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Inside:



5

Poverty heightens child labor in Yemen



9

Yemen: World Press Freedom Review 2005



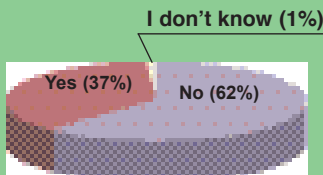
10

Yemen's stock exchange: A far-fetched dream?

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

It is reported that there are more than 124 Yemeni detainees at Guantánamo Bay and other detention facilities. Do you think official silence regarding their cases is justified?



This edition's question:

Presently there is much talk about reappearance of many diseases that had been ridden of for long time in Yemen. Does the return of those diseases indicate a lack of proper healthcare in the country?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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

Opposition to participate in upcoming elections

By: Mustafa Rajeh

SANA'A, June 13 — After a lengthy period involving failing dialogue and swinging between participating and not participating in failing dialogue, the authority and the opposition agreed to add two Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) members to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) and divide field committees with 52 percent for the General People's Congress (GPC) and 48 percent for opposition.

After months of failing dialogue due to opposition demands for SCER reform and commitment to holding impartial elections, Yemeni political life recently has witnessed a détente. The détente came about after a small committee including Abdulqader Bajammal, the GPC General Secretariat and General Secretariats of Islah, the Socialist and the Nasserite parties met

and agreed upon an initial deal involving adding two members from a sub-list of eight to the SCER. Current SCER law dictates that the president select seven members from a list of 15 personnel selected by Parliament.

Increasing the number of SCER members to nine and executing such political agreement on the part of parties requires a legal amendment or replacing two members of the existing committee if the law was not amended. Opposition parties are represented by three members on the sub-list: the Nasserite Unionist Party's Abdullah Dahan and Islah's Saif Mohammed Saleh and Hamoud Al-Dharhi.

Sponsored and attended by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the deal also included distributing the quota of committees running elections as 52 percent for the GPC and 48 percent for opposition. Other parties will be allocated four percent by cutting two percent from

each side.

As for the registration stage recently made, the parties agreed on forming small committee of barristers and law men representing both sides. The committee is intended to correct the vote register and cancelling names of underage voters. Other committee is to be formed as well to formulate guarantees demanded by the opposition including the impartiality of public media, public money and the army. This agreement is expected to be declared following the committees end their tasks.

In this regards, there have been indications that the opposition parties will participate in elections due to be held in September, after it had been unclear whether they will participate or not.

Dr. Yasin Saeed Nouman, a prominent opposition leader anticipated to run for presidency, said that the agreement is an initial step in the dialogue of parties involved in the political arena for



Bajamma



Nouman

securing participation in free and impartial elections. He also assured that there is an agreement to re-reform the SCER following the upcoming elections. Dr. Nouman also noted that JMP has called upon its authorities to meet.

It is expected that the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party will hold a meeting in the few days to come. In the mean time, the Central Committee of Nasserite Party is going to meet on June 21.

People's campaign supports president's no nomination decision

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 14 — A group calling itself the "People's campaign to support the president's decision to not nominate himself" announced its establishment last Saturday in a message distributed to local and Arab media.

The group emphasized that it's not a political party but rather a popular campaign expressing public opinion and establishing new thought aimed at leading Yemen to a better future.

While the message, signed by general coordinator Mohammed Al-Shuaibi, didn't specify those who established the campaign or the mechanism of its action, it declared that the campaign aims to support President Ali Abdullah Saleh's decision to not nominate himself for presidential elections via all peaceful and civilized methods.

At both local and Arab levels, as

well as on a popular level, the group hopes it will be an important precedent in the process of peaceful transfer of power to whomever citizens choose for the important post and return confidence to confronting corruption. The message indicated that it's time for change.

Those adopting the campaign mentioned Yemen's reality in the message, saying that it's about to fall into a deep abyss that may lead it and its citizens to fragmentation and sectarian and regional division due to accumulated mistakes and dangerous violations.

They described Yemen's reality as being filled with non-commitment to the Constitution, laws and operating rules, resulting in aggravating deteriorating security and economic situations.

The message added that corruption's spread inside all state systems and administrations has become the rule controlling the state and placed citizens' and the homeland's destinies in the hands of a group of corrupt individuals.

All of this has led to squashing the majority of citizens and placing them below the poverty line against a wealthy minority that created its wealth from plundering public riches. Such minority is represented by a number of names and areas.

Yemen meets with GCC

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, June 15 — The three-day session of the initial meeting of Yemen's technical team and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) General Secretariat concludes today.

Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Abdul Karim Al-Arhabi, chaired the meetings, which discussed arrangements for a November donors conference in London aimed at mustering necessary financing sources to help Yemen qualify its national economy to keep pace with GCC economies.

Attendees reviewed the third five-year plan (2006-2010) for development

and poverty alleviation. GCC officials will be aware of the Yemeni economy's needs via an introductory program. Additionally, the conference reviewed technical preparations for the first donors conference, as well as reviewed other activities suggested by GCC General Secretariat and Gulf Development Fund participants.

The meetings aimed to give an idea of development efforts and illustrate Yemen's economic and social development over the past few years by projecting the opportunities and merits of investment, the size of Yemen's financial reserves and future partnership between Yemen and the GCC.

Participants established a primary plan for covering media activities during the conference.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Aweesh, Economic Integration Administration Manager, assured that the steps required to qualify Yemen to join the GCC are on the right path according to accurate and prepared mechanisms. He also assured that committee meetings aim to reach a form of agreement that will convince donors to support and qualify Yemen's economy, as well as convince them that the government-adopted reforms matrix can be applied quickly. He further noted, "The present financing gap can be bridged via donors' consent to support

Yemen's economy, in addition to having a stable investment environment."

Al-Arhabi assured that conference recommendations, including Yemen's view of joining the GCC, will be submitted to the GCC Ministerial Council. Additionally, the size of financial support and investments needed for development in Yemen in the next five years will be discussed.

This is the first time for Gulf nations to work with the Yemeni government in preparing for a donors conference, wherein Yemen is striving to gain support for \$6 billion in projects allocated for various sectors like electricity, roads and education.

YJS condemns assaults against a journalist

SANA'A June 11 — In a statement issued on Monday, the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS) condemns the attack on Abed Al-Mahthari, the chief editor of Al-Deyar Newspaper, was attacked on the same day while attending a press conference for the Yemeni Chamber of commerce at the Movembik Hotel.

According to YJS, a group of men belonging to the political security forces dragged Al-Mahthari out of the conference hall and led him to a security room in the hotel.

In a letter sent to YJS, Al-Mahthari said that he was beaten, insulted and integrated by three elements of the political security while he was trying to defend himself. "All this was because the distribution of the last issue of my newspaper to the attendants of the conference. They considered this as a distribution of prohibited political leaflets," he explained. According to Al-Mahthari, the main reason could be because there was an article in the

newspaper mentioning the son of the President. He called for taking those involved to court as well the security apparatuses to follow his previous case, where his car was robbed almost two months ago.

In April 28, the International Press Institute (IPI) strongly condemned the harassment and intimidation against Abed Al-Mahthari. According to IPI statement published in its website, Abed Al-Mahthari escaped an attack by armed assailants on 19 April.



Abed Al-Mahthari

Yemenis seek international investigation into alleged Gitmo suicide

By: Yemen Times Staff

Yemeni and Saudi human rights organizations have requested an international investigation into circumstances surrounding the death of a Yemeni and two Saudi nationals who, according to U.S. authorities, reportedly committed suicide at the Guantánamo Bay detention center in Cuba.

These are the first suicides at Gitmo after 41 suicide attempts alleged by prison authorities. Since it opened, Guantánamo detention center has proven itself controversial, gaining notoriety and wide-scale international condemnation for violating basic prisoners' rights.

In Yemen, human rights organization HOOD called for pressuring the United States to bear its responsibility toward inmates. A funeral is expected to be organized in solidarity with Yemeni victim Ali Abdullah Ahmed Al-Salmi, a native of Ibb province, who was detained three years ago in Pakistan. The U.S. military announced that he committed suicide last week.

HOOD seeks to make Al-Salmi's funeral an occasion to request a neutral investigation and appeal to U.S. authorities to shut down Guantánamo detention center for good.

Many Yemeni and Saudi human rights activists have questioned the U.S. story's authenticity, pointing to

the possibility that the three detainees were tortured to death or disposed of intentionally. However, they say such a fact can't be revealed except via a neutral investigation.

Yemeni ruling party web site Almoatamar.net stated that the Yemeni government will issue a formal statement in coming days to call on U.S. authorities to investigate Al-Salmi's purported suicide.

In Saudi Arabia, the National Human Rights Organization (NHRO) called for an emergency conference involving the nations of which the Guantánamo inmates are citizens. NHRO Chairman Bandar Al-Hajjar said NHRO members already had held

an emergency meeting to discuss the Saudi nationals' deaths. He further called for an extensive meeting of Saudi human rights organizations to discuss inhuman conditions and violations at Guantánamo prison.

Moreover, human rights activists and organizations across Europe called for Guantánamo to be shut down permanently. Amnesty International, which has launched campaigns in past years to uncover violations at Gitmo, called on the European Union to exert more effort to shut down the notorious prison. Amnesty also questioned the U.S. story regarding the suicides, requesting an international investigation into the incident.

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Saudi-German Hospital opens

SANA'A, June 11 – President Saleh inaugurated the Saudi-German Hospital on Sunday. The cost of the hospital totaled some \$100 million (USD). Imad Hussain, the General Manager of the Hospital said that “all apparatuses are available in the hospital and there are more than 245 specializations and 300 beds. Additionally, there are also special units for treating cancer, precise specializations, and tube children [sic].”

Hatim Abdulrahman, Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at the hospital, noted that by 2015 the “Saudi-German Hospitals Group aims to construct, finance, and run 30 hospitals worldwide, providing 50,000 health-related jobs.

The hospital was financed by Saudi investors along with Yemeni partners, like the General Corporation of Insurance, the Retirement Fund, Yemeni Airlines, and the Kuwaiti Investment Company.



President Saleh inaugurating the hospital.

Symposium seeks women's political empowerment

A symposium, under the theme of ‘Politically Enabling Woman: A Necessary Step toward Political Reform’ was held with 36 participants attending from the government, the private sector, and Aden University. The General Administration of Activities at Aden University in collaboration with the Human Rights and Democracy Center and the University Students’ Union organized the function.

The symposium emphasized the importance of the role of women in the

electoral process - including registration, voting, and nomination. It stressed the significance of helping women fill decision-making posts in government and increasing their presence on elected councils.

Additionally, the symposium called for spreading awareness among women regarding the need to vote in order to bring attention to their needs and be better able to lobby for issues of concern at the highest levels.

Participants at the event suggested

that the attainment of equal citizenship and the end of discrimination against woman, will only be realized when leading figures among women and society in general support women who have been nominated. In this way, women will increasingly be seen as being able to play an active role in the process of achieving development.

The symposium addressed the limited political participation of women, explaining it away as due to habit, tradition, and culture.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia meet to tackle trafficking Yemeni children

RIYADH, 7 June — A first-ever consultation bringing together key officials from Yemen and Saudi Arabia was convened by UNICEF to tackle the trafficking of thousands of Yemeni children to the Kingdom every year for various forms of exploitation including street selling and begging.

Close to 25 participants attended, including officials from Ministries of Social Affairs, Interior, Defense, Foreign Affairs, national councils and commissions for children, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and UNICEF, which had representatives from the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa; Yemen country office, and the Gulf Area Office based in Riyadh.

The head of the Yemeni delegation, Staff Brigadier General Kasem Al-Falah, said “This meeting reflects the concern and the commitment of the senior officials of the two countries to tackle child trafficking as a strategic matter affecting all of society.”

Lt. Dr. Mohammed Hassan Al-Sarra from Naif Arab University for Security Sciences underlined the connection between child trafficking and the security of society as a whole; other participants also confirmed that the problems requires urgent attention otherwise the numbers would increase. Officials estimate that there are around 24,000 children involved in street selling and begging in Saudi Arabia, coming from 18 different countries.

The need for co-ordination was stressed by many participants, includ-



Some participants in the meeting.

ing Mr. Mohammed A. Qudairi, Assistant of the National Committee for Childhood of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who said, “We need not only to have better co-ordination mechanisms internally and also between the two countries.”

“We were very pleased and privileged to support this initiative, which we hope will be the beginning of strengthened collaboration and greater results for children”, said June Kunugi, UNICEF Representative for Gulf Countries. “UNICEF has been involved in this issue since 2004, having commissioned a rapid assessment on the phenomenon of street selling and begging in Saudi Arabia; piloted interventions for children removed from the street in partnership with Al Bir Society of Jeddah; jointly held the region’s first workshop on child traf-

ficking with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, and initiated a study on processes related to children victims of trafficking.”

The meeting concluded with participants agreeing on a set of next steps and recommendations on the way forward, including the need to enhance co-operation, increase action-oriented research and piloting of interventions; develop national strategic plans countering child trafficking, support the role of civil society organizations; strengthen legal measures against trafficking, and to request the technical support of international organizations including UNICEF. They also stressed that the best interests of the child should be paramount, particularly in the case of trafficked children, who experience violations of their rights on a daily basis.

Whooping cough disease Duraihimi area, Hudeidah

HUDEIDAH, June 13 — Whooping cough disease has swept five rural villages of the district of Duraihimi of the governorate of Hudeidah. Dr. Fuad Qatibi, one of the doctors in the area had clarified to Al-Shoura Net, which published the news last Tuesday, that thirty cases of infection with the disease had been observed at the villages of Al-Maqbul, Al-Mahayib, Al-Lamia, Al-Drahma and Al-Jaamtiyah. He pointed out that the

disease is caused by infection of respiratory system with a bacteria causing severe coughing and because of severity of coughing it is accompanied with secretions and acute lung infection. He added that people’s ignorance of the disease and methods of avoiding it had led to the spread of this disease in a large manner in those villages. The doctor also said the period of the disease incubation is between 3-10 days and it is a conta-

rious disease rapidly spreads by the infected person’s tiny drops of saliva especially in crowded places.

Dr. Qatibi said the authorities have not yet taken measures to face the disease while a medical source quoted an official at the health office in the governorate as saying the office had dispatched a medical team to the area and his belittling of the disease danger, considering its medical control as easy.

Yemen to broker deal between Somali factions

SANA'A, June 13 — Foreign Minister Abu Baker Al-Qurbi confirmed on Tuesday that Yemen has offered to mediate in talks between the Somali government and Joint Islamic Courts. Both sides welcomed this gesture. Currently the two factions are holding talks in Mogadishu and “we hope that they can reach to decision,” said Al-Qurbi. “With the presence of the recognized government [at the talks] there is also a hope that they [the Somalis] can get out this crisis,” he added.

The prospect of Yemeni mediation was one of the topics discussed at the Germany-Yemeni talks on Tuesday, said the media agency Aljazeera. The talks between Al-Qurbi and the German parliamentary delegation reviewed the state of affairs in the Horn of Africa and Yemen’s efforts to reconcile the competing factions in Somalia.

In this regard, Yemen has received an invitation from the U.S. to share in the meetings of a group of countries called the “Somali Contact Group,” according to Aljazeera. These meetings will be held in New York next week.

According to press reports, Yemeni Ambassador to Somalia, Ahmad Omer said that Yemen seeks

to host a meeting between the Somali interim government and the Joint Islamic Courts who currently control the capital city of Somalia, Mogadishu. Ahmad Omer said the meeting aims to reach a security and peace deal in all Somali territories. President Saleh is in constant contact with all Somali factions in order to reconcile the parties to the conflict and thereby end the crisis and stabilize Somalia, according to a statement released by Omer.

Omer expressed Yemen’s determination to push forward the dialogue between leaders of the Joint Islamic Courts and the transitional federal government under the leadership of Abdullah Yusef Ahmad.

“We are...closely observing developments in Somalia and we have intensive contact with all Somali factions. We are pleased to hear about the start of dialogue between the Somalia Transitional Government and the Joint Islamic Courts to achieve reconciliation that serves Somali national interests,” said Omer.

Omer revealed that Yemen is preparing to open an embassy in Baidoa, located some 200km northwest of Mogadishu, where the seat of the Somali government is temporarily

located.

Somalia has not had an effective government since 1991. An interim government was established in late 2004 but is too weak to restore its authority over the capital which has been the scene of armed clashes between warlords and Islamist militias that recently announced their control of the capital.

Yemen has played a significant role in gathering together the Somalia factions that form the current government. In January, the President Saleh brokered a deal between Ahmed and the Speaker of Parliament Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, which enabled the splintered national assembly to hold its first session in the Baidoa.

Official Yemeni sources, who wish to remain unnamed, said the armed conflicts between Islamist and non-Islamist Somali warlords, particularly in Mogadishu, pushed many Somalis to flee to Yemen where authorities have given them refuge.

Other sources said that the death toll from boat trips from Somalia to Yemen is increasing. Somali refugees who have made it to Yemen said that smugglers forced them all overboard into water when they approached the coast.

Security arrests popular artist, opposition member

SANA'A, June 14 — Reports mention that popular artist and member of the opposition Islah party, Mohammed Al-Athraie, was arrested last Tuesday by Political Security members while returning from participating in a Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) festival in the capital city’s eighth constituency.

Sources close to Al-Athraie reported that an armed group identifying itself as being from the political security apparatus led him to a white car bearing a temporary customs permission plate. AlSahwa.net quoted sources as saying that the group threatened Al-Athraie and his colleagues with weapons when they inquired about the

arrest warrant.

An official JMP source demanded the artist’s immediate release and punishment of those who arrested him. He condemned the incident, holding security authorities responsible for Al-Athraie’s safety.

Al-Athraie has many recorded artistic and theatrical works containing sharp criticism of government corruption. His works are met with popular applause, which was the reason for his arrest according to the opposition.

According to the same source, Al-Athraie’s wife clarified in a telephone conversation that he participated in a

festival in Ibb governorate on Tuesday, arriving home in Sana’a at 9 p.m., and then went to the Rabat Club in Sana’a to participate in the JMP party.

She noted that she didn’t know who had kidnapped Al-Athraie or where and demanded the interior minister disclose the kidnappers’ identities and punish them.

She said her husband didn’t do anything wrong and that he’s not a killer or a criminal; rather, he’s simply exercising his constitutional right and contributing to fighting corruption and enlightening the public about its dangers, which is in line with President Ali Abdullah Saleh’s directives.

Gangsters attempt to smuggle children into Saudi Arabia

SANA'A, June 13 — Sources at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor disclosed earlier this week that Yemeni authorities are holding 50 children, who some gangs attempted to smuggle into Saudi Arabia last week.

Al-Motamar.net web site mentioned that security authorities are holding the children at a Sana’a child care facility. Yemeni border guards seized the

children at the Haradh border area while they were trying to cross into Saudi territory. Interrogation of the children revealed gang involvement in the smuggling process. According to sources, smuggling gangs placed the children at areas near Saudi borders to enable them to cross and then meet and transfer them to certain areas to practice beggary.

The source clarified that all of the children immediately were transferred to the Haradh Child Care Institution and then to the Sana’a child care facility, where investigations revealed that they had come from different areas in Sana’a, Haimah and Reema. Authorities still were keeping the children at the facility before handing them over to their families.

Flood-affected Lahj residents still living in camps

LAHJ, June 14 — Lahj residents affected by flooding caused by heavy rainfall in February that destroyed their houses still are suffering four months later by continuing to live in camps erected by authorities. They sent a message to Lahj’s governor last Monday demanding that he consider their plight and find a solution.

The message mentioned earlier promises by authorities, describing them as false. Flood-affected residents also noted that they had grown tired of authorities’ delays and procrastination, affirming that they’ve been living in the camp for more than four months, with some finally going to live with relatives or renting other houses.

During this time, the residents haven’t gotten any response from governorate authorities to their problems.

This is the second message they have sent to the governor without receiving a response. Rainfall in Tawr Al-Baha district destroyed more than 150 houses, forcing their inhabitants to resettle temporarily in the camps.

Yemenia to honor its distinctive Agents

SANA'A, June 14 — Yemen Airways (Yemenia) organized a rewarding ceremony, honoring a number of travel and tourism agencies representing the company across the republic. The ceremony was attended by Abdullah Al-Mutarab, Commercial Manager of Yemenia, Abdulsalam Al-Salfi, Marketing Manager, and Abdullah Dalal, Manager of Sana’a Branch in addition to marketing representatives in travel agencies.

Al-Mutarab, at the outset, stressed the importance of this rewarding ceremony, hinting that Yemenia will further provide more encouragement to active agencies in marketing field. He further pointed out that Yemenia has intro-



duced a new auto system in ticketing and currently is conducting studies to

modernize other systems relating to air transports.

Islamist militias capture Somali town

Somali Islamist militias have seized the town of Jowhar from the regional commanders, whom they unseated from the capital last week.

Sheikh Hassan, a local elder loyal to the Islamic courts group, said on Wednesday: "At last we are in the town".

The Islamists' capture of Jowhar gives them control of most of southern Somalia and raises the question of whether they will help the interim government or impose Islamic rule.

Islamist militia sources in Nairobi said four people were killed and 10 to 18 were wounded.

Wednesday's assault appeared to be an attempt to deliver a final blow to the weakened regional commanders, whose control of patches of Somalia including Mogadishu for the past 15 years has taken a turn for the worse.

Residents said militia fighters linked to sharia courts had seized Jowhar airport to the west of the town, about 90km from Mogadishu.

They also entered from the south,



Islamists control most of southern Somalia.

sending residents fleeing as they attacked the town with heavy artillery and machine guns.

Commanders' reactions

The regional commanders' fighters - in this case hired guns linked to the local administration and remaining commanders including Mohamed Dheere - dropped their weapons and fled.

Hours before fighting began in Jowhar, four commanders who had gone there from Mogadishu fled from the

town, and a main ally said he was abandoning their cause.

However, a leader of the militia fighters dislodged from Baidoa, where Somalia's interim government had set up its base, said they were regrouping to attack the town, which is 240km (150 miles) northwest of the capital, Mogadishu.

The government of the president, Abdullahi Yusuf, had set up its own militia in Baidoa to provide security.

Source: Al-Jazeera

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Abbas accuses Israel of state terrorism

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, has accused Israel of engaging in state terrorism as the families of those killed in an air attack on Tuesday were mourning their dead.

Israel carried out a missile air strike on a van in Gaza carrying resistance fighters and rockets. The attack killed 11 Palestinians, nine of them civilians, and wounded about 30 in the deadliest such attack in nearly four years.

Abbas said: "What Israel is doing is called state terrorism. This state terrorism will not shake us." The Hamas-controlled cabinet condemned the "ugly massacres" and the armed wing of the ruling Islamists separately threatened to avenge the deaths with further rocket attacks on Israeli territory.

Dr. Jumaa Al-Saqqqa, a spokesman for Al-Shifa hospital, told Aljazeera that a



Families of the dead Palestinians mourn in Gaza.

number of Palestinians were also wounded in the strike in Salah Al-Din Street, the main road through the coastal strip.

Several missiles

Hospital officials and witnesses are reported as saying that two schoolchildren are among the dead.

According to Aljazeera's correspondent, the first strike hit a car carrying members of Al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of Islamic Jihad.

Palestinian witnesses said several missiles were fired, and one of them hit the car. The second missile came two minutes later, after a crowd had begun to gather around the scene of the attack, witnesses said.

The correspondent said two ambulance drivers were among the dead. The number of dead is expected to rise, as hospital sources say some of the wounded are in critical condition.

Source: Al-Jazeera

Iraqi government mulls talks with resistance

The Iraqi government is considering holding reconciliation talks with members of the resistance, a source in the prime minister's office told Reuters on Monday.

Top Iraqi officials will meet to agree on a definition of "resistance" groups and then some of their members will be invited to participate in the talks on July 22, the source said.

It wasn't clear whether this move signaled a softening of the Shia-led gov-

ernment's stance on the Sunni Arab fighters seeking to topple it.

Shia Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who is facing growing pressure to curb growing violence, has rejected the idea of a dialogue with Saddam Hussein supporters and other resistance groups. But Sunni leaders say the prime minister can

only fulfill his promises of "national reconciliation" if he holds talks with resistance groups.

"They (the government) must talk to everybody and when we say everybody we mean everybody," said Abdul Hadi al-Zubeidi, a Sunni politician.

"It is a mistake to keep ignoring these two groups. These are two big groups. Any dialogue will fail if these groups are not engaged. It will be useless. They can't keep denying the existence of the Baathists."

Other officials say national reconciliation talks will curb the wave of sectarian killings which surged following the Feb. 22 bombing of a major Shia shrine.

The longer Maliki refuses to engage resistance groups, they say, the less chance for stability.

"It is those who he refuses to talk to who are the ones who really represent the insurgency. So how are they going to solve the problem? I have no idea," asked a senior Sunni official.

Maliki is also under pressure to deliver justice to Iraqis after a series of indiscriminate shootings by occupation forces that has damaged the U.S.'s image since the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The latest incident took place Monday when U.S. forces carried out a raid north of Baghdad, near the area where Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed last week.

A U.S. military statement said the operation killed seven fighters with alleged links to al-Qaeda.

It also said there were several women and children at the scene, admitting that two children were killed in the raid.

"Coalition Forces received enemy machine gun fire from a rooftop upon arriving at the objective ...," said a military statement.

"Following the assault, coalition troops discovered two children had been killed. One child was wounded and evacuated for treatment," it added.

In other violence, a roadside bombing hit a bus taking workers to Iraq's industry ministry, killing six people and injuring 12 others on Monday, Iraqi officials said.

Elsewhere, unidentified gunmen shot dead two civilians on the road from Kirkuk to Tikrit, north of Baghdad, police said.



منح دراسات وبحوث في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

The Public Affairs Section at the American Embassy. Sana'a announces the availability of a limited number of scholarships for Yemenis wishing advanced training, study, and lecturing and research opportunities in the United States. Scholarships are as follows:

* The Fulbright Post Doctoral Research Program:

This program is designed for research and/or university lecturing in the U.S. The requirements are:

- The applicant must be a Ph.D. holder and wish to conduct further research in his/her field; and submit:
- A precise and detailed research proposal for a project that requires being in the U.S.
- Proficiency in English appropriate to the proposed lecturing or research project to be carried out in the United States.

For more information and application forms, please contact PAS at the American Embassy. Email alhimyarimm@state.gov Deadline: July 5, 2006

* The Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program:

This is a one-year fellowship program for professionals in applied fields that combine academic training in an American university (non-degree program) and field experience. Requirements are:

- International TOEFL score of at least 525.
- Five years of work experience in public service fields such as : communications /journalism, natural resources and environmental management, public policy analysis and public administration, economic development, agricultural development/agricultural economics, finance and banking, human resource management, law and human rights, urban and regional planning, technology policy and management, education (including educational planning, educational administration, curriculum development and the teaching of English as a foreign language), and public health policy and management, including HIV/AIDS policy and prevention as well as Drug abuse education, treatment, and prevention.
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with a very good academic record.

For more information and application forms, please contact P.A.S at the American Embassy. Sana'a Emil. alhimyarimm@state.gov Deadline: July 5, 2006.

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Almuhallab

Poverty heightens child labor in Yemen

In a message for Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal on behalf of working children, child worker Miqdad stated, "I am one of many children obliged to leave school and walk the streets for a living because of the hard situations in which we live."

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

He continued, "We live in danger. We don't go to school and we have no friends. We suffer terribly from various diseases because we work for hours under the sunrays, which have changed our skin color. We bear responsibilities beyond our age. We know not the sense of comfort, nor do we have a chance to play like other children. We no longer know how to laugh or smile because some of us have been exploited, hit and humiliated. I feel ashamed of working in the streets but I have no alternative. No one will respect me, even if I become grown up."

The child went on to say that he was happy to know that such a message would be conveyed to the prime minister. He pointed out that there are hundreds of working children in need of centers to help them. He urged Bajammal to offer them free education, reduce study hours and allow them to study only basic subjects. He also wished that citizens would not regard them with contempt.

According to Minister of Industry and Trade Khalid Sheikh, poverty is the main reason for child labor and trafficking. "Child labor is associated with poverty and unemployment. For the most part, those children working for themselves do so at the cost of their education. Those who work for others are subject to sexual, physical and economic exploitation. Ninety percent of children work with their families' consent. If there is no awareness about this problem, child labor will continue."

Local experts and reports indicate that as a developing country, Yemen experiences significant child labor and child trafficking, with 38 percent of children between age six and 17 outside of basic education.

Dr. Abdulhakim Al-Sharjabi, Director of the Ministry of Planning's Poverty Unit, said there are 326,000 child workers and 35,000 street children in Yemen, according to a 1999 workforce survey. "Families have a wrong concept about child labor. They think that when a child reaches age 10, he is able to work. This is one major reason for the increase in child labor. Many don't see this as violating children's rights."

Additionally, Al-Sharjabi clarified that semi-unemployment also figures prominently in increasing child labor. "When a father receives insufficient income to maintain his family, he obliges his children to work," he explained, affirming that children resort to working only if they are in need. Subsidies for poor families don't meet their needs, so they oblige their children to work, he noted.

Jamila Ali Raja'a, head of the Sana'a office of the International Program on Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), said child labor isn't a problem in Yemen because it's part of the social trend and an acceptable issue. "The problem of Yemen is how to implement international child

labor conventions. Child labor has become familiar to us," she said, adding that many girls work secretly, but there are no specific statistics on this.

According to Raja'a, IPEC implemented a 2000-2005 child labor program aimed at matching Yemeni child labor laws to international standards, as well as withdrawing and rehabilitating some child workers.

Child trafficking is most marked in northern Yemen's Hajja governorate, namely because it's near Saudi Arabia. Hajja Mayor Mohammed Al-Harazi said the phenomenon began when some Yemeni families emigrated to Saudi Arabia in search of a better life, returning with a good living standard. Afterward, some unseemly citizens formed what seemed like a gang to seduce other families into letting their children work in the kingdom.

Citizens began sending their children with this gang to Saudi Arabia and the phenomenon became a profession instead of a disgrace," he explained, "As a local council, we and some MPs made field visits, hoping to learn how the phenomenon occurs. After launching investigations, we discovered a deal between the family and the gang, whereby the family receives an amount of money, while the gang gets the greatest share. We met with Haradh district security authorities, Prosecution and judiciary in order to arrest the gang there. We arrested some members and the phenomenon now is reduced by half."

Al-Harazi noted that special centers exist in the district for children arrested while attempting to infiltrate Saudi Arabia. "The problem is that some children come from other governorates. They refuse to tell us from where they come or about their families. This way, we can't contact their families to inform them about the danger of this phenomenon."

For his part, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs Abdu Al-Hakimi pointed out that child labor isn't confined to Yemen, but is found in both developed and developing countries. He noted that Yemen's government has taken some steps to curb child labor, including:

- 1- Establishing the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood
- 2- Passing 2002's Child Rights Law No. 45 in an effort to implement 1989 International Child Rights Conventions
- 3- Cooperating with international

organizations, namely the IPEC

4- Establishing a national strategy to help reduce child labor

5- Conducting many studies to identify the size of the phenomenon

Al-Hakimi added that the ministry also is focusing on visiting work fields in various governorates, where they met more than 500 child workers. It also is focusing on professional health issues, especially for those children working with herbicides.

Former 2004 Child Parliament member Izz Addin Al-Ariqi said Child Parliament members made field visits to streets, where they met many child workers. "We met them and found that poverty is the main reason behind their working. We also found that they left school and that they were treated badly." Former Child Parliament member Ala'a Al-Haifi emphasized that child workers also experience sexual and physical defects.

A December 2001 study revealed that Yemeni society is still young, with children under age 14 comprising more than 46 percent of the total population in 2000 due to high 3.5 percent population growth.

Such a demographic situation implies a high dependence ratio (41.6 percent) and strong annual workforce growth (4.4 percent), resulting in severe pressure on services and resources. This in turn has pushed children into the labor market, as reflected in declining school enrollment of 60 percent or even less in rural areas and among girls.

The study also mentioned that Yemen's Labor Law sets the working age at 15; however, human resource statistics had set it at 10 until 1999, when 15 was adopted as a minimum work age. Within the last decade, Yemen's child labor force expanded at an average annual rate of 3 percent, now estimated at 326,000 children age 14 or under (of whom 51.4 percent are girls), with 9 percent of children officially registered in school actually in the workforce.

Hajja governorate is worst in this regard, with 14 percent of the national child workforce, and Aden is best, with 0.03 percent. A Yemeni General Federation of Workers' Trade Union (YGFWTU) study found that, of those children surveyed, 96 percent had joined school, 52 percent are studying while working and the rest left school after either grade three or six.

According to the study, there is a direct relationship between child workers and the profession of their family breadwinners. Results of a 1999 Yemeni workforce survey conducted nationally revealed that most child workers have family breadwinners who are employed: 92 percent are agricultural workers, 4.8 percent are in services, 2.5 percent are unskilled laborers and 0.7 percent are semi-skilled professionals.

Child labor in Yemen is confined entirely to private business, particularly in the informal sector. This is the result of the civil service law, which regards the minimum work age as 18. The same tendency is evident in military establishments.

Additionally, the YGFWTU study clarified that statistics indicate that the majority of Yemeni child workers work for their families. Of those working outside the family, male children comprise 83.2 percent. This is especially the case in rural areas.

Outside the family, the informal sector has become the last resort for child workers. This is problematic because Yemen's informal sector is huge and lacks social insurance or protection regarding vocational health and safety, thus subjecting children to significant dangers.



Many children in Yemen have to work as they live under poverty line. They bear responsibilities beyond their age.

YT PHOTO

Estimates of different categories of child work by age, 2000 and 2004

Age group (Years)	child population		of which: economically active children		of which: child laborers		of which: children hazardous work	
	2000	2004	2000	2004	2000	2004	2000	2004
Number (millions)	1531.4	1566.3	351.9	317.4	245.5	217.7	170.5	126.3
Incidents (% of age group)	100.0	100.0	23.0	20.3	16.0	13.9	11.1	8.1
% change From 2000 to 2004	-	2.3	-	9.8	-	11.3	-	25.9
Number (millions)	11994	1206.5	211.0	190.7	186.3	165.8	111.3	74.4
Incidents (% of age group)	100.0	100.0	17.6	15.8	15.5	13.7	9.4	6.2
% change From 2000 to 2004	-	0.6	-	9.6	-	11.0	-	33.2
Number (millions)	332.0	359.8	140.9	126.7	59.2	51.9	59.2	51.9
Incidents (% of age group)	100.0	100.0	42.4	35.2	17.8	14.4	17.8	14.4
% change From 2000 to 2004	-	8.4	-	10.1	-	12.3	-	12.3

Source: Statistical information and Monitoring Programme on child Labour (SIMPOC)

We bear responsibilities beyond our age. We know not the sense of comfort, nor do we have a chance to play like other children.

The Tehama Trading Company, Hodeidah

Applications are invited for following posts for our Automobiles Division:

• SALES MANAGERS - TWO - Locations: Hodeidah & Aden

Graduate with a minimum 7 years' experience in sales of Japanese or European Brand automobiles. Good communication skill in English/ Arabic languages and computer literacy are must.

• PARTS SALESMAN - ONE - Location: Hodeidah

High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years' experience in major parts warehouse. Knowledge of parts inventory methods and computer usage are essential.

Applications are to be sent by mail only, with copies of all educational / employment certificates to:

The Tehama Trading Company, P.O.Box 4422, Hodeidah - Website: www.tehama.com.ye

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Ahmed



Rhyan Waleed



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British International School
المدرسة البريطانية الدولية

Tomorrow success starts today

BIS ensures kid's holistic development

SANA'A, June 13 — British International School, Sana'a celebrated its annual day with great enthusiasm on June 8, 2006 in the grounds of its school. Representative from the Ministry of education was the chief guest. Mr. Idrees Al - Qadsi of British Council was also a distinguished guest who shared his views on educational standards of the school and guided the students with some useful tips for the preparation of O'level examination. The function was attended by parents in large number who were full of curiosity and enthusiasm.

The programme began with the recitation of Holy Quran and was followed by welcome song, small skits group songs and colourful fancy dress. Children dressed up differently from different nations on one platform represented "unity in diversity". The students of class -XII were honoured and appeared to be the symbolic of the high academic standard of the school. The principal expressed the view that "education does not mean learning from the books. Life is a life teacher; learning is

continuous process and the purpose of education is to make us more compassionate, mature, imaginative, creative and capable of living differently". The meritorious students received the awards and certificates by the honoured chief guests.

BIS is an institution that teaches its school patriotism, makes each member environment conscious and imparts basic moral values. The syllabi are chiefly Cambridge which do not limit the knowledge merely to the books. Well equipped laboratories let the students explore the subject thoroughly, the language lab gives its students a tough command over the foreign language.

The school also aims at maintaining a healthy body and brain through vigorous indoor and outdoor games. Extra curriculum activities are a part of the educational syllabus.

In the forthcoming years, the school intends to upgrade the high academic standards to be able to produce the best results of its students appearing in any type of examination.

The system follows Cambridge curriculum and prepares the students for the O'level and Ministry examinations by a well trained and experienced staff.

Registration open for Summer activities commencing from July, 2006

Date of Admission test for the new academic year 2006-2007: August 10, 2006.

Details can be obtained from the school office.

Location: British International School
Zero street, Madina Sakaniya, Sana'a
Contact Numbers: 414368 (fax), 77760061



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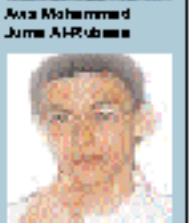
Mariam Ismat Abdul
Kassem Rahat



Mohammed Saleh
Mahmoud Hussain



Malak Abdul Rahman
Al-Kawad



Ava Mohammed
Juma Al-Rubana



Burhanuddin
Khuruddin Mohammed



Hussain Mahmood
Shahar Wadi



Merve Abdul
Rahman Al-Awwadi



Azad Ayman
Hassam Seddiq



Jihan Ahmad Moh'd
Al-Nasrath



Malak Azzah Hussain
Omar



Ahmad Adal Ahmad
Al-Muam



Nashwa Basal Saleh
Zokan



Sumaya Moham
Pardhi



Mohammed Adal
Ahmed Al-Khan



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Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr announces the following vacancies:

Safety Environment Social Responsibility (SESR) Drilling Technician	Field
Safety Environment Social Responsibility (SESR) Assistant	Field
Mechanical Technician	Field
Maintenance Planner	Field

For further information or to apply for this position please visit our website:

<http://www.nexeninc.com/Careers/Yemen/>

Application Criteria:

- All applications **must be submitted** through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted **NO later than June 23rd, 2006**.
- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, **contact** and **qualification** information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered**



Job Vacancies

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

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Training Officer - Reference No. 058

Reporting to the Head of Training in the YLNG Sana'a Training Centre, the job holder is responsible for the assimilation and implementation of the training plans and training activities of all YLNG staff.

Supervising a Training Assistant, the incumbent has regular contact with all line managers during the completion of the training needs sections of the annual appraisal and the preparation and implementation of company annual training plans, training implementation, follow-up and assessment of training effectiveness to ensure that staff have the skills and proficiency to carry out their duties efficiently and safely. The incumbent will also review ad hoc training requests to ensure their relevance to business needs and compliance with budgets.

Incumbent will also liaise closely with Yemenisation and Manpower Planner to ensure that there is no overlap between Personal Development Plan design and implementation, and will maintain contacts with similar organizations in and out the Middle East in relation to training matters to remain abreast of developments in the training field, and recommends adoption of new approaches as appropriate.

The incumbent will be based in Sana'a but may also be required to visit the Balhaf site regularly and to work at training facilities which may be established at other locations.

All applicants for these positions should hold a Bachelor Degree, preferably with technical engineering background and have minimum of 5 years experience in Oil and Gas Industry at a supervisory level. They must possess good organization and technical report writing skills with good level of initiative and team spirit. **Deadline: Friday, June 30, 2006**

All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential, and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs.

Applicants should send their CV with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post either to the address below, or by e-mail to HR@YEMENLNG.COM

The Human Resources Department
Yemen LNG Company
P.O. Box 15347
Sana'a, Yemen

Extension of Invitation for Bids

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project Credit 3625

SUPPLY, DELIVER, INSTALL and COMMISSIONING of ELECTRIC GENERATOR 500 KVA FOR AL-HODEIDAH MALARIA PROGRAM.

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (607) on 16th May 2003, Al-Thawra Newspaper issue no. (13944) on 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the international Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of its Health Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Supply, Deliver, Installation and Commissioning of Electric Generator 500 KVA for Al-Hodeidah Malaria Program

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply, Deliver, Install and Commissioning of:

Electric Generator 500 KVA for Al-Hodeidah Malaria Program Bid No. (86).

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USA \$50.00. The method of payment will be in cash and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 am. on 26th June 2006**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum (US\$ 2,000). Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 a.m. on 26th June 2006**.

Credit Administration Unit
Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)
Ministry of Public Health & Population
P.o.Box 1330 - Al-Hasabah-4th Floor
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen
Tel: + 967(1) 252224
Fax: + 967(1) 251622
E-mail:hrrsp@y.net.ye

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Administration Assistant

Yemeni Nationals Only

A well established International Oil Company seeks a self-motivated and enthusiastic Administration Assistant to join our office in Sana'a.

Job responsibilities:

- Provides general administrative support to all areas
- Responsible to type and file Purchase and Service Orders.
- Translation whenever required. Occasional translation Arabic to English.
- Assists with travel issues, hotel reservations, airport pick-ups and other logistic arrangements for company's personnel.
- Responsible for Safety Meeting Minutes.

Minimum Requirements:

- Degree in Business Administration or equivalent in administration
- Relevant Experience
- Excellent oral and written English/Arabic skills are a must.

Interested candidates with the necessary qualifications and experience are requested to submit applications together with detailed CV by facsimile to: +967 1 410 314.

Deadline to receive applications is Saturday 21st June 2006.

AJU report imperfect, yet worthy of respect

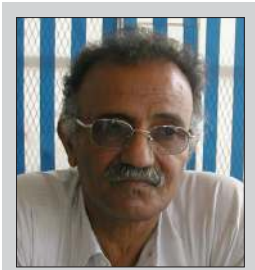
The Press Liberties Committee of the Arab Journalists' Union (AJU) issued its annual report on press liberties across Arab world being the first of its kind as far as my information goes. The AJU was founded more than 50 years ago and includes both official and non-official syndicates. The union, initially, observed the political conditions within Arab governments and their relations with the hegemonic poles of Egypt and Iraq.

Although the AJU has had democratic, journalistic leaderships under Kamel Zouhry, Ahmed Baha Adeen, and Salah Adeen Hafez, the nature of Arab journalist syndicates and the dominance of regional hegemon have minimized the effectiveness of unions in defending liberties. Even when the Union shifted its headquarters to Iraq following the signing of the Camp David Peace Accords between Egypt and Israel, the Union's performance—though it had leaders such as Sami Al-Munis, the martyr Hana Moqbil, and Sigad Al-Ghazi—was pitiable because it operated in a society that lacked general liberties and democracy, in addition to the official nature of most syndicates.

The aforementioned report was full of

questionnaires relating to the gathering of data about the authority of the press, number of affiliates, laws enacted that covered the press, punishments, proscribed topics, and government excesses in relationship to journalists. The report constitutes a great endeavor, though it neither thoughtfully considers the repressive restrictions imposed upon journalists by dictatorial Arab regimes, nor does it register the extra-legal encroachments on the press' freedoms in these countries.

What is eye catching is the report's introduction which seems to be a forced one, regarding the defense of press liberties. It reads "The purpose... is to reveal facts in the quest of transparency and a showdown with free-thinking and faithful Arab writers. Under the existing international circumstances of globalization... we have nothing to say but the truth—the whole truth—before Arab public opinion. With this in mind, every concerned party including syndicates, unions, and Arab press associations have participated in preparing this report."



By: Abdulbari Taher

Our criticism is confined to report's comment that "we have nothing to say but the truth," since any bias would readily be reported in the media. To coerce civil bodies in dictatorial, repressive regimes to say the truth is an important development according to the well-known Italian political theorist, Antonio Gramsci. Without a doubt, a great effort has been exerted in preparing the questionnaire, extracting data from the questionnaires, even if sometimes incomplete when made for the first time. What is forceful is that the report showed that Iraq, even though occupied, ranked in first place regarding the degree of repression of the press.

Many people will not accept that Iraq—which remains under American colonization—ranks first since there are hundreds of newspapers, satellite channels, and citizens are free to express themselves. Thus, the situation in Iraq now is better than during Saddam's tenure. I have reached this conclusion after considering the freedoms that the press has in a spectrum of countries, in addition to the kinds of censorship

imposed. It is true that Iraq has been an ongoing massacre for journalists as the offices of many satellite channels were attacked such as Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya, and Abu Dhabi. Even though a number of journalists have been killed in Iraq, the study did not consider killing as a criterion worthy of evaluation.

As Iraq ranked first place and Yemen second casts some doubt on the credibility of the report. Though Yemen and Algeria have seen a woeful set backs and overt suppressive practices in regard to press liberties, they are no worse than Tunisia, Somalia, Mauritania, Oman, or Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the situations in Kuwait, Lebanon, and Jordan do not qualify them to be seen as beacons of freedom of opinion and expression in the Arab world.

Some justifications are made in the report for its rankings. For instance, the report refers to the absence of press syndicates in some countries and the submission of incomplete questionnaires in others. All in all, the AJU's report is a great work and deserves our respect.

Abdulbari Taher is a Yemeni Journalist and the former chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate

The Press Law - fighting against Journalism

It is narrated that, James Monroe, the fifth president of USA said, "If I have the option to choose between free government and free journalism I would choose free journalism." Over the past 200 years Americans have experienced the importance of free journalism over free government.

The people of the world have come to the agreement that free journalism will create a free government, but no the reverse.

Having free journalism in Yemen, however, generates fear within the existing Yemeni government. Here journalism would have a profound effect on the way the government is formed, its policies, and national interests that need defending. So far, however, we can't site one example that shows that our journalistic abilities have been able to dissolve a failed or corrupt government.

The opposition and its dependent newspapers have shaped what is now a considerable source of worry among government officials, who have lost their ability to keep any semblance of secrecy of illegal possessions in properties and accumulated wealth. They are no more able to veil their illegal practices that do harm to Yemeni people.

Free journalism in Yemen plays the role that should be played by the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) over the ministers and other government officials in regards to stripping bare and disclosing the corrupt and unlawful governmental practices against our people. One could say there exists, to a certain extent, a public opinion that follows government official scandals directing its criticism at them.

The government has a successful career in its lengthy list of setbacks on human rights and democratic practices that were originally announced 16 years ago coinciding with the Yemeni Reunification. During its first four years, Yemen achieved a reasonable amount of fame, perking the interest of democratic proponents around the world. They hailed Yemen as the best example of the Arab world whose democratic steps deserved to be traced and emulated. Their generosity extended itself in recognizing Yemen as a founding member of the Growing Democracies Forum (GDF) which held its first conference in Sana'a.

But the Yemeni record of human rights, liberties, and democratic practices have degenerated remarkably over the years; depriving Yemen of its GDF membership. Our exit from the forum is linked directly to the constitutional amendments of 2001 that extended Presidential and Parliamentary seats two more years. This was a clear indicator that Yemeni democracy was not moving forward but lagging with clear warnings of more dictatorship and tyranny.

Naturally, Yemeni free journalism was against these setbacks, renewing its struggle to maintain free journalism as a viable space. What has materialized has subjected journalists to various forms of persecution and assaults as is seen in the reports of beatings, abductions, kidnapping, illegal detentions, threats and acts of defamation. Adding to these insults is the injury of humiliating bribes and forced illegal inducements on journalists. In this manner the government has been charged not only for its political and democratic setbacks, but also for its total contempt and violation of the Press and Information Law approved of by parliament.

mentary majority in 1992.

While simultaneously calling for the prohibition of prison terms for journalists in countries like Egypt, the Yemeni government tried exploiting these sound bite opportunities lending its self the mantle of "progressive" among the international community.

The biggest problem preoccupying governmental minds was finding a legal cover for its assaults against home grown journalists, hence the creation of a new Press Law. The new Press Law, to appease the international community, included clauses that canceled prison terms for pressmen, but aimed to pressure the journalistic society into compliant silence by giving the Ministry of Information larger administrative powers. Journalism was now under the mercy of these new administrative procedures that had much more liberty to observe and control what newspaper could issue.

Practically speaking, the media feels there needs to be a certain amount of adjustments made on the Press and Information Law of 1992. And while the law was positive in its ability to prevent mediated control over newspapers and made their issuance easier, content wise the same law imposed many constraints on freedoms of the press. Therefore, the press has continued ask for more guarantees, better practices for press liberties and more rights for journalists to be encapsulated into the new Press Law.

Yet the Yemeni government has set a draft that includes many new constraints that contradict established press freedoms. When the new law was publicly announced it was faced with strong opposition. Press personnel acted by issuing a multitude of critical pieces and symposiums at the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate Headquarters in its attempt to codify the drafted law from various political and legal angles. Their criticism clearly indicates to what extent the government was pulling back from the present law and to what extent the government was trying to dispose of what was left of the democratic margin. This same draft, in addition to local opposition, was opposed by the international community, in particular by those countries that linked their agreement to that of Yemeni journalists.

In order to pass the new law the government made two significant steps. First it reappointed Hassan Al-Lawi to the Ministry of Information (a position he held from 1980 to 1990) hinting at the possibility of renewed censorship and control over newspapers as had been the case previously. The second was to lie about pushing the Chairman of Journalist's Syndicate to resign. This was the initial step to rid the syndicate of its present leadership known for its hard-line attitude on journalism and its rights. The government was now poised to hold sway over the syndicate and try to disintegrate the journalists in order to minimize the extent of their opposition to the new law.

The government has been waging war against the Press and its liberties. It seems that the latest option being used is aimed at bringing the Law to heel to its side as the last reserve in its continued battle on journalism.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.



By: Ali Al-Sarari

Yemen and the Iraqi scenario

In Yemen many have stood beside prisoners accused of being Al-Qaeda members because of the abuse to their legal rights. Likewise many stood by others who are in opposition with these groups, such as the Hothian Shiites. Respecting the law and dealing within its limits is considered a necessity.



By: Mustafa Ragih

The Iraqi occupation exposed the biggest of Arab illusions used to partition politics into right and left wings, beyond other modern classifications of antinationalist, leftists, and Islamists. The Arab world is really transferred into a state and citizens. The Iraqi disarray disclosed that doctrine and clan are still the decisive. Neither benefits nor political agendas are the binding links between community and its classes. Creed and faction proved to be the real link. It is true that occupation played a role in illuminating the darker sides; however, it did not create them. It has consciously or unciously contributed to a rekindling of the feelings of an environment saturated with grudges, and a country exhausted by splits. Iraq suddenly disintegrated to its most basic constituents, of Shiites, Kurds, and Sunnis.

Yemen shares many similarities and just as many dissimilarities to the Iraqi case. Yet despite the differences, Yemen is not safe. There is a fearful scenario of the Iraqi experience permeating through out the area. Two years war in Saada has brought the issues of doctrine and faction to the surface. It has witnessed wide political discussions in the media. The subject has many sides that require discussion and demand reconsideration. Yet discussion in itself does not affect national unity, if it found the appropriate environment. It is all a matter of distinct perspectives where some areas tolerate different points of view while others do not. Some matters need to be dealt with apart from any ideology, and according to the era's facts. From this perspective we can discuss the situation of the Islamic groups in Yemen, whether they are from the brotherhood, Shiites or others.

The first stance is concerning the arbitrary arrest of the activists in contradiction to the law, whose rights are often abused and they are denied access to neutral courts. Such cases are dealt with regardless of the ideology and belief. However, these cases need consolidation of all political spectrum based on moral commitments and respect to human rights characteristic of the era. It is obvious legal rights should be observed and no one should be detained on illegal grounds. They should be referred to the independent judiciary. Yet this international culture that respects human rights was the very source which fueled solidarity for the detainees of Guantanamo and Abugraib. It is also the same incentive of the European and American press to disclose the scandals of American occupation in Abugraib and Guantanamo.

Yet this perspective is also the basis for the wider western protest movements in solidarity with the prisoners. It has nothing to do with the ideology of those prisoners or detainees. History is full of instances of solidarity with Islamic and leftist prisoners not because of their ideology, but because they were politically, racially or ethnically discriminated.

Consolidation is the right of everyone who is unfairly treated, regardless of their creed doctrine, ideology, or nationality. The value or importance of their ideology is not considered in these stances. In Yemen, to a wide extent there was a consolidation and human rights movement with those who were arrested for being Al-Qaeda suspects, and other Saada war related detainees. Al-Qaeda suspected detainees were imprisoned for months and years while the legal procedures provided that detention should have been according to punishable crimes. They have the right to be referred to courts immediately, and not be detained for long periods without charges. This behavior changes the State into a gang.

Al-Harithi and his companions were fugitives; killing them outside the judiciary was an unjustified crime. Lawpersons and, people within and outside Yemen stood by their side even when they did not share their belief. They even condemn their methods of killing and subversion.

Jarallah Omer was assassinated by Ali Al-Sa'wani, but this did not prevent human rights, civil society organizations, and politicians from consolidating the Islamic detainees of Al-Qaeda suspects. The members of these organizations could be victims to those whom they stood by their side if they found opportunities of free movement. However this should not be an excuse to rid oneself of the humanitarian responsibility, to the extent that one should support their arrest in contradiction to the law. This contradiction between respect for human rights and security precautions became an international debate ever since the 9/11 incident. The Americans refused to give president Bush any extra mandate for detention and wiretapping used as the pretext for defending them against terrorists. Giving up this historical right will be a triumph to the terrorists.

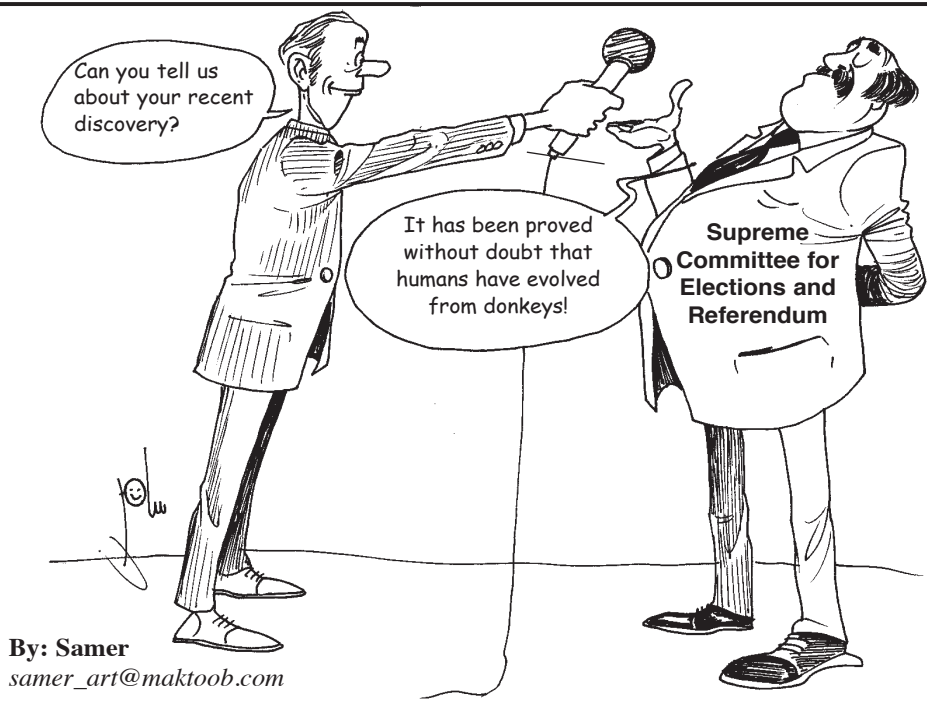
Many Yemenis also united in solidarity with Judge Noman, clerics Yahia Al-Dailami and Mohamed Miftah and other detainees of Saada war. This solidarity has nothing to do with their political belief nor their faith. The second level that should be distinguished in discussing the ideological creeds is the Saada war. Many political, legislative and civil servants, writers, presspersons, politicians and lawyers along the political spectrum, expressed their condemnation to the Saada war. Their justifications were quite different from that of the Hothian Shiite warmonger's point of view.

The state should in the first place resort to a political perspective to resolve things. Backward ideological thought should be faced through education. The government should seek alternative methods in dealing with the costs of war. Some mistakes will be at the expense of, and sometimes undermine, other areas such as national unity, investment and tourism. There should be research and analysis on the prospects, impact and development of any problem, which will result from a particular decision.

Three factors influenced Saada war: The Shiite ideology (Zaidi creed is no longer Zaidi but a Shiite). The other two influences were the tribal fanaticism and the spread of arms; both factors contributed to prolong the war. This is in addition to other mistakes and apparent differences within the ruling authorities. The third distinction was free discussion over beliefs, be they Shiite, Wahabi or mainstream Islamic. Differences of opinion on these matters is likely to happen, but let us leave the Shiites aside now. The Islamists are divided into two groups. Eighty percent of their size is a political stream represented by Islah party. The other 20 percent of the group are salafis. These have to get out into the light from their place under the table and discuss their agendas openly. Whatever stance one has towards these salafi groups, it is clear that violence is the favorite method of the Jihadists who went to Afghanistan, and not the political ones. The Islah's agenda in Yemen promotes democracy. The development of this Islamic stream leads to development of democratic opportunities. It is known that salafis are a joint Yemeni-Saudi agenda to direct a blow to the Muslim brotherhood, but this project was aborted by 9/11 incidents.

Mustafa Rajeh is a Yemeni journalist and human rights activist.

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By: Samer
samer_art@maktoob.com

Mustafa Rajeh is a Yemeni journalist and human rights activist.

Letters to the Editor

A note on Somalia

In regard to an outrageous letter ("About so called Somaliland"), I was disturbed by the ridiculous remarks attributed to the most noble of Somali speaking ethnic groups, the Isaaq, as Jewish by the writer. Unfortunately, this remark has been left unchallenged by you and your readership.

In fact, the Isaaq is an ethnic group

that predominates in the northern part of Somalia, formerly known as the British Somaliland Protectorate. Although their history is an ancient as other Semitic peoples, the Isaaq's contact with Judaism is similar to that of other ethnic groups in the region: a passing phenomenon.

Muqtar Mohamed Usuf
Leeds, U.K.

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Yemen: World Press Freedom Review 2005

By: International Press Institute

An unprecedented number of attacks on independent journalists made 2005 one of the worst years in recent history for the Yemeni press. The media environment has been shrouded in a climate of fear as violent attacks on journalists have become routine, opposition newspapers are frequently closed and editors are regularly prosecuted for critical coverage of state affairs. The resilient independent press has continued to push the well-defined boundaries set out by Yemeni authorities, but has met with increased aggression and hostility along the way. While the broadcast media remain under strict state control, Yemen's independent press has flourished in recent years with a wider number of journalists daring to report on sensitive issues. This year, however, journalists report a growing sense of insecurity in their freedom to openly debate public issues.

The 1990 Yemeni Press Law remains a formidable threat to press freedom. In June 2004, President Ali Abdullah Saleh called for the removal of the clause allowing imprisonment of journalists. A draft press and publication law released in 2005 addressed this demand but, with its many prohibitions, was seen to be even more repressive than the 1990 press law.

On 2 May, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) formally rejected the draft law saying it imposed clauses to limit freedom of expression and restrictive requirements for opening a newspaper or working as a journalist.

According to the YJS, as the penal code continues to include charges against journalists that can result in fines, imprisonment and even the death penalty, the abolishment of prison sentences under the press law is meaningless.

The draft law maintained major limitations for journalists, ranging from prohibitions on criticising the head of state to restrictions on "publishing or exchanging anything that directly and personally prejudices monarchs and the heads of brotherly and friendly states." The law includes provisions to maintain the state's monopoly over the broadcast media and imposes exorbitant licensing fees for new publications.

Ahmed Al Haj, a reporter with the Associated Press reported that the draft law "does not only challenge the freedom of the media but threatens the entire pluralistic system..." The state-run Saba News Agency also rejected the draft, stating that it combined the shortcomings and prohibitions of the 1990 law with additional restrictions.

In July, following nation-wide protests over the draft law, a new commission was created to initiate its review. Chaired by the Ministry of Justice, the YJS and other civil society groups were yet again excluded from the review process. The YJS was shut down twice and targeted in several guerrilla raids in the months following their public denouncement of the draft law.

A one-year suspension order handed down on 29 December 2004 to the privately owned daily Al Hurriya

The draft law maintained major limitations for journalists, ranging from prohibitions on criticising the head of state to restrictions on "publishing or exchanging anything that directly and personally prejudices monarchs and the heads of brotherly and friendly states."

("Freedom") was imposed in 2005. On 3 January, police went to the Al Hurriya offices and forced all employees to leave. The charges stem from an article, published on 6 October, allegedly critical of the president. After the newspaper was withdrawn from sale in October 2004, some 20 journalists and contributors lost their jobs. Editor-in-chief Abdulkareem Sabra and journalist Abdulqawi Al Qubati were charged in connection to the article. The two Al Hurriya staff members were sentenced to two years in prison with hard labour.

Security forces beat lawyers representing imprisoned editor Abdel Karim Al Khaiwani during an appeal hearing on 2 March. Jamal Al Jaabi and Naji Mohamed Allaw were chastised by the presiding judge, Hammoud Al Hirdi when the journalists did not stand for the judge's entrance. The judge adjourned the proceedings and ordered security guards to remove both members of the legal team. The guards beat the lawyers as they were pushing them out of the room.

Al Khaiwani, editor of the weekly Al Shoura was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment in September 2004 on charges of incitement, insulting President Saleh, publishing false news and causing tribal and sectarian discrimination. The charges related to opinion pieces published in the summer of 2004 that criticised the Yemeni government's fight against a rebel cleric.

The media environment has been shrouded in a climate of fear as violent attacks on journalists have become routine, opposition newspapers are frequently closed and editors are regularly prosecuted for critical coverage of state affairs.

On 22 March, the same appellate court upheld Al Khaiwani's one-year sentence but President Saleh intervened the next day to pardon the editor. He had been jailed for nearly seven months. The pardon did not reverse the ban against the Al Shoura newspaper, which had been suspended in conjunction with Al Khaiwani's arrest.

YJS Secretary General Hafez Al Bukari and his wife, journalist Rahma Hujaira became the victims of a vulgar smear campaign in late May after Hujaira published a hard-hitting critique of the ruling party and its handling of elections in the Al Thawri newspaper. The Al Bilad newspaper, which had been launched with state support only days previously, published a host of insidious accusations against Hujaira's honour and conduct in one of its first issues.

Hundreds of journalists held a solidarity gathering at YJS headquarters on 25 May and voiced concerns that the unjust treatment against Hujaira was politically motivated. Hujaira also acts as Chairwomen of the Yemeni Female Media Forum. According to a report in the independent weekly Yemen Times, in the context of conservative Yemeni society, Hujaira's harassment has long-term consequences for families who may discourage their daughters from working in the field of journalism to avoid compromising the family's name and honour.

A series of violent attacks throughout the summer of 2005 prompted major concerns for the safety of Yemeni journalists. On 17 July, Hajei Al Jehafi, editor of the independent daily An Nahar was seriously wounded when a booby-trapped letter exploded in his face. Al Jehafi had received a number of threats against himself and his family in retaliation for his critical reporting.



A senior Yemeni citizen reading a newspaper.

PHOTO BY SADDAM AL-ASHMOURI

More than 10 incidents of press interference were reported in late July following violent protests over the government's hike in fuel prices. Thirty-six people were killed in the protests. Army and security forces arrested a number of journalists for reporting on the riots. Others were attacked or had their equipment confiscated. Foreign media were prevented from sending news reports via Yemeni TV satellite stations. Several journalists reported that for weeks after the protests they continued to receive harassing phone calls and warnings against publishing critical reports of the government.

The abduction and harassment of Al Wasat editor-in-chief Jamal Amer in August caused further concern over Yemen's increasingly hostile media climate. In the early morning of 23 August, Amer was blindfolded and forced into a car by armed assailants dressed in plain clothes but driving a military vehicle. The assailants beat Amer and threatened to kill him. They warned the editor that his children's lives would be at risk if he continued his investigative reporting.

In the weeks before Amer's abduction, Al Wasat had published several reports on corruption and abuse of power by the government.

One week before Amer's abduction, burglars broke into the Sana'a office of the Associated Press and stole computers, a fax machine and a camera. The incident was one in a string of thefts that had occurred in newspaper offices throughout the year.

On 3 November, IPI expressed outrage over the brutal treatment of cameraman Mujeeb Suwailih at the hands of security forces. An employee of pan Arab news channel Al Arabiya, Suwailih was attacked by security forces while filming a protest by workers at a public textile factory in Sana'a. Several of the protesting workers had to intervene to drag Suwailih away from the officers. He was severely injured with three broken ribs and multiple bruises to one leg. He also suffered bleeding in the chest cavity.

Suwailih and Najeeb Al Shara'abi, an employee of the Saudi Arabian based Al Akhbariya satellite channel, were then detained for several hours at a local police station. They were not released until Al Arabiya management fought to have Suwailih set free so that he could receive medical attention.

The attacks continued on 12 November when journalist Nabil Subaie was assaulted by masked gunmen in Sana'a. The assailants stabbed Subaie in his right arm and upper back. A number of bystanders who tried to chase the attackers were repelled by gunfire.

The Ministry of the Interior later announced that it had detained two suspects but referred to the incident only as petty theft. The Yemen Times reported though that Subaie's attack was retaliation for several columns

Subaie had written in the weeks before the attack criticising President Saleh and his appointment of family members to influential government posts.

In late November, a wave of convictions against outspoken journalists took place. The Al Thawra newspaper was fined around 4,400 euro on 19 November and two of its journalists, Fekri Kassem and Salah El Din Al Dakkad, were banned from being published for six months. The newspaper was also ordered to pay 2,300 euros

A series of violent attacks throughout the summer of 2005 prompted major concerns for the safety of Yemeni journalists.

Journalists report a growing sense of insecurity in their freedom to openly debate public issues.

and publish apologies to the plaintiff, Mohamed Taher Naji, the treasurer of the city of Taghz.

On 27 November, a suspension order was issued against the Tagammu newspaper on charges of sectarianism and attacking Islam's image. The charges stem from an article published in September 2004 comparing Yemen's precarious political situation to political unrest that took place in 1968. Editor Abdul Rahman Abdallah and journalist Abdul Rahma Saed were both fined and sentenced to a one-year ban on being published.

Government attempts at intimidat-

tion continued on 1 December when a group of the elite Yemeni Republican Guards were sent to independent daily Al Ayyam's offices. Five soldiers, armed with rifles and machine guns, patrolled the offices in the early hours of morning before demanding to speak with editor-in-chief Hisham Bashraheel. The soldiers continued their surveillance the next morning.

Al Ayyam staff reported that the show of force was an attempt to bully the newspaper after it published articles reporting on political opposition to President Saleh, the declining human rights situation in Yemen and strained relations with the US.

Despite being called for support, police did not come to the area until daybreak.

Intimidation tactics were employed again when Mohammad Sadiq Al Odaini, director of the Centre for Training and Protecting Journalist Freedom was repeatedly attacked. On 5 December, a man who Al Odaini identified as security officer Asaad Ali Hezam Al Aayawi, pointed a gun at his head, threatened him and accused him of being a traitor. On 8 December, Al Aayawi and two masked men dragged Al Odaini out of his Sana'a home and beat him in the street.

The assailants stayed outside Al Odaini's house until 2 a.m. the next day. Despite being called for support, police did not come to the area until daybreak. After the first attack, Al Odaini had filed a complaint with both the local police and with security authorities, but no investigation took place. Al Odaini said he suspected he was targeted because his organization had previously published a report accusing authorities of being negligent in their refusal to investigate attacks on the press.

Despite the alarming increase in violent attacks against journalists, and overwhelming evidence that certain attacks could be linked to security forces, no substantial investigations have taken place to determine the identities of assailants or to hold them responsible for their crimes.

Religion and politics: All the president's truths

By: Stanley R. Sloan

Richmond, Vermont - Besieged by plummeting approval ratings and mounting domestic and foreign challenges, President George W. Bush nonetheless keeps the faith. Speaking to a California audience last month, he affirmed that he bases "a lot of foreign policy decisions on some things that I think are true. One, I believe there's an almighty....Secondly, I believe one of the great gifts of the Almighty is the desire in everybody's soul...to be free."

Such a statement will surely add to the distress of many friends of the United States who believe that it has been led astray by such beliefs. The concern is about a president who so strongly believes he is doing "God's work" that he cannot see mistakes when he makes them or alternative policies when events cry out for them.

Europeans have always been uncomfortable with the way American presidents have invoked God in support of U.S. policies. Bush didn't start this, but he has practiced it with more conviction than most of his predecessors.

A French foreign policy expert, François Heisbourg, has put European concerns this way: "The biblical references in politics, the division of the world between good and evil, these are things that we simply don't get. In a number of areas, it seems to me that we are no longer part of the same civilisation."

As opposed to America, where religion has historically been on the

side of "freedom", Europe's experience suggests that the church is not always a friend of democracy, and that religion can be a source of conflict as much as an instrument for peace. For Europeans the political success of the 18th-century Enlightenment was that it ensured a social contract based on reason, rather than on an absolute truth that made discussion and debate impossible.

For the most part, religious faith has reinforced many of the values on which European and American civil societies are based. The freedom to worship in a faith of one's choice is an important source of cohesion and peace in our societies.

But some Europeans have lately equated the danger of American evangelical fundamentalism's influence on U.S. policy with that posed by radical Islamic fundamentalism.

A European friend put it this way: "In Europe, it is newcomers who are challenging the fundamental values on which our political system is built, whereas in the United States this challenge comes from a core indigenous group's perversion of the founding values of their own system." She added, "I find this even scarier."

Even the most committed American Christian fundamentalists, however, support separation between church and state. By way of contrast, many Islamists — and not just the radicals — want a close match between their religious beliefs and the rules of state.

Nonetheless, fundamentalists see the texts of their faith as the "truth". A middle-of-the-road Christian "believes" in God. But someone with

a more fundamental approach — including, apparently, President Bush — sees the existence of their god as a fact, not as a belief.

This kind of certitude becomes particularly problematic at the intersection between religion and politics. A strong believer, with political views on an issue grounded in religious beliefs, is less likely to tolerate varying political views. Uncompromising faith, which can be a strength in one's personal life, can be a recipe for disaster in foreign policy.

That point was driven home by Bishop Wolfgang Huber, Chairman of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany, when he warned that some Americans fall into the trap of believing that the American dream means "American superiority in the name of Christ".

The next American president will undoubtedly invoke God's blessing on America, as American presidents have always done. But it is one thing to ask God for blessing and guidance. It is entirely another to believe the Almighty blesses everything that we do.

A bit more religious modesty would help put U.S. foreign policy back on more solid ground.

Stanley R. Sloan is a visiting scholar at Middlebury College's Rohatyn Center for International Affairs. This article was distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

Source: International Herald Tribune, May 18, 2006.

Yemen's stock exchange: A far-fetched dream?

Interviewed by: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

Finance Minister Dr. Saif Al-Asali has expressed his desire to establish a stock exchange as one component of forming modern economic institutions in Yemen. The Yemen Times spoke with Nabil Al-Sorouri, a renowned auditor and financial expert, about the possibility of launching a stock exchange in the following interview.

YT: Can you tell us about your background?

NS: I am a senior auditor at one of Yemen's leading financial consultantancies. The company audits several of Yemen's major trading and industrial groups. I have specialized in tax monitoring and auditing for the last six years.

YT: What are your concerns with regard the launch of a stock exchange in Yemen?

NS: Yemen is an underdeveloped economy suffering from an unorganized business environment operating with a weak infrastructure; our problems include poverty, corruption and lack of managerial skill. And this affects all business divisions, not only auditing. Therefore bringing-up the subject of a stock exchange is premature and requires a profusion of research and analysis prior to its launch within our underdeveloped business milieu.

YT: Coming from your perspective as an auditor, is Yemen ready for a stock exchange?

NS: In Yemen, information and statistical data are opaque. A stock exchange requires timely and detailed financial information as this data is critical not only for determining the value of shares but also for controlling the rise and collapse of its value. Transparent disclosure of financial information provides shareholders with precise indicators that allow them to decide whether to retain or sell their shares. We don't have that level of accuracy and transparency in Yemen. There are cases where local corporations underreport their earnings and operations to reduce their tax burden. Such a practice might result in creating a false impression of the company's returns and in turn the value of its shares.

YT: Would company shares be in demand if an exchange would open?

NS: One of the reasons why I find it difficult to see how a stock exchange would prosper is the current economic instability in Yemen. We continue to suffer from high inflation and corruption which have created an atmosphere of insecurity; it has become hard for ethical companies to breakeven, while other companies see record profits by taking advantage of questionable dealings and corrupt behavior in collusion with the government. With the limited number of companies in Yemen that might be listed, I think the demand for such shares would be at a minimum.

YT: What if Yemen sees a trend towards privatization?

NS: Privatization is a very different story. It is true that a stock exchange would make the privatization process more transparent, efficient, and public. The privatization of a few government companies, however, will not guarantee the success of a stock exchange. Laws and regulations must be put in place in order to safeguard the interests of shareholders buying into privatized companies. Meanwhile, our current laws are failing to protect many rights and interests.

YT: What would it take to have an operational stock exchange?

NS: The first point would be to conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility of a stock exchange within the coming years. Such a study should consider the realities of our business environment, the per capita income, the level of discretionary income available for investment, and our economic instability in addition to current phobias in the local market. If such a study favored the creation of a stock exchange, then we would need to formulate a system that would be transparent and effective for managing the affairs of the stock exchange. The government could kick start the operations of the stock exchange by privatizing some 20 government and quasi-government companies such as Yemen Mobile,



Nabil Al-Sorouri

the Aden oil refinery, and a cement factory among others. If the shares of those companies were traded successfully, this would encourage foreign investors to capitalize our stock exchange. Additionally, such a development would encourage local private companies to go public and have their shares traded, especially as they require liquidity to finance their growth and expand their operations. If these things were to happen, then the stock exchange might be a viable option. Of course, this is the optimistic hypothetical situation that could be achieved pro-



The introduction of a stock exchange would economically transform Yemen.

vided that enough research would have been conducted, coupled with the recruitment of specialists with expertise in managing stock exchanges, since a stock exchange can also ruin companies and devastate economies.

YT: How could a stock exchange devastate our economy?

NS: The effects of a stock exchange have the potential to be very negative on an economy. If you study the 1997 East Asian crisis, or the recent crash of neighboring stock exchanges, you would see that a stock exchange can transform the 'rosy dreams of shareholders' to a nightmare in a matter of minutes. This is especially the case if financial disclosures were misleading or misunderstood thereby allowing shares to be valued at high premiums or at a discount. When shareholders would come to realize the actual value of their shares are far from their nominal value, they would be pushed to sell, thus destabilizing, and possibly crashing, the exchange. Moreover, many exchanges suffer from speculation and rumors that see listed companies lose millions in market capitalization. Such activities occur frequently in volatile economies such as that of Yemen.

YT: How is reporting a key to the success of a stock exchange?

NS: A stock exchange needs timely financial data that reports on the performance of listed companies, so that investors can be sure that share prices change in accordance with market performance and the expected returns on shares. Currently, the financial management and accounting habits within the country lack enough sophistication to produce daily, up to the minute, financial reports. Additionally, public transparency is still an alien concept to many private, limited-liability corporations, where accounting practices—when extant—having the goal of tax avoidance. Meanwhile, corruption is rooted deep within all government and government-linked corporations. So, we need a fundamental change in accounting and auditing practices to feed the operations of a nascent stock exchange.

cent sales tax. Many investors would find such a tax devastating to their profitability and would resort to misreporting profits in order to compensate for the new tax.

YT: What about independent auditors? Is auditing an efficient control mechanism?

NS: There are many stock exchanges that disallow trading of shares unless a company's books are audited by a certified auditing firm. However, bear in mind that a stock exchange is only a middleman and does not have a direct interest in auditing, especially as the costs of an audit are considerable for Yemeni enterprises, which are tiny when compared to their counterparts in the region and globally. Most companies in Yemen specialize in either basic services or in auxiliary manufactured goods and can not support regular audits.

YT: Could a stock exchange in Yemen attract foreign capital?

NS: Yes and no. A stock exchange might encourage enterprising funds to invest in Yemeni shares and in turn provide much needed capital to Yemen's economy. However, local capital has its own fear of investing locally due to painful experiences in dealing with corruption and the abuse of power by authorities. My worry is that unless those problems are sorted out, thereby creating a suitable investment climate, Yemen might gain a poor, international reputation as being hostile to global finance. The capital that investors provide is the main driver of success in any stock exchange and would prove effective in boosting Yemen's economy either through a stock exchange or otherwise.

YT: Could reform of the banking sector help to attract global finance?

NS: Yes. There are two main ways of acquiring financing for businesses. The first method is to raise capital through a stock exchange and the public offering of shares. The second method involves borrowing money from banks. If Yemen allows international banks, such as Citigroup and the Al-Rajehi Bank, to operate domestically, they would not only boost the economy but would also improve the economy since their accounting practices would spillover to smaller enterprises. These smaller companies would learn to meet international banking requirements in order to borrow capital, ultimately resulting in a reformed, and more sophisticated business and governance environment potentially paving the road to the conditions necessary to open a stock exchange.

YT: Thank you, this interview has been most enlightening and insightful.

NS: Thank you, and I wish you all the very best.

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- Participates to the conception and elaboration of communication tools
- Contributes to supplying the media and target groups with ICRC communication tools
- Contributes to the organization of workshops and meetings
- Contributes to internal reporting and media analysis

Requirement

- University degree
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- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic
- Good computer skills
- 27 - 40

Personal skills

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- Confirmed capacity to analyse the political and social environment
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Att: - Administration
International Committee of the Red Cross
Baghdad Street, street No.19
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Business In Brief

Yemen's stock exchange operational by the end of 2006

Dr. Saif Al-Asali, Minister of Finance, announced plans to launch Yemen's first stock exchange by the end of 2006. He indicated that preparations for the stock exchange's inauguration are on-going. The stock market is planned to open after the conclusion of the donors conference scheduled to be held this November in London. The conference aims to recruit donor countries to assist Yemen in drawing level to other economies in the region.

IFC and Central Bank Conduct Financial Leasing Workshops

On June 11, two workshops were held to promote financial leasing as a means to increase access to finance for small and medium enterprises in Yemen. Held in Sana'a, the workshops provided government officials and representatives from financial institutions with a review of key issues related to legal, tax, and accounting aspects of leasing as it can spur economic growth and job creation by increasing the productive sector's ability to finance new investments.

The workshops were organised by the Private Enterprise Partnership for the Middle East and North Africa (PEP-MENA), which is affiliated to the International Finance Corporation - the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. The focus of the PEP-MENA is on improving the business enabling and regulatory environment; strengthening the financial sector; promoting the growth of small and medium enterprises and their support services, such as business organizations and consulting firms; helping restructure and privatize state-owned enterprises; and developing viable private sector and public-private partnership projects, especially in infrastructure.

Yemen to expand gas production

Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Khalid Balhah announced that his ministry plans to increase the production of natural gas either through the expansion of the current YLNG project (in partnership with Total), or through the establishment of an additional independent gas production facility. Balhah made his comments at the 23rd World Gas Conference held in Amsterdam from June 5-9. The current YLNG project plans to begin the export of Yemeni natural gas by 2008 through a dedicated export facility located in Belhah - Gulf of Aden.

OMV starts oil exploration in Block 2 - Shabwa

Austrian OMV announced it will start immediate oil exploration in Block 2 - Al-Mabar, Shabwa governorate, after the receiving ratification from the Yemeni parliament. OMV will start with two explorations with a financial obligation of over \$14 million (USD). OMV has had earlier success in Yemen and currently operates two oil producing wells. This move comes as a

part of a strategy to expand their activities in Yemen and consolidate its position as one of the leading oil exploration and production companies.

Yemen to reconsider Dubai-Aden port agreement

The Yemeni government formed a committee to reconsider the agreement terms under which Dubai Ports will operate the port of Aden. The parliament has not ratified this agreement yet and has submitted over forty inquiries on the terms indicating that Yemen's interests have been undermined and ignored. President Saleh has publicly expressed that his main concern was the unreasonably long duration of the agreement—35 years—with the economic interests of Yemen not receiving priority.

Yemeni Fisheries receive European grant

The Ministry of Fisheries has received a European grant of \$ 7.6 million (USD) to improve the quality of production and export processes at fisheries as a part of the European project to support competent management of the fishing sector. The grant plans to improve the efficiency of fishing and rehabilitate packaging plants and export mechanisms.

Preparations for November's donors' conference start

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation plans to head a five-day technical cooperation program with development specialists from the General Secretary's office of the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) in order to prepare for the November's donors' conference to be held in London. Yemeni officials need the help of their counterparts in the GCC in order to take advantage of their expertise for this conference as well for the investment opportunities conference to be held in Yemen in February 2007.

Star Cement to build a cement plant in Aden

UAE-based Star Cement plans to build a cement factory in the Al-She'eb area in Alburayqa-Aden at a total cost of \$ 40 million (USD). The plant is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2007, and will run at a capacity of half a million tons of cement, expandable to one million, annually. The company will employ 110 personnel.

Saudi-German Hospital & Moevenpick Sana'a inaugurated

President Ali Abdullah Saleh officially inaugurated the Saudi-German Hospital on June 11. The 300-room hospital is equipped with state of the art facilities and will be capable of undertaking advanced procedures including open heart surgery and cancer treatment. President Saleh also inaugurated the Sana'a Moevenpick Hotel owned by the International Company for Touristic Investments. The 338-room luxury hotel plans to cater to both business and leisure travellers.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project **"Strengthen Shoura Council"**

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- Establishes norms of work between the Consultative Council and Parliament.
- Monitors the progress of the project activities against the work plan, and recommends and implements remedial actions as appropriate.
- Manages the human resources of the project.
- Assesses, prescribes and manages the changes which may be necessary in staffing, procedures, office layouts, and budgets.
- Arranges and attends Project Board of Directors meeting as reporter to the Board.
- Prepares Project Board of Directors minutes of the meeting, distribution of minutes and follow-up on its recommendations.
- Perform other duties that related good governance related activities, when requested

Qualification

- A master degree in Political Science or equivalent (university degree accepted if only compensated with long years of experience)
- Five to seven years of experience in the same field of study.
- Experience in managing any of governance programmes/projects and/or worked under governance portfolio not less than three years.
- Good experience in Government administrative structure.
- He/she will have strong communication skills as well as analytical and writing abilities.
- Fluency in English and Arabic.
- Excellent Computer skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

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The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 22 June 2006**

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Al-Saqr maintains lead

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

With downing his neighbor Al-Rashid 1-0 in a match in Al-Shuhada Playground, Saqr avenged itself and maintained the lead for the 19th round of football Premier league. The match, attended by huge crowd, was strong and exciting. Saqr won the match through his substitute Tariq Salim in minute 36 of the second half, increasing its points to 43 points while Al-Rashid stopped with its previous place with 25 points.

In Sana'a, Ahli Sana'a won with difficulty over its guest Tadhamon Shabwa with 4 scores against 3 for Tadhamon, thus advancing to the fourth place with 32 points while Tadhamon froze at 10th place with 21 points.

Al-Telal, in May 22 Stadium, managed to down its neighbor Al-Shula with a goal scored by its striker Imbay in minute 47, extra time, of the first half. Thus, Al-Tilal advanced to the 5th place with 31 points and Al-Shula remained in its previous place, 11th with 20 points.

In Hadramout, Hassan achieved an important victory over its host Shaab Hadramout with 2 against 1, thus Hassan advanced to the 6th place with 28 points and Shaab Hadramout remained in its previous place and 28 points.

Shabab Al-Jeel from Hodeidah negatively equalized with Al-Yarmouk, thus Al-Yarmouk raised its points to 24 in the 9th place while Shabab Al-Jeel got a further point and still in the 12th place.

Sha'ab Ibb's match with its guest 22 May had been postponed due to stadium invalidity. The competitions of this round started on Thursday with one match gathering Tawan Badan and Hilal Al-Hodeidah. Tawan Badan managed to share points with Hilal after it had been able to equalize in the extra time with 3 goals each. With this positive equalizing,



Al-Saqr team.

Hilal Al-Hodiedah added one more point to its balance in the 3rd place and Tawan

Badan advanced one step further with point number 16.

The timetable showing the league's matches

Team	Plays	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals		Points
					for	against	
Al-Saqr	19	13	4	2	32	12	43
Sha'ab Ibb	19	10	6	3	37	24	36
Helal Hodeida	19	9	6	4	34	24	32
Ahli Sana'a	19	9	5	5	32	24	32
Al-Telal	19	10	1	8	26	25	31
Hassan	19	7	7	5	19	18	28
Al-Rashid	19	7	4	8	19	22	25
Sha'ab Hadramout	19	7	4	8	19	26	25
Al-Yarmouk	19	6	6	7	22	24	24
Tadhamon Shabwa	19	7	-	12	24	34	21
Al-Shu'la	19	4	8	7	19	23	20
Shabab Al-Jeel	19	5	4	10	19	24	19
Ta'awen Ba'adan	19	4	4	11	27	37	16
22 May	19	4	3	12	22	35	15

Uninspired France hit cul-de-sac France 0 Switzerland 0

By: GEORGE CAULKIN

The decision by France's Finance Minister to bring forward his Budget to avoid clashing with the start of the national team's World Cup campaign was followed by plummeting interest rates. Les Bleus are no longer a team to inspire and fascinate. Their last goal in the World Cup was scored by Emmanuel Petit in the 1998 final. Ageing and unimaginative, they provided the number crunchers with another statistic to dwell on: almost half of their fading team is 32 or older.

In conditions that were not conducive to growing old gracefully, France were laborious in this goalless draw against Switzerland. As alarming as their dearth of creativity — Vikash Dhorasoo, the substitute, almost contrived an ill-deserved victory when he dragged a late shot narrowly wide — was the craven manner in which they disintegrated.

Bitter memories of the previous tournament, which they departed bottom of the group and without a goal, could hardly be avoided. Zinedine Zidane, 33, Fabien Barthez, 34, Claude Makelele, 33, Sylvain Wiltord, 32, and 34-year-old Lilian Thuram cannot claim to have improved in the interim. On his debut, even Franck Ribéry, their great young hope, disappeared into mediocrity after some electric touches. Raymond Domenech's team should not be dismissed, but they cleverly disguised their potential as winners of the trophy. Switzerland were limited but obdurate



Thierry Henry's claim for handball against Patrick Müller are waved away by referee Valentin Ivanov

Marseille's player whose inclusion had become the cause célèbre of the French media. The 23-year-old spun on to one typically intuitive pass from Zidane before clearing the bar, but otherwise the game was poor, although France were unlucky when, after Ribéry darted along the right flank, Thierry Henry's shot struck the hand of Patrick Müller. A penalty should have been awarded by Valentin Ivanov, the Russian official. "You can't say it was a point gained," Henry said. "It was two points dropped. We had other opportunities to score, but it was a clear penalty — everyone must have seen it apart from the referee. As England's goal against Paraguay showed, you need a bit of luck. Justice

ward, stuck out a boot and found enough of a touch to direct the ball against the right-hand post. Later, Frei was booked for witlessly using his fist when in a goalscoring position.

Those moments of tension did not represent the prevailing lack of quality. Zidane, in tandem with Makelele and Thuram, had renounced their respective retirements to ride to their country's aid, but there were few reminders of France's golden generation. Makelele and Patrick Vieira were not overwhelming the Switzerland midfield, passes flew into touch and the pace was pedestrian.

Ribéry had provided some movement but, lacking the substantial figure of David Trezeguet beside him — the Juventus striker making way for the tyro — Henry was routinely isolated from his colleagues. The Arsenal captain had sprinted to intercept an exquisite through-pass from Zidane and brilliantly flashed the ball across goal but reinforcements were negligible.

Sporting the same dogged expressions as those worn by England in the second half against Paraguay, France grew weary. Afterwards, Domenech spoke with anger at the decision to water a fiery pitch six hours before kick-off and no later. "We're going to complain to Fifa," the coach said, while Henry echoed earlier complaints about the temperature. "As the England boys said, it was really hot and very difficult," he said.

Yet the Swiss are hardly desert creatures and their energy levels did not diminish. Barthez had to hurl himself at a close-range header by Daniel Gyax, the substitute, and scrambled to push away the rebound. Television pictures lingered over Zidane, Thuram and William Gallas remonstrating with each other. It may, in time, become a defining image.

Source: Times Online



Zidane is seen arguing with Lilian Thuram and William Gallas as France fail to break down Switzerland in a dull goalless draw.

and embraced a form of glory — they had failed to keep a clean sheet in their previous 22 World Cup matches.

Having shared two draws in their qualifying group, the pair could not surprise each other, let alone excite, despite the presence of Ribéry, the spring-heeled

wasn't done."

It was not solely a French complaint. In the 24th minute, Philippe Senderos met a deep, inswinging free kick from Ludovic Magnin but missed his header and in doing so distracted those around him. Alexander Frei, the veteran for-

basketball tournament in its 17th round

At the last round but one, Seniors of Al-Tilal baseball advanced his place after it had been able to beat 22 May with 94 against 75 points, thus raising its balance to 27 points in the fourth place while 22 may added one more point to his balance to become 21 points and in the ninth place. In the closed hall of Aden, Al-Myna team was defeated by Al-Hilal from

Hodiedah with 70 to 71, thus raising its points to 23 points with a hope to stay among first class tournament in case it beats Shaab Ibb in the upcoming match, but Myna was not affected with the result. Al-Myna now has 30 points and holds the second place.

In Sana'a, Yarmouk beat its guest Taliat Shibam with 63 against 56, thus Yarmouk occupied the 4th place with

25 points, while Al-Talia occupied the penultimate position, falling to second degree league.

Regarding juniors competitions, a match between Wahdat Sana'a and Al-Shurata resulted in the win of the former with 66 to 57, with Wahdat Sana'a occupying the 6th place with 24 points while Al-Shurta occupies the last position with 19 points.

Brazil 1-0 Croatia

Brazil beat Croatia to become the first team to win eight successive matches in the World Cup finals.

Croatia's tactics frustrated Brazil for much of the match, but just before the interval Kaka's wonderful curling left-footed shot beat Stipe Pletikosa.

Pletikosa's opposite number Dida frequently came to Brazil's rescue, notably with second-half saves from Dado Prso and Ivan Klasnic.

Brazil finished strongly, with Kaka again going close with a rasping shot.

The Brazilians might be favourites to claim the "Hexa" - a sixth World Cup - but the way Croatia made Carlos Alberto Parreira's side work for this win suggests the world champions are not without their weaknesses.

Strikers Ronaldo and Adriano looked subdued throughout and it took 55 minutes for the much criticised Real Madrid striker to have a shot at goal.

The unhappy Ronaldo was eventually replaced by Robinho, whose introduction served to bring greater attacking fluidity to the Brazilian side.

But the fact that Dida was one of Brazil's best performers gives an indication of just how well Croatia played.

Prso's strong running troubled the Brazilian defence and early in the second half the Rangers striker powerfully shrugged off Lucio before testing



But with half-time approaching Kaka collects a pass from Cafu before firing Brazil in front with a stunning 25-yard strike.

Dida with a low shot.

Soon after making that save Dida's positioning allowed him to safely gather a Marko Babic shot.

While Prso provided an attacking outlet for Croatia, the Balkan side's defence managed to stymie Brazil for long periods.

Pletikosa, who was making his 50th appearance for Croatia, had a quiet introduction to the game, but on 15 minutes the Croatian goalkeeper came under intense pressure.

He athletically tipped a Roberto Carlos shot over the bar and then pushed away a Ronaldinho effort that came to Pletikosa through a packed penalty area.

Just after the hour Pletikosa made the best save of the game when he kept out a powerful Ronaldinho header.

Not that Croatia were ever content to solely soak up Brazil's attacks.

Prso frequently drifted out to the left and looked impressive with some strong running, while Ivan Klasnic and Niko Kranjcar had speculative shots.

Those two efforts did not trouble Dida, but seven minutes before the break the Brazilian keeper had a real scare when Igor Tudor came desperately close to reaching Darijo Srna's dangerous inswinging free-kick from the left.

Having subdued Brazil for 44 minutes, Croatia fell behind to a wonderfully constructed and taken goal.

Midfielder Emerson started the move, surging into the Croatia half before feeding the ball to Cafu.

The Brazilian right-back slipped the ball inside to Kaka, who after switching the ball quickly to his left foot, beat Pletikosa with an unstoppable shot.

It was a superb goal which hinted at the power and skill of the Brazilians.

Source: BBC



The Croatia fans sense they may be able to get something from the game and turn up the volume inside the stadium

بِقُلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقِضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ تَلْقِينَا نَبَأَ وَفَاةِ
المَغْفُورِ لَهُ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى

القاضي / عبد الكريم عبد الله العرشي
وبهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق
المواساة إلى

السفير/ يحيى حسين العرشي - د/ عبد الله عبد الكريم العرشي
الأخ / خالد عبد الكريم العرشي - د/ إبراهيم عبد الكريم العرشي
وكافة آل العرشي

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن
يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهله وذوية الصبر والسلوان
إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

هيئة تحرير وطاقم صحيفة يمن تايمز

حساب الصاعد

الكل يربح

مع حساب التوفير الصاعد

التعلم والتوفير والربح

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2	31,000 ريال إلى 60,000 ريال	1	-	أحدى هدايا المجموعة رقم 3	-
3	61,000 ريال إلى 100,000 ريال	1	أحدى هدايا المجموعة رقم 2	-	أحدى هدايا المجموعة رقم 3
4	101,000 ريال إلى 150,000 ريال	1	أحدى هدايا المجموعة رقم 3	-	أحدى هدايا المجموعة رقم 4

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

Targeting the Holy Prophet Jesus

By: Barkatullah Marwat
marwat@kuwaitnet.com

The stormy uproar caused by the blasphemous caricatures of the holy Prophet (PBUH) carried by some of the European newspapers had hardly silenced that another dusty storm popped up. This time another holy Prophet Jesus (PBUH) was targeted in a movie named Da Vinci Code.

Once I heard that great people always talk about ideas; average people speak about things; while small people utter about other people. I am sure that there are a handful of people, who are deliberately playing with the feelings of majority, in one way or another. It's also true that such people always make such blunders just to get cheap publicity.

Here it reminds me of a short story of a man who was always ignored by his community. One day, the worshippers came to mosque, but they had a bad smell of something lying in one corner of the mosque. The leader of the mosque started questioning each and everyone for that. Finally, a guy came up and said, "Yes, I did that shit." upon further interrogation, he said, "I did it just for publicity." And after that, he was known in the community—notoriously so.

Let me come back to the group allegedly playing with feelings of people. Perhaps they have run out of 'ideas' and now turned to religious issues. I would not be at the wrong to say that there are two groups in the world; one that is worshipping Lord Almighty while another is worshipping Satan. I still remember a religious scholar lecturing in our college said that Satan always tries to mis-

lead Muslims but now it seems that Christians are also being misled. That's why Almighty Allah says, "When you recognize yourself (nafs), you would recognize Me."

If we go a little bit more in detail, we come to know that our selfness is easily lured by Satan...ask me how come? Well, people always have some affiliation with something and they always love talking about that, no matter, it's about dogs or cats. Some like to have costly cars. Some are fond of delicious foods and you can see their body size and so on and on. In other words we become slaves to our desires. Our desires tend to control and monitor our feelings which act like a driving force in our life and thereby we begin moving away from what has been taught by Holy Prophets [Moses, Jesus and Mohammad (peace be upon them)].

Similarly, sometimes you must have experienced something when your friend asks you to move to a picture but that time you become double-minded...why? Because, you have already had an appointment at another place where something like religious seminar is in progress and now you can neither refuse nor accept the invitation of your friend to watch a movie. And that's the moment where it is seen whether the Lord's or Satan's will is powerful. Making decision purely lies with your own will-power. That's just an illustration to clear my point.

If you look around you would see people pretending to be busy. They have time to take their dogs out on morning walk but they don't have time to go to either church or mosque to speak with Lord Almighty. At least to start their day with the name of Allah Almighty is what's supposed to

be the aim in their daily life. But ironically, the dog is more important than the Lord, is that so? If so, then excuse me, we seem to be worse than that dog. And that's why we are being deprived of Lord's blessings day by day.

Love with Lord is a two way process like you love your loved one. Naturally, you love someone as long as she/he is alive and responsive. Whenever they stop responding to you, your feelings slowly and gradually fade away. Therefore, those who say Lord loves us, yes they are true that Lord loves us only when we worship Him as we have been taught through His messenger(s). Let's not forget that Lord is not needy of our worship but it's us who need His assistance and help each and every moment.

A child is dearer to his parents and vice versa, as long as he is obeying their directive, requests, and orders silently, smoothly and unarguably. But as soon as he goes to oppose their decisions, he starts losing love in their parents' eyes for him. And finally the situations become so grave that there is no other way left with them except to kick him out of home and property.

Those who keep worshipping Lord Almighty don't take the worldly stuff so seriously. They consider it just a need rather than an aim and objective of life. Our aim in life should be what has been mentioned in our holy Books. Here goes a saying, "These two eyes see daily lots of beautiful faces, but hardly anyone of them could enter our heart." And that beautiful being is of Allah Almighty Who deserves to be in our hearts rather than the ocean of fantasies and desires.

A baby who loves brightness

By: Riyadh Al-Romimah

Once, a man was walking through a dark night heard a baby cry. He thought that he was dreaming but the sound was still there. He went to see what was going on with that baby.

Then he began to go after that sound until he found it. There it was, a baby lying at his mother's feet.

The mother was captivated with known concatenations, blood coming from her chest. She was dying, telling truths to her baby.

The man knew the baby had been born in an immoral way, by the way those bullets crossed her weak body, killing beautiful hope and life.

He was astonished to hear the dialogue between the woman and her baby as she foretold him of unworthy attitudes that would make him lose his rites.

Masters, I will never worry more, I will tell you the whole story.

The man said: after I reached the location I heard them clear as I tell you.

The wounded mother: Baby! Do not cry, you have to bear it all; you have to finish this darkness; do it also for your coming children; we want a clear morning.

The baby: What's the matter? What's the darkness we are living?

What is all this blood from your chest? Is it to make calm? What's all these metals on your legs? Is it my distances?!

The mother: Hold on baby; I will tell you every thing. We were good, living in a clear brightness, and easily. You know my baby who brought this light? It was your ancestors who spent their soul to attain the glory that laved brightness....

The baby: What is it mother? What's all this darkness?

Where is that brightness our ancestors brought?

The mother: Darling you know who brought this darkness?

And who banished the light?

The baby: Mother, who did it?

The mother: Your enemies, darling.

The baby: My enemies ?!

The mother: Your and your ancestor's enemies, yes they did.

Smiling, she said, " your ancestors were strong, carried the height themselves and vanished darkness. Do not be frightened of them for they are still weak.

The baby: But ... mother ...

The mother: (In high voice) baby, never say "but" -not anymore, never ever say it again.

The baby: Sorry mom, I do not know my enemies, never know who they were, nor what their shapes...

The mother: Do not be in a hurry, you will know them clearly, their weakness and their treason.

Tell me, then when you know them, what you will do with them?

The baby: Mom I will kill them and destroy them...

The mother: Hold on baby, Do not be in hurry, Do not sadden me twice....

I want you to be as a tree with thousands of branches and so by the sacrifice of these branches you can fight darkness and brighter days will appear then.

The baby: I will mom, I'll never forget this. The baby calmed for a moment, and asked "Mum, who is this man standing by?!"

The mother: Oh, you know darling, this is the man who will show you your enemies. Do not follow your enemies' light. Do not look for another mother, ok?!

Symbols :
The baby: young men of Intefada
The Mother : wounded Palestine
The man : History.

Come back

By: Jamal Al-Ajel

I wish I were in your shoes
You are my love
Without a doubt
I like you when you say cheese
Because your face becomes the sunrise
Believe me I consider you my eyes
Did I tell you how you are?
You said nice
And your eyes torn as frozen ice
Tell me the truth
Even if it's hurt
My heart has leaked twice
Because yesterday I didn't hear your voice
Also I missed your face
Come back

I lost the queen

By: Abdulkarim Ahmed Dida

Every day and night
I couldn't forget my queen
Because I love her
Mylove is real, clear, sincere
Beyond all imagination
Do you know why?
Because she's the best one
In this world
All is bright and shining
With one like her
She doesn't leave my brain
She still lives in my heart
That is still beating with her love
She's my eyes which I can see every thing
In this life with
She's my soul which is moving inside my body
Through my blood
I punish myself and I live with my pain
Because I lost my queen
And my real love
I always wanted to talk with her
But, when I see her I can't talk with her
Because I am embarrassed, so
I lost her
I pray and ask my God to return
Her to me
Because I can't live without her
Surely, I can't because I really love her
Yes, I love her

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Tomato plant trouble
- 6 Uses a microwave, e.g.
- 10 Bit of financial planning, for short
- 13 Purple bloom
- 14 Doctors documents
- 16 Sleep stage
- 17 Slapstick policeman
- 19 Oriental sash
- 20 32,000 ounces
- 21 Graduate
- 23 Ending with Ecuador
- 26 Rules partners, briefly
- 29 Puts up, as a skyscraper
- 30 New Jersey borough
- 33 Tony-winning Morse role
- 34 Nerve network, e.g.
- 35 Slip away, as time
- 37 Campers, e.g.
- 40 You may set it
- 42 Reproducible in great detail
- 44 "___ death do us ..."
- 45 California nut
- 47 Composer Schifrin

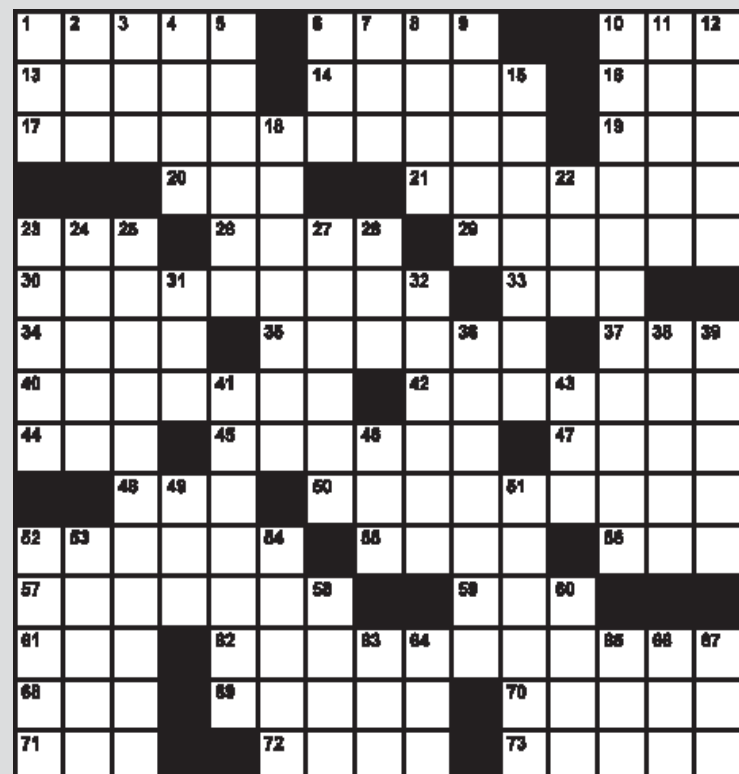
- 48 Corp. name ending
- 50 Sheet metal producer
- 52 Barks on cue
- 55 Whale of a film
- 56 Beatty of "Deliverance"
- 57 Dickensian prison
- 59 Corroded
- 61 "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 62 Loafer
- 68 Accomplished one
- 69 Smoldering coal
- 70 Loopy snare
- 71 Grass square, perhaps
- 72 Legal lead-in
- 73 Genesis

DOWN

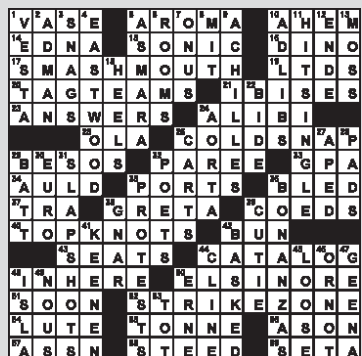
- 1 Animal on Michigan's state flag
- 2 Atlantic City roller
- 3 Isle now part of Cambridgeshire
- 4 Nutty swine food
- 5 They're real troupers
- 6 Meditative sect
- 7 Ending of some drinks

- 8 Rock rabbit
- 9 Over-the-shoulder throw
- 10 Barrier noted by Churchill
- 11 Discredit
- 12 Wrong
- 15 Gushed forth
- 18 Half past noon, at sea
- 22 Gallic sea
- 23 Gulf Coast bird
- 24 Cosmonaut Leonov
- 25 "The Great Race" co-star
- 27 Automotons of Jewish folklore
- 28 Mrs., in Madrid
- 31 Theological sch.
- 32 First game of the series
- 36 One place to find a third wheel?
- 38 Dulls or splits suffix, in slang
- 39 Read the riot act to
- 41 Bundle
- 43 Hackberry's cousin
- 46 Palindromic tribe
- 49 Carp
- 51 Hispanic American, e.g.
- 52 Jacket options
- 53 "Don Quixote" role
- 54 Foot pound?
- 58 Island off Italy
- 60 Shortened kind of flight
- 63 ___ Spiegel
- 64 Victoria's Secret selection
- 65 Flattens in a ring
- 66 Wind dir.
- 67 Dampen flax

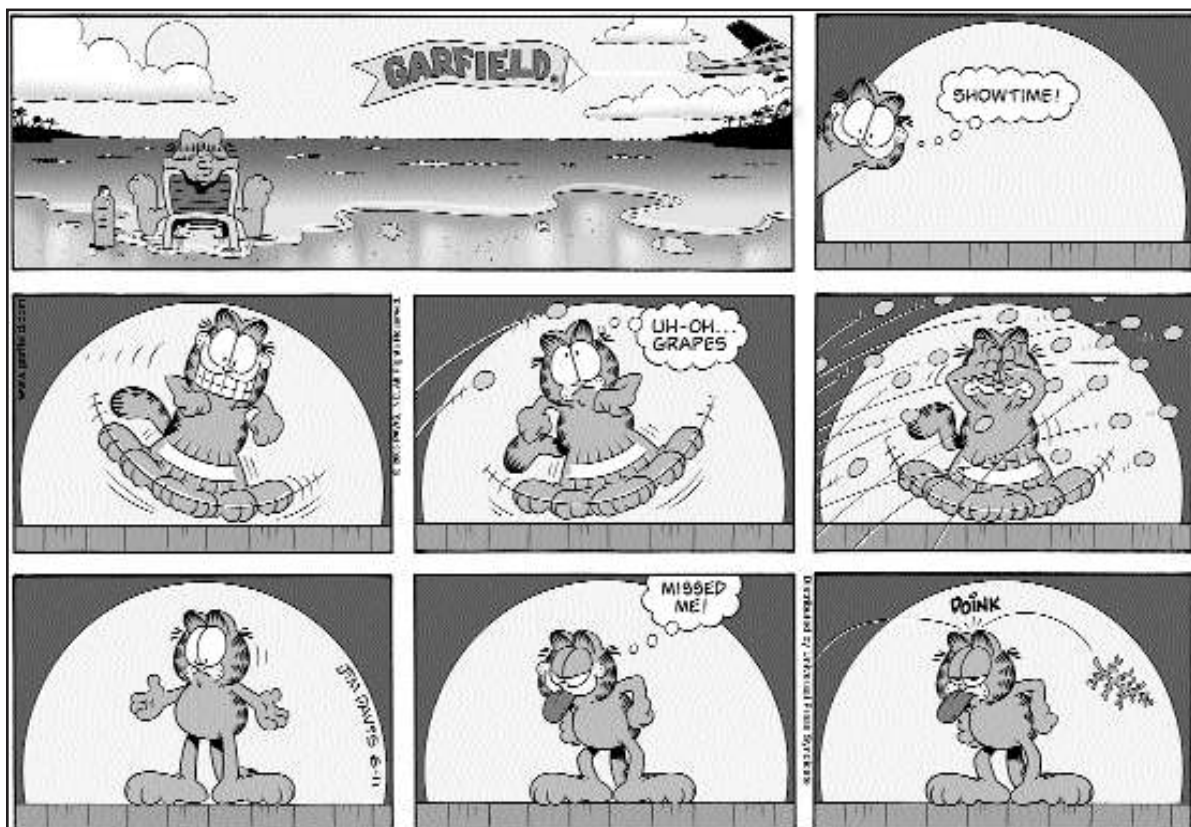
"SEASONED CITIZENS" by Elizabeth C. Gorski



PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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Yemen's wild plants

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

Yemeni vegetation is known for its diversity due to the country's variations in terrain, climate and water resources, with each terrain and region having its own types of plants and vegetation.

Yemen's natural terrain is divided into coastal regions, plateaus, mountain highlands and deserts.

Coastal plains region

This refers to areas extending more than 2,000 km, overlooking the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The plains form a coastal strip, beginning with the Tihama in the west and other flat or winding plains to the country's south and southeast, with altitudes ranging from 0 to 300 meters. Regional temperatures range between 20 and 40 C and annual rainfall is estimated between 50 and 100 millimeters.

Various basins and wadis (valleys) interlace the region, the most significant of which are: Moure, Rama, Zabeed, Seham, Rasyan and Sardod in the west and Bana, Toban, Hassan and Mayfaa in the south and southeast.

Coastal plants are those that can grow in high temperatures and humidity. Vegetation density doesn't exceed 30 percent and resembles that of Africa's coastal strip, with plants growing scattered on lower plains, clefts and valleys interconnecting these plains.

The most important coastal plant varieties are: *Avicennia marina*, *Aeluropes lagopoides*, *Halopyrum mucronatum*, *Acacia tortilis*, *Tamarix aphylla* and *Odyssea mucronata*.

Mountain highlands region (medium and high altitudes)

This area represents the western Tihama hills and highlands overlooking the Red



Yemen is rich with endemic plants.

Sea and Hadramout plateaus' southern and southeastern highlands overlooking the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The region is known for medium and high altitudes ranging between 300 and 1,800 meters, with a summer temperature of 40 C and 30 C in winter.

Average annual rainfall in the southern and western highlands ranges between 200 and 700 millimeters, whereas rainfall in the eastern highlands receives lower levels between 35 and 175 millimeters, sometimes reaching 200 millimeters.

The region shows many apparent plant variations and high vegetation density, especially in important areas like the mountains of Bura'a, Erf and Houf.

This area's plants are categorized

under the Sudanese region. The most important plant and tree varieties are: *Acacia mellifera*, *Acacia asak*, *Acacia etbacia*, *Acacia tortilis*, *Euphorbia inarticulata*, *Adenium obesum*, *Commiphora* spp., *Grewia* spp., *Belapharis* and *Justicia flava*, among others.

Mountain highlands (high altitudes) and plains regions

This includes areas with altitudes exceeding 1,800 meters. Average annual rainfall in the eastern highlands is between 250 and 500 millimeters, while average temperatures are 26 C in summer and 10 C in winter.

In the northern highlands, recorded rainfall is between 200 and 800 millimeters and temperatures reach 30 C in summer and 10 C in winter.

In highland plains areas, average annual rainfall is moderate, estimated between 250 and 450 millimeters, and temperatures reach 31 C in summer and 5 C in winter.

The most dominant mountain highlands plants are: *Acanthus arboreus*, *Acacia origina*, *Rosa abyssinica*, *Columbaria scabiosa*, *Micromeria biflora*, *kniphofia*, *Euphorbia ammak*, *Rumex nervusus*, *Euryops arabica* and *Thymus serphyllum*.

Regional vegetation is dominated by trees, herbs and grasses, whereas small trees and grasses are found in mountainous plains, of which the following are important: *Peganum harmala*, *Acacia origina* and other grasses, in addition to

other plant varieties like *Kleinia semperiviva*, *Lycium shawii* and *Pluicaria undulata*, among others.

Eastern mountain region

This refers to mountains of medium height sloping gradually toward the desert, with altitudes between 1,200 and 1,800 meters and annual rainfall between 50 and 135 millimeters and less than 50 millimeters in areas approaching the desert. The region's climate is that of a desert and characterized by high temperatures.

Vegetation is scarcer in this area, including small trees and grasses, among which are the following: *Lavandula pubescens*, *Acacia oerfota*, *Acacia etatica*, *Euphorbia fruticosa*, *Seddera arabica*, *Fagonia indica* and *Helichrysum pumilum*, among others.

Eastern desert region

This area extends along the northern highlands and slopes down from 1,000 meters northward and to the east and northeast to less than 500 meters. Covered by shifting sands and dunes, the area is characterized by a dry climate and extremely high temperatures ranging between 40 C in summer and 30 C in winter, with annual rainfall estimated between 0 and 70 millimeters.

Regional vegetation rarely is observed, but includes grasses and small thickets in lowlands and wadis. The most important plant varieties are: *Acacia tortilis*, *Aerva javanica*, *Dipterygium*, *Panicum turgidum*, *Suaeda aegyptiaca*, *Sasola imbricate* and *Calotropis procera*. Other plant varieties observed include: *Inigofera spinosa*, *Jatropha spinosa*, *Acacia oerfota*, *Aerva javanica*, *Salvia merjamie*, *Tamarix arabica* and *Pennisetum setaceum*, among others.

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Yemeni islands

One of Yemen's most important islands is Socotra, with an altitudes ranging from 0 meters at the sea coast to 1,506 meters at the island's highest peak. Island temperatures reach 37 C in summer and 29 C in winter and rainfall annually averages between 33 and 290 millimeters.

Socotra Archipelago is characterized by its unique vegetation, comprising more than 800 different types of plants and trees, of which 237 varieties only grow on this island. Other plants recently have been discovered on the island but not characterized yet.

The island's most important tree and plant varieties are: *Croton socotranus*, *Jatropha unicostata*, *Dendrobia arbuscula*, *Rhus thyriflora*, *Aloe peryi* and *Cissus hamaderoensis*, among others.

The picture and the names of plants are taken from 'Wild Plants from Yemen' guide, issued by General Authority for Environment Protection.

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