

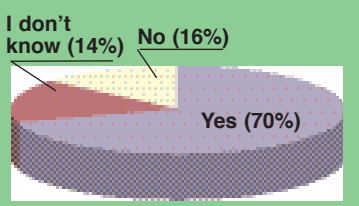
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Inside:  **3** Young readership, Internet and the infamous cartoons discussed at Moscow 2006  **5** Qat triumphs over energy drinks  **11** "Hands" exudes contemporary art

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
As he has decided not to run, President Saleh faces pressure from ruling party leaders to renew his candidacy in this September's elections. Do you think Saleh will rescind his decision?



This edition's question:

Rescinding his decision of last year not to run in upcoming elections, President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised to implement comprehensive reforms. Do you think he'll fulfill this promise?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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Saleh rescinds decision, seeks another term

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam
SANA'A, June 24 — During his Saturday address before hundreds of thousands of Yemeni marchers, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced that he'll run for another term in September's presidential race. Organized by the ruling party, the march urged Saleh to rescind his decision of last year not to stand in the election.
"As a response to your calls, I want to say that I'm with you, together on board the country's ship to sail to safe shores. You've come to this area [Al-Saba'een Square] for the sake of unity, safety and stability, as well as development," Saleh said, addressing the marchers.
He indicated the size of the risk due to face national unity and stability if he does not renew his candidacy for another mandate. At the beginning of his address, Saleh thanked the marchers, who continued chanting his name until the end. "Several achievements have been achieved so far, thanks to your continued cooperation. Without your cooperation, nothing would have been achieved," Saleh stated.
The president thanked the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and its supporters for their persistent pressure upon him to rescind his declaration and

stand in the elections.
"Everyone here has something to say and I am of the hope that all Yemenis, the GPC and other political forces will cooperate in the upcoming term in office. They won't let us down like other opportunistic political forces did," the 28-year leader continued. "Talk is much and there will be many occasions for talk," he added.
Concluding his address, Saleh refuted allegations that his candidacy won't pave the political field for other contenders, saying such words are merely lies. "Yemen overcame risks, so there's no need for fear or concern about Yemen and its unity," he stated.
In a statement to the Yemen Times, Sultan Al-Barakani, GPC Assistant Secretary-General and head of the party's parliamentary bloc, said, "Saleh reversed his decision following a two-day dialogue with ruling party leaders."
"We were concerned about the country's future and not for President Saleh. We're about to enter a shining future on the regional level through our brothers in the Gulf and proposed projects to support Yemen's development, as well as internationally by cooperating with donors and the international coalition to fight terrorism," Al-Barakani added.
Continued on page 2



Hundreds of thousands of supporters rallying at Al-Sab'een Square as Saleh (inset) declares to run for president again. **YT PHOTO BY FUAD AL-HARAZI**

Sana'a conference on democracy, political reforms and freedom of expression

Dr. Al-Eryani: Effective media isn't free, yet

By: Yemen Times Staff
SANA'A, June 25 — While inaugurating the Sana'a conference on Democracy, Political Reforms and Freedom of Expression, President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave a fervent speech in support of Yemen's steps toward democracy, calling on donor countries to aid Yemen's political reforms, as Yemeni society has developed a sincere

will to live in a full-fledged democracy.
"Democracy is a choice we made and by which we stand; however, it goes hand in hand with economic development," Saleh stated. "Therefore, we call on the developed world to offer a helping hand to Yemen's economic development, as well as other developing countries in need of assistance."
Saleh also mentioned the situations in Iraq and Palestine, requesting the world's governments, including the



Part of the participants in the conference. **YT PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI**

United States and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, to condemn acts of violence Israel perpetrates against Palestinians. He advised the U.S. and other occupying forces in Iraq to call for a national dialogue to include all political parties and forces in Iraq without exception, asserting that the results of such dialogue would reduce up to 80 percent of all violence in Iraq.
Continued on page 2

Gitmo detainee buried after body cross-examined

The body of Salah Addin Al-Salami, the Yemeni detainee said to have committed suicide at Guantánamo Bay detention center in Cuba, was handed over to his family after their demand to cross-examine and identify the cause of death was met.



People carrying the body of the deceased at the funeral. **YT PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI**

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, June 25 — The body of Salah Addin Ali Ahmed Al-Salami finally saw peace yesterday in his hometown, Al-Mibra'a village in Houban-Taiz. However, it seems that his family and lawyers won't find peace until the truth behind his death is revealed. U.S. authorities issued a death certificate stating that Al-Salami hung himself, which Al-Salami's family denied, demanding a cross-examination.
Approximately three hundred people gathered at Al-Shuhada (Martyrs)

Mosque to pray for the deceased before his family transported his body to Taiz for burial. Sheikh Ihsan Al-Rubie of Al-Nour Mosque in Sana'a explained that in Islam, if the deceased is proven to have killed himself or herself, there should be no prayer ceremony.
Continued on page 2

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JMP reiterates the need for political change

By: Nashwan Damraj

IBB, June 22 — Timed to coincide with preparations for September's presidential and local elections, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) launched election activities from the Ibb governorate.

Attended by Islah (Reform) and Yemeni Socialist members of parliament, and political personalities, a public convention assembled in the Al-Sayani and Jiblah districts. Dr. Mansour Al-Zindani, member of parliament, delivered a speech during both activities. He pointed out that the project of political reform submitted by the JMP, aimed at getting Yemen out of the dark cave that the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) party has put it.

"JMP is determined to hold the ruling party accountable according to the constitution, whatever the cost may be," said Al-Zindani. He noted that "the constitution that tens of thousands of Yemenis have sacrificed their lives for, is not activated. The government is in every respect responsible for all that, as it has reduced the law to the minimum."

Al-Zindani went on to say, "the ruling [GPC] party, further, has monopolized all state resources for its own interests, in addition to monopolizing

[government] jobs even at the level of headmasters. It also has nationalized all wealth, ministries, and public institutions, and all these infringements are considered treason for the constitution, and subsequently for the country."

Al-Zindani further pointed out that "the ruling [GPC] party wants to force history's wheel back, considering itself to be the law and the constitution, but...the time [has come] to let [the GPC] know that the Yemeni people have started to lose their patience. JMP, before its followers, has decided to struggle by all peaceful means until the Yemeni people are able to govern themselves by themselves."

"JMP, once security and impartiality are ensured, [will] take part in the upcoming elections and with a single candidate and single program supported by all. JMP, according to its program, will accept only a strong candidate with high competence. The last choice, which is not favored, is that of boycotting [the elections] and we will resort to [a boycott] only when forced to do so, and when we see we have no other choice."

"For, participating under these conditions, will make us then a false witness...either we [will] have safe and impartial elections without forgery, or we will leave them [the GPC] to enter elections alone. We will peacefully

struggle through demonstrations and sit-ins until we impose our constitutional rights. We did accept dictators in the past, but we will no [longer] accept them in the future," said Al-Zindani.

Abdullah Mohsen Al-Sharai, Director of the Political Unit of the Yemeni Socialist Party, stressed that the "JMP, capturing the admiration of all Arab political parties, is a political conglomeration where extreme right meets extreme left. Now, they share the same trench which is that of Yemen, and the JMP is a fruit of the struggle and an achievement of Jarallah Omar, who sacrificed his life for its sake."

Additionally, Al-Sharai noted that "as heard and watched, today's address on unity and its achievement, a multi-party system, and democracy confiscates history, for everything, starting from unity and ending in revolutions, is attributed to the only the leader and no one else. This is a confiscation and deformation of history."

"For all of us know that unity, democracy, and polarity were all achieved through the struggle of a group of noble Yemeni people, above all the Yemeni Socialist Party. The ruling [GPC] party wants to generalize such sophistries at all levels, thinking that the Yemeni people have lost their memories and are unaware of what is going on around them," said Al-Sharai.

YSP decries government obstruction

SANA'A, June 24 — Concluding a meeting last Thursday, the Yemeni Socialist Party's (YSP) Central Committee warned of the risks that the government's obstruction of reform of the country's political system poses. The YSP said that the government is satisfied with nominal reforms that allow certain officials to control state affairs.

Political, economic, and social tensions have come to fore, coupled with the economic and social strains left by the 1994 Civil War. The crisis manifests itself through infringements into the structure of the national economy and the anti-investment environment that result from corruption, embezzlement, poor infrastructure, and dismal social services, a YSP Central Committee statement said.

The statement added that Yemen suffers from electricity and water shortages, a poor education system unable to meet the requirements of



Dr. Yasin Saeed Numan, Secretary General of YSP.

development, deteriorating health services, and the wastage of external loans and investment project allocations.

The YSP Central Committee mentioned the persistently deteriorating

standard of living and skyrocketing prices, which exacerbate the plight of the poor with the unemployment rate reaching its highest limit.

The committee expressed concern over the sufferings of citizens and the continued oppression against rights and freedoms, especially in the southern governorates.

"The YSP Central Committee is concerned about practices by authorities and the ruling [GPC] party exploiting power and government jobs in favor of the ruling party and at the expense of the public interest," the statement reads. "The authorities usually take government cars, order students to demonstrate, and launch media campaigns the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)."

The statement stressed that the agreement of principles reached by JMP and General People's Party (GPC) must be abided by to ensure that the elections are held on schedule.

Continued from page 1

Saleh rescinds decision, seeks another term

He mentioned that political reforms are the top priority and Yemen needs such reforms to complete institutional work. "Ali Abdullah Saleh is the eligible man at this stage and for the next seven years. He has a complete project to reform various situations and establish democratic principles," Al-Barakani noted.

Opposition reaction

"Saleh's declaration to renew his

candidacy, after many observers expected that protests and demonstrations would be a pretext for Saleh to rescind his decision, was made sentimentally more than 10 months ago," the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) stated.

In a statement distributed Sunday to various media, opposition parties expressed disappointment at Saleh's reversing his decision not to run in the upcoming elections.

"I hadn't expected what I heard

Saturday from the president. This confirms that Saleh isn't serious, after he declared on July 17, 2005 not to seek another presidential term," JMP Higher Council Chairman Mohamed Al-Raba'ee said.

Al-Raba'ee stated to Islah party mouthpiece Al-Sahwa Net, "When people used to tell me that Saleh may rescind his decision, I ruled it out. What Saleh did is evidence of the unliberated Arab mind."

Yemen marks World Anti-drug Day

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, June 24 — More than 104 kilograms of drugs were burned in Sana'a last Friday in the presence of the vice-interior minister, officials and hundreds of citizens.

"This event is considered the first step in a program arranged to destroy other drugs in nine governorates around the republic," said Brig. Khalid Mutaher Al-Radhi, Director General of the Anti-Narcotics General Directorate (ANGD).

The destroyed drugs included 17,800 kg. of heroin, 85,959 kg. of hashish and 33,623 hallucinogenic tablets.

"Drug destroying" was part of activities the ANGD arranged to mark World Anti-drug Day, which falls on Monday. The directorate also is organizing a celebration on Tuesday at the Cultural Center in Sana'a. Moreover, it will launch an awareness campaign via mass media.

"We can't ignore the fact that the magnitude of the narcotics problem in our country is increasing continuously, whether in promotion and administration or importing and smuggling," Al-Radhi stated.

Drug traders utilize Yemen's geographical location between producing countries in West and East Asia and consuming countries worldwide. Additionally, they exploit Yemen's topographic relief characterized by vast deserts and high, rough mountains to make Yemen a transit gate to neighboring countries, according to Al-Radhi.

"Unfortunately, the directorate didn't receive any type of support from any authorities — neither donors, nor regional or international organizations. All efforts that have been made were the directorate's own."

Al-Radhi pointed to the increasing danger of drug crimes, as they're considered organized crime that funds other crimes like terrorism, weapons trading and money laundering.

In 1980s, Yemen's drug fighting process was under Criminal Investigation authority. Yemen approved international anti-drug conventions in 1992 and although a 2002 Republic Statement established the ANGD, the actual running of the directorate was begun in 2004.

According to ANGD statistics for 2000-2005, more than 6,000 kg. of

hashish, 1,500 hashish plants and nearly 300,000 narcotic tablets were seized from 329 drug suspects (305 Yemenis and 24 of other nationalities) in 202 cases.

In the first five months of 2006, the ANGD investigated 66 cases, wherein they arrested 106 drug suspects (101 Yemenis and five of other nationalities) with more than 205 kg. of hashish and 322 narcotic tablets.

"Just last week, we seized 990 kg. of hashish in Al-Mahra governorate and 72 kg. of the same in Amran governorate," Al-Radhi noted. According to him, the most common drugs in Yemen are hashish and methamphetamines.

Under Yemeni law, punishment for trafficking in or selling drugs ranges from imprisonment (25 years maximum) to death. Punishment for drug users is imprisonment for the term assessed by a judge.

"Yemeni law considers the drug user like a patient needing help, particularly if the user has come to involved authorities to inform them of other drug cases. The judge has the right to exempt him and send him to a sanitarium," Al-Radhi added.

Youth Court opens in Taiz

TAIZ, June 25 — Within the framework of its youth, democracy, and human rights program, the National and Cultural Center of Youth (NCCY) is preparing for the implementation of the second phase of its Youth Court project funded by the National Fund for Democracy.

The project, considered the first of its type in the Arab World, aims to train 300 male and female participants to enhance their social activities and to raise the awareness of democracy and human rights. Participants will be court members in the future and will meet with government decision-makers monthly.

Participants of the Court will receive general information about government

authorities that handle youth issues. During the sessions of the Court, participants are scheduled to discuss issues facing youth and will receive training courses on how create teams, how to pressure the government, and how to find support.

The Court plans to democratically elect candidates to represent participants at the meeting. Those elected will be responsible for enacting the sessions' recommendations and will be charged with presenting youth issues to the government.

The project aims to represent all youth sectors in Taiz, in addition to non-governmental organizations. The project will try to further the principle of dialogue among youth.

Abdullah Salam, Manager of the NCCY, said that "the idea behind the Youth Court originated from the experience of the NCCY since 1997. We aim to prepare a...generation able to understand reality, deepen the right values, and build correct attitudes and knowledge through collective work, irrespective of...inclinations and political affiliations."

"We also aim to develop youth aptitudes in order to work in their institutions with an ability to deepen the dialogue principle and to have the required skills in team building, pressuring, and getting help and support as well as making a partnership between youth and the [relevant] authorities," said Salam.

have been in Yemen for many years and have understood that [a] modern IT technology training program was lacking, and hence [I] thought of starting an institute with a difference, which can benefit Yemeni students."

Karrox has been in the IT training business for the last 15 years; in the process, it has trained more than 250,000 students. Karrox is positioned as a one-stop IT training center and the courses are designed to cater to the entire spectrum of IT requirements globally. Karrox offers training programs that cover networking, software, and IT security modules.

renewed interest that the government has shown in IT.

Jeetendra Nair, Executive Vice President of Karrox said, "When we embarked on our global plans, Yemen ranked very high in our priority and global operations vision. This is [the] seventh country that we [have] launch[ed] in [during] the last six months and we believe that this country has the best technical brains; and with the right training, we shall facilitate the process of IT revolution that is due to take place in Yemen."

Anitya Anand, Managing Director of the Injaz Learning Center, who is a Karrox partner in Yemen said, "I

Dr. Al-Eryani: Effective media isn't free, yet

Thereafter, the president's political advisor Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, who chaired the first session of the conference, suggested in his speech that such conferences allow revising steps Yemen and the region have undertaken toward democratic development, indicating that democracies within the region either are in their infancy or not born yet.

He also indicated that current press freedom in Yemen is only partial, as the country's most important media,

i.e. radio and television, still are government controlled. Therefore, Al-Eryani asserted, such government control of media is a setback to Yemen's democratic development and an obstacle to the country's future democratic development.

Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) Chairman Izz Al-Din Al-Asbahi indicated that one of the conference's most important pillars is to establish a mechanism to protect journalists and aid

their mission as an integral part of boosting democracy in Yemen.

Organized by the Yemeni government in partnership with Yemeni NGO HRITC and international NGO, No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ), the conference is sponsored by Yemen, Italy and Turkey. It also is organized with the support of the Netherlands, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative

Gitmo detainee buried after body cross-examined

Apparently, Al-Salami's family and friends don't accept the claim that he committed suicide. "U.S. soldiers killed my son!" his father Ali Abdullah repeated. However, this has yet to be proven by U.S. doctors assigned to examine Al-Salami's body and decide the cause of death in their report, said to be produced on June 30.

On another front, Dr. Patrice Mangin, head of the five-member medical delegation that volunteered to cross-examine the body, said in a conference organized by the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) last Thursday that the deceased's throat is missing and the delegation will need to request it from U.S. authorities in order to clarify if Al-Salami hung himself or was killed.

"However, other parts were removed to preserve the body from rotting and it's a standard medical procedure," Mangin said. After giving the medical team a chance to examine Al-Salami's body at the Sana'a Military Hospital, Yemeni authorities handed it over to his father for burial.

A French professor at Switzerland's Institute universitaire de Médecine Légale, Mangin and the other team doctors currently are in Saudi Arabia where they went after Yemen to inspect the other two bodies. Samples taken from all the bodies will be examined in Switzerland to try to identify the cause of death. The Geneva-based Al-Karama for Human Rights is sponsoring the investigation.

Abdulwahab Al-Humayqani, Al-Karama representative in Yemen, said HOOD approached the organization to sponsor a medical team to come to Yemen and re-examine the body. However, the medical delegation said that they must await the U.S. report, especially since Al-Salami's throat is missing. This angered Al-Salami's father, who stormed out of the room, accusing, "The Europeans follow the Americans!"

Doctors also said they'll need to examine the bed sheets — the alleged murder weapon — and they'll need to consult with the doctors who per-

formed the autopsy in the U.S. before finalizing their report.

In an statement earlier last week, Najeeb Ghanem, former Minister of Health and head of Parliament's Health and Population Committee, declared that Al-Salami's body was emptied of all that could provide information about his death, including his blood vessels, bowels, brain, heart and liver, which he alleged U.S. specialists intentionally removed.

However, "The deceased detainees' remains have been treated with the utmost respect. A cultural advisor has assisted Joint Task Force Guantanamo to ensure that the remains are handled in a culturally and religiously appropriate manner," the Pentagon said in a statement regarding the issue.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, lawyer and HOOD member Ahmad Arman, who has taken up the Guantanamo detainee's case, said they soon will organize a sit-in in front of the Yemeni Parliament for the detainees' families and human rights activists. "This sit-in is to exert pressure on the Yemeni government to provide solutions for the many Yemenis detained at Guantanamo and their families," he explained.

Lawyer and former Member of Parliament Mohammed Nagi Alaw said his organization, HOOD, is attempting an international probe into the case and other cases to pressure the U.S. Administration to close Guantanamo and other such detentions. He also pointed out that a large number of Yemenis are in various detentions both inside and outside the U.S., including Abdulrahim Al-Nashri, Ramzi bin Al-Shaibah and Yasser Shaqiq.

U.S. authorities transported the three detainees' remains from the Navy base in southeastern Cuba to Yemen and Saudi Arabia on a commercial chartered jet, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Gordon, a Department of Defense spokesman. Al-Salami, 28, returned to his native Yemen, while Mani Shaman Turki Al-



The Medical Team from Geneva.

Habardi, 30, and Yasser Talal Al-Zahrani, 21, were sent to Saudi Arabia.

According to the same authorities, the men hanged themselves with clothes and bed sheets in maximum-security cells on Saturday, June 10, making them the first detainees to die at the camp since it opened in January 2002. They died inside their steel mesh cells at the detention center, where the U.S. holds some 460 men on suspicion of links to Al-Qaeda or the Taliban.

Interestingly, Cage Prisoners Organization confirmed that former Guantanamo detainees, including nine British nationals released from the camp, have heaped scorn on allegations that the three Guantanamo deaths were suicides, claiming that they're almost certainly accidental killings caused by excessive force by U.S. guards. The group is a human rights organization existing solely to raise awareness of the plight of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and other detainees held as part of the War on Terror.

On the same front, Amnesty International issued a press release urging immediate action regarding the Guantanamo Bay detention center. "This has been a tragedy waiting to happen. A full independent investigation is a matter of absolute urgency, particularly in light of statements from high-ranking members of the U.S. military and government, which risk undermining the investigation launched by the Naval Criminal Investigation Service," said Rob Freer, Amnesty International's researcher on the U.S.

Young readership, Internet and the infamous cartoons discussed at Moscow 2006

Special report on the 59th World Newspaper Congress and the 13th World Editors Forum in Moscow (2-2)

Moscow hosted the largest gathering of newspaper editors and media executives in its history from 3rd to 8th of June. This is the second part of the report, which highlights some of the interesting issues discussed during the event. These include newspapers in Educations and the debate about the infamous Danish cartoon controversy.

By: Hamdan Dammag

Teenage language

The relationship between newspapers and young readers was one of the most interesting topics discussed in the forum. Anne Kirah, Senior Design Anthropologist at Microsoft Corporation, spoke about how new generations differ from traditional newspaper readers. She presented case studies and a sense of global trends on youth and media today. "We don't understand young people today," she asserted, stressing that newspapers should change their usual way of thinking about their readers. "They're not users; rather, they are real people with real day-to-day affairs," she explained. Kirah noted that today's young readers differ from those of 10 years ago and understanding their needs and adapting to the way they think and see things are essential for newspapers to survive. She pointed out that students in the past weren't allowed to watch TV or listen to music when they came



(Left) Joern Mikkelsen Jyllands-Posten Editor-in-Chief and (right) Khalid Al-Balshy, deputy editor of Al-Destour during the cartoons session.



(the World Association of Newspapers) Young Reader programs, explained why it's important to use newspapers in education. They stated that statistics show that daily newspaper readers are those who've used newspapers in their education. Morduchowicz said the idea that a newspaper is a lifetime companion should be promoted in schools.

A successful example of such ideas is *El Mundo* (Spain's second largest newspaper with a 2003 circulation of 350,297), which has produced a daily *Aula* supplement for 14- to 18-year-old Spanish students for eight years now.

Tommaso Prensushi, an editor at *El Mundo*, explained how the supplement consistently has supported itself financially, reaching a readership of 300,000. Using infographics (visual representations of information, data or knowledge), publishing local affairs and exchanging MSM between students were among various techniques enabling it to succeed.

Google, Yahoo and agencies are not enemies

This session examined the impact of new competition from news aggregators and news agencies upon traditional newsrooms, focusing on whether newspapers can adjust their business models to compete in the online world or whether news aggregators and news agencies are destined to dominate internet news.

While many in the newspaper industry perceive Google as a threat to brand recognition, online audiences and advertising revenues, Google's Nathan Stoll believes the opposite is true. "Google News provides advantages for news web sites, journalists and read-

ers," he said.

Neil Budde of Yahoo! also said his company isn't a threat to newspapers, adding, "In fact, journalistic partnerships are part of the global strategy of Yahoo! News." He said there's no opposition between traditional and new media, but rather, a symbiotic relationship.

Reuters news agency recently launched a pilot program enabling blogs, news organizations and other online publishers to offer Reuters news videos on their web sites. Dean Wright, Senior Vice President and Managing Editor at Reuters, stated that the agency's new strategy aims to broaden Reuters' audience, boost its brand and take advantage of the growing online advertising market.

Politics, journalism and 'the cartoons'

A special forum session – and the conference's most attended – was dedicated to debating the infamous Danish cartoon controversy and lessons that might be learned from it. In addition to six journalists from different newspapers, two journalists from *Jyllands-Posten*, the Danish newspaper that published the cartoons, participated in the discussion, namely Editor-in-Chief Joern Mikkelsen and Culture Editor, Fleming Rose, who commissioned the cartoons.

Jyllands-Posten editor-in-chief

The first speaker, Mikkelsen began by listing several things he wanted to clarify in the aftermath of the cartoon affair. He said his newspaper is "not an ultra right-wing newspaper," nor is it a partner in "an anti-Muslim worldwide movement." He also stated that the newspaper wasn't seeking to trigger a clash of civilizations. Regarding whether *Jyllands-Posten* would do it again, he said, "It's hard to say," adding that "Religions also can be brought up for discussion – it's the only way that society can move forward."

An Arab view of the event

Khalid Al-Balshy, deputy editor of Egyptian newspaper *Al-Destour*, spoke about the crisis and how it was exploited badly by Egypt's government and other politicians, as well as by *Jyllands-Posten* and the Danish government. Al-Balshy said Egyptian government enflamed rather than contained the crisis because it wanted to appear more "Muslim" than its primary opponent – the Muslim Brotherhood – in upcoming parliamentary elections at that time.

He said Egyptians were protesting the cartoons while other important events (a ship sinking and killing more than a thousand people, activists being beaten up, elections being rigged) weren't receiving attention – mainly because "The government wanted it that way." He asserted that there was a great deal of ignorance on both sides: *Jyllands-Posten* was ignorant about Islam and the Prophet Mohammed, whereas Muslims were ignorant about freedom of press. Both parties negatively played a part in worsening the matter.

Al-Balshy said *Jyllands-Posten* should've known that the Prophet Mohammed was a sacred figure and that "They could criticize Islam, but not in this way." He added that Western media reprinting the cartoons acted irresponsibly and that "The cartoon incident showed that the Western world views the Muslim world as a single entity and vice versa."

Why do only Muslims react this way?

Eric le Boucher of *Le Monde* defended his newspaper's decision to publish other Mohammed cartoons. Despite condemning the Danish cartoonists' attempts to link the prophet and terrorism, he said the idea that depicting the prophet is blasphemous is unacceptable. He also claimed that only Muslims react to such things with violence, asking the Muslim world to adopt democracy and accept that there are others who are not Muslims.

Testing the limits and "bad news"

Imtiaz Alam, General Secretary of the South Asian Free Media Association in Pakistan, called the Danish experiment "bad news." He said the Danish newspaper's explanation wasn't convincing and rather unethical because testing the limits of freedom actually has limited freedom of press in his country, as well as in others.

As a result of the cartoons, he said free press now has a bad reputation in his part of the world. This issue wasn't one of free expression, he asserted, but one of purposefully hurting others' feelings.

Newspaper editors' ignorance

Hakim Bello, executive editor of Nigeria's *The National Interest* newspaper, said ignorance about faith is unacceptable, especially when it comes to editors, whose job is supposed to be based on knowledge.

"We don't submit to taboos"

Rose of *Jyllands-Posten* claimed the core problem was that everyone was talking about Muslim prohibitions, even though every religion has taboos. He asserted, "It would be disastrous if we had to follow all of them."

Disappointment rather than lessons

Despite the session's title, "Lessons learned from the Danish cartoon crisis," and the fact that it was interesting to hear different viewpoints on the issue, many journalists I spoke with afterward expressed disappointment that there actually were no lessons learned. Additionally, many interesting questions the audience asked were ignored, especially those concerning a perceived double-standard by *Jyllands-Posten* and other Western newspapers in dealing with such sensitive issues. The general feeling was that politics, not journalism, was most speakers' dominating motive, especially *Jyllands-Posten* journalists.

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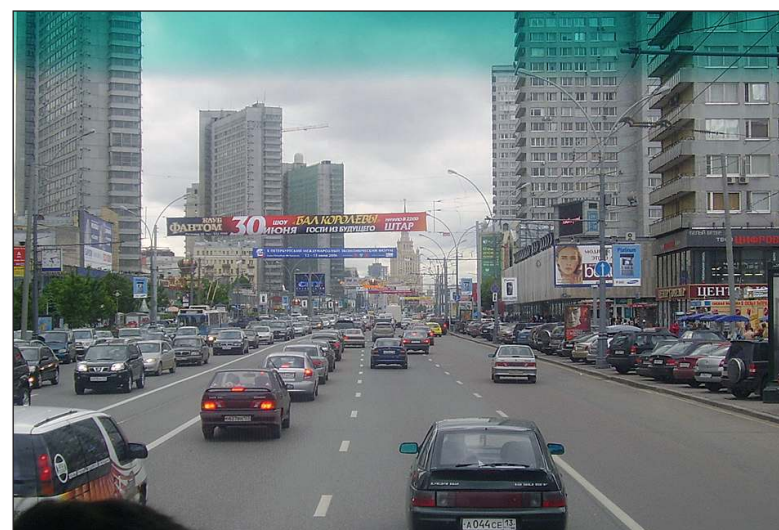
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Most cars on the street are very modern and foreign-made – rarely will one see a Russian-made car.

Expo

Alongside the Congress and Editors Forum sessions, the 2006 Information Services Expo showcased new services and technologies shaping the newspaper of the future. Various media companies exhibited their services related to the newspaper industry with new technologies. To view the exhibitors, visit: www.moscow2006.com/eng/info_services_expo.

Moscow – a changing lifestyle

This being my first visit to Moscow, it was difficult for me to judge the changes the city has undergone without listening to those who've seen it several times over a long period. To me, Moscow seemed to be heading toward other major European cities in terms of services, shopping centers, etc. While going from place to place, one can't help but notice that most cars on the street are very modern and foreign-made – rarely will one see a Russian-made car. The Western lifestyle dominates, especially among the younger generation.

When I arrived at Domodedovo

Airport, I was received by Abdulwahab Nouman, a Yemeni embassy staffer who was a student long ago in what was formerly the Soviet Union. Settling in Russia, he never returned to Yemen.

He told me hundreds – if not thousands – of Yemeni students decided to remain in Russia with their families after becoming disappointed with how Yemen dealt with its qualified citizens returning from abroad. I also met Yemen's ambassador and other Arab ambassadors who attended the congress's opening ceremony at the Kremlin.

From what they said, it seems Russians have a general acceptance and satisfaction about the way President Vladimir Putin is running the country, particularly in the fields of security and economy. "It's safer now than five years ago," is a comment one can hear from many Russians.

Nouman noted, "Putin is rebuilding good relationships with Arab countries and enhancing Russia's role in the Middle East." However, he pointed out that everyday Russians aren't happy with the high prices with which they cannot deal.



Russians have a general satisfaction about the way President Putin is running the country. Some say it is because he sometimes still listening to Lenin! This photo shows two street actors earning their living by mocking Russian leaders.



The managing editor at the opening ceremony in the Kremlin.

home from school because they had to do their homework. However, children today are different, as they live with a keyboard in one hand and the internet in the other. She added, "They think of the internet as more real than reality itself."

As for ways to keep new generations attached to newspapers, she explained that newspapers should designate a special place for youth-related issues. Young readers should be able to contribute to such issues and write their own topics. "Newspapers also should adopt teenage language; for example, new codes and icons used by the new generation," she added.

Engaging newspapers and education

In this session, Roxana Morduchowicz, Director of Media Education at Argentina's Ministry of Education, and Aralynn McMane, Director of WAN's



Different media companies and newspapers participated at the 2006 Information Services Expo.

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Qat triumphs over energy drinks

Though energy drinks have become big hits in Yemeni markets, many find that qat recharges and gives them more energy than drinks like Red Bull, Power Horse and Shark.

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

While students chew qat to stay up all night reading and studying hard to prepare for exams, others chew qat for energy at work. Nowadays, energy drinks are used for the same purpose, but with less vital results than qat.

The best stimulant

"I allocate YR 10,000 only to buy qat during my final exams," first-year Sana'a University student Mustafa Al-Harazi said, confessing that he can't review lectures without chewing qat. Like Al-Harazi, many students use qat as a stimulant to help them study hard, especially during exams.

Known to energize the body, energy drinks entered Yemen nearly six years ago and spread nationwide as citizens began using them for that purpose. However, such drinks have failed to compete with qat in terms of providing the body with energy.

Imad Al-Abdali, 27, recalled that last year he had to prepare for his math final exam. "It was 4 p.m. and I hadn't finished the second chapter. That day, I decided not to chew qat like usual, but rather to have some energy drinks. I drank two bottles of the best quality in the market, but I fell asleep before 10 p.m. I went to bed and failed to resist sleep."

Al-Abdali thought such drinks would help him stay up all night without getting tired or falling asleep; however, "I will never depend on energy drinks, but rather on qat," he concluded.

Young vs. old

Qat has been known for ages. Similarly, its fame as a stimulant has transferred from generation to generation. However, energy drinks only

recently entered Yemen and thus are not known to everyone. For the most part, youth use energy drinks more than older people.

When asked about energy drinks, 50-year-old Ahmed Murshid said he never heard the term. But after listing names like Red Bull, Power Horse and Shark, he realized the meaning and said, "I've never thought of using energy drinks to give me vitality. Sure, I hear people talking about different kinds of energy drinks. For me, a few qat leaves gives me energy to pass through several villages on foot."

For his part, after explaining to him what energy drinks are, 45-year-old Hajji Musleh Al-Matari, criticized youth who depend on such drinks. "In our days, we used no energy drinks. We now see some people drink energy drinks for vitality while we chew qat together. I've never had energy drinks and I won't try them."

At times, some Sana'a University students and those at its branch campuses are observed sitting in exams with qat in their mouths; however, this is forbidden at most colleges. "I chew qat until dawn. After I eat breakfast, I chew again so I can concentrate on the exam and not fall asleep. This is really vital, as energy drinks don't work like qat does to keep me focused on the exam," said Mukhtar Farhan, who studies at Sana'a University's Faculty of Law.

But for many other students, attending exams and qat chewing isn't appropriate or civil, so the only alternative is to drink energy drinks, even while sitting for an exam. "It's not civilized to sit for an exam while chewing qat. This isn't appropriate on the part of those chewing qat in the exam room. For me, if I need to feel active and not stressed, I'll drink an energy drink," Sana'a University student Maha Abdullah pointed out.

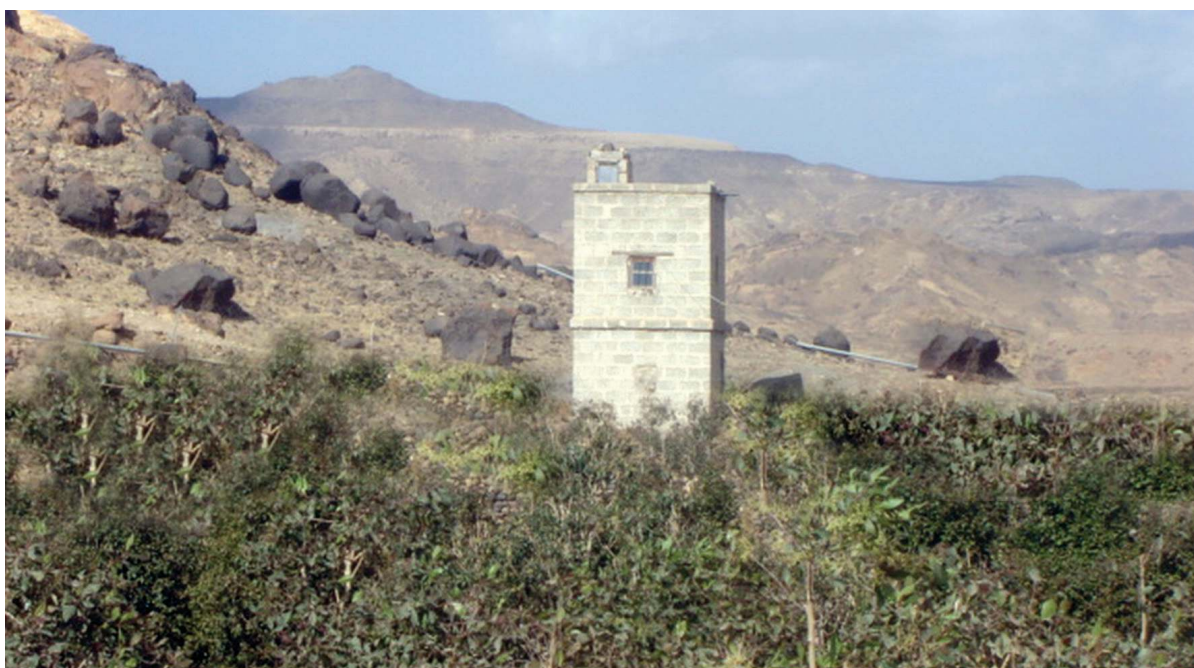
Nasser Al-Hamami remembered an



Chewing qat makes people feel energetic during their work and helps them perform a lot of work without getting tired. YT PHOTO

incident during his university days. "One day during my final exams, a friend of mine drank four bottles of an energy drink for fear he wouldn't concentrate on the question. The result was that he felt dizzy and couldn't attend the exam at all."

Similarly, Nadia Awad retold her first experience with qat. "A friend advised me to chew qat so I could concentrate on preparing for my math exam, so I did and stayed up until dawn. I went to school to attend the exam, but couldn't answer any question because the qat's effect had ended that morning. I had a nervous breakdown. Since then, I decided not to chew qat."



Qat fields occupy much of the agricultural lands throughout the country. YT PHOTO

Yemen: Ethiopian exodus

An increasing number of migrants arriving in Yemen are Ethiopians. By April 2006, the number of Ethiopians registering as refugees began to overtake the number of Somalis. The Ethiopian government said most are economic migrants seeking jobs in rich nations on the Arabian peninsula, which act as "magnets for people from neighbouring countries."

"Legally," said Bereket Simon, advisor to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, "they can travel on their own to Yemen, Somalia, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia and anywhere, and we would have no interest in controlling that. ... The illegal movement may also have to do with the pastoralist culture, which makes people move in search of livelihoods."

Bereket dismissed allegations that people were leaving Ethiopia for

political reasons. "Those claiming that they are fleeing political persecution are wrong," he said. "Ethiopia has a constitution that guarantees freedom of speech and movement. Nobody is being persecuted for having different political views. But we have a legitimate right to defend ourselves against terrorist groups like the ONLF [Ogaden National Liberation Front rebel movement], which has declared war on the state."

Testimonies from Ethiopians

Mohamed, 27, former soldier, from Ethiopia

I joined the military when I was 20 and was immediately posted north, first to Humera on the Sudan border. I stayed in the military for seven years, and I was injured in the Ethiopia-Eritrea war, in Badme

Fatuma, 21, unemployed, from Ethiopia

I left Dessie [central Ethiopia] to find work. It was a very tough life there. I went from Dessie to Addis Ababa, where I have friends. In Addis, I used to meet up with my friends and we would plan what to do.

Hussein, 32, merchant, from Ethiopia

I have been in Bosasso for two months. I am Oromo, a merchant. I left my wife and son in my home area, but my place of work was Addis Ababa. I used to be prominent in the union.

Ali, 27, student, Addis Ababa

I came to Bosasso in November 2005. I was in my third year at university, but education was badly affected in Ethiopia from September 2005.

Source: irinnews.org

Early marriage

By: Shaima Mahmoud

A field study on early marriage showed that the main factor behind early marriage is the spread of cultural orientations favoring early marriage, whereby many think Islam urges the idea.

Funded by Oxfam, the Women and Development Study Center conducted the study in cooperation with the Yemeni Network to Combat Violence Against Women. The study included only Hadramout and Hodeidah governorates.

According to the study, social structures in Hodeidah and Hadramout are typical of excessive conventions. There is no chance for social activity, which results in deteriorated ambitions of individuals belonging to low or marginalized classes. Additionally, the study stated that men are the only ones who decide marriage.

The study also indicated that women's views and their will isn't considered unless their views match men's desires and views. In case of discrepancy between the two views, the man's view is considered.

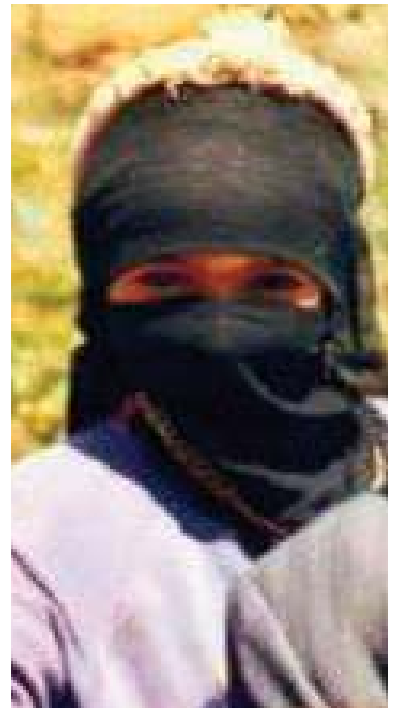
Early marriage statistics

According to the study, early marriage for women has reached 52.1 percent, based on the stories of 1,495 couples, whereas men marrying at an early age comprised only 6.7 percent. The marriage age has increased over three generations from between ages 10 and 24 to between ages 14 and 70. The study also found variations in marriage age according to the geographical districts to which Yemenis belong.

In Hodeidah, Hadramout and Sayoun, girls marry at age 8, whereas they marry at age 10 in Mukalla. Moreover, marriage age varies between urban to rural areas. It's found that the appropriate age for marriage is from 15 to 16.

Violating educational rights

According to evidence gathered during the study, illiteracy is most concentrat-



In Yemen, it is common to see girls like this get married at an early age.

ed among women, with the illiteracy rate among those under age 18 at 6.6 percent. Those able to read and write comprise 4.3 percent, while 92.9 percent of girls are enrolled in basic and secondary education.

Such figures indicate girls' high dropout rates from school. Early marriage in itself violates women's rights, as well as those of the children to which they give birth.

A girl marrying at an early age also gives birth to a child early, sometimes losing the fetus. Many girls also undergo Caesarean sections. Additionally, they are subjected to abortion or suffer diseases following delivery due to physiological failure or knowledge defects during pregnancy.

The study's researchers worried about the absence of registered cases of violence against women, as society considers the phenomenon a family-related matter. Researchers also attributed violence against women both to the absence of effective laws and not enacting such laws.

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Job Vacancies

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Candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

CASH MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR – Reference No. 059

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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.

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Human Resources Department
Yemen LNG Company
P.O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen
Closing Date : 10th July, 2006

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG within the month of July.



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas (LNG) 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 recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

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- The ability to work an on-site rota on the pipeline construction sites of 21 days on, 7 days off, for the next 18 months, to maximise personal experience and continuity on the job.
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Applications should be made in English with a short covering letter explaining why candidates believe they are qualified for the post, by e-mail to HR@YEMENLNG.COM An on-line application form can be downloaded from our website WWW.YEMENLNG.COM Applications can also be made by post to:

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- Fluency in Arabic and English.
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Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator, the children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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



OUR OPINION

Know thy rights

Probably the finest thing that could ever be given to people, any people, is education. Sometimes people don't even know that they lack knowledge and, in many cases, they resist it preferring the shelter of ignorance to the reality of often bitter truth. With more than half of the Yemeni people illiterate and around 70 percent living in rural areas isolated from the main centers of information, the problem of ignorance needs an urgent remedy. It is distressing that the majority of Yemenis accept to be intimidated, deprived, and manipulated just because they don't know any better. For example, one who has never seen the usefulness of electricity would not really mind not having it, and would continue to resort to traditional ways for providing light and heat.

Last Saturday, Sana'a witnessed yet another gathering of thousands of Yemenis, some coming all the way from Hadramawt and other outlying governorates. The assembly, organized by the ruling GPC party, called on the president to go back on his promise and stand for president in the September elections. I believe that many of the participants did not willingly go to demonstrate and did not want Ali Abdullah Saleh to be president again. My understanding is that they demonstrated because they cannot imagine Yemen without Ali. Sometimes it is even hard for me to think of the future of this country in the hands of another person, yet this hesitation does not stop me from wanting to experience what Yemen would be like with a better system and a different regime.

Probably, my choice results from the fact that I can clearly see the many rights that I am deprived of as a Yemeni. I know that studying in the dark is not normal, even though blackouts frequently occur in the capital city. I know that one would be completely justified to expect water every time the tap was opened. I know that I would feel more secure if when I or a family member fell ill there was good medical care covered by the government. Most of all, I am desperately eager to live in a country where each person is equal before the law, and in a country where my rights are protected by and within the legal system.

Knowing all this, and knowing that not many Yemenis understand their rights like me, it becomes clear why thousands of Yemenis cannot see their country in any different light. Some are even quite content, even happy, with the trivial level of development our country enjoys compared to the developed world. I remember talking about this to an illiterate Yemeni woman who strongly defended the current system saying, "Look at the development all around us, there are cars, roads and don't forget the mobile phones!" This kind of comment is understandable but not acceptable.

I believe that the work of educating the people and making them aware of their rights, in the absence of a neutral system, is the responsibility of the opposition and independent parties, activists, and of course the media. The tragedy is that many of the so-called opposition don't have a clear strategy or worse, don't even know what they want. This destroys their credibility and makes them look feeble. Much of the media, especially those organizations which could reach the majority of Yemeni citizens in the fields of radio and television, is government controlled.

So what does this leave us with? Is this country waiting for a miracle from heaven, or for evolution to take place? Despite the efforts of a few nongovernmental organizations, which are mostly donor lead, there is so much more to be done and a long way to go. It doesn't really matter who runs this country as long as they do it right doing justice to their shouldered responsibility.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Letters to the Editor

Embryonic stem-cell research in the EU

I wish to express my disappointment with the June 15 decision of the European Union Parliament to approve tax spending on embryonic stem-cell research.

Genetic science has great potential for either serving or degrading humanity. Its proper use requires moral reflection and the establishment of moral limits.

There is no scientific evidence to suggest embryonic stem cell research has more potential to lead us to viable treatments for various diseases than non-embryonic stem cells.

Embryonic stem cells carry the likelihood of immune rejection in humans. Animal trials sug-

gest that they are too genetically unstable and too likely to form lethal tumors to be used for treatment.

Tests using human adult stem cells, however, have produced significant and encouraging results in the areas of Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, cardiovascular disease, sickle-cell anemia, and dozens of other conditions without posing any moral problem.

On a biological level the pre-natal being is not like any other tissue: it is human with its own DNA indicating that - as a human - it has the same fundamental and moral right to life as any other human being. Politicians and lawmakers have a moral obligation to protect human life in all phases of its existence from

conception to natural death.

We must help those who are suffering, but we may not use a good end to justify an evil means. Hence, the cry should be not for an increase in funding for embryonic stem cells, but rather an aggressive expansion of adult stem cell research.

If a man takes on the power to fabricate man, he also takes on the power to destroy him. The human being has the right to be generated, not produced, to come to life not in virtue of an artificial process but of a human act in the full sense of the term: the union between a man and a woman.

Paul Kokoski
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A third Intifada beckons

There is no greater disease threatening humanity than the lack of attention toward catastrophes endured by some nations, particularly the Palestinian nation. Billions of people neither see, nor hear, what happens to innocent Palestinians who insist on reclaiming their rights and their land that the Israelis control and occupy. This occupation demonstrates the Nazi characteristics such as mercilessness and discrimination aimed at the elimination of the Palestinian people.

People with clear consciences have reacted sensibly to various catastrophes and wars in



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

many parts of the world. Yet now, intimidation has pressured the remnants of clear of such people to remain silent about global injustices. The most important scenes of the kind are those occurring in Palestine, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as other villages under Israeli occupation where there is no relief and no freedom.

Daily massacres have risen and the number of martyrs runs high. Meanwhile, Abu Mazen has renounced his vow of silence and said in an ailing voice: "it is an annihilation war." This is the correct description of what has happened in Palestine after the Oslo Accords were put into action. A war developed, becoming

bloodier with the outbreak of the Intifada, and recently reached its climax.

In light of Oslo Accords, dull commentators have considered the 'war of annihilation' as a battle between two states, two armies, and two regimes. This conception is the worst thing generated by Oslo Accords. It formerly allowed some Palestinian personalities, especially Abu Mazen, to see in the Oslo Accords a path to the ultimate realization of their rights. Events on the ground have defied these hopes.

It seems that Abu Mazen, president of an empty authority, finally realized—as Yasser Arafat did—that Oslo was a content free process for the Palestinians. The Oslo Accords, produced disappointing results for the Palestinians as the main attention of the plan was to divide the resistance to Israel and make the Palestinians kill each other. What has

Abu Mazen planed to do about the situation after he realized that Oslo was a synonym for a war of annihilation? The whole world, not only Palestinians and other Arabs, anticipate that Abu Mazen will make the right moves before the Zionist occupation annihilates the Palestinian people or a civil war breaks out.

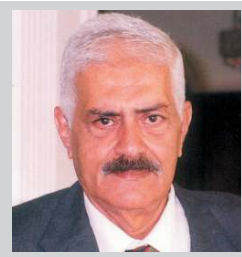
Abu Mazen said it is "an annihilation war" and he was right. Yet, he must end his relations with the fomenters of this 'war of annihilation,' the Israelis. Furthermore, as the Palestinian leader and not as the president of the Palestinian Authority, he must bring the Palestinians together to confront their enemy in a third, comprehensive Intifada.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is a prominent Yemeni poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies.

The Arabs between scientific advancement and social change (2-2)

The seventh point is that some peoples of the Arab nation who have possessed components of wealth and entertained high levels of national income, realize that acquisitions of the age and its advanced technological instruments were not enough alone to gain the syllabus of modern life, do not mean the required progress and do not achieve the aspired for reform. They have even believed that saving money and invest it would not be enough. What should be taken into account is the investment of mentalities and formation of a long-term perception that is not connected to the availability of huge amounts of wealth, which is transient however long it lasts. Some states of the Arab peninsula and the gulf have realized this fact and thus they have owned trained cadres matching their counterparts in the world that is more advanced.

Eighth, There appears in the Arab horizon an actual crisis embodied in the variation between generations handling the new technology, possess computers and rush to use the internet and other generations that seem to be isolated from



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

these great developments, excusing themselves with advance in age and that what remains of their life is less than what has elapsed. Therefore, the scientific advancement and technological development are not associated with always by social integration and moral change but rather the contrary. The gap seems to be existent until now between those who believe in technology and deal with it and others look at it with care but benefit from it.

Ninth, In the recent years there has been a control of the tone of reform over all the Arab area for external and internal reasons. That tone, however has faded down when the existing regimes have discovered the possibility of appeasing Washington with other alternative methods, such as keeping abreast with its policies in the region so that it could be as a barrier keeping away sharpness of pressures blowing up from the superpower and its allies. However, those regimes missed the fact awakening of the domestic public is stronger and more dangerous tens of times than any future external pressures, especially that the Arab nation is at the threshold of big changes, and that is through scrutinizing of events and reading of the awaited for

future.

Tenth, There should not be any belittling of the importance of the social change because the criterion of modernity in the developing societies is related to the change in the human structure and class composition before its connection with the advancement in scientific research or technological development. When we follow up the contemporary Arab societies we feel a sense of concern due to absence of the degree of class harmony sometimes and non-existence of cultural harmony in some other times. This is particular that some societies in the Arab world are still having dual composition and having contradictory identity.

This is a quick reading of a highly important subject because it stands at the joint boundaries of political, cultural, economic and social issues. It represents an essential premonition for all those concerned with the transfer of the Arab world to the arena of the age and interacts with it instead of being just influenced by it and stop at the point of not participating.

The Arab community differs from one environment to another, some of it of a fluvial environment while another of a desert environment or a mixture of both and nevertheless its problems are similar despite the environmental difference that governs the geography of the Arab

map. For this reason, keeping pace with the progress in scientific research and technological advance on the one hand and the upgrading of the governing values and prevalent tradition on the other is a matter of highly importance. The formula of up-to-date launch depends on the cultural factor as well as the economic factor, both of which are culminated by political and constitutional reform protecting freedoms and pushing political participation in a positive form. I wish that some would not be deluded that the talk about the social change, as associated with scientific progress is a kind of soaring up in horizons far away from our present reality. The opposite is right because advanced nations and peoples depend on a strong and composed society whose pillars are not built but with a cultural building providing the opportunity for all segments in the positive action, including the youth and the woman. It opens the gates of intellectual freedom, political transparency, economic prosperity and social liberalism.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor of Political Science. He is the head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development.

Corruption and its perception

There are many factors that foster corruption including inadequate legislation, poor law enforcement, cultural peculiarities, and low salaries for government officials. One factor that is often either ignored or not clearly articulated is how corruption is perceived and how this influences the growth of corruption.

Perceptions of corruption are very complex and, depending on the circumstances, may act to either reinforce or reduce corruption. For example, the perception of rampant corruption can increase the practice by encouraging people to believe that paying bribes is business as usual and by enticing officials to think that there is nothing wrong with accepting bribes. The problem escalates as people become unsure if a matter can be settled without a bribe, and much sorer that a bribe will be accepted.

Believing that everybody takes bribes, officials lose the fear of being punished for receiving them. If everyone believes everyone else is corrupt, corruption becomes a part of the culture. On the other hand, there are situations that the perception of corruption can diminish the practice. In countries with strong law enforcement, the perception of corruption can put public pressure on law enforcement agencies to fight corruption, eventually limiting

it. This scenario is contingent on several factors, however.

The first condition is the availability of sufficient resources to fight corruption. If corruption is already widespread, it may be very difficult for the government to find resources to investigate every corrupt act. A second factor is the real, as opposed to apparent, willingness of law enforcement agencies to actually fight corruption. If corruption becomes ingrained in a society it is very difficult to root it out, even if the best legislation is in place and people perceive corruption to be a serious problem.

Therefore, it is terribly difficult to root out the habit of giving bribes based on the fact that corruption has become engrained in Yemen in culture. That is why we find the willingness to give bribes associated with the perception of corruption. Additionally, the government is an important player in the anti-corruption game and it must have a willingness to fight corruption. This will be associated with the willingness of the people to offer bribes. Moreover, the media has the power to influence the



By: Moneer Saif

perception of corruption and it must have intensive programs to increase the public's awareness of the problem.

In Yemen, the perception of corruption is significantly associated with the people's willingness to give bribes. If one perceives an institution to be very corrupt, he is more willing to offer a bribe. In this way, the perception of corruption may actually facilitate corruption and is therefore the practice becomes a vicious circle that does not always reflect reality.

If one assumes that those people who visit the state institutions most often have the most accurate perception of corruption, then from the econometric analysis it follows that the Yemeni population tend to underestimate corruption in the local government, judicial institutions, and police.

Special attention should be paid to the mass media as a source of perceptions about corruption. In countries like Yemen where corruption scandals very rarely lead to prosecution, the media may actually support corruption. If the media provides people with perceptions of corruption that are greater than reality, the media may encourage people believe that they have to give bribes.

So, perceptions of corruption are widespread over the population and should be given more attention. Perceptions may actually facilitate the negative or positive processes that take place in society. The direction in which perception affects the willingness to give bribes interferes with the role of institutions and the role of the government. Even if perceptions are not biased, high uncertainty in perceptions makes it more risky to do business.

Moneer Saif is a Financial Analyst at the Foreign Investments Divisions of Tadhamon International Islamic Bank.



By: Samer (samer_art@maktob.com)

Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



As-Sahwa weekly, 22 Jun 2003.

Main headlines

- GPC holds on to the president
- JMP announces its candidate to presidential elections in a few days
- Qahtan: Correction of elector record a prominent gain of the agreement between the JMP and the GPC
- Islah Shoura approves active participation in the presidential elections
- Al-Yadoumi: Implementation of the agreement with the GPC depends on its seriousness
- Influential parties exercise pressures for the release of corrupt medicines
- Al-Basheer pledges to lead resistance against any military intervention
- Sheikh Al-Mouayad appeals to all to

work for ending his ordeal

Writer Zaid Al-Shami says finally there has been a signing of an agreement of principles between the General People's Congress (GPC) and parties of the JMP. Although the articles of the agreement came in articles of the constitution or as a translation of those articles but the dialogue about them continued more than six months and reached at a deadlock more than once as efforts and time have been wasted and it could have been now in a better situation.

All of us are now in need of resuming confidence that faded away during the past years. This confidence cannot be restored in an overnight. There must be time and practices enhancing it, especially that the previous period has depended the culture of exclusion and insistence on not accepting the other.

What concerns us is the enforcement of the agreement to rectify mistakes of the electoral record where in some

constituencies the number of those registered exceeded the number of the inhabitants. Many are not trustful of the GPC commitment because agreements had been signed with them in the past and were not put into force. But the leadership of the JMP has to frankly tell the brothers in the ruling party about any case of violation and if they will not find commitment and credibility they have open options regarding the elections.



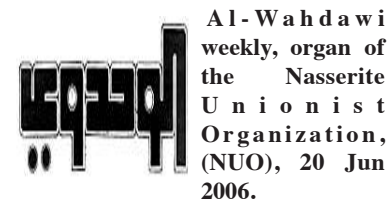
Al-Nidaa weekly, 21 Jun 2006.

Main headlines

- The GPC puts pressure on its president to run for the presidential elections
- Ghanim: America took out the "black box" from Salami corpse to deface criminal evidence
- General prosecutor gives directives for the release of Mohammed Al-Mudani
- Parliamentary report: Monopoly and poor services behind degradation of the ports and air [ports situations
- Yemen-American-British naval maneuver concluded at the Gulf of Aden
- Three of bodyguards of the military commander in Mran area killed

Writer Zaid Abdulwahab Al-Muoyad mentions that last month our country celebrated the 16th anniversary of the Yemeni unity. During the celebrations there was opening and laying of foundation stones of many development and services projects as well as investment projects in various parts of the country. Those celebrations are characterized by their coincidence with the season of the local and presidential elections whose preparations have begun by reviewing and amendments of lector lists and the following stages defined and regulated by the elections law.

The true and sincere consideration of the homeland march and what has been achieved up until now would provide opportunity for all, as authority and opposition, to understand the value of the achievements and the negatives that accompanied them and to work for tackling them. It will also allow knowing where backwardness has happened and how to treat it. Any treatments cannot be made under political bickering each party seeks to prove failure of the other, especially that two of more prominent opposition parties were one day part of authority but did not offer any practical solutions to reform the corruption of which they accuse the authority. High ranking leaderships of the ruling party talk on many occasions about corruption and consider bringing solutions for the places of failure but did not offer solutions to implement on the ground through their positions. The sense of responsibility towards the homeland by all is the only guarantee for the integration of the national unity and the outlet for all internal and external threats.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, (NUO), 20 Jun 2006.

Main headlines

- 2000 oil workers deprived of insurance
- NUO meets leader of the Libyan revolution
- Arbitrary punishments against employees who did not take part in Taiz demonstration in support of the president nomination
- Massive festivals by the JMP in all governorates, confirming one candidate for the JMP and demands to the president not to run for another term
- To make for its casualties in Iraq, America brings mercenaries from

- Philippines
- Physicians union postpones its sit-in for six weeks
- In trials of those accused of embezzlements of the Watani Bank, the court releases three of them in return for commercial guarantee
- For disclosing issues of corruption, Al-Wahdawi newspaper faces three new lawsuits

The political editor of the newspaper says the agreement of principles signed by the opposition parties and the ruling party concerning the presidential and local elections is considered a great national gain especially after matters have reached a deadline where the logical and reasonable solution was about to be impossible.

The importance of this agreement and its implications and dimensions gives more depth to the national political experiment in that of its ability to tackling and coming out of problems and dilemmas it is facing. If his agreement does not rise to the level of the required partnership that has been imbalanced by the ruling party's single-handed dealing with the stage of registration and neglecting the opposition, serious dialogue is the other aspect of democracy and achieves the required partnership that preserves the national unity and musters the forces behind all the achievements and all right future ambitions and choices.

The agreement of principles regardless of its humbleness has given some cures within the frame of one issue, which is an electoral, among other issues included in the JMP initiative for the comprehensive political and national reform. It has taken the ruling party from the impasse of violation of the democracy and single domination over the stage of registration.

On the other hand the agreement achieved for the opposition two important gains: first the tackling of the situation of the supreme commission of elections, a matter offers more chances of participation and impartiality to the electoral democratic process. The second is that it has dropped the external advices that led the elections commission to be partner in sharing members of field electoral committees and that would abolish legitimacy of the commission. The elections commission cannot represent a political side because it is not a political force but rather a case of assignment to carry out a national task at a certain period.



Al-Wasat weekly, 21 Jun 2006.

Main headlines

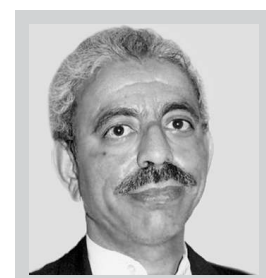
- Intense differences among the GPC leaders on supporting pro-GPC opposition parties
- The Baath rejects "agreement of Principles", assails Bajammal
- American report accuses Yemeni officials of trafficking in women and children
- Employees of the Apparatus of Monitoring and Audition threaten with strike
- Al-Attas praises agreement of the JMP and the ruling party
- American /senator: Saudi Arabia behind funding extremist groups
- An attempt to fabricate a Kuwaiti-Yemeni crisis
- A threat of halting support for trade unions that fail to support the president's nomination
- Citizens forced to join demonstrations appealing to the president to retract from his decision of running for elections
- Judicial measures against an ex-oil minister continue

Former Yemeni Prime Minister AbuBakr Al-Attas writes on the recently signed agreement between parties of the Joint Meeting (JMP) and the GPC. He has said the agreement

COMMON SENSE

Yemen's democracy: Orchestrated free will

Mahmoud: There you have it, the people got Ali Abdullah Saleh to change his mind about leaving the office of the Presidency.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

W. Bush managed to keep his seat, when he has carried out so many blunders in his first term of office? Only there they do it in a more scientific manner and

Someone sitting next to him in the minibus paid no attention to his neighbor's political prognosis.

Mahmoud repeated his political observation hoping to generate feedback from the other passengers or even the driver, at the same time adding: I was there in the Seventies Square and you should have seen how much the people were exhilarated to hear of the President's surrendering to their will.

Finally a passenger in the back said something: "The games people play never cease to amuse me. Should so much energy be spent on simply trying to get the President to change his mind about leaving the office. Surely there could have been much less expensive and much more genuine methods of expression of opinion. Why not just flood his office with emails, faxes and cables?"

Another passenger said: "That is not going to make anybody any money. A lot of people have harnessed all their energy to get all these people to scream and shout they want no one but Ali Abdullah Saleh for President. Mind you, these people did not do this for the love of Ali, but for the love of their pockets"

Mahmoud wanted to impress upon the other passengers the gist of democratic practice: Look you, you just think that what ever any politicians do, is just for money. "No these people really want Ali Abdullah Saleh to continue."

The back seat passenger said: "That is not what is at stake for them, what is at stake for them are their vested interests. Thus they work night and day in finding ways to direct the will of the people to suit their political arithmetic in ways that are bound to mean an extra riyal here and there."

Mahmoud did not enjoy that viewpoint: "Do you think so many thousands of people can be manipulated to express their opinion so easily?"

His neighbor now said something: "Look, even in the world's best democracies the will of the people can easily be manipulated without any hassles. How do you think President George

with less of a strain on the dignity of the constituencies they presumably lead."

Again, Mahmoud wanted to insure that his listeners don't buy such garbage: "Look pal, are you insinuating that the Yemeni people allow themselves to be goaded to the whims of political opportunists? So many Yemenis gave their lives to achieve the progress we have made in political democracy and here you are turning all the democratic practices you have seen over the last few days into a mockery."

His neighbor was not easily disturbed by Mahmoud's comment: "Look pal, I know you are part of this wonderful staged performance. I have no doubts about the President's sincerity in wanting to continue serving his country, but he is going to have to stop these people around him from staging such exaggerated coached performances of expression of free will. As far as I see it the people will have all the opportunity they need to express their opinion on election day and their ballot will be the only thing that will count, so why all the fanfare?"

The back seat passenger tended to agree with Mahmoud's neighbor: "You are not going to add any more to our persuasion as to who we shall vote for on Election Day. Given the right free and honest democratic voting process we have been promised to see on Election Day, the people will hopefully declare their own decisions without coaching from any of the political machines that tend to play with our emotions and forcing us to say what may not be truly in our hearts. There is enough in our circumstances that will tell us how to decide who is best for leading the country, if that vote is truly counted properly and honestly. This is one thing you will not be able to extract from me now or anytime until you hear of the vote count. But do not worry, you have earned your measly per diem allowance, for your concerted efforts to try to direct our will. If you want I will testify to that on your behalf, but not by my vote."

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

between the two sides on the electoral process, though it has been late, has formed a response to the voice of reason and wisdom. It is a logical and smart response to the circumstances the country is passing in and the state of the political and social congestion that is threatening the country and the people with an explosion difficult to predict its extent and ramifications. But surely it would affect with damage the people who will be he first and more affected, let alone the democracy that had come in association with the unity as a guarantor for it. The democracy also was meant to be a deterrent factor against its slipping and misusage. This response thus restores the hope in the possibility of leading the march towards reforming of what the days have corrupted and e heavy damage they inflicted on whatever was beautiful realized I favor of the people on the day of 22 May 1990.

It I possible to query about what to do after the agreement of the GPC and

the JMP on introduction of some amendments on the elections supreme commission and branch committees and rectification of some shortcomings in the lists of electors. After the signing of the agreement it has become obliging for all and the opposition that accepted it. It has opened the space for the electoral process, both the presidential and the local. What is required now is the actual work with the people and their various organizations to explain its program on which it is to engage in the elections. I think the opposition will enter the elections with its program for the political reform that it has called on the GPC to adopt but it had refused. The opposition see in the program as an outlet for Yemen and a launch towards deepening the roots of the democratic process through reformation of the political system, fighting corruption and stabilization of the citizens rights to gain justice, security and equality in rights and duties.

SILVER LINING

President Saleh questions GPC's ineptitude

President Ali Saleh has really said he was not joking when he had announced last July that he would not run in the presidential elections scheduled for this September. Many thought that the man was purely fooling the Yemeni people and the international community and that he would change his mind after his party, the General People's Congress (GPC), pushed the masses to take to the streets compelling him to run again. Members of the GPC did not take Saleh's pledge seriously, considering it as just a joke that they would play along with to the very end.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

The man has been very blatant in his speech on the second day of the GPC's extraordinary meeting. There he clearly said that he would like to step down. He seemed frustrated with GPC members, especially the leaders. He said that he wanted to be neither a "taxi" for ruling party members to positions in government, nor an "umbrella for [their] corruption".

Saleh even apologized for all the mistakes he has made during his term in office and asked for the Yemeni people's pardon. This is the message he wanted to deliver to his party and the cronies around him, including his relatives. He said he cannot continue to run the country with the same team of crooks: they constitute a heavy burden that Saleh cannot get rid of easily. However, the president has been very lenient with corrupt people who have evolved like parasites in stagnant water.

Those people who wept during GPC's emergency meeting last Wednesday did not weep in a pity for the loss of a man who has done much for the country; rather they wept for the potential loss of their interests and illegitimate wealth, which they accumulated during his time in power. These parasites gained power and influence not based on merit, but because of nepotism and cronyism.

Saleh feels that his name and power have been damaged by his cronies, relatives, and ruling party members. Their abuses have brought out the worst side of his reign: lawlessness and rampant corruption.

He seemed to have settled accounts with these people who have proved themselves to be handicapped, laggard, and inept. Saleh cannot face domestic and international challenges when his party lacks all valued attributes of any political organization.

The GPC has nothing to attract the Yemeni people except the interests and benefits they can handout through the misuse of power and the breakdown of law and order. The party has no clear political project for the future based on the smart way of planning now and even for the post-Saleh era. Saleh cannot, of course, run the country forever and the country should be prepared for this reality, which many fail to acknowledge.

So, the man wanted to test his political party and its ability to run the country even if he is gone. The man has dreams of being immortalized through his deeds and maybe through his party. Yet the people in his party have let him down by their poor governance and their corruption that has hit the country strongly. Saleh said that he cared about his legacy and it should not be tarnished by the corruption and lawlessness of such a group of hypocrites.

As a matter of fact, the result of the deficiency and incompetence of the ruling party and the cronies around the president has quickened the pace and extent of Yemen's deterioration. Who is to blame? Of course, the leader of the country is always held responsible for the wrongdoings of his people.

Whether he decides to stick to his promise or not, Saleh has given his party a very good lesson. He questioned his party's inefficiency and pervasive corruption, which are the major reasons behind his decision to withdraw from the seat of power and the headaches that go along with it. Yemen will likely see a serious crisis if he sticks to his word.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi is a Yemeni journalist and columnist. (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com)

Extension for Bid's opening (Tender for Survey Boat for port of Aden)

Yemen Ports Authority (Port of Aden) wishes to announce that the closing date for above tender is extended upto 4th July, 2006



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اسمها
إيمان

قالت ألف مبروك وجعلها الله قرة عينه والديها
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وحميد الايتان والاصفاة

.. وكل المحبيه

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وجميع آل السقاف آل الاديبي وجميع الاهل والاصفاة

.. وكل المحبيه

“Hands” exudes contemporary art

By: Yemen Times Staff

“Her work is artistic and contemporary,” wrote Minou Saberi, a co-director of a prestigious photography exhibition in Tehran, describing the works of Boushra Almutawakel.

The exhibition, inaugurated by the French Ambassador Alain Mauro on June 24 at the French Cultural Center Henry de Monfreid, showed a handful of shots full of hands each one expressing a human experience.

Justifying the focus on hands on the artist's behalf, Saberi wrote: “Living in

Yemen it seemed difficult for her to use faces to express emotions or to create scenarios. So they became a subterfuge. With a lot of ingenuity she therefore expresses her sensitivity in situations that a veil cannot reveal: revolt, sensuality, love or solitude.”

Boushra Almutawakel said that she found hands more expressive than any other part of the body and can show different states of mind.

In the four-day exhibition entitled “Hands”, you find hands together, hands dancing and hands conversating.

Born in Sana'a, Yemen, in 1969, Boushra Almutawakel was schooled in the USA and Yemen and then attained a degree in International Business at the American University in Washington, DC. During her time as a student she became interested in photography, and worked as a photo-journalist on the university newspaper and year-book, and as a photo lab assistant at the School of Communications. On her return to Yemen in 1994 she worked mainly as an educational adviser but continued developing her photographic work, participating in many group exhibitions. She is a member of many art groups and participated in several exhibitions locally and internationally such as Women Feed the World (1997), Yemen-Netherlands: 20 Years of Cooperation (1998) and Contemporary Art from Yemen held in Holland and Germany (1998-1999).



Boushra Almutawakel



Conversation

Haiku: The poetic face of Japan

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Oriental Culture Association (OCA) organized a June 22 symposium on the Japanese poetic form of haiku at the Sana'a-based Culture House.

Presented by OCA president Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Maqaleh, the symposium was attended by Japanese Ambassador Yuichi Ishii, as well as a number of intellectuals and interested individuals.

The event involved the Yemeni president's cultural advisor, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh; Dr. Damodar Thakur, English Department head at Sana'a University's Faculty of Arts; Dr. R. K. Sharma, English Department head at Sana'a University's Faculty of Languages; Sana'a University Faculty of Languages professor Dr. R. S. Sharma and university professor and critic Dr. Ali Haddad.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh said many have the misconception that Japan is only a technologically advanced nation and therefore, don't know much about its culture or literature. He pointed out that some 20 years ago, Japan reportedly had approximately five million poets, while its population amounted to 80 million.

He further explained that haiku's curtness shows that Japan is a nation that hates garrulousness and that this brief poetic form encompasses unlimited worlds of meaning. He also acknowledged three Yemeni poets' contributions to haiku poetry's Arabic renditions in this unique form – poets such as Mohammed An'am, Abdullah Fare' and Abdulwahab Al-Maqaleh.

Thakur presented a paper explaining the reasons behind the fascination with haiku, the first being that haiku courageously departed “from the norm accepted all over the world since time



(From left) Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Maqaleh, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, Dr. Damodar Thakur, and Dr. Ali Haddad.

immemorial. Generation after generation, poets shared the belief that poetry's rhythmicity partly resulted from the pairing of lines. Haiku emerged as a protest against such beliefs and convictions as a form of verse containing an odd number of three lines.”

The second reason is, “Each haiku

has an idea or a feeling complete in itself. Each is its own independent universe of meaning, however small.” Thakur gave examples from different modes of world poetry, proving haiku's uniqueness and mentioning that the West especially is charmed by it.

Thakur's third reason involved number symbolism, delineating the

significance of the three numbers: three, five and seven, as each haiku is written in its original form in three lines, with the first and third containing five syllables each and the second containing seven syllables. Thus, he said, haiku accommodated for the unconscious and instinctual nature of those three particular numbers' attraction.

He added, “The more perceptive a person, the more likely he will be attracted by these numbers...The number symbolism inherent in haikus added a shade of mystery, a shade of romantic charm, a shade of unknown and inexplicable elegance to the experience expressed in a haiku.”

Dr. R. S. Sharma presented several haikus he versified in English, while Haddad tackled another aspect of haiku regarding the salient presence of natural elements, as well as the poetic form's historical development.

Dr. R. K. Sharma presented a paper wherein he described certain technical aspects of the form. He attributed haiku's popularity to its “minimalist mode, as well as the immediacy of the expression of experience.” He also pointed out the impossibility of retaining its original characteristics in terms of line and syllables when translating a haiku from Japanese into another language due to certain insurmountable obstacles. “When translated into another language, it must mold itself according to that language's linguistic compulsions. When a classic haiku is translated into another language, both the spirit and form of the original get lost.”

He added, “There's no doubt that haiku is more than a form of poetry – it's a way of seeing the world. It captures a moment of experience and is an instant revelation when the ordinary suddenly reveals its inner nature. It's like a Joycean epiphany or Hopkins's inscape. It exemplifies the saying, ‘Small is beautiful.’”

An anthology of haikus by famous Japanese poets:

Oh, that summer moon!
It made me go wandering
Round the pond all night.

Basho

So cold, that autumn wind
Scatters peonies, a few
Petals fall in pairs.

Buson

That winter, when my
Faithless lover left me,
How cold the snow seemed.

Jakushi

No wonder today
All the men need midday naps...
O that autumn moon!

Teitoku

When a nightingale
Sang out, the sparrow flew off
To a further tree.

Jurin

We cover fragile bones
In our festive best to view
Immortal flowers.

Onitsura

The leaves never know
Which leaf will be first to fall.
Does the wind know?

Soseki

A snowy mountain
Echoes in the jeweled eyes
Of a dragonfly.

Issa

Hop out of my way
And allow me, please, to plant
Bamboos, Mr. Toad!

Chora

Cuckoo, did you cry
To frighten away my mother
Watching in my dream?

Kikaku

The sun has gone down
Beyond a dead tree clutching
An old eagle's nest.

Boncho

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 35

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

Tis all a chequerboard of nights
and days
Where destiny with men for
pieces plays:
Hither and thither moves, and
mates and slays,
And one by one back in the
closet lays.

Short Story:

An embarrassing debate

By: Salwa Yehia Al-Eryani

One day I went to buy an aquarium. I like to be surrounded by living creatures in my house, especially fish and plants. I had around 10,000 Yemeni Riyals (YR) in my wallet but I imagined that the medium size aquarium would only cost 3,000YR.

I entered one of the gift shops in Sana'a and found myself face to face with a fantastic gray, with a red beak parrot inside a golden cage. It was quite active and made a lot of sounds. Its eyes were full of challenge and perseverance, values no longer existing in our culture as we are now the people of (OK, just let it go). Life has shaken us far too violently and left nothing inside our collapsing vacant souls except that deep honest belief in Allah. Not forgetting also that there is still a pinch of the ability to feel sorry.

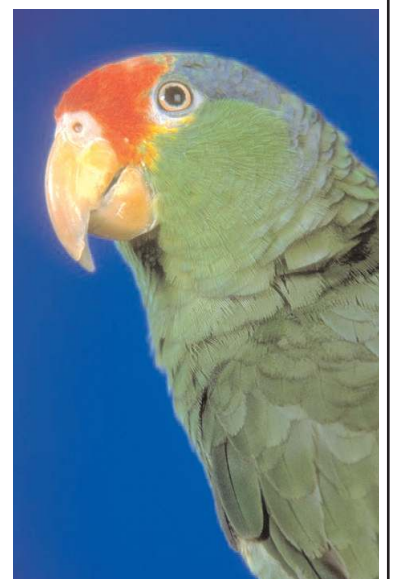
I left that parrot behind me and went upstairs where the aquariums were located. I want no living thing daily picking on and provoking me with its strong powerful looks. I prefer fish. The fish swim smoothly and die quietly. They leave no name, no heavy heritage behind them nor even a memory. They need my care and attention to survive. They make me feel myself valuable and worthy. When I went upstairs I was surprised with the prices. They were 95,000 yr or over 100,000 yr. I changed my mind and decided to take a small size aquarium. Those were around 8,000 yr. I stood there thinking about it. Fish die easily. A little more amount of their food would make them die. They don't realize that they are full. The power is cut a lot these days and they might die out of lack of oxygen. Why on earth shall I buy myself an additional thing to worry about? I have enough worries as it is, and enough is enough. Suddenly, I changed my mind and went downstairs.

Again I saw that gray parrot, it was from Kenya. It was looking at me straight in the eyes. I stood in front of it to watch it. It was moving a wheel like exactly like they are trained in a circus. My three-year-old son liked it a lot. He laughed loudly watching its actions. It entertained him tremendously. I really found it beautiful. I read on the table that the cage was put on, 7,500 yr and I decided to buy it. At least this is a long lasting creature. I took out the money and asked the assistant seller in the shop to kindly put it inside my car. He surprised me that this price was for the table and that the parrot was worth \$600. I smiled with envy for its high price. Not all living things in this country can be worth this much.

They caught this parrot from a forest in Africa. They stole its freedom and wilderness. They put it in a cage in a strange environment here in

Yemen with no space for it to even spread its wings. They did a lot of harm to this defenseless creature. After all this they still want to sell it and earn even more from it. How cruel. I saw a small chair and I sat to watch how it was behaving. I really admired it.

I was surprised that the parrot seemed to be disturbed because I was watching it. It looked at me from toe to head, then from head to toe. It seemed to be an intelligent bird. Its eyes were very talkative. I read its conversation with out words. I understood it was asking me why I was watching it? It said a lot to me. It asked me if I was such a fool to imagine that I was any better than it or my situation any more civilized than its. It told me that it was inside a cage and so am I although mine had imaginary bars. That parrot was debating with me and I was definitely the loser. It asked me if I thought I was free to live the way I want. I shook my head as to no. It asked me if I am free to say what I want or do what I feel like doing. I shook my head again. It asked me if I too want to go to another land, if there is such land, where I don't feel injustice and indifference. I nodded. Your rights are being stepped on too? It asked. I nodded. You hate hunters and thieves too but can do nothing about them? I nodded. You feel really fed up like me? I nodded. You long for success and fulfilling your ambitions and feel like giving up? I nodded. You long for breathing clean air. I nodded.



I felt it was mocking me, when I imagined it asking me: I feel sorry for you, do you want to trade places? Here I felt insulted by that courageous daring parrot. I decided to open its small door and set it free. And I did. The men in the shop started shouting and running all around trying to stop it from escaping. They didn't know that I was the one who opened its door. They couldn't capture it. I told them leave it stretch its wing because in this environment of ours it wont be free even if it is flying in the sky.

Water expert: Desalination or displacement for Sana'a residents

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri
and Amel Al-Ariqi

Since the 1990s, Sana'a basin has become a major preoccupation, as studies, statistics and experts warn that the water crisis in Sana'a is beginning to take on a catastrophic nature. Other experts expect the basin will drain away by 2010 if necessary measures are not taken to stop the current water consumption rate that is unparalleled with the basin's water resources.

Since that time and until now, Sana'a has hosted many Yemeni and foreign experts and officials who have arranged conferences, seminars and workshops tackling the Sana'a basin issue in an attempt to come up with solutions to this problem.

Sana'a University recently hosted a delegation from Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Cooperation (TREC). Along with Yemeni experts, the delegation arranged a scientific seminar wherein they brought up the ability to employ desalination technology to solve the Sana'a water crisis.

Crisis becomes disaster

Water supplies historically were obtained by digging wells and tapping streams. Agriculture in the Sana'a basin, a central highland area of approximately 3,200 sq. km., depended upon dry farming practices and rain-fed irrigation.

However, in the 1960s and increasing rapidly from the mid-1970s onward, many aquifers were discovered. Boreholes were drilled to tap groundwater and pumps were introduced for irrigation and domestic usage. Gradually, there was uncontrolled extraction by private wells. According to available statistics, the total number of wells in Sana'a basin is 60,000 and Sana'a withdrawals exceed renewable resources by 400 percent.

Moreover, Sana'a basin is home to approximately 1.8 million people, of whom one million live in the capital

city while the rest live in surrounding villages. (Incidentally, Yemen's annual growth rate is 3.02 percent.) These residents depend on underground water resources estimated at two to three billion cubic meters, with such quantity used in three main ways. Sana'a residents annually consume nearly 250 million cubic meters, 80 percent of which is for agriculture (of which the majority is used to irrigate qat), with 20 percent consumed by daily use and industry.

The Sana'a water basin gradually is running out, as the water level decreases approximately five to six meters every year. This is considered a danger, especially in coming years because there is no new provision for underground water, according to experts.

"Do we have a water problem in Sana'a? Is it a minor one, a large one, a crisis or a disaster? My answer: it has the nature and scale to become a disaster," Dr. Hussein Al-Towaie said, describing the Sana'a basin situation.

Desalination or displacement

According to Al-Towaie, the Sana'a water crisis causes residents to use unreliable domestic water supplies, as the National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWSA) supplies only 30 percent of the urban population. Additionally, only 30 percent of rural populations have access to safe drinking water and water resources are being overdepleted as well.

TREC Coordinator Dr. Gerhard Knies pointed to the future consequences of such a crisis. "Sana'a is the capital city. It's an active place, expanding and flourishing. However, using up its water resources at this rate will end its development."

He warned that if government officials don't deal seriously with this looming disaster, it will cause mass migration of capital inhabitants due to lack of water and subsequently, Sana'a will become a deserted city. It also would be an economic loss of billions of dollars.

Increasing irrigation use by physi-



Al-Lujam Dam is located in the Sana'a basin region.

cally intervening in upgrading piped delivery systems, converting open channels to piped delivery systems, introducing pressurized irrigation and accelerating groundwater renewal through small conventional dams, sub-surface dams and other structures using rain are some possible measures of the Yemeni government, in cooperation with the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project and other international organizations.

However, many experts believe such measures are only temporary answers and not a complete solution, particularly with difficulties in controlling increasing water demands and increasing population growth rates. "Sana'a is sitting on a glass of water, but it's almost empty. One day, it'll be empty

and then it will be a real disaster. Now, Sana'a is close to becoming home to two million people," Knies noted.

"So we must organize displacement of the Sana'a population before the water is depleted or we must think about new water sources," he added, pointing to desalination technology.

Expensive technology

The water desalination issue has been raised many times. Yemen particularly faces extreme water shortages because there is no perennial surface water in many regions. Although Yemeni authorities involved with international organizations are working to avoid this expensive technology, many experts believe desalination is an unavoidable solution to these circumstances.

The National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program (NWSSIP) for 2005-2009 indicates the Ministry of Water and Environment's policy in this regard, as well as obstacles facing establishing such a project in Sana'a or other highland cities.

According to the NWSSIP, discourse about desalination should be limited at the present time to coastal towns or highland towns with sustainable brackish groundwater reserves that can be desalinated economically as a supplementary fresh groundwater source. The reason for this is the prohibitive cost of pumping desalinated water over long distances to high altitudes.

However, the NWSSIP referred to the importance of considering such technology. "It would be a mistake to

delay introducing desalination until all groundwater resources are depleted. Citizens then could not afford the sudden large increase in the water tariff, which would be brought about by the high cost of desalinated water compared with relatively cheap groundwater," the NWSSIP added.

Desalination often is viewed as some sort of magical solution to water scarcity in Sana'a and other cities, while others consider it expensive technology, especially when desalinated water must be transported over long distances or pumped to high elevations. In such cases, the amount of energy necessary to transport such water, rather than the desalination cost, becomes the deterring or constraining factor.

(PHOTO SOURCE: THE WORLD BANK)

Environmental exposure causes nearly a quarter of all disease

As much as 24% of global disease is caused by environmental exposures which can be averted. Well-targeted interventions can prevent much of this environmental risk, the World Health Organization (WHO) demonstrates in a report issued on 16 June 2006. The report further estimates that more than 33% of disease in children under the age of 5 is caused by environmental exposures. Preventing environmental risk could save as many as four million lives a year in children alone, mostly in developing countries.

The report, Preventing disease through healthy environments - towards an estimate of the environmental burden of disease, is the most comprehensive and systematic study yet undertaken on how preventable environmental hazards contribute to a wide range of diseases and injuries. By focusing on the environmental causes of disease, and how various diseases are influenced by environmental factors, the analysis breaks new ground in understanding the interactions between environment and health. The estimate reflects how much death, illness and disability could be realistically avoided every year as a result of better environmental management.

"The report issued today is a major contribution to ongoing efforts to better define the links between environment and health," said Dr. Anders Nordström, Acting WHO Director-General. "We have always known that the environment

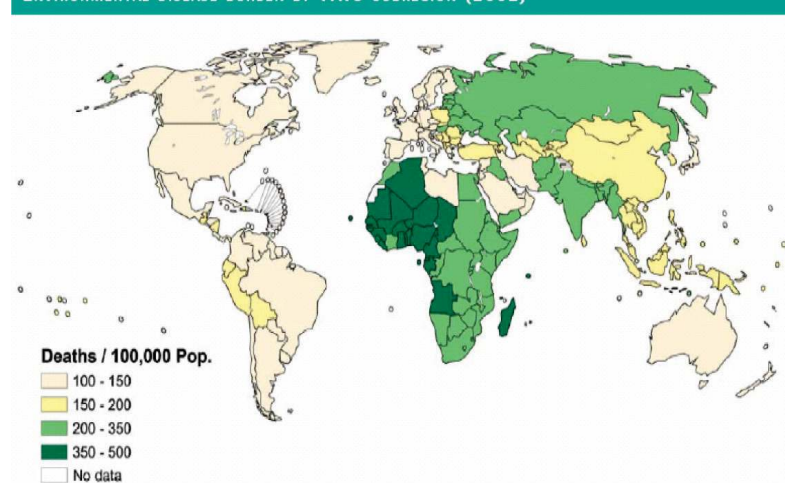
influences health very profoundly, but these estimates are the best to date. This will help us to demonstrate that wise investment to create a supportive environment can be a successful strategy in improving health and achieving development that is sustainable."

The report estimates that more than 13 million deaths annually are due to preventable environmental causes. Nearly one third of death and disease in the least developed regions is due to environmental causes. Over 40% of deaths from malaria and an estimated 94% of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases, two of the world's biggest childhood killers, could be prevented through better environmental management.

The four main diseases influenced by poor environments are diarrhoea, lower respiratory infections, various forms of unintentional injuries, and malaria. Measures which could be taken now to reduce this environmental disease burden include the promotion of safe household water storage and better hygienic measures; the use of cleaner and safer fuels; increased safety of the built environment, more judicious use and management of toxic substances in the home and workplace; better water resource management.

"For the first time, this new report shows how specific diseases and injuries are influenced by environmental risks and by how much," said Dr. Maria Neira, Director of WHO's Department for Public Health and Environment. "It also shows very clearly the gains that would

ENVIRONMENTAL DISEASE BURDEN BY WHO SUBREGION (2002) *



The disease burden is measured in deaths per 100,000 populations for the year 2002. (Source: Preventing Disease through Healthy Environment)

accrue both to public health and to the general environment by a series of straightforward, coordinated investments. We call on ministries of health, environment and other partners to work together to ensure that these environmental and public health gains become a reality."

This research, which involved systematic review of literature as well as surveys of over 100 experts worldwide, identifies specific diseases impacted by certain well-known environmental hazards -- and by how much. "It brings together the best evidence available today on environmental links to health in 85 categories of disease and injury. Since

the research focuses strictly on environmental hazards that are amenable to change, we can also see where preventive health measures combined with better environmental management and cleanup can have the biggest impact. In effect, we now have a 'hit list' for problems we need to tackle most urgently in terms of health and the environment," noted Dr. Neira.

Diseases with the largest total annual health burden from environmental factors, in terms of death, illness and disability or Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) are:

- Diarrhoea (58 million DALYs per year; 94% of the diarrhoeal burden of

disease) largely from unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene

- Lower respiratory infections (37 million DALYs per year; 41% of all cases globally) largely from air pollution, indoor and outdoor.
- Unintentional injuries other than road traffic injuries (21 million DALYs per year; 44% of all cases globally), classification which includes a wide range of industrial and workplace accidents.
- Malaria (19 million DALYs per year; 42% of all cases globally), largely as a result of poor water resource, housing and land use management which fails to curb vector populations effectively.
- Road traffic injuries (15 million DALYs per year; 40% of all cases globally), largely as a result of poor urban design or poor environmental design of transport systems.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease (COPD) -- a slowly progressing disease characterized by a gradual loss of lung function. (COPD, 12 million DALYs per year; 42% of all cases globally) largely as a result of exposures to workplace dusts and fumes and other forms of indoor and outdoor air pollution.
- Perinatal conditions (11 million DALYs per year; 11% of all cases globally).

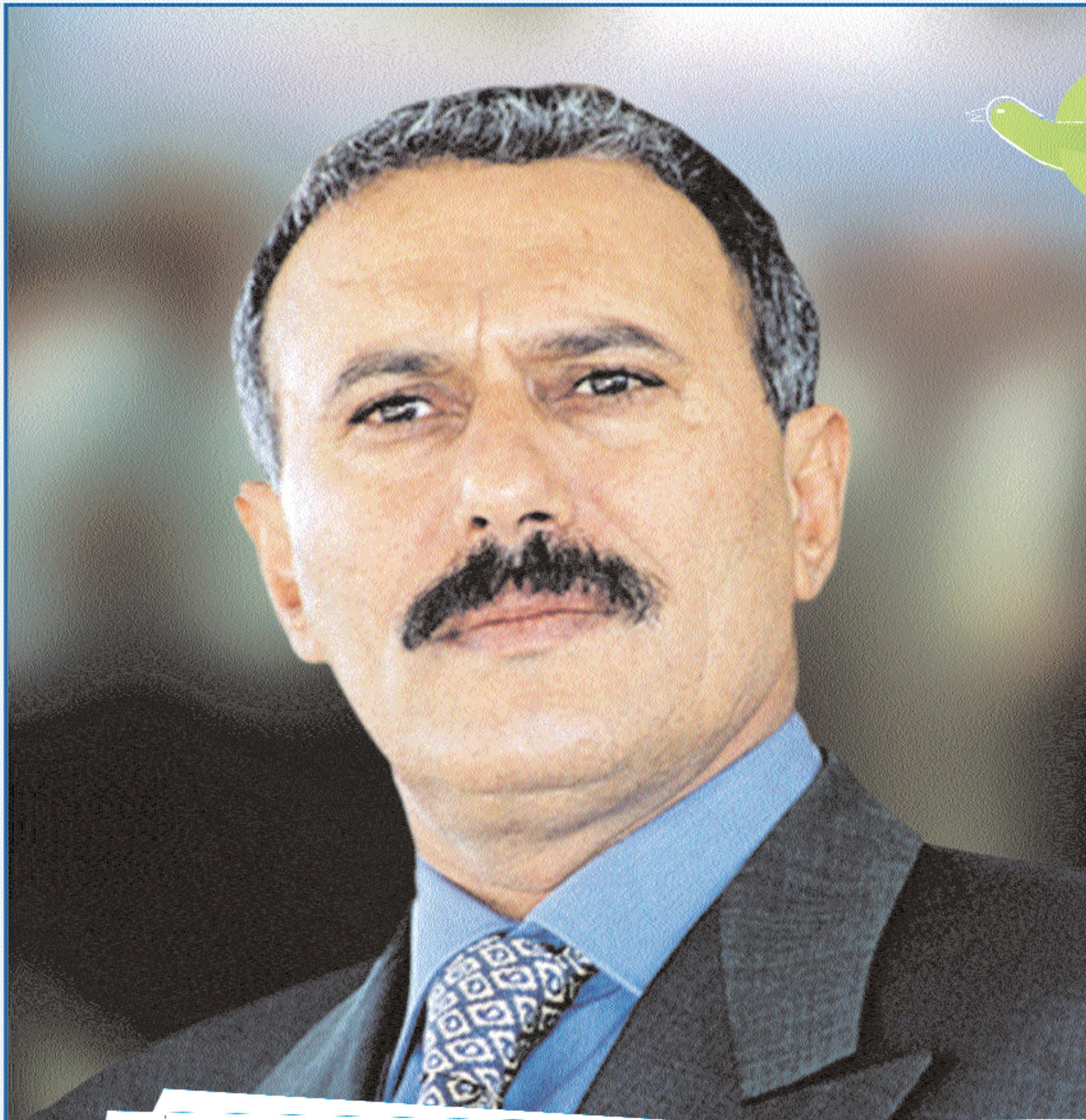
Most of the same environmentally-triggered diseases also rank as the biggest killers outright -- although they rank somewhat differently in order of lethality. Diseases with the largest absolute number of deaths annually from

- 2.6 million deaths annually from cardiovascular diseases
- 1.7 million deaths annually from diarrhoeal diseases
- 1.5 million deaths annually from lower respiratory infections
- 1.4 million deaths annually from cancers
- 1.3 million deaths annually from chronic obstructive Pulmonary disease
- 470,000 deaths annually from road traffic crashes
- 400,000 deaths annually from unintentional injuries

The report shows that one way or another, the environment significantly affects more than 80% of these major diseases. Moreover, it looks to quantify only those environmental hazards that are modifiable -- that is, those that are readily amenable to change through policies or technologies that already exist. The report also spells out us how much environment-related disease is preventable.

By acting assertively and setting priorities for measures aimed at curbing the most serious killers, millions of unnecessary deaths can be prevented every year. Working with sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture and industry to ameliorate the root environmental causes of ill health is crucial.

Serous: www.who.int



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تحية طيبة وبعد

فخامة الأخ / رئيس الجمهورية

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لجنة القطاع الخاص

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Ahil Sana'a reclaims second place with 1-0 win over Sha'ab Ibb

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Concluding the 21st Premier League round, Ahli Sana'a advanced to the second position through its 1-0 victory over its guest Sha'ab Ibb. With such a narrow win, the host team increased its points to 38 while the visiting team retreated to position No. 4 with 36 points.

The match saw resignation of the national team fullback Taher Mohsen who took part in the first ten minutes of the game, playing for Al-Ahli.

In Taiz, Ahli Al-Hodeida defeated its host Al-Rashid 2-1 to secure the third rank in the Premier League with 36 points while the loser retreated to the ninth place with 25 points.

In Mukalla Sha'ab Hadramout downed its guest Al-Yarmouk from Sana'a 3-1 to raise its points to 28 in the seventh place while the defeated team remained in the eighth position with 27 points.

Titleholder Al-Telal thrashed its guest 22 May team from Sana'a 5-2 in a game held in Aden to occupy the fifth place with 35 points while the visiting team remained last in the league order with 15 points.

In Ibb, Ta'awen Ba'adan drew its guest Tadamun Shabwah 1-1. This helped the visiting team to add one point to its credit becoming 23 in the 12th place with a 6-point difference from the host team occupying the penultimate place.

Similarly, Shabab Al-Jeel from Hodeida tied its guest Al-Shu'alah from Aden 1-1 to rank 11th with 23 points while the visiting team secured the tenth rank with 24 points.

The 21st round kicked off last Thursday with Al-Saqr beating its guest Hassan from Abyan 2-0 in a tactically-played scenario at Al-Shuhada Stadium in Taiz. With this victory, Al-Saqr maintained the Premier League lead with 49 points: that is with a 38-point difference from closer runner Ahli Sana'a.

Premier League standings

Team	Games played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals for	Goals against	Total points
Al-Saqr	21	15	4	2	39	13	49
Ahli Sana'a	21	11	5	5	37	25	38
Helal Hodeida	21	10	6	5	38	28	36
Sha'ab Ibb	21	10	6	5	37	27	36
Al-Telal	21	11	2	8	32	28	35
Hassan	21	8	7	6	21	20	31
Sha'ab Hadramout	21	8	4	9	23	32	28
Al-Yarmouk	21	7	6	8	25	28	27
Al-Rashid	21	7	4	10	21	26	25
Al-Shu'ala	21	5	9	7	23	26	24
Shabab Al-Jeel	21	6	5	10	23	27	23
Tadamun Shabwa	21	7	2	12	26	36	23
Ta'awen Ba'adan	21	4	5	12	30	41	17
22 May	21	4	3	14	25	43	15

Germany set new World Cup targets

Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann says his team have revised their objectives for this World Cup, on the back of an impressive 2-0 defeat of Sweden.

Klinsmann said before the game Germany could not settle for anything less than the quarter-finals.

But now he says: "We will not finish in the quarter-finals. Our appetite is getting bigger and not smaller."

"In a footballing nation like Germany and with the World Cup held here, it just cannot stop now."

Klinsmann, a World Cup winner in 1990, said he has never seen a German display as impressive as the one his side produced in the opening half an hour against Sweden.

"It is just so much fun watching the team play. I have never seen Germany play like we played in the first 30 min-



utes." Germany keeper Jens Lehmann said that confidence is seeping through the team following their 2-0 win.

"We could have scored a few more against Sweden," the Arsenal player told BBC Sport.

"We're a stronger team and every result without conceding gives us confidence."

"Our fans are enthusiastic. There's been some criticism. But we've convinced them that we are quite enthusiastic on the pitch."

Germany took a 2-0 lead in the first half thanks to a Lukas Podolski double.

Sweden came close to reducing the deficit after the break, but striker Henrik Larsson smashed his penalty

over the bar.

Lehmann added: "When you are playing you always know if you drop off a little bit you have to go with the consequences."

"We let them come back a bit and fortunately it didn't work out for them."

Two-goal hero Podolski was modest when reflecting on his day's achievements.

"My goals were nice to get but it is the team that is winning, not me alone," he said.

"In preparing for this game we grew as a team. Everything is possible now, every game is a knockout situation."

Germany captain Michael Ballack added: "With such performances we don't need to hide from anyone."

"We started well and found our game quickly and it was a sensational performance. In the first half we could hardly have played better."

Defeating Sweden 2-0 Germany books quarterfinals place to meet Argentina

Hosts Germany booked their place in the World Cup quarter-finals as two early goals from Lukas Podolski helped secure victory over 10-man Sweden.

Podolski scored on just four minutes, driving home the loose ball after Sweden keeper Andreas Isaksson parried.

And Podolski finished smartly after Miroslav Klose's pass on 12 minutes.

Sweden's Teddy Lucic was sent off for a second booking on 35 minutes and their miserable day was complete when Henrik Larsson missed a second-half penalty.

It was an assured display from Germany, who always looked like adding to their lead after gaining the early advantage.

Both sides were still settling down when Podolski's goal sent the home fans at the Allianz Arena into raptures.

Michael Ballack created the opening as he found Klose, who turned his marker but saw the ball pushed away from his feet by Isaksson.

However, Podolski was on hand to slot in via a deflection off Lucic's head.

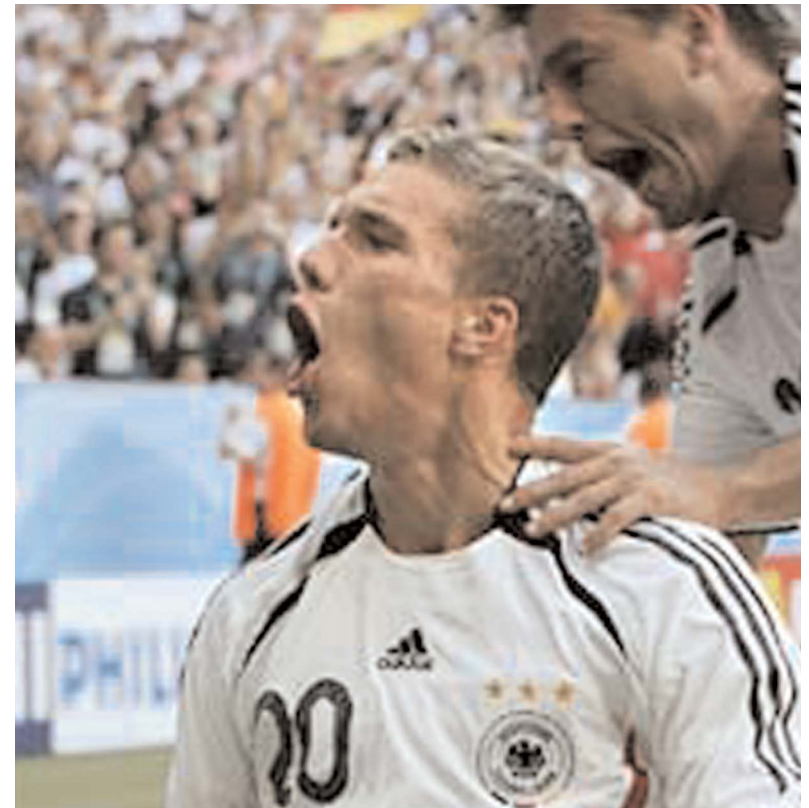
Larsson had an opportunity to level on eight minutes but shot into the side netting from inside the six-yard box.

He was left to rue his wastefulness four minutes later as Podolski was played in by a delightful pass from Klose before finishing with considerable assurance.

Unsurprisingly, the goals filled Germany with confidence and instilled their play with a real swagger.

Jurgen Klinsmann's side surged forward - Ballack's drive was parried by Isaksson, Bernd Schneider drove wide, Klose's near-post effort was saved and Bastian Schweinsteiger's 30-yarder was brilliantly tipped around the post.

And things got worse for Sweden on 35 minutes as Lucic received a second yellow card after being judged to have



Kodolski's early strikes were enough to settle the contest.

tugged Klose's shirt.

Referee Carlos Simon was surrounded by Germany players brandishing imaginary cards - and the Brazilian eventually did what they wanted as he waved the red, receiving a pat on the back from Podolski.

Ironically, Sweden's best passage of play followed.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's shot from a narrow angle was fumbled around the post by Jens Lehmann, while Mattias Jonson beat Lehmann to Larsson's cross only for Phillip Lahm to clear.

After the interval, Sweden were gifted a chance as they were awarded a penalty for an innocuous-looking challenge on Larsson.

The Barcelona player picked himself up, dusted himself down - and blazed

way over the bar.

Ballack then shot from 20 yards only for Isaksson to produce another fine save, tipping the ball on to the post.

The pace, unsurprisingly, began to drop in the sweltering heat of Munich and the match lost much of its earlier fluency.

But following Larsson's penalty miss, the Germans never seriously looked like conceding.

Indeed, they looked close to increasing their lead as Schneider's 85th-minute drive was deflected by Tobias Linderoth on to a post, while substitute Oliver Neuville's shot was blocked.

Germany will face Argentina in Berlin in the quarter-finals on Friday 30 June at 1600 BST.

Argentina 2-1 Mexico (aet)

A wonder strike in extra-time from Maxi Rodriguez gave Argentina victory in a pulsating end-to-end encounter.

Mexico took a surprise lead after five minutes when Rafael Marquez got on the end of a Mario Mendez free-kick.

Argentina replied five minutes later when a corner was forced home by a combination of Hernan Crespo's foot and Jared Borgetti's head.

Rodriguez set up a quarter-final with Germany when he chested Juan Sorin's pass and stunningly volleyed home.

The pre-match script had Argentina stroll written all over it.

Jose Pekerman's team were the outstanding side in the tournament's opening stage, while Mexico were far from convincing in progressing from a weak group.

But Mexico showed they were not in Leipzig to make up the numbers from the kick-off as they threatened to cause the 2006 World Cup's first major upset.

Argentina had already survived a scare before Marquez put them into an early lead.

Mendez's whipped-in free-kick was flicked on by Pavel Pardo and Gabriel Heinze allowed Marquez a free run to the back post, where the accomplished centre-half finished like an expert centre-forward.

The Argentina fans inside the Zentralstadion may have been shocked, but their players kept their cool and within five minutes they were back on level terms.

Borgetti got his head down to bravely attempt to clear a Juan Riquelme corner and was unfortunate to see it deflect past his own keeper.

Crespo wheeled away confidently claiming his third goal of the tournament but it was officially handed to Borgetti, by all except German televi-

sion.

However, Borgetti and despite seemingly having the decisive touch, it was later credited to the Chelsea forward.

The two-time World Cup winners began to dictate the play with Riquelme pulling the strings and Esteban Cambiasso attempting to unlock Mexico's offside trap.

Marquez was back on defensive duty to block Crespo, while the Chelsea striker lobbed over Oswaldo Sanchez after again being put through by Cambiasso.

But Mexico showed some resilience of their own and Bolton's Borgetti was a constant handful on the floor and in the air.

The striker, who recovered from a thigh injury to return to the starting line-up, tested Roberto Abbondanzieri with a long-range effort and was poised to pounce when the keeper later dropped a cross.

Argentina received a let-off of huge proportions when Abbondanzieri rolled the ball out and Heinze had a momentary lapse of concentration.

Fonseca leapt at the chance but with a clear run on goal he was felled by Heinze.

Referee Massimo Busacca chose the wrong option by only showing a yellow card to the Manchester United defender.

Mexico's Argentine boss Ricardo La Volpe berated the official from the sidelines and his side were poorly rewarded when Marquez hit the free-



Argentina are immediately on the back foot when defender Rafael Marquez sneaks Mexico ahead on five minutes.

kick straight at the wall.

There was more end-to-end action after the break as Borgetti was clean through on goal only to be denied by Abbondanzieri and Javier Saviola was denied by the impressive Sanchez.

The pace of the game inevitably slowed, with Argentina's patient passing game dictating the action.

But even with the introduction of Lionel Messi and Carlos Tevez they found the Mexican defensive wall too sturdy to break down during the 90 minutes, although Messi had an effort controversially ruled out for offside in second half injury-time.

With chances not forthcoming it needed something special and Rodriguez obliged in sensational fashion eight minutes into extra-time.

He brilliantly teed himself up by chesting a Sorin cross-field pass and then unleashed a left-foot volley past Sanchez's despairing dive and into the top corner.

A weary Mexico had no answer but they go home knowing they tested Argentina to the maximum.

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World Cup Football Frenzy

Excitement blamed for 3 deaths in China

Over-excitement during World Cup games has been blamed for the deaths of at least three fans in China and one man broke several bones when he fell from a Hong Kong balcony, the Shanghai Daily reported Wednesday.

The rash of disasters had prompted doctors to urge fans to monitor their moods during games and keep an eye on their drinking and blood pressure, it said.

China is obsessed with football but is six hours ahead of Germany, meaning many of the games are shown late at night or in the early hours of the morning — peak drinking times.

A young man named Wang, watching a game on June 10 at a bar in Changsha, the capital of southern Hunan province, drank too much and died at four the following morning, the newspaper said.

Four days later, a woman surnamed Wei, who suffered from high blood pressure, was watching South Korea vs Togo in Hangzhou, near Shanghai.

"She took a shower, went to bed and later died," the newspaper said.

The same day, Li Zhenbao, 27, died in his sleep in Hong Kong after staying up all night to watch three games in a row.

"Doctors suspected he died of a



A soccer fan has his hair shaved in a soccer ball pattern for the 2006 World Cup in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province June 8, 2006.

heart attack brought on by over-excitement," the newspaper said.

Ge Zuquan, 29, grew so excited during the game between the Netherlands and Ivory Coast that he ran to his fourth-floor Hong Kong balcony and jumped in the air.

"But he bounced over the railing," the newspaper said. "Doctors said he could have been paralyzed."

As it was, he merely broke bones in his spine, hip, ankle and wrist.

Reuters

Doctors probe heart attack risk for soccer fans

By: Alexandra Hudson

World Cup soccer causes joy and despair and even ends marriages but now doctors are studying whether the thrill of it all can be literally heart stopping.

Previous research during international soccer tournaments has found an increase in the general incidence of heart attacks, particularly on days when tense matches have had fans on the edge of their seats.

In the new FIFA-approved study researchers will receive blood samples from heart attack victims all over Germany watching football at the time of the attack, allowing them to look for traces of stress hormones which can clot the blood.

Doctors will also receive samples from anyone who collapses in a stadium during a World Cup match and whose blood may show higher levels of hormones than those fans watching at home.

"Patients are asked precisely what they were doing at the time of the attack — whether they were following football on the radio or television, or even watching the pundits after the game," David Leistner of Munich's

Ludwig Maximilians University told Reuters.

"So far, on the days when Germany has played we have received a lot more blood samples," he added.

First results are due in October. A study in 1998 found the number of heart attacks increased by 25 percent on the day and in the two days after England lost to Argentina in a penalty shoot out at the 1998 World Cup.

Researchers in Switzerland also found heart attacks in the country increased by 60 percent during the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea — even though the Swiss team was not even competing.

The findings prompted calls for emergency heart attack equipment to be installed in stadiums during Euro 2004.

"If it really is the case that higher stress levels can increase the chance of a heart attack then attending soccer games may have to carry a health warning," said Leistner.

Doctors advise those soccer fans who may be at greater risk of heart attack anyway due to obesity, high-cholesterol or diabetes, to refrain from drinking excessively during the World Cup tournament.

Reuters



A Swiss fan cheers before the Group G World Cup 2006 soccer match between Switzerland and Togo in Dortmund June 19.



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