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Inside:

3 Qana massacre and Arab and international stands

5 Reform Higher Education: A must for a better future

8 Moneer Saif: "The domestic banking industry did not learn from the Watani Bank lesson."

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Do you think President Saleh and Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah can outweigh objections by the largest Arab nations to reach Arab solidarity on a stance with Lebanon?
 I don't know (6%)
 Yes (19%) No (75%)
 This edition's question:
 Yemen's Prime Minister attacked the private sector for not donating to charitable work. Do you think he's right?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
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Saleh calls on Arab states to open borders for resistance

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Aug. 2 — In an interview with Al-Jazeera television Monday, Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh called on Arab nations to open their borders for fighters to pass into Lebanon to join resistance against the Israeli aggression.

The Yemeni leader urged other Arab nations to supply Lebanon with arms and militants to join the Lebanese in popular resistance against Israel, noting that there's no need for an official war between Israel and Arab states.

"Resistance is a legal right. It's mandatory upon every Muslim and not only the Lebanese. I hope neighboring countries and not just Syria alone will join the war against Israel. We have to open borders for arms and militants without engaging in an official war against Zionism," Saleh stated.

Yemen has made no practical move or important steps to contribute to stopping the war or reducing strikes on

Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. However, Yemen did call for an emergency Arab summit, but to no avail, with Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal disclosing that the summit was foiled deliberately.

According to Saleh, accounts on who caused the war are futile. "Syria has the right to join the war to defend itself," he said, "Israel is in a critical situation and the Israeli community may evacuate the region since it's contradictory and involves different races."

Saleh considers that, by all means, the Israeli army is defeated in the battle and that the Israeli government is bound to fall soon because it's far from the right track and made a mistake in its account.

"I hope the war will expand but the Israelis dare not. If the Israelis are stranded in Lebanon, how will it be possible for them to impose their control, particularly as their cities are targets for Syrian rockets? Syria is armed and ready for anything. Frankly speak-



Saleh in the interview with Al-Jazeera TV station on Monday.

with interests in the Middle East. We fear that Arab regimes will lose control of the situation if they don't pressure the U.N. and permanent member states to put a stop to the fighting," Saleh went on. "The Arab streets then will control the situation, which may harm European and U.S. interests in the Middle East."

During his Al-Jazeera interview, the Yemeni president ascertained that youths must donate money and arms and to join the resistance. "Just as we helped the Afghan resistance against Communist occupation, we must do the same now to back resistance in Lebanon and Palestine," Saleh gave as evidence.

September elections

On the other hand the president said the upcoming elections will take place with ultimate transparency, in a secure environment. In a Tuesday speech to military force leaders, he assured that local and international monitoring will be present for the elections. He indicated that the loser of the elections is expected to claim that they weren't fair, "although we've agreed with all political forces that local and international monitoring will be present."

ing, Israel is defeated," he continued.

The Yemeni leader affirmed that Israel's war strategy is based on sudden and quick strikes, but today has found itself engaged in a 19-day war, during which period the fighting has changed.

He added, "Israel used the kidnapping of two of its soldiers as a pretext to wage war upon Arabs. I think Israel's strategy was pre-planned with the aim of disarming the Lebanese resistance, in addition to disarming resisters in Gaza. The Israeli strategy receives sup-

port for superpowers like the United States, but without these powers, Israel dares not do anything because it feels cowardly to shake regional security and stability."

Saleh emphasized the necessity of holding an Arab summit; however, his government withdrew a previous call it made for an emergency Arab summit.

"I reaffirm that a summit must be held, not to divide, but to unify and confront the Zionist challenge, as well as exert pressure on European nations

Foreign minister heads Islamic summit delegation

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 2 — Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, is heading the Yemeni government delegation to the Islamic Emergency Summit in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

The summit is being held in response to a call by Malaysian leader, Abdullah Badawi, to discuss the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and Palestine.

Prior to his departure for Kuala Lumpur Tuesday, Al-Qirbi noted, "The Islamic Emergency Summit is due to discuss mechanisms to unify the Islamic stance to confront the Israeli aggression and come out with fruitful decisions to enhance Islamic solidarity."

According to the minister, the summit aims to unify efforts to defend the issues of Muslim nations exposed to fierce assault by Zionists, who well understand the limited abilities of Arabs.



Al-Qirbi

Al-Qirbi indicated that he plans to call on Islamic nations to raise funds for sufferers in Lebanon and Palestine, as well as to pressure the international community to exert efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement and force Israel to abide by international conventions concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict.

He confirmed that summit participants will call for forming a committee of various Islamic nations to explain to the international community the sufferings of the Lebanese, the killing of innocent civilians and the destruction of infrastructure.

Al-Qirbi clarified that Yemen is ready to support any Islamic move aimed at reaching an immediate ceasefire agreement. He also affirmed that the Islamic world must shoulder the responsibility of defending their causes, as well as backing Lebanon and Palestine.

Yemeni journalists protest war on Lebanon

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Aug. 2 — In solidarity with Palestinian and Lebanese people against the continuous Zionist attacks on children, women and the elderly, tens of Yemeni journalists staged a sit-in yesterday at the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate (YJS) headquarters in Sana'a.

In the activities, attended by YJS' leadership, the journalists expressed their full solidarity with Palestinian and Lebanese people. They consider the Zionist attacks to be intentional and to come within an American-Zionist plan, aiming to impose new policies and change the map of the Middle East.

In YJS statement, the journalists described what is going on in Palestinian and Lebanese lands as a brutal annihilation, led by criminal



Yemeni journalists show their solidarity with Lebanese people.

PHOTO BY FUAD AL-HARAZI

guerrillas and as far more frightening than any racial purge from the whole history of humanity.

"We, YJS, denounce the continuous cowardly and oppressive Zionist attacks against our people in Lebanon and Palestine and we call upon the nation to unite in order to face these aggressive attacks," said the statement.

The statement added that it condemns the weak and passive positions of the UN, in addition to America's stance on the issue.

"We, in YJS, plead with all parties, syndicates, institutions and civil society organizations and all liberals across the world to support the public move at all levels to defy the American-Zionist terrorism," the statement added. "Within this frame, we ask all public

parties to continue their anger campaign and provide all means for resistance in Lebanon and Palestine, as well as forcing the regimes to close all embassies and bureaus affiliated with Israel. Standing idle will not exempt us from responsibility."

The statement pointed out also, that standing as spectators will just delay the attack on our towns and cities, but will not prevent it. The objective now is existence and not the rectification of trivial details; we have either a future of freedom and dignity or one trodden under-foot.

The statement ended: "Shame and Slur upon all silent and submissive people

Victory and glory for Lebanese and Palestinian resistance"



Al-Gudrah (a Yemeni journalist) with his son during the protest.

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Qana massacre and Arab and international stances

By: Hamdan Dammag and Ismail Al-Ghabiri

The Arab and international stances and reactions to the Qana massacre, caused by the Israeli air strikes on Sunday July 29, were different. The strikes claimed the lives of over 57 civilians, of whom 34 were children, taking place in the same county, which was struck in 1996.

At the Lebanese level, the State Prime Minister urged the UN Security Council to hold an emergency summit and initialise immediate procedures against the continued fighting. In response to the massacre, the Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Al-Sanyoura announced that there is no need to do anything but to reach a ceasefire agreement, thus causing the cancellation of the planned visit by the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The UN Secretary General Kofi Anan responded to the Lebanese Prime Minister's call, meanwhile the world countries took similar stances in order to make a change in the U.S. stance, which is only reflected by the expression of sorrow at what happened in Qana.

Arab and International Stance

However, the Arab and international stance toward the massacre were merely condemnations and calls for an immediate end to the Israeli aggression. The



A former resident of Beirut's southern suburbs walks through the devastation after salvaging some belongings during a lull in Israeli strikes in Beirut.

Yemeni president has announced that Yemen will call again for an urgent Arab League summit despite the previous failure to get the required number of Arab states to hold the summit. This came in an interview with Al-Jazeera TV station during his latest visit to Qatar on July 30. The Yemeni religious scholars association has condemned the massacres in Lebanon conducted by Israel. In a statement, the association described the act by Israeli forces as a "War Crime" since the bombing in Qana targeted civilians; mostly children and women. The Yemen Council for Peace and Solidarity called the leaders of the Arab and Muslim countries to stand by the Lebanese people, condemning what it called 'the international silence'.

Tunisia strongly denounced the aggression and said it was shocked at the massacre while France and the European Union said the recent strikes necessitate an immediate ceasefire. Such reactions imply differing viewpoints amongst the international community on how to settle the crisis, as the U.S has not called for an end to the fighting.

On her part, the British Secretary of State described Qana massacre as "horrific", but she refused to condemn it, while the King of Jordan Abdullah II said the massacre is a flagrant crime he fears "the aggression may violate the law and all the international conventions."

The Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General condemned the massacre in a statement, saying that he is sad and shocked at the killing of tens of civilians and children. He insisted on an immediate ceasefire. In another statement, the Office of the French President noted that his country condemns the unjustifiable act which necessitates reaching a ceasefire agreement so that such scenes can not be repeated.

On the other hand, the U.S. faces strong criticism from different countries around the world over its refusal to exert efforts for an immediate ceasefire agreement. These countries blame the U.S. for giving Israel the green light to do what it wants.

For its part, Russia demanded conducting an international probe on the Qana

massacre and described what happened as a tragedy. It argued that Israel must be forced to reach a ceasefire agreement. However, the German Government's Spokesman said that the UN is responsible for taking a decision on a ceasefire agreement. As many Arab and world countries strongly condemned the Qana massacre; Washington and London only expressed sorrow over what happened.

Chairman of the International Affairs Committee at the Russian Parliament (DOMA) - Kosatchuf- held Israel accountable for the escalation of violence in the Middle East. "The Qana massacre is an unprecedented tragedy in a Middle East that has become accustomed to violence," he told Novosti News Agency.

With regard to the Yemeni stance, the government condemned the Israeli brutality and crimes against innocent civilians including old men, women and children. Also, it called for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Zionist brutality and insisted on taking a unified Arab stance stemming from the Arab Joint Defense Treaty. In addition, Yemen took other initiatives and insisted on enhancing Arab solidarity to confront the Israeli aggression amid the absence of the international legitimacy.

However, Yemen could not succeed in persuading the other Arab countries to hold an emergency Arab summit and this forced it to withdraw its call.

The South American countries demonstrated frank stands toward the massacre and condemned the Israeli aggression and barbarism. They insisted on putting a stop to the tragic massacres and conducting an international probe on the massacre. Also, they demanded the UN Security Council exerted efforts for reaching a ceasefire agreement and protecting civilians from the ongoing raids on Lebanon.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez last week criticized Israel's actions as well as the response of many other nations and the media coverage of the events: "They're bombing entire cities - it's a true genocide. Where will this madness end? God only knows! It extends from Iraq to Lebanon and Palestine. Let's hope it doesn't spread further."

Wave of killings sparks new Media targeting fears in Iraq

IRAQ, Aug. 1 — Three more journalists killed, two apparently victims of targeted assassinations; a fourth beaten by Ministry of Interior police. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) today called for an immediate and urgent inquiry by Iraqi authorities into the reported killing of three journalists in the last two days. Two of the deaths in this recent wave of attacks were what appeared to be targeted assassinations and the circumstances of the third, reported by the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate (IJS), are still unclear.

The IFJ says that these deaths bring to 134 the number of journalists and media staff killed in Iraq since the United States invasion three years ago. The IJS also said that police working for the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior today attacked and beat Ali Al Yassi, who works for US-based Arabic-language satellite channel Al Hurra.

"The events of the last 24 hours are

shocking," said IFJ General Secretary Aidan White. "The Iraqi government and the military authorities must act to end these targeted attacks on journalists. We need a full investigation into what has happened, information as to who is responsible and action taken to bring the killers to justice."

On Monday night, Iraqi journalist Abdul Wahab Abdul Razeq Ahmad Al Qaisie was found dead, 10 days after he was abducted by masked militiamen in the New Baghdad district, the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate said. He was the editor-in-chief of Iraqi magazine Kol Al Dounia and had worked as a freelancer for European newspapers for the past 40 years. Adel Najee Al Mansouri, a reporter for Iranian TV channel Al Alam, was found dead today, a day after armed men took him from his house in the Al Amiriyah district of Baghdad, the IJS said. The third journalist killed was Riyad Atto, the editor of a newspaper in Talafar, the IJS reported.

UNICEF mourns the demise of a colleague

SANA'A, Aug. 1 — It is with deep sorrow and a sense of irreparable loss that UNICEF announces the passing away of Dr. Abdul Halim Ayyash, Project Officer for Health. He suffered a stroke on July 15 and was later evacuated to Amman, Jordan where he breathed his last on July 30. While grieving over his sudden death, UNICEF Yemen remembers him as the most respected, loved colleague, and a dedicated professional who displayed the finest sense of responsibility to the cause of children and women. Dr. Ayyash joined UNICEF in March 2000 and over the years earned the respect of his colleagues and partners for his steadfast commitment, untiring work and contribution to the well-being of women and children in Yemen.



UNICEF has opened a condolence book at its office to pay tribute to our departed colleague. We pray that may Allah bless his soul and grant fortitude to his bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.



A Lebanese woman cries with her child after evacuating the southern Lebanon village of Aitaron in Bent Jbail, a target of Israeli bombing.

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Republic of Yemen Ministry of Public Health & Population "SERVICE PROCUREMENT NOTICE"

Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

- Description of the contract**
Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib.
- Procedure of the tender**
International Open Tender.
- Contracting authority**
The Government of the Republic of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Public Health & Population.
- Source of Funding**
A grant from the USDA (416 B) to the Ministry of Public Health & Population.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

- Eligibility**
Participation is open on equal terms to all natural and legal International Consultancy Firms or Organizations of reputation in the field of management and operation of hospitals.
- Number of tenders**
Tenderers (including firms within the same legal group, or other members and sub-contractors) submit only one tender. An entry fee of US \$ 500 is applicable.
- Tender guarantee**
Tenderers must provide a "tender guarantee" of 2.5 % of their offer for the contract when submitting their tender. This guarantee will be released to unsuccessful tenderers once the tender procedure has been completed.
- Performance guarantee**
The successful tenderer will be asked to provide a performance guarantee of 15 % of their offer before countersigning the contract. This guarantee must be provided within 15 days of notification by the Contracting Authority.
- Information meeting and/or site visit**
Site visits could be organized by the Ministry of Public Health & Population, with no costs incurred on the Ministry.
- Tender validity**
Tenders must remain valid for a period of 120 days after the opening date of tenders.
- Maximum period for the initiation of the service**
Within two weeks from the signature of contract.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Selection criteria**
Compliance with technical specifications and capacity to execute similar contracts specified in the "Terms of Reference" for the (Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib).
a) Economical and Financial Capacity.
b) Professional Capacity.

TERMS OF REFERENCE & TENDERING

- How to obtain the "Terms of Reference"**
The "Terms of Reference" for the (Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib) is available from the following internet address: <http://moh.gov.ye>. The "Terms of Reference" is also available for collection from the Ministry of Public Health & Population at the address shown below.
Tenderers with questions regarding this tender should send them in writing to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministers Office, P O Box: 299, Sana'a, Yemen. Tel + 967 1 252 198 / + 967 1 257 775, Fax: + 967 1 252 247 (Mentioning the following; Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib) at least 3 weeks before the deadline for submission of tenders. The Contracting Authority would reply to all tenderers' questions at least 1 week before the deadline for submission of tenders.
- Deadline for submission of tenders**
The deadline for submission of tenders is the 26/08/2006. Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.
- Tender opening session**
The public tender opening session will take place at 11:00 am local time on the 26/08/2006 at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministers Office, Sana'a, Yemen.

Pew Institute study: Relations between Muslims and the West

Feelings between citizens of western countries and the Muslim world have not improved in recent years; in fact, they continue to worsen. That is the conclusion of a study by the Washington Pew Institute that was conducted in 14 countries.

By: Peter Philipp

Among other things, the study concludes that neither side has a uniform view of "the Other"; however, certain prejudices persist and are changing only slowly, depending on the region.

Still, Richard Wike, director of the Pew Project, saw several things he had not expected: "I do think there were some surprises there. For example, we found out that a majority of the population is unconvinced that Arabs were responsible for the attacks on September 11."

Decreasing support for terrorism

In connection with terrorist attacks, the Pew Institute registered dramatic

decreases: in Pakistan there was a greater drop in support for suicide attacks and all forms of violence against civilians. A truly drastic decrease in support for terrorism could be seen in Jordan.

"Somehow that's not really very surprising: we often see this kind of decrease in countries that have just experienced a terrorist attack," says Wike. "In Jordan we had the terrible attacks in Amman last year."

For example, emotional trust in and support for Osama Bin Laden has also diminished in large parts of the Muslim world, probably for the same reasons. But the view that terrorist attacks are justified under certain circumstances persists despite a sharp decrease. It is startlingly high in Nigeria, where 46% of respondents justified terrorist

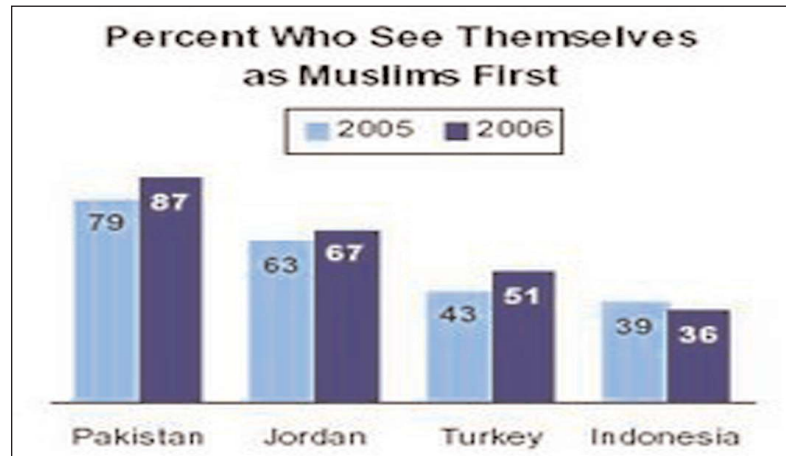
attacks.

And even in Europe this view persists among Muslims: in France, Great Britain and Spain it is held by a seventh of the Muslims who live there. At the same time, Europeans have varying attitudes toward the Muslims.

"There are a number of interesting results in Europe," says Richard Wike. "In a way, France and Great Britain are similar on the one hand, while Germany and Spain are similar on the other. While France and Britain have a more positive attitude, Spain and Germany have a more negative, pessimistic attitude toward the Muslim world and its views, for example with regard to democracy."

Link between the old homeland and the new

While this assessment goes for Muslims of all kinds – that is, Muslims in each given European country as well as people living in the Muslim world – Muslims living in Europe tend to have a much more nuanced and positive view



The study surveyed Europeans and North Americans as well as Muslims living in Europe, in Arab countries, North Africa and Indonesia. The respondents were asked what they thought of the West or of Islam, and about their view of terrorism inspired by Islamist fundamentalism.

of their new homelands than that of Muslims in Pakistan, Indonesia or Nigeria.

A majority of European Muslims are quite willing to accept the social values of their environment, and they

increasingly see themselves as a bridge or a link between the new homeland and the old.

Surprisingly, Germany comes off especially badly in the study: though unlike France, Spain and Great Britain

it has not had to experience Muslim terrorist attacks, and though the majority of Muslims in Germany are a largely monolithic block of former Turkish guest workers without political tendencies, much less terrorist ones, 70 percent of Germans describe relations between Muslims and the west as bad – the highest statistic in the poll.

Wike of the Pew Institute has no explanation for the difference between Germany and other European countries: "But it is true that the approval rating for Muslims in Germany is lower than elsewhere."

"Not as low as in Spain, but lower than in Britain and France. What we do at Pew is, we ask the questions and report the results. And we hope that this prompts dialogue and gives information to people who are interested in these issues. So that it helps them and gives them something to build on."

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Commentary on the Pew Institute study: Damaged image

The results of the study show that Muslims in Germany suffer from a particularly negative image. Ülger Polat believes that this is due to one-sided, over-emotional debates in society about such issues as forced marriages or honour killings

The results seemed to show that Muslims in Europe have a far more positive and differentiated image of the West than Muslims living in Muslim countries. For example, European Muslims consider that people living in Western industrialised countries are honest, tolerant and respectful towards women.

In contrast, the majority of Muslims living in Muslim countries consider people from the West to be egotistic, selfish and immoral as well as violent and fanatical.

Negative picture of Muslims in Germany

On the other side, people living in Western industrialised countries tend to have negative views of Muslims and see little chance of peaceful coexistence with them.

The study is clear here too: the large majority of Westerners believe that Muslims are fanatical, violent and lack tolerance.

There is particular cause for con-

cern in the fact that, among the European questioned, the Germans have the largest proportion of people holding such views. They also hold the view more frequently than other Europeans that conflict between the Muslim way of life and life in a modern Western society is natural—in spite of the fact that most Muslims in Germany do not perceive any such conflict.

What explanation can be offered for this negative image of Muslims in Germany? There have, luckily, been no Islamist attacks in Germany and Islamist groups, such as those supported by Al Qaeda, have few supporters among Muslim immigrants. So why do the Germans hold such views more strongly than the British and the French?

The most important institution in society communicating collective opinions and feelings is the media. In Germany the media conduct one-sided and over-emotional debates on issues such as forced marriage or honour killings among Turkish families, or on the uncontrollable criminal



There is a need not only to oppose the social disadvantage under which Muslims live in Germany, but also to carry out policies which will promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue, Ülger Polat argues.

behaviour of young Muslims in German schools (like the Rütli school in Berlin), or on the introduction of attitude tests as in Baden-Württemberg, or over Turkish accession to the European Union. Such coverage has an effect on attitudes.

Complexity is missing

Repeatedly, these debates have taken up centre stage in German awareness over the last few months. This makes it more difficult for people to become

aware of the complexity of reality, and it stops Germans and Muslims from getting closer to each other.

They confirm a negative image of Muslims, who are already seen as being uncivilised, anti-democratic, opposed to the constitution, misogynist and intolerant of other religions. As a result German public opinion has come to see them as a possible risk factor for public safety.

Antipathy towards Muslim immigrants has a tradition in Germany, but

a new development can be observed by which problems in society at large and widespread social abuses are laid at the door of Muslim immigrants or on Islam as a whole.

Already in the 1990s, a wide-scale survey carried out by the Association of Social Science Infrastructure Organisations showed that the large majority of Germans tended to dislike Muslims. They were more reluctant to have Muslims as neighbours or family members than they were to have Italians or ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe.

What is surprising about this survey is that it shows that the antipathy towards Muslims existed even before the emergence of Islamist terrorism or the start of the public debate on the failure of Muslim immigrants to integrate into German society.

Dialogue does not take place

The causes are the same: since the beginning of migration for employment until now the majority of Germans have very little or no contact with Muslim immigrants. They base their opinions on the emotionally heated debates, which, because they are founded on generalisations, tend to defame Muslims.

A study by the Socio-economic Panel of the German Institute for

Economic Research found that a large majority of Muslims had no German friends, even though they would like more contact with Germans.

This shows that there is an urgent need not only to oppose the social disadvantage under which Muslim immigrants live, but also to carry out policies which will promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue in Germany.

Integration and equality in education and employment are not enough. The two communities will only move closer together if there are encounters between Muslims and Germans in which both sides can learn about each other without prejudice. There has to be regular contact and exchange, and in the end, the growth of friendships. Only that way will social peace be possible.

Only that way can antipathy and prejudice towards Muslim immigrants be broken down. Such processes have to be initiated and promoted both by institutions of the state and by those of the civil society. At the same time, politicians, organisations, associations and the media have to commit themselves to working against increasing Islamophobia in Germany.

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World Religious Summit in Moscow

Promoting religious dialogue

More than 150 representatives of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism took part in a three-day World Religious Summit in Moscow. The world's religious leaders exchanged views about the role of religions in dealing with conflicts.

By: Hermann Krause

The world religious summit was definitely one of the biggest events of its kind that ever took place in Moscow. The unique meeting was initiated by the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexi the Second.

Its main objective was however not really religious in nature, but rather political. The world's religious leaders worked out ideas about how their congregations can contribute to finding solutions to global political problems on the agenda of the G 8 summit in Saint Petersburg.

Denouncing attempts to justify extremism by religion

Metropolitan Kyrill is in charge of the Patriarchate's foreign policy. He explained that terrorism and extremism, xenophobia and tolerance had been the main topics in Moscow:

"What should the churches do in order to help defuse tensions? All religions have a common basis. That's why our message should be based on a moral and ethical approach. Even if we address political problems, we should stay away from political declarations."

It's not always easy to draw a clear line between politics and religion. And one cannot overlook the fact that the world religious summit in Moscow did have a political function

after all: Before the start of the G8 summit in Saint Petersburg, it was to demonstrate to the world that the Russian President does attach great importance to the dialogue between the world's different religions.

Where as in the old days of the former Soviet Union, people were persecuted for their religious beliefs – things have now radically changed, and the new role of religion in Russia is to help establish peace and to contribute to the wellbeing of Russian society.

Building bridges between different religions

The world religious summit in Moscow was officially organised by an interreligious council consisting of representatives of various religions – among them Aser Allijew, one of the leading representatives of Islam in Russia.

"In Islam, there are clear rules governing the relations with other

cultures," Allijew says. "For example, there is a rule spelling out how a Muslim should behave in a Christian or Buddhist monastery. And one of the main tasks concerning the education of young Muslims is to build bridges between different religions."

So far, Chechen rebels who justified some of their terrorist activities with the Koran, have not been able to convince Russian Muslims of their views. Approximately twenty million Muslims live in Russia. So it is not surprising that the Russian government tries to improve relations between Christians and Muslims, as well as between Russia and neighbouring Islamic states.

Definitely not on the agenda in Moscow were relations between various Christian denominations, in particular those between the Russian Orthodox and the Catholic Church which have been improving lately.

Yet another religious leader who was conspicuously absent from the



The World Religious Summit, organized by the Russian Orthodox Church, brought together representatives of 49 countries with the aim of promoting religious dialogue.

Moscow summit was the Dalai Lama. The organisers of the summit were concerned that the Russian foreign ministry would refuse to issue a visa

to the Dalai Lama out of consideration for China.

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The escaping

By: Barkatullah Marwat
marwat@kuwaitnet.com

There is no escaping the fact that Kuwait is one of the richest states of the Middle East, but in the same way it is the very state that suffered as a result of Saddam's invasion. The damages and losses it incurred can be measured by the fact that the UNCC (United Nations Compensation Commission) is still disbursing the compensation in installments to cover the financial losses.

Now let's take a look at the employment-market situation of Kuwait, which is becoming saturated day by day by the influx of new people from different countries, who are unaware of the current employment situation. There is a tendency to see Kuwait as a dream state. But once they reach their destination, they realize that 'distant drums are gratifying'.

Usually, there are two or three types of unemployment. Firstly, there are those who intentionally don't want to work, despite many opportunities. Secondly there are those who seek employment but fail to find jobs and thirdly there are those who find jobs but have some problems, such as undue administrative pressure, withholding of salaries or simply the problem of not finding a job in accordance with their experience. Now a question arises: can a medical officer join legal proceedings as a counsel or can an LLB graduate join a hospital? Of course not.

Let's not forget that no one leaves his homeland willingly, but due to certain compulsions. During my stay in Kuwait, I observed countless cases roving that some people take a long time to find their feet while some do it quickly. This was one of the problems for a friend of mine, who worked in Kuwait with a private company as a mechanical engineer. He was not satisfied with what he was doing and what he was offered. Finally, he succeeded in moving to Canada and joined a project related to Uranium exploration, where two years back his efforts and achievements were recognized with a presidential award. This is an example of the reasons why people are trying to flee

Kuwait.

I agree with the comments made by one of the editors, saying that Kuwait is populated by citizens as well as expatriates and that all the expatriates have not come from the third world countries alone but also from the most developed and advanced ones, such as the U.S., UK, Canada, Europe, Japan etc.

Now a question arises, were those who arrived from the developed countries unemployed in their respective countries? They went to Kuwait to contribute to making a more economically successful country for the local and non-local people. To take the example of the UAE, which is growing up very fast in regard to commerce and economy, it has become a center of business activities for both regional and global entrepreneurs.

I also agree with the Chief Editor, Mr Ahmed Jarallah's comments about the Ruling family, asking them not to participate in the forthcoming elections as they are different from the other candidates. Kuwait is a democratic state but it is not yet fully developed. Ask me how? Because the portfolios of the premiership and other key minorities like defense, foreign affairs and interior are managed by members of the ruling family, while in a democratic state, the election of a president, prime minister, and the ministers is conducted through a democratic process.

The concept of a democratic system, specially introduced and enforced by the West, has miserably failed due to several reasons, some of them I would like to summarise here:

1) The first setback a nation witnesses is the loss of unity. There is no more unity among the bigwigs of a nation. They are divided and re-divided into different groups and factions. In other words, the sense of 'nationalism' is naturally converted into 'tribalism'.

2) There is no electoral college/institution that can train the contesting candidates on how to deal with the national and international issues after making their way to the corridor of the parliament. We see that most of them are either legal or medical practitioners. Very few of them possess the in-depth knowledge of politics and political science.

3) After election, two bodies are

formed, namely treasury and opposition. Needless to say, constitutionally, the majority is asked to form the government. But unfortunately, they pay attention more to their personal needs rather than the problems found in their constituencies. They grill the ministers for apparently national issues, but behind it they have their own personal motives. So generally, we see them doing good, whilst in fact they are weakening the parliament, where not only the members of the treasury are sitting but they too are the part of the process. So the process of a tug-of-war, victimization and conspiracies is initiated.

4) The elected members are always seen making tall claims and promises to their voters; which seem instantly forgotten as soon as power is achieved. During their campaign, they are easily approached and ready to assist each voter, but once the elections are over, they wear the glasses through which they no longer recognize you.

5) Let me explain here my first point, that politicians lose unity. Yes, I have a valid reason to say that. It is not only in Kuwait, but everywhere else that the so-called democracy is in practice. Regarding Kuwait, let us take for example, those who are contesting the polls. If you look at the election banners, posters etc erected along the roadsides, then you will see that none of them ever mentions "Al Kuwaiti" with their names. Everyone puts their tribal name, indicating that they are more concerned about their tribes rather than their state, Kuwait. I failed to find the phrase "Ana Kuwaiti" on their posters and banners. That is the indication of disunity. That is one of the demerits of democracy that we have been witnessing for so long, not only in Kuwait but everywhere else also.

I agree with Dalal Nasser Al Otaibi's write-up "Kuwaiti government should act to stop vote-buying" [Arab Times, June 15], saying that if the candidates don't stop the practice of vote-buying, it will damage the very foundation of democracy. The dispute that arose in Florida when Mr Bush and Mr Al Gore were contesting elections can not be forgotten easily. The situation reached the point where all the advanced technology had to be put aside and the votes counted manually.

Poverty's dismal culture

By: Abdulkreem Al-Aawage
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Life nowadays has its idiosyncratic features and characteristics. It is characterized by poverty and agony. So, the conditions have begun to create a culture of poverty that may one day affect the entire society. It is a fact that political parties, intellectuals, organizations, and some types of tyranny contribute to the formation of this kind of culture directly or indirectly. The main contributing factor, however, is the dreadful economic situation. It feeds the feeling of enmity towards among the masses of poor, making them think that their rights are being exploited by powerful figures.

It is the reality that such a situation is fertile ground for planting the seeds of violence. There are many psychologists, politicians, and intellectuals who claim that the

poverty produces a special breed of culture. We can note this through the high crime rate, with many killings and kidnappings taking place all the time.

The feelings of no hope that many youth feel has produced a critical phase in the recent history of the country. Studies are conducted and payments are made for increased efforts, but to little effect. There are next to no opportunities for work. Students, therefore, leave schools to wander in the streets as riff-raff. The same can be said for officials at the various ministries who live a nightmare with prices rising everyday.

In my opinion, all these factors have shaped an apprehensive culture living under the shadow of these dangerous circumstances. So, what should we do to face such a crisis? The solution is in fact simplistic. Tackling corruption in its many forms would solve the problem, as it is the essential element in most destructive

phenomena in any country. Thus, all members of society have to join forces to slay this dragon and allow society to enjoy peace and safety.

Me and the moon

By: Issam Al-Khawlani

As the 'clock strikes nine,
To the wondering desperate heart of mine,
That prays all night to see you soon,
You gaze down a fourteen day old Moon.
Fair as you always are,
Near you seemed to be, yet how far!
Up, up towards you still I watch,
Never you stopped by, nor a minute my watch.
Nothing I could feel as I now see,
But your divine love sparkling within me.
How it began, when will it last?
None can tell as never it will.
Let's then live and die,
Me on earth and you on the sky.
Me the crying hopeless host,
And you the sad sleepless ghost.
Each to each, let's always be,
Those two of the unsinkable ship in that violent Sea.
In our dreams we shall meet,
Hand on had, walking on feet.
Among the lovely trees,
Together we smell the early breeze.
Birds sing on us, and water murmurs beneath.
No matter there if we stopped to breathe.
For again in dust, I believe,
No change, but you and me will be one to live.
Together we stay, and to gather we leave,
With no more pain, no more grieve.

When pulsing hearts

By: Al-Naggar Tariq

You and me
are two bodies in one heart
are not we?
Your love is more than mine
my love like who drinks wine
Our hearts pulse together
Our life is sweet like sugar
We are two in loves
like a pair of doves
Never to think of leaving
You
Life without you like brown, black
and blue
When pulsing hearts
Most beautiful arts

Showing with pleasure papers

By: Abrar Al-Aswadi

I deeply feel your sighs
Your whispers too.
I smell your patience burning
And appreciate your determination
Still I am afraid your may turn weak
I behold all pleasure papers
Hopes flowers still awaiting you
Pearl's grain's falling down
Heart praying!
I wonder if you are still soaring up!
Still delving in love and dream?

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 "Gorillas in the Mist" role
- 5 Word with indigestion or test
- 9 Big Three conference site
- 14 Therefore
- 15 Like an Adamite
- 16 Festoon
- 17 Addle-head
- 18 Russian metropolis
- 19 Group of witches
- 20 Bona fide
- 23 A really big shoe?
- 24 Center of Japan?
- 25 Woman in a Beatles' song
- 27 Disconnect
- 31 Habeas corpus, e.g.
- 33 Badlands feature
- 37 Some sports venues
- 39 Marching syllable
- 40 Word with battle or lesson
- 41 Pro tempore
- 44 Fringe
- 45 Put on clothes
- 46 Appraise anew

DOWN

- 1 Kind of loaf
- 2 Nutritive mineral
- 3 Spellbound
- 4 Something verboten
- 5 Jumper-cable target
- 6 Midnight, for some

- 7 Inklings
- 8 Hysteria
- 9 Spinnaker's setting
- 10 Hue and cry, e.g.
- 11 Torch song subject
- 12 Catbird seat?
- 13 Last Stuart of the monarchy
- 21 Noted book reader
- 22 Giggle nervously
- 26 One coulomb per second
- 27 Petermen's targets
- 28 Slowly disintegrate
- 29 Threshold
- 30 Crosses the threshold
- 32 River, valley or wine
- 34 Cuban in 1999 news
- 35 Year-end temp
- 36 Show backer
- 38 Composed
- 42 Sailor's sneaker
- 43 Train sleeper
- 49 Ambitions
- 52 History homework, sometimes
- 54 Topmost cervical vertebra
- 55 Certain board member
- 56 Emmy winner Falco
- 57 Raise the hackles of
- 59 Celsius ice point
- 60 They're sometimes coddled
- 61 Calamitous
- 62 Burn balm
- 63 Demonstrate boredom, perhaps
- 65 Medieval

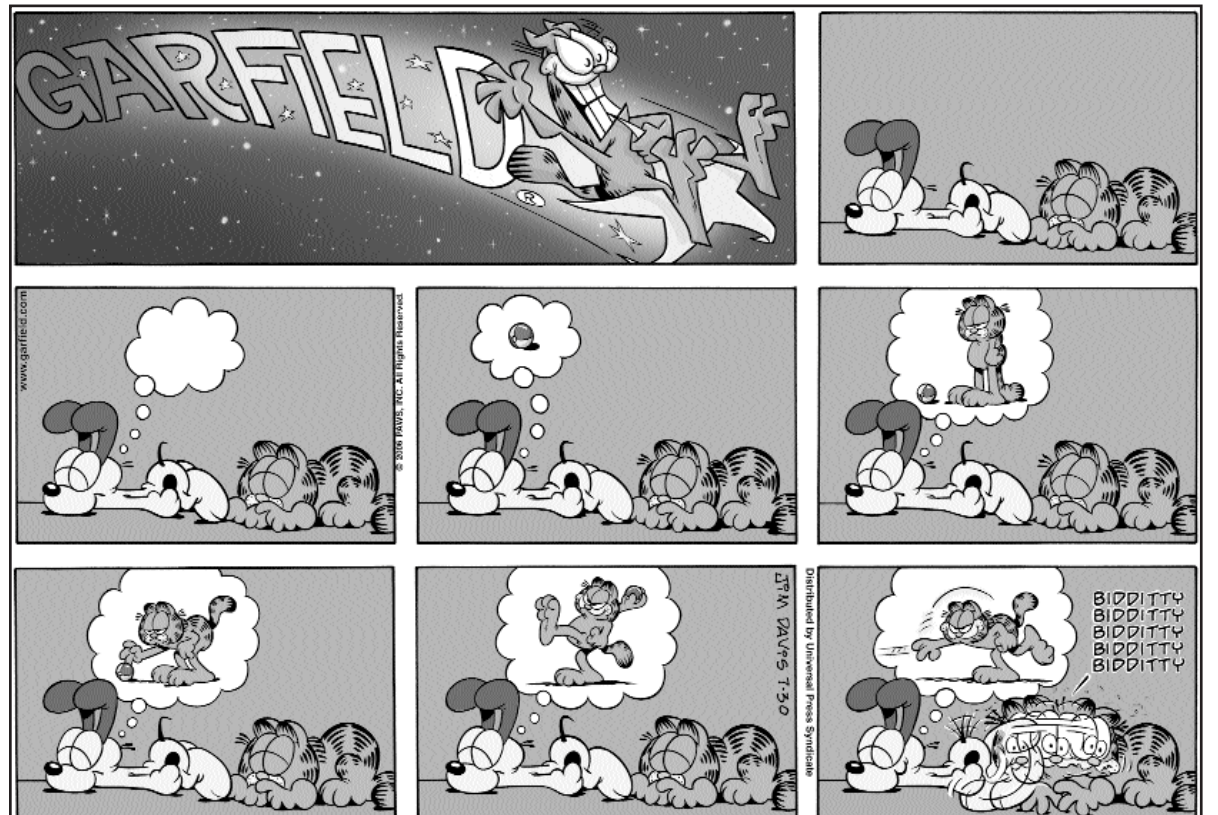
"LATIN LOVER" by Amy Greene

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-73 indicating starting positions for clues.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

BOARDS BEST FRIENDS
ESTER RANI ONTO
THIMBLERIG NEAR
SARTRIDRIZZLE
OILHEIDI
HILLSIDE SARM
ARID EIRE ACHES
BETA SEARS HOR
INERT SLOTERIE
TERMED DOORMATS
YARNS JOE
SANGRIA RKO BPS
AREA PIGEON DROP
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A trip to Sayoun

By: Moiz Ali
14 years old
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I have been visiting Yemen since last three years in my summer vacations as my father is posted here in Sana'a. I have traveled quite a lot and was very much impressed with the rich cultural and historical heritage and varied geography of Yemen. In this article I would like to share the experience and information which I gathered during my recent trip to the historical city of Sayoun which is approximately 770 km from Sana'a and is in the province of Hadramout.

While on the way to Sayoun at three hours drive from Sana'a is one of the oldest cities of Yemen "Marib". It is famous because of the remains of an old civilization of the era of Queen Bilquis including her two palaces from which



The young author sightseeing in Hadramout

one is currently under excavation, an old dam and a Mosque supposed to be built by Hazrat Suleiman AS.

It is believed that the whole palace was built of a single stone and is approximately 4000 years old. The special design of the palace was such that it produced the sound of a roaring lion by



Sayoun museum.

the blowing of wind at night to keep the wild animals away. We can still see the ancient language written on the stones. After seeing the palace thoroughly we

went to the palace which was under excavation. I had never seen an under excavation site. The whole area was fenced but still we could see the remains very clearly.

After having a look at this place we left for the 4000 year old dam. A new dam was built at another spot but still we could see the ruins of the old dam. It was interesting to know that even thousands of years back people had a concept of water storage and built such dams, the remains of which could be seen even today.

The next place we went was the 4000 year old mosque of Hazrat Suleiman AS. Now only the remains of the mosque are left but still we can see the language of that period written on the mosque.

The next thing we saw was the oil field. It was a little far away but we could clearly see the flames of fire coming out of the chimney. The great sand desert starts at this point. On both sides of the road there was a massive sea of sand and there was no end. I had seen a real sand desert for the first time in my life.

Then we finally reached the city of Sayoun. This city has a unique style of

architecture which dates back to thousands of years. One of its main features is the continuous rows of holes which are probably the windows of the buildings. There is an old famous palace of a king which has been turned into a museum. This beautiful palace is a part of the historical heritage of this city.

At half an hour drive from the main city is an old town "Shibam Hadramout", one of the oldest sites of the world. This is the famous walled city which is built entirely of clay and straw. When we went inside, all around us were high rise buildings of mud which speaks a lot about its past glory. This city is approximately 2000 years old that's why some of the houses were even falling apart.

With that we came to the end of one of our most memorable trips in Yemen.

Handicrafts in the museum.

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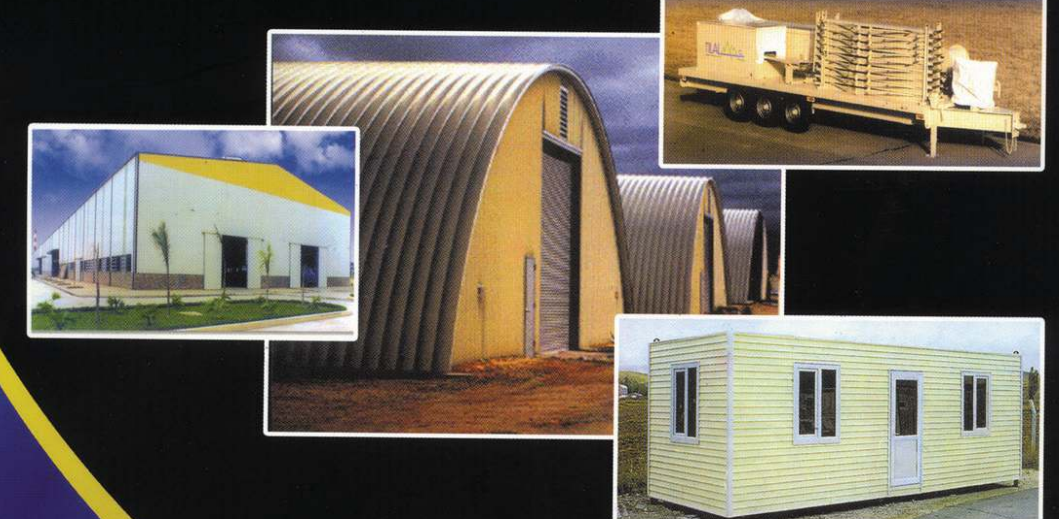
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