of development lies in teaching girls, as education enhances their protection against violence and discrimination. Facts indicate that the world did not reach the international goal regarding equality of the sexes, as expected by 2005. Qabeel further noted that 7.5 percent of Arab children are out of school, most of them girls, which is equal to five percent of the world's population.

He also confirmed that it is necessary to hasten achieving a group of development objectives by 2015, which include equality of the sexes in education. Qabeel pointed to experiences he has had in places like Darfur, Al-Saeed, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon

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For his part, **Nassim Al-Rahman, Chief of Information and Communication for UNICEF-Yemen**, assured that UNICEF's Yemen office works with various other parties to treat childhood issues. It also gives girls' education more importance, as the office has made many trips and

future plans. Al-Rahman assured that the best investment in the Arab world is to invest in education, particularly girls' education. He believes all should join hands to achieve this noble objective, which is considered part of Millennium Development Goals.



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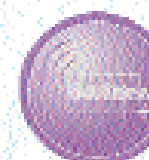
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Good policy, good meeting the literacy (Part-II)

EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (7/9)

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.

Drawing on insights of part III of this report, Part IV calls for a three-pronged policy approach to literacy, encompassing the achievement of UPE, the scaling up of youth and adult learning programmes, and the development and enrichment of literate environments. Part IV also discusses essential features of sound policy and the role of government in scaling up adult literacy programmes.

The nuts and bolts of youth and adult literacy programmes (Continued)

Learners' knowledge and wishes should inform adult learning programmes and be their starting point – an axiom that is not applied uniformly. Whatever their objectives, all such programmes require attention to curriculum and pedagogy, learners' schedules, the training and status of literacy educators, the learning technology used and the language of learning, as well as to the broader environment in which individuals practise their literacy skills. The following are some essential dimensions of good practice.

5. Developing multilingual policies

Language and literacy are inextricably linked. A majority of countries facing salient literacy challenges are linguistically diverse. In what language should schools teach and adult programmes be conducted? How should both integrate multilingualism to enhance the literacy prospects of all? Decisions on language must balance political and ethnic sensitivity, pedagogical effectiveness, costs and learner preferences.

The designation of official language(s) and the choice of languages taught in schools and adult learning programmes are sensitive issues. The basic features of a language influence the ways in which students learn. Different skills are required to master different script systems (alphabets vs ideograms, for instance). The oral and written forms of a language may serve distinct purposes. Modern standard Arabic, for example, is used by many countries as the national or official language, but differs from the diverse forms of spoken Arabic. Lack of correspondence between the spoken and written languages can pose a particular problem for learners.

Initial education in the mother tongue is widely recognized to be positive for a child's cognitive development. Learning how to read and write in a maternal language facilitates access to literacy in other languages. Language diversity need not be a barrier to literacy acquisition: in Papua New Guinea, where over 800 languages are spoken, primary pupils start education in their mother tongue and gradually shift to English.

The use of vernaculars in adult programmes is pedagogically sound, encourages community mobilization and social development, and provides for political voice. Using only the local language as a learning medium, however, can be a barrier to broader participation in a country's social, economic and political life.

Adult learners themselves often express a demand for literacy in a regional and/or national language. In the United Republic of Tanzania, literacy programmes in Swahili proved far more popular than ones in local languages.

Balancing these factors is not easy. The key features of an inclusive multilingual policy should be based

on: studies of the linguistic and socio-linguistic situation, including attitudes of communities towards the languages they use and towards official languages; consultations with local communities as an input to learning and to the governance of adult programmes; locally written and produced teaching materials; the addition of second (and third) languages that take account of learners' competence and knowledge. The extra cost of training teachers and developing materials in multiple languages must be weighed against the inefficiency of teaching in languages that learners do not understand.

6. Literate environments: nurturing learning

Printed and visual materials in households, neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and the community encourages individuals to become literate and to integrate their literacy skills in their everyday lives. Comparative studies of educational achievement and literacy proficiency show that the quantity and use of literacy resources matter. A recent study in thirty-five countries found that exposure to home-based literacy activities was positively related to Grade 4 reading achievement. The International Adult Learning Survey found that the extent to which respondents read books and newspapers, visited public libraries and watched television was significantly associated with literacy proficiency in some twenty OECD countries.

While research clearly shows that home and school literacy environments significantly contribute to reading and language achievement, many pupils grow up in impoverished literacy environments, lacking a bare minimum of written material. According to the Southern African Consortium on Monitoring Educational Quality, at least 70% of students reported having fewer than ten books in their homes. In all but four countries, only 20% to 40% of the schools had libraries. Many Grade 6 pupils reported that their classrooms had no books at all. In remote communities of Asia, Latin America and Africa, the circulation of newspapers, books and magazines is often severely limited. Policies related to book publishing, the media and access to information affect the literate environment and are intricately linked to the building of literate societies. Many countries harness the potential of the print and broadcast media to promote literacy. Quite a few have developed special publications aimed at individuals with minimal skills and at the expansion of literacy in local languages. Others have used radio and television in conjunction with literacy programmes and initiated listening groups to maximize the impact of specialized broadcasts.

Financing literacy: the costs of scaling up

People in low-income countries have very limited ability to pay for educational activities. The scaling up of adult literacy programmes requires, first, a coordinated national financing strategy. Budgetary allocations to literacy must increase, and not at the expense of investment in the quality

of schooling. Investing in the wider literacy environment to stimulate the production of materials suitable for new readers is also important. Second, mechanisms should be developed to mobilize local resources, taking care to ensure that no one in the community is ever barred from literacy programmes because of cost. Third, governments and national NGOs can form partnerships with the private sector, donor agencies and international NGOs.

Although reliable data on funding for youth and adult literacy are scarce, evidence suggests that the level is very low in most developing countries, both in the aggregate and in terms of the priority given literacy in national and education sector budgets. In many countries, literacy programmes represent just 1% of the total national education budget. Calculating overall support is difficult, since governments may spread funds over several ministries and programmes may be run by NGOs, employers and donors. Discussion of long-term financing must first assess some of the basic cost parameters for good-quality literacy programmes. These include start-up costs, training, development and printing of learning materials, payment of literacy educators and operating costs. All are difficult to standardize. For a recent sample of twenty-nine literacy programmes, the average cost per learner came to US\$47 in sub-Saharan Africa, US\$30 in Asia and US\$61 in Latin America. The averages per 'successful' learner

– one having completed the programme – were, respectively, US\$68, US\$32 and US\$83. In Senegal's literacy and poverty alleviation programme, the unit cost for one adult learner is US\$50 – broadly equivalent to the cost of one year of primary schooling. Policy-makers need to come up with baseline figures for significantly expanding national programmes. The key consideration is salary and training costs for literacy educators. Relying on volunteers is not a long-term

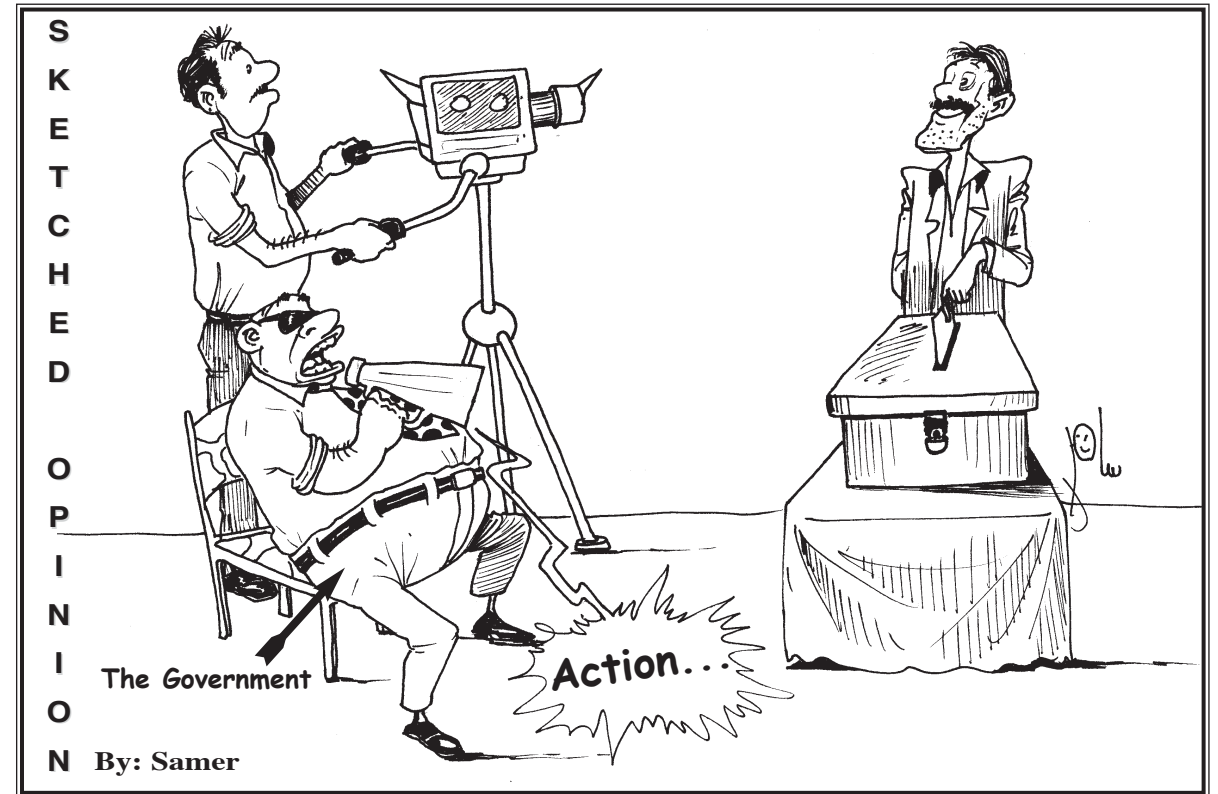
- **Adult programmes must understand how people use their literacy skills, and respond to the priorities of learners**
- **It is imperative to professionalize, pay and invest in literacy educators**
- **Language policy, including multilingualism, is crucial**
- **Print materials have a positive influence on literacy achievement**
- **National financing strategies, including higher public spending, are required**

solution. The GCE/ActionAid study recommends that literacy educators should be paid at least the equivalent of the minimum primary school teacher's pay, for all hours worked. This benchmark raises difficult questions, as governments are already under pressure to pay primary school teachers a decent wage. A minimum period of training is also required: the same study recommends that facilitators should receive at least fourteen days of initial training and regular refresher sessions. Such costs represent a major investment, one that will have to be met not just by governments but also by the private sector and donors. Production of learning materials is a third important cost, which varies considerably depending on the pedagogy used. The extent to which government and other actors are prepared to invest in free or subsidized newspapers, local and national language editions of materials and the provision of travelling libraries also deserves consideration. Other items include management and other overhead, as well as monitoring and evaluation, which are all too rare in literacy programmes.

Preliminary, broad-brush work on the magnitude of additional costs that might be incurred if major progress is to be made towards the Dakar literacy goal was commissioned for this Report. It suggests that US\$26 billion is required over the 13 years to 2015 to enable more than 550 million people (nearly half in South and West

Asia) to complete a literacy programme of 400 hours. The financial challenge is greatest in South and West Asia, while relative costs are highest in the Arab States. This work offers an indicative framework to stimulate policy debate in countries, where assumptions can be varied according to context. The figures and conclusions involved should be read with caution, since the data are limited and many fundamental assumptions are made. The range of estimates is broad – between US\$10 billion and US\$50 billion over the next ten years. Because this work calculates costs since 2002, at least US\$2.5 billion a year would likely now be needed, a tall order for both countries and the international community.

Most governments need to be much more active in researching, financing, expanding and coordinating literacy policy and practice through schools, youth and adult literacy programmes and the broader environment. Benchmarks developed by the GCE and ActionAid can stimulate debate on literacy. They include attention to governance, evaluation, educators, pedagogy and financing, all discussed above. No matter what approach is chosen, political commitment is the obligatory pre-condition for meeting the ambitious targets that many governments have set for their countries. In turn, it will rely on technical capacity, adequate financing and international support, discussed next.



A Jordanian woman registers to vote with the imprint of her thumb at a polling station in 2003.

US\$26 billion is required to 2015 to enable more than 550 million people to complete a literacy programme of 400 hours

Investment on Kamaran Island to reach \$500 million

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

The Hayel Saeed Anaam Group and the Egyptian Orascom Company signed an agreement for the development of a tourist project on the Yemeni island of Kamaran located in the Red Sea on May 21. Signed in Hudeidah, the project is estimated to involve an investment of \$350 million during the first phase and costs will run to a total of \$500 million for the life of the project.

Involving the construction of a number of resorts and hotels, the scheme also entails the creation of infrastructure and other essential services for the inhabitants of the island as well as job creation opportunities. The project envisions job creation at the airport, the sewage network, and at the stadium.

The agreement was signed by the Nabil Al-Faqieh, Yemeni Minister of

Tourism, and the regional director of the Hayel Saeed Anaam Group based in Cairo, Mahfoudh Ali Mohammed Saeed, as well as by Sameeh Sarawis, the director of the Orascom Company. The signing ceremony also was attended by the president of the General Authority of Development and Tourism, Mutahar Taqi, and Abdeh Naji Al-Salawi, the deputy of the Authority, and Ali Mohammed Saeed Anaam, chairman of the board of directors of the Hayel Saeed Anaam Group.

The island of Kamaran possesses all the ingredients for a prosperous tourism industry as it captivates visitors with its rich environmental diversity and amazing marine life. Kamaran, or Two Moon, Island is set on luscious landscape with a green carpet covering its soil making the island seem as if it is floating on the Red Sea. Mangroves surround the island in the north and one can find deer and camels pasturing on its ver-



A view of Kamaran Island showing building development on the island.

dant grass.

The island provides the tourist with the possibility of engaging in a wealth of activities such as scuba-diving, fishing, snorkeling among the coral reefs, dolphin-watching, and swimming. Tourists who visit the island usually express astonishment at the variety of places to visit and things to do. One of places that one must visit is the village of Makram where they can spot beautiful buildings and pleasant people. Evidence of heightened government attention to the island is visible in the new infrastructure and better education offered.

Perhaps more pleasantly, tourists may glimpse fishermen plying the waves at sea searching for fish. Some may be amazed at the number and sizes of whales caught, in addition to

the myriad fish species. Even the fishermen are lucky and have decent fisheries to exploit, many fishermen might express their hopes to better exploit the vast fishing grounds Yemen possesses through marketing techniques and increased export abroad. Inhabitants of

the island often complain of the dangers of unplanned fishing by Egyptian and other foreign fishing vessels sailing around the island's shores, and in the process, sometimes destroying the coral reefs that form the protective environment for fish to grow.



A Kamaran Island village.

Yemeni fisheries ripe for investment



Yemen to adopt new trends for fish wealth.

By: Yemen Times Staff

Yemen possesses vast fisheries located off its coasts that have significant commercial potential. If exploited properly, the revenue gained could cover the current budget deficit and improve the incomes of poor families. However, the obstacles blocking the development of the fisheries are the drawing-up of implementation plans along with finding private sector partners to increase the catch brought annually, marketing, canning, and exportation.

While many fishermen criticize the government for not devoting enough energy to the development of Yemen's fisheries and associated businesses, Minister of Fisheries Mahmoud Ibrahim Saghir says the fishery management and conservation project, the "Fish Fifth Project," represents one of the government's fields of investment fixed in the Third Five-year Plan (FYP) for development and poverty alleviation. It is anticipated that the project will begin implementation by the end of this year lasting until 2010. The project's budget comes to \$35 million and

is supported by the World Bank, the European Union as well as the government.

Saghir maintains that the project constitutes a big boost to the fishery sector as it focuses on developing infrastructure related to fisheries and supports the process of monitoring quality levels thus ensuring the ability to maximize the value of future exports. Besides that, the project envisions the construction of research stations along the coasts of Yemen, extending from Midi on the Red Sea, to the Gulf of Aden and ending at the shipping area adjacent to the Sultanate of Oman on the Arabian Sea. The project also includes the construction of ports, wave-breakers, and wholesale fish markets in the coastal governorates as well as the rehabilitation and expansion of existing ports.

The Minister noted that the project will establish fish breeding centers, which are expected to form the nucleus of fish culture in Yemen. He added that the "Fish Fifth Project" includes support for the restructuring of the Ministry of Fisheries aimed at decentralizing its overall activities, the initiation of statistical system and informa-

tion network, the preservation of current fish stocks, and the beginning of monitoring and inspection of Yemen's fisheries.

Seeking to increase the average annual fish production to 700,000 tons a year by 2010, the Ministry has lobbied for the restructuring of fish exports in the next FYP so that the industry becomes value focused instead of concentrated on maximizing the sum of exports. The draft FYP aims to increase production growth rates and fish exports, while preserving the fish reservoir in a manner that sustains Yemen's fisheries. Additionally, it plans to improve the quality of the catch and how it is marketed. It is expected that the plan will increase fish exports by an annual rate of 8.5% so that the catch will amount to 124,000 tons by 2010.

The Ministry of Fisheries' plan envisions increasing involvement of the private sector in the comprehensive development of the fishery sector with the enactment of policies attracting domestic and foreign capital. The government has encouraged the private sector to invest in fishery-related development and the establishment of a national fishing fleet.

Business In Brief

The Yemen Society for Consumer Protection (YSCP) has responded with satisfaction to the decision made by the chairman of the West Capital Secretariat Court, Judge Mohammed Ismael Al-Hajji, on 20 May 2006 that prevents the sale of concentrated fodder containing lards contaminated with dioxin and other toxic substances. On 20 May, the YSCP issued a press release mentioning that the judge's verdict was a response to the lawsuit filed by the society against the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Yemeni Authority of Specifications and Standardization, and the Al-Falah poultry company. The lawsuit holds the three parties responsible for importation of 223,874 thousand kilograms of fodder concentrates polluted with lard containing the highly poisonous chemical substance dioxin.

A recently published international report anticipates that the Yemeni government will introduce a new "dose" of price reforms after the coming presidential and local elections. The report also expects the Yemeni rial exchange rate to drop against the U.S. dollar to around YR 198.6 to the dollar during 2006 and down to YR 206 by 2007. The report, issued by the British Economic Information Unit, disclosed Yemen's failure to achieve the annual economic growth specified in its five-year plan (2001-2005) as the GNP in 2005 failed to exceed 2.6% against the targeted rate of 5.6%. The report attributed that failure to the steep drop in oil production and export as the Yemeni oil reserves have been gradually depleted, adding that it is not expected for the Yemeni government to curtail expenditures before the September 2006 elections. The report, posted on Yemeni opposition websites, foresees investment recovery with the start of spending on construction of the liquefied natural gas project and other new energy projects.

An agreement has been signed in Paris on 18 May between the Yemeni airways company, Yemenia, and the French Civil Aviation Authority that will see the addition of one additional Yemenia flight from Sana'a to Paris. The agreement was signed at the conclusion of a consultative meeting between the two sides and stipulated that the additional flight will begin next June. With the addition of this flight, the number of weekly Yemenia flights to Paris will reach four from the current three.

The Bahr Al-Arab Company, specialized in supplying and grinding fish, has recently begun production in the free industrial zone of Aden. Sources at the Aden free zone said that the company is one of the Jordanian investment companies operating in Yemen. The company's production capacity is 200 tons a month of grinded fishmeal. The fishmeal is then processed into poultry fodder with 100% exported abroad. Yemen is the sole source of the company's primary raw material. Registered at the Aden free zone since 2004, the Bahr Al-Arab Company was allocated approximately six-thousand square meters of land at the industrial and warehousing area. It began trial operations in April 2005 and plans to continue its work for a 25 year period until its operating license comes up for renewal.

Aden's seaport is scheduled to put into service a new international navigation system at the beginning of next year. The system facilitates and regulates ship movement inside the port and provides information on ships entering it. Sources working in the field have indicated that the Italian consultative technical delegation from de Apolina has lately submitted a report to the Yemeni Ports Authority on aspects of the technical establishment of the system.

Exchange rate of some currencies

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.5300	196.7600
Sterling Pound	369.0500	369.4900
Euro	250.9900	251.2800
Saudi Rial	52.4100	52.4700
Kuwaiti Dinar	679.6300	680.4300
UAE Dirhem	53.5100	53.5800
Egyptian Pound	34.0500	34.0900
Japanese Yen	1.759602	1.761661

Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

Western Union inaugurates domestic services

The Western Union network for financial services announced the opening its new service for money transfers inside Yemen. Mohammed Rashad Al-Zubairi, the officer in charge of Western Union services at the International Bank of Yemen (IBY) explained that the bank will be the agent of the U.S.-based company in

Yemen, along with two other Yemeni companies.

He pointed out that now people will be able to send money to their clients and partners safely, and within minutes to any place in Yemen via Western Union. The IBY has 11 branches offering services and has assigned 109 points-of-service to Yemeni agents, he added.



Job Vacancy

The Embassy of the United States of America invites applications from qualified persons for the position of **Purchasing Agent**.

Basic Function of Position

The Purchasing Agent is responsible for researching and procuring supplies, services and equipment either locally or offshore in accordance with Department of State regulations. The agent will accurately maintain records, create reports, maintain relationships with vendors, and be customer-service orientated.

Required Qualifications:

Education:

Completion of secondary school.

Prior Work Experience:

A minimum of one-year's experience in the field of procurement. Business school or college may be substituted for work experience.

Language Proficiency:

Fluent Arabic and strong working ability in spoken and written English.

Knowledge:

Must know local market conditions to obtain required items quickly at the lowest price possible.

Skills and Abilities:

Must be proficient in typing and in the use of common computer software applications.

Grade and salary for non-Yemen residents (EFM/MOH/non-ordinarily resident) is to be confirmed by Washington. Residents of Yemen will enter as FSN-05 (beginning annual salary of USD 6,387).

Applicants should submit a current Curriculum Vitae (CV) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sanaa, Yemen (Tel: 755-2235). Yemen nationals must reside in Yemen and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration. CVs must be submitted no later than June 05, 2006.

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اليمنية المباركة
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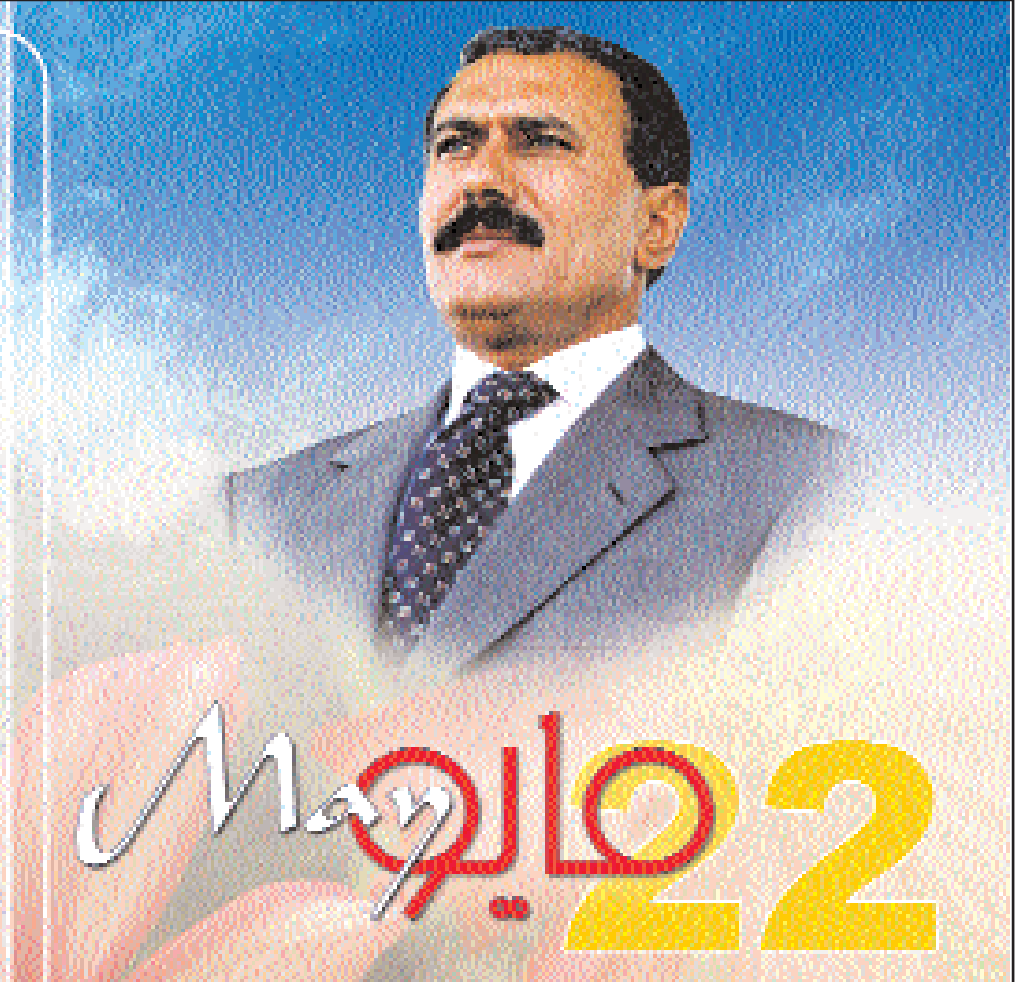
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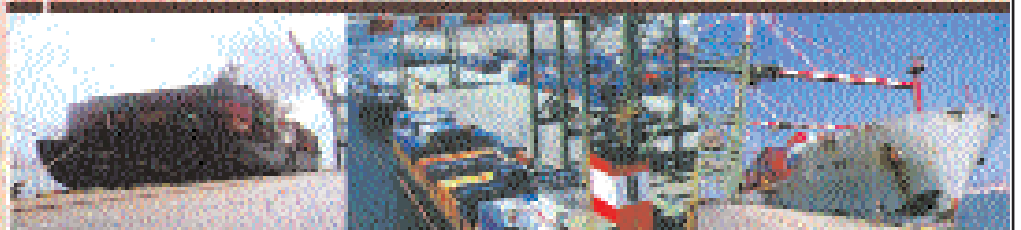
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President of The republic of Yemen

& all Yemeni people on the 16th Anniversary of the
Reunification day 22nd of May



22 مايو



OPM Aden



Al-Saqr downs titleholder 3-0 to maintain lead



Al-Saqr team.

By Ismail Al-Ghabri

Thrashing last season's titleholder Al-Telal 3-0 on their home soil, the Al-Saqr football team maintained its Premier's League top place with 34 points. Meanwhile the visitors, Al-Telal, remain in seventh place with 22 points.

The Ahli Al-Hodeida team failed to reduce the difference of points between it and Al-Saqr in the sixteenth round of the Premier League when it reached a draw with the visiting Sha'ab Ibb team last Friday. Forward Nashwan Al-Hajjam scored for the visiting team in thirty-second minute of the first half, while the hosts answered in the ninth minute of the second half with a goal by its Egyptian professional player Mohamed Ramadhan.

Ahli Al-Hodeida raised its points tally to 29 in second place after Al-Saqr, while Sha'ab Ibb increased its points to 27, putting it in fourth place.

In the capital, Ahli Sana'a defeated its neighbor Al-Yarmouk 2-0 through strikers Ali Al-Nono and Adel Al-Salimi putting it to third in the tournament with 28 points, while Al-Yarmouk remained in fifth place with 22 points.

At Aden's International Stadium, Al-Shu'lah won 1-0 over its guest the 22 May team from Sana'a to jump up to the ninth place with 19 points, while the loser remained in the penultimate position with 15 points.

In Hadramout, Sha'ab Al-Mukalla scored a 2-1 victory over the visiting Ta'awen Ba'adan to occupy the tenth position with 19 points, while the visiting team remained dead last in the tournament with 14 points.

Hassan beat the visiting Tadamun Shabwah 1-0 with a goal by its forward Raji Bamatrouh to bring it to the eighth place in the tournament with 22 points, meanwhile the visitors stayed in the twelfth place with 18 points.

In Taiz, Shabab Al-Jeel from Hodeida downed its host the Al-Rashid team 3-

1. Although, Al-Rashid scored first in seventeenth minute of the first half via its striker Najeeb Sa'eed, Shabab Al-Jeel rallied when star Mohamed answered in eleventh minute of the second half and added the second goal in the fourteenth minute of the same half. Ethiopian professional player Farzaghia scored the third goal in the thirteenth minute to seal the game. With this victory, Shabab Al-Jeel jumped to the eleventh place with 18 points while Al-Rashid remained in the sixth place with 22 points.

The timetable showing the league's matches

Team	Plays	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals for	Goals against	Points
Al-Saqr	16	10	4	2	28	11	34
Helal Hodeida	16	8	5	3	27	15	29
Ahli Sana'a	16	8	4	4	24	15	28
Sha'ab Ibb	16	7	6	3	27	17	28
Hassan	16	5	7	4	15	13	22
Al-Yarmouk	16	6	4	5	19	20	22
Al-Rashid	16	6	4	5	18	22	22
Al-Telal	16	7	1	8	19	25	22
Al-Shu'la	16	4	7	5	17	19	19
Shabab Al-Jeel	16	5	3	8	21	28	18
Sha'ab Hadramout	16	5	3	8	14	24	18
Tadamun Shabwa	16	6	-	10	18	28	18
22 May	16	4	3	9	17	23	15
Ta'awen Ba'adan	16	3	2	11	21	26	11

Yemen loses 74 to 83 to Lebanon in final meeting on basketball

Yemen's 17 years old and under basketball team lost 74 to 83 to its Lebanese counterpart in the final meeting of West Asian basketball qualifiers for the Asian Cup. Finals for the cup are scheduled to take place during August 29 - Sept. 6 in China.

The Lebanese team currently leads the tournament taking place in the Jordanian capital of Amman. The loss has no impact on the qualification of

the Yemeni team which now ranks second in the competition.

The tournament involves six teams: Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and Iran.

Yemeni Basketball Federation (YBB) Secretary General Mujahed Al-Sarahah said the national team performed well and struggled against the Lebanese team until the final minutes of the game.

The Yemeni national team won

three meetings against Iraq, Iran, and Syria, but lost to Jordan in the opener.

Yemen's 17 years old and under basketball team stood second in the past year's West Asian qualifiers that took place in Mukalla, Yemen.

Yemen has qualified for the Asian basketball finals three times in the recent past, the first of which was in Malaysia in 2000, the second in Kuwait in 2002 and the third in India in 2004.

International Coastal Volleyball Championship kicks-off

The 22 May International Coastal Volley Championship, organized by the Yemeni Volleyball Federation (YVF), started on Friday. The championship hosts eight Yemeni teams in addition to two foreign teams from Oman and Sudan.

The event coincides with Yemeni celebrations of the sixteenth anniversary of national unity.

Participating teams were divided into two groups of four each. Two teams from each group will reach the semifinal and

the winners of that round will meet each other in the final.

In the opener, Oman A won 2-0 over Yemen C, while the Sudanese team defeated one of the Yemeni teams 2-1 in the second meeting.

Hodeidah hosts various sporting activities

As part of 16th anniversary Reunification celebrations, Hodeidah's Youth and Sports Office organized various games, including coastal volleyball, football, boxing and popular carnivals.

Coastal volleyball encounters involving teams from Yemen, Oman and Sudan concluded last Saturday with Oman winning the 22 May Cup. Four local football teams, Helal Al-Hodeidah, Zabid, Al-Maraw'a and Shabab Al-Jeel, participated in a championship for the 22 May Cup.

In cooperation with the Education Office, the Youth and Sports Office organized a student carnival to march through Hodeidah's streets to the coast. The carnival was accompanied by music, popular dances and various activities specific to Yemen.

During the 3,000-strong student carnival, Hodeidah governorate's secretary-general delivered a speech on behalf of his counterparts in other Yemeni governorates, emphasizing that they will not take part in any future elections if President Ali Abdullah Saleh does not stand in upcoming presidential elections.

The Youth and Sports Office media officer affirmed that the carnival was staged as an attempt to persuade Saleh

to back out on his decision not to stand in this September's presidential elections.



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For more information or to register, please contact Mr. Alahdal or visit the AMIDEAST office. AMIDEAST is conveniently located at: Algiers St. #66 (near the intersection of Algiers and Baghdad streets), Sana'a, Yemen. Tel: 1 206222/400279-81. Fax: 1-206942. Email: yemen@amideast.org.

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مايو
22



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South Africa tops World Travel Awards

South Africa is the best holiday destination in Africa - and it's official. At the World Travel Awards ceremony in London in November 2005, South Africa's airline, hotels, airports and tourist attractions walked off with 16 of the 17 prize categories for the continent of Africa.

To determine the awards, some 156 000 travel agencies and professionals in over 140 countries vote over the internet for their leading travel destinations, airlines, hotels, personalities and companies around the world.

For the second year in a row the Saxon Hotel in Johannesburg was voted the World's Leading Boutique Hotel, beating the Soleil Hotel & Suites in Vancouver, the Sunset Marquis Hotel & Villas in California, Australia's Royce Hotel, the Metropolitan of London and the Delano in Miami.

South Africa's Shamwari Game Reserve came out tops in the awards for the 8th consecutive year, winning two global awards - the world's leading conservation company and the world's leading safari and game reserve. The reserve was also voted Africa's leading safari destination.

The world's leading responsible tourism project went to Bushman Sands in the Eastern Cape, while South Africa's Rovos Rail company was voted the world's leading luxury train and Africa's leading safari train.

In the Africa section, both South African Airways and the Sun City complex in North West province won three awards. Other African winners were the Mount Nelson Hotel, Protea Hotels, and the Fancourt Hotel and Country Club.

Cape Town was voted the leading



destination in Africa and is also considered as one of the "50 Places to See before You Die".

This honour was also bestowed upon Cape Town at the 18th Annual Conde Naste Travellers Readers Choice Awards held in New York in October 2005. Nearly 28 000 travelers voted in the awards and Cape Town came out tops as the number one city in Africa and the Middle East.

US adventure travel website iExplore, which caters for higher income travellers searching for "something unique", has listed South Africa as number six in its top worldwide travel destinations for 2005 - up from number 13 in 2004.

iExplore sells tours all over the world, focusing on adventure and experiential destinations. Their typical clients are higher income, independent, experience-focused travellers who "want a fully guided experience on their own personal terms", who "want to get something unique and different ... where price is not their first thought".

That said, South Africa saw strong

growth to move into the annual top 10 list for the first time.

South Africa was growing in popularity because it is a great country with a lot to offer, whether people want to tour Cape Town, or join the safaris around the Kruger National Park, or just enjoy the country's fabulous shopping malls.

The World Travel Awards - known as "the Oscars of tourism" - were started in 1993 to acknowledge and celebrate excellence in international travel. Now in its 12th year, tourism professionals and discerning travellers regard the awards as the best endorsement a tourism product could hope to receive.

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