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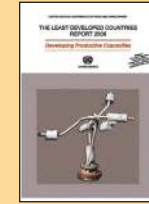
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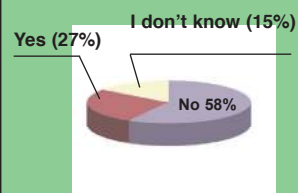
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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 Do you think Yemen had convincing solutions to the Arab-Israeli crisis when calling for an emergency Arab summit?



This edition's question:

Do you think the GPC candidate will limit the funding of his campaign to the 25 million without resorting to the state's treasury?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

The presidential show begins: Two independent, two opposition and Saleh in lead

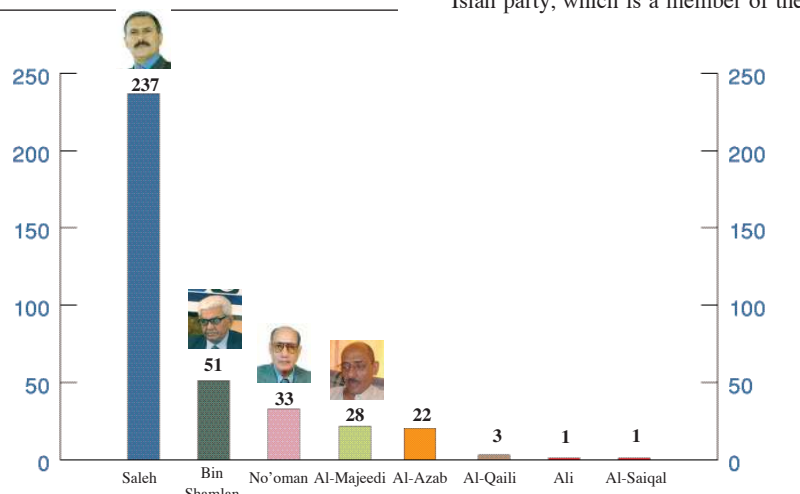
Five official candidates have been announced for the upcoming presidential election, while the main opposition candidate is facing a real challenge by independent candidates supported by the ruling party.

By: Hamdan Dammag

SANA'A, July 24 — From among 46 applicants, five have been declared official candidates in the upcoming presidential election.

In a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Shoura Council in Sana'a on Monday, the following individuals received constitutional recommendation to vie for the post of president:

1. Ali Abdullah Saleh, the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) candidate, with 237 votes
2. Faisal Bin Shamlan, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) candidate, with 51 votes
3. Yaseen Abduh Saeed No'oman, the National Council of Opposition candidate, with 33 votes
4. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Majeedi, an independent candidate (a member of the Yemeni Socialist Party, which is a



member of the JMP), with 28 votes
 5. Fatehi Mohamed Al-Azab, an independent candidate (a member of the Islah party, which is a member of the JMP), with 22 votes.

Continued on page 2

President Saleh meets YJS, Yemen Observer case continues

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, July 26 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Yemen's Minister of Information met with Yemeni Journalists Syndicate leaders headed by Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) Chairman, Nasr Taha Mustafa. The meeting took place yesterday at the presidential palace in Sana'a.

During the meeting, Saleh directed concerned authorities to provide the necessary support for the YJS to purchase their own a headquarters in the capital, as well as to endorse their legal ownership of the Aden headquarters which was a subject of dispute in the past. Additionally, the meeting discussed all things related to the journalism profession.

YJS First Deputy Sa'eed Thabet Sa'eed confirmed this in a press statement and that the president urged the quick solving of the YJS Aden

premises matter. Additionally, Thabet described the syndicate's meeting with the president as positive, with Saleh stressing the importance of journalists playing a great role in defending national issues.

A YJS press release revealed that the meeting discussed a number of journalism-related issues; above all, press rights and freedoms. Further, also discussed were problems journalists face, particularly their difficult living situations.

The release added that President Saleh issued directives to authorities, aiming to improve journalists' living situations, as well as including them on the job description and wage ladder.

On another front the Southwest Capital Court continued discussing the Yemen Observer case until a further two weeks to look into appeals presented by the plaintiffs.

Protestors demand participation in Jihad

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, July 25 — The Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate (YLS), Sana'a branch, organized a demonstration, denouncing the American-encouraged Israeli military action against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, considering it to be a violation of sovereignty.

Brandishing slogans disapproving of the Zionist occupation of Lebanon and Palestine, the protestors condemned the silence of the world and Arab nations regarding the Israeli massacres in

Lebanon and Palestine.

The demonstration started at the old university and headed towards the Lebanese Embassy where the demonstrators handed over a letter, supporting Lebanese people and denouncing the Israeli crimes against them.

For its part, the YLS released a statement stating that the acts committed against the Palestinians and Lebanese are crimes of terrorism carried out by Israeli forces and backed by America.

The statement further condemned the attitudes of the Arab and Islamic leaders saying, "What is shameful is the position of some Arab leaders who hold the Lebanese people and resistance responsible for all this killing, destruction and extermination."

The statement also called for Arab and Islamic people to come back to their religion's principles, without which the nation will be weak.

Additionally, the statement called on the Arab and Islamic nation to gather

around the noble Arab and Islamic leaders who support Jihad and resistance, and reaffirmed the importance of backing the Lebanese and Palestinian people and their brave resistance.

It also asked to activate the Arab Treaty for Joint Defense and to enable the Arab and Muslim youth's participation in Jihad so that Lebanon and Palestine would not have to stand alone in facing the arrogance of American-Zionist terrorism.

Lawyer Nabil Al-Joubi, one of the demonstration organizers, declared, "This demonstration aims to back the Lebanese and Palestinian people and it is the least one can do. The Arab and Islamic peoples should act in order to make their leaders, who preferred to commit themselves to silence, hear their voices. The hope lies with the Arab and Islamic peoples, as the leaders will do nothing."

Al-Joubi added, "If the attitudes of Arab and Islamic countries were strong and united, the matter would be different and Israel would not attempt to do anything."



Yemeni lawyers demand to activate the Arab Treaty for Joint Defense.

YT PHOTO

Iranian ambassador: Hezbollah will defeat Israel

SANA'A, July 26 — Iran Ambassador to Yemen, Hussein Kamalian, held a press conference at the Iranian Embassy in Sana'a, to discuss a number of issues, including Lebanese and Palestinian issues.

Regarding Lebanese and Palestinian he said "in our view, Israel is an unnatural entity and a crises exporter, as proven by modern history, and through these crises, Israel is trying to achieve its goals. It doesn't want peace and it cannot continue without the unlimited support of the United States

"All crimes committed against Palestinian and Lebanese people — as we



Hussein Kamalian. YT PHOTO

as all Arabs and Muslims - should be attributed to the U.S." Kamalian added, "Israelis don't abide by treaties or international accords, whatever they are - the best example is its overuse of banned bombs and rockets in Lebanon."

Kamalian went on to say "Israel has gone beyond the limits in its war not even sparing emergency and fire vehicles. It also targeting densely-populated areas and destroying Lebanon's infrastructure. Israel aims to create a rift between Islamic resistance and other Lebanese factions, but they cannot do so. Lebanon is united and coherent, and Israel fails to achieve its dirty wish."

As for the U.S.-Israeli threats to wipe Hezbollah from the face of the earth, Kamalian responded "this would be impossible and we won't permit it. The coming days will prove that Hezbollah is able to defeat Israel and thus, to redress the balance of power in the area."

When asked about the bilateral relations between Yemen and Iran, Kamalian commented, "There are firm ties between Yemen and Iran, represented by their creative and serious administrations aiming to develop and boost these relations."

Continued on page 2

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Arab writers in Sana'a pay tributes to Ibn Khaldun

SANA'A, July 26 — As part of the Arab Writers Union (AWU) symposium scheduled to take place July 29 in Yemen's capital city, participants from 18 Arab countries are due to pay tributes to the Great Arab Thinker Ibn Khaldun on the 600-year anniversary of his death.

"The current symposium, involving several brilliant Arab researchers, writers and thinkers, is due to discuss five themes, the first of which will focus on Ibn Khaldun's biography, era and his trips to the east and west," said Ms. Huda Belal, Secretary-General of Yemeni Writers Union (YWU).

According to Belal, the second of the themes is devoted to discussing Ibn Khaldun's curriculum of history and critical research while the third theme will concentrate on Ibn Khaldun's political thinking. Themes No. 4 and 5 are due to be discussions of Ibn Khaldun as a leading sociologist, the Science of Construction, as well as his literary forms.



Following family tradition, Ibn Khaldun strove for a political career. In the face of a constantly changing political situation in contemporary North Africa, this required a high degree of skill, developing alliances and dropping them appropriately, to avoid being sucked under by the demise of rulers who, at times, held power only briefly. Ibn Khaldun's autobiography, in which he spends time in prison, gains the highest

offices and enters exile, at times reads like an adventure story, according to Wikipedia of the Arab Sociologist.

Mohamed Al-Gharbi Emran, who chairs the symposium's organizing committee, clarified that Arab writers and artists are to discuss several issues in the region, such as the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and Palestine. Also, they plan to debate the US support for Israel and the targeting of Syria and they stand in solidarity with the Arab states that face international challenges.

Emran pointed out that the meetings' agenda will include discussions of issues related to protection of Arab thinkers and the exchange of publications and translation services between Arab countries.

He mentioned that Arab writers are to conclude their conference with a statement demonstrating their stance toward the above-said issues, in addition to assigning roles to writers to uphold issues of the Islamic nation.

Youth Center receives 30 computers from UNDP

TAIZ, July 25 — The agreement signed between the National Cultural Center for Youth (NCCY) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), along with Microsoft, aims at establishing three social centers in Taiz, Al-Mukalla and Al-Hodeidah. According to this agreement, the NCCY receive 30 computers out of 50, to be distributed to those centers.

Abdullah Sallam, chairman of the

NCCY, said that "Receiving these computers is part of the agreement signed between the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MPIC), UNDP and NCCY in August, 2005, concerning setting up three typical social centers." He added, "Establishing these centers aims to enhance the participation of youth, via developing their abilities to use computers and the Internet, making

use of new technologies in searching for information and creating jobs for innovative and active youths."

Sallam further said that, "It is probable that we could have other centers in Ibb and Dhamar cities next month." He also mentioned that the NCCY's furniture was supplied by Abdulwasae Hayel Sa'ed, assuring that NCCY welcomes any positive initiatives aiming to serve the youth.

Yemen, France and Djibouti to secure Horn of Africa

SANA'A, July 26 — The Chief Commander of French Naval Forces in the Indian Ocean Hubert de Gaullier de Bordes declared that the purpose of his recent visit to Yemen and meeting top with Yemeni military officials was to enhance cooperation and relations between the two countries over maritime security, ensuring that these relations will make more progress in the future.

The talks between the two sides included discussions on fighting terrorism, marine piracy and smuggling.

Furthermore, they discussed forming a Yemeni-French-Djibouti force to secure the Indian Ocean and the Horn of Africa.

He further stressed the importance of the role played by Yemen in solving the Somali issue, by calling all Somali

factions to resort to dialogue to resolve the existing problems and hosting the discussions.

In a press conference held at the house of the ambassador's deputy, Hubert de Gaullier de Bordes said that the Somali Islamic Courts are unable to decide Somalia's future as it has extremists among its members and they are rejected by the international community.

SAF to conclude training course

SANA'A, July 26 — The four-day activities of the second training course for women nominated for local councils elections, organized by the Sisters Arab Forum (SAF) for Human Rights, were concluded yesterday, July 26. The course aimed at raising the legal awareness among trainees in local councils' tasks

and authorities, and enabling them to plan, lead and administer electoral campaigns.

The 34 participants, belonging to 11 different governorates, were trained in different skills needed for the upcoming local elections due to be held in September. Shawki Al-Qadhi, a Member

of Parliament, and Shumish Rayah from Morocco lectured in the course.

The participants belonged to six different parties including General People's Congress, Socialist Party, People's Nasserite Unionist Party, Popular Forces Unionist Party, Haq Party and Al-Khouth Party, as well as independents.

Social Marketing Project inaugurated

SANA'A, July 25 — Marie Stopes International-Yemen, saw the inauguration of its Social Marketing Project (SMP) which is due to last for four years with a total cost of 4.5 million Euros, funded by the German Construction Bank.

In a press conference, SMP Director, Dr. Ashraf Badr said the project is part of a Yemeni-German Reproductive Health Project (YGRHP). "Training society is our main goal," he noted.

The YGRHP trained 18 midwives from Sana'a and Amran with the aim of fostering the use of modern techniques in family planning. The training focused on poor families, by training health service providers such as clinics, pharmacies and midwives, in addition to spreading health awareness amongst communities.

Badr emphasized that the programs target midwives, physicians, pharmacists and sale agents of family planning means. "In 2006, we are to implement the project in six governorates starting with



Dr. Ashraf Badr

Sana'a and Amran, and in 2007 the project is due to be implemented throughout Yemen," he added. "Trainees will be trained on how to provide consultation services and support to members of the society, meanwhile the project plans to modify behavior of the society towards the best and improve the skills of

medics."

Dr. Arwa Al-Rabe'e, Deputy Minister of Public Health and Population, viewed the project as a new initiative for training the private sector on family planning. She revealed that 65 percent of Yemeni women don't use any family planning means due to false rumors implying that they are unreliable.

According to Al-Rabe'e, health indicators concerning maternal mortality at birth still raise concerns, despite several improvements in the health sector. She said that her ministry's strategy stressed joint efforts with the private sector in order to achieve their goals, and insisted that every citizen has the right to ask the Ministry of Public Health and Population for their preferred means of family planning.

Marie Stopes International-Yemen began the social marketing of the use of condoms in 2004, to be then awarded by the Ministry of Public Health and Population in 2005.

63,000 electoral fraud cases referred to court

SANA'A, July 23 — The Public Prosecution Service referred 63,000 cases of election fraud regarding name duplication on electoral registries to the respective courts in governorates nationwide.

Attorney General Dr. Abdullah Al-Ulify indicated that the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) previously provided the Prosecution Service with the repeated names. He mentioned that a specialized team has been formed to tackle the issue prior to the upcoming presidential and local elections.

Al-Ulify confirmed that courts in governorates throughout Yemen have begun discussing the issue, after the

Prosecution Service provided them with files on the duplication cases. He reaffirmed that, in cooperation with concerned bodies, the Prosecution Service plans to clear electoral registries of any violations, according to law.

"So far, the exact number of cases where minors were included on electoral registries hasn't been given while the Prosecution Service is pursuing the issue," Al-Ulify noted.

Judge Yahya Al-Eryani, Deputy Chairman of the Judicial Inspection Authority, said appeals courts nationwide currently are discussing 687 electoral registry-related appeals, demanding duplicate names be dropped from the registries. He noted that the capital city

of Sana'a topped the list with 173 appeals, Al-Mahwit came in second with 125, Ibb was third with 87, Hodeidah was fourth with 84, Hajjah was fifth with 69, Al-Dhale'e was sixth with 43, followed by Amran, with 33 appeals.

Al-Eryani added that discussions regarding 29, 11 and 10 appeals in Raima, Sa'ada and Al-Beidha respectively, are underway, while appeals courts in Hadramout, Lahj, Taiz, Shabwa and Marib are engaged in similar cases.

The Ministry of Justice announced that it received 2,381 electoral appeals regarding adding or dropping names. Most of the appeals were presented at courts in Ibb, Hajjah, Taiz, Hodeidah and Dhamar.

80% of revenge attacks in Yemen caused by water

SANA'A, July 23 — A study conducted by the Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDISF), concluding its program regarding the Water Disputes Administration, declared last Thursday, July 20, that 80% of the disputes leading to fighting and revenge attacks are caused by disputes over water.

Conducted over 18 months and supported by the UK Embassy in Sana'a, the study was made within a program in three stages. The first stage focused on

specifying the problems relating to water scarcity and the suggested solutions. The second stage focused on training and adopting mechanisms by which suggested solutions could be performed. The final stage of the program included issuing a solutions directory.

The study aims to identify the ways by which disputes arising between individuals, tribes and institutions can be solved. Furthermore, the study focused on water issues which took place in Al-Jawf and Amran governorates, showing

the means by which those disputes were settled.

Additionally, the study indicated that the elements which shape the most important reasons for the outbreak of water disputes include failures to recognize different view points, lack of resources and conflicts of interests.

Finally, the study listed water disputes under three different categories concerning well drilling, irrigation channels and the construction of new water projects.

Continued from page 1

Two independent, two opposition and Saleh in lead

Three other applicants received votes, including two of the three female applicants: Rashida Al-Qaili (three votes) and Thikra Ahmed Ali (two votes). The third applicant was independent Abdullah Maqbol Al-Saiqaq with one vote. In addition to two invalid votes, the total number of votes was 378 that is 92% of the total 411 possible votes, which is the total number of members in the two legislative chambers.

Each of the five candidates is expected to get YR 25 million (approximately \$126,903) from the government to fund their campaigns. Candidate recommendations were decided by secret ballot, which began Monday morning, after the Supreme Court ruled on appeals by five applicants whose applications were rejected. Other candidates withdrew

from consideration in favor of President Saleh, whom they said was the competent candidate.

The political game

The JMP has 67 seats in both legislative chambers, yet its official candidate, Bin Shamlan, received only 51 votes, thus raising a question about the JMP's seriousness to back their candidate. Furthermore, according to Al-Motamar.net, Yasser Al-Awadi, Vice Chairman of the GPC bloc in the House of Representatives, said before the vote on Monday, "The GPC has decided to give Bin Shamlan some votes, for fear of the JMP not voting for him."

Although considered opposition, No'oman (General secretary of the Nasserite Democratic Party) and Al-Majeedi (Socialist Party) were voted for by the ruling party, as declared

earlier by Sultan Al-Barakani, Chairman of the GPC bloc in the House of Representatives. Voting for the two independent candidates was seen by many as a way to weaken the JMP candidate. Commenting on this, a high official at the Socialist party who requested to remain anonymous said that the party was upset with his decision to "join ranks with the GPC and distract JMP votes" and that the party might decide to "kick him out".

Socialist party Member of Parliament Dr. Mohamed Saleh Ali described the GPC's support for such candidates as "ruining the election process." On the other hand, Dr. Abdulrahman Bafadhl, Chairman of the Islah Party bloc in the House of Representatives, congratulated the candidates, terming the voting process "satisfactory."

Iranian ambassador: Hezbollah will defeat Israel

There is nothing to obstruct developing such relations at all levels, whether political or economic, in addition to coordinating the regional and international issues of joint interest."

Additionally, Kamalian noted "there are current investment projects and other projects being studied."

Regarding Iran's nuclear file, the Iranian ambassador said, "The Europeans provided some motives and we are dealing with them positively. However, we announced that there are some vague points needing further explanation. Further, we need enough time to study this offer and should be given the chance to study it.

"Negotiations are the best means of solving this issue, but we want to enter such negotiations without any previous conditions. We won't waiver our legal rights," Kamalian added. "We don't want more than what's ensured by international treaties and referring the case to the Security Council won't solve the problem," he concluded.

Nasrallah: No humiliating conditions for a ceasefire

On the other hand, the leader of Hezbollah threatened yesterday a new phase in the war with Israel and said his fighters will not accept any "humiliating" conditions for a ceasefire. This came in a televised address on the eve of the international conference in Rome designed to find a solution to the two-week-old conflict.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said Hezbollah would reject any deal that



A protestor lifting Hassan Nasrallah photo

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

compromised Lebanon's sovereignty.

"We cannot accept any condition humiliating to our country, our people or our resistance," Nasrallah said. He added "In the new period, our bombardment will not be limited to Haifa." "If matters develop, we will choose the time when we will move beyond, beyond Haifa."

Nasrallah said Israel had prepared to launch a war on Hezbollah and would have done so regardless of the group's capture of the soldiers. He said the United States wanted to wipe out Hezbollah as part of its plan for a new Middle East.

"The project upon which the war was planned is the return of Lebanon to the sphere of American-Israeli control," he said.

Israel troops 'ignored' UN plea

UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon contacted Israeli troops 10 times before an Israeli bomb killed four of them, an initial UN report says.

The post was hit by a precision-guided missile after six hours of shelling, diplomats familiar with the probe say. UN-led crisis talks in Rome ended with no agreement to urge an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

In the latest fighting, up to 13 Israeli soldiers were reported killed in southern Lebanon on Wednesday.

Israel has not confirmed any deaths from among its soldiers, but says there have been 20 casualties in the clashes around the town of Bint Jbail.

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على هدية مجانية ستفاجئك.

نطمح دائما أن نمد زبائننا بالمنتجات المتميزة التي ترضي أذواقهم، وامتدادا لهذا السعي الدائم نقدم لزبائننا الكرام الآن عرضنا الترويجي النجم السعيد الذي يضم العديد من الهدايا المجانية الرائعة كاجهزة التلفزيون، غسالات الملابس، مشغلات الأقراص المرئية DVD، الأجهزة السمعية المحمولة، خلاطات العصائر، كرات القدم، قمصان T-shirts و أقلام، إلخ. ستحصل على كل هذا عند شرائك من منتجات باناسونيك بما قيمته ٥٠ دولار، لذا تفضل بزيارة أحد معارض باناسونيك اليوم لتصبح من الفائزين بغرض النجم السعيد... أسرع ولا تفوت الفرصة.

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Engagement in Yemen a variety of traditions and habits

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
Fatima_fnjr@yahoo.com

With the limitations of Yemeni life, questions often are asked about how Yemeni women become engaged. As Yemeni culture is unique, so too are Yemeni engagement traditions. Different customs from one era to another and what's allowed or possible in Sana'a might not be the same in Aden, etc.

Deliberate visits to see the fiancée
Marriage among related families is easier than marriage between different families. If the families don't know each other well, the man's mother begins visiting the woman's family to get to know her better.

Actually, it's unacceptable to visit the woman's family for this purpose so a mother must create reasons for such a visit because it's not ok to say, "We propose asking for your daughter's hand," when nothing is known about the woman or her family except that the man's mother and sisters feel she is who her son wants. They talk to her mother and ask for her hand and then the women of both families start discussing everything related to the couple.

In cities like Sana'a, Dhamar and others, the potential fiancé isn't allowed to see the woman he wants to marry before engagement, and likewise, it's impossible for the woman to see her fiancé too. Some men accept their mother's or sisters' description of the woman and that's enough for them, whereas others reject it completely.

Adel Omar of Sana'a recounted, "My mother chose my fiancée. She went to her house, saw her and then asked for her hand. I asked my fiancée's father if it was possible to see her before engagement, but he rejected, saying, 'I don't have girls for showing. You either accept her or go away.' Then I got engaged without seeing her."

However, Rasas Al-Gashem rejected getting engaged without



seeing his fiancée. "I wasn't satisfied with my sister's description of my fiancée, so I went to her father and told him it was my right to see the woman who will be my wife and that it's not forbidden or wrong because the prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said it's better for both to see each other before marriage. Then, because her father is a righteous person, he let me see her and now we're married," Al-Gashem said.

Generally, women also don't have a chance to see their fiancé, especially if he lives far away or isn't a relative, so they await the engagement day to see him when he comes to her house. When asking women how they saw their fiancé, Nawal Al-Adrous of Sana'a replied, "I saw him from my bedroom window, but I wasn't sure if he was my fiancé because many men entered with him and I got confused."

However, cities like Taiz, Aden and others believe it's important for both to see each other before becoming engaged, so families make

it a rule. The woman's family arranges a party and invites the fiancé to see her.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Taiz, who has been married for 33 years, recalled, "Thirty years ago, women in Taiz didn't cover their faces. I knew my fiancée because we were neighbors. Everything was simple. We held small party for the engagement, inviting just our families. That was enough, unlike now, when many requests must be presented to the fiancée."

Nowadays, some parents in Sana'a are changing the concept that refuses the man from seeing his fiancée, preferring that they must know each other before marriage. Haj Saleh Awad requested his daughter's fiancé see her by telling him, "You must see her because maybe she's not what you're looking for. If not, just tell me because we're at the beginning and you can look for someone else," Awad recounted.

Moreover, with the new Yemeni lifestyle, men and women now have

the chance to see each other in various settings, such as teachers at school, doctors and nurses at hospitals or workers in offices.

University students Abdulaziz Al-Thabibi and Latifah Yahya got engaged after being friends for four years. "We were doing the practical assignments together and that helped me to get to know her more. When I felt that she was the suitable one to be my wife, I became engaged to her. We're now married and both working as nurses at Al-Kuwait

Hospital," Al-Thabibi said.

The role of the woman's father

The roles of the father and brothers begin when women determine that everything is ok, with the father asking about the fiancé's behavior. Raja'a Japer, who is engaged, said, "My father and brothers spent three months asking about my fiancé at every place he goes. When they found that he is a good person, they accepted him."

The woman's family notifies the man's of their acceptance through al-wasidah, a person who takes on the role of introducing both families to each other, especially if they don't know each other. He takes charge of doing so from the first step, engagement, to the last step, marriage. He or she also arranges meetings during the engagement day. If something is misunderstood or unacceptable to both families, they inform al-wasidah and he must explain and handle it with them.

Hamoud Al-Harthi recalls, "I was al-wasidah for my neighbor's marriage. I gave all the information the woman's family needed about the man and his family. It was a difficult role, but I had to do it because I knew both families well."

Engagement day

When al-wasidah informs the man's family of acceptance by the woman's, they decide on the engagement day. In Sana'a, men generally visit the woman's family on engagement day, holding a short meeting to present gifts from the fiancé and name how much money will be given to the wife for

marriage, which is called mahar or shart. It's important for the man to visit his fiancée's house with his father and uncles, otherwise, the engagement won't be accepted.

Such happened to Saeed Al-Khawlani. Everything was ok, but he went alone on the engagement day and not with his father or uncles, so the woman's family rejected Al-Khawlani because they thought he came without his father's acceptance, which is a shame in Yemeni culture. In some eras like Taiz and Aden, a party holds on this day for the fiancée wherein the man has the chance to see her.

Engagement requests

The engagement ring is the main gift given to the woman. Additionally, other gifts like jewelry, perfume and sandals are given to the fiancée, her mother and grandmother, as is known in Sana'a. Mohammed Al-Ajel, who has been engaged, recalled, "I brought a large bag full of gifts on the engagement day and I paid the money for qat. I spent more than YR 100,000 just for the engagement."

However, in other cities like Taiz and Aden, the fiancé brings just the engagement ring and some simple gifts. Osama Hazza'a from Aden commented about his engagement, "I bought a ring, flowers and a cake and then made a party at my fiancée's house. It was a good chance for both families to know each other more."

Among the variety of cultures and customs in Yemen, new traditions are being born that will help change negative aspects and create wonderful new ones.

Education for Every Woman

By: Nawal Zaid

Education is essential for both men and women. However, it is important for the woman as it enables her to deal with all members of family and society. "I can not understand my husband who is an educated and cultured person. He evaluates life and reacts to it in a simple way. He still learns from life though he is quite old," said Hana Al-Rabouai. "He wants me to complete my education as I had only a primary school education. Then I got married to him and gave birth to my son Marwan. Now, I can not follow my education, as I must take care of my husband and son, as well as our house."

We can also say that the educated woman thinks always in a correct way and finds the right solution for the problems she faces, whether private or general. Education is also important for married couples, as it helps lessen the range of problems that a husband and wife face. Fathia Al-Ariqi is not happy with her educated husband, who preferred to marry another woman for being educated.

The educated woman can understand her husband. She knows her duties towards him, her children and her religion. She knows how to bring up her children in a correct way.

Yahya Al-Zubairi, for his part, says that he has completed his education and he is now a telecaster, "but my

wife is illiterate; my father chose her for me and she gave birth to two children, a boy and a girl. However, my wife has no culture and she can not deal with me in the way I would like. She does not understand the meaning of married life. She can not raise our children and she does not understand the conditions of my work. She is careless, though I try my best to teach her, but in vain. She cares only about housework, cooking, visiting her friends and talking to them for extended periods of time on the telephone. I felt compelled to marry one of my workmates, I see everything in her."

Some people force their daughters not to follow their education as they think that some day they will be married and without the need for an education. Thus, the girl becomes a victim. She knows nothing. She will be narrow-minded and she will be ruthless in her dealings with those around her. She knows not how to face problems and consequently might worsen a problem when trying to solve it. She can not raise her children in the right manner, as she possesses no social or cultural awareness.

Nawal Al-Dhubhani says that she was able to pursue her own education, "I finished primary school. My family was careless about my education, but I was not content and I studied some English courses. I also gave vent to my hobbies; I started writing poetry, essays and stories. I try always to

educate myself further by reading books and socializing with educated people to learn from them."

Most wives deserted by their husbands out of death or divorce are unable to live and protect themselves and their children. If they were educated and had a certificate, the matter would be utterly different. Then they could work and earn money to support themselves and their children. Education is the only arm for a woman to face the threats of this fierce age.

For her part, Samira Al-Bourati, whose husband died ten years ago, says that she can not do anything for her children but support them from his salary, 15,000 YR. As I am uneducated and have no certificate to work, I can not provide them with all things they need. I work as a servant in some houses to meet some of their demands.

Many husbands, unfortunately, do not care about their wives' education and they prefer them to be illiterate. If the wife is educated, the husband will feel ashamed as he feels she is better than him. Accordingly, most husbands prevent their wives from following their education and having jobs. Mohammed Al-Marani says that he prevented his wife from following her education as he felt ashamed in front of his friends.

Education for every woman is important and it opens the doors which are otherwise shut before her. I call upon parents and husbands to let women follow their education.



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Initiatives for national reform (Part 2)

The proposal of Hamid Al-Ahmar also suggests that the current president of the republic and his sons, the vice president, the speaker of parliament and his sons should not be allowed to run for the upcoming presidential elections.



By: Abdurrahim Muhsin

Furthermore, the members of the president's family should not nominate themselves for the presidential election. This condition also applies to family members of Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, those of the prime minister and vice president and family members of those who formerly occupied those posts for the four decades leading up to 2006. The key aspect of this proposal is that even the family of the publisher of the proposal is excluded from presidency. This indicates a new type of behavior from those in power, opening the way for a more distinguished political, economic and cultural era.

The initiatives that appeared during the year 2005-2006 are not suitable for serious adoption in a climate under which internal and external political partnerships are refused, while the plundering of wealth and widespread corruption continue. There is the "plan for rectifying the course of unity" whose presence and role has been established inside the political process but opposed by the political authority. These issues receive international interest and will play a major role in the "popular revolution" however only serve to worsen the trend towards political incredibility. The military rule refuses to sit at the negotiating table and the opposition has not taken a serious stance with regard to participating in the political process at a national level. This lack of dialogue may affect the national initiatives in that excuses will abound as to the prevalence of loose and empty slogans.

The political arena has also witnessed an initiative by the MP Sultan Al-Samie, published on the last page of Al-Thawri newspaper. The

article aroused a tumultuous reaction, with authorities using all means of terror tactics to discourage Al-Samie in his objectives. The initiative is summarized by dividing the republic into regions, thereby changing the system of the state presidency. Yemen has experienced this experiment more

than once before.

Another initiative, published in Danmar, includes the adoption of federalism. This proposal has also received a good deal of opposition. Having been written by an individual, it was ignored by the political arena.

My viewpoint, having studied Al-Ahmar's initiative, is that it protects the republic from:

- The regional and sectarian fragmentation witnessed during the 1994 war and the war of 2005-2006 in Saada.
- Fighting caused by political and financial regional families competing for power.
- All forms of military government that pose more of a threat than even the royal imamate rule.
- Absolute autocratic rule that may be crippling the development of Yemeni society.
- Conspiracies, coups and campaigns of violence, aimed at securing power for military rule, the families of which have been in place for more than quarter of a century.
- Neglect of the southern question and assurance that it is a matter solvable by responsible and transparent dialogue.

I believe that it is necessary for the JMP to pay attention to the proposal and seriously consider its adoption with a view to possible negotiations with the system of military rule. They must not simply choose a token candidate for the presidential election. The ball is now in the court of the JMP.

Abdurrahim Muhsin is a well-known Yemeni journalist and opposition activist. He was a former media person of the presidency office.

Advocates of the astray wisdom

The wisdom unleashed by the High Representative for the Common Foreign Security of the European Union- Javier Solana- in which he shed crocodile tears for the Lebanese suffering under brutal Israeli aggression, caused much sorrow for the Israeli foreign minister as well as many of the nation's wise men. That wisdom was but one of the demons, exposed by all criteria, not only for those in the Arab centers of national Research, but rather for all simple Arab citizens.

Condoleezza Rice's prayers for the Lebanese lives taken in the most savage of international operations is another aspect of the delusions of satanic wisdoms. It is aimed at shedding the last drop of the dignity of Hezbollah and Hamas's resistance. Its aim is the complete extermination of any remaining chivalry amongst citizens to avenge injustice and aggres-

sion. Advocates of this wisdom intend to force every Arab citizen to drink from the poisoned cup.

The ferocious Israeli Zionist Israeli scheme is in fact a paper tiger exposed through offense and air force superiority and the destruction of whatever Lebanese and before that whatever Palestinian. The Israeli air force the Zionists boast of was able to perpetrate such atrocities because those of the astray-wisdom have prevented the Lebanese from possessing even one surface-to-surface missile throughout the Arab Israeli conflict. They and the Arabs in particular imposed a blockade against the Palestinians such that they may not possess any anti-aircraft missiles.

Has not the operation carried out by the Lebanese resistance movement



By: Atif Awad

uncovered those advocates of the astray-wisdom who have depleted the nation's capabilities under the cry of 'no voice rises higher than the voice of the Arab battle against Israel?'. It is in this same name that the Arab man is downtrodden and stripped of his humanity. Then in the name of peace there has been the impoverishment and humiliation of the Arab citizen.

It has become undoubtedly clear that every sincere and nationalistic Arab realizes that the Israeli is but a ghost that those in power have used to frighten their nation with. If they now have demanded him to stop his military aggression against Lebanon and Palestine, they have no aim to expose the reality of this unconquerable soldier and this Zionist entity. The sincere Arab revenge does not only perceive Israel and America as the enemy but

also those advocates of the deviated wisdom of this nation.

What manifests itself now is that the peoples of this nation, whose afflictions come from their so-called wise men, appear to be just shedding crocodile tears for the Lebanese who have been under bombardment from the Israeli air force. They also criticize Hezbollah, who, through its use of Iranian and Syrian rockets, has dragged the Lebanese to destruction. Has any Arab state offered Hezbollah or the resistance movement any rockets and met with refusal? Is it out of their wisdom to blame a resistance avenging in the name of Arab dignity by asking rockets from Iran and Syria?

The Americans and all those of the satanic wisdom have lost any understanding and resorted to a game of taking the Arabs unawares in the name of national fear.

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

Israel And The Arab Fifth Column

By: Abdullah Al Rahim

I guess the title for this article would have been enough without adding anything more. Indeed, the comments of the Arab fifth column about who is responsible speaks volumes about who is really responsible!

I am not interested in going through the boring details of why Israel, America and the Arab fifth column have decided to wage this war now. That's all clear. I am more interested in the future.

Israel, America and their supporters are living under the illusion that this war, if Hezbollah and Hamas are defeated, will be the last war Arabs will ever wage. Because thereafter, the Arab fifth column will be totally free to surrender the rest of the Arab world to America and Israel.

We have no illusions about the strength of Israel's war machinery and we have, yet again, seen the brutality with which Israel is willing to strike civilian populations. This was confirmed by Hassan Nasrullah, Hezbollah's leader himself, who, contrary to the usual Arab style, admitted that the militarily balance of power is in favour of Israel, and that he expects the war to be painful and devastating, despite Hezbollah military strikes deep in Israel. However, he also spoke the truth when he said, "But we have our resolve, our faith in God and justice, and that too is an imbalance, but in our favour". How true, yet how sad. All those hundreds of billions spent on military hardware by Arab leaders, hardware that is rusting away or waiting

to be used against their masses, all those military bases and airports which are made available only to American forces, yet resistance movements like Hezbollah and Hamas must depend only on their limited hardware and the unlimited reserve of their faith and their resolve.

Indeed, this is a military war against Israel and America, but it is also a struggle against the forces that have kept the Arabs unable to rise up to their potential, forces that continue to squander not only Arab wealth but Arab resolve too. As we fight our external enemies, we must not forget the dangers posed by the fifth column within our midst.

And yes, we have the right to join hands with our Iranian brothers. No one should make us believe that an alliance with Iran is devilish. Arab Iranian alliance is the most natural and legitimate thing in the world. This is our common cause. Iran is under threat and the Arabs are under threat and our enemies are the same. Look at who is attacking the Arabs and who is occupying Arab lands and who is targeting Iran and threatening Iran. It is the very same people. Yet if you are to believe the Arab fifth column then you must believe that America is our friend even as its forces occupy two Muslim countries, even as America supports Israel's war machine which is killing Arabs, even as America vetoes all Security Council resolution that criticize Israel! While Iran, our neighbour, with the same religion and exposed to the same threats that we are exposed to from the same people, is our enemy. If you are to believe Israel, America and the Arab

fifth column, then the capture of three Israeli [armed and trained to kill] soldier's by Hezbollah and Hamas is a crime but the kidnapping of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, inside Lebanese and Palestinian territories, by Israel, is an issue that we can chat about over a cup of coffee! Some of these Palestinians and Lebanese have been held captive by Israel for more than 20 years. And since when did the capture of an armed soldier in a war zone become 'kidnap'? I guess the spin doctors of Israel and America have introduced a new word in our military vocabulary, which unfortunately is being copied by some of our 'accomplished' journalists.

If you are to believe Israel, America and the Arab fifth column, all military occupation of our lands are legitimate and all Arab and Muslim acts of resistance are acts of terrorism. You must also believe that American and British forces occupying Iraq are not foreign but those fighting them are foreigners. Possession of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, are legitimate only to Israel and its western supporters and Muslim countries must stand down on nuclear weapons' possession and allow ourselves to be blackmailed by the nuclear powers.

If we are still prepared to accept this nonsense then we deserve not only our fifth column, but the next attack that is sure to come.

Israel must be reminded that its survival and peaceful co-existence with us cannot be guaranteed by the logic of power but by the power of logic. Every missile Israel launches upon Arab towns and villages, every civilian it kills and

others it kidnaps and throws in its prisons, every Arab house Israel demolishes and every olive farm it destroys makes Israel's future existence not less but more questionable.

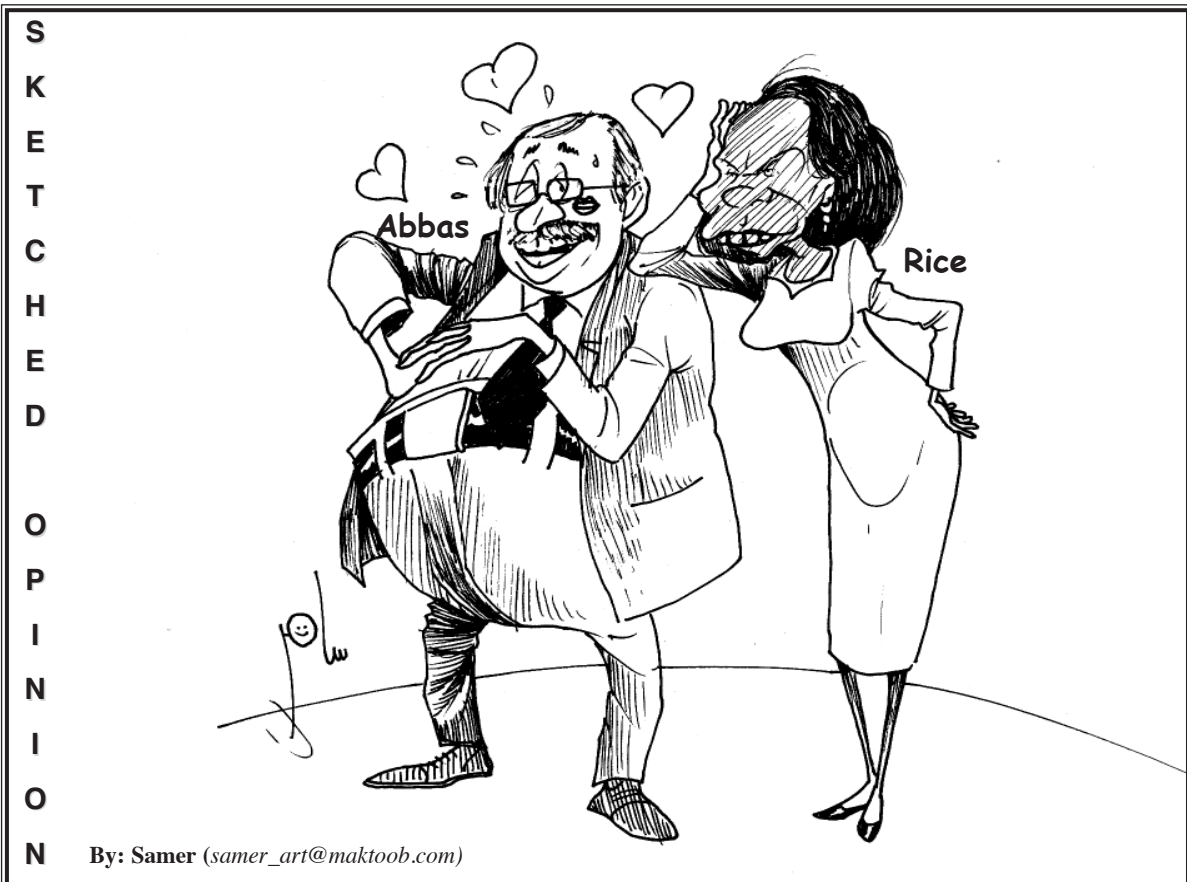
In 1967 Israel's victory over the Arabs was swift and decisive. In 1973 things were different. In 1982 it swiftly occupied Lebanon. In 2000 Hezbollah defeated Israel and forced it out of Lebanon. In this war Hezbollah, which is only a resistance movement, managed to strike deep into Israel. Although Israel still has overall military advantage, every war it has fought with Arabs was more difficult than the previous.

Even if it wins this round of war with the Arabs, Israel must ask itself, does it really believe it can only depend on its temporary military might to continue existing among 300 million Arabs it makes hostile and whose hatred it provokes everyday? For how long does Israel think it will continue to have a monopoly of military and technological superiority over the Arabs? For how long will Israel rely on the weakness of Arab leadership? Does Israel believe the current incompetent leadership in the Arab world to be eternal? Doesn't Israel see for itself the change taking place in the Arab world?

Israel's future depends more on its ability to be a good regional citizen rather than on its behaviour as the neighbourhood thug.

Meanwhile, for both, the Arab fifth column and Israel, this war might prove to be more decisive than they bargained for.

Abdullah Al Rahim is a Yemeni political writer.



By: Samer (samer_art@maktoob.com)

Letters to the Editor

Zionism

Greetings. I've had my article, "Israel and the Land," published in Russia's Pravda newspaper (link is provided below).

Although I'm a conservative evangelical Christian, I don't believe the Bible supports the present-day Jewish claim to all Arab land in Palestine and beyond. However, Israel does have every right to exist, just like any other nation.

I offer a Biblical and historical analysis and refutation of the popularly accepted theory of Zionism. It is Zionism (building and expanding Jewish settlements on Arab land) that is fueling most of the problems in that area. Please feel free to reproduce my article from Pravda. I don't ask for any compensation, monetary or otherwise.

Sincerely,

Babu G. Ranganathan*
B.A. Bible/Biology
www.religionscience.com

Water is life

Waterborne disease is the general cause of transmitting numerous health infections to the human body. The public has been taking the matter lightly, with most never considering it an issue at all.

Readers mention few cases of kidney or liver disease. Statistically, kidney and liver failure are very common among children and adults and the number is increasing rapidly.

Public lives are put at risk partly due to lack of awareness. Other water suppliers in the market probably don't have a standard set by concerned authorities to avail safe drinking water to the public.

The water we use, whether bottled in plastic or any other kind, has variations of sometimes heavy and sometimes light mineral presence. The kidneys take the brunt when one drinks mineral-heavy water.

The public should be protected by ensuring that water filtration systems of commercially bottled water maintain proper and permissible quality levels.

The water test I used to determine mineral presence in water I use at home was quite disturbing in terms of mineral presence, whether it was bottled water or tap water.

Those who boil water and assume it's free of heavy minerals are mistaken. They may kill bacterial organisms but not reduce harmful quantities.

I must emphasize that water should be well treated by suppliers and filtration systems. Water could be inspected more regularly and strictly for any violation of standards and punitive auction taken.

Ali Sherif
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The World Health Organisation report 2006:

Working together for health (6/6)

The World Health Report 2006 - Working together for health contains an expert assessment of the current crisis in the global health workforce and ambitious proposals to tackle it over the next ten years, starting immediately. The report reveals an estimated shortage of almost 4.3 million doctors, midwives, nurses and support workers worldwide. The shortage is most severe in the poorest countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where health workers are most needed. Focusing on all stages of the health workers' career lifespan from entry to health training, to job recruitment through to retirement, the report lays out a ten-year action plan in which countries can build their health workforces, with the support of global partners.

Plan of action

National leadership must urgently jump-start country-based actions and sustain them for at least a decade. Table 2 summarizes targets in the plan of action over the decade 2006-2015.

- Immediate actions over the next few years should consist of lead countries pioneering national plans for scaling up effective strategies, increasing investments, cutting waste, and strengthening educational institutions. Global support should accelerate progress in countries, with immediate policy attention given to intelligence, technical cooperation, policy alignment of fiscal space and migration, and

harmonization of priority initiatives and donor assistance.

- At the decade's mid-point, over half of all countries should have sound national plans with expanded execution of good policies and management practices concerned with workforce incentives, regulation and institutions. Global advances will include shared norms and frameworks, strong technical support, and improved knowledge management. Responsible recruitment and alignment of priority programmes and development instruments to support the health workforce should be in place.
- The decade goal in all countries is to build high-performing workforces for national health systems to respond to current

and emerging challenges. This means that every country should have implemented national strategic plans and should be planning for the future, drawing on robust national capacity. Globally, a full range of evidence-based guidelines should inform good practice for health workers.

Effective cooperative agreements will minimize adverse consequences despite increased international flows of workers. Sustained international financing should be in place to support recipient countries for the next 10 years as they scale up their workforce.

Ten-year plan of action Moving forward together

Moving forward on the plan of action necessitates that stakeholders



work together through inclusive alliances and networks - local,

national and global - across health problems, professions, disciplines, ministries, sectors and countries. Cooperative structures can pool limited talent and fiscal resources and promote mutual learning. Figure 5 proposes how a global workforce alliance can be launched to bring relevant stakeholders to accelerate core country programmes.

effective solutions are emerging, and various countries are already pioneering interventions.

Workforce development is a continuous process that is always open for improvement. However, immediate acceleration of performance can be attained in virtually all countries if well-documented solutions are applied. Some of the work should be implemented immediately; other aspects will take time. There are no short cuts and there is no time to lose.

Now is the time for action, to invest in the future, and to advance health - rapidly and equitably.

Ten-year plan of action		2006 Immediate	2010 Mid-point	2015 Decade
Country leadership	Management	Cut waste, improve incentives	Use effective managerial practices	Sustain high performing workforce
	Education	Revitalize education strategies	Strengthen accreditation and licensing	Prepare workforce for the future
	Planning	Design national workforce strategies	Overcome barriers to implementation	Evaluate and redesign strategies, based on robust national capacity
Global solidarity	Knowledge and learning	Develop common technical frameworks Pool expertise	Assess performance with comparable metrics Fund priority research	Share evidence-based good practices
	Enabling policies	Advocate ethical recruitment and migrant workers' rights Pursue fiscal space exceptionality	Adhere to responsible recruitment guidelines Expand fiscal space for health	Manage increased migratory flows for equity and fairness Support fiscal sustainability
	Crisis response	Finance national plans for 25% of crisis countries Agree on best donor practices for human resources for health	Expand financing to half of crisis countries Adopt 50:50 investment guideline for priority programmes	Sustain financing of national plans for all countries in crisis



Global stakeholder alliance

A premier challenge is advocacy that promotes workforce issues to a high place on the political agenda and keeps them there. The moment is ripe for political support as problem awareness is expanding,

They ordered the villagers to leave, then attacked them when they obeyed

They are in the schools, in empty hospitals, in halls and mosques and in the streets. The Shia Muslim refugees of southern Lebanon, driven from their homes by the Israelis, are arriving in Sidon by the thousand, cared for by Sunni Muslims and then sent north to join the 600,000 displaced Lebanese in Beirut. More than 34,000 have passed through here in the past four days alone, a tide of misery and anger. It will take years to heal their wounds, and billions of dollars to repair their damaged property.

And who can blame them for their flight? For the second time in eight days, the Israelis committed a war crime yesterday. They ordered the villagers of Taire, near the border, to leave their homes and then - as their convoy of cars and minibuses obediently trailed northwards - the Israeli air force fired a missile into the rear minibus, killing three refugees and seriously wounding 13 other civilians. The rocket that killed them is believed to have been a

Hellfire missile made by Lockheed Martin in Florida.

Nine days ago, the Israeli army ordered the inhabitants of a neighbouring village, Marwa-heen, to leave their homes and then fired rockets into one of their evacuation trucks, blasting the women and children inside to their deaths. And this is the same Israeli air force which was praised last week by one of Israel's greatest defenders - Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz - because it "takes extraordinary steps to minimise civilian casualties".

Nor have the Israelis spared Sidon. A heap of rubble and pancaked walls is all that is left of the Fatima Zahra mosque, a Hizbollah institution in the centre of the city, its minaret crumbled and its dome now sitting on the concrete, a black flag still flying from its top. When Israeli warplanes came early yesterday morning, the 75-year-old caretaker had no time to run from the



By: Robert Fisk

building' he died of his wounds hours later. His overturned white plastic chair still lies by the gate. The mosque is unlikely to have been used for military purposes' a school belonging to the Hariris, Sidon's all-powerful Sunni family, stands next door' they would never have allowed weapons into the building.

Not that Hizbollah - which killed two more Israeli civilians with their rockets in Haifa yesterday - have respected Sidon, whose population is 95 per cent Sunni. They tried to fire Iranian-made missiles at Israel from the seafront Corniche and from beside the city slaughterhouse last week. On both occasions, residents physically prevented them from opening fire.

The multimillion-dollar Hariri Foundation - created by the former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, who was assassinated last year - has

helped 24,000 Shiarefugees out of the south and on to Beirut but its generosity has not always been happily received. One group of refugees sheltering in a technical school in Meheniyeh punched and taunted Hariri workers. Elsewhere, the foundation's staff have been cursed by fleeing families. "They are telling us that we are working for the Americans and that this is why we are taking them out," said Ghena Hariri - Rafik's niece and a Georgetown graduate. "It is something that drains our energy. We are working 24 hours a day and at the end of the day they curse us. But I feel so sorry for them. Now they are being told by the Israelis to leave their villages on foot and they have to walk dozens of kilometres in this heat."

It's not difficult to see how this war can damage the delicate sectarian framework that exists in Lebanon. One group of Shia families - housed in a school in the Druze mountains of the Chouf - tried to put Hizbollah's yellow banners on the roof and members of Walid

Jumblatt's Druze Popular Socialist Party had to tear them down. Their act may have saved the refugees' lives.

Yet many of the Shia in this beautiful Crusader port have learnt how kind their Sunni neighbours can be. "We are here-where else can we go?" Nazek Kadnah asked as she sat in the corner of a mosque which Rafik Hariri built and dedicated to his father, Haj Baha'udin Hariri. "But they look after us here as their brothers and sisters and now we are safe."

These sentiments provoke some dark questions. Why, for example, can't these poor people be shown the same compassion from Tony Blair as he supposedly felt for the Muslims of Kosovo when they were being driven from their homes by the Serbs? These thousands are as terrified and homeless as the Kosovo Albanians who fled to Macedonia in 1998 and for whom Mr Blair claimed he was waging a moral war. But for the Shia Muslims sleeping homeless in Sidon there is to be no such moral posturing - and no ceasefire suggestions from Mr Blair, who has aligned himself with the Israelis and the Americans.

And what exactly is the purpose of driving more than half a million people from their homes? Many of these poor people sit clutching their front-door keys, just as the Palestinians of Galilee did when they arrived in Lebanon 58 years ago to spend the rest of their lives as refugees.

Yes, the Shia Muslims of Lebanon

probably will go home But to what? A war between the Hizbollah and a Western intervention force? Or further bombardment by the Israelis?

The Sidon refugees now have 36 schools in which they can shelter - but they are the lucky ones. Across southern Lebanon, the innocent continued to die. One was an eight-year-old boy who was killed in an Israeli air raid on a village close to Tyre. Eight more civilians were wounded when an Israeli missile hit a vehicle outside the Najem hospital in Tyre.

And during the morning, one of Lebanon's journalists, Loyal Nejjib, a photographer for the magazine Al-Jaras whose pictures were also transmitted by Agence France Press, was killed in her taxi by an Israeli air strike near Qana, the same village in which 106 civilians were massacred in a UN base by Israeli artillery shells in 1996. She was only 23.

In her marble-walled home above Sidon, Bahiyya Hariri - Ghena's mother, the sister of the murdered former prime minister and a local member of parliament - sat grim-faced, scarcely controlling her fury. "We are in this terrible situation but we haven't any window to resolve this situation," she said. "Rafik Hariri is no longer with us. The international community is not with us."

Who is with us? God. And the old Lebanese. And the Arab world, we hope, will help us. The only resistance we can show is to be a united Lebanon. But we have only a small margin in which to dream."

Source: The Independent (UK)



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United Nations conference on trade and development least developed countries report

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has recently published the Least Developed Countries Report 2006 on its Website; the Report has the theme of 'developing productive capacities'. The report lists Yemen among 50 countries considered the least developed, following a criterion of Income; Human Asset based on nutrition, health, school enrollment and literacy; and economic vulnerability. The Full Report is available for download from UNCTAD's website at: www.unctad.org and is available in several languages including Arabic and English. Below is the policy argument for developing productive capacities.

Productive capacities matter
By: Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

In recent years, many LDCs have achieved higher rates of economic growth than in the past and even higher growth of exports. But there is a widespread sense — which is apparent in the concern to ensure "pro-poor" growth — that this is not translating effectively into poverty reduction and improved human well-being. Moreover, the sustainability of the accelerated growth is fragile as it is highly dependent on commodity prices, including oil prices, trends in external finance, preferences for exports of manufactured goods, and climatic and weather conditions. In the late 1970s and 1980s, many LDCs experienced growth collapses in which gains from earlier growth spurts were reversed, and the vulnerability to this happening again remains.

Developing productive capacities is the key to achieving sustained economic growth in the LDCs. It is through developing their productive capacities that the LDCs will be able to rely increasingly on domestic resource mobilization to finance their economic growth, to reduce aid dependence and to attract private capital inflows of a type that can support their development process. It is also through developing their productive capacities that the LDCs will be able to compete in international markets in goods and services which go beyond primary commodities and which are not dependent on special market access preferences.

Developing productive capacities is also the key to reducing pervasive poverty in the LDCs. Although aid transfers to the LDCs are increasingly being used to alleviate human suffering, substantial and sustained poverty reduction cannot be achieved with such expressions of international solidarity alone. It requires wealth creation in the LDCs and the development of domestic productive capacities in a way in which productive employment opportunities expand.

The development of productive capacities will be particularly important during the next 15 years because the LDCs are at a critical moment of transition in which they face a double challenge. Firstly, more and more people are seeking work outside agriculture and urbanization is accelerating.

For the LDCs as a group, the decade 2000–2010 is going to be the first decade in which the growth of the economically active population outside agriculture is predicted to be greater than the growth of the economically active population within agriculture.

This transition will affect more than half the LDCs during the decade and even more in the decade 2010–2020. Secondly, the LDCs must manage this transition in an open-economy context. As shown in earlier LDC Reports, very few LDCs have restrictive trade regimes at the present time and most have undertaken rapid and extensive trade liberalization.

But their existing production and trade structures offer very limited opportunities in a rapidly globalizing world driven by new knowledge-

intensive products with demanding conditions of market entry. At the same time, rapid opening up in more traditional sectors is exposing existing producers to an unprecedented degree of global competition. Benefiting from recent technological advances requires advancing towards and crossing various thresholds in human capital, R&D and management practice, which most LDC economies have lacked the resources to do. The relentless logic of cumulative causation threatens to push LDCs even further behind.

The Least Developed Countries Report 2006

If productive employment opportunities do not expand sufficiently for the growing labour force in the LDCs — in non-agricultural activities as well as within agriculture — there will be increasing pressures for international migration from the LDCs and high levels of extreme poverty will persist. The development of productive capacities is also necessary to secure the fiscal basis for good governance and to ensure effective sovereignty. Without the development of their productive capacities, more and more LDCs will face recurrent, complex humanitarian emergencies.

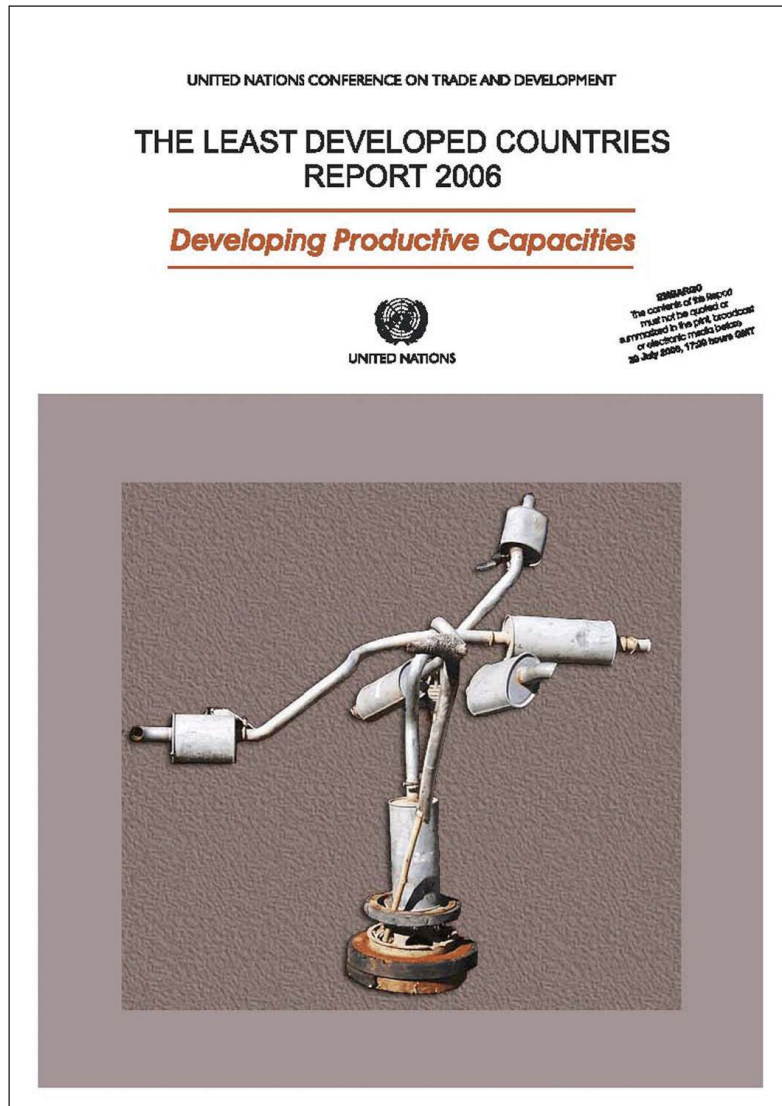
Productive capacities should be at the heart of development and poverty reduction policies

It is becoming widely accepted that the developing world needs not just lower tariffs or improved market entry, but also enhanced supply capacities in order to benefit from the open, global economy through producing and trading competitive goods and services. New international initiatives under discussion, such as "aid for trade", recognize that without productive capacities there will be little to trade and that these capacities will not emerge automatically from the workings of market forces alone, but from the interplay of entrepreneurship, public policy and international action. To the extent that the "aid for trade" initiative results in increased aid for, inter alia, export supply capacities, this is a move in the right direction.

However, in general, national and international policies do not adequately address the challenge of developing productive capacities in the LDCs. There is a need for a paradigm shift which places the development of productive capacities at the heart of national and international policies to promote development and poverty reduction in the LDCs.

Productive capacities are defined in this Report as the productive resources, entrepreneurial capabilities and production linkages which together determine the capacity of a country to produce goods and services and enable it to grow and develop. For tradable goods and services, what matters is the capacity to produce in an internationally competitive manner. Productive capacities develop within a country through three closely interrelated processes:

Capital accumulation, technological progress and structural change. Capital accumulation is the process of maintaining and increasing stocks of natural, human



Productive capacities should be at the heart of development and poverty reduction policies.

and physical capital through investment. Achieving technological progress is the process of introducing new goods and services, new or improved methods, equipment or skills to produce goods and services, and new and improved forms of organizing production through innovation.

Structural change is the change in the inter- and intrasectoral composition of production, the pattern of inter- and intrasectoral linkages and the pattern of linkages amongst enterprises. Such change often occurs through investment and innovation, and the emerging production structure in turn influences the potential for further investment and innovation.

To put productive capacities at the heart of development and poverty reduction policies means to focus on promoting capital accumulation, technological progress and structural change in the LDCs. National and international policies should seek to start and to sustain a virtuous circle in which the development of productive capacities and the growth of demand mutually reinforce each other. This should be done in a way in which productive employment opportunities expand in order to ensure poverty reduction.

Developing productive capacities requires new policy orientations

This paradigm shift is not something totally new. But it would be a new policy orientation for the LDCs and their development partners, even though developing productive capacities is part and parcel of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs.

It would entail a production- and employment-oriented approach to poverty reduction which would encompass, rather than be narrowly focused on, increasing social sector spending and achieving human development targets. It would also entail a development-driven approach to trade rather than a trade-driven approach to development. An approach to developing productive capacities which is simply trade-centric will not be sufficient for sustained and inclusive growth in the LDCs.

Report Overview

The paradigm shift would also strengthen current efforts to develop productive capacities in the LDCs —

such as in policies to improve their investment climate — through:

- Macroeconomic policies oriented to promoting growth, investment and employment;
- A multi-level approach which not only seeks to set the framework institutions and macroeconomic environment, but also includes policies to change meso-level production structures and institutions, as well as micro-level capabilities and incentives;
- An active approach to promoting entrepreneurship;
- A strategic approach to global integration in which the speed and degree of liberalization in different economic spheres take account of the goal of developing productive capacities.

National and international policies to develop productive capacities in the LDCs should prioritize the relaxing of key constraints on capital accumulation, technological progress and structural change. The identification of key constraints needs to be done on a country-by-country basis. However, one consequence of the combination of a deficiency of domestic demand on the one hand, and of weak capabilities, infrastructure and institutions for being

internationally competitive on the other hand, is that productive resources and entrepreneurial capabilities are underutilized within the LDCs owing to lack of demand and structural weaknesses. There is surplus labour, latent entrepreneurship, untapped traditional knowledge, a vent-for-surplus through exporting and unsurveyed natural resources. Policy thus needs to be geared to mobilizing these underutilized potentials. As Albert Hirschman has put it, "Development depends not so much on finding optimal combinations for given resources and factors of production as on calling forth and enlisting for development purposes resources and abilities that are hidden, scattered, or badly utilized".

Within the LDCs, increasing productivity and employment for long-run sustainable growth requires a twin strategy of investing in dynamically growing sectors while at the same time building capacity in sectors where the majority of labour is employed.

A strategy of investing only in dynamic sectors in attempts to

"leapfrog" may not be enough to reduce poverty, mainly because the fastest-growing sectors may often not be where the majority of the poor are

employed and may require skills and training that the poor do not possess. The challenge then is to broaden the impact of the dynamically growing sectors of the economy, while deepening their linkages with other sectors in the economy — sectors where the majority of the poor are underemployed. At the same time, it is paramount to ensure that the poor can be provided with skills and training for labour absorption in these growing areas of the economy.

The most effective approach would support and stimulate simultaneous investments in agriculture, industry and services, along the value chain of the promising sectors, as well as promotion of exports including, in particular, upgrading and increased local value-added of abundant natural resources. The focus should be on triggering growth through investment and production linkages and seeking to sustain an interactive economic growth process through the dynamic interrelationship between the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

Agricultural growth linkages, in which there is a virtuous circle in which demand stimulus from agricultural growth generates investment, entrepreneurship and employment in non-agricultural activities, particularly non-tradables, are likely to be relevant in many LDCs and at the heart of efforts to create a more inclusive process of development which supports sustainable poverty reduction.

Poverty reduction can occur rapidly if policy catalyses and sustains a virtuous circle in which the development of productive capacities and the growth of demand mutually reinforce each other, and there is a transformation of productive structures towards more skilled and technology-intensive production systems consistent with higher value added activities and strong productivity growth.

This will require the building of a virtuous circle of increased savings, investment and exports through a combination of market forces and public action. This implies mobilizing, strengthening and transforming the enterprise sector from SMEs to larger globally competitive enterprises, diversification of their export structures and establishing a dense network of linkages across firms and farms, in and between both the rural and non-rural sectors. Much of the effort will be focused on strengthening the role of domestic enterprises. However, foreign firms (through FDI and other channels) can be a beneficial factor in this process, provided that learning economies and spillover effects prevail — and possible costs can be mitigated.

The Least Developed Countries Report 2006

The process requires a better balance between domestic and international sources of growth. Increased exports and export diversification are an absolutely essential part of the strategy.

However, an exclusive emphasis on exports rather than domestic demand, or vice versa, or on developing productive capacities in tradables rather than nontradables, or vice versa, is likely to be counterproductive. Both matter for growth and poverty reduction. Increased domestic demand also results from increasing incomes and poverty reduction, and this builds a further feedback mechanism supporting the momentum of growth as productive employment opportunities expand.

An economic transformation process can take place only if an enabling policy framework is put in place that would bring about the process of capital accumulation, structural change and technological progress. This will require not only a re-evaluation of the current national and international policies, but also the building up of the necessary institutions, particularly the private enterprise sector (firms), and financial and knowledge systems. In addition to the need for investment and improvement of the physical infrastructure, economic agents themselves (firms) need to be created or strengthened, entrepreneurship needs to be mobilized, underutilized traditional knowledge revived and productive employment created for underutilized labour.

At the national level, there is a need for more development-oriented poverty reduction strategies, as argued in the last two Least Developed Countries Reports. These would focus on developing production capacities in a way which creates productive employment opportunities.

But a good national poverty reduction cannot be fully effective in an adverse international enabling environment, and it can also be enhanced by appropriate international support measures. The scaling-up of aid is occurring and there are promises that this will continue. However, as aid inflows increase, it is important that the composition of aid shifts back towards the development of productive capacities.

Increased aid for physical infrastructure — transport, telecommunications and energy — is certainly part of this. But it is also necessary to go beyond this, and in particular, to strengthen production sectors and linkages, and also to support enterprise development and the improvement of domestic financial and knowledge systems. New international support measures which can promote the development of productive capacities in the LDCs need to be developed.

Business In Brief

Yemen and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) signed on Monday an agreement on funding the second phase of the project of by-gas electricity in Marib governorate. Under the agreement, the fund would grant the phase \$100 million to tackle power shortage.

Yemen and Morocco held official talks here on Monday co-chaired by minister of fishery wealth Mahmoud Saghiri and Moroccan minister of agricultural and fisheries.

Huawei Technologies Company Limited, a leader in providing next generation telecommunications network solutions, has announced donation of digital training equipment to Yemen's Higher Education and Scientific Research Department. Huawei signed the agreement to donate \$100,000 worth of equipment in Sanaa, Yemen.

Alcatel Thursday announced that it has been awarded a contract by Yemen Telecom, Yemen's incumbent telecommunications service provider, to supply and integrate a network operation center for its fixed line and mobile networks.

Sha'ab Ibb beats Shabab Al-Jeel 4-2, maintains second place



Sha'ab Ibb team.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

As part of the Premier League 24th round, Sha'ab Ibb thrashed guest Shabab Al-Jeel from Hodeida 4-2 on Monday at the Al-Kibsi Stadium in Ibb to maintain the second place in the tournament. Forward Fekri Al-Hubaishi scored three of the goals.

Since the beginning of the encounter, the host team appeared enthusiastic to grasp the game's three points and this was delivered thanks to repeated attacks and an excellent performance from the players.

Sha'ab Ibb intensified its offense to open the scoring with Al-Hubaishi in the first few minutes of the game while Mohamed Al-Tahous answered for Shabab Al-Jeel with a curling kick in the 39th minute to end the first half 1-1.

The second half

Both sides excited the fans in the second half as they played fast and exchanged attacks, however the remaining minutes of the game went in the hosts' favour.

Striker Al-Hubaishi missed several opportunities, the most important of which was in the 20th minute of the half, while Nashwah Al-Hajjam put the hosts ahead in the 25th minute. Substituting Ridhwan Abduljabbar for Abdussalam Al-Qirbani helped raise the morale of the Sha'ab Ibb team-mates who exploited the remaining minutes of the match to perplex the visiting team's defenders.

Al-Hubaishi netted two goals in injury time to clinch a 4-2 victory for his side, retaining second place in the league with 45 points.

Premier League standings

Team	Games played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals for	Goals against	Total points
Al-Saqr	24	15	6	3	40	15	51
Sha'ab Ibb	24	13	6	5	45	31	45
Ahli Sana'a	24	12	6	6	43	32	42
Helal Hodeida	24	11	7	6	44	34	40
Al-Telal	24	12	1	9	38	34	39
Hassan	24	9	7	8	25	25	34
Sha'ab Hadramout	24	9	5	10	29	39	32
Al-Shu'la	24	7	10	7	29	27	31
Al-Yarmouk	24	8	7	9	28	29	31
Al-Rashid	24	9	4	11	35	30	31
Tadhamun Shabwa	24	9	2	13	29	38	29
Shabab Al-Jeel	24	6	6	11	23	28	24
22 May	24	5	4	15	28	46	19
Ta'awen Ba'adan	24	4	5	15	33	50	17

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Vacancy Announcement

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

Violence always leads to violence

By: Nisreen Shadad
hurteagle8@hotmail.com

When I was a kid, I dreamed of being a teacher so I could correct my students' notebooks and beat those who got under my skin, as that was my belief of a teacher's duty. When I became a teenager, I began to think of inventing an atomic bomb and killing all of the aggressors of human rights, either by legal proceedings or illegal ones – it didn't matter. But what I realize today as an adult is that violence always leads to violence.

It's said that children who are physically punished are more likely to grow up approving of such violence and

using it to settle interpersonal conflicts. As far as I'm concerned, 10 to one, that's what happens to many, myself included.

At home, parents very often beat their children vehemently to educate them. Then they go to school – with smiles and hopes they dream and beyond the horizons and borders they look. But the reality they face isn't as sweet as their dreams. Teachers stand in each row armed with rulers as long as them and beat in the name of education. Television does the rest, with its scary cartoons and violent heroes.

The atmosphere children become accustomed to is a war of all against all and they're blamed if they cry, protest or request their rights. They're called impolite or disobedient and will lose marks. So, as they grow up and become

as tall as their educators, they speak with menace in their voice and threaten all with retaliatory raids.

Parents and educators, don't complain. They are your fruit, so as you sow, you will reap. I know you aim to teach, but by beating children, they don't learn but yearn. By and large, you think you're right, but truthfully, when you get down to the nitty-gritty of it all, physical punishment, which is a form of violence, is a declaration of failure.

It happens when people simply fail to find a solution to a problem. They beat out of anger, which is more likely to leave long-term emotional wounds and cultivate resentment and bitterness within children. And as a result, violence readily comes to form such children's thoughts, feelings, actions and ambitions.

We should be delicate when resolving any problem because once we do it, we'll keep it up. In using beating to discipline, we should ask ourselves what is our goal. Isn't it to teach children to be self-sufficient and successful in this life and the next? Isn't it to teach that every action has a reaction and every choice they make has a sequence? Will beating help us reach our goals or will it only make them afraid of us?

It's now time for all to become practical and hands-on and to apply the knowledge we've gained and reflected upon. We should continue addressing our faults to keep redeeming ourselves. It's time to understand education in order to build our generation. Children are seeds, so we must choose our sun and rain to make them grow.

On reading

By: Abdul Samad Homaidan
homaidan2020@yahoo.com

Reading is a habit forming experiences that bring unexpected benefits in many other areas. You will find that the more widely you read the better you will write. This is a learning process that takes place automatically and painlessly without you even noticing it. Reading helps you learn how words fit together to make strong sentences. It greatly increases your vocabulary and general knowledge. Reading also helps you learn how to analyze a subject and order your thoughts.

The further you progress in college, the more you will need to incorporate outside sources into your writing. Sometimes you can gather the best information on a topic by interviewing others who have had first-hand experience with your subject, sometimes by taking notes in class, and sometimes by watching the news or television. However, your

main source of ideas and information will be printed matter: textbooks, library books, and periodicals. To gain the most from your source, you need to be able to read with ease and understanding.

What are the limiting factors in speed of reading and why does one person read so much more slowly than another? Speed of comprehension is probably the most important factor. Comprehension depends on the reader's mental quickness and on his knowledge of the subject. But is the slow reader necessarily slow in comprehending and forever doomed to remain a slow reader? Not at all. He may not realize that his reading is slow, or he may even prefer to read slowly so as to savor each phrase fully. Still, he is missing something if he has not developed the skill to read rapidly. Some reading matter that is not worth a lot of time may be read rapidly for pure enjoyment or for seeking ideas. It is one thing to finish an exciting story in an hour or two, and quite another to let it keep you up all night.

The Western mind in the prison of power

By: Esam Ahmed

First of all, I would like to explain why I have chosen this broad title.

As matter of fact, the recent events in the world arena have proven this title, through stories of mind struggle and stories on the young minds of the Arab and Islamic world. But as young people number more than one hundred million, we have great resources of power.

So, Western minds and Islamic minds should ensure better coordination of efforts to invest and direct the energy of Islamic mind in the right direction, because the real power isn't weapons, but the mind, knowledge.

I have experienced increased feelings and sensations in my mind towards terrible events and circumstances in the Islamic world - hesitation, fear, pessimism, lose confidence, and poverty, all of which have lead the

Islamic mind to terrorism.

Therefore, I have started rebuilding my thoughts, and I now have doubts about everything. Then I began a discussion in my mind, more questions, more inquires. Why was the United Nations formed? Is the United Nations considered a great achievement for Western civilization? Has the United Nations worked in supporting the values of justice and peace for the Earth's people? Or has it just maintained distance and borders between super powers after world wars?

I wonder when I see Western people hurry to vote for war callers! And when terrorist weapons hurt and cause pain for Western people, I wonder again when they hurry to vote for peace and against the war callers!!!

Does the Western mind lose the capacity to identify between what is good and what is bad?

More questions still yet to come... What is the source of terrorism? Where is terrorism created? Is terrorism a Western industry or Eastern industry?

Consequently, I believe terrorism doesn't come from heaven, terrorism doesn't come from GOD, terrorism isn't part of any religion – terrorism has been made by the human mind.

When I look at a wonderful, unprecedented, and sophisticated Western civilization, working over it is the United Nations, building close partnership with civil societies and playing an active central role to maintain peace, security and justice for all.

On the other hand, when I look to a scared, horrible, and thrilled Western civilization, working through it is the building of nuclear weapons, the fighting of unethical, dirty economic wars, and the spending of huge amounts on military expansion, and little on human development foundations.

As I was always told, there are two faces of Western civilization; a wonderful face that gives us optimism and has created unlimited admiration, and an ugly face, scarred through dirty wars.

Eventually, I still keep asking one question - Where is the Western mind

that created peace, justice, knowledge and intellectual scientific minds? And so I believe the Western mind in the prison of power. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reform and remedy long-standing shortcomings and deficits in your civilization.

Based on our rights as human beings, we have to live side by side on peace, security and justice.

So, I call and invite all decision-makers in the West, researches institutes, universities, colleges, and everyone interested in world peace to rebuild the Western mind by putting new strategic plans and policies towards the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development for all.

Otherwise, we will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.

Esam Ahmed is the Director of Law Affairs, Yemeni National Committee of UNESCO

Broken Hope

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

Comrade! I think you are not forlorn
Shake my hand
I am only your pinion
Look at my fist
How it is white
And my skin is also light brown
The house-breaker can't let
My heart's color be paler
Or the pillars of radiant love
Destroy and drown
The crime act-play reached its end
In every lane and line of our ground
Into shreds
The freedom's libretto became
Outdated and torn
By the phantasm's powerful horn
Comrade! It is our time to control

To collect and save the remains of
Our lost motherland
Do not let any soul
See your lonely groan
My heart has not complained
Or become limestone
He is bleeding profusely
Without thorn
At the gateway of hope's vessel
The drums of life's battle
No True Triumph but trounce by shuffle
The folks are living with omen and raffle
The clash is too long
No light's duct can come into sight
Except the life's claws that prong
In oblong trance
Wits can be dryly full-grown
No daylight
Coming to life's patch without dawn.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Room partner
- 6 Superlative of good
- 10 Bake sale goodies
- 14 First name in skin care
- 15 Rajah's wife
- 16 Recognizing the intentions of
- 17 Con
- 19 Kind of catastrophe
- 20 Easy mark
- 21 Unburden
- 22 Light rain
- 24 Wildcatter's find
- 25 Swiss miss
- 26 Sledding locale
- 30 Seed or street
- 34 Droughty
- 35 Shamrock isle
- 37 Partner of pains
- 38 Alpha follower
- 39 Caulerizes
- 41 ___ d'oeuvres
- 42 Nonreactive
- 44 Meter opening
- 45 War of 1812 lake
- 46 Named formally

- 48 Perennially last-place teams
- 50 Munchhausen spun them
- 52 Average name?
- 53 Red wine punch
- 56 Rival of MGM
- 57 Modern rate, briefly
- 60 Carpentry calculation
- 61 Con
- 64 Account entry
- 65 Request for help
- 66 Eleniak of "The Beverly Hillbillies" (1993)
- 67 Greek harp
- 68 River through West Flanders
- 69 Sheba, today

DOWN

- 1 What some pools consist of
- 2 Regulatory grp. since 1970
- 3 "Take ___ from me" ("Here's my advice")
- 4 "Radio Free Europe" group
- 5 Razing remains
- 6 Procreated
- 7 Distinctive Vulcan feature

- 8 Nasty, as a remark
- 9 Fertile Crescent river
- 10 Con
- 11 Don Juan's mother
- 12 And others
- 13 Hot under the collar
- 18 "___ of the Field" (Poitier classic)
- 23 The embryo of an invention
- 24 Con
- 25 Announces with fanfare
- 26 Equestrian's garb
- 27 Galsworthy character
- 28 Soda container measure
- 29 Devices used for stamping metal
- 31 Now, Mexican-style
- 32 Type of badge
- 33 Massachusetts quartet
- 36 Switch suffix
- 40 Elvis on skates
- 43 Companion of wear
- 47 Overly sentimental
- 49 "National Velvet" co-star
- 51 Exemplars of toughness
- 53 One way to enjoy a breezy day
- 54 Spuriously cultured
- 55 "... and ___ the twain shall meet"
- 56 Service-entrance site
- 57 Cup lip
- 58 Elbow
- 59 Complete duration
- 62 Beaver Cleaver comment
- 63 Dr. of rap

"CON GAMES" by Avery Rice

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	L	C	L	E	D	G	U	A	V	A	
O	D	E	H	E	L	G	A	U	N	D	E	
T	I	A	A	S	T	O	N	S	H	I	N	G
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S	U	N	B	E	A	M	S	A	G	O		
B	R	E	A	T	H	T	A	K	I	N	G	
J	A	M	S	R	T	E	U	S	A	I	R	
A	V	A	C	O	E	R	C	E	D	M	T	A
V	O	D	K	A	N	I	L	O	B	E	E	
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A	V	E	R	E	S	T	E	E	T	I	S	
R	E	D	E	R	E	S	E	T	S	E		

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A glance at Yemen's Eastern Gate

By: Mohammed Ismail Al-Shami,

Spanning a large area of our beloved country, its coastline stretching along a pleasant and fascinating area, Al-Mahrah governorate is Yemen's "Eastern Gate" leading to other Gulf states. The governorate reflects the Creator's omnipotence and the multidimensional scene of desert, mountain, sea, beach, valley and plain.

All praise to Allah who created such a natural scene with a charming beauty attracting feeling and sight. Al-Mahrah really combines all the components of beauty, land, humanity and civilization dating back thousands of years. Locals still preserve their own language following from the Himyarite language, according to many historians. The Mahrah-owned language never has submitted to any influence over time, despite the changing aspects of Arabia Felix's civilization.



Protected area of Hawf.

How beautiful and fascinating is the language of Al-Mahrah locals, particularly through the words of its speakers.

Within the governorate is the protected area of Hawf, attracting numerous visitors from

neighboring and foreign countries who then frequent the site from time to time, particularly in spring and autumn. Thanks to the Creator's omnipotence (subhanah wa taala), Al-Mahrah deserves to be labelled among the World's

Wonders.

I hope investors and migrant businesspersons will give this governorate precedence over others in terms of implementing future projects in different areas, as it is qualified enough for various investments and provides all the factors leading to success. All this is due to the fact that Al-Mahrah enjoys high historical prestige and a distinctive geographical location as Yemen's Eastern Gate. Al-Mahrah also is a governorate of expatriates, who thereby constitute the mainstream to its development and growth.

I call on migrant businesspersons to contribute to driving forward the wheels of development in their country and live up to the responsibility to improve the governorate's infrastructure. I also acknowledge the tangible role played by the Yemeni government in not neglecting to issue laws protecting expatriates and investors who invest in the governorate.

Another positive government step was

amending the tax and customs laws, which helped offer all facilities, support, protection and encouragement to investment and investors. These steps were taken thanks to efforts by the builder of modern Yemen, developer Marshal Ali Abdullah Saleh, who gave priority attention to expatriate businesspersons mainly via the most recent republican decree, which merged the Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Ministries into one. He did this to suggest solutions to expatriate issues and create a safer investment environment.

I repeat my call to expatriates, who are the products of Al-Mahrah governorate, to visit their governorate's Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Office to brief us on any problems or issues hindering their projects, as we are ready to suggest the best solution to them.

Mohammed Ismail Al-Shami, is the General Manager of Foreign Affairs & Expatriates Office, Al-Mahrah governorate.

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